

VLR-9/9/69 NRHP-11/12/69

99-12

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: York	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Lee House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Kiskiack

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: W bank of southern tributary of Lee Pond, 1.6 mi. NW of Rt. 238, 2.4 mi. NE of intersection of Rt. 238 and Rt. 168.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: York CODE: 199

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vacant <input type="checkbox"/>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
United States Government

STREET AND NUMBER:
Naval Weapons Station

CITY OR TOWN: Yorktown STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
York County Court House, Clerk's Office, Docket #87

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Yorktown STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 265.33

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1935 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: York
ENTRY NUMBER: 99-12
DATE: 11/12/69
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Kiskiack, or the Lee house, is a structure typical of the small brick farm dwellings built in Virginia during the late-seventeenth century. The house is one-and-a-half stories covered by a gable roof with a fifty-five degree pitch, making it one of the steepest of the period in Virginia. All four walls are finely laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers above the beveled water table, with English bond below. Unfortunately the walls have been painted a number of times, and large areas of the brickwork have been clumsily repointed. Also various alterations and additions have resulted in badly scarred patches on the walls. Apparently because of the later additions (now removed), the water table has been cut off on the end walls and much damaged on the west wall. The two first-story windows on the south gable have been bricked up, while the two windows on the north gable have been altered into a door and smaller window. The pair of very small windows on the second floor of both gable ends generally retain their original dimensions.

Probably the most impressive architectural features of Kiskiack are the T-shaped chimney stacks of the two interior end chimneys. The nearly identical stacks are classics of their type, featuring superb molded brick caps.

In keeping with the structure's central passage plan, the entrance (west) facade is symmetrical with a central doorway. The large dormer windows on this front are twentieth century replacements of nineteenth century additions. Unfortunately, all but the masonry portions of Kiskiack were destroyed when the house caught fire on February 24, 1915. The last private owner of the house, Francis Henry Lee, described the interior as he remembered it before the fire:

Wide floor boards; stairs on left, above turning to the right, ash banister, closet in the north room downstairs in the northwest corner. Door in the northeast side leading to kitchen when present, closet under steps. Open fireplaces downstairs only. Wooden pegs and handmade nail used.

Whether any of the original interior trim survived up to the 1915 fire is uncertain.

In 1927 the house was presumably renovated for occupancy with repairs being made to the roof, floor, and walls, and the construction of a back porch and protruding second-floor bathroom. In 1937 the present enclosed brick entrance porch was added, and in 1953 the rear porch and bathroom were removed.

At present Kiskiack is being preserved structurally although the interior fabric is badly decayed. The rural setting of the house has been preserved by the Naval Weapons Station. A Lee family burying ground is located nearby, but only one monument composed of fragments of other markers identifies its location.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The original tract of land on which Kiskiack is located was patented in several stages by an immigrant, Henry Lee, who obtained the first patent, for 247 acres, in 1641, and added to the property in 1650 and again in 1653. The name of the house, which is spelled about eight different ways, was taken from a local tribe of Indians known as the Kiskiacks. It has often been suggested that Henry Lee was related to the ancestors of General Robert E. Lee, but no genealogical evidence has been uncovered which would support this. Of Henry Lee's position in the colony, it is known that he served as a justice for the Court of York County in 1646 and was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1652. Unfortunately, it is not known whether it was Lee himself or one of his descendants who built the small brick house. Architectural historians generally agree that Kiskiack is in the style of the late-seventeenth century, thus creating the possibility that it was constructed either by Henry Lee's son, Henry, Jr., who inherited the land in 1657, or by his grandson William, who owned the property from 1696 to 1728. Kiskiack remained in the ownership of the Lee family until 1918 when it and adjoining lands were acquired by the Federal Government. The property is now the Naval Weapons Station, a high security military installation, off-limits to the general public.

Despite the obscurity of its origin, Kiskiack is a rare survival of a typical early Virginia country house. The quality of both its design and construction is a testament to the high standards of craftsmanship attained by Virginians during the first century of settlement.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Forman, Henry Chandlee, The Architecture of the Old South; The Medieval Style, 1585-1850. New York: Russell and Russell, 1948.
 Farrar, Emmie Ferguson, Old Virginia Houses Along the James. New York: Bonanza Books, 1957.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 14' 55"	76° 34' 11"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 14' 55"	76° 33' 30"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	37° 14' 00"	76° 33' 30"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	37° 14' 00"	76° 34' 11"		° ' "	° ' "	

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: August 11, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 _____
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman
 Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST: _____

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY York	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
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AND/OR HISTORIC: Kiskiack			
2. LOCATION			
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CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	York	199
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE:			
U.S.G.S. 7½', quadrangle Yorktown, Va.			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1957			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
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CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	York	199
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: United States Navy			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1969			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: United States Naval Weapons Station Yorktown, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of front from the West.			

U
W E DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
S CORPS OF ENGINEERS

35'

12 560 000 FEET

(CLAY BANK)

32'30"

