

VLR-6/19/96

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Wood Park

other names/site number DHR 68-55

2. Location

street & number Rt 673 not for publication N/A

city or town Rapidan vicinity x

state Virginia code VA county Orange code 137 zip code 22960

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this x nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant statewide x Locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_

National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ National Register  
removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

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**5. Classification**  
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Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  6  </u>	buildings
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  2  </u>	<u>  6  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)   N/A  

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**6. Function or Use**  
=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <b>DOMESTIC</b> _____	Sub: <b>single dwelling</b> _____
<b>AGRICULTURE</b> _____	<b>agricultural field</b> _____
<b>FUNERARY</b> _____	<b>cemetery</b> _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <b>DOMESTIC</b> _____	Sub: <b>single dwelling</b> _____
<b>AGRICULTURE</b> _____	<b>agricultural field</b> _____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Wood Park, Orange County

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID-19TH CEN.: Greek Revival, Gothic
Revival, and Exotic Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete block
roof composition shingle
walls WOOD: weatherboard
other METAL: tin

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Entertainment/Recreation
Social History

Period of Significance 1795-1799
1849-1861

Significant Dates 1795
1849

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
George Willis

Cultural Affiliation N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder unknown

\_\_\_\_\_

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data
x State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other
Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 359.35 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Table with 4 columns: Zone, Easting, Northing. Data rows: 1 17 754020 4244150, 2 17 754360 4244090, 3 17 755135 4243290, 4 17 755088 4242940

x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ken Lynch

organization Mary Washington College date August 1993

street & number telephone 703-899-4670

Wood Park, Orange County

city or town Fredericksburg state VA zip code 22401



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**Additional Documentation**  
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Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.  
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage  
or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**  
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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

=====  
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).  
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Wood Park**  
**Orange County, Virginia**

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### Summary Description

Wood Park is a farm situated off State Route 673 in the Northwestern corner of Orange County. Built in three distinct phases, the main house was constructed just prior to 1799 as a two-story, three-bay, hip-roofed, dwelling measuring 18' by 44'. The original late Georgian, central passage plan block, facing to the east, was enlarged between 1816 and 1849 with a 1 1/2 story, saltbox structure on the north side of the house. A two-story, rectangular, gable-roofed, Romantic-style addition was constructed on the Northwest side of the main block between 1849 and 1860. The ballroom wing in this third addition contains barrel vaulting and classical frescoes designed by an unknown artist, as well as an unusual porch elaborated with Moorish and Gothic detailing. Wood Park was one of the first in Orange County to develop a running water system also. A contributing family cemetery with marked graves dating to the 1850s is located on the property. The 359 acres on which the house sits include a variety of noncontributing agricultural buildings related to the current operation of the farm.

### Architectural Analysis

Wood Park sits on a grassy, level, hilltop, facing east, surrounded by a number of large trees and pastures. While not visible from the house because of dense woods, the Rapidan River forms the western and northern boundaries for the current 359 acres.<sup>1</sup> A small pond in the pasture that slopes down toward Route 673, enclosed by a tall dry-stone fence, was the source of water for the house. Through the use of an extant hydraulic ram, the water from the pond was driven up several hundred feet to the house.<sup>2</sup>

The late Georgian dwelling was built prior to 1799 with two large pre-Civil War additions.<sup>3</sup> In an effort to include dependencies as part of the main house, the kitchen was assimilated into a north side addition soon after 1816.<sup>4</sup> The formal entertaining areas were expanded in the 1850s with a large ballroom or music room, beneath upstairs chambers, in a western ell.<sup>5</sup> Extensive remodeling in the early-nineteenth century and the 1950s altered the main house as well.

The two-story, three-bay, dwelling sits on a raised basement, featuring a moderately pitched hipped roof with an unusual pedimented central cross gable. The central passage main block could be characterized as an I-house plan.<sup>6</sup>

The original foundation, 5-course American bond brick with a below-grade stone base, was replaced with concrete block in the 1950s. The floor of the cellar, which was probably dirt or

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wood, was covered with poured concrete.<sup>7</sup> The massing of the main block is post-and-beam wood frame, with hand hewn sills, covered with lapped weatherboards.

A Greek-Revival porch, resting on concrete block, and approached by wooden steps, covers the main entryway. The original common bond brick piers were removed in the 1950s. The denticulated pediment, supported by pairs of Doric columns, matches the cornice details. A short balustrade surrounds the one-bay porch. Two fluted pilasters flank the door and the vertical weatherboards that enclose the door surround. It is likely that this porch was added as part of an antebellum remodeling.

Two, 5-course American bond, exterior-end, chimneys provide three hearths on either side of the main block, one on each floor. A comparison of the shoulders reveals differences in the shape and form, probably due to a repair or reconstruction. Four small steps are created at the base of each chimney by successively set back courses of brick.

Narrow, paneled, double doors form the formal entrance that opens onto the central passage, from the east. The door surround consists of a transom and sidelights with tracery. Turned collonettes flank the doors, rising above the lintel, where they terminate in ball finials.

The windows of the main facade are placed symmetrically, and the south gable end features windows on either side of the chimney, on both floors. The early-nineteenth-century addition to the north gable end has obscured the original fenestration, although it was probably like the south. The west elevation, also added on to, is now only partly visible, however it does match the main facade. All the windows on the main block are framed simply, and without elaboration. The second floor windows are six-over-nine double-hung sash, and the first floor windows are nine-over-nine double-hung sash. The cellar windows were replaced, supposedly in the same location as the originals, with the foundation and are twentieth-century, metal casement windows.<sup>8</sup>

The hipped roof of this original section shows evidence of being the replacement for an earlier roof (perhaps gable roof). It is not often that a house exhibits a hipped roof together with exterior end chimneys.<sup>9</sup> The current hipped, common-rafter, roof system with ridge boards rests on a false plate overhanging the walls to form a boxed eave. Until the 1950s, the roof was clad with wood shingles, that were replaced with the current diamond-shaped composition shingles. A large cross gable echoes the pedimented porch roof on the principal elevation and is decorated with the same dentils. A small semicircular fanlight is set in the center of the gable pediment,

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surrounded by a much larger elliptical frame. This space is filled with diagonal butted planks, contradicting the horizontal weatherboarding of the rest of the pediment. It is likely that this frame was occupied by a larger elliptical fanlight.

The cellar, first, and second floors are all arranged on a central passage plan, with an enclosed stairway linking the levels. Although the cellar is floored with concrete, the two upper floors have standard width, unfinished, pine planks. The walls are plastered above the chair rails, and wooden wainscotting extends to the simple baseboards. The wainscotting under each window is paneled to match the interior doors. The ceilings are undecorated and are without cornices.

All of the four upper fireplaces have identical wooden, Federal-style mantels consisting of fluted pilasters supporting a frieze and mantle shelf. The fireplaces in the cellar have been bricked in and a small stovepipe hole has been inserted.

This house may have originally had what is known as a Port Royal plan, named for the Virginia town where the style was popular. It is characterized by a central passage that extends beyond the block of the house, creating a small room, or in this case, a small closet or office and an enclosed stairwell.<sup>10</sup> The period during which the Port Royal plan was popular matches Wood Park's era of construction.<sup>11</sup> The Hipkins-Holloway house in Port Royal has an expanded form, close to that of Wood Park, with an extended hallway and a large ballroom addition.<sup>12</sup> Although the extension at Wood Park is two stories, it is possible that this is an adaption of the Port Royal plan.

Sometime between 1816 and 1849, the kitchen facilities were moved from the north yard to the house and incorporated in a one and one half story, single bay, ell with a catslide roof, wrapping around the north and west elevations. The post-and-beam, weatherboarded addition was constructed to emulate the original block. The three, six-over-nine double-hung sash windows match those on the first floor of the principal facade, along with the same denticulated cornice detailing.

The east elevation has a one-story, shed-roofed porch covering the entire facade. This elevation is without windows, or decoration. In addition to the sash windows piercing the west and north elevations, a six-light wooden casement window lights the north room in the ell. The central chimney is currently used by one wood stove.

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The kitchen ell contains an entry hall with a bathroom, a large kitchen, a small adjacent room, and a narrow winding stairwell, leading to the three rooms in the half story above. Only two of the upstairs rooms are plastered and intended as living spaces, probably for servants. Random width wood planks cover the floors. The walls of the entryway, as well as one of the upstairs rooms is covered in weatherboards, probably once part of the exterior covering. Each of the mantels in the addition has different Federal detailing.

Between 1849 and 1860, a two-story, rectangular ballroom wing, with a raised basement, was added to the west elevation. This is the most ornate section of the dwelling and does not follow the stylistic precedent of the original block. The concrete block foundation, originally 5-course American bond brick like the main block, still retains portions of the brick on the west and north elevations.

The west elevation exhibits an unusual elliptical porch, with Gothic and Moorish details, unconnected to the interior space of the ballroom. A central staircase, rising from the lawn to the porch floor which is supported by brick piers, provided access. The sloping roof is supported by ten ornate turned, wooden, columns on hexagonal bases decorated with Gothic lancet arches. The cornice line and roof brackets are wrought iron tracery framing Moorish arches. The balustrade of beaded railing is almost completely deteriorated.

The ghost of a semicircular extension housing a spiral staircase is visible on the north elevation. These stairs once linked the second floor bedrooms with the basement under the rear ell addition.

This addition to the house has one large interior chimney inside the north wall. It provides ventilation for two hearths on the second floor, one in the first-floor ballroom, and one in the basement dining room.

The only entrance into the addition from the outside is a double-leaf, paneled door, like the front doors of the main block, on the south wall. The doorway is about five feet above grade and there are currently no steps. While there are no sidelights, three lights form a transom above the door.

Two, projecting, three-sided, decorative bays, containing windows, light the first-floor ballroom on the west and south elevations. The central window in both bays is four-over-four double-hung sash while the two windows on either side are two-over-two double-hung sash. The

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bays extend into the basement where they offer some additional floor space. Grade-level metal casement windows in the three sections of each bay provide light to the cellar. The second floor has four six-over-six double-hung sash windows: two facing south, one west, and one north.

A low-pitched, gable roof of standing-seam metal covers this portion of the house. The ridge of the gable runs perpendicular to the principal ridge of the main block. The cornice is decorated with Italianate brackets. The metal gutters that once hung from the cornice have all been removed, leaving only hooks.

The interior of this addition, now in poor condition, was once quite spectacular. A door at the end of the main block central passage, is a 1950s addition which hides the large, heavy archway that linked the old house with the new. Between the archway and the tall Gothic doorway that leads into the ballroom is a reception room, or cross passage. The ceiling is flat over the width of the arch and barrel-vaulted on either side. The plasterwork of the ceiling is decorated with trompe l'oeil painting in shades of blue and gray. The painting is geometrically ordered and displays the influence of Classical motifs. A blue background allows the gray painted pilasters and floral designs to extend from the picture plane.

At one time the ballroom was decorated with trompe l'oeil painting that matched the small adjacent reception hall. In the 1950s, all of the plasterwork was removed and the entire room recovered with wallboard. The wallboard has not been painted and displays lines and spots of spackeling.

The bay windows that light the ballroom have classical surrounds dentiled friezes, and symmetrically molded pilasters, matching the surround of the large doorway. The north side of the room has a hearth with no mantel.

The second floor of this addition rises above that of the main block. Six steps extend up to the two, large, unadorned rooms containing closets. The plaster in both of the rooms has been covered with twentieth-century wallpaper that has deteriorated. Much of the plaster itself is also falling. The small, corner fireplaces in each room sit back-to-back. The chimney in this addition was rebuilt in the same place in the 1950s. The workmen neglected to replace the wall over each of the hearths. The west room has a large hole in the wall that used to house the doorway that provided access to the external stair tower.

The cellar below the ballroom, intended as living space, currently has a dirt floor despite oral accounts that this room was once a dining room. The ceiling is plastered and the small bit

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of original foundation that remains at the west end of the room also shows signs of plaster. The concrete block walls around the rest of the room are unpainted and the hearth on the north wall is poorly constructed.

This is a complicated building consisting of many different construction phases. The original block, built around 1799, is two stories, with three bays, and a hipped roof. Between 1816 and 1849 the kitchen wing was added, obscuring the north elevation. Finally, the northwest elevation received the two-story, gable-roofed addition with the elaborately detailed porch and interior ballroom.

South of the main house are buildings that supply the agricultural needs of the farm, including two large barns. One, from the early twentieth-century, is situated about three hundred yards from the house. The second, from the late nineteenth century stands approximately one hundred yards from the main dwelling. These two large structures are set some distance from the house, but smaller dependencies are considerably closer. A wooden shed sits about fifty feet to the main structure and the wooden, gable-roofed smokehouse sits about seventy-five feet to the north. The smokehouse, which faces the main house to the south, may date prior to 1805 since it matches the description of a smokehouse mentioned in the Mutual Assurance Society policy of that year.<sup>13</sup>

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### Statement of Significance

Throughout its history, Wood Park has been associated with locally important and influential people, beginning with Baldwin Taliaferro, the first owner of the house, a successful farmer, and son of Colonel Lawrence Taliaferro. In the late 1840s, the farm was bought by Colonel George Willis. The grand-nephew of George Washington and great-grandson of Henry Willis, founder of Fredericksburg, George Willis was an extremely successful businessman. He became a prominent figure in Orange County and was noted for his wealth, charisma, and well-appointed estate, Wood Park.

The success of Wood Park's early owners is reflected in its unusual architecture, unique in Orange County, Virginia. As a late eighteenth-century structure, the house is an imposing rural residence, embellished with Greek and Romantic Revival additions and modifications. The large, Romantic-style, wing created an atmosphere of prosperity and enhanced the importance of the original block. The unusual character of this wing is unmatched in the area.

### Historical Background

Wood Park sits just south of the Rapidan River, near the intersection of Orange, Culpeper, and Madison counties. Until 1798, the land was part of a larger plantation called Rose Hill, home of Colonel Lawrence Taliaferro. Upon his death, through his will, his large holdings were divided among his heirs.<sup>14</sup> His son Baldwin received several large plots of land and a residence, however it is not known whether this house was Wood Park. By 1799, Baldwin Taliaferro occupied a residence he called Wood Park, on the land he inherited from his father, and it seems possible that construction of the house took place prior to 1798.<sup>15</sup>

Baldwin Taliaferro added land to the plantation until his death in 1829.<sup>16</sup> In 1838, the 712 acre estate was finally sold by the Taliaferro family, to Daniel Thornton.<sup>17</sup> Two years later, Thornton sold the farm and all livestock, crops, equipment, and slaves to Marcus Bull of New York for \$20,500.<sup>18</sup> In August 1849, Bull sold the 720 acre estate to George and Sallie Willis of Pensacola, Florida.<sup>19</sup> The house has remained in the Willis family since that date.

George Willis was related to many famous figures both nationally and locally. His great-great-grandfather, Colonel Henry Willis was the founder of the city of Fredericksburg and the first Orange County Clerk of Court.<sup>20</sup> The only offspring of his marriage to Mildred Washington, his third wife, was Lewis Willis, who was among the signers of the Westmoreland Resolves, and



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a lieutenant colonel in the Revolutionary War. Lewis Willis's second marriage to Ann Carter, Robert "King" Carter's granddaughter, produced Col. Byrd Charles Willis. George Willis, son of Byrd C. Willis, became a Pensacola Businessman and owner of Wood Park.

Colonel George Willis was notable for his own achievements as well as his family relations. He graduated from West Point and became a colonel of Florida troops during the Seminole War. Willis became an important figure in Pensacola after leaving military service. Involved in several businesses there, he continued to travel back and forth to Florida, after the purchase of Wood Park. In 1833 Willis married Martha P. W. Fautleroy, and had three children: Mary Lewis, George, and Isabella. Martha died in 1839, and Willis married Sallie Innes Smith in 1841. This union produced nine children: Delia, Catherine Murat, Byrd Charles, George, Sallie Innes, Virginia Ann Chase, Martha, Fielding Lewis, and Georgine.

Business was good for George Willis, and an annual statement of his accounts shows a balance to his credit of more than \$50,000. A history of Orange County speaks of Willis as one of the wealthier citizens of the county:

Before the war there were a good many citizens in the County of ample fortunes, as fortunes were then reckoned. Colonel George Willis's family of Wood Park, used to come to Church at Orange in a coach and four, and fine equipages were more the rule than the exception.<sup>21</sup>

Willis's wealth was shown at Wood Park in the form of a high-style addition constructed in the 1850s, containing a basement dining room, an ornately decorated ballroom on the main floor, and two upstairs bedrooms.

In 1860, as the possibility of civil war became inevitable, military companies began to spring up over Virginia. The Richmond Light Infantry Blues, noted the military and charismatic demeanor of Willis and asked him to be the leader of their unit, but he declined because he was interested in entering the service of Virginia in the cavalry. In the winter of 1860-61, Willis traveled to Pensacola to arrange his business dealings so that he would be prepared to fight in the event that Virginia did secede. While in Florida, he contracted a lingering fever that ended his life in April 1861. His body was transported to Wood Park and buried in the family plot.

After Willis's death, the plantation remained the home of his wife and children. Sallie Willis was buried next to her husband in the Wood Park family plot in 1881, and the property was

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divided equally among three of the children: Fielding, Georgine, and Virginia.<sup>22</sup> The two daughters married and effectively gave over their share in the farm to Fielding Willis, who lived in the house until his death in 1901. One evening, as he returned from a party at a neighboring house, Willis and his horse Ajax attempted to ford a stream swollen by recent rains. Both rider and horse were swept away and drowned.<sup>23</sup>

Although he had children, Fielding Lewis Willis left the property to his nephew Achille Murat Willis, a physician who had a thriving practice in the Richmond area.<sup>24</sup> Thus, he never lived in the house during his time as owner. Sharecropping tenants farmed the land and often left the house empty.<sup>25</sup> Those tenants who lived in the house were unsupervised and occasionally burned various parts of the house (i.e. stairs, shutters) for fuel.<sup>26</sup>

Rather than let the property be sold out of the family, Byrd Charles Willis, the brother of Dr. Willis, bought the land upon the death of Dr. A. Murat Willis, in 1929.<sup>27</sup> Byrd C. Willis was also a physician with a practice in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, however he retired in 1945 and returned to Orange County.<sup>28</sup> By this time, Wood Park had not been occupied for many years and was on the verge of collapse. Willis, who chose not to live in the house, performed some necessary repairs to prevent its collapse. Upon his death in 1958, he left the farm to his daughter, Mary Frances Willis.<sup>29</sup> Sharecropping on the property ended in the 1950s but the land was used for hay and cattle. The house remained uninhabited until about 1979 when further repairs were made and the house was occupied by the farm manager.<sup>30</sup>

**Endnotes**

1. The property was listed as 359.35 acres in the current land tax records (1988 Orange County Land Book). The 720 acres of 1861 dwindled to 460 acres in 1881, finally to 359 and 35/100 acres by 1929. (Orange County Deed Book 100, p. 23, 30 November 1929).
2. Mary Frances Willis Kempe, Unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, 19 November 1989, Orange County, Virginia.
3. Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Assurance policy against fire. Microfilm reel 1, vol. 4, policy number 232, 31 May 1799.
4. Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Assurance Policy against fire. Microfilm reel 5, vol. 43, policy number 1869, 23 May 1799.

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5. W. W. Scott, A History of Orange County Virginia (Richmond, Virginia: Everett Waddey Co., 1907), 213.

6. Henry Glassie, regarding the I-house: "It has been named, by [Fred] Kniffen, the I house (its tall, thin gable might be envisioned as an upper case I). Its definitive characteristics are two story height, one room depth, and length of two or more rooms." Henry Glassie, "Eighteenth-Century Cultural Process in Delaware Valley Folk Building," Winterthur Portfolio 7 (1972): 43.

7. Mary Frances Willis Kempe, unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, 19 November 1989, Orange County, Virginia.

8. Photographs in the possession of Mrs. Kempe taken before the renovation provide some testimony that the cellar windows are in the same positions they had been in originally (Mary Frances Willis Kempe, unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, 19 November 1989, Orange County, Virginia).

9. A review of examples from Virginia & Lee McAlester, A Field Guide to American Houses (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984) and The Virginia State Historic Landmarks Survey corroborate this generalization (W. Brown Morton III, unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, 13 December 1989, [Fredericksburg, Virginia: Mary Washington College]).

10. Wilma Mangione, "A Search for the Origin of The Port Royal Hall," an unpublished scholarly paper, (20 November 1984): 1.

11. Ibid.

12. Ibid., 4-5.

13. Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Assurance policy against fire. Microfilm reel 4, vol. 39, policy number 952, 21 December 1805.

14. Will of Lawrence Taliaferro, Orange County Will Book 3, page 467, 24 September 1798.

15. Deed of Sale, Orange County Deed Book 32, page 280, 19 April 1828, and Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, assurance policy against fire, Microfilm reel 1, vol. 4, policy 232, 31 May 1799.

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16. Marginal Notation, Orange County Land Book, 1829, [microfilm] (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia State Archives).

17. Deed of Sale, Orange County Deed Book 38, page 55, 7 March 1838.

18. Deed of Sale, Orange County Deed Book 38, page 42, 4 September 1840.

19. Deed of Sale, Orange County Deed Book 41, page 87, 6 February 1849.

20. Unless otherwise noted, the information regarding Willis family history comes from a text written by Byrd C. Willis. (Byrd C. Willis, A Sketch of the Willis Family, Fredericksburg Branch [Richmond, Virginia: Whittet and Shepperson, 1909]).

21. W. W. Scott, A History of Orange County Virginia (Richmond, Virginia: Everett Wadley Co., 1907), 170.

22. Will of Sallie Innes Willis, Orange County Will Book 13, page 538, 28 November 1881.

23. Mary Frances Willis Kempe, an unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, Orange County, Virginia, 19 November 1989.

24. Will of Fielding Lewis Willis, Orange County Will Book 14, page 356, 28 August 1901.

25. Mary Frances Willis Kempe, an unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, Orange County, Virginia, 19 November 1989.

26. Ibid.

27. Deed of Sale, Orange County Deed Book 100, page 23, 30 November 1929.

28. Mary Frances Willis Kempe, an unpublished manuscript addressing events surrounding Wood Park, Orange County, Virginia, June 1986.

29. Will of Byrd Charles Willis, Orange County Will Book 29, page 121, 9 November 1959.

30. Mary Frances Willis Kempe, an unpublished interview by Kenneth Lynch, Orange County, Virginia, 19 November 1989.

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**UTM References**

**E 17 754011 4243370**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundaries of the current property are delineated by the polygon marked by the UTM reference points.

**Boundary Justification**

Wood Park has always been a large estate and its natural boundaries have always been the Rapidan River on the west and North, as well as State Route 673 on the east. A large amount of acreage will preserve the integrity of the site as a once-thriving farm.

WOOD PARK  
ORANGE COUNTY, VA

UTM REFERENCES

- A 17/754020/4244150
- B 17/754360/4244090
- C 17/755135/4243290
- D 17/755088/4242940
- E 17/754011/4243370

