

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

I. Name of Property

historic name Guerrant House other names/site number Pilot House; 60-7

2. Location

street & number North side of VA Route 612 at VA Route 615 city, town Pilot state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24138

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private/public and building/site/structure/object, and counts for contributing/noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

Large box containing certification text, signature lines for certifying and commenting officials, and date fields.

5. National Park Service Certification

Text area for National Park Service certification with checkboxes for entered, eligible, not eligible, and removed from the National Register.

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: hotel

Domestic: secondary structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: double-pile center-passage plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestone

walls wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The house is a two-story frame double-pile center-passage dwelling with a hipped roof and two massive brick chimneys in positions between the two rooms on either side of the passage. The second range of rooms is of less depth than those on the front (south). The passage is divided into front and back sections corresponding to the rooms and each passage section has its own open-riser stair. The door between the passages is the only communication between the front and rear sections of the house, and originally it was the only communication on either floor, until a door was cut between passage sections in the second floor in the early twentieth century or earlier.

The exterior has weatherboarded walls incorporating cornerboards with molded capitals. The double-hung sash windows have six-over-six lights. The entry door, flanked by sidelights, is sheltered by a wide turn-of-the-century one-story porch with Ionic columns. A one-story addition was made during the early twentieth century to the northwest corner. The interior features molded architrave trim. Mantels are Greek Revival in form with square pilasters.

The house is located in a grove of large maples on the north side of the main road through Pilot, a small community between Christiansburg and the county's southern border with Floyd County. It is the village's most prepossessing structure. Modern farm buildings are located to the immediate north of the nominated property. A well preserved vertical board-sheathed frame meathouse is located to the immediate northeast of the house. Both it and a frame springhouse to the northwest of the house date from the mid- to late nineteenth century and are contributing elements.

See continuation sheet

B. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1870-1910

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The property is significant under criterion C as an unusual variation of a popular regional house form, possibly necessitated by its function as a residence/hotel. The double-pile Georgian-plan house is one of the two best of fourteen double-pile center-passage dwellings from the 1865-1900 period. This is the only example from the period with either a divided passage or interior chimneys centered on a longitudinal axis.

Members of the owner's family state that the dwelling was the pre-Civil War home of a Major Guerrant, the owner of a 7,000-acre grant, including mineral rights on Pilot Mountain, and a grain and sawmill, and that the rear part of the house was used as an inn. Architectural features indicate a third-quarter of the nineteenth-century construction date. The 1864 Confederate Engineer's Map shows the "Pilot House" hotel on the site.

Montgomery County Chancery Case #160 (1856), Andrew Griffin et al vs. John Tinsley et al, notes that Benjamin Martin surveyed and acquired patents to 20,000 acres in the area by 1795, 7,000 acres of which he sold to a Guerrant by 1825. Tax records for 1855 and 1856 indicate that John Guerrant of Franklin County owned a total of 9,872 acres on Pilot Mountain, with no building improvements. William C. Guerrant owned this land and more by 1870, when he paid taxes on over 11,000 acres in the area. One tract of 650 acres contained \$600 in buildings. In the following year buildings valued at \$15,000 appear, a fairly high value for the period, indicating a substantial structure had been recently built on the property.

It seems likely that he built the house in 1870 to replace or augment a previous dwelling or hotel building. The tradition of use of the building as a hotel, affirmed by the 1864 map and local memory, may have extended to the new structure and may

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Interviews: Mr. Irvin D. Cole, December 1985.
Mrs. Cole (daughter and owner), November 1986.
1864 Confederate Engineers Map of Montgomery County (Museum of the Confederacy).
Montgomery County Chancery Case #160 (1856).

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A 17 557060 4100840
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____

B _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the north side of VA Route 612 140 feet south and forty feet west of the southwest corner of the house, proceed north 197 feet to point B, thence east 105 feet to point C, thence south 175 feet along the east side of the drive to point D; thence east 115 feet along the north side of Va. Route 612 to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, outbuilding, and domestic-related space. A modern concrete-block garage east of the house was excluded from the nomination.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date June 1988

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city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Guerrant House, 60-7

Section number 8 Page 1

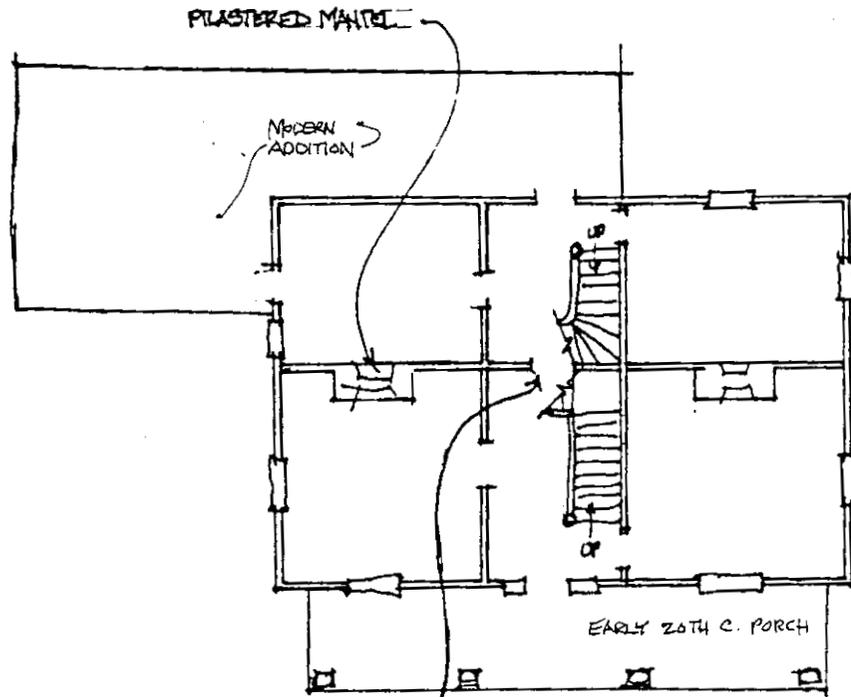
account for its unusual front/rear center passage division and duplicate staircases.

The house and outbuildings are illustrative of domestic living patterns in the second half of the nineteenth century. Alterations to the buildings are minor and do not impair the historic or visual integrity of the property. The addition to the house is small in scale and located to the rear. The mid- to late nineteenth-century meathouse and the early twentieth-century porch contribute to the understanding of the property as it changed to meet differing expectations, extending the period of significance to circa 1910.

60-7 GUERRANT HOUSE

G. WORSHAM

NOT TO SCALE



- ORIG. NO DOOR IN
- SECOND FLOOR. 'FEMALE
- 'MALE SLAVES NOT ALLOWED
- TO GET TOGETHER" (MRS. COLE)

4958 III SW
(RINER) | CHRISTIANSBURG 6 MI.

4103

4101

4100

2'30"

4099

GUERRANT HOUSE
17 557020 4100820

FRANK LAWRENCE
HOUSE
17 560620 4100650

PILOT
QUAD

