

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DESCRIPTION

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED JUN 11 1979
DATE ENTERED JUL 24 1979

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
Evergreen
AND/OR COMMON
Evergreen

2 LOCATION

E of Hopewell on VA 644
STREET & NUMBER
State Route 10, State Route 644
CITY, TOWN
Hopewell
STATE
Virginia
VICINITY OF
Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)
COUNTY
Prince George
CODE
51
149
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<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
Mrs. Inge Walker Sonuparlak
STREET & NUMBER
Evergreen Farm
CITY, TOWN
Hopewell
VICINITY OF
Virginia 23860
STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
Prince George County Courthouse
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
Prince George
STATE
Virginia

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

TITLE
(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
DATE
1959
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS
Library of Congress
CITY, TOWN
Washington
STATE
D.C.
FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Evergreen, a late Georgian/early Federal-style house, is sited on a graciously landscaped estate off state route 644 in Prince George County. Erected ca. 1807, the stucco-covered brick dwelling is a two-story, central-hall-plan structure covered by a hipped roof.

Set on a high basement, the main (west) elevation consists of a five-bay facade. The facade is dominated by a one-story pedimented Doric portico set on a brick podium. The portico replaces an earlier one and was added during extensive restoration in the 1930s. The portico shelters a transom and sidelight entry with a raised-panel door. Pilasters frame the central bay and the corners of the elevation, giving the house an exceptionally formal air. Fenestration consists of 9/9 hung sash, within simply executed frames. This replaces the original 6/6 hung sash. All windows have flanking shutters. A Doric cornice runs the perimeter of all the building's elevations.

The garden (east) elevation duplicates the treatment of the west elevation with the exception of an enclosed sun porch. The porch, added in the 20th century, covers the middle bays of the first story. The south elevation consists of three bays, framed by pilasters. Fenestration consists of 9/9 windows, with the exception of the middle bay, which contains smaller openings of 6/9 windows. The openings of the middle bay date to the thirties' renovation. Both the north and south elevations contain original semi-interior end chimneys. The north elevation is dominated by an enclosed sun porch on the first story. The elevation is similar in treatment to the south.

In the early part of the 20th century, the house became vacant and gradually deteriorated. The interior of the house was extensively damaged when it was converted into a barn and stable. Reclaimed in the late 1930s, the interior was extensively renovated. A new stair and paneling were added at this time.

The grounds surrounding the house are planted with large trees and holly. The view is scenic, extending to the tidal flats of the James River.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

RCC

Evergreen, a property of four acres, is bounded on the east by state route 644, on the south and west by a drive which extends past the front of the house, and on the north by a line that forms a boundary between the drive and the state road. The nominated property, a fraction of the original Ruffin family holdings in the 18th and 19th centuries, includes the main dwelling in an appropriate setting.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

Evergreen, Prince George County, Virginia

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	JUN 11 1979
DATE ENTERED	JUL 24 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6 & 8 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1979 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Navy. Following the outbreak of the war he transferred to the Confederate Navy and was appointed by General Lee to survey the James River defenses and set up defensive batteries. He later served as Commanding Officer of the James River defenses. Cocke made various improvements to Evergreen as indicated by increases in property taxes. He apparently had the house elegantly furnished, for among the entries in his account book is an 1849 bill for a "sculpture figure of Ariadne."²

After the war Cocke sold Evergreen and moved to Dinwiddie County, leaving an undated, detailed description of the plantation. Probably writing around the time of the sale in 1866 he referred to Evergreen as a "beautiful farm...with an extensive waterfront.... Family residence is a large double two-story brick building, well built and stuccoed with eight rooms and a kitchen exclusive of the basement....Acreege is 1447 acres...well adapted to culture of tobacco, wheat, corn and grain."³

While the interior of the house has been largely retrimmed, having fallen into decay during the early part of the present century, the exterior appears similar to that noted in Cocke's description. The house is stylistically transitional in that it incorporates late Georgian together with Federal detail. Although the porches are later replacements, they replace similar ones noted on the Mutual Assurance Society policy of 1816.

MTP/CCL/RCC

¹Mutual Assurance Society, Policy Reel 5, V. 47, #343 (1808).

²Cocke Family Papers, Account Book, Virginia Historical Society.

³Cocke Family Papers, Section 9, #122, n.d., Virginia Historical Society.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input 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 1790-1810

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Evergreen is noted for its associations with the Ruffin family, who established themselves there in the mid-18th century. The present Georgian-style dwelling was probably erected in 1807-08 by George Ruffin (1765-1810). It was owned during the mid-19th century by his son-in-law, Harrison Cocke, sometime Confederate naval captain in command of the James River Naval Defenses. The house was assessed and valued as one of the finest quality homes in Prince George County and vicinity according to antebellum tax and insurance records. Evergreen remains one of the principal plantations along the south side of the James River.

Because of the destruction of Prince George records during the Civil War, the early history of the property is difficult to document. The first record of Ruffin ownership of Evergreen dates from 1788 when Edmund Ruffin, Sr., (1713-1790), was charged with 434 acres. Ruffin apparently was a prosperous planter as indicated by the large number of slaves left in his estate. Although he maintained his residence at Evergreen probably from the mid-18th century, any archaeological evidence of his house is believed to have been significantly disturbed when the grounds around the present house were regraded in the present century.

Ruffin's son Edmund Ruffin, Jr., (1745-1807), established his home at Coggin's Point, an adjacent plantation. Evergreen thus passed to Ruffin's grandson George (1765-1810). The tax records of 1795 show the 434 acres being charged to George Ruffin. The first documented references to the present dwelling appear in an 1808 Mutual Assurance Society policy which describes the house as being 55 by 33 feet, brick and with a slate roof.¹ The house was probably recently completed as the amount indicated to replace it was \$9,100, an exceptionally large amount for the period, and one that would not likely be placed on a house of any age.

The slate roof alone indicates the house's quality; not one in a hundred of all the Virginia countryhouses insured in the early 19th century had such luxurious roofing. Further evidence of Evergreen's prominence is its appearance among the select group of private residences recorded on the Madison map of 1818. Evergreen, including its out-buildings, was valued at \$3,000 in the tax records of 1820, Upper and Lower Brandon being the only houses in the county assessed at higher value.

In addition to being a planter, George Ruffin served in the House of Delegates from 1803 to 1806. He also sat on various statewide committees including one in 1800 to oversee the Presidential election. George Ruffin's son was Edmund Ruffin, III, (1794-1865), the noted agriculturalist and ardent secessionist. Edmund Ruffin, III, never lived at Evergreen as an adult, although it is highly likely that he was born there.

Around 1832 Evergreen was conveyed by George H. Ruffin (son of George Ruffin) to his half-sister Elizabeth's husband, Harrison H. Cocke. Cocke was originally from Montpelier in Surry County (nominated to the National Register) and served as a captain in the U.S.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

Property Emergreen

REF#
79003070

State VA. Prince George Working Number 6.11.79.1381

TECHNICAL

Photos 1
Maps 1

CONTROL

pl
OK 6.12.79

HISTORIAN

Architecturally significant as an example of a James River plantation house of the very early 19th century which reflects particularly, ~~the~~ by its design in transitional Georgian/Federal style and its construction in stuccoed brick, the wealth and quality building

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

of the antebellum plantation economy. Statement of significance is not well-summarized.

ARCHEOLOGIST

Accept.
Saxe 7-19-79

OTHER

HAER

Inventory _____
Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept.
Saxe 7-19-79

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

National Register Write-up _____
Federal Register Entry 9-4-79

Send-back _____
Re-submit _____

Entered JUL 24 1979



VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION
221 GOVERNOR STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219

EVERGREEN

DOE
JUL 24 1979

Prince George County, Virginia

Credit: VA Historic Landmarks Commission
1979

Negative Filed: VA State Library

View of West elevation

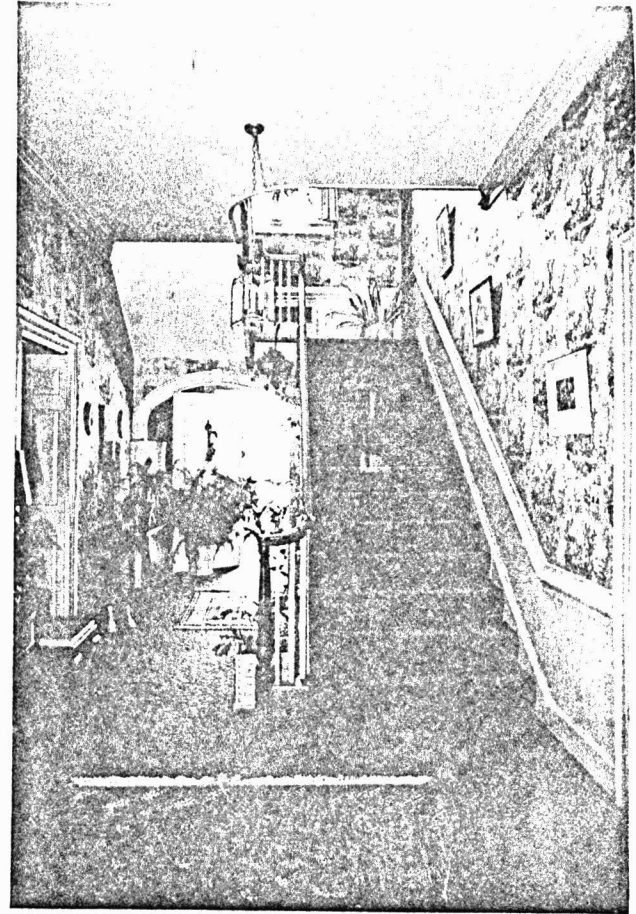
4615

1 of 1

JUN 11 1979



East Elevation
South Parlor



Stair

RECEIVED
JUN 11 1979

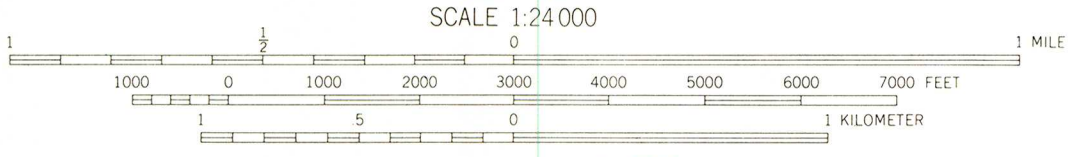
NATIONAL
REGISTER



JUL 24 1979



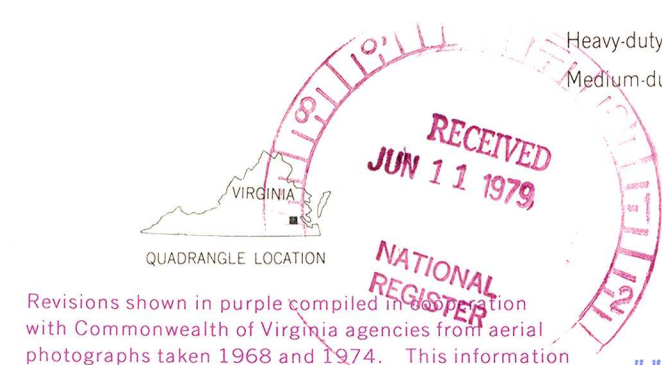
U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24,000)
Westover, Virginia
1965 (PR 1974)
EVERGREEN, Prince George County, Virginia
UTM References:
18/301350/4129260



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty	Light-duty
Medium-duty	Unimproved dirt
State Route	

CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 5-FOOT CONTOURS
NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 2.4 FEET
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



WESTOVER, VA.
SW/4 CHARLES CITY 15' QUADRANGLE
N3715—W7707.5/7.5

1965
PHOTOREVISED 1974
JUL 24 1979
AMS 5558 1 SW—SERIES 9834

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and NOS/NOAA
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965
Supersedes U. S. Coast and Geodetic Survey map dated 1953
Selected hydrographic data compiled from USC&GS Charts 530 and
531 (1964). This information is not intended for navigational purposes
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-Meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 18, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

Date Entered JUL 24 1979

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Monroe, James, Family Home Site	Westmoreland County
Evergreen	Hopewell vicinity Prince George County
Elm Grove	Courtland vicinity Southampton County
Brompton	Fredericksburg (ind. city)

Also Notified

Honorable John W. Warner

Honorable Harry F. Byrd, Jr.

Honorable Paul S. Tribble

Honorable Robert W. Daniel, Jr.

Honorable J. Kenneth Robinson

State Historic Preservation Officer

Mr. Tucker H. Hill

Executive Director

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

221 Governor Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219

NR Byers/bjr 7/27/79

For further information, please call the National Register at (202)343-6401.