

VLR-2/26/79 NRHP-6/22/79

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Joseph Jordan House (Preferred) Boykin's Quarter; Jordan's  
AND/OR COMMON Hattie Barlow Moody Farm

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER West side State Route 683, north of intersection with State Route 681.  
CITY, TOWN Raynor VICINITY OF Fourth (Robert W. Daniel)  
STATE Virginia CODE 51 COUNTY Isle of Wight CODE 093

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME James P. Wells  
STREET & NUMBER Route 2  
CITY, TOWN Ivor VICINITY OF Virginia 23866

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Isle of Wight County Courthouse  
STREET & NUMBER  
CITY, TOWN Isle of Wight STATE Virginia 23397

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
DATE 1975  FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL  
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street  
CITY, TOWN Richmond STATE Virginia 23219

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" 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

The Joseph Jordan House, known in the 19th century as Jordan's or Boykins Quarter and in the 20th century as the Hattie Barlow Moody Farm, is a 150-acre tract set in swampy Isle of Wight County not far from the Blackwater River. The original house is a story-and-a-half frame building with brick ends. A later one-room, two-story frame addition stands at the north end, and a one-cell kitchen ell extends to the rear (west). The original section is three bays long and is clad with original beaded weatherboards on the front and later plain weatherboards on the rear. The sash on the front are 4/4 replacements of the original 9/9 sash; the latter survive on the rear.

The brick ends are laid in Flemish bond with rodded joints, a single glazed chevron following the gable, and queen closers. Each end has a deep rake and a brick chimney projecting equidistantly on the exterior and the interior. The chimneys have tiled weatherings set well below the eaves line and tall, partially engaged stacks with heavy corbelled caps. The house is covered with a gable roof with a box cornice. Of especial note are the clerestory windows which illuminate the second story. These run most of the length of the house and are comprised of four continuous sash, two lights high and eight lights long. They are set into a long shed which meets the main roof at the ridge. This feature, known as a trapdoor monitor, is an early alteration. Originally the upper story was lit by a pair of four-light casement windows in each gable.

The north wing is a two-story, one-bay structure covered by a front-facing gable roof with deep returned eaves. Lit by 2/2 sash flanked by louvered blinds, the structure stands on brick piers. At the same time this wing was erected, a hip-roofed hexastyle porch with chamfered posts having a neck band about one-third of the distance from the top was built to connect the two portions visually. The result was to create a house similar to many being built in the area at the time--a one- and a two-story section joined in an L-plan with their gables at right angles.

At the rear is a square, one-story frame kitchen connected to the rest of the house by an open porch. These kitchens were commonly built on local houses of all sizes in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The plan of the original section of the Jordan House is the traditional hall-parlor arrangement, with a large hall to the north and a smaller parlor or chamber to the south. The plan is repeated in the second story and in the full cellar, which is accessible through an original entrance at the north gable end.

Decoration in the old house is minimal. In the hall, a plain chair rail encircles the room which is distinguished chiefly by its raised-panel mantel and closed-string stair. The mantel consists of a pair of long rectangular panels on each side and on the top with a small square panel in each corner. The whole is surmounted by a molded cornice which serves as a shelf. It is unusually delicate for a mantel of this type and age. The L-plan stair rises in the northwest corner of the hall, to the left of the fireplace, and has a square newel with a ball finial, a molded rail, and urn-and-ball balusters. The spandrel of both runs is made of flush boarding embellished with molded diagonal battens. Under the stair, set at an angle between the lower run and the fireplace, is a four-panel, raised-panel closet door hung on HL hinges. The parlor features a mantel which is similar to that in the hall and wainscoting with Victorian graining encircling the room.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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

ca. 1795

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Joseph Jordan House, a small brick-and-frame farmhouse with distinctive architectural detailing, is a well-preserved example of a moderate-sized plantation house of the late 18th century in southeastern Virginia. It is one of the largest and most striking of an important group of architecturally related houses in the Blackwater River area where Surry, Southampton and Isle of Wight counties meet. These houses represent the first flush of prosperity for the small planters who settled the area. The later additions on the house, the outbuildings, and the 150-acre tract itself complete the picture of a typical 19th-century farmstead of the region.

The Jordans, a Quaker family, appear in the earliest land tax records of Isle of Wight County in 1782, when William Jordan was charged with 558 acres of land (the site of the present house) and his son Joseph owned 1200 acres. After the father's death ca. 1788, the son owned approximately 1900 acres including these tracts. Joseph Jordan died soon thereafter. His will, recorded in 1795, directs that his wife "compleat my dwelling house . . . and mill seat." It seems certain from architectural evidence that the present house is the same as that in the 1795 reference.

The Blackwater River area south of the James was settled at an early date by planters of lesser means than those who settled nearer the James River. A remarkable group of small houses, many inscribed with dates, suggests that these men experienced a dramatic upswing in their fortunes around the time of the Revolution. Presumably, these settlers originally occupied rude post-supported dwellings, but by the post-Revolutionary period they were able to provide for themselves more substantial houses on masonry foundations, as this group of one- and two-cell houses testifies. All of these buildings show a myriad of architectural similarities; many bear dates which affirm those connections and suggest a pride of achievement which reinforces the idea that their prosperity was very recent. The Joseph Jordan House is one of the latest and largest of these. Its brick ends and hall-parlor plan with the stairs in the corner by the chimney, rather than on the central partition (a more common arrangement), connect it with the Britt House which stands in Southampton County, about a mile from the Jordan House. The balusters at the Jordan House also resemble those at the Britt House; the stair at the latter is in turn a duplicate of that at the nearby George Holmes House, which is dated 1784. The Jordan House semi-exterior end chimneys are similar in workmanship and form to one at the Britt House and bear a strong resemblance to those at the frame, hall-parlor Hunniford House and the one-room frame Maynard House, both close by in Surry County. In short, the Jordan House fits neatly into the geographically and chronologically close-knit group which ranges in size from the one-cell or one-cell-and-lean-to houses through the hall-parlor dwellings, with a single two-story hall-parlor house, respectively, the more common and most elaborate of the group.

By 1812 William J. Boykin had purchased the property from Joseph Jordan's widow. A large landholder in the area, Boykin built a substantial plantation house called Strawberry Plains in the vicinity of the Jordan House before his death in 1824. As a result,

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Isle of Wight County Deed Books 33, 34, 41, 44, 73, 252, 240.

Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, 1826-33, 1833-1840.

Isle of Wight Land Tax Books, 1782-1973.

Isle of Wight Will Books 10, 20, 21.

Papenfuse, Edward C., Jr. "Planter Behavior and Economic Opportunity in a Stable Economy." Agricultural History, XLVI, 297-311.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 150 acres

UTM REFERENCES

(See Continuation Sheet #3)  
QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

QUADRANGLE NAME Raynor, Virginia

A | 118 | 3413 | 21510 | 410 | 923 | 5410 |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B | 118 | 3432 | 15 | 40 | 93 | 21310 |  
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C | 118 | 3413 | 01910 | 410 | 92 | 620 |

D | 118 | 3413 | 91810 | 410 | 92 | 41410 |

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The acreage comprising the Joseph Jordan House begins at a point on W side of State Route 683 and 4200' SSE of the intersection of State Routes 623 and 683; thence extending 1000' S along State Route 683; thence extending 1700' SW; thence extending SE 1600' to State Route 681; thence extending SSW 600' along said route; thence extending 900' W; thence extending NW approximately 3100' to the 50' contour line; thence extending about 1300' NE following said contour; thence extending approximately 700' along intermittent stream; thence extending 2800' 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

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

January 1979

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

(804) 786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

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

TITLE Tucker Hill, Executive Director  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 26 1979

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  
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Joseph Jordan House, Isle of Wight County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7 & 8 PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

In the second-floor, several features are noteworthy. One is the upper stair rail which is similar to the lower one except that the newel is much more elaborate. It is a heavier version of the banisters with an unturned block at the top to which the rail is joined, surmounted by a flattened-ball finial. Newels such as this are most commonly found in large mid-18th-century houses.

The clerestory monitors were probably added ca. 1820-1840. They are a feature found on many small houses of the region and represent an intermediate step between a half-story with dormers and a full second story. Of additional interest is the clapboard roof which covers the original house. It is one of only nine known examples of this rare feature surviving in Virginia, and it is one of the best preserved.

A fine group of 19th-century frame outbuildings survives in the yard. These are set along the driveway leading to the house forming a short street with the house on axis at the end; this is the traditional 19th-century farm plan of the area. From the east, on the north side, there are a mid-19th-century office or tenant house, a late 19th-century crib on unhewn posts, a mid-19th-century crib built of square-notched planks (a minor regional tradition) and surrounded by later sheds, and an early 19th-century smokehouse covered with beaded weatherboards and expanded with a later shed at the east. Aligned with these, but standing at the rear of the house off the northwest corner, is a square mid-19th-century, board-and-batten kitchen in dilapidated condition. On the west side of the drive, opposite the tenant house, is another late 19th- or early 20th-century frame building of indeterminate use. The rest of the buildings on this side of the drive have disappeared. As was the traditional practice this complex was enclosed by a wire fence setting it off from the farm lands.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The register bounds include the present bounds of the farm, which have had no significant change since 1879. The property is important partly for its connection with the agrarian history of the area, and more particularly for its connection with small planters. The 150-acre tract is especially significant, since 150 acres was the average plantation size for landowners.

DU

8. SIGNIFICANCE

the Jordan House came to be known as Boykin's Quarter to signify that the property was an outlying farm. Boykin's property was divided between his widow and his two minor children. William J., Jr., and Lucy, the children, inherited the Jordan House tract. When the invalid William Jr. (or Joseph, as he was sometimes called in the county records) died in 1839, William R. Hankins (apparently a relative) purchased 800 acres of the Jordan tract from the estate. In 1841 he sold 130 acres of this tract to Dorson or Dorsey Dews for \$750. Once again, the tract became an independent farm. The acreage is significant. In his article on planters in Prince Georges County, Maryland, Edward Papenfuse has

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 8 & 9 PAGE 2

8. SIGNIFICANCE

suggested that many farmers in the 18th-century Chesapeake assumed that 130 acres was the amount of land that could be tended by one slaveless family. Even among slaveholders, about 150 acres was the average landholding. Dorson Dews thus bought himself a small planter's farm, and over the course of his tenure built a street of domestic and agricultural outbuildings typical of the area. The tall gable-roofed smokehouse, the notched-plank crib, and the small square kitchen are all characteristic vernacular forms in extreme southeastern Virginia. Their alignment in rows leading to the house is a practice which dates at least to the early 19th-century.

Dews died in the late 1870s, having already placed his farm and household goods in trust for his children to secure what he might "owe" them; it was conveyed to them in 1879 after his death. Dawsey C. and Benjamin F. Dews split the estate, with the west part, containing the house, going to B. F. Dews. It was then assumed that the property comprised 75 acres, or about half of the original "130" acres. In 1907 M. Dawson Moody purchased this tract from the estate of M. J. Dews, the widow of Benjamin Dews. It may be that Mrs. Dews added the wing and the kitchen ell between 1900 and 1904, when the value of the improvements was increased from \$600 to \$700. By adding the wing, she created a house which resembled on the exterior the I-plan houses which were popular in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in rural and small-town Virginia. These houses normally consisted of two sections in varying combinations of single- and two-story elements and with gable roofs set perpendicular to one another. At the same time, by adding a kitchen to the rear, in effect bringing the cooking in from the board-and-batten kitchen in the yard, Mrs. Dews would have again reflected her time and place. In the last 25 years of the 19th century, most houses in the area had kitchen ells attached. The owners of the larger houses with exterior kitchens no longer could afford the inconvenience of a wholly exterior kitchen, deprived as they were of much of their involuntary labor force. On the other hand, smaller householders who had heretofore cooked in the main rooms of their dwellings were able at last to afford an addition which would move this hot and messy operation out of their living rooms. Thus most area houses, large and small, have these appendages.

Moody's family owned the property until 1976, when the Hattie Barlow Moody Farm, as it was then known, was sold to the F. Perry and Son Lumber Co., who in turn sold it to the present owner, James P. Wells, in 1978. At that time the tract was surveyed and found to be 150 acres!

MTP/DU

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Upton, Dell. "Early Vernacular Architecture in Southeast Virginia." Ph.D. dissertation, Brown University, 1979.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Board Roofing in Tidewater Virginia." APT Bulletin, VIII (1978).

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Joseph Jordan House, Isle of Wight County, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 2

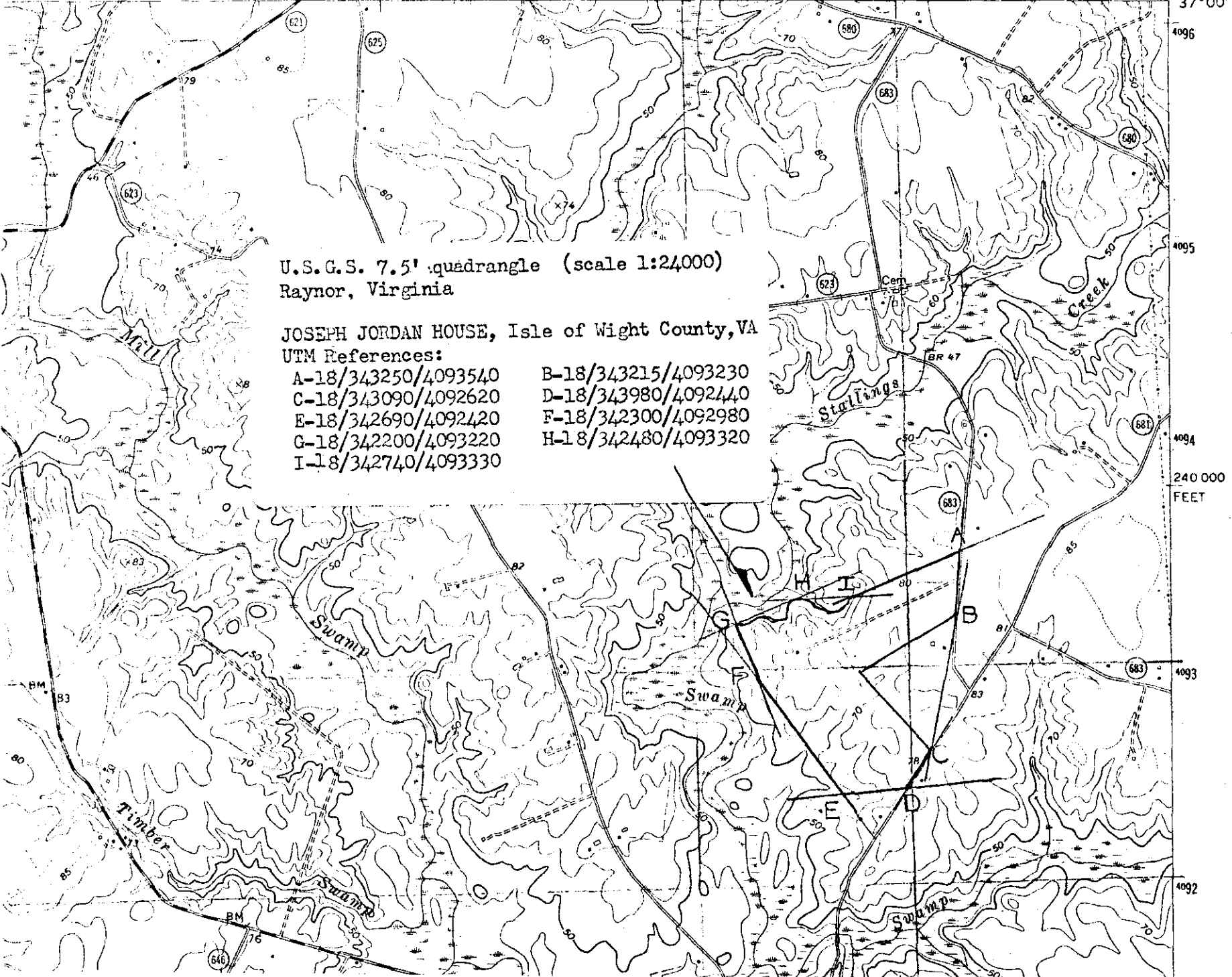
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

E 18/342690/4092420  
G 18/342200/4093220  
I 18/342740/4093330

F 18/342300/4092980  
H 18/342480/4093320

3653 11 54  
BACONS CAST

SE EDEJ 339 1000S 0.3 MI. 47'30" 341 342 343 344 2 510 000 FEET 76°45' 37°00'



U.S.G.S. 7.5' quadrangle (scale 1:24000)  
Raynor, Virginia

JOSEPH JORDAN HOUSE, Isle of Wight County, VA  
UTM References:

- |                     |                     |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A-18/343250/4093540 | B-18/343215/4093230 |
| C-18/343090/4092620 | D-18/343980/4092440 |
| E-18/342690/4092420 | F-18/342300/4092980 |
| G-18/342200/4093220 | H-18/342480/4093320 |
| I-18/342740/4093330 |                     |