

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Agricultural: animal facility

Commerce: store

Religion: Religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Agricultural: animal facility

Vacant/Not in use

Religion: Religious structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th c.: Greek Revival

other : center passage plan

other : Foursquare

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestone

walls wood: weatherboard

brick

roof metal: tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The village of Prices Fork is a late-nineteenth-century community located on the principal road leading west from Blacksburg. The road forks at the west end of the village, the south fork originally going to the Peppers Ferry crossing of the New River and the north road leading to Browns Ferry. The village is situated in the center of a broad landscape of rolling hills and fields between Brush Mountain on the north and Price Mountain on the south, and is watered by Toms and Stroubles creeks. The rich farming area which surrounds the village is just beginning to be affected by suburban development associated with the growth of Blacksburg to the east.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The district is clustered at the edge of a low eastward facing bluff at the east end of the present-day village. The area of the district is characterized by a number of large maple and oak trees which give a sense of green shade when a visitor arrives from Blacksburg and ascends the short hill to the district's edge. The first house encountered on the south side of the road is the oldest and most architecturally interesting in the district. The James Bain Price House (60-224-1) is a well-proportioned farmhouse situated about one hundred feet back from the road and surrounded by a fine collection of outbuildings and subsidiary structures. The hip-roofed house assumes the double-center-passage form, which was gaining popularity among traditional Montgomery County builders during the mid-nineteenth century.

The house features typical Greek Revival features, including wooden lintels with bull's-eye cornerblocks, and large six-over-six double-hung sash windows. A colossal central front porch supported by simple square two-story columns shelters central doors with sidelights and transoms on each floor in the three-bay principal facade. A one-story porch with small square columns spans the front. It runs below and through the two-story porch. The chimneys serving the pair of rooms on each side of the house's central passage project slightly from the exterior side walls. Early louvered blinds remain in place on the front. A small one-room gabled ell projects from the rear.

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8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1871-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Prices Fork Historic District is eligible under criterion C as a group of well preserved structures depicting the growth of a town at an important fork in a turnpike from the late nineteenth century into the early twentieth century. The diverse resources provide a historic and visual landscape that is dense and coherent with significant landscape features that help to link the sites together. Lines of maple trees on the southeast side of VA Route 685 and massive specimen oaks and other large trees scattered through the district are one of the most important assets.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prices Fork developed in the mid-nineteenth century in an area settled by the Price family. It is located on the old Peppers Ferry Road at a fork with the road to Browns Ferry (Belspring). It shows up as a scattered collection of buildings on the 1864 Confederate Engineer's Map; however, all the village's historic buildings date from the 1870s or later. Its form is that of a rural stringtown developed probably around a country store or other amenity. The antebellum Israel Price Store (no longer standing) was the initial structure around which the community grew. James Bain Price built a store and an impressive house in 1871 on the edge of the road near his house at the eastern end of the village. The house and outbuildings represent an unusual and very well preserved form and store operation at the eastern end of the district (Johnson). Apparently the nearby St. Peter's Lutheran Church, originally located at the head of Wall's Branch on land donated by the Preston family in 1806, felt the pull of the small community. It relocated there in 1877 and changed its name to St. Marks Lutheran Church (Ashley). The area around the Methodist Church is, as was frequently the case in the nineteenth century, located in a grove of preexisting oak trees. The village grew little during the twentieth century, but a large house (60-224-3) built across from the James Bain Price House and

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Ashley, Frank E. Interview, 22 April, 1986.

Johnson, Patricia Givens Preliminary Information Form in files of the Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, 28 July, 1981.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property less than ten acres.

UTM References

A

17	544950	4117920
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

17	545250	4118140
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

17	544930	4117980
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

17	545290	4117930
Zone	Easting	Northing

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the north side of VA Route 685, 150 feet northeast of the intersection of VA routes 685 and 654, proceeding south along the property line of site 60-224-1 425 feet to point B, thence west 450 feet to point C, thence north along the west property line of lot at 60-224-2 to point D, thence west along the north side of VA Route 685 600 feet to point E thence north 275 feet along the west lot line of 60-224-9 to point F, thence along the rear (north) lot lines

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Boundary Justification

The boundary was chosen to include all structures which contribute to the historic character of the district. The district is bounded by a VPI & SU research center on the northeast, agricultural land to the southeast, Prices Fork Elementary School on the south and modern residential structures to the west and north.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect date June 1988

street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs telephone (703) 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state Virginia zip code 24073

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On the interior, an open-stringer stair with turned newels and balusters rises in the passage, which features doorways equipped with Greek Revival pilasters and entablatures. The windows have splayed newels, cornerblocks, and paneled aprons.

A meathouse is located behind the house directly in line with the ell, as is the case in several larger farmhouses of the period, including Walnut Spring (60-243, being nominated individually as part of this submission). The V-notched log structure is partially sheathed with twentieth-century weatherboard and a corrugated metal roof. A small V-notched single-crib log barn is located about one hundred feet to the southwest of the house. The barn, which is contemporary with the house, is surrounded on three sides by a frame leanto addition.

A small one-story brick gabled structure with a brick chimney is located to the immediate west of the house. Probably dating from the same period as the house, it is believed by the owners to have been used as a schoolhouse. Just to the north of the building and on the south edge of VA Route 685 stands the weatherboarded frame store built by James Bain Price (60-224-2). The store is one of the county's best-preserved commercial buildings dating from the third quarter of the nineteenth century. The three-bay gable-fronted structure takes the regionally popular rectangular store form. The gable front, however, is unusual in its elegance, with a pediment containing a small double-hung sash window. The paneled blinds used to secure stores at night survive intact. The interior has been substantially altered for use as rental housing by the installation of modern paneling, but most of the simple trim elements remain in place. The grounds around the Price House and store are surrounded by a wood plank fence, and ornamented by a line of maples along VA Route 685.

In a grove of hemlocks and maples across the road stands a substantial two-story brick house dating from the early twentieth century (60-224-3). The house is an excellent example of the large houses built in the period, combining the traditional center-passage plan with the more flexible spaces and functional interior arrangements promoted in magazines and pattern books. The house bears a strong resemblance to the style now identified as Foursquare. It has a central hip-roofed dormer, one-over-one double-hung sash windows, a one-story wraparound porch on sturdy square posts, and a one-story shallow bay window on the west

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side. The house is well preserved and largely unaltered, except for the carefully placed addition of a garage to the east side, where it does not detract from the house's visual integrity. In a group along the north side of the district, sites 60-224-4 through 60-224-9 present a consistent late nineteenth-century and early twentieth-century appearance. The frame structures are sheltered under a group of large oaks, catalpa, and maple trees. The houses at 60-224-4, 60-224-5, and 60-224-9 are frame dwellings of traditional plans. The house at 60-224-4 is a small one-story weatherboarded double-pile center-passage dwelling, representative of a large number of similar houses from the early twentieth century. The well preserved house has three-over-one double-hung sash windows, stove flues flanking the central passage, and a small hip-roofed porch with turned posts.

The nearby house at 60-224-5 is an earlier two-story weatherboarded dwelling with a symmetrical three-bay facade. The center-passage house has an unusually decorative exterior, with a hipped roof, original louvered blinds, scalloped vergeboard, deep friezeboard, and cornerboards with small capitals. Projecting exterior brick chimneys rise at each end. The central window in the second floor takes its form from the entry door below, with sidelights flanking the two-over-two double-hung sash window. A one-story shed-roofed porch with turned posts shelters the front of the house. An unusual adjacent frame garage is built above a stone cellar. The garage's design harmonizes with that of the house.

Prices Fork Methodist Church (60-224-7) and St. Marks Lutheran Church (60-224-6) are located on the north side of VA Route 685 in the center of the district. Both are frame nave-plan structures from the late nineteenth century, and both have simple, well preserved exterior details typical of rural churches from this period. St. Marks Lutheran Church has a three-bay depth, a pedimented gable end, and cornerboards with capitals. Although altered on the interior for use as an apartment house, the exterior has been carefully preserved, and retains its central entry vestibule and similar projecting apse at the rear. Prices Fork Methodist Church is still used by its congregation. The very well preserved church retains most interior trim elements, and six-over-six double-hung sash windows with original louvered blinds. The pedimented gable end contains a central arched entry door with narrow side pilasters and an ornamental keystone. The entrance is sheltered by a three-bay pedimented

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porch (added in the early twentieth century). The church and its adjacent parking lot are sheltered by several very large oak trees. An addition to the church, built to the rear and rear west side, is placed so as not to seriously detract from the form and architectural value of the church and its significant form and detail. A neighboring modern grange hall stands well back from the road, and does not detract from the visual consistency of the streetscape.

The house at 60-224-9 is a good late nineteenth-century example of a regionally popular center-passage form. The three-bay two-story frame house has large two-over-two double-hung sash windows with molded backbands, a central door with sidelights and a transom, and a wide one-story porch supported by turned posts. A two-story ell is original. Brick stove flues rise internally at each end of the main house. Nearby stands the early twentieth-century store at 60-224-8. The one-story frame commercial building is, like the James Bain Price Store, an important resource, but is currently vacant although not yet beyond restoration. The large three-over-three store windows flank a central double door and represent an increase in the amount of light and glass from the earlier Price Store. Unlike the Price Store, and like the two churches, this building has a pedimented front. A board-and-batten shed addition appears to have housed the storekeepers.

The Prices Fork Elementary School across the road from the above site is a mid-twentieth-century structure, and as such does not resemble the district's contributing buildings and their landscapes, and was not included in its boundaries, but it provides a quiet and simple presence across the street. The district is a relatively dense grouping of frame and brick buildings unified by age, materials, or the extensive plantings characteristic of lots in the district. Prices Fork stands apart from any other community in the western part of the county for its consistency and visual integrity. The two noncontributing buildings are a modern grange hall west of the Methodist Church, and a modern brick ranch-style parsonage to the east of the church.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 4PRICES FORK HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY

- 60-224-1 1871 stretcher-bond brick, 2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, Greek Revival James Bain Price House - contributing
v-notched log and weatherboarded outbuilding - contributing
small, v-notched log, gable-roofed barn - contributing
- 60-224-2 1871 frame and weatherboarded, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular Price Store - contributing
one-story, brick, gable-roofed former schoolhouse - contributing
- 60-224-3 ca. 1920 stretcher-bond brick, 2 1/2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, American Foursquare dwelling - contributing
- 60-224-4 ca. 1930 frame and weatherboarded, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular dwelling - contributing
- 60-224-5 late-19th-century, frame and weatherboarded, 2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, Victorian vernacular dwelling - contributing
early-20th-century, frame and weatherboarded, 1-story, gable-roofed garage - contributing
- 60-224-6 1877 frame and weatherboarded, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular St. Mark's Lutheran Church - contributing
- 60-224-7 late-19th-century, frame and weatherboarded, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular Prices Fork Methodist Church - contributing
- 60-224-8 ca. 1900 frame and weatherboarded, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular store - contributing
- 60-224-9 late-19th-century, frame and weatherboarded, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, Victorian I house - contributing

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-
- 60-224-10 1970s frame and aluminum vertical siding, 1-story,
3-bay, gable-roofed, modern Prices Fork Grange Hall -
noncontributing
- 60-224-11 1960s stretcher-bond brick, 1-story, 3-bay, gable-
roofed, modern dwelling - noncontributing

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one smaller house (60-224-4) date from the period. A store and house built by another member of the Price family closes off the western end of the district. The structures date from the first years of the twentieth century.

A number of Montgomery County's villages had their start in the mid-nineteenth century. Mills and country stores seem to have been the nuclei around which these communities formed. In turn, the presence of a turnpike or well traveled road seems to have been an important factor in the location of stores and mills. As a country store village, Prices Fork may be one of the best examples. The village was so named by 1864, when it shows up on the 1864 Confederate Engineer's Map. It was located mid-way between Blacksburg and the New River at the fork where the Peppers Ferry and Browns Ferry roads split, and was a central point for the many active farms of the area. The Peppers Ferry Road was developed in the mid-nineteenth century as the Salem and Peppers Ferry Turnpike.

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of the lots on the north side of VA Route 685 (to include 60-224-4) 1,175 feet to point G, thence south along the east lot line of 60-224-3 150 feet to point H, thence west along the north side of VA Route 685 150 feet to the point of origin.

UTM REFERENCES - continued:

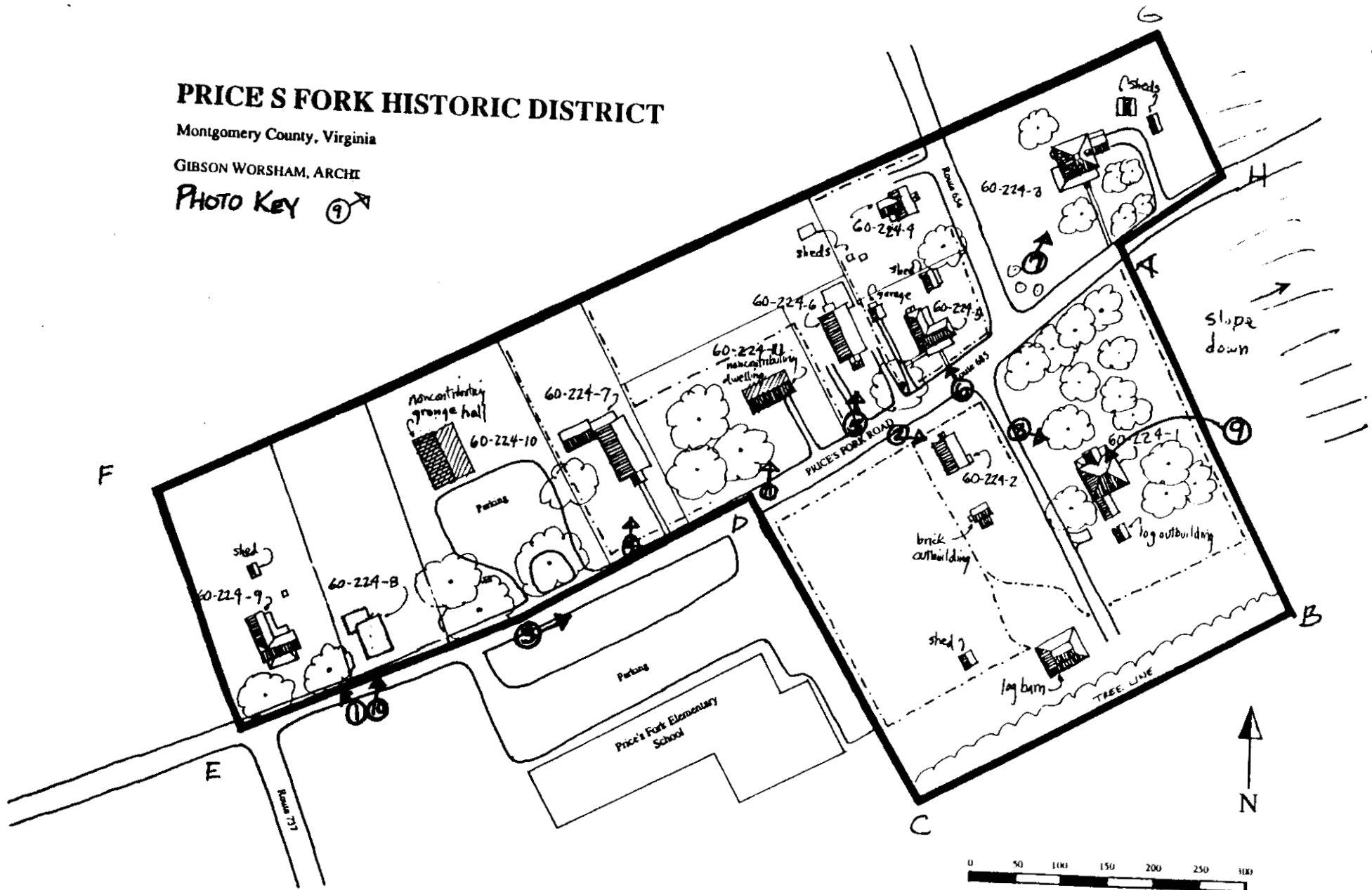
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PRICE S FORK HISTORIC DISTRICT

Montgomery County, Virginia

GIBSON WORSHAM, ARCHT

PHOTO KEY ⑨ ↗



Kenneth W. Martin 1987

11 24 1712 1121
WALNUT SPRING
17 545270 4120100

JOSEPH
MCDONALD FARM
17 546660 4119920

EVANS HOUSE #2
17 546280 4118450

PRICE'S FORK HISTORIC DISTRICT
A 17 544950 4117920
B 17 544930 4117980
C 17 545250 4118140
D 17 545290 4117930
E 17 545190 4117880
ADAM WALL HOUSE
17 547220 4117840

LINKOUS-KIPPS HOUSE
17 548020 4117830

WHITETHORN I
17 548710 4117940

BLACKSBURG
QUAD

