

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NANP - 7/5/01
VLR - 3/14/01

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Beatie, A.C., House

other names/site number 189-0014

2. Location

street & number 249 W. Lee Highway not for publication N/A
city or town Chilhowie vicinity _____
state Virginia code VA county Smyth code 173 Zip _____

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Cynthia A. ... May 2, 2001
Signature of certifying official 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 commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is: _____ other (explain): _____

- entered in the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
- See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register

Signature of 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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> buildings
<u> 1 </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> 7 </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u> 9 </u>	<u> </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling/residence</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/dairy</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/smokehouse</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/chicken coop</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/garage</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/garage</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/machinery shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>single dwelling/residence</u>

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u> DOMESTIC </u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling/residence</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> DOMESTIC </u>	<u>secondary structure/storage shed</u>
<u> OTHER </u>	<u>site of domestic dwelling</u>

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

POLITICS
 AGRICULTURE
 ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance 1891-1950

Significant Dates 1891

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder Pendleton, J. William

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 18 approximately

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

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1. 17 438660 4072480 2. 17 438860 4072660

3. 17 439020 4072480 4. 17 438790 4072240

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: John R. Kern, Director

Organization: Roanoke Regional Preservation Office date January 2001

street & number: 1030 Penmar Ave., SE telephone (540)857-7585

city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24013

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Kathryn C. Beattie

street & number 249 West Lee Highway telephone (540)646-3142

city or town Chilhowie state VA zip code 24319

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

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

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A.C. Beatie House
Smyth County

Section 7 Page 1

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The A.C. Beatie House is located on approximately 18 acres of open and wooded land located west of Route 107 and north of U.S. Route 11 in the town of Chilhowie, Smyth County, Virginia. The house is sited approximately 2,000 feet above sea level on the east flank of a knoll that is drained by the Middle Fork of the Holston River to the south and by Sulphur Spring Creek to the west. The nominated property is approximately 1,000 feet west of the Chilhowie Historic District (189-0001). The frame two-story Beatie House, built by Chilhowie carpenter William Pendleton in 1891, features Queen Anne design and detailing, a cornice with molded gable returns and scroll-sawn profile brackets, a polygonal front bay, and a one-story, three-bay porch with intricately scroll-sawn columns, cornice brackets, and balustrade. Rooms placed around a central stair hall retain their original mantels and extensive woodwork that displays intricately patterned use of various native woods. Baseboards, doors, and some mantels retain original graining and marbelizing. Contributing outbuildings located immediately north of the house and east of the driveway include a poured concrete dairy, a frame smokehouse constructed above an underground root cellar, a frame shed used to store coal and wood, a shed-roofed frame chicken coop, a frame garden house/garage, and a frame garage. A larger frame machinery shed is sited at the north edge of the property just south of Beattie Lane and west of the driveway. Located at the summit of the knoll approximately 600 feet southwest of the Beatie House, Town House ruins represent a unique contributing resource composed of three stone chimneys and brick wall remnants of a summer kitchen. The ruins of Town House survive as elements of a regionally prominent dwelling and meeting place constructed between 1770 and the early 1800s and owned by the Beatie family by the 1830s. Though the integrity of setting of the nominated property has been compromised by recent construction of a Food City supermarket immediately to the east, the A.C. Beatie House and Town House ruins occupy a prominent and otherwise unaltered knoll west of Chilhowie's historic commercial district.¹

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A.C. Beatie House
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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

Inventory

1. A.C. Beatie House (1891). Contributing building.
2. Dairy (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
3. Smokehouse/root cellar (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
4. Shed for wood and coal storage (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
5. Chicken coop (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
6. Garden house/garage (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
7. Garage (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
8. Machinery shed (ca. 1900). Contributing structure.
9. Town House (ca. 1770-1830s). Contributing site.

Main House

The A.C. Beatie House was built in 1891 by Chilhowie carpenter J. William Pendleton, who received \$1,500 for his work in return for completion of a contract that specified that the house was to resemble Pendleton's own house in Chilhowie, except for a two-foot extension of the wing opposite the front façade bay window and deeper window sills. The specifications prepared by A.C. Beatie's father C.W. Beatie called for two coats of the best paint inside and outside, a first-class finish in paint, and thoroughly seasoned lumber. J.W. Pendleton's own house in Chilhowie on Railroad Street was demolished in the 1970s. Pendleton family members report that he also owned a lumber yard in Chilhowie that milled wood cut in neighboring Tazewell County, Virginia. The A.C. Beatie House stands as a virtually unaltered example of Pendleton's craftsmanship as a local carpenter and builder skilled in the execution of Queen Anne style detailing and the ornamented use of local woods.

Main House: Exterior

This two-story frame dwelling is designed with Queen Anne style detailing and built in a T-plan with an intersecting gable roof. The cornice is molded with gable returns and single scroll-sawn profile brackets. The one-story, three-bay porch on the principal south façade is ornamented with intricately

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

scroll-sawn columns, cornice brackets, and balustrade. The single-leaf front façade door has a single light over two vertical panels and is surrounded by a four-light rectangular transom and sidelights with four lights over one panel. The sidelights feature stenciling reportedly executed by visitors as an expression of appreciation for the hospitality they received from the Beaties. The front screen door retains original spindlework and scroll-sawn detailing. All windows are double-hung sash with six-over-six lights and louvered wood shutters, except for the front façade bay, which has one-over-one lights and no shutters. The three chimneys are of brick laid in stretcher bond. The central chimney at the gable roof intersection retains its corbeled cap. The exterior end and rear chimneys have a single set of gabled shoulders. The building is clad in weatherboard siding and cornerboards. A stone pier foundation has been infilled with brick and concrete block supports. A shed roof two-story frame kitchen wing extends to the rear. Original photographs depict a scroll-sawn balustrade on top of the front porch, which duplicated the ground-story porch balustrade and no longer survives. Original photographs also show that the molded cornice, gable returns, cornerboards, and front façade window surrounds were painted a darker color than the porch balustrade and the weatherboard siding. The east wing gable end chimney has lost its corbeled cap.

Main House: Interior

The interior plan consists of three original rooms on the first and second stories that are arranged around the central stair hall. The walls in these rooms are plaster on wood lathe and the floors are of narrow oak boarding. Interior finishes display extensive woodwork that combines the use of various native woods in intricate patterns. Wainscoting for the ground floor and the stairwell features vertical beaded boards of walnut and chestnut. Baseboards have two horizontal boards with beading and a molded top. Doors feature four fielded panels with a molded trim and beading. Original graining survives on baseboards, doors, and window and door trim. Mantels in the living room and one upstairs bedroom have not been painted and retain original marbelizing. All of the mantels except in the parlor have a molded cornice shelf supported by single pilasters and have a single curved scallop overlay that rises from the side pilasters to span the entablature. The parlor mantel has a bracketed cornice shelf that surmounts wainscoting where the firebox should be, suggesting the use of a stove in that room. The living room features a built-in china cabinet also paneled with various woods. The bay window in the parlor is finished with wainscoting below the

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

full-length windows, grained wood side panels, and a beaded board ceiling. The entrance hall displays the same wainscoting and baseboard. The stairwell also features beaded vertical board wainscoting of alternating woods. The stairs have a turned balustrade, grained railing, turned newel post, and stringers with scroll-sawn detailing. The contemporary first-floor kitchen wing is finished with beaded board walls and ceilings.

Outbuildings and Landscape Features

Six agricultural outbuildings stand immediately north of the A.C. Beatie House: the poured concrete dairy and five frame outbuildings, including a smokehouse above a root cellar, a shed for storage of coal and wood, a shed-roofed chicken coop, a garden house and garage, and another garage. The larger frame machinery shed stands 250 feet to the north. The stone and brick features of the Town House site are located on the knoll top 600 feet to the southwest of the Beatie House.

The poured concrete dairy has a flat roof and a vertical board door.

The frame smokehouse has a gabled roof covered with standing seam metal and horizontal clapboard siding. A gabled extension to the east side façade leads to an underground root cellar.

A frame shed with a gabled and standing seam metal roof and horizontal clapboard siding was divided into two areas for storage of coal and wood.

A frame shed-roofed chicken coop with three twelve-light fixed windows is clad with vertical weatherboard and roofed with standing seam metal.

A frame garden house/garage has weatherboard siding and a gabled roof covered with standing seam metal.

The other garage has two open bays, vertical board siding, and a gable roof covered with standing seam metal.

The larger machinery shed located to the north near Beattie Lane is a one-bay, frame, gabled structure roofed with sheet metal. The agricultural outbuilding is clad in vertical weatherboard and has a shed extension on its west gable end.

The Town House site consists of three standing, random-coursed stone chimneys that provided heat for the two-story log and frame Town House, and brick walls of a detached kitchen. Town House was recorded in 1982 by E. Randolph Turner as archaeological site 44SM0060. In

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NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION (continued)

addition to making general comments on the three chimneys and adjacent brick walls of the detached kitchen, Turner recorded the site as approximately 100 meters in diameter. He noted a cellar filled with collapsed debris between the standing chimneys, and recorded informant-provided locations of former brick-lined cisterns, slave quarters, a smokehouse, and an icehouse. Turner made a quick surface collection, observed the high likelihood of subsurface integrity, and concluded, "Site clearly has National Register potential and warrants further investigation."²

Landscape features are minimal. Historic photographs depict open fields surrounding the A.C. Beatie House and Town House, much like today.

Integrity Statement

The architectural integrity of the A.C. Beatie House remains remarkably intact. The T-plan, the molded cornice with gable returns and single brackets, the scroll-sawn porch ornamentation, and the varnished wood interior finishes with ornamented use of native woods all remain unaltered. Many of the interior baseboards, doors, mantels, and stair railings retain their original graining. Original agricultural outbuildings associated with the house remain in place and intact. The ruins of Town House continue to occupy their historic knoll top site and hold unexamined promise of subsurface integrity. The A.C. Beatie principal south façade exterior was altered around 1910 by removal of the balustrade that originally capped the three-bay porch. The house plan was modified in the 1970s by the addition of a second story above the rear kitchen wing. The Beatie family no longer owns the 400 acres of farmland that surrounded the house. Construction of the Food City supermarket on adjoining land to the east has compromised the nominated property's integrity of setting.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary Statement of Significance

The A.C. Beatie House was constructed in 1891 as the home of Alonzo Claibourne Beatie, a locally prominent political leader and farmer. Built by local carpenter and builder William Pendleton, the Beatie House features Queen Anne detailing and retains unaltered evidence of Pendleton's craftsmanship with scroll-sawn brackets, ornamental interior woodwork, and graining. The

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

nominated property also contains agricultural contemporary outbuildings as well as a site that comprises the ruins of Town House, a regionally important dwelling constructed in phases after 1770 and owned by the Beatie family since 1837.

Justification of Criteria

The A.C. Beatie House is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A in the category of Politics because of its association with A.C. Beatie, who twice represented Smyth County as a delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, and who served the Town of Chilhowie as a member of the town council from 1913 to 1923 and as mayor from 1923 until his death in 1950. The property is also locally eligible under Criterion A in the category of Agriculture because of its association with A.C. Beatie's practice of scientific agriculture and because of his four decades of service as a crop reporter for the state of Virginia and for the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The A.C. Beatie House is also eligible for National Register designation at the local level of significance under Criterion C as a remarkably well preserved example of a two-story frame T-plan house constructed by local carpenter and builder William Pendleton, who displayed an accomplished range of craftsmanship in Queen Anne style detail, ornamental interior wood finishes, and graining. The period of significance is from the construction of the A.C. Beatie House in 1891 to A.C. Beatie's death in 1950.

Acknowledgments

A draft of this nomination was prepared by Kathryn Beattie, the wife of A.C. Beatie's grandson, C.W. Beattie, Jr. The architectural description of the house and contemporary outbuildings was drawn from materials prepared by Alison Blanton, who headed the Hill Studio consultant team in 1996 and 1997 that completed the architectural survey of Smyth County, a study that was co-funded by Smyth County and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Anne Stuart Beckett provided the black-and-white photographs of the property while she worked as architectural historian for the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, VDHR. John Kern of RRPO/VDHR completed the revised nomination with extensive assistance from Kathryn Beattie, who also generously made the A.C. Beatie Papers available to Kern.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Historical Background

Of Scotch-Irish ancestry, the Beatie family has owned the land occupied by the A.C. Beatie House since the 1830s. The Beatie property, on Sulphur Spring Creek at its confluence with the Middle Fork of the Holston River, was originally known as Town House, a name first recorded in Virginia county court records in the 1770s when the land was owned by James Thompson.

Town House, 1770-1920s

James Thompson received the Town House property as part of the estate of his grandfather James Patton, who surveyed the upper Holston drainage in the late 1740s and secured a land grant for the tract in 1753.³ County court road orders first refer to Town House in 1773, and a two-story log dwelling had probably been constructed there by that date. James Thompson deeded the Town House property to his son William Thompson in 1809. An 1815 tax assessment recorded William Thompson as the owner of an 1800-acre farm "on both sides of the big road and the Middle Fork of Holstun [Holston] River . . . having thereon one log dwelling house, 60 feet by 20 feet . . . two stories."⁴ The building thus described is probably the log north portion of Town House, and the L-plan wing to the south must have been added after that date. In 1819 William Thompson sold the Town House property to Francis Smith. Smith sold the property to the Sanders family in 1826, who in turn sold 263 acres, including Town House, to Robert Beatie in 1837.⁵

Robert Beatie, born in Virginia in 1787 as a second-generation Scotch-Irish descendant of John and Ellen Beatie, moved from Washington County to Chilhowie Sulphur Springs in newly formed Smyth County in 1833. Robert Beatie farmed, ran a tavern at Town House, and served many years as Smyth County clerk. Robert's son Claibourne W. Beatie married Flora Bailey in 1863 and operated a large farm and a mill at Town House. The Beatie family vacated Town House in the 1920s, and the structure was in ruins by midcentury.⁶

A.C. Beatie House, 1890-1950

Alonzo C. Beatie, the oldest child of Claibourne and Flora Beatie, was born in 1864, went to local schools in Chilhowie, and attended Emory and Henry College until 1882. After A.C. Beatie married

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

Elnora Walton of Prince Edward County, Virginia, on the last day of December 1890, his parents made the newlyweds a gift of a frame two-story dwelling, built for their specifications, located about 600 feet east of Town House, and known thereafter as the A.C. Beatie House.

In August 1891 A.C. Beatie's father C.W. Beatie contracted with J. William Pendleton of Chilhowie to build a two-story frame house with a bay window, two coats of paint inside and out, and "a first-class finish." The house was to resemble William Pendleton's own house in Chilhowie, "except two feet is to be added in length to the room opposite the bay window and all windows to be 8 in more in depth." Chilhowie carpenter and builder William Pendleton was to receive \$1,500 for construction, and the house was to be completed by the end of 1891. A.C. Beatie witnessed the contract between his father and Pendleton, presumably moved into the new house within a year of his marriage to Elnora, and received title to the property in 1893.⁷

Alonzo and Elnora lived the remainder of their lives at the A.C. Beatie House. A photograph from the first decade of the twentieth century shows husband and wife on the bracketed front porch of the house with their first three children Anna Belle, Claibourne Walton, and Richard Jackson. Not shown in the photograph, their youngest children, twin sons William and Robert, were born in 1905.⁸

A.C. Beatie played an active role in local and state politics for more than half a century from the 1890s until his death in 1950. After serving as a Chilhowie magistrate from 1897 to 1901, Beatie mounted a successful campaign as a Smyth County delegate to the Virginia General Assembly in 1903. At the end of his career, Beatie, a lifelong Republican, looked back on his first election to the General Assembly and credited his victory to advice he received from a Democrat who had a grudge against his incumbent opponent W. W. George. "He told me I had to do two things to win. One was always to brag on my opponent. Well I bragged on Dick George everywhere I went—not too much don't you understand—but whenever I said anything about him, it was something good. . . . But I probably still would have lost if I hadn't followed the last half of that other Democrat's advice. . . . He simply told me, 'Don't talk to anybody more than a minute and a half. Otherwise they'll find out how little you do know.' I listened to him. I just shook hands with the folks and got on my horse and rode off. That's how I won." Beatie added that he was spurred on in his pursuit of a seat in the General Assembly by his opponent's negative campaign. "He got to throwing off on me. Said I was a greenhorn and didn't know anything. He was absolutely right, don't you understand. But

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

it made me mad, and I went to campaigning for sure. I killed two horses in two months—rode ‘em to death—visiting every voter in Smyth County, to beat him.” Beatie explained that he chose not to run for reelection in 1905 “because I knew I was green.” He agreed to run again for the General Assembly in 1922 “when they couldn’t get anyone else.” Thus Beatie represented Smyth County once more in 1922 and for the special session of 1923, when he “worked with the Byrd element to keep ‘em from putting a bond issue on us for roads.” Though a Republican, Beatie said he supported Harry Byrd’s leadership, and added, “I’ll keep on until the Republicans get a better man.”⁹

By 1922 A.C. Beatie had served on the Chilhowie town council for a decade. He explained that the incorporation of Chilhowie as a town in 1913 took in about 40 acres of his land and that he was on the town council from then on. He was appointed mayor of Chilhowie in 1923 to fill an unexpired term, won election in 1924, and served as mayor from then until his death in 1950. While on council Beatie worked with other town fathers to install a safe water system supplied by a mountain spring 7 miles to the south. While mayor he presided over a peaceful town. He made personal calls on teenagers to straighten them out when they got in trouble and estimated with satisfaction at the end of his career, “We’ve got less crime than any other town of 1,000 in the country.” As Chilhowie’s mayor in the 1930s he wrote letters to local newspapers to caution about the dangers of drinking alcohol and driving. During World War II he contributed a note to the *Virginia Municipal Review* to assure all readers “in this sad hour of our National strife and self-sacrifice . . . the spirit of freedom will never die.”¹⁰

In addition to his political leadership in Chilhowie, A.C. Beatie championed the practice of scientific agriculture and served as a director of the Bank of Chilhowie from the time of its organization in 1909. He operated a prosperous farm of over 400 acres that specialized in the production of grains whose quality was certified by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute College of Agriculture. In 1920 he challenged Smyth County farmers to donate \$10 each to create a Corn Club so the county agricultural extension agent could make a cash award to the participant who produced the best acre of white corn with the best ten show ears. The Bureau of Statistics of the United States Department of Agriculture designated A.C. Beatie as a statistical correspondent for Smyth County in 1911. Beatie fulfilled his responsibilities as a crop reporter faithfully thereafter, duties for which he received personal letters of thanks in 1946 from the Virginia Cooperative Crop Reporting Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. When he died in the fall of 1950, the Old Dominion Farm Reporter recognized his decades of service as “Virginia’s oldest crop reporter in point of continuous

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

service. . . . Mr. Beatie was one of our most consistent reporters and we had a long time ago come to feel very close to him and to rely a great deal on his sound judgement of the agricultural situation in his locality.”¹¹

When he died in 1950, A.C. Beatie was remembered as a faithful crop reporter, as twice a Smyth County delegate to the Virginia General Assembly, and as mayor of Chilhowie for 28 years. In the last years of his life he expressed quiet and good-natured awareness of these accomplishments, announcing that his son Claibourne Walton would succeed him as crop reporter, and that he had served as town mayor well and long enough. In his final year, A.C. Beatie also evidenced active interest in the history of Town House and Chilhowie. The *Smyth County News* in December 1949 reported that on the morning of his 85th birthday he “gave a talk to the highschool students, giving a most interesting account of the original Town House and the early days of Chilhowie.” In April 1950 he used Town of Chilhowie letterhead to record a Works Progress Administration account of Town House and Chilhowie. Finally, his personal collection of papers pertaining to the Beatie family and their life at Town House and Chilhowie preserve a permanent record of his public service and his abiding interest in family and local history.¹²

ENDNOTES

1. This narrative description draws almost exclusively upon the architectural site file records completed by Alison Blanton, who headed the Historic Architectural Survey of Smyth County, Virginia, conducted by Hill Studio, P.C., in 1996-1997 with cost share funding provided by Smyth County and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The narrative description also utilized historic photographs and notes from the A.C. Beatie Papers.
2. E. Randolph Turner, Virginia Research Center for Archaeology Site Survey Form, 44SM0060, 6/10/82; Virginia Department of Historic Resources.
3. Washington County, Virginia, Deed Book 4, 190-193; A.C. Beatie Papers.
4. Mary B. Kegley, *Supplement to Southwest Virginia Tax Assessments, 1815: Grayson, Lee, Scott, Russell, Washington, and Wythe Counties*. Mary B. Kegley, Wytheville, Virginia, 1992, 27.

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ENDNOTES (continued)

5. Mack Sturgill, Town House notes; Smyth County, Virginia, Deed Book 2, 95; in the A.C. Beatie Papers, 33. Though local and regional accounts made during the mid-twentieth century attribute a 1750s date to construction of Town House, these claims are not substantiated by Sturgill's extensive research.
6. Alonzo C. Beatie Biography, *History of Virginia*, vol. 6, *Virginia Biography*, American Historical Society, Chicago and New York, 1924, 177-178. The 1815 tax assessment, historic photographs, and the architectural site file for Town House (189-0016) suggest that the large L-plan dwelling with clapboard siding was built in three stages. A three-bay log unit measuring approximately 40 feet by 20 feet was built first between the two north chimneys so that the principal façade faced north and paralleled the Old Stage Road. Photographs from the late 1950s show these V-notched log walls as the only standing portion of the house. A two-bay log cell measuring approximately 20 feet square was added flush with the west gable end of the original unit. Together these two portions comprise the 60-foot-by-20-foot log rectangle. A third chimney was added at the south gable end of the new wing to complete the L plan of Town House depicted in all historic photographs.
7. A.C. Beatie Papers. *Chataignes Virginia Gazetteer*, 1893-1894.
8. A.C. Beatie Papers. Manuscript Census, Smyth County, Virginia, 1900 and 1920.
9. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 20, 1950, 4-B. On August 22, 1950, then Senator Harry F. Byrd wrote Beatie to tell him how much he appreciated Beatie's favorable reference to Byrd's political leadership in the *Times-Dispatch* article. "I well recall the session in Richmond in 1922 and the special session in 1923, and the part you played in saving the State from a bond issue. You will remember we were losing votes hour by hour on the night just before we adjourned in 1922. We lost the Senate by one vote and came near losing the House. We then had a special session and submitted the matter to the people and won out. I assure you it was a great pleasure for me to be associated with you in this—one of the most important epochs in Virginia's economic history." A.C. Beatie Papers.

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ENDNOTES (continued)

10. *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, August 20, 1950; *Virginia Municipal Review*, December 1942; *News Leader*, letter, no date; in A.C. Beatie Papers.
11. A.C. Beatie Biography, 1924; *Old Dominion Farm Reporter*, Virginia Cooperative Crop Reporting Service, October 25, 1950; in A.C. Beatie Papers.
12. The A.C. Beatie Papers have been conserved and are retained by his grandson's wife, Kathryn Beattie. A.C. Beatie's son, Claibourne Walton Beatie, inherited Town House in the 1930s. Claibourne Walton Beatie, Jr., inherited Town House in 1971 when his father died, and C.W. Beattie, Jr., and wife Kathryn (married in 1950) moved into the A.C. Beatie House in 1974. Kathryn Beattie continued to live in the A.C. Beatie House after her husband died in 1978; she purchased the A.C. Beatie House from the family estate in 1993. Kathryn Beattie, personal communication, October 2000.

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1920 Fourteenth Census, manuscript schedule, Smyth County, Virginia. Microfilm.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for the A.C. Beattie House is shown on the accompanying map, "Exhibit B: A.C. Beattie House, Legal Parcel Map." Starting at northwest corner point A, the boundary runs east approximately 1,100 feet to point B; then south approximately 700 feet to point C; then west approximately 1,100 feet to point D; and then north approximately 800 feet to close at point A.

Boundary Justification

The A.C. Beattie House nomination includes all land and contributing resources presently owned by Kathryn Beattie. The nominated property is bounded by Beattie Lane to the north, Kathryn Beattie's property line to the east, U.S. Route 11 to the south, and Kathryn Beattie's property line to the west.

Exhibit A: A.C. Beattie House
Smyth County, Virginia
Site Plan Inventory

1" = 200'

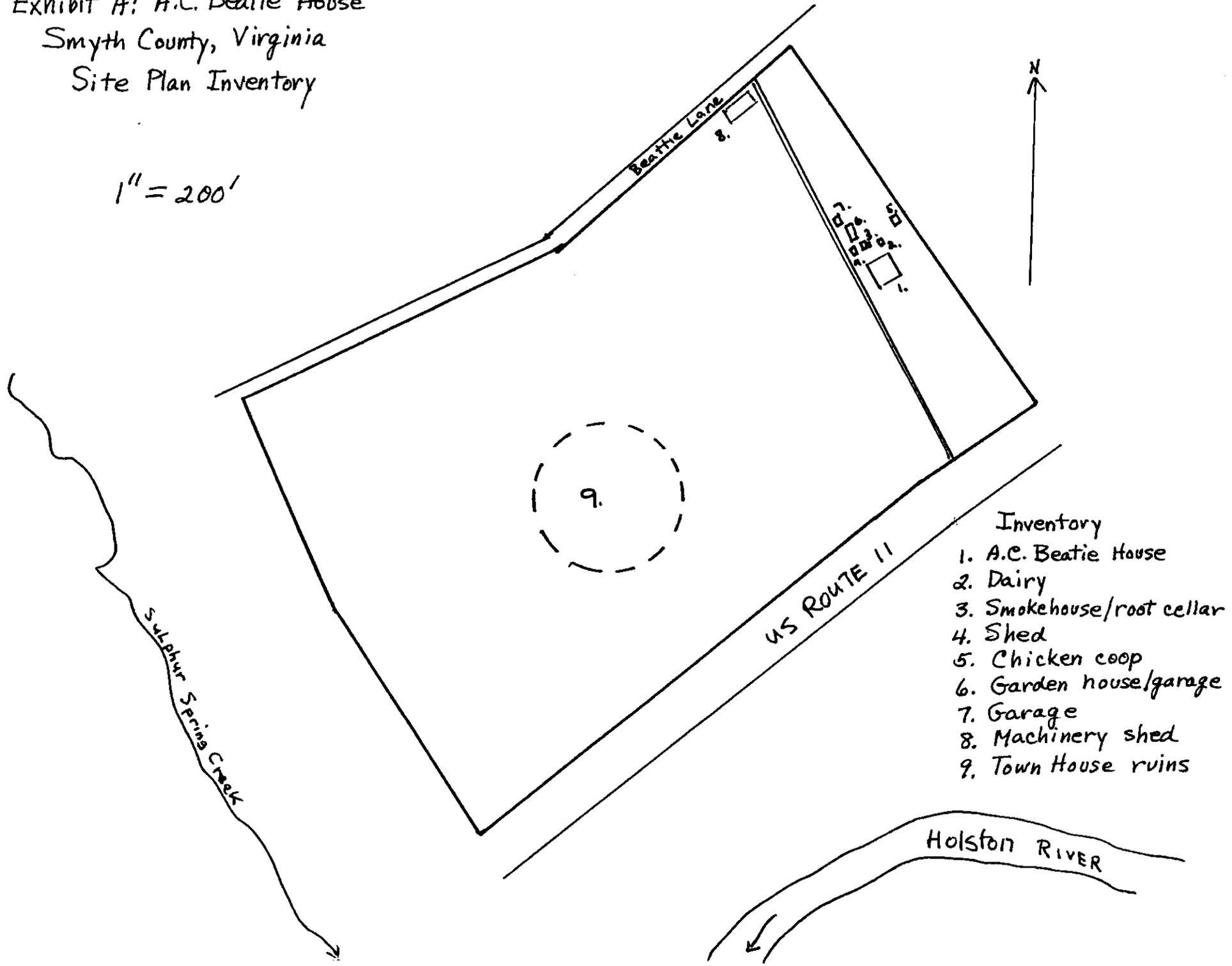


Exhibit B: A.C. Beatie House
Smyth County, Virginia
Legal Parcel Map

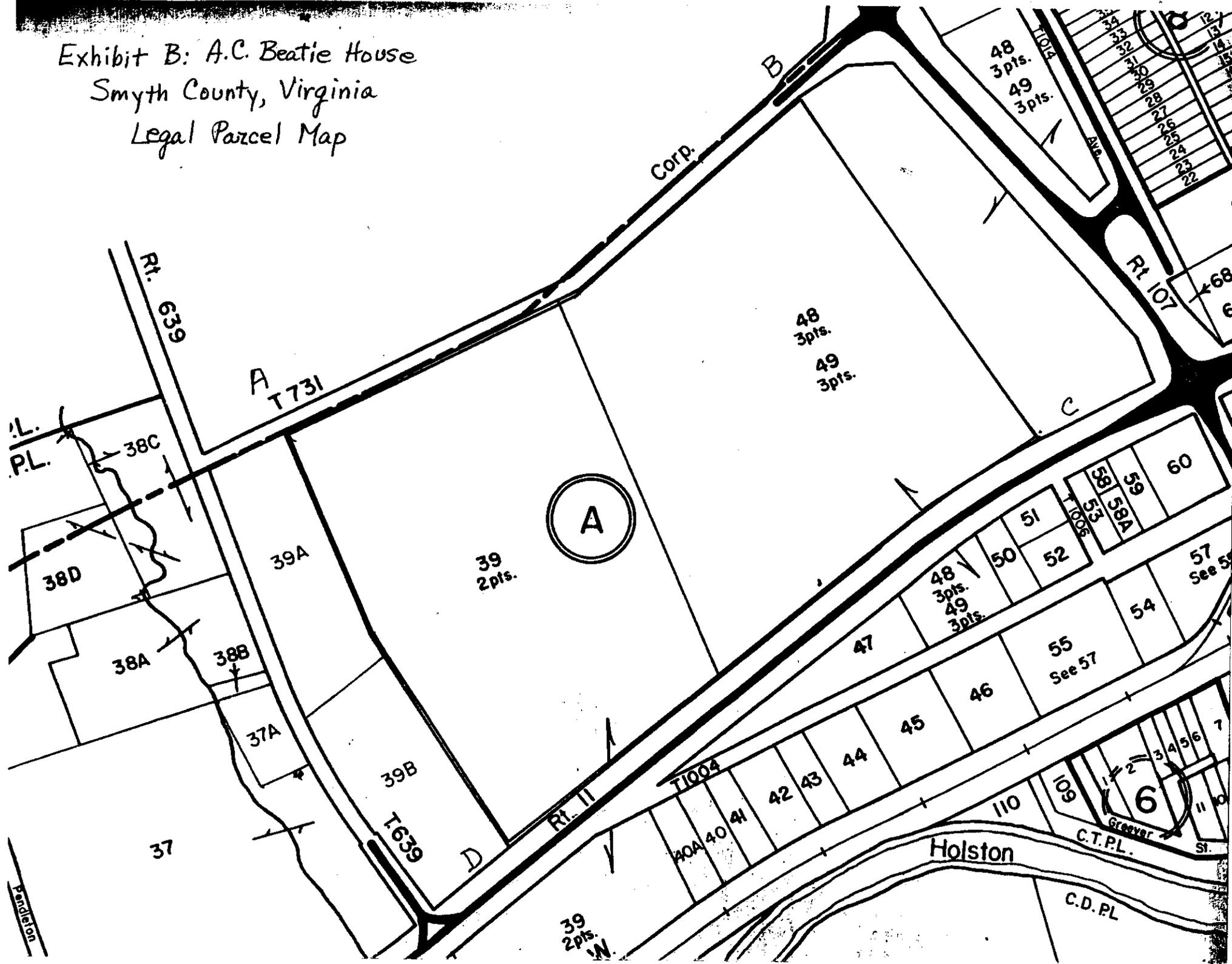


Exhibit C: A.C. Beatie House
Smyth County, Virginia
Site Plan

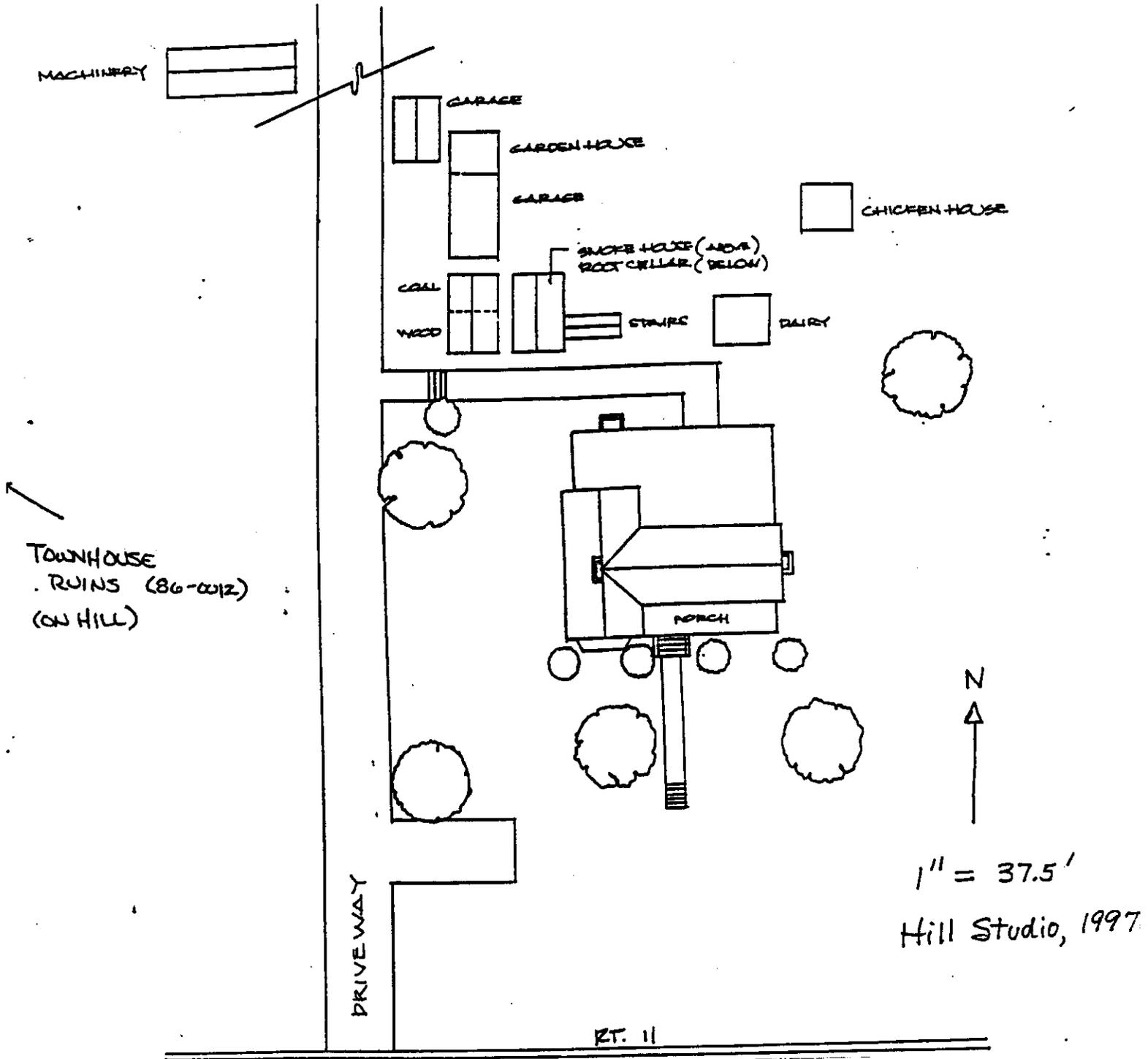
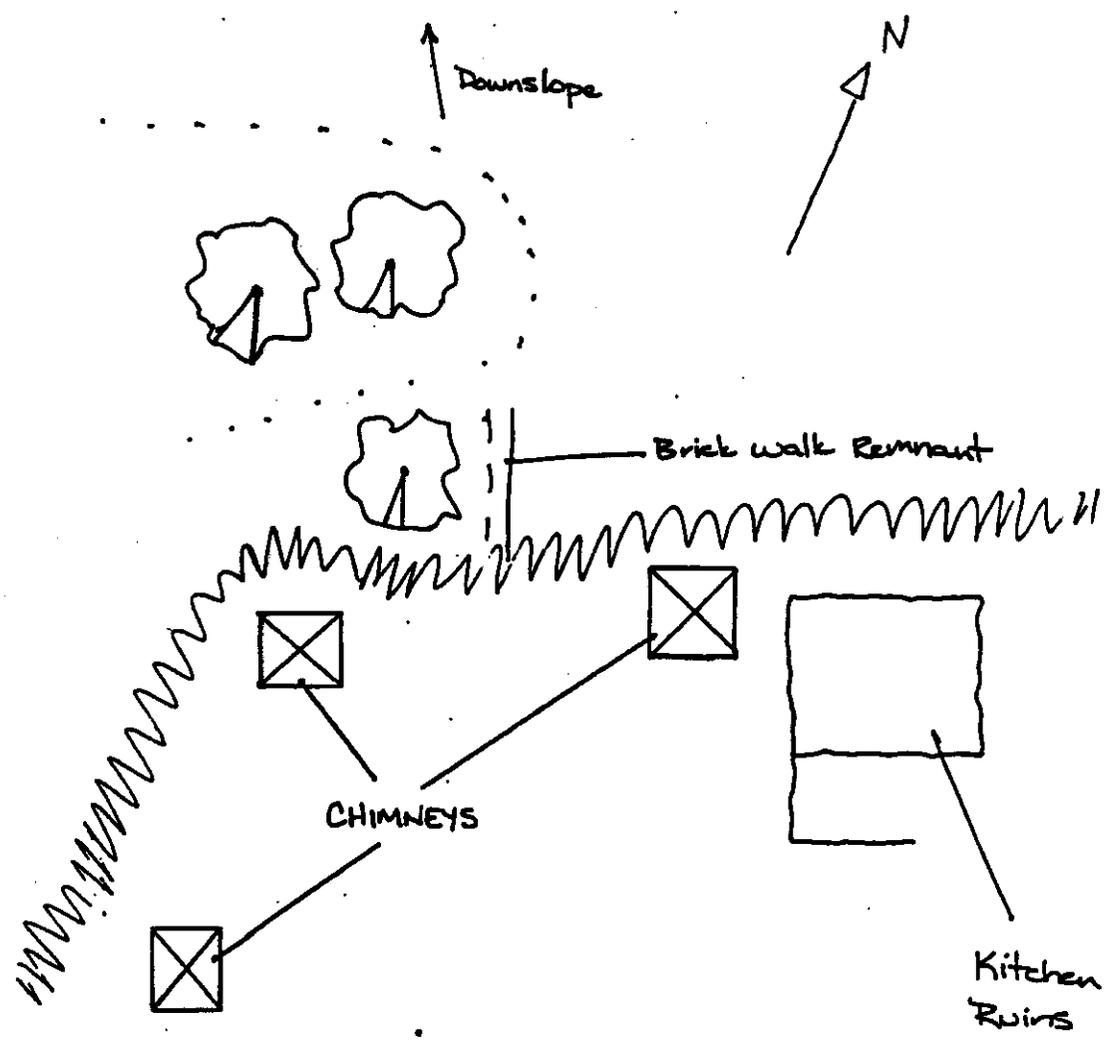


Exhibit D: A.C. Beatie House
Smyth County, Virginia
Town House Ruins
189-0016



Not to Scale
Hill Studio, 1997

AC Baatie House

Smyth County,
Virginia

1. 17/438660/4072480

2. 17/438860/4072660

3. 17/439020/4072480

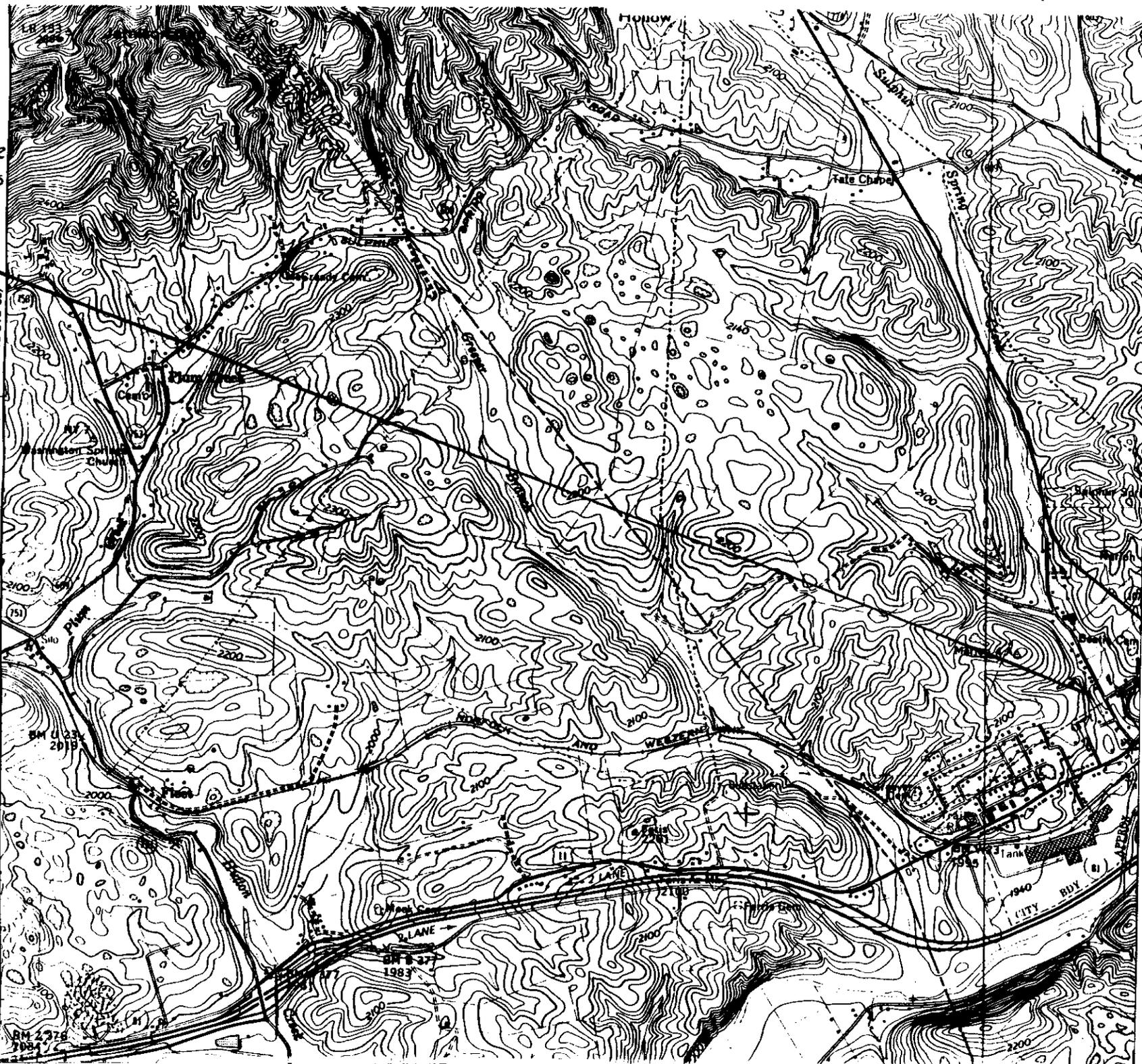
4. 17/438790/4072240

4657 IV SE
GLADE SPRING 212 SE

GLADE SPRING 1.2 MI.

47'30"

BRISTOL 29 MI.
ABINGDON 14 MI.



C Baatie House

yth County,
Virginia

438660/4072480

438860/4072660

439020/4072480

438790/4072240

WILLOWIE QUAD.)

4657 IV SE
(GLADE SPRING 212-SE)

609
GLADE SPRING 1.2 MI.

47'30"

11. W.



