

VLR 6/13/01
NRP- 1/24/02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Black Horse Tavern./ Bellvue Hotel and Office

other names/site number 80-410, 80-409, 80-408

80-5143

2. Location

street & number 7223-7229 Old Mountain Road not for publication N/A

city or town Roanoke

vicinity

state Virginia

code VA

county Roanoke

code 161

Zip 24019

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 10/16/2001

Signature of certifying official Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property X 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:

 other (explain):

 entered in the National Register

 See continuation sheet.

 determined eligible for the National Register

Date of Action

 See continuation sheet.

Signature of Keeper

 determined not eligible for the National Register

 removed from the National Register

name of property
location

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Hotel</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Hotel</u>
<u> </u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Education</u>	<u>School</u>
<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Professional Office</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Storage Shed</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Springhouse</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>Vacant (not in use)</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Single Dwelling</u>
<u>Commercial</u>	<u>Vacant (not in use)</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Storage Shed</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Storage Shed</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Garage</u>
<u>Domestic</u>	<u>Swimming Pool</u>

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Greek Revival

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone, brick

roof wood shingle, metal, asphalt shingle

walls log, weatherboard, brick, concrete

other

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

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

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

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

commerce
transportation
architecture
education

Period of Significance 1782-1951

Significant Dates 1782
1840 ca.
1854
1930 ca.

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder _____

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
 previously listed in the National Register
 previously determined eligible by the National Register
 designated a National Historic Landmark
 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

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

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 4.15 acres

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

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1 <u>17</u>	<u>596100</u>	<u>4133600</u>	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: Alison Blanton, Architectural Historian
Organization: Hill Studio, P.C. date April 2001
street & number: 120 West Campbell Avenue telephone 540-342-5263
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24015

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 Frank Longaker
street & number 7223 Old Mountain Road telephone 540-986-1800
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019

=====
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.

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Black Horse Tavern /Bellvue House and Office
Roanoke, Virginia

7. Summary Description:

Inventory

1.	Black Horse Tavern	ca. 1782	Contributing
2.	Bellvue Hotel	ca. 1854	Contributing
3.	Bellvue Office	ca. 1840	Contributing
4.	Black Horse Tavern Shed	ca. 1930	Contributing
5.	Bellvue House Springhouse	ca. 1900	Contributing
6.	Bellvue Garage	ca. 1990	Non-contributing
7.	Bellvue Swimming Pool	ca. 2000	Non-contributing

Summary Description

The proposed Black Horse Tavern/Bellvue Hotel and Office property is composed of two adjacent parcels of land containing 4.15 acres along the east side of Old Mountain Road in northeast Roanoke County. Situated at the base of Read Mountain along a section of the old Carolina Road, these two parcels contain the ca. 1782 Black Horse Tavern, the ca. 1854 Greek-Revival style Bellvue Hotel (also known as Kyle's Hotel) and the ca. 1840 temple-fronted, brick Office. Other resources on the property include a ca. 1900 springhouse and a ca. 1930 shed as well as a newly-constructed garage and swimming pool. The Black Horse Tavern, originally part of the "Stone House Tract" granted to Israel Christian in 1764 and situated on the Carolina Road, is a rare surviving example of a late 18th century tavern with its log construction covered by early German siding. The ca. 1854 Bellvue Hotel, originally constructed by William and James Kyle to serve as an upgrade to the tavern, is a typical example of a two-story brick dwelling designed in the Greek-Revival style with simple, symmetrical plan and detailing. Later modifications include the early addition of a kitchen wing as well as front and rear porches and dormers that date to the 1930s, when the house and office were used as a private school. The ca. 1840 Bellvue Office, which predates the house and possibly served as an office for James Kyle, is an unusual example in the area of a one-story, brick office building with a temple front. The two parcels remained in various branches of the related Luck-Rowland-Kyle families until the 1930s.

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Detailed Description

Black Horse Tavern

The ca. 1782 Black Horse Tavern stands close to Old Mountain Road and the route of the Carolina Road. This simple, one story, three-bay structure is constructed of partially-hewn logs with V-notching on a solid foundation of stacked stones. Wide boards of German siding attached with pre-1850 cut nails sheath the log structure. Two exterior-end chimneys of stacked stone (now covered with stucco) with two sets of shoulders frame the side gable roof. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles, however, the original wood shakes of the roof still exist where a rear addition attaches to the original structure. Double-hung sash windows with 6/6 lights flank the single-leaf door composed of two lights over two vertical panels. A three-bay frame porch with a shed roof supported by squared columns and balustrades extends across the front. The interior features a single-pile, central passage plan in the original structure. A two-story frame ell wing, constructed in the late 19th century, extends from the rear of the log structure. This addition features a two-story side porch along the north elevation. Many of the changes to the original log structure, including the doors, windows, and stucco on the chimneys date to this period or the early 1900s. A small ca. 1930 frame shed with German siding and shed roof stands to the rear of the house.

Bellvue Hotel

Approximately 150 yards to the southeast of the Black Horse Tavern stands the ca. 1854 Bellvue Hotel. Constructed by James and William Kyle and also known as "Kyle's Hotel," the Greek-Revival style house stands further back from the road than the tavern with a wide open lawn. Large mature trees surround the house and line the roadbed of the Carolina Road. Constructed of brick laid in 4-course American bond on a solid brick foundation, the two-story, five-bay Bellvue Hotel is symmetrical in form with a central-passage, double-pile plan. Paired, exterior-end brick chimneys with a single set of corbelled shoulders frame the side-gable roof, which features gabled dormers added in the 1930s. Fluted pilasters with a denticulated entablature surround the single-leaf, six-panel door and three-light rectangular transom. Five large stone steps lead to a ca. 1930 porch with rooftop balustrade. This three-bay porch features square, fluted columns and a squared balustrade. An early, two-story, brick kitchen wing with side-gable roof and exterior-end chimney extends from the north end of the house. A two story rear porch was enclosed in the 1930s. This porch is currently being renovated.

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Black Horse Tavern /Bellvue House and Office
Roanoke, Virginia

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Bellvue Office

A ca. 1840 Greek-Revival style office stands approximately 25 yards south of the house. This simple, one-story, one-bay structure is constructed of brick laid in 5-course American bond with a gable roof of standing-seam metal and a solid brick foundation. An unusual example of a Greek-Revival style outbuilding, the building features a wide frieze band and a front portico with a pedimented gable supported by squared Doric columns. Two of the original wood columns exist and are in storage due to their deteriorated condition. A Greek-Revival style surround with center and end blocks frames the single-leaf door, composed of two vertical panels, and the single-light rectangular transom. The original side windows, which are currently being renovated, are double-hung sash with 9/6 lights. The windows on the south side were enlarged in the 1930s and replaced with paired, double-hung sash windows with 3/3 vertical lights. A one-story brick addition with a lower gable roof extends from the rear of the building. The original, one-room interior features a split-lathe and plaster ceiling, wide-board floors, and plaster walls with a simple molded chair rail and baseboard.

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

The Black Horse Tavern/Bellvue Hotel and Office property is located on a 4.15-acre tract of land along Old Mountain Road (the Carolina Road) at the base of Read Mountain in northeast Roanoke. The original roadbed of the Carolina Road is visible alongside the present Old Mountain Road. Several large, mature trees serve to define the line of the old road. A 1935 sketch map of the property indicates the location of a stable across the road, which was torn down in the late 19th century. The Black Horse Tavern sits close to the roadbed with two large trees in front. A ca. 1935 frame shed with German siding and shed roof stands to the rear of the tavern. There is no formal landscaping or gardens around the tavern structure. The Bellvue Hotel and Office sit further back from the road with a large open lawn in front. An historic photograph depicts a picket fence extending along the roadbed. Landscape features are minimal, consisting of large mature trees scattered across the lawn and boxwood hedges along the foundation. Other outbuildings on the property include a ca. 1900 frame springhouse immediately behind Bellvue Hotel with weatherboard siding, early concrete foundation and gable roof and a newly-constructed frame garage with gable roof. A swimming pool and rear terrace have also been installed recently.

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Black Horse Tavern /Bellvue House and Office
Roanoke, Virginia

Statement of Integrity

The architectural integrity of the Black Horse Tavern/Bellvue Hotel and Office remains intact with the relationship of the three primary structures to the old Carolina Road and to each other. The ca. 1782 tavern retains its original three-bay front section of log construction with early German siding. The interior of the tavern reflects the remodeling associated with the turn-of-the-century addition to the rear. The ca. 1840 Bellvue Office remains intact with original door and transom as well as 9/6 wood sash windows on the north side. The rear addition and paired 3/3 sash windows on the south side date to the 1930s when the office was used as a school. The interior features original plaster-and-lathe ceiling, wide-board floors, and plaster walls with simple molded chair rail and baseboard. The ca. 1854 Bellvue House survives in good, yet slightly altered condition. The original two-story, five-bay form with a central-passage, double-pile plan are intact as well as interior mantles, doors, and trim. The porch and dormers date to the 1930s when the house was remodeled for use as a private boarding school. A rear porch, which was enclosed in the 1930s, has been recently enlarged. Early outbuildings, including a ca. 1900 springhouse and a ca. 1930 shed, continue to stand at the rear of the house and the tavern. A new swimming pool and garage have been constructed at the rear of the house. While newer subdivision development has occurred in the area, the Black Horse Tavern and Bellvue House and Office retain their setting at the base of Read Mountain along the old Carolina Road.

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8. Statement of Significance

The proposed Black Horse Tavern/Bellvue Hotel and Office property is a rare surviving example of a complex of late-18th to mid-19th century tavern and hotel buildings located on the Carolina Road in northeast Roanoke County. Situated at the base of Read Mountain on a section of the Carolina Road now known as Old Mountain Road, the approximately 4.15-acre property contains the ca. 1782 Black Horse Tavern, the ca. 1854 Greek-Revival style Bellvue Hotel and the ca. 1840 temple-fronted Bellvue Office. The Black Horse Tavern, a simple log structure covered with German siding, stands as possibly the earliest surviving tavern in Roanoke County. The Bellvue Hotel, which was constructed in 1854 by William and James Kyle, was also known as Kyle's Hotel and includes an unusual example of a ca. 1840 Greek-Revival style brick office building with a pedimented portico. Originally part of the "Stone House Tract" granted to Israel Christian in 1764, the two adjacent properties have been owned and operated by several related families that have figured prominently in the early history of Roanoke, including Thomas Madison, John B. Luck, William Rowland, and James Kyle. Strategically located along the Carolina Road, the primary route from Pennsylvania to the Yadkin Valley of North Carolina, both Black Horse Tavern and Bellvue Hotel provided lodging as ordinaries or houses of private entertainment for settlers following the Great Road from Pennsylvania through Virginia. The Black Horse Tavern/Bellvue Hotel and Office property is eligible for National Register listing under Criteria A and C with significance on the local level in the areas of commerce, transportation, architecture, commerce, and education for the period 1782 to 1951.

Historical Background

The 4.15-acres included in the property were originally part of the "Stone House Tract" granted to Israel Christian in 1764 in a section of Botetourt County that would later become Roanoke County. In 1779, Thomas Madison purchased 1,410 acres of this tract from William Christian. Thomas Madison was married to Susannah Henry, sister of Patrick Henry and William Christian's wife, Ann Henry. Thomas Madison, who practiced law, also came from a prominent early Virginia family. He was the son of John Madison of Augusta County, who was a cousin of President James Madison. Thomas Madison's siblings were prominent figures in the settlement of southwest Virginia: two sisters and one brother were married to members of the General Andrew Lewis family; one brother, William, was married to Elizabeth Preston, the daughter of Colonel William Preston of Smithfield Plantation in Montgomery County; and the Reverend

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James Madison was Bishop of Virginia and president of the College of William and Mary.¹ The Black Horse Tavern was established by Thomas Madison as early as 1782 and is cited as one of seven taverns licensed to operate in the area between 1770 and 1800.²

The Black Horse Tavern was well situated on the Carolina Road, a section of the Great Wagon Road that ran from Philadelphia through the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to North Carolina's Yadkin Valley. Following the route of the Great Warrior Path, the Great Wagon Road extended south from Staunton in 1745 and continued to grow after the Treaty of Paris in 1763. By 1765, most sections were cleared for horse-drawn vehicles.³ During this period before the Revolutionary War, the Great Wagon Road was "the most heavily traveled road in all America."⁴

Following Thomas Madison's death in 1789, John B. Luck purchased 360 acres "on Tinker Creek on both sides of the Great Road," including the Black Horse Tavern, from Thomas Madison Jr. in 1815.⁵ John B. Luck is listed as one of eleven licensed tavern operators in the early 1800s and "Luck's Tavern" is depicted in John Wood's 1821 Map of Botetourt County.⁶ The Botetourt County Land Tax Records indicate that the property included a structure valued at \$600.⁷ Prior to Luck's death in 1832, the Black Horse Tavern property was subdivided by his heirs. In 1830, Matilda Luck Thompson sold approximately 360 acres of land, including the Black Horse Tavern, to William Rowland, who was married to her sister, Nancy Luck Rowland.⁸ William Rowland was one of the early founders of Roanoke having leased 68 acres in partnership with Major Kemp Gaines in 1834 and subdivided it into lots that would become Gainsboro.⁹ William Rowland died in 1838. A WPA record states that "the Black Horse Tavern ceased to exist as such upon the death of William Rowland in 1835" and the furniture of the tavern was sold, including: six beds, a walnut desk, five candlesticks, a cherry bureau, a clothes press, and one cupboard.¹⁰ After Rowland's death, Nancy Luck Rowland married James Kyle, another prominent early citizen of Roanoke who served as Justice of the Peace in 1838 and 1849 and as a sheriff in 1846. It appears that James Kyle may have continued to operate the Black Horse Tavern as he is listed in 1838 as one of 23 tavern operators in Roanoke County.¹¹ The 1839 Roanoke County Land Tax records list James Kyle as owner of 81 acres inherited by his wife. This property included a building valued at \$600.¹²

James Kyle and his brother Captain William Kyle purchased 40.5 acres of land adjacent to the tavern tract from George Luck in 1840 and an additional 63 acres from the heirs of William Rowland.¹³ The value of buildings on the original 81 acre tract inherited by James Kyle's wife

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increased in 1840 from \$600 to \$1200, indicating either the construction of the small brick office or the addition of siding to the tavern. By 1841, Land Tax Records indicate the Kyle brothers held a total of 304 acres conveyed by the Luck and Rowland heirs, including the building valued at \$1200 and a new building worth \$1000.¹⁴ They constructed the Bellvue Hotel, also known as Kyle's Hotel, in 1854.¹⁵ References indicate that the brick office was associated with the business of the hotel, however, its unusually high level of design for an outbuilding, with its Greek-Revival style portico, may be associated with James Kyle's public positions in the county.

Bellvue operated as a hotel until 1875, when a niece of William Kyle, Helen Davis Thompson, inherited the property. Descendents of Mrs. Thompson share her recollections that bar fixtures from the hotel were removed from the house at that time.¹⁶ The brick office was used as a school for the neighborhood children during this period.¹⁷ In the 1930s, both the Black Horse Tavern and Bellvue passed from the hands of the Luck-Rowland-Kyle family when the Rowlands sold the tavern property to the Lockard family and the Thompsons sold Bellvue to Mrs. Leah Knoch James of Ohio.

Mrs. James operated a school for physically and mentally handicapped children and the property became known as Bellevue School during the mid-20th century.¹⁸ The school, which boarded approximately 15 to 20 students, provided a much-needed living and learning environment for the handicapped children of wealthy families that could afford to send them to a private institution. Mrs. James lived on the third floor and the children were boarded on the second floor. The office was used as a schoolhouse. Meals were served in the formal dining room, using china and crystal to promote good social etiquette. Piano, dancing, and singing lessons were also part of the curriculum. Sunday school classes were provided in the schoolhouse each week by Ms. Laura Norwood, director of the Children's Evangelism and Fellowship Organization. Ms. Norwood also helped Mrs. James with celebrating children's birthdays and arranging field trips to the circus and other attractions. Each school session concluded on the Fourth of July with families attending a celebration that included recitations, speeches, and other presentations. The Bellevue School operated for nearly half a century until it closed in 1976.¹⁹ Many of the changes to the house, including the porch, dormers, and rear addition as well as the replacement of windows on the east façade of the office date to this occupation when the property was used as a boarding school. After the school closed, Bellvue was restored as a private residence and continues in that use today.

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Black Horse Tavern /Bellvue House and Office
Roanoke, Virginia

Endnotes

¹ Prillaman, *A Place Apart: A Brief History of the Early Williamson Road and North Roanoke Valley Residents and Places*, 1995:70.

² Kagey, *Past is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 1988:69.

³ Rouse, *The Great Wagon Road*, 1973:93.

⁴ Amos, "Early Roads of Franklin County" in *Bicentennial Reflections*, 1976: 26.

⁵ Trout, *Black Horse Tavern Notes*. 1935: 5a, 11.

⁶ Kagey, *ibid*.

⁷ Botetourt County Land Tax Records, 1820.

⁸ Botetourt County Deed Book A, Page 277.

⁹ Kagey, *ibid*.

¹⁰ Botetourt County Will Book3, p. 53, cited in WPA, "Early Settlers of Roanoke," Volume 10.

¹¹ Kagey, *ibid*, p. 72.

¹² Roanoke County Land Tax Records, 1839.

¹³ Roanoke County Deed Book A, p.227, 277.

¹⁴ Roanoke County Land Tax Records, 1843.

¹⁵ Kagey, *ibid*, p. 343; Prillaman, *ibid*, p. 71; Trout, *ibid*, p. 8.

¹⁶ Trout, *ibid*, p. 8.

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¹⁷ Prillaman, *Places Near the Mountains*, 1985: 173.

¹⁸ Kagey, *ibid*, p. 343.

¹⁹ Information on Bellevue School is based on telephone interviews with Mrs. Laura Norwood (March 25, 2001) and John and Matilda Bradshaw (March 26 and 28, 2001). Ms. Norwood taught Sunday School at the school for a number of years and Matilda Bradshaw grew up on the adjacent property.

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10. Geographical Data

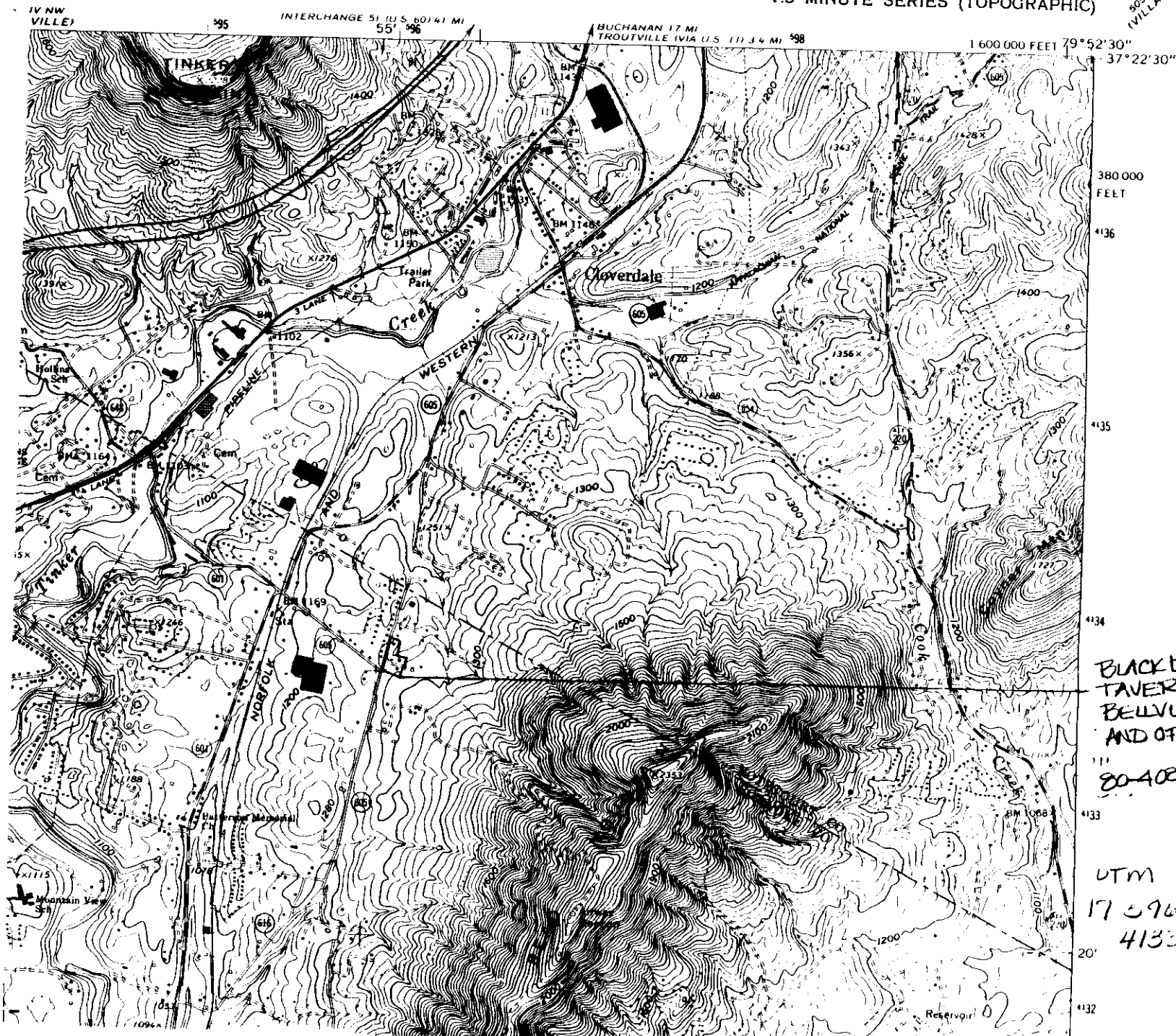
Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the nominated parcel are depicted on the tax plat that accompanies the nomination. Roanoke County tax parcel #028.00-01-04.00-0000 and #028.03-02-01.00- 0000..

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the nominated property are adjoining parcels and are under single ownership. The nominated property along Old Mountain Road (a section of the Carolina Road) contains the historic resources related to the Black Horse Tavern and the Bellvue Hotel and Office/School. The larger acreage originally associated with these resources has been subdivided and developed over the years.

5058 (V. NE
WILLAMONT)



BLACK HORSE
TAVERN /
BELLEVUE HOTEL
AND OFFICE
80-409 409, 412

UTM
17 596100
4133600