

VLR- 6/13/
NRHP 1/24 '02

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name: **STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT**
other names/site number (307-5004)

2. Location

street & number: Main Street and Blue Ridge Street (SR 58) not for publication
city or town STUART vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Patrick code 141 Zip 24171

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

McCarton 10/17/2001
Signature of certifying official Date

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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper

Date of Action

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (307-5004)
Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>18</u> | <u>7</u> | buildings |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | sites |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> | structures |
| <u>1</u> | <u> </u> | objects |
| <u>19</u> | <u>7</u> | Total |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|---|--|
| Cat: COMMERCE <u> </u> | Sub: professional <u> </u> |
| <u>COMMERCE</u> <u> </u> | <u>financial institution</u> <u> </u> |
| <u>GOVERNMENT</u> <u> </u> | <u>courthouse</u> <u> </u> |
| <u>RELIGION</u> <u> </u> | <u>religious facility</u> <u> </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

| | |
|---|--|
| Cat: COMMERCE <u> </u> | Sub: professional <u> </u> |
| <u>COMMERCE</u> <u> </u> | <u>financial institution</u> <u> </u> |
| <u>GOVERNMENT</u> <u> </u> | <u>courthouse</u> <u> </u> |
| <u>RELIGION</u> <u> </u> | <u>religious facility</u> <u> </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| <u> </u> | <u> </u> |

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival _____
Gothic Revival _____
Colonial Revival _____
Art Deco _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

Foundation: brick _____
Roof: asphalt shingles, slate shingles _____
Walls: Brick _____

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (307-5004)
Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
Government; Commerce; & Architecture

Period of Significance 1858-1951

Significant Dates 1858/59; 1884; & 191

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Thomas, C.Y. 1858/9 Courthouse

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Zone Easting | Northing | Zone Easting | Northing |
| 1 17 565250 | 4055150 | 2 | |
| 3 | | 4 | |

See continuation sheet.

U. S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service

STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT (307-5004)
Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 17 565250 4055150_ 2 _____
3 _____ 4 _____
See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne Stuart Beckett, Consultant

Organization: ANNE STUART BECKETT_ date March 15, 2001_

street & number: PO Box 2712 _____ telephone 540-982-2600_

city or town Roanoke _____ state VA_ zip code 24001_

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Town of Stuart (Terry Tiller, Town Manager) _____

street & number Town Hall, Patrick Avenue P.O. Box 422_ telephone 540-694-2079_

city or town Stuart _____ state VA_ zip code 24171_

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 7 Page 1

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Summary Paragraph

The Stuart Uptown Historic District includes the historic core of the southern Piedmont town Stuart, the county seat of Patrick. Situated on a crest of a hill, and spilling down its slope, the approximately six-acre district is roughly T-shaped as it follows the junction of the town's two primary roads, Main Street and Blue Ridge Street (State Route 58). Within the district is the 1858/59 Classical Revival style Patrick County Courthouse and the 1940 Stuart Post Office constructed by the Federal Works Administration. Other public buildings include the Patrick County Bank (1911) and the early-twentieth-century Stuart United Methodist Church and the Stuart Baptist Church. One and two-story brick commercial buildings dating from the early to mid twentieth century line the two blocks of Main Street going south downhill from the courthouse. A wooded area known as "Pine Hill" separates the uptown governmental and commercial district from the commercial and industrial downtown area that developed later around the railroad and South Main Street.

European Settlement to Society (1607-1752)

No resources were identified from this period.

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

No resources were identified from this period.

Antebellum Period (1831-1860)

The village of Taylorsville grew around the Patrick County Courthouse after its establishment in 1792. The first court was held in the home of Jonathan Hanby. Soon afterwards, Captain Eliphaz Shelton donated 10 acres for the centrally located courthouse site. Charles Vest was the builder of the first courthouse of Patrick County and was paid 50 pounds for his efforts. The courthouse was proposed to be 36 feet by 24 feet, of brick, stone or frame with a shingled roof, two Jury rooms each with a brick or stone fireplace, the walls to be lath and plastered, and the work "to be done in a good Workmanlike manner..." The courthouse, completed in October 1794, was located slightly to the west of the present structure.¹

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National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)
Section 7 Page 2

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

By 1819, the county's needs had outgrown the capacities of its courthouse, and on July 15, 1821, Abram Staples was appointed to be the builder of the next courthouse. On July 11, 1822, Staples had completed the second courthouse. From the beginning, the local commerce centered on the courthouse activities and a number of ordinaries were established in the early years. None of these resources are extant.²

Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, **the Patrick County Courthouse (307-01) (037-5004-0026)** overlooks the town of Stuart at the junction of Main Street and Blue Ridge Street. Denoted in the original nomination as being constructed in 1822, instead the current courthouse was designed by C.Y. Thomas and constructed in 1859. This courthouse is a good example of a Jeffersonian inspired tripartite massing brick building with Greek Revival detailing that was later modified by Colonial Revival details. Flanked by two-story wings, the central three-bay block extends to form a Tuscan portico. The four columned portico, set above a high ground floor and resting on brick piers, is only one-story high, unlike Henry County's two-story portico. Steep stone steps lead up to the pedimented double door entrance. The building is of red brick and had stuccoed Tuscan columns and white wooden trim. The facades of the central block and wings are laid in a Flemish brick bond, and the sides of the buildings are laid in one-to-four common bond. The wings have low-pitched gable roofs and strongly projecting cornices. The small tower once housed a bell that was rung on court days. The Colonial Revival doorway of the main entry probably dates from a 1928 remodeling. The large windows have six-over-six wood sashes and, like the doors, have granite sills and lintels. The shutters are no longer in place.³

The second story of the central section serves as the courtroom. Very little original trim remains. The shape has been changed by a twentieth-century enlargement, which extends the room toward the rear. The present courtroom is the result of a 1928 remodeling by T.E. Adkins of Stuart as well as of later refurbishing in 1936 and 1971. The Treasurer's Office in the southern portion of the building still contains two original Classical Revival style mantels with pilasters supporting a plain frieze beneath simple mantel shelves.⁴

Two brick buildings along Orchard Street, directly south of the courthouse, are mid-to-late-nineteenth-century law offices. The current **Magistrate's Office (307-5004-0024)** is a ca. 1890s two-story brick building with segmentally arched windows and corner pilasters. The current **Swails Insurance building (307-5004-0025)** is perhaps the second oldest building in town next to the courthouse. Built ca. 1850s, this two-story, two-bay brick building has a rare gable front façade.

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National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 7 Page 3.

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

Civil War (1861-1865)

No resources were identified from this period.

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)

The railroad didn't reach Taylorsville until 1884, the same year that it incorporated as a town and was renamed Stuart in honor of Confederate General J.E.B. Stuart. Important buildings from this time period include the ca. 1911 **Patrick County Bank (307-5004-0003)**, situated directly across Blue Ridge Street (SR 58) from the courthouse. This narrow, yet impressive, three-story, brick Classical style bank emphasizes its prominent position in the county through its location as well as its colossal columns that support a full classical entablature and recessed entrance. Located to the west of the bank is the Colonial Revival style **Stuart Baptist Church (307-5004-0001)** with its temple front which was founded in 1878. On the northeast corner of Main and Orchard streets adjacent to the courthouse is the 1896 **Bank of Stuart (307-5004-0023)**, now known as the Ayers Building. This heavily altered building also served as a post office, a grocery store, and the Bite O' Wee Tea Room.

A non-extant, yet important building to note, is the Hotel Perkins. This famous landmark, built in the 1890s on the west side of Main Street, served the community and neighboring towns and cities until 1948, when it was destroyed by fire. This large yet inviting two-story frame hotel had projecting gable ends flanking a long, recessed, two-story porch that overlooked "uptown." It was known for its excellent food and courteous service, and perhaps for two of the best-known people in Stuart, the African-American twins Nathan and Willie Loggins, who served the hotel for most of its history.⁵

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Constant use and expanding needs caused many changes to the courthouse. In 1928, a four-story brick jail was added to the rear of the courthouse. The original wooden fence around the area in front of the courthouse was replaced with the current wrought iron fence. In the northeast corner of the enclosure, a Confederate memorial statue was dedicated November 20, 1936 to the memory of Major General J.E.B. Stuart, who grew up at Laurel Hill nearby.⁶

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National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 7 Page 4

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

Main Street, running south from the courthouse, features two relatively intact blocks of commercial buildings. Directly across Main Street from the courthouse stands the 1940 **Stuart Post Office (307-5004-0007)**, constructed by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in a modest Colonial Revival style. The one-story, pedimented gable building features 12-over-12 sash windows and a mural inside depicting a rural agricultural scene with a contented family of four. Other buildings lining the street are typically one- and two-story brick buildings with flat roofs and minimal detailing beyond the corbelled brickwork along the cornices and sign bands. Although many of the storefronts have been altered, their original flush and recessed configurations and upper floor window fenestration remain.

Two locally important buildings along Main Street are the 1938 **Stuart Drug Store (307-5004-0012)** and the 1941 **Hudson's Drug Store (307-5004-0022)**. Both are located towards the middle of Main Street but on opposite sides. The Stuart Drug Store is an excellent example of a commercial Art Deco design; it is the only one in town, and remains intact with its crème-colored bricks, decorative features, and an intact interior. There is an interesting double door entrance into the store on each corner, with one entrance also leading upstairs to offices and the other going downstairs to basement offices. This store with its neon sign has continuously served the town and is a favorite landmark of its citizens. One of the oldest businesses still in operation on Main Street is Hudson's Drug Store. Dr. George W. Hudson purchased it in 1941, and today his son Dick Hudson still manages it. This building replaced a ca. 1900 white frame store that may have also served as a drug store.

Buildings fronting the north side of Blue Ridge Street (SR 58) include the early-twentieth-century, two-story, brick office **Hooker Building (307-5004-0004)** adjacent to the Patrick County Bank on the east, and the Gothic Revival style **Stuart United Methodist Church (307-5004-0006)**, further east on Route 58, with its simple gable form with vestibule and pointed-arched windows and doors.

The New Dominion (1946-Present)

After the Hotel Perkins burnt in 1948, other buildings began to replace it. These, and other 1950s one-story brick commercial buildings at the southern end of the district and "uptown" fit in well with the surrounding streetscapes. In addition, during the 1950s and 1960s, other property owners decided to "modernize" their storefronts with either brick facades or metal paneling. However, the majority of the existing buildings retain the historic rural feel of this courthouse town.

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National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 7 Page 5

SITE INVENTORY

Properties in the inventory are organized by street and numerically by address. Entries list the name of property, the approximate date of construction, and historical data if applicable, and their VDHR survey file numbers. Historic names are used when they could be substantiated. The sites listed below are identified by their address on the attached Town of Stuart Historic District map.

Abbreviations used in the inventory include:

CB = contributing building

NCB = non-contributing building

CO = contributing object

ca. = circa

BLUE RIDGE STREET (State Route 58)

Stuart Baptist Church 307-5004-0001 ca. 1920s **CB**

This two-story, gable-fronted church has stained glass windows throughout and a pedimented portico fronting the street. A two-story brick law office built for John D. Cheatham was located near where the present church is, and was later used as a residence for Rev. Brice Martin, a Presbyterian minister who taught school in the Eagle Hotel (non-extant). W. B. Rucker's Store, a large, ca. 1890s, two-story brick building was also located near the church.

Be Blessed 307-5004-0002 ca. 1950 **CB**

A two-story, brick commercial style building lacking any detail.

Patrick County Bank 307-5004-0003 ca. 1911 **CB**

This two-story, brick bank with a recessed entrance behind large wood columns and modillioned cornice is a good example of an early 20th-century Classical style bank

Hooker Building /Home Care of Memorial Hospital 307-5004-0004 1920s **CB**

This two-story, brick commercial building with cornice detailing and segmental arches over the windows is a good example of an early 20th-century commercial style structure

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Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

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SITE INVENTORY (continued)

BLUE RIDGE STREET (State Route 58) (continued)

BB&T Bank 307-5004-0005 1970s NCB

A one-story, modern brick bank lacking any distinguishable design detailing. The historic Stonewall House stood here until it was demolished for the bank and parking lot.

101: Stuart United Methodist Church 307-5004-0006 1920s CB

This Gothic Revival style church is a good example with its simple gable form with vestibule and pointed arched windows and wooden doors. The original church was located just south of where the 1940 Post Office is today near the southeast corner of Main and Blue Ridge streets.

NORTH MAIN STREET (east side)

Stuart Post Office 307-5004-0007 1940 CB

The Stuart Post Office is an intact example of a WPA built Post Office. Built in 1940 by the Works Progress Administration, this one-story brick, pedimented gable building was designed in a modest Colonial Revival style by supervising architect Louis A. Simon. An interior mural, typical to many WPA projects, depicts an agricultural scene with a family of four lounging in the field while the father reads the newspaper to them. One of uptown's first general stores operated by James H. Rangely and J.D. McIntosh was located next to the post office. The building is intact and still serves the community.

103/105/107: National Insurance/Stee-Fees Flower Shop/Ameristaff 307-5004-0008 1920s CB

This commercial building is in good condition and may have served as an apartment building on the upper floors. A three-story brick building punctured with many window openings, it has three commercial stores on the first floor, two of which have their original entrances with wood doors.

111 The Coffee Break 307-5004-0009 1930s CB

A one-story brick commercial building with a 1950s metal, glazed storefront across the small facade. This may have been part of the original ESSO gas station, now demolished.

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National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)
Section 7 Page 7

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (east side) (continued)

119: Farmer's Food /Super Dollar 307-5004-0010 ca. 1967 NCB

A one-story brick commercial building with concrete block and a brick veneer front with a six bay-glazed storefront.

125: Patrick County Bank (Super Dollar continued) 07-5004-0011 ca.1960 NCB

A one-story, narrow commercial building that has been altered so that its original date of construction is unclear. The interior is also modified.

127/129: Stuart Drug Store 307-5004-0012 1938 CB

A great example of an Art Deco building, one of the finer buildings in Stuart, this two-story building features light colored brick laid in Flemish bond on the façade and regular red brick on the sides with a transom over the storefront. Both corners of the building have entrances that lead into the store with one door also leading upstairs while the other goes downstairs to the basement. The double-leaf doors are original with fine metal craftsmanship. A large neon sign depicting the name highlights the facade and the streetscape. W.C. "Bill" Baughan and Robert L. Richardson opened the business in 1952.

131: My Friend's Closet 307-5004-0013 1940s CB

A two-story commercial building with two storefronts in good condition with 6/6 wood windows on the second floor and a decorative brick cornice detail.

Larney's Barber Shop 307-5004-0014 1940s CB

A one-story commercial building with two storefronts in good condition with a decorative brick cornice detail.

141: Tailor's Tacks 307-5004-0015 ca. 1950 CB

A two-story commercial building with a recessed door opening, a decorative brick cornice, and cast-stone or concrete windowsills.

Apostolic Christian Church 307-5004-0016 1950s NCB

A two-story commercial building with 6/6 wood sash windows lighting the second floor.

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Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 7 Page 8

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (west side) (continued)

126: Lemon's Jewelry 307-5004-0017 ca. 1960 NCB

A narrow and long one-story commercial building with a glazed storefront.

The Hair Gallery of Stuart 307-5004-0018 1950s NCB

A wide, one-story commercial building with a glazed storefront.

16: Marilyn's 307-5004-0019 1950s NCB

A wide, one-story commercial building with a glazed storefront.

114/112: AFLAC/The Friendly Barber Shop (vacant) 307-5004-0020 1940s CB

This is a good example of a small, one-story commercial building with two storefronts, the one to the north is recessed with a wood door, and a wood ceiling along that entire storefront. A glazed transom is across both storefronts and a glass block section is in the bulkheads. The cornice is of decorative brick.

Office of the Commonwealths Attorney 307-5004-0021 1940s CB

A two-story commercial building with a recessed wood door. A wood shingled awning was added across the storefront.

108/106: Hudson's Drugs 307-5004-0022 ca 1900 CB

This important drug store is apparently one of the oldest business in town and originated in 1900 as Conner's Drug Store. Dr. George W. Hudson (1891-1971) later purchased it and then his son Richard "Dick" Hudson managed it. A two-story commercial building altered with metal panels installed across the first floor elevation with thick metal muntins. It is one of two buildings (both drug stores) to display their name on a neon sign.

102/104: Bank of Stuart/ Bite O' Wee Tea Room/ Wanda's Estate Jewelry/ The Ayer's Building 307-5004-0023 1896 CB

This building was apparently built in 1896 as the Bank of Stuart and is important to the heritage of Stuart. It is two-story brick commercial building with a recessed corner entrances with double doors, and has been heavily altered by modern material.

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Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 7 Page 9

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (west side) (continued)

108 Orchard Street: Law Office/ Magistrate's Office 307-5004-0024 1890s CB

This former law office was apparently built in the 1890s and faces the south elevation of the courthouse and is important to the history of Stuart as a courthouse town. This small, brick, two-story former lawyer's office has two bays with corner pilasters. The windows have segmental arches.

102 Orchard Street: Law Office/ Swail's Insurance 307-5004-0025 1850s CB

This former law office was apparently built in the mid-nineteenth century also facing the south elevation of the courthouse and is important to Stuart as a courthouse town. This small, two-story, two-bay brick office has a rare gable front roof covered with asphalt shingles. The windows have segmental arches. The rear elevation has only one door opening. The front facade has been severely compromised with the addition of vinyl siding across the entire front. The interior retains some of its original trim that includes baseboards and a wide, thick chair-rail.

100: Patrick County Courthouse 307-5004-0026 (NRHP 307-01) 1858/59 CB CO

Listed on the National Register, the courthouse overlooks Stuart at the junction of Main Street and Blue Ridge Street. Denoted in the original nomination as being constructed in 1822, instead the current courthouse was designed by C.Y. Thomas and constructed in 1859. This courthouse is a good example of a Jeffersonian inspired tripartite massing brick building with Greek Revival detailing. Flanked by two-story wings, the central three-bay block extends to form a Tuscan portico. The four columned portico, set above a high ground floor and resting on brick piers, is only one-story high. Steep stone steps lead up to the pedimented double door entrance. The facades of the central block and wings are laid in a Flemish brick bond, and the sides of the buildings are laid in one-to-four common bond. The wings have low-pitched gable roofs and strongly projecting cornices. The small tower once housed a bell that was rung on court days. The Colonial Revival doorway of the main entry probably dates from a 1928 remodeling. The large windows have six-over-six wood sashes and, like the doors, have granite sills and lintels. In the northwest corner of the courthouse yard is a Confederate memorial statue (OBJECT) dedicated in 1936 to the memory of Major General J.E.B. Stuart.

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National Register of Historic Places (STUART UPTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT 307-5004)
Continuation Sheet (Town of Stuart, Patrick County, VA)

Section 8 Page 10

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Stuart, originally known as Taylorsville, has been the seat of Patrick County since its formation from Henry County in 1791. With the courthouse at its center, the proposed Stuart Uptown Historic District encompasses the historic core of the county seat and includes government, financial, religious, and commercial buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The Stuart Uptown Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C with significance at the local level in the areas of architecture, politics/government, and commerce for the period 1858 to 1952. There are 26 buildings and one monument (no secondary resources), of which 20 are contributing to the proposed district.

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

The village of Taylorsville, named in honor of Revolutionary soldier George Taylor, grew around the Patrick County courthouse after its establishment in 1792. The county, which was named for Patrick Henry, was created from "that part of the (Henry) County called the Hollows" by a bill effective June 1, 1791. The first court was held in the home of Jonathan Hanby. Soon afterwards, Captain Eliphan Shelton donated 10 acres for the centrally located courthouse site. The Justices met in April of 1793 and appointed the Courthouse to be "36 feet by 24 feet, two Jury rooms at one end 12 feet Square, a Brick or Stone Chimney with a fireplace to each Jury room...the walls to be Timber, Brick or Stone...to be done in a good Workmanlike manner..." Charles Vest became the builder of the first courthouse and was paid 50 pounds for his efforts. The courthouse, completed in 1794, was located slightly to the west of the present structure.⁷

By June 18, 1819, the county's needs had outgrown the capacities of its courthouse. Abram Staples, Harvey Fitzgerald, and German Baker were directed to advertise in Franklin, Henry, Montgomery, and Patrick counties, in Stokes, North Carolina, and in the Lynchburg Press for bids on construction of a new courthouse to be completed by November Court, 1821. These directives were overly optimistic because the site wasn't chosen until July 15, 1821. Abram Staples, one of the commissioners, was appointed the builder, and by July 11, 1822, the second courthouse was completed. From the beginning, the local commerce centered on the courthouse activities, and a number of ordinaries were established in the early years.⁸

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Section 8 Page 11

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Antebellum Period (1831-1860)

By 1850, Taylorsville had grown to include approximately 50 dwellings and businesses. The 1850 census reported 18 households with 50 adults (including 29 boarders) and 60 children living in the area of the courthouse. Occupations listed included four farmers, two innkeepers, three merchants, four attorneys, two physicians, two cabinetmakers, two saddlers, one harness maker, three tailors, one bricklayer, nine laborers, a clerk, a mail carrier, and a sheriff with two deputies. These continued to reflect the courthouse presence as well as a growing village. During this period, improvements in transportation began to make the courthouse more accessible and the transportation of local goods to market easier. The Danville and Wytheville Turnpike, following present-day Route 8, was established in the 1850s. In 1848, the Richmond and Danville Railroad was chartered, and tracks were completed to Danville by 1856.⁹

By 1843, the 1822 courthouse began needing repair as Abram Staples was ordered at the June Court to have the courthouse whitewashed and a portico added. Beginning in June 1850, the building of a new courthouse was being considered when it was ordered that all the justices must convene for a vote. At that time, the vote was 2 to 19 not to construct a new courthouse. Again in June 1852, all acting Justices were summoned and this time with a tie vote at 7 to 7. By June 1855, the justices again voted upon "the propriety of erecting a new courthouse" with a 12 to 4 vote in favor of it, so a new courthouse was ordered to be erected at or near the same point on the public square and \$1,000.00 was ordered to be levied for the present year. It was furthered ordered that C. Y. Thomas and Ben E. Butman were to prepare one or more plans for the courthouse.¹⁰

At the July session of 1855, which required the presence of all acting justices, it was determined that the new courthouse was to be designed as follows:

The main building inclusive of portico in front should be 25 x 30 feet in size and the wings 20 feet square, the building to have a Basement of 10 feet pitch which would embrace the two clerks offices in the wings, and a large public room in the main building, this room to be for the convenience of the people to hold public meetings, the transactions of business....A house of this description built of brick and roofed with tin & all the work executed in a plain but neat & substantial manner and protected with three coats.¹¹

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Originally, the proposed courthouse was to be completed by April 18, 1857 at a maximum sum of \$6,500.00 with three payments beginning March 1, 1856. However, by August 28, 1855, the appointed commissioners had failed to secure a builder at that price, and it was decided to make the most judicious contract possible. The court also ordered that C.Y. Thomas be allowed \$20.00 to draw the plans for the new building and that S.M. Shoemaker be allowed \$10.00 for drawing the specifications. After the commissioners published notices in the *Danville Register* and the *Floyd Intelligence*, they agreed to hire J.W. Johnson and S.B. Taylor for \$8,000.00.¹²

The courthouse was almost finished at the end of 1858, since John L. Staples is recorded on October 14, 1858 as giving a Deed of Trust to William Critz "as securities for the building of the new Court House – now nearly completed." In June of 1859, commissioners were appointed to examine the new building and reported that the work generally met specifications, except those of "the Hand Rail and Banisters around the Portico and steps, a little penciling and a finishing coat for the window caps." In June 1859, the court received their report, and the new courthouse was accepted as "the Court House of this county."¹³

Civil War (1861-1865)

Although the Civil War disabled the economy and brought shortages, hardships, and some loss of life, almost no battle damage occurred. General Stoneman's Raid in the spring 1865 hurt a few individuals, but very little was destroyed. The courthouse and its records survived intact.¹⁴

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)

It was not until after the Civil War that the railroad would reach Taylorsville. In spite of the hard economic times following the war, the expansion of the railroads was critical. The Danville and New River Railroad was chartered in 1873, with the line completed to Martinsville in nearby Henry County by 1881. In 1883, citizens of Patrick County approved a bond of \$150,000 to expand the line. The first train pulled into Taylorsville in August 1884. With the growth associated with the railroad, Taylorsville was incorporated as a town in 1884 and was renamed Stuart in honor of Confederate Major General J.E.B. Stuart, who was born 20 miles west of town.¹⁵

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Major General J.E.B. Stuart (1833-1864) grew up at Laurel Hill, where his father Archibald Stuart had built their home in the 1830s. During the winter of 1847-48, however, when Jeb began attending the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, the home was destroyed by fire. Archibald Stuart served as an attorney at the Patrick County Courthouse and other county courthouses, and as the commonwealth's attorney for Patrick County from 1823 until 1837 and again from 1847 through 1851.¹⁶ Although Stuart never became "prosperous," it was his son, James Ewell Brown Stuart, who became the "brilliant cavalry tactician [who] supplied General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia with a devastating lightning-strike capability and critical intelligence support." Because of Stuart's national prominence, the 71-acre **J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace** was recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places (70-60) for its association with "his birthplace and childhood environment, as a connection to the physical and cultural landscape that molded his character, and as a proving ground for the horsemanship skills that would contribute to his later military triumphs and historical standing." J.E.B. Stuart was killed in the Battle of Yellow Tavern May 12, 1864.¹⁷

Following the completion of the railroad, the town of Stuart continued to grow steadily. The population increased 25% from 300 in 1884 to 371 in 1900. While occupations continued to center around the courthouse activities and the typical needs of a community, the 1900 census reflects the influence of the railroad by citing four railroad employees, eight salesmen, one insurance agent, a mining engineer, and a timber dealer. Five teachers, three hotels, two druggists, and two bartenders also indicate the growth of the town. The construction of the railroad led to the distinction of "uptown" and "downtown" Stuart since the original courthouse village was situated at the crest of a hill and an industrial and commercial area developed adjacent to the railroad, which was located further downhill along the Mayo River. "Uptown" continued to serve as the center of the town with the courthouse, churches, school, attorneys' offices, banks, hotels, and stores. The two areas, however, were closely related and interdependent as is evidenced by the town's first telephone line at the turn of the twentieth century being run between the railroad depot downtown and the Hotel Perkins uptown.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Before 1915, no public water or sewer system was available, and water came from private wells or from nearby springs. There were no streetlights, and oil lamps were used for interior lighting. The roads were unpaved and the sidewalks were wooden. After the water system was installed, it was well

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

received, but by 1926 the population of the town had increased so much that improvements needed to be made. In 1916, the Clark Power and Light Company established the first electric light system in Stuart. Each customer was charged a flat rate of \$1.25 per month, and if 300 citizens bought into the system, Clark would allow the lights to burn all night. The Stuart Power and Light Company bought them out, and they were then sold to the Virginia East Coast Utilities Company. About 1938, the Appalachian Electric Power Company bought them out. Joseph H. Vipperman, a Stuart native, was the president of this company when its name was changed to American Electric Power. The first telegraph came to Stuart with the railroad in 1884, and reportedly the first telephone operated at the Hotel Perkins. By 1923, ten lines served the county, each with a central; the Stuart central was located in the home of Walter S. Gilbert. In 1937, the Lee Telephone Company acquired all the private lines. In 1974, the Central Telephone Company of Virginia bought out the Lee Company, after that, Sprint/Centel bought them out and now serves Patrick County.¹⁸

Travel to Stuart was difficult until the first hard-paved road reached Stuart from Martinsville in 1925. In 1929, a nine-mile stretch from Stuart to the state line of North Carolina south was covered. In 1930, the three miles to Cruzes (Cruises) Store was paved, and in 1932, the road was extended to Hillsville. Today, State Routes 8 and 58 serve the town and the county as well as numerous counties along its east-to-west stretch. This road is currently under construction for widening in places from a two-lane road to a four-lane divided highway.¹⁹

By 1940, the population of Stuart had increased to 600 and the majority of the buildings standing today were already constructed. The **Patrick County Bank** (established in 1890 and later merged with the Bank of Stuart in 1926) constructed its impressive Classical building directly across from the courthouse in 1911. The two uptown churches, **Stuart United Methodist Church** and the **Stuart Baptist Church**, constructed their present structures during the early twentieth century.

The New Dominion (1946-Present)

Although the Town Hall was relocated one block down Route 58 to a modern facility, the 1858/59 **Patrick County Courthouse** and the 1940 **Stuart Post Office** still serve the community and the county in good condition. Because it retains these important buildings, Stuart is an active courthouse town, and most of its commercial buildings are occupied with their historic fabric intact.

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8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

ENDNOTES

- ¹ Patrick County Historical Society, *History of Patrick County*, p. 61 and 62.
- ² Blanton, "Stuart Uptown Historic District Preliminary Information Form."
- ³ Lee, "Patrick County Courthouse National Register Nomination."
- ⁴ Ibid.
- ⁵ Patrick County Historical Society, *History of Patrick County*, p.362.
- ⁶ Blanton.
- ⁷ Patrick County Historical Society, p.62.
- ⁸ Ibid, p. 63 and 64.
- ⁹ Blanton.
- ¹⁰ Patrick County Historical Society, pages 66 and 67.
- ¹¹ Ibid.
- ¹² Ibid, p. 68.
- ¹³ Ibid, p. 70.
- ¹⁴ Patrick County Historical Society, p. 358.
- ¹⁵ Blanton.
- ¹⁶ Huston and Downing, "Archaeological Assessment of the J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace," p. 13-15.
- ¹⁷ Pezzoni, "The J.E.B. Stuart Birthplace National Register Nomination," p.3.
- ¹⁸ Patrick County Historical Society, p. 364 - 365.
- ¹⁹ Ibid, loose newspaper article, no date.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the nominated historic district are depicted on the Town of Stuart 911 map that accompanies the nomination.

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated historic district include the historic core surrounding the Patrick County Courthouse of the “uptown” section of the Town of Stuart.

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PHOTOGRAPHS (continued)

Photo: 6 of 10

View: Looking north at the junction of Main Street and Blue Ridge Street (SR 58).

Photo: 7 of 10

View: Looking south on Main Street across from courthouse to the Stuart Post Office (307-5004-0007)

Photo: 8 of 10

View: Interior mural of Stuart Post Office

Photo: 9 of 10

View: Looking southwest down Main Street near its junction with Blue Ridge Street

Photo: 10 of 10

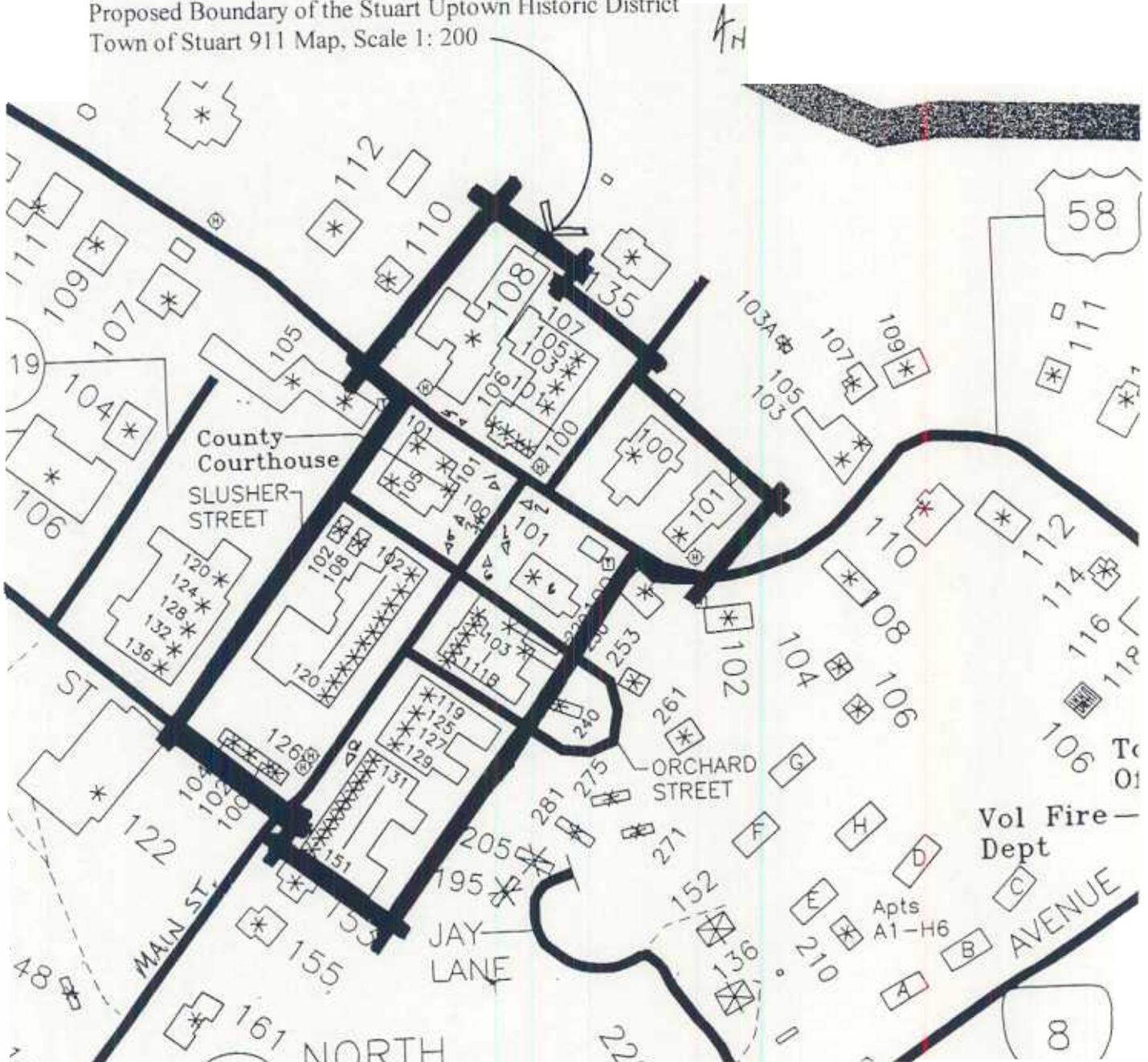
View: Neon sign on the Stuart Drug Store façade (307-5004-0012)

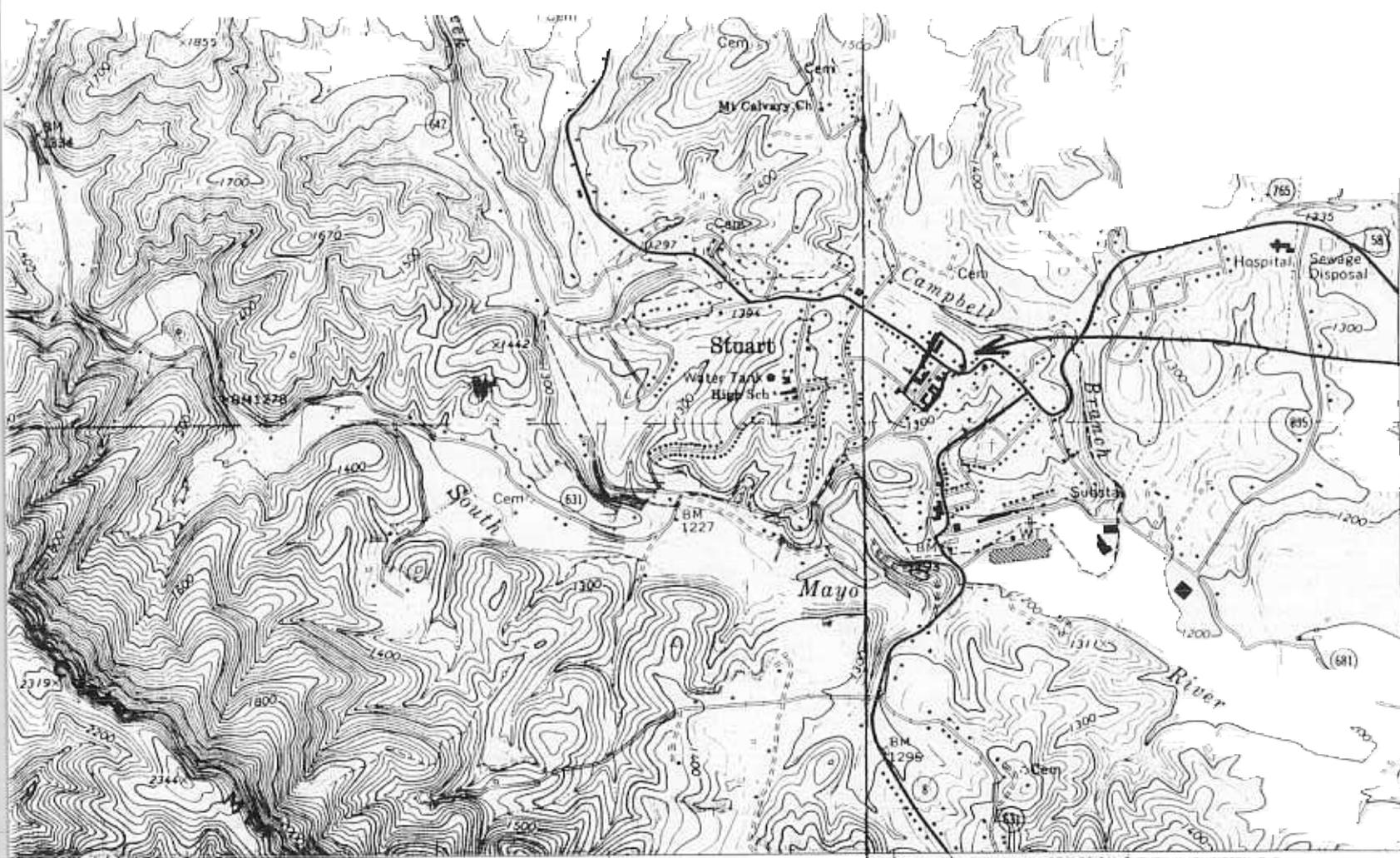
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Section Map Page 19

Proposed Boundary of the Stuart Uptown Historic District
Town of Stuart 911 Map, Scale 1: 200

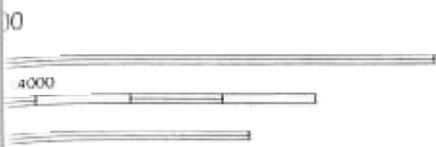




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