

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Turner Ashby Monument

Other names/site number: DHR # 115-5063

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1164 Turner Ashby Lane

City or town: Harrisonburg State: VA County: Independent City

Not For Publication:  Vicinity:

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination     request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets     does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

  X   A     B     C     D

<p><b>Signature of certifying official/Title:</b> <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property <u>   </u> meets <u>   </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p><b>Signature of commenting official:</b></p>	<p><b>Date</b></p>
<p><b>Title :</b></p>	<p><b>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</b></p>

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#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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#### 5. Classification

##### Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

##### Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker

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**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Monument/marker

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

NO STYLE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE: Granite and Limestone

### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

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### Summary Paragraph

Erected in 1898, the Turner Ashby Monument is located on an approximately 1.7-acre wooded lot east of Port Republic Road and south of I-81 in the southeast part of the City of Harrisonburg, Virginia. The monument commemorates the 1862 death in battle of Confederate General Turner Ashby. The property is open to the public and is accessed via Turner Ashby Lane, which branches off the north side of Neff Avenue. Directional signs from Port Republic Road point the way to Neff Avenue and then Turner Ashby Lane. The modest limestone and granite monument is surrounded by an iron fence and sits on top of Chestnut Ridge with a commanding view of the Shenandoah Valley and the Allegheny Mountains to the southwest. Recent residential construction and recreational ball fields, much of which is part of James Madison University, surround the site. The roughly eight-foot tall stone monument is composed of a rough-hewn limestone base with a granite shaft that tapers into a pyramidal cap. The polished inscription to Turner Ashby is located on the marker's east side and states that he was killed "on this spot."

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### Narrative Description

The Turner Ashby Monument occupies an approximately 1.7-acre wooded lot in southeastern Harrisonburg, which is within Virginia's Shenandoah Valley. Recent residential construction and recreational ball fields, much of which is part of James Madison University, surround the property. A paved parking area is located at the end of Turner Ashby Lane and a tall metal fence encircles the property. In the parking lot, a brown metal sign identifies the property site and directs the visitor to the 11-foot-wide, paved footpath, which winds through a wooded area to the

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stone memorial. The walkway ends in a circle with the marker located to the northwest. A recently added stone retaining wall and flagstone steps lead down to the cenotaph, which is slightly below grade of the walkway. The site also contains mature hardwood trees, a Civil War Trails Marker (2003), and a wood marker explaining the Battle of Harrisonburg (1992).

Confederate General Turner Ashby was mortally wounded on June 6, 1862, during the Battle of Harrisonburg in the second year of the Civil War. For many years afterward, the tree on the site, confirmed by eyewitness Charles Brock as the one against which Ashby fell, served as a living memorial to Ashby.<sup>1</sup> The Turner Ashby Memorial Organization was formed in July 1897 to acquire 1½ acres, including the spot at the top of Chestnut Ridge where Ashby fell and then to raise the necessary funds for the monument itself. The tree where he died was eventually cut down and plans to erect a permanent marker in its place were made. A half-acre was first purchased by the Turner Ashby Memorial Organization from William and Lucy Clatterbuck in February 1898, and another adjacent acre, including a right-of-way, was acquired from Isaac and Mary Good in May 1898.<sup>2</sup> The current deed confirms the owners of the site as the Trustees of the Turner Ashby Chapter #162 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.<sup>3</sup>

The Turner Ashby Monument was erected in 1898 next to the stump of the tree considered the exact spot where Turner Ashby was mortally wounded in 1862. The monument was dedicated on June 6, 1898, 36 years to the day from when Ashby fell at this site. For the past 118 years, the site has been reverently cared for by those devoted to Ashby's memory. The property is owned and maintained by the Turner Ashby Chapter #162 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, one of the original members of the Ashby Memorial Association.

The Turner Ashby Monument is composed of a flagstone-paved base that measures 18' by 18' and contains a 5' 3"-tall, 12-foot square wrought iron fence with gate that surrounds a stone cenotaph. Just inside the gate and to the left is a metal spike that marks the supposed exact spot where Ashby fell. Measuring about eight feet in height, the fairly simple monument was produced from two types of stone. The rough-chiseled limestone plinth is two-feet tall and four feet in length and width. A four-inch chiseled bevel runs along its top on all four sides. Resting upon this base is a nearly six-foot-tall, rough-cut, unpolished granite shaft that is incised near the top and tapers into a pyramidal cap. The shaft is further articulated by vertical scores at the corners and horizontal scores on all four sides at 42" above the base. The pyramidal capstone is also rough-chiseled and measures one-foot by one-foot and is approximately 18" in height. A polished round-arched panel along the east side of the shaft bears the inscription: "Gen. Turner Ashby, C.S.A. was killed on this spot June 6, 1862, gallantly leading a charge." The property offers more than just a simple stone monument to Turner Ashby. The monument's park-like natural setting offers a quiet place of solitude and reflection in an otherwise rapidly developing area of Harrisonburg and it survives as one of the few undeveloped areas of the battlefield associated with the Battle of Harrisonburg (DHR #115-5060) that occurred on June 6, 1862.<sup>4</sup>

According to a newspaper account in the Rockingham Register written at the time of the monument's dedication in 1898, the two pieces of rough stone weighed a total of 16,000 pounds. The limestone base was purchased for \$120 from Mr. H. A. Rife of Timberville, which is about

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18 miles from Harrisonburg in Rockingham County, Virginia. Limestone abounds in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley and it would have been easily obtained in the area around Harrisonburg. No mention is made in the 1898 article of who was responsible for working the limestone base or the granite shaft. A newspaper article dated 1948, commemorating the 50-year anniversary of the monument's dedication, recounts that the limestone base rests on a concrete foundation and was quarried at Pleasant Valley (just south of Harrisonburg) then hauled in a wagon to the site by a four-horse team. The 1948 article further states that the massive block of Virginia granite that makes up the monument's shaft came from a quarry in Petersburg and was hauled to the site by a six-horse team, possibly from the railroad line. The 1948 article states only that the granite block came "from Petersburg." There were two granite/marble operations in Petersburg at the time, (1897), both of which had experience in preparing granite and marble pieces for memorials and cemeteries and would have been capable of producing the granite portion of the memorial. One firm in particular, Burns and Campbell (The Petersburg Granite Company), appears to have specialized in granite, having produced several granite memorials and grave markers for the Blandford Cemetery in Petersburg during that time period. One of the most notable was the mammoth granite "Confederate Arch" that stands at the entrance to Blandford Cemetery's Memorial Hill, which was dedicated in 1914. Burns and Campbell were also responsible for several plaques at Blandford, similar to the plaque for Ashby. The other firm, C. M. Walsh, specialized more in individual cutting and sculpting figures like angels and lambs in marble.<sup>5</sup>

Since its erection in 1898, the Turner Ashby Monument has seen ongoing improvements and careful maintenance. According to a ca. 2005 history of the monument, the iron fence around the memorial stone was restored in 1997 after being vandalized. A metal fence encircling the entire 1.7-acre site was constructed in 1962 and parts of it have been replaced; large boulders have been installed near the site to deter intrusion of vehicular traffic. The road, Turner Ashby Lane, that leads to the monument was paved in the early 1990s. The Harrisonburg Battlefield sign was erected in 1992; and the Civil War Trails Marker was installed in 2003.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1897-1898

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

June 6, 1898

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Turner Ashby Monument is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the area of Social History due to its association with the movement that came to be known across the former Confederacy as the “Lost Cause.” This movement was most closely associated with efforts by Southern whites to preserve in a tangible way the Confederacy’s legacy in the most positive light, an extraordinary effort that continued well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The June 6, 1898, dedication of the Turner Ashby Monument was among the largest such gatherings in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley at the time, with an estimated 5,000 people in attendance, according to a nearby newspaper.<sup>6</sup> The elaborate dedicatory occasion for the installation of the Turner Ashby Monument was highlighted by a mile-long procession from the Rockingham County courthouse to the memorial site, and was recorded in considerable detail by local Shenandoah Valley newspapers, offering a rare picture of the ongoing emotional and tangible commitment on the part of the defeated Confederacy to memorialize its heroes. The dedication in 1898 also coincided with a period when the United States was embarking on new military endeavors, such as the Spanish-American War, which occurred from April to December of 1898. Efforts to gain recognition of the military prowess of southern military leaders were a significant part of the second phase of the “Lost Cause” movement.<sup>7</sup> The property’s period of significance is 1897-1898, denoting the planning and dedication of the monument on the site of Ashby’s mortal wounding. The modest granite marker for one of the Shenandoah Valley’s own heroes is particularly notable in Virginia’s western regions, where a far lesser number of Civil War-related commemorative stones and markers line roadways and battlefields than in the areas from Manassas to Petersburg in northern and central Virginia.<sup>8</sup>

The Turner Ashby Monument meets Criteria Consideration F for commemorative properties as the Ashby Monument has a direct association with the Battle of Harrisonburg and stands on the actual site where Turner Ashby was killed during the course of that battle on June 6, 1862. Further, the monument “serves as evidence of a later generation’s assessment of the past,”<sup>9</sup> in that the 33-year-old Turner Ashby was, after General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson, one of the most recognized and lauded Civil War heroes in the Shenandoah Valley. Also in accordance with Criteria Consideration F, the monument, with its 1.7-acre site on Chestnut Ridge overlooking Harrisonburg, is a clear “cultural expression at the date of [its] creation.”<sup>10</sup> The 1898 dedicatory ceremony took place on the 36<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Ashby’s death. Its attendance of 5,000 people is a striking example of the heightened emotional and financial support for recalling Ashby’s particular importance as well as southerners’ military bravery and prowess that occurred during Jackson’s Valley Campaign (March-June 1862), which most defined the western portion of Virginia during the Civil War. These activities were part of the so-called “Lost Cause” movement, which is recognized by most historians of the postbellum South as a phenomenon that characterized the region for the succeeding 75 years. The extent to which Rockingham County’ and Harrisonburg’s citizens were willing to extend themselves financially to pay for this monument to General Ashby and to secure a granite stone likely cut by one of the two prominent

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stone masonry firms from then-faraway Petersburg, Virginia, is a testament to their heightened emotional devotion to the “Lost Cause.”

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**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

The Turner Ashby Monument, which stands on a 1.7-acre parcel within the city limits of Harrisonburg in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley, is a memorial to one of the Confederacy’s most “dashing” and heroic cavalry officers who died on this spot on June 6, 1862. The site of the limestone and granite monument is a small portion of what is left of the fragmented battlefield where the Battle of Harrisonburg was fought in 1862 as part of the larger campaign of Stonewall Jackson and his forces in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley from March to June 1862. The Turner Ashby Memorial Association, which had been established in 1897, was initiated by the Turner Ashby Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans of Harrisonburg. It also included the S. B. Gibbons Camp of Confederate Veterans, the local Ladies’ Memorial Association, and the local chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (# 59) that was formed in 1897.<sup>11</sup> The primary significance of the monument is its poignant representation of the second phase of the “Lost Cause,” during which the focus among whites was on celebration of the Civil War’s heroes; the first phase had been dominated by grieving over not only the loss of individual soldiers but as a whole the Confederacy’s loss in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley. Indicative of the pervasiveness of Lost Cause sentiment was the enormous crowd that gathered at the Ashby site for the elaborate dedicatory event on June 6, 1898, which drew people from up and down the Shenandoah Valley.

Turner Ashby was a native of Fauquier County, Virginia, and came from a family whose name was long associated with military service in Virginia. His father served as a colonel in the War of 1812 and his grandfather fought as a captain in the American Revolution. His military activities during the Civil War have been extensively documented and recognized in books and in legends on markers in the Shenandoah Valley. Sometimes referred to as “The Black Knight of the Confederacy,” Ashby’s service during the Civil War as one of Stonewall Jackson’s cavalry commanders and his untimely death on June 6, 1862, during the Battle of Harrisonburg, also known as the Battle of Chestnut Ridge, has been the subject of numerous books written about Jackson’s famous Valley Campaign during the Civil War. Chestnut Ridge is the ridge just east of Harrisonburg that overlooks the city to the west and Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge to the east.

Ashby, although unofficially always referred to as a “general,” never was officially confirmed by the Confederate Congress at that rank, as that process was underway at the time of his death and never completed. According to the text of the marker placed by the Virginia Civil War Trails at the site in 2003:

On June 6, 1862, the vanguard of Union General John C. Fremont’s force, pursuing General Thomas J. “Stonewall” Jackson’s army south up to Shenandoah Valley, reached this point near Harrisonburg. Jackson’s rear guard, led by Gen. Turner Ashby, engaged Federal cavalry here and captured Col. Sir Percy

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Wyndham, the English commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> New Jersey Cavalry, who had earlier boasted that he would “bag Ashby.” The 1<sup>st</sup> Maryland Inf. and 58<sup>th</sup> Virginia Inf. set an ambush for the Federals. At about 6 pm, however, Union forces appeared not in the road as expected, but in a concealed position near Ashby’s force. When Ashby’s horse was shot from under him, he rolled off the mount, regained his footing and ordered his men to stop shooting and use the bayonet, shouting, “Charge, men! For God’s sake charge!” Then a Union bullet pierced Ashby’s side and passed through his chest. He fell dead while his men cleared the Federals from the woodline.

It was at this spot, long marked by a large cedar tree, that Ashby expired. He was first buried at a cemetery at the University of Virginia and reinterred in 1866 in the Stonewall Confederate Cemetery (part of Mount Hebron Cemetery) in Winchester next to his brother Richard Ashby, who was also killed during the Civil War.

Commemoration of Civil War heroes and erection of permanent monuments and markers to honor them during the decade of the 1890s was a busy period in both the North and the South. Although the enormous Civil War pyramid at Hollywood Cemetery in Richmond dates from 1869, it was not until the 1880s and the 1890s that the zenith of many of the impressive Civil War memorials was reached and accompanied by elaborate public dedications. The Robert E. Lee Monument (NRHP 2007; DHR #127-0181) that stands on Richmond’s Monument Avenue was dedicated at a ceremony with 100,000 attendees in 1890. Acknowledged as the iconic debut of the effort to elevate Confederate leaders to a pantheon of Southern heroes, the Lee Monument also exemplified the movement to shift commemoration from cemeteries to grand civic spaces.<sup>12</sup> At “Blue and Gray” reunions, such as the one that occurred in Luray, Virginia, on July 21, 1881, veterans from both sides gathered to reconcile and celebrate their shared American identity. An 1896 “Grand Reunion” of 40 Confederate Civil War generals took place in Richmond, marked by a huge parade. Thus, the Turner Ashby Monument was set in place amidst a movement throughout the reassembled United States to enshrine the heroes from both sides and the battles of the Civil War—an effort that placed statues of Civil War soldiers on courthouse greens across the country. This commemoration effort continued into the early 1900s and created a landscape of memory that, if preserved, will be inherited by Americans for generations to come.

As required for a property to meet Criteria Consideration F, which states that a commemorative property can be eligible for the National Register if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance. The Ashby Monument is exceptionally significant for its location at the site of Ashby’s death on a portion of what remains of the Battle of Harrisonburg battlefield. Although the first monument to a Civil War casualty in Virginia was erected in 1861 on the Manassas battlefield to mark the spot where Georgia Brigadier General Francis Bartow was mortally wounded, fewer than ten of the 360 documented Confederate markers in the Commonwealth similarly honor individuals. Turner Ashby’s is the only monument documented by a soldier, Charles Brock, who witnessed the event and was alive at the time of its erection, to stand precisely where it occurred. Examination of the inventory of Civil War memorials in Virginia compiled by Timothy Sedore reveals the large granite obelisk

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at Yellow Tavern stands to mark a spot where Confederate Major General J. E. B. Stuart was mortally wounded. In that case the marker, put in place in 1888, stands about 30 feet from the actual spot where Stuart was struck (he actually died in Richmond).<sup>13</sup> An 1888 granite monument marks the site where Stonewall Jackson received his mortal wound at Chancellorsville, although, as is the case with Stuart, it does not mark the place where he died.<sup>14</sup> In fact, only the marker erected on Big Bethel Battlefield in 1905 in honor of Pvt. Henry L. Wyatt – acknowledged as the first Confederate casualty of the first land battle of the Civil War in Virginia – has a pedigree equivalent to the Ashby monument. There also are several Virginia historical highway markers, most installed in the 1920s and 1930s, that present information on several actual sites of the deaths of Civil War military leaders, most notably “Where Dahlgren Died,” (OB-6) in King and Queen County, and “Where Hill Fell (A. P. Hill)” (S-49) just south of Petersburg. But, as is the case for nearly all of the Virginia historical highway markers, they do not purport to stand on the exact site of the events that occurred; these two notable markers are located in the eastern half of the state.

A large number of the monumental Civil War markers and monuments in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia are located in the Stonewall Cemetery in Winchester, where many of the former Confederate states erected large obelisks to their native sons who died in the Civil War. Most date from the last two decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and as a rule are of granite.

It is not surprising that such a substantial majority of Civil War markers and monuments are located east of the Blue Ridge. A far greater number of major battles and military engagements took place there, notably in the area between the two warring capitals of Washington, D.C., and Richmond. It can also be conjectured that sentiment to secede from the Union at the beginning was far stronger in the eastern half of the state. The greater financial resources and the residual strong emotional ties to the “Confederacy” and the “southern way of life” would likely result in a concentration of markers standing east of the Blue Ridge. At the same time, there was substantial anti-secession sentiment in the Shenandoah Valley and pockets of northern Virginia, a sentiment that diminished rapidly with the onset of the war itself. The Unionist sentiments of those associated with the Church of the Brethren in the Bridgewater area of Rockingham County have been well documented<sup>15</sup> making the erection of a marker honoring Turner Ashby on the outskirts of Harrisonburg a statement of that area’s white residents’ predominant financial and emotional commitment to glorifying and tangibly recognizing their special Civil War hero particularly significant.

In the decades immediately following the Civil War, most of Virginia’s memorials and monuments associated with the “Lost Cause” were erected in cemeteries, notably at Richmond (Hollywood); Petersburg (Blandford); and Winchester (Mount Hebron-Stonewall Jackson), and usually marking the ultimate burial sites of the fallen. It was not until the early 1880s that Confederate monuments and statues were consistently placed in public places rather than in formal burial grounds (a notable exception being the King George County Courthouse monument erected in 1867).

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Several noted historians have commented on elements of the “Lost Cause” movement among Southern whites that are pertinent to the erection of the Ashby monument. In Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1885-1920, author Charles Wilson recalls that as early as the 1830s southern society “developed a new image of itself as a chivalric society...the cult of chivalry developed focusing on manners, women and military affairs.” He states that Southerners came to believe in “cultural nationalism.” This belief is exemplified, for example, by Edward A. Pollard, who, writing at the end of the war in The Lost Cause (1866), called for a “war of ideas to retain the Southern identity.” He saw the proposed movement as a “moral-religious crusade...” and expressed concerns that southerners would not measure up to “its past heroic standards of virtue.” Wilson describes this “cultural nationalism” movement as “Southern civil religion based on Christianity and regional history.” Wilson also distinguishes between the first and second generations of “Lost Cause” proponents, suggesting that the latter were more open to promoting the South as part of the new economic future of the nation as a whole, while praising their ancestors for their dedication and bravery.<sup>16</sup> This would coincide, as well, with the rising militarism nationwide associated with the launching of the Spanish-American War in 1898.

Another noted historian, Fitzhugh Brundage, has stated unequivocally that “physical space is central to southern historical memory.”<sup>17</sup> By the closing decades of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, for white Virginians, and in this case those who resided in the Shenandoah Valley, the Turner Ashby Monument represented a glorification of those qualities of bravery and heroism that they so dearly treasured.

The growing sentiment to memorialize one of the Shenandoah Valley’s most “dashing” heroes culminated in 1897 with the formation of the Turner Ashby Memorial Association to mark the exact site of Turner Ashby’s heroic death. The depth of the sentiment is articulated in a local newspaper article written in 1898 entitled “The Ashby Memorial Association: A Company Formed to Erect a Monument to mark the Spot where General Turner Ashby Fell.” The article states that the “Turner Ashby Camp of Sons of Confederate Veterans of Harrisonburg inaugurated a movement...” that led to an incorporated company with a charter. The charter members represented the veterans group, the Turner Ashby Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy, the local Ladies Memorial Association, and the Turner Ashby Camp of the Sons of Veterans.<sup>18</sup> As discussed above, by placing the memorial at other than a traditional cemetery site, the sponsors were likely motivated by the nearly unique opportunity to commemorate the specific location of Ashby’s supreme sacrifice.

After the Ashby Memorial Association purchased the site where Turner Ashby died, they successfully raised the funds to underwrite the costs of the limestone and granite materials for the monument. Contemporary newspaper accounts provide a vivid picture of the activity associated with the proposed monument and its subsequent dedicatory ceremony. The primary newspaper of neighboring municipal rival, Staunton, reported “Harrisonburg had the biggest Confederate Day last Monday that she ever saw. There were four or five thousand people at the unveiling of the Turner Ashby Monument and almost as many in the town at the decoration of the Confederate graves,” (presumably at Harrisonburg’s Woodbine Cemetery).<sup>19</sup> An initial request to raise \$500<sup>20</sup> for the new monument was undoubtedly increased as the project

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progressed, given the great distance that the granite would have had to be hauled from Petersburg and the fees for the granite and carving required. The timing of the events is not surprising given the 1890s as a high point in the “Lost Cause” memorialization activities.

The limestone base for the monument came from a local quarry at nearby Timberville in Rockingham County. The eight-foot memorial granite shaft was reported to have been cut by well-qualified stone cutters and come from Petersburg. That the proud Valley community would have looked to Petersburg or Richmond for materials for the memorial is to be expected. Granite would not have been readily available in the Valley, and Petersburg, in a region replete with granite quarries and its monumental Blandford Cemetery, would have been the area most likely to have both the quality materials and skills required for such an important undertaking.<sup>21</sup> At the same time, the conservative modesty of the monument reflects the less flamboyant and perhaps more parsimonious German and Scots-Irish character of the Valley residents, as compared to their neighbors to the east.

Timothy Sedore, who has assiduously compiled a list of Virginia’s Confederate monuments, in his discussion of the Ashby monument, quotes Jackson’s comments about Ashby in his official report, “His daring was proverbial, his powers of endurance almost incredible, his character heroic, and his sagacity almost intuitive in divining the purposes and movements of the enemy.” Sedore also points out that “the collaborative nature of many memorial projects is reflected in the list of charter members of the Turner Ashby Memorial Association,” confirming that broad financial support that led to the monument’s erection.<sup>22</sup>

To date, no papers have been found to point to the individual firm which actually prepared the simple granite shaft for the Ashby monument. At the time (the 1890s), there were two prominent quarries and stone cutters in Petersburg. One was Charles M. Walsh, of the Cockade Marble Works. As early as 1870, Walsh was listed as carving “marble stones” and conducting “marble working,” although work in granite is also mentioned. Some of his work can be found in Petersburg’s Blandford Cemetery, notably marble sculpting of grave markers for John W. Harrison in 1864; Margaret May in 1865; and Joseph Cockrill in 1882. Walsh was recognized as one of the best stone cutters in the area. One of his only granite works was the Crowder obelisk, but unlike the Ashby marker it is polished granite.<sup>23</sup> The other firm, and the more likely to have quarried the granite and carved the Ashby Monument, was the firm of (Joseph) Burns and (Hugh) Campbell Granite and Marble Works and Stone Contractors. Both men were natives of Scotland. Their work in rough-hewn granite abounds in Blandford Cemetery and far more closely resembles the Ashby stone. One carved granite plaque, not dissimilar from the Ashby one, was for the iron bandstand in Blandford Cemetery (1908).<sup>24</sup> The most well-known work by Burns and Campbell was the monumental Memorial Arch (1914), an enormous structure of rough-hewn granite.<sup>25</sup> It would appear that Burns and Campbell would have been far more likely to have prepared the Ashby marker than Walsh, who specialized more in finely carved marble, trees, flowers, and more intricate work.<sup>26</sup>

The enormous dedicatory ceremony for the Turner Ashby Monument may have rivaled any held in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the very rural Shenandoah Valley and western parts of Virginia.

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Contemporary newspaper coverage, as well as celebratory articles at the time of the event's anniversaries in subsequent years, provides a vivid picture of the parade, speeches, and other presentations. A large notice in the Harrisonburg newspaper captured the June 6, 1898, event, noting the speakers, the entertainment, the parade beginning at Harrisonburg's new Rockingham County courthouse, "memorial exercises" at Woodbine Cemetery, and noting particularly that attendees enjoyed "special Rate on Railroads Secured for the Occasion." The last item would strongly suggest that the crowd of nearly 5,000 came from various locales up and down the Valley.<sup>27</sup>

The site today, although surrounded by encroaching development and transportation routes, retains its idyllic setting with views eastward to Massanutten Mountain and the Blue Ridge and to the west and Harrisonburg's downtown. It is a testament to the continued veneration of the site and its unique role in the cultural life of the Shenandoah Valley that a ceremony has been held annually at the monument on June 6<sup>th</sup> ever since its erection in 1898. The Turner Ashby Monument is remarkable for matching the universal desire to honor a hero with the exceptional opportunity to commemorate the actual spot where the ultimate sacrifice was made to the cause for which the hero died. The effort of those who worked to erect Ashby's monument invested a relatively simple monument of granite with a value that has transcended the reverent acknowledgement of a soldier's sacrifice to become an evocative exemplar of the Lost Cause, one of the major political and cultural movements of postbellum Virginia.

Turner Ashby Monument  
Name of Property

City of Harrisonburg, VA  
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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** DHR #115-5063

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreege of Property** 1.7 Acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Turner Ashby Monument  
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County and State

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.423320 Longitude: -78.865260

2. Latitude: Longitude:

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundaries of the Turner Ashby Monument correspond to the lot lines of City of Harrisonburg Real Estate Information System Tax Parcel Number 087 B 4. The true and correct historic boundaries are shown on the attached Location Map and Tax Parcel Map.

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary selected corresponds to that of the City of Harrisonburg Tax Parcel 087 B 4. This boundary represents the property boundary as it was during its period of significance, and encompasses the historic setting and all known historic resources associated with the property.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Maral S. Kalbian and Margaret T. Peters

organization: Maral S. Kalbian, LLC

street & number: PO Box 468

city or town: Berryville state: VA zip code: 22611

e-mail: maral@mkalbian.com

telephone: 540-955-1231

date: January 1, 2017

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

#### The following information is common to all photographs:

**Name of Property:** Turner Ashby Monument

**City or Vicinity:** City of Harrisonburg

**State:** Virginia

**DHR File Number:** 115-5063

**Photographer:** Maral S. Kalbian

**Location of Digital Images:** Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

PHOTO 1 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0001

DATE: July 24, 2016

VIEW: South side of marker, camera facing north/northwest

PHOTO 2 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0002

DATE: July 24, 2016

VIEW: East side of marker, camera facing northwest

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PHOTO 3 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0003

DATE: July 24, 2016

VIEW: Detail of inscription on marker, camera facing northwest

PHOTO 4 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0004

DATE: July 24, 2016

VIEW: South and east sides of marker, camera facing northwest

PHOTO 5 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0005

DATE: July 24, 2016

VIEW: North and west sides of marker, camera facing southeast

PHOTO 6 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0006

DATE: October 30, 2016

VIEW: View of marker from pathway, camera facing northwest

PHOTO 7 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0007

DATE: October 30, 2016

VIEW: View of battlefield marker, camera facing east/northeast

PHOTO 8 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0008

DATE: October 30, 2016

VIEW: View along path toward Civil War Trails Marker, camera facing north/ northwest

PHOTO 9 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0009

DATE: October 30, 2016

VIEW: View of east entry from parking area, camera facing southwest

PHOTO 10 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0010

DATE: October 30, 2016

VIEW: Entrance, camera facing southwest

PHOTO 11 of 11: VA\_City of Harrisonburg\_Turner Ashby Monument\_0011

DATE: October 30, 2016

VIEW: View from entrance toward parking lot, camera facing northeast

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup> Confederate Veteran, Vol. 9, No. 4. April, 1901, p. 171.

<sup>2</sup> Rockingham County Deed Books, 58:68; 71:307.

<sup>3</sup> Rockingham County Deed Book, 2549:642.

<sup>4</sup> In 2007 during a Section 106 review project, the Department of Historic Resources recommended that the Battle of Harrisonburg Battlefield (115-5060) is not eligible for the National Register due to lack of integrity. The battle occurred on June 6, 1862, and was one of the last in Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign (March-June 1862). The American Battlefield Protection Program has not surveyed the battlefield.

<sup>5</sup> John O. Peters. Blandford Cemetery: Death and Life at Petersburg, Virginia. (Petersburg: The Historic Blandford Cemetery Foundation, 2005), 86, 88.

<sup>6</sup> Staunton Spectator and Vindicator, June 9, 1898.

<sup>7</sup> Gaines M. Foster. Ghosts of the Confederacy: Defeat, the Lost Cause, and the Emergence of the New South, 1865 to 1913. (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1987).

<sup>8</sup> Timothy Sedore. An Illustrated Guide to Virginia's Confederate Monuments. (Carbondale, IL: Southern Illinois University Press, 2011). Examination of Sedore's comprehensive inventory that is organized geographically shows a substantially larger number of memorials and stones in the areas of Virginia east of the Blue Ridge Mountains, with 240 located in the Richmond/Tidewater/Southside regions and 115 in western and southwest Virginia.

<sup>9</sup> National Register Bulletin # 15. "How to Apply National Register Criteria. Criteria Consideration F, Commemorative Properties." (Washington, D-C: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Interagency Resources Division), 39.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid*, 39.

<sup>11</sup> A thoughtful consideration of the evolution of the United Daughters of the Confederacy can be found in "Love Makes Memory Eternal": The United Daughters of the Confederacy in Richmond, Virginia, 1897-1920." by Angie Parrott, in The Edge of the South: Life in Nineteenth-Century Virginia, edited by Edward L. Ayers and John C. Wills. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1991).

<sup>12</sup> John O. Peters. Richmond's Hollywood Cemetery. (Richmond, VA: The Valentine Richmond History Center, 2010), 97-98.

<sup>13</sup> Sedore, 138-139.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid*, 105, 126.

<sup>15</sup> Jon Bohland. "A Lost Cause Found: Vestiges of Old South Memory in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia." (A dissertation submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2006).

<sup>16</sup> Charles Reagan Wilson. Baptized in Blood: The Religion of the Lost Cause, 1865-1920. (Athens, GA: The University of Georgia Press, 1980), 3, 7, 11.

<sup>17</sup> Fitzhugh Brundage. The Southern Past: Clash of Race and Memory. (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005), 6.

<sup>18</sup> Files from the Rockingham Public Library, Pamphlet File "Ashby, Turner, 1828-1862."

<sup>19</sup> Staunton Spectator and Vindicator, June 9, 1898, 2. It should be noted that the front page of this issue was devoted to coverage of the Spanish-American War.

<sup>20</sup> Cunningham, S. A. "Turner Ashby to Have a Monument," Confederate Veteran, June 1898, 272.

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- <sup>21</sup> Peters, Blandford Cemetery..., 102.  
<sup>22</sup> Sedore, An Illustrated Guide..., 53.  
<sup>23</sup> Peters, Blandford Cemetery..., 102.  
<sup>24</sup> Ibid., 86.  
<sup>25</sup> Ibid., 88, 89 (photo).  
<sup>26</sup> See Petersburg City Directory, 1897 for listings for both Walsh and Burns and Campbell.  
<sup>27</sup> "Turner Ashby Day." The Rockingham Register, Friday, June 10, 1898.



**Legend**

- Architecture Resources
- Architecture Labels
- Individual Historic District Properties
- DHR Easements
- USGS GIS Place names
- County Boundaries

**LOCATION MAP**

**Turner Ashby Monument**

**City of Harrisonburg, VA**

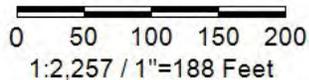
**DHR No. 115-5063**

**Latitude: 38.423320**

**Longitude: -78.865260**



Feet



**Title: Turner Ashby Monument DHR #115-5063**

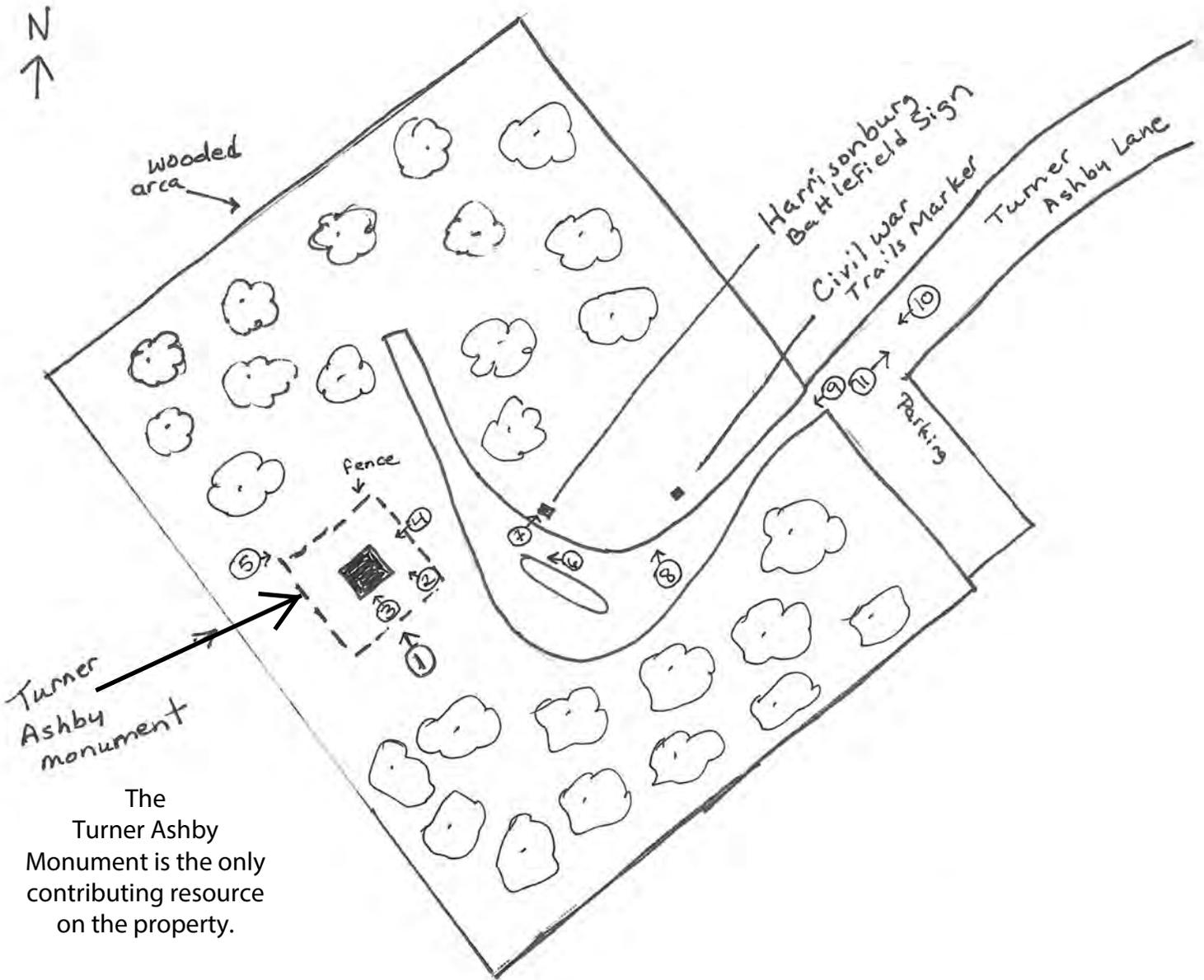
**Date: 9/2/2016**

*DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.*

*Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.*

**SKETCH MAP/PHOTO KEY**

Turner Ashby Monument  
1164 Turner Ashby Lane  
City of Harrisonburg, VA  
DHR No. 115-5063



The Turner Ashby Monument is the only contributing resource on the property.

♂ photo key  
January 2017  
m.kalblian

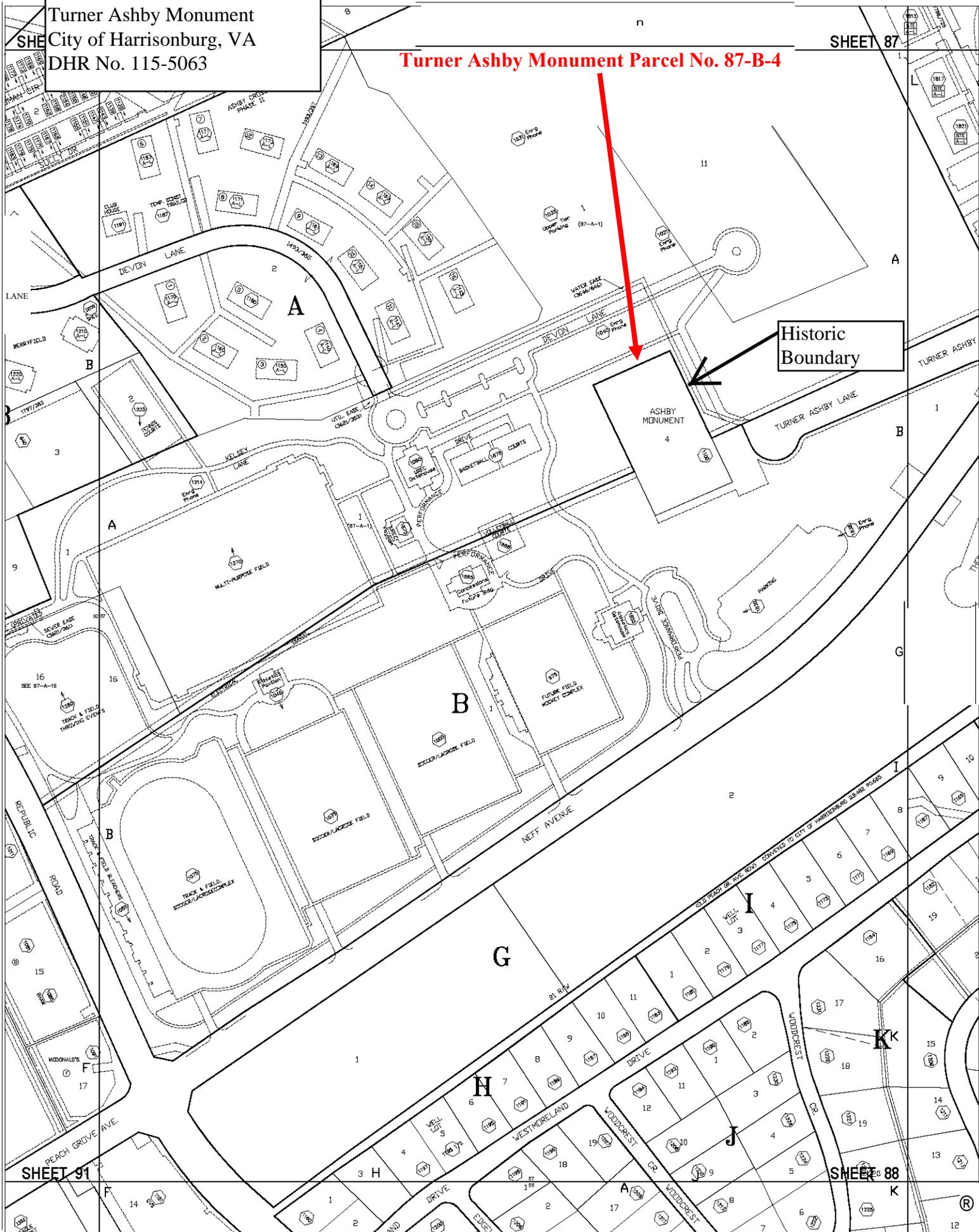
**TAX PARCEL MAP**

Turner Ashby Monument  
City of Harrisonburg, VA  
DHR No. 115-5063

SHEET 87

SHEET 87

**Turner Ashby Monument Parcel No. 87-B-4**



Historic Boundary

ASHBY MONUMENT

SHEET 91

SHEET 88