

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-2/1/91

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 Christiansburg Post Office  
other names/site number 154-27

### 2. Location

street & number northwest corner of the public square N/A  not for publication  
city, town Christiansburg N/A  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24073

### 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>0</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>0</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.

Heather C. Miller Signature of certifying official Date 9/21/89  
Director, Virginia 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)

GOVERNMENT: post office

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT: post office

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

late 19th & 20th century revivals: Colonial  
Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls BRICK

roof METAL: tin

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Christiansburg Post Office of 1936 is located on the northwest side of the north quadrant of the public square in Christiansburg. The one-story, brick structure incorporates elaborate Colonial Revival detailing. A mid-twentieth-century addition to the rear (northwest) does not impair the architectural form of the building.

The nine-course common-bond brick building is of domestic scale and features twelve-over-twelve double-hung sash windows, a denticulated cornice, and a standing-seam metal, gabled roof surmounted by a small, flat-roofed cupola with arched louvers and corner pilasters. The gable ends are furnished with weatherboarded pediments containing semicircular windows. The arched entry door is located in the center of the five-bay principal (southeast) facade and features a Greek Doric entablature supported by fluted, Doric columns and partial pilasters. The original doors have been replaced by modern aluminum doors. The door is flanked by ornamental iron lamps on wall brackets. The sorting room extends into a flat-roofed wing to the rear with a brick parapet and large exterior chimney stacks. A small addition to the rear contains a roofed loading dock reached by a raised concrete parking lot surrounded by a concrete wall and iron pipe railings. The boiler room in the basement is reached by a door on the southwest side of the main building.

The interior is characterized by a lobby which occupies the front (southeast) and the southwest side. The sorting room is located in the balance of the structure, with the postmaster's office occupying the northeast corner and opening off the lobby. The lobby is plastered and features earth-colored tiles laid in decorative patterns in the floor and wainscot. Dark stained, varnished woodwork surrounds the doors and windows. A well-detailed paneled vestibule is located just inside the front door. The door to the postmaster's office is equipped with an architectural cornice, molded trim, and base blocks. The door's position as the decorative centerpiece of the lobby is reinforced by its being surmounted by a W.P.A. mural depicting local events of the French and Indian and Revolutionary wars painted by Paul DeTroot in 1938. The mural shows a pioneer figure, Indians attacking, a log house, Bluecoats marching and being directed by an officer about to mount a white horse, and the modern town of Christiansburg in the distance.

The well-preserved building is the most architecturally sophisticated structure on the public square.

**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  
ART  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1936-1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1936, 1938  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder

Louis A. Simon, architect  
Detroit, Paul, artist  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The 1936 Christiansburg Post Office is significant under criterion C as a well-preserved structure illustrating the high architectural standards employed by the U.S. Postal Service in the second quarter of the twentieth century and of the use of art as architectural ornament as encouraged by the Works Progress Administration during the Great Depression and afterwards. Alterations and additions to the building are minor and chiefly kept to the rear of the building and out of the public view. The building's historic fabric has been carefully maintained on both the exterior and interior.

The architect for the Post Office building was Louis A. Simon, chief architect for the U.S. Postal Service and the credited designer of many post offices across the nation. He was the architect of the nearby Radford Post Office, which is essentially a two-story version of the Christiansburg building. The cornerstone lists 1936 as the building's date of erection and Neal Melnick as supervising engineer. The handsome and muscular mural by artist Paul DeTroot is dated 1938 and is representative of the style and typical subject matter of Depression-era and W.P.A.-sponsored painting and sculpture.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Harman, Bill. Interview, 1988.

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 Less than one acre.

UTM References

A	<u>17</u>	<u>552470</u>	<u>4109270</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
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D	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>	<u>  </u>
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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries correspond to the boundaries of tax parcel #527-(A)-48.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the building and its immediate site.

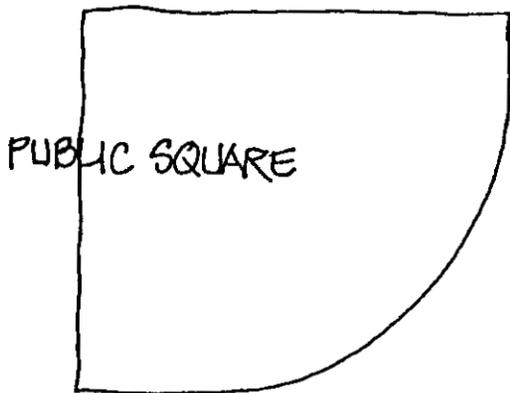
See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

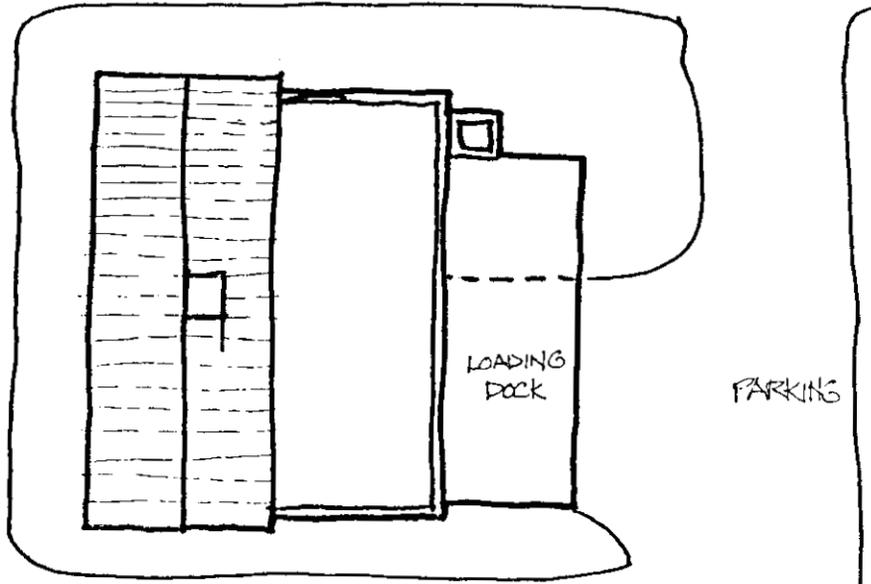
name/title <u>Gibson Worsham</u>	date <u>June 1988</u>
organization <u>Gibson Worsham, Architect</u>	telephone <u>(703) 552-4730</u>
street & number <u>Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs</u>	state <u>Virginia</u> zip code <u>24073</u>
city or town <u>Christiansburg</u>	



← N. FRANKLIN ST. →



PUBLIC SQUARE



LOADING DOCK

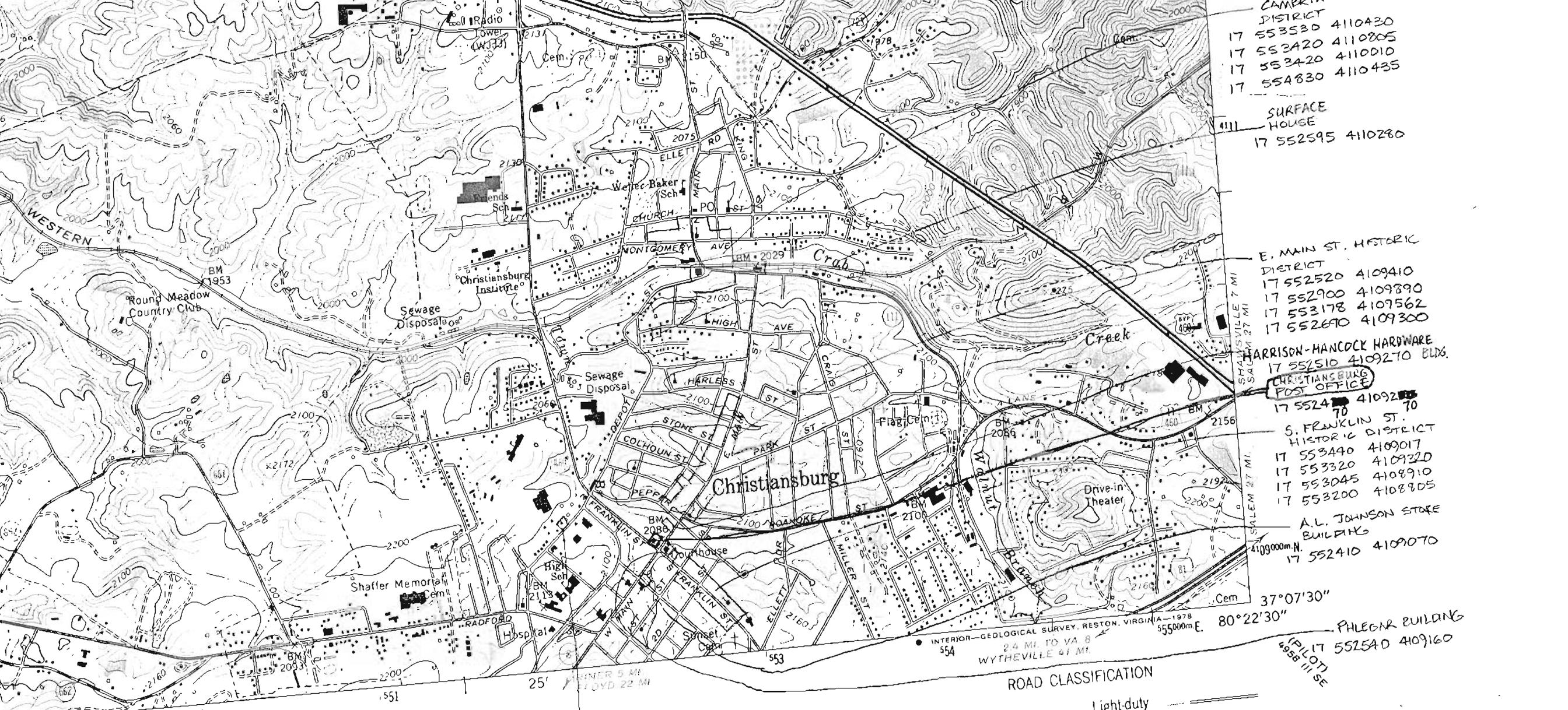
PARKING

ALLEY

↑  
E. MAIN ST.  
↓

N  
↘

CHRISTIANSBURG POST OFFICE  
154-27 NOT TO SCALE



CAMERON DISTRICT  
 17 553530 4110420  
 17 553420 4110805  
 17 553420 4110010  
 17 554830 4110435

SURFACE HOUSE  
 17 552595 4110260

E. MAIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 17 552520 4109410  
 17 552900 4109890  
 17 553178 4109562  
 17 552610 4109300

HARRISON-HANCOCK HARDWARE  
 17 552510 4109270 BLDG.  
 CHRISTIANBURG POST OFFICE  
 17 552470 4109270

S. FRANKLIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 17 553440 4109017  
 17 553320 4109320  
 17 553045 4108910  
 17 553200 4108805

A.L. JOHNSON STORE BUILDING  
 17 552410 4109070

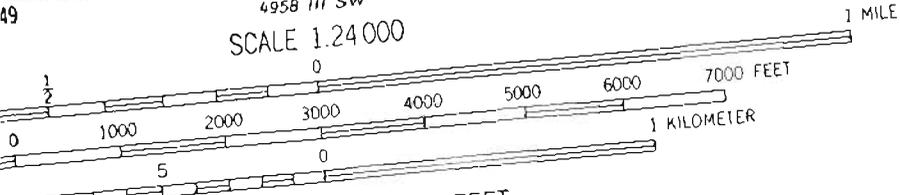
PHLEGAR BUILDING  
 17 552540 4109160

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1978  
 2.4 MI. TO VA. 8  
 555000m.E. 80°22'30"

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - -
- Light-duty - - - - -
- Unimproved dirt =====
- Interstate Route
- ◻ U.S. Route
- State Route

(RINER)  
 4958 III SW  
 SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

MONTGOMERY WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS COTTAGE  
 17 551985 4109360



BLACKSBURG, VA.  
 N3707.5—W8022.5/7.5

1965  
 PHOTOREVISED 1978  
 AMS 4958 III NW—SERIES V834

NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 VIRGINIA 22092

Contour lines shown in purple compiled from latest authority