

VLR-6/15/82 NRHP-9/9/82

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Prospect Hill

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number VA 612

N/A not for publication

city, town Mineral

X vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Spotsylvania

code 177

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mary Jane Holladay

street & number 1101 Collier Road, NW, Apt.0-3

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30318

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spotsylvania County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Spotsylvania

state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey
title Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1957

federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington

state DC

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Prospect Hill is a tall, frame farmhouse completed for Waller Holladay in 1806. It commands a panoramic view of the broad rolling farmland of Spotsylvania County from which it rises. The house exhibits a massive yet restrained Georgian exterior as well as handsome Federal interior woodwork retaining its original paint.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Prospect Hill is reached by a long, narrow drive shaded by cedars. The tall, austere 2½-story frame building with its original beaded weatherboarding is underpinned by a three-course-American-bond foundation lit by narrow openings with horizontal bars. A heavy modillion block cornice stretches across the front (south) and rear (north) elevations below the steep gable roof covered in standing-seam metal. High interior chimneys with corbeled caps complete the composition. A single-story addition, constructed between 1860 and 1890, wraps around the rear of the house and a portion of the east and west elevations. Originally a porch, the addition has been partially enclosed to provide a bathroom and kitchen. Nine-over-nine, double-hung-sash windows flanked by louvred shutters on the first story with 6/9 double-hung-sash windows above are used consistently throughout the building.

The double entrance doors with four-light transom open into a center-hall, double-pile room arrangement. A semicircular arch with keystone, having a chevron-molded face and reeded intrados, springs from reeded pilasters serving as a screen between the front hall and stair at its rear. The two-run, open-well stair with rounded-cut stair brackets has three squared balusters per tread carrying a molded rail with square newels. All of the woodwork in the hall except for the arch has its original painted graining.

Each of the first-floor rooms including the hall has wainscoting, molded baseboards, picture moldings, and pedestal chair rails. The original six-raised-panel doors, some with original brass hardware, pine floors, and architrave trim, are located throughout the house. The various rooms exhibit woodwork with early paint colors; all of the mantels are painted black; no two mantels are the same design. The painted graining on the doors varies throughout the building, imitating different woods.

The two front rooms each have a closet located west of the fireplace and on the east side a door opening into the room at its rear. The fireplace in the east room is decorated with a mantel consisting of paneled pilasters and frieze, the pilasters broken by the chair rail, with a high stacked shelf projecting forward over the endblocks and center panel. The west room or parlor is the finest room in the house. Here the mantel has reeded pilasters with the reeding continued in the endblocks and central tablet. A cornice with punch-and-dentil molding surrounds the parlor. Unlike the other first-floor rooms, the parlor has windows on both of its exterior walls. The rear rooms have similar mantels each with an architrave trim surround and reeded pilasters below a high stacked shelf.

A window centered over the stair landing lights the second-story hall. The rooms on this floor are similar to those below. The two rear bedrooms and the hall have only a chair board and baseboard set into the original plaster walls, while the front rooms have wainscoting, chair rail, and baseboard repeating the treatment of the first story. The mantels in these rooms are Federal in style, each slightly different than the others.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

PROSPECT HILL, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6, 7, 10

Page 1, 1, 1



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey (88-56)
1968, 1972, 1982 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Numerous outbuildings complement the plantation setting. These include a carriage house with its original beaded weatherboarding and box cornice. Centered between the two carriage rooms is a smokehouse. Defining the borders of the lawn are a log icehouse, storage house, and well house with a windmill and wind driven gears and machinery. Also surrounding the yard is a log corncrib, converted to a stable in 1930, and a contemporary chicken house. A short walk west of the flat, well-shaded yard is the Holladay family cemetery.

MPM

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification: The total number of acres in the Prospect Hill nomination is fifteen and includes the house and outbuildings as well as the cedar-shaded drive and Holladay family cemetery.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1806 Builder/Architect Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Prospect Hill survives as one of Spotsylvania's largest and best-preserved early 19th-century plantation dwellings. It has been associated with the Holladay family since its construction in 1806. The undisturbed condition of both the building's massive yet restrained exterior and its plain but elegant Federal woodwork makes Prospect Hill a good example of the type of spacious but unpretentious center-hall-plan house favored by the more prosperous Virginia planters of the period. The plantation was the scene of original owner Waller Holladay's experiments with crop rotation and fertilization as well as the center of his activities as a leading citizen of the area and public servant of the state.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Waller Holladay (1776-1860), a scholar, farmer, and public servant, constructed Prospect Hill for his growing family in 1806 after inheriting the considerable estate of his half-brother, Gen. Lewis Littlepage. Although family tradition identifies Spotswood Dabney Crenshaw as the builder of what was at once the most valuable house in the area, no correspondence exists between Holladay and Crenshaw concerning the building. Holladay devoted the majority of his time at Prospect Hill to the cultivation of his plantation. His son James recalled that his father restored the fertility of the land which had been previously impoverished by bad cultivation and neglect, being "the first in that part of the country where he lived, to introduce the use of red clover and gypsum, in addition to the manure and litter of crops raised on the farm in connection with systematic culture under a judicious rotation of crops."¹ Evidence in support of Holladay's preoccupation with agricultural improvements can be gleaned from the Holladay family papers, which include the correspondence of Waller Holladay interspersed with information on his plantings.

Although he preferred a private life, Holladay followed in the tradition of public service established by his father, Maj. Lewis Holladay, a Revolutionary patriot. Admitted to the bar in 1801, he served as assistant assessor of county property, overseer of the poor, and county magistrate. In 1819 and 1820 he was a delegate to the General Assembly and later took part in the state constitutional convention of 1829-30. He served as Democratic presidential elector in 1836 and 1840.

No significant alterations have been made to the house since Waller Holladay's death in 1860. He bequeathed the house to his youngest son, James Minor Holladay, and several generations of the Holladay family have since resided and been buried at Prospect Hill.

MPM/VDS

¹Rev. Horace Hayden, Virginia Genealogies (Baltimore: Southern Book Co., 1959), p.365.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Hayden, Rev. Horace Edwin. Virginia Genealogies. Baltimore: Southern Book Co., 1959.
 Louisa County Will Books 4, 5.
 Richmond, Va. Virginia Historical Society Archives. Holladay Family Papers.
 Spotsylvania County Deed Books G, J.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 15 acres

Quadrangle name Mineral, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8
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2	4	7	7	9	0
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4	2	2	3	3	9	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B

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2	4	7	7	6	0
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4	2	2	3	0	8	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

C

1	8
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2	4	7	5	6	0
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4	2	2	3	1	3	0
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D

1	8
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2	4	7	5	8	0
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4	2	2	3	3	9	0
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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on N side of VA 612, about 800' W of the intersection of VA 612 and VA 719; thence extending about 700' WNW along said side; thence about 900' N, paralleling approach drive; thence about 700' E; thence about 1,000' S to N side of VA 612, the point of origin. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date June 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date JUN 15 1982

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	date
Keeper of the National Register	date
Attest	date
Chief of Registration	

