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02-65

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED AUG 17 1977
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

VLR-5/17/77 NRHP-5/6/80

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Plain Dealing

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

.5 mile N of intersection of State Routes 712 and 713; .2 mile S of Thomas Creek; E of Keene, Virginia.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Keene

VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE 51

COUNTY

Albemarle

CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
			<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Adolph E. Leuthold

Mr. ~~Richard Hallstrom~~

STREET & NUMBER

Plain Dealing

CITY, TOWN

Keene

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

22946

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Albemarle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE

Virginia

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

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1957

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

D. C. STATE

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

The large, frame dwelling house at Plain Dealing, a rolling, open tract of land in southern Albemarle County, is set atop an open knoll surrounded by twentieth-century gardens. The beaded-weatherboard-clad building is H-shaped and consists of a two-story main block and a parallel story-and-a-half rear wing connected by a two-story hyphen which was raised from one story early in the present century. The hyphen was originally an open gallery.

The main (south) block is five bays long, with nine-over-nine sash on the first floor and six-over-nine sash on the second. An original tetrastyle porch supported on Doric piers and embellished with a modillion cornice shelters the front door. The Chinese lattice railing is a modern alteration; mortises in the soffit of the banister reveal that the porch once had plain rectangular balusters. A modillion cornice and early wooden gutters and downspouts are attached to the eaves of the gable roof. The semi-exterior end chimneys, like the exterior end chimneys of the rear (north) wing, have been rebuilt in recent years, but old photographs show that the chimneys follow the pattern of the original.

The rear wing is three bays long with a central entry, nine-over-six sash in the windows, and a modern lean-to at each end. The north slope of the gable roof is broken by three pedimented dormers with six-over-six sash and diagonal flush boarding on their cheeks. The pedimented, tetrastyle porch on this wing is a twentieth-century alteration in the style of the front porch.

The two wings are roughly contemporary; if one predates the other, the temporal difference is not significant. Whatever the sequence of the erection of the wings, the house had attained its present form by 1800, as attested by a Mutual Assurance Society policy written in that year.

The plan of Plain Dealing is not complex. Each terminal section has a single-pile, central-passage plan. The south block features a triple-run stair. An enclosed stair opening onto the passage, but projecting into the east room, is in the north block. There is a single large room in the hyphen.

The decoration in the main (west) parlor of the south block is the most elaborate woodwork in the house. The chimney breast is treated with a heavy mantel and over-mantel consisting of fluted, Roman Doric pilasters supporting a tall frieze with fluted entablature blocks and a central tablet surmounted by a heavily molded shelf with a Greek-fret basemolding. On the shelf rest two stumpy fluted, Roman Doric pilasters supporting an overmantel pediment also decorated with a Greek fret. Tall, stop-fluted Roman Doric pilasters flank this chimney breast and are in turn bracketed by closets treated with frontispiece doorways. These have recessed-panel pilasters supporting a heavy cornice from which springs the recessed-panel archivolt of a blind elliptical arch with a central keystone. A similar treatment is used on the passage doorway, except that a pediment is substituted for the elliptical arches of the closet doors. A heavy pedestal chair rail and a molded cornice with Greek fretwork are carried around the room.

See Continuation Sheet #2

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 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 checked="" 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 Before 1800 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Albemarle County is famed nationwide for its many old estates. Among them few can match Plain Dealing for its combination of pastoral beauty, architectural interest, and associated personages. The property derives its curious name from a motto displayed on a store that formerly stood on the property. The house is notable as an example of Piedmont Virginia Federal architecture combining both academic and vernacular traditions. Of particular significance is the elaborate woodwork in the principal rooms of the main section which includes pedimented chimneypieces flanked by fluted pilasters and closets. This woodwork ranks among the most ambitious examples of Late-Georgian paneling in the region.

The main residence was built on land patented by Thomas Staples in 1783-84. In 1787 Staples sold 500 acres to Samuel Dyer who almost certainly built the two-story main section of the H-shaped house soon thereafter. The smaller story-and-a-half section may predate the larger section and may have been built by Thomas Staples, as he is listed in the 1785 census as owning three dwellings. In any case, both parts of the house existed in 1800 when they were first insured by the Mutual Assurance Society. The Society's policy indicates that the two wings were connected by a covered way.

Samuel Dyer was born in Bristol, England, in 1756 and came to America at age fourteen under indenture to a merchant named Breckenridge. During the Revolution Dyer served as one of Patrick Henry's minutemen and later became a commissioned officer. After the war he went into trade in Richmond; he continued in that profession after moving to Albemarle, opening a store on his farm then located on the busy road from Scottsville to Staunton. Affixed to the store was the sign bearing the motto that gave the farm its name. Dyer was successful not only as a merchant but as a miller and planter and soon amassed a respectable fortune.

In 1841 Plain Dealing was inherited by Samuel Dyer's son Robert who sold it in 1844 to the Messrs. Rankin of Augusta. In 1855 the estate was purchased by Joseph P. B. Wilmer of Philadelphia who formerly had served as rector of Christ Church, Glendower, and who later became the Bishop of New Orleans.

The Wilmer family held Plain Dealing for some seventy years during which time it became noted as a hospitable place. It was used as a stopping point for Robert E. Lee on one of his trips from Derwent to Lexington when he was considering the presidency of Washington College. In the early part of the present century the Wilmers were often

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albemarle County Deed Books, Numbers 9, 10, 33, 39, 42, 44, 47, 48, 49, 54, 73, 111, 120, 130, 147.
 Albemarle County Land Tax Books, 1782-1850; 1851-1863; 1878-1913.
 Albemarle County Will Books, Numbers 13, 14, 15, 17, 32.
 See Continuation Sheet #4

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 11 1/2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME ESMONT, VA.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES							
A	1, 7	7 1, 7 2, 5, 0	4, 1 9, 3 1, 4, 0	B	1, 7	7 1, 7 2, 8, 0	4, 1 9, 2 9, 4, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 7	7 1, 7 0, 2, 0	4, 1 9, 2 9, 2, 0	D	1, 7	7 1, 6 9, 6, 0	4, 1 9, 3 0, 6, 0
E				F			
G				H			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point at NW corner of eastern turn of State Route 713; thence extending about 700' S along W side of said route; thence extending about 400' NW, then curving about 400' SW (to parallel approach drive); thence extending about 400' NW; thence extending about 1000' NE to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff	
ORGANIZATION	Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission	DATE May 1977
STREET & NUMBER	221 Governor Street	TELEPHONE (804) 786-3144
CITY OR TOWN	Richmond	STATE Virginia

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Tucker Hill

RESUBMITTED:
1/10/80

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.

DATE MAY 17 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
	DATE
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE
ATTEST:	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1 ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1977 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION

The same sort of chair rail and a molded cornice with punch-and-dentil decoration are used in the passage. The open-string stair has two turned balusters to a tread, sawn brackets, a turned newel with a mushroom finial, and a molded banister. The chair rail is carried up the stairs.

The decoration in the southeast room is a less elaborate version of that in the larger southwest parlor. The mantel and overmantel are similar except that the pediment is broken, and punch-and-dentil work is used rather than the Greek key employed in the larger room. The flanking Roman Doric pilasters use the punch-and-dentil cornice as capitals, whereas those in the opposite room have true capitals. The frontispiece doorways of the closets are replaced by simple architrave frames, and there is a second, smaller closet with double, one-panel doors above each closet door. The north closet conceals an exterior door.

The hyphen is a very plain room; a pedestal chair rail is the only original decoration there.

The decoration in the north wing is not elaborate. The west chamber has a high, double-beaded chairboard and a Federal mantel with entablature blocks resting on the architrave and supporting the shelf. There is, in addition, a chair rail in the passage. The east room has been altered and opened up to the lean-to for use as a kitchen. It has no early trim.

One early outbuilding survives--a heavily altered, two-story, frame kitchen east of the house. Only its massive stone chimney survives unchanged.

DU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries incorporate the house, gardens, and one original outbuilding as well as the approach drive from the public road.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

3

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE

1

SIGNIFICANCE

hosts to President Theodore Roosevelt and his family. The Roosevelts had purchased from the Wilmers a small tract with a cottage called Pine Knot, which the President used as a hunting lodge.

In the mid 1930s the Wilmers sold Plain Dealing to Robert Hancock. In 1944 it was acquired by Prince and Princess Djordjadze. Princess Djordjadze, the former Audrey Emery, was previously married to Grand Duke Dimitri of Russia, one of the assassins of the monk Rasputin. She sold Plain Dealing in 1949 to Cornelius Middleton who kept it until 1956 when it was bought by Mr. Richard Hallstrom of Wisconsin, the present owner.

CL, VS

