

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16) Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historname Shawsville Historic District other names/site number 60-456

2. Location

north and south slaps of E Route street & number 753 (Main Street) N/A not for publication city, town Shawsville N/A vicinity state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24162

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-headers for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Hugh C. Miller, Director Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, State or Federal agency and bureau. Date: 9 Nov 1990

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official. Date. State or Federal agency and bureau.

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: @entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation Sheet. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain):

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Commerce/trade: financial institution

Commerce/trade: department store

Commerce/trade: speciality store

Religion: religious structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Vacant/Not in use

Religion: religious structures

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: center-passage plan

Late 19th and 20th c. Revivals: Classical Revival

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 Shawsville Historic District extends along both sides of the old Southwestern Turnpike in the South Fork of the Roanoke River Valley, immediately beside the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. The town is an unusually well preserved example of a railroad town of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It consists principally of a group of extended frame and brick commercial buildings with dwellings located at the outer boundaries. None of the buildings were constructed after 1950.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The most architecturally interesting building in the district is the Bank of Shawsville (60-456-3) built in 1910. The brick Classical Revival structure is akin to many financial institutions built in western Virginia in the early twentieth century. The distinguished facade includes a pedimented section with Ionic columns placed in antis. An adjoining two-story commercial section houses two stores. The structure is currently vacant as is a one-story, two-part commercial building (60-456-4) next door, built of brick and related in style to the bank. An adjacent commercial building houses the Gardner's General Store (60-456-5). It was built in 1932 after a previous frame structure built to house the Gardner and Doosing General Merchandise Store burned.

Four frame early twentieth-century commercial complexes are located along the north side of the road. They include the two-story store at 60-456-10 with its shed roof, glass storefront, and cantilevered second-floor porch, and the three-part W. W. Lykens Furniture Store of 1905 or before (60-456-12). The Lykens Store has a central two-story frame section with flanking one-story additions. The wide store windows light a well preserved store interior with square wood posts and tongue-and-groove sheathing. The Taylor Grocery Building (60-456-13) is composed of two parts, a one-story frame section which resembles a center-passage-plan house on a raised basement which housed Taylor and his store, and a later three-story commercial component, both with shed roofs and two-over-two sash windows. A nearby one-story three-bay frame service station resembling a vernacular

See continuation sheet

**C. Statement of Significance**

County 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

late 19th century to  
1930s

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Miller, Homer W. (architect)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Shawsville Historic District is significant under criterion C as an important and well preserved group of structures illustrating the form of a late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century railroad town. The commercial and domestic structures are related to commercial structures in Christiansburg and elsewhere in the region, except for the Bank of Shawsville, which demonstrates a greater interest in architectural sophistication than any other building in the small towns of Montgomery County. Alterations to the buildings have been very limited and for the most part the district is in a very well-preserved condition.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The future site of Shawsville in 1833 was included in Jacob Kent's farm and a tollhouse for the Alleghany Turnpike was located there. Not far away was the site of Vause's Fort (1756). The Southwestern Turnpike was built through the region in 1847 and the nascent town took its name from Charles B. Shaw, the Chief Engineer of the State of Virginia at the time, even though Shaw did not directly supervise the construction of the road (Virginia Board of Public Works, Southwestern Turnpike papers).

Shawsville was first referred to by name in 1854. It was the railroad stop for the nearby Alleghany Springs which was developed about that time. By October 1860 a Presbyterian church was built on a hill south of town (New Star). On the 1864 Confederate Engineers' Map, Shawsville appears by name and a post office and the church are indicated but very few other buildings and no depot are shown.

Edward Pollard gave the first substantive description of the town in 1870. "We leave the railroad at Shawsville . . . Here, at the railroad station the [Alleghany] Springs managers have

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bovd, C. R. Resources of Southwest Virginia, 1881.

Gardner, I. H. Interview, 1986.

Manufacturers Record, quoted correspondence from John Wells, May 2, 1989.  
New Star, Christiansburg (newspaper).

Pollard, Edward. The Virginia Tourist. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott and Company, 1870.

Virginia. Board of Public Works. Southwestern Turnpike Papers.

Watson, Thomas Leonard. Mineral Resources of Virginia. Bell, 1907.

Wood, Amos D. Floyd County: A History of Its People and Places. Radford: Commonwealth Press, 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**

Acreage of property seven acres.

**UTM References**

A 17 566090 4113580  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 17 566210 4113730  
 Zone Easting Northing

B 17 566050 4113660  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 17 566280 4113640  
 Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at point A on the south side of VA Route 753 175 feet west of the intersection of VA Routes 753 and 637, proceeding north 100 feet to point B along the west property line of site 60-456-9, thence 850 feet east along the rear (north) property lines of the lots on the north side of VA Route 753 to point C, thence south 140 feet to point D on the southwest corner of VA Route 753 and an alley, thence east 160 feet to point E on the east property line of the

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The district boundaries were chosen to enclose the visually and historically intact urban center of Shawsville. The areas outside the boundaries represent an area where the resources are no longer sufficiently intact or of sufficient age to justify nomination. The boundaries follow street edges and property lines.

See continuation sheet

**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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double-cell dwelling (60-456-14) dating from the second quarter of this century, and a 1930s brick two-story store building (60-456-2) near the bank, complete the commercial buildings of Shawsville.

The Showalter House (60-456-1), located at the east end of the district, near the site of the now demolished depot, is believed to have been used as an inn by traveling men. The large frame hip-roofed house employs the substantial double-pile center-passage Georgian plan, with chimneys located between the rooms flanking the passage. The late nineteenth-century house has a delicately ornamented two-story pedimented porch with one-story flanking sections. The porch is supported by chamfered posts, and has a bracketed cornice.

Similar frame two-story houses at 60-456-7 and 60-456-8 are single-pile examples, but have similar pedimented central porches. The former has shingled gable ends and Doric porch columns, while the latter is built into the sloping bank below the road so that from the front it appears to be of only one story. The porch has a hipped roof, sawn brackets and balusters, and is supported by square posts.

The only church in the district is the brick White Memorial Church (60-456-6), built to replace an earlier frame structure in the mid-1930s. The simply detailed gable-front structure has a parapet facade with strip pilasters at the corners, a round gable window of star pattern tracery and stained glass, an arch-headed window, and a slightly projecting entry vestibule with a central arched entry.

Downtown Shawsville has been off the main road for many decades, and its buildings have been largely preserved by disuse and, in many cases, careful maintenance by the descendants of the builders. Growth in the Shawsville area has been much accelerated, particularly since a new sewage treatment plant has made expanded industrial and residential development possible, but to date the historic district has experienced limited physical change.

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<u>BLDG. NUMBER</u>	<u>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</u>	<u>RESOURCE</u>
60-456-1	Late 19th Century	Victorian vernacular, wood frame dwelling
60-456-2	1930s	Commercial vernacular, wood and brick commercial building
60-456-3	1910	(Bank of Shawsville) Classical Revival, brick, commercial building
60-456-4	ca.1910	Commercial vernacular, Brick commercial building
60-456-5	1932	(Gardner's General Store) Commercial vernacular, Brick commercial Building
60-456-6	1930s	(White Memorial Church) Romanesque Revival, Brick, Religious Building
60-456-7	Late 19th Century	Victorian vernacular wood frame dwelling
60-456-8	ca.1900	Victorian vernacular wood frame dwelling
60-456-9	Early 20th Century	Commercial vernacular wood frame commercial building
60-456-10	Early 20th Century	Commercial vernacular, abandoned wood frame commercial building
60-456-12	1905	(W.W. Lykens Furniture Store) Commercial vernacular, wood frame commercial building
60-456-13	Early 20th Century	(Taylor Grocery Building) Commercial vernacular, wood frame, commercial building
60-456-14	Early 20th Century	Commercial vernacular, wood & brick commercial building

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erected a commodious and pleasant hotel [since gone] . . . it being designed as a convenience for visitors who, leaving the cars in the night-time, may choose to defer the brief remainder of the trip by stage-coach until next morning, or may possibly be detained by the swollen mountain streams." Pollard noted that Shawsville had "since [been] named Alleghany Station, in consideration of the springs" (Pollard).

Boyd (1881) wrote of Shawsville: "Alleghany Station, on the Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Railroad, is a small place, as you approach the eastern side of the county. It is situated in quite a tobacco producing section, and is of some importance as a shipper of that article. It likewise has stores and a church close by. It is the landing-place of visitors to the Alleghany Springs. Near to this is an opening of the zinc and lead vein" (Boyd).

By the turn of the century, Shawsville served as the railhead for the upper South Fork of the Roanoke River and portions of Floyd County. It was customary for farmers on the South Fork and in Floyd to "cut down a few oak trees, hew [them] into cross ties, bring [them] to Shawsville and take home cash or equivalent goods to carry [them] over the hump" (Wood, A.). John and George White, of Shawsville, bought lumber from the farmers, and the Gardners (of the Gardner and Doosing Store in Shawsville) bought cross ties and tan bark. In the 1920s products of the nickel mines on the Floyd-Montgomery border were trucked to the train at Shawsville (Wood, A.).

In 1907 Shawsville had a population of 350, white and black high schools, Methodist and Presbyterian churches, three water-powered grist mills, and a daily mail and hack service up the South Fork to Floyd. A spring two miles from town supplied drinking water (Watson). The Shawsville Bank was organized in 1898 by Gardner and Vaughan with a capital of \$12,500. Deposits in 1907 amounted to \$125,000. The bank building (60-456-3) of 1910 is the town's finest piece of architecture. It is related to banks in the western Virginia region and shares architectural features with several. The bank was designed by architect Homer W. Miller of Roanoke (active 1905-1950). It was designed as a "colonial design" project costing \$4,000.00 (Wells).

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Little further development occurred in the district after the Lee Highway rerouted traffic onto a bypass to the south in the early twentieth century. While Shawsville continued to grow, the historic center of the town stayed unchanged. With the closing of the station in the 1970s and its destruction by fire, the railroad ceased to be an important part of the town, and the nearby highway US 460/11 has increasingly been subjected to strip development. Although this does not immediately threaten the district, future activities in the urban development corridor could affect it.



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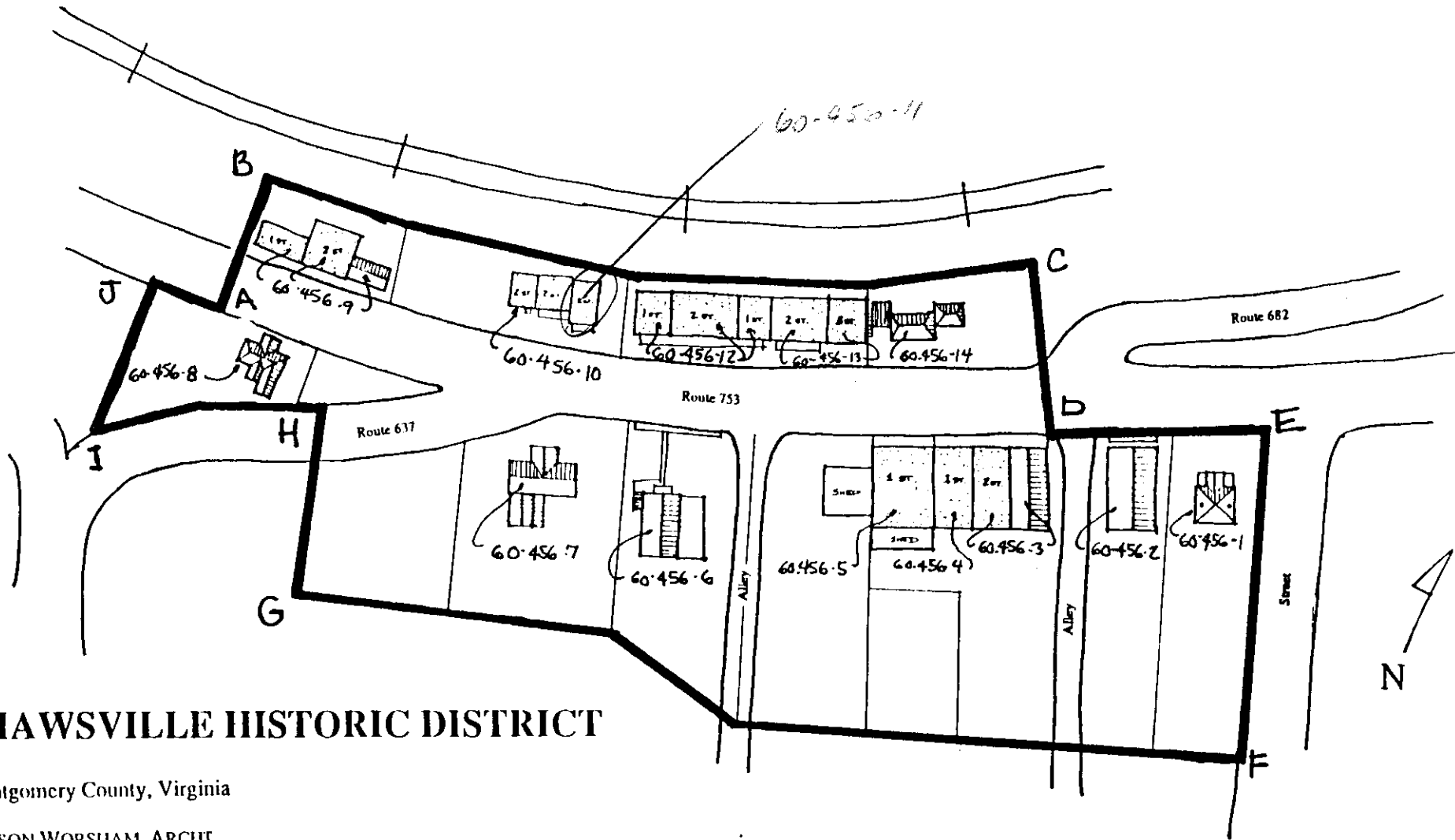
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lot at 60-456-1, south with the said property line 250 feet to point F, thence west with the rear (south) property lines of the lots on the south side of VA Route 753 890 feet to point G, thence north 150 feet to point H on the north side of VA Route 637, thence west 170 feet with the north side of VA Route 637 to point I, thence 110 feet north with the west side of the lot at 60-456-8, thence east 60 feet with the south side of VA Route 753 to the point of origin.



# SHAWSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Montgomery County, Virginia

GIBSON WORSHAM, ARCHT

