

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Hollin Hills Historic District (2015 Update)
Name of Property Fairfax County, Virginia
County and State Historic Residential Suburbs of the United States, 1830-1960
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

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Additional Documentation, December 2015

The following pages provide additional documentation to the 2013 National Register nomination for the Hollin Hills Historic District. Sections to be updated are keyed according to their section number on the original historic district nomination form. This narrative presents the general history of the suburban residential district with information regarding the former dwelling of Ronald F. Lee at 1805 Drury Lane. In 2015, ongoing work on the history of the National Park Service and the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act identified Lee’s residence within the district and recommended its recognition.

Section 8.

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

CONSERVATION

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Lee, Ronald F.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The 2013 Hollin Hills Historic District National Register nomination focused on the architectural and planning significance of the 326-acre suburban development under Criteria A and C with a period of significance from 1946 to 1971. This additional documentation adds Criterion B in the area of Conservation for the contributions of Ronald F. Lee during his career in historic preservation; he resided at the house located at 1805 Drury Lane with his wife, Jean, from 1949 to 1960.¹

¹ Fairfax County Deed Book No. 722, page 215. In 1949, the house at 1805 Drury Lane was listed as being 2 Drury Lane. John Burns, a resident of Hollin Hills, found the Lee family deed reference and

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Ronald F. Lee (1905-1972) joined the National Park Service in June 1933. Graduating from the University of Minnesota, at first Lee was a “historical foreman” for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Tennessee, but soon moved to Washington DC to work on the development of the Natchez Trace Parkway. During his career at the National Park Service, Lee served as the Chief Historian for nine years, Chief of Interpretation for seven years, and beginning in 1960 as the Northeast Regional Director for six years. At the end of his career Lee published a history of the Antiquities Act of 1906 and a description of the Park Service’s legislative “family tree.”²

As the principle historian of the historic preservation movement, Charles Hosmer unequivocally stated that for a dozen years before 1950 “Ronald Lee was the central figure in the preservation movement.”³ Among those who founded the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Lee was the “quintessence of tact and diplomacy” in dealing with the “great, or influential, or the rich.” Lee had a “constructive mind” and like the agency’s first Chief Historian, Verne Chatelain, had “considerable vision” regarding the role of historic properties within the National Parks.⁴ Describing him as the “mainspring” of the NPS history program, Thomas Pitkin said that Lee was “no great speaker and not at all aggressive in ordinary manner, but he had a earnestness, a warmth, a honesty of purpose, a persistence, and a fertility of ideas that made him the top figure” in historic preservation.⁵ In 1967, at one of the first meetings of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, NPS Director George Hartzog characterized Lee as “the sage of historic preservation.”⁶ Among other accomplishments, Lee was instrumental in the creation of:

- National Historic Landmarks, as a new type of federal historic recognition;
- Hampton National Historic Site, the first NPS unit recognized only for its architectural significance;
- reconstruction of the McLean House at Appomattox Courthouse, Virginia; and,
- Piscataway National Park in Maryland, which preserves the viewshed from George Washington’s Mount Vernon in Fairfax County, Virginia.

Lee’s 11-year residence in the Hollin Hills neighborhood covers the period of his career from the founding of the National Trust for Historic Preservation in 1949 to the administrative creation of the National Historic Landmark program in 1960. After Lee became the NPS Regional Director in Philadelphia in 1960, Ronald and Jean Lee left Hollin Hills and moved into Hopkinson House, a Modern

researched changes in the street numbering system.

² Ronald Lee, *The Antiquities Act of 1906*. National Park Service, 1970 and *Family Tree of the National Park System: A Chart with Accompanying Text Designed to Illustrate the Growth of the National Park System 1872-1972*, National Park Service, 1972.

³ Hosmer to Newton Drury, October 29, 1976.

⁴ Charles Porter Interview (Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Art, Interviews Conducted by Charles Hosmer, 1969-1976), pg. 13.

⁵ Thomas Pitkin Interview (Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Art, Interviews conducted by Charles Hosmer, 1969-1976), pg. 9.

⁶ “Remarks by George B. Hartzog, Jr.” Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, July 20-21, 1967.

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high-rise building located in the Society Hill area.

Integrity

The Hollin Hills Historic District was listed in the National Register in 2013 and the dwelling at 1805 Drury Lane was considered as contributing to the district at that time. No changes have occurred to the property since the original nomination.

Conclusion

Lee's contribution to the national historic preservation movement meets Criterion B in the area of Conservation for persons who are significant in our past. His residence in the Modern suburb Hollin Hills is interesting given his role in the formation of much of the foundation for the historic preservation movement in the United States.

Section 9.

Bibliography

Charles Porter Interview (Smithsonian Institution, Archives of American Art, Interviews Conducted by Charles Hosmer, 1969-1976), pg. 13.

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