

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property East Main Street Historic District historic name 154-1 other names/site number

2. Location E. Main Street from Roanoke and Pepper Streets to the old high school and street & number Park Street from E. Main to Lester Street city, town Christiansburg state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24073

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes sub-headers for Contributing and Noncontributing resources.

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: [Signature] Date: 9 Nov 1990 State or Federal agency and bureau: Director Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official: Date: State or Federal agency and bureau:

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Education: school

Religion: religious structure

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling

Domestic: secondary structure

Government: city hall

Domestic: multiple dwelling

Religion: religious structure

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Late 19th and 20th century revivals: Colonial Revival

Other: center-passage plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone: limestone

walls wood: weatherboard

Revival brick

roof metal: tin; stone: slate

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The East Main Street Historic District is located on a hill northeast of the original town of Christiansburg and extends along both sides of the original road to Salem. The neighborhood consists chiefly of late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century dwellings, but includes two early nineteenth-century log houses, an early twentieth-century church, the much altered Christiansburg Municipal Building, the early twentieth-century former Christiansburg High School buildings, and an elementary school. While the district retains much of its original character, and most of the buildings are well maintained, there are a few intruding noncontributing elements.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The buildings at the southwest end of the district reflect the urban character of downtown Christiansburg immediately to the south. These include the brick Gothic Revival St. Thomas Episcopal Church (154-1-1), and the mid-twentieth-century municipal building and garages across the street. The poured concrete garages are built into the bank of the steep hill on which the rest of the district is built. On Pepper Street, northwest of the municipal building, stands a fine row of early twentieth-century brick bungalows high above the street, climbing the side of the hill. These dwellings are characteristic of many such houses in the town, and their regularly-spaced relationship and consistent design edges the street in a striking way. Another larger and more ostentatious bungalow (154-1-12) sits just above the town garages on East Main Street. This brick house has all the characteristic features associated with the house type in the region, including a one-and-one-half-story facade with gabled central dormer, a wide porch with tapered stucco piers, square projecting bays, and decorative brackets in the eaves.

Across the street and just above St. Thomas Episcopal Church stands the historic Barnett-Montague House (154-1-2) visible above the church from far down West Main Street. The house predates most buildings in the district, and is of log and frame construction. The main log section to the northeast probably represents a two-story, three-bay, hall-parlor house of early

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Archaeology: Historic, Non-Aboriginal

Period of Significance

c. 1800 - 1930s

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The East Main Street Historic District represents a late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century residential neighborhood located on the northeast edge of the Town of Christiansburg. Although it incorporates several earlier buildings and other property types, the district primarily contains Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, foursquare, and bungalow dwellings. The large L-shaped district is located along what was once the main north-south road through the region. The district became a quiet backwater when a new road bypassed the district in the early twentieth century.

The district is significant under criteria C and D as a collection of well-preserved domestic, religious, and educational buildings and at least one site representing the development of the town of Christiansburg. From the earliest house in the town, the Barnett-Montague house (154-1-2), with its significant archaeological potential, to the Colonial Revival houses and bungalows of the first and second quarter of the twentieth century, the district contains the forms and architectural features and artifacts that middle and upper-middle-class townspeople used to express their sense of themselves. The overall streetscape, unified by the stone and concrete retaining walls of the early twentieth century, continues to represent the pleasant character and informal spatial relationships of residential Christiansburg. The test excavations at the Barnett-Montague House indicate the survival of a deep deposit of early nineteenth-century to early twentieth-century artifacts, giving the district significance under criterion D.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The earliest house in the district, the Barnett-Montague House (154-1-2) is located on the edge of a hill on the east side of the old road to Salem. Most of the land to the north and east of the house was part of a farm once associated with it. The

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Beyer, Edward, oil painting of Christiansburg, Virginia Historical Society, ca. 1856.

Crush, Charles W. The Montgomery County Story 1776-1957. Christiansburg, VA., the Montgomery County Jamestown Festival Committee, 1957.

Grays New Map of Christiansburg, ca. 1880. Jacob Chace, delineator.

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property twenty acres.

**UTM References**

A 

17	5520	4109440
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

17	552990	4109600
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

17	552830	4109780
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

17	552680	4109340
Zone	Easting	Northing

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at point A at the north corner of the intersection of Main Street and Pepper Street, proceeding northwest 240 feet along the northeast side of Pepper Street to point B, thence along the southeast side of Hill Street sixty feet to point C, thence along the southwest side of an alley 140 feet to point D, thence northeast along the rear and side property lines of the lots along the northwest side of East Main Street to point E, 210 feet northeast of Stone

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were chosen to enclose a visually continuous area that includes densely situated resources possessing architectural integrity that illustrate the residential development of Christiansburg through the period of significance. Boundaries include lot lines and streets.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988  
 organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730  
 street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073  
 city or town Christiansburg

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nineteenth-century date or earlier. An offset log kitchen ell of two stories stands to the rear (southeast) separated by an enclosed frame breezeway. A lateral frame section was added to the house before the mid-1850s, creating a center-passage dwelling facing Main Street. The lowering of Main Street to reduce the grade up the hill has caused the house to perch high behind a stone retaining wall. Much interior work survives from the first period including shelf-and-architrave mantels and molded and beaded trim. The entire house is sheathed with beaded weatherboard and features exterior brick end chimneys.

The yard near the Barnett-Montague House was tested archaeologically as part of the project leading to this nomination. A suggested kitchen site was tested as was an area to the immediate rear of the house. The 1m<sup>2</sup> test squares did not identify any foundations or other structural features. Artifacts recovered suggested an early to mid-nineteenth-century kitchen-related usage for the first area and the presence of extensive and diverse deposits of ceramic and other artifacts from the same period to the immediate rear of the house.

Another early log house is located on the immediate edge of the south side of the street several lots to the northeast. The Lane-Moore House (154-1-9) has been incorporated into a frame house of vernacular form, and only its shape and roadside location reveal its age.

Further to the northeast the street is lined with late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century houses constructed in a variety of building materials on large lots with deep front yards, including the houses at 154-1-3 and 154-1-11 -- brick houses that exhibit Colonial Revival features. The former is the earlier of the two, and has segmental-arched window heads, early blinds, polygonal bays, a high pyramidal slate-covered roof, and an extensive one-story wraparound porch with Doric columns. The frame houses at 154-1-4 and 154-1-5 demonstrate Queen Anne design features. The former has Shingle Style characteristics, including a boxy form with a shingled front-gable characteristic of that style, while the latter has the complex roofscape, porch form, asymmetrical layout, and a pointed turret associated with the Queen Anne style. Other houses, notably those at 154-1-6, 154-1-7, 154-1-8, and many along both sides of Park Street, exhibit regional vernacular forms, such as the center-passage plan, the T-plan, and the double-cell plan, in both one- and two-

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story frame examples. They often have applied decorative elements drawn from the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles.

A group of three houses with early twentieth-century dates exhibits materials and forms popular during the period. The houses are built of concrete block and utilize the two-story Foursquare plan popularized in magazines and pattern books. Other houses, including 154-1-4 and 154-35 on Park Street, are large buildings that feature the decorative forms of the Craftsman style on structures that are larger and more complex than most bungalows.

The northeast end of the district is occupied by the large brick building originally built to house the Christiansburg High School (154-1-33). The simply styled H-shaped two-story building contained eight classrooms and is covered with a hipped roof. It has been converted into apartments and, despite window alterations, remains a good example of an early twentieth-century high school. The old Christiansburg Elementary School, now used to house the offices of the school board, is a good example of a grade school of the second quarter of the twentieth century. The one-story brick building has classrooms surrounding a central auditorium, and is located on a side street south of Park Street.

Some of the most distinctive features of the district are the rock and poured concrete retaining walls along both sides of East Main Street. These are relatively consistent through the district, and appear to date from an early twentieth-century street grading. They give cohesiveness to the streetscape. Landscaping is principally provided by extensive trees and shrubs in the individual yards.

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3**EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY**

NOTE: All resources are contributing unless marked (NC) for noncontributing

JUNKIN STREET

- 200 Junkin Street ca. 1920, 1-story, 5-bay, gable-roofed, brick Christiansburg Elementary School (now Montgomery Co. Schools Admin.)
- 206 Junkin Street 1960s, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Modern Ranch-style dwelling (NC)

EAST MAIN STREET

- 100 E. Main Street early-20th-century, 2-story, 1-bay, flat-roofed, brick, Modern (facade) Municipal Bldg. and Police Department (NC due to alterations)
- row of attached garages - contributing
- 101 E. Main Street ca. 1902, 1-story, 1-bay, gable-roofed, Gothic Revival St. Thomas Episcopal Church
- 108 E. Main Street 1920s, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling
- 108-A E. Main Street 1940s, 2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame, vernacular dwelling (NC)
- 109 E. Main Street early-19th-century, 2-story, 6-bay, frame, vernacular Barnett-Montague House; garage - contributing; early to mid-19th-century archaeological site - contributing
- 110 E. Main Street 1920s, 2 1/2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, brick, Colonial Revival-style dwelling
- 200 E. Main Street ca. 1920, 1-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, frame with bricktex, vernacular dwelling

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- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| 201 E. Main Street | ca. 1900, 2 1/2-story, 5-bay, hip-roofed, brick, Queen Anne/Colonial Revival-style dwelling; garage - contributing  |
| 202 E. Main Street | early-19th-century log building incorporated into ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, L-shaped, gable-roofed, frame, vernacular Lane-Moore House; garage - contributing |
| 203 E. Main Street | late-19th-century, 2 1/2-story, gable-roofed, frame, modified Queen Anne-style dwelling   |
| 205 E. Main Street | ca. 1900, 2 1/2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, stone, modified Queen Anne-style dwelling; garage - contributing  |
| 300 E. Main Street | ca. 1900, 2-story, hip-roofed, frame, modified Queen Anne-style dwelling; garage - contributing   |
| 304 E. Main Street | ca. 1900, 2-story, 2-bay, hip-roofed, frame, modified Queen Anne-style dwelling; garage - contributing  |
| 305 E. Main Street | ca. 1920, 2 1/2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, frame, American Foursquare-style dwelling   |
| 307 E. Main Street | 1890s, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian T-plan dwelling; garage - contributing  |
| 308 E. Main Street | 1960s, 1-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Modern Ranch-style dwelling (NC)  |
| 310 E. Main Street | ca. 1900, 2-story, 2-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian vernacular dwelling  |
| 311 E. Main Street | late-19th-century, 2-story, 4-bay, hip-roofed, frame, Queen Anne-style dwelling known as The Oaks   |



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312 E. Main Street	1920s, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling; garage - contributing
314 E. Main Street	ca. 1900, 1 1/2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian vernacular dwelling
400 E. Main Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 5-bay, hip-roofed, frame, Victorian T-plan dwelling
401 E. Main Street	1920s, 2 1/2-story, 3-bay, hip-roofed, brick, Colonial Revival-style dwelling; garage - contributing
410 E. Main Street	early-20th-century, 2-story, hip-roofed, H-shaped, brick, vernacular, Christiansburg High School (now apartments)

PARK STREET

5 Park Street	1920s, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Craftsman-style dwelling; garage - contributing
8 Park Street	1920s, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Craftsman-style Davis House; garage - contributing
9 Park Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, frame, Victorian I-House dwelling; garage - contributing
101 Park Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 5-bay, hip-roofed, stone block, Victorian vernacular dwelling
103 Park Street	ca. 1900, 2-story, 5-bay, hip-roofed, stone block, Victorian vernacular dwelling

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PEPPER STREET

- |                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| 7 Pepper Street  | 1920s, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling                        |
| 9 Pepper Street  | 1920s, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling; garage - contributing |
| 11 Pepper Street | 1920s, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling                        |
| 13 Pepper Street | 1920s, 1 1/2-story, 3-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling                        |
| 15 Pepper Street | 1920s, 1 1/2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed, brick, Bungalow-style dwelling                        |

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house had been purchased in 1817 by Joseph and Rachael Barnett from Abraham Baylor, who had bought the land from the town in 1812. The owner of the house during the mid-nineteenth century, Rice D. Montague, profited from the advent of the railway in 1854, and gave the railroad the acreage for the station in Crab Creek Valley to the northwest. His family eventually subdivided his land between Christiansburg and the new railroad depot at Bangs (later Cambria). The land is identified as Montague's Addition on Gray's Map of 1877. Montague died in 1877; the house remained in his family until well into the twentieth century.

Very limited test excavations near the Barnett-Montague House identified a deep artifact-rich midden containing one of the most extensive and diverse early to mid-nineteenth-century historic context ceramic assemblages recovered in the archaeological investigations performed as part of the project resulting in this nomination. There is a high probability that intact portions of the midden remain. Such middens have very high research potential, particularly in documenting chronological changes in ceramic styles. Subsurface stratigraphy indicates separation of culture-bearing deposits by flood-deposited soil layers, constituting an extensive record of past domestic activities from the nineteenth century through the twentieth century.

The route of East Main Street as far as Park Street and continuing along Park Street to the east was used as the principal road to Salem and points north during the late eighteenth century. It probably represents the route of the Great Road, on which Christiansburg was established. East Main Street later became the principal route to the depot in Cambria and is labeled on the 1877 Gray's Map of Christiansburg "to Depot" while Park Street is labeled "to Salem." By the early twentieth century, when the land had been fully subdivided, it was bypassed by the new route of the Lee Highway which intersected East Main Street at the lower edge of the district. Christiansburg experienced considerable growth in the first years of the twentieth century, growing from a population of 659 in 1900 to 1,568 in 1910. Much of this growth may have been linked to industrial development near the railroad; much new construction of houses occurred between the town and Cambria, notably along East Main Street and Park Street. Although the neighborhood appears isolated from inappropriate development, it is today and was in the nineteenth century close

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to several industries, including the stockyards at the end of Park Street, and the horse liniment factory operated by the Montagues, the foundations of which stand just outside the district behind the Barnett-Montague House (154-1-2).

Today the district, although moderately threatened by apartment and commercial development, is intact and well preserved. It continues to serve as a home to families and the institutions which serve them. The few intrusions are modern noncontributing dwellings and outbuildings. The town municipal building is a mid-twentieth-century noncontributing structure, featuring a pierced concrete facade added in recent decades, and recently augmented by a stucco fascia.

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Street, thence with the northeast lot line of the old high school (154-1-33) 100 feet southeast to point F on the northwest side of East Main Street, thence 175 feet southwest with the northwest side of East Main Street to point G, thence southeast 250 feet with the side and rear lot lines of the house at 401 East Main Street and the house located at 8 Park Street to point H, thence east fifty feet with the south side of Park Street to point I, thence 140 feet south and 150 feet west with the side and rear property lines of the two lots east of Junkin Street to point J, thence 100 feet south with the west side of Junkin Street to point K, thence southwest with the south property line of the old elementary school and the rear property lines of the lots on the southeast side of East Main Street to point L on the northeast side of Roanoke Street, thence west 175 feet along the northeast side of Roanoke Street to point M on the southwest side of East Main Street, thence southwest thirty feet to the point of origin.

# EAST MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

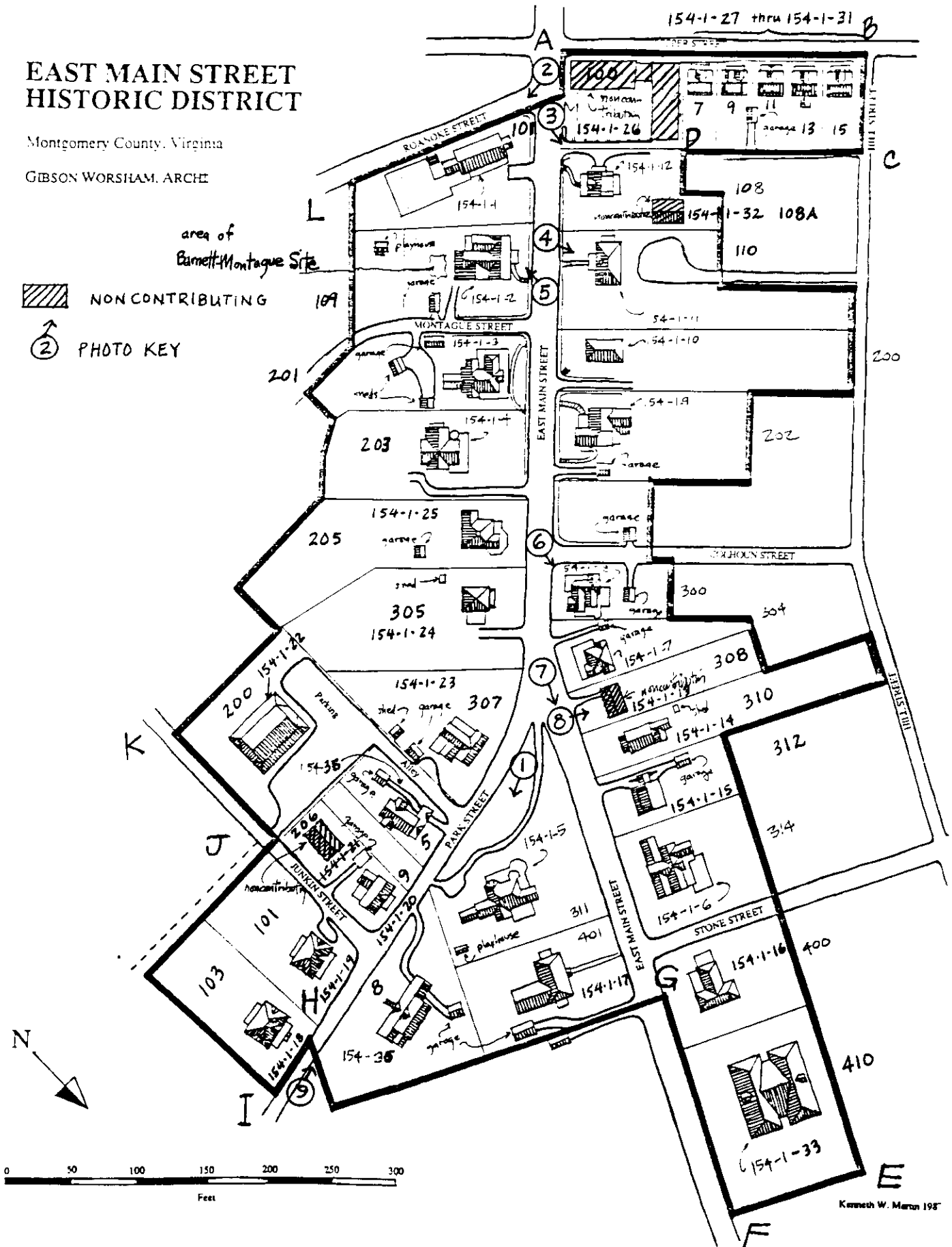
Montgomery County, Virginia

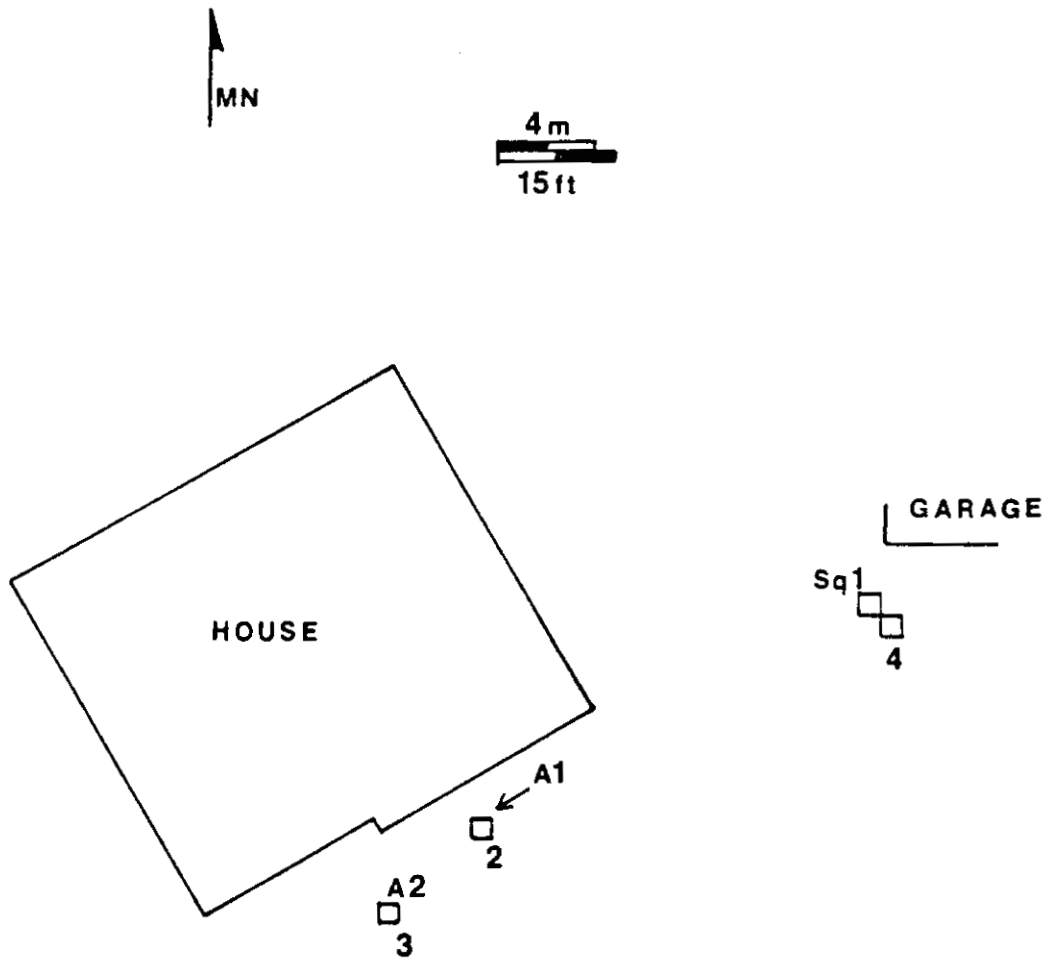
GIBSON WORSHAM, ARCHT

area of  
Barnett-Montague Site

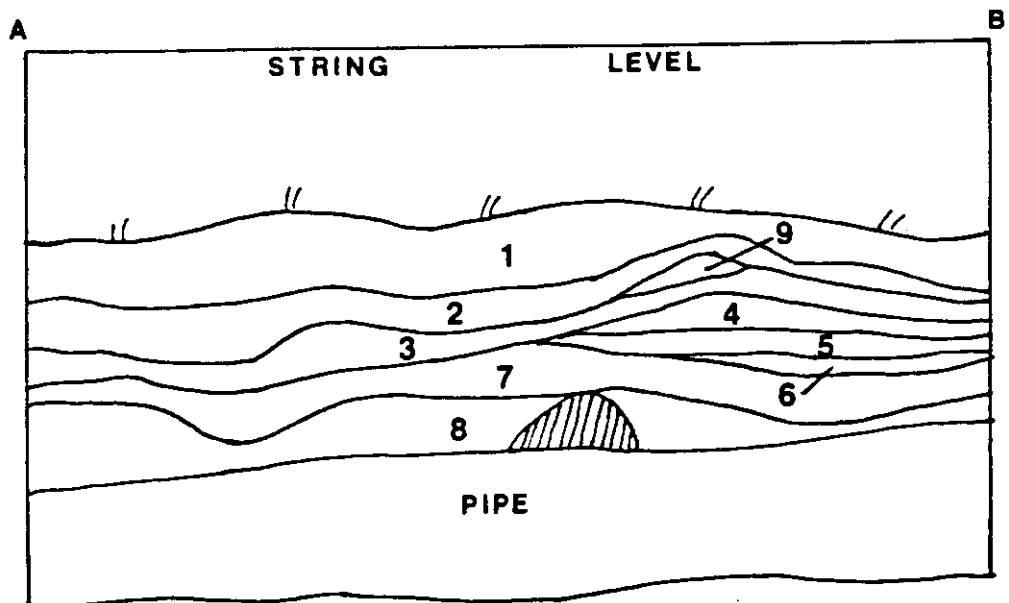
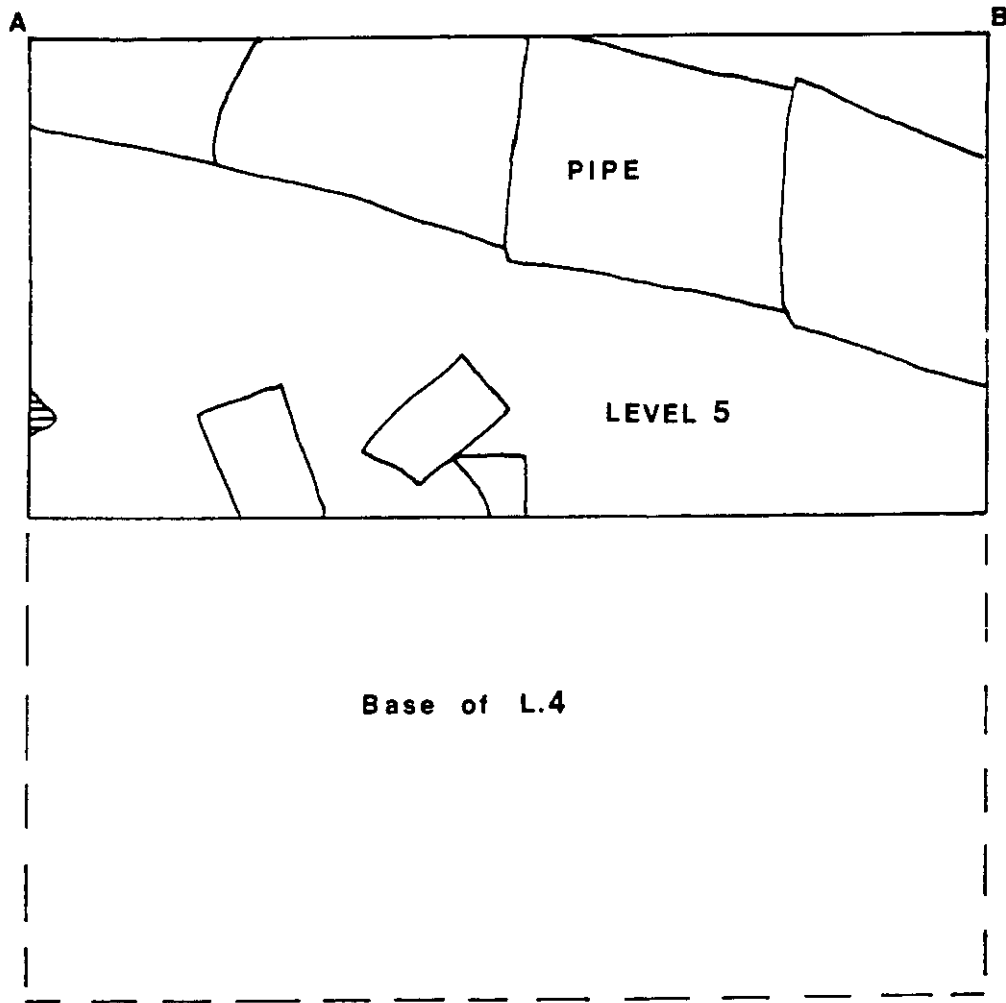
 NON CONTRIBUTING

 PHOTO KEY





Barnett-Montague House test square locations.



1. Topsoil
2. Brown Layer
3. Gray Layer
4. Light Brown
5. Dark Brown
6. Light Brown
7. Nail Layer
- 8-9. Light Brown

Square 3, Level 5 (40 cm below surface).