

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Winton is a late-Georgian, two-story frame structure with three bays on the main facade. Several additions have been made to the rear of the house. The present two-story portico also is a later addition as perhaps is some of the work around the pedimented entryway with its transom and sidelights. The flattened, exterior-end brick chimneys are shouldered at the roof line and are T-shaped. Like the house itself, they have stone foundations. Windows on the first floor are nine-over-nine and are six-over-six on the second floor. The house has a fine entablature with a plain frieze, dentils, and abbreviated scroll modillions. The entablature is Georgian Revival in style and probably was added at the same time as the portico. The hipped roof is now sheathed with crimped tin.

Inside, Winton has a two-over-two-with-central-hall plan. The extraordinary woodwork in the south room of the first floor is said to have been carved by Hessian prisoners, a claim lent credence by the military prominence of both Colonel Cabell and Colonel Meredith. The tradition is that it was during Colonel Meredith's ownership of Winton that the elaborate woodwork was carved. The magnificent mantelpiece has punch-and-gouge pilasters with a more delicate punch-and-gouge motif on the trusses flanking the frieze and on the raised central panel of the frieze. Above the frieze are alternating diagonal reedings which are surmounted by moldings which include a dentil-and-punch motif. The pedimented overmantel has punch-and-gouge pedestals supporting trusses, entablature, and central panel with reeding in a squared pattern. The dentil-and-punch motif of the mantel is repeated in the overmantel. The wainscoting in this room has a molded baseboard as well as a molded handrail beneath which is an alternating, diagonal pattern of reeding. The openings in the south room are flanked by punch-and-gouge pilasters which have dentil-and-punch capitals matching the same motif in the room's entablature. The door leading to the hall, now with later double glass doors, is even more elaborate. It has, beneath the entablature of the ceiling, an entablature of its own which includes a raised central panel as well as moldings of an oriental character. In the first-floor north room, there is a handsome mantelpiece with gouged pilasters above which are trusses, a raised central panel and two sections of entablature all of which are decorated with a more delicate gouging. They in turn are surmounted by moldings, including dentils, which support a molded mantel shelf. The six-panel door leading to the front hall has paneled reveals.

The central hall has unpaneled wainscoting with molded baseboarding and handrailing. A flight of stairs leads upward along the north wall and is broken by a landing on the west wall which leads to a short flight that doglegs up along the western and southern walls. The railing features column-and-pedestal balusters, molded handrail and graceful curvilinear steps. A heavy column newel terminates the railing.

Some feel that the south room of the second floor was Sarah Henry's bedroom. It has a fine mantelpiece with gouged pilasters, trusses, and central panel which are all surmounted by dentils under a molded mantel shelf. The north room of the second floor, which well may have been Sarah Henry's room, appears to have been redone at a later period.

In the yard, to the northwest of the house, stands the only surviving old outbuilding. It is an attractive frame smokehouse with a hipped roof and an elaborate chevron pattern batten door.

The A.P.V.A. maintained family graveyard containing the grave of Sarah

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Winston Henry, Patrick Henry's mother, is on the grounds.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) Early 1770's

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Winton is the homeplace of a number of noteworthy Virginians, and the house features considerable architectural attractions. The dwelling is said to have been built by Colonel Joseph Cabell in the early 1770's on land which was part of a 1743 grant from King George III to George Braxton, Jr. In The Cabells and Their Kin, Alexander Brown notes that in 1771 Joseph Cabell moved to his estate called "Winton," near New Glasgow (now renamed Clifford). Colonel Cabell (1732-1798) was an important citizen of eighteenth-century Virginia. Before moving to Winton, he was a justice, a vestryman, and a major of militia in Albemarle County as well as member of the House of Burgesses either from 1764 or from 1768 until 1771. When he moved to Winton in 1771, he was promptly elected member of the House of Delegates from Amherst County, a seat he held until 1775. He was also a vestryman of Amherst Parish, a county justice, and an accomplished amateur surgeon. During the revolutionary period, Colonel Cabell was an Amherst County member of the House of Delegates from 1776 until 1779 when he moved to Buckingham County where he served as a Delegate from 1780 to 1781. By 1777, he was county lieutenant of Amherst and at the siege of Yorktown, he commanded a regiment of militia which included a company made up of the students of William and Mary College among whom numbered his son, Joe. Colonel Cabell was present at the surrender of Cornwallis in Yorktown. After the Revolution, he served as a senator in the General Assembly from 1781 to 1785 and a representative from Buckingham County from 1788 to 1790.

In 1779, Colonel Cabell sold Winton to his friend Colonel Samuel Meredith, Jr. Like Colonel Cabell, Colonel Meredith was an outstanding Virginian adept in many lines of endeavor. Born in Hanover County in 1732, Samuel Meredith, Jr. was from childhood a close friend of his near neighbor Patrick Henry. Moreover, sometime before 1775, he married Jane Henry, Patrick's sister, a woman said to have been "as eloquent as her brother."

In his early life, Meredith seems to have been a man of swashbuckling military temperament, distinguishing himself in the French and Indian Wars as well as in the Revolution. In 1775, he was Captain of the Independent Company of Hanover, a command he loyally resigned to make way for his brother-in-law Patrick Henry. Henry was promptly appointed captain and Meredith then served as lieutenant. In 1776, Meredith rose to the rank of Colonel of the First Battalion of Minute Men. A civic as well as a military leader, he served three terms as delegate from Hanover County to the Virginia House of Burgesses. In Amherst County at different times he held the offices of justice of the peace, presiding justice, and High Sheriff.

During the Revolution, in about 1779, the Meredith family moved to Winton. With them came Patrick Henry's mother, Sarah Winston Syme Henry, by

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then a gracious and pious elderly lady. However, in her younger years, when she was the Widow Sarah Syme, William Byrd II described her in his "Progress to the Mines" as a sprightly, albeit seemly, woman:

This lady, at first suspecting I was some lover, put on a gravity which becomes a weed, but so soon as she learnt who I was brightened up into an unusual cheerfulness and serenity. She was a portly, handsome dame of the family of Esau, and seemed not to pine too much for the death of her husband, who was of the family of the Saracens. He left a son by her who has all the strong features of his sire, not softened in the least by any of hers . . . This widow is a person of a lively and cheerful conversation, with much less reserve than most of her countrywomen. It becomes her well and sets off her other agreeable qualities to advantage. We tossed off a bottle of honest port, which we relished with a broiled chicken.

The following day's notations include:

I moistened my clay with a quart of milk and tea, which I found altogether as great a help to discourse as the juice of the grape. The courteous widow invited me to rest myself there that good day and go to church with her, but I excused myself by telling her she would certainly spoil my devotions. Then she civilly entreated me to make her house my home whenever I visited my plantations, which made me bow low and thank her very kindly.

With the passage of time, Sarah Henry seems to have become more grave of mien but not one whit less congenial for when she died in 1784 her son-in-law Samuel Meredith is said to have stood at the foot of her grave and requested to be buried there so that her face might be the first one for him to see on Resurrection Day. Over her tomb he constructed a brick arch which has long since fallen. In its place is a stone erected by members of her family in 1910. The site of the graveyard, to the rear and west of the house, is said to have been selected by Mrs. Henry who, as it happened, was also the first person to be buried therein. At her feet now lies Colonel Meredith and at his side reposes his wife Jane Henry Meredith. Also in this cemetery are Mrs. Henry's son William and his two daughters, Jane and Sarah, all of whom died shortly after Sarah Henry in 1784.

When the Winton tract passed out of the Meredith family's hands in 1839 (Amherst County Deed Book Z, p. 276), the deed stated "...excepted and to be deducted one acre for a graveyard to include the present graveyard and to extend on each side and end so as to include the quantity." This provision has been reconfirmed in recent years. Since 1961, the Virginia District III

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Daughters of the American Revolution have conducted annual Winton Days with graveside wreath-laying services. In 1969, J. Everette Fauber contributed the design for the brick wall which now surrounds part of the specified acre. The wall was constructed by George E. Jones of Amherst. The iron gate, manufactured by The Stewart Iron Works of Cincinnati, Ohio, came from St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Clifford. The Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities is in the process of raising funds to establish a Graveyard Trust for the assurance of perpetual care of the Winton Cemetery.

After the Meredith family, it appears that Winton was owned by John P. Samson (1839-1843) and then Lynchburg Mayor Edwin Matthews (1843-1872). Mayor Matthews never lived at Winton but Garland family connections descended from the Merediths did live there during his ownership. Included among them was James Shepherd Pendleton. Next, John W. Jennings bought Winton for his son-in-law and daughter Mr. and Mrs. Powatan Hensen (1872-1907). Tradition has it that Mrs. Hensen also lived at Winton during the War Between the States when she was Mrs. Susie Jennings Beasley. As the story goes, she heard of the approach of Yankee troops and so carefully hid the ere-and-anon treasured hams and silver under the smokehouse floorboards. Upon the arrival of the dreaded warriors, out ran one of the small Beasley boys who asked if they were looking for the hams which had just been hidden. On hearing their vigorous assent, he led them to the smokehouse, which still stands in the side-yard, and hospitably showed them the hiding place and its treasures.

Winton was next held by the Charles Beasley family (1907-1929). Charles Beasley was Susie Jennings Beasley Hensen's son by her first marriage. From the Beasley family, the house passed to Colonel and Mrs. James E. Dillard (1929-1947) who were responsible for extensive remodeling and landscaping. Next, it was owned by Mr. and Mrs. Victor V. Kelsey (1947-1959) and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Alexander Snead (1959-1967). In 1967, an anonymous donor (Keene V. Brown) purchased the estate from the Sneads and gave it to the County of Amherst to be leased to a corporation and run as a country club. To serve the needs of the club, an addition was made to the rear and plans are for further expansion with the hope that the original, front part of the house might eventually be set apart and furnished with antiques.

ACL

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Blunt, Ruth H. "Winton", A Virginia Pre-Revolutionary Plantation." Unpublished article, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, Richmond, Virginia.

Brown, Alexander. The Cabells and Their Kin. Richmond: Garrett & Massie, Inc., 1939.

Rothery, Agnes. Houses Virginians Have Loved. New York: Bonanza Books, 1954.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37 ° 38 ' 41"	79 ° 02 ' 01"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37 ° 38 ' 41"	79 ° 01 ' 18"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37 ° 38 ' 07"	79 ° 01 ' 18"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37 ° 38 ' 07"	79 ° 02 ' 01"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 288.7 acres

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: October, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION	NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION
<p>As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:</p> <p>National <input type="checkbox"/> State <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Local <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Name _____ Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Title _____</p> <p>Date _____</p>	<p>I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.</p> <p>_____ Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation</p> <p>Date _____</p> <p>ATTEST:</p> <p>_____ Keeper of The National Register</p> <p>Date _____</p>

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