

VER-11/3/89  
NRHP-11/3/89

150-5014

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

historic name Keister House

other names/site number Keister House #1; 60-280

### 2. Location

street & number 607 Giles Road

N/A  not for publication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

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</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  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Date

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 structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling  
 Domestic: secondary structure

**7. Description**Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Mid-19th century: two-room-plan dwelling

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestone  
 walls brick  
 roof metal: tin  
 other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Keister House is situated on the northwest side of Giles Road northeast of the historic center of the town of Blacksburg. It is a two-story, four-bay, two-room-plan dwelling with two similar interior rooms divided by a brick partition and reached by symmetrically placed doors in each of two center bays. An exterior chimney rises at each end. The principal facade and south end are laid in Flemish bond, while the north end and rear (west) are laid in common bond. Twentieth-century windows and doors have been inserted on either side of the chimneys, and a log kitchen demolished, but the principal front remains unaltered with early doors, original louvered blinds, and a molded brick cornice still intact. The windows have later two-over-two sash. An addition to the rear contains modern rooms.

Similar Federal-style mantels are in each first-floor room. Each has a very high frieze, a central tablet with an elliptical sunburst, reeded end blocks, and fluted pilasters. The house has nearly complete, original paneled wainscot throughout. An entry passage was created in the mid-twentieth century by previous owners, who built a new stair behind the northern front door. Just inside this door the paneling along the interior partition has been carefully stripped of paint revealing a grained decoration including a painted strip resembling inlay work creating the appearance of a raised panel. A mid-twentieth-century garage located to the north is noncontributing.

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  
1830s

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.

This two-room-plan house is significant under criterion C, as an important and well-preserved dwelling representing a rare variation of the regionally popular hall-parlor form found throughout the region during most of the 19th century. Only four brick two-room-plan houses were found in Montgomery County dating from the period 1825-1900 (forty were log and seven of frame) of which three were from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. These brick houses are similar and differ from most of the others by the use of a pair of similar-sized rooms and two doors in a four-bay facade. The two best-preserved of the houses, 60-300 and this house, are being nominated.

According to tradition, the land was granted in 1800 and a log house was then built. The brick house was built in the 1830s and a corridor connected the two houses. Tax records show John Keister, born in Blacksburg in 1787, owned the property in 1840. The property remained in the Keister family until a 1935 foreclosure. A handbill from the trustee's sale is still in possession of the owners. The log section was demolished after the sale and the corridor became part of a one-story addition to the rear of the house. In 1945 A. W. and Louise Shriver bought the house and remodeled it (Wieczynski).

The present owners, David and Lindsey West, added a family room to the rear of the house in 1971. The Wests have done research on the house, and have carefully uncovered the painted graining on portions of the wainscoting. The house retains much of its integrity and most alterations have been done to the rear of the house and do not affect its visual integrity.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Wieczynski, Jo; "A Houseful of Changes"; Roanoke Times and World News; March 12, 1987.

**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, VA. 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre.

**UTM References**

A 

1	7
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5	5	1	6	9	0
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4	1	2	1	4	9	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 80 feet east and 40 feet south of the southeast corner of the house, proceeding west 70 feet to point B, thence south 25 feet to point C, thence west 147 feet to point D, thence north 163 feet to point E, thence east 220 feet to point F, thence south 140 feet to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

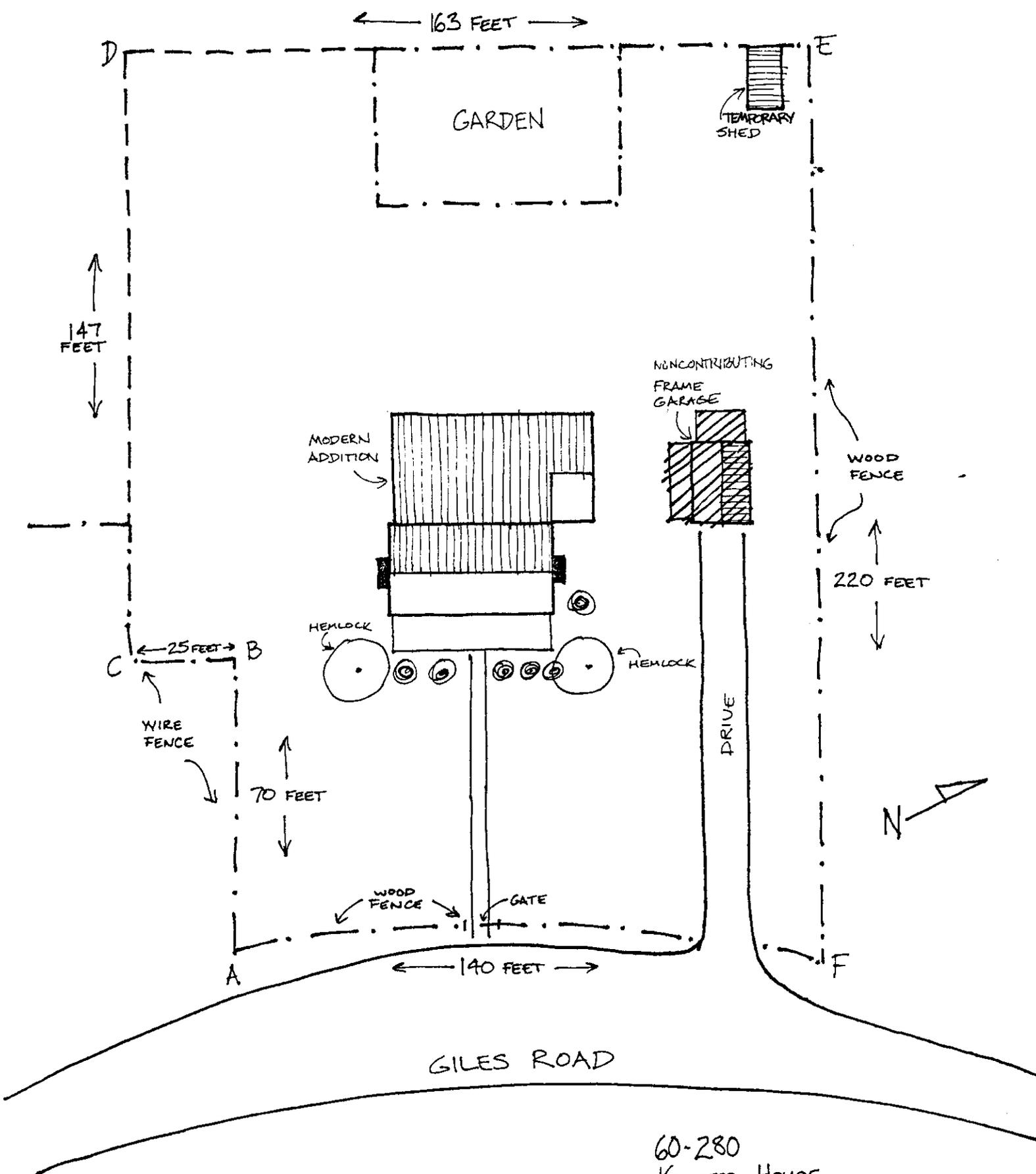
**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were chosen to include the house and its domestic-related space.

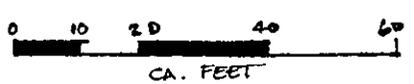
See continuation sheet

**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



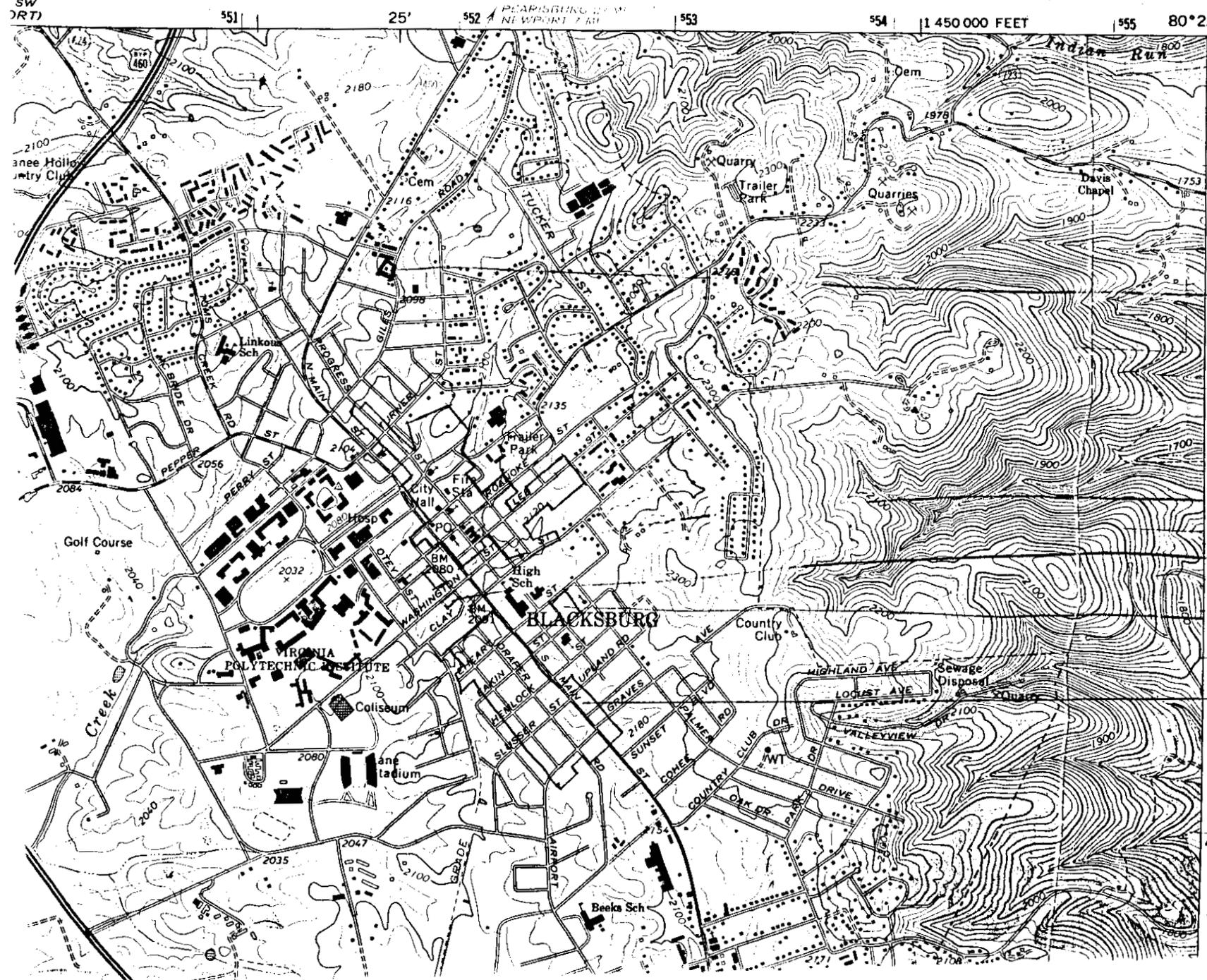
60-280  
 KEISTER HOUSE  
 MONTGOMERY COUNTY, VIRGINIA  
 G. WORSHAM, K. MARTIN 4/88



1 OF VIRGINIA  
 RAL RESOURCES  
 TATE GEOLOGIST

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

1958 IV SE  
 (MC DONALDS MILL)



551 | 25' | 552 | 553 | 554 | 1 450 000 FEET | 555 | 80°22'30" | 37°15'

4122  
4121  
4120  
4119

KIESTER HOUSE  
 17 551690 4121485

BLACKSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT

17 551990 4120848  
 17 552040 4120855  
 17 552390 4120535  
 17 552100 4120158

--- THOMAS-CORNER HOUSE  
 17 551905 4120110

--- PHILLIPS-RONALD HOUSE  
 17 551990 4119960

--- AMISS-PALMER HOUSE  
 17 552600 4120260

MILLER-SOUTHSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 150-109