

VLR-5/17/77 NRHP-3/26/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Billups House; Milford (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

Approximately 200 feet SW of Billups Creek; approximately 300 feet E of State Route 643; .4 mile ESE of intersection of state routes 643 and 642.

CITY, TOWN Moon VICINITY OF First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)
STATE Virginia COUNTY Mathews CODE 115
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input 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	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	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. James O. Billups
STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 711
CITY, TOWN Mathews VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 23109

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Mathews County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN Mathews VICINITY OF Virginia STATE 23109

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
DATE 1968, 1974, 1977 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street
CITY, TOWN Richmond STATE Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

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

Milford, the Billups House in Mathews County, is set near a tidal creek on the coastal plain east of the county seat. The house, probably built ca. 1770-1790, is a story-and-a-half, three-bay structure set on a low Flemish-bond brick basement. Its original nine-over-nine sash survive as do the four-over-four sash in the three narrow gabled dormers in each slope of the gable roof. A box cornice embellishes the eaves, and interior end brick chimneys crown the building. Asbestos shingles are the present exterior covering, but early weatherboarding survives beneath them. A perpendicular, two-story wing built in 1950 is connected by a hyphen to the east end of the old house.

The plan of Milford is a variant, found in several Tidewater houses of the 1780s, of the central-passage, double-pile Georgian plan. East of the passage are two rooms, one slightly deeper than the other, with corner fireplaces; west of the passage is a single large room with a central fireplace in the gable end wall.

The large west parlor is the most elaborately decorated room in the house. The room end is fully paneled. Attenuated fluted Roman Doric pilasters flank the fireplace, which has a nineteenth-century Greek Revival mantel attached to it. The original overmantel arrangement consists of seven raised panels--a lower tier, with a large horizontal panel flanked by two small vertical ones, and four small panels in an upper tier. A symmetrical chair rail and molded cornice are carried around the room.

In the passage is a handsome open-string stair with three colonnette-type balusters to a tread, a molded rail, square newels with molded caps, and scrolled brackets.

The southeastern room, the larger of the two eastern chambers, has a symmetrical chair rail, a molded wooden cornice, and a handsome mantel. This consists of three almost-square raised panels with a light replacement shelf above them and an architrave surround framing the segmental-headed fireplace.

The northeast room also has a narrow symmetrical chair rail and a paneled mantel. This has no surround but, rather, has raised panels used as pilasters, entablature blocks, and frieze, and an original shelf supported on a heavy molding. The fireplace opening has a segmental head.

No early outbuildings survive.

DU

The nine acres being nominated form a natural geographic area which is bounded by Billups Creek, its tributaries and State Route 643.

8 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input 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	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milford, set on the open coastal plain near Billups Creek in Mathews County, is an outstanding example of the dwelling houses of the well-to-do country gentry of late eighteenth-century Tidewater Virginia. Notable for its exceptional woodwork and for its fine state of preservation, the house was built on property which has been in the Billups family since the mid-seventeenth century.

George Billups, the first of the family to come to Virginia, emigrated from Milford Haven, Wales, in the middle of the seventeenth century. Beginning with his first land grant in 1653, he built up a large holding through headright patents before his death sometime after 1673.

Throughout the colonial period, the Billupses were involved in maritime pursuits in Mathews County (then a part of Gloucester County). They were also officials of Kingston Parish and militia officers. The late eighteenth-century Billupses were prosperous planters as well. Gloucester County, Kingston Parish tax lists for 1774-1782 charge Capt. John Billups (b. 1710-20, d. 1783) with 725 acres of land, 3 white tithables, 29 blacks, 10 horses and 16 cattle. In 1783, the Kingston Parish census lists him (or his son Lt. John Billups) with 9 white tithables and 33 blacks. It is likely that Capt. John Billups or his son Lt. John Billups (1743-1815) built the present house between 1774 and 1783.

The house has remained in family hands through direct descent. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James O. Billups, are the tenth generation of the Billups family to own the property and the sixth or seventh to occupy the present house.

DU, VDS

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Vols. 6,8.
 Chamberlayne, C. J. The Vestry Book of Kingston Parish. Richmond, 1929.
 Gloucester County Patent Books, Land Books, Census Books.
 Mason, Polly C. Records of Colonial Gloucester County. Newport News, 1948.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3 8,6 2,2,0	4,1 4,4 5,6,0	B	1,8	3 8,6 3,0,0	4,1 4,4 2,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1,8	3 8,6 2,1,0	4,1 4,4 2,0,0	D	1,8	3 8,6 0,2,0	4,1 4,4 4,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The 9 acres comprising the Milford property are bounded by a line beginning at a point (D) located nearly .3 mile SW of intersection of state routes 642 and 643, E of Moon, Va.; then running almost 600 feet E following tributary of Billups Creek; thence intersecting with S edge of Billups Creek and following edge of said creek for a distance of approximately 500 feet in a generally southward direction; then following tributary of Billups Creek for a distance of almost 1000 feet in a generally southward and westward direction to intersection with NE side of State Route 643; then following NE side (See Continuation Sheet # 1)

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

May 1977

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond,

STATE

Virginia 23219

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

MAY 17 1977

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Milford (Billups House), Mathews County, Virginia

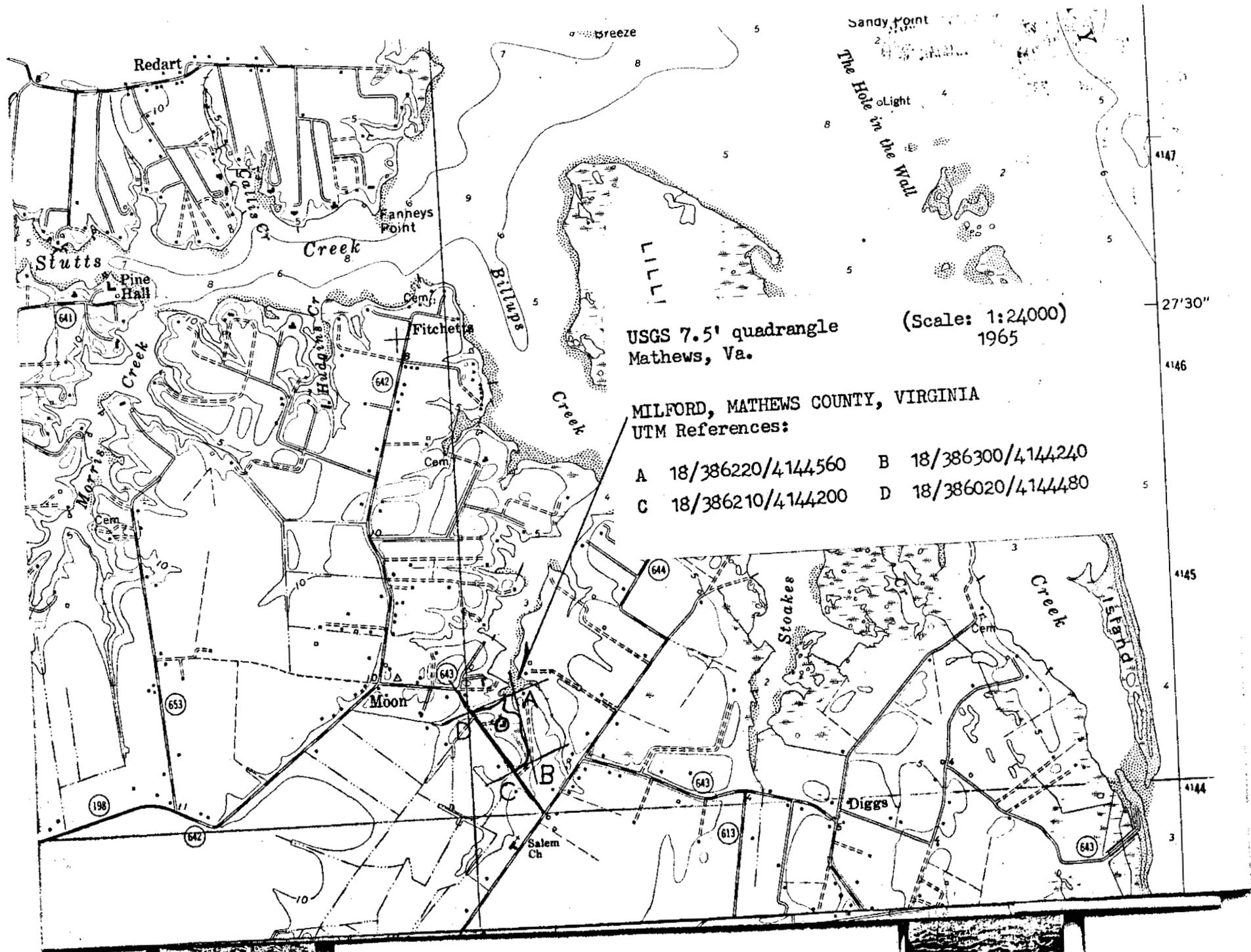
CONTINUATION SHEET # 1

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description, cont'd.

of said route for a distance of approximately 1200 feet in a NW direction to point of origin.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Mathews, Va.

(Scale: 1:24,000)
1965

MILFORD, MATHEWS COUNTY, VIRGINIA
UTM References:

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| A | 18/386220/4144560 | B | 18/386300/4144240 |
| C | 18/386210/4144200 | D | 18/386020/4144480 |