

VLR-11/3/70 NRHP-9/22/71

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Norfolk (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME  
COMMON:  
Whittle House  
AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Whittle House

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
227 ← 225 W. Freemason St.  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Norfolk  
STATE:  
Virginia  
CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in cit.) CODE: 710

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 in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted Unrestricted No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Education <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
Norfolk Historic Foundation  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
1,819 Citizen's Bank Building  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Norfolk  
STATE:  
Virginia  
CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
City Hall  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Norfolk  
STATE:  
Virginia  
CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1934, 1936  
Federal  State  County  Local   
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington  
STATE:  
D. C.  
CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Norfolk (in cit.)  
FOR NPS USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located on the corner of Freemason and Duke Streets, the Whittle House is the focal point for the only early neighborhood remaining in the city of Norfolk. Architecturally, the two-story dwelling is a very formal: dressed stone lintels and keystones over all the principal windows, a stone belt course, a pedimented gable roof, and a small pedimented roof supported on Doric columns over the porch. The steps leading up to the porch are also dressed stone, and flare out towards the bottom. All of the trim on the exterior, especially the cornices on the porch and around the roof, is very intricate and of the highest quality. The brickwork on the principal sides is finely laid, even-color Flemish bond with thin mortar joints. The house survives almost completely unaltered on the exterior, but has had a two-level Italianate porch added to the east or garden side. Also, a brick and frame wing to contain a kitchen and service area has been placed on the rear.

In plan, the original portion of the house is approximately forty feet square with three bays on each side. In the manner of sophisticated town houses of the era, the principal drawing room was located on the second floor, while the dining room and library were located on the first. The plan has been somewhat altered by the removal of a first floor partition separating the library from a rear service hall, and the placing of a partition in the original drawing room on the second floor. Despite these changes much of the original interior trim survives. That in the drawing room is especially notable, being very elaborately treated in the Adam style.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

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 checked="" 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 land on which the Whittle House stands was first owned by Thomas McKnight, a Scotch Tory merchant whose lands were confiscated by the Commonwealth. In 1788, the land was deeded to George Purdie, a merchant from Nansemond County. It is thought that Purdie built the house about 1791, but it is not known if he ever lived there. In 1802, when the house was first put up for sale, the advertisement appearing in the Norfolk Herald stated that it was the residence of John Cowper. The house was purchased by Richard Taylor on December 15, 1802. Upon Taylor's death, the house was inherited by his daughter, Sarah Alexine Taylor Page, whose husband, Captain Richard Lucien Page, was probably the best known person to live there.

Son of William Byrd Page, and Anne Lee Page, sister of "Light Horse" Harry Lee, Richard Lucien Page was born at Fairfield in Clarke County. In 1824, he entered the U.S. Navy as a midshipman, and was with Commodore Perry when Japan was opened to trade. He served in the Mexican War, and at Virginia's secession from the Union, he resigned his post as a member of the Retiring Board at Gosport Navy Yard and was appointed aide de camp to Governor Letcher. Page organized the State Navy and superintended the erection of the fortifications at the mouth of the Nansemond River. He was the head of the ordinance depot in Norfolk until the Confederates abandoned the city. In 1864, he was put in command of the outer defenses of Mobile Bay. He was finally forced to surrender and was imprisoned until 1865. Following his release, he returned to Norfolk where he spent the remainder of his life.

Shortly after the Civil War, Page's daughter, Elizabeth, married Captain William Conway Whittle, who served as an executive officer on the Confederate raider, Shenandoah. Their descendants occupied the house until it was recently acquired by the Norfolk Historic Foundation.

Architecturally, the Whittle House ranks among the finest late-eighteenth century Federal style town houses in Virginia. It is also one of the few surviving examples of its type left in the Tidewater section of Virginia. The quality of both the design and workmanship gives evidence to the prosperity and high cultural standards of Norfolk's Post-Revolutionary era. The house's close similarity to the well-known Moses Myers House on the same street, would indicate that the authorship of the two houses is the same, however, neither architect nor builder in either case is known.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Tilghman, H. Granville, "Romance and Beauty Dwell in Old Norfolk Homes," Virginian-Pilot (June 26, 1940), 21.  
 Tucker, George Holbert, "Old Norfolk Lives Yet Within Whittle House," Virginian-Pilot (Feb. 5, 1950), Part 4, Page 4.  
 Tucker, George Holbert, "Old Virginia Houses: Page House," The Tidewater Trail, Vol. 3, No. 12 (Aug. 1, 1930), 9.  
 Newspaper files in Sergeant Memorial Room, Kirn Memorial Library, Norfolk, Virginia.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	51'	06"
NE	° ' "	° ' "	76°	17'	33"
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than 10 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: October 30, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

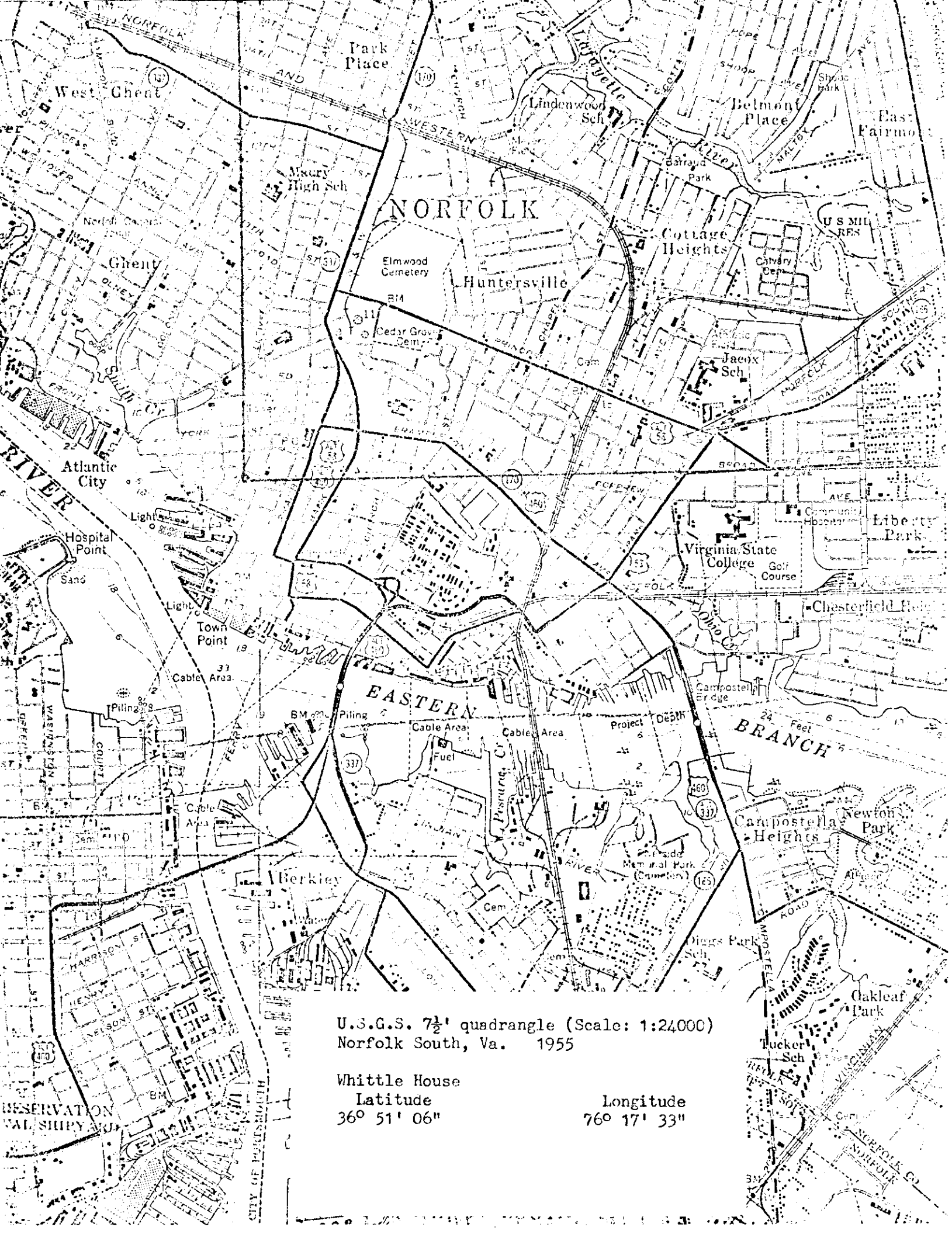
Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)  
Norfolk South, Va. 1955

Whittle House  
Latitude  
36° 51' 06"

Longitude  
76° 17' 33"

RESERVATION  
VAL SHIPYARD

CITY OF PORTSMOUTH

NORFOLK CO  
NORFOLK