Chapter 1: Assessment of Current Resources

1.1 Evolution of Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved (AQE)

The historical roots of AQE go back to the settlement of the Virginia Colony in the early seventeenth century. Its evolution was spurred on by the development of the tobacco trade and the establishment of slavery in the colony. Later events impacted the lives of the enslaved in Virginia and set the stage for the interpretation of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved (AQE). They include the:

- American Revolution (1776-1783), which allowed the infant United States to take control of British holdings in the deep South and open them for settlement and economic development.
- Decline of tobacco cultivation Virginia in the late 18th century, due to soil exhaustion.
- Rapid growth of cotton cultivation in the Deep South (after 1800), which created a significant demand for enslaved workers; and
- Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves (1808), which prohibited the importation of enslaved persons into the United States.

Section 1.1 fills in the details of the evolution of AQE by providing a commentary on slavery in Virginia; an overview of slavery in Loudoun County; a history of Lewis Farm (LF) property and an assessment of its present status as Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved Historical Park (AQE).

1.1.1 Slavery in Virginia: A Commentary

Slavery, the practice of human beings owning other human beings as chattel or moveable property, has existed throughout the human experience. The beginnings of the American system of slavery, where persons of European descent owned persons of African descent and Native Americans, occurred in the 17th century. It became the dominant labor system in the American colonies not only in response to economic necessity but also because of European ideas about class, power, status and race.

In Virginia, the population, free and enslaved, concentrated in the Tidewater region during the 17th Century. There:

- Slavery in the American colonies developed in Virginia, site of the first permanent English settlement (Jamestown, 1607).
- The first Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619 and were regarded as a “special” category of
labor (“Negroes”), set apart from white, Christian servants.

- Immigration to Virginia by those seeking to make their fortune by the cultivation of tobacco—middling farmers as well as those with greater wealth and status—greatly increased in the 1640s and 1650s.
- English settlers introduced tobacco cultivation to Jamestown in 1612; by 1617 its cultivation was well established.
- Tobacco, a labor-intensive crop, required a cheap and readily available labor supply to make a profit for the planter.
- The African slave trade was already in place, bringing the enslaved to the West Indies and from there to the North American continent.
- Although specific laws legalizing slavery where not enacted before 1660, the legal distinctions between white and black men, and white and black women, were in place in Virginia by 1643.

By the late 1600s, about 80 years after the settlement of Jamestown, three factors came together to propel the expansion of slavery on a broad scale:

- The expansion of tobacco as a cash crop and growth of the amount of land under cultivation required many more workers than could be satisfied by indentured servants alone.
- The Royal African Company lost its monopoly on the English slave trade in 1698, increasing the number of enslaved Africans available for purchase by colonists, thus furnishing a much-expanded labor pool.
- Tobacco prices fell catastrophically at the beginning of the 18th century, ruining many small farmers. This left the tobacco trade open primarily to wealthy planters, who had the capital to purchase the cheap and self-propagating labor needed to conduct the labor-intensive cultivation that the crop required.¹

With the demand for tobacco in European markets remaining steady, an understanding legal system (made up mostly of the tobacco planters themselves), and a ready supply of labor available first from the Royal African Company and then from other slave traders, slavery became widespread in Tidewater Virginia by 1700.

1.1.2 Overview/ Slavery in Loudoun County, Virginia

18th Century

Before 1722 the area of the Virginia Colony between the Tidewater and the Blue Ridge was a frontier area and Native American hunting grounds. That year, the governor of Virginia signed the Treaty of Albany, which effectively restricted the Iroquois to the lands west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. This act opened the area (including Loudoun county) to settlement by colonial planters, whose agricultural practices were rapidly exhausting Tidewater lands.

Loudoun County was part of the Northern Neck Proprietary, a large land grant made by Charles II of England in 1649 to six of his followers. At the time of the Treaty of Albany, Thomas, 6th Lord Fairfax, controlled the Proprietorship. A descendant of one of King Charles II’s original grantees of the Northern Neck Proprietary, he made land grants to wealthy Tidewater planters. They, in turn, became absentee landlords, set up satellite operations in Loudoun County on their new lands while maintaining their main holdings in the Tidewater. As absentee landlords, they populated their holdings mostly with enslaved males and white overseers to work the land, cultivating corn, wheat and tobacco.

By 1749, an estimated four hundred enslaved individuals lived and worked in what is now Loudoun County. A few years later, in 1757, the Virginia House of Burgesses divided Fairfax County, forming Loudoun County from it westernmost lands. Five hundred fifty (550) enslaved individuals lived in the county. Sixty-five percent of these enslaved workers (approximately 357 people) belonged to absentee landlords.²

The population of Loudoun County (both free and enslaved) grew rapidly during the second half of the 18th century as more land opened for settlement (See Table 1.1.2a below) . The number of absentee landlords diminished as more planters relocated to their Loudoun holdings, bringing their enslaved workforce with them. This new workforce, which included women (largely domestic servants), changed the nature of enslaved life in the county. Previously, the enslaved population had been largely male laborers, whose labor was necessary to clear and cultivate new lands. By the time of the first United States Census in 1790, 4,213 enslaved individuals lived in Loudoun County. They made up twenty-two percent of the population, a figure that did not change significantly before the end of slavery in the United States.

² [https://www.loudounhistory.org/history/african-american-chronology/](https://www.loudounhistory.org/history/african-american-chronology/) (Accessed November 19, 2021.). Reverend Charles Green, an Anglican minister, conducted “a census of lands to become Loudoun” in 1749 in an early recording of information about the enslaved population in what was to become Loudoun County.
Table 1.1a – Population of Loudoun County, 1749 -1790

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>White Population</th>
<th>Enslaved Population</th>
<th>% of Population Enslaved</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1749</td>
<td>1,800</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>Rev. Charles Green census</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1757</td>
<td>3,500</td>
<td>550</td>
<td>15.7%</td>
<td>Loudoun County Established</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1764</td>
<td>5,800</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td>End of French and Indian War</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1773</td>
<td>11,000</td>
<td>1,950</td>
<td>17.7%</td>
<td>Eve of American Revolution</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1790</td>
<td>18,962</td>
<td>4,213</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>1st U.S. Census</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19th Century

The enslaved population of Loudoun County peaked at 6,078 persons in 1800 (29.6% of the total population), but fell to 5,001 (or 23.4% of the population) by 1810. After 1810, the enslaved population remained stable, ranging between 25.9% and 24.5% of the entire population. This lack of growth, also reflected in the white population, was one indicator of the turbulent nature of the Virginia economy in the decades leading up to the Civil War. “Table 1.1b – Loudoun County Population, 1800-1860” on the following page illustrates these demographics.

Table 1.1b Loudoun County Population, 1800-1860

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Census Year</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
<th>Whites</th>
<th>Free Blacks</th>
<th>Enslaved Population</th>
<th>% Population Enslaved</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1800</td>
<td>20,523</td>
<td>15,210</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>6,078</td>
<td>29.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1810</td>
<td>21,338</td>
<td>15,575</td>
<td>604</td>
<td>5,001</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1820</td>
<td>22,702</td>
<td>16,190</td>
<td>829</td>
<td>5,729</td>
<td>25.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1830</td>
<td>21,796</td>
<td>16,374</td>
<td>1,079</td>
<td>5,343</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1840</td>
<td>20,431</td>
<td>13,840</td>
<td>1,318</td>
<td>5,273</td>
<td>25.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1850</td>
<td>22,679</td>
<td>15,681</td>
<td>1,357</td>
<td>5,641</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1860</td>
<td>21,774</td>
<td>15,021</td>
<td>1,252</td>
<td>5,501</td>
<td>25.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3Ibid.
The seeds of economic distress were present by 1800, when tobacco production began to decline in Loudoun County and elsewhere. The effects of overplanting tobacco, before the introduction of fertilizer and crop rotation, exhausted the soil in Tidewater and Piedmont Virginia. Farmers could not meet the demand for tobacco on the world market. Land values plummeted by over 50% in the first quarter of the 19th century. To counter this, Virginia farmers transitioned to a less labor-intensive grain-based agriculture and the raising of livestock, leaving many with unneeded and costly-to-maintain enslaved laborers.

These they “sold South” to slave traders, who re-sold them to cotton planters in the Deep South. There, labor-intensive cotton cultivation was growing rapidly to meet the demands of the British textile industry. Unlike many, the Lewis Family held on to their land and enslaved workers throughout this transition, which was in process during the periods of construction of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved.

1.1.3 A History of the Lewis Farm Property
Members of the family, including its patriarch Vincent Lewis, immigrated to Virginia from Northumberland County, England in the early 18th century. In 1728, Thomas 6th Lord Fairfax, granted 1,750 acres to Anthony Russell, a prosperous planter. In 1746, Vincent Lewis of Fairfax County purchased eight hundred of those acres from Anthony Russell (Fairfax County Deed Book A-293, Fairfax County Deed Book B-147). Vincent Lewis gave 240 acres to his eldest son, John Lewis, in 1754 (Fairfax County Deed Book C-698). In 1757 the Virginia House of Burgesses divided Fairfax County so that when, in 1786, Vincent gave 222 acres to his son, James, the property was now part of Loudoun County (Loudoun County Deed Book P-45). It was on those 222 acres that James built his house, and constructed what is a rare surviving example of an early 19th-century stone quarters for the enslaved building. It is a one-story, side-gable-roofed stone building that consists of two adjoining sets of two rooms each, erected and joined together in two separate building campaigns (c. 1813 and c. 1845).

When Vincent died in 1796, he left the remainder of the original 800-acre parcel, 338 acres, as well as his house, to his youngest son, Charles Lewis (Loudoun County Will Book E-287). The final disposition of his enslaved workforce is unclear, although Charles may have inherited these men, women and children.

Charles’ older brother, James, died in 1826. James left his portion of the Vincent Lewis estate, the James Lewis farm (where the standing Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved are located) enslaved
laborers, livestock, farming equipment, and household utensils to his daughters Susannah, Catherine, Elizabeth, Martha, and Jane as long as they were unmarried. Their property was adjacent to Charles Lewis’ farm. When Charles died unmarried in 1843, the children of his deceased brother James inherited his entire estate, including enslaved workers, with the stipulation that they could sell both the enslaved workers and the land. As a result of the estate division, James’ daughters, Catherine Lewis Darne and Martha Lewis, inherited property that totaled five hundred acres. Their siblings split the remainder. It is not known why Susannah Lewis received nothing from this bequest.

According to US Census records, Martha and Susannah lived at the Lewis Farm into the 1850s. As shown on the 1853 map, their sister, Catherine, lived just east of the site. Catherine Darne sold her half of the Charles Lewis farm property to her sister, Martha Lewis, in 1854; Catherine died about 1866.

Martha Lewis and her sister, Susannah, apparently moved in with their cousin, Thomas Lewis, between 1850 and 1860. Thomas Lewis seems to be the son of John Lewis, the oldest son of Vincent Lewis; Thomas moved to Kentucky and apparently was back in Loudoun County by 1850, when he was enumerated in the census in the same neighborhood as Susannah and Martha Lewis. Thomas Lewis died in 1872, and Martha Lewis died in 1873. In 1883, ten years after Martha’s death, the property was sold out of the family. A succession of private families owned the land until the Hazout Corporation purchased it in 1979 and then sold it to Buchanan Partners in 2002. Both intended to develop the land commercially. See Appendix K for a Summary of Deed Research and Property Transfers for the Arcola property.

The map below (Figure 1.1a) shows the approximate locations of the various Lewis family houses, in relation to the standing quarters to the south across Evergreen Mills Road.
**Sources**

The history of slavery that begins Section 1.1.1 came from a conference presentation by Susan Atherton Hanson, Ph.D. *Interpreting Slavery: A Regional Challenge* (National Association for Interpretation, Region II Meeting: Westview/Goochland Co, VA, March 28, 1996.) It appears in this report as Appendix A. Martha Katz-Hyman reviewed and updated the presentation for this report.

The brief history of the site that follows is taken from the 2007 report prepared by Cultural Resources, Inc., of their phase II and phase III archaeological investigations at site 44LD1433 on the Goupda Property, Loudoun County, Virginia (Original on file in the Loudoun County Historic Preservation Office), a brief history of the county taken from the county’s website, the 2008 National Register nomination form, and an architectural report of the Arcola quarters for the enslaved building prepared by Dr. Dennis Pogue and Dr. Douglas Sanford in February 2018.
1.1.4 Present Status
The Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved is in Arcola, one of the fastest growing areas the county. The street address is 24837 Evergreen Mills Road, Sterling, VA 20164. The historic structure was proffered to the county by the Swiss developer Hazout S.A. The Quarters for the Enslaved is listed on the National Registry of Historic Places and Virginia Historic Landmarks Registry. There is currently no public access to the site.

In March 2020, the Loudoun County School Board awarded the contract for the construction of the Elaine E. Thompson Elementary School on an adjacent property. Ms. Thompson was a lifelong Loudoun County resident and African American historian. It will open in Fall 2022.

1.1.4.1 LCPRCS Historic and Cultural Sites
The current Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved site is the property of the Loudoun County, VA Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services (LCPRCS). Founded in 1966, LCPRCS has endeavored to meet the needs of Loudoun residents for recreation, leisure, and supportive programs that are diverse, accessible, and affordable. LCPRCS reaches out to the community through an expansive countywide system of facilities that includes a group of historic/heritage sites. Among these is the undeveloped Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved Site.

Table 1.1c below provides basic information about each LCPRCS site. The majority of these sites are in the Lanesville Heritage Area within Claude Moore Park, the flagship site for the LCPRCS system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CARVER CENTER</td>
<td>George Washington Carver Elementary School, first school built for black children in Loudoun County.</td>
<td>1948</td>
<td>Purcellville</td>
<td>Senior Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E.E. LAKE GENERAL STORE</td>
<td>Two story structure used as general store, bank, dance hall, post office from 1901-1945.</td>
<td>1901</td>
<td>Bluemont</td>
<td>Welcome Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VESTAL’S GAP ROAD</td>
<td>Overland route through Blue Ridge Mountains to Ohio used first by Native Americans and later by colonists.</td>
<td>Pre-contact 1720s-1820s</td>
<td>Claude Moore Park/Sterling</td>
<td>Trail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LANESVILLE HOUSE Lanesville Heritage Area</td>
<td>Wooden structure use as home,</td>
<td>Late 1700s-1807</td>
<td>Claude Moore Park/Sterling</td>
<td>Programming &amp; Interpretation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.1.4.2 AQE and African American Heritage in Northern Virginia and Loudoun County, VA

Northern Virginia has many active African American Heritage sites covering a variety of historic periods. Loudoun County itself has some identified African American historic communities and museums that interpret this heritage. AQE is the “newcomer” in this heritage arena. It can tap into interest in and ongoing research into, the lives of the enslaved at nearby properties, including Oatlands Plantation (run by the National Trust for Historic Preservation) and Sully Plantation (run by Fairfax County) for inspiration—but AQE must have its own mission to survive. Chapter 2 of this Interpretive Master Plan (IMP), “Interpretive Infrastructure,” provides recommendations that begin to lay out a road map for the Loudoun County Department of Parks, Recreation & Community Services to set the course for the future of the site.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SITE</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>USE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SCHOOLHOUSE</td>
<td>Lanesville Heritage Area</td>
<td>School with teacher quarters on second floor</td>
<td>1870</td>
<td>Claude Moore Park/Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FROGSHACKLE NATURE CENTER</td>
<td>Lanesville Heritage Area</td>
<td>1860s log cabin moved to current site</td>
<td>1860s</td>
<td>Claude Moore Park/Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TENANT HOUSE</td>
<td>Lanesville Heritage Area</td>
<td>Building moved 19th century. Housing for farmhands in 20th century.</td>
<td>1870s</td>
<td>Claude Moore Park/Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LOUDOUN HERITAGE FARM MUSEUM</td>
<td>Lanesville Heritage Area</td>
<td>Museum Building/contemporary. Operated by 501C3 organization.</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Claude Moore Park/Sterling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SETTLE DEAN CABIN</td>
<td></td>
<td>Restored home of Dean family, former slaves of Thomas Settle</td>
<td>Inherited by Dean family in 1866</td>
<td>South Riding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ARCOLA QUARTERS FOR THE ENSLAVED</td>
<td></td>
<td>Stone Quarters for the Enslaved on Lewis Farm site</td>
<td>1813-1845</td>
<td>Arcola</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.2 Historical Resources

1.2.1 Archaeology
In connection with the proposed development of Lewis family property surrounding Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved, Loudoun County required archaeological surveys on two separate parcels of this land but no investigations of the property on which the quarters for the enslaved and the current farmhouse sit. The first project was a Phase I survey conducted in 2005, primarily on what is currently a sod farm but which, in the 19th century, was land owned by Charles Lewis. URS Corporation did this work. Cultural Resources, Inc. conducted the second survey in 2007 along State Route 606, .5 miles east of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved. This was a more extensive survey that uncovered the foundations of two 19th-century quarters for the enslaved buildings, most probably built by Charles or Thomas Lewis in the first quarter of the 19th century.


1.2.2 Public Records
The public records available for the Lewis family and the property on which the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved sits are found primarily in the Fairfax and Loudoun County deed books, will books, estate sale records, personal property tax assessments, and chancery suits. They begin with the eight hundred acres Vincent Lewis purchased from Anthony Russell in 1746 through the current ownership of the property by Loudoun County under the stewardship of the county’s Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services. A bibliography of these resources is in Section B.1 (Historical References).

1.2.3 Material Culture
Of the two archaeological investigations noted in Section 1.2.1, only Site 44LD1433, across the street from the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved, yielded artifacts that can be associated with the site’s occupation by the enslaved men, women and children owned by the Lewises. These artifacts can form the basis for proposing a furnishing plan for the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved, if that is the decision made by the county, or for the acquisition of period antiques to exhibit in a visitor’s center or similar facility. Archaeological recoveries from the site of the Settle-Dean Cabin, also owned by Loudoun County and under the stewardship of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Services, will also be useful in this effort.
The wills and probate inventories of the various members of the Lewis family, especially those who lived both on and in proximity to the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved, are crucial for recreating the material environment in which both the enslaver and the enslaved lived. These records, along with the archaeologically-recovered artifacts, will be important sources for this work.

### 1.2.4 Other Resources

This report found no Lewis family papers or other private records in Virginia. It is highly unusual for such a prominent family to leave no archival or other evidence of their lives behind. The only available records are Loudoun County and Fairfax County wills, deeds, estate inventories, estate sale records, land tax records, personal property tax records and chancery suits. These provide rare insights into the daily lives of the Lewis Family or their enslaved work force, which are necessary to develop context and interpretation for historic sites.

To compensate for this lack, the IMP relies on slave narratives recorded in the 1850s and the 1930s, and to a limited supply of visual images, to provide details of the everyday lives of the enslaved. None of the images and only one of the narratives come from Loudoun County. All of the narratives come from an area west of present day I-95; some originated west of present day I-95 and north of present day I-64.

The only private Lewis family record that became known during the preparation of this IMP was a Lewis family bible. It belonged to the descendants of James Lewis, who left Loudoun County for Nelson County, KY in 1815, and contains references to their enslaved laborers. The bible is now in the collection of Kentucky Historical Society in Frankfort, KY. Future research efforts in Kentucky may yield more information on Lewis family members who remained in Loudoun County. (See research recommendations in Section 4.7.1/ Historical and Material Culture Research.)

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5 See Section 3.3.5.1 Slave Narratives.
6 See Section 5.3.5 Enslaved Life in Virginia, 1825-1850, Visual Sources.
1.3 Existing Conditions of the Built Environment and Cultural Landscape

1.3.1 Identification/Location
The Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved is in southeastern Loudoun County, Virginia. The building is located on a 14.71-acre tract southwest of Arcola and south of Evergreen Mills Road (VA 621). The site, once part of 1,750 acres owned by the Lewis family from 1744 until the turn of the nineteenth century, now contains the c. 1813 and c. 1845 quarters for the enslaved, a c. 1930 single-family dwelling, and a late-twentieth century maintenance shed. The Quarters for the Enslaved are located on the southern bank of (the now-dry) Broad Run. Loudoun County Board of Supervisors currently owns the site.

*Figure 2.3a. Location map for resources within the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved site*
1.3.2 Physical Evolution of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved and Associated Site

The 2008 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)\(^8\) nomination for the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved provides an excellent description of the quarters for the enslaved located on the 14.71-acre tract. Combined with observations taken during a September 2017 site visit, the following narrative describes the original construction and physical evolution of the three extant buildings at the site.

(1a) Quarters for the Enslaved - original construction

The stone Quarters for the Enslaved was originally constructed as a two-room, one-story side-gabled building with a central chimney. Dendrochronology conducted on timbers within the building date its construction to 1813,\(^9\) Exterior and interior rubble fieldstone walls are rough cut and laid in irregular courses in a clay bed-mortar and pointed with lime-based mortar. The original section of the building measures approximately 16'-9" [North-South] and 28'-6" [East-West]. Weatherboard siding is located at gable end walls, above the stone exterior walls. A wood-framed opening at gable end walls may have originally contained a shuttered window opening (remnants of pintles for an exterior shutter are extant).\(^10\) The roof and ceiling system, supported by queen-post trusses at gable ends, is composed of rough-hewn square ceiling joists and roof rafters resting on a hand-hewn plate above exterior stone walls.

The south façade features two door openings, providing separate access to the two rooms, or duplex. Two window openings are centered on each interior room at the north elevation. An additional window opening is centered on the first floor (at grade) of the west elevation. Field investigations indicate a matching window opening may have been centered on the east elevation. A one-room cellar (likely a kitchen) is located below the western room of the original section of the building and was accessed by a door at the west elevation, and by an access panel and ladder at the northeast corner of the first-floor room.

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\(^10\) Ibid, p. 2.
The double-pen block contains a central fireplace with back-to-back hearths. Like the exterior walls, the fireplace is constructed of rubble fieldstone set in a clay bed-mortar. A large stone lintel tops the first-floor hearth and a stone jack arch lintel is located at the cellar (kitchen) hearth. It appears a simple, wood-framed partition wall on either side of the hearth separated each room. Sawn floorboards sit atop log posts that support floor joists in the western room, above the cellar. The eastern room of the original building has a compacted earthen floor. Wooden floorboards above ceiling rafters indicate the attic space may have also functioned as a loft or garret and may have been continuous (and open) to both rooms of the duplex. Observations by Douglas W. Sanford and Dennis J. Pogue during the February 2, 2018 site visit indicate the use of battens inserted into shallow notches of the wood floor separating the cellar from the first floor room of the westernmost room that may have served as a means to limit smoke and fumes from penetrating the upper room from the kitchen below.11

(1b) Additions The east section was added 30 years after the construction of the original building (Figure 1.3b); dendrochronology completed using samples from original timbers within the eastern section of the Quarters for the Enslaved date its construction to 1845.12 The rubble stone walls of the exterior abut the original stone walls, and stones are larger and darker in color than the western portion of the building. The eastern section was constructed in the same duplex configuration as the original and measures 16'-9" [North-South] and 31'-3" [East-West]. Construction techniques in the addition vary slightly from the original section. Ceiling and rounded roof rafters exhibit evidence of tree bark. Window openings, centered in each room on the north elevation, are slightly wider and shorter than those openings in the original section. Doors to the duplex rooms, modified to accommodate the storage of large farm equipment and vehicles during the twentieth century, are not original, and limited evidence of the size and configuration of original fenestration survives. Like the original duplex, the two rooms share a central chimney with back-to-back hearths. Wood-framed partition walls separate each space. The addition of wooden floorboards to ceiling rafters created loft spaces. Both rooms have packed earthen floors.

Modern alterations include the door modifications to the eastern addition, the removal of original doors at the western section and the installation of plywood boards to limit access and secure the interior. The original chimney at the western section was removed and replaced by a concrete block stove chimney in the westernmost room. The wood shake roof was installed c. 2010. Original fireplaces have been infilled in the westernmost room and the cellar. Original window openings at the north and west elevations have been infilled. The wooden floor at the

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11 Ibid, p. 3.
westernmost room, and many wooden floor and ceiling joists, have been replaced.

Figure 1.3b. South elevation of the Quarters for the Enslaved, illustrating the 1813 original duplex and the 1845 addition. Valenzuela Preservation Studio, 2018. (VPS).

(2) American Foursquare House A wood-frame, hipped roof single-family dwelling is located southeast of the Quarters for the Enslaved (Figure 1.3c). The house is located at the top of a slight rise in the surrounding landscape and therefore, the quarters are located downslope of the c. 1930 residence. A dormer is located above the front façade, and the standing-seam metal roof features tall, interior brick chimneys. Exterior walls are clad in wood weatherboards. Plywood sheets cover the original fenestration, to protect and secure the interior of the building. The hipped roof, wraparound porch is supported by Classical columns. The 2008 NRHP nomination notes the house was constructed on top of the original rough-cut, random rubble foundation of the original plantation house.
(3) Maintenance Shed (barn ruins) The original barn was demolished c. 1995, although one of the stone foundation walls remains, according to the 2006 URS archeology report. The current maintenance shed, composed of three, side-gabled storage buildings/sheds, was constructed in the late twentieth century and is not contemporary to other buildings on the site.
1.3.3 Status of Knowledge/Built Environment and Cultural Landscape

The following sources provided valuable insight to the physical evolution of the built environment and cultural landscape of the Lewis property during the interpretive master plan process.

**Primary Sources**

**Cadastral Maps**


Topographic Maps


Historic Aerials


Secondary Sources


Elizabeth Mary Andre completed the Arcola Slave Quarters (now Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved) National Register of Historic Places Registration Form for the William & Mary Center for Archaeological Research. The Arcola Slave Quarters was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register in 2008, under NRHP Criteria A and C for architecture and ethnic heritage. The period of significance was defined as c. 1800-1865. As stated in the nomination:

The circa 1800 stone slave quarters in Arcola, Virginia, is eligible with local significance for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, as it contributes significantly to the broad pattern of local history and relates to slavery and African-American heritage, and Criterion C, as it embodies the distinctive characteristics of both early Virginia architecture and methods of slave quarter construction. The building is one of a dwindling number of extant slave quarters and a rare example of a stone slave quarters in Virginia. While altered, the stone slave quarters at Arcola retains a significant amount of historic fabric and is an excellent and rare example of a late-eighteenth- or early-nineteenth-century slave quarters in Virginia. The exceptional quality of its construction has allowed the building to remain standing far longer than the more traditional wood-frame slave quarters, and it also reflects the vernacular building styles of Loudoun County. The building retains integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association, is in fair condition, and contributes at a local level to the
Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved
Interpretive Master Plan – Revised

history of slavery and African-American heritage for the period between 1800 and 1865, encompassing the building’s use as a slave quarters prior to the Civil War.

The nomination provides a physical description of the Quarters for the Enslaved, the c. 1930 American Foursquare dwelling and the modern shed located to the west. It provides a brief historic context of slavery in Loudoun County and the Lewis Farm, and an overview of the plantation landscape and Quarters of the Enslaved design. All this helps to place the site within the broad context of 18th- and 19th-century plantations in Loudoun County.


Phase II evaluation and Phase III data recovery of archaeological site 44LD1433 in southeastern Loudoun County, Virginia. The evaluation was recommended to determine the site’s potential for NRHP eligibility. The report provided contextual information on two nearby quarters for the enslaved archaeological sites and historical information on the Lewis family.


Cursory survey identifying areas of greatest concern at the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved (structural and building envelope issues). Conditions were observed at the surface level – non-destructive testing was performed. Report outlines and prioritizes building conditions and provides general recommendations for treatment to correct deficient elements. Diagrammatic plans and elevations and photographs aid in the depiction of current conditions of building elements.


Researchers from the Center for Historic Preservation at University of Mary Washington, Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association and the University of Maryland visited the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved in 2008, 2009, and 2018 and documented the physical condition of the building and provided insights on the original configuration of the building and the function of each space. A physical description is provided for each major building element. Daniel Miles with the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory analyzed wood samples from the Quarters for the Enslaved to provide information on the dates of construction for the east and west sections of the building.

Douglas Sanford and Dennis J. Pogue conducted a field visit at the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved on February 2, 2018. The site visit report provides a comparative analysis, based on previous research, of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved and other examples of double quarters and improved enslaved housing. The report also identifies unusual qualities of the building that sets the Quarters for the Enslaved apart from its contemporary counterparts. The report also provides stabilization, repair, and rehabilitation recommendations for future work at the Quarters for the Enslaved.


Varna G. Boyd, RPA served as Principal Investigator for URS Corporation for a Phase I archeological survey of the Arcola Center Property in 2007. The survey identified potentially significant archeological resources in the project area for a proposed development. The report provided a prehistoric and historic culture context for the project area and summarized previous investigations at the site. Although the survey identified five potential sites and re-identified one previous site, the report recommended no future work for any of the archeological sites or standing structures identified in the Arcola Center project area.

1.3.4 Summary of Existing Conditions/ Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved

Mesick Cohen Wilson Baker Architects conducted a conditions assessment of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved in 2007. Architectural historians Mark Wenger and Eric Granola completed a cursory survey to identify problems of greatest concern (structural and building envelope issues) to evaluate the success of contemporary stabilization efforts. The report outlined significant condition issues for each major building element and recommended appropriate treatment methods to stabilize the building prior in anticipation of future restoration and interpretive efforts.

The report includes a summary of the 2007 Condition Assessment and Treatment Recommendations along with a statement on the current condition of each building element.
## Table 2.3a. Summary of Past and Current Condition of Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Element</th>
<th>2007 Condition Assessment</th>
<th>2007 Stabilization Recommended Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Roof framing</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Reestablish connection between ceiling joists and walls.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Multiple ceiling joists have been cut, severing the connection between walls</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walls</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Tie north wall into deadman buried on interior side to resist outward thrust.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· North wall – lower one-third of wall is being pushed out by fill on inside face of wall</td>
<td>At locations of bowing, jack walls back into place and inject with casein grout to stabilize.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· East wall bows inward (west) at its center line and has areas of Portland cement mortar and patching</td>
<td>Rebuild portions of missing wall where barn doors were installed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Northeast corner has shifted north. There are areas of open and eroded mortar joints. Original exterior mortar appears to be clay-based.</td>
<td>Have compositional analysis of bedding and pointing mortars performed to determine appropriate mortar mixes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· West wall leans west and is bellied at its center line</td>
<td>Remove all Portland cement mortar and patches.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· South wall door openings at Bays 3 and 4 have been enlarged altering the wall structure and lintels. Wall between Bays 3 and 4 is significantly leaning.</td>
<td>Point walls, as necessary.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Random areas have eroded mortar</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Isolated areas have Portland cement pointing.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roofing</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Research the original roof appearance to determine the materials and method of application employed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Temporary roll roofing is nearing end of its service live</td>
<td>Install permanent roof on the building.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Door Openings</td>
<td>Fair</td>
<td>Determine if any original or early doors remain. Use original doors as models for fabricating new doors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· All the doors have been removed from the building. It is unknown if they are missing or in storage as part of the stabilization.</td>
<td>If no doors exist research designs for historically-appropriate replacement doors. Attention should be paid to match wood species, saw marks, joinery, fasteners and hardware.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Door frames range from good to poor. Some elements are missing or severely deteriorated.</td>
<td>Conserve and repair door frames. Fabricate new doors based on existing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Window Openings</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Determine if any original or early blinds remain. Use original blinds as models for fabricating new blinds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· All the blinds have been removed from the building. It is unknown if they are missing or in storage as part of the stabilization.</td>
<td>If no blinds exist, research designs for historically-appropriate replacement blinds. Attention should be paid to match wood species, saw marks, joinery, fasteners and hardware.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>· Window frames range from good to poor. Some elements are missing or severely deteriorated.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Building Element Condition Assessment and Stabilization Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Building Element</th>
<th>2007 Condition Assessment</th>
<th>2007 Stabilization Recommended Treatment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Fireplace and Chimneys** | - Poor: Burrows (see Interior Surfaces below) may be undermining bases/footings of chimneys  
- Bay 1 – the fireplaces on the ground floor and cellar are closed  
- A twentieth-century cement block chimney is installed in Bay 1.  
- Bay 2 fireplace – the mortar joints are extremely eroded.  
- Bays 3 and 4 – sections of the fireplaces are partially collapsed. | - Confirm stability of fireplace bases/footings.  
- Remove twentieth-century cement block chimney.  
- Reopen closed fireplaces in Bay 1.  
- Conserve fireplaces in Bays 2, 3, 4. |
| **Interior Surfaces**   | - Poor: Animal burrows are present throughout the building.  
- Rising damp is contributing to the erosion of mortar joints along the bottom one-third of the masonry.  
- Floor and floor framing in Bay 1 are a later addition. Framing needs additional support.  
- Walls and chimney breasts are rendered and limewashed. | - Address animal activity. Exterminate and/or prevent access into the building. Refill animal burrows with soil and compact.  
- Rebuild areas of collapsed walls.  
- Point masonry with appropriate mortar.  
- Add supports to Bay 1 floor framing.  
- Gently clean interior surfaces, conserve rendering and limewash, repair as needed, reapply where missing. |
| **Landscape**           | - Fair: Uncontrolled vegetation, stumps, rocks, and debris are located around the perimeter of the building.  
- The earth along the west and east sides of the building is eroded from runoff. | - Initiate archeology program to document the site prior to ground disturbances.  
- Grade landscape to promote positive drainage away from the building.  
- Remove vegetation from walls of building. |

### 1.4 Media

Although AQE is an undeveloped historic site, it has a media trail, both consumable and digital, to document its story and the efforts of the FOASQ to preserve it. “Consumable media,” in the context of this IMP, refers to paper publications and materials; “digital media” refers to materials found online.
1.4.1 Consumable Media

Newspapers

Available media coverage of the AQE story began in late 1998, after Hazout S.A. proffered the site to Loudoun County. Information about these newspaper articles appears in Table 1.4a below. Later articles, first published as consumable media, now appear online.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Washington Post</td>
<td>11/5/1998</td>
<td>Beth Burkstra</td>
<td>A Building with a Past to Be Preserved</td>
<td>Mentions FOASQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun Times Mirror</td>
<td>4/7/1999</td>
<td>Beverly Blois</td>
<td>Exposing Loudoun’s Roots</td>
<td>Mentions FOASQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun Times Mirror</td>
<td>unknown</td>
<td>Jon Eichtenkamp</td>
<td>Stones of Solace</td>
<td>Mentions organizing FOASQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun Times Mirror</td>
<td>6/28/2012</td>
<td>Hannah Hager</td>
<td>Arcola Slave Quarters a reminder of Loudoun’s dark history</td>
<td>Mentions FOASQ, Available online.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loudoun Times Mirror</td>
<td>6/1/2017</td>
<td>Sophie Desmond</td>
<td>The Slave Dwelling Project coming to Loudoun June 2-4</td>
<td>Mentions FOASQ, Available online.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FOASQ Brochure

FOASQ distributed a serviceable brochure that features the LCPRCS logo in 2019-2020. It provided basic information, photographs, the inventory of Charles Lewis’ enslaved (1843) and a request for donations and membership. It is printed on a lightweight coated paper. This brochure will be useful to the FOASQ for some time to come. The brochure is reproduced in Figures 1.4a and 1.4b below.
How you can help

The Friends of the Slave Quarters invites you to join us in achieving our mission by assisting in conducting historical research, warranting 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.

___ Yes, I am interested in volunteering

Please make your donation payable to the Friends of the Slave Quarters, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

___ $15 Individual     ___ $30 Family
___ $100 Sponsor      ___ $500 Patron
___ $1,000 Benefactor

Name __________________________
Address _________________________
________________________________
________________________________
Email ___________________________
Phone # __________________________

Mail to: Friends of the Slave Quarters
P.O. Box 1251
Leesburg, VA 20177
Email: friendsofthequarters@gmail.com

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 ............ ($800.00)
- Joe Sprawling ......... ($400.00)
- Lydia Logan ............ ($500.00)
- Nelson Turner ........... ($350.00)
- Mary Turner & child ....... ($250.00)
- Harry Newman ........... ($400.00)
- William Henderson ....... ($400.00)
- George Henderson ....... ($250.00)
- Sam Cray ................. ($250.00)
- Charles Newman ......... ($400.00)
- Henry Simmons .......... ($250.00)
- Tom Simmons ............. ($250.00)
- Charles Henderson, blacksmith .......... ($500.00)
- Betsy & 3 children
  - Jno., Mary, Betsey ... ($525.00)
  - Nelly & her child Nancy ($400.00)
  - Fanny & her child Martha ($400.00)
  - Caroline Henderson .... ($250.00)
  - Mary Henderson ....... ($250.00)
  - Elias Simmons .......... ($225.00)
  - Hannah Simmons ....... ($200.00)
  - William Simmons ...... ($150.00)
  - Harriet Simmons ..... ($200.00)
  - Suzanna Simmons ....... ($175.00)
  - Charles Simmons ....... ($175.00)
  - Amos Simmons .......... ($50.00)

Total ......................... $7,200.00

Deduct valuation of slaves
As an encumbrance .................. $1,000.00
Net valuation of all the slaves ... $6,200.00

**Land:**

- Homestead supposed to be
  - 500 acres ................... $4,000.00
- Tract bought of Collins Aird ... $700.00
- Broad Run Tract ............. $1,000.00
Total ......................... $6,700.00

Figure 3.4a – FOASQ Brochure (2018) Outside Page
Figure 1.4b – FOASQ Brochure (2018) Inside Page

1.4.2 Digital Media

AQE has a significant online presence. A Google search for “Arcola Slave Quarters” produces over ten pages of entries, ranging from Wikipedia\(^\text{13}\) to Facebook\(^\text{14}\) to the Loudoun County website\(^\text{15}\) to


the *Washington Post*\(^\text{16}\). The Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved page on the LCPRCS website\(^\text{17}\) is one of the most important pages. It provides vital information succinctly in a well-designed professional website. The page makes it clear that AS is a legitimate site falling within the Historic & Cultural Sites section of LCPRCS and provides a link to an online version of the FOASQ brochure.\(^\text{18}\) It spurs public interest and provides a springboard to other online sites for those who wish to pursue its story. See Figure 1.4c on the next page.

In addition, a Google search for “Arcola Slave Quarters” yields scholarly information about the Arcola National Register Nomination,\(^\text{19}\) the Slave Dwelling Project,\(^\text{20}\) and other historical references. Such a presence is a testament to the efforts of LCPRCS and FOASQ to bring the story and development needs of AQE to the general public, Loudoun County officials and residents, descendent communities and scholars.

### 1.5 Interpretive Advantages/Interpretive Challenges

Table 1.5a below sets out the advantages and disadvantages the AQE site has when developing an Interpretive Master Plan. HBTS will discuss these deeply intertwined aspects of AQE by topic below.

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Table 1.5a AQE/Interpretive Advantages and Challenges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interpretive ADVANTAGES</th>
<th>Interpretive CHALLENGES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Suburban Location</td>
<td>Suburban Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development</td>
<td>Undeveloped Site</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends of the Slave Quarters (FOASQ)</td>
<td>Lack of Primary Historic Resources</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>County Park System</td>
<td>Focus on Slavery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dense Population</td>
<td>Crowded Field</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.5.1 Suburban Location/Development/Dense Population

Suburban locations are a bane and a blessing for historic sites. Their dense populations often feature families who will utilize these sites for years to come. Their wealth generates the public and private support necessary to build, maintain and retain historic sites, such as AQE, that their populations demand. At the same time, the demand for property development to accommodate new residents and businesses puts pressure on, and in many cases threatens, the future of these very sites. If development does not threaten the existence of some historic sites, it certainly impacts them by interrupting historic viewsheds; building abutting housing developments; generating traffic noise and pollution from adjacent highways; and limiting road access due to building and road construction.

1.5.2 Undeveloped Site

The undeveloped state of the AQE site, both physically and historically, is the most significant of these challenges. The core of the site, the actual AQE, needs preservation, restoration and interpretation. There is a c. 1930 American Foursquare farmhouse nearby. In another location, this house could qualify as historic because it is over fifty years old. At AQE, it is historically confusing. The farmhouse sits on the foundation of an original plantation house, obscuring information about that structure. It faces north toward the Quarters for the Enslaved and away from the original entry road--something that would never happen during the historical period of AQE. This report will make recommendations as to how to configure the historic site historically. The historical configuration will help to determine the placement of contemporary physical features and facilities.
1.5.3 **County Park System**

AQE is incredibly fortunate to be part of a large, well-funded park system (LCPRCS) that manages other historic sites. It has the experience of developing these sites and making them accessible to the public. LCPRCS also has staying power. It can afford to allow AQE to evolve over time, preserving the AQE itself and funding this IMP. In addition, LCPRCS has a marketing/PR arm, programming capabilities and maintenance and parks divisions. This support system will provide AQE with funds, staff, parks services, skilled trades people, and maintenance services that smaller independent sites struggle to pay for and, in doing so, sustain it over time.

1.5.4 **Lack of Primary Historic Sources**

1.5.4.1 **Lewis Family**

Stories and events detailed in personal correspondence, diaries and journals, financial materials, household documents and business records of the (most likely white) families who lived there propel the evolution of many historic sites. These can be very helpful in learning more about the enslaved. AQE has none of these, which is unusual since the owners were members of the locally prominent Lewis family. Thanks to the Library of Virginia and other online resources, we do have public records: wills, estate accounts, estate inventories, court records plus genealogies, newspapers, an 1843 property description and other publications.

1.5.4.2 **The Enslaved**

Most of the information we have about the enslaved men, women and children who labored for various members of the Lewis family is genealogical, and due to the very diligent and focused work of Arlean Hill and other descendants of those enslaved by the Lewis family. Through their efforts, we know something of the individuals and family groups who lived at Arcola and at the other Lewis family properties. Other information about these people—their work routines, relationships with the Lewises, and day-to-day lives—is more conjectural and lacking in the details needed to develop interpretive programs and furnish the cabin for the enslaved. To overcome this lack, this report turned to slave narratives.

Slave narratives are stories—written or spoken accounts of connected events, a story or memoir—presented in written or spoken words by enslaved or formerly enslaved persons. In the United States, they first appeared in the 18th century but became more common in the 19th century when advocates of abolition used them to support their views on slavery and the lives of the enslaved. Some of these narratives were compilations; one of the best known is *The North-Side View of
"Slavery, by Benjamin Drew, published in 1856. "North-Side" refers to Canada, where many of those from the Upper South who’d managed to escape slavery took refuge. The author interviewed these individuals in Canada (primarily Ontario), and published their remembrances and observations in order to gain support for abolition. Fourteen of these interviews were with former Virginians and include a great deal of information on their experiences of enslavement, their surroundings, and the circumstances of their escape. The author edited these interviews to emphasize the brutality of slavery and to make sure the reader would sympathize with the narrator. They remain good sources for enslaved life and the material culture of mid-19th century slavery in northern Virginia.

During the Great Depression (1930s), the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s administration collected more than 2,300 oral histories on life during slavery from those who were formerly enslaved. The Federal Writers’ Project conducted these interviews between 1936 and 1938. They are available as transcriptions from the Library of Congress; most of the 26 audio-recorded interviews are held by the Library of Congress. These first-person accounts constitute a valuable source of information about the lives of over 2,000 people, most of whom were teenagers or young adults during the last decade of slavery.

In Virginia, three hundred people were interviewed in 1937 and of those, records of only 157 survive. These have been published in Weevils in the Wheat: Interviews With Virginia Ex-Slaves, edited by Charles L. Perdue, Jr., Thomas E. Barden, and Robert K. Phillips. When read carefully, with the understanding that the informants were elderly, these interviews allow readers to learn

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From the website: “Born in Slavery: Slave Narratives from the Federal Writers’ Project, 1936-1938 contains more than 2,300 first-person accounts of slavery and five hundred black-and-white photographs of former slaves. These narratives were collected in the 1930s as part of the Federal Writers’ Project (FWP) of the Works Progress Administration, later renamed Work Projects Administration (WPA). At the conclusion of the Slave Narrative project, a set of edited transcripts was assembled and microfilmed in 1941 as the seventeen-volume Slave Narratives: A Folk History of Slavery in the United States from Interviews with Former Slaves. In 2000-2001, with major support from the Citigroup Foundation, the Library digitized the narratives from the microfilm edition and scanned from the originals five hundred photographs, including more than two hundred that had never been microfilmed or made publicly available. This online collection is a joint presentation of the Manuscript and Prints and Photographs divisions of the Library of Congress.”

about their lives under slavery. Along with the descriptions collected in *The North-Side View of Slavery*, they are, to date, virtually the only accounts of the daily lives of the enslaved in mid-19th century northern Virginia.

### 1.5.5 Focus on Slavery
Interpreting slavery is the thorniest issue historic sites in the American South face. By choosing to take it up, they bring to the surface four hundred years of cultural conflict, which many, on all sides of the issue, would just as soon ignore. Efforts to interpret slavery will be complicated in Loudoun County’s twenty-first century reality. For over two hundred years, Loudoun was a rural agricultural county with a significant enslaved, and later free, African American population. In the mid-twentieth century the first signs of suburban development, spreading outward from Washington, DC, reached the area – and the African American population began to decline. Today, Loudoun is a suburban county with a small African American population – 8.1 percent in the 2020 Census, little changed from the seven percent reported in 2010. Many residents are new to Virginia and/or the United States. Interpreting slavery to this population requires that Loudoun County begin by educating the public about the institution of slavery and its place in Virginia history, before presenting the complex story of the Lewis Family at Arcola and their enslaved workers. This layered approach will make the story of AQE and its enslaved workforce much more accessible and long lasting to those who visit the site and participate in its programs.

### 1.5.6 Crowded Field
The Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved Historical Park is one of forty historic sites in Loudoun County. Seven to ten of these sites interpret various time periods throughout the nineteenth-century. Northern Virginia, in general, has numerous African American historic sites and museums open to the public. Simply searching “African American historic sites Northern Virginia” online yields over one million hits. Websites like *African American Historic Sites Database* ([https://www.statehumanities.org/program/african-american-historic-sites-database/](https://www.statehumanities.org/program/african-american-historic-sites-database/)) and *Black History Attractions – Virginia Is for Lovers* ([https://www.virginia.org/blackhistoryattractions](https://www.virginia.org/blackhistoryattractions)) make information about these sites and museums accessible far beyond the Virginia’s African American communities.

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24 2020 Decennial Census Data, Loudoun County, Virginia. [https://www.loudoun.gov/censusdata](https://www.loudoun.gov/censusdata) (Accessed November 3, 2021.). The US Census report 8.1% of recipients identifying as Black only. 3.9% identified as two or more races, making it difficult to discern the number of those identifying as Black in some way.

25 [Accessed March 14, 2022.]

26 [Accessed January 14, 2022.]
Loudoun County has several African American historic sites in its system (See Table 1.1a). AQE is unique among these because:

- it is the only Quarters for the Enslaved structure owned by Loudoun County on its original site;
- the stone Quarters for the Enslaved itself is a rare intact example of early 19th-century enslaved housing in Virginia; and
- AQE can be preserved, furnished, interpreted and open to the public.

Despite these high points, History Behind the Scenes HBTS remains concerned that AQE will get lost in this crowded field unless the LCPRCS and FOASQ make it a very high priority.

1.5.7 Friends of the Arcola Enslaved Quarters (FOASQ)
The Friends of Arcola Slave Quarters, local citizens descended from those who were enslaved at Arcola and surrounding plantations as well as others who are interested in the site’s preservation, have worked with Loudoun County for twenty years to support proffers and land acquisition, do research, lobby and publicize their cause and essentially kept the flame alive for the development of AQE as an historic site. They have continually advocated for:

- the restoration of the Arcola Quarters for the Enslaved structure;
- the development and implementation of preservation and interpretive plans for the entire site (buildings and grounds);
- participation in public awareness efforts for AQE; and
- support of educational efforts in Loudoun County, emphasizing 18th and 19th century African American culture.

The FOASQ continues to conduct a fundraising program to support the plan and mission of AQE and plays a leading role in the development of the AQE Interpretive Master Plan.