

VLR - 9/9/69 NHL - 7/4/61  
 NRHP - 10/15/66

Form 10-300  
 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
 INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Charles City	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
JOHN TYLER HOME

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
SHERWOOD FOREST

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
4 miles east of Charles City on Virginia Route 5

CITY OR TOWN:  
Charles City

STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51      COUNTY: Charles City      CODE: 039

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mr. J. Alfred Tyler

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Route 1

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Charles City Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Charles City      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 51

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
HABS

DATE OF SURVEY: 1937       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY OR TOWN: Washington      STATE: D.C.      CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
 COUNTY: Charles City  
 ENTRY NUMBER  
 DATE

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

a. BACKGROUND INFORMATION: Sherwood Forest, whimsically named by the tenth President, who considered himself as much a political outlaw as Robin Hood, was John Tyler's home during the last 20 years of his life. His dream of a quiet family life at Sherwood Forest, which attained momentary reality when he left the White House in 1845, was shattered within the next decade and a half. The disruption of the Union called him into public life again, and he died in the service of his State early in 1862.

Tyler purchased the estate, originally called Creek Plantation, from Collier Minge in 1842. It comprised some 1,200 acres of land and was located only a short distance from his birthplace, Greenway. Improvements included a 2½-story frame dwelling, built in 1780, with various outbuildings. Tyler built a covered colonnade to connect the main house with the kitchen and laundry to the east, adding a corresponding west wing to serve as a ballroom and a private office. Sherwood Forest thus became unusual architecturally in that, though only one room in thickness, it was some 300 feet long.

The house, still owned by members of the Tyler family, is little changed from the time of the President's occupancy. The 1,000-acre estate includes a 12-acre yard surrounding the house, with a great variety of ancient trees and the remains of formal gardens. The house is furnished with original pieces and a number of family mementos. It is open to visitors on weekdays.

b. BOUNDARIES: (Because of poor condition of property, boundaries of the landmark, as stated below, have been reduced to about 40 acres rather than the original 1,200 acres. Acreage within boundary could and should be increased if property should later be improved.)

Beginning with a dirt road, located off the south side of Route 5, at a point about 10,400 feet east of the junctions of Routes 619 and 5, proceed east on Route 5 for about 1,050 feet; thence south for about 1,200 feet; thence west for about 1,100 feet to a small lake; follow northern boundary of said lake for about 800 feet; thence north for about 1,800 feet to Route 5; thence east on Route 5 for about 1,300 feet to point of beginning.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |   |   |   |  |
|---|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal     | <input type="checkbox"/> Education              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric    | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering            | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic       | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture    | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture            | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture   | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art            | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater              | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation       | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |   | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation   |   |   | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This was the home of John Tyler, tenth President of the United States, during the last 20 years of his life. The house is little changed from the time of the President's occupancy. The 1,000 acre estate includes a 12-acre yard surrounding the house with a variety of ancient trees and remains of formal gardens. The house is furnished with original pieces and family mementos.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Lyon G. Tyler, The Letters and Times of the Tylers (3 vols., Richmond, 1884-1896); Elizabeth V. Huntley, Peninsula Pilgrimage (Richmond, 1941).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	37 ° 20 ' 19 "	77 ° 01 ' 08 "		°	'	"
NE	37 ° 20 ' 05 "	77 ° 00 ' 59 "				
SE	37 ° 19 ' 53 "	77 ° 01 ' 06 "				
SW	37 ° 19 ' 57 "	77 ° 01 ' 27 "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 40

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Frank S. Melvin

ORGANIZATION: Virginia State Office, National Park Service

DATE: 6/30/72

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 10008

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia 23240

CODE: 51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

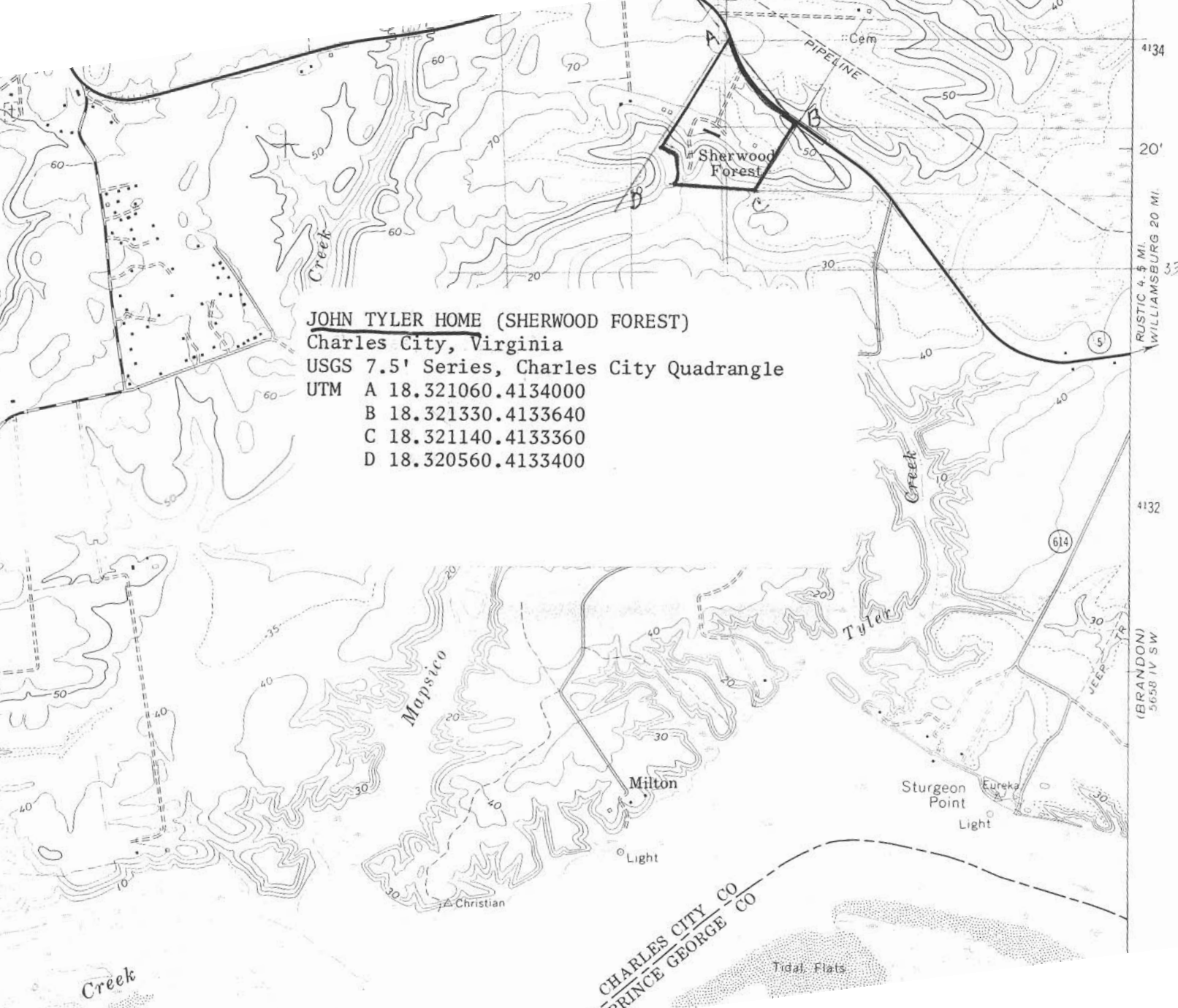
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



**JOHN TYLER HOME (SHERWOOD FOREST)**  
Charles City, Virginia  
USGS 7.5' Series, Charles City Quadrangle  
UTM A 18.321060.4134000  
B 18.321330.4133640  
C 18.321140.4133360  
D 18.320560.4133400

4134  
20'  
RUSTIC 4.5 MI.  
WILLIAMSBURG 20 MI.  
33  
4132  
614  
JEEP TR  
(BRANDON)  
5658 IV SW

CHARLES CITY CO  
PRINCE GEORGE CO

Tidal Flats

Creek