

Frascati is one of the Piedmont's best-documented 19th-century dwellings.^[3] The original building contract is preserved in the collections of the Virginia Historical Society and called for "exterior walls of the whole house to be faced with rubber stretchers well burned..." with the brickwork also "to be equal to any... at the University of Virginia."^[4] It was designed by John M. Perry of nearby Albemarle County, Virginia.^{[3][4]} Perry was one of the master builders employed by Thomas Jefferson both at Monticello and the University of Virginia.^{[3][4]} Frascati's Tuscan portico and classical detailing are Jeffersonian architectural characteristics.^{[3][4]}

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The 57' x 39' structure is executed in very even Flemish-bond brick with tooled penciled joints.^[4] Frascati's shallow hipped roof covers the two-story, double-pile residence.^[4] Frascati's main entrance has paneled double doors set within a frame containing a large semicircular transom and complementing sidelights all encircled with elaborately patterned wooden tracery.^[4] The frame consists of symmetrical architraves with paneled corner blocks.^[4] The main entrance is sheltered by a tetrastyle, pedimented Tuscan portico on a brick podium.^{[3][4]} Frascati's Tuscan portico has stuccoed columns, a full entablature, and a pediment with a semicircular lunette in the tympanum.^{[3][4]}

Fenestration throughout Frascati consists of six-over-six sash windows set in wooden architraves and flanked by original louvered shutters.^[4] Paired interior-end chimneys are located on Frascati's north and south elevations.^[4] A later semi-exterior chimney is found on the home's rear elevation.^[4] The roof is covered with standing-seam sheet metal.^[4]

Frascati's central hall plan and interior are discussed at some length in the original specifications:^[4]

The house to have a passage through the middle of it ten feet wide in the clear; and to have a cross partition wall so as to divide the floors of each story into four rooms besides the passage; both the passage walls and cross walls to go from the foundation to the top to be of brick and of the same thickness in the several stories as in the outer walls; the whole house bapement story and all, to be well plastered with a due preportion of plaister of Paris.... The drawing room and passage each to have a handsome cornice of plaister, and each a handsome center ornament of plaister in the ceiling; the general style of all the wood work to be like Thomas Macon's dwelling house... there are to be two staircases one private from the dining room and chamber, with a closet under it; the other an elegant ornamental one out of the passage....

The parlor exhibits plasterwork ceiling medallions and entablatures, the latter copied from a design in Asher Benjamin's American Builder's Companion (1806).^[3] Surviving on the Frascati estate grounds are the original kitchen outbuilding and remnants of the extensive original gardens.^[3]

References

1. "National Register Information System" (<https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP>). *National Register of Historic Places*. National Park Service. July 9, 2010.
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4. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff (September 16, 1980). "National Register of Historic Places - Nomination Form: Frascati" (http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Orange/068-0014_Frascati_1982_Final_Nomination.pdf) (PDF). Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Archived (https://web.archive.org/web/20090523071754/http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/Counties/Orange/068-0014_Frascati_1982_Final_Nomination.pdf) (PDF) from the original on May 23, 2009. Retrieved 2009-04-05.
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