



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

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: Oakland was rebuilt on the same lines and foundations as the original 1812 house which was consumed by fire in 1898. The original house was a typical Virginia one-and-a-half-story farmhouse with rambling additions.

B. Condition of the fabric: Good.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Over-all dimensions: The east or main wing at Oakland is a three-bay one-and-a-half-story house. To the west is a rambling wing (patterned after an early addition) which basically is a three-bay-wide, five-bay-long, two-and-one-half-story structure.

B. Foundations: Brick, American bond.

C. Wall construction: White weatherboard with a well-defined bead.

D. Porches: Porches under the main roof shelter both the north and the south facade of the east wing. The north porch is supported by six square posts, has a balustrade with rectangular balusters, and is partially screened. The south porch is similar, but it has been enclosed with glass. A one-bay shed porch shelters the north entrance into the west wing. The west entrance is sheltered by an enclosed porch with a flat roof and balustrade forming a balcony.

E. Chimneys: The east end chimney is exterior with stepped shoulders and corbelled cap and is laid in American bond. The west chimney on the one-and-a-half-story section is an interior one, and two other interior chimneys occur in the west wing. All have identical stacks and caps.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: Rectangular transoms and sidelights are featured in the doorways. Glass doors with fifteen lights are employed on the north and south facades of the east wing. A six-panel wooden door opens into the hall on the north side of the west wing.

2. Windows: The double-hung windows have six-over-six sash, a narrow simplified entablature as a hood molding, and plain trim with a bead. The north dormers in the west wing have double windows of four-over-six sash.

G. Roof: The gable roof has pedimented east and south gable ends, and is broken by irregularly spaced dormers (two with pedimented gables) on the north, and four regularly spaced dormers (pedimented gables) on the south. Two pedimented dormers break the west slope of the roof. The roof line of the western wing is irregular and broken by several gables; the molded cornice has short returns on the north gable.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: The original house (later the east wing) had a central hall flanked by a room on either side. When the house was rebuilt, all the partitions were omitted from the east wing, resulting in a single large room with a fireplace at each end. The west wing is irregular, but in general the rooms open to the west from a hall the width of the house; the long parlor opens to the east of this hall.

B. Stairway: The dog-leg stair ascends at the north of the hall. It features a simple rail, rectangular balusters, and plain newels.

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.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.

D. Doorways and doors: A broad architrave trim surrounds six-panel doors.

E. Heating: The west wing of the house is heated by central heating, although working fireplaces are retained in each room. The east wing depends on its two fireplaces for heat. The mantels were hand carved on the farm by an old Negro retainer. They feature wide shelves with a molded edge, denticulation, a paneled block in the center of the bolection frieze, and architrave trim around the hearth opening.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: Oakland is approached by a long shaded lane through the fields. The house itself is located on a knoll in the midst of a spacious lawn, dotted with venerable shade trees.

B. Outbuildings: A smokehouse, dating from 1812, with a shingled gable roof is northwest of the house. The office, a two-bay gable roof structure with an exterior end chimney is just west of the house. A gable roof, one-bay store house is west of the office. The barns are some distance (although still visible) northwest of the house.

G. P. H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military		
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music		

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Oakland was the home and birthplace of the Virginia novelist, Thomas Nelson Page. It was there that he absorbed the atmosphere and legends of Virginia which give realism to his somewhat idealistic short stories and novels. In the late nineteenth century, Page became the acclaimed literary spokesman for the South, and in fulfilling this role, he tried to describe Virginia as he remembered it. Understandably, Page tended to recall the best parts of life "before the war", and thus the portrait he paints is an idealized one, where the gentlemen are the most honorable and brave, and the ladies are the most pure and beautiful to be found anywhere. Short stories employing local color were very popular in the late nineteenth century, and some of Page's works are classic examples of the type. In later years when he abandoned writing about the theme of life in the South, his work was less popular.

Much of Page's best work is based directly on people, events, descriptions, and legends of Oakland and Hanover County. Two Little Confederates, a children's book, and his only work still in print, is derived from his own experiences in the War Between the States. Some of his most noteworthy stories, among them, "Marse Chan" and "Meh Lady" in In Ole Virginia are closely related to Hanover County, although it is not mentioned by name. In his major and most successful novel, Red Rock, Page depicts Reconstruction from the Southern viewpoint. Page's works were widely read in both the North and the South; his stories appearing in Scribner's and other magazines as well as in book form.

In 1913 Thomas Nelson Page was appointed United States Ambassador to Italy, a post he served with distinction for six years. Page died at Oakland in 1922, and is buried in Rock Creek Cemetery in Washington, D.C.

The original house at Oakland was built in 1812 by the Nelson family, and was a typical vernacular one-and-a-half-story Virginia house with a central hall plan. It was enlarged several times during the first half of the nineteenth century. In Two Little Confederates, Page describes the house as "not a handsome place..., but down in old Virginia... it (was) ...one of the best plantations in that region.... The Mansion was known as the great-house on the plantation... and (it) had as many wings as Ezekiel." Oakland with all its contents, including many important Page and Nelson papers, burned in 1898. Page had it immediately rebuilt on similar lines on the old foundations. The house and farm remain in the Page family, and is the home of Mrs. Rosewell Page, Sr. (Thomas Nelson Page's sister-in-law), and Mr. and Mrs. Rosewell Page, Jr. The house contains much Page family memorabilia.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Theodore L. Gross, Thomas Nelson Page (New York: Twayne Publishers, 1967).  
 Rosewell Page, Thomas Nelson Page (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1923).  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

**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				
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE:  
**Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff**

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission**      DATE: **January, 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., Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

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

