

NORTH WALES FARM

CIRCA 1776 · WARRENTON · VA



MCLEAN FAULCONER INC.

Farm, Estate and Residential Brokers



The nearly 1.5-mile drive winds from the gate house through tree-lined meadows, over stone bridges, and past stately hardwoods to an opening that offers the first glimpse of the manor house. At the crest of a hill, a stunning two-story carriage house is situated at the beginning of a grand and double allée of maple trees that lead for approximately a quarter mile to the circa 1776 stone mansion.



NORTH WALES FARM

North Wales is steeped in history, rich in appointments, and unique in every way. From the minute one enters this splendid property, there is a tremendous sense of dominion, privacy, and tradition. The manor home, carriage house, and stables are surrounded by a vast estate of 1,471.71-acres consisting of pine ridges, hardwood forests, rolling fields and pastures, and lush formal gardens. The terrain provides varied and interesting topography with scenic views of the neighboring countryside and surrounding mountains.

Surrounded by large, private estates and the Whitney State Forest, North Wales enjoys a strong sense of protection and serenity. Ample pasture and cropland provide numerous opportunities for cattle, horses, viticulture, or other agricultural pursuits. Great Run and two other streams meander through the center of the property, and several ponds attract waterfowl and offer excellent fishing. The varied and healthy habitats of the land also provide a plethora of seasonal sport shooting and game hunting.





Period architectural features include the eighteenth century floor plan, intricate moldings, elaborate mantels and cornices, Delft tile and marble fireplace surrounds, Tuscan columns and pediments, and elegant fixtures that have all been superbly crafted and meticulously maintained. The indoor living spaces are further complemented by large covered porches and open terraces, an orchid room, and adjacent pool and tennis court.



THE MANOR HOUSE

The manor house at North Wales is unparalleled in beauty, stature, and construction, making it truly one of the great manors in the country. The circa 1776 Georgian-style, four-story center section of the original house is the central focus of the manor and was enhanced by expansive and nearly identical Colonial Revival-style gabled wings that were added on either side between 1916 and 1920.

Today, the manor is a 22-bedroom, eighteen-bay, stone masonry manor with an English basement, slate roof, copper gutters, and ten stone chimneys. The formal indoor entertaining spaces include grand dining, living, and sun rooms, and a comfortable drawing room and library. The large, professional kitchen boasts three refrigerators, six sinks, double ovens, and granite counters and is supported by a walk-in butler's pantry and silver vault. The lower level includes a rustic pub and billiard room, wine cellar, winner's circle, gun and gardener's rooms, and numerous storage rooms.







NORTH WALES HISTORY

In 1718, this historic property was granted by Lady Catherine Culpeper Fairfax to Col. Rice Hooe, Jr., and Capt. John Hooe. John willed his interest in the property to his daughter, Ann, who later married William Allason. William was a successful merchant from Falmouth, VA, and together, William and Ann built the original five-bay, two-story Georgian-style stone home between 1776 and 1796. In 1815 the home was appraised for \$1,500, placing it in the ten most valuable residences in Fauquier County. This portion is now preserved as the central passage of the manor.

The estate remained in the original family for six Hooe-Allason generations until 1914 when it was sold to Edward M. Weld, a Harvard educated Wall Street broker for \$20,000. Weld was an avid horseman and began transforming North Wales into an equestrian estate with the additions of the carriage house, equestrian center, stables, barns, offices, tenant houses and a Dutch Colonial Revival-style house.



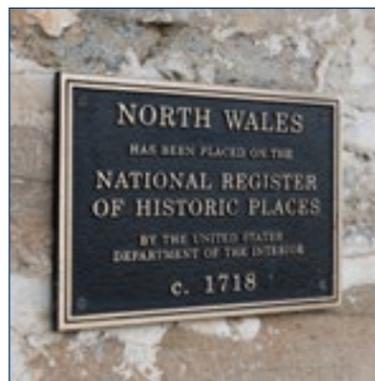
Between 1916 and 1920 and with the aid of Arthur Little and Herbert Brown, leading period architects from Boston, Weld added large wings and north- and south-facing porticoes to the main house in the Colonial Revival style which resulted in the current five-part Palladian plan. Weld, also with the help of Little and Brown, constructed the two-story stone carriage house, added extensive Renaissance- and English-style landscaping, and built terraced lawns.

In 1922, Weld deeded the estate to North Wales Farms, Inc., a private corporation of which he was president. In 1929, a corporation called Colonial Estates with Robert C. Winmill as president bought North Wales. Robert C. Winmill was a neighbor and owner of the adjacent Clovelly estate who subsequently convinced forty men, mostly from New York, to pay \$5,000 each to purchase the property as a private sportsman's club for shooting, fox hunting, and general socializing, calling it "North Wales Club." The Club added viewing stations, a bathhouse, hunt pavilion, and lookout tower to the hunting landscape.

Walter P. Chrysler Jr., son of auto magnate and founder of Chrysler's Air-Temp division, purchased the property in 1941. Chrysler was an industrialist, scholar, and art collector who used the paneled walls of the manor as a backdrop for his collection of works by Picasso, Rodin, Degas, and Matisse, among others—one of the most important collections of Expressionistic art in the country. Chrysler also took advantage of the equestrian facilities to breed racehorses. He added a small conservatory to house his mother's orchids, rebuilt Weld's tennis court, constructed a swimming pool, an equestrian arcade, and barns. Chrysler also held roaring parties and balls and North Wales became a renowned venue that entertained ambassadors, justices, congressmen, and members of high society.

Chrysler sold the estate in 1957 to former Oklahoma Congressman Victor Wickersham because, "Virginia did not have pari-mutual racing." For the next 30 years development—including a 1968 request by then owner Cooper Communities Inc. for rezoning—threatened the historic value of North Wales until the Board of Supervisors denied it. It was held until 1996 when it was bought by Michael V. Prentiss and his wife, Patricia, who placed the property under conservation easement with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation and who painstakingly maintained the manor and its dependencies. North Wales was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

The current owners have continued in this tradition to ensure that meticulous attention is paid to even the smallest details and that North Wales retains its long-lived glory.





The equestrian facilities are exceptional and plentiful at North Wales and allow for professional breeding and raising of horses and can be used for pleasure riding. The farm also includes a substantial number of barns, sheds, farm-related structures, including a central farm office. Additionally, there are a collection of tenant homes in a variety of appealing architectural styles that further add to the utility of the property.



NORTH WALES IMPROVEMENTS

A thorough compliment of dependencies contribute to the property's unique character and distinction. Perhaps the most notable is the circa 1916–1920, two-story Georgian Revival-style stone carriage house with a hipped slate roof and copper-domed copula. Weld's architects, Little and Browne, carefully sited the beautifully crafted structure at the bottom of the driveway such that it lies directly in the manor house's line of sight and acts as a counter balance to the manor home. The carriage house showcases period and architectural details such as cross batten stall doors, light transoms, and elliptical stone arches.

A separate, two-and-one-half story Dutch Colonial Revival-style house is equally impressive. Also designed by Little and Browne, this home has a lovely columned veranda and sits among towering tress on a knoll that overlooks the extensive equestrian facilities. Nearest to the manor is the quaint, original stone cottage that predates all other dwellings and to which a second story was later added.









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