

VLR-12/9/86 NRHP-4/24/87

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms  
Type all entries — complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Verville (DHL File # 51-26)

and or common Verville

2. Location

street & number State Road 611 N/A not for publication

city, town Merry Point  vicinity of

state VA code 51 county Lancaster code 103

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ammon G. Dunton, Jr. c/o Dunton, Simmons, and Dunton

street & number P.O. Box 5

city, town White Stone N/A vicinity of state VA 22578

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lancaster Courthouse

street & number State Road 3

city, town Lancaster state VA 22503

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

1. Virginia Historic Landmarks Division  
title File 1/51-26 has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date 1969, 1970 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state VA 23219

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Verville is an early house situated off State Road #611 in the Merry Point vicinity of Lancaster County. Built about 1745, this brick house has the story-and-a-half, single-pile, central-passage design common among the dwellings of colonial Virginia's affluent planters and merchants. While Verville has retained its original form, it did sustain a major remodeling during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century, when the gambrel roof was added and all woodwork was changed to conform with Federal-style tastes. Three one-room brick extensions--two wings and an ell--were added during several antebellum building campaigns.

The nominated site is approximately five acres in area, large enough to include eighteenth-century landscape features and the archaeological remains of most original service structures. This area encompasses one contributing building--the colonial house itself--and five noncontributing reconstructed outbuildings. These include a decorative well head, two garden tool sheds, and two small barns.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Verville is located on a broad, mostly level hilltop site. The house faces south toward three excavated terraces or "falls" that slope down to a river plain and the Western branch of the Corotoman River. The three-bay, single-pile, story-and-a-half structure was built in the 1740s of bricks that are laid in English bond below, and in Flemish bond above, a plain beveled water table. The original brickwork on the north and south walls is distinguished by a regular pattern of glazed headers. The proportions of the structure suggest that the present central-passage plan is the original one. The two rooms on each floor are heated from interior gable-end chimneys. The house probably originally had a gable roof.

In the last decade of the eighteenth century, or in the early nineteenth century, Verville was substantially remodeled. The long (north and south) walls of the house were raised by about eight courses of brickwork, and the gable-end (east and west) walls were laid up far enough to meet a new gambrel roof structure. The added brickwork, like the original masonry, was arranged in Flemish bond, but without the regular glazed headers. In this remodeling process, the three original openings on both the north and south walls were enlarged. Gauged and scored jack arches were added or rebuilt. The north and south central doorways were surmounted by four-light transoms and were secured by double doors with flush panels. The flanking windows were fitted with nine-over-nine double-hung sash. The cellar grates may also have been added or enlarged at this time. New windows in the lower faces of the gambrel roof were glazed with smaller nine-over-six sash. The upper floor of the house was further illuminated by small square four-light windows built into the end walls. Federal-style dentilled cornices embellish the lower edges of both pitches of the gambrel roof.

(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 checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1742-1749; 1803-15 Builder/Architect N/A

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Verville is one of only a handful of colonial buildings known to survive in Lancaster County. While the form of the house is typical of the eighteenth-century Chesapeake, early records indicate that in size, fabric, and embellishment, Verville was always considered to be a superlative example of local domestic architecture. Its architectural significance is further enhanced by the instructive character and quality of the changes it has sustained during two centuries of continuous habitation. Moreover, Verville is the only extant building on a site of unquestionable archaeological significance: eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century documents confirm that the house once presided over a lively variety of commercial, agricultural, and social activities, and that it stood at the center of a complex of structures associated with early Chesapeake plantation life. Verville draws additional historical importance from its association with a number of prominent owners and residents. First among these are the Scots-Irish immigrant James Gordon I, who built the house, and his son, James Gordon II. Both men were influential merchants, planters, and public officials in eighteenth-century Lancaster County. Verville is also the standing building most closely associated with James Waddell, a Presbyterian minister notable for his contributions to a dissenting religious tradition in pre-revolutionary Virginia. Finally, during the early years of the American republic, the property became the seat of Ellyson Currie, a distinguished lawyer and justice of the Virginia General Court. It is Currie who gave Verville its name.

#### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Verville was built between the east and west branches of the Corotoman River on a tract of land assembled through numerous purchases by James Gordon I. The property he bought had been owned by--and in some cases, patented by--the Carter, Conway, and Ball families. The house was constructed between 1742, when Gordon made his first acquisition of land, and 1749, when a deed by which Gordon purchased an adjacent tract referred to "the Hill the sd Gordon's dwelling house stands on . . . ." <sup>1</sup> These initial purchases were made from heirs of Thomas Carter, and the wording of the deeds suggests that Gordon was buying sections of a long-established plantation.

James Gordon I (1714-1768) was born into a family of Scots who lived in County Down, in Ireland's province of Ulster. <sup>2</sup> In about 1738, he immigrated to Lancaster County to become one of the numerous Scottish merchants who were taking control of an important link in Virginia's economy. <sup>3</sup> Like other of his countrymen, Gordon established stores in convenient locations where he could offer planters instant credit for their hogsheads of tobacco as well as ready access to a supply of imported English goods. <sup>4</sup>

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Coleman, Charles Washington. "The County Committees of 1774-1775 in Virginia." William and Mary Quarterly, Series 1, 5 (1896) p. 255.

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. five

Quadrangle name Irvington, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 1 8	3 6 1 9 7 6 0	4 1 7 5 5 6 0	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

JUSTIFICATION:

**Verbal boundary description and justification.** The Verville nomination consists of approximately acres which constitutes the domestic core of a 460-acre tract of land assembled by James Gordon I through various purchases and bequeathed by him to his oldest son, James Gordon II, by will proved February 18, 1768. ( See Continuation Sheet #9)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Camille Wells

organization Department of History

date September, 1986

street & number College of William and Mary

telephone 253-4417

city or town Williamsburg

state VA 23185

## 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



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director  
Division of Historic Landmarks

date February 9, 1987

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

2. Historic American Buildings Survey  
1939, 1940, 1958  
Library of Congress  
Washington, D.C. 20540

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

The interior detailing of the original house also dates from the major turn-of-the-nineteenth-century rebuilding. The most elaborately detailed space is the central passage, where flush-board wainscoting below the pedestal chair rail and on the base of the stair is made to appear paneled by the application of tiny beaded strips of molding. All of the doors opening off the passage have six plain recessed panels outlined in classical moldings with attenuated Federal proportions. Like the two other original first-floor rooms, the passage has a molded cornice.

The sense that the passage ranks as the most important room at Verville is mainly derived from details associated with the stair. Each step ends with a flat sawn compound-curve console. The ramped banister is supported by balusters that are rectangular in section. There are turned newels at the several intermediate junctures of the three-part stair, although the lowest terminus of the structure is distinguished by the volute end of the bottom step and a corresponding spiral of plain balusters. The line of the banister is emphasized by a half-banister set into the passage wall. At the stair landing, this feature becomes part of a paneled base for a shelf and window sill. That the central passage at Verville was, after the remodeling, thought of and possibly used as two distinct spaces is suggested by the ornamentation on the apron of the stair landing. Applied architrave moldings and a keystone are used to create a flattened arch that visually divides the passage into front and rear halves.

In the parlor and the dining room, decorative woodwork is used somewhat more sparingly. Both rooms have door and window frames and pedestal chair rails that are identical to those in the passage, but there is no wainscoting. Each room has a cornice. The most distinctive features of these two rooms are the mantels, which consist of reeded pilasters supporting architraves, friezes, cornices and shelves. The parlor mantel is embellished with bands of reeding and fluting interspersed with guilloche. The corner blocks and central tablet of the frieze are emphasized with gouged Federal ovals. The mantel in the dining room is comparably arresting. On the entablature, moldings frame an imaginatively elongated bead-and-reel pattern. The frieze corner blocks and central tablet are decorated with a mildly eccentric pattern of gouged swags.

Without variation, the upper-story trim is a more restrained version of first-floor woodwork, reinforcing the strong sense that the house was completely remodeled during the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century. Both chambers have mantels composed of molded architraves with crossets beneath plain cornices and shelves. The detailing of these mantels is accomplished mostly with gougework.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

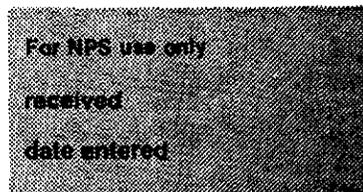
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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

The first structural addition to Verville, a one-room brick wing on the east end, dates to a period slightly later than the Federal remodeling. The masonry of this addition is laid in five-course common bond, and there are no jack arches over the openings. A seam in the south face of this wing indicates that it originally has a shed roof. Old photographs suggest that this addition never had a separate chimney.

During a second period of addition, a slightly longer single-room wing was added to the west end wall. Composed of five-course common-bond brickwork, this addition has plain splayed jack arches over the doors and windows, an interior gable-end chimney, and a corbelled brick cornice beneath the eaves. There are Italianate moldings around the six-over-nine double-hung-sash windows. The interior of this wing is visually dominated by the mantel on which Greek moldings form a fairly typical design of flat pilasters supporting an architrave, frieze, cornice, and shelf. The prominent but plain character of this mantel suggests that this west-wing room was a formal space of some importance, but it was not meant to surpass any of the original first-floor rooms in the social hierarchy. Old photographs show that this wing originally had two gable-end windows that illuminated a finished upper chamber. Probably at the same time the west wing was constructed, the east wing was given a higher profile, a corbelled brick cornice, and a gable roof structure. Unlike the west addition, however, the east wing apparently originally had no finished loft space.

The last major nineteenth-century addition to Verville was the one-room ell located on the north side of the house in a position that conceals the seam between the original structure and the west wing. Like the two wings, the ell is constructed of five-course common-bond brickwork with splayed jack arches over the openings, but without the corbelled cornice. There is an original interior gable-end chimney and several original windows with double-hung sash set into plain frames. The ell is the only one of the three major nineteenth-century additions to have no original independent access to the exterior; a door was added to the east wall sometime before 1940.

Verville was restored in 1959, but the colonial and Federal fabric of the structure was left largely untouched. More assertive changes were made to the nineteenth-century brick additions of the house, and these have blurred original complicated patterns of use and circulation among the rooms of the main house and the three appendages. In the east wing, almost all original trim was removed when the room was converted into a modern kitchen. An enclosed stair was added to the west wing, and a bulkhead entrance to the cellar was built into the north wall of the main house. The rooflines of both wings were raised, and north- and south-facing shed dormers were added. At the northeast corner of the structure, an early well was given a fanciful decorative head and cover.

Between 1969 and 1974, Verville was once again extended. A brick cross wing was connected to the east end of the house by means of a frame hyphen. Like the colonial core of the structure, the wing has Flemish-bond masonry and gauged jack arches. Its proportions and scale, however, resemble those of the nineteenth-century wings, which also supplied the model for the cross wing's corbelled brick cornice. On the north gable end of the addition is an exterior chimney with beveled and tiled shoulders.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

All woodwork in the modern addition is derived from colonial prototypes. During this most recent building campaign, a polygonal porch was added onto the west end of the house, and wooden stoops and steps were constructed at each exterior doorway. Four small frame outbuildings, all loosely based on colonial prototypes, were constructed in the yard around the house.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

The surviving fragment of Gordon's diary records that his activities as a merchant were paralleled by his emergence as a substantial planter. Gordon bought slaves as well as land, and he supervised their tending of tobacco and grain crops, apple and peach orchards, vegetable gardens and various species of livestock.<sup>5</sup> At the time of his death, Gordon's wealth included over 1500 acres of land, 58 slaves, the unsold contents of several stores, and other personal property totaling over £8000 in value.<sup>6</sup>

Gordon also became an active participant in the social transactions of his Lancaster County community. From 1744 until 1750, he served as a justice of the county court. Though he remained a devoted Presbyterian, Gordon accepted a position as vestryman of Christ Church Parish.<sup>7</sup> A role in the local militia gave him the opportunity to become known as "Colonel Gordon."<sup>8</sup> His journal records the frequent presence of house guests and almost daily rounds of sociable arrivals and departures. Gordon clearly understood that visiting was fundamental to the hierarchical and mannered world created by Virginia's affluent planters, and he was willing to spend a great deal of energy developing a firm and extensive network of friends and relations.<sup>9</sup>

While Gordon moved with ease among the most prestigious company in the Northern Neck, he maintained his commitment to a dissenting faith that was, he knew, attractive mostly to "common people & negroes."<sup>10</sup> One of Gordon's chief concerns was the propagation of his religious views and, between 1759 and 1763, the establishment of a Presbyterian meetinghouse. He served as host and benefactor to numerous ministers of dissenting sects, including George Whitefield, Samuel Davies, and James Waddell.<sup>11</sup> Eventually, Waddell (1743-1805) assumed charge of the Lancaster County Presbyterian meetinghouse that Gordon helped to found and married Gordon's daughter Mary.<sup>12</sup> Waddell remained in Lancaster County until 1778, contributing substantially to the popularity of evangelical protestantism. Possibly it was because of his ties with the Gordons that he was considered acceptable to "people of fashion."<sup>13</sup>

James Gordon died in 1768. Although his will was specific concerning the division of his estate--the house and home plantation were to descend to his oldest son, James II--his preferences were thwarted by circumstance. Gordon's widow died in 1771, forcing the county court to redistribute the property among his five surviving children. Twenty-one-year-old James Gordon II (1750-1794) was named guardian of his three younger siblings and manger of their inheritance.<sup>14</sup>

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

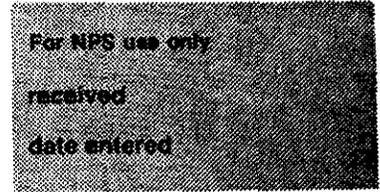
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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Despite his youth, James Gordon II quickly became active among the issues of his day. In 1775, he was a member of Lancaster County's Committee of Correspondence.<sup>15</sup> The following year, he was paid by the Williamsburg Committee of Safety for transporting gunpowder to Lancaster County.<sup>16</sup> After the Revolution, he represented his community in the Virginia House of Delegates and at the 1788 state convention to ratify the Constitution. He also served as clerk of the county court and as a colonel in the local militia.<sup>17</sup>

Little is known of the younger Gordon's commercial and agricultural affairs, although it is clear that he continued to operate at least one store, and he continued to reside on the plantation located between the branches of the Corotoman River, cultivating his extensive landholdings with slave labor.<sup>18</sup> In 1785, he made an unsuccessful attempt to enhance the value of his plantation by laying out the town of "Gordonsville" on fifty acres of his riverside land.<sup>19</sup> Like his father, James Gordon II was apparently able to balance a commitment to Presbyterian doctrines with local social customs among the planter gentry. In 1790, an itinerant Presbyterian minister and his lay companion presented Gordon with a letter of introduction "which procured us a very cordial reception. His house was full of company, relations & other friends, when we arrived." The plain, pious visitors were disconcerted to see that Gordon's guests "were generally persons who moved in the higher circles & appeared unusually gay & shiney in their dress & manners."<sup>20</sup>

James Gordon II died in 1794. Just months earlier, he had arranged to buy out the interest of his younger brother John in the Gordon home plantation so that it might be conveyed, unencumbered, to his wife and five small children.<sup>21</sup> This transaction was apparently never completed, for in 1797, the Lancaster County Court allotted Ann Gordon the traditional widow's third of her husband's estate.<sup>22</sup> John Gordon, who had moved to Frederick County, authorized several tenants or managers of the Lancaster County plantation to offer it for sale.<sup>23</sup>

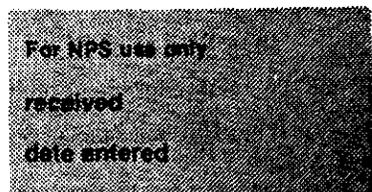
In 1803, Ellyson Currie bought 650 acres of the James Gordon plantation--including the colonial house--from John Gordon's representatives. Currie named his new property "Verville" and it is probably he who remodeled the structure, adding the gambrel roof, rebuilding the stair case, and replacing the woodwork with expensive and stylish Federal trim.<sup>24</sup> According to the especially detailed personal property tax records of 1815, Currie's dwelling was alone worth \$1200--the second most valuable house in Lancaster County.<sup>25</sup>

Ellyson Currie (17??-1828) was the sixth child of David Currie, another Scot who had immigrated to Virginia in 1743. Though he was an Anglican--he served as minister of Christ Church, Lancaster--he was friendly with James Gordon I and occasionally appears in his journal.<sup>26</sup> Ellyson Currie became a lawyer and was practicing in the Northern Neck by 1799. In 1813, the governor appointed him to a seat on Virginia's General Court, a position that he apparently held until his death.<sup>27</sup> Notations in his surviving account books show that he was actively farming his plantation, and Lancaster County tax records indicate that he was also aggressively acquiring more land.<sup>28</sup>

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Currie's son Ellyson Armistead Currie inherited the property in 1828.<sup>29</sup> It was probably during his tenure that all or several of the brick appendages were added to Verville. Although the family fortunes dwindled and their landholdings diminished during and after the Civil War, Currie descendants continued to own and occupy Verville until the middle of the twentieth century.<sup>30</sup>

In 1959, the Curries sold Verville and the surrounding fifty acres to Walter and Elizabeth Oliver of Fairfax, Virginia.<sup>31</sup> The Olivers engaged architect Walter Macomber to supervise restoration of the dilapidated colonial structure. By the 1950s, Macomber was an influential figure in the architectural history of the East Coast. He had begun to build a reputation in 1928, when he represented the architectural firm of Perry, Shaw, and Hepburn as resident architect at the Colonial Williamsburg restoration. Under Macomber, the young architects of the Williamsburg restoration developed a lively and enduring tradition of architectural scholarship through fieldwork in the Virginia countryside.<sup>32</sup> After leaving Colonial Williamsburg, Macomber directed a series of important restorations, including those of Mount Vernon and the Lindens.<sup>33</sup> In the late 1960s, after Elizabeth Oliver sold the property to Ammon and Katherine Dunton, Macomber was commissioned to design modern additions and outbuildings for Verville.

Notes

1. Lancaster County Deed/Will Book 14, p. 243.
2. Armistead Churchill Gordon, Gordons in Virginia (Hackensack, N. J.: 1918), p. 25.
3. Fithian observed "that all the Merchants & shopkeepers in the Sphere of my acquaintance and I am told it is the case throughout the Province, are young Scotch-Men . . . ." Journal and Letters of Philip Vickers Fithian 1773-1774: A Plantation Tutor of the Old Dominion, ed. Hunter Dickinson Farish (Williamsburg: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, 1965), p. 29. See also Rhys Isaac, The Transformation of Virginia 1740-1790 (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1982) p. 137.
4. Several months after Gordon's death, his executors held a public sale of the contents of his Lancaster courthouse store. An advertisement for the event mentioned that the stock consisted of "A large quantity of European goods." Virginia Gazette (Rind) 18 August 1768, p. 3. Over a third of Gordon's journal entries make some mention of his activities or concerns as a merchant. See "Journal of James Gordon," William and Mary Quarterly, Series 1, 11-12 (1902-1903) 11:98-112, 195-205, 217-236; 12:1-12.
5. "Journal of James Gordon," numerous entries.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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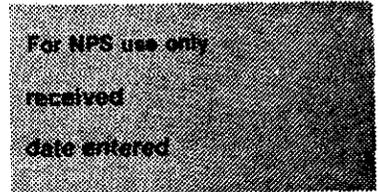
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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

6. Inventory of James Gordon I, Lancaster County Deed/Will Book 18, pp. 108-109, 13 February 1768; Will of James Gordon I, Lancaster Deed/Will Book 18, p. 105, 18 February 1768.

7. In colonial Virginia, the Anglican church was a state church, and thus, the role of vestryman was as much civic as it was religious. Vestrymen were traditionally designated from among the wealthiest and most influential men in the parish. Gordon, despite his dissenting faith, fit the other criteria for selection. See Dell Upton, "Anglican Parish Churches in Eighteenth-Century Virginia," in Camille Wells, ed. Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture II (Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1986) in press.

8. Christine Adams Jones, Colonel James Gordon, Merchant of Lancaster County, Virginia (Lancaster: Mary Ball Washington Museum, 1983) pp. 6-7; Lyon G. Tyler, Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography 1 (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1915) p. 244.

9. Isaac, pp. 70-71; Gordon's relationships with family and friends are analyzed in Daniel Black Smith, Inside the Great House: Planter Family Life in Eighteenth-Century Chesapeake Society (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1980) pp. 210-15.

10. Gordon went on to remark that "The gentlemen that even incline to come /to the meetinghouse/ are afraid of being laughed at." "Journal of James Gordon," 11:199.

11. "Journal of James Gordon," numerous references.

12. James and Mary Gordon Waddell are mentioned in a 1771 document concerning the division of the property of James Gordon I. Lancaster County Order Book 15, p. 172, 25 November 1771.

13. Fithian, p. 73; Tyler, 1:348.

14. Will of James Gordon I; Lancaster County Order Book 15, p. 172, 25 November 1771.

15. Charles Washington Coleman, "The County Committees of 1774-1775 in Virginia," William and Mary Quarterly, Series 1, 5 (1896) p. 255.

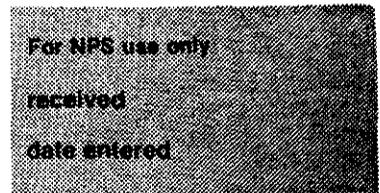
16. William P. Palmer, ed., Calendar of Virginia State Papers 8 (Richmond: 1890), p. 193.

17. Gordons in Virginia, p. 45.

(See Continuation Sheet #7)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

18. In 1780, there appeared an advertisement in the Virginia Gazette for a shipload of goods from France to be offered for sale "at the store of Colonel James Gordon, Lancaster County, on Corotoman River, a branch of Rappahannock opposite Urbanna . . . ." Virginia Gazette (Clarkson and Davis) 19 February 1780, p. 1.

Lancaster County Personal Property Tax Lists for the years between 1782 and 1794 show that James Gordon II paid taxes for between 21 and 51 slaves. The Land Tax Lists for the same period show that he was responsible for his 683-acre home plantation and between 3 and 370 additional acres of land.

19. William Waller Hening, Virginia Statutes at Large 12 (Richmond, 1823) pp. 215-6. Because this act to establish a town on Gordon property indicated that the community should be known as "Gordonsville," it has often been assumed that Gordon's plantation and house were known by that name. See, for example, Edward Chase Earle, Jr., and Mildred Towles Wooding, "Verville, Once Called 'Gordonsville'," in Northern Neck Historical Magazine 7 (1957) pp. 597-614. The property is not referred to by any name until 1813, when "Verville" is used. A 1784 map of the Corotoman River identifies the house and surrounding plantation as simply "Col. Gordons."

20. Quoted in William Warren Sweet, Religion on the American Frontier: The Presbyterians (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1945) pp. 765-6.

21. Lancaster County Deed/Will Book 23, p. 35, 1 April 1794.

22. Lancaster County Estate Book 24, p. 65, 19 June 1797.

23. Lancaster County Deed/Will Book 23, pp. 494-5, 21 February 1803. Job Carter, who had been paying taxes on the Gordon property since 1797, was one of four men named as acting for John Gordon of Frederick County.

24. The Federal-style changes made to Verville were secured with cut nails, which were available beginning about 1790. It is therefore possible that James Gordon II remodeled the house before his death in 1794. Documents indicate that the Gordon family affairs were in sufficient disorder to prevent a major change to the house between 1794 and 1803, when Ellyson Currie purchased the structure and its surrounding plantation.

25. Lancaster County Personal Property Tax List, 1815.

26. "Journal of James Gordon," several entries; Tyler, 1:219.

27. Ellyson Currie Account Books, 1799-1808, 1805-1818; H. W. Flournoy, ed., Calendar of Virginia State Papers 10 (Richmond, 1892) p. 226. In his response to the governor's appointment, Currie recorded that he was writing from "Verville."

28. Lancaster County Land Tax Records, 1803-1828.

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

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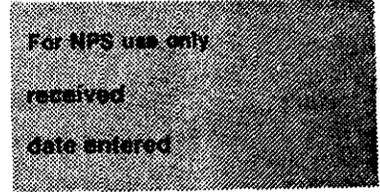
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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

29. Will of Ellyson Currie, Lancaster County Will Book 28, p. 294, 24 March 1828.
30. Lancaster County Order Book 32, p. 589, 17 September 1877; Lancaster County Deed Book 49, pp. 208-210, 29 January 1896; Lancaster County Deed Book 66, p. 151, 28 May 1928.
31. Lancaster County Deed Book 118, p. 404, 19 June 1959.
32. Charles B. Hosmer, Jr., Preservation Comes of Age: From Williamsburg to the National Trust, 1926-1949 (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1981) 1:32; 2:900, 902.
33. Letter received from Marion H. Macomber, 3 June 1986.

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(See Continuation Sheet #9)

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**National Register of Historic Places  
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION: Beginning at a point on the W side of VA 611, approx. 1400' SE of the intersection of VA 611 and VA 604; thence extending approx. 375' WSW; thence approx. 275' S, thence approx. 750' E to a point on the W side of VA 611; thence following W side of VA 611 approx. 100' NNN; thence approx. 100' NNW; thence approx. 200' WNW; thence approx. 200' NNN to the point of origin.

