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NRHP 09/13/1984

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NPS Form 10-900
(3-82)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic LEESYLVANIA ARCHÆOLOGICAL SITE

(VHLC FILE #76-45)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Leesylvania State Park

not for publication

city, town Dumfries

vicinity of

state Virginia

code

51

county

Prince William

code

153

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Commonwealth of Virginia
Division of Parks and Recreation

Contact: Ronald D. Sutton, Commissioner

street & number 1201 Washington Building, Capitol Square

city, town Richmond

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 23219

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Prince William County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Manassas

state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
title Survey (Site #44PW7)

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date VHLC/VRCA Files 1973, 1984

federal state county local

depository for survey records Research Center for Archaeology, P.O. Box 368

city, town Yorktown

state Virginia 23690

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Located in Prince William County on a small ridge top overlooking the [REDACTED] the Leesylvania Archaeological Site (44PW7) is covered by forest with dense undergrowth. Archaeological field investigations have documented the presence of cultural features dating to the second half of the 18th century within an oval area measuring approximately 400 feet by 200 feet. Much of the site is in a good state of preservation.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ANALYSIS

The Leesylvania Archaeological Site (44PW7) is situated in Prince William County on a small ridge top overlooking the [REDACTED] approximately 2,000 feet to the [REDACTED]. This ridge is part of a [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED], jutting into the [REDACTED] at [REDACTED]. The town of Dumfries is approximately [REDACTED] to the [REDACTED]. Forest cover with dense undergrowth characterizes the site environs, part of the Leesylvania State Park.

Field investigations by Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) archaeologists in February 1984 indicate that much of the site is in a good state of preservation. In spite of very poor surface visibility (Photo 1), several cultural features associated with the [REDACTED] complex were identified through surface surveys and limited test excavations (Figure 1). These lie within the acreage nominated, an oval area measuring approximately 400 feet by 200 feet.

At the southern edge of the ridge top was noted an oval depression measuring approximately 35 feet by 25 feet with handmade bricks on the surface. Two small trenches (44PW7/4 and 44PW7/5) were excavated here, positioned to intersect the northern and southern edges of the depression. These excavations documented the presence of a cellar, possibly for a dependency, corresponding to the limits of the depression. At the base of the excavations were found intact portions of the structure's stone foundation, a builder's trench, and the cellar floor (Photo 2). The brick walls had been robbed. Recovered artifacts include glass wine bottle fragments, animal bone, window glass fragments, glazing compound fragments, hand wrought-iron nails, plaster, oyster shell mortar, slate fragments, and bricks.

To the north was located another depression approximately 15 feet in diameter cut into the edge of the ridge top and extending into the hillside. A small trench (44PW7/3) was excavated at the northern edge of the depression base adjacent to the hillside. Upon removal of the topsoil, a portion of a large circular feature was exposed (Photo 3). Excavation into the dark brown feature fill was terminated at 28 inches below the top of the feature without its bottom being reached. Recovered artifacts were limited to slate and brick fragments. In an adjacent shovel test, two fragments of a handmade well brick were found in the feature fill at a depth of three feet at which point this test was stopped, again without the feature bottom being reached. This feature is an apparent backfilled well. At least the upper portion of the brick lining has been robbed.

(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 type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Leesylvania Plantation was on land inherited and developed by Henry Lee, II during the second half of the 18th century. Children of Lee and his wife, the former Lucy Grymes, while living at Leesylvania, include such notables as "Lighthorse Harry" Lee, Charles Lee, Richard Bland Lee, and Edmund Jennings Lee. Besides having historical significance as a symbol of this family's contribution to the country's heritage, the Leesylvania Archaeological Site (44PW7) also possesses archaeological significance, particularly for socio-economic studies on plantation life and investigations related to plantation architecture and land space utilization.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Leesylvania Archaeological Site (44PW7), near [redacted] in Prince William County, is located upon a [redacted] extending between [redacted] Virginia Land Office records reveal that Gervase Dodson had patented 2,000 acres in this area by August 7, 1658, to the southwest of Captain Edward Streater, whose landholdings, according to his March 19, 1658 patent, extended "northeast upon Ochaquin (Occoquan) River, southeast to Freston Pointe." ¹ A note appended to Dodson's patent states that the tract was "assigned to Mr. Henry Corbyn (Corbin) and by ²him made over to his daughter, Alice Corbyn, as by deed dated 19 October 1660." The July 30, 1746 will of Henry Lee, gentleman, of Westmoreland County, a grandson of Henry and Alice Corbin, both recapitulates and partially contradicts this latter landownership tradition, for it states that the Dodson tract at Freestone Point was "by my grandfather Henry Corben, Gent., given to his daughter Lettice, who was my mother." ³

Lettice or Letitia Corbin, daughter of Henry and Alice Corbin of Middlesex County, married Richard Lee of Mount Pleasant in Westmoreland County, a member of the Governor's Council. The 2,000 acres of land that Lettice Corbin Lee had acquired from her father descended to her son and heir-at-law Richard Lee and was by him deeded to his brother Henry, a tract he bequeathed to his son and namesake, Henry II.

It was the younger Henry Lee who undertook the development of the land he had inherited at [redacted] into a plantation called Leesylvania. Henry Lee, II, who became a practicing attorney in 1754, was also a County Lieutenant and a presiding Justice of Prince William County. He served in the House of Burgesses and was a member of the Virginia Convention.

Henry Lee, II, and his wife, the former Lucy Grymes of Morratico in Richmond County, whom he married on December 1, 1753, had eight children while living at

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

- Anonymous. "Corbin Family Genealogy." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. XXIX (1921).
- Anonymous. "Grymes Family Genealogy." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. XXVIII (1920).

10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 1.5 acres

Quadrangle name Quantico, VA Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
E	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	F	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
G	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	H	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Verbal boundary description and justification

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

organization VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION date 1984

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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION date June 19, 1984

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the
National Register

date 9-13-84

Keoper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

LEESYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (44PW7), PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 8

Page 1 1

7. DESCRIPTION -- Archaeological Analysis

A dirt road cut through the ridge top separates the principal portion of the site from its northern edge. In the southern wall of this road cut was noted extensive stone and handmade bricks (Photo 4). Upon cleaning this portion of the road cut, two stone walls laid in oyster shell mortar, each approximately two feet wide, were identified as the foundation of a cellar approximately twenty feet wide (44PW7/2). This cellar had a maximum depth of approximately twelve feet, with the bottom three feet consisting of extensive brick rubble. While most of the remains of this structure have been destroyed by the road cut, a small portion to the north is intact. Besides stone and bricks, recovered artifacts include creamware, Chinese porcelain, plaster oyster shell mortar, and fragments of window glass and glass wine bottles. Being the most substantial foundation identified within the site limits, the remains here likely represent the Leesylvania mansion.

Immediately to the north and in direct association with a conjectured corner of 44PW7/2 was located an unidentified feature made of stone (44PW7/6), one corner of which was found through probing. In exposing a small section of this angular stone feature, observed artifacts were restricted to window glass fragments.

Based upon data compiled during the field investigations at the Leesylvania Archaeological Site, at least two structures and one likely backfilled well have been identified. Recovered artifacts indicate that the site was occupied during the second half of the 18th century, a date which coincides with the historic record. Given the forest cover and extensive undergrowth found at the site, additional cultural features are likely to be found within the site limits upon more intensive investigation.

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Leesylvania. Four sons are of particular note. Their eldest son, whose daring as a cavalry leader during the Revolution earned him the nickname "Lighthorse Harry," participated in the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1788 and served in the Continental Congress from 1785 to 1788. He was Governor of Virginia from 1792 to 1795 and became a member of Congress from 1799 to 1801. "Lighthorse Harry" Lee's son by a second marriage was the famous Confederate General Robert E. Lee. Henry and Lucy Grymes Lee's second son, Charles, served as United States Attorney General under Presidents George Washington and John Adams. A third son, Richard Bland Lee, was a member of Congress from 1789 to 1795. He was instrumental in bringing the Federal capital to the Potomac. A fourth son, Edmund Jennings Lee, became the mayor of Alexandria, Virginia, and a prominent lawyer and churchman.

Upon the death of Henry Lee, II in 1787, followed by that of his wife five years later, Leesylvania was inherited by their second son, Charles. Sometime after the death of Lucy Grymes Lee, the Leesylvania mansion burned. In 1825 Alfred Lee, the son of Charles, sold Leesylvania plantation to Henry Fairfax, whose family made its home at a site nearer [REDACTED]. Thus, in 1825 land which had been in the hands of the ancestors and descendants of the Lees for 165 years passed out of family ownership.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

LEESYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (44PW7), PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 8, 9

Page 1 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

As the manor plantation of Henry Lee, II and his family during the second half of the 18th century, the Leesylvania Archaeological Site possesses historical significance. This site is the ancestral home of one of the Commonwealth of Virginia's most distinguished families and symbolizes their contribution to the country's heritage.

The site also possesses archaeological significance. Field investigations by VHLC archaeologists have documented that much of the site is in a good state of preservation. Several cultural features, including at least two structures and one likely backfilled well, have been identified. The nominated acreage is heavily obscured by forest cover and dense undergrowth, and additional features should be identified if more intensive investigations are conducted here. Excavations at the Leesylvania Archaeological Site should provide significant data for socio-economic comparative studies related to regional plantation life during the second half of the 18th century. Similarly, structural remains should prove a valuable source of comparative data for regional studies on plantation architecture and land space utilization for this time period.

¹ Nell M. Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969), I:358.

² Ibid., I:372.

³ C.A. Hoppin, "The Wright-Washington Connection and Some Descendants of Major Francis and Anne Washington Wright," Tyler's Quarterly Vol. IV (1923):215.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Anonymous. Notable Names in American History: A Tabulated Register. Boston: J.T. White Company, 1973.

Biographical Directory of the American Congress, 1774-1971: The Continental Congress Through the 91st Congress Included. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1971.

Bruce, P.A., ed. "Title to Leesylvania." Virginia Magazine of History and Biography Vol. V (1898).

Harrison, Fairfax. Landmarks of Old Prince William County. Berryville: Chesapeake Book Company, 1964.

Henrick, Burton J. The Lees of Virginia. Boston: Little, Brown, and Company, 1935.

Hoppin, C.A. "The Wright-Washington Connection and Some Descendants of Major Francis and Anne Washington Wright." Tyler's Quarterly Vol. IV (1923).

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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National Park Service**

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



LEESYLVANIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE (44PW7), PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 9, 10

Page 2, 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

- Lee, E.J. "Mary Bland's Death." William and Mary Quarterly Vol. VIII, Series I, (1899).
- Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants. Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Company, 1969.
- Prince William County. Deeds, Wills.
- Stafford County. Deeds, Wills.
- Templeman, Elanor Lee. "Leesylvania Plantation." Arlington Heritage.
- Tyler, L.G. "Original Records of Phi Beta Kappa." William and Mary Quarterly Vol. IV, Series I, (1896).
- Westmoreland County. Wills.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

Boundary Justification: The nominated acreage is restricted to that area in which archaeological deposits have been identified through field investigations.