United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Signature of certifying official/Title: Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal In my opinion, the property meets or criteria. Signature of commenting official:	
Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal In my opinion, the property meets of	Government
Virginia Department of Historic Resources	
• •	Date
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>X</u> A <u>B</u> <u>X</u> C <u>D</u>	
Applicable National Register Criteria:	<u>C</u> local
In my opinion, the property X meets doe recommend that this property be considered significance:	_
I hereby certify that this <u>X</u> nomination <u>re</u> re the documentation standards for registering properties and meets the procedural and professional	erties in the National Register of Historic
As the designated authority under the National H	istoric Preservation Act, as amended,
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
City or town: Virginia Beach State Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A	e:VA County: <u>Independent City</u>
2. Location Street & number: _5588 Moores Pond Road	
Other names/site number: <u>DHR ID# 134-0035</u> Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	<u></u>

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and

Object

Boundary Decrease) City of Virginia Beach, VA Name of Property County and State 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: ___ entered in the National Register ___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ determined not eligible for the National Register ___ removed from the National Register ___ other (explain:) _____ Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5. Classification **Ownership of Property** Private: Public – Local Public – State Public – Federal **Category of Property** Building(s) District Site Structure

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and	
Boundary Decrease)	City of Virginia Beach, VA
Name of Property	County and State

Contributing 3	Noncontributing4	buildings
0	0	sites
4	2	structures
0	0	objects
7	6	Total
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ___0____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC single dwelling _AGRICULTURE storage__ _AFRICULTURE animal facility_

Current Functions

_DOMESTIC single dwelling

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

COLONIAL: Postmedieval English: Southern Colonial

Materials:

Foundation: BRICK

Roof: WOOD Walls: BRICK

The Weblin House (VDHR #134-0035, NRHP reference #74002248) was listed on the National Register in 1974. The nomination was typical of those from that period, with eight paragraphs of narrative text and no inventory of the resources beyond the house itself. This nomination expands the narrative description and the statement of significance. It includes a complete inventory and description of secondary resources. It has an expanded area of significance and a more defined period of significance supported by expanded research and context. The 1974 nomination did not note the property's acreage but included a map that showed the rough parcel outline within a larger polygon with UTM references. The boundary mapped in the VDHR's VCRIS (Virginia's Cultural Resource Information System) database is roughly 149 acres. Since 1974, much of the acreage included in the original nomination has been sold off, subdivided, and developed, thus this form defines and justifies a new, smaller and defensible boundary of 6.54 acres that includes the intact historic setting and all known associated historic resources. Resource counts in Section 5 are inclusive of the Weblin House as if it had not been listed previously and include additional resources, some of which were extant in 1974. An expanded period and areas of significance allow for the inclusion of additional resources designated as contributing.

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Weblin House property is a +/- 6.5-acre parcel located at the terminus of Moore's Pond Road and north of Weblin Farm Road (which intersects with Moore's Pond Road), at the rear of a small subdivision of single-family homes built after 1982. The lot is wrapped by single-family home development, save for at the north where there is a marshy, undeveloped area at a tributary to Lake Smith. The western portion of the parcel has silos, a shed, and a dairy barn dating to its 20th century use as a dairy farm. Closer to the original house at the west and north are a secondary dwelling, a garage, a swimming pool, and a garden shed. An additional dwelling is east of the house. There are mature trees around the perimeter of the parcel and in the precinct near the house, while cleared areas, formerly dedicated to agricultural use, are north of the house. The Weblin House, originally a side-gabled house and rectangular in footprint, was altered to have a gambrel roof. An addition was built at the northwest and, later, an ell was added

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

perpendicular to the addition. The older core of the house retains an exposed brick endwall with notable brickwork and a massive end chimney.

Narrative Description

The Weblin House now sits on a parcel of land that is a fragment of its historic expanse. It is located at the rear of a single-family subdivision that is northeast of the intersection of major arterial roads Wesleyan Drive and Diamond Springs Road. To the north and east of the property is a golf course community and to the northwest is a tributary that feeds Lake Lawson and Lake Smith. The short Moores Pond Road, less than a mile in length, follows the alignment of the property's former farm road that once extended through agricultural lands, at minimum, Wesleyan Drive and Diamond Springs Road. While the subdivisions around the house expanded, Weblin Farm Road, which defines the current parcel's southwestern boundary, was built in 1998. It appears that the wooden fence and crepe myrtles along the road were installed at that time. The drive into the parcel leads to a roughly triangular paved parking area that services the Weblin House and the dairy barn with paved drives extending to the east past a landscaped circle to the eastern house, and to the north, between the house and the dairy barn, with an additional landscaped circle, to serve the garage and western house. A stone and concrete walkway leads from the parking area to the principal entrance of the Weblin House. A pool and a garden shed are located behind the house.

Much of the understanding of the evolution of the site comes from comparative analysis of aerial photography, given a dearth of maps and site plans. In 1937, the house with its northwest addition, the barn and silos, two secondary dwellings, and garages are evident. A farm road on a southwest axis from the house cuts through agricultural fields. Sometime between 1958 and 1982, a long, low shed, northeast of and perpendicular to the extant shed, was built. Between 1982 and 1994, residential subdivisions to the north, east, and southwest were built on the former agricultural fields. In 1998, additional homes ranging from the east to the northwest were under construction. Between 1998 and 2002, the rear ell was added to the house, and the pool and garden shed were added. Between 2002 and 2007, the eastern dwelling was enlarged, and the northeastern long shed was demolished.¹

¹ City of Virginia Beach GIS-Historical Map Viewer, https://vbgov.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/imageryviewer/index.html?appid=6bc830dceb8d48bda32f6da4572971d

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

INVENTORY

Weblin House ca. 1710

Contributing Building

Exterior

The Weblin House has an original section at the southeast (Phase 1) with an addition at the northwest dating to the late 1930s² (Phase 2) and a rear ell (Phase 3) extending from the Phase 2 addition, built ca. 2000.

The Phase 1 house is brick and has a gambrel roof clad in wooden shingles, with shed dormers. The roof eaves are boxed, likely in a 20th century iteration, which obscures some construction details. The southeast elevation has an exterior end brick chimney. An interior brick chimney with a corbelled cap is located between the Phase 1 and Phase 2 sections. Phase 1 has a water table with an ovolo molded brick cap, below which, the brickwork is laid in English bond.

The facade of the Phase 1 block is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. The elevation is three bays across. There are jack arches above the door and window openings. Windows on the facade are replacement six-over-six vinyl sash that respect the graduated fenestration sizes between the first floor and dormers. The current primary entrance has a double-leaf storm door protecting a replacement double-leaf entrance, each leaf having two recessed panels and extensive ironwork hardware. Three shed dormers, aligned above the door and windows below, each have a small, shingled hood that is an extension of the upper level of the roof. At the facade's south corner is a small section of projecting brickwork at the eave that has been partially slurried over with mortar, which may have been a corbelling detail.

The southeast end wall shows some of the early structural evolution of the house. Prominent diagonal chevrons of glazed headers indicate the profile of the house's original gable roof. Above the chevrons, in the gambrel section, the brick is a uniform red color, laid in four-course American bond. There is a projecting two-course beltcourse at the level of the eave. Below the beltcourse, the endwall is laid in Flemish bond with glazed headers. On the interior of the chevron courses and above the beltcourse, the end wall is laid in English bond. Centered on the end wall is a massive brick Virginia chimney. The water table with the molded cap continues across the chimney. The chimney has two sets of brick tiled shoulders and a stack that is T-shaped in section with a corbelled cap. The chimney itself is laid in English bond with beltcourses at each juncture. Though there has been some later repair of the brickwork, queen's closers remain at the exterior edges of the wall, below the chevron course.

The northeast elevation of Phase 1 of the house is laid in English bond. It has a single-leaf door set north of center, flanked by windows on the first floor. The windows have jack arches above; however, the door has a flat lintel. Between the door and the north window is a segmental arch,

² Expanded ca. 2000

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

flush in the brick wall, that likely marks the location of an earlier door. The second floor has four shed dormers, each housing a replacement vinyl sash window.

Phase 2 of the house was built sometime in the 1930s. It is evident in a 1937 aerial photo but not in photos by Frances Benjamin Johnston shot between 1930 and 1939 for the Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South.³ Originally Phase 2 had a gable roof, but after 1997⁴ it was raised to be a gambrel roof, slightly shorter than the gambrel roof of Phase 1. A prominent seam on the facade divides the Phase 1 brickwork from that of Phase 2, which is laid in seven-course American bond, with a header course at the eave and no water table. The Phase 2 facade has

three windows: a single window at the south and paired windows at the north. Both masonry openings have a rowlock sill. Windows are replacement vinyl sash with simulated divided lights. The northwest elevation of Phase 2 has brick walls on the lower level with wooden shingling in the gambrel above. The first floor has two masonry openings, each with a brick rowlock sill, and each housing a bank of three sash windows. A four-light window is centered in the gambrel above.

Phase 3, built ca. 2000, is a gambrel-roofed rear ell that extends to the northeast at the full width of the Phase 2 construction. This section is frame, and rests on a running bond brick foundation. Exterior walls are clad in beaded weatherboard and its roof is clad in wooden shingles. Its northwest elevation has three cased openings on the main level. The one adjacent to Phase 2 houses paired sash windows, a central opening houses a single sash window, and the final framed opening contains a fixed glass block window. There are three shed dormers on this elevation, each housing a single sash window. Its northeast elevation has wood shingling in the exposed gambrel with a four-light window matching that in the exposed gambrel of Phase 2. Spanning this elevation is a shed-roofed, three-bay porch supported by wood posts, which shelters a glass block window at the north and a single-leaf glazed door at the south. The southeast elevation has two shed dormers with sash windows in its upper level. On its lower level is a single-leaf door with a full-height sidelight flanked to the north by a bank of three windows and to the south by double windows. The Phase 2 and 3 additions create an ell within which a stone patio has been installed.

³ Frances Benjamin Johnston, Three photos of the Weblin House, Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South, 1930s, https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2017891275/. See Figures 6-8 in this nomination.

⁴ Likely around 2000 when the rear ell was added.

Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State



Figure 1. Phases of construction

Interior

Phase 1

Phase 1 is a hall-parlor plan house. Its primary entrance opens into a modest room with a fireplace on the southeast wall, enclosed stairs at the north corner, and a passage to the second room centered on the northwest wall. The ceiling has been coated with swirl coat plaster and painted plywood wall paneling has been installed over historic fabric. Historic wood flooring remains exposed. The large fireplace with a segmental arch has a mantel with reeded pilasters supporting an entablature and molded shelf.

The second first-floor room has a window on its southwest wall and a window and exterior door on its northeast wall. Its northwest wall has a central fireplace with a projecting breast. To the west of the fireplace is a door leading to the Phase 2 block. Adjacent to the exterior door is the door to a closet space beneath the stairs. The ceiling is swirled plaster, walls are rough plaster, and historic floors are exposed. The firebox appears to have been partially enclosed, though the mantle spans the entire fireplace breast. The mantel has a double architrave with a shelf.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

Stairs in the first room have louvered doors at a straight run stair along the exterior wall to a pentagonal landing from which the stairs continue to ascend for a short run at a 90° angle. While the stairs may conform to a historic location, they are mid twentieth-century construction.

On the second floor, a transverse hall connects principal rooms at the northwest and southeast ends of the hall. To the southwest of the hall is a closet. A bathroom has been created along the northeast wall that encroaches slightly on the northern principal room.

The southern principal room has wooden floors and a flush mantel with a simple architrave surround and shelf. The northern principal room features a mantel with a bolection molding and cushion frieze below a crown molding supporting the shelf.

Phases 2 and 3

The Phase 2 section was remodeled when Phase 3 was constructed, so much of its historic fabric has been removed/altered. The previously one-story addition had housed a modest kitchen with plywood paneling and wooden cabinetry. It now houses a study at its west corner with a stair to the expanded second floor and auxiliary rooms; a bathroom at its east corner; and at the southwest, has a quasi-open floor plan with a linear kitchen that extends into Phase 3. Phase 3 has a continuation of an open floor plan kitchen and dining area at its south and east. At its north is an enclosed bedroom adjacent to the bathroom created in Phase 2. Floors are woodgrain laminate, and walls and ceilings are drywall with plaster skim coats. Doors have a stock sixpanel "cross and Bible" pattern, and door and window surrounds have molded trim.

A 1976 newspaper article outlines some of the changes made to the house under the ownership of H. C. Moore, Sr., who purchased the house in 1924. He replaced the windows and added the closet and bathroom on the second floor. He removed the downstairs flooring to install a subfloor, then replaced all but three of the wooden floorboards, which were rotten. He had new floorboards milled to match the originals. Two brick masons, apparently from Colonial Williamsburg, rebuilt the chimney. He also installed plywood paneling on the interiors to contain the failing plaster and cover a chair rail. Additionally, he demolished a frame kitchen that was connected to the house and added a modern brick kitchen.⁵

Dairy Barn ca. 1925

Contributing Building

Roughly 100 feet west of the main house is a dairy barn. The one-story, concrete block barn is X-shaped in footprint with a larger primary axis running NW-SE and a narrower, shorter axis running SW-NE. Low wooden decks have been added at the north and south quadrants. The roof is clad in corrugated metal and several of the metal ventilators remain along the roof ridges. One distinctive characteristic is a series of rectangular masonry openings set at regular intervals along the northeast and southwest elevations. At one point, an attempt was made to convert the

⁵ Nell Kraft, "Weblin has Livable Old Flavor," *The Virginian-Pilot*, November 22, 1976.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

building for residential use, and it appears that in that attempt, the original windows were removed and new windows installed, maintaining the original-sized openings. As part of the attempted reuse, the southeast gable end has a central, single-leaf entrance flanked by three-light sidelights beneath a pent roof. The door and side lights fit within a masonry opening that likely was originally intended for vehicles. The entrance is flanked by masonry openings with replacement windows. What appears to be an attic louver has been covered with a round panel with artwork. The northwest gable end has a central entrance flanked by smaller windows. Here, however, the attic louver is exposed. Though the large central masonry opening has been infilled with framing and a single-leaf door, the apparatus for a vehicular roll-up door remains as an exterior appendage. The southwest gable end has had its original exterior wall removed and a new glazed exterior wall installed, set back from the original profile to create a small, sheltered porch of sorts. The northeast gable end has two small windows. Exterior doors servicing the wooden decks can be found on the east side of the smaller wing, south of its intersection with the principal portion of the building, and at the west side of the smaller wing, north of its intersection with the principal portion of the building. While there is no precise evidence of the construction date, aerial photos show the barn in existence by 1937. A 1925 construction date corresponds to ownership by the Moore family, who appear to have had the capacity to make capital investments to support the dairy operation. Despite alterations to the overall form, the materials, fenestration, and fixtures continue to create the impression of a dairy barn.

Silos (3) ca. 1925

Contributing Structures

Nestled at the east quadrant of the dairy barn are three concrete stave silos. Two have staves with projecting vertical ribs, and one of these two has a poured concrete foundation. The third silo has flat, smooth staves. None of them have roofs. While there is no precise evidence for the construction date, aerial photos show the silos in existence by 1937. A 1925 construction date corresponds to ownership by the Moore family, who appear to have had the capacity to make capital investments to support the dairy operation. This construction method was popularized in the first third of the twentieth century. The silos, though roofless, have a high degree of integrity bolstered by their proximity to the barn.

Garage ca. 1925

Contributing Building

Approximately 90 feet northwest of the house is a one-story, side-gabled, concrete block garage. The roof is clad in composite shingles. While used currently as a garage, it is conceivable it was adapted from another farm purpose. The southwest elevation has two large, vehicular roll-up doors and three single-leaf doors. The northwest elevation has a single louvered vent in the attic. The southeast elevation has a single louvered vent in the attic and two, two-light windows. A one-bay, shed-roofed addition is centered on the northeast elevation. The addition is made of concrete block, and its northeast wall is framed with a central, single-leaf door. While there is no precise evidence for the construction date, aerial photos show the garage in existence by 1937. 1997 photos on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources show the masonry

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

opening for the door on the south end of the southwest elevation, and the currently framed area with additional entrances including the roll up doors as being open. A 1925 construction date

corresponds to ownership by the Moore family who appear to have had the capacity to make capital investments to support the dairy operation. Despite alterations in some materials, its overall form and utilitarian concrete block construction continue to create the impression of a working farm outbuilding.

West Secondary Dwelling ca. 1930

Noncontributing Building

Approximately 40 feet north of the house is a frame, gambrel-roofed, secondary dwelling. The gambrel roof has two shed dormers on both its northwest and southeast elevations, each of them housing a one-over-one, vinyl sash window. The building is clad in vinyl siding except for a section of the southwest elevation which is clad in synthetic shingles where previously there had been two garage bays per 1997 photographs. Now converted to residential use, the primary entrance is by a single-leaf door at the north end of its southeast elevation. While there is no precise evidence for the construction date, aerial photos show the building in existence by 1937. A 1930 construction date corresponds to ownership by the Moore family, who appear to have had the capacity to make capital investments. The form of the building appears to mimic the Weblin House itself with its gambrel roof and shallow shed dormers. Conversion from a garage to a dwelling has significantly altered the character-defining garage bays, and the replacement of exterior materials, windows, and door contribute to its noncontributing status.

East Secondary Dwelling ca. 1935

Noncontributing Building

This one-story frame dwelling was greatly enlarged and changed between 2005 and 2007, per aerial photographs. While there is a scant photographic and documentary record of the house, it appears marginally in 1997 photos, when it was smaller and clad in asbestos shingles. It was composed of a taller gabled section to the west with a shallower pitched gabled section at the east. Between 2005 and 2007 the western section was extended farther west with a cross gable added at the facade. A cross-gabled hood was likely then added above paired windows at the juncture of the two older sections of the house. The original western portion has a central, singleleaf entrance flanked by paired windows, the eastern of those as mentioned with a gabled hood. The eastern section has a four-bay, shed-roofed porch sheltering a single-leaf door at the juncture with the adjoining section, and a bank of three one-over-one windows at the east. The house has been clad in synthetic shingles, and the facade gables have fishtail shingles and a decorative gingerbread drop pendant beneath the gable peaks. The secondary elevations are also clad in synthetic shingles. The west elevation also has synthetic fishtail shingles in the gable. The house rests on a concrete block foundation. While there is no precise evidence for the construction date, aerial photos show the building in existence by 1937. A 1935 construction date corresponds to ownership by the Moore family, who appear to have had the capacity to make capital investments. It could easily have been a dwelling for Herbert Moore, Jr., who lived and worked on his father's farm and was married in 1937. The house is not a contributing resource as the

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA County and State

enlargement of the building, the addition of gables along the facade, and the introduction of a new palette of shingling and trim is a significant departure from its historical appearance.

East Secondary Dwelling's Garage ca. 1940

Noncontributing Building

This frame, gable-fronted, one-car garage is contemporaneous with the east secondary dwelling. Previously clad in asbestos shingles, it is now covered with vinyl siding with a replacement roll-up door. Changes in materials contribute to its noncontributing status, as does the enlargement of the house that it services, the addition blocking the historic vehicular access to the garage. There is no precise evidence for the construction date, but a 1940 construction date corresponds to ownership by the Moore family, who appear to have had the capacity to make capital investments. It is not visible in a 1937 aerial photo and was likely built around the same time as the adjacent secondary dwelling.

Long Shed ca. 1965

Contributing Structure

Approximately 30 feet northwest of the dairy barn is a long, open, frame shed with metal gabled roof. It is overgrown by vegetation and in poor condition.

Garden Shed ca. 2000

Noncontributing Building

Roughly 20 feet east of the swimming pool is a garden shed built between 1998 and 2002, per aerial photos. It appears to have been enlarged between 2015 and 2021. It is a frame shed on piers, clad in plywood and T-111 siding. The original section is gabled and shed-roofed additions with single-leaf doors have been built on its northwest and southeast sides.

Swimming Pool ca. 2000

Noncontributing Structure

Between 1998 and 2002 an in-ground, rectangular swimming pool was installed north of the house. The pool is framed in concrete and partially enclosed by a fence.

Well House ca. 2000

Noncontributing structure

Between the main house and the dairy barn is a small, gabled well house. It appears to have replaced a similar structure documented in 1997.

INTEGRITY

The Weblin House has not been moved and therefore retains integrity of location. Its setting has been compromised to a degree by the development of former agricultural fields into residential subdivisions, but its 6 ½-acre parcel retains some aspects of setting, and mature trees provide a screen and visual buffer from later development. The Weblin House is an evolved house, and its Phase 1 portion has a high degree of integrity of design, materials, and workmanship based on

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

the expanded period of significance. The historic hall-parlor plan has been retained and historic fabric encapsulated and preserved, but later interior siding has been installed. Changes over time reflect the continued use of the house as a single-family residence unlike many other homes of

the period, which have been restored to a specific period and used as museums. The Phase 3 alterations to the house were executed while the house was under a preservation easement reviewed by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The physical relationship of the house to the silos and barn reinforces the integrity of feeling and association within the area of significance of agriculture.

All resources built within the period of significance are considered contributing, except for the secondary dwellings and the garage at the east secondary dwelling. These resources are designated as noncontributing because of significant alterations performed after the period of significance

	ouse (Additional Documentation and Decrease)	City of Virginia Beach, VA
Name of Pro		County and State
8. S	tatement of Significance	
Appli	cable National Register Criteria	
х	A. Property is associated with events that have made a signiful broad patterns of our history.	ficant contribution to the
	B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significan	t in our past.
х	C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type construction or represents the work of a master, or posses or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose individual distinction.	ses high artistic values,
	D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information implistory.	portant in prehistory or
Crite	ria Considerations	
	A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purp	poses
	B. Removed from its original location	
	C. A birthplace or grave	
	D. A cemetery	
	E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure	
	F. A commemorative property	
	G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the	ne past 50 years

_UNKNOWN

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and	
Boundary Decrease)	City of Virginia Beach, VA
Name of Property	County and State
Areas of Significance	
ARCHITECTURE_	
<u> </u>	
AGRICULTURE	
Period of Significance	
_ca. 1710-ca.1820	
1870-1975	
Significant Dates	
ca. 1820	
ca. 1925	
Significant Person	
N/A	
C 1/ 1 4 6011 /	
Cultural Affiliation	
_N/A	
A124 470 - 911	
Architect/Builder	

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Weblin House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A at the local level in the area of Agriculture and Criterion C at the statewide level in the area of Architecture. It is part of a small cohort of modest brick dwellings in the region that represent the transition from frame and earthfast construction to brick, which exhibits building methodologies typical of early eighteenth- and nineteenth-century building campaigns, and that combines English building precedents with indigenous vernacular forms. It also represents a spectrum of agricultural activity in what was once a largely rural county.

From diversified crops through Amish-Mennonite ownership as part of a larger community of Mennonite farmers in Princess Anne County to early 20th century dairy farming, and, ultimately, sales as residential subdivisions, it traces the path of much of area's once numerous farms. The period of significance begins ca. 1710, the estimated construction date of the Weblin House, and ends ca. 1820 for its architectural significance; and begins in 1870 with documented agricultural uses and ends in 1975, a fifty-year cut-off while the land was still modestly farmed and before much of the residential subdivision occurred. Significant dates are ca. 1820, when the house was enlarged, and ca. 1925, when the dairy barn and silos are thought to have been built.

Narrative Statement of Significance

Ownership

The Weblin House has existed as part of larger land holdings that have been subdivided and recombined over centuries. The documentary record concerning most of its owners is sparse. The land was a portion of a mid-17th century patent to Caesar Puggett. Thomas Lambert secured 750 acres of this patent in 1648. The land passed to his daughter and his son-in-law, John Weblin Sr. In 1686, the then 175-acre plantation was inherited by John Sr.'s son, John. The inheritance included plantation land and the senior Weblin's dwelling, in addition to other holdings. In 1716, seventy-five acres was sold to John Hutchings, who sold it in 1719 to Nathaniel Hutchings. That land and additional acreage, totaling 102 acres, was sold in 1751 to Robert Moseley. Moseley's estate sold the land (102 acres with a dwelling) to Jacob Hunter in 1774. In his will, proved in 1780, Jacob gave his wife Elizabeth a life estate, after which, his son Josiah Wilson Hunter would inherit the land he acquired from Moseley's estate.

Jacob Hunter inherited the land from his father, Josiah. He and his wife Elizabeth appeared to transfer some of the land to Christopher Etheridge in 1835. In 1850, Etheridge and his wife sold the then 100-acre farm to James McKinney. In 1869, the McKinney heirs had a real estate sale directed by a Suit of Chancery, and the land briefly passed to the ownership of Gilbert and Lucy Elliott, who sold 100 acres to George and Saloma Babcock.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

In 1893, the Babcock heirs sold 92 of the 100 acres to Stewart Moore. In 1897, Stewart and his wife, Alta, sold the 92 acres to A.E. Kellum. Kellum and his wife transferred the property in 1902 to Robert Marshall, who sold it in 1904 to George Seman. In 1908, a special commissioner was appointed to sell the property, likely as part of a probate proceeding, and the 92 acres passed to John T. Atwood and his wife, Mary Sykes Atwood.

In 1911, the Atwoods sold 92 acres to Daniel S. Beachy. Daniel moved to Virginia Beach from Pennsylvania. His widow, Amanda, sold the 92 acres to James Overstreet in 1921, who held it briefly before selling it to Herbert C. Moore, Sr. in 1924. The 1910 census shows that Herbert Moore's father, Walter E. Moore, was a dairy man from whom he likely learned about dairy farming. His son, Herbert C. Moore Jr., was married in 1937 to Dorothy, and the marriage license lists him as a dairy man. The 1940 census shows Herbert Junior working on his father's dairy farm, likely living with his wife in the east secondary dwelling. Beginning in 1979, Herbert, Sr. began transferring the dairy farm operation to his son. Upon the death of Herbert Moore, Sr. in 1982, the farm began to be subdivided and eventually developed. In 1986, Dorothy Moore, widow of Herbert C. Moore Jr., gave the house to the Virginia Preservation Foundation, who attached preservation easements and resold it to the current occupant, Gian Petersen.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Weblin House, though altered, is a rare surviving example of an early eighteenth-century tidewater dwelling. It was once thought, and likely hoped, to be a seventeenth-century house, but architectural elements suggest an early eighteenth-century construction date. The massive Virginia chimney is not keyed into the wall, suggesting it may have a separate, perhaps earlier construction date from the rest of the house. Though the chimney was rebuilt in the twentieth century, Frances Benjamin Johnston's 1930s photos show not only significant cracking and failure in the chimney, but a prominent seam between the chimney and the end wall. If the chimney predates the rest of the house, it would satisfy those who note that John Weblin, Jr.'s inheritance included both land and a dwelling, suggesting a seventeenth century house, no longer extant. An earlier wooden house could have been an example of what Cary Carson et al. deem the "impermanent architecture" of the seventeenth century Chesapeake region. Carson attributes changes in agricultural economies of Tidewater between 1700 and 1720, when planters

⁶ Dendrochronology has not been conducted on this house and would be useful in determining a more precise construction date, as would a coordinated archaeological investigation and selective exploratory inspections of historic fabric encapsulated by later materials. The City of Virginia had preliminary discussions with the owner to perform dendrochronology in 2007 which included field survey by Colonial Williamsburg staff who determined that first floor joists and rafters were replacements. The dendrochronology was not ultimately not performed.

⁷ Frances Benjamin Johnston, Three photos of the Weblin house, Carnegie Survey of the Architecture of the South, 1930s,https://www.loc.gov/pictures/item/2017891275/; Nell Kraft, "Weblin has Livable Old Flavor," *The Virginian-Pilot*, November 22, 1976.

⁸ Camille Wells, with Mark Wenger and Harry Bradley, Field notes and drawings (unpublished), Weblin House, June 25, 1986.

⁹ Cary Carson et al., "Impermanent Architecture in the Southern American Colonies," *Winterthur Portfolio* 16, no 2/3 (Autumn 1981): 135-196.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA County and State

diversified their production to include grains and naval stores and away from being exclusively tobacco, as the leading contributing factor to a transition from impermanent architecture to brick construction, citing a handful of surviving examples in what is now Virginia Beach, including Lynnhaven House, the Thoroughgood House, and the Weblin House. The Adam Keeling House (Virginia Beach) and Fox Hall (Norfolk) could also be considered in this cohort.

The Phase 1 house is what is commonly termed a hall-parlor plan, which is two rooms arranged side-by-side with a fireplace on at least one, if not both gable ends. ¹⁰ The larger room, or the hall, is typically the room with the principal entrance, the room that if there is only one fireplace will house it, and the room that generally has stairs to any type of attic or loft. Architectural historian Mark Wenger describes the typology as "the reflexive choice of Virginians" by the mid-eighteenth century. ¹¹ The hall was the more public of the two rooms, which may be reflected in the stylistic differences in the two first floor mantels, though they were added later. The parlor tended to be a more private space, often a bedroom, and sometimes geared to distaff activities.

The brickwork at the Weblin House is indicative of the region and period. The Flemish bond brick work is typical of houses in the region built during the estimated construction period of the house, dating between 1710 and 1740. The mason(s) used glazed headers to highlight the Flemish bond pattern and the gable roof's profile. The molded brick at the water table is also a subtle but sophisticated technique to mark the transition from foundation to wall. The use of more than one bonding pattern to differentiate facades from secondary elevations was also a common stylistic choice described by architectural historian Carl Lounsbury, who cites the Weblin House as an example. In the same essay, Lounsbury also notes that brick construction was a marker of status, a fact at times obscured by the comparative frequency of early brick buildings as opposed to frame, which Lounsbury attributes to brick's durability as opposed to its widespread usage. The house also features a Virginia chimney. Though rebuilt, it retains two sets of brick tiled shoulders, belt courses, a handsome water table, and distinctive T-shaped stack.

The roof is thought to have been changed from a gable to a gambrel form ca. 1820. Ed Chappell, who had access to the attic space in 1998, described the framing: "upper rafters are pegged together at the ridge and are nailed to board false plates sitting on the ends of joists that form the present attic ceiling. The lower rafters are tenoned into the underside of these joists, and

¹⁰ See Camille Wells's plan, Figure 9 in this nomination, from Camille Wells with Mark Wenger and Harry Bradley, Field notes and drawings (unpublished), Weblin House, June 25, 1986.

¹¹ Mark Wenger, "Town House & Country House: Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries" in *The Chesapeake House*, ed. Cary Carson and Carl R. Lounsbury (The University of North Carolina Press with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2013).

¹² Willie Graham, email correspondence to Janet Murray, April 9, 2020. Flemish bond was in continued use later as well.

¹³ Carl Lounsbury, "Brickwork" in *The Chesapeake House*, ed. Cary Carson and Carl R. Lounsbury (The University of North Carolina Press with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2013), 253.

¹⁴ Carl Lounsbury, "Brickwork," 255.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA

presumably they rest on their own false plates above the main joists."¹⁵ The false plate, which became a standard Chesapeake framing feature seen frequently in frame buildings, serves much the same purpose here in a brick house, that is to erect "roofs without regard to the structure underneath, thereby much simplifying the assembly process."¹⁶ Replacing an original roof that may have been well integrated into the brick construction with new one may have been more easily effected by adopting a false plate system. The roof change reflects domestic trends in the Chesapeake region. A gambrel roof was a more economical solution than a full second story to create versatile upper-level domestic spaces. And while principally used more frequently with larger houses, "as late as the 1820s, they were common alternative for even modest single-pile dwellings" like the Weblin House. ¹⁷

A circa 1820 expansion may be when the door on the northeast elevation was changed. It could have accommodated a frame rear ell, a portion of which is visible in one of Johnston's photographs. Stylistically, the mantels in the Phase 1 house are also evidence of a substantial refurbishment ca. 1820. Chappell notes the juxtaposition of refined nineteenth mantels with large eighteenth century fireplaces: "It is very unusual to find such large fireplaces provided with refined mantels in the 19th-century Chesapeake. Here work fireplaces were generally left undecorated and heating fireplaces in well-finished . . . living spaces were not left so large." ¹⁸

Architecturally, the Weblin House is one in a cohort of houses in the southside of Hampton Roads with shared characteristics. Extant examples are Lynnhaven House, Thoroughgood House, Pallett-Wolfsnare House, and Adam Keeling House in current day Virginia Beach. ¹⁹ All are 1½-story brick houses with a hall-parlor plan built in the early 18th century. All three are side-gabled, as the Weblin House originally was. All have two gable end chimneys—Lynnhaven House has two exterior end Virginia chimneys; the Thoroughgood House has one interior end and one exterior end Virginia chimney; and the Keeling House has interior end chimneys. Lynnhaven House has a water table and its brick is laid entirely in English bond. The Thoroughgood House also has a water table and is laid in English bond on the three secondary elevations with Flemish bond on the facade. The Keeling House is laid in Flemish bond above an English bond water table. Like the Weblin House, the Keeling House has glazed headers and decorative chevroning on its gable ends, though with much more extensive decoration than at the Weblin House. The Thoroughgood House has a single chevron of glazed headers to mark the gable roof line very similar to that seen at the Weblin House.

¹⁵ Edward A. Chappell, Field notes (unpublished), Weblin House, July 13, 1998.

¹⁶ Willie Graham, "Timber Framing" in *The Chesapeake House*, ed. Cary Carson and Carl R. Lounsbury (The University of North Carolina Press with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 2013).

¹⁷ Willie Graham, "Timber Framing," 235.

¹⁸ Edward A. Chappell, Field notes.

¹⁹ Fox Hall, ca. 1725 in the city of Norfolk, is similar, but during construction the plan was altered from a hall-parlor plan to a central passage, single pile plan. Thus, it is a stylistic link from those earlier houses to later 18th century Virginia houses. Jim Melchor et al, Fox Hall Series articles sponsored by the Edenton Historical Commission, 2020-2023, https://ehcnc.org/decorative-arts/southern-architecture/. Eastwood, a Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach house ca. 1725, may also be considered a cohort. It was demolished around 1940. Douglas E. Ross, *Domestic Brick Architecture in Early Colonial Virginia* (Master's thesis, The College of William and Mary in Virginia, 2002), 156.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

Using the Thoroughgood and Lynnhaven Houses as examples, architectural historian Daniel Reiff posits they represent a vernacular form indigenous to the region, unlike contemporaneous adaptations of English forms. He considers that this typology seems to have developed to meet needs for when "planters . . . rebuilt their frame houses in more substantial brick." While Reiff does not explicitly suggest the rebuilding of homes on existing sites reusing structural materials, he certainly hints at the possibility. He further suggests that the form and dimensions of these homes are translated from earlier frame houses and could be a result of specifications found in colonial legislation. Other aspects of the building construction appear to have English precedents including English bond, the use of closer bricks, and the hierarchy of bond patterns with Flemish bond on principal elevations. Massive exterior end chimneys, and chimneys with T-shaped flues, were also found in England. The Weblin House is part of that tradition of a vernacular form with a stylistic English inheritance.

Criterion A: Agriculture

Until the mid-twentieth century, the area now known as Virginia Beach was agricultural. Its access to deepwater ports made markets for tobacco and naval stores. In the eighteenth century the local agricultural economy began to diversify for many reasons, including the depletion of the soil from tobacco cultivation.

The current-day City of Virginia Beach was effected by a merger between the small resort city of Virginia Beach and the larger surrounding Princess Anne County (established in 1691, formerly part of Elizabeth City County, new Norfolk County and Lower Norfolk County) in 1963. After the merger, the area experienced a juggernaut of growth. Roads and subdivisions generally replaced the largely agricultural settlements in the area above the city's "Green Line."

It is likely that the land historically associated with the Weblin House was used for agriculture. It is also likely that until the Civil War, enslaved African Americans provided labor for household and farming tasks. There is evidence of both agriculture and enslavement in some of the wills and estate documents of owners of the Weblin House. Many of these owners, however, owned additional farms and lands, and the nexus between their agricultural production and enslaved persons cannot be directly drawn to the Weblin House property, though it is implied.

It is not until the 1870 agricultural census schedules that a record that can be tied directly to the Weblin House property. In 1870, under George Babcock's ownership, the 100-acre farm had 75 improved acres and 25 acres of woodland valued at \$3,000. Babcock owned two horses, a mule,

²⁰ Daniel D. Reiff, *Small Georgian Houses in England and Virginia* (Associated University Presses/University of Delaware Press, 1986), 202.

²¹ Reiff. 203.

²² Reiff, 204.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

one milk cow, and eight swine. The farm produced 500 bushels of Indian corn, 100 bushes of Irish potatoes, and 25 bushels of sweet potatoes, in addition to butter and hay.²³

Early twentieth century agricultural census data provide some context for understanding agriculture throughout the larger county. In 1910, the county had 1,423 farms; in 1920, 1317; in 1925, 1866; in 1930, 1180; in 1935, 1277; and in 1940, 939. It's likely that the Great Depression reduced the number of farms, which had been increasing until that time. The number rebounded until the 1940s, when real estate development began to expand to meet wartime housing needs of the Tidewater military. The county's population increased 22% between 1930 and 1940 and then a whopping 111% between 1940 and 1950. Another interesting measure collected between 1919 and 1939 is milk production. In 1919, farms in Princess Anne County produced 451,433 gallons. By 1924, the amount had more than doubled to 1,042,327 gallons. The amount decreased slightly in 1929 to 922,683 gallons, but increased in 1934 and 1939 with 1,332,527 gallons and 1,382,656 gallons, respectively.²⁴

The date of the transition of the Weblin House farm to a dairy farm is not entirely clear. Though it was clearly a dairy farm under the tenure of the Moore family, the transition could have begun earlier during the Beachy period. Starting in 1900, a slow trickle of Amish-Mennonite farming families began to settle south of the Weblin House in the Kempsville area of Virginia Beach, which was an early market center for the county. Daniel Beachy and his family moved from Pennsylvania in 1911, an operation that involved shipping farm animals by rail and people by a combination of horse and buggy, passenger train, and Chesapeake Bay steamer. ²⁵ The Beachys settled into the farm described as two miles north of Davis Corner, which is the intersection of Virginia Beach Boulevard and Newtown Road. The Beachys, despite their religious order's aversion to some modern conveniences, were reportedly among the first local farmers to own a grain binder that cut and sheaved small grain crops at harvest. 26 The Beachys' arrival increased the Amish congregation in Kempsville to a total of seven households. Daniel was ordained clergy and was able to assist with ministerial responsibilities.²⁷ A full historic context that describes agriculture in Princess Anne county and particularly the contributions of the Amish and Mennonite communities has yet to be written; however, old order Amish and Mennonite communities are often farming communities, and the appeal of cheaper land in Tidewater seemed to be a draw for these groups, who settled not only in Virginia Beach but on the peninsula. In the 1920s, the Amish Yoder family established a dairy cooperative in the region that involved a great number of fellow Amish Mennonite dairy farmers.

Dairy farming had several avenues of appeal in Virginia. Cow manure could replenish soils that had been stripped by over-farming and monoculture. The area's mild climate created a long growing season for grass and required minimal housing for livestock in the winter. Additionally,

²³ Agricultural Census Schedules, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1870.

²⁴ "Agricultural Censuses," U.S. Department of Agriculture, https://agcensus.library.cornell.edu/.

²⁵ Leroy Miller, ed., *The Amish-Mennonites at Kempsville, Virginia* (The Donning Company, 1995), 14.

²⁶ Miller, 16.

²⁷ Ibid.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA

dairy farming provided a more frequent and predictable cash flow.²⁸ There was a movement to increase dairy production in the early 20th century in Virginia, as the state could not meet their dairy demands internally and was importing large amounts of dairy products from out of state.²⁹

If the farm at the Weblin House was not a dairy farm during the Beachy tenure, it certainly was during the Moore family's ownership. It is likely that the Moores invested in the silos, dairy/milking barn, and sheds. It's also likely that one of the secondary dwellings was constructed for the Moores' son and his wife. In an interview, Herbert Moore, Sr. noted the appeal of cheap land for a dairy farm. In 1925, he "played 'cowboy' to two carloads of cattle from Tennessee, driving them from Pinners Point docks through Water Street and down the Beach Road to his farm." At one point the farm had a herd of 250 cows, but by 1976 it had only seven cows and had transitioned to garden plot rentals and "pick-your-own" operations. 31

²⁸ Harold Conover, "Dairy Farms and Agricultural Property in Virginia" (unpublished thesis, University of Richmond, 1970), 2,

https://scholarship.richmond.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1421&context=honors-theses.

²⁹ Conover, 4.

³⁰ Nell Kraft, "Weblin has Livable Old Flavor," *The Virginian-Pilot*, November 22, 1976.

³¹ Kraft, "Weblin has Livable Old Flavor."

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Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach deed books.	
Princess Anne County/Virginia Beach will books.	
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U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Censuses. https://agcensus.li	ibrary.cornell.edu/.
Wells, Camille with Mark Wenger and Harry Bradley. Field notes and dra (unpublished). Weblin House, June 25, 1986.	wings
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been X previously listed in the National Register (NRHP Ref No. 74002248	-
previously listed in the National Register (NRHF Ref No. 74002248)	<u>5)</u>
designated a National Historic Landmark	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #	

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and Boundary Decrease)	City of Virginia Beach, V
Name of Property	County and State
Primary location of additional data:	
x State Historic Preservation Office	
Other State agency	
Federal agency	
Local government	
University	
Other	
Name of repository: Virginia Department of Histor	ric Resources, Richmond, Virginia
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _134-	-0035
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 6.54	
Latitude/Longitude Coordinates	
Datum if other than WGS84:	
1. Latitude: 36°52'32.12" Longitude: 76° 9'59.18"	

Verbal Boundary Description

The revised boundary of the nominated property is all of that parcel identified as GPIN 14685646350000 as reflected in the City of Virginia Beach tax records, and shown on the map entitled National Register Boundary Map, Weblin House.

Boundary Justification

When originally listed in 1974, the boundary of the nominated property measured roughly 149 acres, which included all of the currently proposed boundary and additional area, largely extending to the southwest, which was then agricultural land with farm roads. That area now consists of portions of several residential subdivisions, shopping centers, and portions of Wesleyan Drive and Diamond Springs Road, both four-lane divided roads. The areas excluded from the proposed boundary are peripheral areas that no longer retain integrity due to subdivision and development. The proposed boundary includes the full extent of significant resources and land area that makes up the property.

The former boundary is shown in an aerial photo with a smaller shaded section reflecting the current boundary under easement to the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (Figure 1). The second aerial lacks the property boundary but shows the house and current parcel lines overlaid on a 1982 aerial (Figure 2). Figures 4 and 5 show the 1974 nomination's UTM references overlaid on a 1954 and 2024 aerial photograph, respectively.

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

11. Form Prepared By

8 of 28

name/title: Mary Ruffin Hanbury
organization: Hanbury Preservation Consulting
street & number: P.O. Box 6049
city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code: 27628
e-mail_maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com
telephone: (919) 828-1905
date: July 30, 2025

Photo Log

Weblin House Virginia Beach, VA Photographer-Mary Ruffin Hanbury December 2024

Weblin House facade, view to N Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, 1 of 28 Phase 1 Parlor View to NE 9 of 28 Weblin House facade, view to NE 2 of 28 Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, Phase 1 Hall View to NW Weblin House SE elevation, view to NW 10 of 28 3 of 28 Weblin House, Interior, Second Floor, Weblin House E corner, view to NW Phase 1, Stair, View to NE 4 of 28 11 of 28 Weblin House NE elevation, view to SW Weblin House, Interior, Second Floor, 5 of 28 Phase 1, Hallway, View to NW 12 of 28 Weblin House W corner, view to NE 6 of 28 Weblin House, Interior, Second Floor, Phase 1, NW Bedroom, View to NW Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, 13 of 28 Phase 1 Hall View to SE 7 of 28 Weblin House, Interior, Weblin House, Interior, Second Floor, Phase 1, SE Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, Bedroom, View to SE Phase 1 Parlor View to NW 14 of 28

Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, Phase 2, Study View to NW 15 of 28

Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, Phase 2, Study View to SE 16 of 28

Weblin House, Interior, First Floor, Phase 2-3, Kitchen View to NE 17 of 28

Dairy Barn, W corner, view to E 18 of 28

Silos, view to W 19 of 28

East Secondary Dwelling, facade view to NE 20 of 28

East Secondary Dwelling, NW elevation and garage, view to E 21 of 28

Long shed, view to E 22 of 28

West secondary dwelling and garage, view to SW 23 of 28

West secondary dwelling, view to NE 24 of 28

Garage, view to NW 25 of 28

Wellhouse, view to E 26 of 28

Pool, view to E 27 of 28

Garden shed, view to NE 28 of 28

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

Name of Property



Figure 2. Former boundary with current development. Source: VDHR, VCRIS survey database.

Name of Property



Figure 3. 1982 aerial photo with current parcels overlaid. Source: Virginia Beach GIS.



Figure 4. 1974 nomination UTM references overlaid on 1958 aerial photograph



Figure 5. 1974 UTM nomination references overlaid on 2024 aerial photograph



Figure 6 Photo of the Weblin House, Frances Benjamin Johnston.



Figure 7 Photo of the Weblin House, Frances Benjamin Johnston.



Figure 8 Photo of the Weblin House, Frances Benjamin Johnston.

City of Virginia Beach, VA
County and State

Name of Property

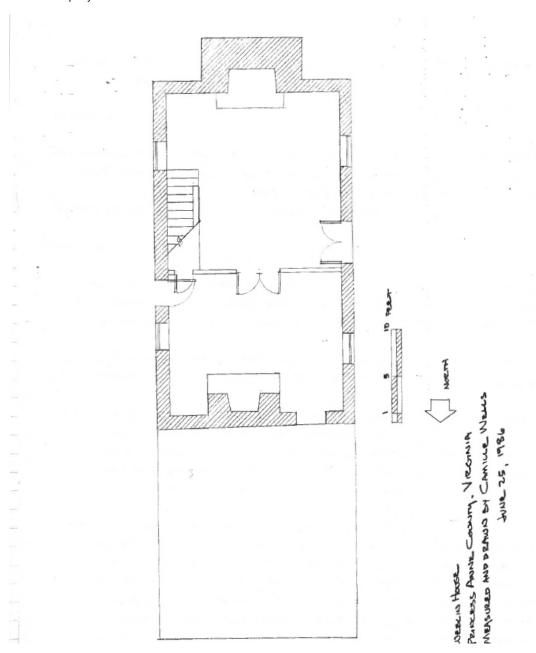


Figure 9 Plan of Phase 1 house by Camille Wells.

Weblin House (Additional Documentation and
Boundary Decrease)
Name of Property

City of Virginia Beach, VA County and State

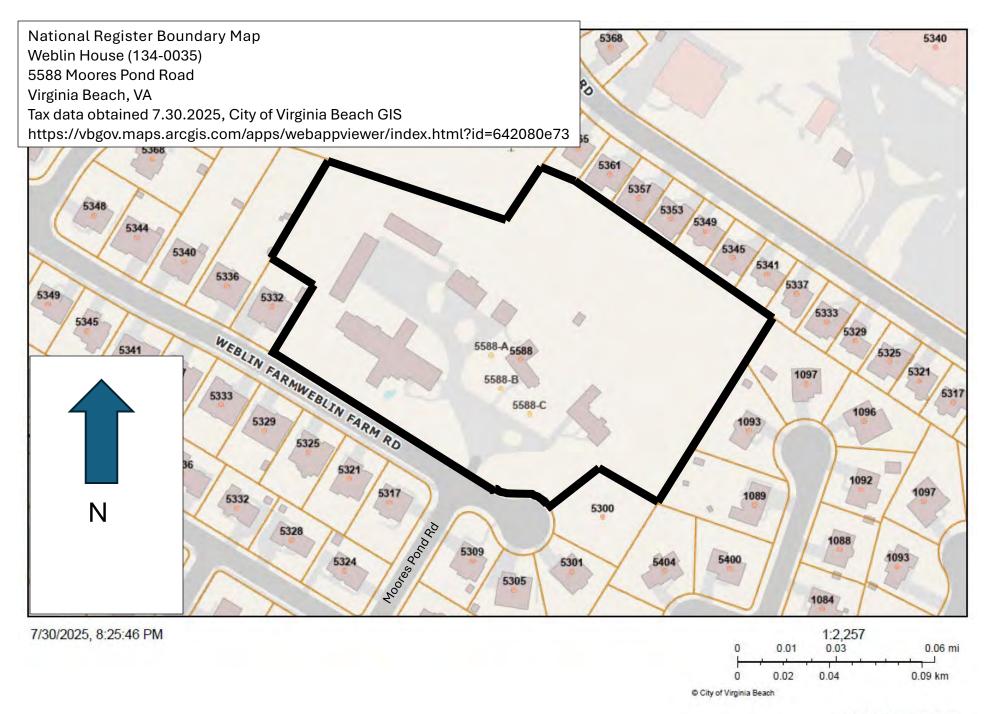
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

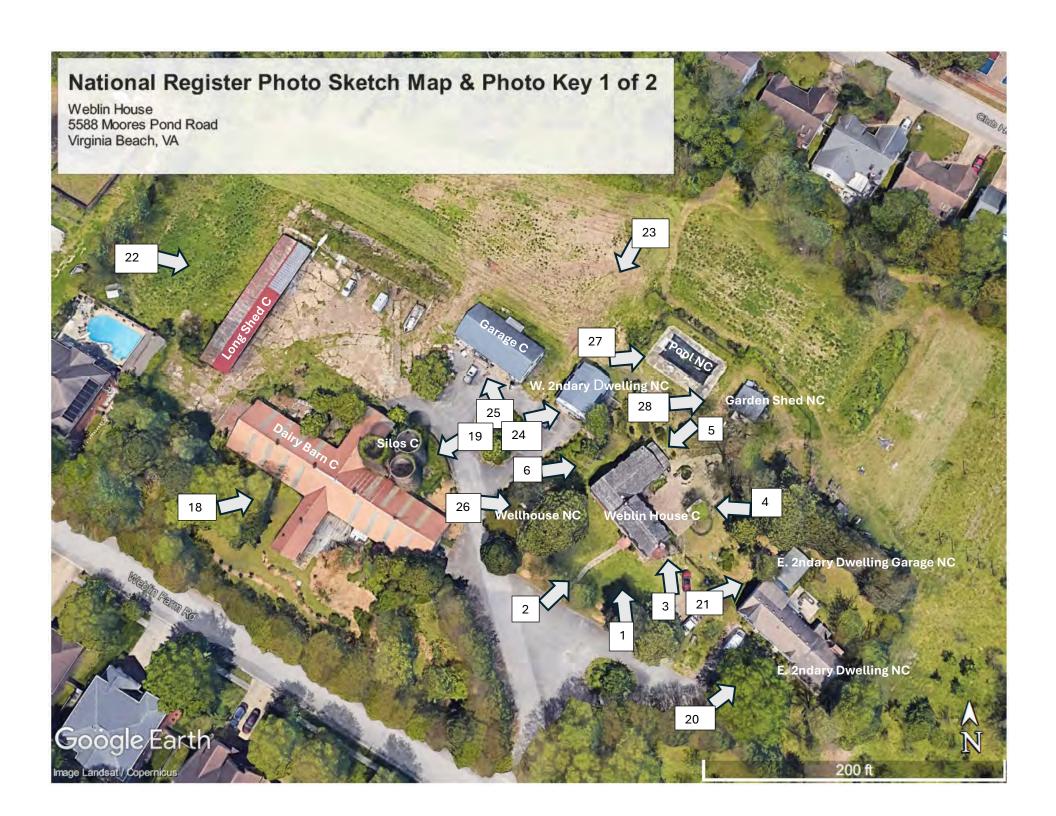
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

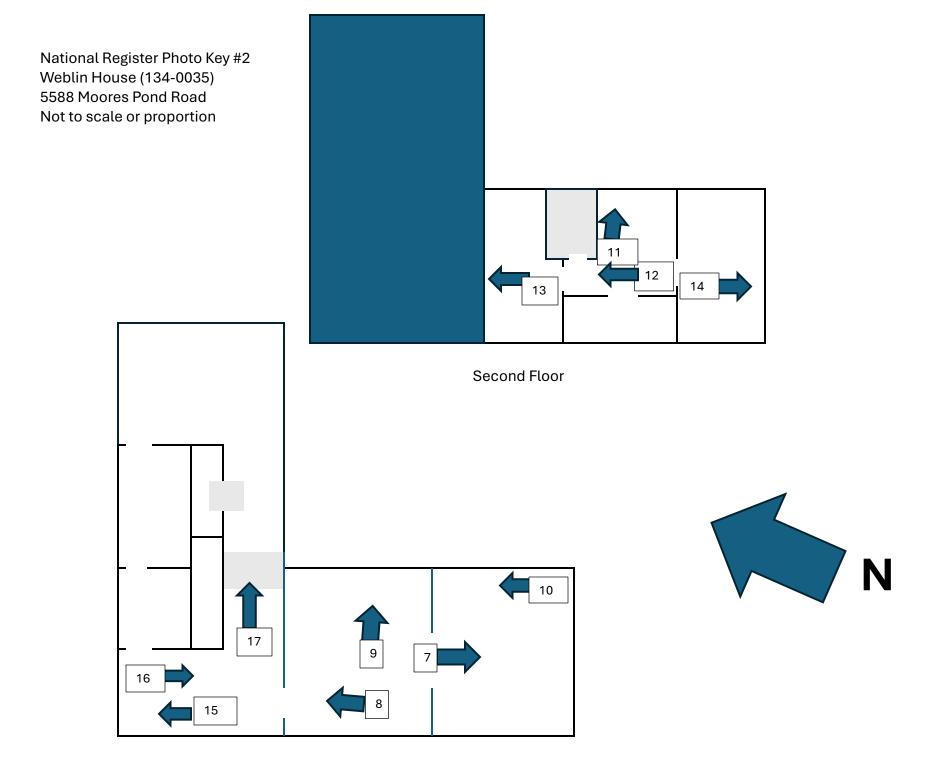
Tier 1 - 60-100 hours Tier 2 - 120 hours Tier 3 - 230 hours Tier 4 - 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.









First Floor















