

PH0502995

02-30

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 22 1977

DATE ENTERED

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

VLR - 5/17/87, NRHP - 5/6/80

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Esmont

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Approximately .8 mile N of Esmont; approximately 750 feet N of State Route 715; .3 mile E of Ballinger Creek; .3 mile SW of intersection of state routes 715 and 719.

CITY, TOWN

Esmont

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

X VICINITY OF

Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

COUNTY

Albemarle

CODE

003

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Roger Lea MacBride

STREET & NUMBER

Suite 14, 2401 Arlington Boulevard

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia

22903

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Albemarle County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Charlottesville

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1957

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

7 DESCRIPTION

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Esmont is an open tract of land near the hamlet of the same name in southern Albemarle County. The large, square Jeffersonian-style dwelling house sits atop a knoll, facing north.

The house is a two-story, three-bay structure built of brick laid in Flemish bond, with a white-painted water table and belt course. Each of the openings in the facade has three parts. One-light-wide, two-over-two-over-two sidelights flank the front door and each of the six-over-six-over-six, triple-hung, first-floor windows. In the second floor the sash are double hung with six-light sash used in the end windows and eight-light sash in the central one, again with sidelights used on each opening. The side and rear windows all have eight-light sash, triple-hung on the first floor and double-hung on the second. All of the windows and doors have stone lintels with turned corner blocks. A full-length tetrastyle porch with Roman Doric columns and entablature shelters the front of the house. This porch has been enlarged; an early twentieth-century photograph reveals that it once covered the doorway only and that the columns were paired. A full Doric entablature encircles the eaves of the low hipped roof, which is surmounted by internal chimneys flanking the short ridge, further emphasized by the use of a balustrade with alternating solid and Chinese lattice panels. This balustrade appears to be an original feature; the porch balustrade is a twentieth-century copy of it and replaces an open balustrade with plain balusters. A small one-story kitchen has been added to the west side of the house in recent years.

The plan of Esmont is a variation of the double-pile, central-passage plan. In this case, the passage extends only halfway through the house. To either side of the passage are a library and a narrow stair passage running along the front of the house, with a small room (now divided into several service rooms) behind it. The rear of the house is occupied by two large rooms connected by double doors.

The passage is decorated with a molded chair rail, an elliptical plaster ceiling medallion, and a plaster cornice. On the front door is a large, silvered brass lock which may be older than the house. The passage floor is laid in a herringbone pattern similar to that in the hall of Monticello.

In the library a molded chair rail is carried around the room, and a mantel with fluted Roman Doric pilasters supporting a central tablet, entablature blocks, and a molded shelf decorates the fireplace. There are a plaster cornice and ceiling medallion here as well. The door and window trim in this room, and throughout the house, is symmetrically molded with turned corner blocks.

The stair is not elaborate. It has a square newel, four rectangular balusters to a tread, and a molded rail.

The two large rooms are decorated alike, except for their mantels. Each has an elaborate ceiling of geometrical plaster work and a projecting chimney breast with a dark gray King of Prussia marble mantel. The mantel in the dining (southwest) room consists of fluted pilaster-like piers with a similar horizontal spandrel in

See Continuation Sheet #2

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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 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 1816-1820 BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Esmont reflects the influence Thomas Jefferson's distinctive architectural style had on the houses of his friends and neighbors in the Virginia Piedmont. A number of his acquaintances had Jefferson supply designs directly to them. Others merely had their workmen adapt certain features of the style or employed builders and artisans who had worked for Jefferson and were familiar with his mode of design. No documentation has come to light indicating that either Jefferson or any of his employees had a hand in the design and building of Esmont; however, the use of numerous architectural motifs characteristic of the work of the statesman-architect indicates that whoever was responsible for its appearance was well acquainted with Jefferson's buildings. These motifs include the Roman Doric porch, the Chinese lattice railings, the full Doric entablature surrounding the house, and the triple-hung sashes. These gleaming white details set against deep-red, Flemish-bond brickwork and dark-green louvred blinds give the house an unmistakably Jeffersonian air. Setting the house apart from many of its neighbors is the exceptional quality of its interior detailing and appointments included among which are Philadelphia marble mantels, ornamented plaster ceilings, silver-plated English locks, and cut-glass doorknobs and latches. The herringbone parquet floor in the entrance hall, similar to that in Monticello, is one of the few known ante-bellum examples in Virginia.

Esmont was built between 1816 and 1820 as indicated by an increase of taxes by \$8700 for new buildings during that period. It was erected by Dr. Charles Cocke of Southampton County who acquired the surrounding 1183-acre tract in 1815 from Rezin Porter. Dr. Cocke was a nephew of James Powell Cocke for whom Jefferson designed the house Edgemont, located a few miles distant. Cocke was also a distant cousin of General John Hartwell Cocke whose famous Jeffersonian-style ville, Upper Bremono, was erected at approximately the same time as Esmont.

Although he was a physician Cocke does not appear to have practiced while living in Albemarle. A Whig, he served in both the Virginia House of Delegates and Senate. He also was involved in land speculation in Texas where he lost much of his fortune. Cocke corresponded with Jefferson, but surviving letters do not mention anything relating to architecture or building.

Cocke sold Esmont in 1848 to Bedford Brown. The next year it was sold to William Branch who farmed the estate until his death in 1890. It was then acquired by John and Henry Lane. Mrs. Henry Lane received the house and some 123 acres in 1907

See Continuation Sheet #3

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albemarle County Deed Book 19, p. 274.
 Albemarle County Land Tax Books 1815-1845.
 Cocke, Virginia Webb. Cockes and Cousins. Vol. II., 1974.
 Rawlings, Mary. Ante-Bellum Albemarle. Charlottesville, Va., 1935.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 53

QUADRANGLE NAME Esmont, Va.

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	71,0	6,0	4,1	9,1	2,0	B	1,7	71,0	8,6	4,1	9,1	0,0
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
C	1,7	71,0	7,6	4,1	9,0	5,0	D	1,7	71,0	3,6	4,1	9,0	5,9
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING				ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING		
E	1,7	71,0	4,8	4,1	9,1	1,8	F						
	ZONE	EASTING		NORTHING									
G							H						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The boundaries are arbitrarily drawn to include a significant portion of the scenic park around the house and the accesses to the public roads. The north and eastern boundaries are State routes.

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

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

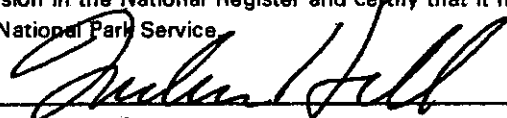
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

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.

Resubmitted: 12/27/79

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

FHR-8-300A
(11/78)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Esmont, Albemarle Co., Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 6

PAGE 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1967, 1977 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 22 1977

DATE ENTERED

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

Esmont, Albemarle Co., Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET

#2

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE

1

7. DESCRIPTION

the frieze; the intersections of these elements are treated with fluted brackets which support the plain shelf. In the parlor, fluted Roman Doric pilasters support fluted entablature blocks, and in the frieze there is a horizontal fluted band similar to that on the dining room mantel.

Much early hardware, notably some handsome door latches with glass doorknobs and lock knobs, survives throughout the house.

Four early outbuildings remain. West of the house is a Flemish-bond brick kitchen with a low hipped roof; it has been enlarged by the present owner for use as an office and library. East of the house, complementary to the kitchen, is a similar building, possibly an office, with an added brick lean-to and a door cut in one wall to adapt it for use as a garage. Stretching south in a line with the office are two small pyramidal-roofed brick buildings, a dairy and a smokehouse.

DU

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The house sits atop a steep, rounded hill. The acreage included incorporates the house, the immediate surrounding fields which form a park-like setting for the house, and the scenic main and secondary approaches. The main approach is axial and leads up from State Route 719. The rear entrance leads from State Route 715.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED AUG 22 1977

DATE ENTERED

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

Esmont, Albemarle Co., Va.

CONTINUATION SHEET

#3

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE

1

8. SIGNIFICANCE

as part of a divorce settlement and lived there until 1949 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Graham. Between 1952 and 1954 the Grahams undertook an extensive restoration of the house directed by Floyd Johnson, a Charlottesville architect. In 1963 Esmont, then comprising 109 acres, was sold to Lucille F. Connell who sold it in 1968 to the present owner, Roger Lea MacBride. Mr. MacBride was the candidate of the American Libertarian Party in the 1976 Presidential election.

CL & MTP

WILLE

78° 37' 30"
37° 52' 30"

ALBERENE 0.8 MI.

710000m E

711

712

35'

713

714

4194000m N

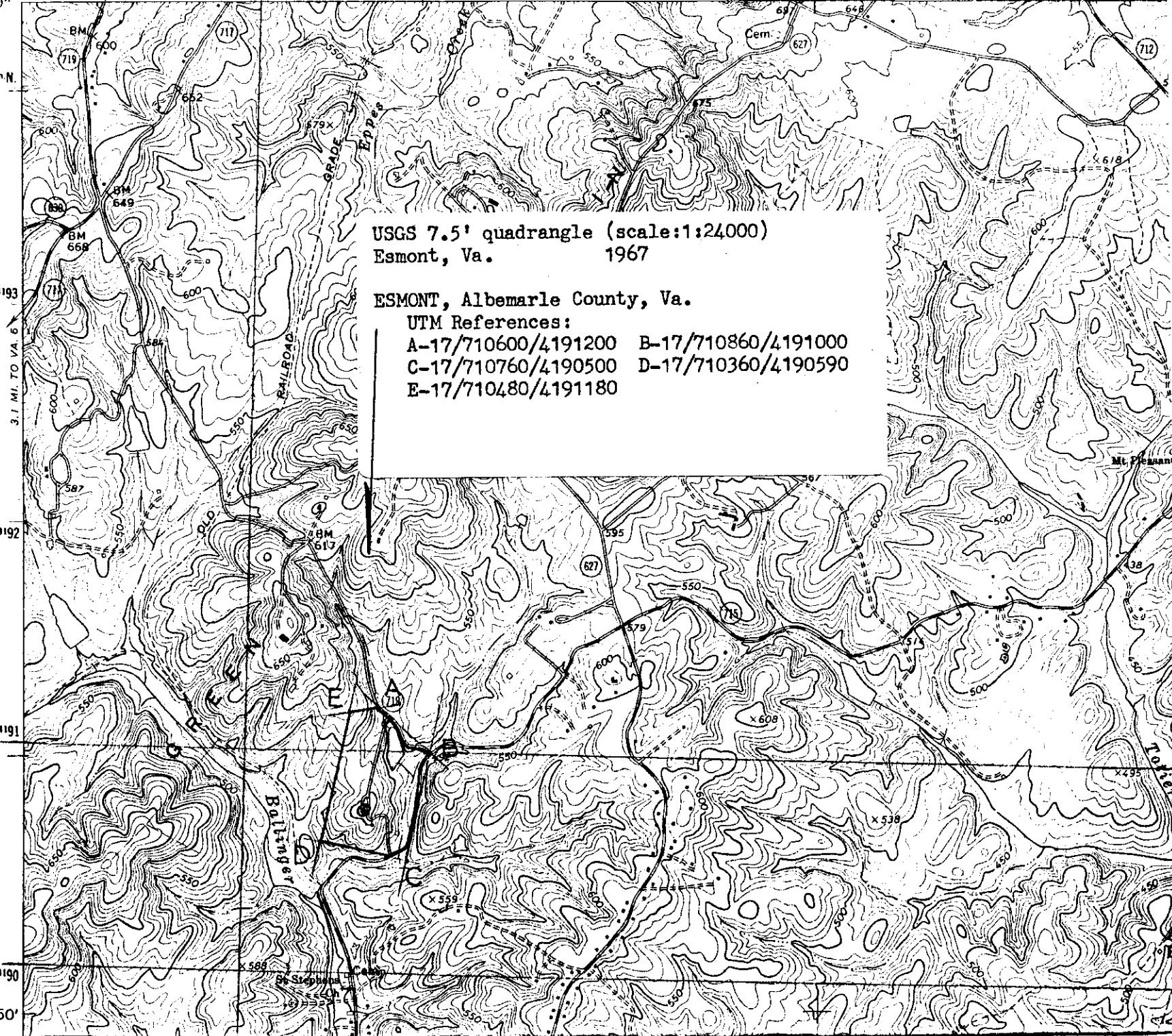
4193

4192

4191

4190

50'



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)
Esmont, Va. 1967

ESMONT, Albemarle County, Va.

UTM References:

- A-17/710600/4191200
- B-17/710860/4191000
- C-17/710760/4190500
- D-17/710360/4190590
- E-17/710480/4191180