

VLR-9/18/73 (EXPANDED: 4/21/93)

NRHP 10/25/73

NPS Form 10-900  
(Oct. 1990)

OMB No. 10024-0018

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 an 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 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)

other names/site number VDHR File #268-16

2. Location

Boyd, Broad, Court, Main, Market, Middle, Race, and Walnut streets; State routes street & number 42 and 311; Mitchell Drive; and Salem Avenue  not for publication N/A

city or town New Castle  vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Craig code 045 zip code 24127

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Hugh C. Miller 5 May 1993  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is

<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other. (explain:)	_____	_____

**New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**

Name of Property

**Craig County, Virginia**

County and State

**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**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
106	18	buildings
2		sites
		structures
1		objects
<b>109</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

5 buildings

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** see continuation sheets  
(Enter categories from instructions)

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**Current Functions** see continuation sheets  
(Enter categories from instructions)

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**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** see continuation sheets  
(Enter categories from instructions)

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**Materials** see continuation sheets  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

see 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.)

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

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

A: Commerce

Government/Politics

Transportation

C: Architecture

**Period of Significance**

1818 - 1940

**Significant Dates**

1818; 1834; 1851; 1890

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Barber, George F.; Smith, Scryler W.; Woods, Matthew E.; Firebaugh, Gratt; Lamb, Moses

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

see continuation sheets

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography** see continuation sheets

(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: \_\_\_\_\_

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Name of Property

Craig County, Virginia  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** approximately 70 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	17	578500	4151100
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	17	5788000	4151100

3	17	579000	4150800
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	17	578300	4150100

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

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

see continuation sheets

**Boundary Justification**

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

see continuation sheets

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Dr. John R. Kern, Director/Historian; and Leslie A. Giles, Architectural Historian  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
organization Roanoke Regional Preservation Office date 01 November 1992  
street & number 1030 Penmar Avenue, SE telephone (703) 857-7585  
city or town Roanoke state Virginia zip code 24013

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name see attached list of property owners and adjacent property owners  
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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 6 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Page 1 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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**6. FUNCTION OR USE**

**Historic Functions**

**DOMESTIC:**

single dwelling  
multiple dwelling  
secondary structure  
hotel

**COMMERCE/TRADE:**

business  
professional  
financial institution  
specialty store  
department store  
restaurant  
warehouse

**SOCIAL:**

meeting hall

**GOVERNMENT:**

correctional facility  
government office  
post office  
courthouse

**RELIGION:**

religious facility  
church-related residence

**RECREATION AND CULTURE:**

sports facility  
monument/marker

**AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE:**

agricultural field  
animal facility  
horticultural facility  
agricultural outbuilding

**INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:**

manufacturing facility

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 6 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Page 2 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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**Function or Use (continued)**

waterworks

**HEALTH CARE:**

medical business/office

**DEFENSE:**

military facility

**LANDSCAPE:**

plaza

**TRANSPORTATION:**

rail-related

**Current Functions**

**DOMESTIC:**

single dwelling  
secondary structure

**COMMERCE/TRADE:**

business  
professional  
financial institution  
specialty store  
department store  
restaurant

**SOCIAL:**

meeting hall  
civic

**GOVERNMENT:**

city hall  
fire station  
government office  
post office  
courthouse

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 6 Page 3 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Function or Use (continued)

RELIGION:

religious facility  
church-related residence

FUNERARY:

mortuary

RECREATION AND CULTURE:

museum  
monument/marker

LANDSCAPE:

plaza

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

### Architectural Classification

NO STYLE

MID-19TH CENTURY:

Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN:

Italianate

Queen Anne

Stick/Eastlake

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Beaux Arts

Colonial Revival

Classical Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS:

Bungalow/Craftsman

OTHER:

I-House

### Materials

FOUNDATION: Wood  
Brick  
Stone  
Concrete

WALLS: Wood: weatherboard  
shingle  
plywood  
Brick  
Metal  
Stucco  
Asphalt  
Asbestos  
Synthetics

ROOF: Metal (tin)  
Asphalt  
Synthetics

OTHER: Wood  
Brick

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.)

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N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Barber, George F.; Smith, Scuyler W.; Woods, Matthew E.; Firebaugh, Gratt; Lamb, Moses

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see continuation sheets

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**New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**

Name of Property

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County and State

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1 

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Zone Easting Northing

2 

17	578800	4151100
----	--------	---------

3 

17	579000	4150800
----	--------	---------

Zone Easting Northing

4 

17	578300	4150100
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See continuation sheet

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name/title Dr. John R. Kern, Director/Historian; and Leslie A. Giles, Architectural Historian

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

organization Roanoke Regional Preservation Office date 01 November 1992

street & number 1030 Pamar Avenue, SE telephone (703) 857-7585

city or town Roanoke state Virginia zip code 24013

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 5 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Description (continued)

Stone  
Metal  
Concrete

### Narrative Description

#### Summary Description

The New Castle Historic District is located in the town of New Castle, in Craig County, Virginia. The original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District (listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register 18 September 1973 and in the National Register of Historic Places 09 November 1973) encompassed six properties (but described only five of them), including the Craig County Courthouse, the Sheriff's Office/Jail, the Central Hotel, and three adjacent commercial buildings. The expanded New Castle Historic District includes the rest of the intact commercial area along Main Street, plus the contiguous residential neighborhoods along Main, Walnut, Middle, Court, Boyd, and Market streets, Route 311 (Salem Avenue), and Mitchell Drive. The historic architectural resources within the district's expanded boundaries include much of the early-nineteenth-century town grid plan, mid-nineteenth-century domestic and government-related buildings, and late-nineteenth- through early-twentieth-century commercial, recreational, social, religious, and domestic buildings. Of the 132 resources in the expanded New Castle Historic District, 114 (more than 86%) are contributing resources, while only 18 (less than 14%) are non-contributing resources.

#### Town Planning

In October 1818, William Anderson platted the town of New Castle, southwest of the confluence of Johns Creek and Craig Creek. The original rectangular grid pattern, with forty-eight numbered lots of one-quarter acre each (82-1/2' wide by 132' long), featured four completed blocks of eight lots, with four additional half-blocks of four lots each. A mill race for Moyer's [Myars'] Mill defined the northeast side of the newly platted town; it remains an important

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 6 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**Description (continued)**

feature in the town and defines one edge of the district. The principal streets in New Castle took their original names from natural features of the area: a road from the southwest, which connected with the Sinking Creek drainage, became Sinking Creek Street (present-day Main Street); New Castle's primary intersection was the crossing of Sinking Creek and Johns Creek (now Court) streets. Two additional streets, Market and Walnut, completed the original town grid, which remains the nucleus of the town.

By 1833, the Cumberland Gap Road, a major turnpike through Southwest Virginia, had been surveyed to run through New Castle along Sinking Creek Street. The resulting increase in traffic through New Castle undoubtedly raised its commercial prospects and led to the town's first expansion. An enlarged town plan, authorized by the Virginia General Assembly in 1834, retained the original rectangular grid scheme and extended the pattern to the southwest and southeast. An 1834 map of New Castle illustrates the relationship of the original town plat to the proposed addition, which brought the total number of quarter-acre lots to 112 and added Middle and Broad streets to the plat. An exception to the strict grid-pattern rule occurred in the placement of lots 57 through 77. Those twenty-one lots were placed along a southeasterly extension of Johns Creek Street; at present, the town plan no longer reflects their layout.

In 1851, the formation of Craig County led to the selection of New Castle as the county seat, further contributing to the growth of the town. An appropriate location for the new public buildings, which were to include a courthouse and a sheriff's house/jail, was selected at the primary intersection in town, that of Sinking Creek and Johns Creek streets. Subsequently, Johns Creek Street was renamed "Court Street," in honor of the function of its primary building, and Sinking Creek Street was renamed "Main Street," in recognition of its role as the commercial center of New Castle.

In 1873, the town of New Castle was incorporated. A map of the town, drawn in 1890 by surveyor W. M. Echols, revealed its boundaries at that time. Additional quarter-acre lots, which numbered 113 through 121, extended the developed area of Main Street southwest of Commerce Street (later Route 311/Salem Avenue), along Cumberland Avenue (later Route 42). The twenty-one lots that

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Section number 7 Page 7 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**Description (continued)**

had been drawn along a southeastern extension of Court Street in earlier maps were eliminated from the 1890 map, and lots 75, 76, and 77 were redrawn in a different location, adjoining the northwest side of lots 78, 79, 80, 81, and 82. The 1890 town boundaries also included several outlying properties that were not divided into regular town lots; their owners included Paris Van Buren Jones, G. C. Huffman, J. P. Martin, and J. W. McCartney.

The basic grid plans of the original town and most of its early expansions have remained virtually intact to the present, excepting the subdivision of lots along Main Street for increased commercial density. The Bank Square Subdivision, which included seven original town lots (out of an eight-lot block), was platted by 1890 under the auspices of the Bank of New Castle. Lot 1 of the subdivision was designated as the site of the Bank of New Castle, while lot 4 served as the site of the law offices of Paris Van Buren Jones. The remaining Bank Square Subdivision lots along Main Street were devoted to commercial store buildings constructed between 1890 and 1920.

Early Architecture

The earliest documentary records available cite the presence of some twenty buildings in New Castle by 1834; by 1836 the range of property types included a tavern, stores, a flour mill, an iron foundry, a tanyard, an academy, a church, and houses. Of these early buildings in New Castle, it appears that only the tavern survives. The tavern, assessed for \$600 in 1834, is probably the core of the building now known as the Central Hotel. A substantial tavern building, recorded on lot 21 (the northern corner of the intersection of Main and Court streets), was consistently valued at about \$600 from 1840 through the early 1850s. Between 1854 and 1855, the value of the building on lot 21 jumped to \$2000, an indication that it had more than tripled in size. The brick building's present appearance corroborates this historical evidence of expansion. Physical evidence on the building's exterior indicates that it was originally only two stories high and four bays wide, with two entrances on Main Street, a gable roof, and end chimneys. Fortuitously located across the street from the site of Craig County's new courthouse, the tavern's proprietors were well

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 8 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

situated for a timely expansion of their building. The 1854-1855 additions included a full third story over the original two-story portion, a hipped roof with deep overhanging cornice, a large three-story brick ell that extended northwest along Court Street, and a wraparound double-tier porch.

At present, the hotel remains substantially unchanged from its 1854-1855 appearance, on both the exterior and the interior. The chimneys have been blocked up, but they retain their original mantelpieces, which are of simplified Federal (1830s tavern rooms) and Greek Revival (1850s addition) designs featuring classically proportioned pilasters. Many rooms have their original plaster finishes, with beaded baseboards, chair-rails, and door and window surrounds; other unusual features, such as tongue-and-groove partitions between the hotel rooms, early polychrome-painted panel doors, and a built-in cabinet in the large first-floor dining room, also remain virtually intact.

As previously mentioned, perhaps the greatest impetus for adding on to the tavern was the construction, just across the street on lots 20 and 12 (bounded on the northeast by Court Street and bounded on the southeast by Main Street), of public buildings for newly formed Craig County. Drawn by Scuyler W. Smith, plans for a courthouse and a sheriff's office/jail were completed by July 1851. Modelled after the Botetourt County Courthouse in nearby Fincastle, the Craig County Courthouse was constructed by Stokes Pusey & Co. of Roanoke County over the next twelve months. The tripartite composition features a two-story main section with Doric tetrastyle portico, surmounted by an octagonal cupola and housing an entry hall, staircase, and second-floor courtroom; lower wings flank the central portion, sheltering offices on the first level and courtroom-accessible chambers for the judge and jury on the second level. Constructed of Flemish bond brick on the prominent northeast and southeast facades, the courthouse is embellished with Greek Revival stylistic elements such as a pedimented temple front with full entablature and unfluted Doric columns, and a central entry with a pattern-book-derived, pedimented door surround.

The two-story sheriff's office/jail, adjacent to the courthouse, was apparently constructed at the same time (1851-1852), by the same builders. Although a much simpler building in form, the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 9 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

sheriff's office/jail also utilizes Flemish-bond brick on its prominent facades, has a deeply molded cornice and wide friezeboard, and features simplified Greek Revival door and window surrounds. The building originally functioned as the sheriff's office and residence on the first floor, with the jail relegated to the second floor. The exterior remains in nearly original condition, although the one-story, full-length front porch has been removed.

The district's only other surviving building types that apparently date from the early- and mid-nineteenth century periods are a few residences situated on original town lots. These early dwellings were usually one-, one-and-one-half-, or two-story buildings constructed of logs or heavy timber frames. They typically had hall-parlor, single-cell, or double-cell plans, were heated by large stone or brick end chimneys, and often had attached workshops or retail stores that employed the dwellings' occupants. In most cases, these dwellings have been added to over the years, such that their original exteriors are obscured. The Givens-McCartney House, located on town lots 45 and 46 at the eastern corner of Court and Walnut streets, is a two-story, three-bay log dwelling with hall-parlor plan, brick end chimney, and six-over-six sash windows. Local tradition holds that the log house was built in 1837; the 1850 Land Book (Botetourt County) valued it at \$250, when it was owned by Madison Givens. T. B. McCartney added a two-story frame ell to the northeast side of the house in the late nineteenth century; the addition exhibits Greek Revival detailing, including a secondary entrance with transom and sidelights.

Another early dwelling that survives within the district is the Caldwell-Berger-Lamb House (VDHR #268-16-22), a mid-nineteenth century single-cell frame building with a massive stone end chimney, beaded ceiling joists, and some original panel doors. Constructed by 1852, when it was owned by area farmer Clayton Caldwell and valued at \$170, the house has a late-nineteenth- or early-twentieth-century frame addition on its southwest side, creating a double-cell form with the stone chimney between the two rooms. Another addition, on the northeast side of the original building, appears to have been an attached workshop; probably dating to the early twentieth century, when Charles E. Berger (a carriage and wagon maker) owned the property, it retains a separate

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
Page 10 **New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### Description (continued)

exterior entrance. Although presently sheathed in bricktex siding, the Caldwell-Berger-Lamb House retains its historic form and detailing and illustrates a rare surviving example of a once-common building type (a combination workshop and dwelling).

Several examples of another type of dwelling, the Greek-Revival-detailed I-house, survive within the district. Dating from the 1870s and 1880s, these houses are typically two stories high and three bays wide, with brick end chimneys, a double-tier pedimented front porch or portico, six-over-six large-paned sash windows, and a central entry with transom and sidelights. One such building remaining in the district is the Givens House (VDHR #268-16-21). Moved in the 1920s from its original location on the hillside just west of the present site, the building nonetheless retains a high degree of integrity, including its original sawnwork balustrade, square columns with molded capitals, and weatherboard siding.

Another house from the period, known locally as "Locust Hill" or "Idlewood," (VDHR #268-16-37 and #268-3) remains in its original location, on Main Street west of Route 311. The I-house portion of this dwelling dates to the 1870s, when J. P. Martin owned the property; its original portico was replaced at the turn of the century by a one-story Eastlake-style porch with elaborate turned and sawn woodwork, and small one-story wings now abut the gable ends, but otherwise its I-house form is virtually unaltered. Original interior woodwork, including several period mantelpieces, also survives; some woodwork even retains early marbling and graining. An earlier mortise-and-tenon framed structure, apparently within the present-day rear ell, presumably dates to saddler A. J. Minnich's mid-nineteenth-century ownership of the property.

### LATE-NINETEENTH-CENTURY URBAN PLANNING

The late nineteenth century brought an unprecedented period of growth to New Castle, due primarily to the efforts of various real estate speculators in and around the Craig County seat. An 1890 plat of New Castle depicts the layout of streets, blocks, and lots proposed by five development companies: the New Castle Land and Improvement Company (111 blocks, located south and west of the old

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 11 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

town plat), the Junction Land and Improvement Company (nine blocks plus the depot and industrial sites, located between the C&O Railroad tracks and Craig's Creek), the Craig City Improvement Company (88 blocks north of Johns Creek and northwest of the C&O Railroad tracks), the West Salem Land Company (101 blocks east of the old town plat and south of Craig's Creek), and the West End [Land Company] (16 blocks west of the old town plat, along the road to Paint Bank). In all, more than 325 new blocks were platted.

The three larger speculative real estate developments -- New Castle Land and Improvement Company, Craig City Improvement Company, and West Salem Land Company -- included commercial, industrial/manufacturing, and residential sites; at least two resort-type hotels also were planned and built to attract visitors and potential buyers. Open spaces, designed in the form of landscaped parks with informal paths and meandering carriage drives, were important features of the plans; they would provide relief from the dense urban environment envisioned by the speculators. Few of these ambitious expansion schemes actually came to fruition, though. Most of the 325 blocks were never developed; for those areas that did develop, the architectural resources either have been demolished, have lost their integrity, or have become discontinuous to the district due to modern infill.

LATE NINETEENTH- AND EARLY-TWENTIETH-CENTURY COMMERCIAL ARCHITECTURE

The Bank Square Subdivision, platted in 1890 and filed with the Craig County Circuit Court in 1910, divided seven adjoining quarter-acre lots (25, 26, 27, 28, 33, 34, and 35) into twenty-two smaller lots, each 22' x 124'. Lot 1, which was 49' x 124' and situated at the southern corner of Main and Court streets, was reserved for the Bank of New Castle. This Italianate-style bank, probably the earliest extant building in the subdivision, is a two-story, freestanding, brick commercial building with a substantial metal cornice, segmental-arched door and window openings, and corbelled brickwork. Built before 1900, when it was valued at \$1000, the Bank of New Castle's design evidently inspired that of another commercial building in the subdivision, the law office of Paris Van Buren Jones. Located on lot 4 of the Bank Square

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 12 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Description (continued)

Subdivision and valued at \$100 in 1900, the former law office is a two-room, one-story building with corbelled and mousetooth brickwork, segmental-arched door and window openings, and two-over-two sash windows. The Jones Law Office's unusual setting includes early cast iron fencing and retains a residential yard-like character, with mature trees, shrubs, and a small lawn.

Between 1917 and 1920, the Farmers and Merchants (F&M) Bank of Craig County was constructed on Bank Square Subdivision lots 2 and 3, between the earlier Bank of New Castle and the Jones Law Office. The F&M Bank is the only building within the district to incorporate stylistic aspects of Beaux-Arts Classicism, evident in its monumental brick pilasters, heavy cornice moldings, and symmetrical form. The F&M Bank, along with the Bank of New Castle and the Jones Law Office, is located directly across Main Street from the Craig County Courthouse; all three were included within the original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District. Today they remain at the core of the commercial area in the expanded New Castle Historic District.

From the late 1890s through the 1920s, the remaining Bank Square Subdivision lots along Main Street were sold and developed for commercial use. In general, the commercial buildings constructed in the Bank Square Subdivision were like those built elsewhere in the town during the period. The typical New Castle commercial building is a two-story, frame, gable-front store with a false-front parapet, large first-floor display windows, smaller second-floor sash windows, and decorative sawnwork cornices, brackets, and moldings. Individual variations include the number of stories, the types of materials, the patterns of the false-front parapets, and the use of optional architectural elements, such as metal cornices or multi-story front porches. One commercial building, which survives from the late nineteenth century, is the Wagener Brothers Store, at 219-221 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-45). Originally three stories high, it was once connected at the facade to the Central Hotel next door. Its extant two-story, double-tier front porch is unusual for the district, but otherwise the building, now only two stories, is a representative example of its type. Pre-dating 1890, when it was valued at \$800, the building housed the Wagener Brothers Store by the early twentieth century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 13 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

Later commercial buildings of this period often shared walls with adjacent properties, creating cohesive streetscapes, especially along Main Street. On lots 5 through 12 of the Bank Square Subdivision, seven attached commercial buildings built between 1890 and 1920 produce an unbroken row of one- and two-story facades. The two-story, frame W. K. Bell & Co. Hardware Store at 312 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-11) is the earliest of the seven; it retains its original shopfront, sawn wood ornament, brackets, and cornices. The latest of the seven, the Layman Automobile Dealership at 328 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-36), is a one-story building constructed of rock-faced concrete blocks. Rock-faced concrete block was a novelty material in New Castle, first used to build the adjacent three-store commercial row, known locally as the Caldwell Building (VDHR #268-16-15), which dates to 1919. One rather unusual building within this streetscape is the narrow "bowling alley" occupying part of lot 6 in the Bank Square Subdivision. A one-story addition to the northeast side of an existing two-story commercial building (the Robert Layman Drugstore, VDHR #268-16-35), the bowling alley retains most of its original features, including decorative pressed-metal wall and ceiling treatments on the interior and cornices, display windows, and false-front parapet on the exterior.

A similar row of five attached commercial buildings is situated across Main Street, beginning with the two-story Tatum-Wagener buildings at 313-315 Main (VDHR #268-16-44), including the two-story Bill Caldwell General Store building at 317 Main (VDHR #268-16-14), and concluding with the one-story Abbott building at 325 Main (VDHR #268-16-6). Each of the buildings in this row, like the others of the type found in New Castle, features a false-front parapet and first-story shopfront.

Other commercial buildings in New Castle that date from the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century period include the one-story brick barber shop of George W. Craft at 407 Main Street. Attached to the adjacent Craft house at 409 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-32 and #268-10), the shop features a corbelled front parapet, metal cornice and finials, and segmental-arch door and window openings. Built circa 1890, the property is a good example of a combined shop/dwelling, a resource type that was once common in towns of the era, but which now rarely survives. Next door to the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
Page 14 **New Castle, Craig County, Virginia****Description (continued)**

Craft House and Shop is a boarding house, a common resource type in small towns of the period. This example, at 403 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-13), includes an original Greek Revival-detailed, gable-fronted section, two stories high and four bays wide, plus a later two-story southwest-side ell with a connecting wraparound porch. An atypical commercial building in New Castle is the circa-1920s O. W. Eans building at 424 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-17), which served as the office of the *New Castle Record* and its editor, O. W. Eans. Constructed of rock-faced concrete block and set back from the street, the building is of a modest residential scale; its simple one-story form is crowned by a steeply-pitched hipped roof and surrounded by a yard.

A small group of contributing automobile-related commercial buildings in the district dates to the 1930s: the brick Huffman Service Station, at 410-414 Main Street (VDHR #268-16-43) features a sheltered service area at the street frontage, with a pressed-metal ceiling and a hipped roof supported by large brick piers. Another frame service station along Salem Avenue/Route 311 also remains intact, with large display windows, novelty weatherboard siding, and sheltered service area. An automobile dealership/showroom, situated at 502 Main Street, is perhaps the latest commercial building in the district to date from the period of significance; of concrete-block construction sheathed in brick veneer, it marked the local transition from the use of traditional building materials.

**LATE-NINETEENTH- AND EARLY-TWENTIETH-CENTURY RESIDENTIAL ARCHITECTURE**

The growth of commercial investment and real estate developments that took place in and around New Castle beginning around 1890 also led to the construction of some of Craig County's finest examples of Queen Anne-style residential architecture. Traditionally, the town's leading merchants, lawyers, and farmers built their homes to the southwest of, and overlooking, downtown. They continued to do so during the late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century period. Attorney James H. Marshall built his residence at 606 Main Street (VHDR #268-16-38 and #268-8) between 1889 and 1893; it appears to be the first Queen Anne-style house built in the district, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 15 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**Description (continued)**

probably set the standard for later examples of the style in New Castle. Of brick construction with elaborate interior and exterior detailing, including one- and two-story bay windows, an octagonal turret, a wraparound porch, turned- and sawnwork, a balcony with chinoiserie balustrade, dentilated brick chimney caps, and an attached flower house/conservatory, the Marshall House is an excellent example of Queen Anne-style architecture and remains in nearly-original condition.

Across Main Street from the Marshall House, a development known as Mount Lee was begun in the early 1890s; situated on the eastern slope of a hill, the development featured large residential sites with commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek Valley. The first residences to be constructed in Mount Lee were the homes of A. E. Humphreys and William Larose Yoder, two of the real estate developers/speculators who came to New Castle around 1890. Following the precedent set by the earlier Marshall House, these houses also adopted elements of the Queen Anne style. The Humphreys House (VDHR #268-16-29), at 201 Mitchell Drive, is a large two-story, center-hall-plan frame dwelling with a belvedere surmounting its hipped roof; it also features decoratively corbeled brick chimneys, bracketed cornices, and an elaborate Eastlake-style wooden porch with chinoiserie balustrade. The brick Yoder House, now known as the Yoder-Walker House (VDHR #268-16-46), is a more typical example of the Queen Anne style, with its complex hipped roof, bay windows, lower cross gables, and wraparound porch. Three additional Queen Anne-style houses were built on Mount Lee lands by 1918, when the properties were annexed by the town of New Castle as the Mount Lee addition.

Two additional properties in the district feature Queen Anne-style residences built for leading businessmen in New Castle who eventually held state level elective offices. These properties are additionally significant for their related complexes of domestic and agricultural outbuildings. The George Layman Farm (VDHR #268-16-34 and #268-7), at the intersection of Route 311 and Main Street, includes as its principal building an unusual V-plan house, dating to 1898. The two-story, frame Layman House was erected by builder Matthew E. Woods and embellished by finish carpenter Gratt Firebaugh, both of Botetourt County; stylistic details include bay windows, sawn- and turned-work in the gables, corbeled brick

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 16 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

chimneys, stained- and leaded-glass windows, and elaborate interior trim. Although the extant porch is a Classical-style replacement that dates to 1914, it nevertheless employs a Queen Anne-style octagonal turret over the main entrance. The Layman Farm's accompanying complex of buildings, most of which are trimmed to match the architectural style of the house, includes a law office, woodhouse, wash house, flower house, chicken house, pony stable/carbide plant, corn crib, barn, garage, and structures such as a grape arbor.

Merchant/politician Nathaniel E. Spessard also built an elaborate brick Queen Anne-style residence, locally reknowned as "The Castle," on his hilltop farm overlooking Main Street/Route 42. Designed in 1898 by mail-order architect George F. Barber, the Spessard house is the only building in the district known to have been the design of an architect with a national reputation. Barber (1854-1915), of Knoxville, Tennessee, advertised house plans in various publications, including his own books. "Barber's designs were generally of the more bizarre and asymmetrical Queen Anne modes. He favored ornate turrets and towers, extensive sawn and turned woodwork, horseshoe arches, rooftop crestings and finials, and similar outlandish touches" (Wells, "Virginia Architects, 1820-1955," manuscript).

As built, the two-and-one-half-story Spessard House appears to be typical of Barber's designs. Costing \$7,500 in 1898 (*Manufacturers Record*, 8 July 1898, p. 398, cited in Wells), the Spessard House features a complex hipped roof, two-story bay windows beneath cross gables, brick chimneys with corbeled caps, a three-story cylindrical brick tower with conical roof and decorative vents, a wraparound porch with extensive turned woodwork and an upper-story balcony, and ornate interior woodwork. Besides the house, the Spessard property also includes a large complex of domestic and agricultural buildings: a brick wash house/meat house, frame garage, lath corn crib, frame barn, and frame tool sheds. Essentially unaltered to the present, the dramatic hilltop siting, relatively complete outbuilding complex, and extensive acreage of the Nathaniel E. Spessard Farm distinguish it as one of the most architecturally impressive properties within the historic district.

Less pretentious residences, sometimes with limited Queen Anne,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
Page 17 **New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### Description (continued)

Classical Revival, and Craftsman motifs, were also being built in New Castle during this period. Around the turn of the century, simple I-houses with sawwork trim, brick flues, and rear kitchen ells were the typical dwelling form. One of the surviving examples, located at 302 Walnut Street (VDHR #268-16-22), also features a front porch with columns upon brick pedestals. Dwellings built during the first quarter of the twentieth century were usually double-pile forms; the Looney House (VDHR #268-16-47) exemplifies this type, with its complex hipped roof, Classical wraparound porch, and cornice returns. The late 1920s and 1930s brought Craftsman bungalows to the streets of New Castle. A typical example, the bungalow at 202 Middle Street (VDHR #268-16-25), is one-and-one-half-stories, has integral front and rear porches with wood supports on brick pedestals, and has exposed rafter ends.

### NINETEENTH- AND TWENTIETH-CENTURY INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE

The New Castle United Methodist Church, presently located on Main Street near the Mount Lee Addition, traces its roots to an earlier Methodist church, identified in Joseph Martin's 1836 *Gazetteer of Virginia*. Built circa 1893, upon land purchased from A. E. and A. B. Humphreys for \$1, the New Castle Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as the United Methodist Church) is a one-story, four-bay nave plan frame church with a stone foundation, a quatrefoil stained-glass window in the front gable, pointed-arch side windows with stained quarry-paned glass, and original belfry. Some modern alterations have been made, including a gabled vestibule addition and two rear additions, but the church remains a dominant feature within the district. A residence at 101 Middle Street (VDHR #268-16-41) at one time served as the Methodist parsonage; built circa 1900, this two-story, three-bay frame I-house still retains its original front porch, with chamfered wood posts, sawn brackets, and a frieze board. Its modest scale and vernacular detailing would have been considered appropriate for a rural parsonage of the period.

The only other contributing institutional building within the boundaries of the New Castle Historic District is the Masonic Temple, erected in 1940 at the southern corner of Main and Middle

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Description (continued)

streets. The meeting place of "Mountain Lodge AF & AM #140" and "Mountain Chapter O.E.S. #168," the Masonic Temple is a two-story, three-bay brick building with a front-facing stepped-parapet gable, six-over-one sash windows, and a gothicized entry portico. The building is a typical fraternal lodge of the period, with a main meeting space supplemented by offices and other small meeting rooms. One of the largest buildings in the district, the Masonic Temple's size and prominence in the downtown underscore its significance as an important institution for social and fraternal activities in the predominantly rural area around New Castle.

### Architectural Inventory

Properties in the inventory are organized alphabetically by street and numerically by address. In some instances, where numeric street addresses were unknown, certain properties had to be incompletely numbered (i.e., "3\_\_" for a property in the 300 block of a street). Entries list the historic name of the property (if known), the date or date range of construction, basic architectural features (style or form, story height, construction material and exterior finish, roof type, etc.), and pertinent historical data. Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) site numbers for properties that have previously been surveyed are included in parentheses at the end of each entry. Included for each property entry is the designation "C" or "NC," to designate the status of the primary resource as either "contributing" or "non-contributing." Where secondary resources are present within each property, they also have been designated with either a "C" or "NC."

### BOYD STREET

- 307: Paris Van Buren Jones House. 1870s, early 20th century. 2-story, 3-bay, aluminum-sided frame I-house with pencilled brick end chimneys (irregular header courses), 6/6 and 2/2 sash windows, cornice returns, 1st- and 2nd-story front entries (3-pane sidelites, 2-pane transoms), 2-story bay window on SE gable end (diagonal beaded tongue-and-groove panels above 1st-story windows); 2-story ell (brick chimney, 2-tier SE side porch, SE side

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 19 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

entry with sidelites and transom); lightning arrestors along roof ridge (purple glass globes); 1-story, 9-bay wraparound Classical porch (rounded corner on E end; 1-bay, pedimented 2nd tier over front entry; both tiers have Doric columns and beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings); interior features include center hall (stair with turned newel post, rectangular-section balusters), pressed-metal ceilings, a late Greek Revival mantel (fluted pilasters, decorative friezeboard and shelf), and an enclosed stair with winders (in rear ell); stuccoed stone cellar connected to ell by covered breezeway; detached outbuildings include: 1-story weatherboarded frame smokehouse (circular-sawn construction, wood post foundation, whitewashed interior -- C), 1-story pyramidal-roofed well house (roof spike, open sides, beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling, modern lattice balustrade and brackets -- C). Site features decorative cast iron fence, concrete walkway, mature trees and shrubs; located at the edge of the Mt. Lee Subdivision along Mitchell Drive, it has commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek valley. Paris Van Buren Jones, attorney, appears in New Castle business directories from 1880 through 1917. The Paris Van Buren Jones house exhibits the transformation of housing styles in New Castle, from the Greek Revival of the 1870s to the Queen Anne/Classical of the later-19th and early-20th centuries (VDHR #268-16-31). C

BROAD STREET

- 201: Carper House. 1870s. 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, frame or log dwelling with standing-seam-metal hipped roof, brick end chimneys, 6/6 and 3/3 sash windows, and full-length front porch; 1-story rear ell with side porch. Situated on original town lots 55 and 56. One of the earlier houses to survive in the district (VDHR #268-16-16). C

COURT STREET

- 203: Sheriff's House and Jail. 1851-1852. Greek Revival. 2-story, 3-bay, brick (Flemish bond front elevation, 6-

268-16-50

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Section number 7 Page 20 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

course American bond other elevations) dwelling with hipped roof, overhanging cornice and wide frieze, brick interior end chimneys, 6/6 sash windows, 1-story (5-bay) front porch. Included in the original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District, this building dates to the first decade of the county's founding -- erected on public lands as the original county sheriff's residence, it presently remains in governmental use (VDHR #268-4, #268-13). C

268-16-50

268-16-51

205: Jail. 2nd 1/4 20th century. 1-story, 2-cell brick jail on public lands adjacent to Sheriff's House, with original metal cell doors and metal window bars. Presently used as a community food pantry. C

268-16-52

2\_\_ : Craig County Volunteer Fire Department. Last 1/4 20th century. 2-story, brick veneer fire station, with large garage bays, on public lands between courthouse and former jail. NC

317: Office. Circa 1900. 1-story, 3-bay brick-tex-sided frame building with standing-seam-metal gable roof, exposed rafter ends, paired 3/1 sash windows, central entrance with 5-lite transom above. Typical small commercial building for period (VDHR #268-16-12). C

318: Elmore House. 1911. Queen Anne. 2-story, 2-bay, aluminum-sided frame dwelling with stone foundation, corbeled brick flue, standing-seam-metal roof, front-facing gable, decorative side gables with sawn decoration, 1/1 sash windows, side-hall plan, wraparound 1-story porch with front second tier; 1-story ell and rear additions; weatherboard-sided frame shed (C) behind house. Typical, fairly-well-preserved dwelling form of period (VDHR #268-16-18). C

4\_\_ : Givens-McCartney House. 1837 [?], 1875. 2-story, 3-bay, log dwelling (1837 [?]) with brick end chimney, 6/6 sash windows, Greek Revival bed mold in the cornice; 2-story frame ell (1875) with 2-story SE side addition/enclosed 2-tier porch, secondary entrance on Walnut Street has

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 21 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

sidelites, 3-lite transom, stair hall with ramped rail, turned newel post, rectangular-section balusters; 10-bay wraparound porch (replacement) with Doric columns (1-bay 2nd tier over front entry); 1-story rear additions. The Givens-McCartney House may incorporate one of New Castle's earliest buildings; otherwise, it is a typical dwelling form for its period (VDHR #268-16-40). C

MAIN STREET

*268-16-54*  
206: House. 1950s-1960s. Colonial Revival. 1-story, brick or brick-veneer "Cape Cod" cottage. 2-bay concrete-block garage (NC). NC

219-

221: Wagener Brothers Store. Late 19th century. 2-story, 4-bay, weatherboarded frame commercial building with standing-seam-metal roof, front-facing gable, 2/2 sash display windows, 2 double doors with transoms on 1st story front, full-facade 2-tier front and rear porches (square posts with molded caps, sawnwork balustrade); two adjacent small frame sheds (2 C) with horizontal flush board siding. The Wagener Brothers Store, despite the loss of a third story or third-story false front (visible in historic photographs), remains the least altered of New Castle's late-19th-/early-20th-century commercial buildings (VDHR #268-16-45). C

*268-16-54*  
220: Joel M. Rowan House. 1870s, mid-20th-century. I-house. 2-story, 3-bay frame dwelling with standing-seam-metal hipped roof; 3-bay replacement porch; 2-story rear ell. Although somewhat reworked on the exterior, the Rowan house is one of the earlier houses remaining within the district. C

223-

225: Central Hotel. 1830s, 1854-1855. 3-story, 4-bay, brick hotel (originally 2 stories) with 3-story, 5-bay, brick ell (addition); 2-tier, 13-bay wraparound porch with brick piers on 1st level, square columns on 2nd level; standing-seam-metal hipped roof, molded cornice with deep

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 22 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

overhang and wide frieze, brick interior end chimneys, 6/6 and 2/2 sash windows; most hotel rooms remain unaltered, with wooden partition walls, paneled doors, simple Greek Revival mantels; weatherboarded, gabled well house (C) in rear yard. Included within the original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District, the earliest portion of the Central Hotel predates the founding of Craig County; the first meeting of the county court was held in the original tavern. Later portions of the building were built within the first decade of the county's establishment. The hotel's location, directly across Court Street from the courthouse and public square, underscores its historic association with the establishment of local government and the ensuing development of commerce (VDHR #268-1). C

268-16-55

268-16-56

2\_\_ : United States Post Office. 2nd 1/4 20th century. 1-story, gable-end brick building with stepped false-front parapet, large display windows, central entry with tall transom over, original interior woodwork. C

268-16-57

2\_\_ : Craig County Administrative Office/Craig County Health Department. 1958. 2-story brick-veneer concrete-block commercial building. NC

268-16-58

301: Craig County Courthouse. 1851-1852. Greek Revival. Flemish bond (with 5-course American bond on less visible facades) brick courthouse of tripartite form: 2-story, 3-bay, temple-front main section with 2-story tetrastyle Doric portico, shallow gable roof, octagonal wooden cupola; flanked by lower 2-story brick wings (1 bay each); 8/8 sash windows, simple Doric entablature and trim throughout; 2nd-floor courtroom with judge's bench located over the building's front entrance; the stairwell's newel post bears the reputed saber slashes of Federal soldiers that occupied the building in 1864. The Craig County Courthouse, modelled after the Botetourt County Courthouse in neighboring Fincastle, is the state's earliest surviving original county courthouse. Also on the grounds and contributing to the character of the district are a Confederate monument dating to the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 23 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

first decade of the twentieth century (C), an early-20th-century gazebo (C), and such landscape features as mature ornamental trees and shrubs, and a peripheral cast-iron fence around the public square (C). Located within the original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District, the courthouse remains an exceptionally well-preserved example of its type and period and is at the core of the New Castle Historic District (VDHR #268-2). C

268-16-4  
302: Bank of New Castle. Circa 1890. Italianate. 2-story, brick commercial building with 2/2 segmental-arch windows (triple header rows), brick pilasters, cut-away corner, shed roof with stepped side parapet walls, front parapet with heavy Eastlake-style metal cornice (deep overhang, small and large brackets) above double rows of mousetooth brickwork, storefront display window (enclosed at present) at 1st floor level, westernmost bay. Interior altered circa 1971 (dropped ceilings, modern panelling added; ornate ironwork removed). Located within the original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District, the Bank of New Castle remains a distinctive example of the town's late-19th-century commercial architecture (VDHR #268-6). C

306: The Farmers & Merchants Bank of Craig County. Circa 1920. Beaux Arts. 2-story, 3-bay, brick (random-course American bond) bank with colossal-order front facade (rusticated foundation, "pilasters" with cast-stone lintel, corbelled cornice at parapet); minor exterior alterations include replacement windows and 1-story side wing addition for drive-thru banking. The F&M Bank is the only example of Beaux Arts-influenced architecture in New Castle; it is one of the town's more sophisticated commercial buildings and contributes to the character of the courthouse square area (VDHR #268-16-20). C

310: Jones Law Office [Layman Insurance Office]. Circa 1890. 1-story, 3-bay, 2-room, brick (5-course American bond with Flemish variant) office building with mousetooth and corbelled courses, box cornice, hipped roof, segmental-arched door and window openings with double headers and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 24 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

corbelling, 2/2 sash windows; 1-bay porch with sawnwork balustrade, square columns and pilasters with molded caps; wrought iron fencing around yard. Originally the law office of Judge P.V. Jones and later of Judge J.P. Jones, this building also served as offices for the G. W. Layman Insurance Agency. It was included within the original boundaries of the New Castle Historic District, and remains essentially unaltered from its late-19th-century appearance (VDHR #268-11 and #268-16-5). C

- 312: W.K. Bell & Co. Hardware Store. Early 20th century. 2-story, gable-fronted frame commercial building with stepped false front, original shopfront with cornice, sawn brackets, display windows; 2/2 sash windows on upper story with saw-tooth sawnwork lintels; one-story rear addition, replacement siding, and reworked interior. Although somewhat altered, the former Bell Hardware Store is typical of commercial buildings from the turn-of-the-century period in New Castle (VDHR #268-16-11). C

314-

- 316: Robert Layman Drugstore and Bowling Alley. Circa 1900, 1920s. 2-story gable-front frame store building (circa 1900) with tall false front, sawn bracketed cornice, bracketed shop front cornice, original display windows, 2/2 sash windows, 1-story frame additions at rear; 1-story side bowling alley addition (circa 1920, occupying a former alley) with front parapet wall, cornice, shop front cornice, original display windows, interior with pressed-metal wall and ceiling treatment. These buildings, originally a pharmacy with attached bowling alley, once housed the office of a Dr. Mitchell, served as a hardware store, a Western Auto dealership, a meat market, and (for 20 years) Givens's Five and Dime. The Layman Drugstore and Bowling Alley are typical commercial buildings of the period, and contribute to the historic streetscape of downtown New Castle. The bowling alley addition, with unusual interior decoration, is also a rare functional type to survive from the period (VDHR #268-16-35). 2 C

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 25 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

313-

315: Tatum-Wagener Buildings. 1890s. Commercial block comprised of 2 separate, 2-story gable-front frame store buildings now joined (the party wall was removed on the first floor in 1981); the northeast unit has a stepped front parapet, 2/2 sash windows on the 2nd story, and a shop front with bracketed cornice and original inset entry configuration; the southwest unit has a flat-topped front parapet with dentilation and pressed-metal frieze, 2/2 sash windows joined by dentilated cornice band, totally enclosed shop front with posts supporting decorative brackets that also support a shed-roofed pent roof. The northeast unit housed Pryor Tatum's men's store until the late 1930s, when Oscar Martin's Mick-or-Mack grocery store took over the space; Gordon Carper and/or H.S. Givens later operated the grocery store, and Harris Carper has owned it since 1962. The southwest unit contained the W.M. Wagener Brothers store (general merchandise) on the lower level, with apartments above. John Pendleton may have done some carpentry work on the building in 1891 or '92 (according to a local informant). Although the shop fronts of these buildings have been recently sheathed (glass replaced with T-1-11 siding), their frames, cornices and other decorative features remain in excellent condition and contribute to the historic streetscape of downtown New Castle (VDHR #268-16-44). 2 C

318-

322: Caldwell Building. 1919. 1- and 2-story commercial block (three units, with false-fronted gable ends) of molded concrete block construction (smooth-faced rusticated blocks on the 1st floor, rock-faced blocks on the 2nd floor), with false fronts sheathed in pressed metal simulating rock-faced masonry and topped by sawn bracket cornices; the shop fronts (NE unit original, middle and SW units date to mid-20th-century) retain sawn bracket cornices; 2/2 and 3/1 windows in 2nd levels of 2-story units; mid-20th-century 1-story concrete block additions at rear of block. According to a local informant, Lawrence Caldwell once owned the building,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 26 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

part of which contained a grocery. A 1920s streetscape photograph reveals that the middle unit housed the "Main Street Garage," while the SW end unit had a sign for "Ford Auto [...] Sales and Service." The Caldwell Building is one of the larger and better-preserved commercial buildings on Main Street and contributes to the historic streetscape of downtown New Castle (VDHR #268-16-15). 3 C

317-

319: Bill Caldwell Buildings. 1890s. Two 2-story frame store buildings with aluminum siding, shed roofs, decorative brackets under cornice, 2/2 and 1/1 (replacement) windows; NE unit retains original shop front, sawn-bracket cornice, and early display windows. According to a local informant, these stores were "Fat Billy" Caldwell's establishment. They may also have been the site of J.P. Caldwell & Son's general store (1897) and Mrs. J.P. Caldwell's florist shop. These buildings, though somewhat altered on their exteriors and condemned in 1989 (presently threatened with demolition), still contribute to the historic streetscape of downtown New Castle (VDHR #268-16-14). 2 C

323-

325: Abbott Building [New Castle Mercantile and Farm Supply]. Circa 1920. 1-story, 6-bay, frame commercial building with corrugated metal sheathing, sawn brackets, shed roof with front parapet and stepped side parapets, modern brickwork between doors and large-paned display windows, brick flue; reworked interior; 2-story concrete block outbuilding (NC); 1-story vertical board-sheathed frame shed (C). Typical small-scale and cheaply-constructed commercial form of period, the Abbott Building nonetheless contributes to the historic streetscape of downtown New Castle (VDHR #268-16-6). C

328: Layman Automobile Dealership. Circa 1920. 1-story, 6-bay, rock-faced concrete block building with shed roof, stepped side parapet, brick flue, 6/6 sash windows, dentilated and bracketed cornice over shopfront, display

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 27 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

windows with 3/2 panes, front and rear garage doors; original interior spaces including showroom with vertical tongue-and-groove wainscot and pressed metal ceiling, 2 offices with original doors and windows, and repair area with exposed wood posts and beams. The Layman Automobile Dealership is one of the earliest and most significant transportation-related buildings in New Castle, has a great deal of integrity, and contributes to the historic streetscape of the downtown (VDHR #268-16-36). C

333: "Crafts Cottage." Mid-20th century. 1-story, 2-bay, frame commercial building with vertical siding, front-facing gable roof, exposed rafter ends, 6/6 sash windows, metal flue pipe. Very small (one room) commercial building, less than 50 years old (VDHR #268-16-9). NC

401-

403: Boarding House. Late 19th-early 20th century. Composite of two 2-story frame [part log?] buildings; NE section is a 3- or 4-bay domestic structure with 6/6 sash windows, Greek Revival molded window trim, angled bed mold, brick flue, one or two boarded-over front door; SW section is an ell addition to the NE section (inset from the front elevation), with a wraparound porch, 2/2 sash windows, a brick flue, and a wide back gable with cornice returns; 1-story rear additions and/or enclosed porches date to the mid-20th century. This unusual building, probably a residence and boarding house, is relatively unaltered and contributes to the historic streetscape of downtown New Castle (VDHR #268-16-13). C

402: New Castle Masonic Building. 1940. 2-story, 3-bay brick or brick veneer building with front-facing stepped-parapet gable, 6/1 sash windows with soldier-course lintels, rear bulkhead and brick flue, poured concrete foundation; gothicized 1-story, 1-bay entry portico with arched opening and crenellation; date block on front facade; sign listing the following groups: "Mountain Lodge AF & AM #140" and "Mountain Chapter O.E.S. #168." (VDHR #268-16-39) C

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
Page 2a **New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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Description (continued)

407-

409: Craft House and Store. Circa 1890. Two connected buildings (commercial/domestic): 1-story, 2-bay, brick shop with segmentally-arched front door and window openings, 1/1 window, corbelled front parapet with metal finials at each corner, shed roof, stepped side parapets, 1-story concrete block addition at rear; 2-story, 3-bay, frame I-house with novelty weatherboard and asphalt shingles, 6/6 and 2/2 sash windows, cornice returns, NE gable end brick chimney, interior brick flue, 2-story rear ell with 2-story, 2-tier SW side porch that matches 2-story, 2-tier front porch (chamfered posts with sawn brackets and sawn balustrade on 2nd tier); latticed well house with pyramidal roof (C), partially-latticed, vertical-board-sided meat house with pyramidal roof and shed additions (C). Good example of late-19th-century combination store/dwelling that was once common in towns of the era but now rarely survives, with interesting intact outbuildings (VDHR #268-16-32 and #268-10). 2 C

410-

414: Huffman Service Station. 2nd 1/4 20th century. 1-story, 6-bay, brick or brick veneer service station with original or early side shed wing, large display windows with transoms over, an open (drive-thru) service area in front under the principal hipped roof, with brick pillar supports and a pressed metal ceiling; modern 2-bay concrete-block garage. Typical service station form of period (VDHR #268-16-43). C

268-16-59  
417: Boitnott Funeral Home. 1st 1/4 20th century, late-20th-century. 1-1/2-story, frame building (residence?) converted into funeral home, with hipped roof, pedimented central entry with segmental-arch fan light and 4-pane sidelites, hipped side dormers, tripled 6/6 sash windows, dentillated cornice, brick chimneys; alterations include interior changes and 1-story rear addition due to conversion, but original form and exterior detailing remain substantially intact. C

420: Cliff Elmore House. Mid-19th century, late 19th century.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 29 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

2-story, 3-bay, hall-parlor-plan log dwelling with some 6/6 windows, indications of original SW end brick chimney; late-19th-century alterations include standing-seam-metal gable roof, cornice and friezeboard returns, 2/2 sash windows, brick flues with arched caps; Queen Anne-style porch: 3-bay 1st tier with classical posts and decorative-wood-shingled hipped roof, and 1-bay 2nd tier with pedimented gable roof, molded cornice, and scalloped wood shingles in the tympanum; 1-story rear frame ell with enclosed side porch, brick flue, rear shed pantry. Frame chicken house (C). Cliff Elmore was a New Castle-based coach and wagon maker, listed in business directories dating from 1884, 1893, 1897, and 1917. This dwelling documents the transformation of a vernacular hall-parlor-plan log building through the addition of Queen Anne-style decorative elements, especially the unusual decorative wood shingle roof on the front porch's 1st tier (VDHR #268-16-19). C

424: O.W. Eans Building. Circa 1920. 1-story, 3-bay, rock-faced concrete block office building with standing-seam-metal steeply-hipped roof, 1/1 sash windows, front shed dormer, corbelled brick flue, sign that reads "Eans Building;" concrete block additions: 1-story SE side shed addition leads back to 2-story rear addition with 2/2 sash windows, gable roof, brick flue, wraparound porch on SW corner. Built as office for the *New Castle Record*, for which O.W. Eans was the editor in the early twentieth century; rear and side additions were made for job printing space, with the 2nd floor used as a dentist's office. The Eans Building exhibits an unusual commercial form for the town of New Castle, and is one of several buildings along Main Street constructed of rock-faced concrete block (VDHR #268-17-17). C

268-16-60  
4\_\_ : Unocal Service Station at NE corner of Main Street and Route 311. 1-story, brick veneer and concrete-block gas station. NC

501: George W. Layman Farm. 1898, 1914. Queen Anne. Complex of buildings, principal among them a 2-story, 5-bay, V-

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number   7     New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)    
  Page 30     New Castle, Craig County, Virginia  

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### Description (continued)

shape-plan house oriented to the intersection of Main Street and Route 311, built for Layman by Matthew E. Woods (Troutville area, Botetourt County), with elaborate Queen Anne-style exterior and interior decoration -- sawn- and turned-work in gable ends, decorative exposed rafter ends -- by Gratt Firebaugh (Troutville area, Botetourt County; 1914 alterations include 7-bay replacement entry porch with Colonial Revival detailing (Ionic capitals on porch columns), octagonal turret over main entrance, 1-story bay windows on NE and SE gable ends. Domestic outbuildings include a 1-story, 3-bay weatherboarded frame office with stone foundation, corbelled brick flue, 2/2 sash windows, sawn- and turned-work matching that of the house in the gable ends and central front gable, decorative rake boards and exposed rafter ends, hipped-roof entry porch with beaded square posts, sawn brackets, chinoiserie latticework balustrade and frieze (C); a weatherboarded frame woodhouse with latticed gables and cut-away entry porch (C); a weatherboarded frame wash house with brick flue and 6/6 sash window (C); and a hipped-roof, weatherboarded frame flower house with large 3/6 casement windows, sawnwork bracketed cornice, beaded tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings (C). Agricultural outbuildings include a large shed-roofed frame chicken house (C); a small shed-roofed weatherboarded frame pony stable, later used as a carbide plant (C); a poured concrete slab that served as the foundation of a cylindrical corn crib; a slatted corn crib (C); a frame pig shelter (C); a 2-level vertical board-sided frame barn with lattice and decorative rafter ends under the eaves and an inset open area at the E corner (C); and a 1-story, 3-bay, weatherboarded frame garage/carriage barn with hipped roof, 3 pairs of swinging, cross-braced panel doors (C). Landscape features include picket fences around the house yard, mature trees, shrubs, and other ornamentals, a terraced rear yard, concrete paths, and a grape arbor. George W. Layman (b. 1868) was a lawyer, president of the Craig City Land & Improvement Company and one-time owner of the Bel-Air Hotel (a resort-type hotel later moved to Virginia Mineral Springs), owner of the G.W. Layman & Co.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 31 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

store (selling agricultural implements), an insurance agent, a real estate agent (with Eans), co-owner of the Layman & Caldwell Automobile Dealership, and Senator in the Virginia General Assembly from 1920 through 1934. The Layman Farm, with its full collection of original domestic, commercial, and agricultural buildings, represents one of New Castle's richest building complexes, and is associated with one of the town's most prominent businessmen and politicians (VDHR #268-16-34 and #268-7). C

268-16-61 502: Automobile Dealership. 2nd 1/4 20th century. 1-story, brick veneer automobile showroom, with large glass display windows at front (along Main Street), service area at rear (accessed from Route 311/Salem Avenue). C

510: Locust Hill [Idlewood]. 3rd 1/4 19th century, circa 1900. 2-story, 3-bay aluminum-sided frame I-house with stone and concrete block foundation, stretcher-bond brick end chimneys, 6/6 sash windows, center front entry with 3-lite transom, standing-seam-metal hipped roof; original Greek Revival mantels (some with early marbling) and other interior woodwork; circa 1900 Eastlake-style 1-story, 3-bay front porch with elaborate turned posts, sawnwork brackets, balustrade, and frieze, and a panelled ceiling; flanking 1-story shed wings added before 1958; 2-story rear ell enlarged and modern brick end chimney added in 1975. Contributing outbuildings: weatherboarded frame storage building with hipped roof (C); small vertical board-sided frame barn with side sheds (C). Earliest portion of building may be the hewn mortise-and-tenon original rear ell (in 1852, A.J. Minnich, a saddler, was taxed for an improvement valued at \$120). Following the Civil War skirmish at Hanging Rock, Gen. Hunter, U.S. Army, retired to New Castle to regroup and reportedly made the house his temporary headquarters. The I-house portion of the building probably dates to the late 1870s (in 1878, J.P. Martin owned the property and the value of improvements rose to \$400). The existing front porch was added before 1902 (according to family tradition, it was built by a boarder

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Section number 7 Page 32 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

**Description (continued)**

in exchange for room and board). Although somewhat reworked, Locust Hill/Idlewood is one of the least-altered early (pre-1890s) dwellings in New Castle, with notable interior marbling and exterior sawn decoration; in addition, the property is historically significant for its association with General Hunter during his occupation of New Castle (VDHR #268-16-37 and #268-3). C

5\_\_ : New Castle United Methodist Church. Circa 1893. 1-story, 4-bay, nave-plan frame church with stone foundation, quatrefoil stained glass window in front gable, pointed-arch side windows with stained quarry-pane glass, decorative belfry, standing-seam-metal roof; alterations include aluminum siding, modern vestibule, two 1-story additions to rear of building. Property (half-acre lot bounded on the south side by Cumberland Avenue) conveyed on 2 February 1893 (Craig County Deed Book H, page 216), from A.E. and A.B. Humphreys to the Trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church for \$1. Although altered on the exterior, the New Castle Methodist Church remains a dominant feature in the downtown area (VDHR #268-16-42). C

268-16-62  
5\_\_ : House. 1960s-1970s. 1-story, brick veneer ranch dwelling. NC

606: James Marshall House. 1889-1893. Queen Anne. 2-story, 3-bay brick (8-course American bond) dwelling with standing-seam-metal complex hipped roof, brick chimneys (dentillated caps), bracketed cornice (sawtooth-edged vertical tongue-and-groove frieze), segmental-arched 1/1 sash windows (hood molds, corbelled label stops, and rock-faced stone sills), 1- and 2-story bay windows (one on the front resolves into an octagonal turret), 1-story flower house/conservatory on SW elevation (gravel floor, window-walls), 2nd-story balcony on NE elevation (chinoiserie balustrade, sawn arched frieze, and spindle frieze beneath); 1-1/2-story brick ell with ornate gabled dormer and 3-bay shed-roofed back porch (turned posts, spindle frieze); interior with plastered walls and ceilings, milled pine door and window surrounds (blank

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 33 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

corner blocks), curved stair, Eastlake mantel (dining room) and colonetted mantels (oval mirrors and tiled fireplace surrounds); 1-story wraparound front porch and other porches and stoop. Built for Judge James Marshall by Moses Lamb, a local builder (mason?) who apparently also built other houses in New Castle (such as the Castle, #268-5; and the Wagener House, #268-9). Contributing outbuildings include a hip-roofed, weatherboarded frame garage (C), and a 1-story barn with stone foundation, vertical-board siding, and latticed gables -- two gabled units (smokehouse and woodshed) connected by a lower tool shed (C). The Marshall House belongs to a class of exceptional Queen Anne-style brick houses built in New Castle during the late 19th century, and contributes to the historic and architectural character of its neighborhood (VDHR #268-16-38 and 268-8). C

268-16-63

\_\_\_: House. 1980s. 2-story, weatherboarded frame dwelling with 1-story, W-side wing. NC

268-16-64

\_\_\_: House. 1980s. 1-story, brick-veneer frame dwelling. NC

268-16-65

\_\_\_: House. 1980s. 1-1/2-story, brick-veneer frame dwelling with flanking 1-story wings; integral front porch under main gable roof. NC

268-16-66

\_\_\_: Nathaniel E. Spessard House/"The Castle." 1898. Queen Anne. George F. Barber, Architect. 2-1/2-story, brick (6-course American bond) dwelling on prominent hilltop setting with complex hipped roof, 2-story bay windows beneath cross gables (sawnwork brackets), windows in attic story of cross gables (arrangement of three fixed 4-pane windows over three 4/4 sash), brick chimneys (corbelled caps), 1/1 sash windows (jack-arched lintels, rock-faced stone sills), 3-story cylindrical brick tower at E corner (brick vents over 2nd-story windows, wooden panels on 3rd tier, exposed rafter ends, conical roof, finial); 2-story brick ell (original); 1-story, wraparound porch (turned posts, spindlework frieze, shallow pediment over entry bay, cross-braced replacement

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 34 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

balustrade) on brick piers; 2nd porch tier over entry (3-bay balcony with square wood columns, spindlework frieze, solid balustrade); interior features include stained glass windows, cherry woodwork (3-panel doors, symmetrical molded trim with corner blocks, main stair with barley-twist balusters and panelled newel posts). Commissioned by New Castle merchant Nathaniel Spessard from order-by-mail architect George F. Barber (of Knoxville, Tennessee), this house, locally known as "The Castle," was built for \$7500 in 1898 (*Manufacturers' Record*, 9 September 1898, p. 114). Outbuildings on the site (approximately 25 acres, at the edge of the town's corporate limits) include a 1-story, two-room brick meat house/wash house with a standing-seam-metal gable roof, exposed rafter ends, and 2 exterior doors within segmental-arched openings (C), a modern frame garage, a barn (C), a lath corn crib (C), and several other shed buildings (3 C). The Nathaniel Spessard House, the primary resource on the Spessard Farm, is unique in the area as a documented example of George F. Barber's mail-order housing practice; the property's extensive acreage and intact collection of domestic and agricultural outbuildings reinforces its significance as a local landmark. The property is further significant for its association with one of New Castle's most prominent citizens, merchant and politician Nathaniel E. Spessard, who served as a Representative in the General Assembly from 1904 to 1915. (VDHR #268-5). C

MARKET STREET

- 3\_\_ : Looney House. 1st 1/4 20th century. 2-story weatherboarded frame house with complex hipped roof, cross gables (decorative peaked lintels on window surrounds), cornice returns, 2-story front bay window, 1/1 sash windows; 1-story, 10-bay Classical wraparound porch (rounded corner, Doric columns, hipped roof). 1-story weatherboarded frame wood house (C) SW of main house). Built on a 3-1/2-acre site along Johns Creek, NW of original town lots 1, 2, 3, and 4, this house was valued at \$700 in 1920. Typical dwelling form of period,

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 35 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Description (continued)

but with unusually deep setback from street (VDHR #268-16-47). C

*268-16-67*  
3\_\_ : Restaurant. Mid-20th century. 1-story, concrete block commercial building. NC

*268-16-68*  
401: Town of New Castle building. 2nd 1/4 20th century. 1-story, novelty-weatherboarded frame building of unknown governmental function (storage?), with gabled roof, multi-pane sash windows, and single-door entry; landscape features include 25-30' tall flagpole; portable metal building (NC) also on site. C

419: House. Circa 1900. 2-story, 3-bay, hall-parlor-plan weatherboarded frame I-house with cornice and friezeboard returns (sawn stops), 6/6 sash windows, front entry with 3-pane transom and 4-pane sidelites, NE gable end brick chimney, corner boards with decorative caps; 2-story ell with 1-story enclosed side porch, 1-story rear addition; 1-story, 3-bay Craftsman porch with tapered square wood posts on brick plinths, hipped roof; interior features include decorative wooden mantelpiece and column-framed opening between the two principal rooms. Outbuildings include a contributing frame shed (C). Typical dwelling form of the period, in good condition (VDHR #268-16-24).C

*268-16-69*  
4\_\_ : Mobile Home. Circa 1980. NC

4\_\_ : House. Late 19th century, 1910s. 2-story, T-plan frame (or log and frame) house with gable roof, pressed-metal shingle roofing, cornice and friezeboard returns, stuccoed brick end chimney and flue, single and paired 1/1 windows, small shed-roofed front wing; 2-story gabled rear addition with enclosed 2-tier back porch; enclosed (glassed-in) 1-story porch. This house appears to be on the site of (or incorporates) a 1- or 1-1/2-story log or frame house visible in a circa 1913 photograph of New Castle. Otherwise, it is a typical dwelling form of the period, with minor alterations to the exterior (VDHR #268-16-23). C

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 36 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

MIDDLE STREET

101: Methodist Parsonage. Circa 1900. 2-story, 3-bay frame I-house with stone pier foundation (concrete block infill), interior brick flues (corbelled caps), 2/2 sash windows, turned- and sawnwork decoration and brackets in the gables; 2-story ell with brick flue, enclosed 1-story side porch, circular window on 1st story of SW gable end; original 1-story, 5-bay front porch with chamfered posts, sawn brackets, frieze board, hipped roof; outbuildings include a small vertical-board-sided frame 2-level barn (C) and a weatherboarded frame garage (C). Close to a bluff overlooking Johns Creek, this house is known locally as the Methodist Parsonage; it is a typical dwelling form of the period, and remains in nearly-original condition (VDHR #268-16-41). C

268-16-70

102: Mobile home. Circa 1970s. NC

111: House. Early 20th century. 1-story, 3-bay frame house with projecting gabled wings, cornice and friezeboard returns, brick pier foundation (brick infill), 2/2 sash windows; NW side rear gabled addition (formerly a detached kitchen?) with brick flue; reworked front shed-roofed porch with metal post supports; vertical-board-sided frame shed outbuilding (C). Typical dwelling form of period (VDHR #268-16-26). C

268-16-71

125: Mobile home. Circa 1970s. NC

202: House. 1920s-1930s. Craftsman bungalow. 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, frame bungalow with brick chimney, gable roof, exposed rafter ends, eaves brackets, 3/1 sash windows, shed-roofed window bay on NW side, gabled front dormer; integral front and rear porches (front: 1-story, 1-bay Craftsman style porch with squat tapered and paneled wood supports on brick pedestals, shallow-arched frieze); outbuildings: 1-story, frame, vertical-board-sided gable-roofed garage (C), and 1-story, frame, vertical board-sided shed-roof chicken house (C). Valued at \$625 in 1940, this bungalow is a typical later-period dwelling

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 37 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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Description (continued)

form (VDHR #268-16-25). C

MITCHELL DRIVE (MOUNT LEE SUBDIVISION)

- 70: Jim Jones House. 1913. Queen Anne. 2-story, 4-bay, weatherboarded frame dwelling with complex hipped roof (standing-seam-metal, pedimented cross gables with semicircular lunette windows, finial-like metal ventilator), two 2-story bay windows, 1/1 sash windows, front stained-glass window (swag motif); 1-story, 8-bay wraparound Classical front porch (Ionic columns, hipped roof; 1 bay enclosed); 1-story porches on NW and SE sides of rear wing; outbuildings include 1-story weatherboarded frame smokehouse with gabled roof, 4-panel door (C). Site features evergreens, other ornamentals, and a concrete walk; like other houses in the Mt. Lee Subdivision along Mitchell Drive, it has commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek valley. Built for local attorney Jim Jones to plans drawn up by Howard William Yoder (according to informant/family tradition), who was president of the Bank of New Castle. The Jim Jones House is one of the latest Queen Anne-influenced houses built in the Mount Lee Subdivision along Mitchell Drive, the most architecturally-significant concentration of historic houses in the county (VDHR #268-16-30). C
- 101: Brown House. Circa 1900. Queen Anne. 2-story, 3-bay weatherboarded frame house with stone and brick foundation, narrow 2/2 sash windows, unusual bracketed cove cornice with incised star and crescent moon motifs, 2-story front bay window (friezeboard at 2nd-story level extends around house), 3-story front turret (square in plan, with bell-cast metal-sheathed roof and vertical tongue-and-groove band between 2nd- and 3rd-floor windows), entry vestibule under porch (4-panel door flanked by sidelites, 2-pane transom); 1-story ell; interior features include entry hall (stair with decorative newel posts, square balusters), decorative mantelpieces, French doors; 1-story, 9-bay, Eastlake style porch (original; wraparound, rounded corner, ornate turned posts, hipped roof, beaded tongue-and-groove panel

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Page 38 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

ceiling, lattice enclosure at N end, curved entry steps); vertical-board-sided frame shed (C) at rear of lot. Corner site along Mitchell Drive, with numerous large trees and mature plantings (overgrown), features commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek Valley. The Brown House, along with the other houses along Mitchell Drive, represent the most architecturally-significant concentration of historic houses in the county (VDHR #268-16-10). C

- 107: Walker-Baker House. Circa 1900-1915. Queen Anne. 2-story, 2-bay, frame house with stone foundation, interior brick flues and chimneys (corbelled caps), 2 side gabled dormers, 2/2 sash windows, quarter-round corner boards, decorative exposed rafter ends, incised rakeboards, sawn-and spindle-work in front gable, fishscale wood shingles in gables and on dormers, decorative beaded tongue-and-groove panels, wooden louvered shutters, 2-story bay window on SE side of house (friezeboard at 2nd-story level), arched double doors on projecting front gable, front door with stained-glass upper panel; 2-story ell (1-story side porch with chamfered wood posts, projecting latticed well enclosure, concrete-lined light well at SW gable end of ell); interior features include enclosed stair, decorative flue mantel, and a Victorian fireplace mantel; 1-story, 11-bay original wraparound front porch (turned posts and balusters, brick piers with lattice between, hipped roof); adjacent outbuildings include a 1-1/2-story frame weatherboarded stable/carriage house (C) and small weatherboarded frame garage (C). Site along Mitchell Drive features early-20th-century wire fence around front yard, mature trees and shrubs, and commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek valley. According to the current owner, this house was built for Ed Lee Walker and his wife, Emily Yoder Walker; in 1912 they deeded the house to "Captain" J.H. Baker, a conductor on the railroad; local tradition holds that the house was also used as a school at one time. The Walker-Baker House, along with the other houses on Mitchell Drive, represent the most architecturally significant concentration of historic houses in the county (VDHR

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Page 39 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

#268-16-8). C

115: Yoder-Walker House. 1890. Queen Anne. 2-story, double-pile brick (7-course American bond, black pencilling) dwelling with rock-faced stone foundation, brick chimneys, 1/1 sash windows (segmental-arched lintels, paneled and louvered shutters, rock-faced stone sills), complex hipped roof (cross gables, 4 gabled dormers with floral-pattern pressed-metal sheathing), Palladian window in NE gable, bracketed soffits, decorative roof spike/ventilator; numerous stained-glass windows of various shapes; 2-story rear ell with 2-tier side porch (chamfered posts, round molded caps, square balusters, arch motif with spindles in the spandrels, paneled fascia); 1-story, 8-bay wraparound Queen Anne front porch (Doric-inspired columns with bulbous capitals, small front pediment over entry bay) and 2nd-story, 1-bay balcony (chamfered and molded posts, pressed-metal balustrade); interior features include stair hall (stair with closed stringer, turned balusters, heavy paneled square newels with finial knobs), parlor (2-stage colonetted mantelpiece with cherry stain, shell motif frieze, beveled mirror), pocket doors, dining room (built-in china cabinet), natural-wood door and window moldings, decorative door hardware, and transoms over doors. Site features mature trees and shrubs, with commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek valley. Built by William Larose Yoder, formerly of "Mahoney City," Pennsylvania, who apparently came to New Castle during the 1890s to participate in the exploitation of the county's mineral reserves. Later the residence of Ed Lee Walker, a general merchant and druggist in New Castle in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Yoder-Walker House, along with the other houses on Mitchell Drive, represent the most architecturally-significant concentration of historic houses in the county (VDHR #268-16-46). C

201: Abe E. Humphreys House. Circa 1890. Queen Anne. 2-story, 4-bay, double-pile, center-hall-plan weatherboarded frame dwelling with stone foundation, SE

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 40 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

side brick end chimney (decorative corbelling, houndstooth brickwork, pilastered stack, black pencilling), interior chimney, cornice (sawn brackets, elaborate bed mold), 1/1 sash windows (bracketed lintels, louvered wooden shutters), 2-story front bay window, square belvedere (numerous 1-pane windows, bracketed cornice), 3 hip-roofed dormers; 1-story ell (gabled roof, cornice returns, 3/1 sash windows, side stoop, brick flue); 1-story, 4-bay Queen Anne front porch (turned posts with elaborate large sawn brackets, chinoiserie balustrade with turned/square balusters, hipped roof, sawn brackets in frieze); interior features include plaster walls and ceilings, dark-varnished molded baseboards, 4-panel doors (transoms over) on decorative hinges, center hall (stair with square newel posts, turned balusters; early hanging light fixture, brick mantel with terra cotta egg-and-dart moldings), front parlor (single-tier colonetted mantel with mirrored overmantel), double-leaf French doors (surround has turned corner blocks with decorative crestings). Outbuildings: weatherboarded frame garage (C), weatherboarded frame coal shed (C), vertical-board-sided frame chicken house (C, formerly associated with another dwelling). Hilltop site features mature trees and shrubs, with commanding views of New Castle and the Craig Creek valley. Home of Abe E. Humphreys, president of the New Castle Land & Improvement Company (in 1890), who also built the Hotel Humphreys (later known as the Bel Air Hotel) that formerly stood in New Castle. The Abe E. Humphreys House, along with other houses in the Mount Lee Subdivision on Mitchell Drive, represent the most architecturally-significant concentration of historic houses in the county (VDHR #268-16-29). C

RACE STREET

268-16-72 220: Kibbler House. 1910s. 2-story, 3-bay, double-pile frame dwelling with steeply-pitched hipped roof, interior brick flues, 2/2 and 1/1 sash windows, central front gable; 1-story, 7-bay wraparound porch (Doric columns on brick pedestals; hipped roof); local informant claimed this

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 41 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

Description (continued)

268-16-72

house predated 1898 -- if so, it has been completely incorporated within the present 1910s construction. Site features include mature trees, shrubs, and 19th-century mill race remnants (C), on NE side of lot, behind house; outbuildings include 1-story, vertical board-sided gable-roofed barn (C). Typical dwelling form of period, which may incorporate earlier building of unknown provenience (VDHR #268-17). C

SALEM AVENUE (STATE ROUTE 311)

110: Givens House. Circa 1870s, moved 1920s. Greek Revival. 2-story, 3-bay weatherboarded frame I-house with interior end brick flues (corbelled caps), large 6/6 sash windows, front entries on 1st- and 2nd-story levels (sidelites and transoms), cornice and friezeboard returns, sawn gable decoration; 2-story ell (brick flue with corbelled cap; 1-story SE side porch; 2-story, 2-tier NW side enclosed porch; 1-story NW side addition); 2-story, 2-tier, 3-bay Greek Revival porch under pedimented center front gable (square wood columns, molded capitals, sawn ornament in gable, sawnwork balustrade on 2nd tier, square-section balusters on 1st tier, board-and-batten ceilings on both tiers); outbuilding: weatherboarded frame garage (C). According to local informants, this house was bought by J.M. Rowan in the 1920s for \$1350, at the bankruptcy sale of H.W. Yoder's assets; Rowan had it dismantled and moved from its previous site (on "the hillside to the west"). The house was apparently re-erected by local builder "Pet" Hamilton for Rowan's daughter upon her marriage. Typical late-19th-century dwelling, with several refined exterior features -- unusual as a moved building that has retained its integrity (VDHR #268-16-21). C

268-16-73

1\_\_ : Service Station. 1st 1/4 20th century. 1-story, novelty-weatherboarded frame service station with hipped roof, integral sheltered service area, large display windows. Presently being used as sales office for used car dealership; typical service station of period, with high integrity. C

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Section number 7 Page 42 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

208: Abbott House. Circa 1900. 1-story, 4-bay frame dwelling with stone and concrete block foundation, SE gable-end bay window, front door (Eastlake styling); 1-story ell (enclosed side porch, brick flue); 1-story, 3-bay front porch (shed roof, exposed rafter ends, modern turned posts on brick pedestals); frame garage (standing-seam-metal gabled roof, bricktex siding--C). Typical dwelling form of period, with unusual door (VDHR #268-16-7). C

WALNUT STREET

202: Caldwell-Berger-Lamb House. Mid-19th century. 1-1/2-story frame and/or log single-cell dwelling with massive stone end chimney, with 1-story cell (frame) added on SW gable end; 6/6, 2/2, and 3/1 sash windows, gabled entry vestibule at front of original (NE) unit; 1-story, 3-bay gabled frame wing on NE end (with entry closely flanked by 2 windows--may have been an attached workshop), with 1-story shed-roofed wood room addition; 1-story shed addition across rear of main house; interior features include exposed planed ceiling joists, corner stair, 4-panel doors; outbuildings include a board-and-batten-sided chicken house (C), and (downslope) a 2-level weatherboarded frame barn with side sheds (C). Site located at the top of a bluff overlooking the Johns Creek bottoms. The house, owned by Clayton Caldwell in the 1850s, was valued at \$170 in 1852. According to the current owner, this was the Charlie Berger property (Berger & Wright are listed as carriage and wagon makers in a 1917 New Castle business directory) and formerly there was a blacksmith shop in this lot. The 1920 Craig County Land Book lists C.E. Berger as the property owner, at which time the building(s) had a value of \$105. J.W. "Wood" Lamb bought the property in the 1920s. The Caldwell-Berger-Lamb House appears to be one of New Castle's earliest surviving dwellings, and includes what may be an early attached work shop (a rarely-surviving building type) (VDHR #268-16-33). C

268-16-74  
301: Mobile home. Circa 1960s. NC

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 7 Page 43 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Description (continued)

- 302: Bessie Lee Myers House. Circa 1900. 2-story, 3-bay frame I-house with central front gable (sawnwork decoration), interior brick flue, 1/1 sash windows; 2-story ell (brick flue, partially-enclosed 2-tier NE side porch); 1-story, 3-bay Craftsman front porch (classical columns on brick pedestals, hipped roof, small central gable, latticework frieze); outbuilding: board-and-batten-sided frame garage (C). Typical dwelling form of period, with minor alterations (VDHR #268-16-22). C
- 311: House. 1920s. Craftsman. 1-1/2-story, 4-bay, frame bungalow with novelty weatherboard siding, standing-seam-metal gabled roof, 2 entrances [duplex?]; 1-story, 3-bay Craftsman porch (slightly tapered square wood posts on brick pedestals; 2-story frame garage (2 units of 3-unit building, shared with 315 Walnut Street -- C). Typical dwelling form of period (VDHR #268-16-28). C
- 315: House. 1923 [source: owner]. Craftsman. 1-1/2-story, 3-bay frame bungalow with gable roof, front gabled dormer, eaves brackets, paired 6/1 sash windows; integral 1-story, 3-bay Craftsman porch (slightly tapered square wood supports on brick pedestals, solid balustrade); 2-story frame garage (1 unit of 3-unit building shared with 311 Walnut Street). Typical dwelling form of period (VDHR #268-16-27). C
- 268-16-75 320: House. Last 1/4 20th century. 1-story, brick veneer and vinyl-sided modern ranch-type dwelling. NC
- 268-16-76 410: Miles Biggs House. 1890s. 1-1/2-story, 3-bay, log or frame dwelling with weatherboard siding, 6/6 windows, brick flues; 3-bay front porch with shed roof, wood post supports. In 1900 this building, the home of blacksmith Miles Biggs, was valued at \$150. It is a typical vernacular dwelling of the period, and survives with little change to the present. C

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   8   **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
Page   44   **New Castle, Craig County, Virginia****8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE****Summary Statement of Significance**

The New Castle Historic District, formerly including only six properties, presently encompasses much of the downtown commercial center and contiguous residential areas in the town of New Castle, Virginia. Laid out in 1818, near the confluence of Johns Creek and Craig Creek, New Castle was originally within the borders of Botetourt County. The 1830s marked the arrival in New Castle of the Cumberland Gap Turnpike, which served as a major transportation corridor that facilitated exports from Southwest Virginia to the navigable James River and also encouraged development of, and immigration to, the region. In 1851, the formation of Craig County led to the designation of New Castle as its county seat. As a result, New Castle's significance in the areas of commerce, transportation, and industry was supplemented by that of Craig County politics and government. The 1890s arrival of the C&O Railroad's Craig Valley Branch, with its terminus at New Castle, led to ambitious expansion plans for the town, some of which were realized over the next three decades. The extant historic resources of New Castle reflect aspects of every period of its development, from the nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries.

**Justification of Criteria**

The New Castle Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register under Criterion A, with three pertinent areas of significance: for its association with commerce, as reflected by the survival of nearly thirty buildings that provided the community with shops, stores, professional offices, banks, and places for lodging and meals; for its association with local government and politics, having served as the Craig County seat and as the location of major county buildings, such as the courthouse and the sheriff's office/jail; and for its association with regional transportation networks, especially the Cumberland Gap Turnpike and the Craig Valley Branch of the C&O Railroad. The district is also eligible for listing under Criterion C for its historic architectural qualities. Building types represented in the district include a courthouse, a sheriff's office/jail, a hotel, boarding houses, single-family dwellings, a church, stores, service stations, domestic and agricultural outbuildings, artisan

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 8 Page 45 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

workshops, offices, and a bowling alley. Architectural classifications within the district include variations of the Greek Revival, Italianate, Beaux Arts, Eastlake, Queen Anne, and Classical Revival styles. The period of significance for the New Castle Historic District ranges from 1818, the date of the original town plat, to 1940, the construction date for the most recently completed contributing buildings in the commercial and residential areas.

### Historical background and significance

New Castle is located in the Craig Creek valley of the Appalachian Highlands, immediately east of the confluence of Craig Creek and Johns Creek. Craig Creek flows northeast from New Castle to join the James River in Botetourt County. To the west of New Castle is the Sinking Creek drainage which flows southwest to join the New River in what is now Giles County. A map in Kegley's *Virginia Frontier* depicts a road up Craig Creek to the mouth of Johns Creek by around 1750. Henry Holston [Sr.] and Henry Holston, Jr., had obtained surveys of land at the confluence of the two creeks by 1758, but little or no permanent settlement of the area occurred until after the conclusion of the French and Indian War in 1763. During the 1770s the Botetourt County Court ordered the establishment of roads from Craig Creek west to Sinking Creek, a road up Johns Creek, and roads from Craig Creek south and west to Catawba Creek and Fincastle. Early nineteenth-century maps show the road from Catawba to Craig Creek at the mouth of Johns Creek (now Route 311), the road from Sinking Creek to Craig Creek (now Route 42), the road up Johns Creek (now Routes 311 and 658), the road from Craig Creek to the James (now Route 615), and a road from Craig Creek to Fincastle (now Route 606).

The town of New Castle was formally established in 1819 when the Virginia General Assembly passed an act which called for "the property of Henry Moyer, . . . lying above the mouth of John's Creek . . . to be laid off into lots, with convenient streets." The act appointed Joseph Hannah, Henry Walker, Zadock Nutter, John Ferrier, and Alexander Handley as trustees. John Wood's 1821 map of Botetourt County shows Moyer's Mill on Craig Creek at the mouth

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 46 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Statement of Significance (continued)

of Johns Creek. Botetourt County Surveyors Records indicate that William Anderson had already platted the town of New Castle in October 1818 with a rectangular grid and a parcel enumeration which the town has retained in part to the present. Laid out along the principal axis of Sinking Creek and Johns Creek streets (now respectively Main and Court streets), the forty-eight numbered lots of the original town each contained one-quarter acre of land. Already by 1820 Alexander Handley had purchased lot number 38 on Walnut Street for \$21 which he paid to Henry Myars [Moyer].

The Virginia General Assembly session of 1831-1832 authorized the survey of the Cumberland Gap Turnpike. Mapped in 1833, the survey shows the Cumberland Gap Road crossing Sinking Creek Valley, passing through New Castle at mile post 243, and ending four miles to the east where it crossed Barbours Creek and connected with the road to Fincastle. The surveyor's map sketched a twelve-mile route from Barbours Creek to Fincastle and noted the distance of another twelve miles from Fincastle to Buchanan, the latter situated at the head of navigable water on the James River. The Cumberland Gap Turnpike or Road extended west from New Castle through Sinking Creek Valley, crossed the New River at Snidows Ford, ran on to the Giles County seat in Pearisburg, and continued west to Tazewell (then Jeffersonville), Lebanon, and Cumberland Gap. The General Assembly authorized construction on the road by 1834, and it became a principal route for transportation of goods from points west through New Castle to Buchanan on the James. Survey and construction of the road to Cumberland Gap contributed to the growth of New Castle as evidenced by completion of an enlarged town plan in 1834 and by a separate listing for the town in the Botetourt County Land Books, also initiated in 1834.

When the Virginia General Assembly authorized an enlarged town plan for New Castle in 1834, the new plan retained the rectangular grid of the original plat, while adding lot numbers 49 through 112 to the southeast and southwest of the town as it had been surveyed in 1818. New Castle in the mid-1830s contained about twenty buildings; the most valuable was a tavern assessed at \$600 and probably owned by Samuel Philips (Botetourt County Land Books, microfilm). Joseph Martin's 1836 *Gazetteer of Virginia* recorded that, in addition to the tavern, New Castle had three stores, a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 47 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

flour mill, an iron foundry, a tanyard, an academy, and a Methodist church. The town's population of 105 inhabitants included several artisans: 2 shoemakers, 2 cabinet makers, a blacksmith, a wagon maker, a carpenter, a boat builder, a saddler, a hatter, and a tailor.

The Botetourt County Land Books first recorded buildings in New Castle in 1834 but did not record them by lot number until 1840. The 1840 Land Book fixes Philips' tavern at lot 21, the present location of the Central Hotel. The tavern was owned by Joseph Gaunt in 1846 when it was valued at \$650 and by William Ferrier in 1850 when it was valued at \$600.

In 1849 more than two hundred citizens in and around New Castle petitioned the Virginia General Assembly to form a new county with New Castle as the county seat. The General Assembly responded in March 1851 by passing an act which formed Craig County and instructed the newly appointed county justices to meet "at the tavern-house . . . in the town of New Castle . . . , and fix upon a place in . . . New Castle for holding the courts" until the necessary public building shall be constructed." Among the justices who assembled for the first Craig County Court in April 1851 were the following New Castle property owners: Baptist clergyman A. J. Elmore who owned buildings on lots 10 and 19; merchant John Goode who owned buildings on lots 28, 44, and 45; John Walker who owned buildings on lots 18, 24, 29, 90, 91, and 92; and physician Thomas Wharton who owned a stable on lot 33. At that time New Castle contained about twenty-six buildings. Building values averaged \$225, and none exceeded the \$600 appraisal for Ferrier's tavern house. The town had a free population of about 230 inhabitants in 1850.

Shortly after its first meeting in the spring of 1851, the Craig County Court appointed a building committee to oversee plans for construction of the county courthouse and jail. In July 1851 the Craig County Court paid Scuyler W. Smith \$15 for "Drawing Plan & c for Public Buildings." Schuiler [Scuyler] W. Smith is listed in the 1850 Botetourt County census as a carpenter living in or near Fincastle, the head of a fourteen-member household including three white carpenters and a free black laborer. Though S. W. Smith

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 8 Page 48 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

prepared the drawings for the Craig County Courthouse and jail, he did not receive the contract for their construction. On the same day that the Craig County Court reimbursed Smith for his drawings and plans, they contracted with "Stokes Pusey & Co. . . . theirs being the lowest bid" for construction of the public buildings. Allen Pusey appears in the 1850 Roanoke County manuscript census as the head of a household of thirteen including carpenter Samuel Stokes, two other carpenters, and three apprentices. Pusey, Stokes, and their household of carpenters worked quickly. The Craig County Justices held their first session in the new courthouse in July 1852, at which time the Commissioner of Public Buildings reported payment of \$2,522 for construction costs, \$400 more than the amount specified the year before.

New Castle functioned as a small but permanently established county seat by 1860. William Ferrier had enlarged the Central Hotel to its present dimensions by 1855. Located strategically across the street from the courthouse, the hotel in 1860 housed a physician and a merchant and provided employment for a bartender and two free mulatto servant women. County sheriff Michael Spessard resided in New Castle as did county clerk Clifton Hill, jailer George Nelson, and lawyer Joseph Holt. In addition to supporting those associated with the operation of county government, New Castle continued to serve as a center for Craig County commerce and small scale artisan manufacturing. Three merchants lived in New Castle in 1860 as did four blacksmiths, three wagon makers, three saddlers, three shoemakers, three carpenters, a cabinet maker, and a millwright. In 1860 New Castle contained thirty-one lots with building on them. Building evaluations averaged \$550, with the highest appraisal at \$3000 for William Ferrier's expanded Central Hotel. The town had a population of about 230 free inhabitants and 20 slaves.

The Craig County Court responded quickly to news of the approaching Civil War in the spring of 1861 by passing special levies to raise troops for the Confederacy and to provide support for the soldiers' families. By June 1861 Craig County Court had formed two companies of volunteers which would serve with the 28th Virginia Regiment. The county court also established a Home Guard to patrol local neighborhoods "with a View to the preservation of peace, good order and the security of persons and property." During the spring of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 8 Page 49 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

1861 Craig County volunteers drilled in New Castle under the command of sheriff Michael Spessard before their departure to join Lee's army in Northern Virginia. In December 1863 Federal troops commanded by General W. W. Averell moved through Craig County on a raid against the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad depot and lines in Salem. Federal troops again marched through Craig County in June 1864 following General David Hunter's defeat at Lynchburg and his retreat from the ensuing skirmish at the Battle of Hanging Rock in northern Roanoke County. The Craig County Court recorded the war's toll by fall of 1864, reporting that the county court could no longer provide for the families of Confederate soldiers then in service, "owing in part to the devastations of the public Enemy during the recent raid through this County."

The town of New Castle had recovered sufficiently from the devastation of the Civil War to obtain an act of incorporation from the Virginia General Assembly in February 1873. Town councilmen named in the act of incorporation included deputy clerk Clifton Hill, innkeeper Jubal McCormick, merchant John McCartney, lawyer James Marshall, physician Dabney Phillips, and merchant Jacob Spessard. Hill and Phillips were the only councilmen who had resided in New Castle before the war, but McCormick, McCartney, and J. Spessard had already joined forces in 1872 to secure an act from the General Assembly which named them as directors of the New Castle and Paint Bank Turnpike Company; the act authorized the directors to receive joint stock subscriptions to finance construction of a turnpike from New Castle to Paint Bank (approximately the present course of Route 311 north of New Castle).

New Castle did not grow in wealth or population during the 1870s, but merchants, professionals, and county officials continued to lead town politics and commerce. In 1880 merchant John McCartney owned a store directly across Main Street from the Central Hotel and a mill on Barbours Creek and was part owner of a store in Sinking Creek Valley. Lawyers Clifton Hill and James Marshall each owned four lots in town. Physician Dabney Phillips owned lots and buildings on the corners of Market and Middle streets. Merchant Jacob Spessard had moved to Roanoke but still owned buildings valued at \$1,000 on lots immediately west of the courthouse and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 8 Page 50 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Statement of Significance (continued)

jail. The highest valued building in town continued to be the Central Hotel, now owned by Madison Crawford and assessed at \$1,800. James Martin, the new county clerk, lived in New Castle in 1880 but as yet owned no property there. In addition to county officeholders, merchants, and professionals, New Castle continued to support skilled artisans though their numbers had diminished by 1880. Among them were wagon makers Clifton and Andrew Elmore, shoemaker Thomas Surber, and blacksmith David who owned lots 31 and 32 with buildings valued at \$150. In 1880 New Castle contained thirty-five lots with buildings on them. The average building evaluation had fallen to \$250, a sum comparable to the average assessments recorded in 1850. The town had a population of 182 inhabitants including 25 blacks.

In 1890 New Castle initiated ambitious plans for expansion which contributed significantly to the town's growth over the next three decades. New Castle's boom era began with a Virginia General Assembly act to incorporate the New Castle Land and Improvement Company (NCL&IC). Approved in February 1890, the act named attorney James Marshall as one of the company officials and specified that the principal company office should be in New Castle. The act authorized the company to purchase up to ten thousand acres of land in and around Craig County, land which the company could "till, mine, and quarry," land where the company could "construct, lease and sell dwellings, stores, and other buildings." An 1890 map (revised in 1957) listed A. E. Humphreys as a New Castle resident and president of NCL&IC and projected New Castle as the terminus of the Craig Mineral Railroad which would connect with Chesapeake and Ohio main line at the mouth of Craig Creek on the James River. Text on the map touted the town's proximity to rich iron ore deposits: "These in connection with the beautiful scenery and healthful climate render New Castle one of the most inviting fields of South-west Virginia." The map itself portrayed a highly ambitious plan for town expansion which depicted eighty-eight new blocks northeast of Johns Creek, over two hundred new blocks southeast and southwest of the present town, two large parks, and two substantial resort hotels. Most of the NCL&IC plans never materialized; but the Craig Valley Branch of the C&O did reach New Castle in 1895, and iron ore was mined from eastern Craig County until shortly after World War I.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetNew Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
Section number 8 Page 51 New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

## Statement of Significance (continued)

Perhaps attracted in part by the ambitious plans of the NCL&IC, a new group of commercial leaders and lawyers were well established in New Castle by 1900. Attorney Paris Jones had opened an office in town as had George Layman, and J. W. Marshall's son had joined the family law practice. H. W. Yoder owned property in town and headed the Bank of New Castle. N. E. Spessard owned a dry goods and general merchandise store, and Yoder and Spessard owned the new Bel Air Hotel. A. E. Humphreys also remained in town where he and P. W. Scott owned considerable property. All told, New Castle provided employment for five lawyers and seven merchants in 1900. At that time the town's population had grown to three hundred inhabitants including forty blacks.

New Castle experienced its greatest growth during the two decades between 1900 and 1920. During those years the town annexed the Mount Lee Addition which contained the homes of boom-era leaders H. W. Yoder, A. E. Humphreys, and Paris Jones. The town's leading figure during the first fifteen years of the twentieth century was general merchant N. E. Spessard who became president of the Farmers and Merchants Bank located on Main Street immediately west of the First National Bank. Spessard's bank occupied lots 2 and 3 of the Bank Square Subdivision, which by 1910 divided the block across Main Street from the courthouse into twenty-two lots suitable for commercial development. A native of Monroe County (now West Virginia), Nathaniel Spessard married Alice Houston, moved to New Castle by the 1890s where he opened his general merchandise and dry goods store, and in 1898 commissioned George Barber of Knoxville, Tennessee, to build his large brick home at the southwest edge of town for \$7,500. Spessard represented Craig and Alleghany counties in the Virginia General Assembly for six terms from 1904 to 1915. By 1920 the Spessards owned commercial buildings valued at \$1,800 in addition to their interest in the Farmers and Merchants Bank.

The other most important commercial buildings in New Castle in 1920 were the Bel Air Hotel owned by the Craig Healing Springs Hotels and valued at \$1,800, the Central Hotel owned by J. H. Looney and valued at \$1,600, and the First National Bank valued at \$1,100. In addition to the hotels, New Castle supported three boarding houses, all operated by women. Eleven merchants sold general merchandise, groceries, hardware, and mens clothing in town. The Craig Branch

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 52 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
**New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

of the C&O Railroad provided employment for fourteen heads of household. Ten lumbermen worked in timber sales, a tie yard, and a stave mill. The town's public schools now employed seven teachers and a janitor. By 1920 New Castle had its first three automobile mechanics and two telephone operators. The town continued to support four flour mills but now only employed one blacksmith for general repairs. By 1920 New Castle had a population of 702 inhabitants, only 2 of whom were black.

George W. Layman emerged as the successor to N. E. Spessard as New Castle's leading politician and merchant after World War I. Raised on a Craig County farm, G. W. Layman received a law degree from Richmond College in 1894, the year that he began practicing law in New Castle. Layman served as commonwealth attorney of Craig County from 1900 to 1905. He became president of the First National Bank of New Castle in 1918 and also headed the Layman Motor Company which sold Ford automobiles. Elected to the Virginia Senate in 1920 as the representative of Craig, Botetourt, Alleghany, and Bath counties, Layman held that office for eight consecutive sessions through 1934.

Despite G. W. Layman's reputation as "a progressive worker in favor of good roads and other measures that tend to advance the general welfare of the community," by 1930 New Castle's population had dropped precipitously to 259. Perhaps the main reason for the town's sudden loss of population can be attributed to the decline in mining activity and related lumbering and railroad traffic which occurred during the early 1920s as European extractive industries resumed production after the end of World War I.

At the start of the Great Depression in 1930 Craig County had fewer than ten miles of hard surfaced highway and twenty-eight miles of "conditioned" state roads. Daily bus service between New Castle and Roanoke was available from May through September. New Castle had a new one-story brick high school with 77 students and an elementary school with 179 students. Both hotels had closed by 1930, but two boarding houses provided lodging and meals for travelers and businessmen. The town received electricity from Appalachian Electric Power Company and had eleven electric street lights. New Castle continued to support a weekly newspaper (begun

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 53 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
**New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### Statement of Significance (continued)

in the 1880s), both banks, twenty-six general merchandise stores, and four businesses that sold or serviced automobiles. The town had a volunteer fire-fighting squad and six fire hydrants but no municipal sewer system.

New Castle has changed little since 1930. On the eve of World War II the town had a population of 250 inhabitants, a number which had fallen to 150 by 1990. The town's small commercial center on Main Street is now served by a better system of paved roads, but the Craig Branch of the C&O was abandoned in the 1950s. Remarkably the population of Craig County has held constant at about 4,000 inhabitants from 1860 to the present, and the courthouse in New Castle remains one of the least altered seats of county government in western Virginia. The Central Hotel recently became the headquarters for the Craig County Historical Society. The old hotel has been stabilized, now houses a valuable collection of historic reference materials for Craig County, and has become a focal point for growing civic interest in county history and historic preservation.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 54 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 55 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 56 New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10, Photo Page 57 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)  
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### UTM References (continued)

5. Zone 17 Easting 577900 Northing 4150200

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the New Castle Historic District is shown as the heavy dashed line on the accompanying map, adapted from Craig County Tax Maps (1989-1990) and entitled "New Castle Historic District."

#### Boundary Justification

The boundary of the New Castle Historic District is drawn so as to include the historic property lines of the contiguous commercial, governmental, and residential areas in the downtown, where sufficient integrity has been maintained.

### PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION

- (1) 1. Central Hotel, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  2. New Castle, Craig County, VA (same for all entries)
  3. Daniel Pezzoni/Cabell Crowther, photographers (same for all entries)
  4. 1990
  5. Negative filed at Virginia State Library, Richmond, VA (same for all entries)
  6. View of front and side elevations, from south
  7. Negative no. 10205:23
  8. File no. 268-16 (same for all entries)
  9. Photo 1 of 11
  
- (2) 1. Craig County Courthouse, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1990
  6. View of front elevation from southeast
  7. Negative no. 10205:24

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_                      **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
photo Page 58                      **New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### Photographic Documentation (continued)

9. Photo 2 of 11
- (3) 1. Givens House, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1989
  6. View of front elevation from southwest
  7. Negative no. 10051:27
  9. Photo 3 of 11
- (4) 1. Bank of New Castle, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1989
  6. View of front and side elevations from north
  7. Negative no. 10020:34
  9. Photo 4 of 11
- (5) 1. Jones Law Office, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1990
  6. View of front elevation from northwest
  7. Negative no. 10209:12
  9. Photo 5 of 11
- (6) 1. Wagener Brothers Store, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1989
  6. View of front elevation from southeast
  7. Negative no. 10049:8
  9. Photo 6 of 11
- (7) 1. James Marshall House, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1989
  6. View of front elevation from north
  7. Negative no. 10021:23
  9. Photo 7 of 11
- (8) 1. Yoder-Walker House, New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)
  4. 1989
  6. View of front and side elevations from east

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ PhotoPage 59 **New Castle Historic District (Boundary Increase)**  
**New Castle, Craig County, Virginia**

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### Photographic Documentation (continued)

- 7. Negative no. 10038:23
- 9. Photo 8 of 11
  
- (9) 1. George P. Layman House, New Castle Historic District  
(Boundary Increase)
- 4. 1989
- 6. View of front-facing gable from south
- 7. Negative no. 10013:23
- 9. Photo 9 of 11
  
- (10) 1. Main Street Commercial Buildings, New Castle Historic  
District (Boundary Increase)
- 4. 1990
- 6. Streetscape view, southeast side of 300 block, Main  
Street
- 7. Negative no. 10209:9
- 9. Photo 10 of 11
  
- (11) 1. Streetscape, 200-400 blocks Main Street, New Castle  
Historic District (Boundary Increase)
- 4. 1990
- 6. Streetscape view, northwest side of 200-400 blocks, Main  
Street
- 7. Negative no. 10205:21
- 9. Photo 11 of 11

# New Castle Historic District

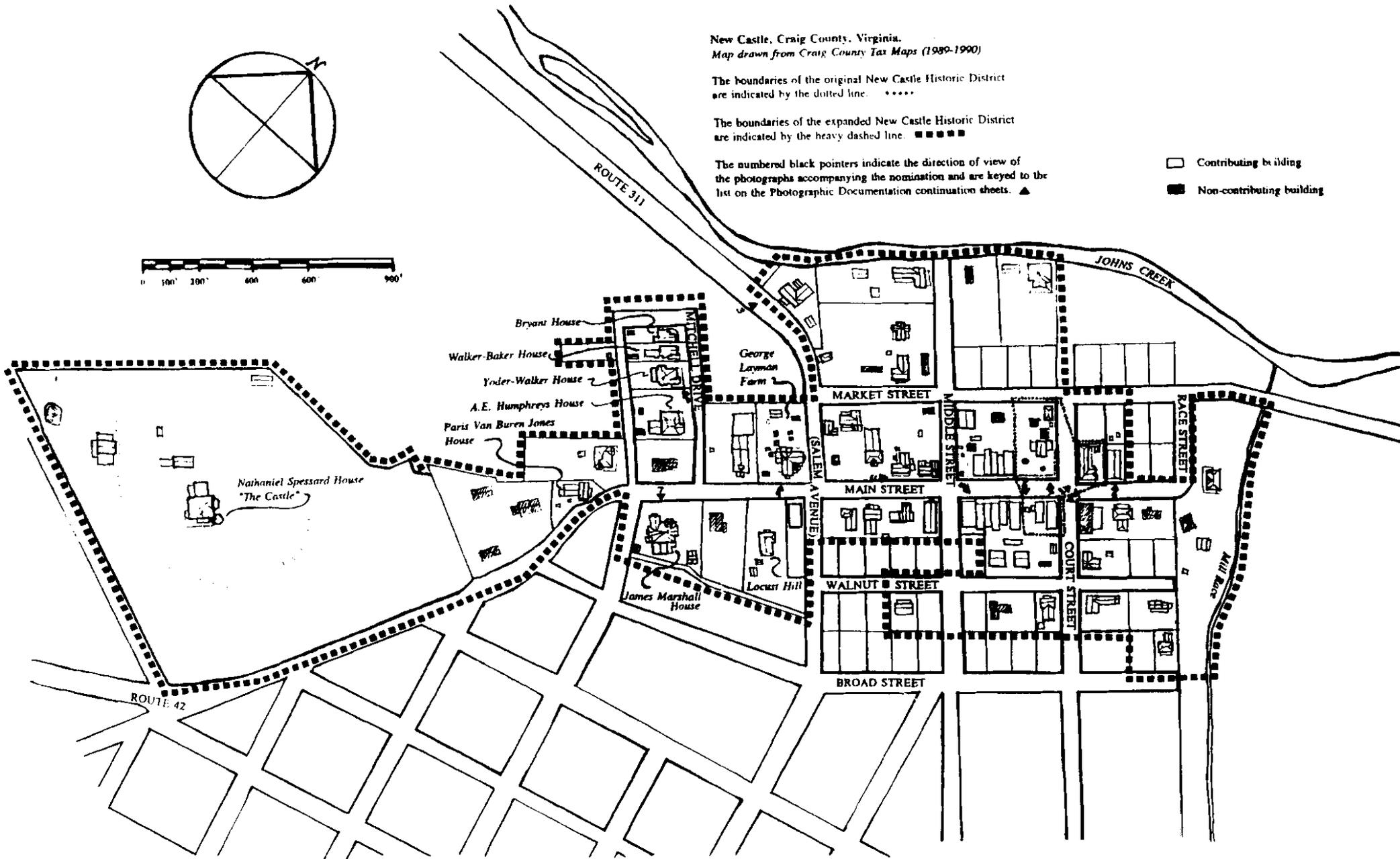
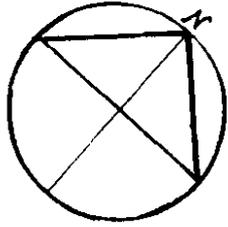
New Castle, Craig County, Virginia.  
 Map drawn from Craig County Tax Maps (1989-1990)

The boundaries of the original New Castle Historic District are indicated by the dotted line. . . . .

The boundaries of the expanded New Castle Historic District are indicated by the heavy dashed line. ■■■■■

The numbered black pointers indicate the direction of view of the photographs accompanying the nomination and are keyed to the list on the Photographic Documentation continuation sheets. ▲

- Contributing building
- Non-contributing building



NEW CASTLE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(BOUNDARY INCREASE)

VDHR # 268-16

Zone Easting Northing

① 17 578500 4151100

② 17 578800 4151100

③ 17 579000 4150800

④ + ⑤ on Catawba  
Quad

CATAWBA COUNTY, VA 37°30'

80°07'30"

1:530,000 FEET  
NEWPORT 30 MI

1:530,000 FEET  
ARLINGTON 40 MI

980

5'

982

(LOONEY)  
4950 / NEW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

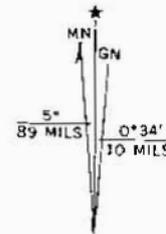
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs  
taken 1963. Field checked 1966

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

There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
the National or State reservations shown on this map

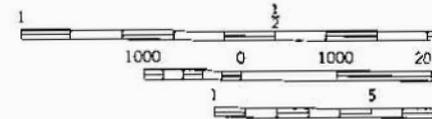
Locations shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Operations Units  
of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other  
sources. This information not field checked. Map dated 1979



UTM GRID AND 1979 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

Map photocopied 1981

Map reflects drainage changes since 1966



CONTOUR  
DOTTED LINES  
NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
OR REPRODUCED BY THE  
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DIVISION OF GEOLOGICAL AND EARTH SCIENCE

4858 ft SW  
(POTTS CREEK)

80°07'30"  
37°30'

1578000m E

580

5'

582

NEW CASTLE  
HISTORIC DISTRICT  
(BOUNDARY INCREASE)

VDAR # 260-16

CRRIG COUNTY VA

①-②-③ on New Castle  
Quad

Zone Ending Nothing

④ 17 518300 415060

⑤ 17 577400 4150200

