

CASTLES IN VIRGINIA

COMPILED BY LORD MUNGO NAPIER (Updated 1-2018)

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, Pythian lodges and other civic buildings built in a faux-medieval style. The replica buildings were chosen for what they can teach us about Elizabethan life.

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:

John Gabel’s Tower, 3160 Wades Gap Road, Boones Mill, Franklin County (Crown Lands). This is a round 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.

Bull Run Castle, 24637 James Madison Hwy. (U.S. 15), Aldie, (Barony of Stierbach).

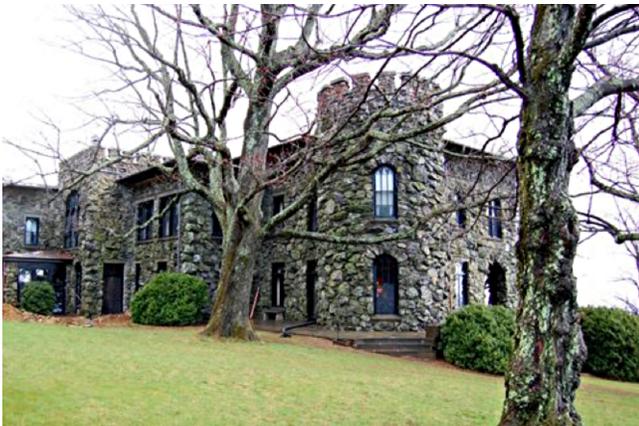
A private residence, but visible from the shoulder of northbound U.S. Highway 15.

(Photo by Lord Mungo Napier)



Royal Orchard Castle (aka Scott’s Castle), 501 Royal Orchard Drive, Afton, (Shire of Isenfir).

Royal Orchard Castle 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 in the winter.



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. Rooms on the guided tour include the parlor, bedrooms, estate office and a priest hole. A detached kitchen is separate from the guided tour. The spacious Elizabethan gardens are spectacular in season. Agecroft is open to the public for a modest admission fee and is a must-see destination for all Scadians (web site: <http://www.agecrofthall.com>).

Photo by Lord Mungo Napier.

The English Farmhouse 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. It is filled with replica furniture, and features a working kitchen. Rural material culture of the period was not that much different from the early 1500s. This house is worthy of a visit, especially those with Elizabethan personas (web site: <http://www.frontiermuseum.org>).

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>).

REPLICA HISTORIC BUILDINGS:



The Robertson Windmill, at 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” with 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/rademil.cfm>).

Your author promises an updated photo after his next Colonial Williamsburg visit.

Photo by Lord Mungo Napier.

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, with several structures and furnishings similar to those of England during the late Elizabethan period. Also of interest are replicas of the three ships that brought the first colonists to Jamestown (web site: <https://www.historyisfun.org/jamestown-settlement/>).

Photo by Lord Mungo Napier.

