

VLR-7/21/87 NRHP 8/21/89

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name North Bend other names/site number 18-65

2. Location

street & number VA Route 619 city, town Weyanoke state Virginia code VA county Charles City code 036 zip code-23030

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public ownership and building/site/structure/object categories.

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Hugh C. Phillips, Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Date: July 14, 1989.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official Date State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structures

AGRICULTURE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD/weatherboard

roof METAL/tin

other BRICK CHIMNEYS

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

North Bend is a two-story, double-pile, center-passage structure. The frame building has a two-story appendage on the southwest corner of the two-story block. Originally North Bend was built in 1819 as a 20' by 51' two-story, single-pile, center-passage structure. In 1855, the width of the building was doubled to form a 40' by 51' two-story, double-pile, center-passage structure. In 1922, the two-story appendage was constructed. The restoration of North Bend to its early twentieth-century appearance was completed by 1984. Within the nominated area there are five contributing buildings and two non-contributing buildings. The contributing and noncontributing buildings are the main house, barn, smokehouse, dairy and wellhouse, and the wellhouse and shed respectively.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The southern pile of rooms constitute the original portion of the house, as revealed by the attic framing and the foundation brickwork. Attic framing and chimney brickwork indicate that a moderately pitched hipped roof covered John Minge's vernacular plantation dwelling. The exterior probably closely resembled nearby Milford, which also dates to the early nineteenth century.

Federal-style mantels and stair carvings from the original portion of the house suggest the elaborateness of the total architectural scheme that existed at this modest center-hall plantation dwelling. The similarity of the mantels to a mantel at Sherwood Forest and the stair carvings to the stair carvings at Upper Brandon could illustrate the work of a single craftsman or simply illustrate the use of popular local architectural designs by different craftsmen. Cracks in the plaster of the hall ceiling reveal the original stair configuration. The stairs rose from the south front along the west wall to a landing and then they turned back along the east wall to the south front.

In 1855, Thomas H. Wilcox transformed the vernacular single-pile plantation dwelling into an elegant double-pile plantation residence adorned with Greek Revival architectural treatments that closely resemble the designs produced by the noted early nineteenth-century

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1819-1922

Significant Dates
1855

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
N/A

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The main house at North Bend survives as the best preserved and purest expression of the academic Greek Revival style in Charles City County, Virginia. The apparent use or familiarity of one or more of Asher Benjamin's architectural pattern books by the builder-architect during the 1855 remodeling and expansion created what is today one of the most academic nineteenth-century residences in Charles City and the entire Virginia Tidewater.

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE

The earliest documented owner of North Bend is Christina Minge. She was recorded as the owner of the 900 acre Weyanoke tract in Charles City County during 1785. Christina Minge, daughter of James Shields, inherited this tract from her husband David Minge. The Weyanoke tract was composed of four separate parcels; Colliers, Harveys, Kittiewan and Miles. This tract had descended in the Minge family from David's father, John Minge, Jr. and his grandfather, John Minge of Weyanoke. The Minges were among the wealthiest families in Charles City County during the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. Christina Minge married Collier Harrison and he assumed ownership of the Weyanoke tract until Christina's son John Minge (1770-1827) married Sarah Harrison (1770-1822), the sister of President William Henry Harrison, in 1796.

By 1807, John Minge owned in excess of 2000 acres in eastern Charles City County. The majority of this property was land that his father had owned, although most recently it had been held by his stepfather. A significant increase in the value of the Weyanoke tract in 1820 suggests that John Minge had completed the original portion of the house. His wife died only two years after the house was completed. Shortly after her death Minge married Sarah Short Stewart, the widow

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Charles City County Deed Books
Charles City County Land Books, 1785-present
Confederate History of Charles City County Virginia (Mary Ruffin Copland, 1957)
Letters of Julia Gardner Tyler, College of William and Mary-Swem Special Collections
United States Census Records, 1790-1910

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

VA Dept. of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property approx. 8.5 acres

UTM References

A

1	8
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3	1	7	8	2	0
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4	1	3	1	2	3	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at a point on the N side of private drive approx. 3900' S of VA 619, the intersection of which is approx. 5800' S of intersection of VA 619 with VA 5; thence extending approx. 1100' W following N side of private drive; thence approx. 700' jutting out to the N and around to the S crossing private drive; thence approx. 1200' E; thence approx. 300' N to point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The bounds have been drawn to include the house and significant secondary structures on 8.5 acres.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Brian Edward Gordineer
organization N/A date July 13, 1989
street & number Piney Grove, Route 1-Box 148 telephone (804) 829-2480
city or town Charles City state Virginia zip code 23030

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American architect Asher Benjamin. The similarity of individual architectural elements, such as the chimney pieces, corner blocks, exterior cornice, frontispieces and sliding doors, and their presentation in the total architectural scheme suggests that the builder responsible for the very thorough remodeling of North Bend was well acquainted with one or more of Asher Benjamin's architectural pattern books.

North Bend was completely recovered with new straight-edged clapboard siding, although the original chimneys remained in the remodeled residence. Several fireplace mantels were also incorporated into the new residence. The five-bay fenestration of the north and south facades utilized simple six-over six pane sash windows. The new hipped roof was built somewhat lower than the first roof. The new staircase in the expanded center-hall had an uninterrupted rise and was assembled with pieces from the original stair. The Greek Revival entrance porches and the exterior cornice were particularly outstanding features of the new architectural scheme.

The Coplands made a variety of changes to North Bend in 1922, just six years after their purchase of the property. Alterations included the placement of a bathroom between the northwest and southwest bedchambers, the placement of two windows in the northwest bedchamber, and the placement of single windows in both the northeast and southeast bedchambers. The two-story addition on the southwest corner included a kitchen on the first floor and a modest second-floor bedchamber. Water stains in the attic reveal that leakage of the 1855 shingled roof necessitated covering the original roof with the present rolled roofing. Regretfully, water damage destroyed the exterior Ionic cornice. The Coplands also created the second-floor porch chamber on the south side of the house.

The other contributing buildings include the dairy, smokehouse, wellhouse and barn. The 10' by 10' dairy, 10' by 10' smokehouse and 8' by 8' wellhouse are all covered by pyramidal roofs. The dairy, with its pierced crescent grille, and the smokehouse, with its original saltbox, date to either 1819 or 1855. The wellhouse dates to 1922. The commodious multi-story frame barn is one of the best preserved mid-nineteenth-century barns on the north side of the James River. The cinder-block wellhouse and pole shed are the two noncontributing structures.

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of William H. Lightfoot of Teddington. Both John Minge and his wife had their portraits done by noted nineteenth-century artist, Thomas Sully. At John Minge's death, the Weyanoke tract passed to his son, Dr. John Minge. The family of Dr. Minge lived at the house on the Weyanoke tract into the 1830s. In 1830 the population of the Weyanoke tract included 16 free white persons and 80 slaves.

In 1832, the Weyanoke tract was subdivided for Dr. Minge's sons, James and John. James Minge received the house and surrounding 500 acres, which was known as Kittiewan Creek from 1832 until 1850. James Minge was the last of the Minges to own this property. He sold the property, with considerable improvements that he had been making between 1839 and 1846, to Thomas H. Wilcox.

In a letter, now at William and Mary, written February 5, 1846, at Sherwood Forest, Julia Gardner Tyler recalled that North Bend was "...put up at auction and brought 5000 & 850 dollars cash. It contained 500 acres, nearly all open land." Thomas H. Wilcox, a Charles City farmer with a modest collection of landholdings, purchased the property. North Bend became the center of his agricultural activities. In 1853, Wilcox undertook a major renovation and expansion of the Minge's modest plantation dwelling. Nearly three years of construction resulted in the creation of the most elaborate Greek Revival plantation residence in Charles City County. Less than a decade after the completion of North Bend Thomas Wilcox moved to Belle Aire, another of his land holdings. Wilcox feared that his family could be harmed by shelling from the Union boats on the nearby James River. In another letter, now at William and Mary, written January 12, 1863, Julia Gardner Tyler mentioned that Wilcox had "his Place" for sale for \$50,000.

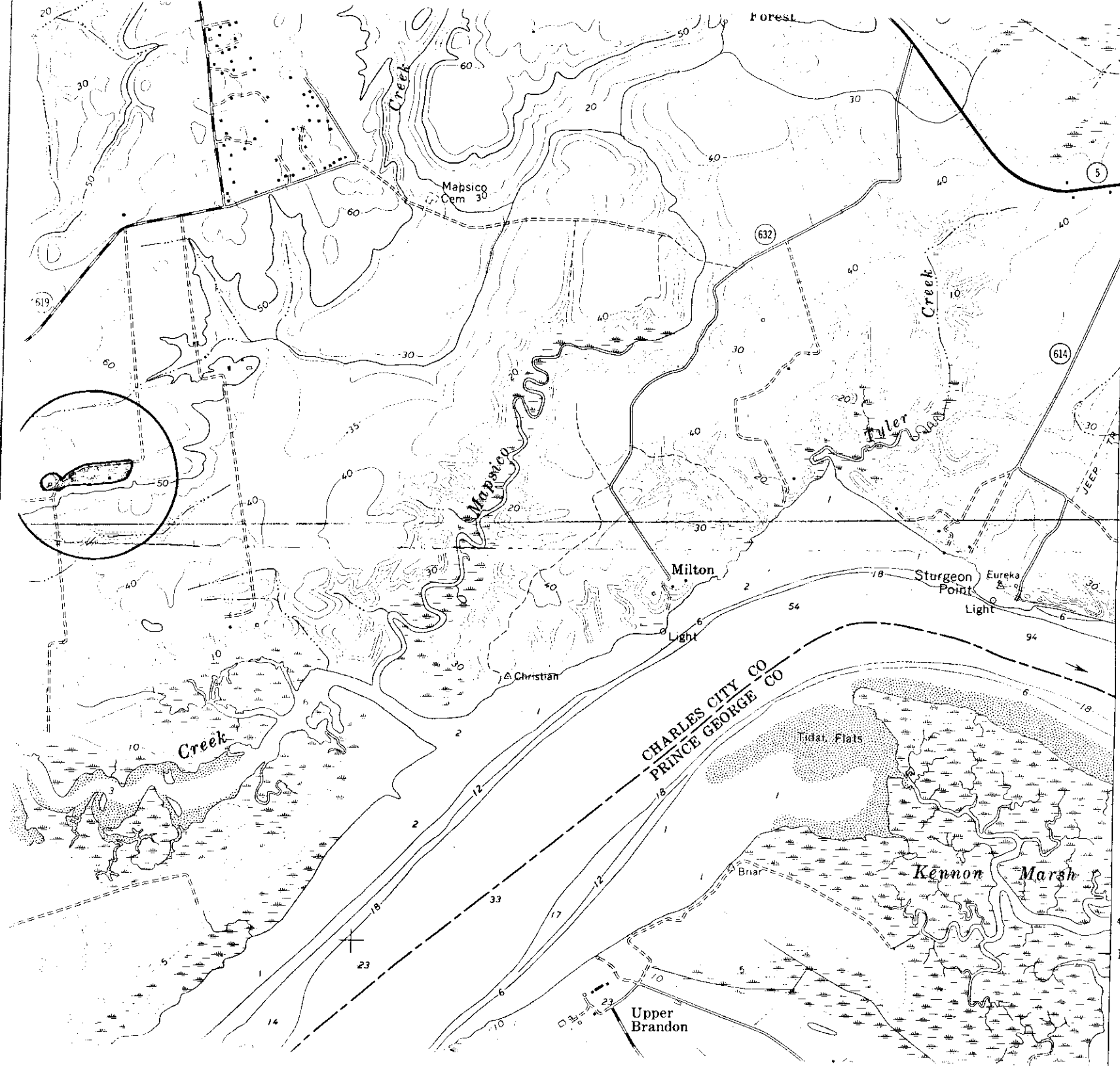
In 1865 North Bend was finally purchased by the executors of the will of Joseph Allen of Richmond. In his will he directed that a real estate investment be made for his wife Mary Ann Allen of Richmond. Shortly after the purchase of the property by the Allen estate General Sheriden established Union headquarters at North Bend. Sheriden occupied the main house while his 30,000 men crossed the James River on a 2,000 foot pontoon bridge at Weyanoke. The Empire desk in the northeast bedchamber still has the labels for the different companies' papers and orders. Family tradition states that the crack in a second-floor door was made with a soldier's sword.

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North Bend passed into the Hewitt family when Mary Ann Allen's daughter, Josephine married Edwin L. Hewitt. It was from the Hewitts that George F. Copland purchased North Bend. Copland was a farmer that had moved east from Paintsville, Kentucky. Just five years after his purchase of the property the Coplands undertook their modest enlargement and modernization project. The property passed to George's son Albert and finally to Albert's son, the present owner, George F. Copland. The recent restoration of the house to its early twentieth-century appearance was undertaken by the family of George F. Copland. The present owner continues to farm the 250 acres that remain around the impressive residence at North Bend.



RUSTIC 4.5 MI.
WILLIAMSBURG 20 MI.

North Bend
Charles City Co., VA
UTM References:
18/317820/4131230
Charles City Quad

4132

(BRANDON)
5668 IV SW

4130

4129

17'30"

CHARLES CITY CO
PRINCE GEORGE CO

Upper
Brandon