

VLR-8/16/83 NRHP-10/6/83

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT (VHLC file #230-78)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number U.S. Route 360 N/A not for publication

city, town Halifax N/A vicinity of

state Virginia coda 51 county Halifax code 083

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet #1)

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Halifax County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Halifax state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
title Survey (file #230-78) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1969, 1971, 1973  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

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

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Halifax's Mountain Road Historic District is comprised of thirty structures stretched along Mountain Road (Route 360) from just west of the courthouse for a half mile to the west. Its buildings consist of two churches, a parish hall, a masonic hall, and a host of private residences dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries. The oldest intact edifices are the 1828 Masonic Lodge and the 1831 Methodist Church. With the exception of the 1844 Episcopal Church and modern parish hall, the remaining buildings are private residences. The dwellings encompass a variety of styles from the late Federal to the eclecticism of the early 20th century. Small outbuildings survive to the rear of several of the residences. One of the most distinctive and commanding features of the district is its landscape. Many of the houses are set in spacious yards planted with a large variety of trees and shrubs. In several instances the landscaping dates to the mid-19th century. There are eight noncontributing structures within the district; all except for a modern parish hall are modern, non-obtrusive dwellings.

#### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Mountain Road Historic District is situated along Route 360 to the west of the Halifax County Courthouse. It extends from Academy Street on its north side and 80 Mountain Road on the south to the town's corporate limits and Mimosa Drive. The present residential character of the road was slow in developing with the late Federal Masonic Hall (123 Mountain Road, 1828) and the present Methodist Church (133 Mountain Road, 1831), also of late Federal design, constituting the district's earliest structures. The Masonic Hall is distinguished by its original Georgian doorway.

A third institutional building, St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road) was erected in 1844 by Dabney Cosby, Jr., who with his father, Dabney Cosby, Sr., built the Halifax County Courthouse in 1837-38. Like the Masonic Hall and the Methodist Church, St. John's is built close to the road. Distinguishing it from these earlier edifices, however, is its Greek Revival styling, which at its time of construction, was America's most popular architectural mode. A cemetery containing the grave of the architect is located to the rear of the church.

In addition to St. John's Church, Cosby constructed three houses along Mountain Road. They are Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road), Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) and St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road). All built in the mid-1840s, the residences combine late Federal and Greek Revival architecture with fine brickwork, similar to that found on the Halifax County Courthouse. Cosby's father worked under Thomas Jefferson's supervision at the University of Virginia where, according to the elder Cosby's obituary, he learned the "art of making bricks." This particular skill is exemplified by the Mountain Road residences of his son which compare in their fine quality craftsmanship to the senior Cosby's Halifax County Courthouse.

All three of Cosby's houses are set back from the road, a precedent that was followed for many of the later dwellings erected on the street. Judging from the age of the trees and their positions around the buildings, an early effort was made at landscaping the grounds. The large expanse of land between 160 and 230 Mountain Road is gently rolling with trees and a grass undercovering providing a park-like setting for the two residences.

# 8. Significance

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

Specific dates	N/A	Builder/Architect	N/A
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**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mountain Road in the courthouse of Halifax has been highly regarded for its distinguished architecture and beautiful landscape since the early 20th century. Named for its location near White Oak Mountain, the road features several notable 19th-century institutional buildings, including an early Masonic Hall (1828) and two handsome antebellum churches: St. Mark's Church (1831), now Halifax Methodist Church, and St. John's Church (1846). Also contributing to the architectural quality of the district is a fine collection of 19th- and early 20th-century residences built in a variety of styles ranging from the late Federal to the Bungalow. Several of the earlier dwellings were designed by Dabney Cosby, Jr., son of the Jeffersonian workman, Dabney Cosby, Sr. Cosby worked with his father on the construction of the Halifax County Courthouse of 1838-39 and he also built St. John's Church. From the mid-1840s generations of residents on Mountain Road have labored to provide attractive and compatible landscape settings for their houses. Many of the older plantings have survived in a good state of preservation, thus giving Mountain Road a marked, 19th-century ambiance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The county of Halifax, named for the Second Earl of Halifax, was formed from Lunenburg County in 1752. After designating numerous sites for the county courthouse, the present location was officially established in October 1776 by the General Assembly. At that time the Assembly ordered the courthouse to be erected south of the Banister River on land donated by John Boram. According to Boram, the property was almost in the center of the county and "had the advantage of a 'very high & healthy Scituation [sic] & a Spring of Excellent Water.'"¹

A courthouse was built on the Boram site, and around it grew the courthouse town of Banister, named after the neighboring river. A detailed description of the village ca. 1830 which was published in Martin's Gazetteer of Virginia (1834) read, in part:

Besides the usual county buildings, this village contains 25 dwelling houses with a number of outhouses, mechanics shops, etc., two spacious houses of public worship, one Episcopalian and the other Methodist, a large and handsome Masonic Hall (which has lately been erected of brick, in an elevated and advantageous situation, about the middle of the village,) several handsome and commodious taverns, three general stores and one grocery...The face of the country on each side of the village is very much broken, which causes it to be very long and narrow, and the houses to be built in a scattering manner, except immediately around the court house where all the stores and mechanics shops are

## 9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #11)

- Barbour, Dr. W.B. Halifacts. Danville, Va.: J.T. Townes Printing Co., 1941.  
 Carrington, Wirt Johnson. The History of Halifax County, Virginia. Boston: Regional Publishing Co., 1969.  
 Edmunds, Pocahontas Wight. History of Halifax. Vols. I, II. Privately Printed, n.d.  
 Gaines, William H., Jr. "Courthouses of Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties," The Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. XX, No. 4, 1971.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 67 acres  
 Quadrangle name Halifax, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A	1 7	6 8 4 2 8 0	4 0 7 1 0 8 0	B	1 7	6 8 4 6 9 0	4 0 7 0 8 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	6 8 4 7 5 0	4 0 7 0 7 2 0	D	1 7	6 8 4 5 8 0	4 0 7 0 4 7 0
E	1 7	6 8 3 9 2 0	4 1 0 7 1 0 5 4 1 0	F	1 7	6 8 3 8 6 0	4 0 7 0 6 5 0
G	1 7	6 8 3 8 6 0	4 1 0 7 1 0 8 4 1 0	H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on N side of Mountain Road at east property line (Epl) of 80 Mountain Road; thence extending about 100' S along said pl; thence about 250' W to W side of Academy St.; thence about 950' S along said side to N side of drive; thence about 375' E along said side and continuing about 575'

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #11)

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

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date August 1983  
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144  
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature H. Bryan Mitchell  
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director  
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date AUG 16 1983

### For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

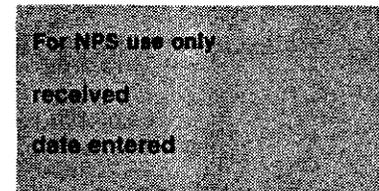
Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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



MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 4

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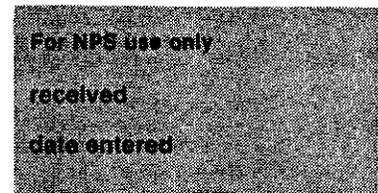
4. OWNERS OF PROPERTIES

1. 167 Mountain Road: Walter & Mary Brady, Box 299, Halifax, VA 24558
2. 295 Mountain Road: Cathryn D. Aldworth, Box 368, Halifax, VA 24558
3. 309 Mountain Road: Edward Taylor & Elizabeth Overton, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
4. Frances McClellan, 216 Catherine Street, Scotia, NY 12302
5. 329 Mountain Road: J.P. Hankins, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
6. 349 Mountain Road: Elizabeth Lovelace & Virginia Covington, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
7. 389 Mountain Road: James & Mildred Farrington, Box 1758, Halifax, VA 24558
8. 415 Mountain Road: Robert & Nancy Evans, c/o Farrington, Box 1758, Halifax, VA 24558
9. 471 Mountain Road: Samuel J. Dunavant, Jr., Box 915, Halifax, VA 24558
10. 543 Mountain Road: Barbara Cage, Box 413, Halifax, VA 24558
11. 575 Mountain Road: Major P.C. Edmunds, III, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
12. 615 Mountain Road: Dr. & Mrs. W. Allen, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
13. 655 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Edmunds, Box 87, Halifax, VA 24558
14. 80 Mountain Road: Ethelyn N. Powell, Box 4, Halifax, VA 24558
15. 100 Mountain Road: W.K. Thompson, Box 591, Halifax, VA 24558
16. 110 Mountain Road: Frank C. Chaffin, Jr., Box 53, Halifax, VA 24558
17. 136 Mountain Road: W. Wirt & Patsy Shapard, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
18. 160 Mountain Road: Mrs. Paul C. Edmunds, Sr., P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
19. 230 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Rowland, Box 28, Halifax, VA 24558
20. 370 Mountain Road: Chastain Home, c/o Mrs. Helen Moore, P.O. Box 758, Halifax, VA 24558
21. 442 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Stutts, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #2

Item number 4, 6, 7

Page 2, 1, 1

4. OWNERS OF PROPERTIES (continued)

22. 484  
197  
221 Mountain Road: Rev. A.C. Martin, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558  
267  
249
23. 530 Mountain Road: Mrs. Tucker W. McLaughlin, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
24. 580 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Ned Evans, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
25. 610 Mountain Road: The Honorable & Mrs. C.L. McCormick, III, P.O. Box,  
Halifax, VA 24558
26. 640 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Mapp, Box 57, Halifax, VA 24558
27. 123 Mountain Road: Masonic Lodge, c/o Dabney Hudson, Route 1, Halifax, VA 24558
28. 133 Mountain Road: Halifax Methodist Church, c/o Mr. James Clark, Route 1,  
Box 161C, South Boston, VA 24592

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (HABSI)  
1958 Federal  
Library of Congress  
Washington, DC

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

No major structures were built on Mountain Road from the 1850s through the 1870s. The next building period occurred during the 1880s when the district experienced something of a boom in residential construction. At this time a number of houses were constructed in the Romantic Revival styles, many of which still stand. Dating from the 1880s through 1900, they are: 100, 110, 167, 329, 349, 389 and 415 Mountain Road.

The wood-frame residences numbered 100 and 329 Mountain Road are stylistically distinguished by fanciful sawn trim; 100 retains its original vergeboard. The houses at 389 and 415 once belonged to the Holt Easley estate with the former serving as his office and billiards room. Along with 389, the kitchen, well house, chicken house, necessary house, and smokehouse survive and constitute the most complete set of domestic structures found on Mountain Road. In addition to the outbuildings, the Easley House preserves its original circular tree-lined drive.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #3

Item number 7

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

Two houses on the street are particularly good examples of early 20th-century architectural eclecticism. They are 136 Mountain Road, built in 1912, and 370 Mountain Road, now the Chastain Home, erected in 1910. Combining elements of the Queen Anne and Georgian Revival, both houses are brick and have hipped roofs and two-story porticoes. The cast-iron fence fronting 370 Mountain Road is original to the house's date of construction.

Mountain Road has several residences that are Colonial Revival. Perhaps the most interesting is 655 Mountain Road, Bonbrook. It was built in 1929 with materials salvaged from Springwood, an early 19th-century Halifax residence. In an attempt to revive Neoclassical architecture, several older residences have been remodeled by the addition of large porticoes. They are Seven Oaks at 615 Mountain Road, 442, and 580 Mountain Road. The remodelings occurred during the mid-20th century.

The bungalow style was popular in America during the early decades of the 20th century. A representative example of this house form is found at 80 Mountain Road. Typical of such a dwelling, it is wood-frame and has a classically inspired front porch.

It is unfortunate that several of the late 19th-century residences built on Mountain Road have burned. In several instances, however, the original landscaping has been preserved although modern dwellings have been constructed on their sites. 471 Mountain Road is a noteworthy example of this trend. While the original Queen Anne house burned in 1970 and was replaced by the present structure, the original landscaping survives. It consists of a variety of trees and shrubs with a grass undercovering. Like the grounds between 160 and 230, the lawn is expansive and rolling, suggestive more of a park than a front yard. While not so extensive, 530 Mountain Road also preserves its original landscape, as well as the former kitchen and office.

Pre-dating the houses they now shade, the very large and old oak trees between 615 and 655 Mountain Road deserve mention. Locally referred to as the "Indian Trees," the six large oaks date to the Indian occupation of Halifax County and were probably planted during the 17th century. The fact that six trees have survived is an excellent indication of the concern by the residents of Mountain Road for the maintenance of the street's landscape.

It should be noted that while eight structures are listed as noncontributing since they are less than fifty years old, all have retained the scale of earlier structures.

RCC

Inventory: The following is an inventory of the thirty buildings which comprise the Mountain Road Historic District. Eight of these structures have been termed noncontributing because they are less than fifty years old, and each is indicated by an asterisk (\*):

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

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date entered

MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD:

0-99 Block:

230-47  
(230-0078-0002)

80: wood frame (aluminum siding); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square piers that support a gable roof. Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1920s. The dwelling at 80 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as a typical example of the bungalow, an architectural form popular throughout the country during the early 20th century.

100 Block:

230-39  
(230-0078-0003)

100: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. Detached house. Queen Anne (modified). Ca. 1880s. 100 Mountain Road is a picturesque, homey dwelling showing the influence of the Queen Anne style on small-town dwellings and is important to the 19th-century character of the district.

230-29  
(-0004)

110: wood frame (weatherboard and shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (composition) 2 bays; 1-story porch. Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1890s. 110 Mountain Road was built in the 1890s in the Queen Anne style. A wood-frame dwelling, it is typical of the architectural expression of that style in rural America. It contributes to the historic district.

230-9  
(-0005)

123: brick (Flemish and 4-course American bond on sides and rear); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Masonic Lodge. Federal. 1828. The Masonic Hall is one of the earliest structures built on Mountain Road. It is an excellent example of the eclecticism of early 19th-century buildings in rural areas as demonstrated by its combination of Federal and late Georgian elements. The positioning of the building directly on the road established a precedent for the street's other public edifices. (Hiram Lodge).

230-4  
(-0006)

133: brick (4-course American bond); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Church. Federal. 1831. The former St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a salient example of late Federal architecture on Mountain Road. Like its neighboring Masonic Hall, the church helped set the standard of architectural quality that has been continually maintained by the street's later buildings. (St. Mark's Episcopal Church).

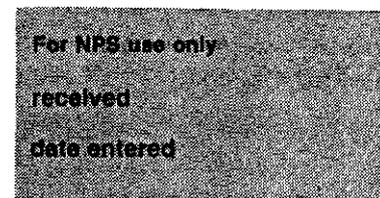
230-21  
(-0007)

136: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (pressed tin); 3 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay pedimented portico with Tuscan columns. Detached house. Colonial Revival-Queen Anne. Ca. 1912. Built in 1912, 136 Mountain Road is an early example of the Colonial Revival. Its spacious lawn retains a number of trees planted as part of the dwelling's original landscape. It contributes to the district.

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National Park Service**

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA



Continuation sheet #5

Item number 7

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

100 Block (continued):

160: brick (Flemish and 7-course American bond on sides); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch (Greek Ionic replacement). Detached house. Greek Revival. 1840s. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. The dwelling at 160 Mountain Road contributes to the district as an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture of the type popular in Southside Virginia during the 1830s through the 1850s. It retains a significant number of trees and shrubs that were planted during the mid-19th century possibly as part of the house's original landscape. (Magnolia Hill).

167: brick (5-course American bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with turned posts and sawn balustrade. Detached house. Queen Anne. 1881. Architect/builder: Howard Cosby. The Carrington-Brady House is one of a few documented works by the builder Howard Cosby, son of the local builder Dabney Cosby, Jr. and grandson of the Jeffersonian workman, Dabney Cosby, Sr. It is a rather restrained example of the late 19th-century Romantic Revival residence and in this way is quite similar to other Mountain Road dwellings of the same period. (Carrington House).

197 (St. John's Episcopal Church): brick (stucco); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 entrance. Church. Greek Revival. 1844. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. & Sr. St. John's Episcopal Church is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival church found in Southside Virginia. The work of Dabney Cosby, Jr., the building contributes to the fine quality of the Greek Revival style as constructed on Mountain Road by this local architect.

200 Block:

\*221: brick (stucco); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 6 bays. Parish house. Colonial Revival. 1962. Architect/builder: Benton & Phillips. The Parish House is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the district.

230 (Grand Oaks): brick (Flemish bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (slate); 5 gable dormers; 7 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico with Tuscan columns. Detached house. Greek Revival (modified). Ca. 1845. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. While somewhat altered by the addition of flanking wings and portico, Grand Oaks contributes to the district as one of the three dwellings built by Dabney Cosby, Jr. during the 1840s. Like its neighbor, Magnolia Hill, the grounds around the house preserve a number of trees and shrubs that date to the mid-19th century and are believed to have constituted the original landscape.

230-42  
(210-0076-0000)

230-31  
(-0009)

230-5  
(-0010)

230-20  
(-0011)

230-3  
(-0012)

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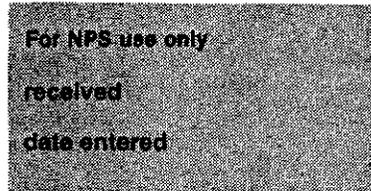
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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #6

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

200 Block (continued):

230-44  
(230-0078-  
0013)

267: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 dormer; 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with Tuscan columns and plain balustrade. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1910. The residence at 267 Mountain Road provides the district with a variation of the Colonial Revival and therefore contributes to the architecture of the district.

230-14  
(-0014)

\*295: brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gambrel roof (composition); 9 bays. Detached house. Cape-Modern Colonial Revival. Ca. 1970. 295 Mountain Road is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the historic district.

300 Block:

230-17  
(-0015)

309: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with Tuscan columns and plain balustrade. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1914. 309 Mountain Road is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival and stylistically contributes to the architectural character of the historic district. The trees surrounding the house would appear to date to the late 19th century and contribute to the historic landscape.

230-31  
(-0016)

329: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with turned posts and brackets. Detached house. Eastlake. 1898-99. The dwelling at 329 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as a particularly fine example of the Eastlake style that proved popular during the late 19th century. The landscape surrounding the house consists of trees and shrubs, many of which date to the structure's date of construction.

230-41  
(-0017)

349: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1880s. The residence at 349 Mountain Road was originally a Romantic Revival structure renovated in the 20th century into a Colonial Revival dwelling. Despite its modifications, the building by virtue of scale and materials is a contributing element of the district.

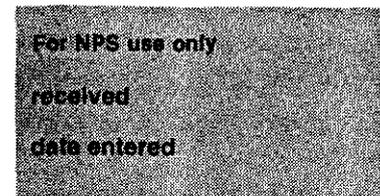
230-23  
(-0018)

370 (Rest-A-While): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 5 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico and 1-story porch-facade. Detached house. Colonial Revival-Queen Anne. 1910. 370 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as an important example of Colonial Revival architecture showing elements of the Queen Anne style. This dwelling and 136 Mountain Road are relatively early for the style in Southside Virginia and are probably by the same architect.

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National Park Service**

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA



Continuation sheet #7

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

300 Block (continued):

389 (Holt Easley's Office): wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch, remodeled. Detached house. Eastlake (modified). 1880s. The structure at 389 Mountain Road was originally the office and the billiard parlor of the Holt Easley estate. While somewhat altered by the addition of an enclosed porch, a sufficient portion of the original structure remains so as to make the present dwelling a contributing element to the Mountain Road district.

230-24  
(230-0078-  
0019)

400 Block:

415 (Holt Easley House): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch found on either side of projecting bay. Detached house. Eastlake. 1880s. 415 Mountain Road is a picturesque, rambling frame house showing influences from the Queen Anne style with its landscaped grounds. It is an important element for the 19th-century character of the district.

230-24  
(230-0078-  
0020)

442 (Thomas Jefferson Greene Residence): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico (later addition). Detached house. Colonial Revival (extensively renovated). Ca. 1822. The residence at 442 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as the residence of the prominent Halifax County lawyer, Thomas Jefferson Greene. While the original central-passage "I" house has been altered, the house is a good example of the Colonial Revival adapted to an older residence. The most notable changes are the addition of the portico and the alteration of the first-story openings on the facade.

230-30  
(-0021)

\*471 (James S. Easley Estate): brick (stucco); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays. Detached house. Modern. 1970. The residence at 471 Mountain Road was built in 1970, is less than fifty years old, and therefore does not contribute to the district. However, the grounds that surround the house were originally laid out for a late 19th-century Queen Anne dwelling that burned. The spacious landscaped grounds have maintained their 19th-century character and are a contributing element in the district.

230-25  
(-0022)

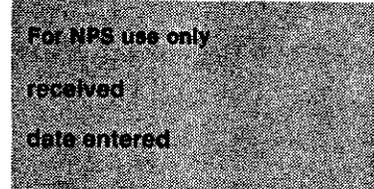
484 (Rectory-St. John's Church): brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch which dates to 1930s. Detached house. Greek Revival. 1844. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. 484 Mountain Road contributes to the district as one of the first Greek Revival residences built on the street by Dabney Cosby, Jr., following his work on St. John's Episcopal Church. The dwelling, like Cosby's other work, has extremely fine brickwork.

230-6  
(-0023)

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

500 Block:

SEE  
230-10  
(230-0078-0024)

\*530 (Giant Poplars): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay porch with Tuscan columns and plain balustrade. Detached house. Chateau Revival. 1967-69. Architect/builder: Calvert, Lewis & Smith. 530 Mountain Road was built in 1967 and does not contribute to the historic character of the district.

230-15  
(-0025)

\*543: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 2 dormers; 3 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1940s. 543 Mountain Road is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the historic district.

230-16  
(-0026)

\*575: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 3 bays. Detached house. Georgian Revival. 1968. Architect/builder: Calvert, Lewis & Smith. Although a virtually pleasing composition, 575 Mountain Road is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the character of the historic district.

230-45  
(230-0078-0027)

580: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival (altered). 1840s. The dwelling at 580 Mountain Road was built in the 1840s and typifies a Southside Virginia vernacular "I" house and as such contributes to the district. The portico is a later addition but enough of the original integrity of the main block remains to make a contributing element.

600 Block:

230-78-1

\*610: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 5 bays. Modern Colonial Revival. 1970. The dwelling at 610 Mountain Road was built in 1970. Although it is a dignified example of the modern Colonial Revival, as a structure less than fifty years old, it is not significant to the historic character of the district.

230-49  
(230-0078-0028)

615 (Seven Oaks): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 2-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1820s; 1884; 1960s. In spite of its remodelings, Seven Oaks contributes to the Mountain Road Historic District both in its scale and as a Colonial Revival house. Moreover, the grounds surrounding the house still retain six oak trees planted in the 17th century which contribute to the overall landscape of the district.

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

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Continuation sheet #9

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

600 Block (continued):

230-43  
(230-0078-0029)

\*640: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 5 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival (late). 1964. 640 Mountain Road does not contribute to the historic district in that it is not fifty years old. It was built in 1964.

230-1  
(-0030)

655 (Bonbrook): wood (weatherboard-additions) and brick (painted white); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 5 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1929-47. Bonbrook was built in 1929 as a Colonial Revival residence and as a structure over fifty years old in a harmonious scale and style it contributes to the architectural character of the Mountain Road district.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

located. The village is remarkable for its health, being well elevated by a gradual ascent of three quarters of a mile from the river. It<sup>2</sup> is situated on the main road from Fredericksburg to the South.

While the stores and tavern described by Martin have long since disappeared, the handsome Masonic Hall survives as the present Hiram Mason's Lodge and is the oldest structure in the district. It is distinguished by a late-Georgian doorway, original to the 1828 date of construction. The position of the hall directly on the street without a large and expansive front yard set a precedent that was followed in the construction of the district's other institutional buildings.

Built in ca. 1831, the brickwork of the neighboring St. Mark's Church suggests that it was executed by the same mason as the Masonic Lodge. Unfortunately, the builder of either structure is unknown.

In January 1835 the former University of Virginia workman Dabney Cosby came to Halifax to build a new clerk's office. Together with his son and namesake, Dabney Cosby, Jr., Cosby also built the new county courthouse, completed in 1839. After much building activity throughout the county, Cosby left Halifax in the early 1840s. However, his son, Dabney Cosby, Jr., remained in Halifax and built a number of structures on Mountain Road.

The first of the younger Cosby's buildings was St. John's Church. While the facade is relatively plain, Cosby's keen sense of scale and proportion places St. John's as one of the handsomest examples of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Southside

(See Continuation Sheet #10)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Virginia. In addition to the church, Cosby was responsible for three late-Federal and Greek Revival residences on Mountain Road. They are Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road), Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road), and the Rectory of St. John's Church (484 Mountain Road). All dating to the mid-1840s, the dwellings are uniformly of brick and, like the Halifax County Courthouse, display Cosby's fine craftsmanship. As noted in Martin's Gazetteer of earlier Halifax residences, Cosby's houses were built "in a scattering manner," all removed at some distance from the main road. The open expanse of land provided land for the planting of trees, from which two of Cosby's houses derived their names: Magnolia Hill and Grand Oaks.

Mountain Road had no further development of any consequence until the 1880s when a number of residences were built. By this time the name of the town had been changed to Houston and had begun to attract a growing class of professionals. The most substantial of these later residences is the Holt Easley House, now 415 and 389 Mountain Road. In addition to its large, two-story, wood-frame dwelling, the estate has a range of early outbuildings including an office-billiards parlor, kitchen, well house, chicken house, necessary house, and smokehouse. In addition to the Easley residence, 100 and 329 Mountain Road are also wood-frame dwellings from the late 19th century and are distinguished by fanciful sawn trim. The house at 167 Mountain Road dates to 1881 and was built by Howard Cosby, son of Dabney Cosby, Jr. Howard maintained a brickyard in the town and worked as a mason throughout the county.

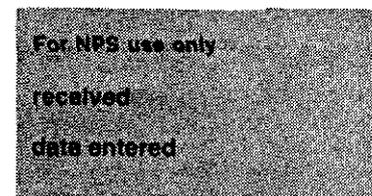
According to the Halifax County Handbook of 1907, Mountain Road was "one of the most beautiful streets in Virginia." Much of the beauty derived from its landscape, for it was during the period from the 1880s to the early 1900s that the settings for many of the houses were planned. This was undoubtedly influenced by the examples of the many neighborhood improvement societies which were then popular in America. Especially marked by this late 19th-century influence is the property at 471 Mountain Road. While the original residence burned in 1970, the grounds continue to maintain their late 19th-century atmosphere. Its tall trees, planted randomly in the front yard provided a park-like setting for the original Queen Anne-style residence.

The eclecticism of early 20th-century architecture is represented on Mountain Road by several residences. Two particularly fine examples are 136 and 370 Mountain Road. Built in 1912 and 1910, both dwellings combine the Queen Anne and Georgian Revival styles popular during the late 19th century. The residence at 370 Mountain Road now serves as the Chastain Home, a retirement home for women. The lawn surrounding the structure is well landscaped with many of its trees and shrubs dating to 1910.

Enjoying considerable popularity in Virginia after the Jamestown Exposition, the Colonial Revival continues to be the preferred style on Mountain Road. An early example is Bonbrook, 655 Mountain Road, which was built in 1929 from materials salvaged from Springwood, an early Halifax County residence. It is believed to be the first Halifax residence to incorporate old architectural materials into a new residence. With its neighbor, 615 Mountain Road, the edifice shares six large oak trees that date to the 17th century. The trees figure rather prominently into the landscaped grounds of both dwellings.

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

In addition to the Colonial Revival, the architectural fashion of the early 20th century is represented by a bungalow at 80 Mountain Road. Typical of such dwellings, it is wood-frame and has a classically inspired porch.

The Halifax County Handbook of 1907 noted that Mountain Road "only needs a more efficient macadamizing to make it thoroughly satisfactory."<sup>4</sup> Since that time, the town of Halifax was formally incorporated, and the road has been repeatedly paved. Concrete sidewalks have also been installed in front of a number of the residences, only a very few of which have front fences. The iron fence of the Chastain Home is the most elaborate.

While some of the newer residences are less than fifty years old and therefore do not qualify as contributing structures, they all maintain the residential scale of the historic district.

RCC

<sup>1</sup>William H. Gaines, Jr. "Courthouses of Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties," The Virginia Cavalcade, Vol XX, No. 4, 1971, p. 8.

<sup>2</sup>Joseph Martin, Gazetteer of Virginia. (Charlottesville: Moseley and Tompkins, printers, 1835), pp. 184-185.

<sup>3</sup>Alfred J. Morrison, Halifax County Virginia, A Handbook, 1907. (Richmond: Everett Waddey & Co., 1907), p. 22.

<sup>4</sup>Ibid.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martin, Joseph. Gazetteer of Virginia. Moseley and Tompkins, printers, 1835.  
Morrison, Alfred J. Halifax County Virginia, A Handbook, 1907. Richmond: Everett Waddey & Co., 1907.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

to a point about 550' S of Mountain Road; thence about 860' W to W side of Cedar Lane; thence about 250' S along said side to rear pl of 484 Mountain Road; thence about 850' W to E side of Mimosa Dr.; thence about 180' N along said side to S side of Mountain Road; thence about 30' NW to W corporate line; thence about 240' N along said line, then about 60' W., 40' N, then 70' E to encompass W half of 655 Mountain Road; thence continuing about 550' N. along corporate line; thence, about 1600' NE along said line to W side of Woodview Rd.; thence about 600' S along said side; thence about 530' E to W pl of 267 Mountain Rd.; thence about 480' E along rear pls to NE corner of 197 Mountain Rd.; thence

(See Continuation Sheet #12)

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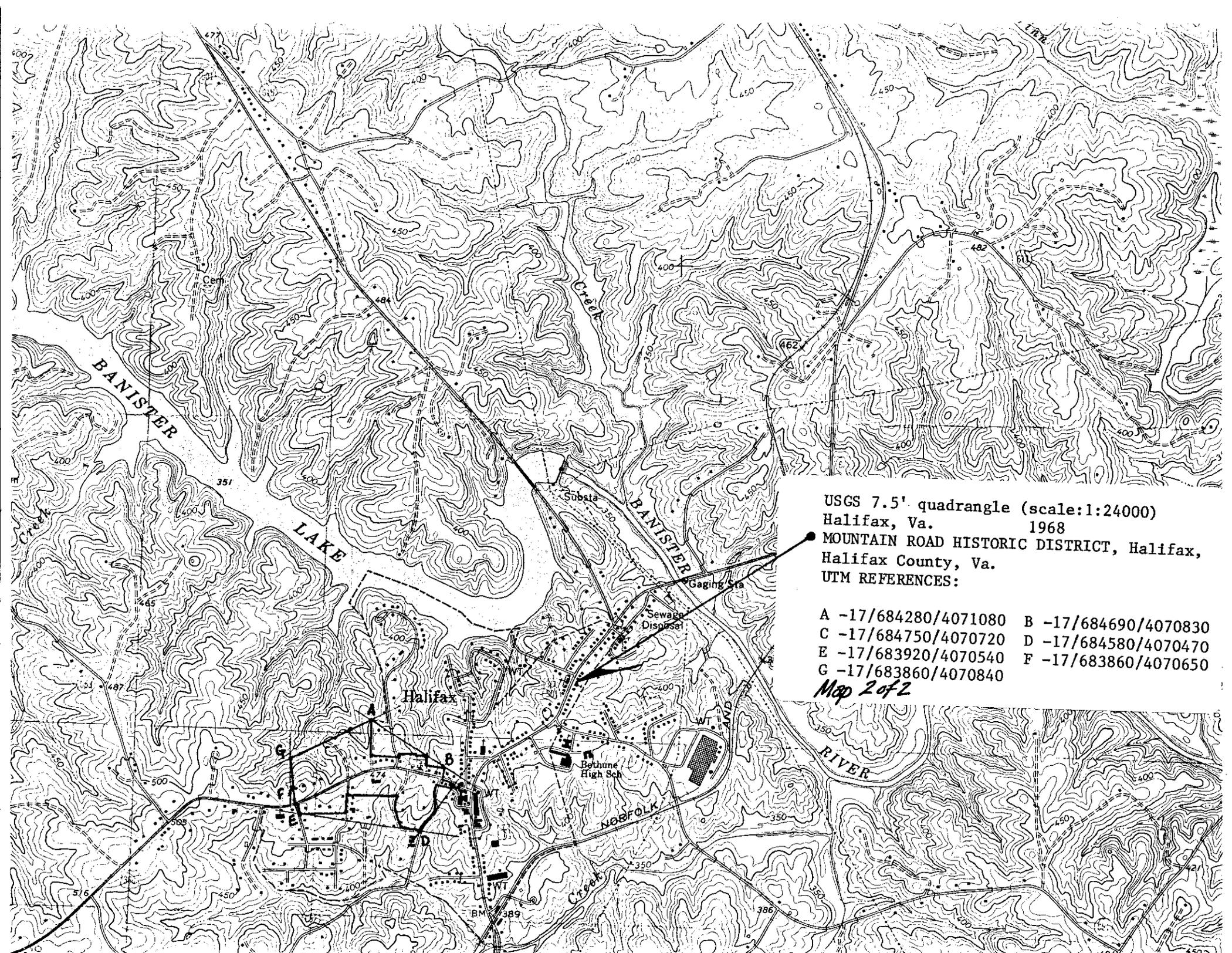
Item number 10

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

about 160' S along E pl of said lot; thence about 320' E to E pl of 123 Mountain Road; thence about 260' S to S side of Mountain Road; thence about 200' E to pt. of origin.

Boundary Justification: The boundary for the Mountain Road Historic District for the north side of the road is defined on the west by the corporate limits of the Town of Halifax, and on the east by a line that designates the adjoining property as R-2 zoning. It includes the structures numbered 123 to 655 Mountain Road. On the south side of the road, the district is defined on the west by Mimosa Drive and on the east by Academy Street and the eastern property line for 80 Mountain Road. The property to the east of the property line is 20th-century commercial and is not in keeping with the character of the district. On both sides of the road the boundary is drawn so as to include not only the buildings but their contributing landscapes as well. While now surrounding noncontributing residences, a number of yards were laid out originally for historic structures since destroyed.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)  
Halifax, Va. 1968  
MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Halifax,  
Halifax County, Va.  
UTM REFERENCES:

- A -17/684280/4071080
- B -17/684690/4070830
- C -17/684750/4070720
- D -17/684580/4070470
- E -17/683920/4070540
- F -17/683860/4070650
- G -17/683860/4070840

*Map 2 of 2*