

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Charlottesville (in city)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Oak Lawn

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Cherry Avenue and Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charlottesville (J. Kenneth Robinson, Seventh District Congressman)

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51      COUNTY: (in city)      CODE: 540

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 work in progress	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input checked="" 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:  
Mrs. Shelton S. Fife

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Oak Lawn, Cherry Avenue and Ninth Street

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Albemarle County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

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: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Charlottesville (in city)

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DETAILED THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General Statement:

- A. Architectural Character: Oak Lawn is an early nineteenth century dwelling showing Jeffersonian influence.
- B. Condition of fabric: Structurally sound, but in need of some repair.

II. Description of the Exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: The three-bay two-story main block with pedimented gable end front is four-bays long and is framed by a two-bay one-story wing on the north and the south. There is a frame shed enclosed porch addition on the west side of the south wing and a similar frame addition off a small one-story one-bay brick addition on the west of the main block.

B. Foundation: Brick.

C. Wall construction: The walls are finely laid in Flemish bond above a water table of all header quarter-round brick, and in a three-course American bond below the water table. Queen closers mark the salient corners. The small western addition on the main block is laid in six-course American bond (the brick for this addition came from the former exterior kitchen). The frame additions are covered with clapboards.

D. Porches: A three-bay, one-story porch with a flat roof serving as the second story balcony shelters the entrance of the main block, is supported by four Tuscan columns and has a simple entablature. A cast-iron geometrically patterned balustrade surmounts the porch.

E. Chimneys: Exterior chimneys arise between the main block and each of the wings. An interior-end chimney is at the west end of the main block.

F. Openings:

1. Doorways and doors: The east entrance has a doorway with architrave trim. Each double door has a large glass window in the upper half. An entrance with similar trim and a six paneled door opens on the upper level of the east facade.

2. Windows: Wooden double-hung windows have nine-over-nine sash and are surrounded by simple trim, not the usual architrave moldings found in most Jeffersonian buildings.

G. Roof: The gable roof of the main block has a pedimented gable end with a lunette over the east facade. The wings also have gable roofs. A wooden box cornice with molding is employed and barge boards are used on the remaining gable ends.

III. Description of the Interior:

A. Floor plan: Both wing rooms and the west room in the main block open off the entrance hall -- the east room of the main block. The room in the brick addition opens to the west of the main block.

B. Stairway: An enclosed dog-leg stair ascends in the northwest corner of the entrance hall. A similar stair ascends from the east wall in the dining room.

C. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted plaster.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

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(Number all entries)

7.

D. Doorways and doors: Doorways have architrave trim and six-paneled doors.

E. Trim: All the rooms have a molded chair-rail and baseboard. In the hall and the library the chair-rail and the baseboards employ simple greek moldings on the walls with the fireplaces. The other three walls use a Georgian molding. The cupboards in the west room have symmetrically molded trim with corner blocks. The east room has molded plaster trim around the perimeter of the ceiling and a rosette in the center.

F. Heating: Fireplaces are in every room. The mantel in the entrance hall has dentil work under the broad shelf, a plain frieze and plain pilasters. The other mantels have a plain frieze with a molding and plain pilasters. Each fireplace has an iron fireplace lining with reeded pilasters and a panelled lintel.

IV. Site:

A. Setting: Oak Lawn is set on a hill and looks east over Charlottesville. The house is surrounded by trees thickly scattered over a large lawn, which help protect it from the encroachment of the busy city streets.

B. Outbuildings: A small American bond brick gable roofed building with an exterior end chimney was the original cook's house and is set west of the house.

2. 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)

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 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

Oak Lawn is a notable example of Jeffersonian Classicism with the Randolph-Semple House in Williamsburg being its design prototype. Built in 1822, the house is believed to have been constructed by workmen employed by Thomas Jefferson at the nearby University of Virginia. Many of these men, strongly influenced by Jefferson, went on to design and erect courthouses, churches, and houses throughout the state. Sequestered from Charlottesville by its large shady lawn, Oak Lawn is a skillful interpretation of Jefferson's architectural ideas.

The Oak Lawn tract was part of a patent granted to Joel Terrell and David Lewis in the 1730's. Micajah Chiles came into the possession of the property in 1784 and it was inherited by his son, Henry West Alberty (alias Henry Chiles). Alberty sold the tract in 1815 to Jesse Winston Garth who sold 394 acres to Colonel Nimrod Bramham in 1818.

James Fife, business man, farmer, and Baptist Minister, bought the house and property in 1847 and changed the name from Oak Grove to Oak Lawn. Although lots were sold from the farmland in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Fife family retained the house and a core of land. Today only five acres remain with Oak Lawn after the City of Charlottesville condemned the remaining acreage for Buford Junior High School in the late 1960's.

G.P.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Freudenberg, Anne, "Oak Lawn," unpublished manuscript.  
 Nichols, Frederick D., "Oak Lawn," unpublished manuscript.  
 Rawlings, Mary, Ante-bellum Albemarle.  
 Stevens, William, Virginia House Tour.  
 Files of Virginia Historic Landmark Commission.

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	38° 01' 44"	78° 29' 50"				
NE	38° 01' 44"	78° 29' 43"				
SE	38° 01' 37"	78° 29' 43"				
SW	38° 01' 37"	78° 29' 50"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten acres.

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:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: February, 1973

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 Junius B. Fishburne, Jr.  
 Junius B. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
 Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date APR 17 1973

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

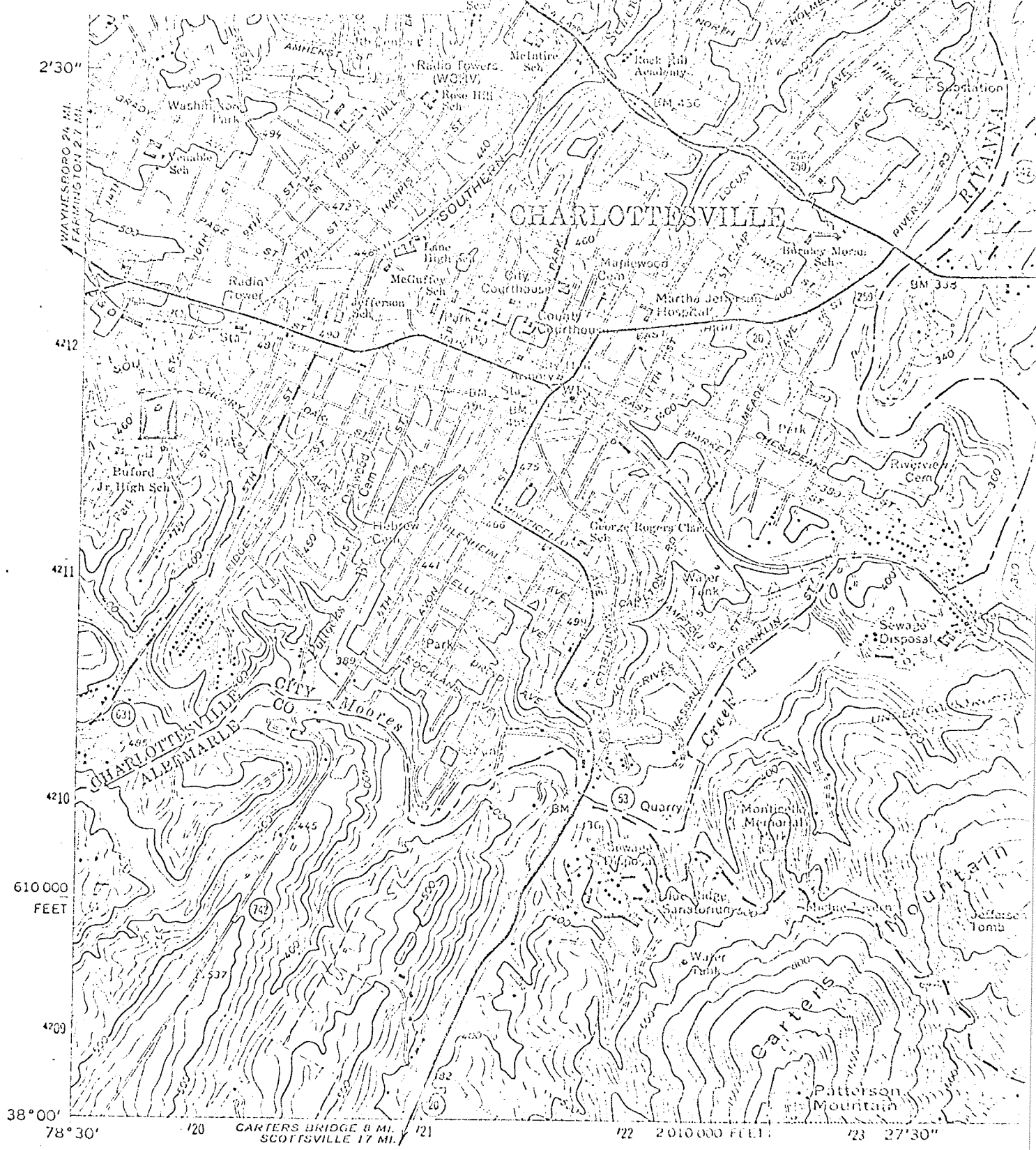
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Topographic quadrangle (scale: 1:24,000)  
 Charlottesville East, Va. 1964

OKK LAWN

Latitude	Longitude
38°01'41" N	78°29'50" W
38°01'41" N	78°29'43" W
38°01'37" N	78°29'43" W
38°01'37" N	78°29'50" W



ALBERENE  
 2229 1 NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs.

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