

VLR-2/20/73 NRHP-7/2/73

Form 10-300  
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <u>Virginia</u>	
COUNTY: <u>Louisa</u>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Grassdale

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
.4 mi. W of Rt. 15, 2.2 mi. S of intersection with Rt. 22

CITY OR TOWN:  
Trevilians vicinity (Eighth District Congressman William Lloyd Scott)

STATE: Virginia COUNTY: Louisa CODE: 51 109

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes: Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Pork <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
Mrs. H.H. Walton and Hidmore Walton, Jr.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Walton Lumber Co., Inc.

CITY OR TOWN: Pendleton STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Louisa County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Louisa STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 958 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
" "

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D.C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Louisa

EN

UNDER

NPS USE ONLY

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Grassdale is a two-story residence whose front and side walls are laid in running bond, pressed brick capped by a low hipped roof and three interior panelled brick chimneys. The T-shaped plan which includes a projecting brick ell laid in American bond with Flemish at the rear is partially framed by a broad one-story verandah that extends across the main (east) front, halfway along the south end wall, but barely rounding the corner at the north end. The brackets along the porch cornice are diminutive versions of the large bracketing that occurs along the deep, projecting eaves of the roof cornice. The porch posts are ornamented by graceful sawnwork in the form of ogee-curved brackets. The projection of the single-bay pavilion with its three-sectioned window is reflected in a similar porch projection. These windows, formed by adding sidelights to the regular window size of the second floor level and the floor-length windows on the first floor, are used not only in this central bay, but also on the first bay of the north and south end walls. Outbuildings include a frame smokehouse and kitchen. The latter is a two-story structure with brick noggin covered by board and batten sheathing and has a central chimney typical of such buildings from this period.

The floor plan of Grassdale consists of a central front hall, flanked by two rooms, that leads to a cross hall and stair with the dining room beyond, on axis with the front hall. The front hall is defined at its juncture with the cross hall by a "screen" of twin pilasters and entablature with modillioned cornice. Small porches to either side of the dining room have been enclosed for additional space. The interior trim is characterized by the use of roll moldings in the architraves framing the openings, the use of a cove in the plaster cornices of the two main rooms and the presence of white marble mantels with rounded openings and curved shelves. The lower sash of the floor length windows may be fully raised by retracting into the wall above the window to form a means of egress to the verandah.

The approach to Grassdale meanders across the open fields and up the hill to the house, situated in a grove of trees. The house is separated from its backdrop of woods by a small clearing containing barns and farm buildings.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century            | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century |                                       |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                      |   |  |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal              | <input type="checkbox"/> Education   | <input type="checkbox"/> Political      | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric             | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi-  | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry    | osophy                                  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention   | <input type="checkbox"/> Science        | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | Architecture                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human-  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature  | itarian                                 | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater        | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music       | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Grassdale is a rare example of a fully developed Italian Villa Style country house in Virginia. Few such houses were built in the state's rural areas because the stabilization of the population in the ante-bellum era made much new construction unnecessary. As a result, good examples of the Villa style, such as Grassdale, occur infrequently, in contrast to the northern and mid-western states where the style is more common. The finely detailed house is especially notable for its handsome bracketed verandah and for its splendid setting against the woods overlooking the cultivated Green Springs Valley, an area characterized by a broad range of architectural styles.

Although there were buildings at the site of Grassdale in the 1830's, the present house was not constructed until 1861 by James Maury Morris, Jr., a member of one of the leading families of the region. It is believed that Major Calvin Crebbs was the master carpenter for Grassdale as well as other important houses in the area. In the early nineteenth century the Grassdale tract was owned by James Morris's grandfather, Colonel Richard Morris, and in the early 1830's was acquired by Colonel Morris's son, Dr. James Maury Morris. Dr. Morris died in 1844, leaving Grassdale to his son James Maury Morris, Jr. Morris, Jr.'s widow received title to Grassdale and the present house at his death in 1872. James Maury Morris, Jr.'s daughter, Imogene, who inherited Grassdale from her mother, married her cousin, Rear Admiral David Watson Taylor, born at nearby West End, and a member of the distinguished Watson and Taylor families of Louisa County. Distinguished in his own right, Admiral Taylor was cited for meritorious performance of duty during the First World War. Imogene, the Taylors' daughter, sold Grassdale to the Walton Lumber Company in Pendleton in 1943.

G.H.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	38° 02' 50"	78° 12' 04"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	38° 02' 50"	78° 11' 21"				
SE	38° 02' 11"	78° 11' 21"				
SW	38° 02' 11"	78° 12' 04"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 170 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

December 1972

STREET AND NUMBER:

Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN:

Richmond

STATE

Virginia

CODE

51

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National  State  Local

Name

J.R. Fishburne, Director  
Virginia Historic

Title

Landmarks Commission

Date

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

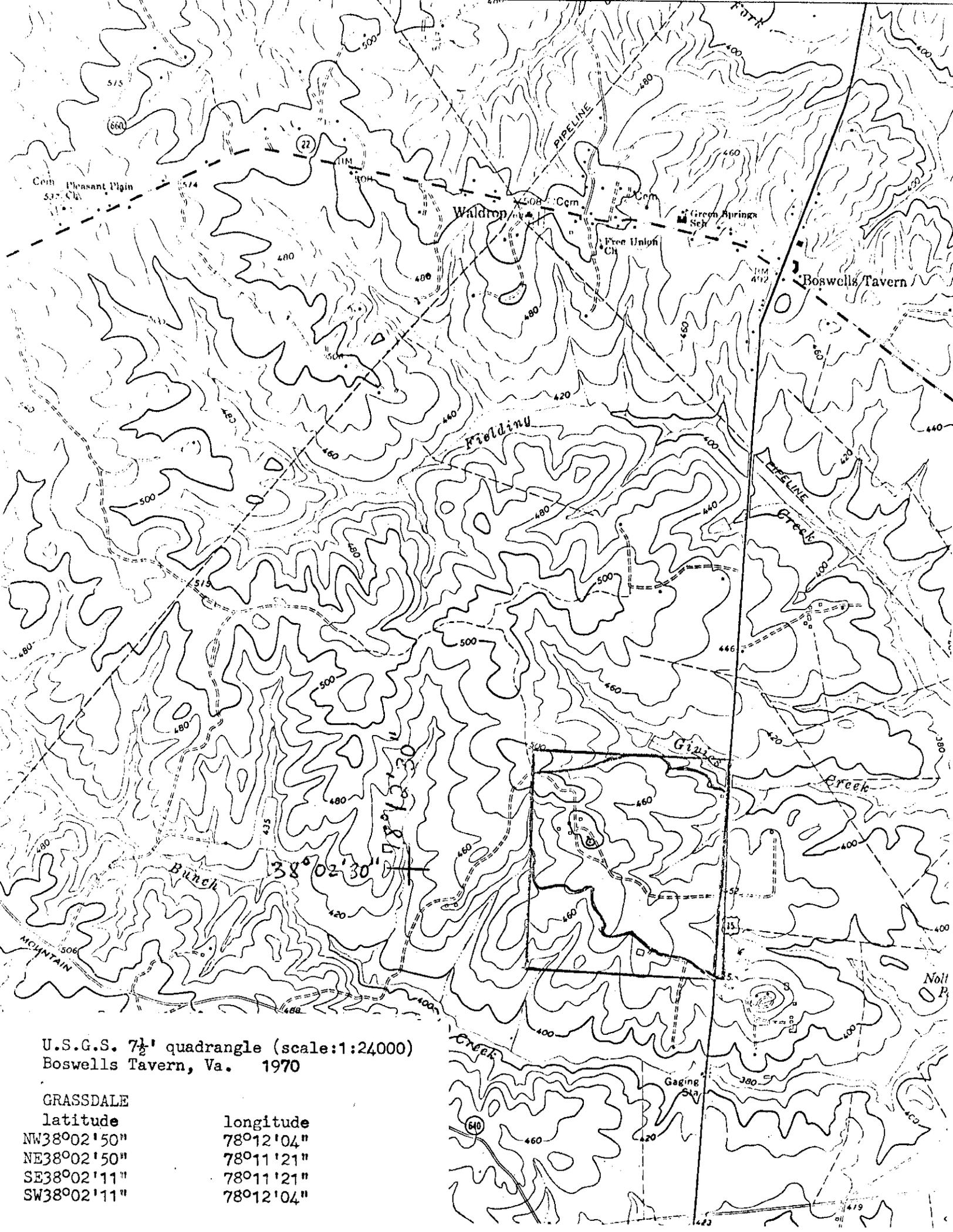
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date



U.S.G.S. 7 1/2' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
 Boswells Tavern, Va. 1970

GRASSDALE  
 latitude longitude  
 NW38°02'50" 78°12'04"  
 NE38°02'50" 78°11'21"  
 SE38°02'11" 78°11'21"  
 SW38°02'11" 78°12'04"