

VLR-5/15/79 NRHP-7/24/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

STREET & NUMBER State Route 10, State Route 644
CITY, TOWN Hopewell VICINITY OF Fourth (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Prince George CODE 149

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"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<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

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.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

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.

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)

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Evergreen, Prince George County, Virginia

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....Acreage is 1447 acres...well adapted to culture of tobacco, wheat, corn and grain."³

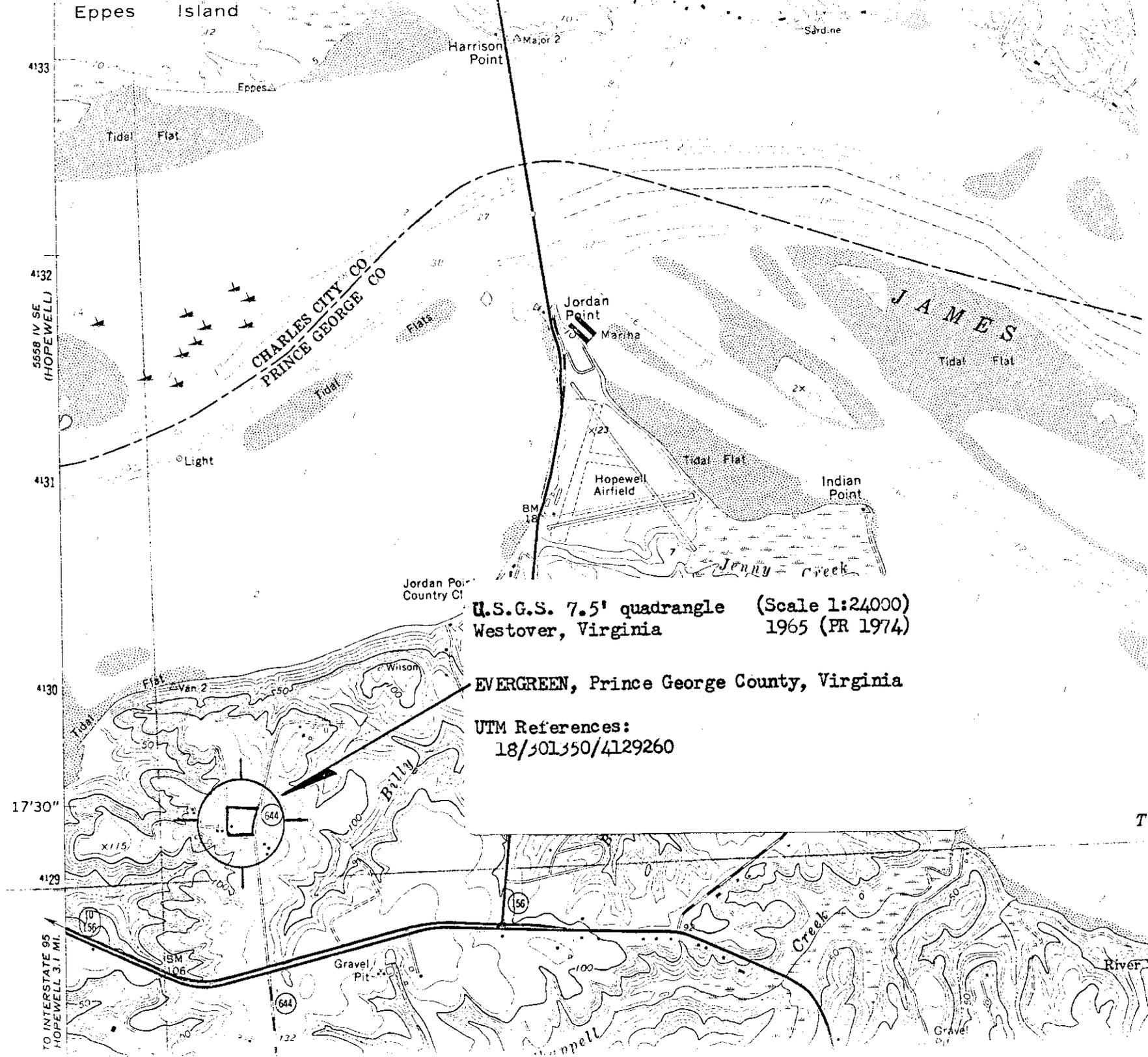
While the interior of the house has been largely retrimmed, having fallen into decay during the early part of the present century, the exterior appears similar to that noted in Cocke's description. The house is stylistically transitional in that it incorporates late Georgian together with Federal detail. 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.



5558 IV SE
(HOPEWELL)

4133

4132

4131

4130

17'30"

4129

TO INTERSTATE 95
HOPEWELL 3.1 MI.

Harrison Point

Major 2

Sadine

Tidal Flat

CHARLES CITY CO
PRINCE GEORGE CO

Flats

Jordan Point

Marina

JAMES

Tidal Flat

Light

Hopewell Airfield

Tidal Flat

Indian Point

BM 18

Jenny Creek

Jordan Point
Country Cl

U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (Scale 1:24000)
Westover, Virginia 1965 (PR 1974)

EVERGREEN, Prince George County, Virginia

UTM References:
18/501350/4129260

644

Billy

Wilson

Van 2

Flat

Tidal

x115

10156

644

Gravel Pit

156

156

Creek

River

Shippell

Gravel