

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC Little Town

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER On the south side of State Route 622, 1.1 miles WSW of the inter-section of State Routes 622 and 35.

CITY, TOWN

Littleton

VICINITY OF

Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Sussex

CODE

183

**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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bailey

STREET & NUMBER

Little Tom

CITY, TOWN

Waverly

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23890

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Sussex County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Sussex

STATE

Virginia 23884

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see Continuation Sheet #1)**

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1959

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#1

ITEM NUMBER

6

PAGE

1

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS:

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1966, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1975 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Richmond Virginia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input 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

Little Town is situated in rural Sussex County, near the tiny settlement of Littleton. The two-story house is built of brick laid in Flemish bond, with rubbed brick jambs, corners, belt course and beveled water table. The house is in two parts--a three-bay, double-pile, side-hall-plan block to the north, and an original three-bay single-cell parlor wing to the south. The windows have nine-over-nine sash and stone lintels with keystones on the first floor, and nine-over-six sash on the second. There are similar stone lintels over the basement grilles. A gable roof with a modillion cornice and interior end chimneys covers the house. Scratched into a brick at the base of the wing chimney is the date 1811. There is an original pedimented front porch with a delicate modillion and punch-and-dentil cornice and an applied star in the tympanum.

The parlor in the wing is the principal room in the house. Recessed-panel wainscoting with elaborate graining is carried around the room. A mantel with paneled pilasters, an extremely tall frieze with narrow entablature blocks and central tablet and a wall-of-Troy fret cornice is mounted on the projecting chimney face. Above this is painted in a round-headed panel an American eagle surrounded by eighteen stars. Traces of another eagle, with its wings turned up instead of down, are also visible. This painting was once enframed by an elaborately molded ceramic-tile surround, which survives and is awaiting restoration.

The passage is also embellished with recessed-panel wainscoting, which is carried up the stairs. The panels are grained in a dark-red color, the stiles and rails painted green, and the baseboard marbled with a light-grey paint. There is a plaster ceiling medallion decorated with arrows, and bearing traces of paint as well. The open-string stair has a molded banister and square newel, three rectangular balusters to a tread, simple sawn brackets, and a paneled sprandrel.

The dining (northeast) room has the same type of wainscoting as in the other rooms. The austere mantel, with its paneled pilasters, tall, plain frieze and unembellished entablature blocks, is enlivened by the overmantel decoration. A square plaster panel is surrounded by ceramic tiles; those on the top and sides have a floral pattern, while those on the bottom depict exotic animals: two camels, a rhinoceros, and an elephant. The northwest room has been altered for use as a kitchen, and has no early trim.

Several outbuildings survive on the property. Most notable is the original double dairy, a frame building with sawn-work vents. Also present are a nineteenth-century crib, an early twentieth-century smokehouse, and several more recent sheds, all of frame construction.

DTU

The 28 acres being nominated are almost totally framed by trees, forming a natural clearing. Visually, this is the most important portion of the Little Town tract.

# 18 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input checked="" 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 1811

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Little Town in Sussex County is a strikingly handsome and well-preserved specimen of the Early Republican architecture of Southside Virginia. The survival of its early wall paintings, plasterwork, and grained and marbled woodwork render the house an especially important document of period decoration. Built in 1811, the property remains in the family of its builder, James C. Bailey, an early Clerk of the Sussex County Court.

The Bailey family apparently came to Sussex County from Surry County, from which Sussex was formed in 1752. Michael Bailey, father of the builder, served as the third Clerk of the Sussex County Court, 1786-1798. At his death in 1798, he left a substantial estate which included many slaves, horses, carriages, and china. One of his sons, James C. Bailey, succeeded both to his plantation and to the lucrative clerkship.

It was this man who built Little Town in 1811. The date is inscribed upon the chimney, and accords with the architectural evidence. Because of Bailey's clerkship, the large parlor in the south wing, with its patriotic American eagle painted over the mantel, has been thought to have been built as a court room, but this was not the contemporary practice, and Sussex County had a courthouse near the site of its present one, as early as 1756. Rather, the arrangement of a side-hall-plan block with a large parlor wing was one frequently employed for substantial rural houses of early nineteenth-century Virginia. The claim that Bailey's Clerk's Office was at Little Town is similarly in conflict with the normal practice.

Bailey's house was indeed a substantial one for the period. The county tax assessment on his buildings in 1820 stood at \$5200, the highest in Sussex County. At his death in 1824, he left a large estate which passed to his wife. The property has remained in family hands, and was recently acquired by Robert Bailey, who is renovating it.

DTU--MTP

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Boddie, John B. Southside Virginia Families, Vol II. Redwood City, California: 1956.

Sussex County Deed Books A, G.

Sussex County Land Tax Books.

Sussex County Will Book F.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 28 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	30,67,2,0	4,08,66,4,0	B	1,8	30,67,1,0	4,08,62,3,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	30,61,2,0	4,08,62,4,0	D	1,8	30,61,3,0	4,08,66,6,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The 28 acres comprising the Little Town property are bounded by a line beginning at a point on the south side of State Route 622 one mile west of the intersection of State Routes 35 and 622; then running 1500 feet west along the southern side of State Route 622; thence extending approximately 400 feet south following tree line; then running 1000 feet east following tree line; then curving 1600 feet southwest following tree line; then extending 400 feet west following tree line; then curving 700 generally northeast following tree line; thence curving approximately 1200 feet NNW following tree line to point of origin.

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

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 1976

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

# 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 National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE SEP 21 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Virginia Landmarks Register

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

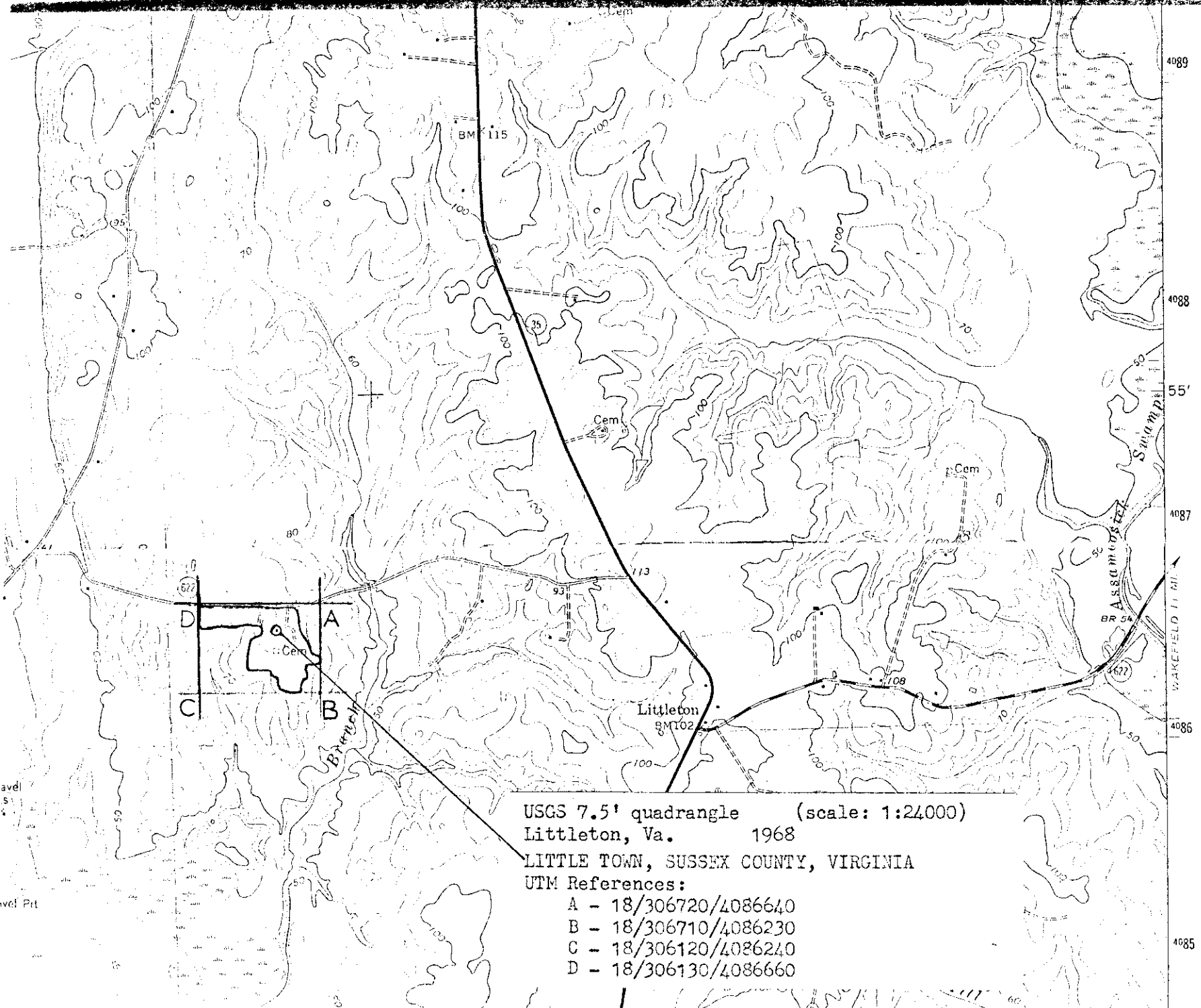
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale: 1:24000)  
Littleton, Va. 1968

LITTLE TOWN, SUSSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

- UTM References:
- A - 18/306720/4086640
  - B - 18/306710/4086230
  - C - 18/306120/4086240
  - D - 18/306130/4086660

4089  
4088  
55'  
4087  
4086  
4085

WAKEFIELD T. MI.