

Preserving History in Loudoun County, Virginia

# Friends of the Slave Quarters

## Our Mission

The mission of the Friends of the Slave Quarters is to preserve the historically significant Arcola Slave Quarters for future generations and to educate the public about the rich African-American heritage in Loudoun County, Virginia.



## Distinguished Listings

- ♦ National Registry of Historic Places
- ♦ Virginia Historic Landmarks Registry

## Our Plan

- Advocate for the continued restoration of the Arcola Slave Quarters structure.
- Develop and implement a Preservation Plan for the 10 acre site and an Interpretive Plan for the buildings and grounds.
- Participate in public awareness efforts for this historic structure and support educational activities concerning history in Loudoun County with an emphasis on African-American culture between the 18th and 19th centuries.
- Sustain a Fundraising Program that supports this plan and mission of the Friends of the Slave Quarters.



Building Constructed circa  
1800

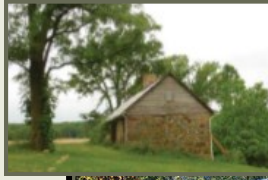
Located in Arcola, Virginia

### Slave Quarters History lives on...

It is estimated that both portions of this stone building were constructed between the late 1700s and early 1800s. The western banked portion of the building is the original slave quarters. This early building features a cellar and two rooms on the first floor divided by a centrally placed chimney. The two room plan, divided by a chimney is called "double pen". The eastern portion, also double-pen but lacking a cellar, was added later, doubling the size of the original building.

The lack of a door or passageway between the two blocks indicates that the later half was constructed either to house a separate family or to contain a separate function, such as kitchen space. The proximity of the quarters to the main house strongly suggests it served as a dwelling for the Lewis family house slaves.

House slaves commonly resided within the main house or in a nearby building that housed the kitchen. They generally held closer relationships with the plantation owner's family, aiding in the rearing of children, preparing family meals, attending to personal needs, and serving as traveling companions.



### ARCOLA SLAVE QUARTERS

The Arcola Slave Quarters is a rare surviving example of a stone slave dwelling in Virginia. This unique building features distinctive characteristics of both early Virginia architecture and regional methods of slave quarter construction. The foundation and first-story walls, constructed of local fieldstone, are an impressive two feet thick. These sturdy stone walls are the reason this building has survived when so many other slave quarters were lost. The wood-framing supporting the gable roof is composed of hand-hewn timbers held together with wooden pegs, a framing method common in Virginia.

Although the methods of construction follow those used in various buildings throughout Virginia, the overall layout establishes that this building was constructed to house the enslaved. Slave quarters generally feature a one or one-and-one-half story structure capped with a side-gable roof, and containing a single- or double-pen plan. The interior living space is generally arranged around a central hearth and the cramped rooms feature dirt floors, a lack of finishing and a crude living space; all elements visible at the Arcola Slave



Stabilization effort underway



## Inventory of Charles Lewis, 1843

His estate was to be given to the children of his deceased brother, James Lewis, upon his death.

### Slaves:

Jane Turner	(\$100.00)
Joe Sprawling	\$100.00)
Lydia Hogan	(\$100.00)
Nelson Turner	\$250.00
Mary Turner & child	\$250.00
Harry Newman	\$400.00
William Henderson	\$400.00
George Henderson	\$425.00
Sam Owings	\$425.00
Charles Newman	\$400.00
Henry Simms	\$425.00
Tom Simms	\$425.00
Charles Henderson, blacksmith	\$500.00
Betsy & 3 Children (viz: John, Mary, Betsey)	\$525.00
Nelly & her child Nancy	\$400.00
Fanny & her child Martha	\$400.00
Caroline Henderson	\$325.00
Mary Henderson	\$325.00
Eliza Simms	\$325.00
Hanibal Simms	\$300.00
William Simms	\$150.00
Harriet Simms	\$200.00
Gustava Simms	\$175.00
Charles Simms	\$125.00
Amand Simms	\$50.00
Total	\$7,200.00
Deduct valuation of slaves as an encumbrance (\$300.00)	
Net valuation of all the slaves .....	\$6,900.00

### Land:

Hometract supposed to be 500 acres	\$4,000.00
Tract bought of Collin Auld	\$700.00
Broad Run Tract	\$1,000.00
Total.....	\$5,700.00

SMALL ACTIONS  
X LOTS OF PEOPLE  
= BIG CHANGE

The Friends of the Arcola Slave Quarters invites you to join us in achieving our mission by assisting in conducting historical research, vetting costly restorations, developing historically sound educational programming and interpretive signage. This can only be made possible through dedicated partners, the utilization of valuable expertise, volunteer support and financial resources.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in volunteering.

Please make your donations payable to the **Friends of the Slave Quarters**, a non-profit 501c3 organization.

\_\_\_ \$15 Individual \_\_\_ \$30 Family

\_\_\_ \$100 Sponsor \_\_\_ \$500 Patron

\_\_\_ \$1,000 Benefactor

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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