

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For HCRS use only  
received DEC 06 1979  
date entered FEB 8 1980

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Wyoming

and/or common

2. Location

street & number N of Studley on VA 615  
Route 615 NE of Pamunkey River not for publication

city, town Studley *vic* X vicinity of First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)  
congressional district

state Virginia code 51 county King William code 101

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin O. Atkinson

street & number Wyoming

city, town Hanover, Virginia vicinity of state Virginia 23069

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. King William County Courthouse

street & number

city, town King William state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1969, 1979 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wyoming is a two-story, five-bay frame house set on a Flemish-bond underpinning and flanked by tall Flemish-bond brick chimneys with a single set of stepped weatherings each. The building is clad with plain weatherboards, which replace original beaded weatherboarding, and is fitted with 9/9 sash on the first floor and 6/9 sash on the second. Relatively modern gable-roofed porches, which may replace earlier porches of similar form, shelter both entrances. The whole is covered with a clipped gable roof with a standing-seam sheet metal surface and modillion cornice. At the north end is a modern one-story, two-bay frame kitchen wing which replaces an earlier wing of uncertain date. At the south end is a shed covering the basement entrance.

Wyoming has a simple central-passage, single-pile plan which is unusual principally for its outsized proportions. It is fifty-five feet long and twenty-five feet deep. Normally houses of this sort are forty-five to fifty feet long and not much more than twenty feet deep. This large scale is maintained in the vertical dimensions as well; the first-floor ceilings are over eleven feet high.

The interior decoration also contributes to the large-scale effect. In the hall (south room), the high raised-panel wainscoting is complemented by a broad chimney breast that reaches almost to the ceiling. It consists of an architrave frame which surrounds the fireplace and is flanked by shelf-height fluted pilasters. A frieze consisting of raised panels interspersed with fluted consoles which support the molded shelf completes the lower half of the chimney breast. The upper half, also enframed by fluted pilasters, has a central molded panel enclosing another square molded panel with a broken triangular pediment with a wall-of-Troy cornice and punch-and-dentil rake molding. This overmantel arrangement is flanked by vertical rectangular raised panels. A molded cornice caps the entire chimney breast.

The passage is thirteen feet wide--about four feet wider than is usual, yet the stair is entirely enclosed and projects into the north room. It is entered through doors from both the passage and the north room. The passage is decorated with raised-panel wainscoting and a pedestal chair rail, as in the hall, and has a beaded nailboard encircling it as well.

Raised-panel wainscoting is also employed in the north room. The chimney breast here, which was similar to that in the hall, was cut off at shelf height many years ago. The remaining section has four frieze panels and fluted pilasters with reeds in the flutes. A panel chimneypiece in the second-floor north room is a modern copy.

The house is dramatically sited on the edge of a narrow plateau overlooking the bottom lands of the Pamunkey River. The setting is completely rural, consisting mostly of open fields but with trees along the river and adjoining creeks. No modern intrusions are nearby.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** Ca. 1800 **Builder/Architect**

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wyoming's large wooden dwelling house is representative of the extensive rebuilding of rural Virginia that took place after the Revolution. By the end of the 18th century many Colonial houses were replaced with larger, better-built structures or were heavily remodeled, and many altogether new houses were built to serve the newly established farms carved out of the large old plantations. Architecturally the house maintains the traditional Virginia-Georgian flavor of earlier decades, however it departs from the norm with its exceptionally generous proportions. Exterior dimensions and rooms sizes are all considerably greater than similar Tidewater houses built either before or after the Revolution. Indeed, Wyoming may be the largest house of its plan type (hall-parlor, center-passage) in Virginia. The house is further distinguished by its elegant detailing, including its exterior modillion cornice and interior trim. The paneled chimneypiece in the main room, though somewhat provincial, is one of the most elaborate of its type in the region. The house was built around 1800 for the Hoomes family, large landowners in the western Tidewater. Wyoming is a corruption of the Delaware Indian word, for "at" or "upon the plain." Its choice as the property's name may arise from its site or be an allusion to the Wyoming Valley of Pennsylvania where a Revolutionary battle was fought.

John Hoomes of Caroline County bought the Wyoming tract from Thomas R. Rootes in 1796. Since Rootes lived in Caroline County, it is unlikely that the present house was built during his tenure, and the architectural evidence suggests that it could not have been erected any earlier. John Hoomes is the apparent builder of the house, erected for his son George W. Hoomes. The elder Hoomes lived at Bowling Green Farm (now known as Old Mansion) in Caroline County. Interestingly, when he built Wyoming he chose to imitate the modillion cornice and the somewhat out-of-date clipped gables of his own mid-18th-century brick house.

George W. Hoomes died in 1802 at the age of 23, and the property remained in his father's ownership until 1804, when it was inherited by George Hoomes's minor son John Waller Hoomes. The younger Hoomes died in 1833, and the property was sold six years later to Dr. Arthur Brockenbrough of Tappahannock, who sold it to a father and son, Thomas C. and Benjamin Day Nelson. A plat made in 1839 at the time of the sale represents the first appearance of the name Wyoming. The Nelsons owned Wyoming until 1914 when the Atkinson family, the current owners, purchased it.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Atkinson, Dorothy Francis. "Wyoming, 1791-1961." Ms. at Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission.  
 Harris, Malcolm H. Old New Kent County, West Point, Virginia., 1977, II:932-37.  
 King William County Land Tax Books, 1782-1863.  
Personal Property Books, 1790-1809. (See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 9 acres  
 Quadrangle name Studley, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000  
 UMT References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>298480</u>	<u>4177350</u>	B				
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing	
C				D				
E				F				
G				H				

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on NW side of State Route 615 at intersection with private drive located about 650' NE of feeder creek to Pamunkey River; thence extending about 400' NW along SW side of private drive and continuing about 250' NW to 50' contour; thence following said contour SW for about 500'; thence extending about 600' SE

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #1)

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1979  
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144  
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature  
Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 18 1979

For HCRS use only:

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Wyoming, King William County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1                      ITEM NUMBER 9,10                      PAGE 1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Survey for Thomas Cary Nelson (1839) MS. Virginia State Library Archives.  
Survey for Wyoming (1877), MS. Virginia State Library Archives.  
Virginia Gazette and General Advertiser, July 28, 1802: 3.

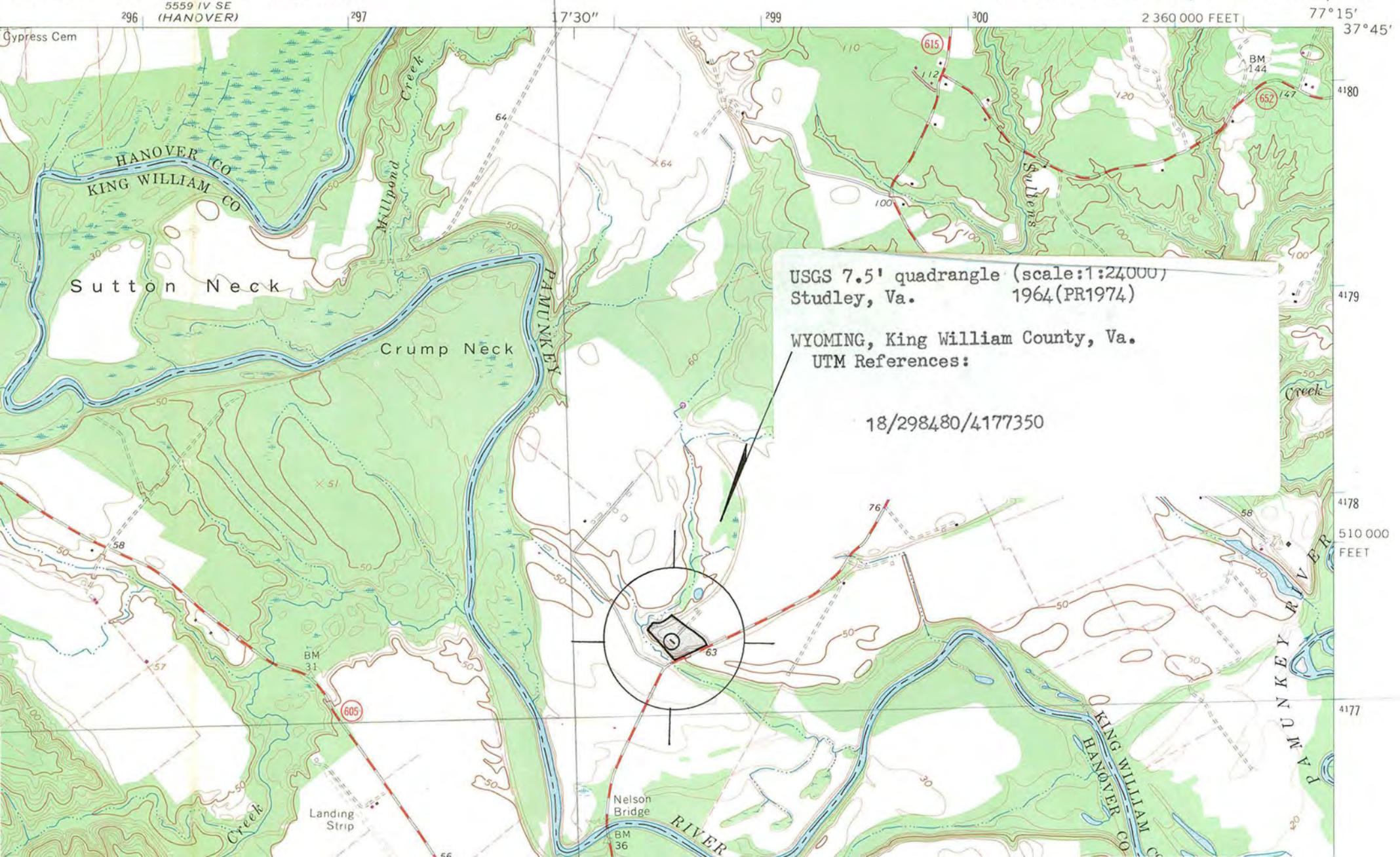
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA - Verbal boundary description and justification

in a straight line to the NW side of 615; thence following said side NE for about 550' to point of origin.

The register bounds have been drawn as an irregular quadrilateral defined on the south-east by route 615, on the northeast by a driveway and an imaginary line extending from it, and on the northwest and southwest by lines roughly following the fifty-foot contour line, which marks a steep drop-off to a ravine below. This acreage includes the site of an early kitchen northwest of the house, the probable sites of other, unidentified domestic outbuildings, and two modern corrugated-metal farm buildings shown on the U.S.G.S. 7½' Studley, Va. quadrangle.

DU

5559 1 SW  
(BEULAHVILLE)



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Studley, Va. 1964 (PR1974)

WYOMING, King William County, Va.  
UTM References:  
18/298480/4177350