

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: Richmond (in cit.) | |
| FOR NPS USE ONLY | |
| ENTRY NUMBER 69-06-45-0018 | DATE 6/11/69 |

1. NAME

COMMON:
Wickham-Valentine House

AND/OR HISTORIC:
John Wickham House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
1005 E. Clay Street between 10th and 11th Streets

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **45** COUNTY: **(in cit.)** CODE: **760**

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 type="checkbox"/> Museum | <input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scientific | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____ |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____ | |

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trustees, Valentine Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
1005-1015 E. Clay Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **45**

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Chancery Court

STREET AND NUMBER:
Richmond City Hall

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **45**

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: **1941** Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **District of Columbia** CODE: **08**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: **Virginia**

COUNTY: **(in cit.)**

ENTRY NUMBER: **69-06-45-0018**

DATE: **6/11/69**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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 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

The Wickham-Valentine House, built in 1812 is a rectangular two-story brick house covered with stucco scored to resemble ashlar. The house has a shallow hipped roof and two interior chimneys. All the windows of the main Clay St. facade are triple windows with narrow side lights flanking the central six over six pane double hung sash. Those on the first floor flanking the entrance are set in shallow recessed panels with elliptical arches. The one-story flat roofed entrance porch has paired classical columns resting on a raised stone platform. The central bay of this facade is slightly advanced from the flanking bays and there is a corresponding break in the projecting Doric cornice. The garden facade of the house is marked by a projecting central semicircular bay and by the one-story Ionic porch with paired columns that extends across the entire facade.

The interior of the house is in dramatic contrast to the starkly simple exterior. The floor plan is quite sophisticated. To the left of the centrally placed rectangular entrance hall is a small reception room. Directly beyond the entrance hall and separated from it by a beautifully executed elliptical arch is the oval stair hall. The flying spiral staircase rising to a palette shaped landing is one of the most beautiful in the country. Beyond the stair hall is the reception room on the garden side of the house that occupies the curved bay. Flanking the stair hall and this reception hall are the main drawing room and the dining room.

In the mid-19th century the house was retrimmed and refurnished in the romantic style of the period. When the house was restored to its earlier appearance ca. 1930 the drawing room was left as it had been redecorated. It is an exceptionally fine example of mid-century taste. In 1970 the house was restuccoed and the stonework of the front porch was replaced.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1812, 1840, 1870

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 Wickham-Valentine House was built in 1812 in Richmond, Virginia. Though the architect for the house is not known, it is generally accepted that it is the work of Robert Mills.

In the early years of the 19th century some of the finest examples of domestic architecture captured the spirit of the European neo-classical movement in architecture which stressed the subordination of exterior decoration to the beauty of the overall proportion and design. The Wickham-Valentine House is one of these examples. The severe restrained beauty of the stuccoed exterior is matched on the interior by the extraordinary free form spiral staircase that rises out of an oval hall. The house is also noted for the elaborate mid-19th century drawing room installed by the second owner.

The Wickham-Valentine House, in company with the Octagon and Tudor Place in Washington D.C., epitomizes the clean break with the Georgian and Federal tradition in domestic architecture that occurred in the early-19th century and stands out as a perfectly focus example of the architecture of the new age.

History

The Wickham-Valentine House, considered to be one of the finest Federal houses in the country, was built in 1812 by John Wickham, a distinguished Richmond lawyer who served as one of the defense council at the trial of Aaron Burr. The architect of the house is unknown, but it has been attributed to both Robert Mills and Benjamin Latrobe.

John Ballard, the next occupant of the house, was responsible for the interior Victorian decoration which survives only in the drawing room. The house was purchased in 1882 by Mann Valentine II, a great collector of historic artifacts. At his death in 1892, the house, along with his collection and a \$50,000 endowment, was left as a museum for the city of Richmond. The building was resotred in 1928, and in 1938 the studio of the famous Richmond sculptor, E. V. Valentine, was moved to the garden.

The three townhouses next to the Wickham-Valentine House were built, circa 1870, as investment properties. In 1938 they were bought and remodeled to hold much of the museum's collection. The Bransford-Cecil House a typical Richmond Greek Revival dwelling, was erected in 1840, and moved to its

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dulaney, Paul S., The Architecture of Historic Richmond, University Press of Virginia, 1968.
 O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia, Virginia Museum, 1968.
 Scott, Mary Wingfield, notes in the Valentine Library relating to the houses of old Richmond.
 City Directories, 1885-1965, Richmond, Virginia.
 Dulaney, Paul S., Richmond Historic Building Survey, Richmond City Planning Commission, 1966.

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 | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | 37° 32 ' 29 " | 77° 25 ' 53 " | |
| NE | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | | |
| SE | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | | |
| SW | 0 ' " | 0 ' " | | | | |

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

7/10 acre

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

| STATE: | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|--------|------|--------|------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE:
 W. Brown Morton III, Architect

ORGANIZATION: N.P.S., O.A.H.P., Historic Sites Survey

DATE: 8/16/71

STREET AND NUMBER:
 801 19th Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Washington

STATE: D. C.

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 _____

Title _____

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