VLR 9-12-01
NRHP - 5-16-02

(Rev. 10-90)
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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: **HILLSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT**
other names/site number **(237-5002)**

2. Location

street & number: the 300-500 block of Main Street (US Route 52)_____ not for publication
city or town HILLSVILLE_____ vicinity
state Virginia__ code VA__ county CARROLL_____ code 035_____ Zip 24343

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.)

M Catherine Kusser March 29, 2002
Signature of certifying official Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
____ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
___ determined not eligible for the National Register
___ removed from the National Register
___ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

_X_ private
_X_ public-local
___ public-State
__ public-Federal

Category of Property (Check only one box)

___ building(s)
_X_ district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
14	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
15	0	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _1__

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE Sub: professional
_COMMERCE __financial institution
_GOVERNMENT _courthouse
_DOMESTIC ___single dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: COMMERCE Sub: professional
_COMMERCE __professional
_GOVERNMENT _courthouse/vacant
_DOMESTIC ___single dwelling/vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Classical Revival
Art Deco
Commercial

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)
Foundation: brick, concrete_____
Roof: asphalt shingles, metal_____
Walls: brick_____
other frame, cast-stone, concrete, stucco_____

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.

__X_ 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.)

____ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

____ B removed from its original location.

____ C a birthplace or a grave.

____ D a cemetery.

____ E a reconstructed building, object or structure.

____ F a commemorative property.

____ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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

Period of Significance 1857-1951_____

Significant Dates 1857 (Carter Building); 1875 (Carroll County Courthouse); & 1907 (Carroll County Bank)

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) Carter, George L.

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder Coltrane, Colonel Ira Blair (Courthouse)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
_X_ 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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources_____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property _approximately. five-acres_____

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17 523490	4068680_	2	__ _____	_____
3	__ _____	_____	4	__ _____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne Stuart Beckett, Consultant

Organization: ANNE STUART BECKETT_____ date June 5, 2001_____

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

city or town Roanoke_____ state_VA_ zip code 24001_____

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

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

Property Owner

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

name Town of Hillsville (Larry South, Town Manager) Hillsville@tcia.net

street & number P.O. Box 545 telephone 540-728-2128 X16

city or town Hillsville state VA zip code 24343

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 Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:

Summary Paragraph

The Hillsville Historic District includes the historic core of the county seat of Carroll. Situated on a crest of a hill, the approximately five-acre district is linear as it follows the town's primary road, Main Street, north of its junction with U.S. Route 58. Main Street (S.R. 52) is the historic north/south route, and State Route 58 is the main east/west route through this section of southwest/Piedmont Virginia, 15 miles north of the North Carolina state line. Both the Blue Ridge Mountains and eight miles of the New River run through the county, which has a general elevation of 3,000 feet. The small district (16 contributing buildings) comprises the core commercial center along a two-block section fronting the 58-ft. wide Main Street. Buildings include the 1857 Carter Building, the 1875 Classical Revival-style Carroll County Courthouse and 1907 Carroll County Bank, and the 1936 Hillsville Diner. No churches or private residences are located within the district. The original 1951 Post Office remains as the home of the Carroll County Historical Society. Two- and three-story brick commercial buildings from the 1930s and 1940s line the west side of Main Street opposite the courthouse.

European Settlement to Society (1607-1752)

No resources were identified from this period.

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

No resources were identified from this period.

Antebellum Period (1831-1860)

The **Carter Building (237-5002-0012)** was originally built as a two-story, Flemish bond brick residence on a raised brick basement ca.1857 for Captain Fielden L. Hale. It soon became a store and residence when Hale sold it to James Wilkinson in 1860. Wilkinson operated the store out of the first floor facing Main Street and adjacent to the courthouse in the heart of the town. However, the Carter Building is most associated with George L. Carter, a local capitalist who was primarily responsible for the early economic prosperity of southwest Virginia and east Tennessee and who married Mr. Wilkinson's daughter Mayetta, who inherited the house. During the 1920s, Carter extensively remodeled the house: he spent $250,000 raising the house to three floors, adding a large dormer, and a full, double-tiered wrap-around porch, and stuccoing the outside and paneling the inside.[1]

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

Civil War (1861-1865)

No resources were identified from this period.

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)

Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, **the Carroll County Courthouse (237-01) (237-5002-0013)** stands prominently on a rise overlooking the east side of Main Street from a grassy courtyard. Influential resident Colonel Ira Blair Coltrane used his own plans to build the well-designed courthouse in 1872. The two-story, Flemish bond, red brick courthouse is architecturally significant as a public edifice and as the only Virginia courthouse that combines two traditional courthouse plans, the arcaded plan and the temple-portico plan. Italianate brackets accent the pediment of the four-columned Doric portico, and an octagonal cupola tops the courthouse. Flat lintels with turned corner blocks top the principal openings. Most windows are either, six-over-six or elongated twelve-over-twelve wood sash windows. [2]

The entrance into the first floor, which contained the clerk's office and county administration offices, is through a row of three round arches with stone voussoirs, which support the portico. Also underneath the portico is an atypical feature for a public building, an exterior wooden staircase that winds up each side of the curved walls underneath the portico. The single door entrance at the top of each flight of steps originally led directly into the courtroom. Today, a hallway has been added which shortens the original courtroom slightly. The thick modillion cornice is still visible in the room and the new hallway. The floor of the courthouse has a rise to it so that it slopes down towards the judge's bench. In this particular courtroom, the jurors sit in front of the judge, and face directly into the attorneys and clients and further out into the audience. Modern paneling covers the walls, and the two south side windows are covered with a curtain due to the brick addition to the side. A later one-story addition is on the rear (east) elevation. The north wing has also been enlarged.

A brick wall with a concrete cap and a tiled plaza supports the front of the courthouse yard. This more modern planning design replaced the original stone wall. A tall, Confederate Memorial statue of a soldier at parade rest stands guard over the complex. Originally facing south in the middle of Main Street, with an iron enclosure, the memorial was dedicated July 4, 1907. The courthouse closed in 1999 when a new County Administration Complex opened east of Main Street; however, a judicial office and the Carroll County Chamber still occupy the first floor.[3]

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

To the south of the Carter Building stands the 1907, Classical Revival-style **Carroll County Bank (237-5002-0011)**. This tall, narrow, one-story crème-colored bank, with its three-bay façade, cast-stone details, and large fixed windows, denotes the early prosperity of Hillsville. Perhaps the most significant mantle in all of Hillsville and the surrounding area is displayed in the foyer of the former bank, now an attorney's office.

World War 1 to World War II (1917-1945)

Main Street, running in front of the courthouse, features two intact blocks of commercial buildings. A 1931 fire caused much of the town to rebuild in brick. Lining the west side of Main Street are typical two- and three-story brick buildings from the 1930s and 1940s with flat roofs and minimal detailing beyond the corbelled brickwork along the cornices and sign bands. Most of the storefronts retain their original flush and recessed storefront configurations, with rows of upper transoms hidden underneath flat metal awnings. It appears that all original upper-floor windows remain, including three-over-one and one-over-one wood sash windows on the facades and metal casement windows on the sides of commercial buildings. A good example is the **Hillsville Lodge (237-500-0005).** This three-story Art Deco building has orange and crème -colored wire-cut bricks, vertical accent decorative elements, and an intact storefront and transom.

The area around the courthouse was saved from the fire and has a different appearance from the east side, containing more municipal buildings such as the courthouse and bank. The Carter Building is also on this side of the street. A good example of a small building built during this time is the **Porter Building (237-500-0009).** This is a small, one-story brick building with metal casement windows and a terracotta coping built in 1938 at the corner of Main and Grayson streets. It served as Dr. Porter's office for almost 40 years.

An important building to Hillsville, and a rare survivor to Virginia, is the **Hillsville Diner (237-5002-0015)**. The diner borders the northern edge of the district. It is one of the oldest in the state and one of only three streetcars in southwest Virginia that were converted to diners. Only this one and another one located in Chatham still serve customers. Probably built by the Tierny Diner Company in New York ca. 1936, it was used in Mount Airy, N.C., where Andy Griffith reportedly frequented it. It was brought to Hillsville in 1946, and since 1948 has been operated by the McPeak family. It operates from 5 a.m. until 2 p.m. and is known for its pancakes and beef stew. [4]

7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION (continued)

The New Dominion (1946-Present)

The main buildings constructed in the district after World War II are the **Hillsville Post Office (237-5002-0010)** and **The Family Shoe Store (237-5002-0014)**. Built in 1951, the large, square, one-story, brick Post Office building is located on the corner of Main Street and East Grayson Street. The building still retains its original storefront and side casement windows. The interior also remains intact with its original wooden vestibule and light fixtures hanging from the ceiling. The building is currently owned by the Carroll County Historical Society, which has its home there.

Founded by Allen Easter and Glenn Jackson, both Second World War veterans, the Family Shoe Store is located between the courthouse and the diner. Built in 1950 with Art Deco details and crème-colored brick, this tall two-story building has continuously housed the business since it opened. The building's façade has a tripartite design with a projecting center bay, a cast concrete one-story cornice band, and most importantly an intact wooden storefront with original glass and wood doors.

There are no noncontributing buildings in the proposed Hillsville Historic District, and the town still retains its historic appearance of a southwest/Piedmont courthouse town.

SITE INVENTORY

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

Abbreviations used in the inventory include:
CB = contributing building
CO = contributing object
ca. = circa

NORTH MAIN STREET (east side)

300-308: **Newman Building** 237-5002-0001 ca. 1950 **CB**

Currently the home of Ayers Accounting, J&D Construction, and the High Fashion Beauty Shop, the building houses four commercial spaces in a two-story, nine-bay, common bond brick building. This large, basic commercial building fills the block between Mill Street to the north and Grayson Street. Two-over-two metal sash windows light the upper floor, and plate glass storefronts light the first floor. One store retains its original recessed door with a glass door and screen. The roof is flat, but has a stepped parapet down the north side elevation.

404/408: **Goad Building** 237-5002-0002 ca. 1950 **CB**

Located on the north corner of Main and Mill streets, this two-story, three-bay, brick building housed Carroll County offices. It has a centered recessed entrance (with two doors) flanked by storefronts; one of the doors is solid wood with a transom above. The north side storefront has been altered with modern plate glass. The storefront to the south contains paired one-over-one wood windows. Four one-over-one wood windows light the second floor. The five-course American bond brick is painted crème.

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (east side) (continued)

410: **Town Hall** 237-5002-0003 ca. 1940s **CB**
This two-story, brick commercial building with a metal, glazed storefront once housed a department store, grocery store, and bank. Detailed brickwork accents the five-course American bond brick building, which has thick pilasters dividing the building in two, coping, and a parapet cornice. Six bays of modern storefronts and two double-leaf metal doors light the first floor, the transoms have been covered, and two-over-two (horizontal muntins) wood sash windows light the second floor. The roof is flat with a parapet.

508-514: **Nuckoll's Drugs/Tompkins Building** 237-5002-0004 ca. 1940s **CB**
This wide, two-story brick building also houses the Thompson Variety Store, Omega, and Dana's Styling Salon. It faces the Carroll County Courthouse. The building has minor details such as brick dentils at the parapet and jack arches over the three-over-one wood sash windows. Single, recessed doors with transoms lead up to apartments on the second floor. The building is painted white and has metal flat awnings across the storefronts. Nuckoll's Drug Store has operated from this building since it reopened in 1950. The business dates back to 1898. The original building was destroyed in the 1931 town fire.

516: **Hillsville Lodge No. 193 A.F. & A.M.** 237-5002-0005 1930s **CB**
This two-story, Art Deco building has orange-colored, wire-cut brick with a five-bay storefront, a recessed metal storefront, and a wood door and transom. It has decorative brickwork, and cast-stone caps and plinths. Flat metal awnings conceal the transoms. The roof is flat with a parapet, and the windows are metal casements. Nautilus occupies the first floor. The Lodge is located on the second floor, and an inscription at the door states 1863 to 1931. This is one of the most architecturally significant buildings in Hillsville.

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (east side) (continued)

520: **The C.E. Ridge 5-10 Store/ Ben Franklins** 237-5002-0006 1939 **CB**
This three-story, red brick building once housed the popular five-and-dime store and later Ben Franklin. It has two metal storefronts with recessed doors. One of the double-leaf doors has been reduced to one. Three-over-one wood sash windows light the upper floor. The transom has been covered. C.E. Ridge opened the business in 1939, and it doubled in size in 1951. Ben Franklin opened in 1964. The building is currently vacant and undergoing rehabilitation.

526-528A: **Hillmont Hotel** 237-5002-0007 ca. 1934 **CB**
This three-story former hotel across from the Hillsville Diner is a red brick veneer building with a two-story front porch. The porch material has been replaced, and it is currently supported by square wood columns on the first floor and cast-iron and 6x6 columns on the second floor. Exposed rafters and corrugated metal cover the roof. Centered doors on each floor lead out onto the porch. The two commercial bays on the first-floor façade have been covered with Corolla glass. Paired one-over-one wood sash windows light the upper floors. Casement windows are on the north elevation. The Jackson Hewitt Tax Service operates out of the south side office, and an apartment is located in the basement with steps leading down to it beside the porch. The Hotel used to boast a popular restaurant that was the place to go for Saturday night dancing. A small, black, neon "HOTEL" sign hangs from the upper northeast corner of the building, and a larger "HILLMONT HOTEL" neon sign has been removed and may be restored. The upper floors are currently vacant but may be rehabilitated for apartments.

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (east side) (continued)

600: **Commercial Building** 237-5002-0008 1940s **CB**
A tiny, one-story, two-bay commercial building with a wood, multilight-projecting window is attached to the Hillmont Hotel. It is a brick veneer building with a flat roof, decorative brickwork on the north elevation, and terracotta coping.

NORTH MAIN STREET (west side)

305: **Dr. Porter's Building** 237-5002-0009 ca. 1936 **CB**
This small one-story brick building was the office of Dr. Porter from the late 1930s until he retired in 1971. The building is located on the southwest corner of Main and Grayson streets. It has a three-bay storefront with a centered door, with pilasters beside the door and on the corners. The narrow building is five-bays deep with metal casement windows. The red brick common bond building has a flat roof with a parapet. Dr. Walter Porter was born in Carroll County and was serving his internship at Lewis Gale in Roanoke when he met Hillsville doctor Chester B. Nuckolls, who convinced him to succeed him after his eminent retirement. In a taped interview from 1986, Dr. Porter stated that he moved to Hillsville in 1934 with a dollar in his pocket and a new bride. In addition to his practice, Dr. Porter took over from Dr. Nuckolls as the physician to the jail, county home, and county coroner. Dr. Porter had commented how it was sometimes difficult during the winter months to retrieve the coffins that were built in Ivanhoe, Virginia. At that time, he had to take the train to and from Ivanhoe and then across the New River at Fowler's Ferry and into town by wagon. Since 1993, the building has housed the Carroll County Genealogy Club.[5]

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (west side) (continued)

307: **Hillsville Post Office** 237-5002-0010 1950 **CB**
This large post office building has housed the Carroll County Historical Society since 1992. It is a wide, one-story, common bond, red brick building with large plate glass windows flanking a recessed front door. Casement windows line the side elevations. A low-pitched gable roof was added to the original flat roof. The interior of the building has remained intact with the original wood vestibule, wood floors, and metal ceiling lighting fixtures. The room remains open, as it was when it served as a post office, except that the one wall that divided the private and public space has been removed. A loading dock and parking lot are in the back.

309: **Carroll County Bank/Citizens Bank of Carroll** 237-5002-0011 1907 **CB**
Local capitalist George L. Carter built this bank, one of the best-constructed buildings in Hillsville. Its first president was Robert G. Wilkinson. It merged with another financial institution in the mid-1930s when it received its current name. The tall, one-story bank has crème-colored, hard-fired brick with narrow mortar joints, cast-stone sills, arches, and foundation, large metal fixed paired windows with wood mullions, a cast-stone cornice and stepped parapet, and a cast-stone inscription cornice band with the name Carroll County Bank. However, a historic photograph denotes the original name of the building as Citizens Bank of Carroll. The photograph also shows a wooden fence going across the front lawn. This building is set back from the street slightly so that there is some green space. The former bank now serves as the office of Attorney James T. Ward. The interior has been modified, although it contains the only known mantel in Hillsville, a large, unpainted wood mantel that once graced the lobby of the bank.

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (west side) (continued)

405: **The Carter Building** 237-5002-0012 ca. 1857/1920s **CB**
The Carter Building is an important building to the town of Hillsville and was once the home of a large landowner, Fielden Hale. Hale had built his home in ca. 1857 as a two-story brick Federal inspired residence on a raised brick basement. In 1880, James Wilkinson purchased it and 14 acres and operated a store out of the right-side basement level; a post office reportedly operated from the left side of the basement. In 1890 George L. Carter started his first job here as clerk and later married the owner's daughter Mayetta, who inherited the house in 1906. By 1936, the tract was over 200 acres and included a private family cemetery, which is outside the boundary of the historic district. The Carters settled in the house after he retired in the 1920s and modified it to how it looks today. Over the 1920s, Carter spent $250,000 adding a third floor, a large dormer on the roof, and a long, one-story brick rear addition, stuccoing the entire building, and adding a two-story wrap-around porch. The building sits back from the east side of Main Street between the Carroll County Bank and the Carroll County Courthouse. The building was bought by the county in 1958 and used until recently. Although vacant, it remains in good condition, and is worthy of rehabilitation so that it can serve the community again.[6]

515: **Carroll County Courthouse** 237-5002-0013 1872-1875 (NRHP 237-01) **CB / CO**
Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places, the courthouse stands prominently overlooking Main Street from a grassy courtyard. Influential resident Colonel Ira Blair Coltrane used his own plans to build the well-designed courthouse in 1872. The two-story, Flemish bond, red brick courthouse is architecturally significant as a public edifice that combines two traditional courthouse plans, the arcaded plan and the temple-portico plan. Italianate brackets accent the pediment of the four-columned Doric portico, and an octagonal cupola tops the courthouse. Flat lintels with turned corner blocks top the main openings. Most windows are either, 6/6, 8/8, or elongated 12/12. A brick wall with a concrete cap and a tiled plaza supports the front of the courthouse yard. This modern design covers the original stone wall. A Confederate Memorial statue with a soldier at parade rest stands guard at the complex. Originally facing south in the middle of Main Street, the memorial was dedicated July 4, 1907. The courthouse closed when a new Municipal Complex opened in 1999 east of Main Street; the building is currently vacant. [7]

SITE INVENTORY (continued)

NORTH MAIN STREET (west side) (continued)

521/523: **Family Shoe Store** 237-5002-0014 1950 **CB**

This attractive Art Deco-style building has been owned and operated by the same family since it opened for business in 1950. The two-story, crème-colored hard-fired brick façade also features two intact storefronts with a middle wood door and transoms over the doors. A wide, flat metal awning currently covers the first-floor storefronts. Vertical decorative elements accent the façade, which has a stepped parapet roof and a first-floor cast-stone cornice. The second floor was used as Hillsville's only hospital from 1951 until 1963.

526: **Hillsville Diner** 237-5002-0015 ca. 1936/1946 **CB**

An important building to Hillsville and a rare survivor to Virginia, this is one of the oldest streetcars in the state and one of only three remaining in southwest Virginia that were converted to diners. Only this one and another one located in Chatham still serve customers. Probably built by the Tierny Diner Company in New York ca. 1936 it was used in Mount Airy, N.C., where Andy Griffith reportedly frequented it. It was brought to Hillsville in 1946 and since 1948 has been operated by the McPeak family. After the boom of the Second World War, the diner was open 24 hours. A low, one-story, rear frame addition finished with pine paneling functions as the main dining room. The streetcar diner remains intact with its stainless steel fixtures, tiled floor and walls, and hardwood stools; it operates from 5 a.m. until 2 p.m. six days a week and is known for its pancakes and beef stew. [8]

MILL STREET

117: **Carroll County Jail** 237-5002-0016 1936 **CB**

Designed by the Roanoke architectural firm Eubank & Caldwell, the 58-ft. x 40-ft. solid brick jail is a two-story, gable-fronted building with five bays on three sides and a lower basement. Brick quoins, vertical brick bands, a concrete cornice, and wide eaves accent this massive building. There are two single door entrances to the building, one on the front and one on the north side. The entrance on the north side retains its original portico entrance. Numerous metal casement windows light the structure, which is located behind the east side of Main Street and is currently owned by the county. The Town of Hillsville is attempting to buy the vacant building for rehabilitation.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Hillsville has been the seat of Carroll County since its formation from Grayson County in 1842. With the courthouse at its center, the proposed Hillsville Uptown Historic District encompasses the historic block of the county seat and includes government, financial, and commercial buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century. The Hillsville Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A, B, and C with significance at the local level in the areas of architecture, politics/government, and commerce. Its period of significance is from 1857 with the building of the Carter Building to 1951 when the last building was constructed in the district, the Family Shoe Store. It is eligible under Criterion A for its contribution to politics as an active courthouse town for over 150 years; it is eligible under Criterion B because of George L. Carter, and his economic contributions to southwest Virginia and east Tennessee; and it is eligible under Criterion C for its significant architectural buildings that comprise the streetscapes including the courthouse, diner, and commercial buildings. There are 16 buildings and one object (statue) (no secondary resources), all of which contribute to the proposed district.

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

No recorded historic activity occurred during this period.

Antebellum Period (1831-1860)

In 1845, Henry Howe described Carroll County, which was formed from the eastern part of Grayson County in 1842, as "a wild and mountainous tract...watered by the New River." Prior to the county's formation, the residents who lived in this most remote but scenic area became increasingly concerned about making the long, treacherous journey to the county seat to go to court and attend to other business. John Carroll, an Irish-born gentleman with political aspirations, announced his candidacy for the legislature by promising to sponsor a bill to create a new county. He defeated the incumbent, John Blair, and the bill passed in January of 1842. The legislative act stated that the new county was to "be called and known by the name of Carroll...in memory of Charles Carroll of Carrollton." At that time he was the sole survivor of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. John Carroll had suggested the name, believing it would also honor him. The act designated Hillsville as the courthouse town and required the first meeting of the justices of the peace to be at the residence of James Stafford of Hillsville. [9]

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The first court was held on June 6, 1842. The next day, "the court doth order that the public buildings for the County of Carroll be located on the lands of John Tipton...that Ira Coltrain (*sic*) be appointed commissioner to report to the Court plans for the Court house and jail...." The frame and brick courthouse served from 1842 until 1870, when the county board of supervisors called for a new courthouse and jail. Reportedly, this courthouse stood in the middle of Main Street [10]

One of the first acts of the new town was to lay off lots; these lots helped to define the Stage Coach Road as Main Street in Hillsville and helped to define the business district. On court days, people congregated and parked their wagons wherever they could, unhitched horses grazed in the fields nearby or boarded in stables, women shopped, and men conducted court business.[11] The courthouse is denoted on the original 1842 boundary map as being in the center of Main Street.

The earliest building is the Carter Building. It was constructed in 1857 by the large landowner Fielden Hale in the center of town on Main Street. This large, Flemish bond brick structure was two-stories on a raised brick basement with paired exterior end brick chimneys and a double front porch.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Although the Civil War disabled the economy and brought shortages, hardships, and some loss of life, almost no battle damage occurred. The courthouse and its records survived intact.

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)

On March 17, 1871, the county board of supervisors awarded the contract to build a new courthouse to Ira B. Coltrane. He was directed to build the courthouse after the plan of Coltrane, Mitchell, Sutherland, and Collier at the price of $9,500. Completed by 1875, the courthouse stands as an example of a combined early-nineteenth-century arcaded plan and temple-front plan. Both courthouse types were popular in the Piedmont area, where builders of courthouses had learned such building forms through working under Thomas Jefferson. Coltrane also built a stone wall on Main Street. In 1878, Hillsville was incorporated, and the growing county seat was described in a gazetteer of the same year as "a thriving town, and located in the midst of a fertile valley." The same publication stated, "This county is in the section of Virginia celebrated for producing a fine quality of bright tobacco, which with wheat, corn, and oats form the principle products." There were a dentist, three physicians, five lawyers, and a variety of tradesmen, an academy, a post office, and seven churches. [12]

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

The area of Hillsville and surrounding counties, as well as the country, was beginning to experience an economic boom by the 1880s, and George Lafayette Carter is credited, above any other person, for bringing industrial development to east Tennessee and southwest Virginia. He attracted more than a $100 million in new capital to furnish employment and wealth to the area. There was a time when "George L." was a household name from Kentucky to South Carolina. Born near Hillsville in 1857, Carter was a "man of mystery." He had few friends, abhorred publicity of any kind, and never attended a public meeting, yet his keen business sense made him "fantastically wealthy." [13]

George L. Carter was born to Walter Crockett Carter (1832-1878), a Confederate veteran, and Mary Ann Jennings (1840-1900) on January 10, 1857. His first job was working at Wilkinson's Store in downtown Hillsville (later to become his residence and the Carter Building), for board and 50 cents a week. At age 38, he married the owner's daughter Mayetta and had a son a year later.

Known as "the empire builder of southwest Virginia," he moved throughout the region, where at one time or another he owned three mining operations, a company coal town, and a railroad. Still used today, the Clinchfield Railroad led to the development of Kingsport, Tennessee. By 1890, he had worked his way up from clerk to manager of the Wythe Lead Mine Company, and a year later was the president of Dora Iron Furnace in Pulaski, Virginia. In 1898 he formed the Carter Coal and Iron Company. A year later he was the president of the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company, was operating coal mines and iron furnaces from Roanoke to Bristol, and had bought his first railroad.[14]

In 1900, Carter moved his family to Bristol, Virginia, and by 1902 formed the Virginia Pocahontas Coal Company in McDowell County, West Virginia. From 1905 through 1915, he organized the construction of the 275-mile-long Carolina, Clinchfield, and Ohio Railroad through mountains of Virginia and North Carolina from Elkhorn City, Kentucky, to Spartanburg, South Carolina. In 1906, he moved his family to Johnson City, Tennessee, where a year later he had bought 10,000 acres of land to develop the town of Kingsport, Tennessee.

In 1912, Carter recognized the possibilities of the rich coal veins of the Appalachians and organized the Carter Coal Company, buying 37,000 acres across Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky. His interest in coal mining was so keen that he bought a whole coal town known as Coalwood in McDowell County, West Virginia, and in 1916 moved his family there.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

A building that signifies this progress in Hillsville is the 1907 Carroll County Bank. George L. Carter originally established the bank as the Citizens Bank of Carroll. In the mid-thirties it merged with the local Farmers Bank to become the Carroll County Bank. Robert G. Wilkinson was the first president. An important non-extant building (destroyed in the 1931 fire) was the large, 1890s frame Nuckoll's Drug Company building, which also housed the post office and a bank. An important figure, Dr. Chester B. Nuckolls, a practicing general physician, and his son Chester served the town for many years in many capacities. The Nuckoll's Drug Store is still in operation today on Main Street.

Hillsville may best be known for its tragic shoot-out in the courtroom on March 14, 1912. Floyd Allen, a deputy sheriff, had been convicted for resisting arrest. When Judge Thornton Massie refused Allen bail and ordered him into custody, the courtroom "erupted with blazing revolvers and flying bullets...." In the end, the judge, the sheriff, the Commonwealth's attorney, a juror, and a spectator lay dead. Allen, the clerk of the court, another juror, and several spectators were wounded. After much detective work from the Felts Detective Agency in nearby Galax, Virginia, Floyd Allen and his son Claude were convicted of murder and executed March 13, 1913. [15]

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

Prior to 1920, many people in Carroll County traveled by foot. It was not uncommon to walk five miles to church or the post office; the New River had to be crossed by ferry. The N&W railroad only reached the town of Sylvatus, ten miles away. By the early 1930s, travel was still time consuming and uncertain; however, because of state construction, by 1935 the major roads through the county had improved. During the Depression, in 1938 the Blue Ridge Parkway was complete, and Highway 221 to Roanoke was being built. Hillsville had one bank, one school, no funeral home, no motel, and no sewer system, but it had incandescent streetlights that burned 24 hours a day. [16]

In 1920, the town of Hillsville began to modernize its streets and create sidewalks, and it added a water and sewer system. However, on January 28, 1931 a fire devastated a large portion of downtown. Although the courthouse was spared, the Hillsville Hotel, Jett's Restaurant, the Masonic Lodge, the Busy Bee Restaurant, a furniture store, Nuckoll's Drug Company, Hillsville Hardware, and Dr. Cox's office were destroyed. But Hillsville rebounded and many began to rebuild, all in brick. A good example is the Hillsville Lodge and the Hillmont Hotel. The three-story brick hotel was built in 1936 and was the place to be on Saturday nights for dinner and dancing.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

In 1922, Carter sold all his facilities to Consolidated Coal Company of New York for $17 million. And between 1922 and 1932 his family spent time between Hillsville and Washington, D.C. During this time, Carter remodeled the Carter Building for his wife; the "mansion" eventually included 36 rooms, 7 bathrooms, 6 fireplaces, at least 11 closets, and one elevator. Carter died December 30, 1936 and was buried as he wished in the family cemetery that he created behind the Carter Building. Mrs. Carter continued to live in the Carter House until a few years before her death in 1957. It is said that after his death, she never slept in the same room two nights in a row. After her death, their only child, James Carter of New York, sold the house and three acres to Carroll County for $60,000.

An article in the 1958 centennial edition of *The Welch Daily News* stated, "Mr. Carter possessed an outstanding personality, and was a man that could attract and hold attention in a large crowd. He was about 6 feet, four inches tall, stood erect, weighed about 190 pounds and walked with a quick, alert step."[17] Carter was partial to his fellow citizens in and around Hillsville, and he often employed them and their families in his many ventures. The article also noted "he was interested in the welfare of his employees and argued for a higher standard of living. He was often heard to remark that every family should be able to possess an automobile, a radio and modern conveniences." [18]

The New Dominion (1946-Present)

Only a handful of buildings were built after the war, all of brick and located on the edges of town. The Hillsville Diner, a ca. 1936 streetcar was brought into town from Mt. Airy North Carolina in 1946. And the last building was the 1951 Family Shoe Store. Currently, Hillsville serves as a transportation hub for major roads that pass by or through the town limits; including I- 77, Highways 52, 221, and 100 running north/south, and U.S. Highway 58 running east/west. Town Hall is located downtown in a former bank, variety store, and grocery store. The courthouse offices have relocated to a new county government complex just west of the historic district. In 1998, an archaeological excavation was undertaken around the north and east sides of the courthouse. Significant features included a ca, 1877plank fence line, a stone foundation, and a pit. Further out from the courthouse, was found the remnants of a stable/barn complex from ca. 1850-1900, and a privy from the Texas House Hotel (1850s-1931). The artifacts are the property of the Blue Ridge Area Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, with the site known as 44CA106. The town is involved with the CDBG program with approximately a dozen buildings in the Façade Improvement Program. Hillsville remains an active courthouse town with its commercial buildings occupied and their historic fabric intact.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

ENDNOTES

[1] Carroll County Clerks Office deed books.
[2] Peters, Virginia Historic Courthouses, p. 142.
[3] Bowman, Carroll County, Virginia: The Early Days to 1920. p. 100.
[4] Carroll County Heritage, Vol. II, p. 31 and 32.
[5] Carroll County Chronicles Vol. I, p. 5.
[6] Beckett, "Hillsville Historic District Preliminary Information Form."
[7] "Carroll County Courthouse National Register Nomination."
[8] Beckett, "Hillsville Historic District Preliminary Information Form."
[9] "Carroll County Courthouse National Register Nomination."
[10] Ibid.
[11] Mitchell, 1842 map.
[12] Virginia Gazetteer, 1878.
[13] Sisson, George L. Carter-Capitalist.
[14] Carroll County Chronicles, Vol. 18, Fall 1999, Winter 2000.
[15] Ibid.
[16] Bowman, Carroll County, Virginia: The Early Days to 1920. p. 147.
[17] Sisson, George L. Carter-Capitalist.
[18] Ibid.

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Bowman, Owen. *Carroll County, Virginia: The Early Days to 1920.* Virginia Beach, Virginia: The Donning Company, 1993.

Town of Hillsville Tax Plat Map 311 1999 (map). Carroll County Comm., Hillsville, Virginia.

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Sisson, Sebert L. *George L. Carter—Capitalist.* Carroll County Historical Society, Hillsville, Virginia, 1976.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated historic district include the historic core surrounding the Carroll County Courthouse along Main Street of the Town of Hillsville.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Subject: Hillsville Historic District (same for all photos)
Photographer: Anne Stuart Beckett (same for all photos)
Photo Date: May 2001 (same for all photos)
Original Negatives: 19225 and 19226 Archived at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.

Photo: 1 of 6 Negative: 19226, frame 2a
View: West (front) elevation of Carroll County Courthouse and Confederate Memorial Statute.

Photo: 2 of 6 Negative: 19226, frame 3a
View: View north down Main Street from the courthouse plaza.

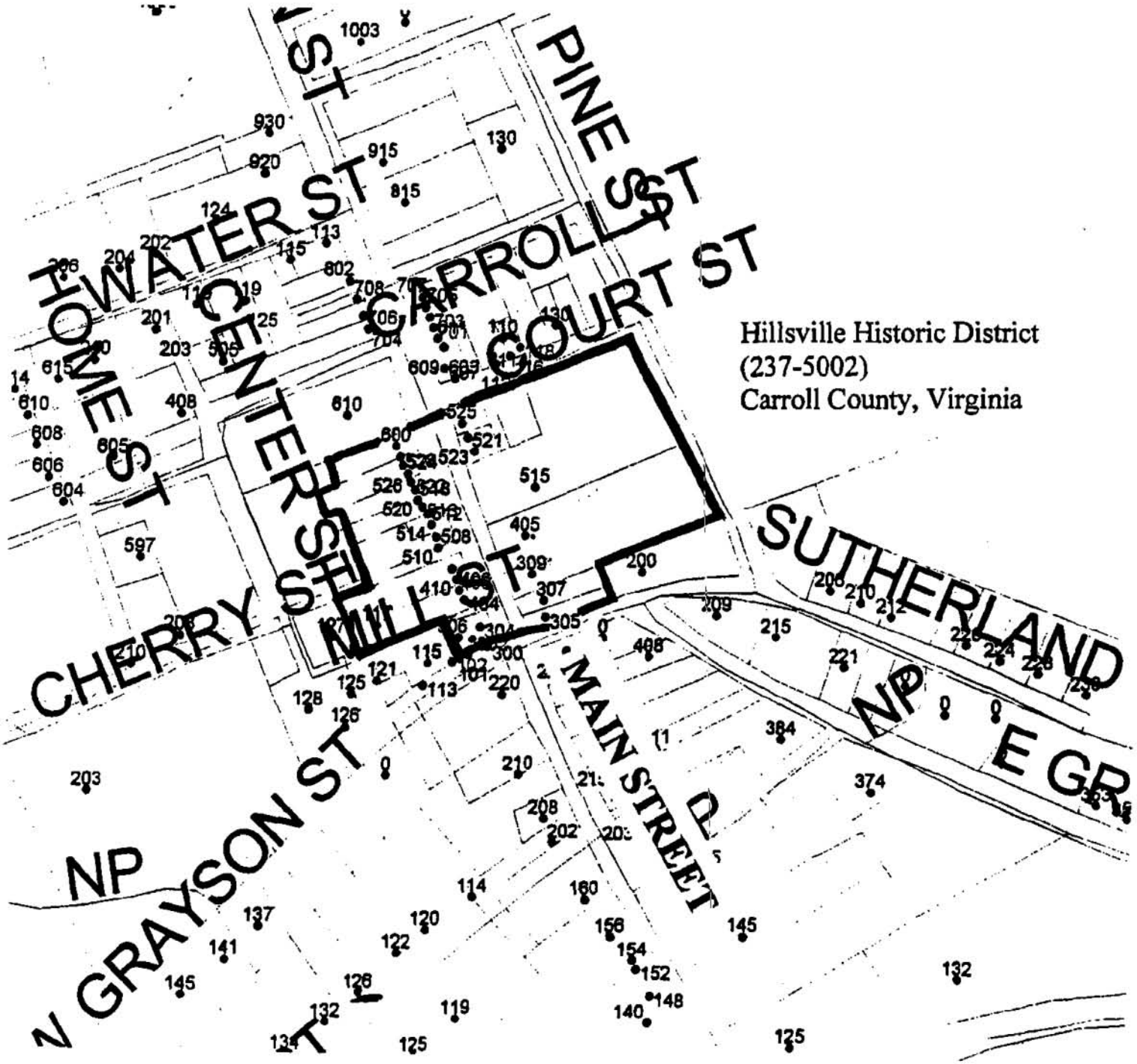
Photo: 3 of 6 Negative: 19226, frame 14a
View: West and south elevations of the Carroll County Bank and Carter Building.

Photo: 4 of 6 Negative: 19226, frame 1a
View: View looking south along Main Street and the Hillsville Diner.

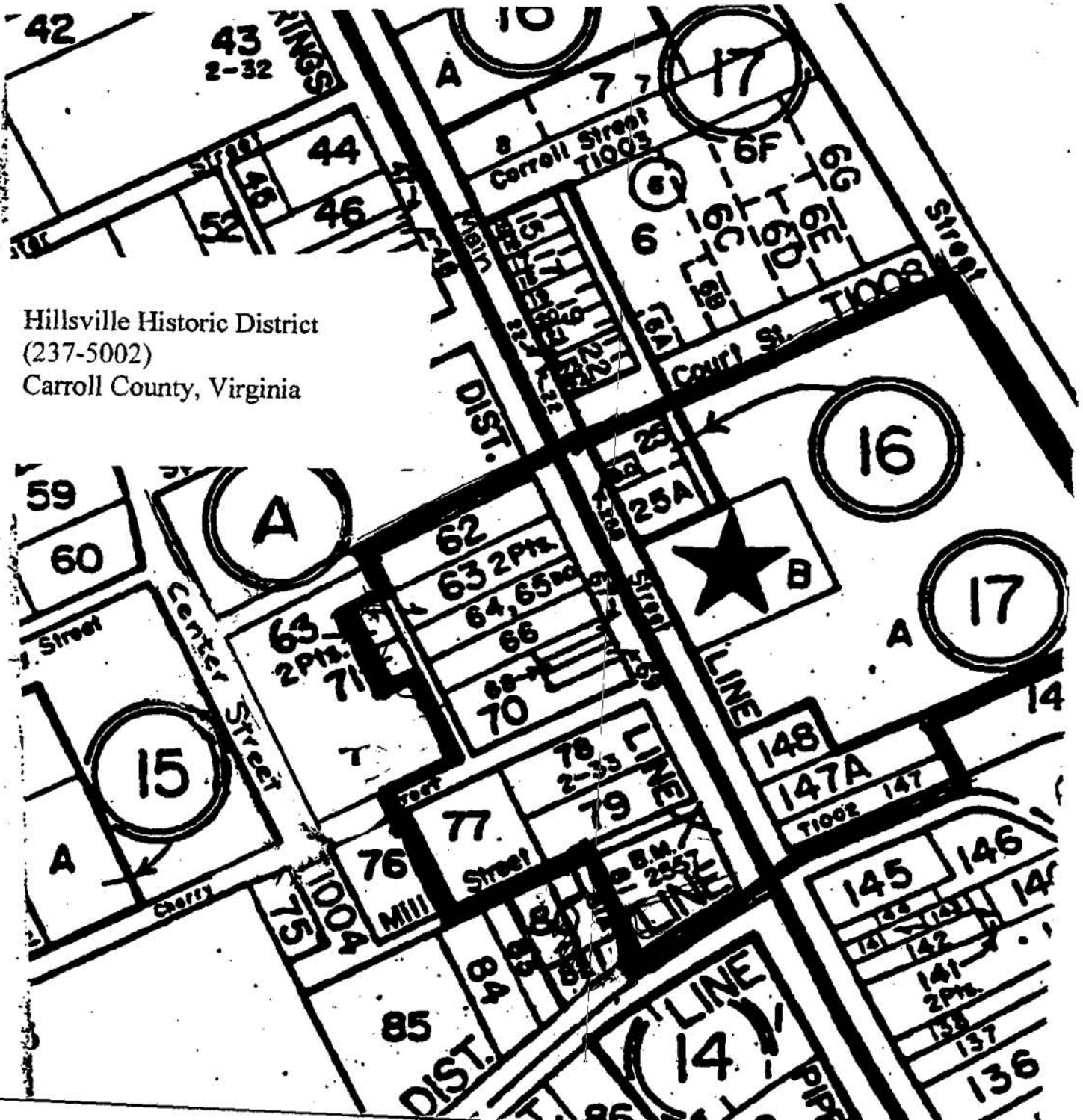
Photo: 5 of 6 Negative: 19226, frame 0a
View: View looking southeast along Main Street with the Carroll County Courthouse in background..

Photo: 6 of 6 Negative: 19225, frame 11a
View: View looking northwest up Main Street.

Boundaries of the Hillsville Historic District denoting addresses.



Boundaries of the Hillsville Historic District denoting tax parcels



HILLSVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
237-5002
CARROLL COUNTY,
VIRGINIA

UTM Reference:
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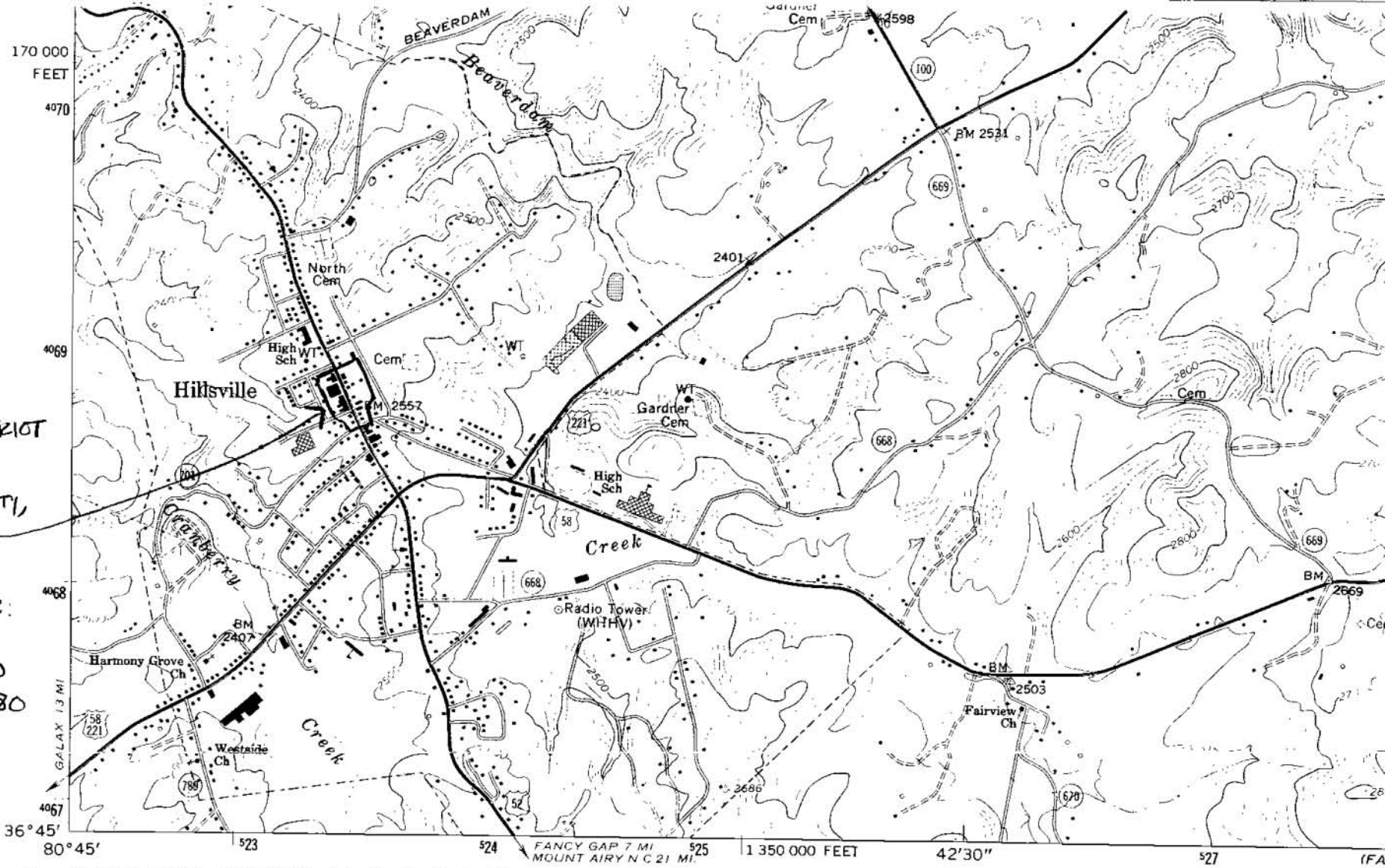
Easting 523490
Northing 4068680



(WOODLAWN)
4857 III NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

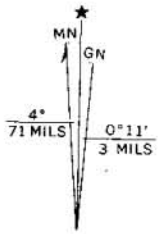
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968

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

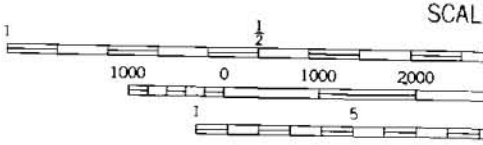
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1976 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



UTM GRID AND 1978 MAGNETIC NORTH
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

SCAL



CONTOUR IN
NATIONAL GEODETIC

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NAT
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICA
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RE
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MA