

VLR-7/11/73 NRHP-10/3/73

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

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: Southampton FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Belmont

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
.3 miles north of Route 652, 1.3 miles east of intersection with Route 653.

CITY OR TOWN:
Capron vicinity

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:
Fourth; Robert W. Daniel, Jr.

STATE: Virginia CODE: 175 COUNTY: Southampton

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Site <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Mr. Paul Camp Marks Mr. + Mrs. Robert F. Marke III 2/89

STREET AND NUMBER:
Route 1, Box 162

CITY OR TOWN:
Capron

STATE: Virginia CODE: 23829

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Southampton County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:
Courtland

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE OF SURVEY: 1969
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Richmond

STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Southampton

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		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

I. General statement:

A. Architectural character: Belmont is a good example of a simple late eighteenth century plantation house in Southampton County.

B. Condition of the fabric: Good.

II. Description of the exterior:

A. Overall dimensions: One-and-a-half story Belmont has a five-bay facade and a single-pile. Additions on the rear of the building include an ell two-bays long and one-bay wide, and a three-bay shed porch which has been enclosed with weatherboard.

B. Foundations: Brick covered with cement.

C. Wall construction: The original section of the house is covered with beaded weatherboarding, and the additions with unbeaded weatherboard.

D. Porches: An early-twentieth century three-bay shed porch with turned posts is set on piers and has been screened. Formerly a one-bay porch with pyramidal roof and piers sheltered the front door.

E. Chimneys: Two modern exterior end brick chimneys replace the original ones which had the stacks set away from the gable.

F. Openings:

1. Doors: The entrance doors are double and of two panels each. A single six-paneled door originally opened at the rear.

2. Windows: The windows have plain frames with a bead on the inner edge, molded sills and early-twentieth century two-over-two sash.

G. Roof:

1. Shape: The gable roof is covered with galvanized metal.

2. Dormers: Three gable dormers with diagonal siding break the south slope of the roof, and two similar dormers the north slope.

III. Description of the interior:

A. Floor plan: The single pile house has a central hall. The rear additions are entered through the east room.

B. Stairway: The enclosed steeply pitched stair with winders ascends in the northeast corner of the hall.

C. Flooring: Wide pine.

D. Wall and ceiling finish: Painted and papered plaster.

E. Doorways and doors: The raised six-panel doors are surrounded by architrave trim. On the second floor the panels are grained in light colors and the surrounded cross pieces are painted a dark color.

F. Trim: The lower rooms have chair rail and baseboard with moldings, and wainscoting consisting of rectangular flat panels. The upper rooms have only a baseboard. A Chinese lattice railing with thin members follows the stairwell on the second floor.

G. Hardware: The doors on the upper floor have the original H-and-I hinges.

H. Heating: Although the original fireplaces remain in every room, Belmont now possesses central heating. The mantels in the lower rooms have segmentally arched openings, architrave trim, a flat rectangular paneled frieze and a molded shelf. The upper mantels have segmentally arched openings, architrave trim and a small shelf.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Southampton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7.

IV. Site:

A. General setting: Belmont is at the end of a long lane that today stretches through cornfields, but that was originally lined by magnificent oaks. The house is located on high ground to catch the cooling breezes, and faces south.

B. Outbuildings: Several nineteenth century outbuildings remain near the house. Southeast of the house is a small single-bay, gable roof, weatherboarded structure, covered with shingles, that was the smokehouse. Southwest is a weatherboarded, gable roof building, two-bays long, and one-bay wide with the entrance in the gable end. The structure has sawn barge boards and served as the office. The brick chimney of the old kitchen remains north of the smokehouse.

8. 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>history</u> |
| <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

At Belmont, on the morning of 23 August, 1831, the Nat Turner slave revolt was effectively suppressed. The revolt had begun late Sunday evening at the Travis place (now destroyed), about fifteen miles southwest of Belmont, when Nat Turner and seven lieutenants met, feasted, planned the revolt, and began their journey of murder and pillage at the home of Joseph Travis, step-father of Putnam Moore, Nat Turner's owner. At its height the revolt probably included about eighty slaves and free men of color. About daybreak on August 23, Nat Turner and a reduced force of about twenty men, advanced on Belmont, home of Dr. Samuel Blunt. Apparently Nat Turner thought Belmont was deserted, but in fact, Blunt, his son, and several other men were in the house, and the Blunt slaves, electing to assist in the defense of the place, were gathered in the kitchen just east of the house. At this encounter several of Nat Turner's men were killed, and others including his chief lieutenant, Hark, were captured. Nat Turner and a few followers escaped, but were pursued and most were killed or captured by the militia near Captain Harris'. Nat Turner himself escaped and remained in hiding until he was apprehended on 30 October. After a hearing at a court of Oyer and Terminer, Nat Turner was executed by hanging on November 11.

The Nat Turner slave revolt sent shock waves throughout the South where it was widely interpreted as being part of a Region-wide insurrection. It has remained a significant event in the legends and traditions of the Nation, and recently has been the subject of a widely-acclaimed, if sometimes criticized, novel. Turner apparently believed himself to be divinely selected to lead his people out of bondage. He and his closest confederates hoped to attain a freedom, that may have been as much psychological as physical. Others were lured into the revolt by the prospect of plunder or other transient enjoyments.

The revolt was short but violent; between 55 and 65 whites were killed by the Negroes and about 70 insurrectionists killed, executed, or transported. It should be noted, that this was the only revolt after 1739 from which mass killings resulted and the last organized effort by slaves to revolt in the American South. In addition to the widespread, if largely unfounded, fear of a general conspiracy, the Turner revolt contributed to the creation in law of a more restrictive regimen for slaves and free Negroes alike. It is a fact the the Virginia General Assembly, having seriously debated the question of abolition in its session of 1831, moved away from this position in the session immediately following the insurrection in Southampton County. The Revolt was probably not decisive in the loss of momentum for voluntary emancipation however. The cause was lost, as was invariably the case before 1865, on the twin obstacles of compensation for the owners and the additional

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Southampton	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

8.

expense for transporting the formerly servile population out of the country. Compensation with transportation was beyond the fiscal means of the Commonwealth.

Belmont is also a good example of a modest late eighteenth century Southside plantation house. A distinctive feature is the Chinese lattice railing on the second story. The house was built for George Carey, probably in the fourth quarter of the eighteenth century. The Blunt family acquired the property in the early nineteenth century. In 1822 Dr. Samuel Blunt obtained Belmont from Richard Blunt, and was living at Belmont during the Revolt. Tradition states that his son, 15 year old Simon Frazier Blunt fired the first shot at the insurgents from an upper window. Young Blunt is said to have been rewarded for his bravery by an immediate commission in the U. S. Army from President Andrew Jackson.

Ann Ridley acquired the property in the 1830's and willed it to Thomas Ridley. Norfleet Ridley became the owner in 1873, and sold Belmont to R. S. Pope in 1879. Pope sold the property to E. L. Marks in 1894 and Belmont remains in the Marks family. Today it is owned by Paul Camp Marks, while Mrs. Frank Marks retains a life interest in the house.

G.P.H.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Apetheker, Herbert, American Negro Slave Revolts, New York: Columbia University Press, 1943.
 _____, Nat Turners Slave Rebellion, New York: Humanities Press, 1966.
 Drewry, William Sidney, The Southampton Insurrection, The Neale Company, Washington, D. C., 1900, pp.70-73.
 Lane, Janie Warren, Key and Allied Families, J. W. Burke Company, Macon, Georgia, 1931, p. 63.
 Southampton County Deed Book 8, page 153.
 Southampton County Deed Book 9, Page 590.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			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 ° 43 . 54 .	77 ° 10 . 37 .	° . ' "	° . ' "
NE	36 ° 43 . 54 .	77 ° 09 . 56 .		
SE	36 ° 43 . 20 .	77 ° 09 . 56 .		
SW	36 ° 43 . 20 .	77 ° 10 . 37 .		

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 145 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: July, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

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: Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title: _____

Date: JUL 17 1973

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

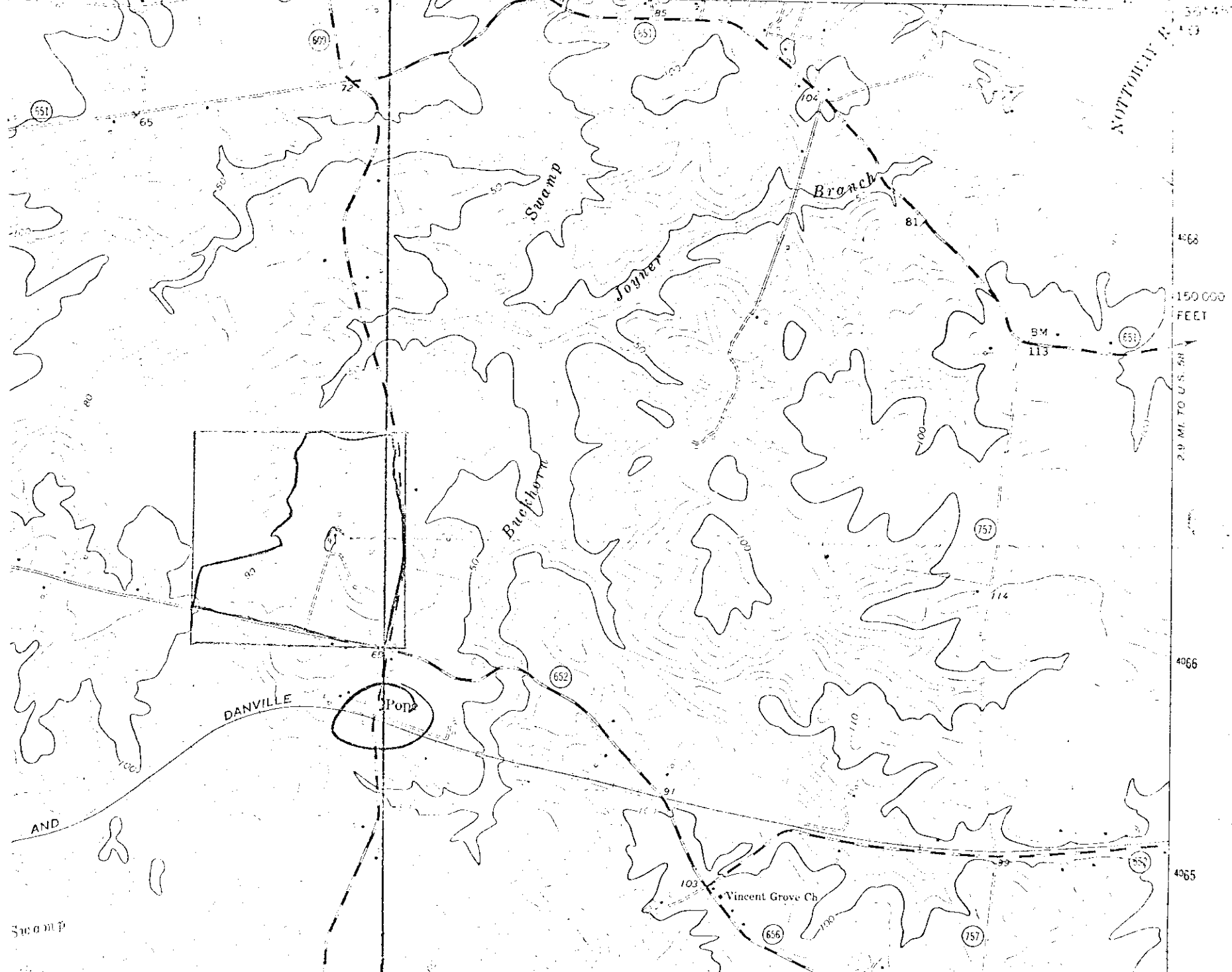
Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SHIRAZ QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA-SOUTHAMPTON CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 BOYKINS 15' QUADRANGLE

4.8 MI. TO VA. 35

306 10' 307 308 309 2 400 000 FEET 110 77 00'



4068
150 000
FEET
2.9 MI. TO U.S. 58

4066
4065

AND

Swamp

DANVILLE

DANVILLE

Swamp

Jogner

Buckhorn

Branch

Pond

Vincent Grove Ch

551

507

551

104

309

2 400 000 FEET

110 77 00'

309

4068

BM

113

551

4066

80

652

757

114

4066

91

103

656

757

4065