



7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input 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

Westend is a brick, two-story structure with hipped roof and a two-story, tetra-style portico on the main, three-bay south facade. The masonry has supposedly always been painted a light color giving the effect of a stuccoed surface. The pedimented portico is in the Tuscan Order with the caps and bases of the columns cast in iron; the facade features three-sectioned windows at either side of the entrance. One story, three-bay wings flank the central block. The front portions of both of these wings were orangeries until the latter half of the nineteenth century, during which the western wing was filled in and a three-sectioned projecting bay was placed on the front. The main element on the rear or north facade is a four column, one-story Tuscan porch that extends almost the complete length of the central block.

Four dependencies stand on the north side of the main building. Directly behind the main block are two long structures with central chimneys; two smaller ones with peaked roofs are to the east and west.

The central hall is divided into an entrance hall and rear stair hall by a framed opening complete with sidelights and standard Greek Revival trim. The hall is flanked on both sides by two rooms, the eastern two being separated by sliding doors. The mantels are extremely simple ones consisting of plain pilasters supporting a plain frieze and shelf and are in black marble in the two eastern rooms and in wood elsewhere. The east wing room and one of the second floor rooms have small alcoves framed by elliptical arches.

Westend is one of several examples of its type built in Virginia utilizing the temple front with small flanking wings. Among other structures in the state which utilized the three-part plan are the Semple House in Williamsburg, Eppington in Chesterfield County, and Estouteville in Albemarle County. The Classical Revival and Jeffersonian tradition in Virginia obviously were the inspiration for Westend, even considering its late date of construction (1849), as evidenced not only by the plan but by the use of the Tuscan Order. Although there are no remaining plans for the house, Westend does have extensive documentation as to the cost of materials, work, and the names of the workmen themselves. Colonel James Magruder, who supervised the work, may have influenced the design of the structure. Westend is relatively unaltered and is in an excellent state of preservation. Its porticoed facade, a somewhat rare Virginia residential feature, is an impressive part of the Green Spring area's historic fabric.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**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) 1849

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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture             | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention              | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture           | _____                                    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature             | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Military               | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Completed in 1849, Westend was built by Mrs. James Morris on land she had inherited from her husband Doctor James Morris (1802-1837). Doctor Morris was a member of a well-established Green Springs family and by his death in 1837 had acquired more than 1200 acres from inheritance and purchase.

After her husband's death, Mrs. Morris, who had spent her married life living with her mother-in-law, decided to have an establishment of her own. After careful planning she began building in 1848, leaving the supervision of the work to Colonel James Magruder. The work was completed in 1849, and Mrs. Morris was to reside there until her death in 1869. The property at that time descended to her daughter, Mary Minor Watson, the wife of Henry Taylor. Westend is now lived in and owned by Henry Taylor and Miss Mary Minor Taylor, great-grandchildren of Mrs. Morris.

Westend survives as a well-conceived plantation house of the ante bellum period. Built in the historic Green Springs area of Louisa, Westend was a working plantation, as the remaining slave dwellings, smokehouse and office graphically denote. Portions of the original, elaborate formal gardens, surrounded by an ancient osage hedge, have survived to testify to the ambitious nature of Mrs. Morris' plans.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Harris, Malcolm H., A History of Louisa County, Virginia, Richmond: The Dietz Press, 1936.

Murdock, Robert A., "An Architectural and Historical Study of 'Westend' A Plantation House in Louisa County, Virginia" (an unpublished report in Alderman Library, University of Virginia, 1970).

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° 03' 12"	78° 10' 32"				
NE	38° 03' 12"	78° 09' 40"				
SE	38° 02' 15"	78° 09' 40"				
SW	38° 02' 15"	78° 10' 32"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 591 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

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: July 17, 1970

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

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 Alexander

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Date Sept. 1, 1970

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

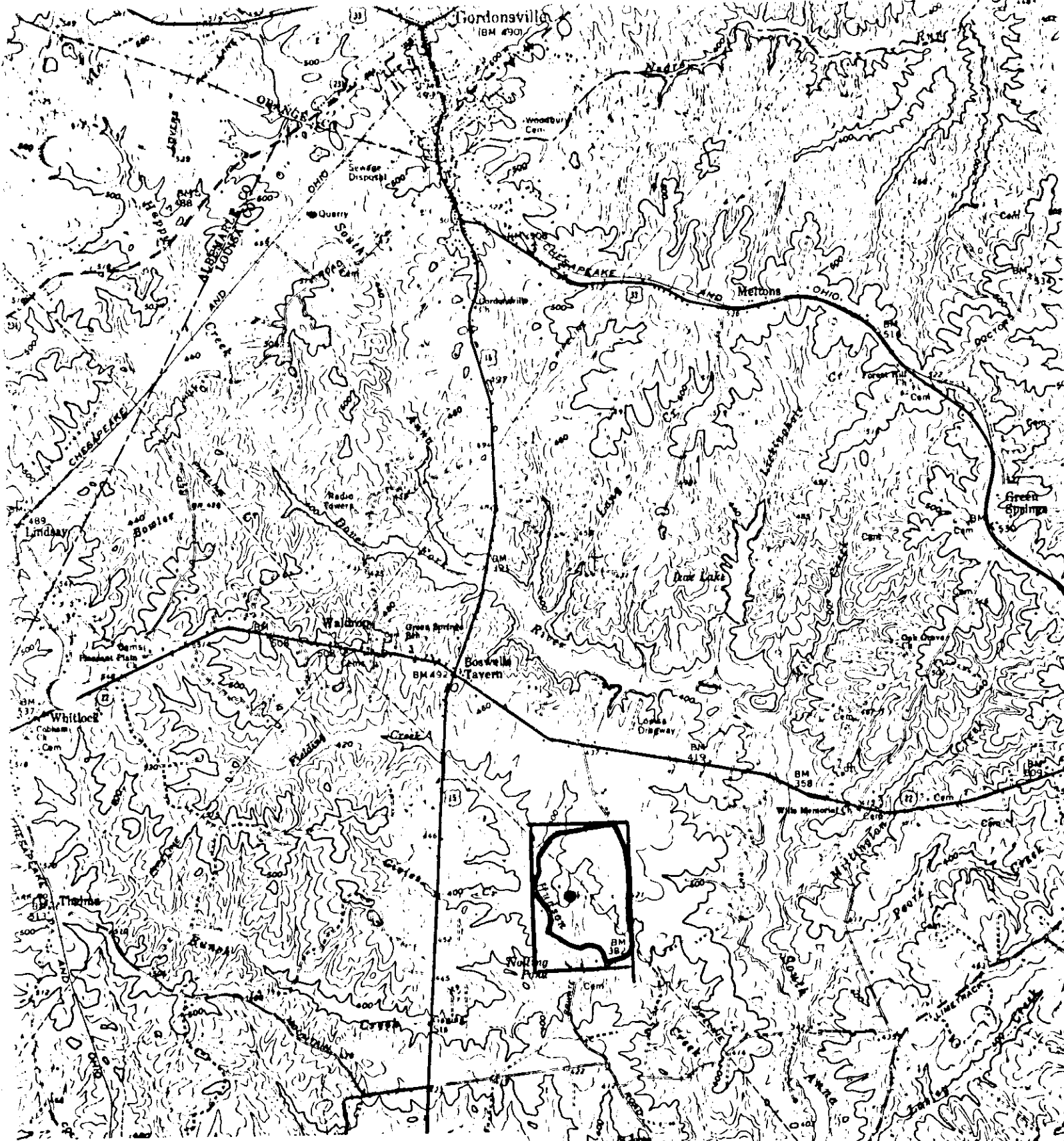
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



U.S.G.S. 15' quadrangle (Scale: 1:62500)  
 Gordonville, Va. (1961)

Westend	
Latitude	Longitude
NW 38° 03' 12"	78° 10' 32"
NE 38° 03' 12"	78° 09' 40"
SE 38° 02' 15"	78° 09' 40"
SW 38° 02' 15"	78° 10' 32"

