

NRHP- 9/16/82
VLR- 11/12/80

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For _____ e 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 Mansion House

and/or common Village View (preferred)

2. Location

street & number 221 Briggs Street _____ not for publication

city, town Emporia _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district Fourth (Robert W. Daniel)

state Virginia code 51 county in City code 595

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<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"/> yea: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	industrial
			transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Sidney Briggs

street & number 1327 A Graycourt Avenue

city, town Richmond _____ vicinity of _____ state Virginia 23227

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Emporia City Hall

street & number

city, town Emporia _____ state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys .(2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

1) Historic American Buildings

title Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible? _____ yes _____ no

date 1959 _____ federal _____ state _____ county _____ focal

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington _____ state D.C.

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

Village View, also known as the Mansion House, is located at 221 Briggs Street in the city of Emporia. The double-pile, two-story, wood-frame house was built ca. 1815 and substantially improved in 1826. The improvements are believed to have constituted the addition of outbuildings that have not survived. A two-story ell was added to the rear (east) elevation in the present century. The house is flanked by paired exterior end chimneys. The chimneys on the north elevation are executed in Flemish-bond brick, and those on the south elevation are executed in Flemish-bond and ten-course, American-bond brick. The American-bond chimney is a 20th-century replacement. The brick foundation has been rebuilt substantially in the present century.

The front (west) elevation facing South Main Street contains the main entrance. The entrance consists of the original paneled double-doors flanked by sidelights with scroll work appearing as heart-motifs and is topped by an elliptical fanlight. The door and sidelights are framed by symmetrically molded jambs with turned corner blocks. The entrance is sheltered by a flat-roof porch added in the present century. According to tradition, the house originally had a two-story porch with Corinthian columns. A rear entrance is provided in the 20th-century addition. A basement entrance also is found on the rear (east) elevation. The Briggs Street (south) entrance has been enclosed by a porch added in the present century. Fenestration consists of replacement 2/2 hung-sash windows flanked by original louvred shutters. The 20th-century rear ell has 1/1 hung-sash windows. A dentiled cornice runs along the eaves course of the roof. The house is covered by a Victorian slate roof with ornamental cresting. A small chimney is found on the rear ell.

Village View has a central-hall plan which contains the main stair. The open-well, open-string stair has scroll-sawn brackets, a round handrail, and a spiral newel. A pedestal-type wainscot with a carved guilloche chair rail runs from the main entrance along the stair to the second floor. The remaining walls have a pedestal-type wainscot with a molded chair rail without the guilloche. Paneled double doors which originally led to the rear entrance now provide entry into the 20th-century kitchen ell. The remaining doorways in the hall have symmetrical architrave trim with turned corner blocks.

The north and south parlors have finely carved Greek Revival-style mantels. The mantel in the north parlor retains traces of original anthemion stenciled decoration, a rare survival. The south parlor has simple three-part architraves while the openings in the north parlor have symmetrical architrave trim with turned corner blocks. The north-east chamber has an earlier Federal-style mantel with incised star-and-diamond carving and a dentiled cornice. The room has a pedestal-type wainscot with a molded chair rail. The southeast chamber has been altered for use as an entrance hall for the side (south) entrance.

The mantels on the second floor are Federal in feeling. The mantel in the northwest chamber represents a provincial interpretation of a high-style Federal example. The remaining mantels are treated less elaborately. The rooms have simple chair rails and architrave trim.

Village View is fortunate in preserving much of its 19th-century trees and shrubs on its front (west) lawn. No original outbuildings survive.

RCC

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

United States Department of the Interior
 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

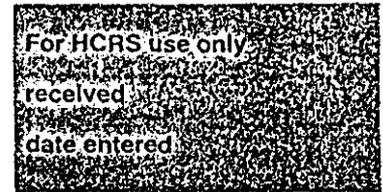
**National Register of Historic Places
 Inventory—Nomination Form**

Village View, Emporia, Virginia

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6,7,8,9

Page 1



6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- 2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
 1967, 1980 State
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 221 Governor Street
 Richmond, Virginia 23219

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of four acres includes the main house and handsomely landscaped front (west) lawn. This acreage is a fraction of the original house tract of Nathaniel Land which consisted of 959 acres. When acquired by the Briggs family in 1859, the property consisted of 947 acres.

8. SIGNIFICANCE

rail line. Considerable military activity took place nearby including a skirmish in December 1864, for possession of the railroad bridge over the Meherrin at Hicksford. According to local tradition the house's north parlor was the meeting place of Confederate generals Fitzhugh Lee, Wade Hampton, and Matthew Butler. Family letters indicate that the house served as Fitzhugh Lee's headquarters.

Following the war, William Briggs operated a school for boys at Village View to help meet expenses. Briggs's wife, Virginia, was killed tragically in a fall in the house in 1869. His son, William H. Briggs, III, inherited the property soon thereafter. It is now owned by his son, Sidney Briggs, and currently is unoccupied. Both the house and the park-like front lawn remain in an excellent state of preservation.

MTP/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Greensville County Deed Books 2-25.
Land Tax Books 1782-1863.
Personal Property Tax Books 1800-1815.
Will Book 5, (1837).

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"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
			<input type="checkbox"/> science
			<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
			<input type="checkbox"/> social/humanitarian
			<input type="checkbox"/> theater
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1815; improvements 1826 Builder/Architect unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Village View is significant as Emporia's outstanding example of Federal-style architecture. Built ca. 1815 and subsequently improved in 1826, the house is a provincial expression of the Adamesque mode. The outstanding features include the refined main stair, the highly ornamental mantels on both the first and second floors, and the scroll-work decoration in the fanlight and sidelights on the main entry. The house has remained in the family of its second owner with no major alterations. Its large and finely landscaped front lawn preserves many of its late 19th-century trees and shrubs. Village View served as a Confederate headquarters during the Civil War and was used later by the owners of a boys' academy.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Village View stands on land owned by the Wall family in the 18th century. According to the Greensville County Land Tax Book of 1787, James Wall is charged with the present house tract, then consisting of 2,215 acres. Locally prominent in the Revolution, James Wall corresponded with Jefferson and is said to have lent money to the infant republic. His property is identified on the 18th-century Field's Map as being in the town of Hicksford. One of two small towns in the area of the Meherrin River, Hicksford developed on the south bank of the river and Belfield on the north bank. The two towns were merged in the late 19th century to form the present city of Emporia.

In 1790 the property passed to James's son, Michael, who increased the holdings to 3,902 acres. In 1811 William Parham is charged with 925 acres, "allotted from Michael Wall's estate." This was the house lot he received as dower from his wife, Elizabeth Wall, widow of Michael. Although William Parham paid the taxes on the 925 acres, the title to the land remained as Mrs. Elizabeth Wall Parham's dower right. By 1815 William Parham is listed in the personal property tax books as having a house valued at \$1,500 along with two carriages, horses, cattle, and silver. The house is Village View as determined by subsequent tax records. After 1819 Parham no longer appears in the Greensville County records.

The land tax books of 1820 show the Village View property with \$2,000 worth of improvements. In 1822 the property and house were sold by the heirs of Michael Wall to Nathaniel Land, who came to the area ca. 1807. By 1826 \$1,700 worth of improvements were added to the property, for a total of \$3,700. At the time of his death in 1837, Land was a very large landholder in the area. In 1851 the valuation was reduced from \$3,700 to \$2,000. The improvements again decreased to \$1,800 in 1857. The Village View property with the house was transferred in 1859 to William H. Briggs who had married Nathaniel Land's daughter Virginia.

The house occupied a strategic location during the Civil War because of its proximity to both the old Halifax Road leading to eastern North Carolina and the main north-south

9. Major Bibliographical References

Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. Douglas Summers Brown, "Village View, The Land, The House, and Its People."
 Richmond, Va. Virginia Historical Society. A. H. Campbell, map of Greensville County, Virginia, 1864. (part of the Gilmer Collection). (See Continuation Sheet #1)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 4 acres
 Quadrangle name Emporia, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>272750</u>	<u>4062280</u>	B	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	D	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on E side of railroad tracks, about 1900' SW of intersection of said tracks and VA 611; thence extending about 175' SW along said tracks to N side of Clay St.; thence about 100' SE along said side to N side of Briggs St.; thence about 800' E along said side to W side of side street; thence about 225' N along said side; thence about 800' W to E side of tracks, the point of origin.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

state n/a code county n/a code Item 7
 state n/a code county n/a code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date November 1980
 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

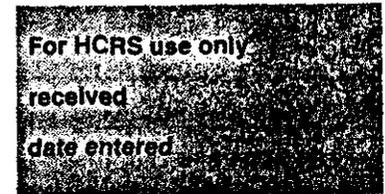
As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature [Signature] Resubmitted 8/5/82 [Signature]
 title Tucker Hill, Executive Director H. Bryan Mitchell, Exec. Director
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Va. Historic Landmarks Commission
 date NOV 18 1980

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
 date
 Keeper of the National Register
 Attest: date
 Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Village View, Emporia, Virginia

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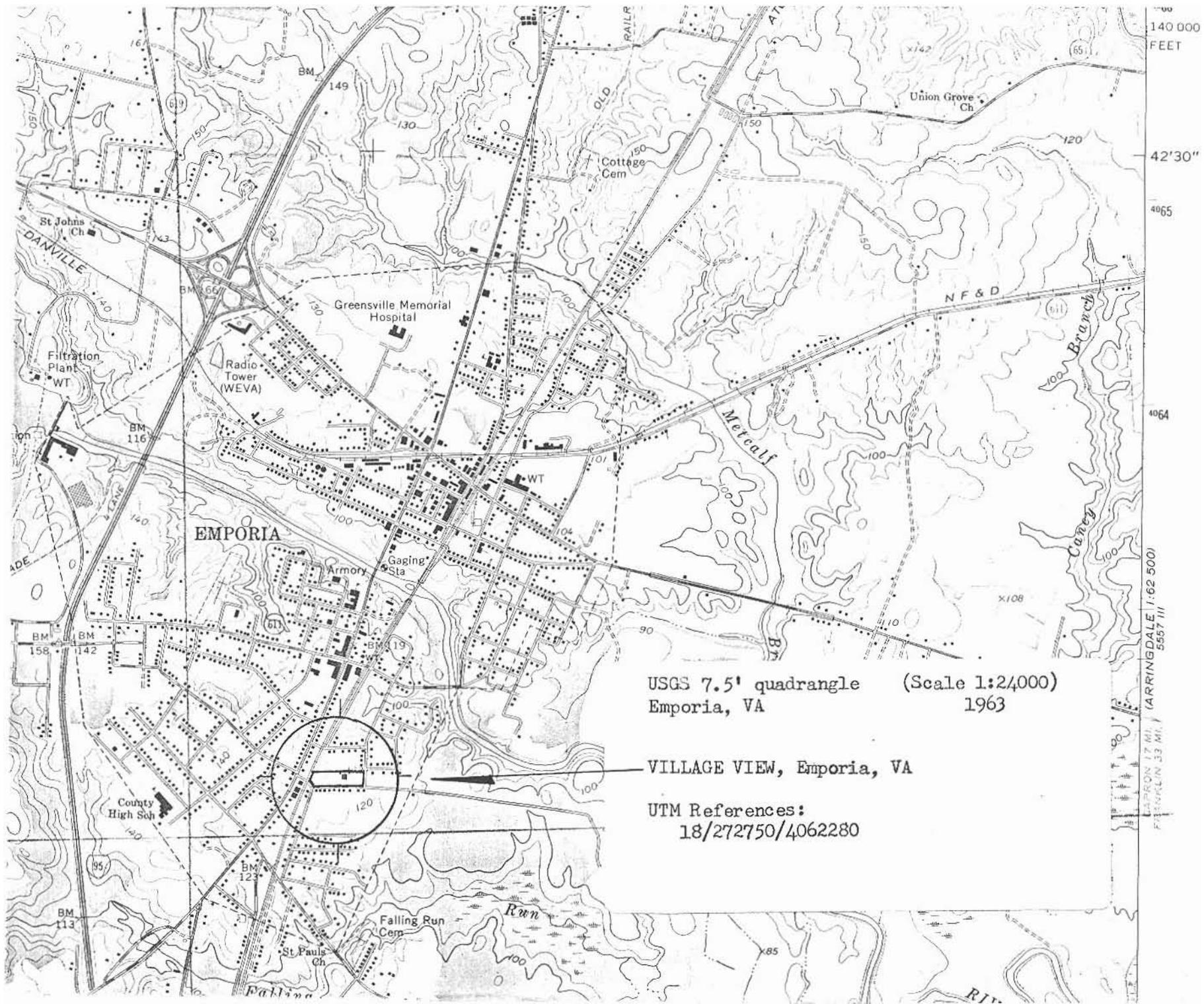
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USGS 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Emporia, VA 1963

VILLAGE VIEW, Emporia, VA

UTM References:
18/272750/4062280

CARRINGDALE 1:62 500
5557 III
CAPRON 17 MI.
FRANKLIN 33 MI.