

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

LISTED ON:
VLR 3/20/2014
NRHP 5/16/2014

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lackawanna

Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 112-5351; 112-5328-0004

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 236 Riverside Drive

City or town: Front Royal State: Virginia County: Warren

Not For Publication:

Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

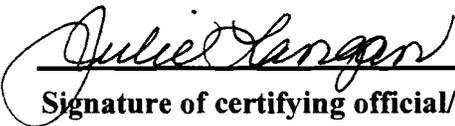
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>3/27/14</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 determined eligible for the National Register
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>7</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single dwelling

DOMESTIC: Hotel

DOMESTIC: Secondary structure

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Classical Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; STONE; METAL; Iron

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Lackawanna is an Italianate brick house constructed in 1869 at 236 Riverside Drive overlooking the South Fork of the Shenandoah River in Front Royal, Warren County, Virginia. The two-story house of American-bond construction features a stone foundation, a metal-sheathed hipped roof with a bracketed cornice, a slightly lower two-story rear wing, and a Classical Revival one-story front porch dating to ca. 1904. The interior features a gracefully cantilevered stair in the center passage, pocket doors in the main downstairs rooms, a marbled slate mantel, and a rear service stair with a cut-out newel with handsome dovetail joinery. The house is notable for its second-story windows which rise into pockets, commodious original closets, and basement-level segmental arches. The grounds retain concrete gate posts from the early twentieth century, a contributing structure; other features, principally late-twentieth-century sheds, a swimming pool, and a rock garden, are non-historic, post-dating the period of significance. The house stands in the state and nationally registered Riverton Historic District, of which it is a contributing resource, on a landscaped 1.753-acre lot surrounded by other historic-period dwellings.

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Narrative Description

Inventory

1. Lackawanna. 1869. Contributing building.
2. Swimming pool. Late 20th century. Noncontributing structure.
3. Studio. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
4. Woodshed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
5. Shed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
6. Shed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
7. Greenhouse. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
8. Rock garden. Late 20th century. Noncontributing site.
9. Gate posts. Early 20th century. Contributing structure.

House Exterior

The two-story Italianate house features a stone foundation, load bearing American bond brick walls, a metal-sheathed hipped roof with a bracketed cornice, a slightly lower two-story rear service wing, and a Classical Revival one-story front porch dating to ca. 1904. The overall massing is generally symmetrical, consisting of a square main block with a centered, full-façade porch, and a slightly off-center rear wing. The rear wing is flanked by a patio on the east side and an enclosed one-story porch on the west side.

The exterior brick walls are painted white and it appears they have been painted white or other light colors for most if not all of the house's history. Penciling was not observed on mortar joints in areas of exposed brick inside the front porch, suggesting the house did not originally have a natural brick or red wash finish, though this is not conclusive based on the limited area observed. The foundation is coursed rubble limestone with, on the front, a course of brownstone between the stone and the brick above. Brownstone is also used as a threshold at the west side entry. Three currently unpainted corbelled brick chimneys rise above the roof, two near the flat deck at the center of the main hip roof and one at the north end of the rear service wing. Two other prominent exterior materials are cast iron, used in the molded lintels over the segmental-arch windows and side entry, and wood, used for the bracketed cornices on the main house, rear wing, and the two rectangular-plan bay windows that project from the side elevations near the front corners. The brackets have ornate scrolled forms with turned pendants. The brackets in the main house cornice are paired and those on the bay windows and rear wing are single. Between the brackets of the main house and bay windows run dentil moldings; the rear wing has a simple molded board between the brackets. The basket-handle-arch lintel over the front entry is similar in design to the cast iron window lintels but appears to be made of wood.

The two bay windows, which have flush board sheathing and paneled aprons, retain on their roofs the stumps of corner posts that once formed part of low balustrades. The front porch also had a low roof balustrade (it appears in a postcard dating to the first decade of the twentieth century) as did the deck at the top of the hip roof. The front porch extends the full width of the

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façade and is mostly or entirely the result of a ca. 1904 rebuilding of a porch of apparently similar form. It has simple Doric-inspired columns with narrow molded caps and flat pilasters of similarly simple character against the house wall. The low balustrade that extends between the columns has balusters of simple but unusual form. The balusters are made of thick rectangular-section boards that extend beyond the base rail on front and back, in appearance something like the vanes of a radiator. The heavy top rail is low enough and wide enough to serve comfortably for seating. As constructed ca. 1904 the space between the two middle columns, in line with the front entry, had no balustrade, but towards the end of the twentieth century the balustrade at the west end was moved to fill in between the columns and the west end opened up as the way to enter the porch. The porch's beaded tongue-and-groove ceiling is painted a shade of light blue that is based on the ceiling's historic-period color.

On the west side of the rear service wing is a one-story shed-roofed enclosed porch that may be original to the house or may date to the same period as the front porch (ca. 1904). It features cyma recta molded cornices, both horizontal and raking, vertical beaded tongue-and-groove sheathing in the roof ends, and corner posts of heavy dimensional lumber and unusual L-shaped section. The northernmost of these retains a projecting platter-like cap. The porch was presumably originally open but was later enclosed with windows above a novelty weatherboard half-wall. A one-story shed addition known as the "greenhouse" was added to the other (east) side of the service wing during the second half of the twentieth century and removed as part of the rehabilitation that began in 1998.

The segmental-arched windows are 2-over-6 double-hung-sash inside the porch and at the front corners of the two side elevations. Other first- and second-story windows are 2-over-4. The bay windows have segmental-arched 2-over-4 windows on their long sides and round-arch one-over-two windows on their short sides. Many windows retain cast iron pintles for former louvered shutters. The front door has two wood leaves with tall basket-handle-arch glass panels. The glass is etched with a pattern of flowers and arabesques with clear roundels at the top. The bottom of each leaf has a richly molded recessed panel that is square in form with scalloped corners. In each recess is a raised panel of similar square-scallop form. The bronze doorknob is decorated with the profile head of a Roman or Hellenic soldier and has a running Greek key border. Below it is a decorative bronze lock plate; the lock is functional and the original brass key is on the premises. On the right-hand leaf is a decorative bronze crank with a porcelain handle knob that operates a bell on the inside face of the door. In the door surround is a metal pull that apparently operated a bell on the inside door frame before the present bell and crank handle were added. On the rear elevations the brickwork is crossed by diagonal scars marking the former locations of downspouts. These would have channeled rainwater toward the house's northwest corner porch, suggesting the possibility of a cistern at the location at one time.

House Interior

The front entry opens into a center passage/stair hall where the interior's characteristic finishes are observed: wood floors; molded chestnut or black walnut door, window, and baseboard trim; and plaster wall and ceiling finishes covered in wallpaper or painted. The single-run stair is mostly cantilevered from the brick wall it runs along and it is gracefully flared with a subtle

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curve at the bottom. At the foot of the stair is a heavy newel of composite turned and tapered octagonal form with a paneled effect on the octagon facets and a bulbous turned cap. Slender turned balusters support a molded handrail. A heavy molded plaster cornice runs along the tops of the walls and an annular plaster medallion ornaments the center of the ceiling. On the insides of the front door leaves are a decorative brass knob and bell and, on the left-hand frame, the metal attachment for the original front door bell.

Wide doorways with four-panel pocket doors lead from the passage into the parlor on the right and the dining room on the left. The focal point of the parlor is the projecting chimney breast and its marbled slate mantel. The mantel has a round-arch form with a central projecting keystone under the curved shelf. The keystone is chamfered and carved with stylized floral motifs, the center motif with a five-pointed flower accented by a dab of gold paint. The marbling on the mantel combines red, brown, black and gold colors. Set into the wall above the mantel are two narrow round-arch niches. The ceiling has a cornice similar in profile to the one in the center passage but augmented by half-round section molding applied several inches inward on the ceiling's surface. At the corners of the room the molding bows out in a quarter-round. At the center of the ceiling is an annular molded plaster medallion with a foliated and gilded center boss from which a lamp hangs. On the wall opposite the pocket door is a rectangular-plan bay window with a window seat and paneled surround and embrasure.

The current dining room, which was originally a second parlor, shares with the parlor across the hall a similar plaster cornice, medallion, lamp boss, and bay window but its mantel was replaced in the twentieth century (probably the second quarter) by a brick mantel of simple Craftsman form. The slate pieces of the original mantel were stored in the attic and the current owners salvaged the curved shelf and added it to the replacement mantel which they encased to approximate the original form. To the right side of the mantel is a built-in glass-fronted china cabinet. To the left side is a French door that leads to the room behind (originally the dining room, now a sitting/television room) which has a high (apparently non-historic) beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot. The room behind in turn leads to the kitchen in the rear service wing, which has newer finishes. A narrow secondary stair with winders, the servant stair, rises from the kitchen and a basement stair descends under it. The room behind the parlor is currently and may originally have been used as a bedroom. It is adjoined by two small rooms, one of which has a beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot and appears to have been an original bathroom, its present function as well. It retains an original marble bathroom sink shelf. The second small room was, and is, a closet.

The second floor is similar in basic character to the first but never had mantels. More of the house's four-panel doors with apparently original porcelain knobs are apparent on this floor. The two front bedrooms have windows with sashes that lift up into pockets that extend into the attic. Over each of these windows, which allowed people to walk out onto balconies on top of the first-story bay windows, are molded panels. The bedrooms have closets of various types, one with early shelving and decorative metal clothes hooks, and there is an original bathroom with a beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot. In one room, a gas pipe stub from the nineteenth-century lighting system projects through the center of a semi-circular notch in a window frame. The secondary stair at the rear has a curved handrail supported by slender chamfered square

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balusters. The rail is dovetailed into a cutout newel that evokes a tapered and turned newel in shape.

The attic is reached by a two-run stair from the second-story center passage. Names and dates are written on the plaster of the stairwell walls, the earliest dating to the nineteenth century (for example, "Henry Robertson 1892") and the most recent dating to the twenty-first century (for example, "Rebecca Virginia Thomas Getz Sept 29, 1998, Last day here—moved here Sept. 1956"). The common rafters rise to a foursquare structure of heavy posts that support the deck at the top of the hip. On the west and east sides of the attic's low perimeter walls are the top parts of the pockets up into which the tall windows in the bedrooms below rose.

The basement has stone walls (bare or painted white), a concrete floor, whitewashed and bare ceiling joists, and brick interior walls and chimney bases. The west interior wall incorporates five segmental arches. Lath (exposed where plaster has fallen away) and door frames are circular-sawn and the one surviving door is constructed of vertical battens.

Setting and Secondary Resources

Lackawanna occupies a rectangular lot that slopes gradually from back (north end) to front (south end). The lot is defined on the south side by Riverside Drive and on the west side by Crisman Drive. It is shaded by mature walnuts and spruces, a magnolia at the front east porch corner, and several other evergreen and deciduous species. Near the house is a large oak tree, the largest tree on the lot, which probably dates to the nineteenth century. Along the edges of the lot are poured concrete posts or pillars with projecting caps topped (mostly) with concrete globe finials. The posts are paired where they flank the entrance to the front walk and a side walk that is no longer evident. These gate posts have indentations on their inward-facing corners that contain remnants of wood jambs for former gates. The front gate posts stand beside concrete steps at the end of a concrete walk that extends to the front porch. A hedge may formerly have run between the posts (one appears to be shown in 1937 and 1954 aerial photos).

Any historic outbuildings that once existed have been removed. Currently extant are two secondary resources, a studio and a woodshed, both frame construction; two portable prefabricated storage sheds; a small portable prefabricated greenhouse; and a vinyl in-ground swimming pool (the latter and perhaps the present bathhouse date to before 1991). The studio is a prefabricated gable-roofed and wood-sided building with 6-over-6 windows and a sign that identifies it as "Creation Station." The woodshed is an open-fronted shed-roofed building at the north end of the curving driveway. The area around the swimming pool is landscaped with pampas grass and other ornamentals and the area between the pool and house has a rock garden with a small recirculating pool and waterfall. All of these secondary resources postdate the property's period of significance.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1869-1904

Significant Dates

1869
1904

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Lackawanna is an elegant Italianate-style brick house built in 1869 on a 1.75-acre site overlooking the South Fork of the Shenandoah River in the Riverton area of Front Royal, Warren County, Virginia. The house was built for Dorastus Cone who came to Warren County from the Lackawanna Valley of Pennsylvania to operate a large merchant mill and other businesses. The house has such characteristic Italianate features as bracketed cornices and segmental-arch windows—surmounted by heavily molded cast iron lintels—and unusual features such as a quintuple-arched arcade in the basement, bedroom pocket windows that lift into the attic, and original bathroom and walk-in closet spaces. The house was rehabilitated by Sandra and Philip Charles beginning in 1998 and is now operated as the Lackawanna Bed and Breakfast. Lackawanna is locally significant under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance as a well-appointed example of an Italianate residence with notable architectural features. The period of significance begins in 1869 with the date of construction of the dwelling and ends in 1904 when the Classical Revival front porch was added. The grounds retain concrete gate posts from the early twentieth century, a contributing structure; other features, principally late-twentieth-century sheds, a swimming pool, and a rock garden, are non-historic.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Lackawanna stands in the midst of the village of Riverton which was known during the antebellum period as Confluence for its location at the confluence of the south and north forks of the Shenandoah River. Beginning in the 1730s with the establishment of a ferry in the vicinity, Riverton has been a focus of transportation and water-power development. In 1854 two covered bridges were built across the forks of the river for the Front Royal and Western Turnpike Company. The Manassas Gap Railroad also built its line through the incipient community and established a depot. Principal local landowner James R. Richards operated a merchant flour mill at the location during the same period. Presumably as a result of these developments the Confluence Post Office was established in 1855.¹

Businessman Charles T. Weston purchased the Richards mill in 1855, commencing a longtime Weston family association with Riverton. Weston, described in 1860s-1870s deeds as a resident of Scranton, Pennsylvania, was instrumental in the community's revival after the turnpike and railroad bridges were burned during the Civil War. Weston's mill, too, was apparently burned; it was described as "burned down" several years after the war. Riverton's post-war revival was underway by 1868 when Irishman Samuel Carson erected a lime works across the river from the community. The following year Weston brought two Scranton businessmen into his milling business, J. Edward Lent and Dorastus Cone. A deed recorded in May 1869 refers to the partnership as the "firm of Weston Cone and Lent of Riverton."²

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Dorastus Cone (1836-1885) was a wholesale grocer in Scranton. In 1856 he married Martha Rebecca Lacey (b. 1835) and the couple raised four children to adulthood. Their grandson George Sealy Cone (1889-1959) wrote in his “Brief History of Lackawanna” (ca. 1948) that Cone had Lackawanna built in 1869, naming it after the Lackawanna Valley in Pennsylvania. The family moved to Riverton in 1869, according to Dorastus’s obituary, and a December 1870 deed notes Dorastus’s residence in Riverton. Dorastus Cone, who was Baptist, helped establish the Baptist church in Riverton.³

In a deed recorded in May 1869, Charles Weston sold a two-thirds interest in land and water rights at Riverton to Cone and Lent. The deed notes considerable activity at the location. Weston was in the process of rebuilding his mill (described as a “grist mill” in the deed) which was reached by a “private railroad” from the Manassas Gap line. The mill, which stood on the opposite side of the river, was chartered as the Riverton Mills Company in 1871. The company was described as a “manufacturer of flour and feed” and it included among its potential activities the building and operating grain elevators and the building and renting houses. A search of the 1870 industrial census schedules did not turn up the mill—perhaps it had yet to go into operation—but it appears in the 1880 census. It was probably one of the most extensive and modern milling operations in the county at the time. The entry notes that it was capitalized at \$75,000 and that it produced flour only for sale on the market, rather than custom. The mill employed six workers and it was powered by Shenandoah River water channeled to four turbines that spun at sixty rpm. The latter figure is one illustration of the mill’s capacity; other mills enumerated with it were powered by overshot wheels that ranged between six and thirteen rpm. Although the company’s charter permitted it to erect elevators, none had been built by 1880. The mill also appears in period business directories. Boyd’s 1871-72 directory lists it as Weston, Cone & Lent under “grist mills,” a listing that suggests the mill was in operation by 1871 when the directory was printed. The 1880-81 Chataigne directory lists it as D. Cone & Company and the 1893-94 Chataigne directory lists it as the Riverton Mills Company. A sawmill does not appear to have been associated with the mill during the period. Riverton Mills burned to the ground in 1912.⁴

Lackawanna acquired a number of modern conveniences during its early decades. According to George Sealy Cone, “My Grandmother told me it [the house] was written up as being the most modern country home in Virginia. It certainly possessed many features uncommon in those days.” Cone noted that “all rooms were lighted by manufactured gas made from oil. There were 23 gas burners. The manufacturer of this gas lighting system, Turrill Gas Machine Company, is still in business. They wrote me in 1948 that their old records showed the installation of this plant for my grandfather.” The company Cone referred to was the Turrill Gas Machine Lighting Company of New York City. In December 1888 the trade journal *Manufacturer and Builder* ran a two-page article on the company and its “equalizing gas machine” for interior illumination. The apparatus consisted of a gasoline reservoir and carburetor outside the building which supplied gasoline vapor to a meter-wheel air pump in the cellar. From there the vapor flowed through pipes to light fixtures. Illustrations in the article depicted the riveted iron tanks placed indoors and outdoors to contain the gasoline and vapor and an example of a light fixture, a glass flame guard with a turncock for operation. In 1892 the Turrill Gas Machine Lighting Company

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patented an “equalizing gas machine” which is believed to have been a light- or spirit oil-based generator.⁵

Presumably a system of the type the Tirrill Company manufactured in the 1880s and 1890s was used at Lackawanna. There is no evidence at present that the system was available at the time of construction in 1869, which would suggest originally the house was illuminated by standard means (candles and lamps). This may explain why surviving gas light pipe stumps are notched into window frames; perhaps running the piping along windows minimized the amount of boring through brick masonry required. Cone notes that about 1900 the Tirrill system “was converted to acetylene or carbide gas and used for lights until some years later when electricity became available at Riverton.” Carbide lighting would also have used an outdoors tank for generating the gas, possibly the same tank used for the Tirrill system.⁶

“The water system,” George Sealy Cone wrote, “was supplied by a hydraulic ram in the river, [and the water was] piped to and stored in an attic reservoir. This source was replaced about 1895 with city water. On account of the high pressure of the city water, all of the original lead pipes had to be replaced with galvanized iron piping.” The reservoir no longer survives in the attic, though close examination of rafters and flooring might reveal its former location. The reservoir provided water for indoor plumbing. “There was in 1869 a three-piece bath, with full-size zinc tub, similar in shape to modern bathtubs and the apron around it was of wainscoting. It had hot and cold water, which was also piped to the four upstairs bedrooms. The five lavatories had marble bowls and tops, with a wainscot cupboard underneath.” To heat the house Cone installed a coal-burning Baltimore stove in the front parlor. In 1876 Dorastus Cone installed an “electric telephone” in the house that connected to his mill across the river. The year 1876 was the same year Bell received his patent for the telephone.⁷

Dorastus and Martha’s children lived in the house into adulthood. George William Cone (b. 1859) moved away and worked for railroad, steamship, and banking companies until 1885 when he took over as general manager and treasurer of the Riverton Mills Company upon the death of his father. An 1888 newspaper clipping in the possession of the current owners of Lackawanna advertises the mill company and refers to “Cone’s Roller Patent,” presumably a type of roller mill roll developed by George W. Cone. George William, who was the father of George Sealy Cone, was in 1903 a director of the Front Royal National Bank. His brother Raymond Jay Cone (b. 1866) clerked with the Riverton Mills Company in 1903. Another brother, Dorastus Curran Cone (1868-97), served as cashier of the Front Royal National Bank in 1888 when it was said he was the youngest bank cashier in the United States. A daughter, Mary Eliza (b. 1875), also lived at Lackawanna. Another daughter, Catherine Eliza (1861-69), died before the family occupied the house.⁸

After Dorastus Cone’s death in 1885, his widow, children, and children’s spouses continued to live in the house. It appears George W. Cone became sole owner in 1894 and it was during his ownership, about 1904, that the present front porch was added. George married Cora Genevieve Holmes (b. 1861) in 1882. After George’s death Cora sold Lackawanna in 1917 to Samuel F. Rhodes. Samuel’s widow Marjorie D. Rhodes sold the property to Shirley and Kathleen Duncan, husband and wife, in 1946 and the following year the Duncans sold to Charles Robert Bondurant

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and his wife, Therma B. The Bondurants sold Lackawanna in 1956 to longtime owners the Thomas family. The present owners, Philip Arthur Charles and Sandra Lee Charles, acquired Lackawanna in 1998 and have since restored it for operation as the Lackawanna Bed & Breakfast.⁹

Architectural Discussion

According to a 1991 survey form, Lackawanna was built for Dorastus Cone by Anthony Spangler at a cost of \$13,000. The source cited for the information is a letter by George Sealy Cone. The citation would seem to refer to Cone's ca. 1948 "Brief History of Lackawanna," which notes the \$13,000 cost of construction, but the history does not identify Spangler as the builder. The inventory description of the house in the Riverton Historic District National Register nomination does not attribute the house to Spangler either. The Spangler family did own land in the area and there was at least one Spangler with the first name Anthony. The 1893-94 Chataigne directory lists three carpenter/builders with Riverton addresses including A. L. Sargent but no Spangler.¹⁰

Lackawanna exhibits attributes of the Italianate style, one of the exotic-revival styles popular in the United States during the nineteenth century. The style is seen primarily in the ornate sawn brackets in the cornices of the main roof, rear wing, and bay windows, and also in the various forms of arches over window and door openings: segmental arches over most front and side windows, round arches over the end windows of the bay windows, and a basket-handle arch over the front entry. Evidence observed to date suggests the exterior brickwork was originally painted a light color, a treatment consistent with the style which distantly evoked the often stuccoed rural residences of Italy. Italianate interior influence is seen primarily in the front parlor which has a round-arch fireplace or grate opening and round-arch niches over the mantel shelf. The robust turned and faceted newel at the base of the stair is also characteristic of Italianate houses though not a diagnostic feature.

An unusual feature that may be related to the overall Italianate character of the house is its asymmetrical four-bay façade. The Italianate style, like its near contemporary the Gothic Revival, was often marked by picturesque asymmetry in house massing. Perhaps Lackawanna's façade asymmetry is a nod to these aspects of more fully realized Italianate dwellings and an antidote to the house's boxy form, which is more characteristic of symmetrical Greek Revival domestic planning.

One of the Lackawanna's most dramatic features is the arcade of five segmental arches in the basement. The arcade supports the weight of the brick wall that forms the west side of the center passage. Presumably it was created to conserve brick but it also has the advantage of making the center portion of the basement more usable. The segmental arch form is a characteristic of the Italianate style but in this instance the use of the arch form may have been purely pragmatic since the basement was not a public space. Many brick commercial and industrial buildings of the late nineteenth century employed the segmental arch so a tie-in to normative buildings practices of the era may also be possible. Also of note are the two pocket windows in the upstairs front bedrooms. These windows, which improved warm-weather ventilation in addition to

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providing access to the tops of the bay windows, relate to the many technologically advanced mechanical features of the house such as the former lighting and heating systems.

The rehabilitation of the house that began in 1998 brought to light evidence of former decorative interior finishes. One of the second-floor bedrooms had a simple trompe l'oeil wall treatment with a wide band of olive drab at the top, a narrow "picture rail" in dark tan defined by black or brown lines, and below that a light tan color. The tan may have extended to a painted dado or wainscot to create a tripartite schema; however, the lower parts of the wall were not uncovered. Also on the second floor, in the center passage, removal of a board to which electrical service once attached revealed a well-preserved section of red wallpaper. The paper had a design of red floral ornaments and arabesques on a lighter red ground with a silvery cast probably created by the mixing of mica flakes into the pigment. According to George Sealy Cone the house was electrified "some years" after about 1900 so the wallpaper, though it may not have been original, is early.¹¹

A postcard posted in 1907 shows the house after the ca. 1904 construction of the current porch, which was executed in a simplified version of the Classical Revival or Neoclassical style. The view shows the brickwork painted a light color and the bracketed cornice, porch elements, and window lintels and trim a lighter color, perhaps white. The window muntins were painted a dark color. The house was surrounded by mature deciduous and evergreen trees including possibly a walnut (there are presently several walnuts on the lot) and a triangular scaffold for swinging benches stood in the yard off the southwest corner.

Several outbuildings stood on the property during the historic period. Dorastus Cone's will (1885) refers to a "brick dwelling, barn and other buildings." A 1937 aerial photograph appears to show only one other building on the lot, a garage which stood in the vicinity of the present wood shed. The building is labeled "garage" on a 1945 plat and another aerial photograph, taken in 1954, indicates that it was gabled and had siding painted a light color. According to Sandra Charles this building was referred to as a stable. It could very well have been the barn/stable described in the 1885 will. The building collapsed between 1954 and 1958.¹²

Lackawanna is located near the confluence of two major tributaries of the Potomac River system that were presumably resources of interest to Native American peoples. Projectile points have been found on the property as well as a large stone implement, possibly a celt. The property was almost certainly the scene of Confederate military activity during the Civil War. Confederate General D. H. Hill's division was sent to the forks of the Shenandoah (i.e. Riverton) in November 1862 "to guard the passes in that direction" and to disable the Manassas Gap Railroad at the location. The destruction was witnessed by Elizabeth Mauzy Blakemore from where she lived at Riverton two doors down from the site of the future Lackawanna. "The Railroad is torn up and the ties set on fire," she wrote in her diary. "'Tis a beautiful sight. I am so sorry that 'tis necessary for them to be destroyed." The ties were still burning the following evening when Blakemore wrote that they looked "like a city when lighted up." Because the rail line runs in close proximity to Lackawanna it seems highly likely some of this activity occurred on the property. There is potential for structures to have existed on the property prior to the construction of the house in 1869, though none are known from the evidence that has been examined. It is

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known that at least one outbuilding stood on the property during the nineteenth century and there is also likelihood for artifacts associated with the construction of the house and its historic usage.¹³

Today, Lackawanna remains a well-appointed example of an Italianate residence with notable architectural features, making it locally significant under Criterion C. As the home of a successful businessman and his family, its original fixtures and finishes speak to the Cone family's economic success as well as the popular tastes among elite social and economic classes during the late nineteenth century. The dwelling's architectural form, massing, fenestration, and details are characteristic of Italianate architecture, while the Classical Revival front porch is a further embellishment made during Dorastus Cone's son George W. Cone's ownership. The historical photographic documentation, coupled with descendant George Sealy Cone's history of the property and the extant historic features within the house, provide a rare and rich data trove to further understanding of the rapid evolution of domestic mechanical systems from the late nineteenth through early twentieth century.

Endnotes

1. Kalbian, "Riverton Historic District," 25-27.
2. Kalbian, "Riverton Historic District," 27-28; Warren County Deed Book H, pp. 379 and 492; *Warren Sentinel* (?), February 27, 1947, clipping at the Warren Heritage Society.
3. Cone, *Some Account of the Cone Family in America*, 156, 159-160; Cone, "Brief History of Lackawanna;" *Warren Sentinel* (?), October 2, 1885, clipping at the Warren Heritage Society; Warren County Deed Book H, p. 574. William W. Cone in his Cone family genealogy wrote that George Sealy Cone was born in 1887 (p. 160).
4. Warren County Deed Book H, p. 379; Warren County Charter Book 1, p. 195; U.S. census; Boyd, *Virginia State Business Directory, 1871-72*, 356; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*, 494; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory, 1893-94*, 1218; Kalbian, "Riverton Historic District," 30.
5. Cone, "Brief History of Lackawanna;" *Manufacturer and Builder* (December 1888), 268-269; Hatheway, *Remediation of Former Manufactured Gas Plants*, 236.
6. Cone, "Brief History of Lackawanna."
7. Cone, "Brief History of Lackawanna."
8. Cone, *Some Account of the Cone Family in America*, 156, 159-160.

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9. Cone, *Some Account of the Cone Family in America*, 159; Good, "Lackawanna;" Warren County Deed Book Z, p. 274, Deed Book 2, p. 424, Deed Book 20, p. 363, Deed Book 60, p. 291, Deed Book 67, p. 67, Deed Book 98, p. 446; Warren County instrument no. 980006930.

10. Kalbian and Perkins, "Lackawanna;" Kalbian, "Riverton Historic District," 4, 21; Chataigne, *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory, 1893-94*, 1214.

11. Sandra and Philip Charles interviews; "Restoring Lackawanna" photo album and scrapbook; Cone, "Brief History of Lackawanna."

12. Sandra Charles interview; Warren County Will Book E, p. 361, and Plat Book 1, p. 135; "Aerial Map, Front Royal;" Soil Conservation Service aerial photo (February 8, 1954) of the Front Royal area.

13. Philip Charles interview; Hale, *Four Valiant Years*, 201.

Lackawanna
Name of Property

Warren County, Virginia
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

“Aerial Map, Front Royal, Va. and Vicinity.” Photographed by Frank Turgeon Jr., Winchester Va., October 29, 1937. Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal, Va.

Ancestry.com website. Accessed October 25, 2013.

Boyd, Andrew, comp. *Virginia State Business Directory, 1871-72*. Richmond: 1871.

Charles, Philip Arthur. Interview and communication with Dan Pezzoni, October 2013 and January 2014.

Charles, Sandra Lee. Interview with Dan Pezzoni, October 2013.

_____. “Lackawanna.” Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet, 2013, Richmond, Va.

Chataigne, J. H., comp. *Chataigne’s Virginia Business Directory and Gazetteer, 1880-81*. Richmond, Va.: Baughman Brothers, 1880.

_____. *Chataigne’s Virginia Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory, 1893-94*. Richmond, Va.: 1893.

Cone family file. Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal, Va.

Cone, George Sealy. “Brief History of Lackawanna.” Ca. 1948 (?) typescript. Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal, Va.

Cone, William Whitney, comp. *Some Account of the Cone Family in America*. Topeka, Ks.: Crane and Company, 1903.

Corbett Mill and Machine Company brochure. Late 19th c. In owner’s possession, Lackawanna, Front Royal, Va.

Good, Rebecca H. “Lackawanna.” *Warren Sentinel*, October 11, 1973. Front Royal, Va.

Hale, Laura Virginia. *Four Valiant Years*. Stephens City, Va.: Commercial Press, 2008.

Hatheway, Allen W. *Remediation of Former Manufactured Gas Plants and other Coal-Tar Sites*. Boca Raton: CRC Press, 2012.

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Kalbian, Maral S. "Riverside." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 1995, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

_____. "Riverton Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (VDHR File No. 112-5238), 2000, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va. Historical discussion in the form has contributions from Leila O. Boyer.

Kalbian, Maral S., and Jessica A. H. Perkins. "Lackawanna." Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks Survey Form, 1991, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

Lackawanna file. Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal, Va.

Manufacturer and Builder (December 1888).

Pearson, John V. "Lackawanna." Architectural Survey Form, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 1970, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Va.

"Restoring Lackawanna." Photo album and scrapbook (1998 on) in owner's possession, Lackawanna, Front Royal, Va.

Soil Conservation Service aerial photo (February 8, 1954) of the Front Royal area. Warren Heritage Society, Front Royal, Va.

Spangler Family Genealogy Page (<http://www.spanglers.info/>) accessed October 25, 2013.

Warren County charter, deed, lien, plat, tax, and will records. Warren County Courthouse, Front Royal, Va.

Warren Sentinel. Front Royal, Va.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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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, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 112-5351

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 1.753 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: 17 Easting: 743150 Northing: 4314230

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary encompasses 1.753 acres, noted as tax parcel 20A124 14, and is shown on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses land historically associated with the property and includes the 1869 original dwelling and its historic setting as well as associated non-historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston Street
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450
e-mail: gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: December 5, 2013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

All photos common to:
Name of Property: Lackawanna
City or Vicinity: Front Royal

Lackawanna

Name of Property

Warren County, Virginia
County and State

County: Warren

State: Virginia

Photographer: Philip A. Charles

Date Photographed: October and/or November 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera.

Photo 1 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0001.

View: Front of house, looking slightly at the southwest corner.

Photo 2 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0002.

View: Front of house from Riverside Drive with gate posts in foreground, view looking north.

Photo 3 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0003.

View: First-floor center passage with staircase and hallway.

Photo 4 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0004.

View: First-floor southeast room (parlor).

Photo 5 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0005.

View: Northeast corner of house, view looking southwest.

Photo 6 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0006.

View: East side of house, view looking west.

Photo 7 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0007.

View: Façade, south elevation, view looking north.

Photo 8 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0008.

View: North elevation, view looking south.

Photo 9 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0009.

View: West elevation, view looking east.

Photo 10 of 10: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0010.

View: Basement arches.

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Lackawanna

DH R # 112-5351

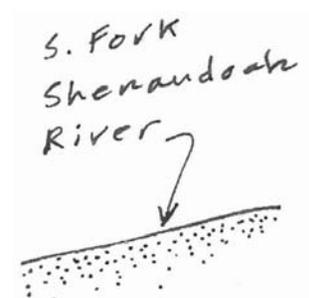
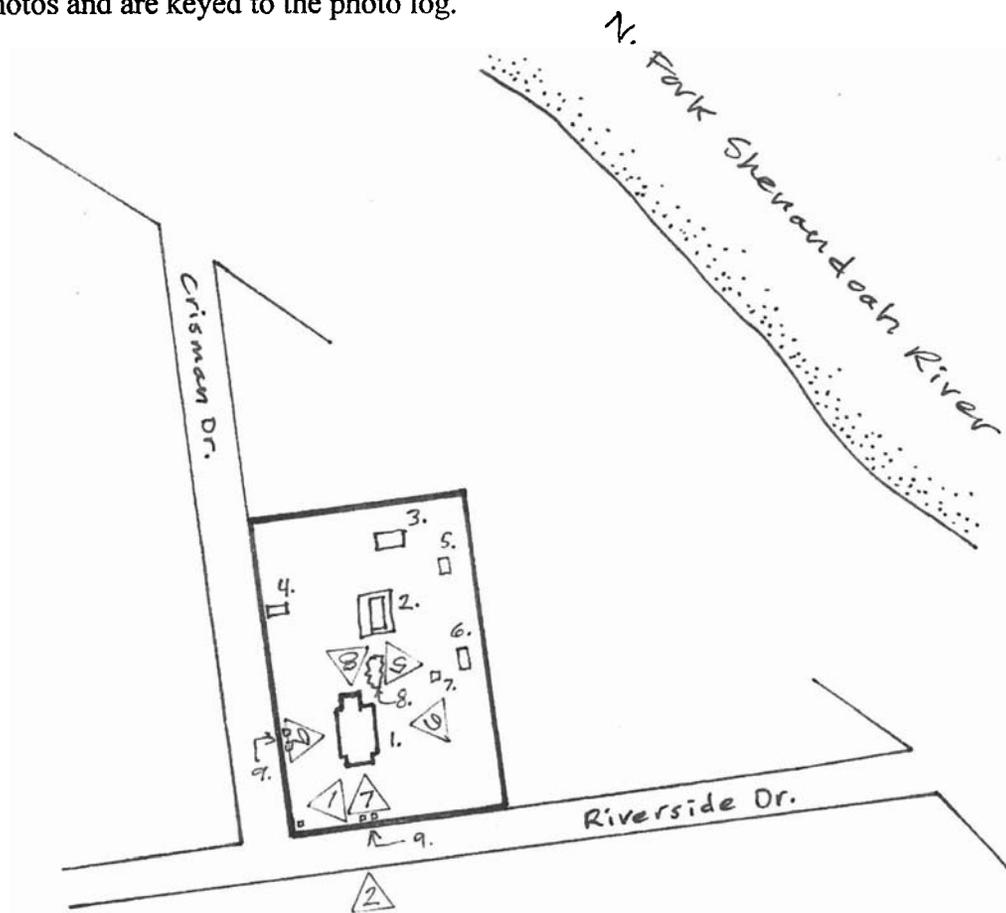
Warren County, Virginia

Map scale 1" = 200'

Size and placement of resources approximate.

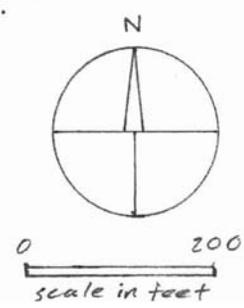
Triangular indicators show direction of view and number of nomination photos and are keyed to the photo log.

Sketch Map and Photo Key



Inventory

1. Lackawanna. 1869. Contributing building.
2. Swimming pool. Late 20th century. Noncontributing structure.
3. Studio. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
4. Woodshed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
5. Shed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
6. Shed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
7. Greenhouse. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
8. Rock garden. Late 20th century. Noncontributing site.
9. Gate posts. Early 20th century. Contributing structure.



Tax Parcel Map - Lackawanna
#20A124 14 Warren County, VA

DHR#112-5351

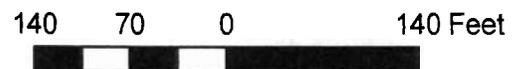


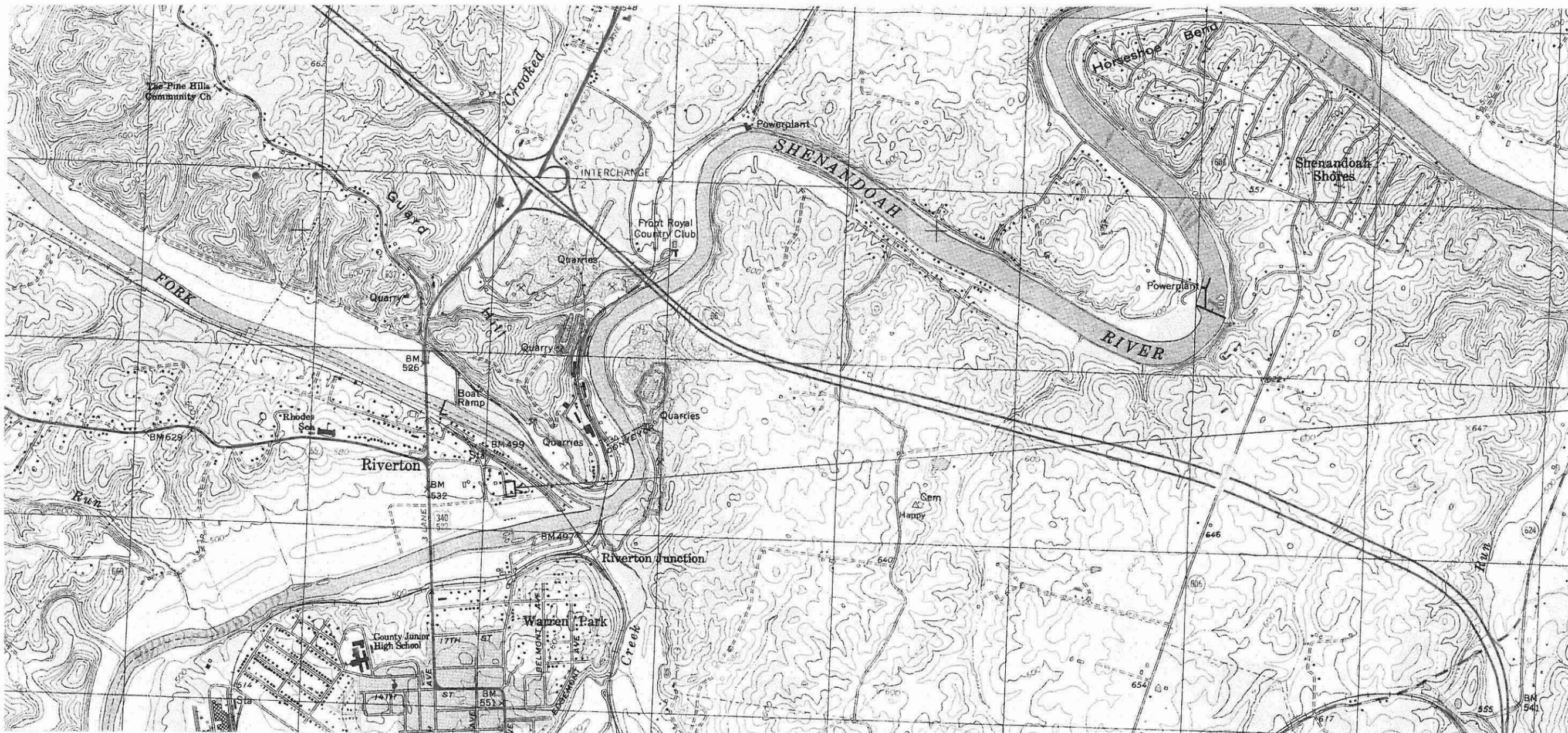
D.G. Merchant, Cartographer



NOVEMBER 2013

PARCEL MAP
VILLAGE OF RIVERTON
TOWN OF FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA





Lackawanna
Warren Co., Va.
DHR ID # 112-5351
Front Royal, Va. quad
NAD 1927
UTM reference:
17 743150 4314230
Zone Easting Northing

(LINDEN)
5361 NE

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lackawanna
.....
Name of Property
Warren County, Virginia
.....
County and State
N/A
.....
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Prepared by:

Lena Sweeten McDonald, National/State Register Historian
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
804-482-6439
Lena.mcdonald@dhr.virginia.gov

Additional Documentation, May 2014

Lackawanna is a contributing resource to the National Register-listed Riverton Historic District in the Town of Front Royal, Warren County, Virginia. This additional documentation provides context information regarding Lackawanna’s individual significance under Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The property is compared to another individually listed dwelling with Italianate influences, Riverside, and the relative rarity of the Italianate style in Warren County is described.

Photographs of the non-contributing resources at Lackawanna have been compiled to supplement the photographic documentation provided with the original National Register nomination. The photos are keyed to the attached sketch map entitled “Lackawanna, Sketch Map and Photo Key, Additional Documentation, May 2014.”

Section 8

The Riverton Historic District was listed in the National Register in 2002. One property within the district is individually listed in the National Register. Riverside was listed in 1995 under Criterion C (architecture) with 2 contributing resources and 1 non-contributing resource. The number of resources included in the individual nomination differs from that in the historic district nomination, which lists 5 outbuildings, all constructed ca. 1900-ca. 1910, at Riverside, along with the primary dwelling, a ca. 1920 garage, and a ca. 1930 maid quarters.

The Riverton Historic District was listed under Criteria A and C in the areas of Industry and Architecture. Lackawanna is individually nominated under Criterion C (Architecture). DHR’s internal National Register evaluation committee and the Virginia State Review Board agreed that the level of documentation about Lackawanna’s original design, its early mechanical systems, and its original finishes is more in-depth than information that typically is available for houses of the period, especially considering that, at the time of its construction in 1869, Front Royal was still recovering from the Civil War.

Further, the Italianate style is not pervasive either in the Riverton Historic District or Front Royal as a whole. The aforementioned Riverside is the only other dwelling in the district with Italianate details (as well as Greek Revival and Colonial Revival), and just two commercial buildings – the Old Duncan Hotel and the Old Riverton Post Office and Grocery – demonstrate Italianate influences. According to DHR’s survey data for the entire Town of Front Royal, Lackawanna is the only resource that is recorded as Italianate in style, out of the 85+ resources that have been recorded to date in our survey inventory for the Town. To be sure, Front Royal is not a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Lackawanna
.....
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County and State
N/A
.....
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 2

large town, but a check of DHR's inventory for Italianate dwellings (or other building types) in all of Warren County, yielded only 25 that have been recorded. Of these, just one Italianate house, the ca. 1860 Jones-Miller House in an unincorporated part of the county, was recommended eligible for the NRHP in 1994 (the house was used as a funeral home after 1966 and in 1983 was converted for use as law offices).

In summary, given the depth of information about Lackawanna's design and the relative scarcity of Italianate examples in Front Royal and Warren County, it was deemed appropriate to nominate the dwelling individually under Criterion C in the area of Architecture.

The individual nomination for Lackawanna also includes quite a bit more information about the original owner, Dorastus Cone, than is provided in the historic district nomination. Cone, a Northern industrialist who came to Front Royal after the Civil War, achieved financial success with his business partners in the operation of the Riverton Mills Company. This information demonstrates that Cone's career was similar to that of other successful businessmen in Front Royal during the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. Thus, it does not tell a different story than the district nomination so much as it adds more flesh to the bones of Cone's story in the district nomination.

Section 9

Virginia Cultural Resources Inventory System (V-CRIS), available online at <https://vcris.dhr.virginia.gov/vcris/MapView/Account/Logon?returnUrl=%2Fvcris%2FMapView%2F>

Photo Log

Name of Property: Lackawanna
City or Vicinity: Town of Front Royal
County: Warren State: Virginia
Photographer: Philip A. Charles
Date Photographed: October and/or November 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 11: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0011.

View: Rock garden (non-contributing resource), view looking southwest.

Photo 12: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0012.

View: Swimming pool and sheds 5, 6, and 7 (non-contributing resources), view looking southeast.

Photo 13: VA_WarrenCounty_Lackawanna_0013.

View: Looking through rock garden toward shed 4, view looking northwest.

Lackawanna

DHR # 112-5351

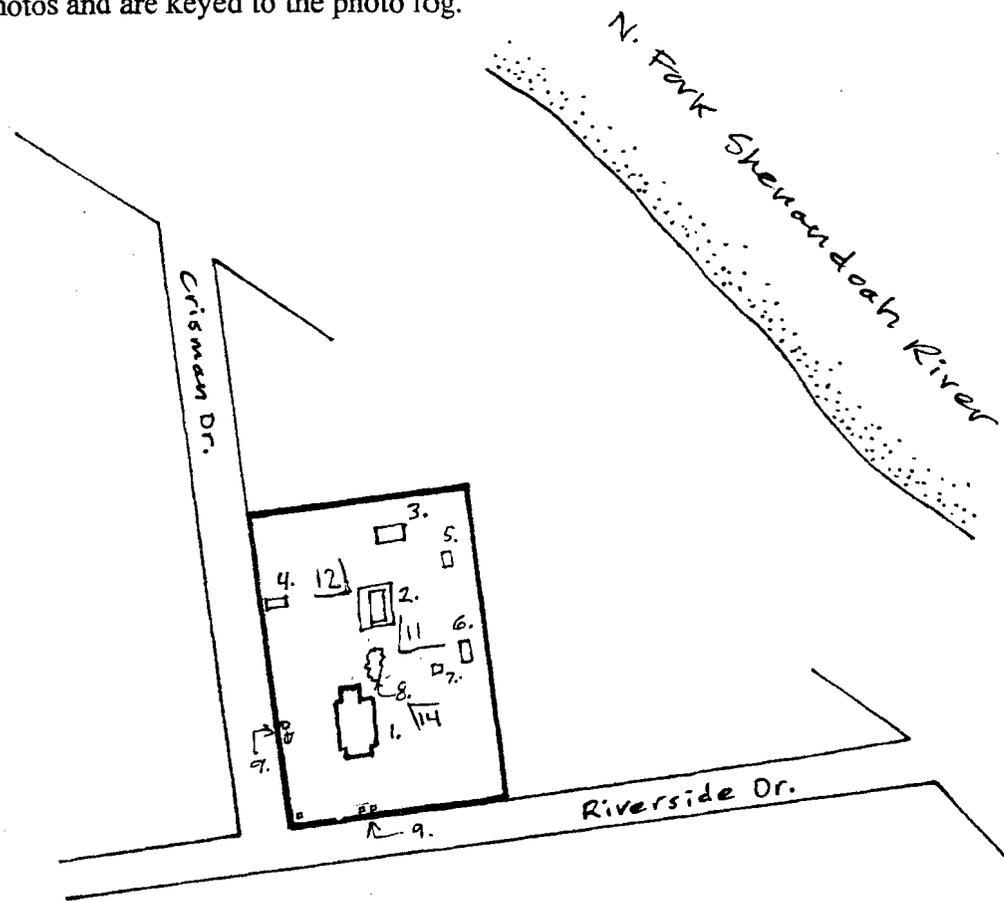
Warren County, Virginia

Map scale 1" = 200'

Size and placement of resources approximate.

Triangular indicators show direction of view and number of nomination photos and are keyed to the photo log.

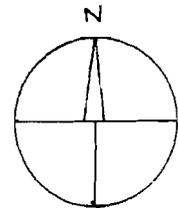
Sketch Map and Photo Key
Additional Documentation
May 2014



Inventory

1. Lackawanna. 1869. Contributing building.
2. Swimming pool. Late 20th century. Noncontributing structure.
3. Studio. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
4. Woodshed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
5. Shed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
6. Shed. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
7. Greenhouse. Late 20th century. Noncontributing building.
8. Rock garden. Late 20th century. Noncontributing site.
9. Gate posts. Early 20th century. Contributing structure.

S. Fork
Shenandoah
River



0 200
scale in feet