Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) VLR-4/20/76 NRHP-7/30/76

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED JUL 30 1976

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC Scottsville Historic District

AND/OR COMMON Scottsville Historic District

2 LOCATION (See continuation sheet #1, Item 10)

STREET & NUMBER

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Scottsville __VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	51	Albemarle/Fluvanna	003/065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
X DISTRICT	__PUBLIC	X OCCUPIED	__AGRICULTURE	__MUSEUM
__BUILDING(S)	__PRIVATE	__UNOCCUPIED	X COMMERCIAL	__PARK
__STRUCTURE	X BOTH	__WORK IN PROGRESS	__EDUCATIONAL	X PRIVATE RESIDENTIAL
__SITE	**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**	**ACCESSIBLE**	__ENTERTAINMENT	__RELIGIOUS
__OBJECT	__IN PROCESS	__YES: RESTRICTED	__GOVERNMENT	__SCIENTIFIC
	__BEING CONSIDERED	X YES: UNRESTRICTED	__INDUSTRIAL	__TRANSPORTATION
		__NO	__MILITARY	__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Multiple Ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN __VICINITY OF STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION (2)

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. (1) Albemarle County Courthouse (2) Fluvanna County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

(1) Charlottesville, Virginia (2) Palmyra, Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See continuation sheet #1)

TITLE (1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

DATE 1968, 1971, 1976 __FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

CITY, TOWN Richmond STATE Virginia 23219

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
__EXCELLENT	__DETERIORATED	X UNALTERED	X ORIGINAL SITE
X GOOD	__RUINS	__ALTERED	__MOVED DATE_____
__FAIR	__UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Scottsville is situated on the north bank of the James River, at the renowned Horseshoe Bend, in Albemarle County, with a small section in Fluvanna County. The village is roughly L-shaped in plan, with the two major streets--Main Street paralleling the river and Valley Street running north up a ravine toward Charlottesville--meeting at an oblique angle in the center of town. It is at the apex of this angle and extending along Valley and Main Streets from it that the principal commercial buildings of Scottsville are located.

By virtue of its position on the James River and of its originally having been the county seat of Albemarle County, Scottsville has always been an important point on one of the main routes of east-west traffic in Virginia. The James River and Kanawha Canal once passed through the village along the riverbank. The canal and its turning basin are now filled, the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad having supplanted it, with its tracks occupying the old towpath.

The earliest surviving buildings in Scottsville, built late in the eighteenth and early in the nineteenth centuries, are concentrated along Main Street, near the canal and railroad routes and on the road from Richmond. These include the Old Tavern; the Barclay House; a number of small cottages, some possessing very fine architectural detail; and a number of early frame warehouses and other commercial buildings.

As the village expanded, more substantial structures--brick rows of combined commercial and residential buildings--were built along Valley Street. On the hill behind these, running parallel to Valley Street, is Harrison Street. Built here, in the second quarter of the nineteenth century, are the finest of Scottsville's private dwellings, houses such as Old Hall and the Bruce House. Where the houses along Main Street were predominantly frame and predominately a story and a half high, most of the houses along Harrison Street are two-story brick structures. Harrison Street is also the location of three of the town's five early churches--housing the Presbyterian, Baptist, and Episcopal congregations.

The large mill built on Valley Street at the north end of the business district dates from the mid-nineteenth century. North of the mill, the oldest surviving dwellings are small cottages, probably occupied by mill workers and local artisans. Later buildings in this neighborhood tend to be a combination of very small houses and larger late nineteenth-century frame buildings.

As with many small towns, some substantial residents preferred to live at the edges of the settlement. In Scottsville, houses such as Mount Walla and Cliffside (not within the corporate limits), situated on the hills surrounding the village, bear witness to the survival of this tradition in the nineteenth-century Virginia Piedmont.

Present-day Scottsville consists of about 100 major buildings. Despite the effects of time and the ravages of several major floods, 53 structures of historic or architectural significance survive. The only major intrusion consists of a cleared area at the junction of Valley and Main Streets, the result of a fire in February 1976, which destroyed a turn-of-the-century frame hotel and several minor buildings and which seriously damaged the Methodist Church. The integrity of the district nevertheless remains intact.

An inventory of the 53 significant Scottsville structures follows.

(See continuation sheet #2)

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
__PREHISTORIC	__ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	__COMMUNITY PLANNING	__LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	__RELIGION
__1400-1499	__ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	__CONSERVATION	__LAW	__SCIENCE
__1500-1599	__AGRICULTURE	__ECONOMICS	__LITERATURE	__SCULPTURE
__1600-1699	X ARCHITECTURE	__EDUCATION	__MILITARY	__SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
X 1700-1799	__ART	__ENGINEERING	__MUSIC	__THEATER
X 1800-1899	X COMMERCE	__EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	__PHILOSOPHY	X TRANSPORTATION
__1900-	__COMMUNICATIONS	__INDUSTRY	X POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	__OTHER (SPECIFY)
		__INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Scottsville, located on the great Horseshoe Bend of the James River in lower Albemarle County, is a community rich in historical associations and early architecture. Its history is inseparably entwined with its riverside situation; the James has brought the town both prosperity and suffering. While many of Piedmont Virginia's river settlements have either dwindled into insignificance or grown at the expense of their historical ambiance, Scottsville, in spite of prosperity, depression, war, flooding, and fire, has maintained its early aura. Lining its two principal streets, Main and Valley, is a notable representation of ante- and post-bellum commercial architecture, a rarity for Virginia towns. Interesting examples of either sophisticated or vernacular domestic work are found on its residential streets. Set snugly beneath the river bluffs, amid the Piedmont's scenic rolling countryside, Scottsville presents a memorable picture of an essentially nineteenth-century river town.

The origins of Scottsville are traced back to 1732 when Edward Scott, Goochland County Magistrate, Sheriff, and Burgess, patented 550 acres in the upper northwest corner of Horseshoe Bend, on a hill just west of the future town, and erected a dwelling soon after. Because of its strategic location on the river, Scott's house (an early dwelling thought to be it survives) became a meeting place for the area. In 1741 the government of the newly formed Albemarle County was organized there. Scott's Landing, as the small settlement that sprang up there was called, was selected as the county seat of Albemarle which included what today is five counties. It was so chosen because it was roughly in the geographical center of this large political division, and a courthouse and jail were ordered to be erected on the hill next to Scott's house. The courthouse and jail do not survive. The town, which grew down on the riverbank, soon boasted ordinaries, stables, stores, and a grist mill. A blow to this prosperity was felt in 1762 when Albemarle County was partitioned into several counties. The area south of the James became Buckingham County, leaving Scott's Landing tucked in a distant corner of the resulting smaller Albemarle. Because it no longer was in the geographical center, the county seat was moved north to Charlottesville. While the county government removed some of the town's prestige, Scott's Landing remained a growing commercial center.

During the Revolution, military supplies were stored at Scott's Landing in the former courthouse. The arms were in a quantity sufficient to attract the attention of Lord Cornwallis. To keep the stores from falling into enemy hands, General Lafayette took up position between Cornwallis and the town, forcing Cornwallis to change his front. With hope of capturing the supplies lost, Cornwallis moved toward the coast with Lafayette in pursuit. Cornwallis's shift to the east ultimately led to his being surrounded at Yorktown.

The Post-Revolutionary and Ante-Bellum periods mark the age of Scottsville's ascendancy as a commercial center, a period of prosperity brought on by increased river traffic and the construction of the James River and Kanawha Canal. A number of other towns sprang

(See continuation sheet # 8)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martin, Joseph. A New and Comprehensive Gazeteer of Virginia. Charlottesville, Va., 1835.

Moore, Virginia. Scottsville on the James. Charlottesville, Va., 1969.

Woods, Rev. Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Charlottesville, Va., 1901.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 115 acres

UTM REFERENCES

	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
A	17	721360	418676 0	B	17	721390	418590
C	17	720140	418570	D	17	720120	418640

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	51	Albemarle County	003
Virginia	51	Fluvanna County	065

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE
April, 1976

STREET & NUMBER
221 Governor Street

TELEPHONE
804-786-3143

CITY OR TOWN
Richmond

STATE
Virginia 23219

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL ___ STATE X LOCAL X

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

Virginia Landmarks Register

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

DATE APR 20 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE JUL 30 1976

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE JUL 30 1976

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
1957 Federal
Library of Congress, Washington, D. C.

10. VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of Scottsville Historic District coincide with the corporate limits of the town. The 115 acres comprising the district are bounded by a line beginning at a point 200' W of Town Route 1302 and 500' NW of intersection of said route with Town Route 1304;

Thence extending approximately 1100' NE;

Thence extending approximately 1400' SE;

Thence extending approximately 2200' due E;

Thence extending approximately 1600' S and slightly E to north bank of James River;

Thence extending NW and curving along riverbank approximately 3200';

Thence extending approximately 2600' NW to point of origin.

The corporate limits of the town have remained the same since the eastern boundary was extended in 1833 to incorporate the Fluvanna County portion of the community.

DESCRIPTION

Scottsville Inventory

Note: Scottsville buildings do not have numbered street addresses.

Bird Street
South side

298-17 Scottsville Presbyterian Church: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, pedimented gable roof with small belfry at east end. Greek Revival, built 1830. Scottsville Presbyterian Church, with its fine brickwork and its handsome, well-preserved interior, is the earliest and least-altered of Scottsville's five nineteenth-century churches.

298-24-0017

Canal Street

298-23 Scottsville Railroad Station: brick, 1 story, 6 bays, hipped roof with cross gable, deeply projecting eaves, sheltered passenger platform. Circa 1900.

298-08 Freight Depot: warehouse: frame, 1 story, 3 bays, "catslide" gable roof, board-and-batten covering. Late nineteenth century.

Harrison Street
West side (south to north)

298-16 Old Hall: dwelling: Flemish-bond brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys, tetrastyle Doric porch with full entablature, triple windows. Greek Revival, built 1830. Old Hall is one of Scottsville's most elaborate early nineteenth-century dwellings.

298-18 St. John's Episcopal Church: frame with board and batten, 1 story, gable roof with sawn bargeboards, belfry, entrance porch. Gothic Revival, built 1875.

298-24-1 The Shadows: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof, tetrastyle Roman Doric porch, exterior end chimney, later demi-octagonal bay at north end. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

Harrison Street (Cont'd.)
West side (south to north)

298-16 298-24-14 Omohundro House: dwelling: brick, 2 stories on high basement, 3 bays, gable roof with box cornice and interior end chimneys, tetrastyle Roman Doric porch. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

298-14 298-24-16 Bruce House: dwelling: brick, 1 story on high basement, 5 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys, tetrastyle Roman Doric pedimented portico, elaborate side- and fanlight doorway. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

~~298-04~~ 298-24-5 Scottsville Baptist Church: brick, 2 stories, gable roof with belfry, heavily altered by addition of tetrastyle portico, later windows, baptistry. Built 1840.

Harrison Street
East side

298-24-2 Double Cottage: dwellings: brick, 1 story on high basement, 4 bays, gable roof with central chimney, tetrastyle porch, windows altered. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

Jackson Street
North side (west to east)

298-22 Tompkins House: dwelling: brick, 1 story on high basement, 3 bays, gable roof with altered semi-exterior end chimneys, tetrastyle Greek Doric porch, ends and gable reworked. Greek Revival, second quarter of nineteenth century.

298-24-3 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories, irregular plan and bay systems, gable and hipped roof, projecting bays, square corner tower, 1-story porch on south and west--with elaborate spindle frieze. Elements of Queen Anne, François 1er and Eastlake styles, late nineteenth century.

298-24-4 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories with later 1½-story façade, gable roof with exterior end chimney, 1-story porch with sawnwork balustrade. Mid-nineteenth century; circa 1900.

298-24-5 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with exterior end chimney, twentieth-century Georgian Revival porch. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

Main Street
South side (west to east)

298-24-6 Coleman's Store and Masonic Hall: commercial building: brick, 2 stories, 4 bays, flat roof, pilastered bays and brick cornice. Modified Edwardian, built 1914.

298-24-7 Commercial structure: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, mansard roof with central gable, original shop front. Early twentieth century.

298-24-8 Commercial structure: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays (first floor), gable roof with gable end front. Built circa 1900. The building has been enlarged to the east and the facade has been altered.

298-24-9 Dwelling with projecting commercial wing: frame, 2 stories, irregular bay system, gable roof--gable end front on commercial wing, 1-story porch on dwelling section, original shop front on commercial wing. Early twentieth century.

298-24-10 Commercial structure: frame, 2 stories, 2 bays, gable roof with gable end front, shop front altered. Early twentieth century.

298-20 Commercial structure: frame, 2 stories, gable roof with gable end front, box cornice, 1-story lean-to addition on east, early 6/9 sash. Early nineteenth century. Building is a rare example of a simple commercial structure of its period.

298-24-11 Dwelling: frame, 1½ stories, 3 bays, gable roof with box cornice, exterior end chimney, 1-story attached kitchen. Early nineteenth century. House is a picturesque and well-preserved example of Scottsville's early domestic architecture; it retains distinctive interior woodwork.

298-24-12 Dwelling: frame, 1 story, 3 bays, gable roof, exterior end chimneys, later front porch. Mid-nineteenth century.

298-11 Scottsville Flour Mill: frame, 3 stories, gable roof with monitor, gable end front, 2-story frame annex to east. Late nineteenth century. Mill remains in operation. DEMOLISHED

298-24-13 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories, gable roof, 1-story front porch with turned posts. Built circa 1900.

298-24-14 Duplex dwelling: frame, 2 stories, gable roof with gable end front, 4-bay first floor, 2-bay second floor. Early twentieth century.

298-24-15 Storehouse: frame, 1 story, gable roof, 3 bays, center door with flanking shuttered openings, later addition on rear. Late nineteenth century.

Main Street
North side (west to east)

298-24-16 Scottsville Methodist Church: brick, 2 stories, facade originally 3 bays, gable roof; present facade erected in 1927 completely covering original facade. Original portion built 1833 and severely damaged by fire in 1976.

298-12 Scottsville Museum: church building: brick, Flemish bond, 1 story, 3 bays, gable roof with pedimented gable front, lunettes with intersecting tracery above each facade opening. Built 1846 as Disciples of Christ Church; became Scottsville Museum in 1968. Building shows Jeffersonian Classicism influence.

298-10 Barclay House: brick, Flemish-bond facade, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with corbeled brick cornice. Federal, built circa 1825. Home of Dr. James R. Barclay in mid-nineteenth century; Barclay founded the adjacent Disciples Church. House is one of the more picturesque dwellings in the community; it is part of the museum complex.

298-24-17 Dwelling: frame, 1 story, 3 bays, gable roof, exterior end chimney, later front porch and side wing. Early nineteenth century.

298-21 Old Tavern: hostelry: brick, 1 story with later 2-story wing, 4 bays in original section, 5 bays in later section, 1-story front porch with lattice railing on original section, 2-level porch with similar railings on later section. Early and mid-nineteenth century. Now a residence, this is one of the more architecturally significant structures in the town. It probably was built to serve the canal trade.

298-13 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof, 1-story front porch. Late nineteenth century.

Valley Street
West side (south to north)

298-24-18 Skippy's Market (southwest corner of West Main and Valley Streets): commercial structure: brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, flat roof, sheet metal modillion cornice. Edwardian, early twentieth century.

298-24-19 Dorrier's Barber Shop (northwest corner of West Main and Valley Streets): commercial structure: brick, 2 stories, 7 bays, gable roof with parapets at eaves and gable ends, elaborate storefronts with Doric pilasters. Georgian Revival, twentieth century.

298-24-20 Scottsville Mini-Mart: commercial structure: yellow brick, 2 stories, 4 bays, flat roof, early metal storefronts, brick pilasters mark bays. Edwardian, early twentieth century.

298-24-21 Thacker's Variety Shop: commercial/residential row: brick, 2 stories, 7 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys and 2 dormers, later shop fronts, fanlight entrance to second-floor stairs. Second quarter of the nineteenth century.

298-24-22 Scottsville Furniture (southwest corner of Valley and Bird Streets): commercial structure: brick, 2 stories, 9 bays, gable roof with gable-end parapets, internal end chimneys and molded brick cornice. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

298-24-23 Antique Shop (northwest corner of Valley and Bird Streets): commercial/residential row: brick, 2 stories, 11 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys and molded brick cornice, later shop front, north end altered at first-floor level. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

298-24-24 Dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 4 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys, 2 pedimented dormers. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

298-24-25 Dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with interior end chimney, central entrance and second-floor window closed. Second quarter of nineteenth century.

298-24-26 Thacker Brothers Funeral Home: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with shingled cross gables, L-plan. Late nineteenth century.

298-24-27 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, hipped roof with cross gables, 2-story porch on south and east sides, pedimented 2-story portico on east. Georgian Revival, early twentieth century.

Valley Street (Cont'd.)
West side (south to north)

298-24-28 Cottage: frame, 1 story, 4 bays, gable roof with exterior end flues. Late nineteenth century. This is a noteworthy example of a worker's cottage of the end of the last century.

Valley Street
East side (south to north)

298-24-29 Scottsville Volunteer Fire Department: public building: brick, 2 stories, 1 bay, gable roof with gable-end entrance and parapet. Edwardian, early twentieth century.

298-24-30 Dollar General Stores: commercial structure: brick, 2 stores, 12 bays (4 shop fronts), flat roof, design consonant with adjacent fire department building, some openings altered. Early twentieth century.

298-24-31 Dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with cross gable, full-length 1-story porch with turned columns, an "I-house." Late nineteenth century.

298-15 Scottsville Mill (Western Auto): industrial structure: brick on stuccoed stone, 3 stories, 6 bays, gable roof. Built circa 1835.

298-24-32 Cottage: frame, 2 stories, 2 bays, gable roof with exterior end chimney and bracketed cornice, 1-story bracketed porch, lean-to addition to north. Italianate, late nineteenth century.

298-24-33 Cottage: frame, 1 story, 3 bays, gable roof with exterior end chimney, full-length 1-story porch. Second quarter of the nineteenth century.

298-24-34 Cottage (intersection of Valley and Hardware Streets): frame, 1 story, 4 bays, gable roof with exterior end chimneys, stoop. Early nineteenth century.

Bluff above town to north

298-9 Mount Walla: dwelling: frame, 1 story on high basement, 3 bays, gable roof, pedimented porch on either side, exterior end chimneys, 1-story wings. Built circa 1780 for John Scott, a member of the family from whence the town derives its name. The house is a good example of the more sophisticated small farmhouses of the region.

SIGNIFICANCE

up along the river and competed for Scottsville's trade, but few ever offered a serious threat. By 1818 the community had achieved sufficient importance to be incorporated, and its official name became Scottsville. The town benefited not only from the east-west traffic along the river but from the north-south traffic taking advantage of the ferry there. In 1827 the Staunton and James River Turnpike, terminating at Scottsville, was completed, opening Scottsville to trade with the Shenandoah Valley. Martin's Gazeteer of Virginia describes Scottsville as a lively place in 1838:

> "This place has improved rapidly in the last 4 years, and is yet a flourishing village. It contains 120 houses, chiefly of brick; one Methodist and one Presbyterian house of worship; a male and a female school, and two Sunday schools, nine general and five grocery stores, and one apothecaries shop. The principal manufactures are clothing, leather shoes, cabinet work, and earthenware. An inspection of flour and tobacco is established in this place, of the former the average quantity . . . sold is 35,000 barrels. Scottsville carries on an extensive trade in flour, bacon, butter, lard, and other products with the counties of Nelson, Augusta, Rockbridge, Rockingham, Bath, Pendleton and Pocahontas; these products are exchanged for groceries, gypsum, coarse cotton and woolen cloths and money. The market of Scottsville is ready and tempting to the producer, the only fault of its enterprising merchants being that they '--interesting sidelight--' pay prices too liberal for their own prosperity, and this cause has, only lately, given a temporary check to the rising town. A tri-weekly line of stages passed through it, communicating with Richmond and Staunton. Scottsville, being situated at the extreme northwestern bend of the navigable water of the James River, would probably acquire an immense increase of trade if the James and Kanawha improvement is carried into effect. There is a Savings institution '--bank--' in the town. It has two resident attornies and four regular physicians; its whole population is about 600."

Since the late eighteenth century, various efforts had been made to improve navigation on the Upper James. These efforts culminated in 1832 with the chartering of the James River and Kanawha Canal Company, a company with the ambitious goal of linking Richmond with the Ohio River. The goal was never achieved, but a splendid canal system was constructed along the James as far west as the Alleghenies. The section through Scottsville was officially opened in July 1840. The construction of the canal gave Scottsville its golden era. The community became the largest flour market in the state; a correspondent writing in the 1850s noted on a typical day the presence of seventy mountain wagons waiting to be loaded. It was during this period that many of the existing commercial and residential structures were erected.

The Civil War precipitated Scottsville's slow but steady decline as a commercial center. The community came into direct contact with the struggle in 1865 when General Philip Sheridan with some 10,000 cavalry troops pillaged the town. His primary goal was to

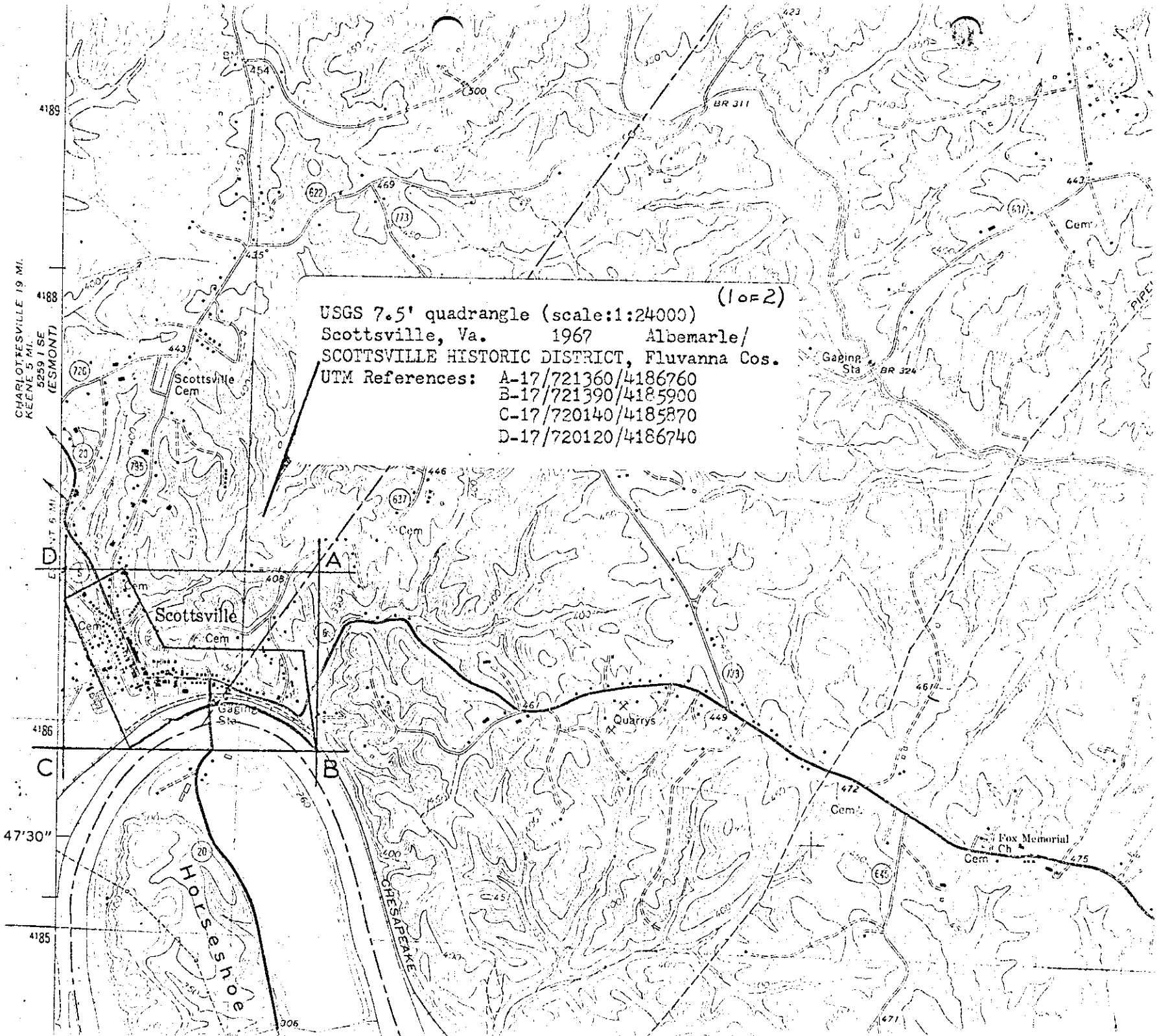
SIGNIFICANCE (Cont'd.)

wreck the canal system. The Scottsville section was duly destroyed on March 6, and nearly all the town's industrial buildings: the woolen factory, the candle factory, the flour mill, etc. were burned.

The town recovered from the war, but it never again experienced the prosperity it formerly had known. The canal company never regained its strength, and in 1880 its property was sold to the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad which erected its tracks on the towpath.

In recent years, Scottsville has seen little significant growth. Though served by the railroad, the James River valley is no longer the state's main commercial artery. This lack of commercial activity, however, has been one of the prime factors in the preservation of the town's historical character. This atmosphere, and indeed the very existence of the town, was threatened in the past decade by two severe floods. The first, in 1969, came as the result of Hurricane Camille; the second, equally severe, was brought by Hurricane Agnes in 1972. So crippling were the floods that some thought was given to abandoning the lower part of the town altogether, but this idea was dismissed, and a slow but steady recovery has been made. In 1976 two fires, within days of one another, destroyed a major commercial block in the heart of the town, but except for heavy damage to the Methodist Church, no buildings of architectural significance were lost. Through it all, Scottsville, with a keen awareness of his history, has demonstrated a tenacity and a will to survive.

CL


(1 of 2)
USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Scottsville, Va. 1967 Albemarle/
SCOTTSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, Fluvanna Cos.
UTM References: A-17/721360/4186760
B-17/721390/4185900
C-17/720140/4185870
D-17/720120/4186740
A
B
C
D
Scottsville
Scottsville Cem
Cem
Gaging Sta
Quarrys
Horseshoe
CHESAPEAKE
Fox Memorial Ch
BR 311
BR 324
CHARLOTTESVILLE 19 MI.
KEENE 5 MI.
5259 I SE
(ESMONT)
4189
4188
4186
4185
47'30"