



## 7 DESCRIPTION

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

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Clover Lea, a Greek Revival-style residence, is conspicuously situated on a spacious estate south of the Pamunkey River on Route 629 in Hanover County. Erected in 1845-1846, the brick dwelling is a two-story, side-hall-plan house containing fine Greek Revival-style detailing on both its interior and exterior.

Set on a high basement, the front (south) elevation is laid in stretcher bond. The three-bay facade is dominated by a two-story, Tuscan-inspired portico which consists of six massive square wooden columns supported by brick piers. The two columns towards either end are paired for visual strengthening of the portico. A wood lattice decorates the portico on the first story. A finely worked entablature with a denticulated cornice runs the entire length of the south elevation. The portico shelters a transom and sidelight doorway which retains its original paneled door. Fenestration consists of the original 6/6 hung-sash windows framed by simple wooden architraves. Louvered wooden shutters flank the windows on all elevations. A shallow hipped roof covers the structure.

The rear (north) elevation of three bays is laid in common bond, as are the side elevations. This elevation is dominated by a one-story porch with a gallery on the second story. The gallery replaces an earlier smaller porch. Fenestration on the garden elevation duplicates that found on the front and consists of 6/6 hung-sash with louvered shutters. A centrally positioned rear entrance retains its original paneled door.

The east and west elevations are similar in appearance, both containing two bays. Fenestration consists of 6/6 hung-sash windows on the first and second stories and 3/3 hung-sash at the basement level.

The interior of Clover Lea contains exceptional Greek Revival detailing. Especially noteworthy is that in the hall and southeast parlor. Dominating the hall is an open-well stair which ascends to the second floor. The stair has paneled spandrels, stylized carved-scroll brackets, rectangular balusters, and a finely turned newel post. A much less elaborate stair leads to the basement. The doorways in the hall and parlor are impressive and consist of Doric pilasters which support a Greek fret frieze, egg-and-dart ovolo, and a ramped cornice. The parlor contains a simple Greek-style black marble mantel. In comparison to the front rooms, the rear chambers contain simple wooden architraves. The doors and windows on the second floor are less elaborate than those on the first, and the principal second-floor chambers contain fluted symmetrical architrave trim with corner blocks.

The grounds around Clover Lea retain much of their 19th-century plantings, and a formal garden is found at the rear of the house. A small carriage barn is the only surviving outbuilding.

### BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The nominated property consists of 18 acres. It is a small fraction of the original estate of Bassett's 19th-century home. The boundaries are drawn to include the front yard of the house and the rear gardens, along with suitable yard acreage on the east and west. The nominated acreage preserves the trees and shrubs planted in the 19th century. The property is bounded on the south by Route 629. It is bounded on the north by a line drawn to include the rear gardens. It is bounded on the east and west by parallel lines that define the present house site and give some semblance of its 19th-century character.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1845-46

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dramatically situated on spacious grounds of broad lawns and old trees, Clover Lea presents an idealized picture of a Southern antebellum country residence. With its tall portico, high-ceiling rooms, and handsome woodwork, the house is a fine specimen of the Greek Revival style, and although not large compared to houses of the deep South, it has the stately air inherent in the Grecian mode. Erected in 1845-46 by George Washington Bassett, the place is also the terminus of the migratory settlement pattern of this prominent Tidewater family after five generations in Virginia.

William Bassett, the progenitor of the family, came to Virginia from England in the third quarter of the 17th century. He patented considerable amounts of land in New Kent County on the south side of the Pamunkey and York Rivers in 1664, 1669, and 1682. His son William Bassett is first found in land records when he became the owner of 2048 acres in New Kent on, "s.s. Pamunkey; adjacent Col. Bacon; 23 April 1688...granted to Capt. Wm. Bassett, his father, 29 April 1687..." Bassett is recorded as acquiring another patent in 1695 consisting of 1086 acres in New Kent "on Pamunkey River, from the new dwelling house of said Bassett, to the mouth of sd. river, and to his house called the brick house where the county court was formerly held..." This property including the new dwelling house, Eltham, descended to his son Burwell Bassett, a brother-in-law of George Washington. Patent records reveal that Burwell Bassett acquired additional land in New Kent, and the first Hanover land tax book in 1782 charges him with 900 acres. The following year his Hanover holdings increased to 1264 acres. Upon the death of Burwell, the property was inherited by his son John. John Bassett died in 1826, and his son George Washington Bassett, the builder of Clover Lea, inherited all the land charged to his father in the land tax book of 1825.

George Washington Bassett married Betty Burnett Lewis and lived on Lewis land until 1830, at which time the family moved to Eltham, the old Bassett homestead in New Kent. The family then moved to Hanover County, where the Bassett family holdings had increased to 1428 3/4 acres. Bassett continued to add to the family land by purchasing two adjoining tracts of land in 1844-45. Here he built Clover Lea to accommodate the needs of a growing family.

Architecturally, Clover Lea illustrates how Greek Revival-style architecture was adapted for the country residences of the landholding gentry. Such regional characteristics as a low hip roof and high basement represent features that are especially suited to the climatic and domestic needs of the South. The side-hall plan and masterful treatment of the interior woodwork suggest the skill of a competent architect-builder.

The house has many parallels with Richmond townhouses of the period and may indeed have been designed by a Richmond architect. Its most striking parallels with the capital's houses are the refined detailing, compact proportions, and a flat-roofed portico sheltering the entire facade.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Hanover County Land Tax Books 1782-1863.  
 Nugent, Nell M. Cavaliers and Pioneers, vol. I: 1623-1666. 2d ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1963.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Cavaliers and Pioneers, vol. II: 1666-1695. Indexed by Claudia B. Grundman. Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977.  
 "Reminiscences of Washington." Scribner's 14(May 1877-October 1877):75.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 18 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,8	30,7	3,5,0	4,1	6,8	4,0,0	B	1,8	30,7	3,5,0	4,1	6,8	1,8,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING
C	1,8	30,7	0,6,0	4,1	6,8	1,6,0	D	1,8	30,7	0,4,0	4,1	6,8	4,1,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point 700' N of Route 629 and approximately 950' NW of intersection of Routes 629 and 732 and approximately 50' W of private drive; thence extending 700' S to N side of Route 629; thence extending 1000' W along N side of said route; thence extending 800' N through wooded area; thence extending 1000' E to point of origin.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission September 1978

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

221 Governor Street (804) 786-3143

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Richmond Virginia 23219

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL  STATE  LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE OCT 17 1978

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

Clover Lea, Hanover County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 1

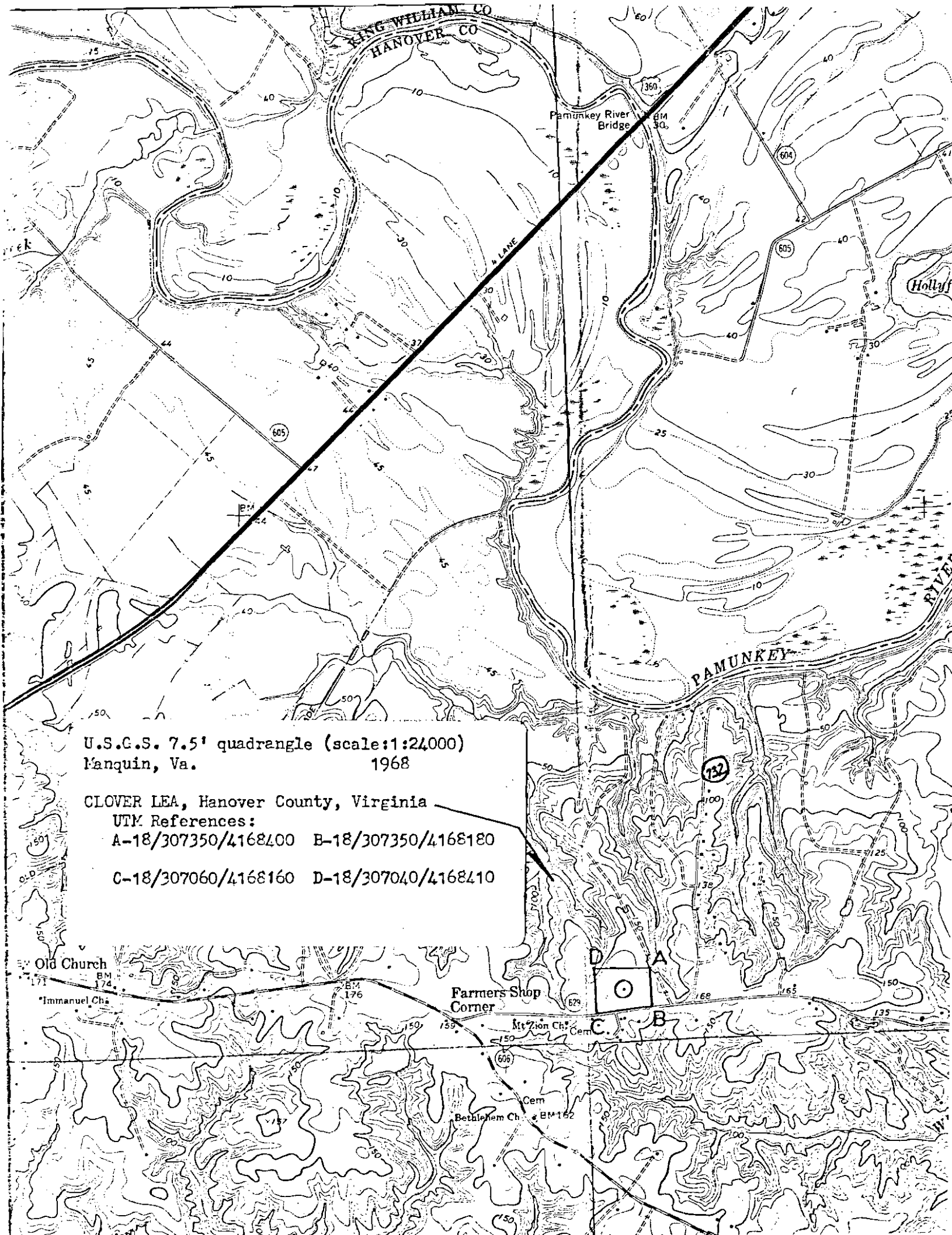
8. SIGNIFICANCE

Clover Lea passed out of the Bassett family by the end of the 19th century and is presently owned by Dr. Allan B. Cady, who is restoring the house. The grounds around Clover Lea retain a significant portion of 19th-century tree and shrub plantings, including a crape myrtle arbor in the rear.

VDS/RCC

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Two unpublished letters from Washington to his Brother-in-Law." Magazine of American History, II (1884): 258.  
VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY, 51 (1943): 351-354.  
William and Mary Quarterly, ser. 1, 5 (July 1896 - April 1897).



U.S.C.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Pamunkey, Va. 1968

CLOVER LEA, Hanover County, Virginia  
UTM References:  
A-18/307350/4168400 B-18/307350/4168180  
C-18/307060/4168160 D-18/307040/4168410

