NPS Form 10-900
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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic CLIFTON HISTORIC DISTRICT DHL FILE # 29-225

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number various ~~n.a.~~ not for publication

city, town Town of Clifton N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Fairfax code 059

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town N/A ___ vicinity of n.a. state n.a.

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Fairfax County Courthouse

street & number 4110 Chain Bridge Road

city, town Fairfax state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title County Inventory of Historic Sites has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes X no

date 1969 to present ___ federal ___ state X county ___ local

depository for survey records Office of Comprehensive Planning

city, town Fairfax state Virginia 22030

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
X good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date n/a
___ fair	___ unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Clifton is an incorporated town, one-quarter-mile square, located in southwestern Fairfax County along Popes Head Creek. A through railroad line (Southern Railway System and Amtrak) bisects the town in a southwest-northeast direction, and the majority of development historically occurred south of the railroad. The Clifton Historic District extends along Main Street and four streets east and west of Main Street, forming a compact grouping of sixty-two buildings. Included in the district are fifty-three residences, three churches, four commercial buildings, and two local government buildings. Among these are six buildings considered to be non-contributing elements. The district is comprised primarily of vernacular, frame buildings, constructed between 1880 and 1910, all of the same scale with similar setbacks from the narrow streets and similar design elements. Many houses, when restored in the 1970s, were enlarged, but since the additions were made to the rear of the buildings, the appearance from public right-of-ways is unchanged. The similarities of physical characteristics and the lack of contemporary intrusions produce the high degree of visual continuity and the sense of architectural cohesiveness found in Clifton.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The historic district includes properties facing on the section of Main Street which lies south of the railroad tracks, on both sides of Chapel Road and Chestnut Street running west off of Main Street, and on both sides of Chapel Road and School Street running east off of Main Street. There is no discernible progression of the subdivision of building lots beyond the fact that in 1878 only Main Street and two small lanes along the tracks were in existence. The older buildings tend to be along or near the Main Street core. Early 20th-century building activity occurred along the side streets. Beyond the corporate limits of the town, the fields and wooded hills indicate that suburbia has been kept at bay except for some scattered subdivisions.

Clifton developed historically as a commercial and supply center for the southwestern section of late 19th-century Fairfax County, where grain and dairy farming was the major economic activity. Harrison G. Otis, who began promoting Clifton as an attractive town center, was responsible for some of the initial development. In 1869 he built the Clifton Hotel, a large, clapboarded, three-story frame building, on a lot conveniently adjoining the railroad line. Of important historic significance to the town, the hotel currently is in deteriorated condition and needs stablilization treatment.

In 1870 the Clifton Presbyterian Church was organized, and the congregation built the gable-roofed, stone church in 1871 on land facing Richards Lane near the railroad tracks, sold to them by Otis. The vernacular building features rough-faced limestone in a random ashlar pattern, elongated, round-arched windows on the side elevations, and a corner, frame bell tower.

The Clifton Baptist Church was also organized in the 1870s. The original structure, built in 1877 on the corner of Main Street and Chapel Road, was replaced in 1912 with the present frame, neo-Gothic style building. The pointed-arch windows, with their wood tracery, and the shingled bell tower are characteristic of this period of church architecture.

(See Continuation Sheet # 1)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1860-1910 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Clifton is a small village in southwestern Fairfax County near Bull Run, the border with neighboring Prince William County. The town developed during the period of 1868 to about 1910 from the impetus of the entreprenurial activities of a post-Civil War migrant from upstate New York, one Harrison G. Otis. Otis judiciously purchased land parcels, beginning in 1868, located at a depot of the Orange & Alexandria Railroad, which ran between Gordonsville and Alexandria. The following year he became the first postmaster of the new U. S. post office named Clifton. As a result of Otis' interests in promoting land cultivation and, in general, making Clifton attractive as a local center by opening roads and building a hotel, Clifton quickly grew to a settlement of twenty families by 1878. The present district reflects the continuing prosperity of the village over the following three decades as a result of lumbering, sawmill, farming, and talc mining activities, employment provided by the railroad, and a new pattern of land ownership as former northerners settled in the county following the Civil War. By 1910 there were 200 residents in the incorporated Town of Clifton. The frame residences and several commercial buildings, dating from the forty-year period of development, represent a well-preserved and intact example of vernacular architecture of the late 19th century and early 20th century with extremely few contemporary intrusions. The building types are those typically found in a rural village serving as an agricultural and small-scale industrial center. The relationship of the buildings to the narrow streets and the spacing of the building lots comprise a cohesive visual quality throughout the district. Clifton's streetscapes convey a distinct sense of an agricultural Virginia town at the turn of the 20th century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The land area which is now within the town limits of Clifton was sparsely settled farm land by the late 1700s, with 1,200 acres of Popes Head Creek belonging to William E. Beckwith. Several events affected the area just prior to 1865. First, the section of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad between Alexandria and Manassas was completed in 1852, traversing William Beckwith's land. Secondly, between 1861 and 1865 this rail line was used strategically for transporting supplies and troops for the Union Army which incorporated it into the U. S. Military Railroad System. At what is now Clifton, the Union Army in 1863 built Devereux Station, a siding used for loading firewood onto the engines. Also in 1863, William Beckwith died, leaving no heirs and about 1,000 acres north of the Orange and Alexandria tracks in his estate to be sold and smaller parcels south of the tracks to be distributed to his freed slaves.[1]

Following the Civil War, many former soldiers and others from the North migrated into Fairfax County. Harrison G. Otis followed this pattern and moved to the county from Ontario County, New York. In 1868 at the age of 54, he purchased land parcels along the railroad line from the Beckwith estate. In this same year the depot's name was changed to Clifton Station. Within a year, Clifton had become a United States post office, with Otis as the postmaster. He continued his vigorous development pursuits:

(See Continuation Sheet # 9)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #12)

Hopkins, G. M. Atlas of Fifteen Miles Around Washington, Including the Counties of Fairfax and Alexandria, Virginia. Philadelphia: G. M. Hopkins, 1879.

Netherton, Nan. Clifton: Brigadoon in Virginia. Clifton, Virginia: Clifton Betterment Association, 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property approx. 42 acres

Quadrangle name Manassas, Va. **Quadrangle scale** 1:24000

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	292970	4295100	B	18	292980	4294540
C	18	292430	4294540	D	18	292430	4295070
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification

The Clifton Historic District boundaries coincide with the property lines of those historic buildings that are in the greatest concentration in the center of the incorporated town. Included are properties facing on Main Street beginning at

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #12

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Emma Jane Saxe and Elizabeth S. David, Historic Preservation Officer
7714 Thor Drive, Annandale, Virginia 22003

organization Office of Comprehensive Planning date February 28, 1985

street & number 4100 Chain Bridge Road telephone (703)237-4881

city or town Fairfax state Virginia 22030

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

___ national X state ___ local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell

title H. Bryan Mitchell, Director Division of Historic Landmarks date June 18, 1985

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

Three other early buildings in Clifton are the Mayhugh Tavern, a residence built circa 1870, the Hetzel House, a frame vernacular building also dating from about 1870, and the Quigg House. Originally located on the south side of Ford Lane facing the railroad tracks, the Mayhugh house had a "genteel and orderly bar."[1] It was moved about 1920 to its present site, facing south on Chapel Street. In a district of vernacular buildings, Lewis Quigg's 1876 house is architecturally noteworthy as an example of the French Second Empire style, with its characteristic mansard roof and center projecting "tower" section. Aside from the distinction of its roof, however, the plain, wood frame house shares the physical appearance of its neighbors.

Clifton experienced steady growth throughout the 1880s and 1890s as a village center in southwestern Fairfax County. Numerous houses constructed during this period continued the pattern of simple, vernacular, frame buildings with minimal architectural detailing. Some are associated with prominent townspeople. The Ford House, built about 1880 by Leander Makely, is a two-story, hipped-roof house with weatherboard siding, a two-story bay window, and a porch that wraps around the northeast corner. The Cross House, circa 1886, a large two-story gable roofed house with weatherboard siding, is associated with James Cross, Sr., Clifton's well-known wheelwright and undertaker. On Main Street in 1896 Robert R. Buckley built a two-story framehouse with a seamed metal roof. He and his brother constructed the Buckley Brothers Store about 1900, still in commercial use. A large, frame warehouse type building, it is located on Main Street, just south of the railroad tracks. The simple one-story porch across the gable front section and the transverse wing convey the commercial character of a late 19th-century "general store." Another store on Main Street, built in 1900 and now a private residence, also has a one-story porch attached to its front gable elevation which features a center double door and large flanking windows. The turned posts, originally unadorned, were altered in 1968 by the addition of decorative brackets.

The largest portion of Clifton's domestic architecture is comprised of the houses built between 1900 and 1911. The M. M. Payne House exemplifies this period in Clifton's historical development. Built in 1903 by the owner of the town's lumber yard, the two-story, frame residence has a modest, vernacular character, with a cross gable roof arrangement. The decorative brackets in the center gable peaks and the molded lintel boards are interesting details of its design. The Detwiler House at 12704 Chapel Road, built circa 1900, is another typical example of Clifton's early 20th-century architecture. The two-story frame house has the simple, decorative feature of a center gable, sheathed with imbricated shingles.

The Turner House on Chapel Road dates from about 1900 and illustrates the type of frame house with the ridge line parallel to the road. The hipped roof porch with turned posts and decorative brackets is notable for its retention of integrity of design and materials. A lively example of Clifton's decade of intensive house building is "Red Gables" built by summer resident, Will Richards, in 1908. A prominent gable front projection from the main block and a wraparound porch on the first floor convey an informal, cottage character.

(See Continuation Sheet # 2)

Clifton's non-contributing structures consist of a commercial building built in 1962, known as the Clifton House, the town firehouse and post office, built in 1953, a 1930s cinderblock store, two houses built in the 1950s, and one older residence in severely deteriorated condition.

With its well-preserved houses hugging the edges of the narrow streets, often lined with picket fences, and the large rear yards which open up the streets to views, Clifton conveys that sense of an earlier time and place. It has retained the appearance and feeling of a turn-of-the-20th-century small village.

[1]Nan Netherton, Clifton: Brigadoon in Virginia (Clifton, Virginia: Clifton Betterment Association, 1980), p. 62.

29-225-#1 7126 Main Street. Detached house, c. 1930. A small, one-story building with a porch in front. There is an addition to the rear of the structure. This is a modest building on the edge of the district but in scale and size it does contribute to the district.

29-225-#2 7134 Main Street. Clifton Hotel, 1869. A three-story frame and weatherboard building with front porch across the second floor level. Two divided half-circle windows, one above the other, appear in the third floor level. The building has deteriorated and is in need of repair but is one of the most important elements of the district.

29-225-#3 12744 Richards Lane. Church Manse, c. 1918. A two-story structure with a hipped roof. The columned porch extends across the front and to the east side of the house. The structure contributes to the character of the district.

29-94 ~~#4~~ 12744 Richards Lane. Clifton Presbyterian Church, 1870. Stone building with steep-pitched roof, the angle repeated in the entrance way. A round, stained glass window is above the entrance. A wooden bell tower rises to the east. The church makes a strong contribution to the historic district.

29-225-#5 12801 Ford Lane. Ford House, c. 1880. A large two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with a two-story bay window. A one-story porch wraps around the front and east facades. The windows under the porch roof are 2 over 1. All others are 2 over 2. The Ford House is an important element of the historic district.

29-225-#6 12751 Ford Lane. Ayre House, c. 1905. The original wing is a simple, two story structure. A two story addition to the rear of the house is contemporary in design but complements the scale of the house. The building adds visual character to the district.

Vacant Lot

29-225*-#7 7140 Main Street. Clifton Superette, c. 1930. A one story, concrete block structure which replaced an older structure burned about 1930. Although it is compatible in scale, by materials and architectural character it does not add to the district.

(See Continuation Sheet # 3)

29-225 #8 7144 Main Street. Pre-1900. A one story, craftsman-style bungalow with decorative accents in the brackets. The 1983 addition to the north facade carefully replicates the style, including the brackets. This is a good example of the craftsman style and makes a strong contribution to Main Street and to the district.

29-176 ~~#9~~ 71~~52~~48 Main Street. The Quigg House, 1896. A French Second Empire, two-story frame and weatherboard structure with dormer windows in the roof. The center bay is set forward and to either side of it a porch roof extends at the first floor level. An addition to the rear is topped with a skeletal rendering of the mansard roof in an open, wooden treatment. This is the only example of this architectural style in Clifton and is one of the most interesting visual elements of Main Street.

29-225 #10 11746 Chapel Road. Mayhugh Tavern, c. 1870. A two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with exterior end chimneys, center doorway, sidelights, and dentil trim over the top of first floor windows. Later addition to rear, not visible from the street. Moved to this site from the original location close to the railroad line. This is one of the earliest buildings in Clifton and is an important landmark.

29-225 #11 12755 Chapel Road. Detwiler House, c. 1907. A frame one-and-a-half-story building with a hipped roof covered in seam metal. A room has been enclosed under part of the front porch. This house is a variation on the usual Clifton house but adds diversity to the district.

29-225 #12 12751 Chapel Road. Beckwith House, c. 1915. A small frame and weatherboard structure in such dilapidated condition that it must be considered a non-contributory structure.

Vacant Lot

29-225 #13 12742 Chapel Road. Fulmer House, c. 1911. A frame and weatherboard, two story structure with a one story porch and seamed metal roofing. Under the roof gable is a small window. This is one of the best examples of the typical Clifton building and makes a strong contribution to the district.

29-92 ~~#14~~ 7152 Main Street. Clifton Baptist Church, 1912. A white wooden structure with pointed-arched windows including wooden tracery. A large bell tower with fishtail shingles set into the steeple rises from the angle of the front and north facades. The church is an important component of the district. Its steeple is apparent from almost any site in the district.

29-225 #15 7156 Main Street. The Harris House, c. 1880. A two story frame house with metal seamed roofing, 2 over 2 double-hung windows and a one story hipped-roof porch. To the rear is a small hyphen and a simple two-story wing, repeating the design of the older building. This is one of three similar adjacent houses which give great cohesiveness to this block of Main Street.

(See Continuation Sheet # 4)

29-225-#16 7158 Main Street. The Kidwell House, c. 1890. A two story frame and weatherboard structure with seam metal roof. The entrance door is topped with an overhang covered in the same seam metal. Like its two neighbors, this house is a strong architectural component of the district.

29-225-#17 7160 Main Street. The Kincheloe House, 1896. This is a two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with a gable-roof-topped entry porch. It is one of three houses which, together, form a strong element of the district.

29-225-#18 12714 Chestnut Road. The Cross House, 1886. A two-story, frame and weatherboard house with seam metal roof. There is a gable in the roof line, and a bay window on the west facade. Many of the elements typical of Clifton buildings are evident in this structure, which contributes to the historic district.

29-225-#19 12718 Chestnut Road. Adams House, 1905. This is a small, two-story frame and weatherboard building with a one-story porch. Though not a strong visual element it contributes to the diversity of the district.

29-225-#20 12722 Chestnut Road. Elmer Ayre House, 1919. A two-story frame and weatherboard structure with a one story porch with decorative trim. This house shares common elements with the Clifton pattern and therefore contributes to the historic district.

29-225-#21 12801 Chestnut Road. Red Gables, 1908. A large, two story frame and weatherboard structure with seamed metal roof. There is a peaked gable in the front. This is an informal, cottage-style house which adds a great deal of visual diversity yet is of the same period and therefore is a strong complement to the district.

Vacant Lot

29-225-#22 12721 Chestnut Road. Buckley House, c. 1904. A two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with a roof covered in composition roofing material. There is a one story porch which is enclosed, obscuring the original front facade at the first floor level. The scale and style of the structure nevertheless make it a contributory element.

29-225-#23 12717 Chestnut Road. J. B. Cross, 1910. A two-story, frame structure with aluminum siding and a composition roof material. It has a one story simple porch. In scale and style it is a contributory visual element of the historic district.

29-225-#24 7200 Main Street. Primitive Baptist Church, c. 1890. A one story frame and weatherboard building with metal seamed roof and plain unornamented windows and entrance. The building is in poor condition but anchors Main Street at its south end and makes a visual contribution to the district.

29-225-#25 7211 Main Street. c. 1905. A one-and-a-half story frame and weatherboard structure with seam metal roofing and a simple, one story porch. The house is small in scale, but makes a definite visual contribution to the district.

(See Continuation Sheet # 5)

29-225-#26 Behind 7211 Main Street. A small one-and-a-half story weatherboard building with a one story, front porch which has been enclosed. There is a front gable in the roof with a small window. Not distinguished in itself, the building is close to, and in harmony with, other adjacent structures and therefore makes a contribution to the district.

29-225-#27 7207 Main Street. A two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with center gable and 2 over 2 double hung sash windows. A one story porch has a tin seamed roof and three simple column supports. It contributes visually to the district.

29-225-#28 7203 Main Street. Miller House, 1907. A two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with a one-story, three bay porch and a seam metal roof. The porch wraps around the front and the north facades. The house makes a visual contribution to the district.

Vacant Lot

29-225-#29 7161 Main Street. Wright House, 1904. A two story house with center gable in roof, 4 over 4 window in gable. To each side of the central bay door are sets of double windows, each double-hung sash. On the north side is an enclosed screened porch with a hipped roof. In scale and size this house is an architectural addition to the district.

29-225-#30 12653 School Street. Dorsey House, 1908. Two story frame and weatherboard structure with mansard roof. The windows are 2 over 2 and there is a one story, two-bay porch. The house makes a visual contribution to the district.

29-225-* #31 12651 School Street. 1950s. A frame and aluminum two story structure with sliding entrance doors on upper floor above the drive-in garage on street level. Non-contributory.

29-225-#32 12649 School Street. 1906. A one-and-a-half story frame and weatherboard house with dormer in front with shingles. Decorative brackets over columns, porch rail and lattice work over the foundation. Adds variety to the visual elements of the historic district.

29-225-#33 12641 School Street. Spring Cottage, c. 1901. Two-story, frame and weatherboard structure with bay window at front topped by a pediment. There is a front porch with brackets and open lattice work below the porch over the foundation. A recent addition to the rear provides a side porch. 2 over 2 double-hung sash windows are used throughout the house. There is a garage addition to the east of the front. The house is a strong addition in size and scale to the visual quality of the historic district.

29-225-#34 12638 School Street. One-story small bungalow with simple entry porch. The age is uncertain and it was remodelled in the 1960s, nevertheless in size and scale it contributes to the cohesiveness of the district.

(See Continuation Sheet # 6)

29-225- #35 12640 School Street. c. 1906. A two story frame house covered in composition siding with a one story porch with decorative turned columns. Center gable in the roof and lattice work over the front foundation. This house embodies many of the basic elements of Clifton houses and makes a definite contribution to the district.

Vacant Lot

29-225-
* #36 12644 School Street. 1955. One-story simple front gable structure covered in composition shingle siding. Because of its age it must be considered non-contributory.

Vacant Lot

29-225- #37 7157 School Street. C. H. Wine House, 1909. A two story frame and weatherboard structure with center gable. The west side has a two story bay window and a diamond-shaped window on the first floor. The entrance door is topped by a pediment and has sidelights. The structure embodies many of the design elements of Clifton houses and makes a visual contribution to the district.

" #38 7157 Main Street. Kincheloe House, 1900. A two story, frame and weatherboard structure with a one-story porch. There are turned columns and decorative brackets on the porch and a one story bay window on the south side. This house is very typical of Clifton architecture and makes a strong contribution to the historic district.

" #39 7155 Main Street. c. 1935. A stone bungalow, one-and-a-half stories, with a gable in the roof with two windows. The building is of a later date than the others on Main Street, but its size and scale are compatible and it does contribute diversity to the historic district.

" #40 7153 Main Street. c. 1900. Originally a store, this is a one story house with a front gable. The hipped roof, one story porch has four turned columns topped with decorative brackets added in the 1960s. The house was remodelled in 1968 and has a simple addition to the south side which respects the scale of the porch and adds another entrance door and window. The house adds visual interest to Main Street and contributes to its architectural character.

" #41 7151 Main Street. Payne House, c. 1903. A two story, frame and weatherboard structure with a steep-pitched center gable with a 2 over 2 double-hung sash window. The original porch has been removed and a compatible two-story wing with hipped roof was recently added. The house is in the geographic center of the district and is a strong visual element.

" #42 12705 Chapel Road. Late 1920s. A one-and-a-half story bungalow, frame and weatherboard, with center dormer in roof. The main roof line forms top of front porch, leaving half-columns on stucco blocks. The scale and setback are appropriate to the district.

(See Continuation Sheet # 7)

29-182 ~~#43~~ 7151 Pendleton Avenue. Hetzel House, 1870. A gable front and wing structure, frame and weatherboard with metal seamed roof. This is a good example of its style and both historically and architecturally important to the district.

29-225-#44 7155 Pendleton Avenue. c. 1909. Small one-and-a-half story house with front gable plan. To the south side is a small shed-roofed addition. A simple gable-topped porch appears to be a later addition, at which time the front facade was probably remodelled. This is a variation on Clifton architecture but in size and scale certainly is harmonious.

29-225- * #45 12645 Chapel Road. 1953. Firehouse and Post Office. Two attached buildings, both two stories. Non-contributory.

Vacant Lot

29-225-#46 12639 Chapel Road. Bradley House, 1882. Two story, frame and weatherboard structure with metal seam roof material over a hipped roof. Front facade has a 2 over 2 double-hung sash window on each level. One of three similar structures which contribute to the district.

" #47 12637 Chapel Road. c. 1900. A two story, frame house with a mansard roof, covered with a composition siding. There is a one story bay window on the west side, and the front porch is screened in. The style of the house complements its two neighbors and contributes to the district.

" #48 12635 Chapel Road. Fletcher House, c. 1905. A two story, frame and weatherboard structure with seam metal roof. There is a one story porch also roofed with seam metal. Like its neighbor, it also has a bay window on the west facade. Although in need of repair at present, the house makes a contribution to the district and marks its eastern boundary on Chapel Road.

" #49 12638 Chapel Road. Clifton Town Hall, c. 1905. Small, two story, two-bay structure with one story addition to the rear. Metal seamed roof is repeated on front porch. Undecorated columns support porch roof. Now a town museum it makes a significant contribution to the district.

Vacant Lot

" #50 12642 Chapel Road. Turner House, c. 1900. Two story, frame and weatherboard house with seamed metal roof. The one story porch has a seamed metal, hipped roof and porch columns with decorative brackets. A classic example of Clifton architecture, this house makes a strong addition to the district.

" * #51 12644 Clifton Road. The Clifton House, 1962. Designed to complement the government building across the road, the building has two, one-story elements and one two-story element. Not unattractive, but not a contributing building.

(See Continuation Sheet # 8)

29-225 #52 12698 Chapel Road. Payne's Kitchen, c. 1903. Moved across Chapel Road c. 1918. A simple gable and wing structure. Originally the kitchen for the Payne house, it has housed many commercial uses. It complements the area by adding visual diversity.

29-225- #53 12712 Chapel Road. Woodyard House, 1904. A large two story, frame and weatherboard structure with metal seamed roof. The house has a center door and five bays. The center gable has fishtail shingles. To the rear is a series of additions providing a side porch and entrance, compatible with the original structure. This house is one of the strongest architectural elements of the district.

" #54 12704 Chapel Road. Detwiler House, c. 1900. Two story, frame and weatherboard structure with center gable containing small window and covered in fishtail shingles. Simple double-hung sash windows. This is a typical Clifton structure and contributes to the district.

" #55 7145 Main Street. Buckley's Store, c. 1900. Two story frame and clapboard warehouse structure with a simple one story porch across the front facade. There is a front gable addition to the north facade and a one story wing to the south. Historically and architecturally this is one of the dominant structures in the town.

" #56 ~~(7157~~ 7137) Main Street. "Pink House," 1905. Small, two story frame and stucco structure with metal seamed roof. A modest structure, but does contribute to the visual sense of the district.

" #57 Behind Main Street, north of the railroad tracks. Barn, c. 1932. Contributes to the historic atmosphere of the village and to the district.

" #58 7135 Main Street. Acacia Lodge, c. 1900. Simple two story structure. Originally a mill, it was moved about 1930 from area where barn is now. Contributes to the visual diversity and historic atmosphere of the town.

" #59 7222 Dell Avenue. Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1903. Wood Frame (weatherboard); 3 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 2-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, simple balustrade extends around east side of house.

" #60 7219 Dell Avenue. Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1 center bay porch with simple wood posts, gable roof.

" #61 7221 Dell Avenue. Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1 center bay porch with turned posts.

" #62 7223 Dell Avenue. Detached house. Vernacular. Early 20th century. Wood frame (bricktex); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 2 bays.

" #63 7225 Dell Avenue. Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (aluminum); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1 center bay porch with simple wood posts, gable roof.

purchasing land, undertaking vineyard cultivation, and opening roads which gave access to the railroad from points north, south, and west of Clifton. He also built the Clifton Hotel next to the tracks as a residential and tourist hotel, and by 1870 had further expanded his activities to include saw milling.[2] The U. S. Census records for the Centreville District of Fairfax County indicate that in 1880 Otis' brother, W. B. Otis and his wife, Anna Elizabeth, and Otis' sister, Clara, were all residents of the area.[3]

Over the next ten years Clifton developed the amenities needed to support a settlement of twenty families, according to the 1878 Hopkins Map. The town featured four churches, a school, saw and grist mills, four general merchants, a blacksmith shop, and wagon shops. The Hetzel House (1870), the Mayhugh Tavern (circa 1870) and the Quigg House (1876) were all standing by this time. The early churches which still survive are the Clifton Presbyterian Church (1870) and the Clifton Baptist Church (1877, building replaced in 1912).

By the early 1880s Clifton was able to take advantage of its short distance from Washington, D. C. by rail. In the Virginia Midland Railway Excursion Guide, published in 1882 by the successor to the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, Clifton House (Otis' Clifton Hotel) was listed as a resort.[4] This role for Clifton was primarily attributable to the summer residents, many from Washington, who were attracted to the country village.

Clifton shared in the rapid population growth of the county in general which experienced an increase from 13,000 residents in 1870 to 18,600 by 1900.[5] The prosperity of Clifton continued through the 1890s and peaked during the first decade of the 20th century. Economic activity in the town included businesses which supplied feed, fertilizers, and patent machinery, soapstone quarrying and dairy farming in the area, and a thriving timber industry which supplied railroad cross ties, firewood, and other wood specialty items. Many residents were employed by the Southern Railway System, first formed in 1894. Double tracks were in place by 1902 and in 1907 it was reported that twenty-two trains per day in both directions passed through Clifton. Passenger service lasted until 1938. Behind the Buckley Brothers Store is the site of the Southern Railway Depot which was demolished around 1958.

In 1902, with a population of 150, Clifton was incorporated as a town by an act of the General Assembly. A local newspaper, the Fairfax Herald, featured a detailed account of life in Clifton in 1904, even listing names and occupations.

Buckley Brothers -- general store W. E. Ford, clerk
J. L. Fristoe -- general store Russell Barbee, clerk
S. H. Detwiler -- livery
F. G. Mayhugh -- livery George Mayhugh assists father
J. B. Cross -- wheelwright and undertaker one helper
A. J. Kidwell -- blacksmith two helpers
Mrs. Annie Bell -- operates hotel
Mrs. Remsburg, widow -- boarders

(See Continuation Sheet # 10)

R. W. Woodyard -- saw, lath and grist mill
Wright, Hickey and Mathers -- ties and cordwood, saw mill
M. M. Payne -- lumber dealer
J. M. Fulmer -- lumber for Northern markets
George Kincheloe -- huckster to Washington market from Fairfax and Prince William counties
T. O. McMullen -- contract carpentering, portable saw, joiner
C. H. Ford -- manages mother's estate around Clifton
R. B. Dorsey and Will Richards -- push the pen for Uncle Sam
D. W. Mathers -- stone mason
R. S. Fullerton -- machinist
Paul McMullen, W. C. and S. W. Packett -- carpenters
R. T. Payne -- carpenter
O. F. Holland, formerly of Charlotte, N. C. -- charge of material train of the Southern Railway
F. G. Cooksey -- stone mason for the Southern
H. Adams, H. N. Payne -- telegraph operators
T. A. Ayre -- Agent for Southern, lives with Mrs. Thomas Payne
R. B. Fitstentle (colored) -- cobbler's shop on Railroad Avenue
Five railway mail clerks live in village and run on the Southern from Washington to Greensboro, N. C.
Dr. J. L. Sanford, surgeon, Phillipines and Cuba -- lives in hotel
Rev. W. H. Edwards -- commercial orchard; pastor, Presbyterian church

In 1906 the paper noted an increase in residential construction and listed several new occupations in the homebuilding trades. The first decade of the 20th century saw the construction of approximately thirty houses within the town limits.

Of the sixty-two buildings within the historic district boundaries, thirty date from the first decade of the 20th century, including some of the best examples of vernacular houses. These include the C. H. Wine House, 7157 Pendleton Avenue, built in 1909, and the 1907 Detwiler House, 12755 Chapel Road.

The exhaustion of the pulpwood supplies by 1910 adversely affected the various wood industries which, in turn, deprived the railroad of the bulk of its local business. Since the Southern Railway steam service could not economically serve commuter traffic, and Clifton was too far away from the District of Columbia to be served by trolley lines, the town was bypassed in regard to the land development schemes which began to characterize the suburbs in the teens and twenties. Development up to the present has been minimal, consisting of buildings for town services and new residences. Clifton's turn-of-the-century appearance remains to convey a sense of its historical development.

[1]Nan Netherton, Clifton: Brigadoon in Virginia (Clifton, Virginia: Clifton Betterment Association, 1980), p. 16.

[2]Ibid., p. 19.

[3]U. S. Bureau of Census, Fairfax County, Virginia, 1870, 1880.

(See Continuation Sheet # 11)

[4]Netherton, op. cit., p. 51.

[5]Nan Netherton, et. al., Fairfax County, Virginia, A History (Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978), p. 459.

[6]Netherton, Clifton: Brigadoon in Virginia, pp. 62-63.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Netherton, Nan, et al. Fairfax County, Virginia: A History. Fairfax, Virginia: Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, 1978.

U. S. Bureau of Census. Fairfax County, Virginia, 1870, 1880.

10. Geographical Data
Verbal boundary description and justification

Popes Head Creek at the north and properties on both sides of Chapel Road, Chestnut Road, Dell Avenue and School Street. The northern boundary line runs along Popes Head Creek, a physical feature which determined the placement of the railroad in the 1850s. Beyond the district boundaries to the east and southeast are large open fields with no buildings. Buildings west of the western boundary line are noncontributing elements because of their recent dates of construction.

Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point (A) at the NW corner of the Clifton Presbyterian Church lot; thence approx. 1500' SE along Popes Head Creek to a point (B) ; thence approx. 280' S to a point (C) at the NW corner of the lot at 12638 Chapel Rd; thence approx. 165' SSE following the north and east property lines of said lot to a point (D) at the SE corner of said lot; thence approx. 80' E to a point (E) at the NE corner of the lot at 12635 Chapel Rd.; thence approx. 160' S to a point (F) ; thence approx. 80' W to a point (G) at the NE corner of the lot at 12638 School St.; thence approx. 180' S to a point (H) on the south side of School St.; thence approx. 80' W to a point (I) at the NE corner of the lot at 12641 School St.; thence approx. 480' S to a point (J) at the SE corner of the lot at 12649 School St.; thence approx. 340' NNW to a point (K) at the SE corner of the lot at 12651 School St.; thence approx. 300' W to a point (L) on the west side of Clifton Rd.; thence approx. 240' S to a point (M) at the SE corner of the lot last of 7211 Main St.; thence approx. 320' SW to a point (N) on the east side of Main St.; thence approx. 40' S to a point (O); thence approx. 110' E to a point (P) at the NE corner of the lot at 7219 Dell Ave.; thence approx. 230' S to a point (Q) at the SE corner of the lot at 7225 Dell Ave.; thence approx. 110' W to a point (R) thence approx. 40' N to a point (S) directly opposite the SE corner of the lot at 7222 Dell Ave.; thence approx. 180' W to a point (T) on the east side of Main St.; thence approx. 580' NE to a point (U); thence approx. 180' SW to a point (V) at the SW corner of the lot at 7200 Main St.; thence approx. 100' N to a point (W) on the south side of Chestnut Rd.; thence approx. 100' W to a point (X) at the NE corner of the lot at 12717 Chestnut Rd.; thence approx. 110' SE to a point (Y) at the SE corner of said lot, thence approx. 440' W to a point (Z); thence approx. 200' S to a point (A_1) at the SE corner of the lot at 12801 Chestnut Rd.; thence approx. 360' W to a point (B_1) at the SW corner of said lot; thence approx. 140' N to a point (C_1) on the south side of Chestnut Rd.; thence approx. 440' E to a point (D_1) at the NE corner of the lot at 12801 Chestnut Rd.; thence approx. 70' NE to a point (E_1) at the SW corner of the lot at 12722 Chestnut Rd.; thence approx.

(See Continuation Sheet # 13)

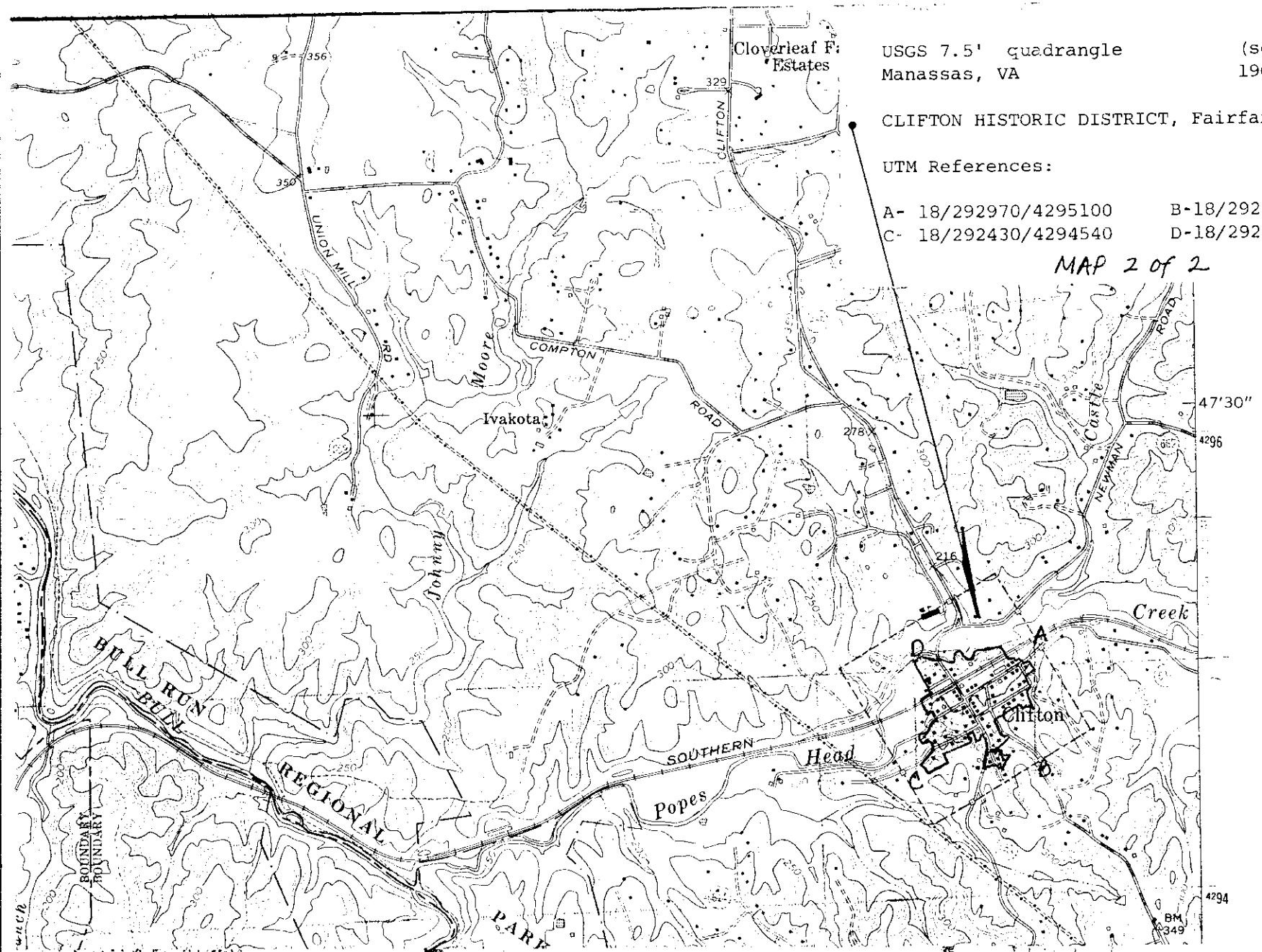
Boundary Description (continued)

120' N to a point (F_1); thence approx. 140' W to a point (G_1); thence approx. 160' N to a point (H_1) on the south side of Chapel Rd.; thence approx. 360' E to a point (I_1) opposite the SW corner of the lot at 12746 Chapel Rd.; thence approx. 120' N to a point (J_1); thence approx. 170' W to a point (K_1) at the SW corner of the lot at 12801 Ford Lane; thence approx. 220' N to a point (L_1) on the railroad right of way; thence approx. 130' E to a point (M_1); thence approx. 560' N to the point of origin.

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Manassas, VA 1966 (PR 1983)

CLIFTON HISTORIC DISTRICT, Fairfax County, VA

UTM References:

A- 18/292970/4295100 B-18/292980/4294540
C- 18/292430/4294540 D-18/292430/4295070

MAP 2 of 2