

VLR- 9/15/81
NRHP- 7/8/82

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service
National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCERS use only
received
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE

and/or common

2. Location

street & number U. S. Route 52, 515 Main Street n/a not for publication
city, town Hillsville n/a vicinity of congressional district (William C. Wampler)
state Virginia code 51 county Carroll code 035

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Carroll County Board of Supervisors, c/o Chairman, Board of Supervisors

street & number 515 Main Street

city, town Hillsville vicinity state Virginia 24343

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Hillsville state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title (1) Historic American Buildings / Survey Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no
(2) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

date 1958 federal state county local

depository for survey records Library of Congress

city, town Washington state D. C.

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Carroll County Courthouse is located on the east side of U. S. Route 52 in Hillsville, the county seat. The courthouse site is slightly elevated, giving the building a monumental quality. The structure was planned and constructed from 1870-1875 after the specifications approved by the county board of supervisors and combines the traditional arcade and porticoed courthouse schemes in its design. This interesting blending may have been due to a conservative leaning on behalf of the group of four, led by Col. Ira B. Coltrane, who designed the building.

The facade (west) fronts on the main street. It is distinguished by a two-story pedimented portico in the Doric order. The entablature has the lettering "Carroll County Courthouse, Hillsville, Virginia." The eaves of the pediment, like the rest of the roof line, are bracketed. Sheltered by the portico, the main entrances are contained within round arches with stone voussoirs. The keystones are capped by the circular heads of tie rods. The main entrance, located in the central arch, consists of a transom-and-sidelight doorway framed by simple architrave trim. The entrance is flanked by paired open-well stairs that ascend from the arches to the second-floor courtroom. Each stair has a turned newel, turned balusters, and a rounded handrail. The doors at the top of the stairs are modern.

The principal openings are topped by flat lintels with turned corner blocks. Fenestration within the arcade has plain 2/2 hung sash, while the windows above have 8/8 hung sashes. The building's remaining fenestration consists of 6/6 hung sash and elongated 12/12 hung sash. The gable roof is crowned by an octagonal cupola with weatherboarded panels alternating with hung-sash windows. Topping the cupola is a fancy wooden finial.

The plan of the courthouse is basically unchanged, although the interior fabric has been extensively altered. The clerk's office and county administrative offices are located on the first floor. The courtroom and court-related offices occupy the second floor. A later one-story addition dominates the rear (east) elevation. The north wing has also been enlarged.

The front lawn of the building is pleasantly landscaped, while a Confederate memorial statue keeps silent vigil over the town's Main Street. An original stone wall in front of the building has been stuccoed, and the original wrought-iron gate remains in place.

RCC

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1870-75 **Builder/Architect** Col. Ira Coltrane, Builder

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Carroll County Courthouse is architecturally significant as a public edifice that combines two traditional courthouse plans: the arcaded plan and the temple-portico plan. Both courthouse types were originally used by Jeffersonian workmen in Piedmont and Southside Virginia, and the Carroll courthouse is interesting for making use of them long after they had passed out of fashion. The courthouse was built by a local builder, Col. Ira B. Coltrane, according to his plan, accepted by the county board of supervisors. It is the second courthouse building of Carroll County, which was formed from Grayson County in 1842. The courthouse was the scene of the famous Hillsville massacre of March 14, 1912, in which five persons, including the presiding judge, were killed in a courtroom battle.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Carroll County, formed from the southwestern part of Grayson County in 1842, was described by Henry Howe in 1845 as "a wild and mountainous tract, . . . watered by the New River." Howe also noted that Grayson Sulphur Springs "are now within the limits of this county . . . and attract more visitors than could have been expected from its (sic) remote location. . . they are in the midst of scenery of a remarkably wild and romantic character. . . a region . . . abounding with fish and a variety of game."¹ Prior to the county's formation, the residents who lived in this most remote but scenic precinct of Grayson County became increasingly displeased with the long, hazardous trip they were forced to make to the county seat to attend court, transact business, and vote. It wasn't, however, until a newcomer, John Carroll, an Irish-born gentleman with political aspirations, announced his candidacy for the legislature and promised to sponsor a bill to create a new county that the thought of separation occurred. In a bitter campaign he defeated the incumbent, John Blair, who was powerful and well established. As promised, Carroll presented the Grayson County legislative petition for the establishment of a new county to a Committee of Propositions and Grievances in March 1840. The bill was passed in January 1842 over the strenuous objections of his enemy, Blair, and many unhappy Grayson County residents who feared they would be forced to change the location of their own courthouse town: "suitable and public buildings were erected within the last few years for \$10,000. . . a commodious courthouse of brick with wings. . . a strong brick jail. . . the payments are scarcely warm in the pockets of the contractors."² The legislative act, passed on January 17, 1842, stated that the new county was to "be called and known by the name of Carroll. . . in memory of Charles Carroll of Carrollton." At that time he was the sole survivor of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. John Carroll had suggested the name, believing it would also honor him, the bill's sponsor. The act designated Hillsville as the courthouse town and required the first meeting of the justices of the peace to be at the residence of James Stafford in Hillsville.

The first court was held on June 6, 1842. The next day, "The Court doth order that the public buildings for the County of Carroll be located on the lands of John Tipton. . . that

9. Major Bibliographical References

Alderman, Mrs. John. "Formation of Carroll Was a Great Political Struggle". Carroll News, Hillsville, Va. 27 April, 1950, p. 1.
 Carroll County Minute Books. 1871-1875; Order Book I. 1842-1843.
 Crouch, Kenneth. "Carroll County Tragedy Had Bedford Connections," The Bedford Bulletin-Democrat, 6 June 1968. (See Continuation Sheet #3).

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1/2 Acre

Quadrangle name Hillsville, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

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 Zone Easting Northing

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Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the SE corner of VA 701 and US 52; thence extending about 125' NE along S side of 701; thence about 150' SE; thence about 125' SW to E side of US 52; thence about 150' NW along said side to point of origin. (See Continuation Sheet #3).

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

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1981

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date SEP 15 1981

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

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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

CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, U.S. Route 52, 515 Main Street, Hillsville, Virginia

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date entered

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 6,8

Page 1, 1

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey
1968, 1981 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Background

Ira Coltrain (sic) be appointed commissioner to report to the next Court plans for the Courthouse and jail to be erected for this County, both frame and brick, and the probable cost of each plan."³ The courthouse completed in 1842 served the county until 1870 when the county board of supervisors called for the erection of a new courthouse and jail.

In order to procure the appropriate plan for the new building, a competition was held, and separate bids were required of each plan submitted stating the "lowest amount for which the building will be erected and completed, giving the Contractor the present Courthouse with the privilege of working into the new building so much of the material thereof as the superintendent of the work may permit."⁴ The competition was advertised "by printed handbills and notices published in the Carroll Weekly News, the Wytheville Dispatch or the South West Virginia Interprise (sic), and some paper published at Abingdon, Va."⁵ On March 17, 1871, the board awarded the contract to Ira B. Coltrane and directed him to build the courthouse after the plan of Coltrane, Mitchell, Sutherland and Collier, at the price of \$9,500.

As completed, the Carroll County Courthouse stands as an interesting example of the merger of two early 19th-century courthouse plans: the arcaded plan and the temple-front plan. Both courthouse types were popular in the Piedmont area, where builders of courthouses had learned such building forms through working under Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson used the temple-front plan for Buckingham County Courthouse and popularized both the temple-front plan and the arcade at the University of Virginia. The Carroll County board was undoubtedly familiar with both courthouse types and, in spite of more fashionable styles, used the arcade and portico in the design of their new courthouse. An atypical feature for a public building is the interior stair opening directly to the exterior. This arrangement was made possible by the arched recesses as well as the shelter provided by the portico.

Col. Ira B. Coltrane, the builder of both the first and present Carroll County courthouse had represented Carroll County in the House of Delegates in 1853-54. He served in the Senate of Virginia for two terms, 1883-1884 and 1885-87, representing Carroll, Grayson and Floyd counties. While a member of the General Assembly, he was instrumental in the development of the Fancy Gap Turnpike and also built the bridge across Little Reed Island Creek, two miles north of Hillsville. He was a colonel in the Militia and in 1844 married Amanda Hale, a daughter of a Carroll County pioneer.

After the courthouse had been completed and the boundary lines and corners of the lot had been drawn, Coltrane was ordered to erect a stone wall on the Main Street. The finishing touch was well suited to the growing county seat, described in a gazetteer of 1877-78 as "a thriving town, and located in the midst of a fertile valley."⁶ The same publication notes t

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

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CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, U. S. Route 52, 515 Main Street, Hillsville, Virginia
Continuation sheet #2 Item number #8 Page 2

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Background

growth and amenities of the county: "This county is in the section of Virginia celebrated for producing a fine quality of bright tobacco, which with wheat, corn, and oats form the principal products."⁷ There were seven churches and post offices, five lawyers, three physicians, a dentist, one academy, and a variety of tradesmen,

On March 14, 1912, the peace of the quiet country settlement was broken when the courthouse "erupted with blazing revolvers and flying bullets. Several persons fell to the floor dead or wounded, while others scampered in terror for the exits."⁸ This tragic event followed the conviction of Floyd Allen, a deputy sheriff, for resisting police officers in a confrontation over the arrest of his nephews, Sidna and Wesley Edwards. The nephews had been indicted for disturbing public worship and had escaped out of state before their trial. When Judge Thornton Massie refused to allow Allen to continue free on his bond pending his sentencing but instead ordered the sheriff to take him into custody, Allen, in the presence of an audience packed with his relatives, rose from his seat and said, "Gentleman. . . I just ain't a-goin'!"⁹ Shots rang out and the courtroom was riddled with bullets. Killed were the judge, the sheriff, the Commonwealth's attorney, a juror, and a spectator. Wounded were Floyd Allen, the clerk of court, a juror, and several spectators.

Twenty or more indictments were brought against members of the Allen family. By September seven of them, including Floyd, had been tried for the murders. Floyd Allen and his son Claude were given the death penalty, and four others, including Sidna Allen, whose homestead is on the National Register of Historic Places, were sentenced to long terms in the penitentiary. All the defendants insisted they were innocent and that no conspiracy or plan had been made. To this day, it is not known who fired the first shot or what actually was the origin of the trouble.

Since its erection between 1870-1875, the courthouse has undergone some expansion and interior renovation. Since the Allen incident in 1912, the courthouse has been peaceful.

VDS/RCC

Footnotes

- ¹Henry Howe, Historical Collections of Virginia. (Charleston, S. C.; Babcock and Co., 1845), pp. 215-216.
- ²Legislative Petition, December 9, 1841, Grayson County Legislative Petitions, 1840-1842, Virginia State Library Archives, Richmond, Va.
- ³Carroll County Order Book I, pp. 9-10.
- ⁴Carroll County Minute Books, February 17, 1871, p. 12.
- ⁵*Ibid*, p. 11.
- ⁶Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1877-1878 (Richmond; J.W. English, 1878), p. 428
- ⁷*Ibid*, p. 428.
- ⁸M. Clifford Harrison. "Murder in the Courtroom." Virginia Cavalcade, Summer 1967, p. 43.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, U. S. Route 52, 515 Main Street, Hillsville, Virginia

Continuation sheet #3

Item number #8, 10

Page

8. SIGNIFICANCE

Historical Background

Footnotes

⁹The Carroll News: Bicentennial Edition, 1776-1976. Hillsville, Virginia, 1976, p. 14B.

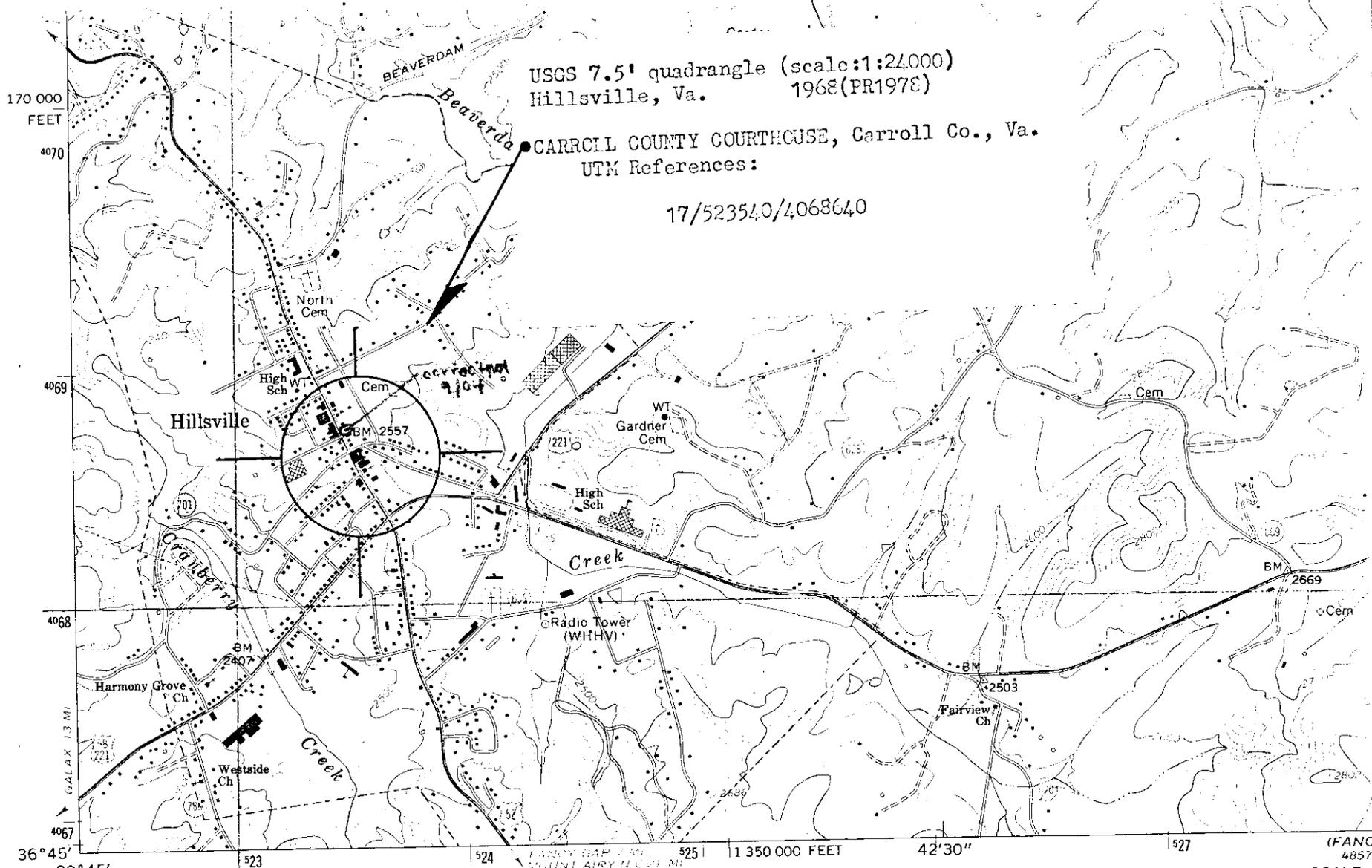
9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Carroll News: Bicentennial Edition 1776-1976. Hillsville, Va., 1976.
 Harrison, M. Clifford. "Murder in the Courtroom." Virginia Cavalcade, Summer 1967, pp.43ff
 Howe, Henry. Historical Collections of Virginia. Charleston, S. C.: Babcock and Co., 1845.
 Payne, Edwin Chancellor. The Hillsville Tragedy. Chicago: M.A. Donohue Co., 1913.
 Richmond, Va. Virginia State Library Archives. Grayson County Legislative Petitions,
 1840-1842.
Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1877-1878. Richmond: J. W. English, 1878, p. 428

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Boundary Justification

The nominated property for the Carroll County Courthouse consists of the lot on which the courthouse building sits and includes the front (west) grounds with a Civil War memorial statue. The building is located at 515 Main Street on land that was made available to the county by James Wilkinson in 1870. The nominated property consists of approximately ½ acre.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Hillsville, Va. 1968(PR1978)

CARROLL COUNTY COURTHOUSE, Carroll Co., Va.
UTM References:

17/523540/4068640

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36°45'

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

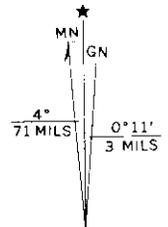
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue

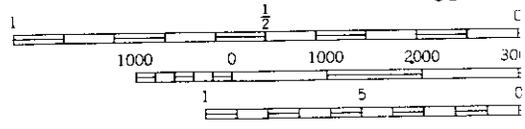
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978

(WOODLAWN)
4857 III NE



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



SCALE 1

CONTOUR INT
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THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATION
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESC
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS