

VLR- 5/15/84
NRHP- 8/16/84

Crossville
Quad

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

For NPS use only

**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

1. Name

historic CROSSROADS TAVERN (Preferred) (VHLC File #02-199)

and or common Crossroads Inn

2. Location

street & number VA Route 692 N/A not for publication

city, town Crossroads N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Albemarle code 003

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Stephen E. Ramsey

street & number P.O. Box 36

city, town North Garden N/A vicinity of state VA 22959

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Albemarle County Courthouse

street & number Courthouse Square

city, town Charlottesville state VA 22901

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None to date has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date N/A N/A federal state county local

depository for survey records N/A

city, town N/A state N/A

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Crossroads Tavern is an early 19th-century brick tavern which faces VA Route 692 from a setback of about thirty feet, approximately 400 feet west of U.S. Route 29. Due to the land's slope, the building is only two stories high in back, but three stories high in front exposing the basement. Of rectangular shape (37' wide and 33' deep), the building has a brick foundation, a tin-covered gable roof and two interior brick chimneys at both gable ends. Wrapping around the entrance side (the south side) and the east side of the building's main floor is a raised wooden veranda. The main entrance of the house which is reached from the veranda, opens into a wide central hall which runs the full depth of the tavern.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The exterior of the building is built of brick in five-course American bond throughout. It is a three-bay structure although there is a fourth opening on the second story of the south facade which was a separate entrance for the tavern. The south and main facade is on VA Route 692 and is dominated by a porch on the second story extending the entire width of the south and east facades. The main entrance on the second level is framed by original sidelights, four panes per side, and a rectangular transom. The door, as are most of the doors in the building, is a six-panel wood door with an original box lock. The door is painted light mustard and rust which are its original colors. The fenestration is wooden double-hung 9/6 sash with some of the original panes still intact. There is architrave trim around the south facade and second-level windows and plain trim around most of the other doors and windows. Also on the second story are stairs leading down to the first level or basement. Circular brick columns on this level support the porch above it. The single window has the same architrave trim as the windows above although the ten-paned French doors have plain trim on the door frame. The doors to the wine cellar and stable are tongue-and-groove with strap hinges. The third level fenestration is the same as the first two levels except for the plain trim. The east elevation which faces U.S. Route 29 has the second entrance to the tavern. The present door is a recent replacement. The porch from the south facade terminates on the east side. The only fenestration is on the fourth story--the other wall space being used for fireplaces. The north elevation which faces the summer kitchen has six identical 9/6 hung-sash windows with plain trim on the second and third stories. The first-story fenestration is barely visible due to the embankment but has three, six-paned windows with wooden horizontal bars protecting the windows. Finally, the west elevation which faces the existing driveway has a fourth-story window like the east elevation and a first-story entrance to the kitchen. The remainder of the wall on this side is for fireplaces. There is evidence of some of the brick wall having been replaced behind the chimney. The building is capped by a low pitched standing-seam tin roof with two interior end chimneys flanking the peaks of the east and west gables.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input 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 Ca. 1820-1830 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Crossroads Tavern recalls the period between 1827 and 1853 when the Staunton and James River Turnpike was one of the two busiest roads in Albemarle County. Connecting the farms of the Shenandoah Valley with the James River and Kanawha Canal at Scottsville, this road served as a route for farmers transporting goods to Richmond via the canal. The Crossroads Tavern, which is believed to have been built about 1820, served as a tavern and overnight lodging for farmers and travelers using the turnpike. The tavern has been virtually unaltered since its construction, giving a present day viewer a glimpse of how early 1800s taverns were built, and what it must have been like to stay in them. This feeling of a 19th-century tavern is enhanced by the fact that there is no plumbing on the two main floors, and the only heating is from the fireplaces. The current use of the Crossroads Tavern as an antique store, inn and private residence is compatible with both the building's fabric and history.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

According to local tradition, the Crossroads Tavern was constructed about 1820 on land belonging to the Morris family. The tavern's Federal-style interior and exterior woodwork would support a date of ca. 1820-1830. Hugh Morris had acquired the land on which the tavern was built in 1749. The Morris family sold the tavern in ca. 1856-57 to C.G. Sutherland. Apparently, Sutherland managed the tavern before his purchase since his daybook survives and records him as taverner as early as 1852.

It is evident from the daybook that the tavern played a vital role in the affairs of the local community. At the tavern one could purchase a variety of staples from hay to whiskey and also post letters through Sutherland who acted as the local postmaster. The tavern also served the community as a place for the trading of goods and news from travelers.

Architecturally, Crossroads is important as an expression of a tavern building, characteristic of this building type in 19th-century Virginia. One English traveler while on a visit to the Commonwealth wrote that "they (taverns) all resemble each other, having a porch in front, the length of the house."¹ Another traveler commented that Virginia's taverns, "consist of a little house placed in a solitary situation in the middle of the woods."² Crossroads is representative of both types with its one-story porch serving to distinguish it as a public house. It should also be noted that the only other building in the immediate vicinity of the tavern in the 19th century was a church, and to this day the tavern continues to stand within a relatively isolated rural setting.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Lathrop, Elise. Early American Inns and Taverns. New York: Tudor Publishing Company, 1937.
Moore, John Hammond. Albemarle, Jefferson's County, 1727-1976. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1976.
Woods, Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Bridgewater: The Green Bookman, 1932.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 1.75 acres

Quadrangle name Covesville, VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	B			
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the N side of VA 692 approximately 250' W of intersection with U.S. 29; thence approximately 300' W along N side of VA 692 to a dirt road; thence approximately 225' N following said road; thence approximately 200' SSE; thence approximately 125' E; thence approximately 100' N; thence approximately

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #2)

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Lawrence E. Hanes

organization University of Virginia Architecture School date December 17, 1982

street & number 411 13th Street, NW, Apt. 9 telephone (804) 977-0090

city or town Charlottesville state VA 22903

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, Executive Director
title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date May 15, 1984

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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 ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

CROSSROADS TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

Page 1

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

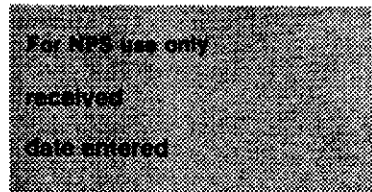
The main entrance on the second story opens onto a central hall which runs the entire depth of this two-pile building. There are two ascending stairs and one descending stair in the hall on the east side. The stairs have closed risers and square balusters with simply molded handrails. Some of the balusters have been replaced. The flooring throughout the house is wide wood planks. It appears to be in good condition with very little having been replaced. Also common to the rooms is a painted plaster ceiling and wall finish. To the left of the hall are two rooms, the parlor and formal dining room. The parlor, on the south side, has a low and simply molded chair rail and baseboard, features found in the rest of the rooms. The fireplace is original and has a rectangular opening with wood surrounds. The mantel shelf is very shallow with a plain frieze and is almost devoid of ornamentation except for the bed mouldings and end blocks. The room on the north side is the formal dining room which has a fireplace and built-in cupboards flanking it. The fireplace, as in the parlor and other main rooms, is original and has the same rectangular opening with shallow mantel shelf. The rooms opposite the parlor and dining room were part of the tavern and not originally connected with the inn by the existing door in the hall. This door was a later addition when the inn was converted into a private residence. The two rooms on the east side are identical to the ones on the west side except that there is a door connecting them as well as each room having access outdoors. The descending stairs in the hall lead to the first floor and the dining room/winter kitchen area. Both the dining room and kitchen have fireplaces and doors to the outside. The ceiling has exposed beams and in the kitchen are whole trunks of trees. The kitchen floor is brick with most of it original. The fireplace is also brick with a larger opening than the other fireplaces. It has recently been repaired. The room adjoining the kitchen is now a bathroom but was probably initially used as a pantry or storage room for the kitchen. The two rooms on the east side were a wine cellar and stable. The wine cellar which faces the south still has the original brick fireplace and wooden wine racks in place. The stable is no longer separated from the wine cellar as they now form one large room with a dirt floor. Both rooms have to be entered from the outside. The third floor, reached by two ascending stairs, has a similar plan as the second floor. There is a central hall with two rooms on each side. A hall door divides the front and back halves, the back half housing the innkeeper and his family. All of these rooms have original fireplaces. The attic has three rooms and is reached by the stairs in the back half of the structure. The central room is a hall with recently added walls along the north side to create more closet space. The two flanking rooms are smaller and are under the eaves. They each have a window which is about a half foot from the floor.

The summer kitchen, a two-story structure, is the only outbuilding now existing. It is at the northeast corner of the tavern and is an example of the banking system where the structure was built into an embankment. It is a framed building with gabled roof and supported by a brick foundation with board and batten siding for

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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CROSSROADS TAVERN, ALBEMARLE COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #2

Item number 7, 8, 10

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

the second story. The first-floor interior has a brick floor and a fireplace on the north wall and stairs going to the second floor to the left of the entrance. The second floor is one roof with a recent bathroom addition. There are 6/6 hung-sash windows on each floor of the east side and on the second floor of the west side. The first-story window on the west side is 3/3 and is a recent replacement. The north elevation has an exterior brick end chimney and recent additions of a porch and door. This outbuilding has been used as a cannery and post office and most recently as an apartment. There is another building to the east of the tavern which is not an outbuilding but is part of the tavern. It was a church originally and has since been used as a school and private residence. The porch on the west side and the wing on the south are recent additions. Inside, there are two openings facing the south which used to be the entrance to the church. The main part of the building has twelve-foot ceilings and has been partitioned for use as a school.

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

The tavern passed out of the Sutherland estate in 1889 when it was purchased by Daniel Landes. It then passed to his daughters, Virginia and Dora, in 1919 and then to James Carpenter in 1923. Mort Sutherland purchased it from Carpenter's widow in 1966 and it is now owned by Shirley and Stephen Ramsey. The Ramseys have continued the tradition of Crossroads Tavern and have opened it as a bed and breakfast house.

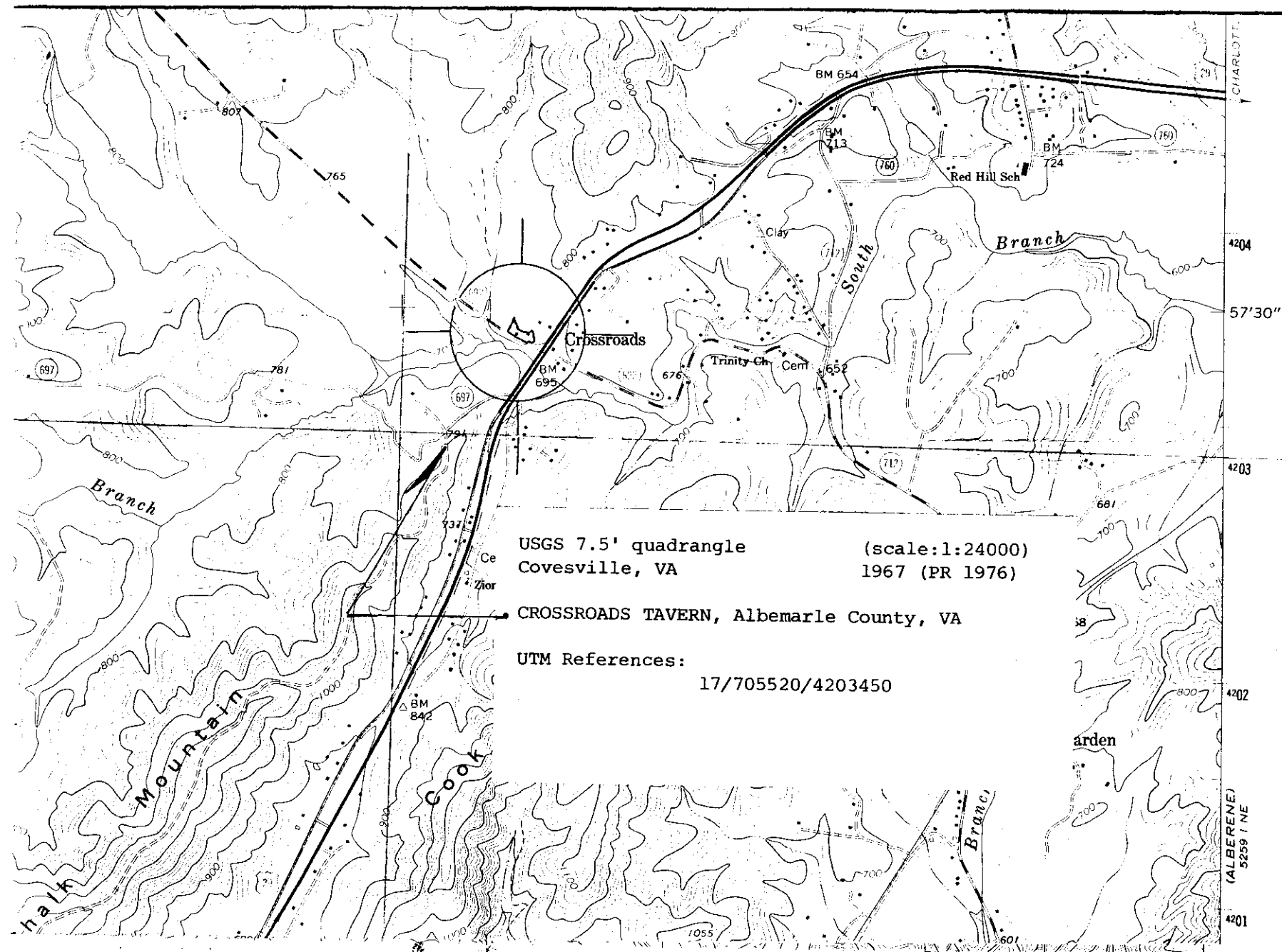
¹Elise Lathrop, Early American Inns and Taverns (New York: Tudor Publishing Co., 1937), p. 217.

²Rev. Edgar Woods, Albemarle County in Virginia (Bridgewater: The Green Bookman, 1932), p. 39.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

150' SSE; thence approximately 75' W to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The nominated property consists of 1.75 acres. It includes the tavern and one outbuilding to the northeast. The nominated property preserves a sense of the tavern's original 19th-century setting.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Covesville, VA 1967 (PR 1976)

CROSSROADS TAVERN, Albemarle County, VA

UTM References: 17/705520/4203450