

VLR-9/17/74 NRHP 10/15/74

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

|                          |
|--------------------------|
| STATE:<br>VIRGINIA       |
| COUNTY:<br>ISLE OF WIGHT |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY         |
| ENTRY DATE               |

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
WOLFTRAP FARM

AND/OR HISTORIC:

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: Routes 627 and 680.  
.4 mile east of Route 627; 1 mile northeast of northwestern intersection of

CITY OR TOWN: CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

STATE: VIRGINIA CODE: 51 COUNTY: ISLE OF WIGHT CODE: 093

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

| CATEGORY<br>(Check One)   | OWNERSHIP   | STATUS   | ACCESSIBLE<br>TO THE PUBLIC  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> District<br><input type="checkbox"/> Site<br><input type="checkbox"/> Object<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building<br><input type="checkbox"/> Structure | <input type="checkbox"/> Public<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private<br><input type="checkbox"/> Both | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied<br><input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work<br>in progress<br><input type="checkbox"/> In Process<br><input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered | Yes:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Restricted<br><input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

|  |                                     |   |  |                                   |
|--|-------------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural  | <input type="checkbox"/> Government | <input type="checkbox"/> Park                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation  | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial    | <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Educational   | <input type="checkbox"/> Military   | <input type="checkbox"/> Religious                    |  |                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> Museum     | <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific                   |  |                                   |

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. J. B. Lankford

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 2, Box 885

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
Smithfield Virginia 51

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Isle of Wight County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
Isle of Wight Virginia 51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1973  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE:  
Richmond Virginia 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA

COUNTY: ISLE OF WIGHT

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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

Pleasantly situated in rural Isle of Wight County, Wolftrap survives as a picturesque and exceptionally unusual example of country Federal-period architecture. Characterized by its asymmetrical gable roof sheathed with tin plate shingles, the house presents a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story facade with a one-story rear elevation surmounted by a double tier of dormer windows. Built of frame construction and covered with beaded weatherboarding, the house rests on a full brick cellar laid in three-course American bond. The house is served by four exterior end chimneys laid in three-course American bond and having rough-stepped shoulders and free-standing stacks. The house retains its early nine-over-six and six-over-six sash on the first, second and attic floors. The porches on the front and rear elevations, while possibly conforming to the dimensions of earlier porches, were probably added in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries.

Despite its unbalanced profile, Wolftrap is a square building approximately 32'6" on a side, and was designed as a double-pile, hall-parlor plan. While the first floor has an enclosed stair between the two southern rooms, the second floor has a center hall with a simple molding stair rail supported on plain unturned balusters and newels. Access to the attic floor is gained through a second enclosed stair. The first floor retains its original interior trim including Federal-period mantels with characteristic deep moldings and delicate detailing. Also remaining is raised-panel wainscot with molded chair rail and baseboard. The second-floor mantels are similar in style to their first-floor counterparts, but retain their original coat of black paint without any trace of marbelizing or decorative painting. Both the second and attic floors are fully wainscoted with solid dado with molded baseboard and chair rail. The house possesses almost all of its early six-panel doors including several hung on HL hinges and having early brass or iron locks.

Like the first floor, the cellar is also divided into a four-room plan. Until recent times, these rooms served as a kitchen, dining and storage area. Although some of the original interior woodwork of the cellar survives, most notably some wainscot and a six-panel door, it is now somewhat deteriorated. In sections of the floor, the cellar area retains a mixture of nine-inch-square tiles and plain brick pavers.

To the northeast of the house stands a deteriorated frame quarter-kitchen. A plain two-room structure, the kitchen preserves two early horizontally battened doors, some hardware including an early-nineteenth-century wood-cased stock lock with sheet-iron trim, some shiplap siding and original nine-over-nine sliding sash windows. The chimney for the kitchen is built of brick laid in American bond and has a single set of rough weatherings.

BLH

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <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

Wolftrap survives as the only known example of an early Virginia farmhouse with the distinctive architectural feature of a double tier of dormer windows. Another more famous example, Bewdley, in Lancaster County, was destroyed by fire in 1917. Unlike Bewdley, Wolftrap has its dormers on only one slope of its roof giving the house an unusual asymmetrical profile.

The origin of this treatment of dormers is unknown, although multiple rows of dormers are common on urban buildings of central Europe, while they are rarely found in Great Britain. In Virginia the feature was more often employed on industrial buildings such as mills rather than dwellings. Tiers of dormers were especially prevalent on a number of the large early-nineteenth-century mill buildings in Richmond, all of which were destroyed in the Evacuation fire of 1865. The only remaining Virginia mill with tiers of dormers is the eighteenth-century Muddy Creek Mill in Cumberland County.

Wolftrap was erected in the second decade of the nineteenth century by the Jones family. The well-preserved house remains in the possession of descendants of the original owners.

CCL

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Isle of Wight County Records; deed books, will books, and marriage register.  
 Unpublished information from archives of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

| LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY |                         |                         | LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES<br>DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY<br>OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES |                 |                         |
|--|-------------------------|-------------------------|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| CORNER   | LATITUDE                | LONGITUDE               | LATITUDE  |                 | LONGITUDE               |
|  | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds | Degrees   | Minutes Seconds | Degrees Minutes Seconds |
| NW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   | 36°   | 59' 52"         | 76° 41' 51"             |
| NE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |   |                 |                         |
| SE   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |   |                 |                         |
| SW   | ° ' "                   | ° ' "                   |   |                 |                         |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **5 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: **July, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**221 Governor Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond**      STATE: **Virginia**      CODE: **51**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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~~

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_

S E E I N S T R U C T I O N S

76° 41' 51"

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA  
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

Wol

42' 30"

349

5658 II SW  
(BACONS CASTLE)

351

40'

35'

U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Smithfield, Va. 1968

WOLF TRAP FARM  
Latitude  
36° 59' 52"

Longitude  
76° 41' 51"

