

VLR-12/2/69 NRHP 2/16/70

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

{Type all entries - complete applicable sections}

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

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Pembroke Manor

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Pembroke Manor

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER: .7 mi\* N of Rt. 58, 1.5 mi. E of intersection of Rt. 58,  
Rt. 627 and Rt. 647.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Virginia Beach

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45      COUNTY: (in cit.)      CODE: 810

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<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 type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <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 type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Vacant</u>
			<input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Princess Anne County Historical Society

STREET AND NUMBER:  
5229 Lake Shores Road

CITY OR TOWN: Virginia Beach      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Princess Anne Court House Station, Clerk's Office

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Virginia Beach      STATE: Virginia      CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969       Federal       State       County       Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" 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

Pembroke Manor house is built along the lines of a classic Virginia Georgian mansion. Its superb brick walls are laid in Flemish bond both above and below a quarter-round water table. An unmolded belt course surrounds the house between the first and second floors. Regrettably, the walls are badly marred in sections as a result of later openings. Curiously, rubbed and gauged splayed arches appear only over the openings on the entrance facade. Most of the original window frames have survived, but the original sash has been replaced by one-over-one sash. Characteristic of sophisticated Georgian houses, the second floor windows were shorter than those of the first floor, but unfortunately the level of the second floor has been lowered so as to make the size of all the windows the same, causing the loss of a subtly calculated aesthetic effect. The front doorway probably was unembellished except for rubbed brick dressings, but the door is now topped by a wooden segmental pediment supported on pilasters, all of which appear to be of twentieth-century origin. The whole building is covered by a relatively shallow hipped roof from which project two interior chimneys. The roof is surrounded at its base by a fine modillion cornice.

On the north side of the house just below the belt course is an interesting series of inscribed bricks which contain initials in the following order:

I<sup>E</sup> S MS IS SS MS FW RA<sup>D</sup>  
 1764

In plan, Pembroke is similar to the Wythe House, consisting of two rooms on either side of a central hall, upstairs and down. The interior has been altered considerably, so that of the original woodwork only several doors and their frames, panelled wainscoting in some of the rooms, and possibly some floors, survive. The surviving woodwork is plain but of fine quality.

Unfortunately, Pembroke's setting has been ruined by the development of its lands into an ordinary housing project. The house now stands in the center of a traffic circle set amidst a sea of characterless dwellings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

3. 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 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 type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" 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

Much of what came to be the Pembroke Manor estate was included in the original grant, called the Grand Patent, acquired by Adam Thoroughgood in 1635. The land was divided by his descendants who in turn sold sections of it to later settlers. It has not been established when a part of this land was first called Pembroke Manor, nor why this particular name was chosen. Pembroke Manor was occupied from the seventeenth century, but the present house is the only existing early structure of the original Pembroke Manor tract. It is assumed that the present house was built by Captain Jonathan Saunders, the third generation of the Saunders family to live at Pembroke. A brick on the north side of the house inscribed <sup>ES</sup> almost certainly refers to Jonathan Saunders and his wife Elizabeth (Thoroughgood), and the construction date of the house. The subjects of the six other initialed bricks in this interesting series have not been positively identified, but they probably refer to other members of the family.

At Captain Saunders' death in 1765, his son John inherited the estate. A loyalist, John Saunders was officially declared a "British Subject" by the Princess Anne County Committee of Safety in 1779 and his lands declared escheat. He later became a captain of the British Army and was wounded at the Battle of Brandywine. Following the war he settled in New Brunswick, Canada. In 1781 Thomas Jefferson, as Governor of Virginia, sold the Saunders estate to Henry Kellam of Princess Anne County. From 1796 to the present Pembroke Manor has been bought and sold numerous times.

Obscured until recently by curious two-story galleries which surrounded the house, Pembroke became one of Virginia's forgotten Georgian mansions. As a result, Pembroke has never achieved the recognition it deserves as a significant achievement of colonial Virginia building. Architecturally, the house is related to the group of Virginia mansions whose designs are often attributed to Richard Taliaferro. This group includes Wilton, Carter's Grove, Elsing Green, Powhatan, and especially the Wythe House which Pembroke closely resembles.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Kellam, Sadie Scott and V. Hope Kellam, Old Houses in Princess Anne, Virginia, Portsmouth, Va.: Printcraft Press, Inc., 1958.  
 Kyle, Louisa Venable, "Pembroke Manor," pamphlet.

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	° ' "	° ' "		36 ° 51 ' 08 "	76 ° 08 ' 02 "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 acre

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

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: November 17, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia 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. 7½' quadrangle (Scale: 1:24,000)  
Kempsville, Va. (1955)

Pembroke Manor

Latitude  
36° 51' 08"

Longitude  
76° 08' 02"

