

VLR-7/20/82  
NR-P-9/9/82

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

# 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 Thomas J. Michie House

and/or common

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 324 East Beverley Street n/a not for publication

city, town Staunton n/a vicinity of congressional district 6th

state Virginia code 51 county Augusta code 790

## 3. Classification

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

## 4. Owner of Property

name Sarah E. Nutt

street &amp; number 324 East Beverley Street

city, town Staunton n/a vicinity of state Virginia 24401

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Hall; Office of the Clerk of Circuit Court

street &amp; number 109-113 East Beverley Street

city, town Staunton state Virginia 24401

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title See Continuation Sheet #2 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  nodate  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town state

# 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	N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

## SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

324 East Beverley Street is a somewhat conservative two-story, double-pile Greek Revival dwelling sited on a terraced hillside on the south side of East Beverley Street in Staunton. The house is built of brick painted gray and is crowned by a plain entablature and a shallow hipped roof. A later, one-story wing extends to the west. The interior has typical simple woodwork of the period except for two elaborate country Federal mantels salvaged from a demolished home. Surrounding the house is a pleasant yard. East Beverley Street is a notably handsome street with fine houses its entire length; 324 is one of the oldest and most historic.

## ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

324 East Beverley Street is a two-story, three-bay structure of brick laid in Flemish bond. To the right of the main block is a wing comprised of the original detached kitchen and a connecting section. The house is painted light gray with white trim and there are louvered wooden shutters painted dark gray on all the window openings. Two tall endwall chimneys are on the left side wall. There were originally two similar chimneys on the right side wall, but one was removed due to structural problems during the Holt's residency (1906-1950). The metal hip roof is topped by a belvedere and there is a wide undecorated entablature under the main roofline. A simple late 19th century iron picket fence runs along the front of the property.

The central bay is dominated by a one-story, flat-roofed entrance porch supported by four slender Tuscan columns which may be replacements of earlier heavier columns. On either side of the porch are cast-iron balustrades of an intricate Greek Revival design. This same balustrade is used on the porch roof to form an upstairs balcony and is also used on the porch at the rear of the house. The pattern for the railing design is taken from Plate LIV of Asher Benjamin's Builder's Guide (1839).

The porch frames the main entrance which is flanked by brick pilasters. The doorway has shouldered architrave trim and a three-paneled door with sidelights and a transom with carved consoles. The door on the second story of the central bay opens onto the balcony; it is a simpler version of the main entrance door and has plain three-part molding and sidelights. The right and left bays of the main block have one window on each floor; they are double-hung sash windows with three-part molding and 8/8 lights.

The left side wall, which faces east, has three small windows on each floor with louvered shutters and 4/4 lights.

The wing extension to the right of the main block has three sections, all laid in common bond. The far right section is the original detached kitchen; in the 1890's, an open breezeway was constructed to connect it to the main house. The section nearest the house is set back several feet from the main facade. It has two stories, one bay, and a flat metal roof. There

(to continuation sheet # 1)

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1847-48

Builder/Architect Unknown

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The handsome Greek Revival dwelling on Staunton's prestigious East Beverley Street has been home for several of the city's most illustrious citizens. Its first owner, Thomas J. Michie, represented Augusta County in the House of Delegates. Later owners include Claiborne Rice Mason, a prominent civil engineer; John Echols, founder of the National Valley Bank; Alan Caperton Braxton, a leader in the establishment of the State Corporation Commission; and Henry Winston Holt, a Chief Justice of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. The house was built in 1847-48 and is typical of the conservative, solidly proportioned structures favored by local builders working in the Greek Revival idiom.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first owner and apparent builder of 324 East Beverley was Thomas J. Michie, a distinguished lawyer who represented Augusta County in the 1833-34 session of the Virginia General Assembly and later served as the Commonwealth's Attorney for Augusta County from 1844-1851.

From 1858 until 1863, the house was occupied by Claiborne Rice Mason, a self-taught engineer who was a major contractor on the building of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad. During the Civil War, Mason served as a Lieutenant Colonel of Engineers under General T. J. "Stonewall" Jackson. After the war, Mason relocated in Augusta County and continued to build the railway system as it moved west.

General John Echols acquired the house in 1869 from Asher W. Harman who had purchased it from Mason some years before. In 1865, Echols founded the National Valley Bank<sup>1</sup> in Staunton; he also served as the bank's first president until his death in 1896. Echols and his wife Mary Jane Caperton were the parents of the Honorable Edward Echols who served as Virginia's Lieutenant Governor from 1898 until 1902. General Echols lived at 324 East Beverley until 1888.

The property was owned briefly, from 1888-1890, by William and Ida Hudson who sold it to Mary Caperton Braxton. Mrs. Braxton was the mother of Alan Caperton Braxton, a member of the Virginia State Constitutional Convention of 1901-1902. As Chairman of the Committee of Corporations, Braxton was instrumental in the establishment of the State Corporation Commission. Braxton evidently bought the house for his mother, but lived there as well.

(to continuation sheet # 1)

# 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #2)

Mays, George M. "Historic Portraits Ornament Courthouse." The Staunton Leader (Area Bicentennial Edition), July 2, 1976.

Nutt, Sarah E. Interviews.  
Staunton Deed and Tax Records. City Hall; Office of the Clerk of the (cont.)

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Slightly less than 1 Acre.

Quadrangle name Staunton, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7	6	6	9	3	2	0	4	2	2	3	9	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification.** Beginning at a point on the SW corner of E. Beverley St. and alley 355' from intersection with N. Coalter St.; thence extending about 200' SE along W side of alley; thence about 360' W to E side of alley; thence about 210' N along E side of alley to S side of E. Beverley St.; thence about 130' E along S side of E. Beverley to point of origin. (Staunton's City Assessor's Map 376, Lot F-1) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

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

state n/a code county n/a code

state n/a code county n/a code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Elizabeth A. Bray, Associate Director

organization Historic Staunton Foundation date July 1982

street & number P. O. Box 2534 telephone (703) 885-7676

city or town Staunton state Virginia

# 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

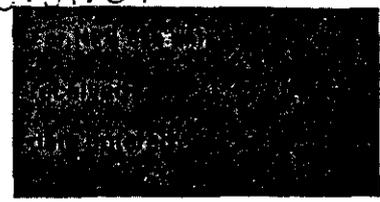
State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date JUL 20 1982

For HCRS use only  
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register  
Date  
Chief of Registration

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



324 East Beverley Street, Staunton, VA

Continuation sheet # 1

Item number 7 , 8

Page 1

7. Description

Architectural Analysis

is one window on each floor with 4/4 lights. The one-story middle section is now enclosed and has a metal gable roof and two windows with 6/6 lights. The original kitchen has two windows with 6/6 lights and is one story with a metal hip roof. There is a small corbelled chimney on the end wall.

Due to the downward slope of the terraced lot, the rear of the house has three full stories. There is a two-story porch with an iron balustrade running the full length of the main block. The porch is supported by plain brick piers on the basement level and wooden columns with chamfered edges and molded capitals on the main level. Access to the main floor is gained through either of two doorways on the porch's main level.

Inside the main block of the house are many of the original details such as the raised corner blocks and the architrave trim around the openings. Over the years, the interior has undergone several remodelings including the addition of two magnificent mantels, one each in the living and dining rooms, from a house in nearby Middlebrook that was being demolished. These mantels date from circa 1820 and although they are not original to this house, they are very handsome and set off the large scale of these two rooms. The mantels both have classical detailing such as shell motifs, reeding, and fluted colonettes flanking the fireplace opening.

On the second floor are four bedrooms, three large and one small. The double door that opens onto the porch roof balcony is thought by the owner to be original to the house.

The rear gardens offer a lovely view overlooking the grounds of both the Virginia School for the Deaf and Blind and the old site of Western State Hospital. Two outbuildings remain: one is the old milkhouse and the other a servants' house that has recently been converted into an apartment. Though it is not known if these two outbuildings are original to the house, they are clearly indicated on a Sanborn Insurance map of 1886. In days past, the grounds included other outbuildings such as a coal house, smokehouse, and tool house as well as grass tennis court and croquet lawn.

8. Significance

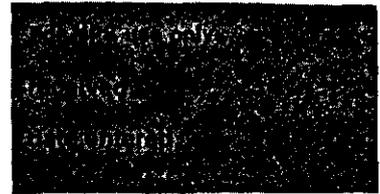
Historical Background

In 1906, Virginia Holt inherited the house. Her husband was Judge Henry Winston Holt who served on the Special Court of Appeals from 1924 until 1928 at which time he was named to the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals. Holt was appointed Chief Justice of this court in 1946, but he

(to continuation sheet # 2)

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**



324 East Beverley Street, Staunton, VA

Continuation sheet # 2 Item number 8, 9, 10 Page 2, 1, 1

8. Significance

Historical Background

died a year later. The present owner, Mrs. Joseph R. Nutt, Jr. and her late husband purchased the property in the early 1950's from the Holt estate.

The house itself is a fine local example of the Greek Revival style as interpreted by local builders. The Flemish bond brickwork is very similar to that of the Woodrow Wilson Birthplace which is nearby and was built about the same time.

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<sup>1</sup>For further information on National Valley Bank, see National Register nomination for the bank building (1979).

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9. Bibliographical References

Circuit Court, Staunton, VA.

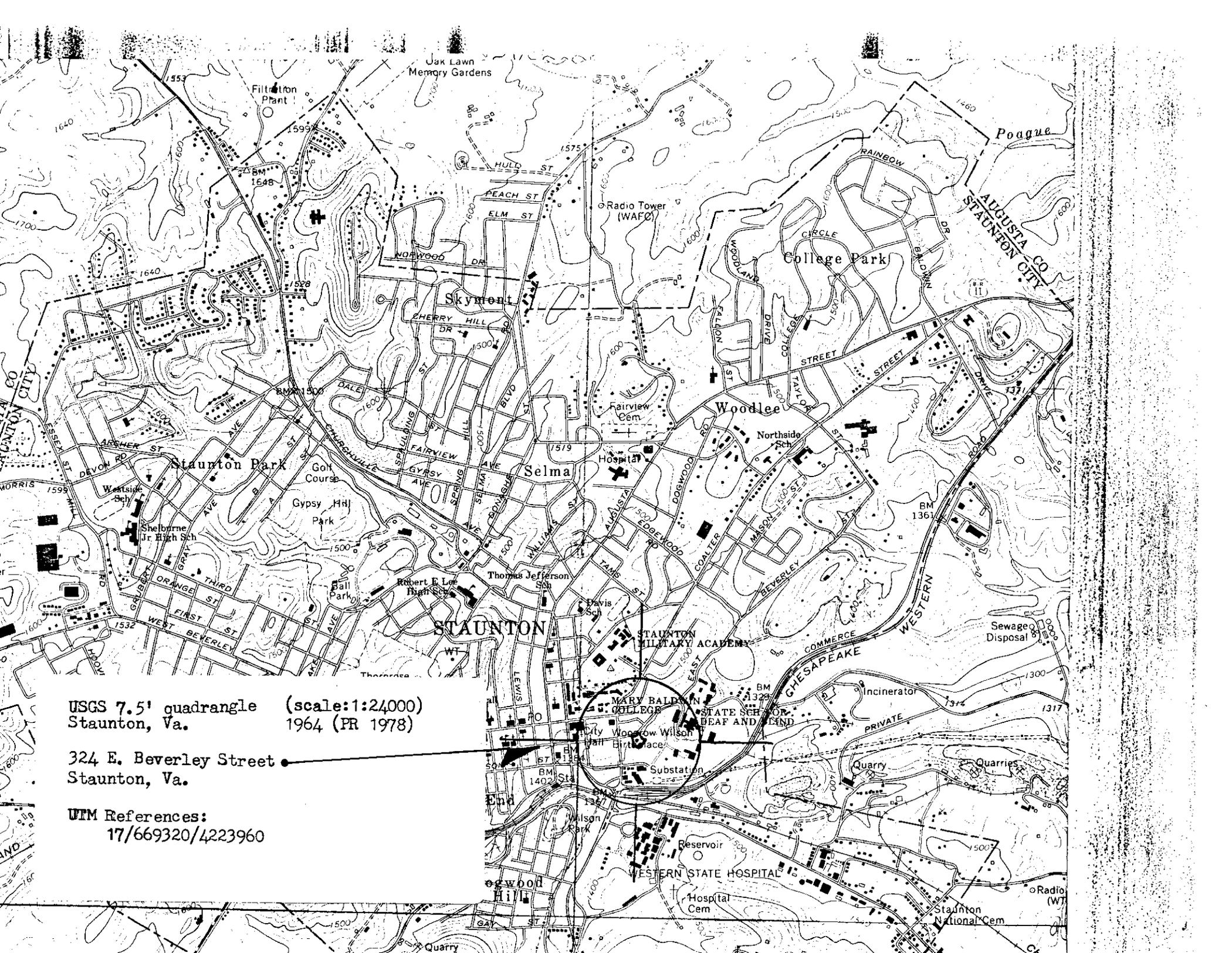
Wayland, John W. Historic Homes of Northern Virginia. Staunton: The McClure Company, Inc. 1937.

\* \* \* \* \*

Note on this nomination, section 6, page 1: This property is included in Historic Staunton Foundation's Architectural Inventory, April 1976. Files are stored at the Historic Staunton Foundation office at 218 East Frederick Street, Staunton, VA 24401 (mailing address: P.O. Box 2534, Staunton)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Boundary Justification

Boundary Justification: The bounds have been drawn to coincide with those of the city lot on which the house, two outbuildings, and the garden are located.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Staunton, Va. 1964 (PR 1978)

324 E. Beverley Street  
Staunton, Va.

UIM References:  
17/669320/4223960