

VLR - 5/16/72 NRHP - 6/30/72

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: VIRGINIA	
COUNTY: LOUISA	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
IONIA

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
CLOVER PLAINS

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
(Trevillians vicinity)

STATE VIRGINIA	CODE 51	COUNTY: LOUISA	CODE 109
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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"/> 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	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
ESSENTIAL USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input 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"/> Park <input checked="" 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:  
Messers. P. B. and J. N. Hanger

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Ionia

CITY OR TOWN: Trevillians	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC:  
Louisa County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Court Square

CITY OR TOWN: Louisa	STATE: Virginia	CODE: 51
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OF, TOWN: Washington	STATE: D. C.	CODE: 11
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: VIRGINIA  
COUNTY: LOUISA  
FEDERAL USE ONLY  
ENTRY NUMBER  
DATE

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

Ionia is a frame dwelling, sheathed in clapboarding whose one-and-one-half stories and gable roof rest on a predominantly Flemish bond brick foundation. While the basic building plan is an ell-shape, one story wings flank the main (south) front and two porches (now partially enclosed) and a small kitchen wing have been added. The shed-roofed entrance porch shelters the two entrances leading to the two principle rooms on the south front. Notable exterior features include three exterior end chimneys and the use of small, six-over-six sash windows with typically thick eighteenth century muntins. Original outbuildings include a dairy house, kitchen, smoke house, slave quarters, and a frame barn whose heavy corner posts, beams and diagonal bracing along with original ironwork indicate an early date.

Extensive use of oak-grained pine woodwork characterizes the western "hall" of the south front being used on the mantel, paneled dado, the closet doors to either side of the fireplace, and on the original "built-in" corner cupboard. This room also holds a small enclosed corner stair to the half story above. The room to the east has painted wood trim with a simple mantelpiece consisting of an architrave surround, plain frieze above and capped by a molded cornice shelf. The single room in the rear ell to the north has a simple mantel with fluted pilasters. These three rooms retain their original chair rail and much of the original door and window framings.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- |  |                                       |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century  | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input 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/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic                | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry     |  | _____                                    |
| <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                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce                | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature   | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater             | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications          | <input type="checkbox"/> Military     | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation      | _____                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation            | <input type="checkbox"/> Music        |  | _____                                    |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

James Watson is believed to have come to Virginia about 1717, having been deported from Scotland for participation in the Rebellion of '15 for the Scottish Pretender to the English throne. His son, referred to as Major James Watson, was born near Louisa Court House in 1742. After having managed his father's business for some years, Major Watson was able to purchase property in the Green Springs area of Louisa where he later built Clover Plains, later to be renamed Ionia. In 1773 he married Elizabeth Shelton, the sister of Patrick Henry's wife, and although their first child was born at his father's home, the Watsons occupied Ionia by 1775.

By 1777 Major Watson with his own farm and the extensive property willed him by his father paid the third largest tithe in the county. Referred to as "Wheat Stacks" Watson because of his prosperity, the Major insured his house with the Mutual Assurance Society in 1802 and again in 1805 after a wing had been added.

Following Watson's death the house passed to his wife and in 1845 to his son, Doctor George Watson. The property was never referred to again as "Clover Plains" by the Watson family but as "de House." It was under the ownership of Doctor Watson that the house became known as "Ionia", perhaps after some islands off the coast of Scotland. Watson, a Richmond physician, apparently used Ionia as a summer house, but by his death in 1854 he had moved there permanently.

Dr. Watson's widow lived for many years and by 1879 when she was 88 she had left Ionia. The farm, having become less prosperous, was in arrears in taxes, and Mrs. Watson requested the property be divided before her death among her seven children. Her daughter, Mrs. C. H. Barbour, received the house and 110 acres. The property passed through several hands and eventually to the Hanger family who own it now.

Ionia has evolved into its present condition from an original block of the two south rooms and includes at least four later periods of construction. The building is significant not only as one of the oldest buildings in the Green Springs neighborhood and as its best representative of the classic Virginia eighteenth century "story-and-a-half" structure in this important architectural collection, but also as the original seat of the Watson family who later built many other houses in the Green Springs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Brown, T. Robins. "Documentation of Ionia, Home of Major James Watson, Louisa County, Virginia." University of Virginia: 1969

Mutual Assurance Society of Virginia, Policies, 1796-1866.

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	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY:

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:  
VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION STAFF

ORGANIZATION: VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

DATE: May, 1972

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 51

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 \_\_\_\_\_

James W. Moody, Jr., Director

Title Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

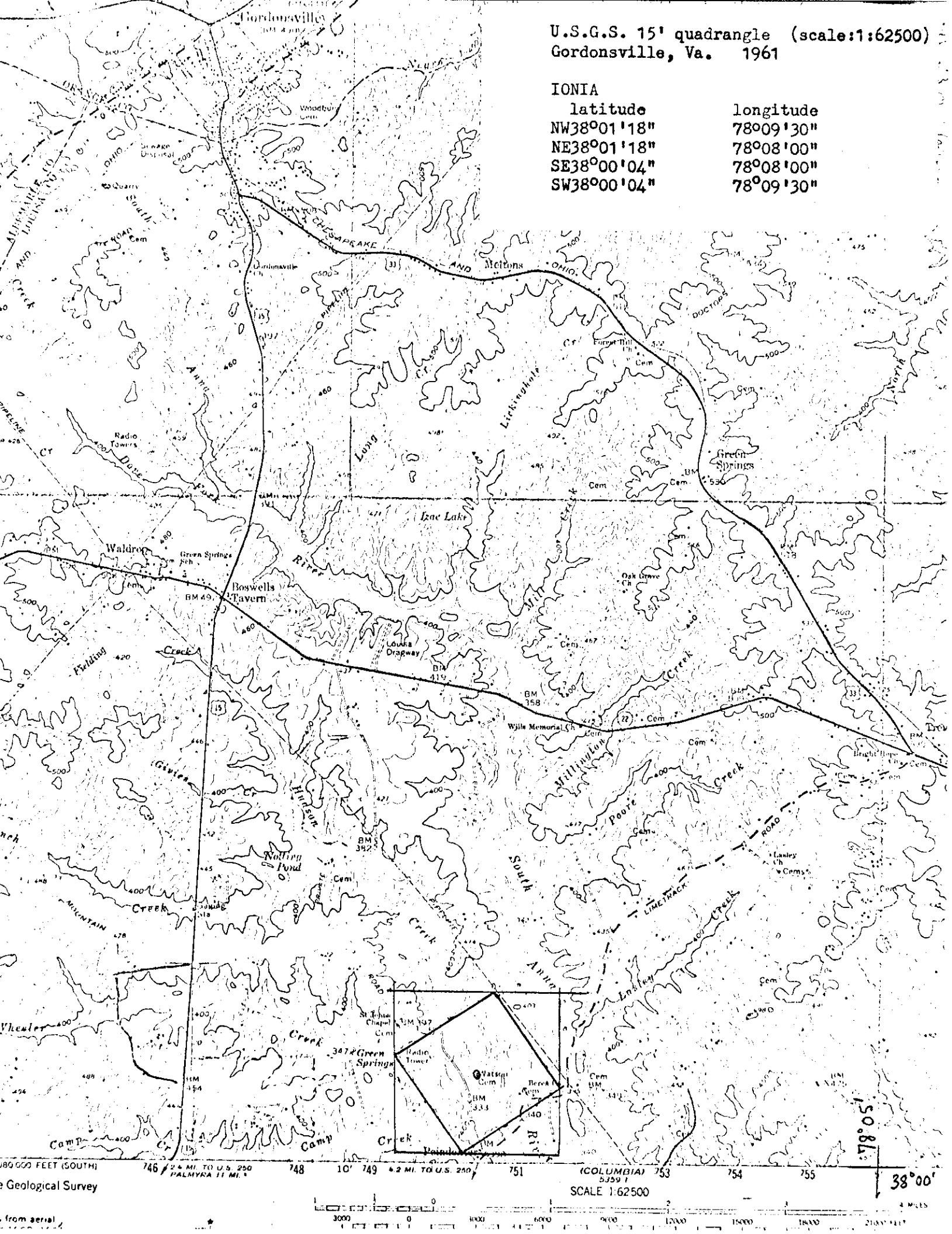
Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

IONIA

latitude	longitude
NW38°01'18"	78°09'30"
NE38°01'18"	78°08'00"
SE38°00'04"	78°08'00"
SW38°00'04"	78°09'30"



78°05' 38°00'

746 2.4 MI. TO U.S. 250 PALMYRA 11 MI. 748 10' 749 4.2 MI. TO U.S. 250 751 (COLUMBIA) 5359 753 754 755

SCALE 1:62500

