

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY RECEIVED DATE ENTERED

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 Adam Kurtz House

AND/OR COMMON

Washington's Headquarters (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Northeast corner of Braddock and Cork Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

(In City)

CODE

840

3 CLASSIFICATION

Table with 4 columns: CATEGORY, OWNERSHIP, STATUS, PRESENT USE. Includes options like DISTRICT, BUILDING, STRUCTURE, PUBLIC, PRIVATE, OCCUPIED, UNOCCUPIED, AGRICULTURE, MUSEUM, etc.

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

City of Winchester

STREET & NUMBER

City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Winchester City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Winchester

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(3) (see continuation sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey
1972 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington D. C.

- (3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1975 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

For the architectural description of Washington's Headquarters, see the included information taken from HABS Data Sheet VA-696, prepared August, 1972 by project historian, Wesley Ivan Shank. (see continuation sheet #2)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

1

The following information on the architecture of Washington's Headquarters is quoted from HABS Data Form VA-696, prepared August, 1972 by Wesley Ivan Shank, Project Historian:

5. Notes on original plan and construction of building: The building consists of three rooms in an east-west line. The western room has two of its three exterior walls of stone construction, and its interior wall is of horizontal siding boards resembling those used on the exterior of the rest of the building. In addition, there is a vertical line of joints in the stonework of the south foundation wall and in the north wall as well. These facts establish the west room as an addition.

The central portion is of hewn log construction and contains the fireplace and the boxed-in ship's ladder giving access to the attic. These facts seem to establish the center portion as the first portion built. However, there is no line of vertical joints in the stonework of the south foundation wall. (The north foundation wall is below grade).

The north wall of the stone addition to the west is not of stone construction. It is covered with the same siding used on the exterior of the rest of the building and it is not thick enough to be of stone. Short lengths of floorboards in this room indicate flooring over of a previous interior means of access to the cellar under this room. The present cellar access from the exterior is, therefore, a change in the original building. It is the writer's belief that the stone wall on the north side of the building was removed when it was necessary to construct the cellar access from the exterior because it was too difficult for the builder to provide a lintel for this cellar access that would support the stone wall above. By this reasoning, the north wall of the addition is presumed to have been of stone.

The east room is likewise assumed to have been an addition, because of its different materials of construction, because of the way the center room is built (as mentioned), and because of the floor level and ceiling level 19 inches and 31 inches lower, respectively. Since the roof of the whole building is one continuous gable form, the lower ceiling in the east room allows for more headroom in the attic above this room. This attic is finished on the interior and floored.

6. Notes on known alterations and additions, with dates and architects: The early additions have been described in connection with the description of the original structure.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

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

CONTINUATION SHEET #3 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

A photograph dated at the end of the nineteenth century shows the building with novelty siding in place of the present wooden siding and with a stoop in front of the south entrance. In connection with the restoration work planned by the city in 1908, mention was made of removing the weatherboards (i. e., the novelty siding) and replacing them with plank as originally covered the logs, replacing the solid shutters that had previously been on the windows, and removing the old kitchen. The kitchen was not obvious on the old photograph; it must have been on the north or east of the building. Mention is also made of stone from an old chimney, but it is not said if this was a chimney in the kitchen that was to be removed or if it was a part of the building presently standing. Two possibilities exist: that the present fireplace was rebuilt, or that there was another fireplace, which was removed. If the latter be the case, it is possible that it was located at the north wall of the stone addition. (Quarles, Homes, p. 138). It was also mentioned that the Board appointed by the city to be responsible for the restoration of the building consulted with "historical architects," but their names are not mentioned, and it is assumed that their services were purely of an informal and advisory nature. (Quarles, Homes, p. 138)

When the city was considering purchase of the property, the City Solicitor doubted if the city council had the authority to purchase property for the purpose of preserving a historic building. He stated that the city had authority only to hold real estate for the "necessary public purposes," and he suggested that the way to get around this restriction would be by making a park at the site, which presumably the city did have the authority to do. (Evening Star, "A Busy Meeting...")

Detailed Description of Exterior.

1. Condition of fabric: Good.
2. Overall dimensions: 16 feet wide at the west end; 51 feet 1 1/2 inches at the south side. The south side dimensions are made up as follows: 14 feet 0 inches is the length of the stone wall at the west end of the south wall; 18 feet 0 1/2 inches is the length of the siding of the center portion, from its west end to the point where the bottom of the siding steps down; 19 feet 1 inch is the length of the eastern part of the siding, from the step mentioned above to the southeast corner of the building. The divisions of the south wall correspond roughly to the lengths of the three rooms within.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

#4

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

3

3. Number of bays: Not applicable.

4. Stories:

One, plus an attic above the east room and a cellar under the west room.

5. Layout, shape: Rectangle.

6. Foundations; Rubble limestone. There is a vertical joint the full height of the foundation walls where the foundation of the west room joins the rest of the building. There is no vertical continuous joint where the foundation of the east room connects to that of the center room at the south wall. The comparable connection at the north wall is not visible because the grade level is at the top of the wall.

7. Wall construction, finish, and color: The west and south walls of the west room are ^{light gray} rubble limestone with dressed quoins at the exterior corners and at the east end of the south stone wall where it joins the center room. The remaining exterior walls are surfaced in planks of one inch net thickness nailed to furring strips. The planks run horizontally and are shaped with the upper and lower edges cut at about a 45-degree angle in order to make a water-tight horizontal lap joint. The lower edges of the planks are beaded. The planks are wider at the south wall, about 12 inches, than at the other two walls, and are stained a dark brown color.

8. Structural system, framing: Since the exterior siding face extended out beyond the face of the foundation, and since the siding was placed on furring strips, it was possible to look up under the open lower edge of this siding and see the log construction of the walls beneath. The center portion of the building is constructed of hewn logs, and the east room is constructed of round logs. The floor framing of the west room is logs about 7 to 8 inches in diameter, flattened on the upper side, and placed at 27 inches on centers. The floor framing of the center room is 3 by 6 joists, sawn, appearing to be material installed in the 1908 restoration. The floor framing of the east room was not visible. The roof framing of the center and east parts was joists set at about two feet on centers and of material about 3 inches square, according to appearance. Measurements were not taken here.

9. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc: None. Cellar access stair in hatchway accessible from the exterior has stone walls that do not bond with the foundation walls.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY-- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET #5 ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

10. Chimneys: Brick for the fireplace, galvanized steel for the warm-air furnace.

11. Doorways and doors: The north doors are vertical planks with battens on the interior: the center-room door is one inch thick, 34 inches wide and 68 inches high; the east room door is similar in construction and is 32 inches wide and 77½ inches high. The two doors on the south wall have diagonal boards on the exterior, but their interiors resemble the north doors.

12. Windows and shutters: The two windows in the stone walls are spanned by stone lintels. In the center and the east rooms, the windows are sash, 6/6. In the west room there are 9/6 sash in the two stone walls and a small casement window in the wooden wall on the north side. At all windows there are solid shutters of vertical boards with horizontal battens, mounted with strap hinges on pintles.

13. Roof shape, covering: The roof is one simple gable in shape and is covered with grey slates.

14. Cornice, eaves: There is only a slight projection at the eaves, which are formed by a simple wooden molding whose form, from the top down, is an ovolo, fillet, and cavetto; i. e., a convex curve, a narrow flat band, and a concave curve.

15. Dormers, Cupolas, Towers: None.

Detailed Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The first floor consists simply of three rooms in line, on an east-west axis. The floor of the west room is 13" lower than that of the center room, and the floor of the east room is 19" lower. The fireplace is centered on the east wall of the center room.

There is an attic space above the east room, and there is more headroom in this part of the attic than elsewhere because the ceiling of the first-floor east room is 31 inches lower than the center-room ceiling.

There is a cellar excavated under the west room, and its space connects with the shallow excavated space under the center room because there is no stone foundation under the west wall of the center room. The cellar has a dirt floor.

2. Stairways: There is a very steep ship's ladder enclosed at the south side of the fireplace in the center room. The ship's ladder ascends about six feet, then there are normal treads that complete the stairway to the attic.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

#6

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

5

3. Flooring: In the west and center rooms the flooring is random width pine planks, $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the widest and fitting tightly. In the east room the flooring is similar pine boards, but they are of uniform width here, about $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and do not fit as well. All are nailed, with the nail heads quite visible.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Center room: Plaster walls with a 36-inch high wainscot of $13\frac{1}{2}$ -inch wide boards running horizontally and beaded. There is a rectangular cap molding, molded at the lower side only. The ceiling is of planks, $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide with beaded edges, stained brown. The wainscot is painted brown. There is no wainscot on the fireplace wall.

West room: Plaster walls, beaded plank ceiling like the center room, painted. The east wall of the room, however, is formed of horizontal planks, like those on the exterior of the building, painted. Chair rail.

East room: Plaster walls, chair rail. Ceiling is formed of the floor planks of the attic above, supported on floor beams spaced about 40 inches apart. Most of the beams are about $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches square, but some are rectangular in cross section.

Attic over east room: Boards and battens on walls and ceiling.

5. Doorways and doors: The door between the center and west rooms is three vertical planks, $3/4$ inches thick, with two horizontal battens. Door and window trim is flat with an outer molding.

6. Special decorative features, trim, and cabinet work: The baseboards, which are found in the east and west rooms, have a bead at the top corner and are about 6 inches high. In the west room there is a peg rail on the south wall behind the door, and there is evidence of five pegs having been fastened into it. There are deep reveals faced with wood at the windows of the east and west rooms. The windows in the center room are set near the interior face of the wall. The fireplace mantelpiece is simple, of wood; the fireplace itself is now plastered, and the hearth is of painted brick.

7. Notable hardware: Strap hinges for most of the doors. Some iron thumbatches.

8. Mechanical equipment: Modern forced-warm-air furnace, electric wiring, toilet in cellar.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

#7

ITEM NUMBER

7

PAGE

6

Site and surroundings:

General setting: The long sides of the building face north and south. The building is at the northeast corner of Cork St. (which runs east and west) and South Braddock Street.

Historic landscape design: None. The building is at the southwest corner of the site, and the rest of the site has been devoted to a park. In the park is a monument of a small cannon mounted on a stone pedestal, on which there is a plaque inscribed as follows: "This monument marks the trail taken by the army of General Braddock, which left Alexandria April 9, 1755, to defend the western frontier against the French and Indians."

There are several outcroppings of limestone on the site, and the center and east portions of the building are built over some of these outcroppings.

Outbuildings: None.

Prepared by:

Wesley Ivan Shank, project historian, August 1972.

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"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Historic Preservation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The distinctive log and stone building commonly known as Washington's Headquarters is one of the oldest buildings in Virginia's most northerly city and has come to be regarded as a symbol representing Winchester's connections with the French and Indian War. The center portion of the house was most likely standing in 1764 when Thomas Rutherford was recorded as living on lot 12 of the James Wood Addition, the lot on which the existing house stands. Persistent local tradition has it that the center portion, of hewn plank construction, was occupied by George Washington as an office during the years 1749-1752 while he was employed as a surveyor for Thomas Lord Fairfax. An equally strong tradition is that Washington used the building as a headquarters in 1756-1757 while supervising the construction of Fort Loudoun, located at the north edge of the settlement. Young Colonel Washington was directed to build this fortification as part of a projected chain of defense works guarding the frontier against the French and Indians following the defeat of General Braddock.

These traditions prompted the city to purchase the building in 1908 in order to preserve it as an historic shrine. Subsequent research has shown that it is unlikely that Washington would have occupied a building in Winchester while surveying for Lord Fairfax. Winchester historian Garland R. Quarles, however, points out in his publication George Washington and Winchester, Virginia 1748-1758 that it is reasonable to assume that Washington could have used the building as his military headquarters. In support of the tradition, Quarles states several facts showing that its location would have been geographically ideal for such a use. "(1) There was a war prisoners' stockade called 'Fort George' on the hill back of the Braddock Street Church; (2) the drill ground was on the level area north of the headquarters; (3) Colonel Washington lived in quarters on the site of the Kurtz building which he rented from William Cock; (4) the military hospital was on Loudoun Street south of the Kurtz house."

The purchase of the building by the city of Winchester represents an early interest of a small municipality becoming involved in historic preservation. It also is evidence of the intense patriotism engendered by any site associated with George Washington during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century. While Washington's connections with the house cannot be documented, the venerable structure remains an architectural focal point representing Winchester's early history as well as Washington's activities in the area. Since its acquisition by the city, the building has housed a local history museum.

The picturesque dwelling acquired its alternate name--the Adam Kurtz House--when Thomas Rutherford sold it to that individual in 1778. Adam Kurtz served as a member of Captain Daniel Morgan's Company of Riflemen at Quebec, Canada, in 1775-1776, and was taken prisoner. The house remained in the family until it was purchased by the city. It was the Kurtz family that was largely responsible for maintaining the belief that the house

(see continuation sheet #8)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET #8

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

was used by Washington as a surveying office. The origin of the tradition that the house served as Washington's headquarters is uncertain.

In addition to its historical associations, the Kurtz House is significant architecturally as an example of Valley vernacular building, particularly as an early example of a non-agrarian form. It is not known when the original core received its stone and log additions. The stone section is likely of eighteenth-century origin whereas the log section appears to be of early nineteenth-century construction.

CL

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"A Busy Meeting of City Council," Evening Star and Morning News, Winchester, Va., Feb. 5, 1908.

Historic American Buildings Survey Data Sheet No. VA-696, "Adam Kurtz House (Washington's Headquarters)", prepared by Wesley Ivan Shank, project historian, August, 1972.

Quarles, Garland R. George Washington and Winchester, Virginia 1748-1758. Winchester, Va., 1974.

The Story of One Hundred Old Homes in Winchester, Virginia. Win-

chester, Va., 1967. (see continuation sheet #9)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1, 7 | 7, 4, 4 | 6, 2, 0 | 4, 3 | 4, 0 | 6, 3, 0 |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

November, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL X

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

TITLE

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

Virginia Landmarks Register
DEC 16 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

#9

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Wayland, John R. Historic Homes of Northern Virginia. Staunton, Va., 1937.

