

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	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
BARRETT HOUSE

AND/OR HISTORIC:
BARRETT HOUSE

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
15 South Fifth Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond (David E. Satterfield, III, Congressman, Third District)

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: (in cit.) CODE: 760

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	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	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: VA Foundation for Architectural Education, Inc.
~~Miss Mary Wingfield Scott and Mrs. John H. Becker~~

STREET AND NUMBER: 15 S. Fifth St.
~~6420 Roselawn Road 909 W. Franklin Street~~

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Richmond City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER: Tenth and Broad Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Building Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936, 1940 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

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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

BARRETT HOUSE - Architectural Description

The triple windows on the first floor level and the elaborate Ionic-columned portico of the entrance facade of the Barrett House are indicative of the increased interest in ornament that characterized the later Greek Revival style. Otherwise, the proportions of the two-story, plus basement, grey stuccoed house are simple and symmetrical with carefully aligned windows, double brick chimneys on each end of the low hip roof, and a cornice. The back of the house has a three-story wooden porch supported by six, two-story, panelled wooden piers above stuccoed brick piers on the ground level.

In the garden behind the house, there is a two-story, double outbuilding of brick which has been stuccoed on the garden sides to match the main house. The upper level was originally the servants' quarters while the lower street level housed the stables. The little house with its red roof and central chimney now serves as office and storage space for Fitzgerald and Co.

The brick kitchen, which stood opposite the servants' quarters, was demolished in 1936.

The interior of the first floor of the house has a wide central hall from front to back with a double parlour on the right-hand side and two smaller rooms flanking a stair hall on the left-hand side. During the restoration of 1937, it was discovered that all of the downstairs walls had painted decoration at some point during the nineteenth century and that the walls of the hall were marbelized. The ceiling of the northwest room still bears a floral painting in brown, deep reds, and green. The other rooms on the main floor retain their original woodwork around the windows and doors, a fireplace of either white, black, or yellow marble, and an elaborate double moulding around the ceiling. A highpoint of the interior of the Barrett House is the gently spiralled mahogany stairway. The basement, too, has its original black marble fireplaces and a mahogany railing on the stairway. The interior has been adapted to office use without destruction of its nineteenth century character.

The Barrett House is surrounded by a granite wall and an iron fence with pineapple-topped posts.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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) 1844			
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 checked="" 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			
<p><u>BARRETT HOUSE</u> -- Significance</p> <p>The title of the land on which the Barrett House now stands goes back to the Crown of England and subsequently to Nathaniel Bacon and the Byrds, becoming lot number 564 in Byrd's famous Lottery. By 1804, it had come into the possession of Dr. James Currie, a Richmond physician. From him, it passed to David Meade Randolph as part of the garden to his estate, "Moldavia", and hence to Joseph Gallego of "Gallego Mills", and John Allan, subsequent owners of "Moldavia". James Scott eventually bought the lot and built a home on one-half of it and sold "an exact moiety" to William Barrett in 1842. Two years later, Barrett constructed the beautiful Greek Revival house and two outbuildings on the site. The work was supervised by the owner's cousin, Anderson Barrett, a builder.</p> <p>William Barrett was the son of John Barrett, thrice mayor of Richmond during the 1790's. Both father and son were tobacco-nists, William being the original manufacturer of "Lucky Strike" chewing tobacco. A successful businessman, he travelled often in Europe, bringing back works of art and plants for his house and garden. He was a lover of music and books and kept an extensive library in the basement of his home. It was there that Mr. Barrett died at the age of 81 after accidentally setting fire to himself.</p> <p>After his death in 1871, the house was sold by his executor, Jacquelin Taylor, to Captain David N. Walker, former commander of Otey's Battery during the seige of Petersburg. In 1876, the Walkers moved to Laurel and Park and rented the house to the Franch consul, the Vicomte de Sibour, who was engaged in buying tobacco for his government. With his wife and three children, the Vicomte added a great deal of color to Fifth Street. His parties were well-known in Richmond, and his children were part of the infamous "Fifth Street Gang".</p> <p>In 1882, the Barrett House was sold, and, after two changes of hands, it was bought by the Reverend Robert Willingham in 1895. Dr. Willingham was executive secretary of the Baptist Board of Missions and was passionately devoted to his work. On a world-wide mission tour in 1907, he crossed the Pacific with then Secretary of War, William H. Taft. Both men being very portly, the reporters photographing them had great fun in calling them "The Secretary of War and the Secretary of Peace."</p> <p>Mrs. Willingham sold the house in 1929 to a company which planned to replace it with a large garage. This was avoided as a result of the Depression. In 1936, however, the granite blocks from the</p>			

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

8.

retaining wall on Cary Street collapsed and the sale of the house for building materials was precipitated. After considerable negotiation, during which the outdoor kitchen was torn down, the house was bought by Mary Wingfield Scott and Elizabeth Bocock, the present owners, and restored in 1937. In 1944, they loaned the house to the Woman's Council for the Navy League as a club for visiting sailors, but due to a war-time shortage of office space, the house was converted to office use in 1945. It fulfills that same function today, housing the offices of Fitzgerald and Co.

Fifth Street was not only the first of Richmond's riverside neighborhoods to be developed, but one which enjoyed popularity with the city's most distinguished citizenry from 1790 to 1880. As tastes changed over the years, the architectural character of the street evolved. Out of four Greek Revival houses constructed in the 1840's, the Barrett House is said to be the best, due to its excellence of both interior and exterior proportions. Its preservation through adaptation to business use, has assured the house a permanent place in the life of Richmond.

6.

Historic American Building Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress
Washington, D.C Code:11

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Files of the Valentine Museum, Houses, Richmond: Fifth Street (Barrett House)
Richmond Homes and Memories, Robert Munford
Houses of Old Richmond, Mary Wingfield Scott
Old Richmond Neighborhoods, Mary Wingfield Scott
 Assessors' Records, Richmond City Hall
 Deed Books 43, p.489; 93, p.234; 120C, p.371; 136A, p.282; 155C, p.475; 360C,
 p.232; 364C, p.48; 402A, p.156, Richmond City Hall
 Land Books 1844, 1845

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	° ' "	° ' "		37 ° 32 ' 22 "	77 ° 26 ' 26 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
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:
 Elizabeth Cheek

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: July 16, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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 _____

James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

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

U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)
Richmond, Va. 1964

BARRETT HOUSE

Latitude
37° 32' 22"

Longitude
77° 26' 26"

