

VLR-10/17/78 NRHP-9/7/79

108-3

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*.
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC, Penn-Wyatt House (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON Hoffman House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 862 Main Street NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Danville VICINITY OF _____ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Fifth (W.C. Daniel)

STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY (in City) CODE 590

3 CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY | OWNERSHIP | STATUS | PRESENT USE |
|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE | <input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> NO | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: |

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Dr. and Mrs. Allan Hoffman

STREET & NUMBER 862 Main Street

CITY, TOWN Danville VICINITY OF _____ STATE Virginia 24541

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Danville City Hall

STREET & NUMBER _____

CITY, TOWN Danville STATE Virginia 24541

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE 1958 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

| | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| CONDITION | | CHECK ONE | CHECK ONE |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED | | DATE _____ |

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located in the midst of the Danville Historic District at 862 Main Street, the Penn-Wyatt House is a salient example of late 19th-century Victorian architecture. Erected by James Gabriel Penn in 1876 and modified between 1887 and 1903, the monumental house testifies to Danville's eclecticism during the last quarter of the 19th century. Built of brick covered with scored stucco, the central-hall-plan house is covered by multi-gable roofs with a mansard-roof tower.

The east or main facade has three divisions. Visual cohesion is achieved by the use of brownstone quoining on the three parts, contrasting markedly with the white stucco. Located to the southeast, the first section contains a two-story, projecting three-window bay. Fenestration on both the first and second stories consists of 1/1 hung-sash windows capped by round-arch hood molds. The bay is topped by a parapeted roof, which retains its original wrought-iron cresting. An attic story consists of a three-part, multi-paned, round-arch window centered within a gable. The second section is comprised of a centrally positioned, three-story entrance tower, which contains the main entrance consisting of a leaded-glass, transom-light doorway flanked by single-panel glass sidelights. The original leaded-glass, double-door is still in use. The tower's second story contains paired leaded stained-glass windows capped by round-arch hood molds. The third story consists of paired 1/1 hung-sash windows, again covered by hood molds. A small circular window completes the fenestration. The tower is covered by an imbricated-shingle, bell-cast mansard roof which retains its original decorative wrought-iron roof cresting.

North of the tower, the facade's third section is composed of a first-story fanlight doorway with complementing sidelights. The doorway is a Colonial Revival addition and is no longer in use. The second story has paired, round-arch, 1/1 hung-sash windows crowned by a hood mold. The treatment of the attic story resembles that found on the southeast section.

Unifying the facade is a one-story porch extending to the north corner. The porch is supported by wooden Ionic columns set on a stone plinth railing and supported by carved stone balusters. The porch features a pedimented entrance with classically inspired low-relief carving within the tympanum. The northeastern corner of the porch contains a circular two-tiered detached porch which is crowned by a red shingle-covered conical roof capped by a wrought-iron finial. The original slate covers the principal roof.

The south elevation, like the east, is visually divided into two sections through the differential treatment of the fenestration and the roof. The fenestration of the southeast portion consists of segmental-arch 1/1 hung-sash windows crowned by hood molds. The section is covered by paired gable roofs. The rear section is covered by a hipped roof and is composed of stone lintel and segmental-arch windows which lack the ornate hood molds. A one-story wing containing a stained-glass window projects from the elevation.

The north elevation continues to follow the irregularity of the east facade. The elevation is dominated by a two-story wing covered by a multi-gable roof. Fenestration consists of 1/1 hung-sash and leaded stained-glass windows, which are all covered by hood molds. A one-story addition containing a four-part, stained-glass and plate-glass window projects from the elevation.

(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 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"/> 1500-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE | <input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION | | |

SPECIFIC DATES 1876, 1887-1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located within the Danville Historic District at 862 Main Street, the Penn-Wyatt House ranks among the city's most notable examples of Victorian residential architecture. Following the Civil War, Danville experienced a tremendous boom in the growth of its tobacco and textile industries. The city's leading capitalists began to build handsome and sometimes extravagant mansions along the city's Main Street. The Penn-Wyatt House, erected in 1876, stands as visual evidence of their wealth and taste.

James Gabriel Penn, the builder of the house, came to Danville in 1868 and established himself as a tobacco-commission merchant. In 1872 he formed a partnership, Pemberton and Penn, Inc., and extended the firm's interests into foreign markets. Penn was highly successful, and by 1876 was able to erect the fine residence on Main Street. Penn's continued prosperity is reflected in the modifications and improvement made to the house during his occupancy. City tax book entries for 1887 record the sum of \$305 for changes in the building; in 1888 Penn spent \$4,000 to improve the house; in 1894 another \$4,000 was added for improvements. Penn purchased the adjoining J. E. Lipscomb House in 1904 and subsequently had that building torn down, using the bricks to build a carriage house. Penn died in 1907, and the property was willed to his wife, Sallie Johnson Penn. Mrs. Penn could not afford to maintain the property, and the house and its contents were sold at public auction in 1934. Landon R. Wyatt purchased the building, and the Wyatts continued to improve the property. It was Wyatt who built up the gardens behind the house and enclosed Penn's greenhouse in order to enlarge the formal dining area. Wyatt died in 1970, and in May 1977 the Wyatt heirs sold the house to a local physician, Dr. Allan A. Hoffman, the present owner.

When the Danville Historic District was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in September of 1972, it was noted that: "The Danville Historic District boasts perhaps the finest and most concentrated collection of Victorian and Edwardian residential architecture in the Commonwealth." The Penn-Wyatt House contains an especially significant and varied interior and a notable facade that combines Second Empire monumentality and Italianate detailing. Added to in a great flourish of wealth, the house's interior exhibits a wide range of stylistic features that characterize late 19th-century eclecticism. The decorative and ornamental treatment of the main hall provides a marked contrast to the classicism of the family dining room on the same floor. The different and highly polished woods throughout the house find proper illumination from the varied stained-glass windows and original chandeliers.

Although a number of its neighboring structures have been demolished within the past six years, the Penn-Wyatt House stands as an expression of the architectural taste of Danville during the last quarter of the 19th century.

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Penn-Wyatt House, Danville, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 7 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2). Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1969, 1978 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

Unlike the preceding elevations, the west elevation has never been stuccoed. The elevation is laid in five-course American bond painted white. The elevation is dominated by a two-story veranda which is original to the house. A two-story service wing projects to the west.

The interior of the Penn-Wyatt House remains in a remarkable state of preservation. This is particularly evident in the hall, the most elaborately finished room in the house. A finely executed, semi-elliptical reeded arch divides the central hall into an entry passage and a stair hall. This arch features a highly ornamental grille composed of wooden spools and spindles; a similar grille decorates the rear doorway. The entry passage contains raised-paneled wainscoting capped by a molded chair rail. The parlor entryways have fanlight transoms and complementing sidelights encased within molded architrave trim.

The stair hall contains an exceptionally handsome open-well stair that ascends to the second floor. The stair features a raised-panel newel post capped by a statue holding a lamp. The stair has paneled spandrels, a molded handrail, and finely turned balusters. Paralleling the stair is a handsomely paneled wainscot with a molded chair rail. It should be noted that the hall contains original period wallpaper and a settee and mirror that have been in the hall since the 19th century. The hall retains its parquetry floor, as do all principal rooms in the house. The north and southeast parlors both exhibit popular decorative elements of the late 19th century. Both rooms contain the original plasterwork ceiling together with a bracketed plaster cornice. The rooms also retain their Eastlake-inspired black marble mantels. The southeastern parlor preserves its overmantel which was painted in the Eastlake fashion by William Lycett of Atlanta, Georgia, in 1889. The original brass chandeliers are still in place. The dining room is the product of a late 19th-century modification to the house. The focal point of the room is a rather pronounced Neo-Classical mantel, featuring a decorative carved frieze. Doric distyle columns, in antis, contribute to the Beaux Art classicism of the room. An arched stained-glass window is found above the mantel shelf. The northwest den would appear to be a modification from the 1887-1894 period. This room features an oak carved mantel and overmantel with glazed tiles surrounding the fireplace. The room contains exceptional leaded stained glass. The second-floor rooms, while in an excellent state of preservation, are less elaborate than those on the first floor. An exception is the second-floor stair

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Penn-Wyatt House, Danville, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

hall which is quite lavish in its ornamentation. The hall contains an elaborately executed wood mantel and mirrored overmantel. Stained-glass windows illuminate the second floor stair hall and provide a complement to the polished wood trim of the stair. The wallpaper is of the same pattern as that found in the first-floor hall.

A brick, one-and-a-half story carriage house laid in five-course American bond is located to the rear of the house. The structure was erected in 1903 from bricks salvaged from the J. E. Lipscomb House, which was demolished by Penn when he acquired the adjoining house lot. The restoration of the gardens in the rear of the house is being undertaken by Dr. and Mrs. Allan Hoffman the present owners of the property. A bracketed well covering survives as the sole 19th-century outbuilding.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Penn-Wyatt House is situated on the same land tract acquired by James G. Penn, who built the house in 1876. It is typical in size of the house lots found on lower Main Street. The property is bounded on the east by Main Street, on the south by the parking lot of the First Baptist Church, on the west by the rear property line, and on the north by the property line of the adjoining residence.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Cahill, Mary & Grant, Gary. Victorian Danville - Fifty-two Landmarks - Their Architecture and History. Danville, Va: Womack Press, 1977.
 City of Danville Land Tax Books 1875-1899.
 "Only Two Owners in 95 Year Span for Showplace Mansion on Main Street." The Bee, 8 March 1971.
 "Preservation Chairman Lives in Appropriate Residence." Danville Register, 27 February 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Danville, Va. QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

| | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|-----|-----|-------|---|------|---------|----------|
| A | 1,7 | 6,4,3 | 1,4,0 | 4,0 | 4,9 | 5,6,0 | B | | | |
| | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING | | | | | ZONE | EASTING | NORTHING |
| C | | | | | | | D | | | |
| E | | | | | | | F | | | |
| G | | | | | | | H | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Penn-Wyatt House is on a rectangular city lot and measures approximately 175'x400'. It comprises about two acres.

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE September 1978

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 *Julius Hill*

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OCT 17 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

ATTEST: CHIEF OF REGISTRATION DATE

