

VLR-12/18/79 NRHP-3/17/80

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
Greenville
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER .4 miles SW, intersection of State Routes 647 and 661
NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Raccoon's Ford VICINITY OF Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Culpeper CODE 047

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL P A R K
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Mr. & Mrs. James Queen

STREET & NUMBER Rt. 4, Box 3794

CITY, TOWN Culpeper VICINITY OF STATE Virginia 22701

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Culpeper County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN Culpeper STATE Virginia

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

TITLE (1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE 1958 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN Washington STATE D.C.

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

Greenville, a large Classical Revival residence, is situated on a farm southeast of State Route 647 in Culpeper County. Erected in 1854, the stretcher-bond brick dwelling is a three-story, 54' x 38'8" structure with a low-pitch M roof (ridge and valley) covered by sheet metal.

The house is set on an English basement. The front (north) elevation is dominated by a Tuscan portico of three stories. Brick columns covered with stucco and set on brick bases support a deep, Italianate bracket entablature with a small central pediment. A wooden landing on the first story extends from the front door to the columns. The landing, supported by posts, was intended to have a railing and steps. The rear (south) elevation features a one-story porch, covered by a shed roof. The porch retains its railing and steps which appear to be somewhat crude replacements. Peeling stucco has revealed the brick masonry of the columns. One interior end chimney peeks above the east wall, while two interior end chimneys are on the west wall.

The main (north) entrance is distinguished by a pedimented frontispiece enclosing a transom-and-sidelight doorway which retains its original paneled door. The rear (south) entrance consists of a symmetrical architrave that encases a transom-light doorway and original paneled door. Fenestration on the north elevation consists of three-part windows of 4/4 hung sash flanked by 2/2 hung sash. The windows on the basement story are topped by cornices supported by brackets. The first- and second-story windows have pediments supported by brackets. Paneled aprons are found beneath the sills. The windows on the east elevation consist of 6/6 hung sash topped by cornices. The west elevation is without openings; rather, the illusion of fenestration is suggested by closed louvred shutters that cover the blind wall. This is also the case with the northernmost bay on the east elevation. The shutters retain their original iron hinges.

Greenville has a central-hall plan. The basement most probably served as the dining area, while the first floor functioned as the reception area with the second floor given over to bedchambers. The arrangement was altered in the present century when the southwestern parlor was converted into a kitchen and the southeastern room into a bath. Dominating the hall is an open-well stair that ascends to the top floor. The stair, which begins at the basement has a handsomely turned newel, a rounded handrail and square balusters, two to a tread. A simple, closed-well lateral stair on the eastern end wall also ascends from the basement to the top floor. The original pine flooring and plastered walls have survived in the hall and in the first- and second-story rooms. The southeastern and southwestern basement rooms appear never to have been plastered. The southwestern room has a dirt floor and may have been used for storage. The original mantels from the basement to the third floor are simple in execution and consist of Doric pilasters supporting a plain frieze and shelf. The doors, windows, and mantels of the western parlors consist of a more elaborate crossette architrave ornamented with applied, molded square blocks. A sliding door, similarly treated, serves to separate the two first-floor western parlors. Original double-paneled doors survive throughout the house. Original hardware has been removed.

To the rear of the house is a single outbuilding. The 1½-story, 31' x 16'7" five-course American-bond brick edifice is covered by a sheet-metal gable roof. The building has two semi-exterior end chimneys. The north wall contains two entries, while the south wall has two openings that originally had hung sash. The interior is in a decayed state.

The house is set on a flat lawn dotted with locust trees. Surrounding the yard are open fields. To the south of the house is a modern, one-story residence.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 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 1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Greenville is an unusually large Piedmont rural residence of great visual interest because of its grandiose if not ostentatious quality. Although inspired by the Classical Revival, its architecture is freely interpreted rather than academically pure, all in an attempt to emphasize scale and impact. This is especially evident in the massive three-story Tuscan columns which support an exceptionally tall Italianate bracketed entablature. The cornice not only adds height but masks a rare M roof. Built in 1854 for Philip Pendleton Nalle, Greenville is interesting also because of its relative lateness; few great country houses were built in central Virginia immediately before the Civil War because of a general economic decline. Architecturally, Greenville is more akin to the buildings of the deep South than to anything in Virginia. The Classical Revival had declined in popularity in Virginia and the North by the middle of the 19th century in favor of the more picturesque styles that were to characterize post-bellum American architecture. By the 1850s the use of a Classical vocabulary became limited primarily to the domestic architecture of deep South, where rural examples tended to assume a monumental size and exaggeration of detail not always academically correct. There seems to be no clear-cut explanation of how Nalle could have amassed the fortune required to build such a house.

Nalle, whose antecedents had lived in Culpeper since the mid-18th century, was born in 1816. He owned property at Raccoon's Ford including several buildings which he sold when he purchased the land for Greenville in 1847. Consisting of 388½ acres, the property was purchased from Thomas Wharton for \$9,700. The deed specifically mentions a family burying ground of the Whartons indicating occupancy of the property at an earlier date. Nalle is believed to have operated a mercantile establishment at Raccoon's Ford which was most probably his earliest source of income. After his purchase of the Greenville tract, the Culpeper County Personal Property Tax Books list his ownership in 1852 of over a hundred head of cattle. As late as 1895 he is listed as a farmer in the county directory. His improvements on the Greenville tract are listed in 1854 as \$4,000, a figure that was \$1,000 greater than any other house in the district. Indeed, the structure's circular stair and formal plan show the work of an experienced master builder, who unfortunately has not been identified.

Greenville was strategically situated in the middle of the Union and Confederate lines between 1863-1864. At one point the Confederate forces were positioned on a hill overlooking the house from the south side of the Rapidan River and Union lines ran through the middle of the Greenville property. According to one local historian: "The people who stayed here during that time were afraid to go into the yard for fear of being shot. On one occasion when the roof had been damaged, an attempt was made to mend it but there were soon no doubt of the danger such a move brought. Bullets whistled too near the would be mender and he soon came down."¹ A field next to the house was later called "canon ball field."

At Nalle's death in 1905, the property passed to his son, Philip Pendleton Nalle, Jr.
(See Continuation Sheet #1)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Commanger, H. S., editor. The Official Atlas of the Civil War. Plate LXxXVII. New York, 1958.
 Culpeper County Deed Books E, 8.
Land Tax Books 1847-1863.
Will Book Q, 1844.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3½ acres
 UTM REFERENCES

QUADRANGLE NAME Unionville, Va.
 QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

A

1	8	2	4	4	9	3	0	4	2	5	1	0	8	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION Beginning at a point approximately 3000' W of Culpeper County line, 3000' N of Rapidan River, 1.4 mi. NE of intersection of state routes 617 and 647; thence extending 200' NE from E side of private drive along 250' contour; thence extending about 500' SSE following said contour; thence extending approximately 450' SSW to said side of said drive; thence extending 550' NNW following said drive 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

December 1979

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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE DEC 20 1979

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Greenville, Culpeper County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,7,8,9 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

7. DESCRIPTION

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The nominated property consists of approximately 3½ acres. The southeast boundary is drawn so as to exclude a modern residence built near the older residence. The nominated acreage includes the house and rear outbuilding and is a small fraction of the original Greenville estate.

RC

8. SIGNIFICANCE

In 1918 the house was sold out of the builder's family and has been sporadically occupied. It is presently abandoned.

MTP/RCC

¹"Greenville." Works Progress Administration Report, p. 2.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Dolphin, Sally Nall. Nall Families of America. 1978.
Historic Culpeper. Bicentennial Edition. Culpeper, Va: Culpeper Historical Society, Inc., 1974.
Richmond, Va. Virginia State Library Archives. Works Progress Administration files.

STATE OF VIRGINIA
GENERAL RESOURCES
STATE GEOLOGIST
IV NW
PEPER

UNIONVILLE QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5660 IV NE
(GERMANNA BRIDGE)

