

CASTLES IN VIRGINIA

CASTLES, REPLANTED HISTORIC HOUSES PLUS REPLICA BUILDINGS OF INTEREST TO SCADIANS

COMPLIED BY

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The decision of what to include in this list was somewhat arbitrary and personal. I chose buildings that consciously imitate European residential castles, but excluded Victorian or baronial-style homes that are called “castles” simply because they are large and happen to have a tower. Also eliminated were military academies, armories, prisons, Pythyian lodges and other civic buildings built in a faux-medieval style. I would have allowed follies, such as lakeside stone towers, but haven’t noticed any in Virginia.

I welcome suggestions and photos to expand this list, but the final decision of what to include is my own.

CASTLES AND CASTLE-LIKE BUILDINGS:

Bull Run Castle, 24637 James Madison Highway (U.S. 15), Aldie, (Barony of Stierbach). A private residence, but visible from the shoulder of the highway northbound.

Royal Orchard Castle (aka Scott’s Castle), 501 Royal Orchard Drive, Afton, (Shire of Isenfir). This is a private residence that is definitely NOT open to the public. Briefly visible from westbound I-64 between mileposts 104 and 102 on the north side of the freeway.

John Gabel’s Tower, 3160 Wades Gap Road, Boones Mill, Franklin County (Crown Lands). This is around stone tower used as a retreat. It almost falls into the category of a folly, but has castle-like features.

Melrose Castle, Route 602, Casanova (Barony of Stierbach). A mid-19th century stone house, it features battlements and a three-story tower. A private residence, it is not open to the public.

Keen’s Castle, Rockingham County (Shire of Isenfir). A recently-built private home with castle-like features: battlements, large corner towers along the front and small turrets on the rear corners.

REPLICA HISTORIC BUILDINGS:

Henricus State Park, 251 Henricus Park Road, Chester (Barony of Caer Mear). This park recreates the village and fort founded here in 1611, with replica houses, furnishings and domestic stuff similar to that of the late Elizabethan period (web site: <http://henricus.org>).

Jamestown Settlement, 2110 Jamestown Road, Route 31 S., Williamsburg (Barony of Tir-y-Don). This park includes a replica of the original Jamestown 1607 fort, including several structures with furnishings similar to those of England during the late Elizabethan period. (web site: <https://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/>).

Robertson Windmill, Colonial Williamsburg, Duke of Gloucester Street, Williamsburg (Barony of Tir-y-Don). The Robertson Windmill, located on the edge of Great Hopes Plantation, is a replica “post mill”, an English design common during the middle ages. Milling technology did not change much until the late 18th century with the invention of the so-called “automatic mill” using internal conveyors. The Robertson Windmill is not currently open to the public, but can be viewed from the outside (web site: <http://www.history.org/Almanack/life/trades/trademil.cfm>).



The Robertson Windmill at Colonial Williamsburg is an authentic replica English post mill. Since this photo was taken, the mill has been remounted on its post and has had its sails restored. Stand by for an updated photo on my next Williamsburg visit. *Photo by Lord Mungo Napier.*

REPLANTED HISTORIC HOUSES:

Agecroft Hall, 4305 Sulgrave Road, Richmond (Barony of Caer Mear). This 1920s mansion was built with materials salvaged from the original 15th century Agecroft Hall in Lancashire, England. It is interpreted and furnished to represent the late Elizabethan period. Agecroft is open to the public for a modest admission fee (web site: <http://www.agecrofthall.com>).



Agecroft Hall is a lovely half-timbered manor house. Guided tours explore the parlor, dining room, bedrooms, estate office and even a priest hole. A separate kitchen opens onto the courtyard. *Photo by Lord Mungo Napier.*

English House at the Frontier Culture Museum, 1290 Richmond Road, Staunton (Barony of Black Diamond). The English House is a real late 17th century building salvaged from England. Of half-timber/wattle-and-daub construction, it is furnished and interpreted as a typical middle-class English farm structure. Rural material culture of the period was not that much different from 1500 or so, and this building is worthy of a visit by Scadians, especially those with a late-period English personas (web site: <http://www.frontiermuseum.org>).

The Frontier Culture Museum's English farmhouse dates from the 1690s, but its design and materials are little different from houses built in the 1500s. Photo by Lord Mungo Napier.



Virginia House, 4301 Sulgrave Road, Richmond (Barony of Caer Mear). Like the adjacent Agecroft Hall, Virginia House was built using salvaged materials from an English medieval structure, in this case Warwick Priory in Warwickshire. Today it serves as the headquarters of the Virginia Historical Society. Virginia House is open only by appointment for a modest admission fee (web site: <http://www.vahistorical.org/your-visit/virginia-house>).