

VLR 9/98
NRHP 10/98

NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Mt. Sidney Historic District

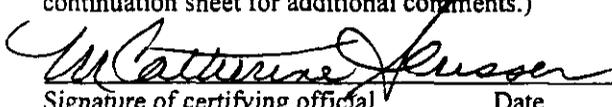
other names/site number DHR File No. 07-1300

2. Location

street & number Lee Highway, Mt. Sidney School Lane, Pottery Shop Lane not for publication N/A
city or town Mt. Sidney vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Augusta code 015 Zip 24467

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)



9/26/98

Signature of certifying official _____ Date _____
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register removed from the National Register
 See continuation sheet. other (explain): _____

determined eligible for the National Register _____
Signature of Keeper

See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u> 74 </u>	<u> 39 </u>	buildings
<u> 16 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	sites
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	structures
<u> 0 </u>	<u> 0 </u>	objects
<u> 90 </u>	<u> 39 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

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

 N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> single dwelling, hotel </u>
<u> FUNERARY </u>	<u> cemetery </u>
<u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	<u> department store, specialty store </u>
<u> RELIGION </u>	<u> religious facility </u>
<u> TRANSPORTATION </u>	<u> road-related </u>
<u> SOCIAL </u>	<u> meeting hall </u>
<u> GOVERNMENT </u>	<u> town hall, post office </u>
<u> EDUCATION </u>	<u> school </u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u> single dwelling, apartment building </u>
<u> COMMERCE/TRADE </u>	<u> specialty store </u>
<u> SOCIAL </u>	<u> civic </u>
<u> GOVERNMENT </u>	<u> post office </u>
<u> RELIGION </u>	<u> religious facility </u>
<u> FUNERARY </u>	<u> cemetery </u>
<u> RECREATION </u>	<u> outdoor recreation </u>

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7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal _____
MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival _____
LATE VICTORIAN: _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation __ BRICK, STONE _____
roof __ METAL: tin _____
walls __ BRICK _____
__ WOOD: weatherboard _____
other __ WOOD: log----- _____
__ TERRA COTTA _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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)

- x 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.
- x 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.)

- X A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE, COMMERCE, TRANSPORTATION
 SETTLEMENT _____

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Period of Significance 1826 to 1945

Significant Dates 1827
1835
ca. 1895

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N.A.

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 40

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 17 678640 4236440	2 17 678760 4236340
3 17 678480 4235720	4 17 678180 4235600
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann E. McCleary

Organization: Asst. Prof of History, State University of West Georgia date July 1998

street & number: 88 Plowshare Road telephone 770-832-8829

city or town Carrollton state GA zip code 30117

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Mt. Sidney Historic District)
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7. Summary Description:

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Mt. Sidney Historic District is located in northern Augusta County, approximately ten miles north of Staunton along U.S. Route 11, formerly the Valley Turnpike. The village plat of 1826 resembles those of other turnpike towns--long narrow lots with houses fronting on the main road, then the "old wagon road" and cross streets punctuating the plat every four lots. The oldest buildings date from the 1820s, at the time of the village's creation, and a sizeable core of buildings date from its first growth spurt in the antebellum period. In the late nineteenth century, the village continued to grow. Many new buildings were constructed and the community spread further south of the original plat, incorporating a substantial black community in this section. Additional development spread west of the road, where the white school was built. Today, the historic core of the village--primarily that shown on an 1885 map--remains largely intact, with little modern intrusion. Mt. Sidney retains an excellent collection of buildings--primarily residential and commercial--from its establishment up through World War II. In addition, many of the archaeological sites, particularly those from the black community, remain undisturbed to document this important part of the community's history.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The oldest surviving buildings in the village of Mt. Sidney date from the 1820s and are situated on the tract of two acres that Henry Roland owned within the village, on the west side of the main street north of Lafayette Street which included lots 25 through 31. In 1827, the value of buildings on this lot totalled \$2,160, and \$1,200 in buildings had been added that year. It is likely that the brick tavern on lot 28 was constructed that year, since the total value of buildings on that lot rose to \$1,800. This large five-bay structure reflects the houses being built increasingly in the Valley in the 1820s--it has a symmetrical brick shell with Flemish bond facade, a decorative molded brick cornice, and a gable roof. An early two-story brick lateral addition still survives on the south end (but it has been remodeled in the early twentieth century to serve as a bank). The elongated facade of this building is typical of taverns and early hotels built along the turnpikes.

The brick store building to the south of the tavern, on lot 29, appears to have been built shortly before the tavern. One of the earliest store buildings to survive in the county, it is a two-story brick structure with a gable end entrance. Like the neighboring tavern, it has a Flemish bond facade and

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decorative cornice with a houndstooth pattern, but the interior and front porches have been remodeled. Tax records value this store at \$500 by 1828.

A period of rebuilding occurred in the 1820s and 1830s in Augusta County, and these two buildings reflect that building boom. New buildings were increasingly built of brick construction and were larger and more permanent than the earlier log and frame buildings which dotted the landscape. The tax records reveal that Mt. Sidney had at least one other brick building from the 1820s--a house valued at \$500 on lot 13, across from the tavern and store. However, the majority of the buildings in the village were likely wooden, judging from the values assigned to them in the tax records.

A few lots to the south, still on Henry Roland's property, stands a log core to the Abner Shumake House. This rectangular, two-story, one-room plan structure is typical of many early and more modest Valley homes, and possibly the other homes in Mt. Sidney in its first decades. The date of construction is not known, but its \$140 value is recorded as early as 1828. Like other early Valley homes, it had an exterior end chimney. The house was enlarged in the 1840s and sided so that the original log portion is not currently visible from the exterior.

In the 1830s, after the village had been platted, a number of new buildings were constructed. Following trends in Augusta County during the building boom of this time, these were all built of brick with two-story elevations and decorated cornices as found in the previous decade. The first was the Samuel Rankin house, ca. 1832. This dwelling features a four-bay facade, with two front entrances and a two-room plan, a plan variant found occasionally in the Valley, and its neighboring region of southeastern Pennsylvania, during the antebellum years.

The Markwood House (1834) and Moorman House (1835) are more similar in facade and plan to other contemporary dwellings in the Valley, both reflecting the growing popularity of the Georgian design and its familiar local I-house variant. The Markwood House, the smaller of the two, features a three-bay facade with a central door leading into a hallway. Following in local fashion, the Markwood House was built into a bank, although the lower level rooms were only used for storage. The Moorman House is a fuller five-bay example of the Georgian plan, and it contains a central hall with stairwell and most of its original woodwork, illustrating a blend of popular Federal and Greek Revival elements. Both houses again feature houndstooth brick cornices and Flemish bond facades.

Mixed with the more pretentious brick houses were likely numerous smaller log houses, judging by the tax records. The James Ross House, built ca. 1840 and valued at \$325, is very typical of Augusta County homes during this period. Like the older log home that is the core of the Shumake House, the Ross House was a two-story, V-notched log dwelling with an exterior end chimney (which has been replaced). The facade has three bays, with a central front door and flanking windows. This example features an enclosed corner stairwell typical of this plan. The second log house, the Tommy Thompson House likely built in the 1840s

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or 1850s, is a slightly larger variant of the local plan. It features a fuller second story, V-notched log construction, a three-bay facade with central entrance, and an exterior end stone chimney but it has a more fully-developed, two-room hall-parlor plan. Although now gone, the DePriest House shown in ca. 1900 photos on lot 34 appears to be a one-story example of that same two-room plan, with an end chimney, three-bay facade, and board and batten siding, but it is unclear whether this is of log or frame construction. The exterior kitchen remaining on this lot--a one-story rectangular structure with an end stone chimney--may well have been associated with the DePriest House.

By the 1840s and 1850s, brick construction largely disappears in village dwellings, and Mt. Sidney houses are increasingly built of frame with Greek Revival detailing. The I-house plan--a symmetrical two-story dwelling with central entrance and hallway and end chimneys--became particularly popular by the mid-nineteenth century in Mt. Sidney as well as throughout the county. The William Bruffey House, dating to 1855, is a five-bay I-house, with a central front door and passage and the two-story, two-room plan ell that became popular in the Valley by the mid-nineteenth century. The house retains the exterior brick end chimneys and still boasts a largely original interior with Greek Revival detailing, but some of its original exterior detailing, including a bracketed cornice, has been removed. The Sampson-Cribbons House, also with Greek Revival detailing, is a two-story, three bay frame dwelling with exterior brick chimneys. The current dwelling reflects a ca. 1855 enlargement; the house appears to have begun as a smaller, rectangular frame section on the north end of the existing dwelling. Even the small log dwelling on the old Roland property was remodeled during the early 1840s to resemble the new I-house model. The owners added a frame addition to the north, which included a hallway to the north of the old log room and an additional room north of the hall, with Greek Revival detailing. The entire dwelling was sided, but its asymmetrical facade is the major clue revealing its two-part origin.

Besides the I-house, the more traditional two-room, hall-parlor plan with single end chimney and three bay facade still remained popular among local families. The Cook house is a smaller, two-room plan frame dwelling more typical of log dwellings in the Valley during these years. Like the log homes which it mimics, the Cook house has a low second story, a three bay facade, and exterior brick end chimney. The James Ross House is another example of this frame three-bay, two-room rectangular plan with brick end chimney, but it has a taller second story.

Several commercial buildings also survive from this antebellum period. The Ross (or Grooms) Store displays a smaller version of the two-story brick store design built across the street. This is a one-story frame variation with a rectangular plan and gable end entrance, highlighted by engaged pilasters. The two exceptions to the decline in brick construction are both commercial buildings. William Bruffey built a one-story, one-room plan brick room on to the north end of his house to use as a store in the late 1840s, but this is most

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commonly known as the Shumake and Johnson store, after Abner Shumake who acquired the property in the late 1850s. This brick store addition features a three-bay facade, with a central front entrance adorned with a transom light and serviced by a sheathed door. The store retains much of its original interior trim, and it still functions as a store today, but now for antiques. The second brick commercial building was a tavern built at the south end of the street and operated by the Hyde family around 1852. This building has been extensively remodeled, but the core is a two-story brick structure which most likely originally featured a three-bay facade with central entrance and hallway.

The first church built in Mt. Sidney appears to have been located on lot 8 of the original plat by the late 1820s, but there are no known descriptions of this structure. In the 1850s, the Mt. Sidney Methodist Church built the first denominational church structure after acquiring a lot in 1852. The original church building, which was later extensively altered, began as a typical rural church form: a frame rectangular plan with the gable end entrance facing the road. Unlike the store buildings in the center of town, the church sits back from the road.

Although there were numerous craft shops in the village, most of the work likely took place within the homes; there are no known shops dating from the antebellum period. One of the most significant craft sites is that of the old pottery, located at the northwest end of the village. The pottery site is now in the new Ruritan Park. The site of the kiln at the corner of the Buttermilk Springs and Pottery Shop Lane may have been partially destroyed with the road improvements to the new Ruritan Park, additional archaeological investigation needs to be done both on the kiln site and to determine if there were any sites of associated structures.

Much of the fabric of the village currently dates from the late nineteenth century, reflecting the continued growth and development due to increased traffic on the turnpike and the opening of the railroad line through town. The houses from this period reveal the range of styles found throughout the Valley during this period, from more vernacular designs to dwellings inspired by new Victorian planning and design ideals.

By far the most traditional house type in Mt. Sidney during these years was the I-house typically built out of frame construction, often now with an integral rear ell of either one or two rooms and one or two stories. Two excellent examples of this house type are the Mary Ann Cline House, ca. 1885, and the Mauzy-Ruebush House, 1896-1900. Both have interior gable end chimneys and long front porches, but the Cline House also has cornice brackets that make it slightly more stylish. An older variation on this house type, dating from the 1870s but razed in the 1980s, was the Shumake House, previously on lot 9, which was a two-story, three-bay frame dwelling.

One of the most common additions to the traditional I-house in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century was a front gable, and there are eight examples with this element in town. The majority of these front gables are on

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houses with a gable roof. These gables range from relatively plain weatherboarded designs--such as that at the J. Parrish House (ca. 1885), and the Botkin House (1880-1900) to more elaborate shingled examples as at the Zaccaria House or the Maxwell House, both dating from 1880-1900. The Zaccaria House also has shingles on the end gables to match the front gable. One of the most ornate surviving I-houses built in Mt. Sidney during this time is the M.G. Bright House, with a shingled front gable, bracketed cornice, and elaborate wooden porch with turned posts and balustrade and a spindle frieze. An older two-story, two-room plan home in the center of town--the James Ross House--was also remodeled at this time with a front gable, updating its exterior.

Three houses with front gables have hipped roofs. Two of these houses--the Shumake House (1890-1910) and the Lutheran Parsonage (1885-1895)--exemplify the I-house form, and each has a two-story, two-room plan ell. With the hipped roof, the chimneys move from the outside wall into the interior walls. Both examples have a simple wooden porch with round wooden columns. The third example is the William Shumake House (ca. 1905) which features a double-pile Georgian plan. Again, the chimneys have been moved to the center of the house, this time in between each flank of rooms. The porch on this house is slightly more elaborate, with a spindle frieze.

Several houses display a more irregular plan typical of the Victorian era. The most elaborate is the Millard Johnston House, built ca. 1891-5. Johnston owned the planing mill across the road from his new house, and he likely had the materials and expertise to make his home more stylish. The Johnston House has a projecting bay on the south end that extends the south room several feet beyond the main facade. Other stylistic elements include a bay window on the first floor of the projecting bay, a shingled cornice with jigsaw trim and vent, a bracketed cornice, and a wraparound porch which includes a jigsaw balustrade and extends around the north end.

The other Victorian-styled houses replicate some of the same elements as those found on the Johnston House: they copy the irregular plan with a projecting gabled bay on one side. Both the Perry House and the W. F. Johnson House (ca. 1905) are similar to the standard I-house plan--a two-story, three-bay facade--but with the file of rooms in one end bay pushed forward several feet beyond the facade of the house. In both cases, a bay window on the first floor and brackets at the cornice create a more stylish design. The front gable at the Perry House is shingled but that at the Johnson House is plan, except for a decorative vent similar to that the Johnston House. Both have front porches, and the Johnson House porch retains a spindle frieze. The last house that responds to this plan is the Hickman House, near the old school. Although it has recently been remodeled, an old drawing reveals that the house had a gable on the north end, but it did not project away from the facade.

While most of the houses of white families fit in the I-house or more Victorianized I-house models, there is one smaller, one-story house that is unlike others built in this period. The Kirby house (ca. 1885), on the alley

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near the school, has been extensively remodeled and enlarged, but it appears to have been a one-story, three bay frame dwelling.

The houses inhabited by black residents are now largely gone. The only surviving example dates from this period--the Reuben Taylor House (ca. 1885). This dwelling is a two-story, three-bay log house with a two-room plan and an end chimney (which has been rebuilt). A frame ell addition, with a two-story, two-room plan, has been added later. Taylor's home was clearly one of the largest in the black community; its value of \$150 was the highest of any owned by black residents at the turn of the century. Other homes in 1900 were valued at \$25, \$40, or \$75, except for the home of Eliza Short which was worth \$200 when it first appeared in 1905. Many of the house sites of the black community remain undisturbed and could be investigated to learn more about size and plan type. Local residents recall that the majority of these homes were relatively small. David McCaskey removed the logs from the old Saylor Smith house, which was in ruins, to create a room at the back of the AME church which he owns. McCaskey recalled that this house was a one-room, one-and-a-half story log house with a detached summer kitchen. This dwelling was located on the back of lot 7), where remnants of the stone foundation are still visible.

Many of the homes had associated outbuildings typical of the region. Excellent examples of frame summer kitchens still remain at the Mauzy House and at the old Neff Tavern. Located immediately behind the homes, these frame, one-story buildings with end chimneys follow familiar local designs. The Moorman House has a one-story brick springhouse, with an overhang, again typical of those found on area farms. This five-course American bond building has a trough for water inside. Also on the Moorman House lot is a smokehouse with a root cellar below, but the present owner has enlarged the upper level and converted it to an antique shop. The Abner Shumake House has two log outbuildings, but both were brought to the site in recent years. One is a log smokehouse, brought from New Hope around 1991, while the other is a log outbuilding with an overhang, similar to the local springhouse design.

Mt. Sidney families often kept animals and had animal housing buildings at the backs of their lots. The majority of the stables used for housing horses and cows are now gone; a descendent of Millard Johnston recalled, for example, that his grandfather had a stable for horses behind his house. One of the few surviving examples is the wooden one-story, gambrel-roofed stable associated with the Hyde Tavern, but it has been recently converted into a residence. Judging by the number of one-story wooden sheds surviving at the back of these village lots, a number of families kept chickens. Chicken houses remain on the lots containing the William Shumake House, the Humphries House, the H.V. Shiflette House, and the Lutheran Parsonage, among others. The two chicken houses at the Lutheran Parsonage are larger and more unusual: one is a longer, split-gable-roofed building and the other is an octagonal house likely used as a brooder house. The Perry House, which is located east of the main road, off the alley now known as Pottery Shop Lane, has a fine complement of wood frame buildings

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used for its small farming operation, but this house had more land than most village lots.

A number of community buildings were built in the late nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth century. A photograph from 1894 shows two school buildings being used at that time. One was a two-story frame school building, with a gable end entrance, two front doors, and three-bay side walls, and the second was a one-story, gable entry building with single front door and two bay side walls. The one-story building appears to contain one room and was likely the first white school built in town soon after public education was mandated by the new state constitution in 1870. The two-story structure, complete with a small bell tower on the roof, appears as a late nineteenth century addition to create more rooms and a "graded" curriculum. Besides these two schools for white residents, a black school house was built just west of Mt. Sidney before 1885. Like the older white school building, it was a simple, gable-end entrance building of one-story frame construction.

In 1914, with the first wave of school consolidation across the county, Mt. Sidney received one of the first larger, consolidated school buildings in the county. The Mt. Sidney School is an excellent early example of this new consolidated school design. This particular example, of brick construction, still resembles the familiar domestic forms, appearing as an exploded version of the popular local I-house plan. It features a seven-bay facade, with a front gable and central transom-lighted entrance. The interior contains a central hallway, and two rooms to each side, as well as an ell with additional classroom space.

In addition to the schools, the community gained two new churches after the Civil War and the old Methodist Church building was remodeled. The oldest of these two churches is the African Methodist Church, a log church building formerly used by Salem Lutheran Church outside Mt. Sidney. Reported to have been built about 1802, this church building was moved to the town site and converted to use by the black congregation in the late 1860s or early 1870s. The basic design is quite simple--a weatherboarded, gable end entry structure with two small balcony windows on the facade and two-bay side walls. Although the pews have been removed, much of the earlier fabric of the church remains inside, including the balcony with a low band of grained paneling along its front. A belfry, with a bell, shown in older photographs of the church is now gone.

The St. James Lutheran Church, which was razed in the 1960s, resembles the other churches built in town. Historic photographs show it as an one-story wood frame structure, with a gable end entrance facing the road. However, it also featured a projecting two-story front entrance tower and the roof is of a steeper pitch. The windows on the three-bay side walls are long and narrow, and there is a smaller room projecting off the chancel end of the building, mimicking the roof pitch of the sanctuary.

Photographs of the Mt. Sidney Methodist Church from the turn of the century show a different style than the existing building. The church had a corner

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entrance tower on the south end of the front wall, containing a double-door entrance with a segmental arched window above and a matching window on the second level of the tower. The open upper level of the tower is topped with a shingled steeple. The church has one window in the gable end and three along the side walls, and all are also topped with segmental arches matching the entrance. A wooden picket fence encloses the church, including its front yard. The church has been heavily remodeled in the twentieth century, after a fire. The tower and windows are now gone, and a new projecting foyer houses the front entrance centered in the main block.

Both Methodist churches had cemeteries. The Mt. Sidney Methodist has a large collection of stones, with the earliest being that of Abner Cawthorn in 1855. The majority of the stones date from the 1860s through the early twentieth century. These stones display a range of styles typical for these periods. The cemetery is enclosed by a cast iron fence, which appears to be shown on the late nineteenth century photo of the church. The AME church has fewer stones surviving. Following local practice, many of the graves are marked by plantings rather than stones. The oldest stone remaining is that of Amos Stephenson in 1879, and the most recent is 1987. The topography and landscaping of the cemetery reveals that there are many unmarked graves.

Two meeting halls built during this period offered further opportunities for social gatherings. The oldest one, dating to the 1870s, was the IOOF lodge building, which is now gone. Old photographs show this as a typical design for meeting halls--a two-story gable-entry building of frame construction. The one that does survive is the meeting hall of the Junior Order of American Mechanics, which housed the meeting room on the second level and the town hall on the first floor. The exterior retains much of its original character: it is a three-bay, gable entrance building, with a tall facade and shed roof. Older photographs show that the central entrance had a transom light, which is gone now; that there was another door in the first (west) bay of the south side; and there were no shutters, as are used now. When the building was converted to apartments in later years, a row of three narrow windows was added on the third story, and these survive. Inside, the building has been remodeled, but it still retains the stage on the first floor.

Mt. Sidney continued to function as a commercial hub of the region in the late nineteenth century. Besides the oldest store buildings, many of which continued to function, there were at least two new stores built during this period, although both of these are now gone. The Shumake Store, located on the southeast corner of the turnpike and Lafayette Street (lot 10) was a two-story frame building with a residential character, except that it had a storefront on the first floor. The first floor had a three-bay store front--a central entrance flanked by windows--on the north end leading into the store. A door and window on the south end of the facade likely serviced the residential part of the structure, which included the upstairs rooms. The Shumake Store had an exterior end brick chimney, serving the residential south room; a bracketed cornice; and

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a four-bay porch with jigsaw trim. The second store, built around 1890, was more typical of a country store from the late 1800s. The Ritchie Store, located on lot 14 of the original plat in the center of the village, was a two-story wood frame building, possibly built in two stages. The south end had a recessed central entrance, flanked by plate glass windows, and three two-over-two windows above. The north bay had a two-story front porch, featuring a jigsaw balustrade on the second floor, with additional store space on the lower level and apartment rooms on the second floor. A bracketed cornice extended along the top of the false front.

Several buildings in Mt. Sidney had offices or offered services in private homes during these years. Millard Johnston, for example, added a one-story frame addition, with a door and window on the facade, to his home for use as the post office. Historic photographs show a separate sidewalk and front porch for the post office from the main house. On the south end of town, Dr. Crawford purchased the old Hyde Tavern, and created a doctors office in the south end of the building. He remodeled the structure to include a separate front door for his medical practice. In the early twentieth century, two doctors practiced in the basement of the Johnston House. Patients entered through a front door on the facade of the lower level. The rooms to this physicians office have not been altered since the mid-twentieth century.

While the majority of the surviving building fabric in the historic district dates before the first world war, there are scattered buildings dating to the years immediately after the war, when the automobile became more popular and tourism grew. Several stores were remodeled into gas stations with gas pumps and canopies added. One example was the Shumake Self-Service, a two-story frame building which formerly stood on lot 37. The first "filling station" built for that purpose still survives on lot 19. Although it has been remodeled into a home, the one-story, stuccoed building still retains its original form, a shallow, hip-roof structure, although the canopy for the pumps has been replaced by a full-length front porch. Several additions have been made to the rear. The back section was reportedly used as a lunch room.

Another building type that emerged with the automobile era was the garage, and several excellent examples of early twentieth century garages survive. These are frame, gable-end entrance buildings typically located next to and often slightly behind the home. The best examples survive at the Watson House, the Mauzy House, and the Johnson House.

Houses became more eclectic by the early twentieth century, especially by the 1920s. The Humphries House (ca. 1920s) displays the more traditional three-bay I-house plan, but now with a porte cochere off the north end to shelter an automobile. This house even has the traditional summer kitchen located right off the side porch.

Several houses display the increasingly popular four-square design. The Watson House is a frame, two-story, hip-roof example with a two-bay facade, central chimney, and a full-length one-story front porch. Its neighbor, the

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Hubert Moore Plan is a wider frame dwelling with a gable roof, three-bay facade, and central chimney. The Craun House, across the street from these two dwellings, is a larger terra-cotta example of the four-square type. Its full three bay facade features a central door, flanked by paired windows; a hipped-roofed dormer with paired windows, and a porte cochere off the south end for an automobile. This deep dwelling, with frame additions off the back, was also used as a tourist home, called "Tourist Haven". The bungalow style is articulated in the Shiplette House on the north end of town, a three-bay dwelling with a sweeping gable roof covering the front porch and a gable-roofed dormer above. A more unusual dwelling is the irregular plan found at the H.V. Shiflette House. This design features a prominent and projecting gable end block to the north, with two window bays on the first floor, with a shed-roofed wing on the south which contains the door.

The district contains a few buildings dating from the post World War II era. Soon after the war ended, two ranch houses were built in the late 1940s in the south end of the village, one brick and one frame. More recent are the cinderblock home and trailer on Pottery Shop Lane, across from the old pottery site. The district also contains three commercial buildings constructed after the second world war: the brick veneer post office built in 1960; the Knicely Barber Shop, a two-story cinderblock building built in the 1950s at the site of the old clay pit for the pottery; and a modern one-story store (now apartments) at the site of the old Shumake Self-Service.

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MT. SIDNEY HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

All buildings are contributing unless marked (NC) indicating noncontributing status. The inventories are divided between architectural structures and archaeological sites. Entries for properties are organized by street name, beginning with the old Valley Turnpike (Lee Highway) followed with all other road names arranged in numerical order. The architectural inventory is listed with street addresses in numerical order. The archaeological inventory is organized by lot number, since these properties do not currently have street addresses.

Architectural Inventory:

Lee Highway (previously the Valley Turnpike)

2244 Lee Highway, Tommy Thompson House, 1840-60, two stories, log, three bay, gable roof, vernacular two-room plan dwelling, one brick end chimney. two-story one-room plan frame ell.

2245 Lee Highway, Zaccaria House, 1890-1910, two story, wood frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof, Victorian vernacular I-house with shingled front gable, brick interior end chimney flues, three-bay front porch with turned columns and square balusters, and two-story ell; one-story. shed-roofed frame garage, early twentieth century.

2249 Lee Highway, Philip Wolfe House, 1947-8, one story, brick veneer, three bays, gable roof, ranch house (NC), modern carport (NC), modern storage building (NC).

2252 Lee Highway, Williams House, late 1940s, one story, wood frame with siding, three bay, gable roof, ranch house with three bay front porch with square wood pilasters (NC); metal storage shed (NC).

2254 Lee Highway, Hubert Moore House, 1910-1930, two stories, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling, interior brick chimney, one-story three-bay porch with wooden Doric columns; one-story, gable-roofed frame barn with vertical boards, ca. 1940-60 (NC).

2257 Lee Highway, Mt. Sidney African Methodist Episcopal Church and cemetery, 1865-1875, one story, log with weatherboarding, three bay, gable roof, vernacular rectangular church plan with gable end entrance, early nineteenth century church moved to this site after the Civil War, recent log addition to back, cemetery behind church.

2263 Lee Highway, Maxwell House, 1890-1910, two stories, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan with central

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interior brick flues, shingled front gable, three-bay porch with square wood columns, turned balusters and spindle frieze, one-story, one-room plan ell; one-story metal storage shed (NC).

2264 Lee Highway, Watson House, 1910-1930, two stories, wood frame with German siding, two bay, hipped roof, vernacular four-square plan with interior brick flue, two bay porch with wood square posts and jigsaw balustrade; one-story, gable-roofed, frame garage with narrow vertical board siding on the old sliding door, early twentieth century.

2269 Lee Highway, Craun House, 1920s, two stories, glazed terra cotta tile, three bays, hipped roof, vernacular bungalow with sidelights around front door, hipped dormer, three bay porch with concrete columns extending into porte cochere off south end; one-story, three-bay, hipped-roof frame garage, mid-twentieth century.

2272 Lee Highway, Hyde Tavern, ca. 1852 and enlarged 1905-15, two and one half stories, Flemish bond brick with common bond addition, five bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling beginning as three-bay I-house with end addition and remodeling ca. 1905, end brick chimneys, one-bay front porch with Doric columns, sidelights and transoms around front entrance, side porch added, rear additions; one-story garage, 1960s (NC); one-story carport, 1950s (NC).

2281 Lee Highway, Mt. Sidney Methodist Church and Cemetery, 1850s, one story, wood frame with weatherboarding, six bays, gable roof, vernacular rectangular church plan with additions to each side, remodeled in twentieth century with bracketed cornice.

2286 Lee Highway, Lutheran Manse, 1885-95, two stories, frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular I-house plan with two-story, two-room plan ell, front gable, three-bay front porch featuring Ionic wooden columns; one-story, split-gable-roofed frame chicken house; octagonal frame brooder house.

2292 Lee Highway, 1966, one story, frame with brick veneer, three bays, gable roof, modern rectangular plan store building remodeled into apartments (NC)

2293 Lee Highway, William Bruffey House, ca 1855, two stories, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular Greek Revival central-passage plan, three bay front porch with wood square posts, turned balustrade, and brackets at cornice, exterior brick chimneys, two-story two-room plan ell; one-story wood frame gazebo (NC); one-story storage building, (NC).

2298 Lee Highway, M.G. Bright House, 1906-10, two stories, frame with

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weatherboarding, three-bay, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan house with three bay Victorian porch featuring spindle frieze, turned columns and balustrade, projecting central portico with shingled front gable, and one-story frame ell; one-story, gable-roofed wood frame garage; carport, post-WWI (NC); one-story modern storage shed, post-1950s (NC).

2302 Lee Highway, H.V. Shiflett House, 1900-20, one and one half stories, frame with weatherboarding, three bays, vernacular Victorian dwelling with one-bay porch with square wooden posts; one-story wooden kitchen with exterior stone chimney, mid-nineteenth century; one-story shed-roofed wooden chicken house.

2309 Lee Highway, Town Hall, ca. 1905, two and one half stories, frame with cedar siding, three bays, shed roof, vernacular commercial building with rectangular plan, remodeled but retains stage on first floor; one-story modern garage, 1990s (NC)

2316 Lee Highway, Humphries House, 1920s, two stories, frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan house with three-bay porch, front gable, two-story rear ell, and porte cochere to north end, with wooden Doric columns; frame summer kitchen on north end of porch, early twentieth century; one-story shed-roofed wooden chicken house, late nineteenth century; one-story wooden shed, early twentieth century.

2322 Lee Highway, Sampson-Cribbons House, ca. 1848 and 1855, two-story, frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central passage house with brick end chimneys, wooden cornice, transom-lighted entrance, and two-story, two-room plan ell; one-story modern storage building (NC).

2331 Lee Highway, Markwood House, ca. 1834, two stories, brick with Flemish and five-bay American bond, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan with brick end chimneys, modern one-bay porch with wooden turned columns, houndstooth cornice, transom-lighted front entrance, two modern metal storage buildings, post-1960s, (NC).

2332 Lee Highway, Abner Shumake House and Store, ca. 1839 and ca. 1848-50, two stories, log with frame addition and covered with vinyl siding, five bay gable roof, vernacular dwelling with asymmetrical facade, exterior end chimneys, central entrance with modern door surround; one story, brick with American-bond, three bay, gable roof, vernacular commercial building with rectangular plan and central entrance; one-story log spring house, mid-nineteenth century; one-story log building moved from Highland County, nineteenth century; modern one-story garage (NC).

2335 Lee Highway, W.F. Johnson House, ca. 1900, two stories, frame with German

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siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular Victorian house with projecting gabled block and bay window on south facade, bracketed cornice, interior stove flues, four bay porch with turned columns and balusters and spindle frieze, two-story frame ell; one-story, gable-roofed frame garage, early twentieth century.

2338 Lee Highway, Edward G Moorman House, ca. 1835, two stories, brick with Flemish bond, six bays, gable roof, Federal central-passage plan with houndstooth cornice, wooden lintels with carved corner blocks, exterior end chimneys, brick one-room addition to north, recent one-bay one-story porch with Doric columns and modern window added to facade; one-story brick springhouse, mid-nineteenth century; two-level root cellar and smokehouse, enlarged as antique shop.

2342 Lee Highway, J. M. Harper's Store, late 1820s, two stories, brick with Flemish bond facade and five-course American bond side walls, three bays, gable roof, vernacular commercial building form with gable end entrance and rectangular plan, houndstooth cornice on side walls, fanlight window in front gable, one-bay one-story modern porch with square wooden columns.

2349 Lee Highway, Mt. Sidney Post Office, ca. 1960, one story, cinderblock with brick veneer, four bays, flat roof, modern rectangular plan post office (NC)

2350 Lee Highway, Neff Tavern, ca. 1828, two stories, brick with Flemish facade and five course American bond, eight bays, gable roof, Federal central-passage plan dwelling with molded brick cornice, wooden lintels with carved corner blocks, later bay window in original dwelling, three bay front porch with square posts and jigsaw balustrade, three-bay brick addition to south end used as bank with central entrance and flanking plate-glass windows; one-story one-room plan frame summer kitchen, mid-nineteenth century; one-story frame garage/stable, late nineteenth-early twentieth centuries; one-story multi-bay modern garage (NC).

2353 Lee Highway, James Ross Store/J.S. Grooms Store, 1840-55, one-story, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular commercial rectangular building plan with gable end entrance, one-bay portico with wooden square posts, four projecting flat wooden columns on facade; one-story shed-roofed frame garage; one story post-1945 garage (NC)

2356 Lee Highway, Millard Johnston House, 1891-5, two stories, wood frame with German siding, eight bays, gable roof, vernacular Victorian dwelling with projecting block with first floor bay window on south end, commercial addition on south end, seven bay front porch with square posts and sawn balustrade, raised basement for doctor's office with entrance on facade, under porch.

2359A Lee Highway, James Ross House, 1840-60, two stories, wood frame with vinyl

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siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling with single brick end chimney, later central bay and four bay porch with square wooden columns, two-story two-room plan ell.

2359B Lee Highway, Samuel Rankin House, ca. 1832, two stories, brick with Flemish bond and five course American bond, four bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling with two central front doors, houndstooth cornice, plain wood lintels, exterior brick end chimney, modern one bay porch with Doric columns and two-story rear addition; modern garage under construction (NC).

2360 Lee Highway, James Ross House/Sheets House, 1840s, two stories, log, three bays, gable roof, vernacular two-room plan dwelling with end chimney (original replaced), modern rear addition; one-story modern storage shed (NC).

2367 Lee Highway, Mary Ann Cline House, ca 1875, two stories, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan dwelling with interior end chimney flues, two bay wooden porch with turned posts, two-story one-room plan ell; modern frame antique shop and workshop (NC); cinderblock root cellar.

2368 Lee Highway, Mauzy-Ruebush House, 1896-1900, two stories, wood frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan with interior end chimneys, one-story three-bay front porch with square posts and balustrade and brackets at posts, boxed cornice returns, rear shed addition; one-story frame summer kitchen/domestic outbuilding, early twentieth century; one-story frme garage, 1930s-1940s.

2371 Lee Highway, filling Station, 1920s, one stories, stuccoed masonry, four bays, gable roof, filling station remodeled into a dwelling with three bay front porch, with plastered cinderblock columns, cinderblock rear addition; one-story, hipped roof cinderblock garage, 1920s-1930s; one-story smokehouse, early twentieth century.

2375 Lee Highway, William Shumake House, ca. 1905, two stories, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, hipped roof, vernacular Georgian plan with paired interior chimneys, central front gable, three bay front porch with square posts and spindle frieze, transom-lighted entrance; one-story cinderblock garage with hipped roof, early twentieth century; one-story shed-roofed frame chickenhouse.

2383 Lee Highway, J.P.Shumake House, 1890-1910, two stories, wood frame with asbestos shingle siding, three bays, hipped roof, vernacular Georgian plan with interior chimney, central front gable and three bay porch with Doric columns, two-story two-room plan ell.

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Bolivar Street

5 Bolivar Street, Lillie Cook House, 1850-70, one and one half stories, wood frame with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular two-room plan dwelling with end brick chimney, three-bay porch with square wooden columns, one-story ell; one-story cinderblock garage, 1950s-1960s, (NC); one-story metal trailer office (NC).

Buttermilk Springs Road

23 Buttermilk Springs Road, Knicely Barber Shop, 1950s, two stories, cinderblock, seven bays, gable roof, vernacular commercial building form with three store fronts converted into apartments (NC).

Mt. Sidney School Lane

18 Mt. Sidney School Lane, stable remodeled into house (1990s), ca. 1900, one story, brick, two bays, gambrel roof, vernacular barn and stable remodeled into contemporary dwelling with sided gambrel roof front gable, side entrance.

20 Mt. Sidney School Lane, Hickman House, 1890-1910, two stories, wood with weatherboarding and vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling with enclosed front porch addition, paired interior chimney, and rear additions; one-story frame combined privy/chicken house, early twentieth century; one-story chicken house, early to mid twentieth century; modern carport, since 1960s (NC).

26-28 Mt. Sidney School Lane, Mt. Sidney School, 1914, two stories, brick with common bond, seven bays, gable roof, early consolidated school building with central entrance with paired doors and transom light, three-bay porch with wooden square posts, two-story ell and 1936 gymnasium addition.

34 Mt. Sidney School Lane, Kirby House, 1880s, one and one half stories, wood frame with weatherboarding, three bays, six bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling with numerous additions including enclosed front porch; one-story frame garage with shed roof, early twentieth century; one-story gable-roofed shed building, since 1960 (NC).

40 Mt. Sidney School Lane, J. Parish House, 1880s, two stories, frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular central-passage plan with central front gable, interior end chimney flues, three bay porch with square wooden posts and lattice work on ends, and two-story, two-room-plan rear ell; one-story cinderblock garage (NC).

50 Mt. Sidney School Lane, Reuben Taylor House, 1870-85, two stories, log with vinyl siding, three bays, gable roof, vernacular two-room plan with rebuilt exterior brick chimney flue.

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68 Mt. Sidney School Lane, Botkin House, 1880-1910, two stories, frame with weatherboarding, three bay, gable roof, Victorian vernacular I-house with central front gable, bay window on east end, interior brick chimney flues and three-bay porch with Doric columns; one-story, gable-roofed frame kitchen/wash house, late nineteenth century; modern storage shed (NC); one-story modern carport (NC)

Pottery Shop Lane

53 Pottery Shop Lane, Perry House, ca. 1900, two stories, wood frame, three bays, gable roof with cross gable on north end, vernacular Victorian dwelling with three bay front porch with square posts and jigsaw balustrade, shingled cross gable on north end and bracketed cornice; cinderblock garage, post-1950s (NC); two frame farmbuildings.

104 Pottery Shop Lane, 1960s, one story trailer with flat roof, recent porch deck added to south side (NC).

108 Pottery Shop Lane, 1950s, one story, cinderblock, two bays, gable roof, vernacular dwelling with three bay front porch, square wood columns and balustrade (NC).

Lot 2-7 (No address), 1990s, one-story, wood-frame picnic shelter (NC)

Valley View Drive

7 Valley View Drive, J.E. Shippette House, one and one half stories, wood frame with weatherboarding, three bays, gable roof with gabled front dormer, vernacular bungalow with three bay front porch with square columns and paired interior chimney flues; one-story, gable-roofed, cinderblock garage (NC).

Archaeological Site Inventory

Lee Highway

Lot 3-7, John Montgomery House site facing Lee Highway, 1875-80, first recorded residence owned by black family in Mt. Sidney plat

Lot 3-9, Bowles-Shumake House site, two-story frame house, ca.1890

Lot 3-10, George Shumake House and store site, ca. 1870s, two-story, frame with weatherboarding, store front on first level and apartment above

Lot 3-13, Glenn House site, 1820s, previously two-story brick dwelling valued at \$500 in 1828

Lot 3-14, A. J. Ritchie Store Site, ca. 1890, previously two-story wood-frame store building with apartment above

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Lot 3-18, site of Johnson planing mill, by 1885

Lot 3-34, DePriest House site, mid-nineteenth century, one-story, three bay rectangular log dwelling

Lot 2-32/36, Odd Fellows lodge site, 1870s, two-story, wood-frame rectangular lodge building

Lot 3-B, St. James Lutheran Church site, ca. 1885, previously one-story, wood-frame, rectangular church building with gable end entrance facing the main road

Bolivar Street

lot 3-2, vicinity of 25 Bolivar Street, site of home of James Van Fossen in 1885

Buttermilk Springs Road

Lot 3-24A, site of clay pit for Mt. Sidney pottery shop, early to mid nineteenth century

Pottery Shop Lane

Lot 2-70, Pottery shop site, operated by the Watson family, early to mid nineteenth century

Lot 3-7, Saylor Smith House site, late 19th century, a one-room, one-and-one-half story log dwelling with summer kitchen at the back of the log, part of black community

Lot 3-8A, Hesten Venia House site, 1900-1905, faced the alley at the back of this lot

Pottery Shop Lane extended into alley

Lot 2-59, site of small dwelling, late 19th or early 20th centuries, facing alley, part of turn-of-the-century black community

Lot 2-61/62, site of fairly large frame dwelling, late 19th or early 20th centuries, facing alley, part of black community

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8. Statement of Significance

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mt. Sidney provides one of the best-preserved examples of the early turnpike towns created along the old Valley Turnpike in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia in the early nineteenth century. Established in 1826, it is also one of the oldest towns in Augusta County. By the late eighteenth century, with the growing travel and trade along the "old wagon road," several commercial establishments arose in this location to service the needs of travelers. By 1826, landowners Hugh Glenn and Henry Roland recognized the opportunities for speculating on the creation of a town, and they laid out a plat of 41 narrow lots fronting the road. Traffic continued to increase when the wagon road was improved as the Valley Turnpike in the 1830s, and the village experienced a building boom in the antebellum period, with numerous stores, craft shops, and taverns being built. After the Civil War, the new Valley Railroad came through just east of the village, bringing more access to wider markets and thus cementing Mt. Sidney's reputation as one of the leading commercial centers in the northern part of Augusta County. Mt. Sidney experienced renewed economic opportunities with the rise of tourism in the 1920s, but along with the automobile came a gradual decline in local business, as area residents increasingly traded in Staunton. Today, the community contains an excellent example of vernacular architecture from the early nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century, illustrating plans and styles typical of Shenandoah Valley towns.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

By the late seventeenth century, European explorers began crossing the Blue Ridge Mountains to investigate its potential for westward expansion. In August of 1716, Governor Alexander Spotswood led an expedition of fifty to sixty men, known as the "Knights of the Golden horseshoe," across Swift Run Gap into the Shenandoah Valley. European settlement began within a few years of Spotswood's expedition, beginning in the 1720s, as Virginia governors began to grant large tracts of land in the Valley to their friends. The first European settlers were primarily Germans from the Palatinate, Swiss Mennonites, Scots-Irish from Ulster, and other religious dissidents such as Quakers and Moravians. These settlers typically came into the port at Philadelphia and pushed inland first into Pennsylvania and Maryland and then into the Shenandoah Valley as these fertile lands became available.

The earliest known European settler in Augusta County was John Lewis, a Scots-Irish emigrant who settled east of the present-day city of Staunton in

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1732. Although several families followed Lewis into this area and squatted here, it was the Beverley Grant that brought many more settlers into present-day Augusta County. William Beverley acquired 118,491 acres in 1736, covering much of Augusta County, and he began to aggressively promote the settlement of this tract. So many Scots-Irish settled on Beverley's land that by 1745 it was known as the "Irish" tract. As settlement grew, Augusta County was created in 1738, and Staunton was laid out as the county seat a few years later, in 1745.

The earliest settlers coming into the Valley of Virginia traveled along the old Indian trail running from north to south down the center of the Valley. This road became the backbone of the Valley's transportation network as European settlers moved into the region. By 1745, the colony of Virginia had authorized and "improved" this route as a public road from the Maryland and Virginia border south to Staunton, although few improvements were made south of Staunton before 1755.¹ Historically, it has been called the "Great Wagon Road," but geographer Robert Mitchell contends that it was not until the 1760s that wagons began to traverse this road extensively; before that time, the condition of the road was too poor for regular wagon traffic.²

Augusta County began to grow and develop rapidly in the second half of the eighteenth century. As fears of skirmishes with native Americans subsided, farmers began to clear land and to raise a variety of crops, including wheat, rye, corn, flax, and hemp. Agriculture flourished and related commercial opportunities developed. Grist mills and fulling mills began to be established along key transportation arteries. External trading contacts also expanded, with Valley farmers exporting butter, beef, whiskey, horses, cider and wheat, among other items. Robert Mitchell has argued that in the period between 1760 and 1800, the Valley economy had been transformed from one of subsistence to commercialization.³

The French and Indian wars brought more traffic to the Valley region, encouraging the improvement of roads and the establishment of stores, taverns, and other facilities to service the travelers. Staunton and Winchester emerged as the major towns and trading centers in the Valley, but as the century progressed other trading centers were established along the old wagon road, particularly where it intersected major east-west travel routes. After 1775, more villages and towns were established throughout the Valley due to the

¹ Ann McCleary, "Historic Resources of Augusta County, Virginia," (Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 1983), 413.

² Robert D. Mitchell, *Commercialization and Frontier: Perspectives on the Early Shenandoah Valley*, (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1977), 149-50.

³ See Mitchell, *Commercialization and Frontier*, chapter 4

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increasing population and trade along with a growing demand for local products.

Road building activities in the Shenandoah Valley also intensified in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The region was now serving not only the trading needs of its own residents but there was a growing need for services to assist settlers who had moved further west along the wagon road and sent their goods east. As Virginia leaders became more concerned with channeling trade from the upper Valley to the eastern portions of the state, road improvements in Augusta County began to catch up with those in the lower Valley. Transportation improvements in the Shenandoah Valley focused on the Great Wagon Road, which was straightened and widened in the 1780s. A flurry of smaller road-building projects occurred as well and several new villages and towns were established.

The creation of small villages and hamlets occurred first in the more settled lower Valley, but in the upper, or southern, part of the Valley, these towns were still from 22 to 30 miles apart by the beginning of the nineteenth century.

In the early years of the nineteenth century, Virginia, like other states became preoccupied with the creation of turnpikes. Turnpikes not only made travel easier by improving the conditions of the roads but they also helped to promote trade and commerce and to encourage commercial agriculture. Virginia created a Fund for Internal Improvement and a Board of Public Works to administer the new funds in 1816. This board encouraged the creation of turnpikes around the state, and many new turnpike companies were formed in this first several decades of the nineteenth century. The Valley Turnpike Company was chartered in 1831, in the midst of this turnpike fever, to macadamize the Old Wagon Road from Staunton to Winchester.

Several towns had been created along the main roads in Augusta County by 1800--including Greenville and Middlebrook south of Staunton and Waynesboro east of Staunton, on the road leading east from Staunton to Richmond. While there were no towns north of Staunton in Augusta County, numerous taverns and commercial enterprises had grown up along the wagon road north of Staunton. A small commercial center emerged along the Old Wagon Road just north of the present village of Mt. Sidney as early as 1780, at the intersection with the present-day Keezletown Road. John McMahon kept an inn here on the "Plow and Harrow" tract as early as 1780, followed by his widow, and then her son. From 1813 through 1827, the post office in the area was located here and called "Plow and Harrow." By 1817, there were four merchants along the wagon road in the Mt. Sidney and Fort Defiance area, and both James Addison and Peter Hanger were listed as owning ordinaries.⁴

Mt. Sidney was the first village to be platted along the Old Wagon Road north of Staunton, in Augusta County, and only the second one created in the northern half of the county. It is located approximately ten miles north of

⁴ Katherine Bushman, "Mt. Sidney--a brief history from 1826," in *Augusta Historical Bulletin* 19 (Fall 1983) 2:47.

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Staunton. The plat for Mt. Sidney was entered in April 1826 , on land owned and occupied by Hugh Glenn and Henry B. Roland. Like many of these early Valley turnpike towns, the village was laid out with a series of long, narrow lots along the main road. There were 41 lots on the main street, then still the old Wagon Road which was called Washington Street on the plat. In addition, the plat included several cross streets, including Bolivar, Lafayette, Marion, and two unnamed streets. Behind both rows of lots were alleys that paralleled the main road and defined the boundaries for the back ends of the lots.⁵

Both Hugh Glenn and Henry Roland were living in the Mt. Sidney vicinity before the establishment of the town, as revealed in an article in the *Staunton Spectator* in 19 March 1878:

"In 1812, when traveling from Harrisonburg to Staunton, one would follow the old road... Where Mt. Sidney is, or rather just below, Capt. Samuel Frame lived where the late Addison Hyde lived. Adjoining him below was one Roland who owned the old Plow and Harrow Tavern. No one remembers where he came from or when... Henry B. Roland succeeded Capt. Frame as commandant of the Cavalry company of the old 32nd, which held its musters in October at Willow Spout. Captain Roland married Patsy Glenn, daughter of Hugh Glenn... About 1828, he laid off and gave name to the village of Mt. Sidney."⁶

The *Spectator* article and other historical records reveal that both Glenn and Roland had businesses in this vicinity. Roland owned a tavern and Hugh Glenn was listed as a merchant in the county records by 1824. Both men must have seen the opportunities they could gain by speculating in the establishment of a new town where they lived. The *Spectator* article noted that Glenn "laid off and gave name to the village of Mt. Sidney." According to this article, Glenn lived on the west side of the village, and "operated a store for several years in the heart of the village."⁷ The tax records confirm that Glenn lived within the new plat of Mt. Sidney, and had several buildings on lots in the new village. The 1828 tax book records that Glenn had owned \$800 worth of buildings on this property, on lots 13, 14, 16, and 41, but that he had added \$680 in improvements over the past year. The lots with the greatest value of buildings were \$500 on lot 14 and \$780 on lot 41. Historical research by a local historian suggests that lot 14 had a brick dwelling on it, which could have been Glenn's home, but the *Staunton Spectator* article notes that Hugh Glenn lived on the west side of the village, which would likely have been on lot 41. The brick building on lot 14 may have been the store that Glenn operated since this would have been the

⁵ Augusta County Deed Book 109, page 105; Bushman, 42-3.

⁶ Quotation from Bushman, 42.

⁷ Cited in Bushman, 42.

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middle of town.

Sales of the lots in the new village began as early as April 1826, when the plat appears in the county deed books, although Mt. Sidney was not officially listed as a town in the tax records until 1828. Hugh Glenn owned most of the land in the new village and was responsible for much of the early growth and development. Glenn sold twelve lots in 1826, the majority of which were on the east side of Washington Street. All of these are listed in the 1827 tax book, but none of the lots had any buildings or improvements within the first year.⁸

Henry Roland (sometimes spelled Rowland in the county records) owned a two-acre tract, containing lots 25 through 31 in the new town plat, in the middle of the village on the east side of Washington Street.⁹ He had made several improvements on his property by the time that the village was platted. Anticipating the establishment of the town, Roland continued to improve these lots. In 1827, Roland added new buildings valued at \$1,200 to his village tract, bringing the total value of buildings here to \$2,160. In 1828, the tax records indicate an additional \$560 "added to different lots for buildings," and the total value of buildings on these seven lots increased to \$2720. The addition of \$1200 for "new buildings" in 1827 was possibly for a new brick tavern built on lot 28: in 1828, the buildings on this lot were valued at \$1800. Besides being one of the oldest buildings surviving in Mt. Sidney, this tavern was one of the most expensive structures in town, judging by the tax records, and it continued to be used as a tavern for most of the nineteenth century. The adjacent two-story brick store building was also built by Roland in the 1820s. Both of these buildings still dominate the landscape of Mt. Sidney.

The village grew slowly over its first few years, with the growth dominated by the town's two major landowners. By 1828, the tax records show that a number of lots had already been sold to the following people: William Campbell, Josiah Cawthron, Joseph Coiner, John Deary, James Gilbert, Nathaniel Hurst, Christian Landis Sr., Jacob M. Parsons, David Ross, Samuel Rankin, Jonathan Sheetz, and Christian Landis Jr.. These owners began small improvements to their property.

However, Glenn and Roland still owned the majority of land, with seventeen and eleven lots respectively, and they continued to buy more lots and add improvements. Roland, for example, purchased lot 16 and built a structure worth

⁸ The 1827 tax records list lots for Mt. Sidney but note that it was "a town not established." This list includes only lots recently sold by Hugh Glenn. The tax records list separately the two-acre tract that Henry Roland owned "adjoining Hugh Glenn," but this tract had a value of \$1,200 in buildings at this time. Augusta County Tax Records, 1827.

⁹ Roland appear in the village tax records in 1828. Augusta County Tax Records, 1828.

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\$500 in 1829. In these early years, no lots had yet been sold on the west side of the road; those (lots 25-41) were still held by Glenn and Roland.¹⁰

Mt. Sidney began to develop some community services in these first few years. The village had a post office with its new name in 1829, according to a recent article on early post offices in Virginia.¹¹ Also in that year, the inhabitants asked for permission to hold a lottery to raise \$5,000 to build a market, town hall, and other buildings, but these efforts do not appear to have been successful.¹²

The back one-third of lot number eight apparently contained both a school and a church in the late 1820s. The tax records note that Henry Roland deeded one-third of lot 8, the back portion of the lot, to the "Mt. Sidney Church" in 1829. Research by Katherine Bushman suggests that the Rolands deeded this tract, "where the present academy stands" to the "trustees of Mt. Sidney Academy," who included Henry Roland along with William Wilson, the pastor of Old Stone Presbyterian Church.¹³ A later deed reference from 1877 notes that the "public school trustees of Middle River District" sold lot number 8, known as the "Mt. Sidney Academy ground," to William A. Bell, according to Code of Virginia 1873, since the "trustees of the school were long dead." Since many of the early academies in the region were associated with schools, it is quite likely that the building here doubled as a church and a school. Local historian Fogle writes this site is where the Augusta Military Academy originated, and that this school later moved to nearby Ft. Defiance and changed its name.¹⁴

In the early 1830s, only a few years after creating their new town, the two

¹⁰ Augusta County Tax Records; Bushman, 42.

¹¹ Cited in Bushman, 45. Bushman's source is an article on Virginia post offices from 1798 through 1827 by Virginus C. Hall, Jr, in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 81(January 1973), 84.

¹² Nelson H. Fogle, "A History of Mt. Sidney, Virginia," (unpublished manuscript in possession of Ralph S. Coffman, Mt. Sidney, Virginia, written in 1967), 28.

¹³ Bushman, 44.

¹⁴ The 1828 tax records show that the Rolands sold one-third of lot 8 to the "trustees of the Mt. Sidney Church," and it still listed as belonging to the church in 1840. Local historian Fogle has recorded in his history that the Rolands gave this land for the sum of one dollar "out of the esteem and love of her heart for the citizens of Mt. Sidney," on 29 December 1827, according to Deed Book 50, page 356; Fogle, 29.

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founders of the village were gone. Hugh Glenn went bankrupt in 1830, and died in 1833, although his last wife continued to reside in the town and his heirs owned several of his original village lots for many more years.¹⁵ Henry Rowland, who had studied medicine, moved to Indiana by 1832. They left behind a village just beginning its initial growth spurt: by the year Roland moved, eighteen of the town lots had been improved with buildings, ranging in value from \$25 to \$1800.

Mt. Sidney's location along a major artery through the Valley and into the region of westward expansion helped fuel strong and steady development in the antebellum period. By the 1840s, it was now part of a string of villages that had developed at regular five to ten-mile intervals along the Valley Turnpike in Augusta County, including Fort Defiance, Rolla (now Verona), Staunton, Mint Spring, Greenville, and Steele's Tavern.¹⁶ Substantial improvements to the road and the growing population and agricultural prosperity of the region helped spark continued growth in Mt. Sidney, including a substantial amount of building improvements and the establishment of varied businesses, craft shops, and stores.

After chartering the new Valley Turnpike Company, the road through Mt. Sidney was improved around 1833, as the turnpike company macadamized the stretch from Winchester to Staunton.¹⁷ The new turnpike company established toll houses along the turnpike to collect tolls from the passengers. There was no toll house within the limits of Mt. Sidney, but one stood to the north of the village, in front of B.R. Fauber's house and was operated by the Grooms family before the Faubers, while the second was south of Mt. Sidney, at Hanger's Tavern and Willow Spout.¹⁸

By the late 1830s, Martin's *Gazetteer* described the village (which he spells Mt. Sydney) as one of the most bustling commercial centers in the county:

"Situated on the main stage road leading from Staunton to Winchester, ten miles northeast of the former. It contains 30 dwelling houses, three miscellaneous stores, one handsome hotel, one house of public worship, free for all denominations, a male and female academy, one tanyard, two saddlers, two boot and shoe factories, one hatter, one millinery, one cabinet and chair maker, and one pottery. Population 190 people, of whom

¹⁵ Augusta County Deed Books and Tax Books; Bushman, 43. Glenn's third wife died between 1870 and 1884, but she was living in Mt. Sidney at the time.

¹⁶ McCleary, 415

¹⁷ McCleary, 414.

¹⁸ Fogle, 10.

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2 are physicians."¹⁹

Mt. Sidney was the second largest village in Augusta County at the time; Greenville was larger, boasting 250 residents, and Middlebrook followed on the heels of Mt. Sidney with a population of 150. Martin considered Mt. Sidney the largest commercial center in the northern part of the county at this time.

Martin's description shows the wide variety of craft shops in the community. Several of these crafts were ones commonly found in these small turnpike towns: from craftsmen producing boots, shoes, and clothing to cabinetmakers and tanyards. Pottery appears as a particularly popular trade in the Shenandoah Valley, especially in the northern part, in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

The Mt. Sidney pottery site, which produced redwares, was located on the north end of town, slightly east of the main road. Conrad Watson began the pottery, and his sons Samuel Watson (ca. 1825-1891) and John W. Watson (ca. 1827-1890) continued the practice at this site. Born in Hagerstown, Maryland, between 1797 and 1800, Conrad Watson apprenticed with Henry Adam of Hagerstown and moved to Mt. Sidney and started his own pottery by 1825. His sons are shown as potters in the census by 1850, and after Conrad died in 1860, they operated the pottery up until 1880, according to the census. The 1884 map of the village shows the site as the "old pottery," suggesting that the pottery had discontinued operations sometime between 1880 and 1884. According to Kurt Russ's account of Valley potters, Samuel Watson appears to have owned the pottery shop, having personal property valued at \$600 in 1870. Conrad Watson was listed in the rolls of the Sons of Temperance, but the records indicate that he could neither read nor write.²⁰

Commercial establishments also boomed in Mt. Sidney, as they would in any turnpike town which experienced substantial traffic. Several other stores were built in the community throughout the antebellum years, including a small brick store addition to the Shumake House which was operated by Abner Shumake and a one-story wooden store owned by James Ross. The commercial core remained in the center of Mt. Sidney, defined by these two stores, the larger brick store owned by Henry Roland, and the substantial brick tavern. This tavern is likely the "handsome hotel" described in Martin's account, but it was not the only tavern in town. In the early 1850s, another brick tavern building was constructed on the southern end of town, on the lot

¹⁹ Martin's Gazetteer, 318.

²⁰ Fogle, 23. In the Sons of Temperance record book, Watson joined in 1850, at the age of 48, and signed his name with only an "x". See also W.E. Comstock, *Shenandoan Valley Pottery* (Winston-Salem, NC: Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, 1994) and Kurt C. Russ, "Exploring Western Virginia Potteries," in *MESDA Journal*, Winter 1995.

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that had long belonged to the Glenn heirs. This building also survives, and it is commonly known as the "Sue Hyde Tavern" after the family who ran the business around the time of the Civil War.²¹ Blacksmith shops were familiar establishments in these turnpike towns. The Shumake family owned several lots to the north end of town, on the east side of the street, where they operated a blacksmith shop for many years at the corner of what is now known as Buttermilk Springs Road.

The church listed in Martin's account was likely a small structure on the back one-third of lot eight. There is little additional information on this church, except a few scattered references in the tax records, as in 1840, to its existence. This structure likely doubled as the "academy". However, the first denominational church building was also constructed in the antebellum years. On March 10 1852, the Methodist Episcopal Church purchased lot three from J.H. Bardette and Rachael M. Bardette and soon built the early part of the existing church: a frame, gable end entrance building typical of the period. The church has been remodeled several times; probably the largest remodeling job took place in the 1920s when the Sunday School rooms were added. The new church lot also included a cemetery to the rear of the church, now enclosed by a cast-iron fence. This was the first burial ground established in the town; previously many of the burials for village residents had taken place on smaller family cemeteries, such as the old Bell cemetery located in the northern end of Mt. Sidney (on the site of the old Bell farm, but on the grounds of the present AMP plant).²²

Mt. Sidney had a very active chapter of the Sons of Temperance during the antebellum period, the "Brethren of Valley Div. 32." The first meeting was held on November 6, 1847. While many of the members were from Mt. Sidney, others came from New Hope, Churchville, Highland County, and "Augusta County." The organization's ledger was found on the second floor of Harper's Store (the oldest brick store building). While the group may have met in this room at some point in its history, the minutes indicate that they rented rooms in homes in the community for their meetings, which were held on Saturday evenings at 7 p.m.. The group also had its own "furniture" which it moved to the meeting room.²³

²¹ Local historian Ralph Coffman recalls hearing of two taverns or "salons" in Mt. Sidney: the Sue Hyde tavern, which contained a "bar room," the older brick tavern in the center of town, where there are still blood stains from a man who was stabbed there. Ralph S. Coffman, "History of Mt. Sidney" (unpublished manuscript prepared for Sunday School, Salem Lutheran Church, Mt. Sidney, Virginia, 11 December 1994), 1.

²² Fogle, 15; Coffman, 2.

²³ McCoy Hill, "The Sons of Temperance in Mt. Sidney," *Augusta Historical Bulletin* (need rest of citation)

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The number of physicians for each town figured prominently in Martin's accounts of Virginia towns, and Mt. Sidney already had two doctors by the 1830s. One of these doctors was Edward Moorman, a doctor who had moved from Lynchburg.²⁴ Moorman built a substantial two-story brick home in the middle of the town's commercial area--on the east side of Washington Street (now Lee Highway), in a prominent part of the community in 1835, and this house still remains as one of the largest and most pretentious early houses in the village. It is quite likely that he practiced medicine here in his home.

The town's water supply was piped from a spring west of Mt. Sidney at the foot of Sidney Hill, on the land of Dr. William Crawford. From the spring, it came to the spring house, behind the Moorman House, and then to a wooden watering trough, which was located on the south end of town, on lot 34. According to local historian Nelson Fogle, many residents owned a cow or horse and frequently watered their livestock here at the old wooden trough. In addition, travelers would stop here for water. The old trough is now gone, although it is shown in several turn-of-the-century photographs. However, there is still a cement trough built there by the State Highway Department, when the highway was widened through the town in the 1930s.²⁵

According to Waddell's *History of Augusta County*, Mt. Sidney was one of only six voting places in Augusta County in 1836. The others were to the south--Staunton, Waynesboro, Middlebrook, and Pastures--and one was to the West--Mt. Solon.

The Valley experienced considerable action during the Civil War, and Mt. Sidney did not escape the attention of troops from either side. The Valley Turnpike proved once again to be a significant transportation route as Union and Confederate troops battled for control of this strategic region, often known as the "breadbasket of the Confederacy." Mt. Sidney witnessed travel along the turnpike on many occasions. For example, on Friday, May 13, 1864, 250 VMI cadets passed through Mt. Sidney on their way to take part in the famous battle of New Market, under the command of General John C. Breckinridge. The battle took place on Sunday, May 15, 1864.²⁶

Only one large battle was fought near Mt. Sidney during the Civil War--the battle of Piedmont that took place five miles east of Mt. Sidney on June 5, 1864. At the battle of Piedmont, the Northern army of 12,000 men, under the leadership of General David Hunter, defeated the Southern forces of 5,600 led by General W.E. Jones of the Confederacy. The Northern losses totalled 130 killed and 650 wounded, while the South suffered even more, with 460 killed, 1,450

²⁴ Bushman, 44.

²⁵ Fogle, 6-7.

²⁶ Fogle, 24.

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wounded, and over 1,000 taken prisoner. General Jones was killed in this battle. The North went on and captured Staunton the next day.²⁷

Later that year, in September of 1864, Union General Alfred Torbert came south along the Valley Turnpike towards Staunton. His orders were "to swing as near Staunton as possible. Destroy all mill, all grain and forage, you can, drive off or kill all stock, and otherwise carry out the instructions of Lt. General Grant, an extract of which is sent to you, and which means 'leave the Valley a barren waste.'" The orders specified, however, that villages and private houses should not be burned.²⁸

On September 29, George A. Custer's cavalry division "moved from Cross Keys to Mt. Sidney," covering the backroads from Weyers Cave to Piedmont. In this raid, much of the destruction occurred on both sides of the Middle River, north of Verona. Union headquarters were in Mt. Sidney. The brigade reported "destroying and burning 82 barns, containing hay and grain, 72 stacks of hay and grain, 5 flouring mills, 2 saw mills, 1 iron furnace, a wagon loaded with grain, and wagon load of flour, and drove in 321 head of cattle and 20 sheep." Watching from Waynesboro, Major Jedediah Hotchkiss commented that the Union forces "made the night light with burning barns, hay stacks, etc."²⁹

According to a recent history of Augusta County, Mt. Sidney was one of several communities that had a strong Unionist tradition as the state worked its way through Reconstruction. This community had a large concentration of votes in favor of the new constitutional convention in 1867.³⁰

Mt. Sidney continued to grow and prosper in the years after the Civil War. The village become an incorporated town by 1885. It served as a center for business and craft shops in the north central part of the county, as a trading center for neighboring farmers, and also an important transportation center located both along the Valley Turnpike and the new railroad which would come through the Valley after the War.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad announced a proposal to establish the Shenandoah Valley Railroad from Winchester to Staunton in 1866, and the General Assembly passed a bill to incorporate the new Valley Railroad as soon as \$100,000 in stock was pledged. By April of that year, the company had begun to survey a route for the railroad from Harrisonburg to Salem, and the proposed route closely paralleled the Valley Turnpike near Mt. Sidney. In December of 1868, the Valley

²⁷ Fogle, 24.

²⁸ Richard K. MacMaster, *Augusta County History, 1865-1950* (Staunton: Augusta County Historical Society, 1987), 26.

²⁹ MacMaster, 26.

³⁰ MacMaster, 33.

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Railroad then came to the people of Staunton and Augusta County, asking them to subscribe to \$300,000 in stock for the railroad, but county voters overwhelmingly turned it down, including the residents in Mt. Sidney. By 1871, after yet another vote against the railroad by Augusta County residents, the company obtained additional commitments for the city of Staunton and from Rockbridge County to begin the new railroad line.³¹

The construction of the Valley branch of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad occurred in Mt. Sidney in the early 1870s. The railroad company established a train station on the "outskirts" of the village, located just about a half of a mile east of the Valley Turnpike. The new station was a frame, board and batten building in a similar design to the station at nearby Weyers Cave; it featured a central two-story pavilion with gable end entrance and one-story wings to each side. The railroad was completed to Staunton in March of 1874, and the first train passed through Mt. Sidney on Tuesday March 3, 1874. The final stretch of the railroad, from Staunton to Lexington, was finished in November 1883.³² Although known first as the Valley Railroad, the line was sold by the Baltimore and Ohio Company to the Chesapeake and Western Railroad.

According to local historian Nelson Fogle, during its "earlier days," the railroad did a good freight and passenger business. All the mail for Mt. Sidney was brought in by train, and it also delivered coal, fertilizer, grocery store supplies and many more items. Freight that was shipped out included grain, lumber, hay, apples, and livestock. William Ross operated a general store at the depot, a practice come in the Shenandoah Valley; this store is shown on the 1885 Hotchkiss map in the Atlas of Augusta County.³³

Two contemporary descriptions of Mt. Sidney in the 1880s reveal the extent to which it had grown. The population had increased to 244 residents according to John Lewis Peyton in 1882. His inventory of this "highly prosperous village" in that year included "a post office, churches, stores, workshops, physicians, etc."³⁴ The Hotchkiss Atlas from 1885 shows a number of businesses and trades within the village: A.F. Shumake's blacksmith shop, a furniture shop, Mrs. J. M Harper's Store, J.S. Groom's Store, Joseph Stout's Store, and Mrs. A. R. Koran's "Hotel" as well as three churches. Just outside the corporation lines were the Mt. Sidney Train Station to the east, the IOOF lodge building to the

³¹ MacMaster, 65-6.

³² Fogle, 14.

³³ Fogle, 14; Jedediah Hotchkiss, *Historical Atlas of Augusta County, Virginia* (Chicago, Illinois: Waterman, Watkins, and Co., 1885), 77.

³⁴ John Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia* (reprinted by Bridgewater: C.J. Carrier Company, 1935), 269.

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north, and two schoolhouses to the west: the Mt. Sidney Schoolhouse No. 27 for white students and the Mt. Sidney School House No. 7 (Col) for black students. The "Old Pottery" site is also shown just east of town, but this notation suggests that the pottery was no longer operating at this time. The Hotchkiss Atlas also shows the physical growth of the town. In 1885, it now extended further south beyond the original plat, and this new section is shown as being within the "corporation lines."³⁵

The business area still remained concentrated primarily in the block of Mt. Sidney north of Lafayette Street. In addition to the three previous stores established in this block--one still operated by Shumake and Johnson and the two others now run by Mrs. J. M. Harper and J. S. Grooms--this block contained the "Hotel," a furniture shop, and the post office. A two-story frame store building--built across the road from Harper's store--was built in the late 1890s and operated by the A.J.Ritchie family. Dr. Moorman's substantial brick home now housed another doctor, Dr. William Crawford, who had an office in his home. Millard Johnson, who owned the planing mill and cabinet shop on lot 19, built a stylish new Victorian home for himself adjacent to the hotel, and across from Groom's Shop. A few additional businesses were scattered along the street, such as Joseph Stout's Store, in the old Hyde tavern building.

While the Hotchkiss map only shows a few craftspeople--the furniture shop downtown and the Shumake blacksmith shop which was still located on the north end of the town, there were a variety of other crafts and businesses located within the community. Flavin and Watson, for example, had a tin shop which they had established on lot 37 by 1885 to produce roofing material. This was reportedly a "thriving business," with a large stable on the back lot to house the mules "used to pull the wagons to haul roofing material and ladders."³⁶ Other craft and business enterprises included the copper shop, located at the southwest corner of Lafayette and Washington Streets and Joseph Bell's undertaking establishment further south on the turnpike, on lot 36.

One of the best known craft business in the community in the late nineteenth century was the cabinetmaking shop of Alexander Stuart Coffman. He is listed as a carpenter living in Mt. Sidney, and by 1882, the beginning year of his surviving account book, he was practicing a wide range of cabinetmaking skills. Surviving ledgers in the family document that his business was in operation at least from 1882 through 1906. In 1883, Coffman relocated his house and shop along the Valley Turnpike in Mt. Sidney. He wanted more visibility, but he was careful not to locate the shop too close to the road where "a passer-by could stop and idle away his time." Much of Coffman's furniture still remains in the community--from cabinets to beds--but he is most well known for a

³⁵ Hotchkiss, Atlas.

³⁶ Fogle, 28.

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distinctive split-bottom chair design. The 20 by 22 foot building remained after his death in 1910, but ceased to be a cabinetmaking shop.³⁷

At least four fraternal organizations met in Mt. Sidney in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, and two of these had their meeting halls in the village. The Odd Fellows Hall stood on the north end of town, outside of the original town plat, but just east of the Shumake blacksmith shop. The IOOF Lodge #119 purchased this land on August 1, 1873, and their lodge building is shown on the 1885 Hotchkiss map.³⁸

A second organization established in Mt. Sidney after the Civil War was the Grange, or the Patrons of Husbandry, which became popular in Augusta County in the 1870s. The Grange was a national educational reform program which offered a variety of programs to aid farmers, and it became especially strong during the recession years of the 1870s. The first Grange organizations came to Fishersville and Middlebrook in 1873, but several granges appeared in the next few months, including one in Mt. Sidney by March 1874.³⁹ The presence of the Grange lodge reveals the agricultural character and prosperity of the community in the years after the Civil War. No lodge building is shown on the Hotchkiss map, however, so it is not known whether a separate lodge building was ever constructed or whether the Grange members met in homes or another building in town.

Around 1900, the Junior Order of United American Mechanics built the Town Hall with some of their own funds and some money from public subscription. The first floor of the Town Hall served as a place for school plays, oyster suppers, and traveling road shows, and it included a stage for such events. The Juniors held their meetings in the second-floor rooms.⁴⁰

The temperance movement, which had begun in Mt. Sidney before the war, remained strong in the late nineteenth century, particularly in the 1870s. In 1873, the local newspaper reported that "over a thousand people from Staunton, Mt. Sidney, New Hope, and other communities participated in a "temperance picnic" located at Augusta Stone Church, just south of Mt. Sidney on the Valley Turnpike. This event was sponsored by the Friends of Temperance, the Sons of Jonadab, the Good Templars, and the Sons of Temperance. In 1875, the Staunton Vindicator reported that the "temperance revolution" was "sweeping this section." Presumably, the temperance organization at Mt. Sidney still remained active

³⁷ George Lott, "Alexander Stuart Coffman, 1842-1910," in *The Chronicle of the Early American Industries Association* 48 (December 1995) 4:72.

³⁸ Fogle, 25.

³⁹ MacMaster, 107.

⁴⁰ Fogle, 25.

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during these years.⁴¹

The Hotchkiss Atlas map of the village also shows another important change: there was now a sizeable black community. While enslaved African Americans likely lived in Mt. Sidney before the war, the tax records reveal no evidence of blacks owning property in the town. This trend for blacks to move to rural villages after the Civil War is found throughout Augusta County, and in most communities, they lived in segregated sections on the edge of the village. This pattern is also found at Mt. Sidney, although there are some examples here of black families living within the original town plat.

The primary black neighborhood in 1885 was located south of Bolivar Street, largely on land outside the original plat. At that time, the Hotchkiss map shows the homes of the African-American residents as being primarily along the east side of the main road, and particularly clustered near the African Methodist Episcopal church, established soon after the war. In addition, two homes of black families were also located on the west side of the village, just outside the corporate limits on the alley known now as School House Lane. These homes would have been closer to the new black public schoolhouse, located to the west of town, on Lafayette Street. However, unlike some other county villages, there are also several black families on the main road: Prince Taylor and John Montgomery are shown on the main road in the middle of town. Altogether there are ten houses listed as inhabited by "colored" residents, out of 36 dwellings shown on the 1885 map.

Only two lots within the original town plat had black owners; the others were tenants. John Montgomery is shown as owning lot number seven by 1880, although the tax records list George Miller, a white man, as co-owner and Miller's name appears first on the tax records. Also, between 1900 and 1905, Hesten Venia acquired the back third of lot eight, at the site of the old academy, in back of the new town hall. Archaeological evidence shows that there were houses on both these lots facing the alley, although John Montgomery's late nineteenth century home is shown fronting the main road.⁴²

Oral histories and archaeological evidence reveal that the black community expanded even further after 1885, spreading in particular into the alley east of the main street and behind the AME church. Area resident and local historian David McCaskey recalls that there were several small houses, some built with logs, along this alley. All of these structures are now gone, but the logs from Saylor Smith's house have been incorporated into a rear addition at the back of the old AME church. In addition to those black families shown on the Hotchkiss map, there were also families located around Mt. Sidney, but not within its bounds through the early twentieth century. According to local residents, the

⁴¹ MacMaster, 113.

⁴² Augusta County Tax Records.

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black families worked in houses in the village and on farms in the area. The black community is now largely gone, but the black church and its cemetery, documenting the family names, still remains.⁴³

The African Episcopal Church was established in Mt. Sidney sometime in the late 1860s or early 1870s. According to local tradition, the old log Salem Lutheran Church was built in 1802 and was moved to the main street to be used for the black congregation after Salem built a larger building. The property for the black Methodist Episcopal Church was purchased on February 20, 1864 from William Johnston. The church met through the late 1960s, and members have been buried in the cemetery since it closed.⁴⁴

A Lutheran church was also built in town, across the turnpike from the Methodist Church. St. James Lutheran Church was constructed in 1884 and dedicated on November 2, 1884. The same pastor supplied St. James in Mt. Sidney; Salem Lutheran Church west of Mt. Sidney; and Melancthon Lutheran Chapel in Weyers Cave. The church built a parsonage on the adjoining lot. Although the church was torn down in 1961, the parsonage built on the adjoining lot still remains.⁴⁵

Public education improved in Mt. Sidney during the late nineteenth century, due in large part to the new state constitution in 1870 that mandated public schools be built across the state. By 1878, Mt. Sidney, one of the larger communities in the county, already had a grade school. A white, two-story frame school building is shown in an 1894 photograph. Local histories suggest that Mt. Sidney residents maintained a strong interest in education for their children. In 1904, when the Cooperative Education Association was established to promote a variety of educational reformers--including a nine-month term, well-trained teachers, agricultural and industrial education, and libraries--Mt. Sidney sponsored one of these meetings.⁴⁶ Mt. Sidney was one of the early communities around the county to pursue building a larger, consolidated school building in the early twentieth century. In 1914, the county built a larger brick school building, costing \$37,000, to replace the wooden school house. The school opened on 10 November 1914, with a patrons league organized that same year. The first class graduated in 1916.⁴⁷

⁴³ Augusta County Tax Records; David McCaskey, Personal Communication, June 1998.

⁴⁴ Fogle, 16.

⁴⁵ Fogle, 17.

⁴⁶ MacMaster, 135.

⁴⁷ Fogle, 18.

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A school for African-Americans was established in Mt. Sidney by 1868. This Freedman Bureau's School was taught by a local white woman, Martha A. Hanger.⁴⁸ A later school building for African-American students still survives in the village, on the south side of the Seawright Springs Road. It closed in the 1920s and was converted into a dwelling house.⁴⁹

Mt. Sidney remained one of the leading rural villages in Augusta County well into the twentieth century. A social and economic survey of the county in 1927 noted that "mention should be made of Mount Sidney not because of any especial distinction that it might possess but rather because it is more or less typical of so many of our county's little communities." With a population of 225 people at that time, Mt. Sidney was still one of the largest in the northern part of the county. It contained "numerous dwellings, stores, three churches, and an accredited high school." In addition, "splendid farming, fruit raising, and grazing land" surrounded the town where "most of its inhabitants" were involved in agricultural activities by this time.⁵⁰

The Country Life Movement of the early twentieth century stressed the need for educational reforms that would improve the quality of rural living. In response to these popular reforms, Mt. Sidney added agricultural education courses in 1930, reflecting the growing national movement towards vocational education. To improve the physical education of its students, the school added a gymnasium in 1931.⁵¹

Many rural communities began to establish banks, and Mt. Sidney followed this trend. In the early 1920s, some of the citizens decided Mt. Sidney needed a bank so its residents would not have to go to Weyers Cave or Staunton to do their banking. They pooled their money together, bought bank stock, and opened the Mt. Sidney Bank with Homer Early as cashier. According to local tradition, the bank was robbed "from within" and when the bank inspectors "got hot on his trail he committed (sic) suicide." Although the stockholders lost their money, they still wanted a bank, so they pooled their money again and the bank opened once more for business, with Harry Driver as cashier. The bank was established in a brick addition to the old brick tavern, and the bank vault still survives.⁵²

⁴⁸ MacMaster, 30.

⁴⁹ Fogle, 17.

⁵⁰ Clay Catlett, *An Economic and Social Survey of Augusta County* (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Record Extension Series XIII, January 1928), 19.

⁵¹ MacMaster, 188.

⁵² Coffman, 1.

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The arrival of the automobile in greater numbers in the 1920s changed the character of Mt. Sidney, as it did most rural villages. In 1917, the state purchased the old turnpike and converted it to a state road, removing the toll gates. Travel along the Valley Turnpike increased with the new surge in tourism, as visitors came to see the historic and natural attractions of the Shenandoah Valley. Route 11 continued to serve as the major north-south corridor throughout the region, and it also served local needs for commerce. More travel along the road brought the need for improvements. Between 1931 and early 1934, Route 11 was widened from two to three lanes to handle the increase in traffic.

The automobile began to change the architectural character of the community. First, as the road came closer to the old homes, many of the familiar front porches which typically lined the turnpike towns were removed. New businesses were established and others were changed to adapt to the growing needs to service tourists in the area. Some of the general stores were converted into service stations with gas pumps, such as the Shumake Self Service. A new "filling station" was built in the center of town, owned by the Wrenn family in the 1920s, and it featured a garage to the back. The garage area was later converted to a lunch room with a juke box, where people would come to dance. Another gas station was built on the south end of town and it also featured a lunch room called "My Little Darling." Catering to the tourist trade, I. J. Driver opened a store in a terra cotta tile building on the north end of town, subsequently operated by Mrs. Sally Petrie, that featured a stuffed white two-headed calf to attract the trade of tourists.⁵³ Mrs. Craun operated a tourist home in her house on the south end of town and called it "Tourist Haven."

Like many rural villages in Augusta County in the 1930s, however, the automobile also brought a gradual decline in local trade and commerce. Area farmers now brought more of their goods to Staunton and other trading centers, which resulted in less local trade and traffic for the village's general stores.

Mt. Sidney area residents also began to shop at stores in town which featured a greater selection of goods. Increasingly, Mt. Sidney's stores began to cater to the tourist and the traveler.

The years after World War II saw the creation of some new businesses, but most of these are now gone. A. O. Knicely built a cinderblock building at the old pottery site for his own barber shop and an additional beauty salon. Mrs. Hensley established another beauty shop in the center of town. Snuffy Smith opened a restaurant on the south end of the village. Ed Shipplette had built a cleaning service in the old Ross-Grooms store building. As Shipplette's cleaners grew, he built a large cinderblock building on the north end of town, he established Shenandoah Tailoring, which employed over 70 workers. This has

⁵³ Fogle, 27; Ralph S. Coffman, personal communication with author, July 1997.

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recently been torn down and replaced with a shopping center.⁵⁴ The old blacksmith site on the north end of town has now been replaced with a modern gas station and convenience store, the only one now remaining in the village as the smaller businesses closed.

Civic improvements continued in the years after World War II. When the Junior Order of United American Mechanics sold the meeting hall, they used the money to install street lights in the town and maintain them. In 1960, a new post office was dedicated in the center of town, across from the old brick tavern. A new round of school consolidation began, and the county consolidated the Mt. Sidney High School with Weyers Cave in the fall of 1953, leaving the old Mt. Sidney School as only an elementary school. A further round of consolidation closed the Mt. Sidney School in the late 1960s, and local elementary students began to attend the new school at Verona or the old Weyers Cave School.⁵⁵

Cultural activities have also changed, as the focus has moved from rural villages like Mt. Sidney to larger nearby cities like Staunton. Carroll Cline used the town hall to show movies on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays in 1947, although later residents traveled to theaters in nearby cities. With the loss of its school, Mt. Sidney, like other villages, has lost a cultural focus, as the school had previously sponsored many events that served the community. However, local residents have taken initiative to form other organizations: in 1967, the community had a home demonstration club, a Ruritan Club, a Boy Scout troop, and a "Young Mother's Club." The Ruritans have remained very active in trying to preserve a spirit of community. Several years ago, the club purchased three acres of land, on the old pottery site, for a community park, and they built a picnic shelter and basketball court. The Young Mother's Club funded \$800 in playground equipment for the park.⁵⁶ The Ruritans sponsor a variety of community events, including picnics and an annual yard sale.

The village of Mt. Sidney is still growing physically, as evidenced by substantial modern residential development. Mt. Sidney Heights, a subdivision started in 1947 on the west side of the village, now has over 50 homes. To the north, Sunrise Court has approximately 25 homes. A trailer court located at the south end contains at least twenty house trailers. The most recent subdivision is located on the north side of town, on the west side of Route 11.⁵⁷

Today, Mt. Sidney is primarily a residential community, although it still caters to tourists who continue to travel extensively through this region. In

⁵⁴ Coffman, 1-2.

⁵⁵ Fogle, 19, 25.

⁵⁶ Fogle, 25, 37; Coffman, 2.

⁵⁷ Fogle, 8.

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the historic core of the village, there are several antique shops, located at the old brick store, the old Shumake and Johnson Store, and at the Cline House. Most of the older businesses have now gone, and the village retains the gas station on the north end, a small new shopping center at the site of Shiplette's Cleaners, a machinery repair shop on the east side of the village, and a realty and western wear shop on the south end. Although some of the old buildings have been removed along the main street, and the majority of homes associated with the black community are now gone, the village still retains much of the character of a old turnpike town.

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Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Mt. Sidney Historic District are indicated on the accompanying base map, drawn from the Augusta County tax maps.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Mt. Sidney Historic District encompass the largest concentration of historic buildings in the village. It includes all of the original town plat, plus additions to the south, and the old pottery site to the east of the village. In addition, properties on the alleys to the east and west located just outside the original town boundaries have also been included. The boundaries also incorporate much of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century black community, although most of these resources are now archaeological sites. Modern housing subdivisions to the west and north and the trailer park to the south have been excluded.

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Photographs

The following information is common to each of the accompanying photographs:

DISTRICT NAME: Mt. Sidney Historic District
LOCATION: Village of Mt. Sidney, Augusta County, Virginia
PHOTOGRAPHER: Ann E. McCleary
DATES OF PHOTO: July 1997, June 1998
NEGATIVE LOCATION: Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia

Edward G. Moorman House and J. M. Harper's Store,
2338 and 2342 Lee Highway
View looking south
Negative No. 16803/frame 24
Photo 1 of 22

Neff Tavern, 2350 Lee Highway
View looking west
Negative No. 16801/frame 12
Photo 2 of 22

Hyde Tavern, 2272 Lee Highway
View looking southwest
Negative No. 16800/frame 23A
Photo 3 of 22

Abner Shumake House and Store, 2332 Lee Highway
View looking west
Negative No. 16801/frame 25A-26
Photo 4 of 22

Block from 2367 to 2335 Lee Highway
View looking southeast
Negative No. 16803/frame 6
Photo 5 of 22

James Ross House/Sheets House
2360 Lee Highway
View looking west
Negative No. 16803/frame 22
Photo 6 of 22

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Markwood House and W.F. Johnson House,
2331 and 2335 Lee Highway
View looking northeast
Negative No. 16802/frame 35-35A
Photo 7 of 22

Lee Highway from M.G. Bright House porch, 2298 Lee Highway
View looking north
Negative No. 16802/frame 31-31A
Photo 8 of 22

James Ross Store, James Ross House, and Samuel Rankin House
From 2353 to 2359 Lee Highway
View looking northeast
Negative No. 16802/frame 36-36A
Photo 9 of 22

Mt. Sidney Methodist Church and William Bruffey House
2281 and 2293 Lee Highway
View looking east
Negative No. 16802/frame 6-6A
Photo 10 of 22

Millard Johnston House, 2356 Lee Highway
View looking west
Negative No. 16801/frame 6A-7
Photo 11 of 22

M. G. Bright House, 2298 Lee Highway
View looking west
Negative No. 16800/frame 0A-1
Photo 12 of 22

Mt. Sidney School, 26-28 Mt. Sidney School Lane
View looking northwest
Negative No. 16800/frame 19A-20
Photo 13 of 22

Reuben Taylor House, 50 Mt. Sidney School Lane
View looking west
Negative No. 16800/frame 16A-17
Photo 14 of 22

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Mt. Sidney African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2257 Lee Highway
View looking east
Negative No. 16802/frame 17-17A
Photo 15 of 22

Saylor Smith House site, east end of lot 2-7, Pottery Shop Lane
View looking northwest, Lee Highway in background
Negative No. 16803/frame 13-13A
Photo 16 of 22

Lillie Cook House, 5 Bolivar Street
View looking east from Lee Highway
Negative No. 16802/frame 2A
Photo 17 of 22

Craun House, 2269 Lee Highway
View looking southeast
Negative No. 16802/frame 7A
Photo 18 of 22

Historic view of the old Valley Turnpike, ca. 1900
View from 2302 Lee Highway looking north, showing west side of road
Photo 19 of 22

Historic view of the old Valley Turnpike, ca. 1900
View from 2302 Lee Highway looking north, showing both sides of road
Photo 20 of 22

Historic photograph of the Town Hall/JOUAM Meeting Hall, ca. 1905
2309 Lee Highway
View looking northeast along Valley Turnpike
Photo 21 of 22

Historic photograph of south end of Mt. Sidney, ca. 1900
View looking west from the school, showing Mt. Sidney School Lane and the Valley
Turnpike
Lutheran Church (lot 2-B) and Mt. Sidney Methodist Church (2281) in center
Photo 22 of 22

Mt. Sidney Historic District

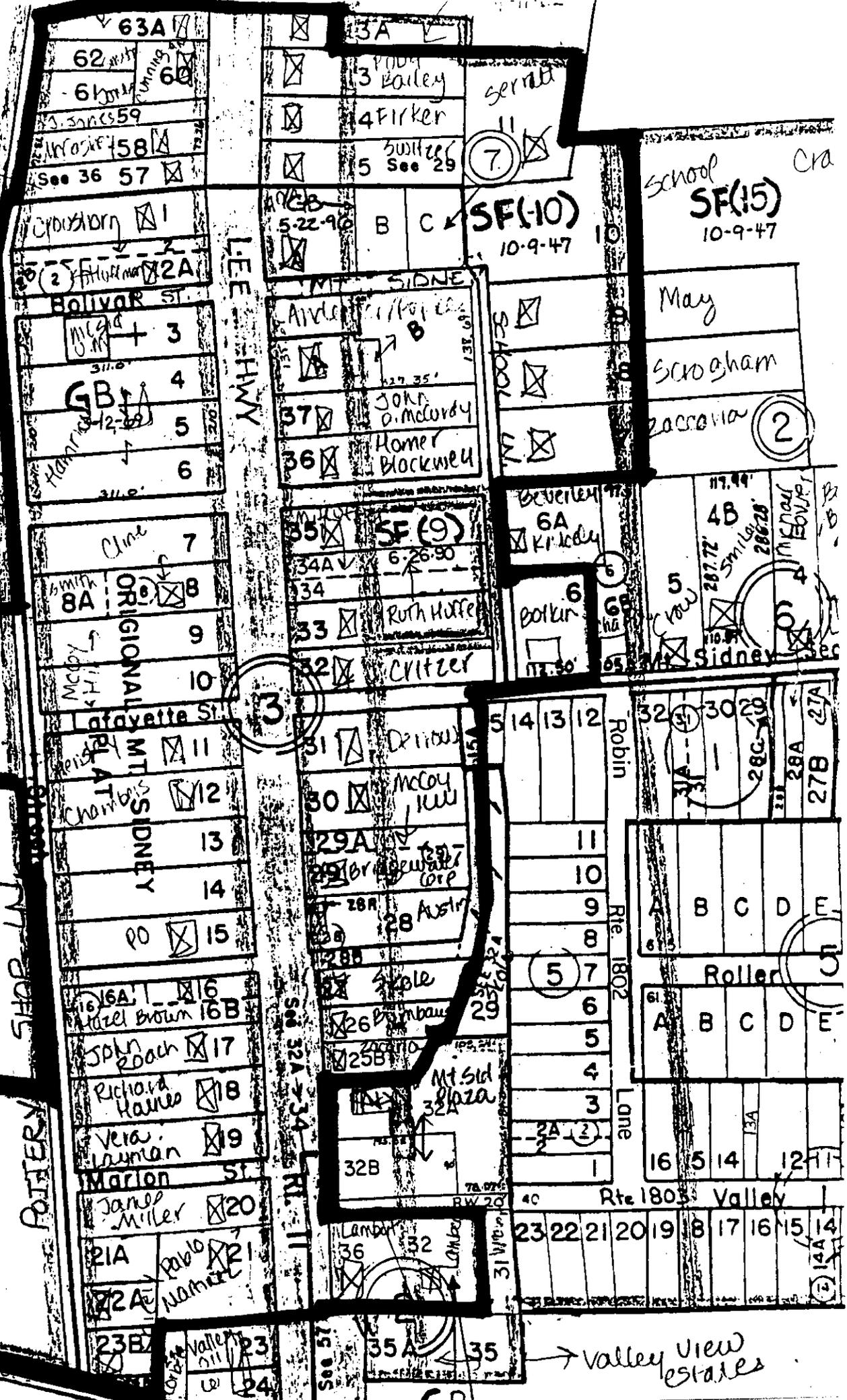
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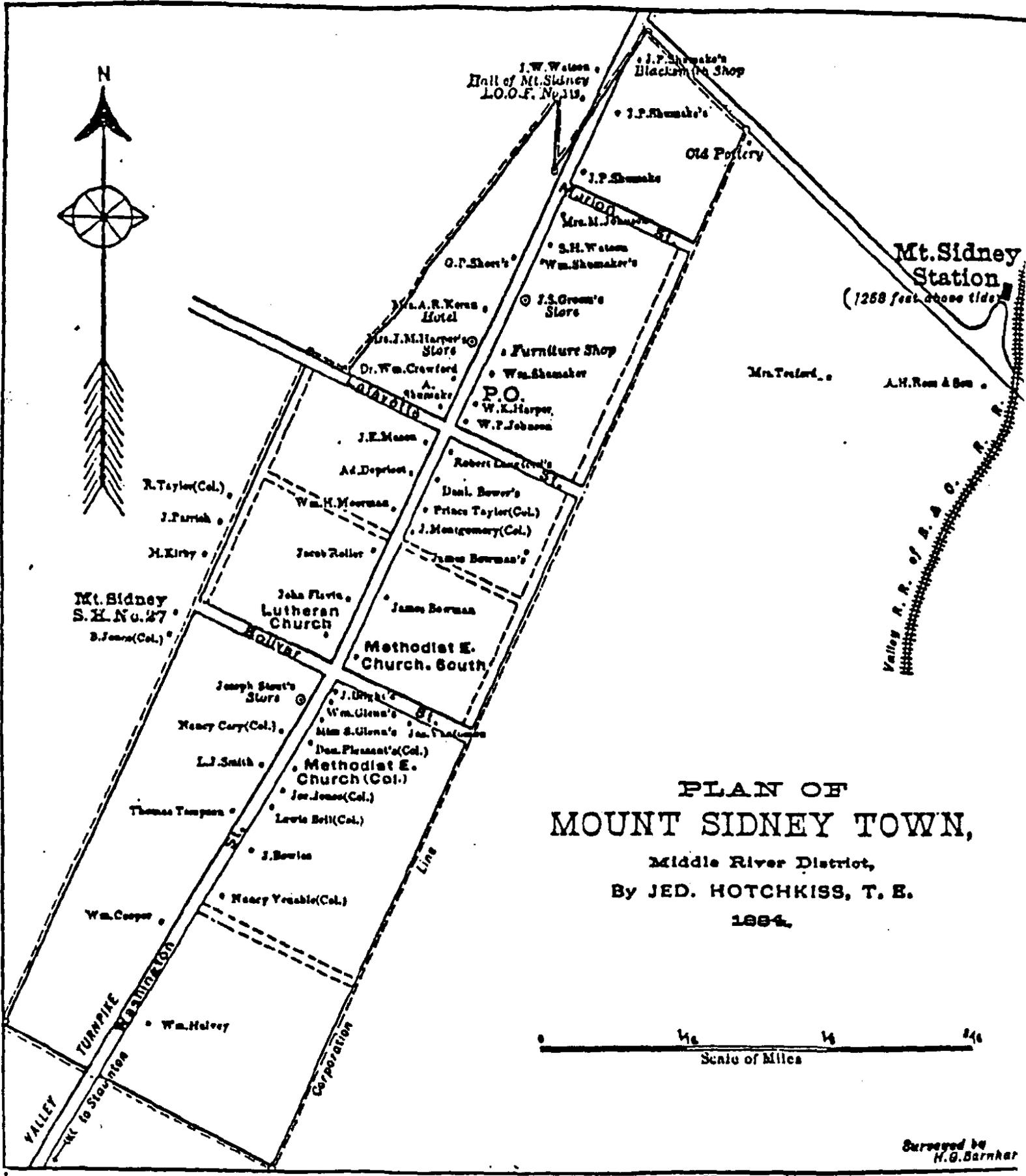
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Bill
Vesterman

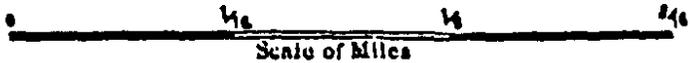
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PLAN OF MOUNT SIDNEY TOWN,

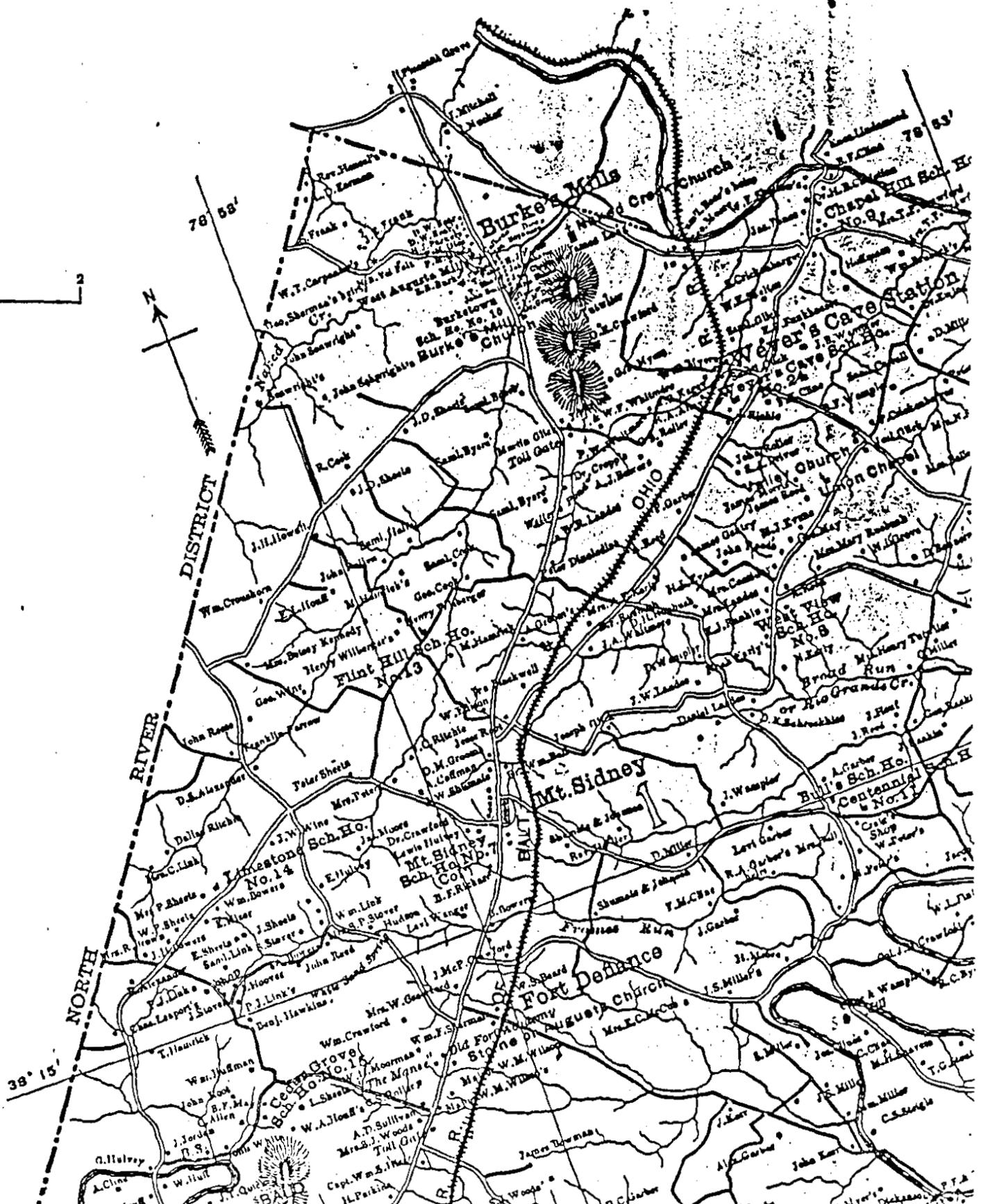
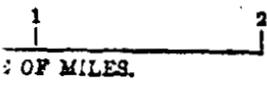
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Surveyed by
 H.G. Barnhart

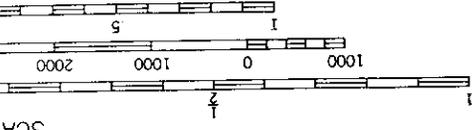
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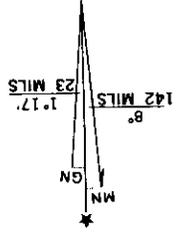


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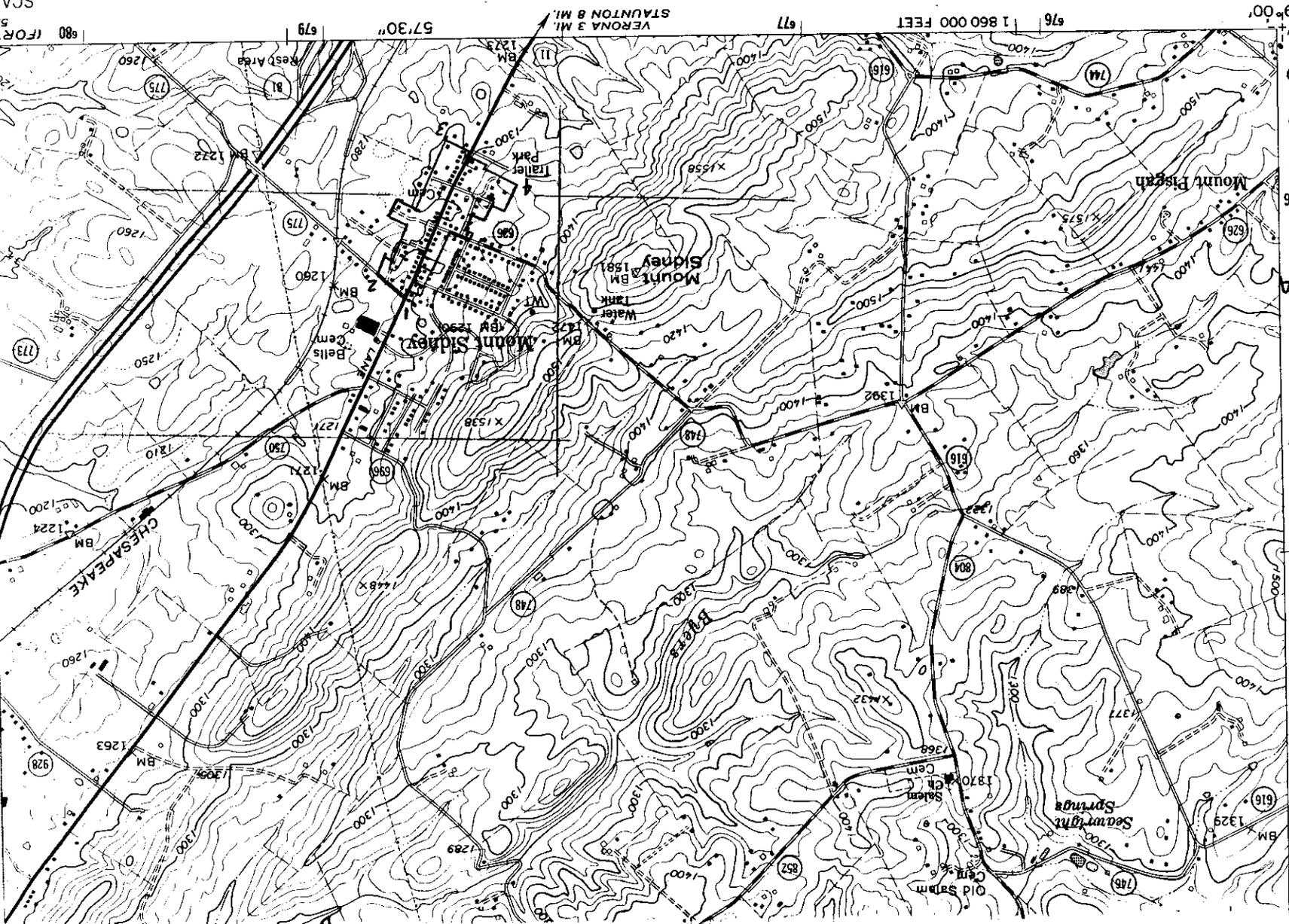
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UTM GRID AND 1987 MAGNETIC NORTH
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
 Control by USGS and US&GS
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs
 taken 1963. Field checked 1964
 Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on
 Virginia coordinate system, north zone
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
 zone 17, sqm in blue
 1927 North American Datum
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983
 move the projection lines 9 meters south and
 22 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks
 Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where



MT. SIDNEY HISTORIC
 DISTRICT
 AUGUSTA COUNTY, VA

UTM REFERENCES:
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 2. 17/678760/4236340
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