

VLR-11/5/68 NRHP-11/25/69

Form 10-300  
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Louisa
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY NUMBER

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Boswell's Tavern

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Boswell's Tavern

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: N side of Rt. 22, .1 mi. SE of intersection of Rt. 22 and Rt. 15.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia	CODE: 45	COUNTY: Louisa	CODE: 109
--------------------	-------------	-------------------	--------------

3. CLASSIFICATION

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

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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 type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
John Schwem

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Boswell's Tavern Farm

CITY OR TOWN:  
Gordonsville

STATE:  
Virginia 22942

CODE:  
45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:  
Louisa County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

OR TOWN:  
Louisa

STATE:  
Virginia

CODE:  
45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 75 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Washington

STATE:  
District of Columbia

CODE:  
08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia  
COUNTY: Louisa  
ENTRY NUMBER: DATE: FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)  
 Excellent  Good  Fair  Deteriorated  Ruins  Unexposed

INTEGRITY

(Check One)  
 Altered  Unaltered  Moved  Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The public portion of Boswell's Tavern consists of a three bay, two-story frame structure with a gable roof and two very fine exterior end chimneys on the west side. Attached to the east side of this structure is the innkeeper's quarters which originally was a one and one-half story wing. This wing, however, has been raised to two full stories and topped with a very shallow gable roof. A modern frame one-story section has been added to the side and rear of the innkeeper's quarters. The one-story pedimented porch on the front of the building is also a later addition.

The interior arrangement of the public section includes two large public rooms, a warming room, bar area, and stair hall. The original bar has been removed, but the caged window between the bar area and the front porch survives. The public section also retains its original stairway, wainscoting, and hat pegs. It is interesting that the wainscoting in the main rooms is composed of 36" wide boards running horizontally around the room.

The innkeeper's wing consists of one large room with a corner stair on the first floor leading to the sleeping quarters above. In the yard, the original kitchen outbuilding has disappeared but the smokehouse remains.

Boswell's Tavern has been renovated in the past decade, is in an excellent state of repair and is well maintained.

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)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Boswell's Tavern is one of the most complete mid-eighteenth century taverns surviving in Virginia. From it, it is possible to get an excellent idea of how an early crossroad public house - hostel functioned. The original owner is not known but it is thought to be Col. John Boswell, who operated the establishment throughout the most significant portion of its history. Under Col. Boswell's proprietorship the tavern gained a widespread reputation for hospitality. During the Revolutionary War the Marquis de Lafayette encamped at Boswell's Tavern before he moved to cut off the British, under Lord Cornwallis, from the supply center at Charlottesville. The Marquis de Castellux made extensive reference to the hospitality of Boswell's Tavern and of Col. and Mrs. Boswell in his memoirs, Travels in North America, in the Years 1780-81-82.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Caperton, Helena Lefroy, The History of Boswell's Tavern.  
 Harris, Malcolm H., History of Louisa County, Richmond, Virginia: 1936.

**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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds 38° 04' 22"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 78° 11' 15"		Degrees Minutes Seconds 38° 04' 14"	Degrees Minutes Seconds 78° 11' 07"	
NE	38° 04' 22"	78° 10' 40"				
SE	38° 04' 05"	78° 10' 40"				
SW	38° 04' 05"	78° 11' 15"				

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

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: April 28, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
 Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

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 Edw. P. Alexander per JWM  
 Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date June 2, 1969

**NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date NOV 25 1969

ATTEST:  
Keeper of The National Register

Date NOV 25 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

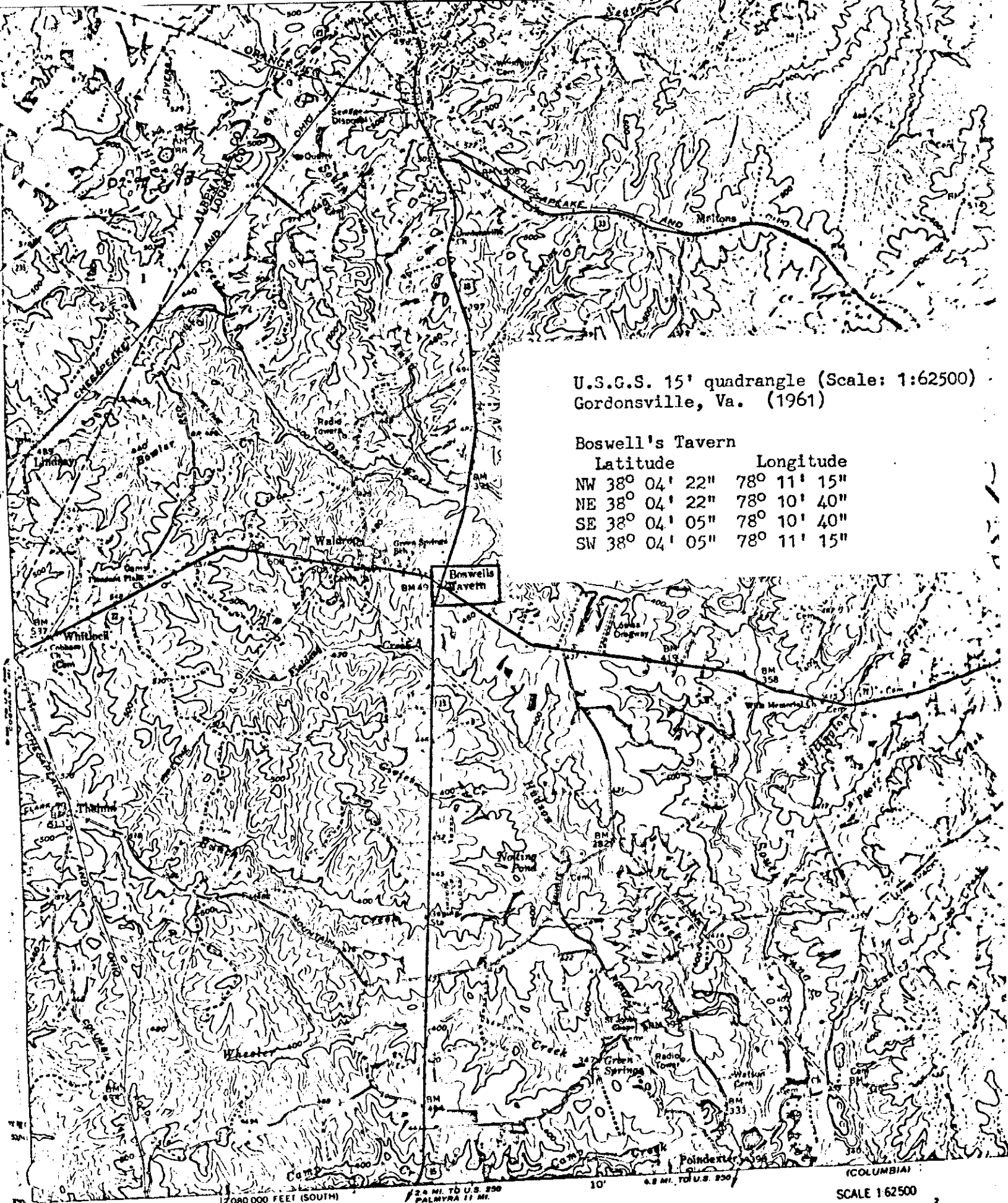
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Louisa	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	NOV 25 1969

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #54-7  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 45



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

**Boswell's Tavern**

	Latitude	Longitude
NW	38° 04' 22"	78° 11' 15"
NE	38° 04' 22"	78° 10' 40"
SE	38° 04' 05"	78° 10' 40"
SW	38° 04' 05"	78° 11' 15"

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

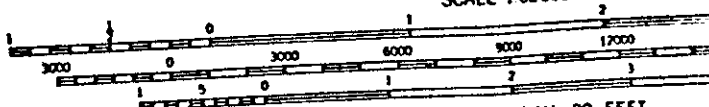
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1959. Field checked 1960-1961

olyconic projection. 1927 North American datum

side based on Virginia coordinate system.

TRUE NO. 6  
MAGNETIC N



SCALE 1:62500  
 CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL