

VLR 6/6/17  
NRHP 8/8/17

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 "v" 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**

historical name Mountain Home  
other names/site number VDHR File # 093-0000

**2. Location**

street & number 3471 Remount Road not for publication N/A  
city or town Front Royal vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Warren code 187 zip code 22630

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that  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  locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Date 6/25/07  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ 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  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
See continuation sheet  
determined not eligible for the National Register  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
removed from the National Register  
other (explain) \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification**

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**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply) **Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local       | <input type="checkbox"/> district               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State       | <input type="checkbox"/> site                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal     | <input type="checkbox"/> structure              |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> object                 |

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>  7  </u>	<u>  1  </u> buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u> objects
<u>  7  </u>	<u>  1  </u> Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**   N/A  

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

  N/A  

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  Single dwelling  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	<u>  Secondary structure  </u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  Single dwelling  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	<u>  Secondary structure  </u>

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

  MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival  

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>  BRICK  </u>
roof	<u>  METAL  </u>
walls	<u>  BRICK  </u>
other	<u>  WOOD  </u>

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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)

ARCHITECTURE

**Period of Significance** 1847-circa 1920

**Significant Dates** 1847  
1862 (diary of Annie Gardner)  
1869 (rear addition)  
circa 1914 (road re-alignment)

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** N/A

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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(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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 3.7 acres

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

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	747666	4306575	2	

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 Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian; Margaret T. Peters, Research Historian  
 organization Maral S. Kalbian, LLC date March 23, 2007  
 street & number P.O. Box 468 telephone 540-955-1231  
 city or town Berryville state VA zip code 22611

**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 AT Properties, LLC c/o Mr. Nevill Turner  
 street & number P.O. Box 511 telephone 540-675-1935  
 city or town Washington state VA zip code 22747

**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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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Warren County, Virginia

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**7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

Mountain Home, located at 3471 Remount Road in Warren County, Virginia, is sited along the northeast side of U.S. Route 522 just south of the town of Front Royal. A remarkably well-preserved example of a brick Greek Revival-style dwelling, the house was constructed in 1847 by Samuel Beck Gardner. The 2-story, 3-bay house features woodwork based on the designs of popular pattern books of the period and was enlarged by Gardner with a 2-story frame ell in 1869. A 1-story rear lean-to was added in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, at which time the rear ell was stuccoed. The current owner has recently removed the stucco on the rear ell, exposing the original wide German-lap siding. In addition to the main house, the 3.7-acre property still maintains several historic outbuildings, including a mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century slave quarters, a meat house, a chicken coop, a shed, and two early-20<sup>th</sup>-century garages. Although the property is much smaller than its original acreage, the buildings and setting retain much of their 19<sup>th</sup>-century appearance and integrity.

**DETAILED DESCRIPTION:**

Situated a few miles south of the Town of Front Royal, Mountain Home sits off the northeast side of Remount Road (State Route 522) in southeastern Warren County. No longer the center of a large farming operation after having been reduced to its current 3.7 acres in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, the property yet retains its agricultural and rural setting. Its close proximity to the Appalachian Trail, as well as the Conservation and Research Center of the Smithsonian National Zoological Park, further enhance its setting.<sup>1</sup> The house, which is sited above the grade of U.S. Route 522 and is shielded from it by a line of mature trees, faces south. The former slave quarters, which has been brick veneered, sits in the west side yard; a frame meat house, shed, and chicken coop are sited directly behind the house to the north; and an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century garage is located east of the house. A gravel driveway leads from Remount Road to the front of the house and continues past the property exiting further south on Remount Road. A set of concrete and stone stairs, with a wrought iron gate lined up with the front entrance, leads down to the highway. What may be part of the old road bed of Route 522, before it was paved and realigned in the early 1910s, is still apparent near these stairs, as well as an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century, formed concrete banked garage (**Figure 1**).

Mountain Home is a 2-story, 3-bay brick building that follows the typical Virginia I-house plan but features sophisticated Greek Revival-style detailing (**Photo 1**). The house rests on a raised brick foundation with 6-light wooden basement windows. The exterior brick walls are painted and laid in a 5-course American-bond pattern, featuring flat jack arches over the six-over-six-sash double-hung wood windows and a stepped brick cornice. The gabled roof is covered in standing-seam metal and contains two interior-end brick chimneys with corbelled caps. The façade is dominated by a 2-story,

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2-level, 3-bay pedimented portico with round brick columns, a plain entablature and plain balustrade on the first floor, and hexagonal wooden columns with a plain balustrade, a wide entablature, and a denticulated cornice on the second floor. The concrete steps with parapeted side walls appear to date to the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The central front door has a 3-light transom and sidelights contained within a Greek Revival-style door surround with fluted trim and a Greek key motif (**Photo 2**). This doorway appears to be based on the designs from Asher Benjamin's 1833 pattern book entitled, *The Practice of Architecture* (**Figure 2**).<sup>2</sup> While the use of popular pattern books was becoming more common in rural parts of Virginia during the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, it is still somewhat rare to be able to relate them directly to a specific publication.<sup>3</sup> What is so notable here is the use of sophisticated trim on an otherwise plain house.

The east end walls are blind with the exception of two small 4-light attic windows flanking the interior-end chimney. The stepped brick cornice is returned in this gable end. The west end wall contains no openings and the gable end is pedimented in order to tie the front section of the house with the rear ell.

According to historical data, Samuel B. Gardner enlarged his house in 1869 with the addition of a fairly large 2-story, 3-bay rear frame ell with two interior brick flues (**Photo 3**). The architectural evidence supports this construction date, as the wing contains decorative elements that are more Victorian in nature than in the original part of the house. The addition rests on a raised stone foundation with basement windows on the west side. Part of this foundation appears to incorporate what was once a separate stone dependency located just north of the original main block. The rear ell was stuccoed in the early to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and was in poor shape when the current owner decided to remove it and expose the original wide German-lap siding. The double-hung wooden windows are paired four-over-four sash, and the ell contains a plain friezeboard with brackets, boxed cornice, and gable-end returns. The 2-story side porches off the ell have been partially enclosed with banks of four-over-four-sash windows, and partially screened (**Photo 4**). The 1-story lean-to kitchen wing that extends off the rear of the ell was constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is also stuccoed.

The interior of Mountain Home is extremely well preserved and generally contains its original flooring, woodwork, and plastered walls and ceilings. The brick section reflects the popular mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century Greek Revival style, as well as elements of other popular styles including the Gothic Revival, in its mantels and trim. The center-passage, single-pile floorplan of the house, often used in Greek Revival-style dwellings, is repeated on the second floor as well as in the unfinished basement. The front entrance leads into the stairhall with the dog-leg stair running along the west wall with a single-run stair to the basement beneath it (**Photo 5**). The fairly simple stair has a turned newel, plain rectangular balusters, a plain stringer with paneled spandrel, and unpainted handrail, treads and risers. This contrasts with the other trim in the hall that draws heavily from Asher

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Benjamin's 1833 pattern book and is much more ornate, featuring symmetrically molded fluted trim with a wide entablature with a central raised panel and Greek key end panels on all the door openings (**Photo 6**). The hall also includes a wide baseboard, picture rail, and double-vertical panel Greek Revival-style unpainted wood doors, all of which appear original.

The east parlor contains a window along the front and the rear walls that is surrounded by wide molded trim with bull's-eye corner blocks (**Photo 7**). The unpainted Greek Revival-style mantel is comprised of Doric pilasters supporting a wide entablature with a plain mantelshelf. The chimney breast projects into the room and the fireplace surround has been plastered. The room contains its original random-width flooring as well as a wide chair rail.

The west parlor features different trim and looks to the Gothic Revival style in its use of ramped pediment window and door surrounds and the Gothic-arched panels of the closet doors (**Photo 8**). The room also contains chair rail and picture mold as well as a simple Greek Revival-style mantel with Doric pilasters and a plain frieze and mantel shelf. What was originally a window along the north wall of this room has been converted into a doorway leading into the rear ell. The trim on this doorway, which includes paneled reveals and a transom over the door, matches the other trim in the room, suggesting all of it dates to the late 1860s when the rear ell was constructed.

The second floor of the front block follows the same plan as the first floor with a door leading out onto the second-story porch. Both rooms contain plastered walls, random-width wood flooring, plain baseboard, and closets with unpainted 2-panel doors flanking the fireplaces. The trim on this level is a plainer Greek Revival style than on the first floor although the mantels, which have been finished with modern decorative paint, are very similar (**Photo 9**). The window and door trim is made up of wide plain trim with capped shoulders.

The rear ell of the house is accessible from doorways in both the first- and second-floor west rooms as well as from the first-floor stairhall, which leads out onto the enclosed side porches. The rear ell contains a large dining room on the first floor and bedrooms on the second. Although some modern alterations have been made, the decorative treatments from 1869 are still fairly intact. These include plain unpainted trim with ramped pediments, random-width flooring, narrow baseboard, and 4-panel unpainted doors. The large dining room features a flue and built-in closets. The ceiling and walls have been partially recovered in modern materials, but the original plaster appears to be intact beneath (**Photo 10**). The rear of the ell contains a narrow single-run stair leading to the second-floor bedrooms. The early-20<sup>th</sup>-century extension off the ell contains the kitchen and other service areas.

Several outbuildings sit in the yard at Mountain Home. The oldest appears to be the 1½-story, log, former slave quarters that was brick veneered in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (**Photo 11**). The small building, now used as a tenant house, features a standing-seam metal roof, a central brick flue, a

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boxed cornice, and a shed-roofed porch. Located just southwest of the main house, this is possibly the same building that Annie Gardner calls the “cabbin” [sic] in her 1862 diary entry about Mountain Home.<sup>4</sup> Behind the building is a small modern shed that is the only non-contributing building on the property.

A row of frame outbuildings is located north of the house. They include a long 3-bay frame shed with a projecting central bay (**Photo 12**). The three sections are all under one gable roof clad in standing-seam metal with overhanging eaves and exposed rafter ends and appear to have been constructed during the late 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Sitting on a pier foundation, the shed’s walls are clad in board-and-batten on the front and weatherboard on the sides, and the two end bays contain 6-light fixed windows. The front of the projecting bay, which contains the doorway, is covered with diagonal slats, and the front eave of the bay to the west features decorative sawn pendants.

Two early-20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings, a meat house and a chicken coop, are located directly behind the main house (**Photo 13**). The 1-bay, gable-roofed frame meat house is clad in weatherboard siding and rests on a concrete piers foundation. The gable-end roof is covered in corrugated metal and features overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. The building includes a single batten door, window openings on the west side, and a small rabbit hutch on the front. The frame chicken coop next to the meat house is also of frame construction and features a shed roof, vertical wood siding, and a side lean-to wing.

The Mountain Home property also includes two garages, both of which are contributing elements from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The largest is of brick construction and is located east of the main house while the other is a small, banked, formed concrete structure located near the road and accessible by the stairs that lead down to the highway.

Mountain Home is architecturally significant not only as one of Warren County’s best preserved examples of the Greek Revival style expressed in brick, but also as one of a very few known buildings in the area to have borrowed directly from popular pattern books of the period. Its sophistication reflects the desire of its original owner, Samuel B. Gardner, to have a stylish and prominent home.



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**RESOURCE LIST**

**Contributing (7):**

1847 Main House  
Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century former slave quarter  
Late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century frame shed  
Early 20<sup>th</sup> century meat house  
Early 20<sup>th</sup> century chicken coop  
Two early 20<sup>th</sup> century garages

**Non-contributing (1):**

Late 20<sup>th</sup> century shed

**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> The Smithsonian's Research Center has been located near Mountain Home since 1974 when it was acquired from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Originally known as the Remount Station, the property includes several thousand acres and was founded in the 1910s by the U.S. Army for use as a "remount depots" to supply horses and mules for military operations. [http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/CRC/FrontRoyal/about\\_us/CRC\\_history/](http://nationalzoo.si.edu/ConservationAndScience/CRC/FrontRoyal/about_us/CRC_history/).

<sup>2</sup> Correspondence with Calder Loth of Virginia Department of Historic Resources, November 8, 2006. Mr. Loth agrees that the design for the front entrance as well as some of the interior trim is based on Benjamin's book. The design at Mountain Home most closely resembles Plate 25 but also uses fluted trim and sidelights like shown in Plate 26. Asher Benjamin. *Practice of Architecture*. [Boston, 1833].

<sup>3</sup> The doorway for Erin, (93-3) a Greek Revival-style dwelling built in 1849 in the northern part of Warren County, was copied from Plate 29 of this same book, strongly suggesting someone in this area owned a copy of the book and it was used by several builders.

<sup>4</sup> "Diary of Annie C. Gardner, "Mountain Home," Warren County, Virginia, (1862) Laura Virginia Hale Collection #0951, Warren Heritage Society Archives, Front Royal, VA.

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Mountain Home, the ancestral home of a prominent Warren County, Virginia family, built in 1847 and strategically located on the road from Front Royal to Chester Gap, is significant as a remarkably sophisticated and well-preserved mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century dwelling. Built by Samuel B. Gardner in 1847, Mountain Home is one of the county's best preserved examples of the Greek Revival expressed in brick, and one of a very few extant buildings of this style in the region to have borrowed directly from popular pattern books of the period. Its significance is enhanced by several surviving dependencies including a log slave quarters, several farm sheds and chicken coops, and a meat house, all recalling its heyday as a working farm. Moreover, written records about the house and its residents provide unusually detailed and revealing documentation of the lifestyle of a wealthy landowner and his family, whose holdings were little diminished by the Civil War that raged in the area. Strategically sited on the primary road from the county seat in Front Royal to Chester Gap, the property was well placed to observe the movement of both Confederate and Federal forces, activity that is vividly described in the diary of one of Samuel B. Gardner's daughters. The young Anne Gardner provided a rare glimpse of Civil War activity in one of the most fought-over regions. Mountain Home, although well placed amidst troop movements, miraculously escaped significant damage as it was not close to any military encounters. Unlike many farmsteads in the northwestern portion of Virginia, and in its agriculturally rich Shenandoah Valley, Mountain Home, and its contributing outbuildings, apparently survived relatively intact. This is evidenced by tax records from the post-war years that reflect little or no diminution of buildings. The farmstead was home to Samuel B. Gardner and his descendants from the 1840s to the 1960s, a remarkable tenure for a single family.<sup>1</sup> Mountain Home is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as a locally significant example of a well preserved Greek Revival-style brick dwelling. The period of significance begins with the construction of the main house, 1847, running through the estimated construction of the early-20<sup>th</sup>-century garages, circa 1920.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

Residency of the Gardner family in this area dates to the years when it was still a part of Frederick County. Frederick census records for 1830 show that Samuel Gardner (Senior) was living in the area with his family, along with 25 slaves. The 1840 land records indicate that he held at least ten tracts of land "at Chester Gap" about 4 miles southeast of the new Warren County seat.<sup>2</sup> Warren County was carved from Frederick County in 1836 and records indicate that Samuel Gardner, Sr. was a justice of the newly formed county, a measure of his prominence in the jurisdiction. The senior Gardner died in 1840 and willed certain tracts to his son Samuel Buck Gardner (1813-1882).<sup>3</sup> His widow, Mrs. Rebecca Gardner, continues to appear in the personal property tax records with one slave, one horse, and a vehicle. Samuel B. Gardner married Sarah Catherine Allen (1817-1858)

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in 1838 and presumably lived either with his family or in a house on the property that does not survive until constructing Mountain Home for his own growing family in 1847, valued by the tax assessor at \$1,000.<sup>4</sup> It appears S. B. Gardner added other buildings to his property between 1847 and 1851 when the total value of improvements increased, possibly adding a barn, to \$1,500.<sup>5</sup> Sadly, his sons died young, Robert Allen in infancy (1844) and Samuel D. Gardner (1849-1859) tragically at age 9, as movingly described by his mother in a letter dated August, 1859; but three daughters, Ann, (b. 1847); Mary R. (b. 1852) and Rebecca (b.1854) enjoyed their childhood at Mountain Home in the years prior to the Civil War.<sup>6</sup>

Gardner's wealth and personal property holdings increased substantially by 1850. In that year, he is charged with 32 slaves, nine of whom were males of more than 17 years. Interestingly, six of his minor slaves were categorized as "mulatto." Of greater interest, Gardner is charged with 12 horses, a fairly large number when compared to other farmers in the county. By 1860, Gardner's economic position had grown even more, with 12 horses valued at \$800; 150 head of cattle valued at \$3,450; a coach valued at \$75; 30 sheep and 30 hogs rounded out his taxable property. The following year the number of his horses had increased to 18, valued at \$1,400. Examination of the personal property taxes paid in the county that year reveal that Gardner was among the wealthiest farmers in the county.<sup>7</sup> Probably more significant, and underscoring the premise that Gardner's estate did not suffer substantially during the war, the 1867 tax records show that Gardner was still taxed for 14 horses valued at \$1,140, 45 head of cattle valued at \$1,290, 45 sheep, and 13 hogs. The total value of personal holdings was \$3,282, a notable sum in the war's aftermath. However, the value of his buildings declined to \$1,000, representing possible loss or deterioration of some buildings.<sup>8</sup>

Gardner's daughter Annie kept a remarkable diary during the summer of 1862, offering a glimpse into the Mountain Home property during the early years of the Civil War. Sadly, she was sent off to school at Hollins in present-day Roanoke and died sometime after 1864. Records from the college indicate that she was a student there between 1864 and 1867.<sup>9</sup> In her diary, Annie Gardner referred to her residence as "our beautiful and much beloved Mountain Home." Her glowing descriptions addressed the beautiful mountains as well as Mountain Home's fine portico. She described the "Yankees" seeking food and the Gardner family feeding them; sometimes they were paid, sometimes not. She mentioned a number of buildings on the property, including a granary, a kitchen, a smokehouse, a spring house, a school house, and an ice house. The whole Gardner family struggled to protect their food stores from being stolen, generally with little success. Annie vividly describes the family all *picketing* since they had been at their various *posts*, "watching for the enemy as we expected they would make attacks on the Smoke House, School house, garden, barn, corn houses etc."<sup>10</sup> Other buildings mentioned include a granary and what Annie called a "cabbin" [sic], perhaps referring to the present 1 ½-story log building in the front yard that has been brick veneered. Annie Gardner also talks about the cherry and apple trees, presumably the orchard shown on the plat from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century<sup>11</sup> as well as a fenced "garden," probably a vegetable

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one, a flower garden and a strawberry patch.<sup>12</sup> The period covered by the diary would have been when federal troops were trying to regain control of the Shenandoah Valley after Jackson had left for Richmond and the Seven Days Battle. This would account for the large number of troops Annie observed traversing the strategic road from Front Royal to Chester Gap.<sup>13</sup>

According to her tombstone in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Front Royal, Gardner's wife, Sarah Catherine Gardner, died in 1858; however, since the lovely letter she wrote about the death of her son is dated 1859, it is likely that the reading of the tombstone is in error and that she died in 1868. This is confirmed by the inscription in Annie Gardner's diary that says "*Presented to Annie by her Ma July (or possibly June) 27, 1862.*"<sup>14</sup> Annie also refers to her mother several times in the Diary, clearly indicating that she was very much alive after 1858.

Samuel B. Gardner was married again by 1870, his new wife being Mary Catherine Allen who was born ca. 1825. The 1870 census showed that both of his surviving daughters, Mary R. and Rebecca, were still living at home. Also revealed in the census is that Gardner's real property was valued at the almost unheard of sum for that time of \$50,000, indicating that he had acquired substantially more land holdings by that year. At approximately the same time that he married Mary, Gardner added the rear ell onto his dwelling, reflected in the land tax books showing that the value of buildings he held had increased from \$1,000 to \$3,000 by 1870.<sup>15</sup> Gardner's holdings at "Chester Gap" had expanded to more than 1,400 acres. Civil War maps do not show the Mountain Home property, although one map does indicate that a Gardner relative's name was associated with a mill nearby but north of Mountain Home.

Gardner's affluence is attested by several revealing notations in the newspaper in nearby Front Royal, The Sentinel.

The PIEDMONT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY at Culpeper last week awarded a premium of \$15 (the highest offered) to COHEE, the popular young horse of Capt. S. B. GARDNER, as the best on exhibition 'of driving adapted to light, quick draft.'" From the Fair at Culpeper, COHEE will be shipped to PETERSBURG, RICHMOND, NORFOLK and other Southern cities. We expect to hear favorable reports from him soon, as he is bound to add to his already enviable reputation."<sup>16</sup>

The notice confirms Gardner's long-time interest and devotion to raising fine horses that were recorded in the personal property tax records from the 1850s and 60s. "Cohee" was obviously the star, and in the inventory of Gardner's estate sale, is valued at a higher price than all the other horses listed, \$150.<sup>17</sup>

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Gardner's wealth and cultural sophistication were revealed in the extensive inventory taken of his estate following his death in 1882. Not only did he own the Mountain Home property, but he was also owner of another farm called the "River Farm", presumably a parcel used for agricultural purposes rather than as any kind of primary residence.<sup>18</sup> Gardner clearly was well regarded in his community, as attested by the obituary that appeared in The Sentinel of August 1, 1882.

Capt. Samuel B. Gardner of this county, who for several years has been in poor health, died at the residence of Mr. Adam Bear, near Elkton station on S.V.R.R.(Shenandoah Valley Railroad) in Rockingham County at 4 o'clock, Saturday morning last in his 69<sup>th</sup> year, surrounded by his family and friends. The deceased was in every sense a gentleman and his death is mourned by all who knew him. Possessed of large means, he ministered to the poor in their necessities, [illegible] and was ever open to all comers. His death makes a void in the family and social circles that cannot be filled. [he is to be buried] in Prospect Hill Cemetery attesting the esteem in which he was held by those who knew him. The services [illegible] Rev. C. W. Hollis, pastor of the Presbyterian Church here.<sup>19</sup>

The inventory and sale of Gardner's estate were handled by his two sons-in-law, S. E. Macatee and N. S. Waller who were married to his two surviving daughters. The detailed inventory presents a clear picture of not only the wealth of Samuel B. Gardner, but also the extent of his cultural sophistication, both of which substantiate the fine quality of the Greek Revival house he built in 1847 and the culture of music and literature he must have imparted to his children. Among the more notable things in the accounting of his estate were a Knabe piano, one of the finest pianos of the period and likely purchased directly from the Knabe Piano Company in Baltimore, which had launched an aggressive marketing effort in the southeast prior to the Civil War.<sup>20</sup> Some documents indicate that Gardner's daughters studied piano, so it is likely that the piano was at least 30-40 years old at his death. Other interesting objects included very fine china, crystal, glassware, and furniture, plus a "Brussels carpet" and "a large oil painting over the mantel." Floors throughout the house were covered with carpet and oil cloth, and even the staircase was carpeted. Window curtains and shades are mentioned. From a contemporary book entitled "A Civil War Marriage in Virginia," the writer, Kathleen Boone Samuels, comments on the couch in the "dining room" at Mountain Home.<sup>21</sup> The sofa and other walnut furniture are all enumerated in Gardner's inventory. The Gardner family clearly was well educated and well read. A book rack in the living room and 40 volumes of an encyclopedia as well as a "set of old Britannica" were located in another room, possibly a library. Gardner had a carriage, several buggies, and a sulky, all of which were greatly prized by farmers of that time. Gardner's horses are lovingly listed by name. Fine linens, including

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some from Turkey, mirrors and clocks abound in the massive inventory, the value of which total nearly \$7,200, a large sum in those years. This amount did not include the value of much of his livestock, cattle, sheep, and pigs, which had been sold prior to the preparation of the inventory. The survival of such a detailed inventory presents a rare glimpse into the lifestyle of a highly successful farmer who appears to have escaped the worst deprivations of war and raised his family in substantial luxury.<sup>22</sup>

Gardner was buried in Prospect Hill Cemetery in Front Royal with his sons, his first wife, Sarah Catherine Allen Gardner (d. 1868) and later joined by his second wife Mary H. Eastham Gardner (d.1902), daughters Mary Roberta Macatee (d.1908) and Rebecca B. Waller, (d. after 1937) and granddaughter Mary Roberta Waller (died 1967). Rebecca B. Waller was still living at Mountain Home when the WPA Survey of Warren County was conducted in the 1930s.<sup>23</sup> Gardner's sons-in-law Samuel Macatee, a Civil War veteran who died in 1923, and grandson, Major General Samuel G. Waller, Adjutant General of Virginia from 1931-1955 (b. 1881, d.1955) are also buried in the family plot. A ten-foot white marble obelisk was erected as a memorial to the Gardner, Macatee, Waller, and Allen (family of Samuel B. Gardner's first wife) families in 1982.<sup>24</sup>

The stately Mountain Home mansion continued as the residence of Mary Gardner until her death in 1908. In the division of Gardner's estate between his two daughters, his daughter Mary Roberta Macatee and her husband Samuel received the portion with the dwelling house, but they deeded it to her sister Rebecca B. Waller and her husband N. S. Waller in an agreement of ca. 1884, with Mary Macatee to receive one-half of the property's value when Samuel Gardner's widow, Mary Gardner, died. The 1900 census recorded that Nelson S. Waller and his wife Rebecca were living there with their son Samuel B. and daughter Rebecca, born respectively in 1881 and 1886. Nelson Waller had been a school teacher prior to becoming a successful farmer and owner of Mountain Home.<sup>25</sup> The Macatees had left the county by 1910.

Mountain Home, still a private residence, continues to stand on the main road, U.S. Route 522 that runs from Front Royal through Chester Gap and finally to Culpeper in Virginia's Piedmont. According to records of the Virginia Department of Transportation, the road was likely paved and realigned slightly ca. 1912-1914.<sup>26</sup> The setting along a primary road in the shadow of the Blue Ridge Mountains and nestled in Virginia's storied Shenandoah Valley remains intact and recalls the period when a young girl described "Yankee" troops marching past. Samuel B. Gardner stands out as a particularly successful farmer who was committed to providing his family with both material and cultural wealth and whose family occupied this property for well over a century. Although most of the agricultural acreage was sold off during the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the house and its dependencies remained in the ownership of Samuel B. Gardner's descendants until the 1960s, a remarkable 140-year tenure. The stately Greek Revival-style mansion is a tangible testament to the cultural sensitivity of this Warren County family.

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**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Plat of the property, Mary R. Waller to Charles G. Fenwick, May 8, 1865. (S.W. Boyd, Jr. CLS). Mary Waller was a granddaughter of Samuel B. Gardner, the builder of Mountain Home.

<sup>2</sup> U. S. Census (1830) Frederick County, 58; Warren County Land Tax Records, 1840.

<sup>3</sup> Warren County Will Book A/91 (1840); Duane L. Borden, Tombstone Inscriptions: Prospect Hill Cemetery, Front Royal, Virginia [Denver, 1995].

<sup>4</sup> Marriage Bond for Samuel B. Gardner and Sarah Catherine Allen, 28 November, 1838.

<sup>5</sup> Warren County Land Tax Books, 1847-1851.

<sup>6</sup> U. S. Census (1860) Warren County, 27.

<sup>7</sup> Warren County Personal Property Tax Books, 1847-1860.

<sup>8</sup> Warren County Personal Property Tax Books, 1867; Warren County Land Tax Books, 1868.

<sup>9</sup> Letter from Anna Kirkwood, archivist at the Fishburn Library, Roanoke, Virginia, August 8, 1990; "Diary of Annie C. Gardner, "Mountain Home," Warren County, Virginia, (1862) Laura Virginia Hale Collection #0951, Warren Heritage Society Archives, Front Royal, VA. Beth Harris, Special Collection's archivist at the Library of Virginia located records indicating that Annie Gardner arrived at Hollins March 15, 1864. There was a report presented by the school superintendent on May 16, 1864, giving an account of sickness among the students and the "temporary suspension of exercises for that cause." This was likely when Annie Gardner died, and would have been buried shortly thereafter. Her burial site has not been identified.

<sup>10</sup> Diary, July 9, 1862.

<sup>11</sup> Warren County Deed Book N, 442 (1882).

<sup>12</sup> Diary, June 30, 1862.

<sup>13</sup> Diary End notes prepared by the Library of Virginia. The notes contain a number of explanations of the Civil War activity and the participation by neighbors in the hostilities.

<sup>14</sup> Diary, inscription on the front, July 27, 1862.

<sup>15</sup> U. S. Census (1870), Warren County, 21; Warren County Land Tax Books, 1870.

<sup>16</sup> The Sentinel, Front Royal, Va., November 2, 1877.

<sup>17</sup> The Sentinel, Front Royal, Va., September 15, 1882.

<sup>18</sup> See Warren County Will Book E/370 ff. (1882).

<sup>19</sup> The Sentinel, Front Royal, Va., August 1, 1882.

<sup>20</sup> Information provided by Justin Timberlake of Richmond Piano Company, March 2007.

<sup>21</sup> Kathleen Boone Samuels, "Reminiscences," A Civil War Marriage in Virginia, [undated] 7.

<sup>22</sup> Warren County Will Book E, 366-371; 372-380. (1885).

<sup>23</sup> WPA Records, Library of Virginia, 175-4-G-1-12.

<sup>24</sup> Borden, 173-174.

<sup>25</sup> Warren County Deed Book N/24 ff ; 442(1884?); U. S. Census, 1900, 1910 (Warren County).

<sup>26</sup> Correspondence with Ann L. Miller, Virginia Highway Transportation Council. (March 1, 2007). Eighth Annual Report of the State Highway Commissioner...for the Year Ending September 30, 1914. [Richmond Davis Bottom, 1916]. Road is shown on the 1922 state map of roads as "improved," and by 1932 is shown as Route 37.

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### **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

#### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The nominated boundaries include the land currently associated with Mountain Home as listed on the Warren County Tax Map 39-7, which includes the currently owned 3.7 acres, and is shown on the Warren County GIS mapping system as GPIN #5080-42-5583.

#### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The boundary of the Mountain Home property includes the house, the outbuildings, and yard associated with the property as held by the current owner.

### **PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

Property: **Mountain Home**, VDHR File Number: 093-0009

**Location:** Warren County, Virginia

**Date of photograph:** December 2006

**Negative No.:** 23193

**Photographer:** Maral S. Kalbian

Negatives filed at Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.

Photo 1 of 13

Southeast view of main house

Negative no. [19]

Photo 2 of 13

View: Detail, front entrance

Negative no. [8]

Photo 3 of 13

View: Northwest view of main house

Negative no. [13]

Photo 4 of 13

View: Northeast view of main house

Negative no. [16]

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Photo 5 of 13  
View: Stairhall  
Negative no. [7]

Photo 6 of 13  
View: Detail of trim in hall around door leading into east parlor  
Negative no. [5]

Photo 7 of 13  
View: East parlor  
Negative no. [4]

Photo 8 of 13  
View: West parlor  
Negative no. [1]

Photo 9 of 13  
View: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor east bedroom  
Negative no. [35]

Photo 10 of 13  
View: 1<sup>st</sup> floor, dining room in rear ell  
Negative no. [28]

Photo 11 of 13  
View: Northeast view tenant house  
Negative no. [12]

Photo 12 of 13  
View: Southeast view of shed  
Negative no. [14]

Photo 13 of 13  
View: Southeast view of meat house and chicken coop  
Negative no. [15]

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**FIGURE 1:**

Aerial photograph from ca. 1930 showing Mountain Home. Note that some of the outbuildings shown are no longer standing (Warren Heritage Society Archives).



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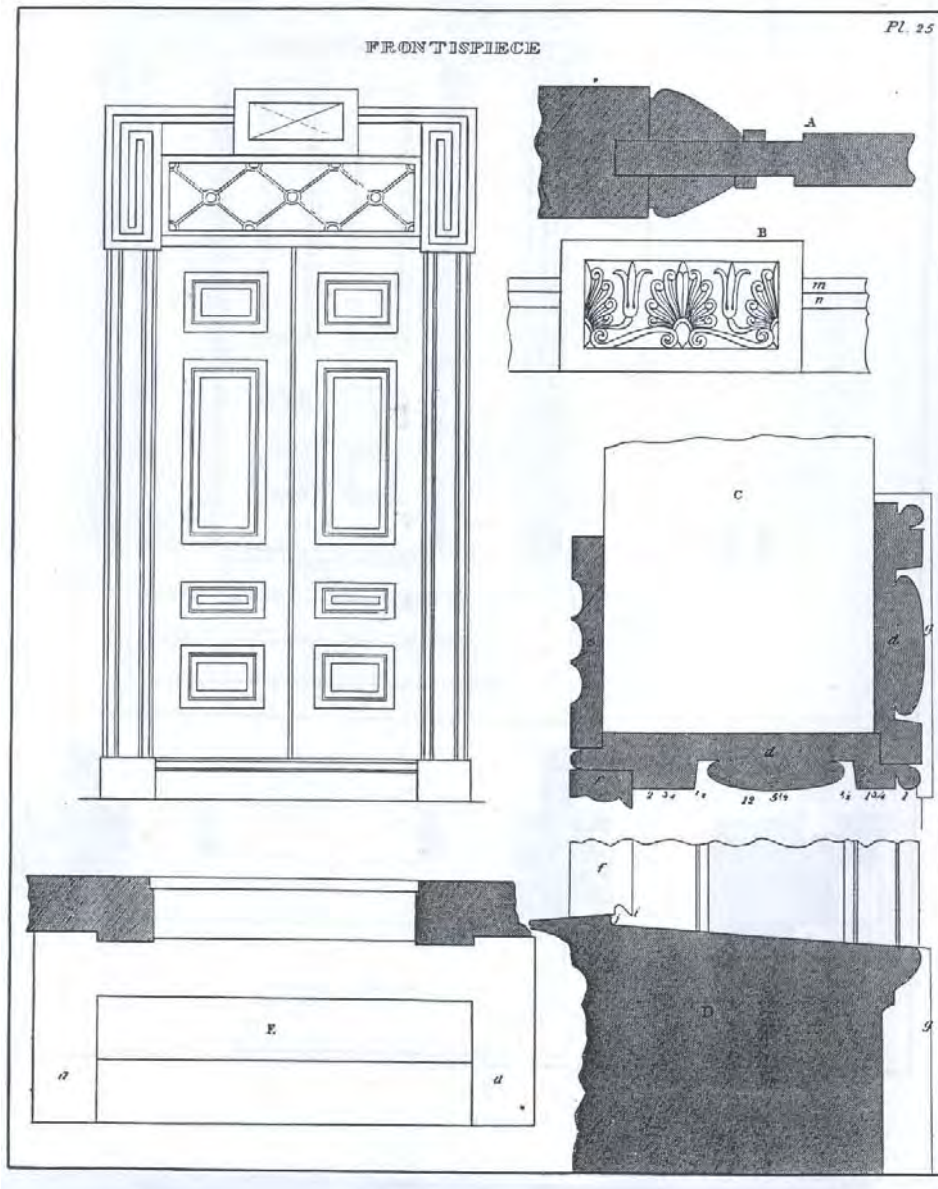
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**FIGURE 2:**

Plate 25 from Asher Benjamin's *Practice of Architecture*, 1833.



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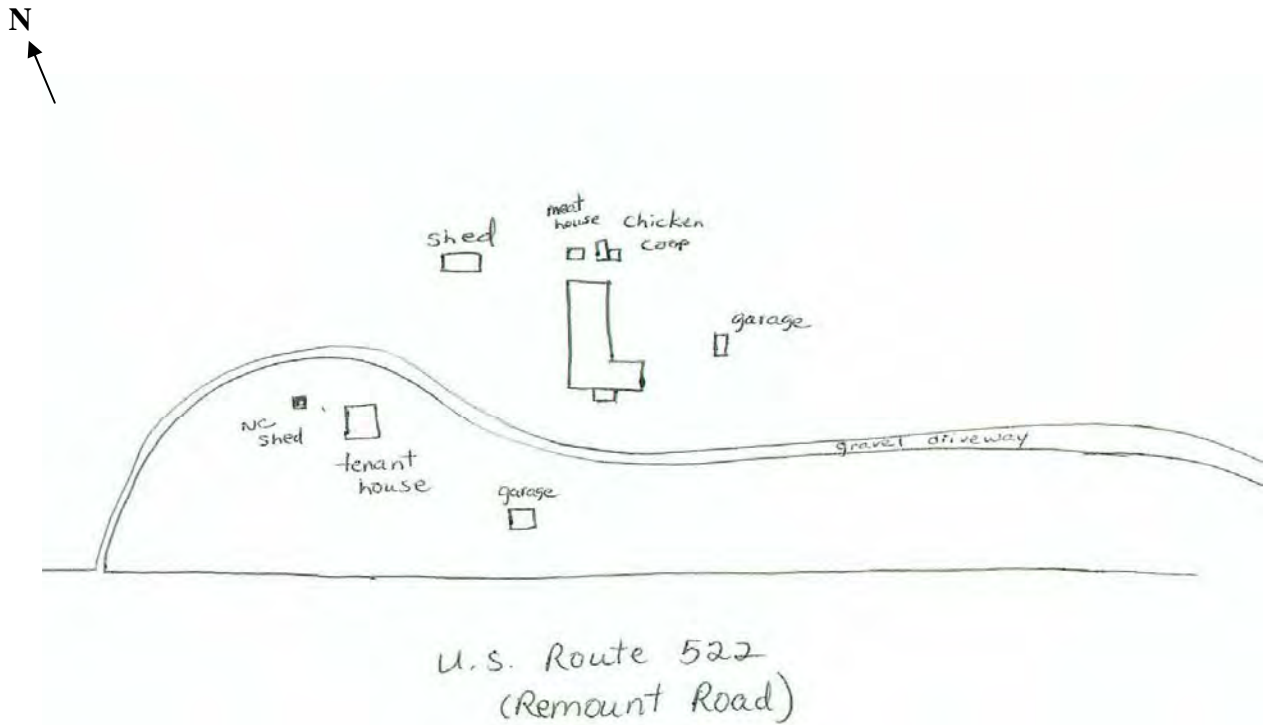
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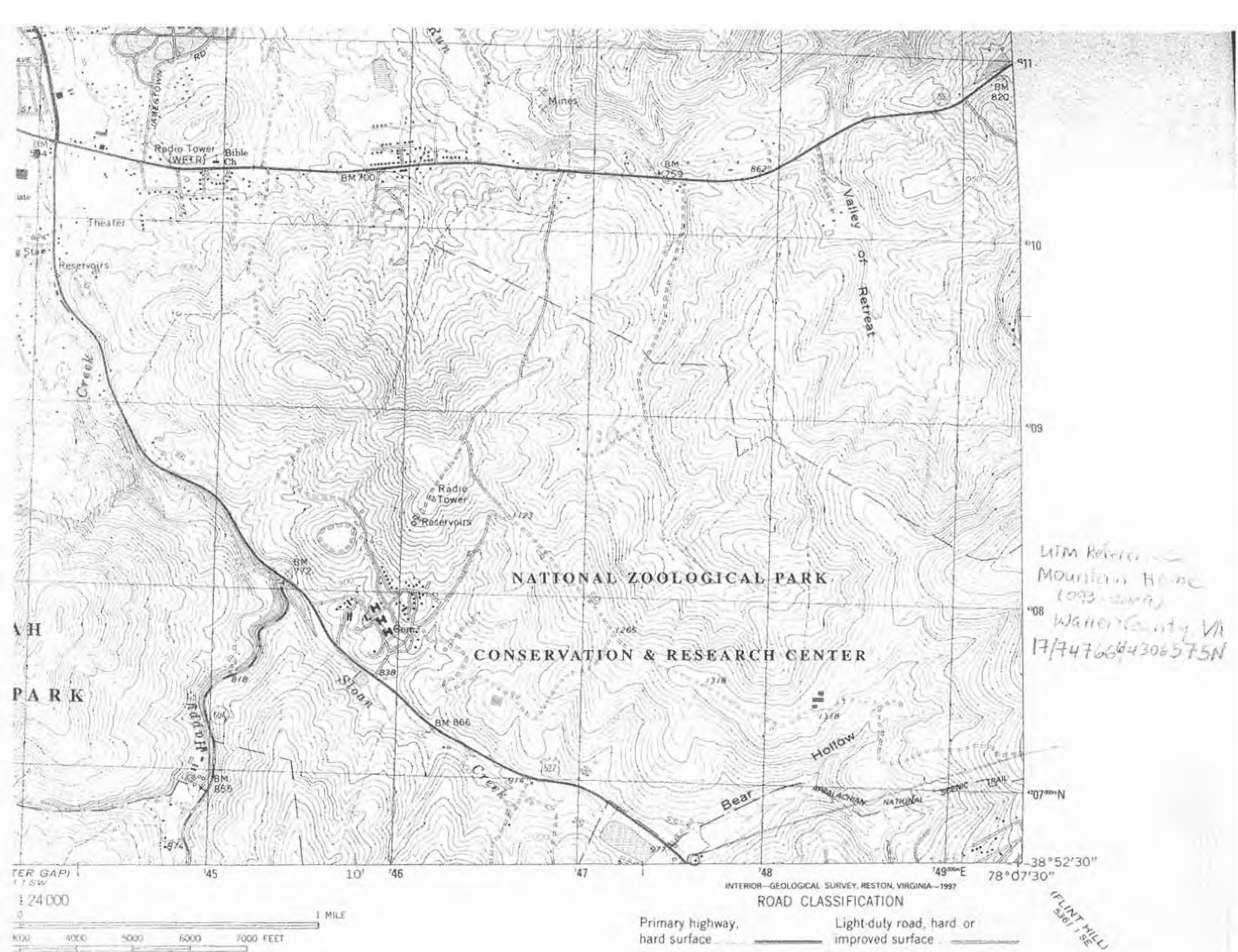
**FIGURE 3: SKETCH MAP**

**Mountain Home 093-0009**



Not to scale





UTM Reference  
 Mountains Home  
 1093-2000  
 Warren County, VA  
 17T UTM 806575N

(FLINT HILL)  
 350' 1 SE

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1997

**ROAD CLASSIFICATION**

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
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1:24 000  
 1 MILE  
 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET