

VLR-2/17/76 NRHP-9/29/76

173-1

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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

Boyd's Tavern (Preferred); Boyd Tavern; Exchange Hotel; Boydton Hotel

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

west side of Washington Street (Route 92); 200 feet northwest of
intersection of Routes 92 and 58.

STREET & NUMBER

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Boydton

VICINITY OF

Fifth (W. C. Daniel)

STATE

Virginia

CODE
51

COUNTY

Mecklenburg

CODE
117

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

DISTRICT

PUBLIC

OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES: RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY (2) (see Continuation Sheet #1)

NAME

(1) W. H. Newman

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boydton

VICINITY OF

STATE

Virginia 23917

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Mecklenburg County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Boydton

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (see Continuation Sheet #2)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1958

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D. C.

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 type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Boyd's Tavern is a rambling, two-story frame structure built in several campaigns during the course of the nineteenth century. The building is clad with beaded and plain weatherboards, has a brick basement, and is covered with a standing-seam sheet metal roof. The main block has four large exterior end chimneys laid in Flemish bond, with corbeled caps. The front plane of the roof is broken by a central gable with stick-style decoration and by two dormers with deep pediments. The building's various sections are unified by a full-length two-story porch with sawn-work decoration. The porch is supported on slender bracketed columns along the wings and by large square bracketed columns at the main block.

Boyd's Tavern was built in at least three stages. The central block, with its double-pile, central-passage plan and its flanking one-story, single-cell wings, was in existence by about 1812 when it was drawn in that form on a "Flat of the Town of Boydton, Virginia." A major mid-nineteenth-century renovation at the hands of Jacob Holt, a North Carolina architect who was also responsible for the Boydton Methodist Church and for nearby Eureka, resulted in the raising of the wings to two stories and the remodeling of the interior in the Italianate style. Later in the nineteenth century, a two-story, single-pile addition with a store at the far end was added to the south, and the porch was built or rebuilt to tie the whole together.

Remnants of the earliest decoration survive in the form of several mantels, the most elaborate of which is in the northeast parlor of the main block. Flat panels replace pilasters to either side of the fireplace opening, and four similar panels form the frieze, the central two extending upward into the extremely heavy molding of the shelf. Less elaborate but similar mantels of this curious type are found in several second-floor chambers of the main block. On the first floor of the south wing is a more conventional type of early nineteenth-century mantel, with paneled pilasters, a molded shelf and a plain central tablet.

Much of the tavern's current interior appearance, however, is the result of Holt's mid-nineteenth-century remodeling. The frontispiece doorway of the main block, with its rounded side and transom lights, its roundels in the upper corners, and leaded mullions in plain patterns, is similar to that which Holt executed for the Eureka plantation house.

The southeast parlor contains the most elaborate of Holt's work at Boyd's Tavern. A plain mantel with a single horizontal panel in the frieze serves as a foil for the flanking cupboards having double glass doors with the two slender lancet arches in each leaf. The window frames are of the heavy Italianate variety, with applied-mold bib panels under each opening.

Throughout the rest of the house are plain mantels of Greek Revival and Gothic Revival design. The evidence of Eureka and of remaining traces in the second-floor rooms of the wings suggest that the woodwork in the main block may have been elaborately grained and marbelized at one time.

The store at the south end is essentially unaltered from its original appearance with matchboard wainscot and a pressed tin ceiling. The store front is particularly handsome. A double leaf door and full-height flanking windows with large two-over-two sash are set into a heavily molded triple frame the width of the store.

(see Continuation Sheet #3)

⑥ SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Jacob Holt (renovation)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original core of Boyd's Tavern was erected in the early nineteenth century, probably by Alexander Boyd, Jr., a business man and founder of Boydton. Long a popular hostelry for its Southside county seat, the building evolved into a rambling frame structure highlighted with fanciful sawnwork decorations. Much of the handsome mid-nineteenth-century exterior and interior woodwork was designed by Jacob Holt, a North Carolina architect.

Alexander Boyd, Sr. had emigrated to America from Scotland in 1764, one year before the organization of Mecklenburg County, and set himself up as a merchant in that area. His business prospered, and he eventually became a justice on the County Court, dying on the bench in 1801. Partly through his influence, the first county courthouse was built on his land, near the present site of Boydton, and the second, also on his land, on the site of the present courthouse. Boyd took advantage of the business opportunity and acquired a tavern license in 1795. After his death, the firm of Alexander Boyd and Sons was carried on by his sons Richard and Alexander, Jr., but the tavern was operated by Alexander "the Younger" alone.

Alexander Boyd, Jr. (1773-1836), may have built the present building shortly after his father's death. It was his boast that it had a "Table amply supplied with all the meats raised in this part of the Country, and a cellar furnished with the Liquors of Europe, Africa, and America," at prices "as reasonable as at any other Court House in Virginia." His neighbors, however, and William Baskerville the county clerk, in particular, protested that Boyd's ownership of the land on which the courthouse stood, as well as all the land around it, allowed him to stifle "all competition in entertaining." In 1809, they asked the General Assembly either to move the courthouse or to establish a town around it. Boyd capitulated and in 1811 donated to the county the two acres of land on which the courthouse stood, and in the next year gave fifty more acres to a group of trustees for a new town, chartered by the Assembly as "Boyd Town." He retained control of ten of the fifty acres, and an early plat map of the village shows the tavern located conveniently next to the public, or courthouse, square.

By 1835, Boydton had grown to about 80 houses and 400 people, and could boast of the presence of Randolph-Macon College. Boyd's Tavern, sold by Boyd in 1824, grew with the town and was added to and redecorated several times.

In more recent years, Boyd's Tavern has fallen into decay and has been divided into apartments, but the Boyd Family Memorial Association is in the process of purchasing it with the hope of renovating it.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

#3

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DESCRIPTION

Boyd's Tavern has been divided into apartments in recent years, and several small frame additions were appended to the rear to provide kitchen and bathroom facilities. At present the building is only partially occupied.

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Gaines, William H., Jr., "Courthouses of Lunenburg and Mecklenburg Counties," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 20, 1971.
- Hill, William B. The Boyds of Boydton, 1965.
- _____, "Alexander Boyd of Mecklenburg County and His Family," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 50, 1942.
- Hutcheson, Charles S., "Boydton in Mecklenburg County," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. 50, 1942. (see Continuation Sheet #4)

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre
 UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	7, 3, 3, 4, 0, 0	4, 0, 6, 0, 9, 8, 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE

October 1975

STREET & NUMBER

221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE

804-786-3144

CITY OR TOWN

Richmond

STATE

Virginia 23219

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

[Signature]

TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE FEB 17 1976

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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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

To All Descendants of Alexander and Ann Boyd, periodical of Boyd Family Memorial Association. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

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OWNER OF PROPERTY

- (2) Boyd Family Memorial Foundation
P. O. Box 183
Boydton, Virginia 23917



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Boydton, Va. 1968

BOYD'S TAVERN, MECKLENBURG COUNTY

UTM References:

17/733400/4060980

