

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(NATIONAL  
LAND)

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Independent City
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Peyton Randolph House ; Randolph-Peachy House

AND/OR HISTORIC: Peyton Randolph House

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Northeast corner of Nicholson and North England Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Williamsburg CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 001

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Independent City CODE: 830

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 type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural  
 Commercial  
 Educational  
 Entertainment  
 Government  
 Industrial  
 Military  
 Museum  
 Park  
 Private Residence  
 Religious  
 Scientific  
 Transportation  
 Other (Specify)

The East Wing of the house is occupied and never open to the public. The other 2 wings have regularly scheduled visitation hours.

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Colonial Williamsburg, Inc., Mr. Carlisle H. Humelsine, President.

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Williamsburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Clerk of the Circuit Court, James City County

STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street (2 blocks south of Duke of Gloucester Street).

CITY OR TOWN: Williamsburg STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937-39, 1941  Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress/Annex

STREET AND NUMBER: Division of Prints and Photographs

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
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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 Peyton Randolph House was built in three distinct phases between 1715 and 1782. The first was the square, Western section built by William Robertson in 1715 or 1716, which is organized into four rooms on each of two levels, around a large central chimney. One of the rooms is used as a stair hall.

At the exterior of the North front of this section was a two story porch, a feature common in Virginia during the 17th century, but which here in 1715 must be considered as late. The exterior also shows a wooden belt board at the floor level of the upper story, imitating the functional brick belt courses of this period. The wooden board here is without structural purpose.

The roofline of the Peyton Randolph House is interesting overall, and particularly so, that of the western section. Although hipped today and joined to the gable-ended center section, originally the Western part was hipped at the four corners with a hollow center which contained a secondary W-form, from the valleys of which water drained through a wooden gutter and probably into a cistern. Although this feature was covered in at an early date, it is still in place in the attic of the house.

All of the rooms in this section, save one, are of yellow pine paneling. The northeast room of the upper floor is completely paneled in oak. The two-story porch in this section is a reconstruction based upon proof for its original existence found in the framing of the north wall.

The second section to be built was the eastern section, about 1724. A smaller one-and-a-half story house whose existence is suggested by the current 20th century reconstruction, that structure may have been removed as early as 1783. As was the practice of the day to encourage town development, a structure may have had to be built on each lot within a specified period (probably two years) to continue ownership. The east and west sections are located on adjoining town lots. After ownership of the two lots fell into common hands a few years after the construction of the eastern section, the two-story central connecting part was built. The role of the smaller house on the eastern lot may never have been intended to be permanent, and when the west and center two-story sections were completed, it was no longer needed and was at some point before 1783 removed. The handsome facade of this two part composition can be sensed today by imagining the south elevation without the eastern section.

The middle section has a ground-floor room with doors, sash, and window trim of walnut, as well as a grey-veined marble mantle, and original yellow pine paneling. The stair hall is lit by a large, story-and-a-half round arch window in the north wall.

Sir John Randolph owned this house during the period 1724-1737, and while he was an active public figure in the Virginia colony, his son, Peyton Randolph, was all of that and more. Living in the house from 1745 until his death in 1775, the namesake of this Georgian farmhouse was speaker of

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**3. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1715 or 1716, 1724, and c. 1730

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/Phi-	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Historic	<input type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> Philosophy	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> Invention	<input type="checkbox"/> Science	_____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Art	<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> Literature	<input type="checkbox"/> itarian	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Communications	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Theater	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> Music	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	_____

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Peyton Randolph House is an early and fine example of the Early-Georgian frame house with largely original and very handsome interior woodwork. The house must be recognized as having three distinct sections: the square west end, built the first, around a central chimney, a smaller eastern section of one-and-a-half stories built second, and finally, a connecting two-story hyphen built last of all to connect the earlier parts. The eastern section is today a conjectural reconstruction, while the west and center parts are restored originals.

Among its most interesting architectural features are the wood paneling in four ground-floor rooms, the stair hall, and three upper rooms, the two-story north porch, the wooden belt board on the exterior at the upper floor level, and the double gable W-form roof in the western section. The interiors are particularly noteworthy, as they are the finest series of original paneled rooms in Williamsburg.

Owned today by The Colonial Williamsburg Corporation, the Peyton Randolph House is maintained in excellent conditon, with its center and western sections regularly open to the public. The 20th century eastern section is occupied as a private residence and is not accessible to the public.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Marcus Whiffen, The Eighteenth-Century Houses of Williamsburg,  
(Williamsburg, Virginia, 1960).

T. T. Waterman, The Mansions of Virginia (Chapel Hill, North Carolina,  
1945).

**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		UTM	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds			
NW	° ' "	° ' "			
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

UTM 18.349260.4126200

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **One**

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11. FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME AND TITLE: **James Dillon, Architectural Historian, Landmark Review Project**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service**      DATE: **10/23/74**

STREET AND NUMBER: **1100 L Street NW**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington**      STATE: **D.C.**      CODE: **011**

**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.

Landmark Designated: **Apr 15, 1970**

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation date

Boundary Certified: **Cornelius R. King 6-20-75**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief, Hist. & Arch. Surveys date

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Boundary Affirmed: **[Signature]**

Keeper of The National Register date **7/2/75**

Director, OAHPS date

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Independent City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

**INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(NATIONAL HISTORIC  
LANDMARKS)

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

7. Description: (1) Peyton Randolph House

The House of Burgesses (1766-1775) and president of the Continental Congress in 1774. After passing through the hands of various owners during the 18th and 19th centuries, ownership ultimately came to The Colonial Williamsburg Corporation which still owns it. Restoration of the property was completed by them in 1968.

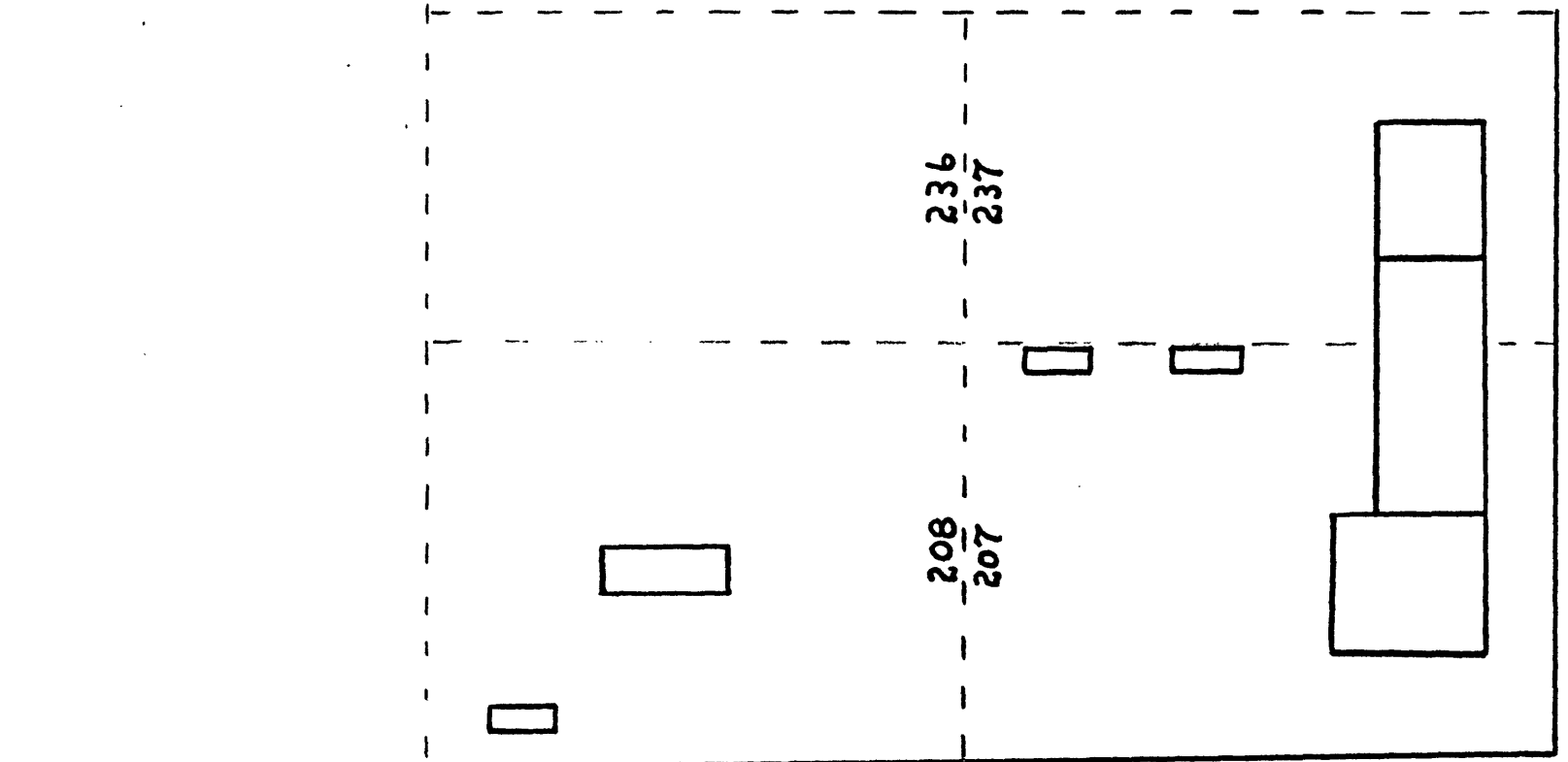
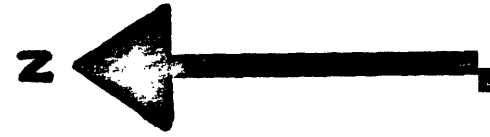
The chimney of the western section, which had been rebuilt in 1920, was restored, as were the outside doors, the south door hood, the paneling on the diagonal (chimney) walls in the west end, and the mantels in the west end. The stair in the center hall dates from 1927. Some of the weatherboards are original and most of the framing is, while most of the paneling and most of the sash is original too.

Boundary Information

We are fortunate to possess with the Peyton Randolph House, a property whose 18th century bounds may yet be traced on existant town deeds and records of that century. The boundary of the National Landmark today then will be established in accord with the historical antecedent. A sketch map is enclosed with this form to identify the four colonial lots which made up the property then and do so now.

Fronting 136 feet east-west on Nicholson Street from the corner of North England and 498 feet north-south on North England from the corner of Nicholson, the four lots were numbered 207, 208, 236, 237. A number of outbuildings have been reconstructed on the lots, including at least two of which are based upon historical fact, including a picturesque windmill first built there in 1726. None of these buildings are part of the landmark.

# THE PEYTON RANDOLPH HOUSE



NICHALSON STREET

NORTH ENGLAND STREET