

VLR-9/8/4 NRHP-11/27/4

(Rev. 10-90)  
NPS Form 10-900

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 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 Atoka Historic District  
other names/site number VDHR #030-5154

#### 2. Location

street & number Area including 1461, 1466, 1468, and 1481 Atoka Road and 7258 and 7260 Rectors Lane in  
community of Atoka not for publication N/A  
city or town Atoka vicinity \_\_\_\_\_  
state Virginia code VA county Fauquier code 061 Zip 20115

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide X locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Catherine Jensen 10/13/04  
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:  
\_\_\_ 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 Keeper  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action



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**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>  11  </u>	<u>      </u>
buildings	buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
sites	sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
structures	structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u>
objects	objects
<u>  11  </u>	<u>      </u>
Total	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>  Secondary Structure  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>
<u>  COMMERCE/TRADE  </u>	<u>  Department Store  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>

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

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC  </u>	Sub: <u>  Single dwelling  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>  Secondary Structure  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>
<u>  COMMERCE/TRADE  </u>	<u>  Department Store  </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>
<u>                  </u>	<u>                          </u>

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### 7. Description

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

   Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE \_\_\_\_\_

roof   METAL \_\_\_\_\_

walls   STONE \_\_\_\_\_

  WOOD: weatherboard \_\_\_\_\_

  STUCCO \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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

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

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

  ARCHITECTURE \_\_\_\_\_

  TRANSPORTATION \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** ca. 1830-1927 \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_  
Significant Dates ca. 1830  
1863  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of Property Approximately 6 acres

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

Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	_____	2	_____
3	_____	4	_____

See continuation sheet.

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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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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name/title: Maral S. Kalbian/ Architectural Historian and Margaret T. Peters/Research Historian

Organization: Maral S. Kalbian date May 30, 2004

street & number: 2026 Old Chapel Road telephone 540-955-1231

city or town Boyce state VA zip code 22620

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**Additional Documentation**

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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)

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**Property Owner**

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

name See Attached Property Owners List

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 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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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

The Atoka Historic District is located in the northernmost part of Fauquier County, very close to the Loudoun County line. It is sited on either side of the original roadbed of the Ashby Gap Turnpike, which was completed in the 1820s. Current US Route 50, which is directly adjacent to the district, bypassed the community to the north in 1957. This undoubtedly contributed to the preservation of this small hamlet, making it one of Fauquier County's best preserved rural crossroads.

Although the hamlet was first known as Rector's Cross-Roads after the family that owned the land on which it is located, it became known as Atoka after a post office was established here in the early 1890s. It developed in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century around the intersection of the road south to Rectortown (Atoka Road) and the Ashby Gap Turnpike (US Route 50) which linked Paris to Aldie and continued east to Alexandria.

The Atoka Historic District boundaries include approximately six acres, and are drawn to incorporate seven historic properties including four dwellings and their various outbuildings, two commercial buildings, and a stone springhouse. All eleven resources are contributing.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Atoka is a small rural community that lies approximately five miles north of Rectortown in the northernmost portion of Fauquier County, directly adjacent to current US Route 50. Originally known as Rector's Cross Roads, it developed at the intersection of the road to Rectortown (Atoka Road) and the Ashby Gap Turnpike. The crossroads was given the official name of Atoka after a post office was established here in the early 1890s.

The eleven contributing resources in the district include four dwellings, two commercial buildings, and several outbuildings. The earliest resource in the district is also one of the most visually prominent [030-5154-0001]. Located at 1461 Atoka Road, just south of the junction with US Route 50, the property features a stone fence in front with stairs leading to a walkway and a large sloped yard with mature trees and bushes (**Photo 1**). The 2 ½-story Caleb Rector House sits above the grade of the road and is one of the most prominent in the hamlet of Atoka and certainly one of the oldest.

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The house, which appears to have been constructed in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, is an example of a fairly altered vernacular stone dwelling typical of the period for this area, and was constructed by Caleb Rector. The Rector family owned the property until 1985. The Rector House is a contributing building in the Atoka Historic District and is currently used as the headquarters for the Mosby Heritage Association and the Atoka Preservation League. It is a 2 ½-story, 3-bay, random-rubble stone building constructed ca. 1830 by Caleb Rector, who owned a fairly large tract of land in this area. Also known as Crossroads Farm, the house, now sits on much smaller acreage and has had several later additions and alterations. The gable-roofed dwelling sits on a split-level stone basement with a full door on the east side. Architectural details include two gable-roofed dormers with 6/6-sash windows on the front elevation, an exterior-end stone chimney on the west end, an interior brick chimney on the east end, two square attic windows in the east gable end, 6/6-sash windows, and a wooden cornice. The 3-bay hip-roofed front porch has Tuscan columns as supports and has modern metal handrails leading up the stairs. Late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century additions include a large 2-story side/rear hip-roofed wing and a large 2-story shed-roofed rear wing with an enclosed 1-story rear porch. The interior of the house has been greatly remodeled and is now used as office space with residential use on the upper story. The house traditionally has been thought to be the site where John S. Mosby and his Rangers were officially organized on June 10, 1863. No primary evidence has been found to confirm or deny this claim. It is known that Mosby certainly visited the house and he and his Rangers met in the area.

One of the most significant landmarks in the district is the stone springhouse [030-5154-002], which is located on a triangular piece of land that lies north of Atoka Road and south of US Route 50 (between old Route 50 and new Route 50). Sitting below the grade of the roadway, this unusually large springhouse was associated with the Rector House [030-5154-0001] across the road for many years, but is now under different ownership (**Photo 2**). Constructed ca. 1830 at around the same time as the Caleb Rector House [030-5154-0001], it was a visually prominent stopping place along the Ashby Gap Turnpike. During the Civil War era, troops stopped and rested here including Col. J. E. B. Stuart and his army during late June 1863. The 1-story, 2-bay, random-rubble stone springhouse features exposed rafter ends, a gabled roof clad in wooden shakes, a batten door, and wooden vent openings.

The historic district also contains two log dwellings that appear to have been constructed during the second quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century on land that was owned by Caleb Rector or his brother-in-law Samuel Rector. The house at 7260 Rectors Lane [030-5154-0005] is located off the north



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side of Atoka Road (old US Route 50) at the junction with Rectors Lane. The house sits below the grade of road and has a low retaining wall in front (**Photo 3**). It is a 1 ½-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed log dwelling with a large central stone chimney, two front doors, German-lap siding, exposed rafter ends, a standing-seam metal roof, a 4-bay front porch with square posts, and modern windows.

The house at 7258 Rectors Lane [030-5154-0006] is located directly behind the Atoka Store [030-5154-0004]. The side driveway is an historic roadbed that appears on late 1840s plats labeled as the road leading to Union (now Unison, in Loudoun County). The rear yard of the property abuts the south side of modern US Route 50, which is at a higher grade. The vernacular log house is 2 stories and 3 bays wide with a large exterior-end stone chimney on the west end which has a plastered brick stack (**Photo 4**). Clad in vinyl siding on the front and stucco on the sides and rear, the house includes modern 6/6-sash vinyl windows, a boxed cornice, a split-level stone foundation, a standing-seam metal roof, and a 3-bay shed-roofed front porch with square posts. The rear of the house has a full walk-out basement concealed by a shed-roofed wing with an exterior-end brick flue. The window in the east attic gable end appears to be new. Although the interior was not inspected, the house probably follows a hall-parlor plan, and appears to have been constructed before 1850.

The Atoka Historic District contains two commercial buildings. The largest of these is the Atoka Store [030-5154-0004], located off the north side of Atoka Road at the junction with Rectors Lane (**Photo 5**). Formerly known as Rector's General Merchandise, the store was constructed ca. 1893 by Asa Rector who lived across the street. It is a 1-story gable-end frame store with an intact central storefront entrance sheltered by a shed-roofed porch supported by wooden brackets. The building, which was for many years known as Rector's Store, has a stone foundation and a corrugated metal roof. It is clad in vinyl siding on the front, stuccoed on the sides and rear, and has a diamond-shaped attic louver in the front gable end, and 6/6-sash windows and an exterior-end brick flue on the rear elevation. The entrance is made up of a wooden storefront door flanked by plate glass windows and is fronted by a concrete porch with concrete steps and metal pipe hand railing. The lean-to to the east appears to be original, while the shed-roofed wing is a later addition. At one time the store housed the post office, which has since closed. The store, however, still serves the local community.

Located directly adjacent to the store is a former gas station that was constructed in 1927 by Maurice Rector [030-5154-0003]. No longer used as a gas station, the 1-story, hip-roofed, frame  
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building is currently used as a variety store. The front gas canopy has been enclosed and new

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siding and windows have been installed. The standing-seam metal roof is one of the few remaining historic exterior features.

The Rector-Dean House [030-5154-0007] is located at the southern end of the district along Atoka Road at its junction with Rectors Lane. This extremely well-preserved, large frame dwelling exhibits design elements typical of Victorian-era buildings and was constructed in 1893 by Asa Rector who ran the store across the road (**Photo 6**). The house, which is the largest and best preserved contributing building in the Atoka Historic District, sits on a knoll in a shaded yard back off the road and is surrounded by an elaborate wrought-iron fence with gates. The property contains a stone meat house that appears to predate the main house and may have originally been associated with the Caleb Rector House. Other outbuildings date to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and include a garage, a 1-story duplex, and a large L-shaped barn. The L-shaped main house is an extremely well-preserved, 2-story, 5-bay, cross-gable-roofed (standing-seam metal), frame (German-lap siding) dwelling with two prominent cross gable-ends that contain gable-end returns. The detailing is typical of the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, although not of any one particular style. The gable ends include round-arched attic louvered vents and a decorative bargeboard. The windows are all original paired 1/1-sash with original louvered wooden shutters. One of the most prominent features is the 20-bay wraparound porch (3 bays enclosed on south side) with turned posts, which wraps around 3 sides of the house. The wooden porch floor is supported by brick piers with stone infill

Although Atoka only contains a handful of historic buildings that span a period of about 100 years, they all maintain a high degree of architectural integrity (**Photo 7**). When US Route 50 was shifted away from the crossroads to the north in 1957, this small community was preserved in time. The crossroads continues to be a vibrant intersection with the hamlet serving as the headquarters of the John Mosby Heritage Area located in the Rector House [030-5154-0001], and a still operational and locally popular grocery store [030-5154-0004].

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**NOTES ON FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION OF INVENTORY:**

The properties are listed numerically by street address. All resources are contributing unless otherwise noted and are keyed to the map in regular order.

**Atoka Road**

**Atoka Road 030-5154-0002**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Spring/Springhouse, Stories 1, Style: Other, ca 1830**

One-story, 2-bay, stone (random rubble) springhouse with exposed rafter ends, a gabled roof clad in wooden shakes, a batten door and wooden vent openings. The springhouse was probably constructed around 1830, at around the same time as the Caleb Rector House.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Spring/Spring House** **Contributing**

**1461 Atoka Road 030-0705**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5154-0001**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.5, Style: Other, ca 1830**

This 2 ½-story, 3-bay, random-rubble stone dwelling appears to have been constructed ca. 1830 and has had several later additions and alterations. The gable-roofed building sits on a split-level stone basement with a full door on the east side. Architectural details include; 2 front gable-roofed dormers with 6/6-sash windows, an exterior-end stone chimney on the west end, an interior brick chimney on the east end, 2 square attic windows in the east gable end, a 4-panel front door with 4 lights, 6/6-sash windows, and a wooden cornice. The 3-bay hip-roofed front porch has Tuscan columns as supports and has modern metal handrails leading up the stairs. Late-19th- and early-20th-century additions include a large 2-story side/rear hip-roofed wing and a large 2-story shed-roofed rear wing with an enclosed 1-story rear porch. The interior of the house has been greatly remodeled and is now used as office space with residential use on the upper story.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling** **Contributing**

**1466 Atoka Road 030-5154-0003**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Gas Station, Stories 1, Style: Other, 1927**

This 1-story, hip-roofed former gas station was constructed in 1927 and is currently used as a commercial building. The standing-seam metal roof is the only original feature remaining. Alterations include new vinyl siding, an enclosed front gas canopy, new windows, and a rear

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concrete block shed-roofed wing.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Gas Station**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Contributing**

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**1468 Atoka Road 030-5154-0004**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Other, 1893**

Atoka Store is a 1-story, gable-end, frame store with an intact central storefront entrance sheltered by a shed-roofed porch supported by wooden brackets. The building was constructed ca. 1893 by Asa Rector and was for many years known as Rector's Store. The building, which has a stone foundation and a corrugated metal roof, is clad in vinyl siding on the front, stuccoed on the sides and rear, and has a diamond-shaped attic louver in the front gable end, and 6/6-sash windows and an exterior-end brick flue on the rear elevation. The entrance, which is comprised of a wooden storefront door flanked by plate glass windows, is fronted by a concrete porch with concrete steps and metal pipe hand railing. The lean-to to the east, which includes a door, appears to be original while the shed-roofed wing to the west appears to be an addition.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building** **Contributing**

**1481 Atoka Road 030-5154-0007**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Late Victorian, 1893**

This extremely well-preserved, 2-story, 5-bay, cross-gable-roofed (standing-seam metal), frame (German-lap siding) dwelling was constructed in 1893 by Asa Rector who operated the store across the street. This house is very large and contains design elements typical of the Victorian era, yet is not of one particular architectural style. The house is L-shaped and features two prominent cross gable-ends that contain gable-end returns, round-arched attic louvered vents; and a decorative bargeboard. The windows are all original paired 1/1-sash with original louvered wooden shutters. One of the most prominent features is the 20-bay wraparound porch (3 bays enclosed on south side) with turned posts which wraps around 3 sides of the house. The wooden porch floor is supported by brick piers with stone infill. Other details include a plain frieze with brackets in the gable ends, a modern standing-seam metal roof, multiple doors leading out to the porch, a multi-paned front door, and a 2-story hip-roofed projecting 2-story bay on the east side.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling** **Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Meat house** **Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Barn** **Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Tenant House** **Contributing**

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**Rectors Lane**

**7258 Rectors Lane 030-5154-0006**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1850**

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This 2-story, 3-bay dwelling appears to be of log construction and is clad in vinyl siding on the front and stucco on the sides and rear. Its most prominent architectural feature is the large exterior-end stone chimney on the west end which has a plastered brick stack. Details include: modern 6/6-sash vinyl windows; a boxed cornice; a split-level stone foundation; a standing-seam metal roof; and a 3-bay shed-roofed front porch with square posts. The rear of the house has a full walk-out basement concealed by a shed-roofed wing with an exterior-end brick flue. The window in the east attic gable end appears to be new. Although the interior was not inspected, the house probably follows a hall-parlor plan.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

**7260 Rectors Lane 030-5154-0005**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 1.5, Style: Other, ca 1830**

This 1 1/2-story, 4-bay, gable-roofed log house has a central stone chimney and may have been constructed in two sections. It has two front doors and the left 2-bay portion is at a lower level than the right 2-bay portion. The walls are covered in German-lap siding and the roof in standing-seam metal. All the windows are new 4/4-sash vinyl. Other details include exposed rafter ends, a rear 1-story shed-roofed wing, and a 4-bay front porch with square posts. An interior inspection could better date this building, which appears to be from the 2nd quarter of the 19th century.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

## **8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The village of Atoka is located at the intersection of the John S. Mosby Highway, formerly known as the Ashby Gap Turnpike, and the Atoka Road near the far northern boundary of Fauquier County and Loudoun County, Virginia. The tiny crossroads settlement, encompassing only seven properties, retains a remarkable level of integrity from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century when it was known as Rector's Cross Roads. Examination of land titles and transactions over a 230-year period reveals that the land around Atoka remained essentially in the ownership of the Rector family, a Fauquier County family that was active in the county from its earliest years.

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Atoka is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. The collection of 19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>- century log, stone, and frame buildings represents a small crossroads village in the northern Piedmont region of Virginia. Containing only a few dwellings, outbuildings, and commercial buildings, the village nonetheless represents a significant cross-section of vernacular architecture dating from around 1830 to 1927. Atoka is

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also eligible under Criterion A in the area of Transportation. Atoka Road as it passes through the district is one of the best-preserved sections of the former Ashby Gap Turnpike, which was rerouted around the village in 1957. Enhancing the strategic importance of the village was the availability of an abundant supply of good spring water, a condition that is referred to in a number of the deeds and is underscored by the survival of an intact stone springhouse within the district. This would have made Rector's Cross Roads an attractive site for Mosby's Rangers to establish their command headquarters at various times during the period from 1863-65 when they were active in the area referred to as Mosby's Confederacy. According to records, it was at Rector's Cross Roads in June, 1863, that Company A, Forty-third Battalion [sic] Partisan Rangers was formally organized."<sup>1</sup> It cannot be ascertained if this organizational meeting took place in any particular building in the village, but records suggest that it took place in or near Atoka, which in publications was referred to as "Rector's X-Roads." Also in late June of 1863 on the eve of the Battle of Gettysburg, J.E.B. Stuart and his men camped near this abundant spring, which continues to be a highly visible landmark on the old turnpike road. Atoka retains an unusually high level of integrity of its historic structures and the unspoiled rural setting recalls its earlier function as an important crossroads community in Fauquier County.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

Rector's Cross Roads, now known as Atoka, lies at the intersection of Atoka Road (Route 713) and the John S. Mosby Highway, US Route 50. The Mosby Highway essentially follows the path of the Ashby Gap Turnpike one of the several turnpikes built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains to the Shenandoah Valley through the Thornton's Gap, Manassas Gap, and Ashby Gap. The road linked Aldie, a milling town in Loudoun County, with Paris, the tiny village at the foot of Ashby's Gap. It was a strategic transportation route in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and figured largely during the Civil War as Mosby and his Partisan Rangers moved about the area known as Mosby's Confederacy. Atoka Road essentially linked the Manassas Gap Railroad and the town of Rectortown, earlier known as Maidstone, with the Ashby Gap Turnpike. Thus Rector's Cross Roads was an ideal location for a small community. Land tax records and deeds from the 19<sup>th</sup> century seem to substantiate that Caleb Rector became the primary landholder in

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this location. Beginning in 1830, he was acquiring large tracks of land adjacent to the Atoka Road and the Ashby Gap Turnpike. Caleb Rector married Mary Ann Hatcher in 1824.<sup>2</sup> Through the Hatcher family, land in the area had come from Isaac Nichols and John Rector in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; John Rector was the large land holder who sought and obtained the establishment by the Virginia Assembly of the town of Maidstone in 1772, later to become known as Rectortown. In 1829, Caleb Rector was deeded 144 acres by heirs of James Seaton, land which was adjacent to

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property held by the Hatchers. Caleb Rector sold this parcel, along with \$800 worth of improvements, to his brother-in-law Nelson Gibson and wife Emsey Hatcher who was Mary Ann Hatcher's sister. At the same time, Nelson Gibson and his wife sold a parcel of 327 acres to Caleb Rector, with a reference in the deed to "the house on the property being the same whereon the said Rector now lives." This parcel had belonged to Joseph Hatcher, who died in 1825 and left five heirs including Caleb's wife, Gourley R. Hatcher, Amanda Hatcher (Cocke), Emsey Hatcher (Gibson) and Anna Hatcher who was married to Samuel Rector. Various deeds in the following two years transfer portions of Hatcher's estate from his various heirs to Caleb Rector. One of the tracks, referred to in an 1831 deed, indicates that Caleb Rector held 322 acres and is "the same on which he now resides." The 1832 Land Tax Books indicate that Caleb Rector held the entire 327-acre parcel and was charged with \$500 worth of buildings on that parcel. In 1833, Caleb Rector acquired another parcel referred to as a "lot near the Loudoun and Fauquier line." This lot is described as "beginning at a stone corner...in front of said Rector's House thence...to a point in the road leading toward Union (later known as Unison)."<sup>3</sup> All of these references point to the existence of a house belonging to Caleb Rector, which appears to be at 1461 Atoka Road [030-5154-0001]. It also indicates that Caleb Rector owned the lot across the street on which stands the large springhouse. [030-5154-0002]. Architectural evidence points to a construction date ca. 1830 for both structures. Valuation for the buildings charged to Caleb Rector remains static at \$500 until 1851 when there is a considerable increase to \$2500, indicating some substantial enlargement of the house or the building of additional structures ca. 1850. The land tax books locate Caleb Rector's property of 425 acres on the "paved road", presumably the Ashby Gap Turnpike. By 1859, Samuel Rector, who was married to Anna, another daughter of Joseph Hatcher, is also charged with substantial improvements on his acreage, valued at \$2000 and again located on the "paved road" in the same location. The place name "Rector's Cross Roads" does not appear in the land tax records, but it is likely that Samuel Rector's buildings may have been located at Rector's Cross Roads as well. It is also possible that the log house at 7258 Rector's Lane [030-5154-0006] may have been owned by Samuel Rector and accounts for this increase. Unfortunately, no remarks accompanied these added improvements during the 1850s, although architectural evidence suggests that both buildings [030-5154-0005 and 0006]

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date from that time period. These valuations remained the same until at least 1867.<sup>4</sup> Caleb Rector died intestate in 1866 with an appraisal and sale dated August 27, 1866, which was recorded May 18, 1867. His heirs are listed as sons Joseph, Richard, Asa Hamilton, Caleb, Jr. and William, and daughters Mary Ann and Mary F. An 1871 deed among the various siblings refers to the "Cross Roads Farm, being the home farm and residence of the late Caleb Rector..."<sup>5</sup> Land records for the period 1877-1884 indicate that this parcel, now with buildings valued at

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\$3000, is in the “possession of Asa H. Rector” who would pay the taxes on the parcel. A deed recorded in 1880 transfers the parcel containing 488 acres, and the “residence of the late Caleb Rector,” to Asa H. Rector for the fairly substantial sum of \$21,960.

In addition to acquiring the Cross Roads Farm property that had belonged to his father, Caleb, Asa Rector also acquired the property across the road that included the springhouse [030-5154-0002] and the lot on which the Atoka Store [030-5154-0004] at 1468 Atoka Road and the Gas Station at 1466 Atoka Road [030-5154-0003] both stand. The route of the Ashby Gap Turnpike was changed in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century to bypass the crossroads village, but the original road bed lay between the Caleb Rector House, which stood on the south side of the road, and the spring and storehouse property that stood on the north side. This is clearly indicated on a plat prepared in 1927 showing the property of Clarence Rector.<sup>6</sup> Land tax records from 1895 show Asa Rector charged with increased improvements on his property amounting to \$2000, suggesting that the Atoka Store was built ca. 1893. Around the same time, a post office was established in the community with the name Atoka. Since the name Rector’s Cross Roads was too close to Rectortown, 5 miles away, the name Atoka was chosen by a committee of local residents. The name “Atoka” instead of “Rector’s Cross Roads” appears for the first time in the land tax books for 1895. An agreement upon the death of Asa Rector, who died intestate in 1911, awarded all the real property to Clarence Rector, his only son, with all other assets to Anne P. Rector, widow of Asa.<sup>7</sup> In 1927, Clarence Rector deeded to Clyde W. Rector for \$5000 all the property at “Atoka” on the south side of the (Ashby) Turnpike Road the dwelling and all its outbuildings and an easement for the use of the spring on the north side of the road. Clyde Rector died soon after this transfer of property and the house lot in Atoka along with his Buick automobile to his widow, Annie W. Rector.<sup>8</sup> At the same time, Clarence Rector deeded to Maurice B. Rector the one-acre parcel with the storehouse. It was on this parcel that Maurice Rector added the gas station in 1927.<sup>9</sup> The land tax books of 1932-1933 indicate that Annie Rector was charged with a ½-acre lot with \$2,610 worth of improvement; Maurice B. Rector owned 1 1/4 acres identified as the “Atoka Store Property.” Two other Rector family heirs owned large parcels of land referred to as “Atoka C. H. Rector Land.” It was during the 1920s with the advent of travel by

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automobile that gas stations were strategically built along major thoroughfares. Coupled with the “store” they provided an important oasis and stopping-off-place for travelers and local residents along what has today become US Route 50, the old Ashby Gap Turnpike.

The crossroads village of Atoka is a small time-capsule from the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries whose buildings and setting recall an era before interstates and planned residential communities, enhanced by an aura of Mosby and his men, who frequented the area during the Civil War and J.



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E. B. Stuart, who stopped here on his way to the battle of Gettysburg. All parcels and structures originated with Caleb Rector and his direct descendants well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. As late as 1952 in Annie W. Rector's will, reference to several of the Atoka village parcels is made. Her will stipulates that "this property having been in the possession of the Rector family for many years, is conveyed with the express stipulation that in the event that the personal representative of the Grantee (heirs of Annie W. Rector) shall determine to offer the same for sale, then and in that event, the personal representative shall first offer the property to the blood kin of the Rector family"<sup>10</sup> -- a remarkable family association that began in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**ENDNOTES**

<sup>1</sup> Williamson, James Joseph, Mosby's Rangers, a record of the operations of the Forty-third battalion of Virginia Cavalry from its organization to the surrender, New York: Sturgis and Walton, 1909, 69.

<sup>2</sup> Fauquier County Marriage Register, Book 4, 139.

<sup>3</sup> Fauquier County Deed Books 30 (1829), 396; 31 (1830), 219; 32(1831) 213; 33 (1833) 361; 334 (1833) 74; 37(1837) 344. Land Tax Books, 1829-1833, 1834-1851, 1880-1900.

<sup>4</sup> Fauquier County Land Tax Books, 1852-1867.

<sup>5</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 68 (1871), 419.

<sup>6</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 130 (1927), 445.

<sup>7</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 105 (1911), 344.

<sup>8</sup> Fauquier County Will Book 50 (1928) 406.

<sup>9</sup> Fauquier County Deed Book 130 (1927) 445-446.

<sup>10</sup> Fauquier County Will Book 65 (1952) 118.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES.**

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and Walton, 1909.

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

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**UTM REFERENCES**

A 18 256602E 4317913N  
B 18 256744E 4317837N  
C 18 256663E 4317669N  
D 18 256592E 4317684N  
E 18 256572E 4317821N

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundaries of the nominated Atoka Historic District are included within a polygon whose vertices are marked by the following UTM reference points: A, 18 256602E 4317913N; B, 18 256744E 4317837N; C, 18 256663E 4317669N; D, 18 256592E 4317684N; and E, 18 256572E 4317821N.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The Atoka Historic District boundaries were drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings in the hamlet of Atoka. Noncontributing buildings and more rural properties were excluded. District boundaries coincide with property lines whenever possible.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

**ATOKA HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Location: Atoka, Virginia (Fauquier County)

VDHR File Number: 030-5154

Date of photograph: February 2004

Photographer: Maral S. Kalbian

All negatives are stored at the DHR Archives in Richmond, VA, unless noted.

**Section \_\_Photos\_\_ Page \_\_14\_\_**

SUBJECT: Caleb Rector House [030-5154-0001]

VIEW: Northeast view

NEG. NO.: 21321

PHOTO 1 of 7

SUBJECT: Springhouse, Atoka Road [030-5154-0002]

VIEW: Southeast view

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NEG. NO.: 21321  
PHOTO 2 of 7

SUBJECT: House, 7260 Rectors Lane [030-5154-0005]  
VIEW: South view  
NEG. NO.: 21321  
PHOTO 3 of 7

SUBJECT: House, 7258 Rectors Lane [030-5154-0006]  
VIEW: Southwest view  
NEG. NO.: 21321  
PHOTO 4 of 7

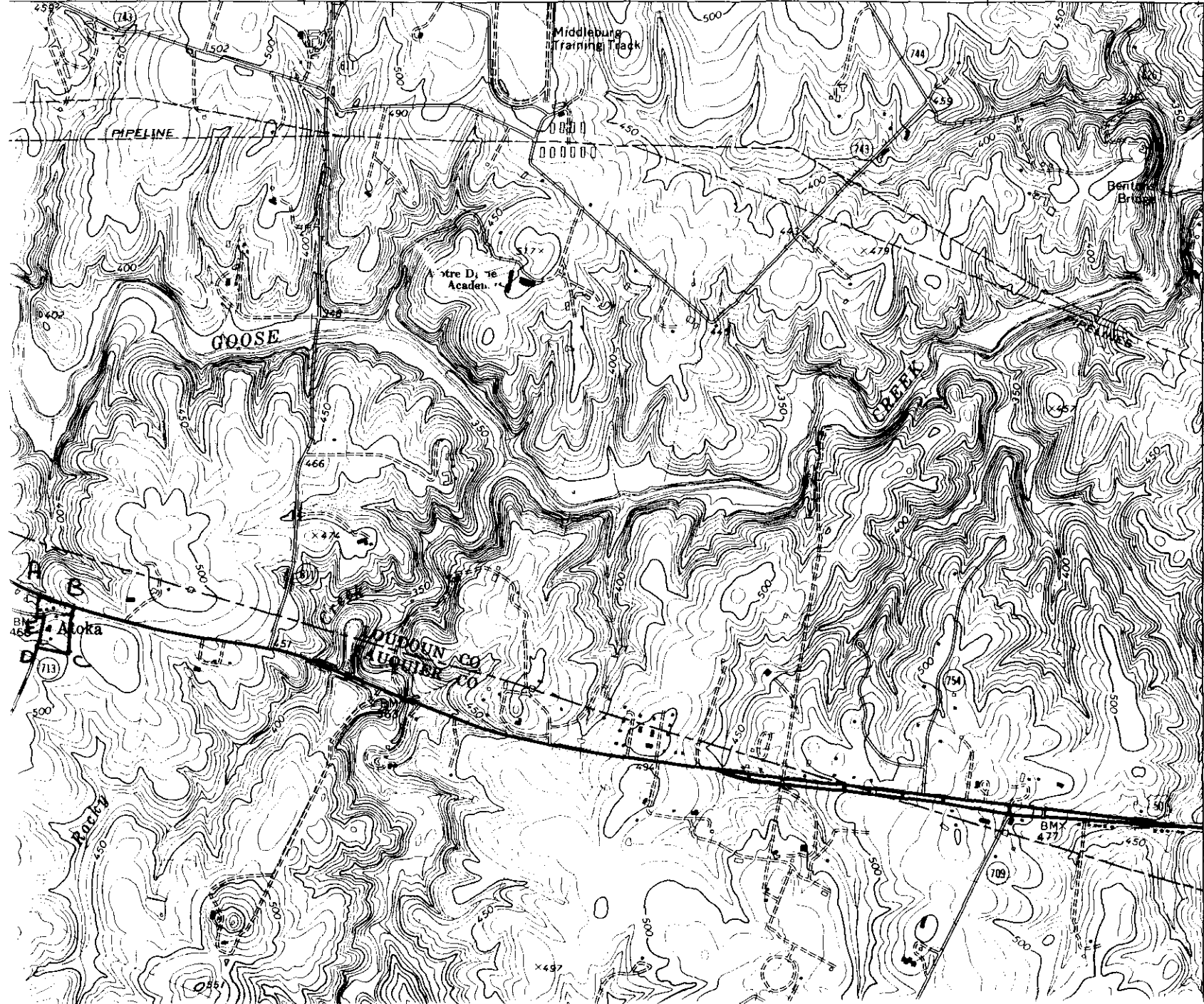
SUBJECT: Atoka Store [030-5154-0004]  
VIEW: Southwest view  
NEG. NO.: 21321  
PHOTO 5 of 7

SUBJECT: Rector-Dean House [030-5154-0007]  
VIEW: West view  
NEG. NO.: 21322  
PHOTO 6 of 7

SUBJECT: Streetscape  
VIEW: East view  
NEG. NO.: 21321  
PHOTO 7 of 7

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(LINCOLN)

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Atoka HD  
Fauquier Co., VA  
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B 18256744/4317837  
C 18256663/4317669  
D 18256592/4317668  
E 18256572/4317821

A  
B  
C  
D  
E

Atoka

DUPON AGG  
FAUQUIER CO

BMY  
477

MIDDLEBURG 0.8 MI.  
FAIRFAX 2.5 MI.