

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Hickory Hill Plantation covers 3362 acres occupying most of the land north of State Route 54 between the towns of Ashland and Hanover Court House. Much of the land is in timber although broad cultivated fields are located around the residential complex and in the bottom lands of the Pamunkey River in the northeast section of the plantation. A spur of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad bisects the plantation along the ridge line between the high ground and the lowlands.

The plantation's core consists of a large brick house set in a four-acre "pleasure garden" of lawns and formal gardens. The garden is approached on axis from the south by a farm land lined with unusually large cedars. Its eastern approach is an informal lane which winds through the woods up from Wickham's Crossing, the plantation's depot. The present plantation house was erected in 1875 and follows the same general lines of the original frame house, erected in 1820, which burned. The fact that it was based on the earlier house accounts for the present structure's conservative architectural character; ordinarily a house of its form and details would date from prior to the Civil War. Its five-bay facade is fronted by a pedimented tetrastyle portico with slender square columns and a balcony. The two-story pedimented projections at either end of the house were added in 1915 to contain baths. Projecting from the house's rear or south elevation is a two-and-a-half-story brick wing erected in 1857 as a wing for the original house. Although gutted when the original house burned, the wing's walls remained in sound condition, and its interior was rebuilt when the present house was erected. Sheltering the wing's south wall is a portico similar to that on the facade, although it lacks a pediment. The brickwork throughout the house is American bond and the windows are all topped by rectangular stone lintels.

The interior of the house's front section contains a wide stair hall with a large dining room on the west and a bedroom on the east. The library and parlor are located on a lower level in the wing. The interior architectural details are relatively simple. Deeply molded plaster cornices are employed throughout, and molded architraves frame the windows and doorways. All of the first-floor principal rooms have fine marble mantels in differing designs and marble types. Adding much to the interior's antiquarian interest is a remarkable accumulation of family portraits, furniture, and silver, ranging in date from the late-eighteenth century through the late-nineteenth century.

Many of Hickory Hill's original outbuildings survive and form an interesting group in their own right. The matching one-story frame kitchen and office buildings, dating from the 1820's, face each other across the wide front yard defining a forecourt. To the northwest of the yard is the original smokehouse as well as one of the state's most impressive early dovecotes. To the south of the house stretches Hickory Hill's beautiful yard with its sweeping lawns and magnificent specimens of shade and ornamental trees. A fence of brick piers and wooden pailings extends along the yard's west side separating the informally landscaped section of the yard from the formal gardens. At the north end of the fence is an early brick greenhouse, and just to its north is an early frame toolhouse. In the original (1820's) section of the garden is a geometric box garden. The English boxwood which originally lined the flowerbeds and walks is now practically a solid mass. South of the box

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8. 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) 1820, 1875

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, Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Hickory Hill plantation was established by the Wickhams, a distinguished Virginia family, and has been their home for five generations. The plantation is associated with important aspects of Virginia social and military history, and its gardens survive as one of the largest and best preserved examples of ante-bellem landscaping in the state.

Hickory Hill originally was part of the Hanover County holdings of Robert Carter of Shirley, Charles City County. In 1820 Carter gave 1717 acres of this property to his daughter, Anne Butler Carter, and her husband, William Fanning Wickham, son of John Wickham, owner of the famous townhouse that now forms part of the Valentine Museum. The Wickhams began construction of a frame plantation house and the laying out of extensive gardens soon after receiving the property, but did not take up residence there until 1827. The house burned in 1875, and the present brick residence was built shortly afterwards. The original outbuildings survived the fire, however, and continue to form a fine plantation complex. The extensive gardens, with their venerable trees, tree box walk, geometric parterres, and early walls, survive as well. In the garden is the only known extant example of the Offley Rose, a variety that was brought to Hanover County from the Nelson family gardens in Yorktown in the early-nineteenth century. Also on the grounds is a magnificent Ginko tree presented to the Wickhams by Commodore Perry, who acquired it in Japan.

During the mid-nineteenth century, Hickory Hill was the home of William Fanning Wickham's son, Williams Carter Wickham, a distinguished statesman, military leader and buisnessman. Williams C. Wickham was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates in 1849 and to the Virginia Senate in 1859. As a delegate to the State Convention of 1861 he opposed succession, but when war was declared, he accepted a military command. He participated in the battles of Williamsburg, 2nd Manassas, Boonsboro, Sharpsburg, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and the Valley Campaign. In 1863 he was elected to the Confederate Congress, and the next year he resigned his commission as brigadier general to take up his seat. Following the war he served as president of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and remained an active leader in the compnay until his death in 1888. In 1890 the general Assembly provided for a statue of General Wickham that was erected in Monroe Park, Richmond.

Fighting took place around Hickory Hill during the Civil War, and following the battle of Hanover Court House in 1862, the plantation was occupied by Federal troops. General Wickham, who was recuperating there after being wounded at Williamsburg, was taken prisoner, but was

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Evans, Gen. Clement A., Editor. Confederate Military History.
 Atlanta: Confederate Publishing Co., 1899, pp. 685-689.
 Hanover County Land Tax Books, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.
 Sale, Edith T. Historic Gardens of Virginia. Richmond: William
 Byrd Press, 1923.
 Wickham, Hon. Henry T. Address of Hon. Henry T. Wickham.
 Richmond: Division of Purchasing and Printing, 1940.

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° 47' 02"	77° 25' 38"				
NE	37° 47' 02"	77° 23' 56"				
SE	37° 45' 55"	77° 23' 56"				
SW	37° 45' 55"	77° 25' 38"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 640 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
 DATE: September, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
 221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond
 STATE: Virginia
 CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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:

National State Local

Name: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Executive Director, Virginia
 Title: Historic Landmarks Commission

SEP 17 1974

Date

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
HANOVER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. garden is the famous tree box walk. The tree box are so large (averaging forty feet in height) that they give the impression of a forest rather than a formal garden. Beyond the tree box walk is the later section of the garden, laid out, for the most part, in the early-twentieth century. This section is divided into various beds and borders of flowers and fruits. A striking feature is the long grass path spanned by a series of ten rose arbors supporting several varieties of old-fashioned roses. Although the garden is not maintained with the perfection of former times, it continues to maintain the romantic atmosphere so characteristic of old Southern gardens..

At the edge of the woods to the northeast of the main house, separate from the house and garden complex, is an interesting board-and-batten Gothic Revival cottage built as a study by a former owner wishing to escape annoying music lessons being given in the house.

CCL

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

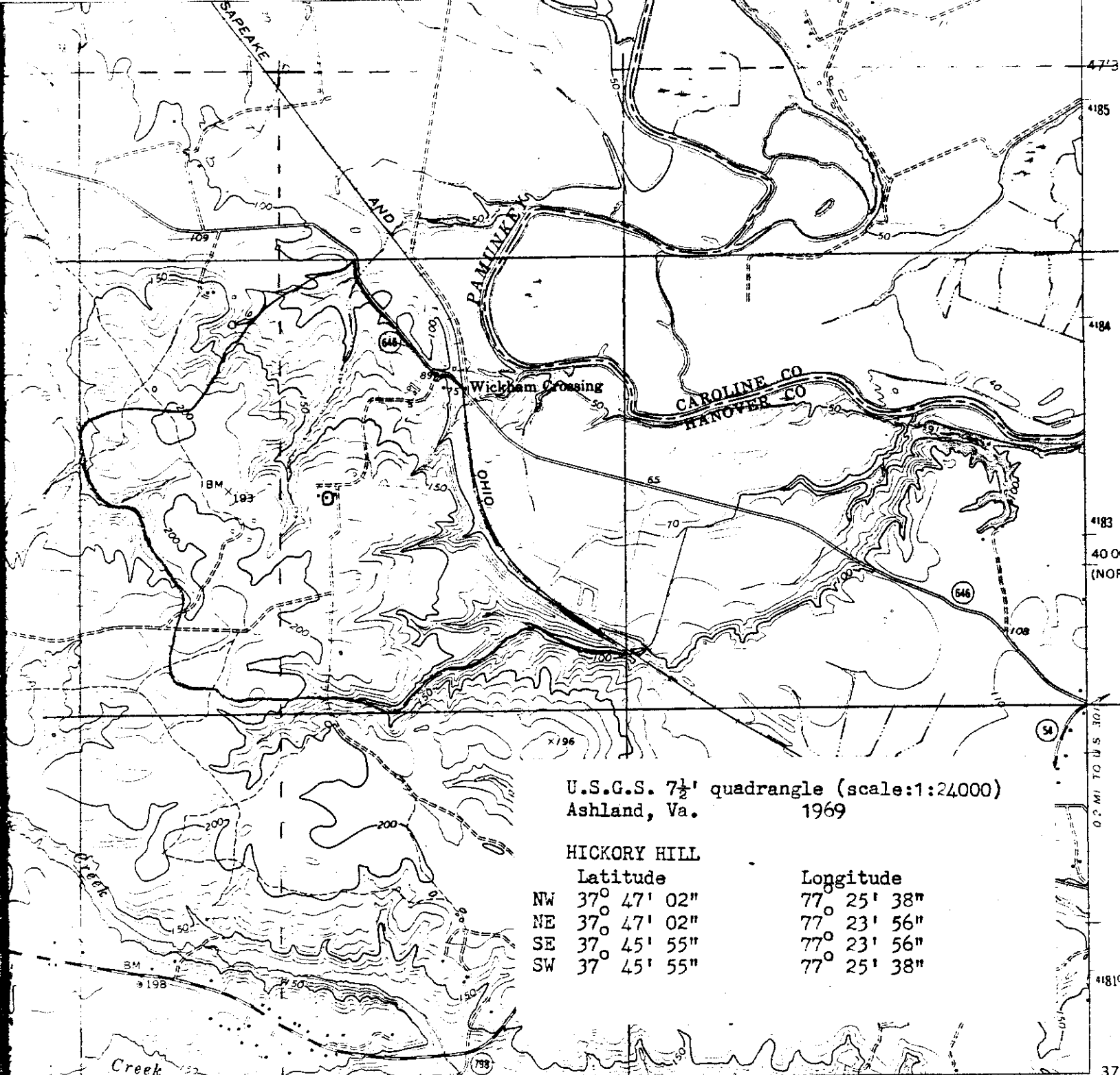
STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY HANOVER	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8. later exchanged. In 1863, Robert E. Lee's son, General W.H. F. "Rooney" Lee, was sent to Hickory Hill to recover from wounds received at Brandy Station. Federal troops in the area learned of his presence and charged the house in order to take him prisoner. Lee's brother, Robert E. Lee, Jr., who was looking after him escaped capture by hiding in the garden, but "Rooney" Lee was taken prisoner and sent to Fortress Monroe.

Williams Carter Wickham did not inherit Hickory Hill until his father's death in 1870. Upon W. C. Wickham's death in 1888 the property was inherited by his son, Henry T. Wickham. Like his father, Henry T. Wickham served in the House of Delegates and the Senate. Since 1943 Hickory Hill has been owned by Captain Williams Carter Wickham, U. S. N. (Retired), son of Henry T. Wickham.

CCL



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Ashland, Va. 1969

HICKORY HILL

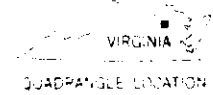
	Latitude	Longitude
NW	37° 47' 02"	77° 25' 38"
NE	37° 47' 02"	77° 23' 56"
SE	37° 45' 55"	77° 23' 56"
SW	37° 45' 55"	77° 25' 38"

2 320 000 FEET (NORTH) 77° 22' 30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface
- Light-duty road, all weather improved surface
- Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route

77° 23' 56"



ASHLAND, VA.
 N3745—W7722.5/7.5

1969

AMS 5559 IV SW—SERIES V834

DATE: 10/20/2024
 LOCATION: OTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
 AVAILABLE ON REQUEST