

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

WYE HOUSE

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Wye House

Other Name/Site Number:

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Route 1 Not for publication:

City/Town: Easton Vicinity: X

State: MD County: Talbot Code: 041 Zip Code: 21601

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: 1

Public-Local:

Public-State:

Public-Federal:

Category of Property

Building(s): X

District:

Site:

Structure:

Object:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

3

1

4

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

structures

objects

Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register:

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

WYE HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ___ nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official

Date

State or Federal Agency and Bureau

5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is:

- Entered in the National Register
- Determined eligible for the National Register
- Determined not eligible for the National Register
- Removed from the National Register
- Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

WYE HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling
secondary structure

Current: Domestic

Sub: single dwelling

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: COLONIAL: Georgian
EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MATERIALS:

Foundation:

Walls: Wood

Roof:

Other:

WYE HOUSE**Page 4**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Wye House is a seven-part composition 151 feet long and is comprised of a tall two-story central block 47 feet wide by 42 feet deep, with two flanking lower two-story symmetrical pavilions, two connecting one-story hyphens, and two one-story large end-units. The center block and pavilions are topped by wide low-pitched gable roofs which are brought out to the main facades as smooth boarded pediments and treated as classical temple motives. The tympanums of both facades of the central block contain a large lunette window. These pediments are framed by four tall chimneys, two located on either side of the main house. The one-story hyphens, each containing one room and a narrow passageway, are covered by pent roofs which cannot be seen from the south or front side of the house. The two corresponding one-story end-units have hipped roofs and their ridge poles parallel the long axis. The west end-unit contained a large plantation office and the east unit a wash room and brick passageway. The west pavilion housed a library of 1,000 books on the first floor and there were chambers above; the east pavilion contained the kitchen and servant's quarters.

Of frame construction, the walls are brick nogged and covered on the exterior by clapboards. The central block is five-bays wide, the pavilions and end-units are each two bays, and the hyphens one-bay wide. The corners of the main block have broad unfluted colossal pilasters and those of the pavilions, narrow unfluted colossal pilasters. Small modillions embellish the main cornices as well as the pediments of the central block. First floor windows of the main house have nine over six light sash and those above, six over six sash. All windows have exterior blinds. The center door of the south (or front) façade has a fan transom window under a broken pediment and side windows. The door is flanked by engaged Doric columns and on the outside of the door's side windows are Doric pilasters. The entranceway is sheltered by a small one-story Palladian portico, added about 1799, with four slender columns. The north (rear or garden) elevation of the central block has a one-story covered porch extending across its entire front. This long veranda has jalousies on the sides, six fluted columns with delicate palm-leaf capitals in front, and a slender balustrade on the roof. Added in 1799, the north porch is Early Federal or Republican in style. In the period 1830-1860, the door in the north elevation of each hyphen was retrimmed in Greek Revival style and their pent roofs were extended out to cover these entries, but pitched at a lower angle, thereby giving the effect of a flattened half-gambrel. In 1914, the two pavilions had their gable roofs raised about a foot and a half to elevate the ceilings in the second floor bedrooms and also to raise the original three-over-three light sash second-story windows above the floor level. The first floor 18th-century library of the west pavilion was also remodeled into a bedroom.

In plan a central entrance hall extends from the south (front) center door midway through the house, where it intersects a narrow east-west cross hall that leads to the two wings. The east cross hall (to the right) is wider and, beyond an elliptical arch, situated against the south cross hall wall is a fine late Georgian stair. Also from the right side of the entrance hall, near the front, a door leads into a small office, and across the hall is the small south parlor. The north (garden) front of the central block, beyond the east-west cross hall, is occupied by two large rooms: the north parlor to the left and the dining room to the right, or east. In the office, the wall over the chimney is paneled and the fireplace is flanked by cupboards. The high mantel is carved with a Greek key design. In the south parlor, the paneling across the chimney is similar to that of the office. There is a small cupboard to the right of the fireplace and the left side has horizontal paneling of flat sheathing. An eared molding, designed to frame a portrait, outlines the space directly above the fireplace. The hall cornices are carved in Wall of Troy designs. Both the north parlor and dining room, which are connected by an elliptical arched opening with sliding doors, have light cornices and high carved mantels that are surmounted by paneling and eared molding. Both rooms also have "jib" windows – windows whose lower parts are hinged and can be opened for use as doors. The interior of Wye House has several similarities to the Chase-Lloyd House in Annapolis, which Edward Lloyd IV completed in 1774, notably the door escutcheons, drop handles, and flat friezes with curved ends over some inner doors on the first floor. Some of the drop handles are of silver. These

WYE HOUSE**Page 5**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

interiors are little altered and are furnished with many original Lloyd 18th-century pieces and paintings.

North of the house is a grass lawn about 50 feet wide and 100 yards long. At the northern end of this green is located the architecturally noteworthy Orangerie, a brick structure incorporating within its walls the remains of an earlier similar building. The Orangerie is 85 ½ feet long, with a central two-story section flanked by lower wings, and in its present form dates from the 1790s. The two-story hipped-roofed central portion is four bays long and has very tall one-story rectangular windows on the first floor. The brick walls are covered with stucco that is rusticated in imitation of stonework and the second story windows are small and square. The flanking hipped-roof wings, each 26 feet and three bays long, are raised one step above grade, and have very tall one-story arched windows. The building was used to grow orange and lemon trees, and the center second-story contained an 18th-century billiard room. The Orangerie still contains a rare example of an original 18th-century central heating system (hot air duct system).

On both sides of the green are original 18th-century formal gardens that cover between four and five acres. On the west side of the green stands the Captain's House, which is believed to have been an original dependency of the first Wye House, built by Edward Lloyd I about 1660-64. This small brick cottage, originally of medieval design with a hall and parlor plan, was remodeled and altered about 1810.

The Wye House and its grounds are maintained in excellent condition. Still an operating plantation, the mansion is used as a private residence and is not open to visitors.

WYE HOUSE**Page 7**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

Wye House, built in 1781-84 and achieving its final form by 1799, is an outstanding example of a large Southern frame plantation house. Possibly designed by Robert Key, architect and carpenter of Annapolis, Wye House is a seven-part "Roman Country House" composition, and it illustrates the transition in style from late Georgian to Early Federal architecture.

Construction of Wye House, built for Edward Lloyd IV (1744-96), a wealthy Maryland planter¹, began about 1781, and the central block and two detached dependencies were completed in 1784. Robert Key, a carpenter of Annapolis, worked on the house between 1781 and 1798 and may have also been the designer of the plan. By 1799, the house had assumed its original and present seven-part form: the two detached pavilions had been connected to the central block by means of small one-story hyphens and two one-story end units had been added to the sides of the pavilions. The portico on the south, or front, elevation and the large veranda on the north, or garden, façade had also been added by 1799. The plantation has been in the possession of the Lloyd family since 1658.

¹Tax records for 1783 indicate that Edward Lloyd IV then owned 261 slaves, 11,884 acres of land, 579 hogs, 215,000 pounds of tobacco, and 500 ounces of plate.

WYE HOUSE**Page 8**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

American Guide Series. *Maryland, A Guide to the Old Line State*. New York, New York, 1940.

Andrews, Wayne. *Architecture, Ambition, and Americans*. New York, New York, 1955.

Beirne, Rosamond R. "The Chase House in Annapolis." *Maryland Historical Magazine*, September 1954.

Forman, Henry C. *Old Buildings, Gardens and Furniture in Tidewater Maryland*. Cambridge, Maryland, 1967.

Hammond, J.M. *Colonial Mansions of Maryland and Delaware*. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1914.

Howard, McHenry. "Wye House." *Maryland Historical Magazine*, (Volume XVIII, No. 4), December 1923.

Scarborough, Katherine. *Homes of the Cavaliers*. New York, New York, 1930.

Tilghman, J. Donnell. "Bill for the Construction of the Chase House." *Maryland Historical Magazine*, March 1938.

_____. "Wye House." *Maryland Historical Magazine*, June 1953.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
- Previously Listed in the National Register.
- Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
- Designated a National Historic Landmark.
- Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: #
- Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other (Specify Repository):

WYE HOUSE**Page 9**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: ca. 127.64 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	398860	4301150
B	18	398440	4300000
C	18	398000	4300170
D	18	398440	4301300

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on the north edge of Bruffs Island Road at latitude 38° 50' 46" N. – longitude 76° 10' 30" W., which is the southwest corner, proceeding about 4100 feet to the northeast to the northwest corner at latitude 38° 51' 24" N. – longitude 76° 10' 14" W., then continuing to the southeast about 1600 feet to the northeast corner on the west bank of Lloyd Creek at latitude 38° 51' 19" N. – longitude 76° 09' 56" W., then proceeding southwest about 4100 feet to the southeast corner on the north edge of the county highway (Bruffs Island Road) at latitude 38° 50' 41" N. – longitude 76° 10' 13" W., then returning to the northwest about 1600 feet along the north edge of the county highway (Bruffs Island Road) to the beginning, the southwest corner. These boundaries roughly form the shape of a rectangle enclosing approximately 127.64 acres of land.

Boundary Justification:

The rectangle formed by the above boundary description includes the Wye House Plantation House, its dependencies and the landscaped grounds immediately surrounding the main house that have historically been a part of the Wye House Plantation and that maintain integrity.

WYE HOUSE

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: unknown

Address:

Telephone:

Date:

Original nomination placed on current National Historic Landmarks nomination form:

Patty Henry, Historian
National Park Service
National Historic Landmarks Program
1849 C St., N.W. (2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Telephone: (202) 354-2216

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM
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