



Four Stairs is a rare example of an early-eighteenth-century up-country Potomac planter's residence and the only extant such dwelling in Great Falls. It exhibits in its appearance, and in its materials and methods of construction, the evolution of regional vernacular architecture from early settlement into the twentieth century. The original house was crafted with hand tools using the materials available on the site. Gradually it was enlarged and refined to meet changing domestic requirements. Timber-framing succeeded log construction and was, in turn, replaced by a transitional frame construction introducing an element of fashion in the Greek Revival style. All were retained side-by-side and melded together. After 1796, the work of African slaves is apparent. Machine-made components were introduced from Georgetown as transportation and availability improved. Four Stairs is located near early roads, turnpikes, and canals along the Potomac route to the west. Purchased in 1796 by Captain John Jackson, Jr., son of an early settler and, with this sons, a major landowner in the area, the property was lived in by his family for five generations. Prominent in early Fairfax County politics, Jackson was appointed a justice of the peace in 1798, and served as captain of militia.

## Four Stairs

Listed in the National Register of Historic Places August 11, 2004

