

ADDED
NRHP- (7-30-80)
VLR- 4/15/80

71-35

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS 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

Windsor

AND/OR COMMON

Windsor

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Route 861

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Cascade

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Fifth (W.C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Pittsylvania

CODE

143

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Samuel P. Wilson, II

STREET & NUMBER

Route 861

CITY, TOWN

Cascade

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 24069

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Pittsylvania County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chatham

STATE

Virginia 24531

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

3958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Windsor, a Pittsylvania County plantation complex, is situated off State Route 861, 18 miles west of Danville on the North Carolina border. The main house is a rectangular, five-bay, two-story brick structure with a double-pile central-hall plan and one-story, one-bay wings. The house is essentially a formal Georgian-style dwelling with Italianate ornamentation. The exterior walls are executed in very even stretcher-bond brick with five-course American bond in the foundation area.

The rear (north) elevation retains its original one-story veranda which has a bracketed cornice supported by six cast-iron, fluted columns with elaborate Corinthian capitals. The columns are set on brick piers with stone tops. A similar veranda was planned for the south side but was never installed. Its cast-iron and stone parts remain in storage on the property. Both the front and rear entrances are approached by wooden steps with plain iron railings.

The front (south) doorway consists of a glass- and wood-panel transom with complementing glass and wood sidelights. The transom is divided by richly carved brackets supporting a plain stone lintel. The original paneled door remains in place and is flanked by carriage lamps. The rear (north) entrance consists of the original paneled door topped by a stone lintel. A bracketed cornice, similar to that on the rear porch, runs around the eaves of the shallow hipped roof. Standing-seam sheet metal covers the roof. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows topped by segmental cast-iron hood moldings. A Palladian-style window is found above the main entrance. Two interior end chimneys are on each of the side elevations.

Windsor contains a notable high-style Victorian interior in a remarkable state of preservation. The central hall is dominated by a curving open-well stair ornamented with a heavy turned newel, turned balusters, and a wide, oval handrail. The first-floor hall contains an ornamented plaster ceiling that includes an elaborate medallion, a rich cornice and a foliated border with concave corners. The double (west) parlors have similar but more elaborate ceiling treatments. The doors and windows in the principal rooms have paneled jambs faced with three-part architraves surmounted by box cornices. The remaining doors and windows are contained within three-part architraves. Original paneled doors are retained throughout the house. The round-arch marble mantels in the main first-floor rooms are elaborately carved in the Victorian manner; the second-floor marble mantels are much plainer Greek Revival types. All floors are of pine, and all walls are plastered. The double (west) parlors retain their original 19th-century Brussels-style carpeting. Elaborately executed gasoliers with glass globes remain in place. The front room of the west wing retains its original bookcases. Both the first- and second-floor rooms have louvred interior shutters. Many of the original furnishings remain in the house along with a collection of Wilson-Hairston family portraits, most painted by W. G. Brown of New York.

The estate maintains an outstanding collection of original brick outbuildings. The school/playhouse located north of the main house is a one-story structure executed in stretcher bond. Covered by a hipped roof, the building is fronted by a later plain porch. Original features include 6/6 hung-sash windows, a central chimney and Greek Revival mantels.

A row of three buildings stands about 60 feet east of the main house. It includes the kitchen/laundry, smokehouse and gashouse. Executed in a combination of stretcher bond and five-course American bond, the buildings are covered by hipped roofs with

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1862 (completed) BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1862 for Samuel Pannill Wilson, the huge Italianate mansion at Windsor and its collection of outbuildings form the last of the elaborate plantation complexes built in Pittsylvania County by generations of rich planters and entrepreneurs. By birth and marriage Wilson was related to the wealthiest families in the county: both his father and father-in-law had established substantial estates on the Dan River of a scale and complexity comparable to the Tidewater plantations of the mid-18th century. The layout of these antebellum plantations, including Windsor, followed patterns established in the Colonial period, incorporating a formal, symmetrical residence, architecturally sophisticated outbuildings, geometrical gardens, and prominent siting. Windsor is of particular interest from the standpoint of its Victorian decoration. It preserves its original lighting fixtures including the gashouse that supplied them, its original Brussels-type carpeting, rich plasterwork, and cast-iron veranda. Of interest is the fact that the house was designed to have two verandas; the Civil War prevented the veranda intended for the south facade from being erected, and its parts remain in storage on the property.

Samuel Pannill Wilson was born ca. 1820-25, the son of Robert and Catherine Wilson of Dans Hill, Pittsylvania County. Wilson married the daughter of Samuel Hairston of Oak Hill and settled on a family tract of 2,000 acres in Rockingham County, North Carolina. In July of 1854 Robert Wilson sold his son 230 acres of land in Pittsylvania County. Wilson increased the acreage through the purchase of an additional tract of 281½ acres in April of 1857. Wilson appears in the county Personal Property Tax Books in 1859 when he was taxed for 17 slaves, 5 horses and 45 head of livestock. A building value of \$12,000 is first listed in the land tax book with the notation that the improvements were added in 1862. The property tax book lists for the first time in 1863 Wilson's residential holdings. His personal possessions including "two pleasure carriages, one watch, one clock, one piano, gold and other plate"¹ were an indication of his prosperity.

The unusually fine appointments of Windsor are also a manifestation of Wilson's wealth. While gas was used in urban areas with some frequency by the 1860s, a rural location normally would have precluded its installation in a house such as Windsor. Wilson's use of a gas generator indicates his desire to have the utmost in modern conveniences. The availability of gas through his personal gashouse resulted in the installation of the fine gasoliers that ornament the first-floor rooms. The lighting devices are complemented by a stylish interior that features fine plasterwork, richly carved mantels, floral carpeting, family portraits and fine quality furniture.

Samuel P. Wilson was an ardent secessionist and raised a private militia in the area. In order to regain his citizenship after the war, it was necessary for him to file a petition of pardon and take an oath of allegiance. His pardon of October 1865 is still at Windsor. According to tradition he lived out his life at Windsor as a

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Arnold, B. W. Jr. History of the Tobacco Industry in Virginia 1860-1894. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1897.
- Clement, Maud Carter. History of Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Lynchburg, VA: J. P. Bell Co., Inc. 1929.
- Pittsylvania County Census 1830-50.
- Deed Books 55, 57, 58.
- Land Tax Books 1821-25, 1848-70. (See Continuation Sheet #2)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 38 acres

UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE NAME Draper, VA.-N.C.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

A

1,7	6,2,1,8,3,0	4,0,4,5,4,1,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

B

1,7	6,2,1,9,1,0	4,0,4,5,2,8,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

C

1,7	6,2,1,7,2,0	4,0,4,4,9,3,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

D

1,7	6,2,1,5,2,0	4,0,4,5,0,0,0
ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

E 1 7 6 2 1 3 6 0 4 0 4 5 2 8 0
 F 1 7 6 2 1 4 2 0 4 0 4 5 4 3 0

Beginning at a point 2400' N of VA-NC line, 900' S of Southern Railroad tracks, 1200' E of State Route 861; thence extending about 500' SE along 600' contour line; thence extending 200' W; thence extending about 1300' S following natural boundary to N side of said route; thence extending WNW along said side of said route 600'; thence turning NW following said side of said route approximately 900'; thence extending NNE along same about 500' more;

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES thence extending 1200' due E past N side of private drive to point of origin.

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

April 1980

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond

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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE APR 15 1980

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Windsor, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7 & 8 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2). Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1968, 1979 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

standing-seam sheet metal. The structures have 6/6 hung sash in simple architraves capped by cast-iron heads. The gashouse retains its original gas pump that at one time supplied the light fixtures in the main house.

Two slave houses are located to the west of the row and are on a horizontal axis with them. Constructed in five-course American bond brickwork, the one-story edifices have 6/6 hung-sash windows, hipped roofs and central chimneys. The westernmost house was converted into a garage in this century. A brick walk connects the houses with the service complex.

The springhouse is a small half-story building executed in random-course American bond and covered by a gable roof.

A small farm complex stands northeast of the house. It includes a 2½-story, wood-frame barn and a one-story storage shed. Both buildings date to the present century.

The property contains a variety of flowering shrubs and box bushes, and according to tradition was originally embellished by a twelve-acre ornamental garden.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of approximately 38 acres and includes the house and the outbuildings. It is a fraction of the original Wilson farm of over 500 acres. The property has remained in the Wilson family.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

farmer and horse breeder. The house passed to his son, Samuel P. Wilson and was inherited by the present owner, Samuel P. Wilson, II.

VDS/RCC

FHR-8-300A

(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Windsor, Pittsylvania County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Personal Property Tax Books 1858-68.

Will Books 1-3.

Wilson, Samuel P. II. Windsor, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. Interview. January 1980.

618 | HAPPY HOME 5 MI.
14 MI. TO U.S. 29

619 40'

620

621

1 810,000 FEET (IN. C.) 622000m F

(LLE)
SE

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Draper, VA-NC

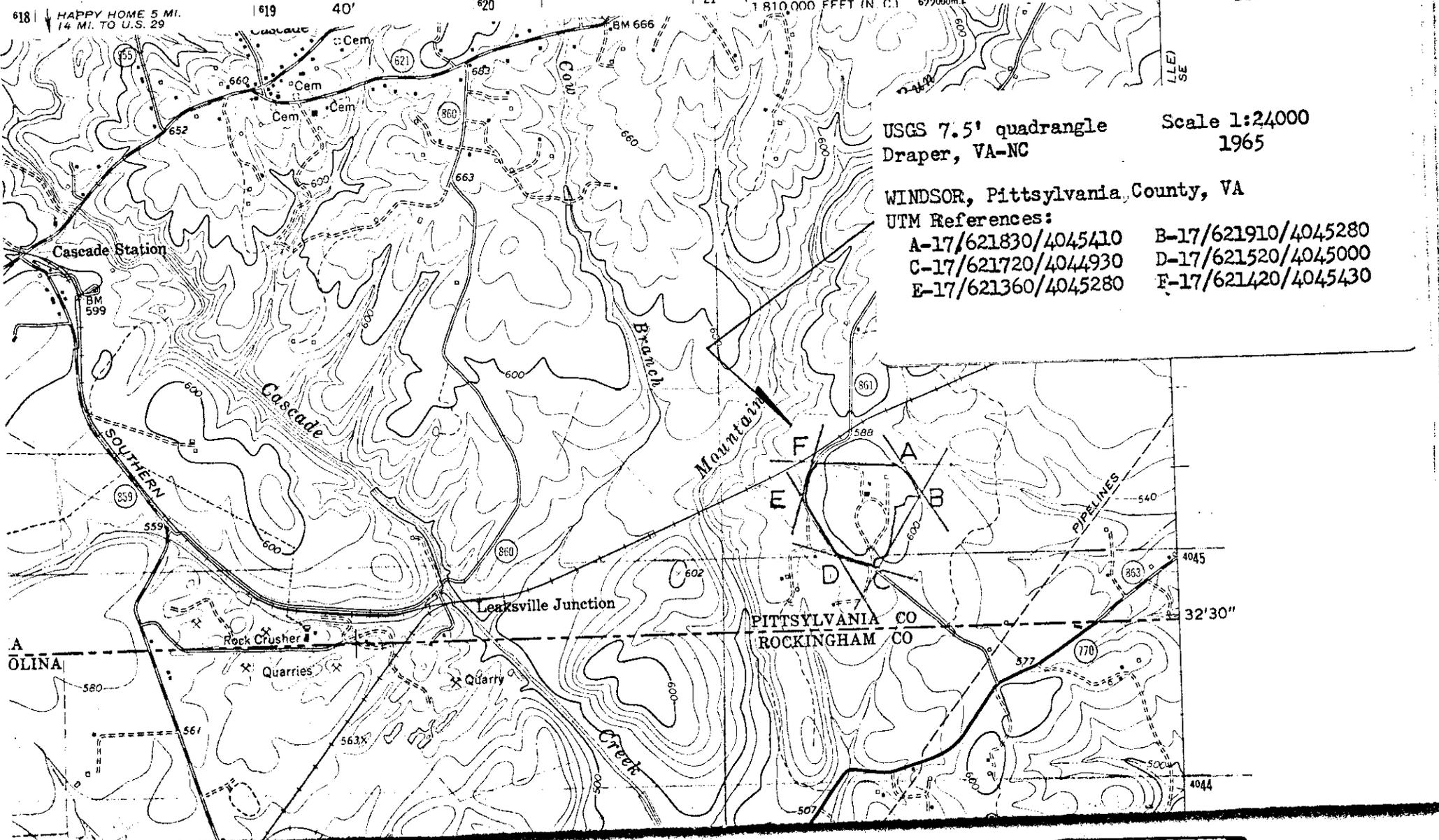
Scale 1:24000
1965

WINDSOR, Pittsylvania County, VA

UTM References:

A-17/621830/4045410
C-17/621720/4044930
E-17/621360/4045280

B-17/621910/4045280
D-17/621520/4045000
F-17/621420/4045430



A
OLINA

PITTSYLVANIA CO
ROCKINGHAM CO

