

VLR-8/28/95 NRHP-10/30/95

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 Glasgow Historic District  
other names/site number VDHR File No. 223-03

2. Location

street & number Bounded by Seventh, Tenth, Gordon and Powhatan streets N/A not for publication  
city or town Glasgow N/A vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Rockbridge code 163 zip code 24555

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.)

Julia G. Vasnik 8/25/95  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
LA. DEPT. 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/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
\_\_\_ 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): \_\_\_\_\_

**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**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
36	6	buildings
3	0	sites
1	1	structures
0	0	objects
40	7	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC	hotel
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	financial institution
SOCIAL	meeting hall
GOVERNMENT	post office
EDUCATION	school
RELIGION	religious facility
FUNERARY	cemetery
INDUSTRY	manufacturing facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	restaurant
GOVERNMENT	city hall
EDUCATION	library
RELIGION	religious facility
FUNERARY	cemetery
LANDSCAPE	park
WORK IN PROGRESS	

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Federal
- Late Victorian
- Craftsman

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation CONCRETE
- walls WOOD
- BRICK
- roof METAL
- other STUCCO
- ASBESTOS

**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.)

- X 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.
X 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.)

Property is:

- X 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 fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
COMMERCE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1820-1945

Significant Dates

1890

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

(see appendix at end of Section 8)

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:

- X State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 15 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17 636800	4166300	3 17 636550	4165700
2	17 637100	4166000	4 17 636450	4166100

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 J. Daniel Pezzoni  
organization J. Daniel Pezzoni, Preservation Consultant date April 25, 1995  
street & number PO Box 7825 telephone (703) 366-0787  
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019-0825

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 \_\_\_\_\_  
street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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 or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reduction Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Glasgow Historic District  
Rockbridge Co., Virginia

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## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

### Summary Description and Integrity Statement

The Glasgow Historic District occupies approximately fifteen acres at the center of Glasgow, a small incorporated town located in southern Rockbridge County, Virginia. Blue Ridge Drive (Route 684) passes through the center of the district, connecting to Rockbridge Street (Route 130) just to the south and crossing the tracks of the Norfolk Southern railroad just to the north. Other streets that pass through or tangentially to the district include Anderson, Eighth, Fitzlee, Gordon, McCulloch, and Ninth streets.

The district comprises twenty-seven principal buildings (houses, stores, churches, and so forth) and miscellaneous outbuildings for a total of forty-seven resources. Domestic buildings--houses--represent the most common resource type, followed by commercial buildings and churches. Frame and brick construction are typical. The oldest building in the district is the Peter and Rebecca Salling House, a Federal two-story brick residence built about 1820. As many as a dozen buildings (nearly half of the total) were built in the early 1890s during the town's development boom. These buildings are Victorian in inspiration; two--the Alden House and the office at 906 McCulloch Street--have front turrets and other attributes of the Queen Anne. Five houses located on the 900 blocks of Anderson and McCulloch streets date to the early and mid-1920s. These bungalows and Foursquares have Craftsman detail such as brick porch columns and windows with three-over-one or four-over-one sashes. The district's three churches--First Baptist Church, the former Glasgow Baptist Church, and St. John's Episcopal Church--are Gothic Revival in inspiration, with lancet-arched windows and other characteristic details.

The district preserves good overall historic and architectural integrity. Blue Ridge Drive, the district's central axis, is lined with prominent buildings such as the Blue Ridge Building and the Glasgow Elementary School. Several of these buildings are separated by large vacant lots--prime commercial parcels that failed to develop during the town's boom.<sup>1</sup> Transverse streets such as Anderson, Fitzlee, and McCulloch streets developed a typical small-town density of moderately scaled commercial and residential buildings, most of which survive. Key individual buildings (the Blue Ridge Building, the school, and the churches) preserve good exterior architectural integrity, as do--to a somewhat lesser degree--the smaller commercial and domestic buildings. Certain buildings dating to the 1890s boom--specifically the James G. Watts Grocery Store (representing the ground floor of the three-story Glasgow Masonic Temple), the McClure House, and the Charles M. Wood House--have been so altered that they no longer preserve their original appearance; however, in each case, the alterations occurred during the period of significance and generally reflect functional changes, and the buildings are therefore listed as contributing. A number of historic outbuildings and landscape features survive in the district.

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Glasgow Historic District  
Rockbridge Co., Virginia

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Description (continued)

Architectural Analysis

Glasgow developed a rich flora of building types during its initial period of growth, 1890 to 1892. The town's heyday coincided with the apex of the Queen Anne style in western Virginia. Locally, domestic Queen Anne construction was characterized by complex massing, asymmetrical composition, and elaborate detail. Commercial buildings too displayed Queen Anne ornament, as in the circa 1890 Blue Ridge Building at 903-905 Blue Ridge Drive in the district. This large brick building features original storefronts topped by multi-pane ("Queen Anne") transoms, and upper-story windows with a variety of ornamental metal hoods. Also in the district, but altered beyond recognition, is the 1891-1892 Glasgow Masonic Temple, designed by Richmond architect and accomplished self-publicist Carl Ruehrmund. In its original form the three-story brick building was distinguished by a tower-like corner element with a pyramidal roof, a corbeled cornice, and large round-arched windows above paneled spandrels.<sup>2</sup>

The 1890 boom attracted contractors, engineers, and building tradesmen to Glasgow from far and wide. The Rockbridge Company tapped the Newport, Rhode Island civil engineering firm of Waring, Chapman & Farquhar to devise the elaborate city plan.<sup>3</sup> Architect Edgerton Rogers of Richmond designed the company's sprawling 200-room hotel (which was located outside the district), built by the Glasgow Manufacturing Company and Richmond-based masonry contractors Stuart & Halberstadt.<sup>4</sup> The Lynchburg firm of Adams & Woodson erected the company's office on the 700 block of Fitzlee Street, a turreted three-story frame building described as a "compound of the Queen Anne, American Exchange, and French Club-house architecture."<sup>5</sup>

Several builders and materials manufacturers established businesses in Glasgow within months of the town's founding. In August, B. A. Holt & Son, originally of Richmond, began construction on the Anderson Street residence of real estate broker E. D. Junkin and the offices of the *Glasgow Herald* at the corner of the Anderson and Seventh streets (both located outside the district).<sup>6</sup> A month earlier, W. D. Bethel's steam-powered brick plant produced 40,000 ordinary and pressed brick per day, with two additional kilns under construction and a supply of 300,000 bricks to be used in building the Rockbridge Company's hotel.<sup>7</sup> As Bethel & Thomas, W. D. Bethel provided masonry for town engineer A. D. Exall's residence on Rockbridge Road and for two brick stores on Blue Ridge Road in August, and in January 1891, the firm had secured a contract to build twenty houses in Glasgow (most or all of these buildings were built outside the district).<sup>8</sup> In September, H. Jordan of Staunton opened a second brick plant near the Rockbridge Hotel.<sup>9</sup>

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Glasgow Historic District  
Rockbridge Co., Virginia

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Description (continued)

B. A. Holt & Son and Bethel & Thomas were outclassed by the Glasgow Manufacturing Company, headed by Richmonder W. A. Chesterman, "an experienced contractor and wood-worker." In August, the company completed its three-story factory at the corner of Pocahontas and Sixth streets (outside the district) and commenced filling orders for the Rockbridge Hotel and for a hotel in Clifton Forge. Seventy-five workers operated \$10,000 worth of machinery to produce flooring, moldings, shutters, window sash, and door panels.<sup>10</sup>

Painting contractors accentuated the bold forms and richly textured surfaces of the town's Queen Anne building stock. Upon completion in July, the Rockbridge Company Building was "stained a dark tint of red and green toned down, and the trimmings are in lighter shades of yellow."<sup>11</sup> The residence of Dr. Walter A. Plecker, erected by developer Elizabeth Glasgow Johns on Fitzlee Street just outside the district, received a dark red finish.<sup>12</sup> Architectural effects were further enhanced by decorative landscaping.

Buildings were critical components of the promotional engine that drove Glasgow's boom. Imposing, substantially constructed, and stylishly appointed office blocks such as the Blue Ridge Building and the Glasgow Masonic Temple demonstrated to all the financial vigor of the development companies, as well or better than stock reports and full-page advertisements. Their sheer, un-fenestrated side walls implied the future construction of contiguous buildings of equal grandeur. Even as the boom faltered in the summer of 1891, construction continued on key buildings, probably with greater urgency than before. The corner stone of the Glasgow Masonic Temple was not laid until June 1891 and the building completed long after the first signs of trouble.<sup>13</sup> The sprawling Rockbridge Hotel, the Rockbridge Company's crown jewel, opened to great fanfare on September 17, 1892, after more than two years of press hyperbole and attendant construction work on a hilltop to the west of the downtown. According to Glasgow's historian, Lynda Miller, "with that gala celebration, the hotel made its brilliant bow to the world," for after the champagne bottles were emptied and the waltzes were done, the doors closed for good. The building stood vacant for a number of years before being partially dismantled to build houses; one wing survived as rental housing until it too was torn down.<sup>14</sup> Grand hotels were the centerpieces of development schemes in western Virginia at the end of the nineteenth century--the importance of the Rockbridge Hotel to the salvation of Glasgow's bankrupt boom is seen in the determination to complete the building at all costs.

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Glasgow Historic District  
Rockbridge Co., Virginia

Description (continued)

Inventory

Properties in the inventory are organized alphabetically by street and numerically by address. The heading for each entry lists the historic or common name, the date or approximate date of construction, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources file number, and the designation "CB" or "NB," for the status of each building as either a "contributing building" or a "noncontributing building" (structures and sites are similarly designated). The body of the entry describes the architectural features of the property--story height, construction material, style or form, exterior finish, interior features when examined and so forth--and provides pertinent historical data. The entry describes outbuildings and other secondary features that are then listed individually, giving their contributing status. Dates are derived from architectural evidence, primary and secondary sources, and oral tradition. (Sanborn maps do not exist for Glasgow.)

- ✓ 1. 71X Anderson St. Glasgow Knights of Pythias Lodge. Ca. 1890 (223-03-1) CB.

Two-story frame building with weatherboard siding and a shallow-pitched metal-sheathed hip roof. Other exterior features include a poured-concrete foundation, a brick flue, two-over-two-sash windows, and two front entries--one for each floor. The first-floor interior has beaded tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings.

Architectural features suggest the building was built during the 1890s or early 1900s, and it is possible that it was known originally as the Priddy & Layne Building, which contained the W. E. Bain Hardware Store in 1890. In addition to serving as a Knights of Pythias Lodge, the building once contained a Moose lodge and it may have provided assembly space for local Masons. The building is presently vacant and in poor condition.

- ✓ 2. 72X Anderson St. Icehouse. Ca. 1890. (223-03-2) CB.

One-story frame building with novelty weatherboard siding and two metal-sheathed side-gable roofs reflecting the building's two-part form. Other exterior features include a poured-concrete foundation, a brick flue, two-over-two-sash windows, and a front porch supported by square wood posts sheltering a two-leaf door with glass panels. A modern garage stands off the east gable end of the icehouse (excluded from the district).

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Rockbridge Co., Virginia

Description (continued)

Architectural features suggest the building was built during the 1890s or early 1900s. It was used in the 1930s as an icehouse by the Mitchell family, whose dwelling stands next door at 725 Anderson Street in the district, and it may have been built as a commercial ice plant.

- ✓ 3. 724 Anderson St. House. Ca. 1970. (223-03-3.) NB.

One-story frame house with aluminum siding, an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, and a poured-concrete foundation. Outbuildings include a modern one-story frame two-vehicle garage and an older concrete-block two-vehicle garage.

Garage (frame). NB.

Garage (concrete-block). CB.

- ✓ 4. 725 Anderson St. Mitchell House. Ca. 1890. (223-03-4.) CB.

Two-story frame house with novelty weatherboard siding, a shed roof, and Victorian detail. The front parapet features sawn brackets that divide diagonal tongue-and-groove panels. A one-story porch supported by square wood posts with simple sawn brackets extends across the front. Other features include a concrete-block flue, vinyl siding on the sides and rear, a modern rear deck, and two-over-two-sash windows.

Architectural features suggest the building was built during Glasgow's early-1890s boom, and tax records may indicate that the building (or the adjoining ice house) belonged to the real estate firm and stock brokerage of McClure, Shanks & Robinson in 1891. The Mitchell family occupied the building during the 1930s; later the Goff family lived there. Two front entries (one with its original four-panel door) suggest the house may have been built as a duplex.

- ✓ 5. <sup>4</sup>737 Anderson St. Lee R. and Mary Woolridge House. Ca. 1890. (223-03-5.) CB.

Two-story frame house with aluminum siding and an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The house has a reworked one-story porch that is inset at the east corner. Other exterior features include brick flues, a front entry with a two-light transom, two-over-two- and six-over-six-sash windows, and a modern car port. Behind stands a one-story frame garage and/or carriage house

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Description (continued)

dating to the early twentieth century.

Architectural features suggest the house was built during the 1890s or early 1900s. Mary and Lee Woolridge occupied the house during the 1930s; in the 1910s, L. R. Woolridge was Glasgow's blacksmith.

Garage. CB.

- ✓ 6. <sup>3</sup>734 Anderson St. Henry and Alice Fitz House. Ca. 1890. (223-03-6) CB.

Two-story frame house with weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and simple Victorian detail. The one-story front porch, which is supported by square wood posts with sawn brackets, shelters an entry with a two-light transom. Extending to the rear is a story-and-a-half ell with a six-over-six-sash window on the west elevation and two gabled wall dormers on the east elevation. Other features include brick flues, two-over-two-sash windows, and early and modern shed-roofed one-story rear additions.

Henry Fitz and his wife Alice lived here during the early twentieth century.

- ✓ 7. 905 Anderson St. Alden House. 1890. (223-03-7) CB.

Queen Anne two-story house of frame construction with asbestos-shingle siding and a complex asphalt-shingled gable roof. The house is distinguished by a three-story square-plan turret, a feature characteristic of the larger houses built during the initial year of Glasgow's development in 1890. Other exterior features include a wraparound one-story porch supported by turned posts, a small rear porch, two one-story bay windows, brick flues, and two-over-two-sash windows. Behind stands a one-story hip-roofed frame garage that probably dates to the 1920s or 1930s.

Known as the Alden House after an early owner, the house was later owned by the Glenn family and in the 1930s by Purdy Johnson. Johnson managed the commissary at the Locher Brick Company.

Garage. CB.

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Description (continued)

8. 913 Anderson St. Hugh and Rachel Thomas House. Ca. 1920. 223-03-8. CB.

Two-story brick and frame Craftsman Foursquare with wood-shingle siding on the second story, and an asphalt-shingled hip roof with a hipped front dormer sided with wood shingles. The one-story front porch, which shares a poured-concrete foundation with the house, is supported by brick pillars with pierced shafts linked by a pierced brick balustrade (identical to the porch of the Gound House at 920 McCulloch Street in the district). Both porch and house have cornices supported by outriggers. Across the rear extends a two-story porch with an open first level supported by square wood columns and a sleeping porch on the second level with wood-shingle siding and multiple windows. Other exterior features include a brick chimney and a brick flue, segmental-arched door and window openings on the first story, a one-story bay window on the west elevation, four-over-one-sash windows, and a basement.

C&O agent Hugh Franklin Thomas and his first wife Rachel McCutcheon apparently had the house built about 1920.

9. 919 Anderson St. N. C. M. and Agnes Massie House. 1924. 223-03-9. CB.

Story-and-a-half limestone Craftsman bungalow with a low-pitched asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The roof--which features a front shed dormer, gable brackets, and exposed rafter tails--engages a front porch supported by stone pillars. A gabled wing extends to the rear. Other exterior features include stone chimneys, front picture windows (early or original), and four-over-one-sash windows. A contemporaneous one-story stone garage stands behind. Between the front yard and the street extends a stone wall with terminal pillars.

Nathaniel Clayton Manson Massie, an employee of Lone Jack Limestone, completed the house for himself and his wife Agnes Minnigerde in September 1924.

Garage. CB.

Wall. C Structure.

10. 929 Anderson St. Charles H. and Dorothy Locher House. Ca. 1925. 223-03-10. CB.

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Description (continued)

One-story brick house with an asphalt-shingled hip roof and rowlock walls. With its hipped dormers and small multi-pane windows flanking an exterior chimney, the house is Craftsman in inspiration. Other exterior features include a poured-concrete foundation, a brick flue, front picture windows (original), six-over-six-sash windows, and an attached car port. A contemporaneous one-story brick garage stands behind.

Charles Hunter Locher, owner of the Locher Clay Products Company, and his wife, Dorothy Howell, based their house on a design from *Brick: How to Build and Estimate* (1925), published by the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association of America. The rowlock construction of the Locher House was promoted by the Association as "Ideal wall" construction, which was claimed to have "the great advantage of a considerable saving in both materials and labor, combining the advantages of the solid brick and hollow unit types of wall at a lower cost than either."

Garage. CB.

11. 903-905 Blue Ridge Dr. Blue Ridge Building. Ca. 1890. 223-03-11. CB.

Imposing three-story brick building with commercial Queen Anne detail. The parapet shed-roofed building is comprised of two three-bay units linked by a central two-bay circulation shaft. The street level features the original store fronts with plate-glass display windows, one (of an original two) inset entries, Queen Anne transoms, and a central entry with tall, multi-panel, double-leaf doors. The pressed-brick stretcher-bond elevation above has central paired windows yoked together by peaked metal lintels and formerly glazed with stained-glass Queen Anne sash, and flanking segmental-arched one-over-one-sash windows with ornate metal hoods. Running at the top of the front elevation is a brick and metal cornice; a metal cornice also runs above the store fronts. The side elevations are un-fenestrated (optimistically intended as party walls); the south elevation has painted signage that reads "BLUE RIDGE TEA ROOM." The staggered rear elevation has unadorned segmental-arched door and window openings, two-over-two- and four-over-four-sash windows, and a one-story wing. On the interior, the store spaces have plastered walls and beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings, and the center unit features a stair with corridors on either side. Connected to the south elevation is a one-story, brick-faced, concrete-block commercial wing dating to the third quarter of the twentieth century.

The Blue Ridge Building was built in late 1890 and/or early 1891 by the Blue Ridge Realty Company, whose officers evidently included B. B. Bouldin and D. Q. Eggleston. Valued at

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Description (continued)

\$7,500 in 1891, the building was the largest and most expensive in Glasgow until it was outclassed by the Masonic Temple (the James G. Watts Grocery Store at 900 McCulloch Street in the district). Early occupants included the post office, the Commercial Bank, and, in 1937, the Blue Ridge Tea Room. The tea room was one of a succession of cafes to occupy the first floor. The second story served as apartments for teachers at the Glasgow Elementary School, located across Blue Ridge Drive. In 1934, the Blue Ridge Company (also known as James Lees & Sons) operated a training center for carpet weavers in the building while its plant was under construction on the east side of town. Now used partly for storage, the building suffers deterioration that threatens its structural stability.

✓12. 1002 Blue Ridge Dr. St. John's Episcopal Church. Ca. 1900. 223-03-12. CB.

Gothic Revival one-story church of brick construction with a nave-form sanctuary and several additions. The front elevation is distinguished by a corner entry tower with a lancet-arched door and transom, trebled lancet windows, and a pyramidal roof with flared eaves and a metal cross finial. The church proper has a large lancet-arched stained-glass window incorporating a rose window, and a parapet gable with a cross finial. The front-gable roof is sheathed with slate shingles, as are the roofs of the tower and additions. To the rear is a projecting chancel (apparently built in 1956) with a boiler room extension. On the north side of the original building is a Parish House (a reused building reassembled at the site in 1932) connected to the church by a 1956 hyphen. The Parish House--which repeats in form and detail the original building--is a frame building that was later given a brick veneer. The 1956 hyphen is fronted by a brick Gothic porch. The sanctuary interior features plastered walls, a ceiling with three faces sheathed in stained tongue-and-groove boards, milled Victorian door surrounds, and decorative wood pews and altar furniture. The Parish House has a beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot and celotex walls and ceiling. The hyphen contains restrooms and two classrooms. The church lot is bordered by a decorative wrought iron fence and is adjoined on the north side by the 1992 Glasgow Bicentennial Park.

St. John's Church, Latimer Parish, was established in 1886. Church members first met in a frame chapel on the Robert Echols farm near Glasgow. According to a church history, "the present brick building was erected between 1895 and 1900, of brick salvaged from an abandoned factory of the 'Boom Days,'" and consecrated in 1903. In 1932, the congregation of Trinity Chapel in Natural Bridge Station was absorbed by St. John's, and its building was resurrected as the St. John's Parish House. The 1956 hyphen and chancel were designed by William Paxton

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Glasgow Historic District  
Rockbridge Co., Virginia

Description (continued)

of Salem and built by the Rockbridge Supply Company.

Fence. C Structure.  
Park. N Site.

- ✓ 13. 1015 Blue Ridge Dr. Glasgow Post Office and Library. Ca. 1940. 223-03-13. CB.

One-story brick building raised in two phases. The building is constructed of salmon-colored brick laid in a stretcher bond and has a shed roof concealed behind a parapet with a corbeled cornice. The staggered front elevation features transomed picture windows with corbeled ledges over the window lintels. Other exterior features include a simple Colonial Revival entry surround, side and rear stoops, a rear boiler flue, and six-over-six-sash windows.

The north section of the building contained the Glasgow Post Office in the 1950s. The south section formerly housed a Masonic lodge.

- ✓ 14. 1100 Blue Ridge Dr. Bank of Glasgow. Ca. 1930. 223-03-23. CB.

One-story brick building with stretcher-bond walls and a metal-sheathed parapet shed roof. The building is plainly detailed, with a three-bay front elevation defined by brick piers, soldier-course window and door surrounds, a soldier-course band above the poured-concrete foundation, and corbeled cornices. Other exterior features include one-over-one-sash windows, a transom over the front entry, and a concrete-block boiler room to the rear. The remodeled interior retains a vault manufactured by the York Safe & Lock Company of Baltimore and York, on the door of which are posted construction drawings and the notation "Designed for B. E. Vaughan by B. D. Mays, August 1921."

Established by the late 1910s, the Bank of Glasgow operated at first out of a one-story frame building that stood several lots to the east. The present building was probably built during the 1920s or 1930s (the 1921 vault was probably moved to the building from the old quarters). James Gilmore "James Budd" Watts of the Baldwin-Echols Store served as the bank's president in the 1930s. Julie McCorkle Shirley served as the cashier and bank manager during the same period. Today the building is used as the Glasgow Town Hall.

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Description (continued)

15. 902 Eighth St. McClure House. Ca. 1890. 223-03-14. CB.

Two-story frame house with a stuccoed exterior and a metal-sheathed hip roof with a front shed dormer. A one-story porch supported by turned posts extends across the front (Eighth Street) elevation; to the rear is a screened two-level porch. Door and fenestration patterning is irregular, suggesting modifications to the building, and windows are a mix of turn-of-the-twentieth-century two-over-two-sash and later Craftsman three-over-one-sash. Other exterior features include a one-story gabled addition to the north elevation and brick flues. Off the north side of the building stands a one-story frame garage with a metal-sheathed shed roof and vertical board siding.

The McClure House may have been constructed in 1890 as the Miller & Snider Building, which contained a general store and Glasgow's first post office. A photograph in Miller (p. 75) from about 1920 shows the building in its original form, with a front elevation on Fitzlee Street and a shed roof sloping back along Eighth Street. By the second quarter of the twentieth century, the building was occupied by sisters Nettie and Emma McClure and their niece, Mary McClure. The McClures lodged boarders in their house, and Miss Nettie operated a store on McCulloch Street (outside the district) from the 1910s until at least the 1930s.

Garage. CB.

16. 716 Fitzlee St. Charles M. Wood House. Ca. 1890. 223-03-15. CB.

Two-story frame house with novelty aluminum siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The house has a two-level front porch supported by classical wood columns. The porch shelters multiple windows and doors on both stories. Other exterior features include a partially enclosed one-story rear porch, two-over-two-sash windows, and a brick flue.

According to tradition, the building was used as offices for lawyers during Glasgow's boom; archival records suggest it was associated with either the Rockbridge Company or the Glasgow Investment Company. In the 1910s the building was purchased by Charles Mack Wood, a merchant from Amherst County, who moved it back from the street and made substantial alterations (the railroad jacks used to move the building are still located in the crawlspace).

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Description (continued)

- ✓ 17. 726 Fitzlee St. House (Trailer). Ca. 1970. (223-03-16) NB.

One-story aluminum-sided trailer.

- ✓ 18. 7XX Fitzlee St. Peter and Rebecca Salling House and Salling Cemetery.  
Ca. 1820. (223-01) CB.

Two-story Flemish-bond brick house with Federal detail; the oldest building now standing in the central part of Glasgow. The house has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, paired exterior chimneys on each gable end, and a two-level portico (which probably replaced an earlier porch about 1890) with square wood columns, cornice returns, and a decorative balustrade. An early one-story brick wing (originally a semi-detached kitchen) with a gable-end chimney and an engaged front porch extends from the east gable of the main house. The house is distinguished by a molded cornice and several semicircular windows: two over the front and rear entrances and two in the gables, lighting the attic. Differential weathering of the bricks attests to the former presence of a wraparound one-story porch, part of the additions made to the house when it was converted into a hotel in 1890. The three-bay front and rear elevations (with six-over-six-sash windows) reflect a two-room-deep center-passage plan on the interior. The interior features elaborate Federal mantels and other details dating to the construction of the house in the early 1800s. The lot on which the house stands is shaded by several mature deciduous trees. Behind on Fitzlee Street stands a one-story, one-vehicle, brick garage with a hip roof. To the east stand a board-sided shed-roofed chicken house, a gabled frame shed of unknown function, and a cylindrical metal corncrib with a conical roof and perforated sides. Further to the east is located the Salling Cemetery, enclosed within a dilapidated stone wall. In the plot are three marked graves, including the sandstone headstones of Peter and Rebecca Salling, which have elaborate scrolled tops.

The Salling family settled the rich bottomland at the confluence of the James and Maury rivers before the American Revolution. In the early nineteenth century, Peter A. Salling (1764-1839) and his wife Rebecca (1768-1838) had the present house built (the Federal detail suggests a date of construction between about 1810 and 1830). Peter and Rebecca's descendants owned the property for much of the nineteenth century. In 1890, the first year of Glasgow's development, the Salling House was operated as a hotel known as the Brockenborough House, named after its proprietor, F. H. Brockenborough. Fitzhugh Lee is said to have maintained an office in the building prior to the completion of the Rockbridge Company Building across Fitzlee Street. The

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**Description (continued)**

hotel also served for various social functions, including a "hop" hosted by several young ladies of the town on July 3, 1890. The hotel, one of the few businesses to survive the depression of the 1890s, may have been known as the Glenview Hotel in 1897. The house had returned to use as a single family residence in the 1930s when it was occupied by C&O agent George Campbell and his family.

Cemetery. C site.  
Chicken house. CB.  
Shed. CB.  
Corncrib. C Structure.

19. 8XX Fitzlee St. Glasgow Elementary School. 1939. (223-03-17) CB.

Colonial Revival one-story school of stretcher-bond brick construction the original section features a metal-sheathed hip roof, a gabled central pavilion with a recessed transomed entry contained in a pedimented surround, banks of tall six-over-six-sash windows, and brick quoining. To the rear extends a 1959 one-story addition with a brick veneer, flat roof, and multi-pane windows. The school's plan features a double-loaded corridor that wraps around a central court (partly enclosed in 1941) and has plaster and ceramic tile wall and ceiling finishes and classrooms with original wood coat and storage closets.

The Glasgow Elementary School replaces a two-story frame high school that stood on the same site. The school was built in 1939 under the aegis of the Works Progress Administration according to a design prepared by Waynesboro architects Fleming R. & C. D. Hunt, Jr. Closed in 1982, the building is presently undergoing rehabilitation as apartments for low- to moderate-income elderly residents.

20. 920 Fitzlee St. Glasgow Baptist Church (former). 1902. (223-03-18) CB.

One-story frame building with weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingled gable roof, and Victorian detail. The original building comprises the gable-fronted section and bell tower; the west wing was added several years later. Both sections have tall four-over-four-sash windows with peaked lintels containing quatrefoil cut-outs, and both have rose windows in the gables. The bell tower features an open belfry with spindle friezes and balustrades and sawn brackets, a pyramidal roof

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**Description (continued)**

with a metal finial, and a lower section with a flared pyramidal roof with small gables at the eaves.

A Baptist congregation formed in Glasgow in 1891, but the depopulation of the town during the depression of the 1890s caused it to go out of existence. A second church was established in 1900, and the original section of the present building was constructed in 1902 by a Mr. Hall with the assistance of church members. A new church was built in the early 1970s outside the district, and the old building now serves as the Church of God of Prophecy.

✓ 21. 733 McCulloch St. First Baptist Church. Ca. 1920. 223-03-19. CB.

One-story brick church with a gable-fronted nave form, six-course American-bond walls, and metal roofing. The front facade is distinguished by trebled lancet-arched Queen Anne windows within a round-arched surround, and a corner entry tower with lancet-arched windows and transom and a pyramidal roof capped by a metal finial. Other features include lancet-arched rear and side windows, an original or early one-story rear wing, and a shed-roofed side wing constructed of concrete block and brick during the third quarter of the twentieth century.

The First Baptist congregation organized in 1897, and it apparently built the present building about 1920, replacing an earlier frame church that stood on the site of the concrete-block addition. In 1969, Glasgow's other African-American congregation--Ebenezer Baptist--vacated its building on McCulloch Street (outside the district) and joined with First Baptist to form Union Baptist Church, as the congregation is presently known.

✓ 22. 735 McCulloch St. Vernie B. Jarvis Building. 1960s. 223-03-20. NB.

One-story brick-veneer building with a parapet shed roof, inset display windows and entry below a corrugated metal facade, a stack-bond display window knee wall, a side entrance, and rear shed and porch additions.

Vernie B. Jarvis, a barber, had this building built in the 1960s. It was later occupied by Sandy Sinclair after he moved out of the building at 741 McCulloch Street (in the district).

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Description (continued)

- ✓ 23. 737 McCulloch St. Alford Grocery Store. Ca. 1930. 223-03-21. CB.

One-story brick double-store building with a metal-sheathed parapet shed roof and houndstooth cornices. Each half of the building has a front entry flanked by large plate-glass windows; the east half (which contains a barber shop) has a metal awning.

Jerry Alford and his son operated a grocery in this building during the 1930s, probably until 1971 when the Alfords moved their business across Blue Ridge Drive to the James G. Watts Grocery Store (in the district).

- ✓ 24. 741 McCulloch St. John P. Cleveland Drugstore. Ca. 1890. 223-03-22. CB.

Two-story frame building with aluminum siding and a shed roof. The Victorian detail of the cornice--which has dentil moldings, pierced sunburst ventilators, and sawn end brackets--suggest the building was constructed at the time of Glasgow's boom in 1890. Other original features include two-over-two-sash windows, large street-level display windows, a one-story side shed, and a secondary front at the back end of the west elevation with a small bracketed cornice. Modern features include a two-level screened and latticed porch on the west elevation, a metal awning over the shop front, and a new front door and wood-sheathed store front.

Dr. John Poindexter Cleveland, who came to Glasgow with his wife Sallie Sadler in 1892, operated a drugstore in the building during the early twentieth century (Dr. Cleveland's pharmacy was originally located in another store building on McCulloch Street, outside the district). In the 1930s, Roy Martin ran a drugstore here. Martin was followed by Dr. W. W. K. Todd and then Sandy Sinclair; Sinclair relocated to a new building at 735 McCulloch Street (in the district) in the 1960s.

- ✓ 25. 900 McCulloch St. Glasgow Masonic Temple/James G. Watts Grocery Store. 1891. 223-03-24. CB.

One-story brick building, the remnant of a three-story commercial block begun in 1891. The building has a shallow-pitched front-gable roof behind front and rear parapets, a poured-concrete foundation, side walls (considerably rebuilt) with brick-up high window openings (originally associated with a ground-floor general store), walled-up store fronts, and a front entry with a

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## Description (continued)

pedimented surround. The interior has been modernized. Behind stands a one- and two-story metal-sided frame building that appears to date to the early 1900s and that may have served as a stable.

In September 1890, plans were announced for a \$10,000 Masonic building to be built on the northeast corner of Blue Ridge Drive and McCulloch Street. Ground was broken in November, the corner stone was laid in June 1891, and the building was completed in late 1891 or early 1892. Noted Richmond architect Carl Ruehrmund designed the building, which originally featured a corner tower with a pyramidal roof. The general merchandise store of Briscoe Gerard "B. G." Baldwin occupied the ground floor in 1892, and the Rockbridge Tobacco Company packaged tobacco on the second floor. The third floor served as an assembly hall for the Masons, the town government, and probably other groups. In 1896, Baldwin's store was known as Mathews, Baldwin & Company (with land agent W. G. Mathews as Baldwin's probable partner). In 1904, Ernest Echols bought into the business, and the name of the enterprise was changed to the Baldwin, Echols & Company Department Store. The store operated until February 1940 when a fire destroyed the upper two stories of the building. After this catastrophe, store employee James Gilmore Watts acquired control, operating a grocery store in the one-story remnant of the building until his death at age 96 in 1971. Later, Jerry and Peggy Alford operated the grocery. The building is presently occupied by the Crossing Restaurant. While the building is contributing for its presence in the community since 1940, the 1891 building is too compromised to be of more than historical interest.

Stable. CB.

✓ 26. 906 McCulloch St. Office. Ca. 1890. 223-03-25 CB.

One-story frame building with aluminum siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The building is distinguished by a round turret on the front elevation. Other features include a brick foundation, one-over-one- and two-over-two-sash windows, and two front porches now provided with metal struts but originally supported by turned posts with sawn brackets. Behind stand two frame sheds with metal-sheathed side-gable roofs and weatherboard and vertical board siding.

The building is said to have been used as an office during Glasgow's boom, but for much of the twentieth century it has served as a single-family residence.

Shed. CB.

Shed. CB.

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Description (continued)

- ✓ 27. 912 McCulloch St. Napoleon B. O'Connor House. 1923. 223-03-26 CB.

Two-story brick Craftsman Foursquare with six-course American-bond walls and an asphalt-shingled hip roof with a hipped dormer. A one-story Craftsman porch extends across the front; to the rear is a two-level porch supported by turned posts. Other features include a poured-concrete foundation, an exterior brick chimney, three-over-one- and four-over-one-sash windows, and pressed-metal sheathing on the sides of the dormer. A modern metal-sided gambrel-roofed shed stands behind.

The house was built for C&O operator Napoleon B. O'Connor in 1923.

Shed. NB.

- ✓ 28. 920 McCulloch St. Ed Gound House. Ca. 1925. 223-03-27 CB.

Two-story brick Craftsman Foursquare with six-course American-bond walls and an asphalt-shingled hip roof with a hipped dormer. The one-story front porch features pierced brick pillars and a pierced brick balustrade (identical to the porch of the Thomas House at 913 Anderson Street in the district). Other exterior features include a poured-concrete foundation, a dentiled cornice with outriggers, one-over-one-sash windows, and an early two-story rear extension. Beside the house stands a two-story brick-veneered building dating to the mid-twentieth century that contains a garage and workshop or salesroom on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor.

Ed Gound is believed to have had this house built in the mid-1920s.

Garage. NB.

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Description (continued)

Endnotes

1. The demolition of historic buildings also contributed to the formation of these vacant lots, although the available evidence suggests that this was a minor factor. Early-twentieth-century views of the district demonstrate that low building density was the historic condition of the lots located on Blue Ridge Drive (see Miller, *Glasgow*, 167, 169, 175). Historic photographs of other railroad-era boom towns show a similar pattern of development; the difference in Glasgow is that the incipient density was preserved. The buildings in the district core might be described as the anchor stores of a shopping mall that was never completed.
2. Miller, *Glasgow*, 46-48.
3. *Ibid.*, May 21, 1890; Rockbridge County Deed Book 84, p. 1.
4. *Glasgow Herald*, May 21, July 5, and August 9, 1890. Architect Walter R. Hignam of Philadelphia may have shared in the design of the building (Miller, *Glasgow*, 42.)
5. *Ibid.*, July 19, 1890. The Charles M. Wood House at 716 Fitzlee Street may preserve a remnant of this building.
6. *Ibid.*, August 23 and October 4, 1890.
7. *Ibid.*, July 5, 1890.
8. *Ibid.*, August 30, 1890 and January 15, 1891.
9. *Ibid.*, August 23 and September 27, 1890.
10. *Ibid.*, May 21 and August 2, 1890; Rockbridge County Charter Book No. 1, p. 122.
11. *Ibid.*, July 19, 1890.
12. *Ibid.*, August 1, 1890.
13. *Glasgow Herald*, June 18, 1891.
14. Miller, *Glasgow*, 42-45.

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NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

**Summary**

Glasgow, Virginia represents a moment frozen in time: a railroad-era boom town preserved in the incipient stages of urbanization by the economic downturn of the 1890s. Established in 1890 in southern Rockbridge County, the town experienced dramatic growth during the first six months of its existence. Large, stylish commercial blocks were erected at key intersections in the heart of town (the fifteen-acre area defined as the Glasgow Historic District) with a scattering of smaller stores, offices, and dwellings built on adjoining lots. Despite zealous promotional efforts by the principal developer and its president, the Rockbridge Company and former Virginia governor Fitzhugh Lee, development slowed in 1891, and in the ensuing national depression Glasgow nearly became extinct. A modicum of prosperity returned by 1900, and during its subsequent history Glasgow maintained a quiet existence as a small manufacturing and trade community.

**Justification of Criteria**

The Glasgow Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in the areas of community development, commerce, and architecture. Glasgow represents a railroad-era metropolis frozen in the first year of its development. Whereas other "paper cities" of the period either perished or prospered (either way, losing their incipient character), Glasgow preserves several of its boom-period commercial blocks and the lacunae of undeveloped lots that have separated them since the 1890s. Commercial buildings that survived the depression of the 1890s--foremost among them the circa 1890 Blue Ridge Building--and later small-scale buildings such as the circa 1930 Bank of Glasgow illustrate the overheated enthusiasm of the town's early years and the more realistic outlook of following decades. The district is also significant for the quality and breadth of its architectural resources, including the circa 1820 Federal-style Peter and Rebecca Salling House and adjacent Salling Cemetery; the Blue Ridge Building with its decorative storefronts and window treatments; three Gothic-influenced churches from the early 1900s; and several blocks of dwellings that exhibit a range of architectural styles, house forms, and construction techniques, including limestone facing and experimental rowlock brick construction. The period of significance for the district begins about 1820, the approximate date of construction for the Peter and Rebecca Salling House (one of the town's foremost architectural resources), and extends to 1945, encompassing the boom period of the town's development and subsequent gradual growth.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Historical Background

In August 1890, the national building trade journal *Manufacturers' Record* reported on the dramatic growth of a new city in Rockbridge County, Virginia. "Four months' work of the mason, the carpenter, and the painter have made a marvellous [*sic*] change in the appearance of Glasgow. In that time a fertile field has been transformed into a prosperous town. One hundred buildings have been erected at an average cost of \$1,000 each."<sup>1</sup> The reporter hardly exaggerated. On March 5, 1890, the newly formed Rockbridge Company, headed by ex-governor Fitzhugh Lee, sold the first lots for a city to be built at the confluence of the James and Maury rivers, on the level fields surrounding the antebellum home of Peter and Rebecca Salling. The town site had been purchased from prominent local farmer Elizabeth Glasgow Johns, and it seems likely Glasgow was named in honor of her, with the added allusion to the Scottish industrial metropolis.<sup>2</sup> As platted by civil engineers Waring, Chapman & Farquhar, hundreds of lots were to extend for three miles along the rivers. A mile-long boulevard--Blue Ridge Drive--extended from industrial reservations at the river point towards the villa development of Rhododendron Park at the base of Sallings Mountain. Streets named for company officers and prospective investors--Anderson, Fitzlee, Gordon and McCulloch--radiated from Blue Ridge Drive between the Shenandoah Valley Railroad (Norfolk & Western system) and Washington Place, an oval park destined to be graced by a fountain. Lots sold briskly, and by mid-May an estimated 500 people moved in to build houses and stores and to found business fortunes.<sup>3</sup>

Boom towns like Glasgow mushroomed throughout the South in the 1880s and early 1890s, as the region rebounded from the devastation of the Civil War. Western Virginia joined in the mania. "New industrial cities are springing up west of the Blue Ridge in Virginia with such marvelous rapidity that the whole world is looking on with interest and admiration", trumpeted a Roanoke paper.<sup>4</sup> In Rockbridge County at the beginning of the 1890s, Glasgow found itself competing with booms then underway in Buena Vista, Goshen and Lexington; in fact, the town's promoters appear to have missed the crest of the wave, a factor that may have contributed to future problems.<sup>5</sup> Not to be outdone, Glasgow offered several advantages over the other towns. Promoters emphasized Glasgow's spectacular siting at the entrance to the James River water gap of the Blue Ridge Mountains (a view earlier popularized by Edward Beyer in his *Album of Virginia*) and its close proximity to Natural Bridge. More importantly, the town occupied a wedge of ground between two major rail lines: the Valley division of the Norfolk & Western and the trunk line of the Chesapeake & Ohio. The rail connections attracted several major industries; first the brickyard of W. D. Bethel, credited with supplying materials for the earliest buildings in town, and larger concerns such as the Glenwood Furnace, the Glasgow Rolling Mill, the

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Glasgow Buggy Company, and the Glasgow Manufacturing Company.

Northeastern and English financiers supplied much of the capital used to build Glasgow, but the population itself hailed largely from Virginia and adjacent states. Businessman Miles M. Martin, who served on the boards of the Rockbridge Company, the Glasgow Improvement Company, and other ventures, moved to town from Charlotte County.<sup>6</sup> W. A. Chesterman of Richmond took the helm of the Glasgow Manufacturing Company; Lynchburger W. E. Bain opened a hardware store; and land agents George W. Poe and H. D. Blake relocated from North Carolina.<sup>7</sup> John R. Williams and John P. Cleveland, acquaintances in Buckingham County, traveled to Glasgow together and bought lots; Williams helped establish the Glasgow Manufacturing Company and Cleveland served for many years as a physician and druggist in the community.<sup>8</sup> Fitzhugh Lee, the town's most celebrated citizen, moved his family in the summer of 1890 to the refurbished Stoner place, Glengyle, a twenty-two-room residence overlooking the James River near Glasgow. The Lees lived there for four years.<sup>9</sup>

Glasgow's African-American community emerged along with the white community. Many blacks found work as laborers on construction projects. E. S. Watson, editor of the *Glasgow Herald*, struck up an acquaintance with several black workmen, whom he described as "sober, christian men."<sup>10</sup> In later years, blacks such as town blacksmith Lee R. Woolridge and his wife Mary occupied homes in the district, black congregations such as First Baptist and Ebenezer Baptist built churches in the downtown, and the Knights of Pythias lodge held meetings in a boom-period building on Anderson Street. Black and white businesses, churches, and homes have existed side by side since the beginning of the twentieth century--a legacy of proximal integration that is noted with pride by town residents.

The buying and selling of town lots naturally figured prominently in early Glasgow's business life. Over a dozen real estate firms advertized in the inaugural edition of the *Glasgow Herald* on May 21, 1890. At least one real estate office--the one-story Queen Anne building located at 906 McCulloch Street--survives in the district, and the buildings at 72X Anderson Street and 716 Fitzlee Street may also have contained brokerages. The Blue Ridge Building and the Glasgow Masonic Temple probably housed real estate offices in addition to other enterprises. Other early 1890s buildings that served a commercial purpose include the McClure House at 902 Eighth Street (apparently the Miller & Snider general store and post office in 1890), the John P. Cleveland Drugstore at 741 McCulloch Street, and the Knights of Pythias Lodge at 71X Anderson Street (probably the Priddy & Layne metalware shop and Bain hardware in 1890).

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

Also important were Glasgow's boarding houses, virtually all of which were owned or operated by women. Elizabeth Glasgow Johns, the original owner of the site of the town and one of its leading developers, had two "centrally located [buildings] specially designed for boarding houses" completed in June 1890.<sup>11</sup> In 1917, five women ran boarding houses in town, and in the 1920s and 1930s, the McClure's took in lodgers in their home at 902 Eighth Street.<sup>12</sup> A number of women speculated in lots during the height of the boom, and their participation in the growth of the town was looked upon as a sign of social stability.<sup>13</sup>

Despite a promising start, problems soon developed that checked and then reversed the growth of the town. By 1891, the Southern economy had overheated; the number of business failures that year rivaled the number that took place during the nationwide panic of 1893, and the railroads of the Southern coastal states teetered on the brink of insolvency.<sup>14</sup> Overdevelopment in Southern boom towns--including Glasgow--contributed to the malaise, and the Rockbridge Company and its local competitors, the Buena Vista Company and the Lexington Development Company, began to outstrip their resources. Sensing what was to come, Fitzhugh Lee resigned as president of Glasgow's principal development organ in August 1891.<sup>15</sup> The *Glasgow Herald* ominously ceased publication after months of reporting a dwindling number of construction projects.

According to Sallie Sadler Cleveland, who lived through the period, the town's promoters "made too large purchases of industrial plants with too liberal terms to the owners. Instead of starting on a small scale and increasing gradually, they brought in furnished plants employing many workmen." The end came abruptly: "All the industrial plants were in full blast for a few months, then the sad fact became known that the funds were exhausted. Everything came to a standstill by December 25. So when the carpenters and all the employees went home for the holidays, they never came back to resume their jobs."<sup>16</sup>

Glasgow faced extinction. Men and women from all walks of life simply left the town, returning to their home communities or drifting to other, less devastated towns and cities in search of employment.<sup>17</sup> The cumulative value of the town's building stock, set at \$51,055 in 1892, dropped to \$43,105 in 1895--still an artificially high figure, for by 1896 the value of buildings had plummeted to \$16,425.<sup>18</sup> In 1893, only two Glasgow businesses were listed in a directory of that year: the Commercial Bank of Glasgow and the Brockenborough House.<sup>19</sup> Industrial plants left idle by the crash were cannibalized for building materials; St. John's Episcopal Church, for example, was built with brick from an abandoned factory.<sup>20</sup>

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

By the turn of the century Glasgow's vital signs improved, paralleling the national return to economic health. An 1897 business directory listed a range of businesses including two general merchandise stores--one of which was the Mathews, Baldwin & Company at 900 McCulloch Street in the district--and three physicians, among them John P. Cleveland, husband of Sallie Sadler Cleveland, who later maintained a pharmacy in the building at 741 McCulloch Street in the district.<sup>21</sup> Another indication of returning normalcy was the growth of religious organizations. The Episcopal church, mentioned above, was one congregation to launch an expansion. Two Baptist congregations were organized by 1900: First Baptist, which later built a brick church at 733 McCulloch Street in the district, and Glasgow Baptist Church. The latter initially formed in 1891, only to dissolve by the end of 1893. Activity resumed in 1900 with the staging of a revival meeting; this led to the formal constitution of the church and, in 1902, to the construction of a building at 920 Fitzlee Street in the district.<sup>22</sup>

In 1917, five general merchants, five contractors, a druggist (John P. Cleveland), a restaurateur (Miss Nettie McClure), a blacksmith (L. R. Woolridge) and other businesses and tradesmen listed Glasgow as their post office.<sup>23</sup> Further growth occurred in the early 1920s with the establishment of new industries just outside of town. Charles Hunter Locher, son of the founder of the James River Cement Works, established the Locher Clay Products Company, Inc. below the confluence of the James and Maury rivers. Locher's 1920s bungalow at 929 Anderson Street in the district, which was modeled after a design published by the Common Brick Manufacturers' Association of America, features experimental rowlock brick construction.<sup>24</sup> N. C. M. Massie, owner of the Lone Jack Limestone Company, built a limestone bungalow next door to Locher at 919 Anderson Street in 1924.<sup>25</sup>

By far the most dramatic event in Glasgow's recovery was the coming of James Lees & Sons in 1934. In the words of the *Lexington News-Gazette*, Glasgow offered the Northern carpet manufacturer "abundant water facilities, three lines of railroad, excellent highway outlets and a virgin field of native-born Americans."<sup>26</sup> James Lees & Sons (also known as the Blueridge Company) finished its first plant on the east side of town in mid-1935; prior to completion, the company's management used the second floor of the Blue Ridge Building as a training center.<sup>27</sup> A second plant was built during the Second World War and construction continued apace during the late 1940s and 1950s. Burlington Industries acquired the plant in 1960, and in 1992 the textile giant employed 1,300 area residents in the production of the popular Lees brand carpets.<sup>28</sup>

Today, Glasgow is a small manufacturing and trade center serving its own citizens and those of

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**Statement of Significance (continued)**

surrounding areas in southern Rockbridge County. The town's population in 1990 stood at 1,140 individuals--slightly fewer than the 1,200 individuals reported during the height of the 1890s boom. The Burlington carpet mill is joined by the General Shale brick plant and many smaller retail and service employers.<sup>29</sup> Glasgow's centennial in 1992 focused attention on the town's heritage and coincided with the publication of Lynda Miller's town history, *Glasgow, Virginia: One Hundred Years of Dreams*. Interest in preservation has also risen. In March 1995, ground was broken for the tax credit rehabilitation of the Glasgow Elementary School as apartments for low- to moderate-income elderly persons.<sup>30</sup> By allowing more of Glasgow's older citizens to remain in the community, it is hoped that the rehabilitation project will serve as an economic (and preservation) stimulus for the town.

**Appendix: Architects and Builders**

Known architects, builders, carpenters, and plan distributors associated with buildings erected in the Glasgow Historic District during the period of significance (circa 1820-1945):

*Common Brick Manufacturers' Association of America (main office: Cleveland, Oh.)*

Ca. 1925 Charles H. and Dorothy Locher House, 929 Anderson St.

*Hall, Mr. (Rockbridge Co., Va.)*

1902 Glasgow Baptist Church (former), 920 Fitzlee St.

*Hunt, Fleming R. and C. D., Jr. (Waynesboro, Va.)*

1939 Glasgow Elementary School, 8XX Fitzlee St.

*Mays, B. D. (Baltimore, Md.?)*

1921 vault in the ca. 1930 Bank of Glasgow, 1100 Blue Ridge Dr.

*Ruehrmund, Carl (Richmond, Va.)*

1891 Glasgow Masonic Temple/James G. Watts Grocery Store, 900 McCulloch St.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Endnotes

1. Reprinted in the *Glasgow Herald*, August 29, 1890.
2. Miller, *Glasgow*, 12.
3. *Glasgow Herald*, June 14, 1890.
4. The *Roanoke Herald*, reprinted in the *Glasgow Herald*, May 21, 1890.
5. Woodward, *Origins of the New South*, 264-265; Morton, *History of Rockbridge County*, 155.
6. *Glasgow Herald*, May 21, 1890; Rockbridge County Charter Book No. 1.
7. Rockbridge County Charter Book No. 1; *Glasgow Herald*, May 21 and June 21, 1890.
8. Miller, *Glasgow*, 152; Rockbridge County Charter Book No. 1.
9. *Ibid.*, June 7, 1890; Miller, *Glasgow*, 14.
10. *Glasgow Herald*, June 7, 1890.
11. *Glasgow Herald*, June 5, 1890.
12. Hill Directory Company, *Virginia Business Directory . . . 1917*, 896; Tom, Bimmie, and Lilly Faulkner interview.
13. *Glasgow Herald*, May 21, 1890.
14. Woodward, *Origins of the New South*, 264-265.
15. Crenshaw, "Black Friday in Lexington," 26-27.
16. Miller, *Glasgow*, 153. Cleveland did not specify the year of the events she described, but other sources suggest the date was 1891.
17. Miller, *Glasgow*, 153.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

18. Rockbridge County tax records.

19. Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer* . . . 1893-94, 1093-1102. This statistic may be interpreted more as a sign of commercial demoralization--a failure to register in Chataigne's directory--than as a true count of the number of enterprises. Other sources suggest that a larger number of boom-period businesses weathered the depression. The Brockenborough House operated out of the old Salling residence.

20. "Our Centennial Celebration."

21. Hill, *Virginia State Gazetteer* . . . 1897-'98, 1057-1075.

22. Miller, *Glasgow*, 97-98, 153.

23. Hill, *Virginia Business Directory* . . . 1917, 895-897.

24. Miller, *Glasgow*, 17-18; Carver, *Brick*, 10; and Nathaniel Massie interview.

25. Nathaniel Massie interview.

26. Miller, *Glasgow*, 65-66.

27. Ibid., 66; Tom, Bimmie, and Lilly Faulkner interview.

28. Miller, *Glasgow*, 66-68.

29. Ibid., 1-3.

30. *News-Gazette*, February 8, 1995.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundaries of the Glasgow Historic District are depicted on the accompanying map entitled "Glasgow Historic District," which is based on Town of Glasgow tax parcel maps. The boundaries primarily follow street right-of-ways and lot lines to enclose an area of roughly fifteen acres.

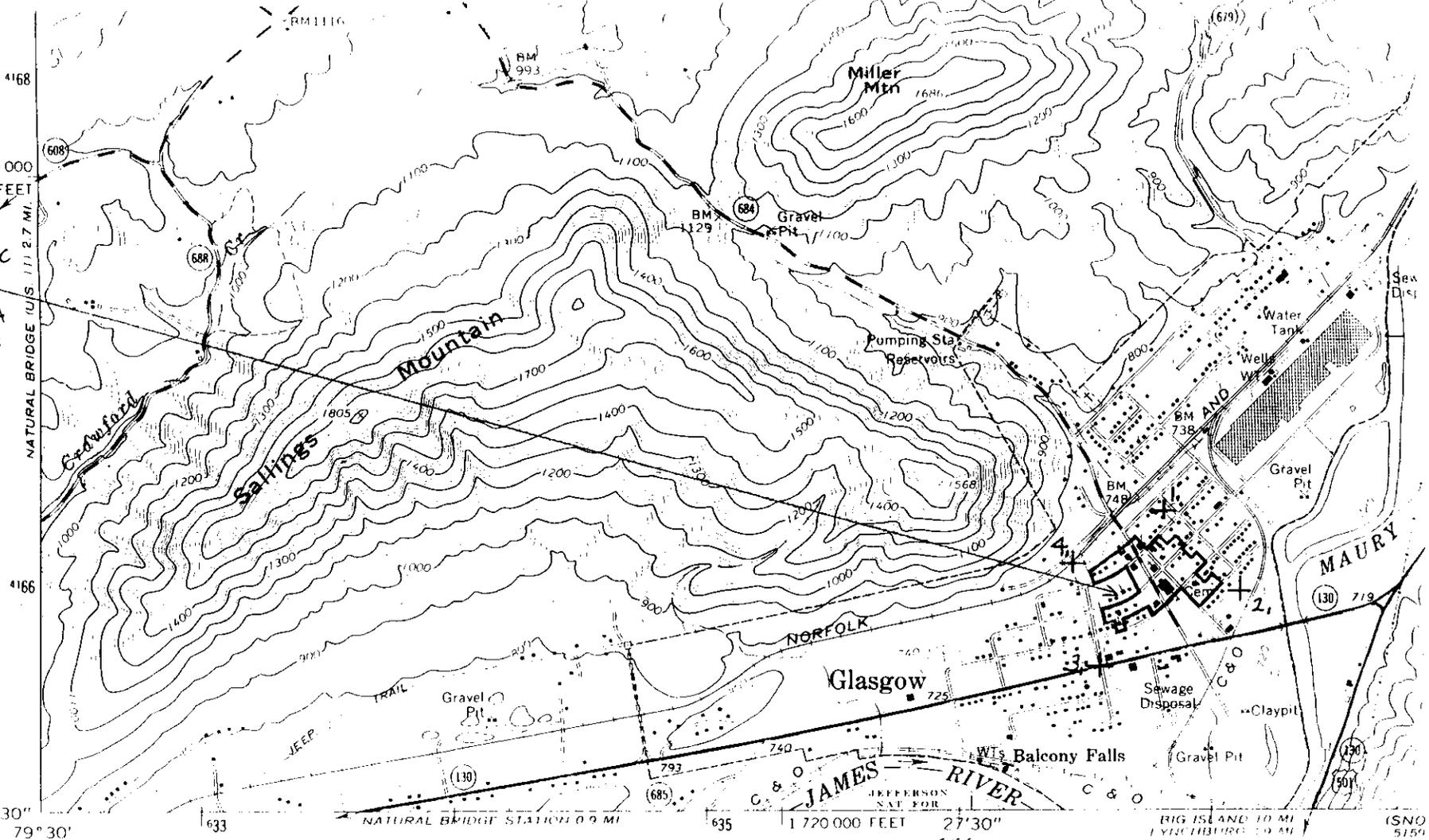
**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundaries of the Glasgow Historic District are drawn so as to include the principal historic buildings at the center of town. These include key buildings erected during Glasgow's 1890s boom, as well as earlier and later buildings that relate to the areas of significance defined for the district. Contained within the district are several large undeveloped lots (see discussion in integrity statement of Section 7). Excluded from the district are areas that have a lower concentration of historic buildings and historic areas that are physically separated from the district.

**GLASGOW HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
 Glasgow, Rockbridge Co., VA  
 UTM references (zone 17):

1. E 636800  
N 4166300
2. E 637100  
N 4166000
3. E 636550  
N 4165700
4. E 636450  
N 4166100

(ARNOLD VALLEY)  
 3039 11 SE



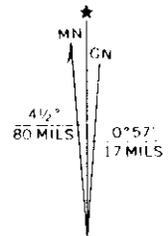
Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000 foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



CONTOUR INTERVAL IS METERS

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACT  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY  
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS