

VLR-8/15/72 NRHP-12/5/72

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

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: NEWPORT NEWS (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
LEE HALL

AND/OR HISTORIC:
LEE HALL

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
.6 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 60 and Rt. 238

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport News (Thomas N. Downing, First District Congressman)

STATE VIRGINIA	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in city)	CODE 700
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3. CLASSIFICATION

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

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. W. L. Carleton

STREET AND NUMBER:
Saunders, Carleton, Morrison, Stephenson & Spratley, P. O. Box 575

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport News

STATE: VIRGINIA	CODE 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
CITY HALL, CLERK'S OFFICE

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Newport News

STATE Virginia	CODE 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1971 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

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

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia	CODE 51
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA
COUNTY: NEWPORT NEWS (in city)
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER
DATE

100

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Lee Hall survives as the only major nineteenth century plantation house on Virginia's Lower Peninsula. The large brick mansion is located on a broad hill commanding a wide view of the surrounding cultivated fields and pasture land. The modern commercial jumble of greater Newport News is yet out of visual reach of the property.

A small earthen fort on the front lawn remains the only evidence of the house's military occupation in the War Between the States.

The five-bay house, standing two stories above an elevated basement has a boxy appearance due to its very shallow hipped roof and heavy cornice. The two-story, three-bay brick guest house to the south is less imposing and more vertical, but it too has a rectilinear quality. The front wall of the mansion is constructed of all stretcher brickwork, while the side and back walls are, like the guest house, laid in five-course American bond. Both structures have interior chimneys, and those of the main house are elaborated with square panels.

The influence of several architectural styles is apparent in both the house's interior and exterior. An Italianate cornice with scrolled brackets and pendants is employed around the top of the building, Greek Revival denticulated lintels are found over basement and first floor openings, and Gothic engaged columns frame the front door. Sidelights flanking the door are reflected in the form of the second-story window above. The original single story porch exhibits a classical cornice and frieze that rise from suppressed flat top arches above square Doric columns. The porch's sawnwork railing represent baluster profiles.

The interior plan is composed of a central stair hall opening on two rooms to each side. Large closets included on the second floor presented a plan problem that resulted in a curved wall between the south rooms. There is a minimum of interior woodwork. The most interesting features are the simple sawn-work mantels, four-panel doors with dog-eared frames, and dados below the windows. The two-run stair has a heavy turned walnut newel post and turned walnut balusters. Sawn scroll-work embellishes the stair ends and curved landing fasciae. Plaster rosettes of acanthus leaf and sunflower motif decorate the first floor ceilings.

Lee Hall was restored in 1964-65 by the present owners, after it had been allowed to fall into decay. The back porch has been enclosed, the first floor plan has sustained slight alteration, and several mantels have been removed; however, the original character of the house has been preserved.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | losophy | <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Lee Hall was built by Richard Decatur Lee in the period 1848-59 on the site of Oak Grove, a frame colonial house destroyed by fire. Lee was a successful planter and his fashionable new house is said to have been financed from the ten thousand dollar sale of a bumper crop of tobacco.

With the coming of the War Between the States, Lee was placed in charge of the area's civil defense. The mansion was used as headquarters by Confederate General J. B. Magruder during the Peninsular Campaign of April and May, 1862. Lee's mill, two miles southwest on the upper Warwick River, was the scene of an early skirmish of the campaign.

Magruder's area defenses were abandoned in May, 1862, and parts of the Peninsula were held by Federal forces. Congressman Eli Thayer of Massachusetts sponsored a plan to establish a black agricultural colony at the point between the York and James Rivers. Lee was the major landowner of this area and the mansion may have been intended as the focus of the colony. The plan was never carried out.

Lee was conscientious in his financial support of the Confederate cause, and his ruin at the end of the war can be compared to Thomas Nelson, Jr.'s, sacrifice in the Revolution. He sold his properties in 1866, and took his family to live near Mulberry Island in the house now used as Chief of Staff's quarters at Fort Eustis.

The village that developed to the southeast after establishment of the C & O Railroad in the 1880's took its name from the mansion.

In addition to Lee Hall's historical associations, it stands as the only major ante-bellum house in the area. The fine house represents a successful blending of several architectural styles, and its prominent location on the old pike between Williamsburg and Hampton has long made it a landmark for travelers and nearby residents.

E.A.C.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Jester, Annie Lash, Newport News, Virginia 1607-1960, City of Newport News, 1961.

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 TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	37° 12' 07"	76° 34' 44"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	37° 12' 07"	76° 34' 22"				
SE	37° 11' 51"	76° 34' 22"				
SW	37° 11' 51"	76° 34' 44"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 34 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: June, 1972

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

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: J. R. Fishburne, Director

Title: Va. 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 NEWPORT NEWS (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: LEE HALL			
AND/OR HISTORIC: LEE HALL			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 60 and Rt. 238			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport News			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in city)	CODE 700
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle Yorktown, Virginia			
SCALE: 1:24000			
DATE: 1965			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

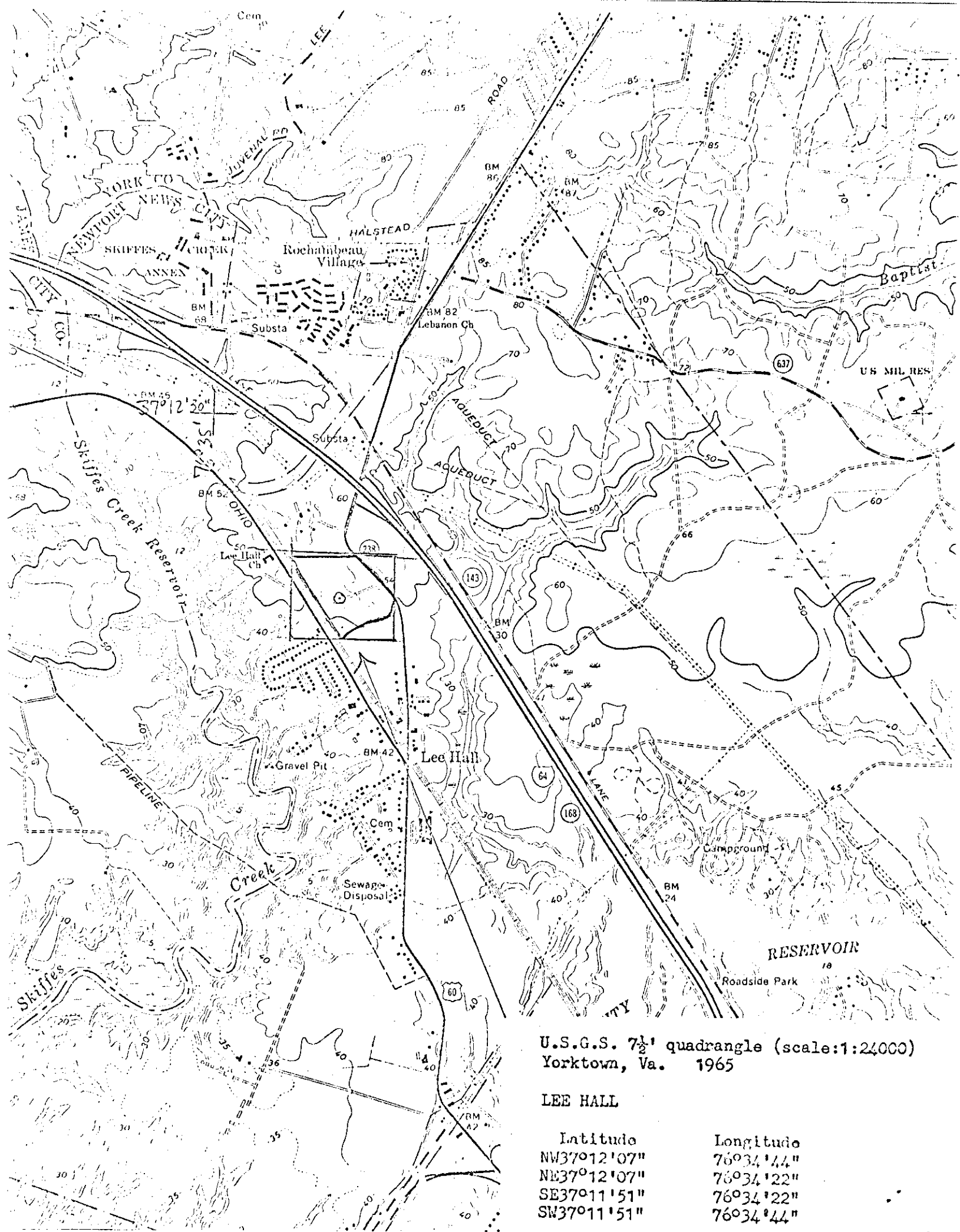
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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

STATE VIRGINIA	
COUNTY NEWPORT NEWS (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Lee Hall			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Lee Hall			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .6 mi. NW of intersection of Rt. 60 and Rt. 238			
CITY OR TOWN: Newport News			
STATE: Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in city)	CODE 700
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1971			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission; Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. VIEW OF MANSION AND GUEST HOUSE, FROM THE EAST.			



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Yorktown, Va. 1965

LEE HALL

Latitude	Longitude
NW37°12'07"	76°34'44"
NE37°12'07"	76°34'22"
SE37°11'51"	76°34'22"
SW37°11'51"	76°34'44"