

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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 **NATHANIEL FRIEND HOUSE**

AND/OR COMMON  
**NATHANIEL FRIEND HOUSE**

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER **27-29 Bollingbrook Street**

\_\_\_ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN **Petersburg** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT \_\_\_\_\_

STATE **Virginia** CODE \_\_\_\_\_ COUNTY \_\_\_\_\_ CODE **7**

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
___ DISTRICT	___ PUBLIC	___ OCCUPIED	___ AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	___ COMMERCIAL ___ PARK
___ STRUCTURE	___ BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	___ EDUCATIONAL ___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	___ ENTERTAINMENT ___ RELIGIOUS
___ OBJECT	___ IN PROGRESS	___ YES: RESTRICTED	___ GOVERNMENT ___ SCIENTIFIC
	___ BEING CONSIDERED	___ YES UNRESTRICTED	___ INDUSTRIAL ___ TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	M LITARY <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (none)

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME **J. Baxter Bailey & J. Prince Robinson III**

STREET & NUMBER **125 Marshall Street**

CITY, TOWN **Petersburg** VICINITY OF \_\_\_\_\_ STATE **Virginia** 23503

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC **Clerk's Office**

STREET & NUMBER **Courthouse Square**

CITY, TOWN **Petersburg** STATE **Virginia** 23803

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (See Continuation Sheet d11)**

TITLE **(1) Dulany Report for City of Petersburg**

DATE **1968** \_\_\_ FEDERAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS **Petersburg City Hall**

CITY, TOWN **Petersburg** STATE **Virginia**

## 7 DESCRIPTION

### CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

#### EXTERIOR:

The Nathaniel Friend House is a three-and-one-half-story, Federal style, commercial/residential structure located on its original site at 27-29 Bollingbrook Street, Petersburg, Virginia. The prime structure (that facing Bollingbrook Street) of the three-section complex remains in relative good structural condition and is essentially unaltered on the exterior above the first floor. It is built of brick laid in Flemish bond with splayed stone arches complete with keystones above the windows in each of its six bays. An unusually large lunette with (original sashes stored in attic) ornaments the west gable. The west elevation has had several window openings closed but their keystones remain in place. The gabled roof is presently sheathed in metal; on its front slope is a pair of well-detailed dormer windows.

The second element of the complex is an altered stair compartment on the rear of the front section. This element has a late first-floor addition which can be removed. The chamber walls are in poor structural condition.

Also, on the west side (Cockade Alley) are two three-bay gable-roofed structures which appear as a rear ell. The original kitchen and smokehouse may be incorporated in these structures. These buildings have been significantly altered on both the interior and exterior. A third and similar building on the end of this row has had the roof and attic removed. However, this building is under different ownership.

Clues of the original design and configuration of the basic building elements can be observed and protected for future restoration.

#### INTERIOR:

The first floor of the primary structure has been stripped for shops, but further investigation may provide clues as to its original details. The building is divided by a bearing wall into two commercial spaces with elegant apartments above. The remains of three front entrance doors indicate that access to the living quarters was gained through a passage leading from the street along the bearing wall to the stair tower in rear. The stair could also be entered from the alley. The upper floors of the main block retain much of their original woodwork including: baseboards, mantels, chair rails and architraves. The flooring on the upper levels is in excellent condition.

The second-floor doorways are handsomely detailed with reeded architraves. The doors each have six raised panels. Square corner blocks with beaded square inserts compliment the architrave which rests on base and plinth block. The hardware has apparently been changed.

The elegant second-floor window treatment consists of reeded architrave and raised panel shutters, which are concealed in the jambs. The window wainscot shows an applied molding and raised panel with scalloped corners. At the line of the sill the composition is complimented with a horizontal reeded design. The wainscot below the window is flanked by small reeded pilasters. The reeding on each side of the doors is treated as pilasters. Capitals of the pilasters are a continuation of the sill trim.

(see Continuation Sheet #2)

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7. DESCRIPTION

Most of the fireplace openings have been sealed over; however, several original mantels are in place. The mantels are finely detailed. The mantel frieze has corner blocks and center blocks with sunburst design and reeded panels between the mantel entablature is supported by a slender pair of engaged reeded Doric columns resting on base in a similar manner as the doors. The third-floor doors have six raised panels and are set in paneled reveals. Reeded architrave is similar to the second floor, but employs corner block with bull nosed design.

The third-floor mantels have rectangular reeded pilasters supporting an entablature frieze. Their recessed panel center block and recessed corner blocks above which is simulated design of vertical reeded triglyphs.

# SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES    1815-1816

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nathaniel Friend House is an outstanding example of urban Federal architecture. It was built by the wealthy import-export merchant, Nathaniel Friend, Jr., who also served as the Mayor of Petersburg in 1812-13. He purchased the corner at Bollingbrook Street and Market Lane (now Cockade Alley) for \$7,000 from Robert Bolling, William Haxall, et. als., in 1815. In 1816 the Virginia Mutual Assurance Society issued him an insurance policy for twenty-one thousand dollars to cover three brick buildings on this corner. These buildings are described as being three stories high with dormer windows and slate roof. Fronting on Bollingbrook Street were two handsome stores. At the rear of this structure was a two-story kitchen and a double-chimneyed smokehouse. The complex was built of Flemish bond and roofed with slate.

Nathaniel Friend, Jr. was born at Baldwin in Chesterfield County, one of seven children of Nathaniel Friend (1741-1795) and Sally Walthal (1747-1795). Around 1812 he married Elizabeth Gilliam, daughter of William Gilliam (1760-1801) and Christian Epps of City Point Farm. Records show his surviving three children to be: John Gilliam Friend born 1813; Charles Friend born 1818; and Dr. Nathaniel Friend who died in New Orleans in 1849. In addition to his holdings in Petersburg, he owned a plantation of 435 acres known as "White Hill" which he purchased from John Gilliam about 1798.

As early as 1808 Friend was a wealthy import-export merchant in the town of Petersburg. It was after the great fire of 1815, which burned many square blocks of earlier frame buildings in the old Petersburg area that Nathaniel Friend erected his fine structure of three new brick buildings on this corner. The Virginia Mutual Assurance policy number 698 recording these matters is on file at the Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia.

The Friend House buildings are still standing in more-or-less their original condition. Their relationship to the neighborhood is most important as they are adjacent to the Bank Museum, formerly the Petersburg Branch of the Farmers Bank of Virginia, built in 1817 which has been restored by the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiques and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Friend House is of comparable architectural quality as the Farmers Bank. Other National Register properties in the immediate vicinity are the Farmers' Market and the MacIlwaine House.

The interiors above the first floor as herein described, are of the finest quality and are largely intact. The structure is in sufficiently good structural condition

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #3

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

to justify restoration.

At this time the City of Petersburg is developing plans in the Farmers Market area to link again the City to the Appomattox River. This proposal is designed to promote tourism, restoration, rehabilitation and new compatible commercial development. The Nathaniel Friend House is to be an important element in this development.

This property is now privately owned having recently been transferred by the A.P.V.A., and is about to undergo a comprehensive and careful restoration. The building will be restored to a commercial/residential use.

Dr. Frederick D. Nichols, National Trust Consultant in the Virginia area has said "The neighboring three story Flemish bond building is a good example of a townhouse, well proportioned and with the Bank will form a pair of buildings along the street that is exceptionally well related and presents types that are fast becoming rare in Virginia towns".

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- A. Virginia Mutual Assurance Society - policy #698  
Virginia State Library, Richmond, Virginia
- B. Association For The Preservation of Virginia Antiquities  
Richmond, Virginia - miscellaneous printed articles.
- C. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Archives: unpublished mss.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 8	2 8 6 7 8 0	4 1 2 3 1 9 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

J. Baxter Bailey - Owner

ORGANIZATION

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

125 Marshall Street

TELEPHONE

732-2724 or 643-1977

CITY OR TOWN

Petersburg,

STATE

Virginia 23803

## 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

DATE

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Hamner-Green Report for City of Petersburg  
Petersburg City Hall      Local  
Petersburg, Virginia
  
- (3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1969, 1974      State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia
  
- (4) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory  
1968/1969      Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C.

PETERSBURG QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5' MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5598 IV SE  
(HOPEWELL)

NW/4 PETERSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

257 286 287 232000 FEET 289 77°22'30" 37°15'

