

VLR-1/16/73 NRHP-4/11/73

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: New Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Foster's Castle

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Foster's Castle

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 mi. N of Rt. 608, .9 mi. E of intersection with Rt. 606.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tunstall vicinity (Eighth District Congressman William Lloyd Scott)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY New Kent	CODE 127
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Comments

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. Roger Gregory, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Tunstall 22176

CITY OR TOWN: Tunstall	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
New Kent County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: New Kent	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D.C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: New Kent  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Foster's Castle is located in the sparsely populated northwest section of New Kent County. The building stands amid cultivated fields whose limits, now as in the seventeenth century, are formed by the Pamunkey River to the north, marshland to the east and west, and irregular terrain to the south. Although the building has sustained considerable alteration, most of the exterior fabric has survived, and the original appearance of the house is obvious.

The T-shaped brick building, constructed as one or one-and-a-half stories with two-story central projection at the front, is similar to neighboring Criss Cross. The main body of the house was raised to a full two stories with a low pitched roof in 1873, and window openings were altered. The original brickwork, that had been whitewashed prior to the alteration, contrasts with the dark red brickwork used to fill in window openings and raise the walls. The old steep roof line can be seen on the interior of the end walls, where the nineteenth century masonry is not as thick as the original work.

The earlier roof is said to have had four dormer windows; these may have been rare seventeenth-century examples or they may have been later additions. Except for three small first-floor end windows, whose arched openings are original, but whose frames and sash appear to date from the early nineteenth century, all window openings have been altered. Both front and back walls were pierced by two large openings that had to be partially filled in before the 1873 windows could be added. Each of the four openings (one now destroyed or obscured by a mid-twentieth century addition to the back) must have held a series of perhaps three vertical windows, probably casement with leaded panes. The filling in at the sill and lintel levels of all visible window openings may represent evidence of an architectural treatment similar to that seen in the window surrounds on the second floor of Bacon's Castle in Surry County. The main entrance to the house is, as it was originally, through the two-story projection. The two side windows on the first floor of the projection and the three windows on the second level have been slightly relocated, but they are in the same general position, and are of approximate size of the originals. An interesting detail, now surviving only in outline, was the round window in the gable of the porch chamber.

The treatment of the string course is a notable exterior feature of the house, and there are period parallels in England and Virginia. Although partially covered by a modern porch, it can be seen that the two course thick stringer wraps around the two-story projection between first and second floors, breaking upward at a right angle above the doorway to emphasize that centralized feature. The same motif was used on the west wall of Carter's Creek in Gloucester County, and one is also seen on Criss Cross' projection, while a more elaborate version embellishes the entrance to Bacon's Castle. Unlike Criss Cross, the brick gable of the projection survives here, and its base is marked by another two-course thick stringer. Also unlike Criss Cross, Foster's Castle's end chimneys are interior, and the unbroken end walls are marked by a stringer between the first floor and garret levels. The chimney stacks are rebuilt, at least above ridge level.

The brickwork exhibits an unusual selection of bonds. The bond of the front (south) wall and two-story projection above the watertable is Flemish

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Political	<input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning
<input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation			

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Colonel Joseph Foster is believed to have built the Castle between 1685 and 1690, although the loss of New Kent County records in the War Between the States makes definite attribution difficult. Foster was a first generation English emigrant, coming from Newport, Southampton. He represented New Kent County as a burgess in 1688, 1696, and 1700-1702, and was a county sheriff, justice, and lieutenant-colonel of the militia. He was appointed vestryman of Saint Peters Parish in 1690 and Church Warden in 1692, and he acted as supervisor of the construction of the present Saint Peters in 1701-1703. Foster died about 1715, leaving issue.

Later owners of the house were Mrs. Maria Brumley and William Payne Waring. The 1863 Gilmer Confederate map of New Kent labels Foster's Castle as "Brumley," and shows four buildings there, one next to the existing house and two just to the south-east, across the present farm road. The property was purchased by Dr. J.C. Gregory in 1872 and he altered the house in the next year. The Gregory family still owns and occupies the house.

Foster's Castle shares with nearby Criss Cross, the Mathew Jones House in Newport News, and Bacon's Castle in Surry County the distinction of being one of Virginia's four surviving Tudor-Stuart style structures with porch projections. Such houses, distinguished by two-story single bay entrance projections in the center of the facade appear to represent a major seventeenth and very early-eighteenth century Virginia building form. Foster's Castle, with its interesting masonry architectural features is a rare survival of this distinctive and once-widespread form.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography, vol.I, New York, 1915, p. 238.  
 Forman, Henry Chandlee, The Architecture of the Old South, The Medieval Style,  
 New York, 1948.  
 Moorehead, Singleton P., "The Castle," Virginia Magazine of History and  
 Biography, vol. XLII, no. 4 (October, 1934).  
Vestry Book of St. Peter's Parish, New Kent County, Va., Richmond, 1905.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 35' 48"	77° 05' 21"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 35' 48"	77° 04' 08"				
SE	37° 34' 51"	77° 04' 08"				
SW	37° 34' 51"	77° 05' 21"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 340 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: December, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name J.R. Fishburne, Director  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
New Kent	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. Code:11

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
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7. with glazed headers, all corner headers and some closers being glazed. This Flemish bond is the most carefully finished brickwork on the house, although all the masonry is relatively crude. The back and end walls are laid in Flemish cross bond: alternating rows of stretchers and stretcher/headers. Below the water table, a mixture of bonds occurs: English on the west wall, predominantly Flemish cross bond on the east wall and part of the porch projection, and an unusual bond on the north and parts of the south wall comprised of alternating rows of stretchers, with the non-stretcher rows alternating between headers and stretcher/headers.

The interior was altered prior to the raising of the roof. One now enters from the enclosed porch chamber into a central stair hall, although the original plan may have resembled Criss Cross, where entrance from the porch is directly into the larger of two first floor rooms. The stair in the central hall appears to date from the beginning of the nineteenth century, although it retains some earlier forms. The stair consists of a short run, landing with quarter-turn, and the main run to the second floor. The rather heavily-molded hand rail is supported by square balusters and posts. The cabinetry of the stair is a pleasing example of circa 1800 work, with vertical raised panels and sawn brackets. First floor mantels, in the east and west rooms exhibit pilasters and reeding typical of about the same period, but brackets supporting shelves above place their date at circa 1830-40. Doors vary in style and date, being contemporary with both the stair and mantels.

The basement, which is excavated only under the hall and east room, is reached by an exterior door in the east wall. The opening may be original, although the door is not.

E.A.C.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

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COUNTY	
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME

COMMON: Foster's Castle  
AND/OR HISTORIC: Foster's Castle

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1 mi. N of Rt. 608, .9 mi. E of intersection with Rt. 606.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Tunstall vicinity

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	New Kent	127

3. MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE:  
U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle Tunstall, Virginia

SCALE: 1:24000

DATE: 1949

4. REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- Property boundaries where required.
- North arrow.
- Latitude and longitude reference.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

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COUNTY	
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STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	51	New Kent	127

3. PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OF PHOTO: 1972

NEGATIVE FILED AT:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Richmond, Virginia

4. IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.

View from the south.

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
 Tunstall, Va. 1949

UNITED STATES  
 DEPARTMENT OF  
 COAST AND GEODE

FOSTER'S CASTLE

latitude	longitude
NW37°35'48"	77°05'21"
NE37°35'48"	77°04'08"
SE37°34'51"	77°04'08"
SW37°34'51"	77°05'21"

77° 37°37'30" (KING WILLI)

