

VLR-12/18/79 NRHP ? 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 Hill Mansion (preferred) AND/OR COMMON Hill House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER 501 East Street CITY, TOWN Culpeper STATE Virginia VICINITY OF Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson) COUNTY Culpeper

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, COMMERCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, ENTERTAINMENT, GOVERNMENT, INDUSTRIAL, MILITARY, MUSEUM, PARK, PRIVATE RESIDENCE, RELIGIOUS, SCIENTIFIC, TRANSPORTATION, OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Miss Lucy Wiltshire STREET & NUMBER 501 East Street CITY, TOWN Culpeper 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 has this property been determined eligible? YES DATE 1958 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

The Hill Mansion, an Italianate residence, is conspicuously set on a spacious lawn at 501 East Street in Culpeper. Erected in 1857-58, the brick dwelling is a two-story, 39' by 38'7" house containing fine mid-19th-century Victorian detailing on both its interior and exterior.

The house is set on a high brick foundation executed in a stretcher bond with random-course Flemish bond. Above the basement the walls are covered with stucco painted yellow and detailed with painted joints to imitate masonry. The front (west) elevation of four bays is dominated by a one-story porch which consists of an arcade, supported on Tuscan-style piers, with a bracketed cornice. Applied shield-type ornaments, one bearing the number "501", decorate the spandrels. A cast-iron railing runs down the wooden steps and along the sides of the porch. A porch of similar style but without the arcade is found on the east elevation. The north elevation is sheltered at the first story by an elaborately ornamented cast-iron porch covered by a shed roof. Simple iron poles support the porch at the basement level. The main entrance is composed of the original paneled door topped by a stained-glass fanlight and flanked by stained-glass sidelights. Fenestration consists of the original 6/6 hung-sash windows set within segmental- and flat-arch openings flanked by louvred shutters. The front porch windows have floor-length 6/9 sash. The residence is covered by a low-pitch, sheet-metal hip roof with a central chimney. Surrounding the roof is a deep modillion cornice which ramps in the center of the facade.

The plan of the Hill Mansion consists of an off-center hall that runs into a lateral stair hall. The curved open-well stair ascends to the second floor. The stair has a handsomely turned newel, a rounded handrail and two turned balusters to a tread. Separated by an original sliding door, the parlor and dining room occupy the north end of the house, while a bedroom and kitchen are located to the south. A small office is located between the main passage and the stair. The second floor contains four bedrooms. The doorways on the first floor are framed by crossette wood trim surmounted by box cornices with projecting overhangs. The windows are also framed by crossette wood trim. The first-floor rooms retain their original Victorian marble mantels. The original paneled doors and pine flooring have been retained throughout the house, and the second floor has simple wood mantels.

The basement, which originally served as a dining area, contains two simple mantels and brick flooring. The original kitchen to the southeast of the main house was removed in the present century. The grounds maintain a strong feeling of a 19th-century garden and were laid out in the 19th and early 20th centuries. The north side of the house is lined with cr pe myrtle. Flower beds are located in the rear and in a side lot to the north of the main house.

RCC

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Hill Mansion's nominated site consists of two acres (approximately) which are bounded on the west by East Street and on the east by the tracks of the Southern Railway. This is the same site and boundary as when the house was built. The nominated acreage includes the gardens that surround the house.

RCC

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 checked="" 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 1857 BUILDER/ARCHITECT unknown

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hill Mansion in Culpeper is a sophisticated and well-preserved example of the Italianate style, prevalent in America during the 1850s. While comparatively rare in Virginia, Italianate houses stand among the Commonwealth's finest expressions of 19th-century picturesque romanticism. Erected in 1857, the Hill Mansion represents the style as applied to an upper-middle-class, small-town residence. Still owned by direct descendants of its first owner, Edward Baptist Hill, the house has preserved its original scored and painted stucco, elaborate cast-iron and wooden porches, and fine interior appointments and furnishings. The house served as a Confederate hospital and later as a Union headquarters during the Civil War.

Captain Thomas Hill, the father of Edward Baptist Hill, established a store and residence at Fairfax (later Culpeper) in the third decade of the 19th century. The store was a highly successful venture, enabling the Hills to live comfortably in the growing town. Hill had acquired land throughout the county and at his death in 1857 left a large estate to be equally divided among his six adult children. According to the agreement made in 1857 among his heirs, the estate consisted of "a dwelling house and store, two brick ware houses and a steam plaster and grist mill in the town of Fairfax and several lots and parcels of land adjoining and near to said town..."¹ Edward Baptist Hill, the executor, purchased outright several tracts of land in Culpeper County and a town lot, number 6, in Fairfax. The deed was recorded on November 26, 1857.

Edward Baptist Hill administered the family store and supervised a large farming operation in Culpeper County. The list of his personal property to be taxed in 1852 depicts considerable wealth. He is charged with four slaves, one horse, a pleasure carriage, a gold watch, two clocks, and silverplate. As a reflection of his status in the local community, it was clearly Hill's intention to possess one of the most fashionable houses in town.

In his choice of the Italianate style, Hill was in keeping with the most highly publicized architectural style of the period. Andrew Jackson Downing, whose architectural pattern books were the most widely read of the period, illustrated in his 1850 edition of the Architecture of Country Houses "A small Country House for the Southern States," [plate 139] which closely parallels the Hill Mansion. Downing noted that its projecting roof and long extended veranda provide shade, "so indispensable to all dwellings in a southern climate."² Downing also discusses various garden plans for the Italianate house. While not as elaborate as those in Downing, the Hill Mansion garden is known locally for its beauty.

During the Civil War the Hill Mansion was frequently visited by Edward Baptist Hill's brother, General A. P. Hill, and other Confederate officers. It was used as a hospital for a time, and General Lee visited his wounded son at the house. Toward the end of the war it served as a Union headquarters with the family occupying two rooms during this

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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Hill Mansion, Culpeper, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6,8,9 PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1972, 1979 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

period. A number of family stories relate to the Union occupation. One is recorded as follows:

Behind the pier mirror Mrs. Hill secreted a bag of flat silver while the Northern officers were using the house as headquarters. The story goes that when she learned that the mirror was to be moved, she removed the silver, and was looking for a new hiding place when she heard some of the officers approaching. Quickly she placed the bundle between her legs and let her hoop skirts drop over it. Here she stood until the officers left and she had a chance to find a safe place for the silver, some of which is still in use in the house today.³

The house is regarded locally as one of the community's most important landmarks.

¹Culpeper County Deed Book 14, 26 November 1857, p. 96.

²A. J. Downing, The Architecture of Country Houses, pp. 312-313.

³"Hill House Tour", April 2, 1965, unpublished manuscript, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Archives.

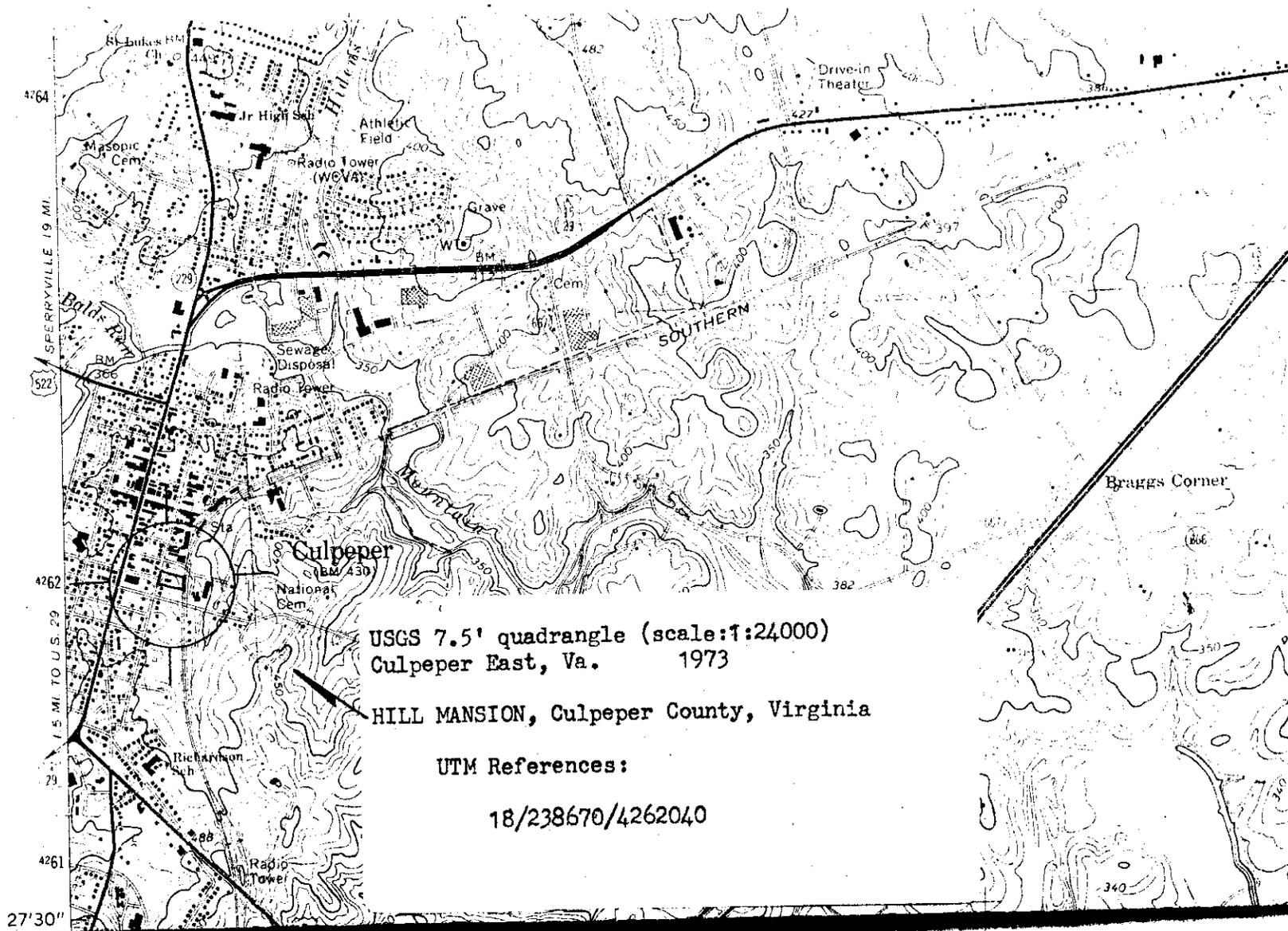
VDS/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Historic Culpeper. Bicentennial Edition. Culpeper, Va: Culpeper Historical Society, Inc., 1974.

Maps
Gray, O. W. and Son, "New Map of Culpeper County, Virginia." Philadelphia 10 North Fifth Street, 1878.

Thompson, F. J., "Earliest Known Map of Culpeper, about 1835." Culpeper Star-Exponent. Bicentennial Edition.



4264

SPERRYVILLE 19 MI.

5223

4262

1.5 MI TO U.S. 29

29

4261

27'30"

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Culpeper East, Va. 1973

HILL MANSION, Culpeper County, Virginia

UTM References:

18/238670/4262040

