

VLR - 4/6/71 NRHP - 9/22/71

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: Norfolk (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Willoughby-Baylor House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Willoughby-Baylor House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
601 Freemason Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	51	(in cit.)	710

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Norfolk

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:
51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Norfolk

STATE:
Virginia

CODE:

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1 58 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Washington

STATE:
D. C.

CODE:
11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Norfolk (in cit.)

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

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

The Willoughby-Baylor House is a detached two-story townhouse located on a corner lot. The three bay facade has the front door located in the westernmost bay. The doorway was remodeled about thirty years after the house was built, and thus is now embellished with very handsome Greek Revival trim. The entrance is sheltered by a small porch supported on two pairs of Greek Doric columns. Except for the doorway, the exterior retains most of its original character, although the window sash is a restoration. The brickwork is laid in Flemish bond with rubbed brick used at the corners and gauged brick jack arches over the windows on the front and west side. The house is covered by a gable roof with a modillion cornice on both the front and rear elevations. A small one-story service wing projects from the rear of the house immediately behind the hall.

The interior of the house consists of a parlor, dining room, and full length side hall on the first floor; two bedrooms and a small study on the second floor; and two additional bedrooms on the attic level. Much of the original interior trim is intact including a fine walnut and poplar open string stair that ascends in an open well to the attic. Also original are nearly all the floors and a fine Adam style plaster cornice in the hall. About thirty years after the house was built marble mantels were substituted for the originals in the parlor and dining room, and Ionic columns were installed to form a screen between the two rooms. Also a metal cornice was placed in the parlor ceiling. All of these later features were removed in 1966 under the direction of the restoration architect, Finlay F. Ferguson. The marble mantels were replaced with two mantels from an old house on Main Street built in the same period as the Willoughby-Baylor House.

Archeological investigation undertaken in 1966 uncovered the foundations of a one-story kitchen-servants quarters which was nearly two-thirds the size of the residence. This building was not rebuilt, but in the yard a small brick canetaker's has been erected.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The lot on which the Willoughby-Baylor House stands was included in the original Crown grant to Col. Thomas Willoughby that became part of the original Norfolk town in 1680. Norfolk's early Masonic Hall, which gave its name to Freemason Street, stood on this site. The Masonic Hall was destroyed during Dunmore's attack on Norfolk on January 1, 1776.

In 1794 William Willoughby purchased the lot from Dr. James Taylor, a former mayor of Norfolk and Grand Master of the Masons who as Grand Master held title to the property. It is assumed that William Willoughby (1758-1800), a local merchant and building contractor, built the house immediately after purchasing the lot. When Willoughby died without a will, a chancery suit was filed by one of his two daughters, Margaret Willoughby Sharp, and from this it is known that Willoughby owned 3 parcels of property, all contiguous to one another on Freemason Street in the area of the present house. This and a few personal receipts found in the house are the only evidence that Willoughby actually lived in the house.

In 1845 the house was acquired by Dr. Baynham Baylor, whose heirs sold it in 1890 to William M. Hannan. Altshul's, Inc., purchased it from Hannan heirs in 1957 and sold it to the Norfolk Redevelopment Authority in 1960 for \$9100. In 1964 the Norfolk Historic Foundation purchased it for \$4700. It has taken six years to restore the house, and it is now operated by the city as a house museum.

The house survives as a well-preserved example of a sophisticated medium-size townhouse of Norfolk's post-Revolutionary era. Contrasting with the nearly contemporary Myers House just down the street, the Willoughby-Baylor House's architecture is conservative and backward looking, thus illustrating the tastes of Norfolk's middle-income families of the period.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Meacham, William Shands, "Norfolk's Willoughby Restoration," The Commonwealth, The Magazine of Virginia, published by Virginia State Chamber of Commerce, January 1968.
 Newspaper files on "Willoughby-Baylor House", Sargeant Memorial Room, Kirn Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.
 Painter, Floyd, "Excavations at the Willoughby-Baylor House, Norfolk, Virginia;" The Chesopiean, A Journal of Atlantic Coast Archeology, Vol. 4, No. 3 (June 1966), 69-83.

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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 50' 58"	76° 17' 09"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres

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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 30, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond, STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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 Edw. P. Alexander by JDM

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

Date 4/6/71

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



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24000)
 Norfolk South, Va. 1955

Willoughby-Baylor House
 Latitude Longitude
 36° 50' 58" 76° 17' 09"