NPS Form 10-900
(7-81)

VLR Listed: 9/16/1982
NRHP Listed: 7/7/1983

OMB NO. 1024-0018
EXP. 12/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only
received JUN 9 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company

and/or common ✓ The Williams House ~~(preferred)~~ (VHLC 92-15)

2. Location

street & number 102 Suffolk Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Richlands N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Virginia code 51 county Tazewell code 185

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
___ district	_X_ public	___ occupied	___ agriculture	___ museum
_X_ building(s)	___ private	_X_ unoccupied	___ commercial	___ park
___ structure	___ both	___ work in progress	___ educational	_X_ private residence
___ site	**Public Acquisition**	**Accessible**	___ entertainment	___ religious
___ object	___ in process	___ yes: restricted	___ government	___ scientific
	___ being considered	_X_ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial	___ transportation
	N/A	___ no	___ military	___ other:

4. Owner of Property

name Miss Mary E. Williams; W.R. Williams; Elizabeth Wherley; Martha W. Thompson

street & number 309 Suffolk Avenue

city, town Richlands N/A vicinity of state Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Tazewell County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Tazewell state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None previously recorded has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes _X_ no

date N/A N/A ___ federal ___ state ___ county ___ local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___ excellent	X deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site	
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved	date N/A
___ fair	___ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Originally built as a development office, the Williams House is a 2 1/2-story Georgian Revival building with weatherboarded walls, symmetrical facade, hipped roof and dormers. The building has a simple dignity, and with its long front porch is typical of the many Georgian Revival dwellings built through the Middle Atlantic and Southern states in the early 20th century. The building stands in the heart of the comparatively young town of Richlands, surrounded by commercial structures. Its formal, domestic character, and its surrounding yard present a noticeable contrast to the comparatively bland adjacent buildings and give it the true character of an architectural landmark for the community.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION

The Williams House is a simple rectangle measuring 50' by 30' with two principal floors and a finished attic. It is set on a stone foundation that rises two feet above grade. The structure of the building is of light wood framing, and weatherboard siding. A wide, raised porch is attached to the front of the building and runs its entire length. The porch roof is supported by six slender Tuscan columns. The windows opening onto the porch and the front door itself are imposing in their large scale. A small oval window beside the door is trimmed with four stylized keystones.

There is some question as to whether the original roofing was slate or wood shingles. Asphalt shingles now cover the hipped roof. Of particular interest are widely spaced modillions around the corner and the pedimented dormers. Giving the house an accent is the scrolled pediment center dormer with its urn finial. An early drawing shows a low balustrade running the perimeter of the roof; it is not certain if the balustrade was ever installed. Projecting from the roof are two brick chimney stacks.

Inside are two floors with amply sized rooms and ten foot ceilings. A large basement runs underneath the entire first floor. There is also a finished attic, lit by the dormers. A grandly scaled stair with turned balusters

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

7. Description--Architectural

ascends the double height entry hall. A small winding stair off the kitchen rises from the basement to the attic story. The arrangement of rooms downstairs is informal and without hallways. Upstairs rooms are entered directly off the stair hall. Four rooms have fireplaces, all made of brick. The upstairs and the attic have the original wide wooden flooring.

The scale of the Williams House is set by the entrance from the front porch. The front door, over four feet wide, is flanked by two suitably oversized floor-to-ceiling windows. For a house this size, the rooms are few but large.

The Williams House floor plan is a simple one . The entry hall is the heart of the house. Downstairs, the dining room and two sitting rooms open directly onto the entry hall, a large room in itself. Peeking from under the curve of the huge staircase is the original pay window. A service hall leads to the kitchen and pantry rooms.

Upstairs, three bedrooms open onto the balustered stair hall which overlooks the downstairs entry. In addition, there are two bathrooms, one with a leaded glass window and a back bedroom. On the third floor, the attic has five full-scale rooms.

A narrow yard and an iron fence remove the building from the sidewalk. A large yard at the rear accommodates an accessory building. The outbuilding (a small one-story building) is done in the same style as the larger building. The building stands in downtown Richlands, in the middle of the business district. The house at present is unoccupied and somewhat deteriorated although rehabilitation and adaptive reuse is planned.

Prepared by CWT/BP, AIA

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
___ prehistoric	___ archeology-prehistoric	X community planning	___ landscape architecture	___ religion
___ 1400–1499	___ archeology-historic	___ conservation	___ law	___ science
___ 1500–1599	___ agriculture	___ economics	___ literature	___ sculpture
___ 1600–1699	___ architecture	___ education	___ military	X social/
___ 1700–1799	___ art	___ engineering	___ music	humanitarian
X 1800–1899	X commerce	___ exploration/settlement	___ philosophy	___ theater
___ 1900–	___ communications	___ industry	___ politics/government	___ transportation
		___ invention		___ other (specify)

Specific dates 1890 **Builder/Architect** Clinch Valley Coal & Iron/Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

With its construction in 1890 tied to the founding of Richlands, the Williams House is this Southwest Virginia town's most historically important house. The building was one of the first to be built in Richlands and served as the main office of the investment group that planned and founded the town. The building's architecture is testimony to the grand dreams of that group; its oversized windows and other architectural features were commensurate with their intention to make Richlands the Pittsburgh of the South . The building was later used as the first hospital in Richlands and was associated with one of the more prominent people in Richlands's history, Dr. W.R. Williams.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

Throughout most of the nineteenth century, the area known as Richlands contained only a few farms and a small village. In the 1880s, however, the nearby coalfields of Pocahontas, Virginia were opened up, and soon the coal lands surrounding Richlands began to attract attention. A group of Philadelphia businessmen, led by banker Evans R. Dick, descended on the region in the late 1880s and began the development of a new coke and iron-manufacturing town. The Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company was organized in 1887 by these businessmen to act as their principal operating agency. Plats for the new town were recorded in the Tazewell County Courthouse in May of 1890 and construction began immediately.

One of the first buildings to be erected in Richlands in 1890, the present Williams House was originally a three-story office building for the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company that reportedly cost $7,500 to construct. In fact, the small oval window next to the front door of the Williams House once served as the pay window for the company.

Richlands was incorporated in 1892, but the town's boom days did not last long. A financial depression in 1893-1894 forced the northern financial backers of the town

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

9. Major Bibliographical References

WILLIAMS HOUSE Advertising Brochure published by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company - no date. (Private Collection of Mr. C. W. Thompson.)
(See continuation sheet #3.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property ¼ acre
Quadrangle name Richlands, Va. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UMT References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	17	419020	4105320
B			
C			
D			
E			
F			
G			
H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Property: Lots 20, 21, 22 in section 2, Plan A of Richlands as shown on a plat dated May 6, 1890 (Deed Book 26, Page 1). Beginning at a point on the SW side of Suffolk Ave. at the intersection of Front St. and said ave., thence extending approximately 150' W along N side of Front St.,
(See Continuation Sheet #3)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title C.W.Thompson, Mgr.for the Three Sisters;Bart Phelps, Asst.Dean, UCLA,AIA

organization N/A **date** August 1, 1982

street & number 309 Suffolk Avenue **telephone** 703-964-6621

city or town Richlands **state** Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national _X_ state ___ 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 H. Bryan Mitchell

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission **date** SEP 16 1982

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Entered in the National Register **date** 7/7/83

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: **date**

Chief of Registration

8. Significance--Historical Background

to give up their interests, bringing development in Richlands to a sudden halt. The Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company continued to own the office building until 1901, when both the property and the building were sold to Dr. William R. Williams for $4,458.

Dr. Williams, educated at William and Mary and the Medical College of Virginia, came back to Richlands in 1897 to establish a medical practice. In 1902, he married Mattie Lou Peery, a sister to the future Governor of Virginia, George C. Peery. As no hospital existed in Richlands at that time, Dr. Williams used a small outbuilding at the Williams House as an operating room and housed patients in his home. Mrs. Williams acted as nurse for the sick and cooked their meals as well. In 1913, Dr. Williams obtained a large piece of property in the center of town and founded the Mattie Williams Hospital, the first modern hospital in Richlands.

Dr. Williams was also prominent in areas other than the medical profession. He founded the First National Bank in Richlands in 1908, served as president of the Virginia Harlan Coal Corporation, and had extensive interests in farming and livestock raising. Dr. Williams continued to reside in the Williams House until his death in 1943. Since then, the children of Dr. Williams have occupied the home.

Plans are underway to restore the house and donate it to the town of Richlands to be used as a public library.

Footnotes:
1. Deed Book 26, pp. 1-15.
2. Clinch Valley News, October 3, 1890.
3. Conversations with Miss Mary Williams.

Prepared by CWT

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY (cont.)

WILLIAMS HOUSE (cont.)

2. Clinch Valley News - October 3, 1890.

3. History of Richlands - sourcebook prepared by Dean Herrin (in Historic Crab Orchard Museum, Tazewell.)

Dr. W. R. Williams

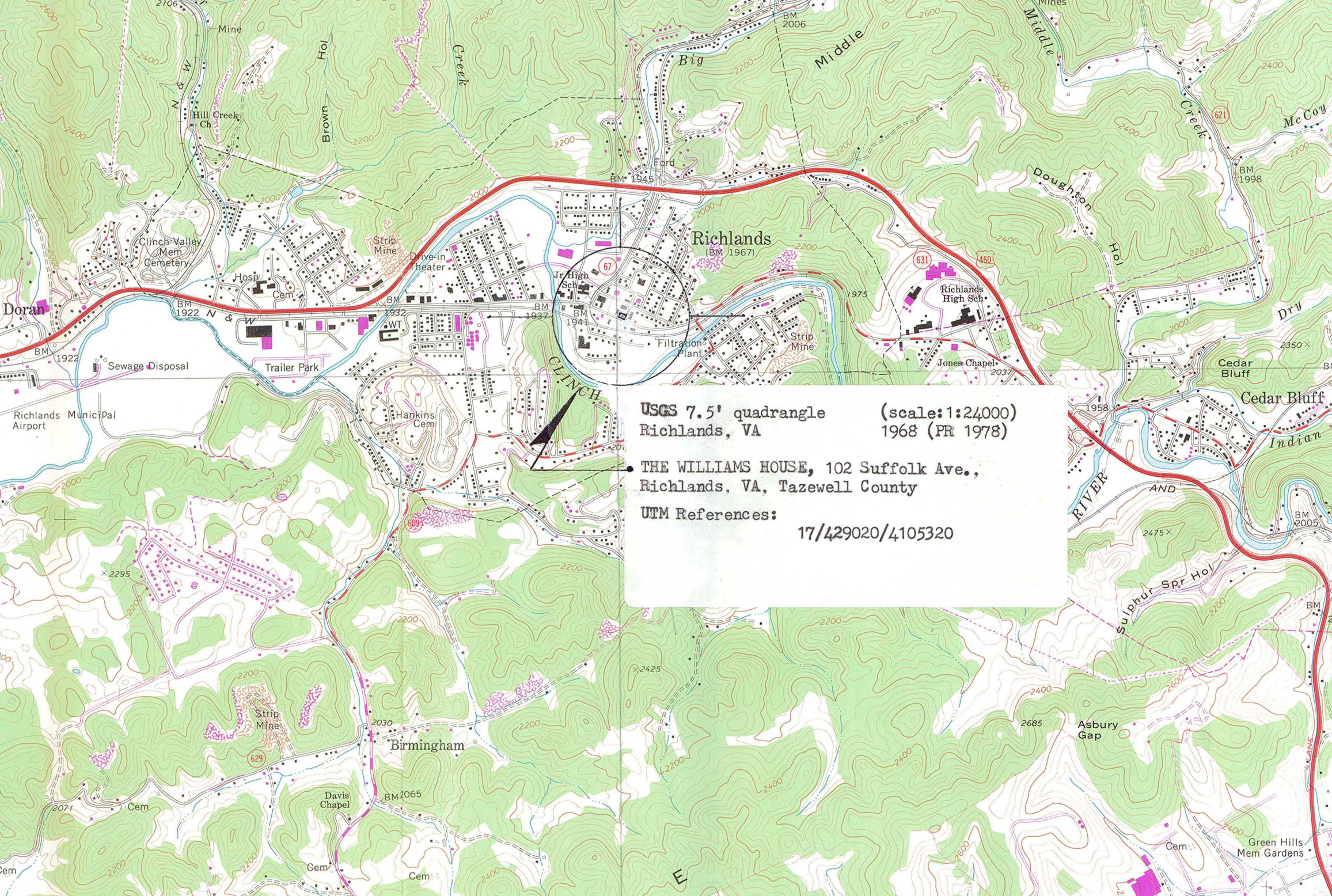
1. History of Virginia, Vol. VI (Virginia Biography) - Published by the American Historical Society, 1924, pp. 377-8.

2. Newspaper clippings and biographical materials (papers of C.W. Thompson).

3. Conversations with the Williams family.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Justification

thence approximately 75' N, thence approximately 150' E to a point on the W side of Suffolk Ave. approximately 75' N of intersection of Front St. and said ave.; thence approximately 75' S along W side of Suffolk Ave. to N side of Front St., the point of origin. Boundary Justification: The nominated property consists of approximately ¼ acre. The bounds have been drawn to correspond with those of lots 20-22 in Section 2, Plan A of Richlands plat, May 6, 1890 found in Deed Book 26, p. 1.


USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Richlands, VA 1968 (PR 1978)
THE WILLIAMS HOUSE, 102 Suffolk Ave.,
Richlands, VA, Tazewell County
UTM References:
17/429020/4105320
Richlands
(BM 1967)
Doran
Clinch Valley Mem Cemetery
Hill Creek Ch
Strip Mine
Drive-in Theater
Hosp
Cem
Jr High Sch
Richlands High Sch
Filtration Plant
Sewage Disposal
Trailer Park
Richlands Municipal Airport
Hankins Cem
CLINCH
RIVER
AND
Cedar Bluff
Jones Chapel
Birmingham
Davis Chapel
Asbury Gap
Green Hills Mem Gardens
Ford
Big
Middle
Brown
Creek
Hol
Doughton
Dry
Indian
Sulphur Spr Hol
McCoy
N & W
BM 2006
BM 1945
BM 1922
BM 1932
BM 1937
BM 1941
BM 1998
BM 2005
BM 2065
WT
67
631
460
621
609
629
2030
2037
2071
2295
2425
2685
2350
2475
1958
1975