

TERRAPIN FOREST

Source: "Prince William the Story of Its People and Its Places" by The Virginia Writers Project – Originally compiled in 1941 and later sponsored by The Bethlehem Good Housekeeping Club of Manassas, Virginia in 1961 –

This route is northwestward from Dumfries on State 234; Dumfries – Independent Hill – Lake Jackson – Manassas – Stone House – Catharpin – (Leesburg); Dumfries to the Loudoun County Line 29.9 miles.

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At 2.1 mile is a private road (R) that reaches, after dwindling to a footpath, the tottering BAILEY HOUSE about a mile from the highway. The weather-beaten frame structure spreads out low on a U-plan beneath a vast oak and a roof so mossy and lichen-covered that it resembles thatch. A porch fills in the U. At each end is a stone outside chimney. That on the south is a half hidden by a kitchen wing, which built partly of logs – may antedate the rest of the building. West of the house, beyond a field, is an old graveyard where tombstones sentimentally memorialize (see the cemetery page).

The estate, known first as TERRAPIN FOREST, originally consisted of parts of two tracts – one of 65 acres and the other 114 acres – and was owned by Arrington Wickliff, who in 1799 conveyed it to Thomas Chapman, trustee of William Carr's children. One part of the land had been patented in 1712 by William Champe, and the other in 1724 by John Calvert and Jacob Gibson. William Calvert obtained the 65 acre tract and purchased the larger area from Robert Key, who had bought the land from William Champe. It was from William Calvert that Arrington Wickliff bought the estate in 1796. The William Carr whose heirs became owners of Terrapin Forest in 1799 was the father of Betsy Carr (1771-1852), who married Willoughby Tebbs and lived at Tebbsdale. The estate was owned subsequently by the Callender family before it passed to the Baileys, whose name the house now bears.