

VLR-6/15/94

NRHP-9/8/94

139-15

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Loretto

other names/site number VDHR File No. 139-15

2. Location

street & number 190 Peppers Ferry Road N/A not for publication

city or town Wytheville N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county Wythe code 197 zip code 24382

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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julie A. Vasnik 7-18-94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register
5 See continuation sheet

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other. (explain:)

Loretto
Name of Property

Wythe Co., Va.
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
4	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	1	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire

Greek Revival

Classical Revival

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls BRICK

roof Slate

other WOOD

METAL

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1852-1944

Significant Dates

1852

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Miller, Morris C.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Loretto

Wythe Co., Va.

Name of Property

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property 3.6 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17 492860 4089940
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization Preservation Technologies, Inc. date April 28, 1994
street & number PO Box 7825 telephone (703) 366-7657
city or town Roanoke state Virginia zip code 24019-0825

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name
street & number telephone
city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Loretto
Wythe Co., Va.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

Loretto is located at 190 Peppers Ferry Road on a wooded 3.6-acre parcel just to the north of the historic downtown area of Wytheville, Virginia. The southeast-facing Loretto house is a two-story brick dwelling with a double-pile center-passage plan. The rear pile of rooms is the original section of the house: a two-story, single-pile, center-passage-plan dwelling believed to have been built in 1852. The front rooms were built on in the 1880s, and a slate-shingled mansard roof with an attic story was added, giving the house a Second Empire-style appearance. Other important exterior features include a two-story front portico dating to 1911, a one-story rear ell dating to 1912, and a porte cochere and pergola on the side elevations dating to 1927. The interior has Greek Revival mantels and door and window trim from the 1850s, an elaborate Victorian stair dating to 1902, Federal-style detailing from another Wytheville house, and many other notable features dating from the 1850s to the 1970s. Located behind the main house is a v-notched log smokehouse that was probably built in the 1850s, and a double-pen, v-notched log slave quarters and kitchen that was built in 1852. Also on the property are a frame building known as the office which may originally have served as a former rear ell of the main house, a mid-twentieth-century frame shed, and historic and modern landscape features.

Inventory

1. Loretto. Ca. 1852; 1880s. Contributing building.
2. Slave Quarter/Kitchen. 1852. Contributing building.
3. Smokehouse. 1850s. Contributing building.
4. Office. Third quarter of the nineteenth century. Contributing building.
5. Shed. Mid-twentieth century. Noncontributing building.

House: Exterior

Loretto is a large house with a relatively simple double-pile form. The original section of the house is built on a finely crafted limestone foundation with prism mortar joints. Later sections of the house may have stone, brick, or poured concrete foundations. The visible walls of the original and later sections of the house are constructed of American-bond brickwork. The end walls of the original section are laid in five-course American bond. The 1880s front section is laid in four- or five-course American bond with a header/stretcher course every five or six courses. The 1912 ell is constructed of six-course American-bond brickwork. The exterior brick surfaces are painted gray.

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The four exterior brick chimneys project only slightly from the northeast and southwest walls of the house, and they have unusual shoulders that step inward towards the house under the eaves; the tops of the stacks then project through the roof to terminate at a corbeled cap. (The slightly projecting profile probably characterized the original 1852 chimneys, and was adopted for the 1880s chimneys for consistency's sake. The upper sections of the original chimneys were probably altered so as not to interfere with the 1880s cornice.)

The house has a mansard roof with a slight kick (from a distance the roof appears concave). The roof is sheathed with gray roofing slates and decorative yellowish and reddish slates that define diamond patterns. Other features of the roof include hipped dormers with bracketed cornices, 1/1-sash windows, and slate-sheathed sides; an elaborate metal cresting above a molded cornice at the top of the lower roof slope; and a heavy cornice at the base of the roof with large paired wood brackets.

Across the front of the house extends a monumental portico added in 1911 and supported by six Doric columns of painted masonry construction. The porch has a flat or shallow hipped roof, a dentil cornice, square pilasters at the two front corners of the house, concrete column bases, and a concrete floor that was poured in 1921. Off the southwest side extends a one-story porte cochere added in 1927 and supported by round wood columns. Off the rear of the house extends several one-story additions dating to the 1890s and the early twentieth century. These additions include a kitchen wing; the 1912 ell mentioned above, which has segmental-arched windows, a metal-sheathed hip roof, and a tall brick flue; a latticed back porch dating to 1927; and a glassed-in porch or sun parlor. Off the northeast side of the house extends a 1927 pergola supported by round wood columns.

Window and door openings are varied. The front entry has a classical surround that probably dates to the 1920s, a transom with lead comes, and a paneled door with arched lights containing leaded glass. Above this entry is a 1911 tripartite window. Most of the other windows date to the 1880s and have 2/2 sash and louvered shutters. A window at the upper west corner of the rear elevation has molded trim suggesting it dates to 1852. Also on the rear elevation is a semicircular stained-glass window. Several windows that were redone in the early twentieth century have decorative lead comes. An entry was cut into the northeast elevation in 1912 to link the dining room to the outdoors; this entry has an elliptical fanlight and a glass door with a diamond muntin pattern.

House: Interior

The first, second, and attic stories of Loretto have plaster-and-lath wall and ceiling finishes, wood floors, and generally two- and four-panel doors (the two-panel doors date to the 1850s,

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the four-panel doors to the late nineteenth century). The front entry opens into a center passage with doorways or larger openings leading into the four principal downstairs rooms. Midway along the passage is a transverse wall--the front elevation of the original section of the house--with a large opening that is the jamb of the original front entry (the connecting points of former sidelight uprights are still apparent). At the back of the passage is a doorway (the former back door of the original house) with a two-panel door and a paneled jamb, and a two-run, closed-string stair dating to 1852 that was Victorianized in 1902. The stair has a paneled spandrel and string, fluted square newels with finials, an elaborate railing with spindlework and pierced panels, and turned pendants. Over the stair landing is a semicircular stained-glass window with blue-green, aqua, pink, and yellow glass. The stair detailing on the ground floor is carried through to the attic.

The east first-story room, entered from the center passage through a wide opening, has served as the main parlor since the 1880s. The room has a wide baseboard that is identical to the one in the south first-story room, and a fireplace with a 1910 mantel supported by fluted Ionic columns and bearing an inscription in the frieze that reads: "God's Providence is mine Inheritance." The fireplace hearth and surround have glazed tiles in pastel blue, rose, and brown hues. A large opening on the rear wall of the parlor leads to the north first-story room, located in the original section of the house, and used since at least the late nineteenth century as the dining room. The boldly molded baseboard in the dining room, and also a door to the center passage with a paneled jamb and a boldly molded surround and corner blocks, date to 1852. The fireplace has a tripartite Federal mantel with gouged work and fluted pilasters. (This mantel and the detailing in the 1912 ell were salvaged from the early-nineteenth-century Spiller House, formerly located on the north side of the 100 block of W. Main St. in Wytheville.) Spanning across the dining room ceiling are two cased steel beams that were added in 1974 to prevent the ceiling from sagging.

The south first-story room, known as the library and located in the 1880s section of the house, has two windows with lead came sash, and a Greek Revival mantel with a peaked board above the shelf and slightly tapered pilasters with convex sections. (This mantel was moved from the original section of the house, probably from the dining room.) An archway on the rear wall of the library leads to the west first-story room, which has the least altered Greek Revival interior of the house. The room features a mantel with a peaked board above the shelf and pilasters with fluted convex sections. To the right side of the fireplace is a press with double two-panel doors; to the left side is a window with lead comes above a window seat. This window replaces a doorway to a late-nineteenth-century conservatory that in turn replaced a press similar to the one on the other side of the fireplace. Both the press and the window have surrounds with fluted convex sections. On the rear wall of the room is a doorway with a door, transom, and sidelights with diamond-pattern muntins. The doorway leads to the glassed-in back porch known as the

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sun parlor.

The sun parlor, the door at the back of the center passage, and a large opening on the rear wall of the dining room connect to the principal rear rooms of the house: the kitchen and the 1912 ell originally used as a bedroom and now used as a breakfast room. The kitchen has modern counters and finishes. The breakfast room has a Federal mantel and a high paneled wainscot that originally belonged to the Spiller House. Flanking the fireplace are two built-in china cabinets with arched glass fronts that may have come from the Spiller House but are more likely early-twentieth-century Colonial Revival features.

The second story repeats the double-pile center-passage plan of the first story. The center passage is divided into a front and a rear section by a 1920s archway that incorporates two closets. At the southeast end of the passage is the large window that appears on the exterior directly above the front entrance of the house. The second-story rooms have two Greek Revival mantels with peaked boards similar to the first-story mantels but less decorative pilasters. The Greek Revival mantel in the north second-story room remains at its original location; the mantel in the south room was moved from the west room. The east room has a Victorian mantel with a bracketed shelf and raised panels. Two doors in the second story—one two-panel and the other four-panel—have faded graining with dark burl-like figures on a brown ground. Other features of the second story include 1850s fluted door surrounds with turned corner blocks, an early-twentieth-century window seat and modern closets in the north room, a 1920s bathroom partitioned off from the west room, and a bathroom above the rear additions.

The attic story has a center passage, four bedrooms, and a bathroom with plaster-and-lath walls and ceilings, four-panel doors, and plain baseboards. The basement is accessed by a stair that leads down under the stair in the first-story center passage. The basement was partially excavated in 1909 to provide space for a coal furnace. Under the original section of the house are straight-sawn joists; under the later front section are circular-sawn joists.

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

The largest outbuilding on the Loretto property is the one-and-a-half-story double-pen log dwelling that stands directly behind the main house and measures approximately 48' by 18' in size. According to tradition, this dwelling was occupied by the Stuart family during the construction of the main house. Soon afterwards it was used as a slave quarter and kitchen, and it continued in use as a kitchen and residence for the family cook into the early twentieth century. Certain structural features suggest that the dwelling was built in two campaigns, with the southwest pen and framed center section representing the original part, and the northeast pen representing an addition, perhaps another dwelling that was joined to the southwest section.

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However, the consistency of construction exhibited throughout the dwelling suggests it was built in one campaign, or that the various sections were built at roughly the same time.

The dwelling consists of two v-notched log pens separated by a frame center room, with a limestone rubble foundation containing a root cellar below and garret rooms and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof above. At each gable end rises an American-bond brick chimney on a limestone base. The northeast chimney has pencilled mortar joints and is missing its stack. The southeast (front) elevation of the frame center section is sheathed in beaded weatherboards, as is the gable on the northeast end. The rest of the house is sheathed in plain weatherboards. On the front elevation are three entries hung with beaded batten doors. On the rear (northwest) elevation are three window openings, one with a 6/6-sash window. Other exterior features include the initials "G. F. (E.?)" carved on the front beaded weatherboards, Queen Anne window sash inserted in the window openings in the northeast gable, and a beaded rake board in the northeast gable.

The virtually unaltered interior features wood floors and whitewashed exposed log walls with prism daubing. The two log pens have enclosed corner stairs that were added, as suggested by evidence that ceiling joists were removed to accommodate the stairs. A simple bracketed shelf mantel survives in the northeast pen. The center frame section has hewn studs, circular-sawn ceiling lath, and the pencilled date "March 8, 1919." The garrets feature exposed log half-walls (not whitewashed) and plaster and circular-sawn lath ceilings that conceal common rafter/collar beam roofs. A doorway exists between the garrets over the southwest pen and the center frame section, but there is no doorway between the northeast garret and the center section. This, coupled with the presence of weatherboards facing into the northeast garret, support the hypothesis that the northeast pen is an addition.

Between the quarter and the rear additions of the main house stands an antebellum, v-notched log smokehouse. The building has wood slab chinking and prism daubing; a pressed-metal-sheathed gable roof; and beaded weatherboards in the upper part of the northwest gable with circular-sawn plain weatherboards below, several with diamond-shaped cut-outs for ventilation. The smokehouse is entered through a low doorway with a beaded batten door with a wooden lock box. Inside are four tiers of logs and sawn beams used to suspend meat during smoking. Extending from the northeast side of the smokehouse is a roughly square area enclosed by a low limestone wall. This enclosure was created in 1912 and used by the Campbells as an "outdoor living room."

To the west of the main house, quarter, and smokehouse is a one-story frame building that is believed to have once served as a dining room ell for the main house, and is now generally referred to as the office, although it is uncertain whether it ever in fact served as an office. The apparent circular-sawn construction of the building suggests it was built after the Civil War.

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If it did in fact serve as the dining room ell, then it may be portrayed on the circa 1880 Gray map, which shows Loretto with a rear ell. The building has weatherboard siding with traces of white and red paint, a pressed-metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and an early-twentieth-century garage addition with a shed roof, 2/2-sash windows, and diagonal beaded tongue-and-groove doors. Other features include a beaded batten door, a beaded board partition on the interior, board wall and ceiling sheathing and a poured concrete floor. The ceiling is painted blue and the walls olive drab, treatments that suggest the building once served a domestic or office function. Also located on the parcel is a frame shed that was probably built in the mid-twentieth century.

The Loretto property is located in a grove of mature oaks, Norway spruce, and hemlocks. The drive that leads to the house from Peppers Ferry Road forms a circle in front of the house. Just outside the north line of the 3.6-acre parcel on which the Loretto house stands is a double-crib, v-notched log barn that once formed part of the Loretto farm complex. The barn measures approximately 48' by 18' in size and has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a vertical-board-sided mow, sliding doors on metal tracks, and plate log extensions on the south gable end. A weatherboarded frame springhouse stood beside a stream further to the north until it was demolished by development activity in Spring 1994.

Integrity Statement

Loretto evolved on a nearly continuous basis from the 1850s to the 1920s, with minor alterations occurring since. The present house combines Greek Revival details from the 1850s, Second Empire and miscellaneous Victorian elements from the late nineteenth century, and Classical and Colonial Revival-inspired features from the early twentieth century. As an evolutionary product, Loretto has good architectural integrity, with each phase of its development clearly differentiated. Loretto also retains integrity as a relatively complete antebellum domestic complex, with the main house, smokehouse, and slave quarter/kitchen represented.

Architectural Analysis

Loretto is a complex, highly evolved dwelling. The core of the house--the two-story, center-passage-plan, brick house believed to have been built for William A. Stuart in 1852, was in its day and place a stylish dwelling. The two Greek Revival mantels in the first story are the work of a skilled craftsman, exhibiting none of the vernacular tendencies that characterize Greek Revival styling in the more rural areas of Southwest Virginia during the period. The mansard roof added to the house in the 1880s was locally popular during the period, although Second Empire styling was no longer fashionable in the nation's urban centers by 1880. Architecturally, the completed house bears a striking resemblance to the Graham House at Graham's Forge,

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Wythe County. The Graham House was remodeled in the Second Empire-style at about the same time as Loretto, and it shares with Loretto a mansard roof with hipped dormers and a bracketed cornice.¹ The monumental portico and diamond-muntin windows added in the early twentieth century were both popular treatments in Wytheville during the period. In 1927, prolific Wytheville builder Morris C. Miller added the porte cochere and pergola to the house. These additions relate to the loosely classical idiom in which Miller was working in the 1920s.² The 1911 portico may also be attributable to Miller, who is believed to have built a similar portico onto the front of Wytheville's St. John's Episcopal Church in 1909-1910.

The Loretto slave quarter/kitchen is more enigmatic than the main house. That the building served as a residence for slaves owned by the Floyd family is very likely, based on the historical evidence (presented in section 8 of this report) and based on the form of the building, which is typical of slave quarters throughout the region and throughout the South.³ That the building dates to before the Civil War is also beyond doubt, based on its architectural features. What is uncertain is the original form and provenience of the building. The architectural features outlined in the preceding discussion suggest that the building may have been assembled from two separate buildings. If so, the possibility exists that the building's fabric antedates the 1850s. The tradition that the building served as a temporary dwelling while Loretto was being built accords well with local practice: at 340 E. Washington St. in Wytheville, attorney William Terry constructed a frame dwelling in 1858 to serve as a temporary residence while he built a brick house at the site.⁴

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Loretto
Wythe Co., Va.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

Loretto is an important local example of the Second Empire-style in Wytheville, Virginia. The core of the house, a two-story single-pile brick dwelling believed to have been built for William A. Stuart in 1852, retains original Greek Revival-style interior detailing. The house was enlarged in the 1880s by its fourth owner, Robert Crockett, and given its present mansarded double-pile appearance. The house has a monumental Doric portico, a variegated slate mansard roof, and notable interior features dating from the 1850s to the 1920s. Behind the house is a double-pen log dwelling that is believed to have been occupied by the Stuart family during the construction of the main house and was later used as a slave quarter and kitchen. Loretto is associated with a number of individuals who were active in local and state politics during the nineteenth century. William A. Stuart, brother of CSA General J. E. B. Stuart, served as clerk of Wythe County Circuit Court from 1851 to 1861. Henry Carter Stuart, a governor of Virginia, is believed to have been born in the house in 1855. The second owner of the house, Benjamin Rush Floyd, represented Wythe County in the Virginia Senate during his occupancy of the house. Floyd was the son of Governor John Floyd and the brother of Virginia Governor and U. S. Secretary of War John B. Floyd. Later owners included Robert Sayers, a county sheriff and state legislator; Robert Crockett, a prominent local attorney; Archibald A. Campbell, an educator and judge; and Stuart B. Campbell, Sr., a state legislator, Commonwealth's Attorney, and a president of the Virginia Bar Association.

Justification of Criteria

Loretto is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Under Criterion A, the property has cumulative significance in the area of Politics/Government for its association with a number of individuals who were active in local and state politics from the 1850s to the 1940s. Under Criterion C, the property is eligible for the architectural character of the Loretto house, an important local example of the Second Empire-style and one of Wytheville, Virginia's finest nineteenth-century dwellings. The property is also architecturally significant for the antebellum log slave quarter/kitchen that stands behind the main house. The quarter represents one of the few buildings of its type to survive in Wytheville. The period of significance for the property extends from circa 1852 to 1944, covering the period of the construction and major alterations to the house, and the period of occupancy by the political leaders who are associated with the property. The property is of local significance.

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National Park Service

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Historical Background

Loretto stands on land that belonged to the Wohlford (also spelled Woolford) family during the late eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth century. It is possible that a Wohlford dwelling stood on the property during the period (see Architectural Analysis).⁵ The town of Evansham, the county seat of Wythe County, was established in the 1790s to the south of the site where Loretto was later to be built. In 1839, the corporate limits of Wytheville (as Evansham was renamed) were extended to within a quarter mile of the house site, and in the 1840s St. Mary's Catholic Church and cemetery were established across the Raleigh and Grayson Turnpike (the present Peppers Ferry Road) from the site. In three separate purchases dating to 1850, 1851, and 1852, William Alexander Stuart bought 107 acres of Wohlford land on the north side of Wytheville.⁶ According to Stuart family tradition, William built the two-story brick house that forms the core of Loretto in 1852.⁷ The house is said to have been named Oak Level after the many oaks that stand on the property. Stuart reportedly built a "six-room log house subsequently weatherboarded" that his family occupied until the brick house was completed. The log dwelling was then used as a "kitchen and servants quarters" and stands today behind the main house.⁸ Henry Carter Stuart, a governor of Virginia during the 1910s, was born at Oak Level on 18 January 1855.⁹

William A. Stuart, the older brother of CSA General James Ewell Brown (Jeb) Stuart, served as a deputy clerk of Giles County, Virginia, in the early 1840s. In 1844, he was made a deputy clerk of the Wythe County Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery. In 1847 he became clerk of the court.¹⁰ During the 1850s, Stuart accumulated property around Wytheville and involved himself in business. With William C. Auman, Stuart opened one of the earliest stores in Rural Retreat, Virginia, a depot community located several miles west of Wytheville. Stuart served as the first president of the Wythe County YMCA in 1857.¹¹ According to one account, Stuart also served as the cashier of Wytheville's Southwest Virginia Bank shortly before the Civil War.¹² In the spring of 1862, Stuart joined with George Palmer and Benjamin Buchanan to form a company to produce salt at Saltville, Virginia, located one county to the west of Wytheville. In 1864, Stuart Buchanan & Company was the largest producer of salt in Saltville, an important source of salt for the Confederacy during the Civil War. In 1870, Stuart and Buchanan formed another successful company, the Holston Salt and Plaster Company.¹³

Stuart is believed to have sold his Oak Level property to Benjamin R. Floyd in 1856.¹⁴ Benjamin Rush Floyd (ca. 1811-1860) was a son of Virginia governor John Floyd and a brother of another governor, John B. Floyd. Like his father and brother Floyd pursued a career in politics. In 1839, Floyd was named a trustee of the newly incorporated town of Wytheville.¹⁵ In 1846-1847, Floyd represented Wythe and Pulaski counties in the Virginia House of Delegates; in 1850-1851 he served as one of four delegates from Wythe, Smyth, and Washington counties to the Virginia Constitutional Convention, the so-called "Reform Convention"; and in 1857-1858 Floyd served once more in the Virginia General Assembly, this time in the Senate representing

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Loretto
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Wythe, Smyth and Washington counties.¹⁶ Floyd also acted as the captain of the Wythe Rifle Guards during the 1850s and he was one of the founders of the Agricultural Society of Southwestern Virginia about 1859.¹⁷ Benjamin R. and Nancy S. Floyd, who were Catholic, named their property Loretto after the Loreto shrine in Italy.¹⁸

Benjamin R. Floyd died of a heart attack in Washington on February 15, 1860, while visiting his brother, John B. Floyd, then Secretary of War in the Buchanan administration.¹⁹ The inventory made of Floyd's personal estate provides many insights into the character of the house and its surroundings during the antebellum period.²⁰ The Floyds owned a considerable amount of furniture, china, and plate, and a personal library that included a "madalion [sic] of Winfield Scott" and an "Album of Prints of Virginia" (probably Edward Beyer's *Album of Virginia*). The first-story center passage appears to have been furnished with three chairs, a clock, a lamp (probably suspended), two door rugs, and an "old oil cloth."²¹ Windows in the house were outfitted with curtains, shades, and at least two "window cornish" (cornices). The description of kitchen furniture and bulk food containers is directly followed by an enumeration of five slaves. The slaves and their listed values were "1 Negro Woman" (\$150), "1 Negro Boy Tom Cook" (\$1,500), "1 Negro Boy John" (\$1,500), "(ditto) Hastin (?)" (\$1,350), and "Big Tom" (\$500). The inventory also makes reference to an icehouse and springhouse and to Floyd's extensive legal library, apparently kept in an office separate from the main house. An anonymous description of Loretto, possibly prepared about 1940 by Stuart B. Campbell under the auspices of the Works Progress Administration, states that during the antebellum period the property's "excellent outhouses consisted of a good kitchen, five or six rooms for servants, ice-house, smokehouse, granary, stables, sheds, carriage house, spring house, etc."²²

The United States Census free and slave population schedules for Wythe County shed additional light on Nancy Floyd's holdings shortly after her husband's death. On June 2, 1860, Nancy Floyd gave her age as thirty-nine and valued her real estate at \$8,000 and her personal estate at \$3,000. Living with Floyd were her daughter Malvina, her sons John and Benjamin Rush, Jr., and three women: Malvina Matthews, Mary B. Matthews, and A. Smyth. The Matthews (or Mathews) family, who lived near the Floyds, was another early Catholic family in the Wytheville area.²³ Floyd was listed as owning four slaves: a woman aged sixty years, a man aged thirty-two, and a boy and a girl. In addition, Malvina and Mary Matthews each owned a slave. Several or all of these individuals would have lived in the quarters that stands behind the main house.

In October 1860, Nancy S. Floyd sold Loretto and 97 acres to Col. Robert Sayers, Jr., who, with his wife Catherine A., lived in the house until 1869.²⁴ Sayers was sheriff of Wythe County during the period and he served two terms in the Virginia House of Delegates as a Readjuster legislator in the late 1870s and early 1880s.²⁵ In 1869, Sayers sold Loretto to his

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brother-in-law, Wytheville attorney Robert Crockett, Jr. (b. ca. 1839).²⁶ Crockett may have practiced law in Wytheville before the Civil War, possibly with his postbellum partner, Frank S. Blair. During the war he served as a captain in the CSA and was wounded at the Second Battle of Manassas.²⁷

In 1870, Robert Crockett lived at Loretto with his wife Virginia, aged twenty-eight, and their two young children, William S. and Elmira. Also living on the property were domestic servants Feba and Anna Cloud and day laborer Joseph Bird, all of whom were black. Crockett owned \$8,000 worth of real estate and \$1,000 worth of personal estate.²⁸ Crockett was a member of the Wytheville Presbyterian Church (he described himself as a "New School Presbyterian"), and he may have been associated with the founding of the Presbyterian-affiliated finishing school, Plumer Memorial Female College; Crockett owned the building on Withers Road where the college was established in the early 1880s. Loretto, which remained Crockett's primary residence until 1888 or 1889, retained its original single-pile form with centered rear ell in 1880.²⁹ During the 1880s, Crockett enlarged Loretto by adding a second pile of four rooms across the front of the house, creating a two-story, double-pile, center-passage-plan dwelling. The Second Empire-style mansard roof was added at this time, and Norway spruce were planted in front of the house (several of these trees survive).³⁰

Robert Crockett experienced financial difficulties in the 1880s; consequently, Loretto was sold at auction on 12 May 1888 to Ellen Brown Stuart, the second wife of William A. Stuart. The property was held "for the exclusive benefit for life of Susie Stuart Campbell, daughter of said William Alexander and Ellen Spiller Stuart and wife of A. A. Campbell."³¹ Susie and Archibald A. Campbell moved into the house in September 1888.³² Archibald Campbell had organized the Wytheville Male Academy in 1881 and served as its principal until 1889; during the session of 1888-1889, ten students boarded in the attic rooms at Loretto. In 1889, Campbell resigned from the school to study law; by 1893 he was practicing law in Wytheville and was later appointed a judge.³³ The Campbells made changes to Loretto on an almost yearly basis from the 1890s to the mid-1920s. In 1902 they installed the present center-passage stair and stained-glass landing window using the "Lead Mines Money," the proceeds from Archibald's first major court case. A coal furnace was installed in 1909; the inscribed mantel in the front parlor was added in 1910; the house was painted for the first time--gray, the present color--and the front portico was added in 1911; and in 1912 the one-story brick wing was added to the rear as a bedroom for Susie's brother, Alexander B. Stuart. During the early twentieth century, the former slave quarters behind the main house were still used as a residence by the family cook.³⁴

Upon Susie Stuart Campbell's death in 1926, Loretto passed to the Campbells' two sons, Stuart Bland Campbell, Sr., and P. Fitzgerald Campbell. Stuart, Sr., bought his brother's interest in the property and lived there with his wife, Marion, Virginia native Mary Miles Stuart.³⁵

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The Campbells continued the regimen of alterations, adding a bathroom and closets to the second story, inserting Federal detailing from the Spiller House in Wytheville (the home of Stuart B. Campbell, Sr.'s, great-grandfather, William Hickman Spiller), and hiring prolific Wytheville builder Morris C. Miller to add a pergola and porte cochere to the house in 1927.³⁶ Campbell practiced law with his father in the 1910s. In 1911 he became commonwealth's attorney, and he also served as a president of the Virginia Bar Association.³⁷ He represented Wythe County in the 1942, 1944-1945, and 1946-1947 sessions of the Virginia House of Delegates.³⁸ Upon Campbell's death in 1973, Loretto was inherited by Stuart B. Campbell, Jr. He and his wife Janet Campbell lived in the house until his death in 1987. In 1992, Janet Campbell sold the Loretto property to an investment group. The investment group in turn donated the house and 3.6 acres to the Wytheville Community College Education Foundation, Inc., the present owner.³⁹

Endnotes

1. *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, 4 August 1970.
2. Pezzoni, "Wytheville Historic District."
3. Vlach, *Back of the Big House*, pp.18-32.
4. Pezzoni.
5. Stuart B. Campbell, Sr. papers.
6. Ibid.
7. Susie Stuart Campbell journal. The journal also notes that the Stuart's son Archibald was born at Oak Level on 19 July 1853. Wythe County tax records are not helpful in confirming the traditional 1852 date of construction for the original section of the house now known as Loretto. William A. Stuart and Benjamin R. Floyd (the supposed second owner of the house) both owned various parcels near Wytheville during the 1850s, but no substantial buildings apparently stood on these parcels until 1857. In that year, Floyd was listed as owning a ten-acre parcel near Wytheville with buildings valued at \$4,000. Also in 1857, Stuart was listed as owning a 44.5-acre parcel near Wytheville with buildings valued at \$2,500. The ten-acre parcel does not appear in the list of Floyd holdings for 1858, but it seems to reappear in 1859 with Stuart as the owner. It seems likely that either the \$2,500 figure or the \$4,000 figure represents Loretto, and the architectural characteristics of the original section of the house support an 1850s date of construction. The question of the original builder of the house is further complicated by a description of the property entitled "'Loretto' Home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Campbell" that

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appears to have been prepared by the Works Progress Administration about 1940. The article states: "He [William A. Stuart] sold the land to Col. Ben Rush Floyd who erected the Mansion House." An examination of Stuart and Floyd family papers located in a number of depositories may shed more light on the early history of the house.

8. Susie Stuart Campbell journal.

9. Janet Campbell interview; Younger, *The Governors of Virginia, 1860-1978*, pp. 195-222.

10. Kegley, *Glimpses of Wythe County, Virginia, Volume 2*, p. 28.

11. Kegley, *Wythe County, Virginia, A Bicentennial History*, pp. 110 and 304.

12. Marvel, *South West Virginia in the Civil War: The Battlers for Saltville*, p. 15.

13. *Ibid.*, pp. 15 and 142; Armstrong, *History of Smyth County, Virginia, Volume 2, 1832-1870*, p. 155.

14. "'Loretto' Home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Campbell;" Susie Stuart Campbell journal. The deed for the transfer from Stuart to Floyd has not been located in Wythe County records. Floyd first purchased land in the general vicinity of Loretto in 1849, and he made a number of other purchases in the area during the 1850s (Wythe County Deed Book 18, p. 220).

15. Wytheville town minutes.

16. Leonard, *The General Assembly of Virginia*, pp. 423, 442, and 468.

17. *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, 13 April 1967; Kegley, *Wythe County, Virginia, A Bicentennial History*, p. 287.

18. Janet Campbell interview. Floyd's Catholicism may have contributed to his defeat in a bid for a judgeship in 1852 (Kegley, *Wythe County, Virginia, A Bicentennial History*, p. 260).

19. *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, 25 February 1860.

20. Wythe County Will Book 9, p. 560.

21. The inventory appears to have been taken from room to room, from first story to second story, but only the furnishings in the first-story passage can be differentiated from the items enumerated before and after them.

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22. "'Loretto' Home of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Campbell."
 23. Kegley, *Wythe County, Virginia, A Bicentennial History*, p. 231.
 24. Wythe County Deed Book 22, p. 222. The deed lists Nancy Floyd, William A. and Mary Stuart, and Wythe County commissioner William H. Cook as the parties of the first part. The deed also references a court case involving the Floyds that may have forced the sale of Loretto, which, according to the deed, was "the mansion house or home tract of land" of Floyd.
 25. *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, 13 April 1967; Leonard, pp. 531 and 535.
 26. *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, 13 April 1967; Wythe County Deed Book 23, p. 549.
 27. Mattingly, "Loretto." Crockett's father, Robert Crockett, Sr., represented Wythe County in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1861 to 1865 (Leonard, pp. 481 and 486).
 28. U. S. Census.
 29. Chitwood, "Tombstone Inscriptions"; Gray map; Wythe County Deed Book 31, p. 278, and 36, p. 120.
 30. *Southwest Virginia Enterprise*, 13 April 1967.
 31. Wythe County Deed Book 36, p. 120.
 32. Susie S. Campbell journal. The following discussion of alterations at Loretto and aspects of Campbell family history is drawn mainly from Campbell's detailed journal.
 33. Chataigne, 1893, p. 1,268.
 34. Mary Austin Hughes interview.
 35. Mattingly, "Loretto;" Janet Campbell interview.
 36. Janet Campbell interview.
 37. Ibid.
 38. Leonard, pp. 676, 681, and 688.
 39. Mattingly.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Loretto nominated parcel are shown in Exhibit A.

Boundary Justification

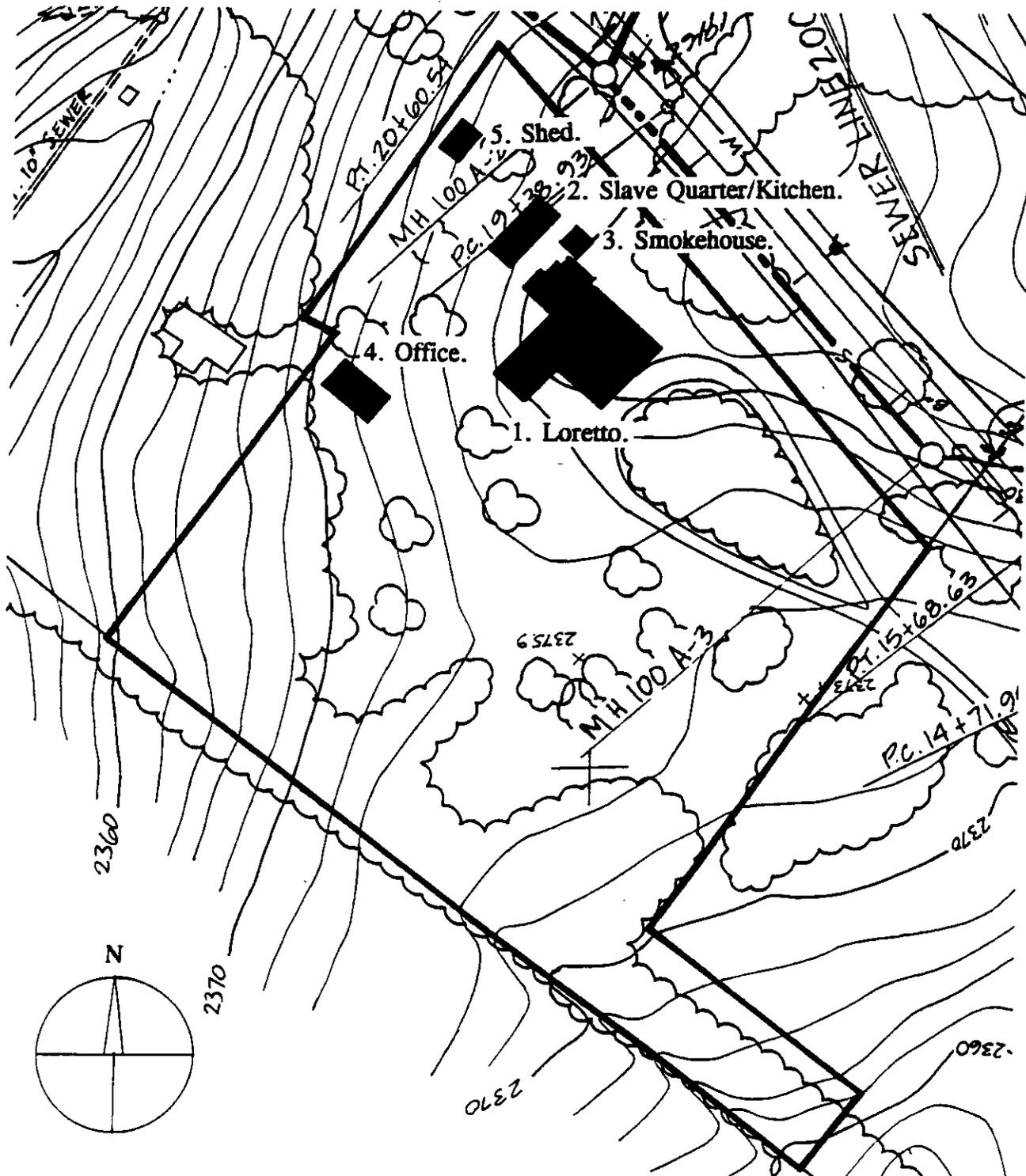
The present 3.6-acre parcel on which Loretto stands represents the historic core of the Loretto property. The adjoining acreage is in the process of being developed for commercial purposes.

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Exhibit A: Plan of Loretto property. Heavy line indicates boundary of nominated parcel.
Scale: 1" = 100'.

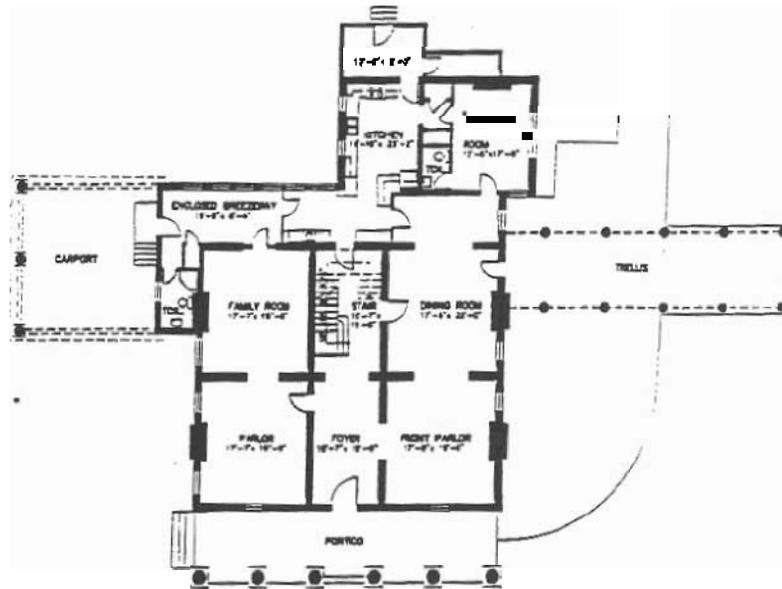


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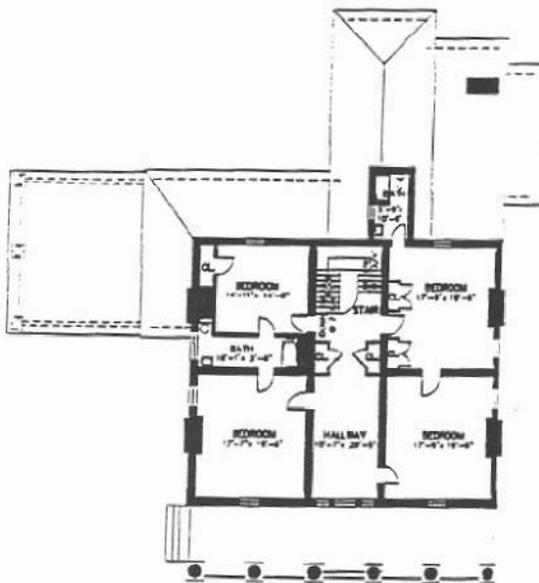
Loretto
Wythe Co., Va.

Exhibit B: First, second, and attic-story plans of Loretto. Produced by Robert L. Rogers, AIA, of Architectural Alternatives, Blacksburg, Virginia, based on measurements taken by Wytheville Community College engineering students. Measurements may need to be field verified-
Scale: 1/32" = 1'.



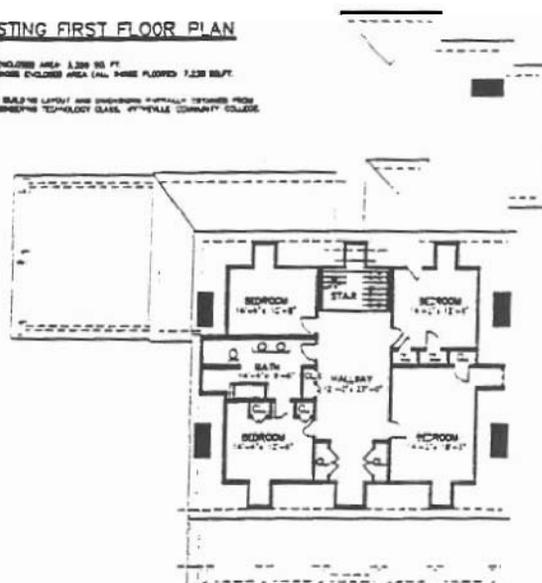
EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN

GRASS ENCLOSED AREA: 1,228 SQ. FT.
TOTAL GRASS ENCLOSED AREA (GAS HOUSE FLOOR): 1,228 SQ. FT.
NOTE:
LORETTA BUILT BY LAYTON AND DIMENSIONS PARTIALLY OBTAINED FROM
ONE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CLASS, WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.



EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN

GRASS ENCLOSED AREA: 1,224 SQ. FT.
NOTE:
LORETTA BUILT BY LAYTON AND DIMENSIONS PARTIALLY OBTAINED FROM
ONE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CLASS, WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.



EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN

GRASS ENCLOSED AREA: 1,428 SQ. FT.
NOTE:
LORETTA BUILT BY LAYTON AND DIMENSIONS PARTIALLY OBTAINED FROM
ONE ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGY CLASS, WYTHEVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE.

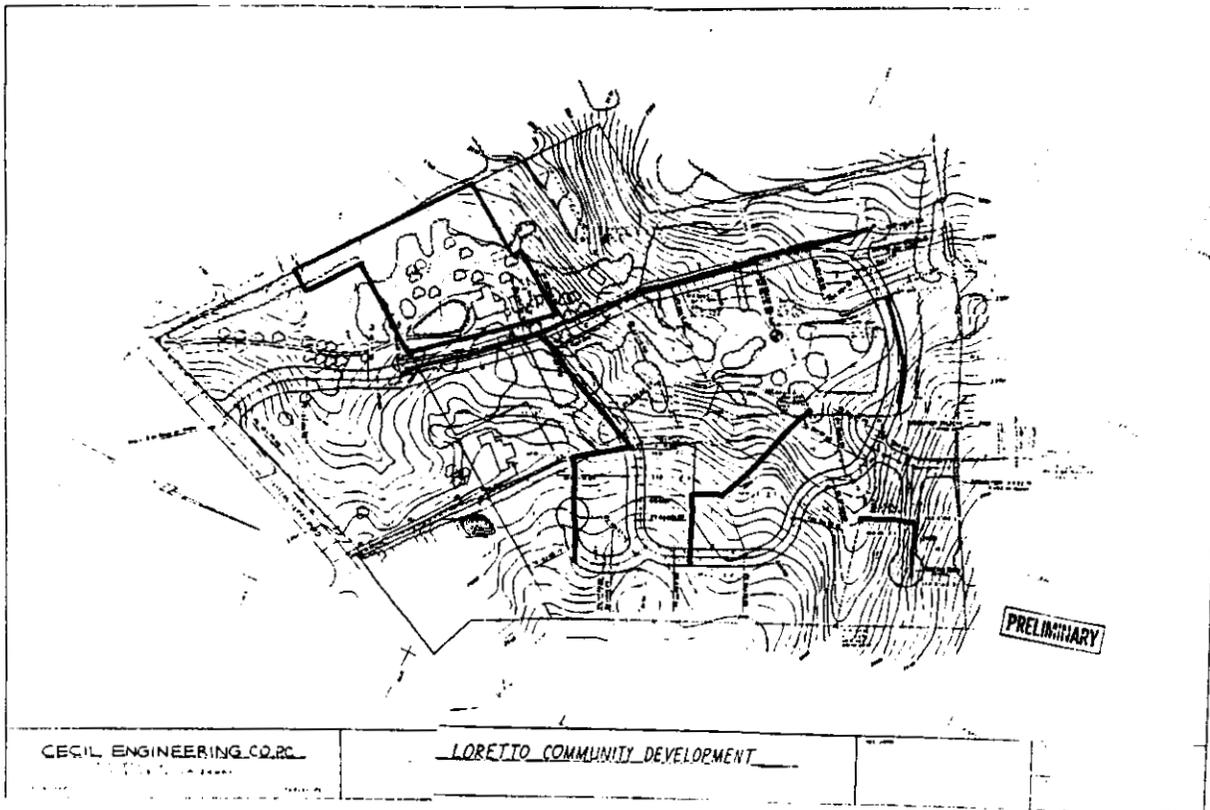
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Exhibit C: Plan for Subdivision of Loretto Property, Cecil Engineering, ca. 1992. North is up. This plan shows roads, sewer lines, etc. that are being developed on the lots adjoining the 3.6-acre Loretto nominated parcel.



LORETTO
Wytheville, Wythe Co., VA
UTM Ref. (zone 17):
E 492860 N 4089940

