

VLR-5/13/69

NRHP-11/12/69

100-10

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Virginia
COUNTY:	Alexandria (in cit.)
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	11/17/69

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Carlyle House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
John Carlyle House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
123 North Fairfax Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Alexandria

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45      COUNTY: (in cit.)      CODE: 510

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>		

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Carlyle Investment Corporation (Lloyd Diehl Shaeffer, President)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
123 North Fairfax Street

CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Clerk of Courts, Alexandria City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Royal and Cameron Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Alexandria      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: .3280 acre

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1941      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Washington

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
TY: Alexandria  
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>				
			Moved <input type="checkbox"/>			Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Carlyle House is a two-and-a-half story rectangular structure which has been considerably altered both in appearance and setting. The wall surfaces, which were originally brick decorated at the corners by stone quoins, are now covered by scored stucco. The present hipped roof with dormers is a replacement of what was probably a more shallow hip-on-hip roof without dormers. The original stone cornice, apparently a unique Virginia survival of the period, remains on the entrance facade but has been replaced by a wooden one on the sides and rear. The dated keystone survives in the central pavilion of the entrance facade, but it has been incorporated into a completely restyled doorway; the original doorway is thought to have been based on a Palladian motif. The original sash has been replaced throughout the house. The garden front entrance has also been restyled, and a neo-classic porch has been placed across the entire first floor.

Of the original interior trim, only that of the famous Blue Room and the small study, on the same side of the house, remain; the fully paneled Blue Room is one of the finest of its period in the state. The remaining woodwork in the house is in the Federal style.

Originally the house had flanking dependencies in the manner of Annapolis townhouses, but they were removed in the nineteenth century and their appearance is uncertain. It is thought that these dependencies were to be joined to the main house by curved passages, but this has never been established. Unfortunately the entrance front of the Carlyle House has been completely cut off from the street by the erection of a nineteenth century five-story hotel immediately in front of the house, so that to reach the house one must pass through the hotel, across the moat, and up the front steps. The original gardens which extended to the Potomac River have since been cut off by warehouses and N. Lee Street. Although the house is presently in a peculiar situation, from N. Lee Street it still retains a commanding presence on its high terrace.

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) 1752

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic <input type="checkbox"/>	Industry <input type="checkbox"/>	Science <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>Architecture</u>
Agriculture <input type="checkbox"/>	Invention <input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture <input type="checkbox"/>	<u>History</u>
Art <input 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.)

As indicated by the initials and date in the keystone over the doorway, this fine mid-Georgian mansion was completed for John and Sara (Fairfax) Carlyle in 1752. A native of Scotland, John Carlyle was one of the original incorporators of the city of Alexandria. Although he was a merchant by profession, in 1755 Carlyle became a major in the Virginia Militia, and in 1758 he was appointed to the prestigious position of customs collector.

The Carlyle House was the center of much social and political activity in the years preceding the Revolution. On April 14, 1755, General Braddock met in the famous "Blue Room" of the Carlyle House with the governors of Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and New York to plan the ill-fated campaign against the Indians. Among the other notables entertained in the house at various times were George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, George Mason, John Marshall, Thomas Jefferson, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Lighthorse Harry Lee, and John Paul Jones.

The Carlyle House is significant architecturally as it is the only surviving mid-Georgian townhouse in Virginia designed in a five-part plan in the manner of Annapolis townhouses. In addition the stone cornice is possibly a unique architectural feature for its time in Virginia. The architect of the house is unknown, but it is very likely that the design of the Carlyle House was based on Craigiehall, a Scottish house designed by William Adam, an engraving of which appeared in Vitruvius Scoticus, published in 1750.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Davis, Deering, Stephen Dorsey, and Ralph C. Hall, Alexandria Houses, 1750-1830, New York: Bonanza Books, 1946.

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
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: 8 April 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, STATE: Virginia 23219 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date 5/13/69

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 11/17/69

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

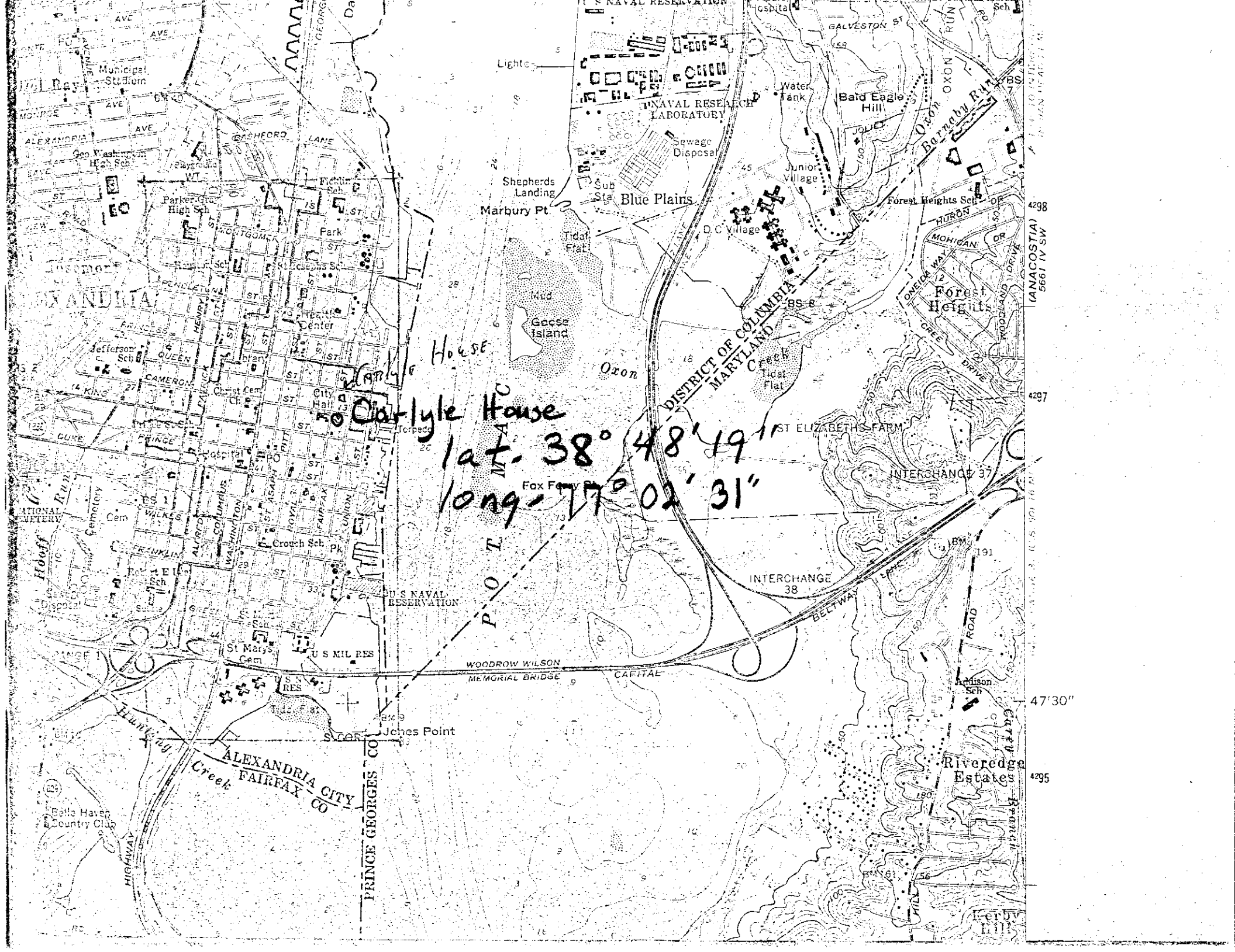
STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Alexandria (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #100-10  
1968

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Code: 45



House  
to Carlyle House  
lat.  $38^{\circ} 48' 19''$   
long.  $77^{\circ} 02' 31''$

4298  
4297  
47'30"  
4295

(ANACOSTIA)  
5661 IV SW