

VLR- 10/21/75 NRHP- 4/30/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

APR 30 1976

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

## 1 NAME

HISTORIC Wilton

AND/OR COMMON

Wilton

## 2 LOCATION

North bank of the James River at the end of Wilton Road,  
.5 mile south of Cary Street Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN	XX VICINITY OF	Third (David E. Satterfield, III)
STATE	CODE	COUNTY
Virginia	51	(in city)

CODE

760

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
DISTRICT	PUBLIC	XX OCCUPIED	AGRICULTURE XX MUSEUM
BUILDING	X PRIVATE	UNOCCUPIED	COMMERCIAL PARK
STRUCTURE	BOTH	WORK IN PROGRESS	EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
OBJECT	IN PROCESS	XX YES RESTRICTED	GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
	BEING CONSIDERED	YES UNRESTRICTED	INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
		NO	MILITARY OTHER

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of  
Virginia c/o Mrs. W.G. Tarrant, Jr., President

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Wilton, South Wilton Road

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23226

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Richmond City Hall

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)

(1) TITLE Historic American Buildings Survey (see Continuation Sheet #1)

DATE

1933, 1939, 1940, 1949

XFEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

## DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1933</u>

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Wilton, a Randolph family house which formerly stood near the James River in Henrico County, a few miles below Richmond, was removed to Richmond's West End in 1933 under the auspices of the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the Commonwealth of Virginia and under the direction of Herbert Claiborne, prominent contractor and restoration consultant. It now occupies a terraced site which slopes down to a precipice above the James.

Wilton is a large, two-story, five-bay house with a shallow hipped roof, a modillion cornice, and four tall interior end chimneys. Built of brick laid in Flemish bond above and below the molded water table, it is decorated with rubbed-brick jack arches and belt course and with maximum rubbing at the corners and around all the doors and windows. Nine-over-nine sash, some of which are original, light the house, and the entrances are framed by handsome pedimented frontispiece doorways having architrave frames flanked by Ionic pilasters supporting the pediment and its pulvinated frieze. Only the south frontispiece is original; the other is mostly a reproduction. This particular treatment of the entrances is very rare for colonial Virginia houses.

Wilton has the familiar central-passage, double-pile Georgian plan. Like Westover, the passage is slightly off-center, making the east rooms smaller than the west. The broad passage accommodates a handsome walnut left-to-right, triple-run stair with an open-string, elaborate sawn brackets, turned balusters, and a molded handrail ramped and eased at the landings.

Wilton's chief distinction lies in its being the only completely paneled house in Virginia. Throughout the entire dwelling, including the closets, the walls are sheathed in a handsome, though somewhat dry and predictable pattern of vertical raised panels above and below a molded chair rail.

The parlor (northwest room) is the most elaborate in the house. Here the paneling is accentuated by fluted Roman Doric pilasters framing the doors and windows and by an elaborate chimney-wall treatment. The fireplace is flanked by arched recesses, each lit by a window. The arches spring from molded impost blocks following a plate in William Salmon's Palladio Londinensis and are surmounted by molded keystones. Fluted pilasters flank the arches which also feature raised spandrel panels. The chimney breasts have the familiar overmantel pattern of a large central panel, slightly taller than it is wide, with a tall, narrow panel to either side, all three being underscored by a row of three diminutive panels beneath them. The surround is of light gray marble, with an incised keystone and a scrolled soffit. A dentil cornice with a pulvinated frieze is carried around the room and broken out over all the pilasters and the keystones of the chimney recesses.

Behind the parlor is the dining room. Smaller than the parlor, it is also plainer. It has a similar cornice, and fluted Roman Doric pilasters frame the overmantel. The marble surround, too, is like that in the parlor, but the overmantel panel arrangement consists of a single broad panel over a single shorter one. The window recesses have square heads and plain architrave frames.

The northeast room is the library. The pilasters are more attenuated than in the previously mentioned rooms. The overmantel is like that in the dining room, and the white marble surround is very plain. The cornice is molded and less bold than those

(see Continuation Sheet #2)

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in the other principal rooms. Instead of window recesses on either side of the chimney breast, there is a closet to the left and a small vestibule to the right, from which a door leads to the outside and another to the southeast (bed) room.

No pilasters are used in this bedroom, and the cornice is a modest one. The marble surround resembles that in the library. The overmantel consists of a broad panel, with narrow ones to either side and a single panel the width of the fireplace below them. To the left of the chimney breast is the door to the vestibule, to the right is a closet. In the southeast corner is a closed-string stair with turned balusters, which leads to the nursery above.

All of the second-floor bedrooms are decorated in a similar manner, with plain paneling, inconspicuous molded cornices, and overmantels like that in the first-floor bedroom. All have dark grey marble surrounds; two of these have incised keystones in them, the other two have central medallions instead.

Except for the stair in the southeast bedroom on the ground floor, which is restored from memory, Wilton's interiors are original. It also retains its original doors and many of its locks and hinges. There are no early outbuildings.

Supervised by Herbert Claiborne, Wilton's moving in 1933 was accomplished with the greatest caution. Especial care was exercised with the brickwork, and important sections, like the rubbed and gauged jack arches, were moved intact.

DTU

## 3 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
—PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
—1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
—1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
—1500-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITIES	
X1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
—1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
—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 1750-1753

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Wilton, moved to its present location from its original site in Henrico County on the banks of the James River several miles below Richmond, is one of the most significant of the James River plantation mansions. Associated with the Randolphs, a family prominent in colonial Virginia affairs, and especially with Peyton Randolph, it is one of an important group of mid-eighteenth-century houses related by plan or detail, which includes Westover, Elsing Green, and the Nelson House. It is the only known fully paneled house in Virginia.

The Randolphs had played an important part in Virginia life since their arrival and settlement at Turkey Island in Henrico County in the 1640s. In 1750-53, William Randolph III built the house at Wilton which, although differing in detail, shares its plan and dimensions with nearby Westover, built about twenty years earlier.

Randolph's son Peyton was the second, and most noted, owner. [Married to Lucy Harrison, daughter of Benjamin Harrison of Berkeley, later a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Peyton Randolph was a key figure in early Revolutionary politics in Virginia. When the offices of Treasurer and Speaker of the House of Burgesses were separated in the 1760's following the scandal over the extensive embezzlements of the late Speaker, John Robinson, Randolph was appointed Speaker, remaining in that post until his death. He was, in the words of one scholar, "president of every important Revolutionary assemblage in Virginia," including one of the first, the informal meeting at Raleigh Tavern in Williamsburg in 1767 which forged the non-importation agreements. An instigator of the First Virginia Convention in 1775, he was its chairman. Ultimately, he was unanimously elected president of the First Continental Congress and was elected again to the presidency of the Second but declined so that he might fulfill his Speaker's duties in Virginia. He did serve as a delegate, however, and while doing so, died in Philadelphia in 1775.]

After his death, Wilton was owned by Peyton Randolph's daughters, who in the mid-nineteenth century sold it to Col. William Carter Knight. At the time of its moving, Wilton was unoccupied.

DTU

NOTE:

THE PEYTON RANDOLPH DESCRIBED ABOVE IS NOT WILLIAM III'S  
 ALSO NAMED  
 SON; WILLIAM'S YOUNGEST SON, A PEYTON, INHERITED WILTON;  
 THE PEYTON DISCUSSED ABOVE WAS A COUSIN OF THE WILTON  
 RANDOLPHS.

## 11 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dabney, Virginius. Virginia, The New Dominion. New York: Doubleday and Company, 1971.

Lancaster, Robert A., Jr. Historic Virginia Homes and Churches. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott Company, 1915.

Sydnor, Charles. Gentlemen Freeholders, Political Practices in Washington's Virginia. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1952.

Waterman, Thomas T. & John A. Barrows. Domestic Colonial Architecture of Tidewater Virginia. New York: 1932. (see Continuation Sheet #3)

## 12 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1 1,8 2 7,7 3 6,0 4,1 6,0 0,6,0  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 1 1 1 1 1  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
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## 13 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

DATE

ORGANIZATION

October 1975

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

TELEPHONE

STREET & NUMBER

804-786-3144

221 Governor Street

STATE

CITY OR TOWN

Virginia 23219

Richmond

## 14 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL       

STATE X

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

Virginia Landmarks Register

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

DATE OCT 21 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE APR 30 1976

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
ATTEST: *[Signature]*

DATE APR 30 1976

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
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REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1967, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 51

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Waterman, Thomas T. The Mansions of Virginia. New York: 1945.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)  
Bon Air, Va. 1964 (PR1968)

WILTON, RICHMOND (city)  
UTM References:

18/277360/4160060

