

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 11-115-100	DATE 11/16/68

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Benjamin Watkins Leigh House

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Wickham-Leigh House

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1000 E. Clay Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Richmond

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

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP		STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
Virginia Commonwealth University (Medical College of Virginia)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 760

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Chancery Court, Richmond City Hall

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 760

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3/4 acre      CODE: 45

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1957      Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D. C.      CODE: 08

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## DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)		(Check One)			
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>	Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
<p>DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE</p> <p>The Benjamin Watkins Leigh House, a rectangular three-story structure, is distinctive for its four-bay facade and off-center front door. Although built in the early-nineteenth century, the exterior character of the house has been somewhat altered by the addition of an Italianate bracketed cornice and a small Italianate front porch. The house has been stuccoed for many years but it is not known whether this is an original feature. When the building became part of the Sheltering Arms Hospital, a large three-story wing was added to the east side connecting it to the Grant House.</p> <p>The interior of the Leigh House has suffered many unfortunate alterations, however, the original stair and some of the woodwork survive.</p>						

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	19th Century <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1812-1816**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The townhouse known as the Benjamin Watkins Leigh House was built by John Wickham between 1812 and 1816. Wickham's daughter, Julia, who married Benjamin Leigh, received the house from her father, and the couple made it their residence. Benjamin Leigh, a noted jurist and lawyer, helped in the revision of the Virginia Constitution in 1831. He was an ardent supporter of states' rights, and served in the United States Senate during the Jackson administration. Leigh died in 1849, and the house was sold to Lieutenant Governor John M. Gregory. The property eventually passed into the hands of Mrs. Julia M. Sprately who sold the house to the Sheltering Arms Hospital in 1932. The house is now owned by the Medical College of Virginia and is used for offices.

Although rich in historical associations, the Leigh House is a fine Federal townhouse. It plays a very significant role, both architecturally and historically, in one of Richmond's most venerable neighborhoods.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Scott, Mary Wingfield, Houses of Old Richmond, Richmond.; 1941.  
Old Richmond Neighborhoods, Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1950.

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "		°	'	"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		37	32	30
SE	° ' "	° ' "		77	25	50
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: March 27, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 750

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

Title Chairman, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date March 28, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Frank H. ...  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date April 10, 1969

ATTEST:  
...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date April 10, 1969

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
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(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #127-65  
1968  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: ~~760~~ 45

