

VLR-11/9/72 NRHP-4/11/73

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Winchester (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Abram's Delight

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Northeast corner of intersection of Parkview St. and Rouss Spring Rd.

CITY OR TOWN:
.Winchester (James Kenneth Robinson, Seventh District Congressman)

STATE Virginia	CODE 51	COUNTY: (in city)	CODE 840
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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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	_____	_____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
City of Winchester

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Winchester	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Corporation Court, City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Winchester	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Virginia**

COUNTY: **Winchester (in city)**

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ENTRY NUMBER

DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

A. Architectural character: Abram's Delight is an excellent example of a substantial eighteenth century Valley farmhouse. The central hall two-over-two plan is typical of the Shenandoah Valley architecture of the Scotch-Irish settlers.

B. Condition of fabric: Good.

II. Description of Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: The three-bay main section measures 39 feet. The three-bay wing added to the west is 20 feet long. Both sections are two stories, although the roof of the wing lies below the rake of the gable on the main block.

B. Foundations: Stone.

C. Wall construction: Random rubble limestone.

D. Porches: Non-original porches were removed during a recent restoration.

E. Chimneys: There are two interior-end chimneys with stone stacks on the main section of the house. The wing has an interior-end chimney with a brick stack.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The south and east doorways have segmental arches, the north doorway, a flat arch. The south doorway has molded trim with corner blocks with rosettes and a rectangular transom with radiating fans. The east doorway is flanked by two wide pilasters enclosing a trim similar to that on the south door and has a rectangular transom divided into three panes. The panelled door is inset and the soffit of the doorway is panelled. The north doorway has molded trim with corner blocks and rosettes. The north and south doorways on the wing have rectangular transoms, and trim similar to that on the north doorway.

2. Windows: The trim on the windows on the north of the main block and on the north, west and south of the wing have trim matching the north doorway. The trim on the east and south windows on the main block is similar to that of the south doorway. Double-hung wooden windows have twelve-over-twelve sashes on the first floor and twelve-over-eight on the second. The window and door trim dates from a mid-nineteenth century alteration. All the openings appear to have been enlarged.

G. Roof: The steeply pitched roof is covered with slate. A wooden box cornice continues across the bottom of the east gable creating a pediment effect.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor Plans: There are two rooms in the basement. A large round-headed arch supporting the chimney is visible in the west room. The first floor has a central hall flanked by a room to the east and the west. A wing room is entered from the west room in the main block. On the second floor there are two rooms with corner chimneys to the east of the center hall. The rest of the second floor has been somewhat altered to provide living quarters for the custodian.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

B. Stairways: An open-string two-run Greek Revival style stair ascends in the hall, and an open-string one-run stair in the wing room.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster and wallpaper.

D. Doorways and doors: Six-panelled doors have doorways with architrave trim.

E. Trim: A molded chair rail abuts the window frames above the sills. Windows are surrounded by architrave trim. In the east room, the fireplace has a panelled chimney-breast with a molded and dentil cornice. The fireplace opening has an architrave surround and plain spandrels. All of the trim in the west room has been replaced. The mantels on the second floor have a panelled frieze and a simple shelf.

F. Heating: There are fireplaces in each room. The two second floor east rooms have corner fireplaces.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: The house on the southeast of Winchester is set in a large lawn surrounded by trees. A sunken formal garden is to the north-east of the house.

B. Outbuildings: A single-pen log cabin has been reconstructed to the west of the house. The three-story mill with the random rubble stone walls and the shingle covered gable stands to the east.

G. H.

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) 1754

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>local history</u> |
| <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

Abram's Delight, the former seat of the Hollingsworth Family and an excellent example of Shenandoah Valley colonial stone architecture, is the oldest house in Winchester and one of the oldest houses in the region. The original portion of the structure, built in 1754, follows the central hall, two-over-two plan commonly used by Scotch-Irish settlers in the Valley.

The Abram's Delight tract was in possession of the Hollingsworth family by 1732, as determined by a plat drawn by R. Brooks, official surveyor for Alexander Ross and Morgan Bryan, who issued patents on their grant from the Crown. After obtaining a patent for 582 acres from Ross and Bryan, Abraham Hollingsworth later had to re-negotiate the patent with Lord Fairfax, proprietor of all the land between the Potomac and the Rappahanock Rivers, who held a prior claim on the property. It is believed, however, that Hollingsworth was in the area as early as 1729.

Abraham's son Isaac built the main section of the house in 1754, as indicated on the plaque in the east gable. Simon Taylor, the stone mason who built the house, also built Springdale, the home of Col. John Hite at Bartonville. The stone addition on the west was built prior to 1801 for Jonah Hollingsworth, the son of Isaac. Abram's Delight was further enlarged by David, the son of Jonah, with a brick addition on the west. This no longer exists. During David Hollingsworth's tenure in the first half of the nineteenth century, Abram's Delight flourished. There had always been a mill on the tract, and at this time a new one of stone was erected. A large lake embellished by islands with summer houses was created.

The City of Winchester purchased the house in 1943, and designated the Winchester-Frederick County Historical Society as custodian. Abram's Delight has since been restored and now functions as an historic house museum.

G. H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Garland R. Quarles, The Story of One Hundred Old Homes in Winchester, Virginia. Winchester: Prepared for Farmer's and Merchants National Bank, Winchester, 1967.

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Files.

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	° ' "	° ' "	39° 10' 08"	78° 09' 39"		
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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: September, 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State 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 _____

J. R. Fishburne, Director
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date _____

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)
 Winchester, Va. 1966

ABRAM'S DELIGHT

Latitude
 39°10'08"

Longitude
 78°09'39"