

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR-6/21/88 NRHP-11/2/89

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.

1. Name of Property

historic name Clifton
other names/site number DHL File 02-155

2. Location

street & number State Route 729 NA not for publication
city, town Shadwell vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Albemarle code 003 zip code 22906

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>6</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

A. Bryan Mitchell SEP 2 1989
Signature of certifying official Date
VA Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Hotel: inn

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Federal
Colonial Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick, stone/slate
walls wood/shingles

SKETCH MAP (not to scale) roof metal/tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Summary Description

Clifton is a large, rambling two-story wood frame dwelling located on a seven-acre property off State Route 729 in eastern Albemarle County. Situated on a wooded bluff overlooking the Rivanna River, across from the extinct port village of Milton, the house is the only remaining evidence of Thomas Mann Randolph's plan to start the sister town of North Milton. Built in the first quarter of the 19th-century, the original farmstead portion is at the center of later 19th- and 20th-century Colonial Revival-style additions and alterations. Today the house stands as one of Albemarle County's finest examples of early 20th-century domestic architecture, with a core unit and five-bay facade dating to the early 1800s. The property also includes a detailed brick office (ca. 1833-45); ruins of an early 19th-century springhouse; the shaft of a 19th-century stone-lined ice house; an early 20th-century chicken coop and an altered 1920s brick garage, all associated with Clifton's early history and modern renovations.

Architectural Analysis

Clifton is an irregularly shaped two-story wood frame shingle sheathed dwelling. Originally built as a small five-room farmstead, the house now includes twenty-three rooms. The original early 19th-century core, built and used by Thomas Mann Randolph, is delineated by the symmetrical five-bay facade, beneath the ca. 1930 double level porch, on the eastern elevation. Due to modern additions, the original roof is covered but its barge boards still project from underneath the shallow-pitched porch roof on the east side. Beaded weatherboards, attached with wrought-iron nails and a box cornice with molding consisting of a smaller cyma reverse below a larger cyma recta can be found in the south end of the attic. The exterior sections of the old double end chimneys have been rebuilt in Flemish-bond brick. The exposed eastern facade of the Randolph period core was retrimmed during the 1920s. A 19th-century photograph of Clifton shows beaded weatherboard and 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Shingles now cover the weatherboard, 9/9 sash windows replace the smaller openings and a fanciful fanlight and sidelight Federal-style doorway update the original conception. The 19th-century facade was altered in a manner that complements the original simple Federal-style details. For instance, the early 20th-century photograph shows a five-bay, one-level porch with a second-story gabled gallery.

See continuation sheet

8. 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)

Politics/Government

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance

1800-1828

ca. 1800 & ca. 1925

Significant Dates

1826-28

ca. 1800 &
ca. 1925

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Randolph, Thomas Mann

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

Statement of Significance

Clifton is significant because it was built and used by Thomas Mann Randolph (1768-1828) who served as Governor of Virginia, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, member of the U.S. Congress, and was son-in-law of Thomas Jefferson. Dating to the first quarter of the 19th-century, Clifton was part of the never-to-be port of North Milton, a sister port to the now extinct village of Milton directly across the Rivanna River. Spurred on by the economic prosperity of Milton, the most prosperous town in Albemarle County during the last quarter of the 18th-century, Randolph and several partners planned the town of North Milton adjacent to the Milton canal that supported agricultural commerce in the Albemarle region. The Clifton house is believed to have been built as an office but is referred to as a dwelling in Mutual Assurance Society policies. It was here that Thomas Mann Randolph spent time away from his family to work and in his later years, 1826-1827, with Edgehill sold to pay off debts, Clifton became his refuge when he became estranged with his son, Thomas Jefferson Randolph. Clifton has passed through the hands of seventeen owners, alterations and additions have been made to the once simple five-room house, yet at the core of the present fine Colonial Revival-style house remains most of the early 19th-century building.

Historical Background

The Clifton property was once part of the original land grant owned by William Randolph (of Tuckahoe), dating to 1735. In 1790, Thomas Mann Randolph, the grandson of William, married his third cousin Martha Jefferson (daughter of Thomas Jefferson) and the first Edgehill house was built shortly afterwards, east of the Three-Notched Road. A short distance away, on the western border of the estate, the bustling town of Milton was reaching its economic zenith.

See continuation sheet

