

VLR-1/18/83 NRHP-9/8/83

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See Instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

Name

historic SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT (VHLC 88-142)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Route 208

N/A not for publication

city, town Spotsylvania N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Spotsylvania code 177

3. Classification

Table with 5 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use, and other. Includes checkboxes for district, building(s), site, object, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, accessible/restricted/unrestricted, agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other.

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet #1)

street & number N/A

city, town Spotsylvania N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22553

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Spotsylvania County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Spotsylvania state Virginia 22553

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission title Survey (file no. 88-142) has this properly been determined eligible? yes no

date 1982 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	N/A
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	___ ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	___ moved	date _____
___ fair	___ unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Spotsylvania is a mid-19th-to-early 20th-century county seat village in rural Spotsylvania County. At the center of the town is the courthouse square distinguished by a Roman Revival courthouse originally built in 1840. Other mid-19th-century buildings which survived the Civil War battle near the village are the county jail, two churches, and a tavern. The major residences in the town were built between 1895-1905 during a small building boom. Adjacent to the town on its eastern boundary is an open field which connects Spotsylvania with the Confederate cemetery and the Dabney Farm, a rural mid-19th-century building complex containing two of its original outbuildings. Scattered amidst the twenty-five buildings in the district are 20th-century commercial and residential structures. Among the few intrusions in the district is a 7-Eleven store located on the south side of Route 208.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Located approximately ten miles southwest of Fredericksburg, Spotsylvania is a typical eastern Virginia county seat village. The linear community is situated along Route 208 at its intersection with Route 608. Throughout the 19th century Route 208 served as the major road connecting Richmond and Fredericksburg.

Topographically the area consists of low, rolling, open farmland. Land density is low, with most buildings clustered near the road having open space to their rear. Because the open farmland to the east of the village contributes to its historical and visual setting, the land has been included in the district.

The buildings within the district line both sides of Route 208. Dominating the village is the county courthouse built in 1840 by Malcolm B. Crawford and extensively remodeled in 1901 to cover war damage. The Roman-Revival-style building is fronted by a tetrastyle portico in the Tuscan order. The structure rests on a shaded square flanked on the east and south by 1930s office and storage buildings. The town's earliest remaining building is a stuccoed, two-story, late 18th-century building which functioned until recently as the jail. The building was moved from an earlier courthouse site to the southwest corner of the courthouse square in 1840.

Diagonally across Route 208 is the Spotswood Inn. The ca. 1800 two-story tavern has been enlarged by the addition of a rear ell and a two-level porch supported by massive, somewhat crude, Doric columns that stretch across the facade. South of the courthouse square are two antebellum structures, the Gothic Revival Berea Church constructed in 1856 and the Federal-style Christ Church built in 1841. Located east of the village but within the district is the Dabney Farm, a complex consisting of a brick, two-story, Federal-style house and two 19th-century outbuildings.

Spotsylvania witnessed a small building boom between 1895 and 1905, the period in which the courthouse was remodeled. At that time the J.P.H. Crismond House was constructed. Situated at the southern boundary of the district on the west side of Route 208 the ca. 1904 Queen Anne house has two stories covered by a hipped roof with intersecting gables distinguished by a two-story tower on the south end. A porch with turned posts and delicate filigree brackets extends across the front elevation.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates Various Builder/Architect Various

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Spotsylvania Court House Historic District has achieved fame as the location of the battle of Spotsylvania Courthouse, one of the most vicious and bloody struggles of the American Civil War. The focal point of the district is the Roman Revival courthouse, completed in 1840 by Malcolm B. Crawford, who worked for Thomas Jefferson as a builder of the University of Virginia. The district also contains four other buildings that were standing at the time of the May 1864 battle between Lee's and Grant's forces, including a ca. 1800 tavern, situated on what was formerly the main road from Richmond to Fredericksburg in the 19th century; two antebellum churches; and a ca. 1840 late Federal farmhouse, the residence from 1850 to 1875 of Spotsylvania County clerk R.C. Dabney and the only house to survive the Spotsylvania battle. Devastated by artillery fire the town did not experience a surge of prosperity until the end of the 19th century, resulting in major repairs and refacing to the courthouse in 1900 and in the construction of a number of substantial frame residences, five of which survive in a well-preserved state. Also lying within the district boundaries is a beautifully landscaped Confederate cemetery, once the battlefield through which ran the main Confederate defense line of earthworks protecting Lee's communications with Richmond.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Spotsylvania County was formed from Essex, King and Queen, and King William counties in 1720 and named for one of Virginia's foremost colonial governors, Alexander Spotswood. The original site of the county seat was Germanna, Spotswood's settlement in present-day Orange County. From 1732-1778, the county seat was at Fredericksburg. In 1779, the courthouse was located about 2½ miles southwest of the present courthouse site on land deeded to the county in 1779 and remained there until 1840.¹ The only building of the late 18th-century complex to survive is the ca. 1781 jail. Located to the southwest of the present courthouse, the jail was dismantled and moved brick by brick from its original location to its present site in 1839.

One of the county's most distinctive crossroads is the present intersection of Route 208 and Route 613, where a substantial ordinary has stood since the late 18th century. A detailed map of the county drawn in 1819-20 by John Wood shows this tavern or hotel as "Alsop's Tavern" which undoubtedly served travelers on the public road from Richmond to Fredericksburg. County tax records indicate that Samuel Alsop was granted an ordinary operator's license in 1813 and continued to operate the tavern along with a retail store until 1838. Prior to 1810, and possibly as early as 1799, John Herndon owned and operated the ordinary.

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #7)

Calendar of Virginia State Papers. Volume 11. Richmond: 1893.
 Commager, Henry Steele, ed. The Official Atlas of the Civil War. New York: Thomas Yoseloff and Sons, 1958. Plates LV, LXXXI, LXXXIII, XCVI.
 Frank Leslie's Illustrated Magazine. May 21, 1887.
 Gilmer Maps of 1862 and 1864, "Spotsylvania County." Archives, VHLC.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 101 acres

Quadrangle name Spotsylvania, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>18</u>	<u>273800</u>	<u>4231870</u>	B	<u>18</u>	<u>274110</u>	<u>4231520</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>18</u>	<u>273740</u>	<u>4230940</u>	D	<u>18</u>	<u>273310</u>	<u>4230830</u>
E	<u>18</u>	<u>273200</u>	<u>4230940</u>	F	<u>18</u>	<u>273500</u>	<u>4231610</u>
G	<u>18</u>	<u>273480</u>	<u>4231590</u>	H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the E side of VA 613, approximately 100' NNW from the intersection of VA 613 and VA 208; thence approximately 100' NNW along E side of VA 613; thence approximately 380' NE; thence approximately 200' SE to a point on N side of VA 208 approximately 380' NE of intersection of VA 613 and VA 208; thence

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #8)

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date January 1983

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director
 title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date JAN 13 1983

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

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SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

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4. OWNERS OF PROPERTIES IN SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT:

Lot 142	Christ Episcopal Church Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 67	Spotsylvania County (Berea Christian Church, Spotsylvania Museum) c/o County Administrator P.O. Box 99 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lot((A))8	William T. Hall, et al. P.O. Box 88 Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 68	Loren L. and Eva M. Sealy Route 6, Box 2 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lot((2))1A	Peter and Naomi Poulos P.O. Box 292 Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lots 69; ((A))7	Janet T. Crismond, Trustee Route 4, Box 18 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lots((A))2; ((1))1,2,2A	Spotsylvania County c/o County Administrator Mr. Stephen T. Foster Spotsylvania County Courthouse P.O. Box 99 Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 70	James R. and Leota T. Pendleton Route 6, Box 6 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lot((A))1	Evelyn Chewning Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lots 144, 147	John and Alice Alrich Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lot((A))3	M.G. Crafton Route 4, Box 5 Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 145	American Legion, P. O. Box 51 Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lot((A))4	James E. Jarrell and R.L. Hicks P.O. Box 127 Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 146	Ladies Memorial Association Spotsylvania, VA 22553
Lots((A))5, 6	W. Cary and Janet T. Crismond Route 4, Box 18 Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 144A	James W. Sawdy Route 2, Box X41 Key Largo, Fla. 33037
Lots((4))A1; ((2))1B	William J. Vakos, Jr. P.O. Box 133 Fredericksburg, VA 22401	Lot 144B	Southland Corporation 2828 N. Haskell Ave., Dallas, TX 75204
Lots((5))1A, 1B	United Virginia Bank of Spotsylvania Spotsylvania, VA 22553	Lot 144C	David A. Gardiner and Glenna Shostack 101 Central Park West New York, NY 10023
Lot((4))B2	Courtland Gardens P.O. Box 127 Spotsylvania, VA 22553		

Please Note: Lot numbers correspond
to Spotsylvania County Tax Maps 47 & 47A

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Among other buildings of interest constructed during this period is the Harris House, a two-story, frame, builder vernacular house immediately south of the square. The Romantic Revival influence can be seen in a tower on its north end while a center peak gable and single-story porch with turned posts and scroll brackets decorate the facade. Directly across the road is another two-story, frame, builder vernacular structure ca. 1896 with a center peak gable and a later Colonial Revival porch across the facade. The Cary Crismond House located east of the courthouse on the south side of Route 208 is similar in design although it lacks the porch and tower.

The Confederate cemetery and Dabney Farm complex balance the town on the eastern half of the district. Separated from the courthouse by an open field, the cemetery covers a large hill. A cedar-shaded drive provides access into the cemetery from Route 208. Simple gravestones radiate out from a statue of a Confederate soldier at the peak of the hill.

The only major intrusion among the 25 buildings within the district, which includes a few 20th-century commercial and residential structures, is a 7-Eleven store. Located north, south, and west of the district's boundaries are 20th-century commercial structures and 1960s-70s residential developments. East of the district are open fields.

MPM

Inventory: The following is an inventory of the twenty-five structures that comprise the Spotsylvania Court House Historic District. There are 6 buildings, so marked in this inventory, considered to be noncontributing elements because they do not conform to the rest of the district in scale, style, or materials. The numbers correspond to the sketch map included with this nomination (Map 1 of 2). Noncontributing elements are marked with asterisks(*).

ROUTE 208:

- 12 1. Brick (random course bond with Flemish variant); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 18 bays; 1-story, 1-bay porches in the center bays of both the office and courtroom buildings. Government. 1910. Architect: Stern (Fredericksburg).
- 1 2. (Spotsylvania County Courthouse): brick (7-course American bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay tetrastyle Doric portico. Government. 1840/1901.
- 13 3. Brick (Flemish bond); 1 story; gable roof (reinforced concrete shingles); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Government (equipment storage). Georgian Revival. 1930s.
- 88-81 -3 4. (Spotsylvania Jail): stucco over brick; 2 stories; gable roof (slate); 3 bays. Government (jail). Vernacular. Ca.1781/1839.
- 14 5. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays. Restaurant. Ranch. Ca. 1960s.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

ROUTE 208:

- 6 6. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts; scrolled brackets, and turned balusters. Commercial (store). Builder Vernacular. Late 19th century.
- 7. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal). Detached house (outbuilding). Vernacular.
- 15 * 8. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays. Detached house. Ranch. 1960s. Noncontributing element.
- (98-19) -7 9. (Christ Episcopal Church): brick (Flemish bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition shingle); 1 bay. Church. Federal. 1841.
- 9 10. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays (originally 3); 1-story, 3-bay porch with stylized Doric posts and contemporary latticework. Church office. Builder Vernacular. Late 19th century.
- 8 11. (Pendleton House): wood frame (composition shingle); 2 stories; gable and hipped roof (composition); 5 bays; 2-story, 8-bay porch with turned posts, scroll brackets, and wraps around north end. Detached house. Victorian. Late 19th century.
- 16 * 12. Wood frame (composition shingle siding); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays. Detached house. Non-style. 1950s. Noncontributing element.
- 5 13. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch. Detached house. Vernacular. 1896.
- 4 14. (Berea Church): brick (Flemish bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays. Church. Gothic Revival. 1850s.
- 17 * 15. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; hipped roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, center-bay porch. Government. Ranch. 1970s. Noncontributing element.
- 18 16. Brick (stretcher bond); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 3 gable dormers; 3 bays. Bank. Georgian Revival. 1970s.
- (98-04) -10 17. (Spotswood Inn): brick (3-course American bond); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 7 bays; 2-story, 3-bay porch with stout Doric columns on pedestals and square balusters on second floor. Commercial (office; originally inn). Originally Federal; now Victorian. Ca. 1800.
- 2 18. Brick; 1 story; 3 bays. Gas station; commercial (store). Commercial Vernacular. 1930s.
- 19 19. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (composition over wood shingles); 3 bays; 1-story, center-bay porch with pediment supported by squared posts. Detached house. Early 20th century. 19A. Shed to rear of 19.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

Route 208

- 20. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof supported by plain columns. Detached house. Early 20th century. 20A. Shed to rear of 20.
- 21. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; Detached house. 21A. Shed to rear of 21.
- * 22. (U.S. Post Office): brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; flat roof; 3 bays. Government. Commercial Vernacular. 1960s. Noncontributing element.
- * 23. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; flat roof; 3 bays. Commercial (store). Commercial Vernacular. 1970s. Noncontributing element.
- (88.80) -11 24. (Dabney Farm): brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, side-bay porch with columns to support box cornice. Farmhouse. Federal. Ca. 1840. 24A. 3 farm buildings.
- * 25. (American Legion): brick; 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 2 dormers; 4 bays. Fire department and American Legion. Commercial Vernacular. 1960s. Noncontributing element.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

In 1838, the enterprising Lewis Rawlings purchased from Samuel Alsop 1125 acres called the "Tavern Tract" for \$8000.² In the same year, Rawlings deeded to the justices of Spotsylvania County ten acres in order to "procure the location of the seat of justice for said county."³ In a subsequent deed, Rawlings promised that in return for the county agreeing to locate their county seat adjacent to his tavern, he agreed to keep the road to Fredericksburg open that ran parallel to the courthouse. In this same instrument, the tavern was referred to as "Rawlings Tavern" indicating that by late 1838 Rawlings was already actively operating the ordinary. Rawlings clearly was interested in promoting activity in the area as shown by his donation of land for Christ Episcopal Church. According to local historians, Rawlings was responsible for the building of the tiny church, using clay from nearby fields for its construction. It was consecrated in 1841 by Bishop William Channing Moore and continues as an active Episcopal parish today. It was damaged during the Civil War battle at Spotsylvania Court House and served as a field hospital for some of the numerous casualties.

The courthouse was completed in 1840 by Malcolm B. Crawford, a former University of Virginia builder. It was executed in the Roman Revival style, employing the Tuscan order similar to a number of other courthouses found in the Piedmont area of Virginia. A valuable early picture of the courthouse was made in the summer of 1864, clearly showing the prominent location of the building at the tavern crossroads. Another important structure erected at this time was the Dabney farmhouse, just east of the courthouse complex. This Federal-style brick dwelling is the only residence to survive the fierce Civil War fighting in the area. Its builder was R.C. Dabney, clerk of the Spotsylvania court from 1850 to 1875.

Also built in the twenty-year period prior to the Civil War was the Berea Christian Church, which now houses the museum of the Spotsylvania County Historical Association, Inc. The present church building was constructed in 1856 to replace an earlier frame structure by a society of Christians, known as the Reforming Congregation of Disciples. The builder was Samuel Alsop, former owner of Alsop's Tavern, who was eighty-one years old at the time. An article in the Fredericksburg News dated December 11, 1856, refers to it as being a "neat and substantial place of worship...highly creditable."⁴ This building also received substantial damage during the Civil War and served as shelter for the wounded.

In May 1864, Spotsylvania Court House was the site of possibly the most vicious hand-to-hand combat of the Civil War. The Photographic History of the Civil War, published in 1912, depicts the battle as "the most awful in duration and intensity in modern times..."⁵ with 18,000 Union casualties and an estimated 9000 Confederates killed or wounded. Grant's object was to break Lee's communications with Richmond. During early May 1864 the official correspondence of both Grant and Lee was postmarked "Spotsylvania Courthouse." Grant was quoted in one of numerous diaries published after the war as saying "the Courthouse must be taken at all hazards."⁶ Civil War maps indicate that one of the major defense lines of Lee's forces ran immediately east of the village between the courthouse and the present Confederate cemetery.⁷ The consensus among historians of the battle is that neither side gained very much from the eight days of ferocious fighting. In describing the Union forces' attack on the "Spotsylvania Salient," a member of the 20th Massachusetts Regiment said: "it was the largest body of men ever organized on the continent to launch

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

a single blow."⁸

The small town of Spotsylvania was devastated by the war. A picture taken of the courthouse in 1864 shows the old brick wall that surrounded the courthouse green in dilapidated condition. Robert C. Dabney, Clerk of the Court, wrote to the governor in August 1865, stating that the courthouse itself had been heavily damaged by artillery, and that he was unable to protect the county's valuable records. He described the courthouse as having holes in the walls big enough "that a horse could pass through."⁹ He indicated to the governor that the county had recently contracted to have the courthouse repaired. The community centered on the courthouse continued to support the old tavern and several dwellings, and the two small churches remained in use; however, it was not until the last years of the 19th century that any substantial building activity took place. An 1895 directory indicates that Clerk of the County Court J.P.H. Crismond, Sheriff T.A. Harris, tavern- and storekeeper T.H. Harris, and the local Commonwealth's Attorney were the only full-time residents of Spotsylvania Court House. An 1887 picture of the tavern and courthouse confirms written evidence that the courthouse seat was then sparsely populated.¹⁰ However, by 1905, several substantial dwellings had been added to the tax rolls including the Crismond Residence, the Pendleton House (now the Christ Church Education building) and the T.H. Harris House, just south of the courthouse.

The new residential construction of the turn of the century coincided with a major renovation of the 1840 courthouse approved in August 1900 by the judge of the Circuit Court. The B.F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company of Washington was engaged at a cost of \$6,700, for which the county was forced to float a loan.¹¹ The county records were in such a decayed state and the building so unsafe that the court had to meet at the local school. While the same basic design was maintained through the renovation and repairs, the exterior of the courthouse was completely faced with yellow "fireproof" brick. The stately Roman columns from the 1840 courthouse were reused.

Spotsylvania Court House is preserved virtually unchanged since 1900. The Ladies Memorial Association laid out and landscaped the beautifully sited Confederate cemetery to the east of the courthouse. Several court-related offices were constructed during the 1930s immediately to the east and south of the courthouse proper. The 18th-century jail was stuccoed in the early 1930s. An unobtrusive addition was made to the southwest end of the courthouse in the 1960s in order to house the Clerk's office and several other county offices. A scattering of residences, the tavern, two churches, a lunch room, a small bank, and a gas station constitute the modern crossroads, which is surrounded by open farmland on all sides, except to the west where there is a modern housing development. The peaceful air of the town belies the violent aspects of its long and venerable history and its association with one of the best-known and bloodiest battles of the American Civil War.

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Footnotes:

¹Spotsylvania County Deed Book J (1779) p. 479.

²Spotsylvania County Deed Book GG (1838) p. 390.

³Spotsylvania County Deed Book GG (1838) p. 449.

⁴The News (Fredericksburg), 11 December 1856.

⁵Photographic History of the Civil War (New York: Review of Reviews, 1912), Volume III, p. 6.

⁶William Todd, The 79th Highlanders, New York Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865 (Albany: Press of Brandow, Barton and Co., 1886), p. 466.

⁷Henry Steele Commager, The Official Atlas of the Civil War (New York and London: Thomas Yoseloff and Sons, 1958), Plate LXXXI, 1 and 2.

⁸Mason W. Tyler, Recollections of the Civil War (New York and London: G.P. Putnam and Son), p. 171.

⁹Calendar of Virginia State Papers, Volume 11 (Richmond, 1893), p. 452.

¹⁰Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspapers, May 21, 1887.

¹¹Spotsylvania County Order Book A (1900) pp. 139-142.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Photographic History of the Civil War. 10 Volumes. New York: Review of Reviews, 1912.
Volume III by Henry W. Elson.

Picture Collection, Virginia State Library. Richmond, Virginia.

Spotsylvania County Deed Books J (1779); S (1810); GG (1838).

Spotsylvania County Historical Association Museum Archives.

Spotsylvania County Land Tax Books, 1840-50; 1895-1905.

Spotsylvania County Order Book A (1900).

Spotsylvania County Personal Property Tax Books, 1799-1815.

Todd, William. The 79th Highlanders, New York Volunteers in the War of the Rebellion, 1861-1865. Albany: Press of Brandow, Barton, and Co., 1886.

Tyler, Mason W. Recollections of the Civil War. New and London: G.P. Putnam and Sons, 1912.

The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies. Washington: Government Printing Office, 1901. Series I, Volumes 36, 51.

"Wellsprings of Democracy in Virginia." Richmond Times-Dispatch, 19 October 1941.

John Wood Map of Spotsylvania County, 1819-20.

Woolfolk, C.W., compiled by. Directory of the Counties of Orange, Louisa, Albemarle, Culpeper, and Spotsylvania. Orange, Va.: 1895.

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**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT, SPOTSYLVANIA COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #8

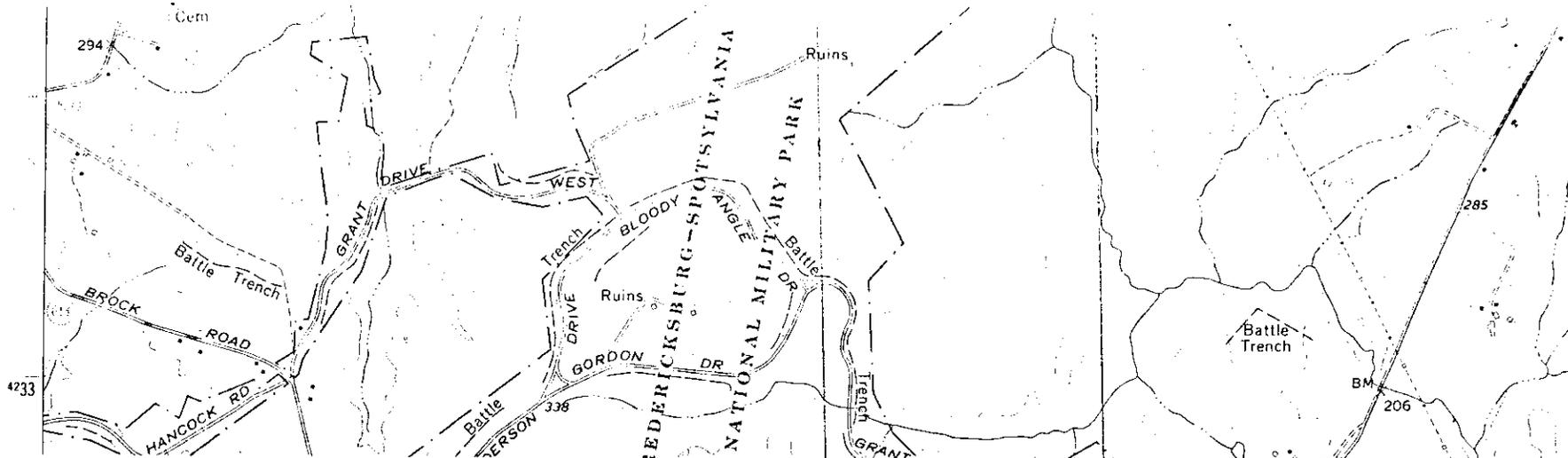
Item number 10

Page 1

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

approximately 1350' NE along N side of VA 208; thence approximately 800' NW to a creek bed; thence continuing approximately 1400' NE along said creek bed; thence approximately 1500' SE crossing VA 208; thence WSW approximately 1200' to the Confederate Cemetery; thence following the cemetery boundary to its southern corner; thence SW approximately 1600' to a point approximately 1000' SE of the intersection of VA Route 208 and Route 613; thence continuing about 800'SW (thereby crossing VA 613 and continuing about 250'SW); thence about 150'NW to rear property line of lot 69 (Spotsylvania Co. Tax Map 47); thence continuing NW along rear property lines to NW corner of lot((4))B2; thence about 200'NE to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The boundaries have been drawn to include all existing structures that stood in the vicinity of the Spotsylvania County Court House at the time of the Civil War. The boundaries have also been drawn to include the large Confederate cemetery and the appropriate farm lands and pond that forms its setting. Fields to the east of the town proper are included as the site of major Confederate defenses and major fighting between the Army of Northern Virginia under Robert E. Lee and the Army of the United States under Ulysses S. Grant, and to provide a rural setting for that side of town. The boundaries include both sides of Virginia Route 208 which served as a major artery between Richmond and Fredericksburg in the 19th century. Lines have also been drawn to include the properties of several late 19th-century and early 20th-century houses on the south side of Route 208 east of the courthouse and on both sides of Route 208 south of the courthouse. The eastern boundary has been drawn to include the only antebellum residence along with its collection of 19th-century dependencies. The boundaries have also been drawn to include a small amount of land on the north side of Route 208 across from the courthouse square. The inclusion of this parcel preserves the historic approach to the early 19th-century tavern on the main road from Fredericksburg. The exclusion of other structures on the north side of Route 208 across from the square eliminates an area of contemporary houses that does not contribute to the character of the district.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
 Spotsylvania, Va. 1966

SPOTSYLVANIA COURT HOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Spotsylvania County, Va.

UTM References:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A-18/273800/4231870 | B-18/274110/4231520 |
| C-18/273740/4230940 | D-18/273310/4230830 |
| E-18/273200/4230940 | F-18/273160/4231070 |
| G-18/273480/4231590 | |
- Map 2 of 2*

