

Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #:
Property Name(s): <u>8 Dogwood Lane (Wilde/Hardie Residence)</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>1941</u> <input type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post Open to the Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>2115 Dogwood Lane</u> City: <u>Farmington</u> Zip: <u>22901</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Charlottesville</u> USGS Quad(s):	

Physical Character of General Surroundings	
Acreage: <u>4.6594</u> Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> City <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Town <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor	
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features:	
<p>Fronting 375 feet on Dogwood Lane this colonial revival estate home includes a garage pavilion with apartment above connected to the main house by an arcade. Notable landscape features include a small garden with pond to the south side of the main house, and stone terraces to the west overlooking lawns and woodland meadows that fall to forestland with views of the Blue Ridge beyond. At the front of the house (eastern side) a densely planted horseshoe entry drive with brick walled entry court knits the house to Dogwood Lane (a one lane carriage drive) which passes through the edge of the property at an elevation slightly above the principal floor of the house.</p>	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: <u>n/a</u>	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

Individual Resource Information	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>Dwelling</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Dwelling</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Colonial Revival</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>Marshall Swain Wells, Architect (1900-1974)</u>	

of stories 4 Condition: Excellent Good Fair Deteriorated Poor Ruins Rebuilt Renovated

Are there any known threats to this property? None

Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a". If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

Foundation:

Poured concrete with brick cladding.

Structure:

Wood frame with brick veneer. Veneer brick is in a running bond pattern and painted. Floors are of both wood joist and hybrid metal open web steel trusses. Roof is wood framed.

Walls:

Walls are painted brick veneer in a running bond pattern. The doors and windows have painted wood trim, sills and operable shutters. Cornice is of a dentillated brick capped with wood cyma and suspended gutter.

Windows:

There are 35 primary double hung windows. 11 of the 35 are on the first floor and have nine lights per sash. 24 of the 35 are on the second and first floor and have 6 panes per sash. All are original to the house and have original counterweights. The kitchen and master bathroom windows are casement type windows added during a recent renovation (1997/1998). Sidelights at front door and its transom as well as transoms at other doors are of wood, are original to the house but carry replacement glass. All double hung and casement windows are of wood.

Typical of Wells' projects, the larger 9/9 windows on the ground floor of the main block have gauged brick jack arch lintels with keystones, while the smaller 6/6 windows on the second floor have flat lintels. Windows in the main block have operable wood louvered shutters.

Porch:

The front porch is of one story, has four brick columns (paired) with two brick pilasters supporting a brick pediment. The pediment has a raked cornice in wood combined with a horizontal cornice in brick.

Roof:

The roof is a combination of gables and hips, all in Buckingham slate, with copper flashings and guttering. Both the roofs of the sun room and the garage have distinctive "cats back gables" and dove cotes in the gable ends, features that are found in many of Wells' residential projects.

Chimney(s):

Four chimneys all in painted brick with a running bond pattern and corbelled caps and where exposed to base exhibit simple, well proportioned raked shoulders.

Architectural Description of Individual Resource: *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated)*

Built in 1941 to the designs of Marshall Swain Wells, 8 Dogwood Lane is an elegant country house colonial revival composition with a four bay center block with gable roof, the ridge of which is terminated by prominent chimney stacks at either end, with projecting wings asymmetrically arranged. A brick piered and pedimented entry portico of
8/20/2009

one story with articulated brick cornices and slate roof protects the front door with fan light at the front or lane side elevation. The north wing of the house encompasses a drive court and service wing with garage whilst the southern or the opposite wing incorporates a library and garden sunroom (altered in the 1980's) with bedrooms at the second floor. A forward projecting bay one room deep and of two stories at the principal façade that ostensibly shelters the service court forms the limit of the front formal drive court. The service court is bordered by a brick arcade that connects the garage with the wing of the house. The house is of brick on frame construction (running bond/ painted in white). A brick stepped cornice with brick dentillation and wood cyma crown supports a roof of Buckingham slate with profiled guttering and copper rectangular leaders. A brick walled driveway sweeps from Dogwood Lane – immediately parallel to the house – and forms an entry court with stairs up to a garden opposite the front door. Brick piers at either end of Dogwood Lane which passes by easement through the southeast limit of the property mark the garden limits.

First floor windows at the front façade are of nine over nine double hung configuration with a slightly radiused jack arch in brick with brick keystone. Second floor windows are of same width but smaller in height (six over six with no jacks) and are shuttered as at the first floor. Sills are of a profiled brick.

As one moves to other elevations there is a country house sensibility in the character of design. Roofs at the wings have some expressive sweeping profiles to lower floors. There have been no additions to the house other than an extension of approximately six feet, made to the first floor sunroom at the rear of the house to allow for sliding glass doors; however, alterations have occurred over the years. A wood and concrete terrace with pool and spa, was added to the house in the 1980's, a kitchen renovation in the 1990's altered some window arrangements, and a master bath renovation further adjusted a window position in that room at the rear of the house. In general however, 8 Dogwood remains as built with some distress due to some lack of maintenance.

The interior of 8 Dogwood is typical of Wells' work, with a longitudinal front stair hall that links primary spaces to private (study and sunroom) and service (kitchen, mudroom, and breakfast room) spaces at the ends of the house. The same plan is reflected on the second floor – with a long front hall linking bedrooms suites. The master bedroom is near the center of the house, over the dining room, the most prominent first floor space. Bathrooms and closets provide privacy between bedrooms. It was typical in Wells' projects to create distinct spaces for each domestic function, rather than to merge living and dining spaces, or to blend interior with outdoor areas, as was typical of other published residential architects of the same period, like Frank Lloyd Wright (in the Mid-West) or Charles Goodman (in Washington, DC suburbs). Wells' houses, including 8 Dogwood were carefully sited to take maximum advantage of views (see photo from McGavock Real Estate Brochure). At 8 Dogwood the public spaces on the ground floor and the second floor bedrooms open to views of the mountains from the back of the house.

The following is a list of materials and details at 8 Dogwood Lane that are characteristic of Wells' residential work:

Exterior

1. The brick walls are capped with a brick dentil cornice
2. An arcaded passage links the house to the garage
3. Dovecotes ornament the end gables of the sunroom wing and the garage
4. Slate gable roofs have asymmetrical cross-gable and cross-hip roofs
5. Picturesque cats back gable roofs shape the garage and sunroom at the two ends of the house
6. Multi-light wood double-hung windows have louvered shutters. Larger 9/9 sash on 1st floor and smaller 6/6 sash on 2nd floor
7. Asymmetrical massing creates visual interest and conceals the service entry and parking area
8. Semicircular entry drive incorporating a shallow front garden defined by brick retaining wall

Interior

9. Irregular floor plan, with a longitudinal front hall
10. Plaster walls and ceiling
11. Hardwood floors
12. Wood cornices, baseboards, and paneling described in full-scale details
13. Molded handrails and turned balusters described in full-scale details
14. Colonial Revival mantels described in full-scale details
15. Rooms are defined for discrete uses (no open plan)

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

8 Dogwood Lane (ca 1941) was built to the designs of Marshall Swain Wells (1900 – 1974) one of the first graduates of the newly formed School of Architecture at the University of Virginia under the tutelage of the highly esteemed Sidney Fiske Kimball,. Kimball was generally regarded as one of the most noteworthy architectural historians and educators of the early 1900's in the United States. An early platted lot at Farmington Country Club, 8 Dogwood Lane was sold first in 1932 only to be coupled with a portion of an adjacent lot and conveyed (deed recorded 2 December 1940) to a New York stockbroker, James DeWitt Wilde and his wife Bessie H. Wilde. Wilde had previously owned the historic Birdwood Plantation that stands to the immediate south of Farmington across Old Ivy Road and perhaps desired a more manageable property and a new home with modern conveniences. It is not known how the client architect relation was begun; however, it was clear that Wells' success with the conversion and expansion of the old Farmington house proper into a country club in 1929 and 1930 marked him as a suitable choice for the well heeled Wilde. The result was a graciously composed colonial revival country home well sited on perhaps the most elegant carriage lane in the middle of Farmington.

8 Dogwood has since traded hands eight times and the list of owners reads as a who's who of Charlottesville and speaks to the very national flavor that marked the resident members of Farmington Country Club from its very beginning. Subsequent owners of note include Jack Rinehart, son of Hollis Rinehart, a hugely successful contractor and investor, who not only owned Birdwood Plantation prior to Wilde's purchase, but was responsible for the erection of several noteworthy mansions for his sons surrounding his own estate to the east of Farmington. Rinehart then sold 8 Dogwood in 1967 to Malcolm M. and Margaretta T. Hirsh. In 1957 Hirsh, a New Jersey industrialist, had bought the entire town of Bacova in Bath County where he founded the Bacova Guild, something of a utopian enterprise producing craft goods that still exists today. Hirsh bought 8 Dogwood as his "in town" residence in order to enjoy the more cosmopolitan life that existed in Charlottesville due to the presence of the University of Virginia.

Hirsh then sold in 1970 to his friends Mary Bulkley Gulden and Charles Gulden, the past chairman of Gulden Mustard Corporation. Gulden kept his Farmington residence as a country and golfing retreat which in no way hampered his international sailing exploits for which he became widely known. Gulden then sold 8 Dogwood to Dr. Milton T. Edgerton and his wife Patricia Jones Edgerton. Edgerton had been recently appointed head of Plastic Surgery at the University of Virginia hospital having built an international reputation at Johns Hopkins as a pioneer in his field. He and his wife would go on to lead many philanthropic efforts, ultimately directing the W. Alton Jones Foundation, a charitable fund established in 1944 which grew into one of the most proactive and powerful environmental funds in the nation. In 1979 the Edgertons transferred ownership to Mrs. W. Alton Jones, the mother of Patricia Jones Edgerton and mother in law to Dr. Edgerton.

In 1996, Dr. Paul B. Underwood and his wife Peggy O. Underwood took possession of 8 Dogwood. Underwood was at that time head of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Virginia and is another luminary in the world of medicine at the University. Of some interest is the fact that Underwood delivered in 1998 Millicent Crawford Spencer, second daughter of Brooke Spencer and this author. In 1996 Underwood conveyed the property to author and publisher Stefan Bechtel and his wife Kay Ferguson Bechtel.

In 2007, 8 Dogwood was purchased by Molly Goodwin Hardie and Robert D. Hardie. Dr. Molly Hardie, continuing this chain of ownership by University Doctors, is a graduate of the University of Virginia Medical School and Dartmouth College, and past board member of the University of Virginia Children's Hospital. Dr. Robert Hardie holds three degrees from the University of Virginia and is currently Chairman of the historic Jefferson Hotel in Richmond Virginia, as well as the Hermitage Hotel in Nashville Tennessee. After their renovation of 8 Dogwood is complete they will reside there with their four boys.

As to the architect responsible for the original designs of 8 Dogwood Lane, Marshall Swain Wells is deserving of more than a passing note. There is surprisingly little published regarding his career: mention is made in the book, Virginia Architects, (pp 466-467, Wells and Dalton, editors) as to his life and practice in a cursory manner, and there is a more substantial thesis titled Marshall Swain Wells: Architect, held in the Special Collections of the University of Virginia authored by Deborah J. Kraybill, published in 1987 to satisfy the requirements of a Master of Architectural History degree, University of Virginia, Professor K. Edward Lay advisor. Kraybill paints an impressive picture of a young Tennessean, enrolled at the University of Virginia in 1918, joining what was then the newly formed Art and Architecture Department headed by Sidney Fiske Kimball who was retained by President Edwin Alderman and the Board of Visitors in 1919. Kimball went on the serve at the University only briefly (1919- 1923)

yet his tenure there was nothing short of astounding. His lectures delivered during those summers at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York became ultimately the well received volume: Domestic Architecture of the American Colonies and of the Early Republic (published 1922), and to a great extent helped raise to a fever pitch the interest in the architectural community in the Colonial Revival. He left the University in more than good stead having created not only a sound department for the study of architecture, art and the allied arts but having additionally supervised the grandest building spree since the original grounds were designed by Thomas Jefferson. While in residence, Kimball himself designed the University Amphitheater, supervised the design of Memorial Gymnasium and the University Hospital and still found time to master plan and design the original suite of campus buildings that constitute Woodberry Forest School in Orange. He directed or assisted in committee the restoration of Monticello and Edgemont and outlined what would become several other seminal texts in Architecture and Art. Kimball went on to lead the Philadelphia Museum of Art for 30 years, was lauded in the field of antiquities and art both nationally and internationally, all the while maintaining a relationship with Charlottesville as evidenced by the gem of a getaway house he designed for his wife and himself know as Shack Mountain nestled in the hills of Albemarle County and his membership at Farmington Country Club. Needless to say with such an architecture department in its infancy and lightly staffed to boot, Wells likely worked at Kimball's elbow at his lecture and drawing rooms at Hotel E at the West Range learning from the master himself.

Kraybill notes that after Kimball's departure, Wells spent most of 1924 in Florence Italy studying with several other students from the University. Upon his return he was employed by Thomas Harlan Ellett, a past fellow of the American Academy in Rome, and a successful New York Architect. Ellett would go on to design many noted estates in the gilded age of pre depression era New York but it was his Cosmopolitan Club in New York City, winner of the Gold medal of the Architectural league in 1933, that secured his place in architectural annals. Wells' term in Ellett's office proved brief however. While in New York, Wells married (1926) and shortly thereafter returned to Charlottesville to complete the requirements of his degree (diploma granted 1928) and set up his practice (passed Virginia State Architecture licensing board examinations in January 1929). Kraybill has documented over ninety commission completed by Wells from the inception of his firm until his retirement in 1970. Wells was prolific to say the least and he began his career with important commissions.

In 1929, Wells became the architect in charge of the conversion, renovation and expansion of Farmington Plantation for a group of prominent investors, and on May 15, 1929, Farmington Country Club officially opened to great fanfare. It was in fact a very large scale undertaking, not at all what one would expect for a recent graduate. Perhaps not yet finished at the time of the "official" opening, the original Wells master plan (not executed) artfully took as its precedent the lawn design adopted by Jefferson for the University of Virginia with pavilions connected by arcades linked to the original Jefferson designed Farmington plantation home at its head. This scheme was abandoned for a variant less grandiose but nonetheless gracious in stature and composition with only one half of the initial lawn plan adopted with enclosed "lawn" arcade forming a connecting spine. Wells directed further improvements and additions to Farmington over the following decades.

Immediately thereafter, Wells designed in 1931 the new Alderman residence on Rugby Road for the widow of Edwin Alderman, past President of the University of Virginia. Mrs. Alderman had enjoyed considerably her time in the Carr's Hill home designed by McKim, Mead and White that served as the official residence of the University President and his family. Wells' design for Mrs. Alderman was a masterful and stately colonial revival set piece with Georgian roots that in some respects outshone the Carr's Hill edifice even if smaller in scale. The Alderman residence remains the most elegant home on Rugby Road today.

From that point forward, Wells' folio of built work grew quickly with new residences and restoration projects throughout Virginia as well as up and down the east coast. Kraybill counts over thirteen residences in Farmington alone that were conceived by Wells. 8 Dogwood Lane's immediate neighbor at 6 Dogwood was a Wells design and Wells own home is a mere three houses away. Not all of the designs listed in his project book have been accurately identified and it has become this author's pet project to do so. Each residence is individual in character and only a learned architectural eye may deduce the fact that all derived from the same hand. In fact, this author, a resident of Farmington for these past five years never recognized that Wells was responsible for so many homes and such variety within the confines of the club property.

Another noteworthy design of Wells analyzed by Kraybill is the Westminster Presbyterian Church on Rugby Road built in 1939. Using the exceptional Christ Church in Lancaster County Virginia (ca 1730) as a model, Wells devised a brick revival style church relying upon the best Virginia precedents. Rubbed and gauged brick was incorporated in Flemish bond walling with dentillated cornice in this simple Greek cross plan Church with considerable effect.

Wells' papers and drawing archives are presently housed in the Special Collections of the University of Virginia and will, this author hopes, provide a wealth of information ultimately to anyone keen to learn of not only Albemarle

County (and Farmington in particular) architecture but the nature of the architectural profession in the Commonwealth in the early twentieth century.

8 Dogwood Lane was constructed near the end of the most productive period of Wells' four-decade career. This period began with his first commission, the 1929 renovation of Farmington house as a country club, and ended in 1942 with the onset of World War II, when Wells temporarily closed his office and spent several dispiriting years designing boats in Richmond and later providing engineering services for the Mine Depot at the Yorktown Naval Weapons Station.

The house on Dogwood Lane was one of more than fifteen residences Wells designed in Farmington, a development that featured other well-known regional architects, including Milton Grigg, Stanhope Johnson, Floyd Johnson, and Evelina McGruder. Farmington's first architect, Marshall Wells, designed more houses in the community than any other architect, and his high-quality traditional work established a precedent for those who followed.

8 Dogwood Lane is well-documented with drawings archived at the University of Virginia's Small Special Collections Library. It retains a high degree of integrity at the interior and exterior and is an excellent example of the work of one of Charlottesville's highest regarded residential architects.

Like his work at 8 Dogwood Lane, a majority of Wells' designs are Colonial Revival or Georgian Revival in style. Unlike many of his contemporaries who also designed in a traditional idiom, Wells did not adhere to formal plan conventions, and instead devised plans, like this one, based on the building's function and the clients' desires. 8 Dogwood Lane possesses the formality and careful proportions that characterize most of Wells' work. He insisted on the finest materials and craftsmanship, personally inspecting the work in progress to ensure correct execution. 8 Dogwood Lane reflects Wells' characteristic dedication to high quality, appreciation for historic precedent, excellent craftsmanship and individualized expression of the needs and desires of the client.

Informational Sources:

The Architecture of Jefferson County, Charlottesville and Albemarle County, Virginia, by K. Edward Lay. Published 2000; University of Virginia Press.

Farmington, National Register of Historic Places – Nomination Form, Albemarle County Virginia, prepared by Virginia Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director; May 13, 1970.

Farmington Country Club History as noted in the Farmington Country Club Archives, revised 2007.

Fiske Kimball: Master of the Diverse Arts, An Exhibition Celebrating the 25th Anniversary of the Fiske Kimball Fine Arts Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville. September 1995 through July 1996.

Marshall Swain Wells: Architect, thesis by Debra J. Kraybill; University of Virginia, 17 December 1987 (held in University of Virginia Special Collections).

Notes from the Thomas Harlan Ellett Collection, University of Pennsylvania, School of Architecture Collections, *Gift of Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Benjamin*, 1985.

Legal Owner(s) of the Property (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Molly Goodwin Hardie	Dogwood Holdings LLC
		<small>(Name)</small>	<small>(Firm)</small>
2115 Dogwood Lane		Charlottesville	VA 22901
<small>(Address)</small>		<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State) (Zip Code)</small>
mollyhardie@yahoo.com		(434) 979-5051	
<small>(Email Address)</small>		<small>(Daytime telephone including area code)</small>	
Owner's Signature: _____		Date: _____	
• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •			
In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.			
Contact person: Molly Hardie, Member			
Daytime Telephone: (434) 979-5051			
Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>		
Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Mary Harding Sadler	Sadler & Whitehead Architects, PLC
		<small>(Name)</small>	<small>(Firm)</small>
800 W. 33 rd Street		Richmond	VA 23225
<small>(Address)</small>		<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State) (Zip Code)</small>
sadler@sadlerandwhitehead.com		(804) 231-5299	
<small>(Email Address)</small>		<small>(Daytime telephone including area code)</small>	
Applicant's Signature: _____		Date: _____	

Notification			
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for the department to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.			
Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
		Wayne Cilimberg	Director of Division of Planning
		<small>(Name)</small>	<small>(Position)</small>
Albemarle County		401 McIntire Road	
<small>(Locality)</small>		<small>(Address)</small>	
Charlottesville	VA	22902	(434) 296-5832
<small>(City)</small>	<small>(State)</small>	<small>(Zip Code)</small>	<small>(Daytime telephone including area code)</small>

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

8 Dogwood Lane falls within that exemplary period of estate architecture that made Farmington Country Club the first elegant suburban enclave outside of Charlottesville, Virginia in Albemarle County. Unlike Lynchburg, Staunton and Richmond, Charlottesville never experienced the development of fine suburban areas until quite late and even then on a relatively limited basis. Farmington on the other hand exhibited the work of several noted architects and Marshall Swain Wells was certainly one of the finest home grown hands designing at that time. Over his four decade career, Wells was responsible for the conversion of Farmington Country Club proper - an expansive master plan strategy only partially executed was quite literally based upon Jefferson's Lawn in a reduced scale - and for the design of several other notable structures in and around Charlottesville including Westminster Presbyterian Church on Rugby Road, the Alderman House on Rugby Road, Bellaire House by Carter's Bridge on route 20, and the renovation of the old Ivy Inn. All told Wells was responsible for the design or renovation of over thirteen residences in Farmington proper. Wells' prolific hand, his role in an important formative point in Virginia architecture and the character of 8 Dogwood, all combine to merit evaluation of this property and Wells' legacy in general.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes X No
 Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes X No