

VLR-5/17/77 NRHP-3/26/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Billups House; Milford (Preferred)

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Approximately 200 feet SW of Billups Creek; approximately 300 feet  
E of State Route 643; .4 mile ESE of intersection of state routes  
643 and 642.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Moon

VICINITY OF

First (Paul S. Tribble, Jr.)

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Virginia

CODE  
51

Mathews

COUNTY

CODE  
115

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. James O. Billups

STREET & NUMBER

P. O., Box 711

CITY, TOWN

Mathews

VICINITY OF

Virginia

STATE

23109

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mathews County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Mathews

Virginia

STATE

23109

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE

1968, 1974, 1977

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN

Richmond

Virginia

STATE

23219

## 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

Milford, the Billups House in Mathews County, is set near a tidal creek on the coastal plain east of the county seat. The house, probably built ca. 1770-1790, is a story-and-a-half, three-bay structure set on a low Flemish-bond brick basement. Its original nine-over-nine sash survive as do the four-over-four sash in the three narrow gabled dormers in each slope of the gable roof. A box cornice embellishes the eaves, and interior end brick chimneys crown the building. Asbestos shingles are the present exterior covering, but early weatherboarding survives beneath them. A perpendicular, two-story wing built in 1950 is connected by a hyphen to the east end of the old house.

The plan of Milford is a variant, found in several Tidewater houses of the 1780s, of the central-passage, double-pile Georgian plan. East of the passage are two rooms, one slightly deeper than the other, with corner fireplaces; west of the passage is a single large room with a central fireplace in the gable end wall.

The large west parlor is the most elaborately decorated room in the house. The room end is fully paneled. Attenuated fluted Roman Doric pilasters flank the fireplace, which has a nineteenth-century Greek Revival mantel attached to it. The original overmantel arrangement consists of seven raised panels--a lower tier, with a large horizontal panel flanked by two small vertical ones, and four small panels in an upper tier. A symmetrical chair rail and molded cornice are carried around the room.

In the passage is a handsome open-string stair with three colonnette-type balusters to a tread, a molded rail, square newels with molded caps, and scrolled brackets.

The southeastern room, the larger of the two eastern chambers, has a symmetrical chair rail, a molded wooden cornice, and a handsome mantel. This consists of three almost-square raised panels with a light replacement shelf above them and an architrave surround framing the segmental-headed fireplace.

The northeast room also has a narrow symmetrical chair rail and a paneled mantel. This has no surround but, rather, has raised panels used as pilasters, entablature blocks, and frieze, and an original shelf supported on a heavy molding. The fireplace opening has a segmental head.

No early outbuildings survive.

DU

The nine acres being nominated form a natural geographic area which is bounded by Billups Creek, its tributaries and State Route 643.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
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 \_\_\_\_\_ BUILDER/ARCHITECT \_\_\_\_\_

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Milford, set on the open coastal plain near Billups Creek in Mathews County, is an outstanding example of the dwelling houses of the well-to-do country gentry of late eighteenth-century Tidewater Virginia. Notable for its exceptional woodwork and for its fine state of preservation, the house was built on property which has been in the Billups family since the mid-seventeenth century.

George Billups, the first of the family to come to Virginia, emigrated from Milford Haven, Wales, in the middle of the seventeenth century. Beginning with his first land grant in 1653, he built up a large holding through headright patents before his death sometime after 1673.

Throughout the colonial period, the Billupses were involved in maritime pursuits in Mathews County (then a part of Gloucester County). They were also officials of Kingston Parish and militia officers. The late eighteenth-century Billupses were prosperous planters as well. Gloucester County, Kingston Parish tax lists for 1774-1782 charge Capt. John Billups (b. 1710-20, d. 1783) with 725 acres of land, 3 white tithables, 29 blacks, 10 horses and 16 cattle. In 1783, the Kingston Parish census lists him (or his son Lt. John Billups) with 9 white tithables and 33 blacks. It is likely that Capt. John Billups or his son Lt. John Billups (1743-1815) built the present house between 1774 and 1783.

The house has remained in family hands through direct descent. The present owners, Mr. and Mrs. James O. Billups, are the tenth generation of the Billups family to own the property and the sixth or seventh to occupy the present house.

DU, VDS

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Vols. 6,8.  
 Chamberlayne, C. J. The Vestry Book of Kingston Parish. Richmond, 1929.  
 Gloucester County Patent Books, Land Books, Census Books.  
 Mason, Polly C. Records of Colonial Gloucester County. Newport News, 1948.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Approximately 9 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	3 8,6 2,2,0	4,1 4,4 5,6,0	B	1,8	3 8,6 3,0,0	4,1 4,4 2,4,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,8	3 8,6 2,1,0	4,1 4,4 2,0,0	D	1,8	3 8,6 0,2,0	4,1 4,4 4,8,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The 9 acres comprising the Milford property are bounded by a line beginning at a point (D) located nearly .3 mile SW of intersection of state routes 642 and 643, E of Moon, Va.; then running almost 600 feet E following tributary of Billups Creek; thence intersecting with S edge of Billups Creek and following edge of said creek for a distance of approximately 500 feet in a generally southward direction; then following tributary of Billups Creek for a distance of almost 1000 feet in a generally southward and westward direction to intersection with NE side of State Route 643; then following NE side (See Continuation Sheet # 1)

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

May 1977

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.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

MAY 17 1977

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

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

Milford (Billups House), Mathews County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET # 1

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description, cont'd.

of said route for a distance of approximately 1200 feet in a NW direction to point of origin.

