

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

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 sheet? (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

other names/site number Palmer House; 150-14

2. Location at end of Mountain View Drive and on the northeast

street & number side of South Main Street N/A not for publication
city, town Blacksburg N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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 _____ Date _____
Director, Department of Historic Resources
 State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structures

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structures

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: double-pile center-passage plan

Mid-19th century: Greek Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

walls brick

roof Metal: tin

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Amiss-Palmer House stands on a large lot in the center of a mid-twentieth-century subdivision, immediately to the southeast of downtown Blacksburg. It is located at the head of a long avenue of maple trees lined by modern ranch-style houses. A lot of three acres remains, however, to prevent the two-story, three-bay house from appearing hemmed in or crowded. The hip-roofed brick house is elegantly detailed with pattern-book Greek Revival elements, but incorporates the regionally popular traditional double-pile center-passage form. A fine collection of outbuildings gives the complex one of the best collections of secondary domestic structures in the county.

The two-story, three-bay house is built of brick laid in Flemish bond on the principal (southwest) front, which originally overlooked the main road south of Blacksburg in a formal and highly visible way. The original facade has doors with sidelights in the center bay of each floor. The doors give access to the first floor and roof of a centrally placed one-story portico supported by paired, fluted, Ionic columns and carrying a turned balustrade above its full entablature. Large six-over-six double-hung sash windows with fluted exterior trim and wood lintels flank the doors and are equipped with early louvered blinds. The first-floor door transom with diamond panes is supported by slender, paneled pilasters.

The walls are surmounted by a deep, plastered brick frieze and a wood cornice, and the house is sheltered beneath a hipped roof, said to have been built over an earlier roof that is preserved below the present structure. The flat top of the roof is surrounded by a turned wooden railing. A late nineteenth-century two-story enclosed porch shelters the southeast side of the house, while a modern one-story addition spans the rear (northeast).

The interior consists of a pair of rooms flanking the central passage, each with an internal chimney on the outside wall. The rooms on the northwest side are joined by a double pocket door, while a fine open-stringer staircase ascends at

See continuation sheet

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
ca. 1856 - 1880

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.

The Amiss-Palmer House is significant under criterion C as an important mid-nineteenth-century house with sophisticated stylistic features and a well-preserved and nearly complete group of outbuildings. The stylistic features, some only found in a few houses in the county, notably Whitethorne (60-241, part of this submission) include the deep plastered frieze, the elegant porch and entry surround, and the marble mantels. The house has been well maintained, and new additions have been made to the rear that do not seriously compromise the architectural value or historic visual character of the house or site.

The house was built in the 1850s by Edwin J. Amiss, a prominent Blacksburg merchant and landowner. Amiss's land stretched along the northeast side of South Main Street as it left the town limits and the house commanded the road from an elevated hillock. Edwin J. Amiss purchased parcels of land from a variety of owners, principally from Alexander Black and James Evans "on the mountain" south of Blacksburg. The land value did not include buildings until 1856, when improvements worth \$3,000 were made to one 125 acre tract. In 1870, 450 acres were purchased by Colonel W. H. Palmer at a commissioners sale of Amiss's property, and grouped in an inclusive survey of 494 acres in 1874 (Deed Book U, p. 196). In 1880 Palmer paid taxes on buildings worth \$4,000. The land was subdivided in the mid-twentieth century and developed for modern homesites, preserving the maple-lined avenue, centered on the front door, and about three acres of land.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Montgomery County Deed Book U, p. 196.

Montgomery County Land and Tax Books 1855, 1856, and 1880.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street

Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property three acres.

UTM References

A

1	7
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5	5	2	2	8	0
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4	1	1	5	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the southeast side of Earhart Street, 600 feet southwest of its intersection with Palmer Drive, proceeding northeast 260 feet along a lot line to point B, thence southeast 400 feet along a lot line to point C, thence southwest 260 feet along a lot line to point D, thence northwest 400 feet along a lot line to point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries follow the present lot lines, Lot 257-(4)-(8)-1A Montgomery County tax maps.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730

street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073

city or town Christiansburg

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

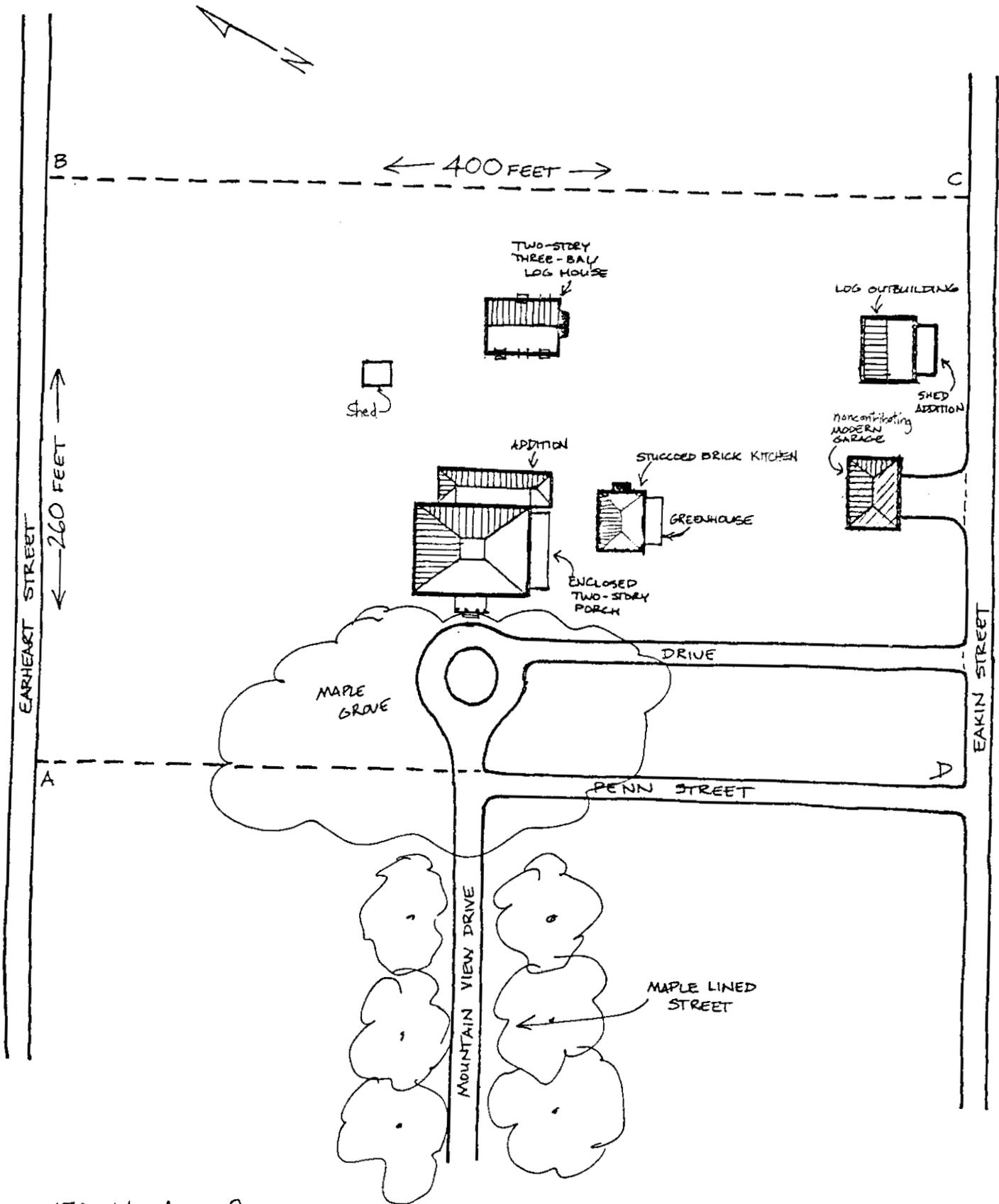
Prehistoric and Historic
Resources of Montgomery County
Amiss-Palmer House; 150-14

Section number 7 Page 1

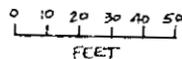
the back of the passage. The rooms are equipped with marble Greek Revival mantels with metal coal inserts, and with substantial Greek Revival trim.

The mid-nineteenth-century outbuildings include a one-story brick kitchen to the southeast of the house with a large room equipped with a wide brick fireplace at the northeast gable end and a smaller room below a hipped roof at the opposite end. Each room has a separate exterior door facing the main house. A modern greenhouse has been added on the southeast wall. To the rear (northeast) of the house stands a three-bay, two-story, log house with a brick and stone chimney at the southeast end. The apparently mid-nineteenth-century V-notched house has a three-bay facade facing the main house and has an exposed log exterior in good condition. A well preserved, smaller log meat house (of contemporary date with the other buildings) is located at the southeast edge of the yard to the side of the house. It has a modern shed addition.

The house and outbuildings have been modernized and enlarged in order to make them useful modern buildings, but no significant elements have been removed, and important exterior features have been carefully preserved. A noncontributing garage is located to the southeast of the house on the edge of the lot.



150-14 AMISS-PALMER HOUSE; 150-14
 G. WORSHAM
 K. MARTIN 04/88

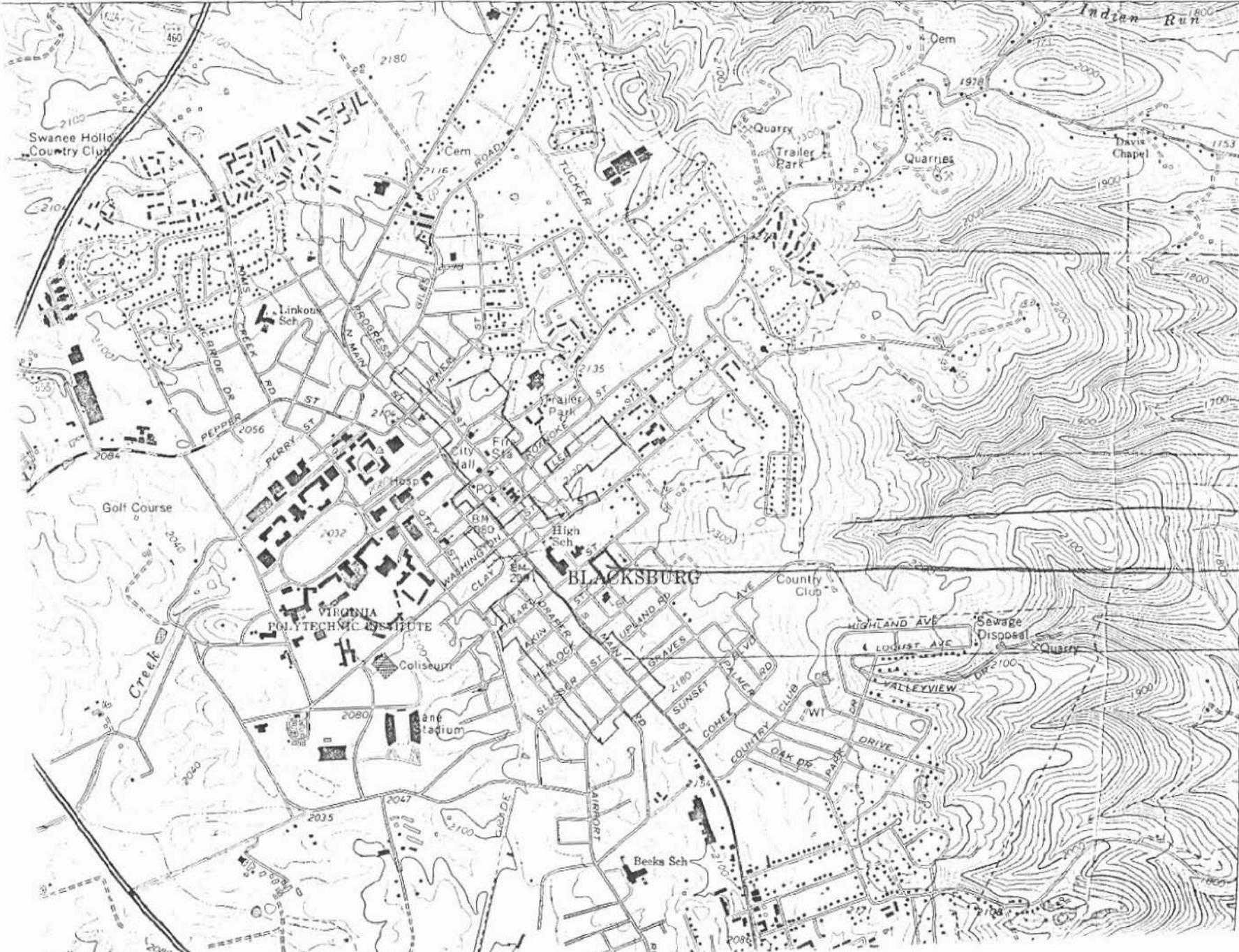


STATE OF VIRGINIA
 MINERAL RESOURCES
 STATE GEOLOGIST
 1958 IV SW
 NEWPORT

BLACKSBURG QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA—MONTGOMERY CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

1958 IV SE
 (MC DONALDS MILL)

551 25' 552 553 554 1450 000 FEET 555 80° 22' 30" 37° 15'



- KIESTER HOUSE
 17 551690 4121485
- BLACKSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
- 17 551590 4120846
- 412117 552040 4120855
- 17 552590 4120535
- 17 552100 4120136
- THOMAS-COANER HC
 17 551925 4120110
- PHILLIPS-KONFLW HC
 17 551990 4119960
- AMISS-PALMER HOUSE
 17 552600 4120211
- 330 000 FEET
- MILLER-SOUTHSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 150-109