

VLR- 7/17/73 NRHP- 8/14/73

Form 10-300  
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Virginia
COUNTY: Orange
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME  
COMMON  
Exchange Hotel

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Exchange Hotel

2. LOCATION  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
South Main Street  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Gordonsville  
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Robinson  
Seventh District: J. Kenneth  
STATE:  
Virginia 22942  
CODE: 51  
COUNTY:  
Orange  
CODE: 137

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious	Vacant	
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY  
OWNER'S NAME:  
Historic Gordonsville, Inc.  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Gordonsville  
STATE:  
Virginia 22942  
CODE: 51

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION  
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
Orange County Clerk's Office  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
CITY OR TOWN:  
Orange  
STATE:  
Virginia 22960  
CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS  
TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
DATE OF SURVEY: 1971  
 Federal  State  County  Local  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116 Ninth Street State Office Building  
CITY OR TOWN:  
STATE:  
CODE: 51

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Orange  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE  
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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

The Exchange Hotel, facing north, stands opposite the south end of Main Street, Gordonsville, immediately beyond the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad tracks. Adjacent to the west is the old road from Gordonsville to the town of Louisa.

The building, a good example of late Greek Revival architecture, is 47 feet long and 35 feet deep, with a second-story columned veranda extending 9 feet out from the front and another, 8 feet out from the rear. There are three stories with a low hipped roof, the walls of the first or ground floor being of brick and the walls of the second and third floors of wood. There are two interior chimneys. Basically, the design of the structure is that of central halls on each floor with two rooms on either side on each floor. An exception is the southwest room on the first floor which extends through to the southeast room, including what would otherwise be hall space. The twelve principal rooms each have a fireplace. Many have original mantels.

The windows have shouldered architrave trim and paneling below. An interesting feature is a door dividing the hall on the main or second floor. It has a rectangular transom and sidelights. The main stair from the second to the third floor originally had a substantial and handsome newel. Ornamental brackets beneath the treads remain.

Access is through front and rear doors leading into the hall on the first or ground floor and the large southwest room. There are also doors into the first floor rooms on the front. That into the room on the northeast corner was converted from a window. Originally, a flight of steps led from the ground up to the second-floor veranda on the front. This was apparently the principal entrance. A brick walk went out from this to the railroad tracks.

With the exception of the large southwest room on the first floor, the rooms are approximately sixteen feet square and those on the second or main floor, in particular, are high ceilinged.

There is a two-story brick dependency in the yard to the east, which may antedate the main building. It has a central chimney and four rooms.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian |  16th Century |  18th Century |  20th Century  
 15th Century |  17th Century |  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/Philosophy       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry               | <input type="checkbox"/> Science                   | <u>Local history</u>                                |
| <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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Military    | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Music                  |  | _____   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            |   |  | _____   |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Exchange Hotel is the most important surviving building, architecturally and historically, in Gordonsville.

It stands on or near the site of a tavern erected at the terminus of the Louisa Railroad when that line was extended to Gordonsville in 1840. This was on land belonging to Robert King, son-in-law of Nathaniel Gordon from whom a post office took its name in 1813. The name was maintained for the town which later grew up around the post office and the railroad depot.

The tavern burned in 1859, and Richard F. Omohundro, owner of the property, arranged for the building of the present Exchange Hotel. Completed in 1860, the hotel was quite probably the work of Benjamin F. Faulconer, a master builder who constructed a number of other noteworthy structures in Gordonsville both before and after the War Between the States.

The Exchange was an elegant stopping place for railroad and other travelers for the few months remaining before the outbreak of hostilities in 1861. Possibly in 1861 and certainly by June, 1862, the hotel became part of what was known as the Gordonsville Receiving Hospital. In September 1862 it was described as "in the use and occupancy of the military authorities of the Confederate states of America" (Orange County Court Records, Deed Book No. 45, p. 499).

Some idea of the magnitude of the part played by the Gordonsville Receiving Hospital may be had from the fact that it admitted more than 23,000 wounded in less than one year, more than 6,000 in one month. It is believed that the hotel building was used as quarters for the surgeon-in-charge, Dr. Brewerton Monroe Leiby, and at least some of the assistant surgeons, and also for operating rooms.

After the war the Exchange again resumed its role as a hotel. During the 1870's the town flourished and the scene of Negro women balancing on their heads platters of succulent fried chicken and other delicacies as they met the trains remains an indelible memory. Dr. George W. Bagby, well-known Virginia author and humorist, captured the hospitality of Gordonsville and its hotels, including the Exchange, when he called the town "the chicken-leg centre of the universe."

The hotel was later converted into a private residence and then into apartments. After many years of vacancy, the Exchange was acquired by Historic Gordonsville, Inc. and will be restored in a manner befitting one of the few surviving hotels of the immediate antebellum period in Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Orange County, Virginia Court Records. Will books, deed books, and court order and minute books. Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Orange County. Orange, Virginia.

Orange County, Virginia Land books. Virginia State Library. Richmond, Va.

Thomas, William H. B. Gordonsville, Virginia: Historic Crossroads Town. Verona, Virginia, 1971. References to the above-cited records and other primary sources and secondary works will be found in this history of Gordonsville.

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
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38°	08'	07"
NE	° ' "	° ' "		78°	11'	11"
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: Less than ten 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:  
William H. B. Thomas, Regional Representative, Orange County

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: June 10, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:  
P. O. Box 787

CITY OR TOWN: Orange STATE: Virginia 22960 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 \_\_\_\_\_

Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation*

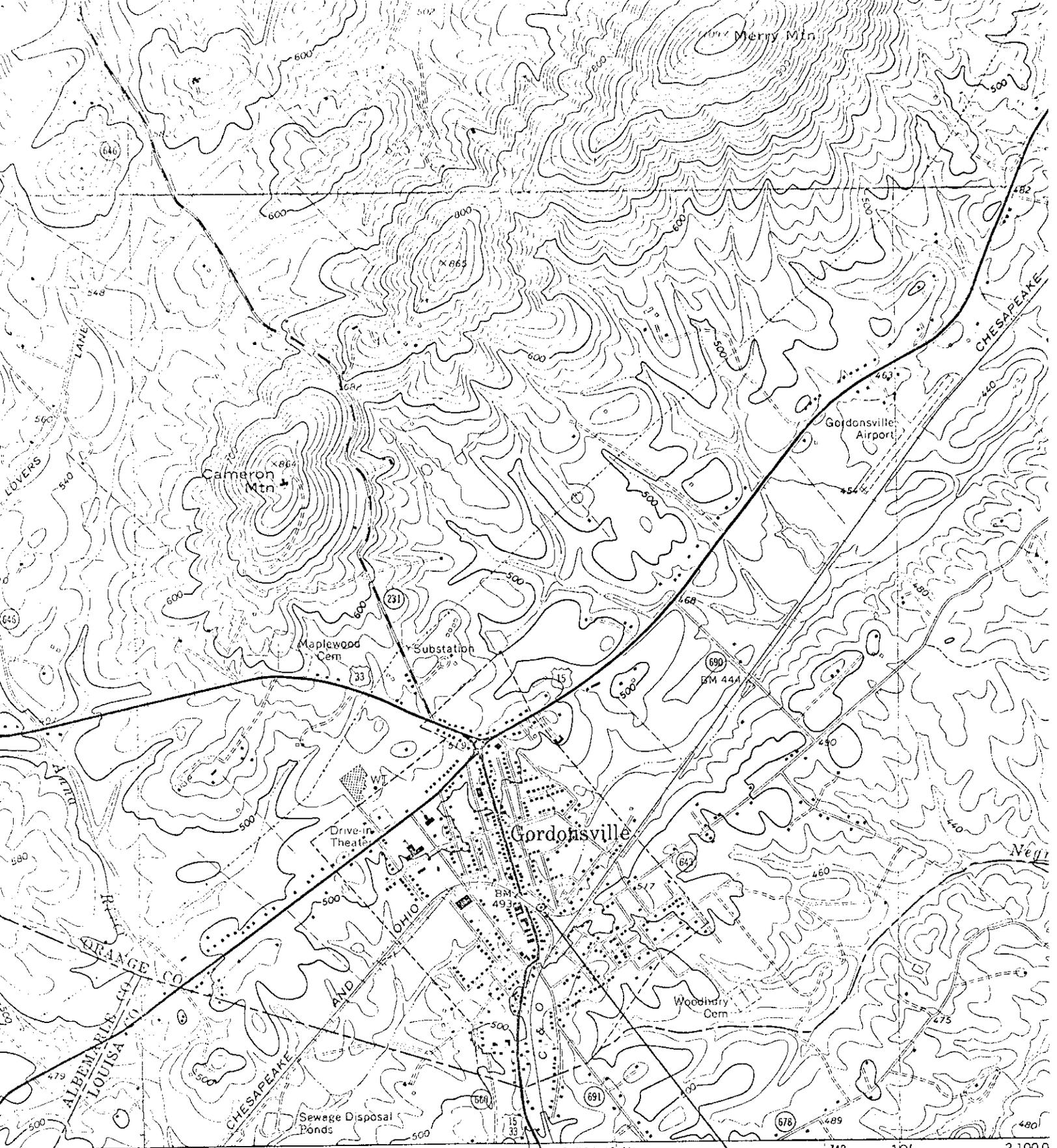
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Keeper of The National Register*

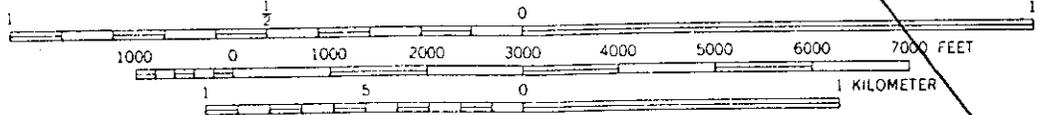
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



NT 7 MI. 12° 30' 745 (BOSWELLS TAVERN) LOUISA 13 MI. RICHMOND 55 MI. 748 10' 2 1000

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

Exchange Hotel

1" = 44' = 31 MILES