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**TOWN OF FRONT ROYAL
HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY
REPORT**



**PRESERVATION ASSOCIATES OF VIRGINIA
AND
THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES**

**TOWN OF FRONT ROYAL
HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY
REPORT**

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**Funded by:
Town of Front Royal
and
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Abstract

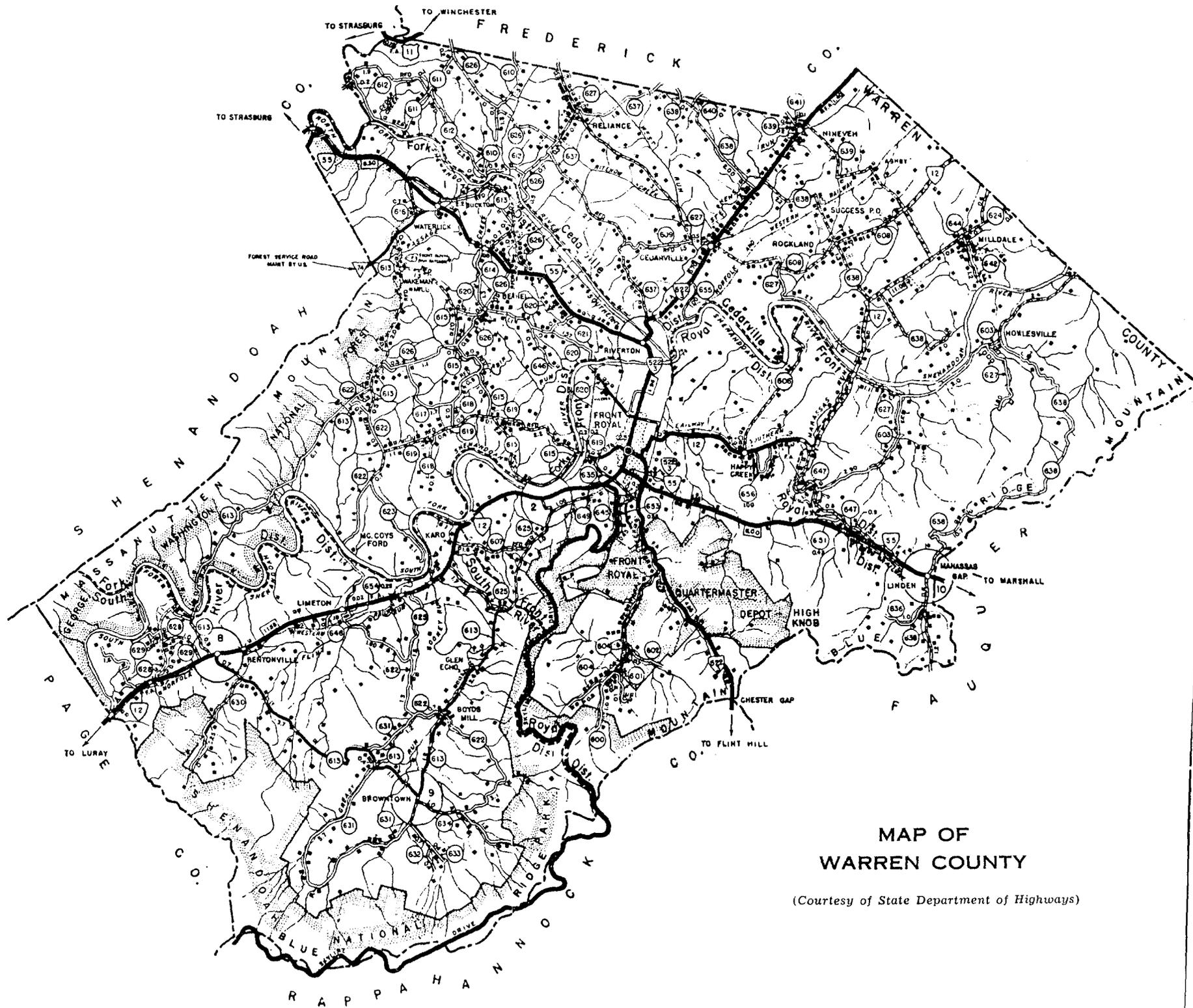
The Front Royal Survey was conducted in the spring of 1993 by Preservation Associates of Virginia (PAV) and Ashley Neville, architectural historian. The scope of the project involved the survey of an area within the Town of Front Royal, recommended by the Front Royal Planning Department (Planning Director, Kimberley P. Fogle, AICP) and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) as an area potentially eligible for a National Register of Historic Places historic district. The project team included both members of PAV, Marc C. Wagner and Susan E. Smead, and Ashley Neville. PAV was responsible for project management, field survey and data entry of two thirds of all reconnaissance and intensive forms; the Historic Context Report; a Preliminary Information Form for the proposed historic district; and a slide presentation. Ashley Neville completed the survey and data entry for one third of all reconnaissance and intensive forms. The survey included a total of 359 resources, of which 308 were surveyed at the reconnaissance level and 51 surveyed at intensive level.¹

In addition to survey of the downtown commercial and residential area, a district that centers around the oldest part of town, an additional number of significant resources were surveyed outside of the likely district area.

On September 22, 1994, the VDHR National Register Evaluation Team considered the 60 intensively surveyed properties. Fourteen individual properties were found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and the recommended historic district area was found to be potentially eligible.

¹ Reconnaissance and intensive survey are standardized approaches to survey sanctioned by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Park Service. Reconnaissance requires an exterior analysis, while intensive requires interior analysis and research in addition to exterior description. Properties that have interior photographs and research completed can be evaluated for National Register eligibility. Reconnaissance properties can be evaluated, but until the interior is inspected they can only be determined potentially eligible.

Map (next page): Map of Warren County (1943) (An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County)



**MAP OF
WARREN COUNTY**

(Courtesy of State Department of Highways)

Acknowledgements

Preservation Associates of Virginia received generous help from the Town of Front Royal Director of Planning, Kimberley P. Fogle. David Edwards, VDHR Architectural Historian, helped in the field and provided technical expertise in the final preparation of the survey materials and report. Judy Reynolds, the Director/Curator of the Warren Heritage Society, answered many important questions and helped us to navigate through the valuable collection in the archives area of the Belle Boyd Cottage. The completion of the project also benefited from the guidance of Julie L. Vosmik, VDHR Survey and Register Programs Manager, and Elizabeth H. Lipford, VDHR Survey Coordinator.

The project greatly benefited from Ashley Neville's knowledge of Virginia architecture, and her evaluation expertise. Marie Frank, John Orrock, Roger Hall, Landon Wellford, Barbara Peace and Caroline Mathews all participated in crafting the final materials of the survey.

A special thanks are due Margaret Peters, VDHR Information Officer, who shared some of her research on the Warren County Courthouse, and VDHR Preservation Program Coordinator, John Wells, for sharing information from his data base of Virginia architects.

Carolyn Parsons and Petie Bogen-Garret of the Library of Virginia Pictures Collection provided valuable assistance in locating Front Royal historic photographs.

Julie Campbell, produced the index that will make this an easy reference document.

Many local citizens allowed us to inspect the interior of their historic buildings. We benefited from their knowledge of local history and made friends and preservation allies. We thank: Eric Adamson, Anne Arnold, Bill and Debbie Barnett, Bill and Ann Wilson, David Crump, Richard Mann, Reverend Mark Jordan, Pat Callahan, Ron Napier, Virginia Grant, Mary Bailey, Irvin Callas, Scott Reid, Mindy Schryver, Walter Koller, Jane White, Larry Lehew, Sue Ladd, Dr. Elizabeth B. Sherman, Dick Richardson, Linda Blakely, Tom Nida, Charlotte Ramey, Kemp Miller, William Biggs, Lucy Kephart, Leslie Minko, Eileen Grady, Maurice Lang, Jim Gibbs, Craig Laird, William E. Tanner, Jr., Father William Ruehl, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Costello, Gene Herr, Police Captain Stephen W. Schiro, Ruth Monnington, Reverend Thomas D. Clay, Jean Mary Taylor, and Patricia Windrow.

Maral Kalbian, architectural historian, has surveyed Warren County and the resulting Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia, 1991 provided valuable in-depth information that served as a foundation for this project.

Any historian who wishes to undertake a study of Front Royal and Warren County has at their disposal the tremendous wealth of historical knowledge that has become Laura Virginia Hale's legacy. Her published work, On Chester Street, and the archival collection located in the Warren Heritage Archives (Belle Boyd Cottage) served as important sources of historical information for this report.

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Introduction/Description of Project

In December 1992 the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) contracted with Preservation Associates of Virginia (PAV) to conduct a comprehensive survey of a predetermined portion of the downtown area of Front Royal.

Objectives and Scope of Work

The primary objective of this project was to provide an inventory and understanding of the historic and architectural resources within the downtown area and other significant historic resources located throughout the Town of Front Royal. The town desires to establish several historic district overlay areas and to designate landmarks within the town for resource protection. A survey was the first step towards realizing this goal.

The project involved an architectural survey of 345 principal buildings located in two proposed historic districts in the downtown area of the Town of Front Royal and up to 20 architecturally/historically significant buildings scattered throughout the town. The survey was to meet the standards established by the Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for a Comprehensive Reconnaissance Survey.

Background

The Front Royal community has long been aware of its unique historical character. In 1978, the Front Royal Town Council created the locally recognized Chester Street Historic District. A Board of Architectural Review was created to oversee planning decisions within the two block area that contains most of the town's oldest buildings. In 1983 the important Downtown Redevelopment Plan was commissioned by the Front Royal Redevelopment Group and produced by E.I. Design Associates (Charlottesville). The plan incorporated design guidelines that emphasized the town's historic fabric. Many of the design recommendations have been realized, including a substantial Main Street improvement project that buried service lines, created more attractive sidewalks and emphasized the old town square by creating a park with a gazebo. In 1985, VDHR Architectural Historian, David Edwards, included Front Royal as part of his An Evaluation of Architectural and Archaeological Resources in Warren County, Virginia/ The Valley Region Historic Preservation Plan. From his familiarity with the resources of the area, he recommended potential historic districts in Front Royal and Riverton. Warren County, in conjunction with the Warren Heritage Society and VDHR, contracted with architectural historian Maral Kalbian to complete a survey and write Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia, 1991. Interest in providing further protection to the town's historic resources has been spurred on by recent development pressures.

The survey was a cost-share agreement where both the Town of Front Royal and VDHR provided matching funds which totaled \$20,000. PAV collaborated with Front Royal's Director of Planning, Kimberley P. Fogle, and VDHR's Architectural Historian, David Edwards. Kimberley Fogle was responsible for the initial identification of the survey area and she provided detailed Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps that identified proposed contributing and non-contributing properties. In addition to the accurate delineation of the survey area, PAV relied on Fogle's

historical research included in Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlays. In Appendix B, Historical Background for the Proposed Historic Districts, a street by street historical synopsis provided the basis for dating many of the surveyed resources. The survey findings from the present study were guided by Fogle's research into the historical Town Council Minutes books which often indicated the date a street was laid out. Maral Kalbian assisted the Planning Department by conducting windshield survey to identify building styles and periods of construction. Ms. Fogle was instrumental in providing important map, tax, and historical information as well as organizing public meetings and contacting property owners to gain interior access for a selected number of properties.

Architectural historian David Edwards helped to guide the project, lending technical advice, and ultimately reviewing the completed products. Edwards recommended, early in the survey, to consider both of the proposed districts as one, and extended the potentially eligible area towards the south to include more residential buildings (these were not surveyed within the scope of this project, but are included in the recommended Front Royal Historic District boundaries).

Project Results

The project accomplished the goal of surveying the area delineated by Kimberley Fogle. Thirty-six intensive records were completed within the locally proposed historic district area and fifteen were conducted beyond these boundaries. The revised boundaries, confirmed in consultation with David Edwards, include several of the important properties that were close enough to be encompassed in a historic district that complies with National Register standards.

In addition to proposing the historic district, buildings found potentially eligible beyond the revised boundaries were presented to the VDHR National Register Evaluation Team.² The following buildings were found eligible: Avalon, Bel Air, Rose Hill, Royal Dairy, the Silk Mill (Schwarzen-Huber Company, now Jackson Furniture Company), and Shenandoah Motel.

Resources found individually eligible inside the revised boundaries were: Bank of Warren, Chester House, Druid Hill, Jones-Miller House, Oakley, Warren County Courthouse, Warren County High School, and Williams Chapel.³

Using the Survey Products

The results of the survey will provide several useful functions for Front Royal. For planning purposes the computer data base will provide quick access to information on individual properties. The information will reveal whether the resource in consideration contributes to the

²See the Evaluation Section of this report for a detailed account of the VDHR National Register Team Results.

³ The properties that are found eligible within the proposed boundaries would still require an individual National Register Nomination for final consideration, if the property owner were interested in acquiring a National Register plaque for the property.

proposed historic district and whether the building is individually eligible for the National Register. In Front Royal's application for the project, Kimberley Fogle noted that the town had grown by 6% in population between 1980 and 1990. The housing stock increased 12% in this same period. Within the proposed Front Royal Historic District area, at least six large Victorian era residences were demolished to make way for parking and miscellaneous commercial development. In some of the residential areas where there are concentrations of older houses, infill town houses and other incompatible features have been introduced. The reduced visual quality of the changes spurred over 400 local residents to sign a petition that asks for protection of Front Royal's valuable historic fabric.

The products of the survey include the data consisting of architectural description, site plan, and photos and this context report; a VDHR Preliminary Information Form (PIF) - which is basically a work up document for the Historic District Nomination; and a slide presentation.

Including the historic district area on the National Register list will officially focus planning efforts to protect the area. The slide show is an educational element crucial to any survey project. To better understand the architectural and social surroundings, the show will relate the town's history with the evolution of the built environment.

The success of preservation, the protection of the valuable built environment, is more often predicated on how well the resources can adapt to changing uses. Commercial and economic development can dovetail with preservation interests: for example, clearly many private businesses have decided to locate in older buildings. The loss of large Victorian residences with their accompanying trees and lawns can have a dramatic effect on the commercial environment of a town. Developers can be encouraged to take advantage of the older fabric, thus often insuring more business, and the retention of business in Front Royal.

The maintenance of historic fabric in older residential areas displays the pride of a community. American communities in the late twentieth century need the touchstones of the past to display their social evolution. Front Royal is fortunate to have a number of older churches, stores, schools and social halls in its residential areas. The residents benefit from a higher quality of cultural life, which is also evident to families and businesses that seek a community environment.

For basic information on the Virginia Landmarks and National Register see Appendix II.

Research Design

Objectives

The objectives of the Front Royal Survey were set out in the application for the VDHR Cost Share Program. In an effort to integrate preservation objectives into Front Royal's comprehensive planning, Kimberley Fogle planned to undertake a formal assessment and move towards official recognition of a historic district.

The project goals were:

1. to provide an inventory and understanding of the historic and architectural resources within the downtown area and other significant historic resources located throughout the Town of Front Royal.
2. to establish the foundation for several historic district overlay areas and to recommend landmarks within the town for resource protection.

Survey Methodology

The project involved an architectural survey of 345 principal buildings located in two proposed historic districts in the downtown area of the Town of Front Royal and up to 20 architecturally/historically significant buildings scattered throughout the town. The project followed a standard methodology for surveying county, city, and town areas of Virginia.

Public Involvement

A public hearing was convened before any significant survey work had been completed. The Front Royal Planning Department and VDHR sought public participation in the project whenever possible. The public meeting was announced in the local newspaper, and Kimberley Fogle lead the meeting in the Town Hall Council Chambers. Preservation Associates of Virginia made a presentation and town's citizens in attendance discussed the project with the consultants in an informal manner. Also in attendance were architectural historian, Ashley Neville; VDHR Architectural Historian, David Edwards; and Warren Heritage Society Director/Curator, Judy Reynolds.

Archival Research

Research was conducted by all architectural historians involved in the project, Ashley Neville, Susan Smead, and Marc Wagner. Front Royal has a significant amount of historical source material located in the Belle Boyd Cottage, Laura Virginia Hale Archive. In addition to this local source, a portion of historical information was gathered in the field during informal discussions with property owners and town residents. The consultants were also fortunate to acquire copies of architectural drawings; copies of historical newspaper accounts; and actual historical pamphlets and circulars that were owned by local citizens. The consultants provided copies of this material in the resource files given to the town and VDHR.

Other research was conducted at VDHR in Richmond where 57 Front Royal files include information that has been collected since the 1930s,⁴ when the Works Progress Administration started gathering history on the area. The Virginia State Library (Richmond), Fiske Kimball Library, University of Virginia (Charlottesville), and Alderman Library, University of Virginia (Charlottesville) also served as important research points.

The major resources consulted during the survey include:

Belle Boyd Cottage: The most significant repository of Front Royal and Warren County historical information due largely to the **Laura Virginia Hale Collection**.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps: Kimberley Fogle used the 1927 version, which she updated, as her project base map. The consultants found this highly accurate for field survey. Additional sets of Sanborn maps were located at Alderman Library/UVA and at the Virginia State Library (VSL). Both sets were microfilm copies, but VSL had an original copy of the 1927 sheets (color coded). All dates were consulted: 1885, 1891, 1897, 1903, 1907, 1912, 1919, 1927, 1927 revised to 1942, and 1927 revised to 1961.

Historic Maps: Few detailed historic maps of Front Royal exist. Several eighteenth century maps were consulted to verify whether the Front Royal name, reputedly of French colonial origins, was labeled as such to be found.⁵

Photographs: There are many sources for historic photographs for town and city areas in Virginia. The Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Agriculture often have early aerial photographs, some dating to the 1920s. For this project, most of the historic images and photographs were found at the Warren Heritage Society Archives, VDHR site files, or in the Virginia State Library Photographic Archives. Kimberley Fogle provided a collection of slides of historical Front Royal photographs, some of which are used in this report and in the slide show.

General and Architectural History: While many articles have appeared in newspapers and other journals concerning the history of Front Royal, the most exhaustive work to date is Laura Virginia Hale's book, On Chester Street. The scope of the book goes well beyond the Chester Street area and provides a good history of the eighteenth and

⁴ VDHR has been conducting statewide survey since 1968. Information from earlier surveys has been copied from other sources, mainly the Library of Virginia's WPA (Works Progress Administration, 1930s) and HABS (Historic American Buildings Survey, 1950s) records.

⁵ There is great likelihood that some good early plats are located in deeds at the Warren County Courthouse. The scope of this project did not allow for a complete deed analysis. In several cases, deed work performed by Laura Virginia Hale was accessible at the Warren Heritage Society Archives.

nineteenth century evolution of the town. In addition to Maral Kalbian's Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia, 1991, a good overview of the county and town is found in Warren County Sesquicentennial (Lord Fairfax Planning Commission, 1986). Elliott Clarke Haley's An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943) is valuable for its statistical information, and its account of Front Royal's transition from village to town. Laura Virginia Hale wrote the section on Front Royal history.

VDHR Files: There were fifty-five existing files for Front Royal resources. The quality of the survey varied, but on the average most forms had useful information. Apparently the town received focused survey attention during two periods. In 1958, several of the oldest buildings were documented by the Historic American Buildings Survey. Fleming McMullin, Jr., of Charlottesville completed these forms. In 1970, John V. Pearson, Jr, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission (VHLC) Area Representative in Luray, surveyed most of the significant buildings on Chester Street. A limited number of buildings were covered in a more recent survey conducted in 1979/80 by a VHLC Architectural Historian, Barry N. Zarakov. Two survey files contained National Register Nominations for Killahevin and Randolph-Macon's Sonner Hall.

Fieldwork

The methodology for the fieldwork was made efficient by Kimberley Fogle's identification of survey boundaries and analysis of the proposed survey area. All buildings within the boundaries, whether contributing or non-contributing, were to be surveyed. A total of 60 buildings were chosen for survey at the intensive level. Of the 60 buildings, 39 were inside of the proposed district boundaries. Twelve resources received intensive coverage beyond the boundary lines. Four intensives were originally beyond the boundary line, but David Edwards recommended including the properties in the district. They are the Sherman House, Oakley, Warren County High School, and Prospect Hill Cemetery. While intensive survey was not allowed at some of the selected important properties, a reconnaissance level form was completed for most of these with recommendations for further work in the future whenever access could be arranged.

Preservation Associates of Virginia personnel and Ashley Neville decided to divide the work into nearly equal portions. Smead, Wagner and Neville were responsible for about 100 reconnaissance surveys and 20 intensive surveys each. Over the duration of the fieldwork period that spanned from January through May 1993, some of the totals were readjusted when problems were encountered with access to building interiors. In expectation of some of these difficulties a secondary list of important properties was developed for alternative choices, and wherever possible important sites received, at least, reconnaissance coverage.

The specific VDHR guidelines for survey and survey products, outlined in the **Request for Proposal**, are:

A total of three hundred and sixty-five (365) IPS-generated hard-copy survey forms and accompanying photos placed in typed VDHR photo envelopes. Materials for each surveyed property shall be placed in typed VDHR survey file envelopes. A copy of each hard-copy survey form and duplicate photos will be submitted to the Town of Front Royal. Survey forms will consist of the following:

A minimum of sixty (60) properties recorded at the intensive level, 40 properties in the two proposed downtown area districts and 20 significant properties (outside the proposed districts) scattered throughout the town. Each intensive survey form will describe all the resources on a single property, and may require more than one survey form. All intensive-level survey forms shall include a detailed description and evaluation of the property and ten or more labeled black-and-white photos that adequately document the primary resource, any secondary resources, and the property's immediate and general setting or context. Interior inspection and interior photos of the primary historic resource shall be required. Site-plan sketches are also required and floor-plan sketches of significant buildings are desired.

Intensive-level survey forms shall be prepared for all properties that appear to be individually eligible for listing on the National Register. Documentation for these properties shall include interior black-and-white photos and color slides.

A minimum of three hundred and five (305) properties recorded at the reconnaissance level. Each reconnaissance-level survey will record a single property, and will require a single survey form. The form will require a physical description of the primary resource as well as a one-sentence description of each of the secondary resources on the property. It will also require a one- to three-sentence evaluation of the property, placing it in its local historical and architectural context. All forms will be accompanied by one or more labeled black-and-white photo(s) per site and a simple site-plan sketch.

In conducting the survey, the following guidelines apply:

The consultant shall survey all contributing and noncontributing resources within the two proposed downtown historic districts: Three hundred and five (305) properties at the reconnaissance level and forty (40) at the intensive level of survey.

Documentation of interiors: For all intensively surveyed properties, as well as all properties judged to be potentially eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, interior photographs of the primary resource(s) must be provided. These photos will include general views of major rooms using a wide-angle camera lens as well as views of significant interior architectural details. The requirement for interior photos will be waived only for properties where access is demonstrably difficult or the owner will not allow it.

(See Survey Findings for complete index of resources surveyed at Reconnaissance and Intensive Level).

Data Entry

The Integrated Preservation Software (IPS) program was used for this project. At the time of the survey the system was still in a development phase. Problems with the system stalled data entry completion until 1994 and 1995. When the data is completely loaded and installed at VDHR and at the Front Royal Planning Department, it will be an invaluable quick access to information on Front Royal's Historic Resources. Various reports that make selective cross

referencing possible will serve the customized needs of Front Royal's preservation planning effort.

Context Report

This report that accompanies the survey material follows VDHR's Guidelines for Preparing Architectural Survey Reports (10/92), as well as How to Use Historic Contexts in Virginia (9/92). The main section of this report is organized around eighteen themes that relate to the types of resources found in the survey. The themes, as they are organized by chapter, are as follows:

- Residential/Domestic Theme
- Agricultural Theme
- Government/Law/Political Theme
- Health Care/Medicine Theme
- Education Theme
- Military/Defense Theme
- Religion Theme
- Social Theme
- Recreation/Arts Theme
- Transportation/Communication Theme
- Commerce/ Trade Theme
- Industry/Processing/Extraction Theme
- Landscape Theme
- Funerary Theme
- Ethnicity/Immigration Theme
- Settlement Patterns Theme
- Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning Theme
- Technology/Engineering Theme

Because of the rich diversity of history and historical architecture in Front Royal, there were buildings that represented every theme either found in the survey area or nearby. Even though the survey area was centered around the earlier parts of the town, the context report covers the history, and most of the architectural history for the entire present legal definition of the Town of Front Royal. Important and influential resources outside of the town, such as the U.S. Remount Station or the Riverton Stone and Lime Company, were discussed.

Expected Results

The results of the survey differed very little from Kimberley Fogle's preliminary studies. The most significant difference was the decision to combine both of the recommended districts into one.

The most notable change to the expected results were additions to the proposed district. The proposed residential district area south of East Main Street was extended further to the south to include more of South Royal Avenue, and Pine, Osage, and Laurel Streets. The area to the east

of Osage including, Blue Ridge Avenue, Cloud and High Streets was extended further south than the originally proposed boundaries. The boundaries were also adjusted to include significant properties that were just outside the border of the proposed district. Now included are the Duncan Gibb House, Sherman House, Oakley, Warren County High School, and Prospect Hill Cemetery.

Historic Overview

Historic Overview

Prehistoric Native American Settlement

The Town of Front Royal is located within a region that has yielded highly significant resources related to Native American settlement. Two sites in Warren County are considered to be of national importance. The Thunderbird Archeological site consists of 1,800 acres of prehistoric sites spanning approximately 12,000 years of history. Thunderbird includes evidence of the earliest known man-built structure in the New World. Other important sites exist at the Flint Run Jasper Quarry. While highly significant sites have not been located within the legal bounds of Front Royal, the likelihood of Native American settlement in the area is high given the type of terrain and water sources. Front Royal is surrounded by hill vantage points and the Shenandoah River and Happy Creek flow through the area. While several archaeological sites have been identified in Front Royal, on Virginia Department of Historic Resources archaeological site maps, none of these have received any intensive attention. There are, no doubt, some locally significant historic period sites located in the early settlement area of the town.

Historic Context Overview

Pinpointing the earliest exploration by Europeans of Virginia's Shenandoah Valley is difficult due to the dearth of early records. It is known that Jesuit missionaries arrived in Jamestown in 1609, and entered the Valley in 1632 with Iroquois Indians, seeking to convert Indians of the region to Christianity.¹ The earliest known record of European exploration into the area of the present Warren County was by the German physician/explorer John Lederer. Commissioned by Governor Berkeley to open up fur trading with Indians, he crossed Manassas Gap near Linden twice in 1670. The next documented exploration occurred in 1673 when Colonel Caldwell Jones crossed Chester Gap in search of the Shenandoah and Rappahannock Rivers headwaters. Hired by German settlers, the Swiss explorer Louis Michelle reached the Valley in 1706. The results of his exploration prompted land purchase and permanent settlement.

Warren County was originally part of Lord Fairfax's "Northern Neck" land grant which extended from the Chesapeake Bay west to the head of the Potomac River, an area of about 8,000 square miles. Fairfax and the colonial government disputed the exact location of the river head until the issue was resolved in 1745 when the Privy Council of King George II ruled that Fairfax owned 8,253 rather than 3,225 square miles of Virginia.

While Lord Fairfax sought to clarify the extent of his land holdings, the colonial government had gone ahead and granted settlement land throughout the area. Family names of the first permanent wave of settlers in the Warren County area include Buck, Carter, Chester, Cloud, Earle, Harding, Hite, Hurst, Kendrick, LeHew, Lewin, McKay, Millar, Russell and Shambaugh. The only dwelling surviving from this period, which is also the oldest building in the County, is the Robert McKay, Jr. house (c. 1733) at Cedarville. This log building with clapboard sheathing represents a typical, if not a larger, example of an early settlement building in the lower Valley region. McKay and Hans Jost Heydt (later known as Jost Hite), came from Pennsylvania as part of a party of sixteen in 1732. McKay and Hite agreed to the terms set out

by the governor and Council of Virginia that at least one family be settled per thousand acres within two years of land purchase. McKay and Hite became involved in a legal case concerning the ownership of the land claimed by Lord Fairfax . By 1748, Fairfax had established his residence at Greenway Court in the present Clarke County. The rightful ownership of the disputed land was decided in favor of Hite and McKay in 1786. The case had dragged on for fifty years, and all of the original litigants had died. Due to the uncertainties of land ownership that surrounded this legal action, there was little construction of substantial dwellings by new settlers in the area.²

Settlement that would develop into the Town of Front Royal occurred along the Winchester Road, (now State Route 522). All the major early transportation routes of Warren County crossed paths near the center of present-day Front Royal. These included the road through the Manassas Gap, now Route 55; the road from Chester's Gap, now Route 522; the road to Winchester, now Route 340 north; and the Front Royal-Luray Turnpike, now Route 340 south. These are still the region's primary routes. In the 1970s Interstate 66 was constructed less than a mile north of the present town limits. This modern highway provides Front Royal with a link to Interstate 81 in the Shenandoah Valley, and to the eastern Washington, D.C./Northern Virginia metropolitan region, a little over an hour's drive to the east.³

Before the formation of Frederick County in 1738⁴, the Chester's Gap Road stretched between Winchester and Orange. The road served as an important link between eastern markets and the Valley region, which had become an important agricultural area by the second half of the eighteenth century. By 1736, in or near the area now called Riverton, several miles north of the settlement area of Front Royal⁵, Thomas Chester opened a ferry across the forks of the Shenandoah River. The eighteenth-century name "Happy Creek Thoroughfare of the Blue Ridge" gave way to the name "Chester's Road" as Thomas Chester was licensed to conduct his business there (1736). He also became a significant landowner and leading citizen of the area, serving as justice and sheriff (1744).⁶

The present Chester Street is where the small village developed near the ford at Happy Creek. The earliest land records that relate to the Chester Street area begin in 1732, when 20,000 acres in and about the forks of the Shenandoah were granted to William Russell. Russell sold 400 acres to Christopher Marr who in turn sold 200 acres of that in 1754 to Peter Lehew, the pioneer settler for whom the village was first called Lehewtown. Lehew divided his land amongst four sons of which two, David and Francis, divided their tracts into lots to be sold. At the time of Front Royal's incorporation in 1788, the fifty acres in lots had become property of Solomon Vanmeter, James Moore, Robert Haines, William Cunningham, Peter Halley, John Smith, Allen Wiley, Original Wroe, George Chick, William Morris, and Henry Trout.⁷

The trustees, Thomas Allen, Robert Russell, William Jennings, William Headley, John Hickman, Thomas Hand, and Thomas Buck intended to lay out the town in convenient streets where half-acre lots would be sold at public auction. Each purchaser was obligated to build a dwelling house sixteen feet square, with brick or stone chimney, ready for habitation within two years. Despite these intentions, there was disagreement amongst landowners concerning clashing

property use interests. The result stalled the establishment of Front Royal's first plan. The disputes lasted for some time, but when a plan was finalized, it centered around two principal streets. Main Street ran on an east-west axis, from Happy Creek to the schoolhouse. Chester Street extended from the town well to Kendrick's Ford.⁸

Before the name Front Royal became the town's official name, Lehwetown and Helltown were popular names for the small eighteenth-century crossroads community. While the origins of these names have transcended through popular myth, there may be truth in the fact that Front Royal's early character was that of an outpost wayside where wagoners and packmen stopped at the two principal inns. These establishments, operated by Peter and Spencer Lehwew, were sites of repeated brawls, giving the community a reputation as Helltown.⁹

The name Front Royal has several disputed origins. One version maintains that during the French and Indian War a local drillmaster had the habit of ordering his men to "front the royal oak" on the drillfield, which included a giant oak tree, (the oak being the royal tree of England).¹⁰ Another popular story relates that a night sentry would halt an approaching stranger with the challenge "Front!," to which the password reply was "royal oak."¹¹ In any case, the earliest known use of the name Front Royal was in a deed that dates to 1785.

A more likely source for Front Royal comes from the territorial description of the area by the French colonial settlers on the west. In the early eighteenth century when France and England were still defining their boundaries, the French may have referred to this natural mountainous boundary as "le front royale."¹²

One of the earliest physical descriptions of Front Royal was made by the famous Methodist bishop and circuit rider, Francis Asbury, who came to preach in 1804 and again in 1805, and recorded in his diary that "Front Royal contains about 60 houses, a Methodist Chapel, an Academy, a mill, and several stores."¹³ An account written by William M. Buck, the son of early settler Thomas Buck, appeared in the Warren Sentinel in 1873 that described the town at the time of its incorporation in the late eighteenth century. According to Buck, who was born in 1809 at "Bel Air," the house his father built, Front Royal was a town of about 200 people and about 30 houses.¹⁴

...all built of large hewn logs, weatherboarded and painted, with the exception of one small stone and three frame....For nearly fifty years after that time there was but one house of any size built ...the Cloud house in 1814.¹⁵

The early street plan of Front Royal is still evident today. One of the most unusual features of this plan is the triangular space created by the angled southern junction of Chester at Main Street. This area became known as "The Square"(plate 1) during the nineteenth century and today, due to the disappearance of several buildings during a major fire in 1969 (plate 2), the space has been improved with high quality brick sidewalks and a gazebo that reaffirms the social and cultural importance of this space.

Two other streets comprise the earliest settlement area of Front Royal, the present day Crescent and Peyton streets, both of which branch off to the west from Chester Street. Crescent Street has had various different names over time; Mechanic Street, Court Street because it lead to the courthouse, and then Rainbow Street, named by the town trustees in December, 1870. The origin of the Crescent Street name is unknown, but it appears on the 1885 Sanborn fire insurance map. The nature of the street has been residential with the exception of a series of school buildings that have occupied property on the north side of the street since 1910.¹⁶

Peyton Street runs roughly parallel to Main Street on the north side, between Chester and Crescent streets. In the December, 1870 town minutes Peyton was known as Narrow Street, but by 1885 it was recorded on the Sanborn map as Slab Alley. According to Laura Virginia Hale, this street was also known as Stephenson's Alley because property owner John Stephenson bought land at the east end of the street and allowed public access to the area. It may have also been called South Alley sometime before 1870.¹⁷

By the first quarter of the nineteenth century Front Royal had experienced slow growth. In an 1883 Warren Sentinel newspaper, editor John T. Lovell published an article by an anonymous author who describes the physical growth of the town following the War of 1812. Front Royal was growing with mill construction along Happy Creek and the establishment of the wagon-making industry on Chester Street, one of Front Royal earliest industries. Also noted are the approximate thirty-five households, only an increase of five since 1788, and mention of the Cloud House on Main Street being the largest and only brick structure at that time. The author also included a description of the extent and environs of Front Royal in 1815:

At this time the level land south of the town known as the Brent Lots [south of the present Jackson Street] was covered with a dense growth of small woodland of heavy timber--North, the level meadows, interspersed with clumps of maple, elm, and hawthorn, was a sort of common or village green, the muster ground and favorite Sunday resort for young and old...¹⁸

The decades leading up to the Civil War was a period of rapid growth. Warren County was formed in 1836, with Front Royal as its county seat, because of the greater needs demanded by the area's population growth (plate 3 shows 1836 courthouse). The increased population was directly related to the success of industry and agriculture throughout the Shenandoah Valley region. The decade before the Civil War saw improved transportation along the area's waterways by shallow-draft barge-like boats called gundolows.¹⁹ The first bridge across the Shenandoah River was completed at this time (1853) and the arrival of the Orange, Alexandria, and Manassas Gap Railroad (1854) seemed to signal the potential for further growth until the Civil War interrupted this progress (plate 4).

Front Royal's geographic position at the northern end of the Shenandoah Valley, the so-called "bread basket of the Confederacy," made it vulnerable to the military movements of northern and southern armies. The town exchanged hands thirty-three times during the war, making

cultural events center around war activities. Industrial progress, even for military purposes, became nearly impossible.

The Battle of Front Royal occurred on May 23, 1862, when a force led by General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson engaged with Union Colonel John R. Kenly's occupying army of approximately 1000 men. The Union forces were taken by surprise and routed, 750 men were captured, and Kenly was badly wounded.

The last permanent encampment at Front Royal during the war was Union General John Pope's which broke in August of 1862. The town suffered during the stationing of Union General Philip H. Sheridan's three cavalry divisions in October of 1864. It was shortly after this occupation that Union Colonel William Powell was sent to Front Royal to destroy bridges, remaining railways, tanneries, and any other advantages the town could offer Confederate forces. Front Royal's commercial and industrial base was effectively shut down until after the war.

The town was often home to famous Confederate female spy Belle Boyd (plate 5) whose house was moved in 1982 from a site behind Main Street to its present location at the rear of Ivy Lodge, the home of the Warren Heritage Society (the Belle Boyd Cottage served as Boyd's apartment - it was part of a larger inn complex). The **Belle Boyd Cottage (VDHR 112-0013)** serves as the society's archives and museum. In 1863 General Lee's Army of Northern Virginia, which included the Warren Rifles under General Longstreet, passed through town on its way to Gettysburg. During Lee's return to the area, he stopped at the Buck Mansion, **Bel Air (VDHR 112-0007/plate 6)**, where he socialized and allegedly signed a plaster wall in the attic area of the house.²⁰

In 1864 Union troops captured six of Mosby's Rangers. General Custer, the commanding officer, had four men shot and two men hanged at Front Royal in retaliation for the death of a Union officer. A monument to Mosby's Rangers and soldiers is located in the **Prospect Hill Cemetery (VDHR 112-0052)** at the western end of Prospect Street. A Virginia Historical Highway Marker, detailing the event, stands near the intersection of North Royal Avenue and Fourteenth Street, near the hanging site.

The town and county were physically ravaged by occupation and shelling of both armies. By 1865 starvation as well as shortages of clothing and fuel were everyday realities. It would take a decade and outside investment to rebuild the industrial and agricultural base of the area.

At the end of the Civil War there were seventy houses in Front Royal dispersed over an area that was bounded by Happy Creek to the east, the present Jackson Street to the south, Manor Road (now South Royal Street), West Main Street, and the Luray Grade to the west, and the intersection of Union and Chester streets to the north. Manor Road, the present-day South Royal Avenue, was the southern approach to town from the Luray direction, while the northern approach was Chester Street. These two streets were linked together by Main Street. The northern extension of Manor, the present-day North Royal Avenue, was not built until the mid-to late 1890s.²¹

Rebuilding and expansion began within five years after the war. Front Royal's rail lines were improved. New markets were opened in the upper Shenandoah Valley, while the markets of the pre-war years were even more accessible.

The first expansion beyond the pre-war boundaries of the town occurred in the late 1860s when Adourijah Shipe was approached by the town trustees who desired to buy the land on the south side of town for development of lots. Shipe agreed to sell if the town agreed to name a street after him. The name Shipe Street existed at least until the 1927 Sanborn fire insurance map, but sometime thereafter was changed to Stonewall Drive.

By the 1880s the southern boundary of Front Royal was at Boundary Street (later renamed Prospect Street) and land west of Manor Street (later renamed South Royal Avenue) was laid out in lots west to Luray Avenue. New streets were developed on the south side of town at this time. They included Blue Ridge Avenue, Church Street, Cloud Street, and Jackson Street east of Manor Street (now South Royal), and Lee Street which extends to the south from West Main Street.

Front Royal has had a long history of commercial and industrial establishments around Happy Creek. Today the area lies between Chester and Commerce streets, starting at the eastern end of Main Street, spreading to the north. In the late nineteenth century most of the industrial concerns were centered around the rail line which came all the way up to Main Street where the present depot sits. The area between Water Street and the depot running north towards Laura Virginia Hale Street (formerly Manassas Street) still retains its industrial and commercial architecture, all of which dates later than 1927 due to a fire that started in the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill (VDHR 112-0055-024)** and destroyed earlier frame buildings in the immediate area. Allen Wiley's Mill, built by the 1790, was the one of the town's earliest major commercial and industrial establishments. It was located at the foot of **Bel Air** hill, on the east side of Happy Creek (a stone chimney ruins in this area may be the remnants of a miller's house).²² This was one of several mills that may have operated in the town's vicinity.

The other pre-Civil War industry was the manufacture of wagons by Messrs. Trout, Cline, Fant, and later J. B. Petty. Petty's wagon factory stood across from his house on Chester Street where he employed thirty-five to forty people in 1851.²³ His business reopened after the war and continued until 1874. The Civil War put a temporary halt on the grist mill industry. The economic depression of the post-war years would give way to the industrial era of the 1880s. The steady late-century growth would transform Front Royal from a hamlet to a bustling town.

The 1880s and part of the 1890s were Front Royal's boom period. Industry and transportation were greatly improved and the population of the town reached 1,500 by the middle of the 1890s. The town boasted six steam manufacturing enterprises, the Bark and Sumac Mill and canning establishment of the Macatee Brothers, as well as the large tannery of Shotwell and Rust, successors of Solomon Vanmeter who had his tannery near Happy Creek in 1793. The tannery had been operated by Thomas Buck in 1819, followed by Tuley's from 1833 to 1865. The area is still occupied by commercial-light industrial establishments.

One of the first industries to develop after the war was Samuel Carson's Lime Works at Riverton in 1868. William E. Carson, the son of Samuel, was largely responsible for the establishment of Shenandoah National Park, and commissioned Washington, D.C., architecture firm A. B. Mullet and Company to design Killahevin (c. 1905), his home which still sits atop a dramatic hill at the northern end of North Royal Avenue.

While the railroad had operated in Front Royal since 1854, the 1880s was a period of railroad expansion. In 1879 the Shenandoah Line was built in Riverton, and, in the 1880s, was expanded to cross the Shenandoah River to a freight and passenger station at the end of Luray Avenue. In 1887 there were as many as four passenger trains daily on the Virginia Midland Railroad, the first line in the area. The railroad depot at 414 East Main Street, used presently as the Visitors Center, was not built until the early twentieth century.

Twenty years of growth in Front Royal seemed to signal the right time to expand the town further. The lots south of Main Street had made a significant extension to the town after the Civil War. In the 1890s the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company proposed the next logical extension, north, to go beyond the Shenandoah River.

The Riverton Improvement Company was comprised of investors who sought to attract more industry and residents. This ambitious project sought to double the size of the town and improve its infrastructure. Streets were laid out and lots were defined, but the national depression of the 1890s caused the ultimate failure of the company. Despite this financial interruption, the town did benefit by having a blueprint for the eventual northward expansion that would take place at a more gradual rate up to 1940. Most of the roads proposed on the blueprint exist today. The Improvement Company left Front Royal with a new metal bridge across the Shenandoah River, a water works, and an electric company. The area developed along North Royal Avenue was called the Boom long afterwards.

By 1897 Manor Avenue (now South Royal Avenue) was extended north through the Boom and its northern section became Royal Avenue. North and South Royal Avenues are separated at the intersection of Main Street. North Royal Avenue extends north and ends at the Shenandoah River (Route 340 uses North Royal Avenue).

The last quarter of the nineteenth century was a period of industrial expansion. Wagon construction, milling, and tanning continued, but different industrial facilities developed in the northeast end of town. Most of the development started on the north side of Main Street where the present **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill** is located. The industrial band continued north adjacent to the railroad tracks. The Sanborn fire insurance map of 1891 (middle of the boom period) shows several light industrial buildings on recently laid out Commerce Street, between Fourth and Sixth streets (there was no Fifth Street at this time). Included in these boom time businesses were C. F. Sumption Wagon Manufactory, a recently fire-damaged building which by 1897 was rebuilt as the Front Royal Furniture Factory, the Maryland Tack Company, the J. N. Landenberg Knitting Mill, and a piano factory.

Other industrial establishments were spread further north, some along the Shenandoah River. The Riverton Lime and Stone Company (now known as the Riverton Corporation) had been in business in this area since 1868. Riverton Baking Company, Riverton Mills Company, and Warren Manufacturing Company, while being in Warren County, were all close enough to town to play a significant role in the town's economic growth.

Complementing the economic growth during the last quarter of the nineteenth century was the expansion of residential neighborhoods. While residential construction lagged in the area north of town, houses were filling out the neighborhoods south and west of Main Street. Blue Ridge Avenue, Jackson, Shipe, Lee, and Prospect Streets, were almost fully developed by the first decade of the twentieth century. First and Second streets, as well as Virginia Avenue on the western edge of the Boom, became some of the more preferred areas for 1890s residential construction.

In addition to an early Colonial Revival-style school building built on Crescent Street in the first decade of the twentieth century, Front Royal included several notable private institutions. Eastern College was founded in the late nineteenth century as a coeducational institution. The campus consisted of five buildings, the most impressive being a three-story brick building that stood at the intersection of North Royal Avenue and Sixth Street where the present 7-Eleven Store is located. This building was later remodeled as the Royal Motel. The **Schenk Building (not surveyed)** on North Royal Avenue, the only surviving building of the campus ensemble, served as a boys dormitory. Eastern College closed sometime before the 1920s.

Randolph-Macon Academy (VDHR 112-0008) (plate 7), begun in 1892, has been in continuous operation since its founding. This prominent hilltop landmark burned in 1927 and the Victorian design was replaced by a domed Colonial Revival building finished by 1932.

Front Royal's geographical position at the northern end of the Blue Ridge Mountains and eastern edge of the Shenandoah Valley has been historically important for creating a tourist industry. In the early twentieth century a national conservation movement culminated in the formation of the National Park System. William E. Carson, President of the Riverton Stone and Lime Company, also served on the Virginia Conservation Commission from 1926-34. He was largely responsible for the building of the Skyline Drive. The Front Royal entrance to the drive opened in 1936 with subsequent sections finished by 1939.

The Skyline Drive and Skyline Caverns have been a tourist draw since they opened, but vacationers from the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states had already been drawn to this region for stop-overs during fishing and hunting season. Tourist homes, some still exist along North and South Royal Avenue, predate the many motels and hotels built from the 1930s to the 1980s.

While national economic growth during the Great Depression of the 1930s was slow, Front Royal benefited from the Federal Public Works Administration's construction of a new county courthouse and a town hall, both finished by 1936 (plates 8 and 9). In 1940, the impressive **Warren County High School (VDHR 112-0062/plate 10)**, on Luray Avenue, was finished.

A solid civic infrastructure was in place by 1940 as Front Royal was about to experience another period of unprecedented economic growth.

In 1937 the Courtaulds of England announced the construction of the largest rayon plant in America, just west of Front Royal. Production began in 1940. In 1941 the plant was sold to American investors to assist in the wartime lend-lease payments. The plant was renamed American Viscose Corporation (plate 11) and remained in business until the 1980s. Front Royal expanded around the plant in a development called Viscose City (the plant was most recently known as Avtex Fibers, Inc.).

To accommodate the commercial and tourist traffic brought on by the significant changes in the 1930s, the concrete Riverton Bridge (plate 12) was finished in 1941. The older bridge (1894) that was still in use at the time at the northern end of North Royal Avenue no longer stands. More commercial growth began to occur on Shenandoah Avenue, the new bridge approach corridor on the north side of town.

Since the chartering of the town in 1788, Front Royal has expanded many times in size and population. From a small village of 200 people in 1800, the town had a 1990 population of 11,880 (1990, 30-mile radius population was 204,870).²⁴

Endnotes

1. Maral Kalbian cites Sam Lehman's The Story of Frederick County in her Rural Historic Resources Report of Warren County, Virginia 1991, p. 9.
2. Maral Kalbian regional architectural historian, covers the architectural context of Warren County in great detail in her Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia 1991.
3. Maral Kalbian, Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia, 1991. Prepared for The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Sponsored by the Warren Heritage Society. P. 9.
4. The main courthouse for the area was located in the present Orange County. Court business during the early colonial period of the region required several days of difficult travel throughout the Piedmont.
5. Riverton presently lies within Front Royal's corporate limits. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries Front Royal was centered around Main and Chester Streets. The boundaries of the town began to expand to the north and the south after the Civil War.
6. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street...Presence of the Past Patterns of the Future, Commercial Press, Stephens City, Virginia, 1985. P. 1.
7. Laura Virginia Hale, Warren County Sesquicentennial, manuscript version from the Warren County Heritage Society, April 1986.
8. The present Chester Street angles to the northwest and does not align exactly with Kendrick Lane, the road that probably led to Kendrick's ford on the South Fork of the Shenandoah River.
9. Helltown was probably a popular nickname that existed concurrently with the name Lehewtown. In Laura Virginia Hale's Warren County Sesquicentennial essay, she quotes an anonymous source: "all the wild and lawless spirits of the surrounding county flocked into the little hamlet," so "given to revelry and ungodly glee." Helltown may have also referred to the difficult travelling conditions of the region. In the winter and spring months the roads became muddy and rutted, and if the Shenandoah River was running fast and high, a substantial delay became part of the traveling plans.
10. Laura Virginia Hale, Warren County Sesquicentennial, manuscript version at Warren Heritage Society, April, 1986, p. 9.
11. Alvin R.L.Dohme, Bicentennial Souvenir History of Warren County, The Warren Heritage Society, and the Lord Fairfax Planning Commission, 1976, p. 2.
12. Kimberley Fogle provided this anecdote. Verification of this origin may be possible by studying eighteenth-century French colonial maps and papers.

13. Laura Virginia Hale, Warren County Sesquicentennial, manuscript version at Warren Heritage Society, April 1986, p.11.
14. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, Presence of the Past Patterns the Future, Stephens City, Commercial Press, 1985. Pg. 2.
15. William M. Buck quoted by Laura Virginia Hale in On Chester Street, Presence of the Past Patterns the Future, Stephens City, Commercial Press, 1985. Pg. 2.
16. A great deal of research on the origins and the architectural makeup of the streets in the survey area by Front Royal Town Planner Kimberley Fogle and architectural historian Maral Kalbian. Specific discussions of street origins in this survey report are based to a great extent on Kimberley Fogle's Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas, Appendix B, Historical Background for the Proposed Historic Districts, 1993. Pages 1-21.
17. Fogle, op. cit., p. 17.
18. Anonymous author published in Warren Sentinel in 1883.
19. The gundalow was undoubtedly similar to the many other river traveling vessels across Virginia. The vernacular description of this type of craft on the James River was "bateau."
20. This is an unusual wall and ceiling area. Today the space exists with hundreds of signatures on all walls dating as far back as the Civil War. The section where General Lee signed, according to the present owner Larry Lehew, was cut out of the wall and is now patched in with a later wall patch material. The present owner has installed clear acrylic over the walls to preserve what is left.
21. North Royal Avenue first appears on the 1897 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. South Royal appears as "Court or Manor Av."
22. Laura Virginia Hale in Warren County Sesquicentennial, April 1986, p- 12. Ms. Hale lists other prominent mills and mill owners in the county and attributes flour production as the first major industry in the county.
23. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, Presence of the Past Patterns the Future, pp. 123-24.
24. The 1984, 30-mile radius, population was 166,500. A growth of 38,370 in six years.

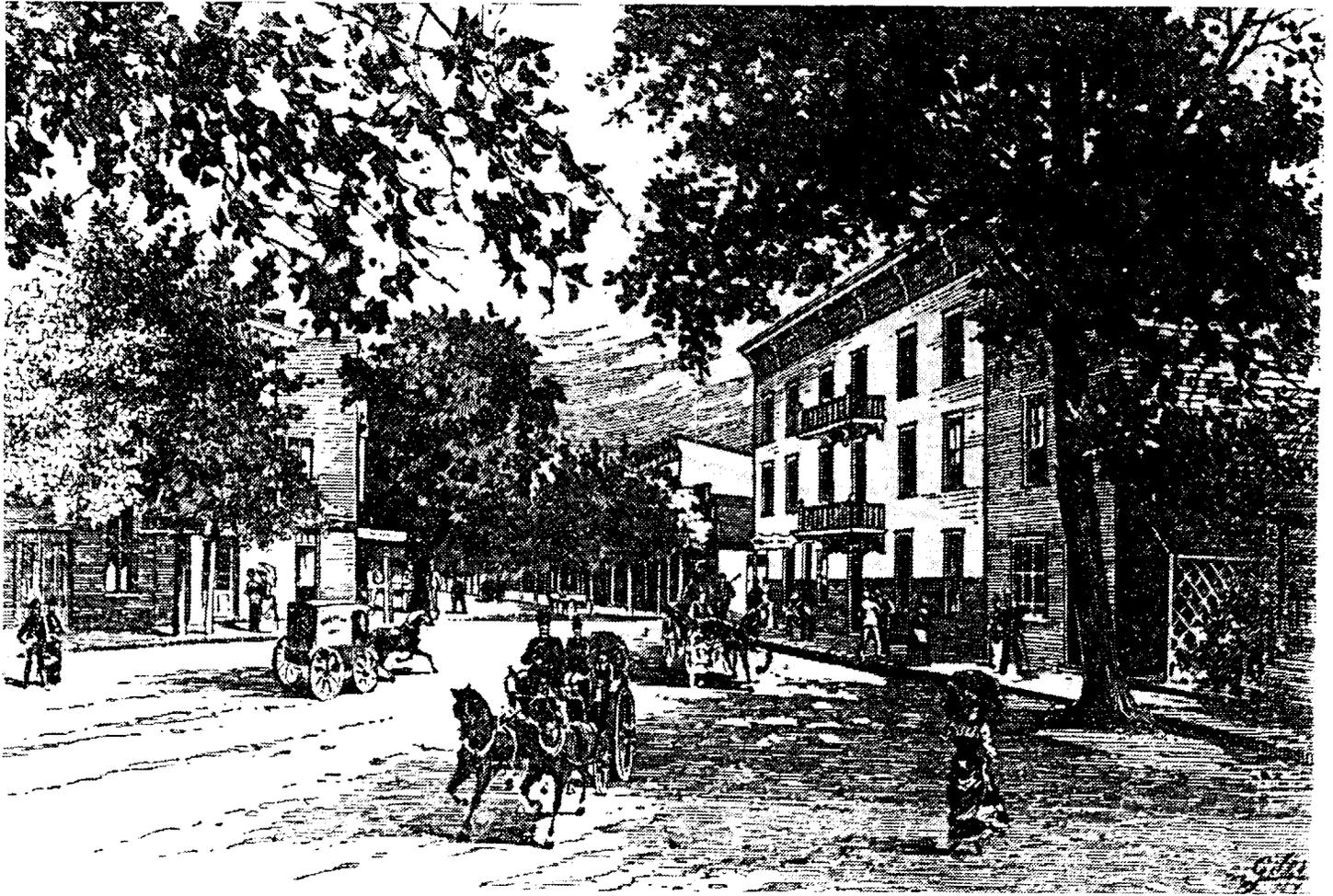


Plate 1: c. 1890s print of "The Square" (On Chester Street)



Plate 2: Front Royal Town Square in 1936, buildings in photo demolished in 1969 fire



Plate 3: Warren County Courthouse, late nineteenth century view showing courthouse, clerk's office, wrought iron fence, and double nozzle fire hydrant (VSL)

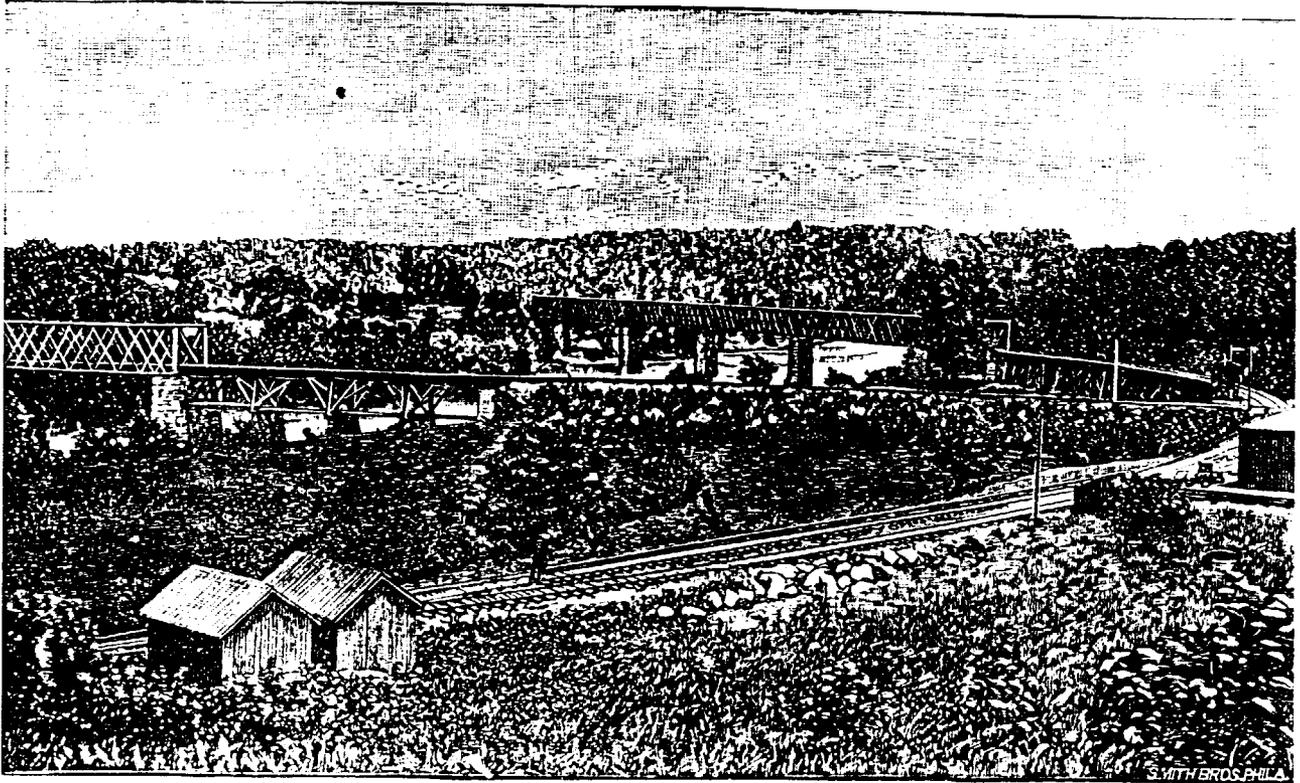


Plate 4: Nineteenth century print showing Riverton Junction (VSL)



*Belle Boyd in the Rebel
Costume & A. D. G. & A.*

Plate 5: post-war photograph of Belle Boyd in Confederate stage costume (On Chester Street)

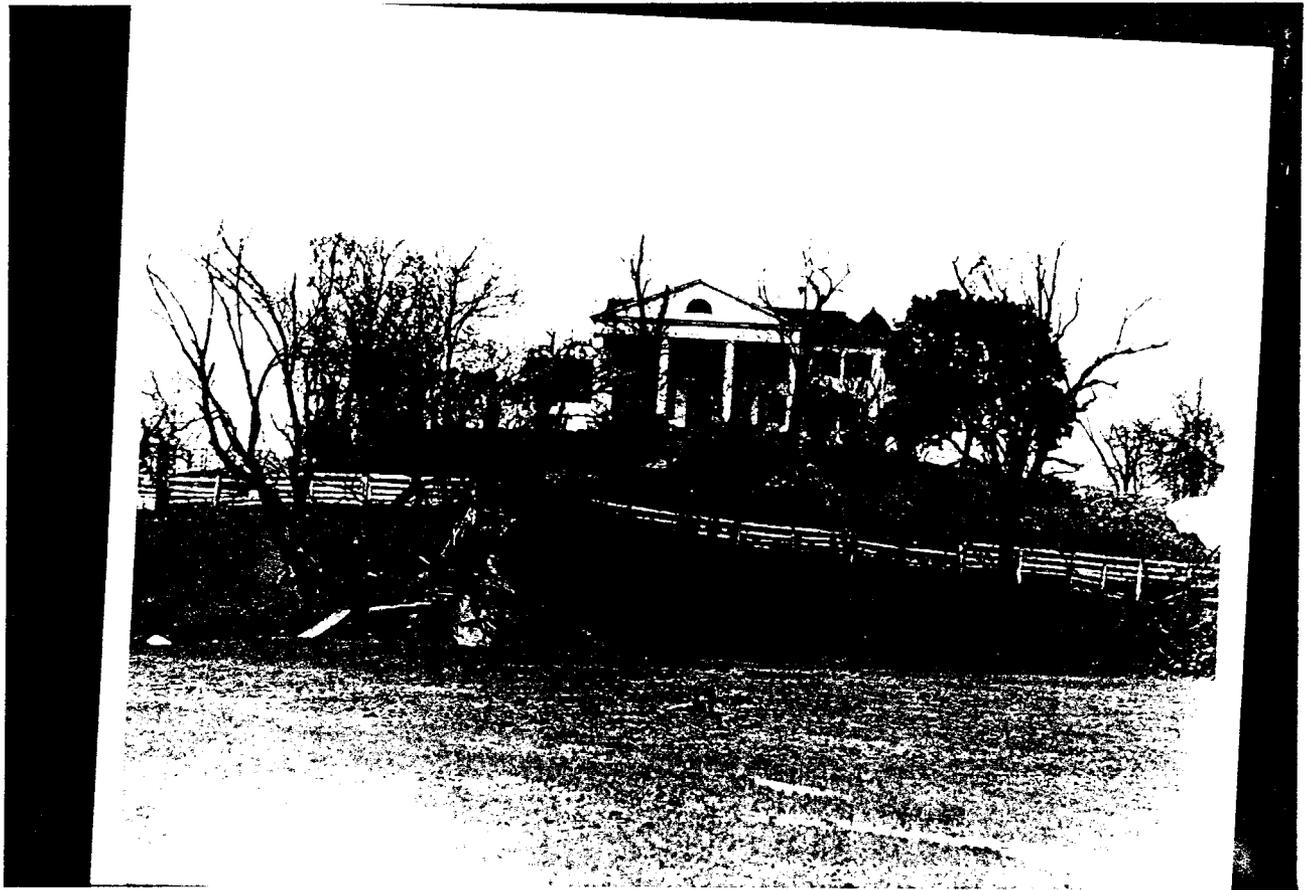


Plate 6: Bel Air, view from first half of twentieth century (VSL)

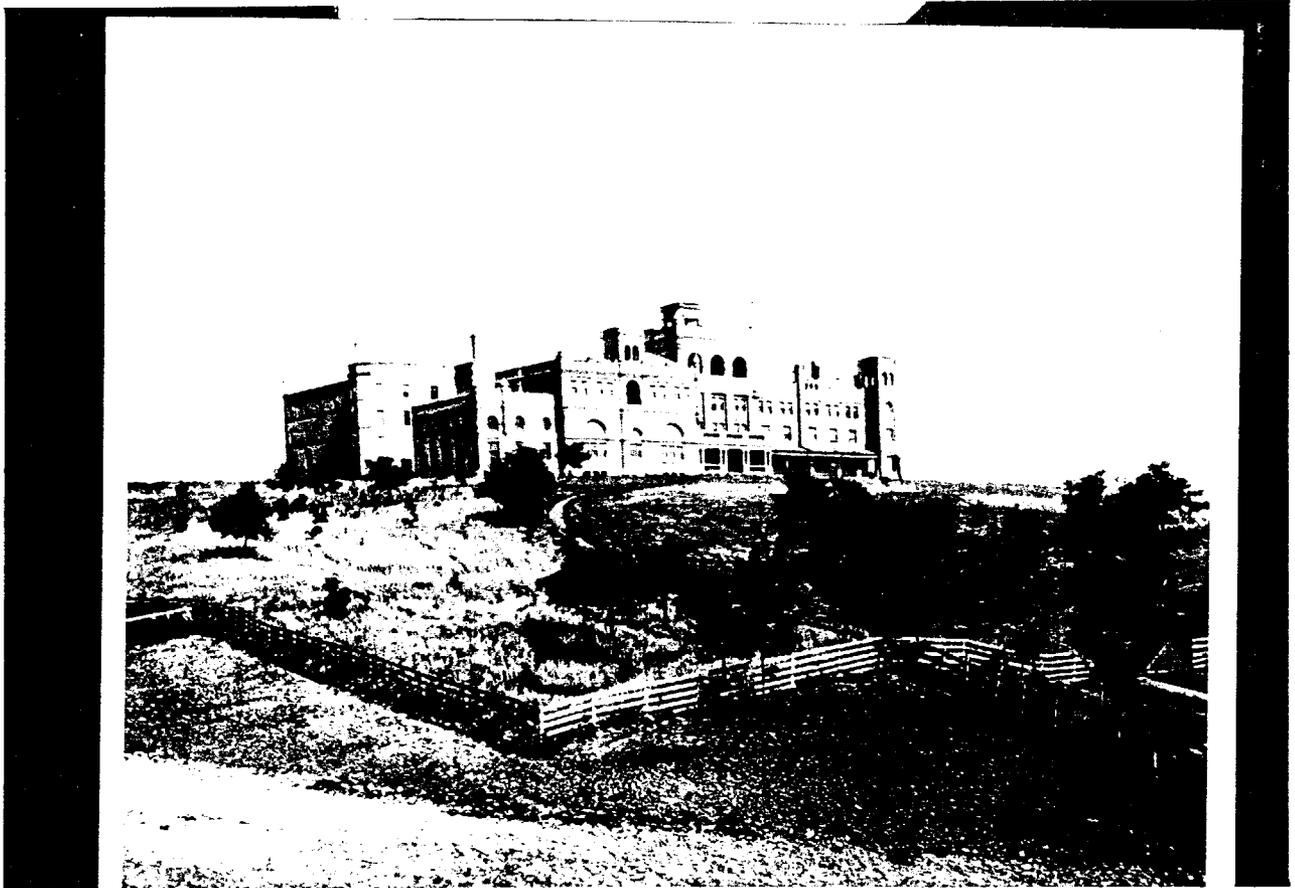


Plate 7: 1892 Randolph-Macon Academy (VSL)



Plate 8: 1936 Warren County Courthouse, shortly after construction (Virginia Chamber of Commerce, VSL)

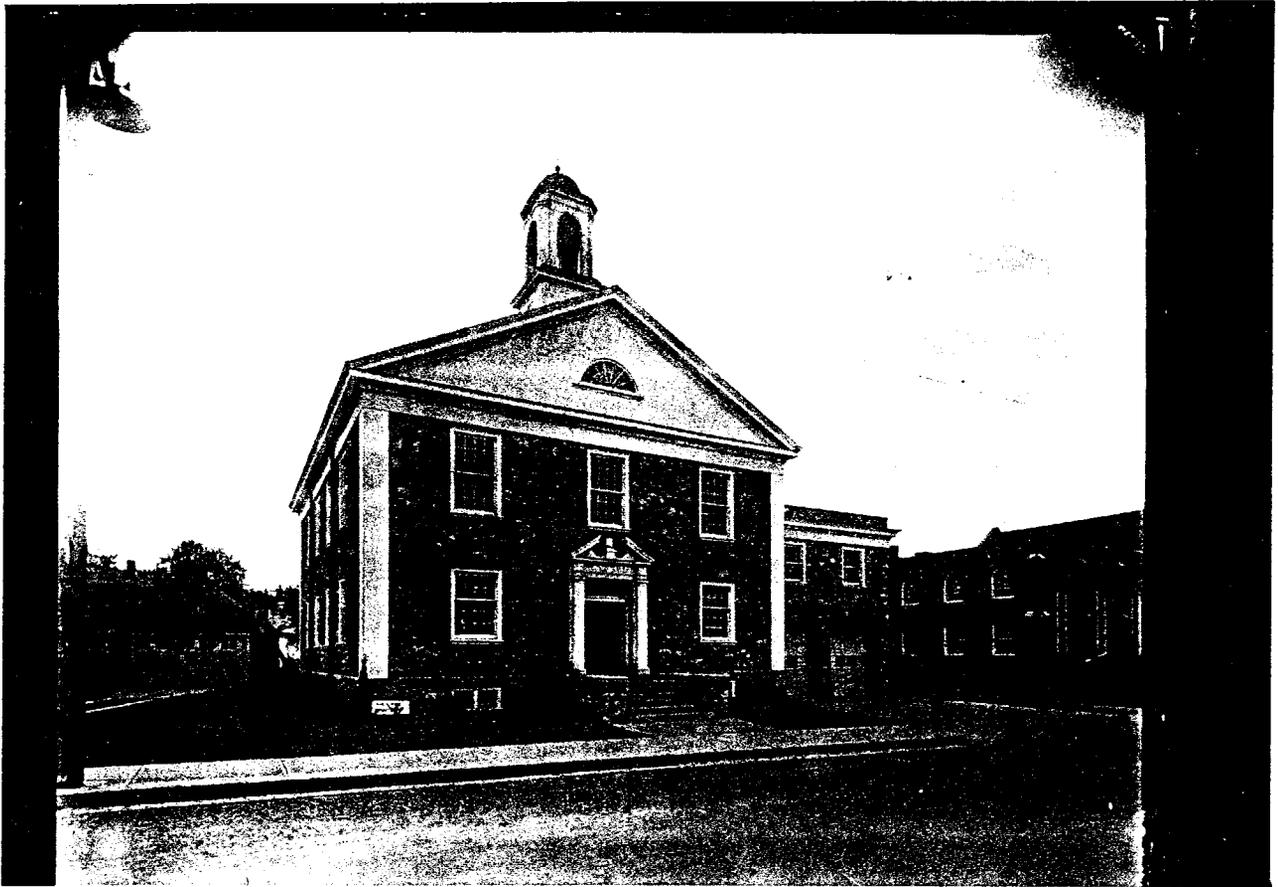


Plate 9: Front Royal Town Hall, shortly after construction (Virginia Chamber of Commerce, VSL)

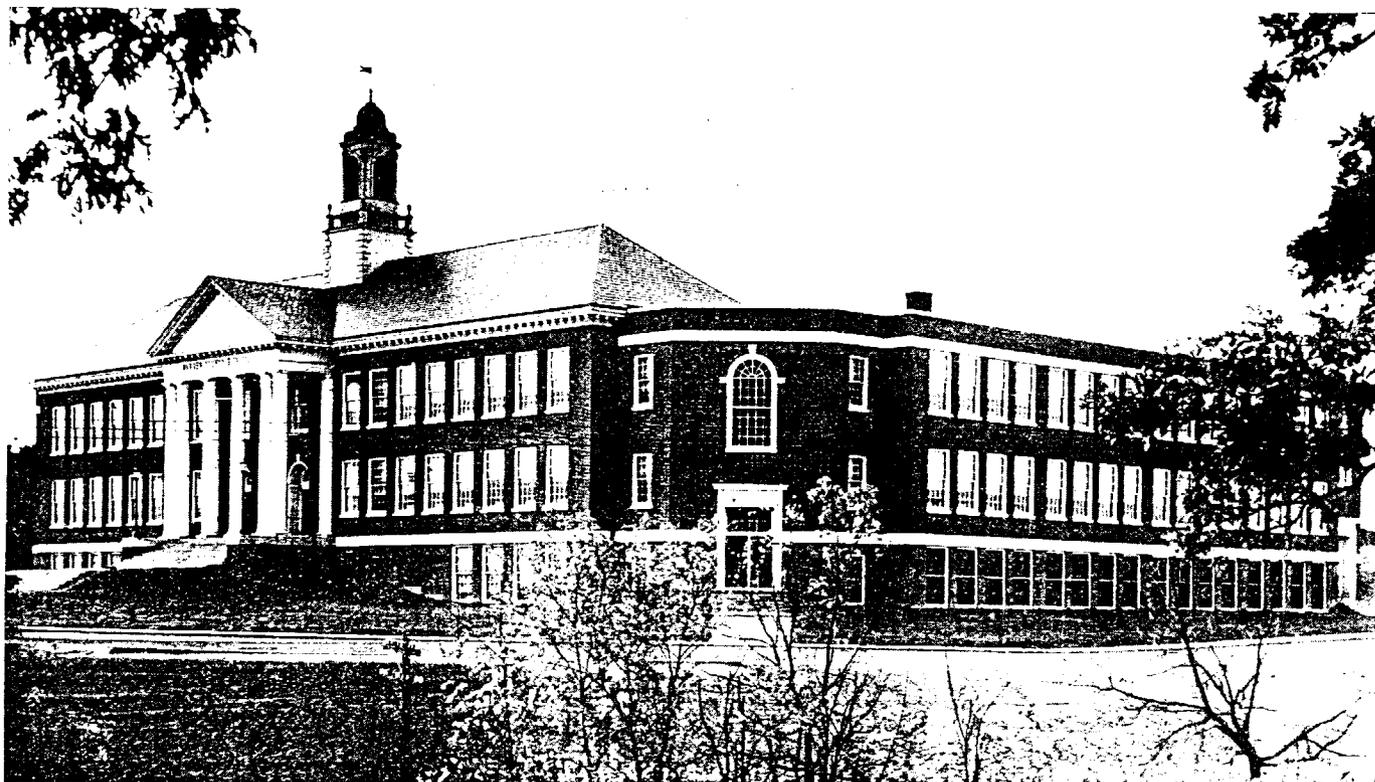
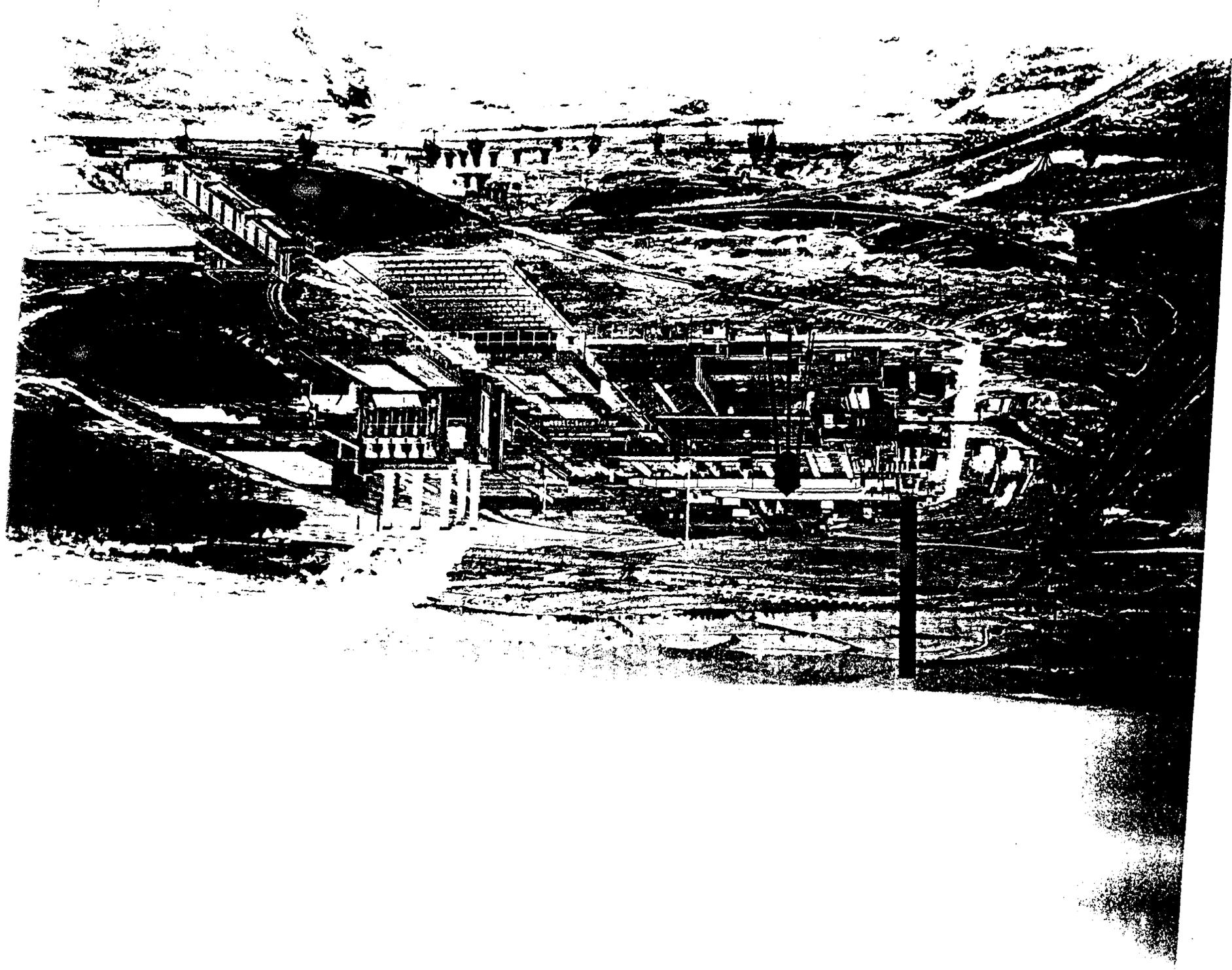


Plate 10: Warren County High School, view towards southeast (1943) (An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County)

Plate 11 (next page): American Viscose Plant c. 1945-1950 (WHS)



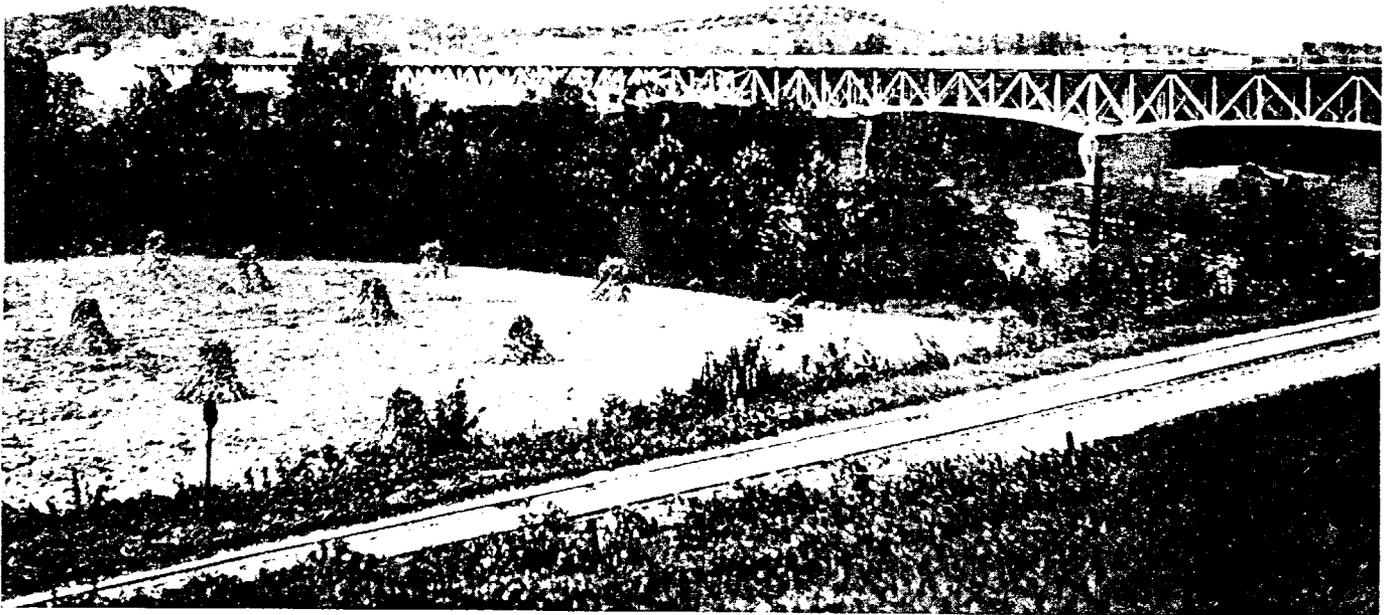


Plate 12: Front Royal-Riverton Bridges, view towards northeast (1943) (An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County)



Plate 13: East Main Street, 100 block, late nineteenth century



MAIN STREET, FRONT ROYAL, VA.

Plate 14: 100 and 200 blocks of East Main Street early twentieth century, view towards west
(post card/WHS)



Plate 15: 100, 200, and part of 300 blocks of East Main Street (c. 1930), view towards west
(Warren County Sesquicentennial)

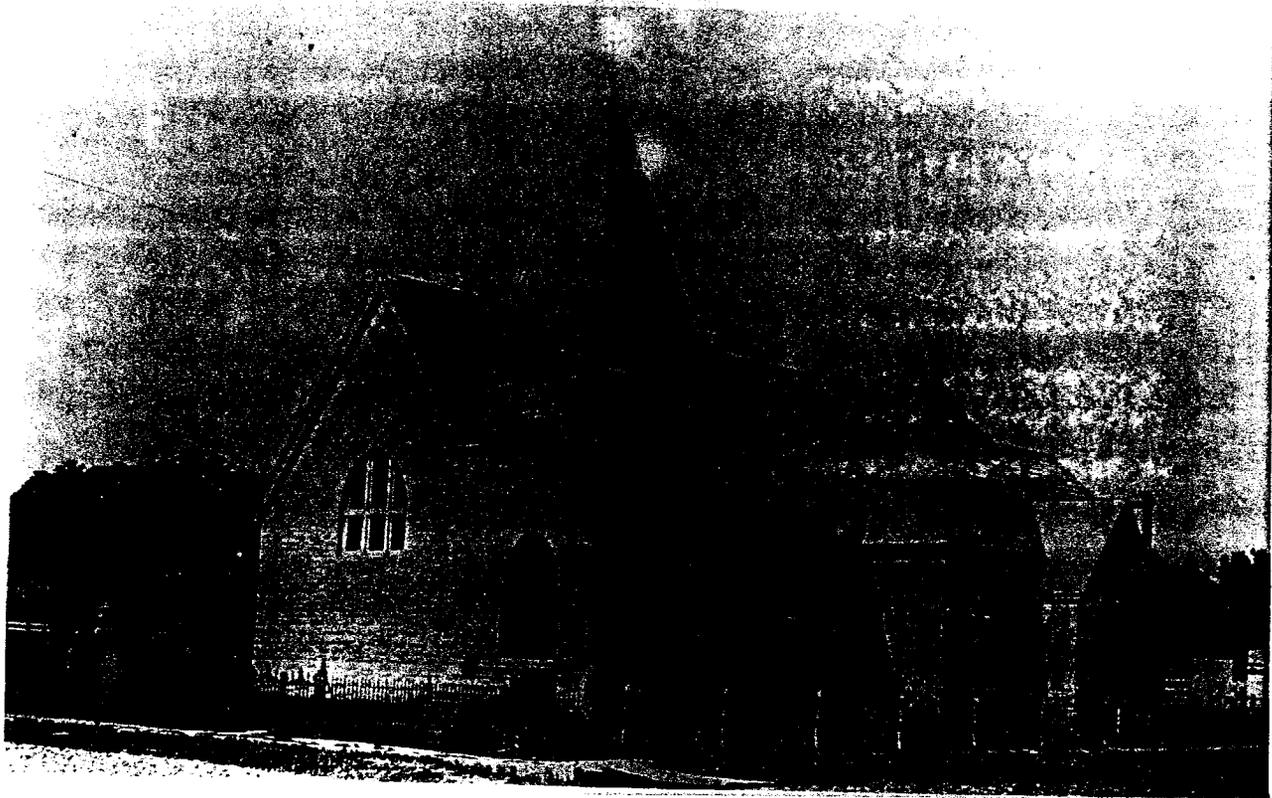


Plate 16: Calvary Episcopal Church, shortly after construction (1898) (VSL)

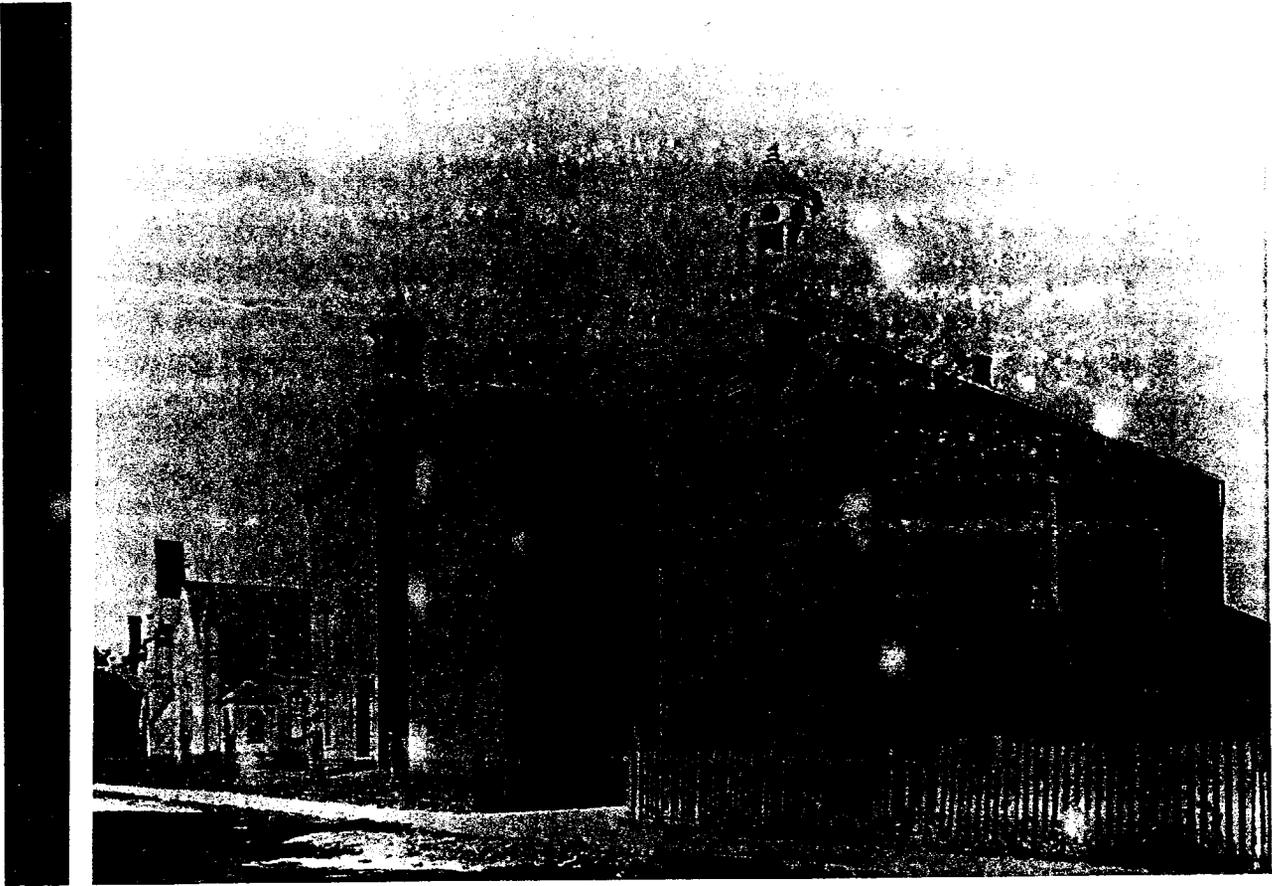


Plate 17: view of South Royal Avenue towards the south, showing (from left to right) the Presbyterian Church, Stickley Building, and firehouse (VSL)

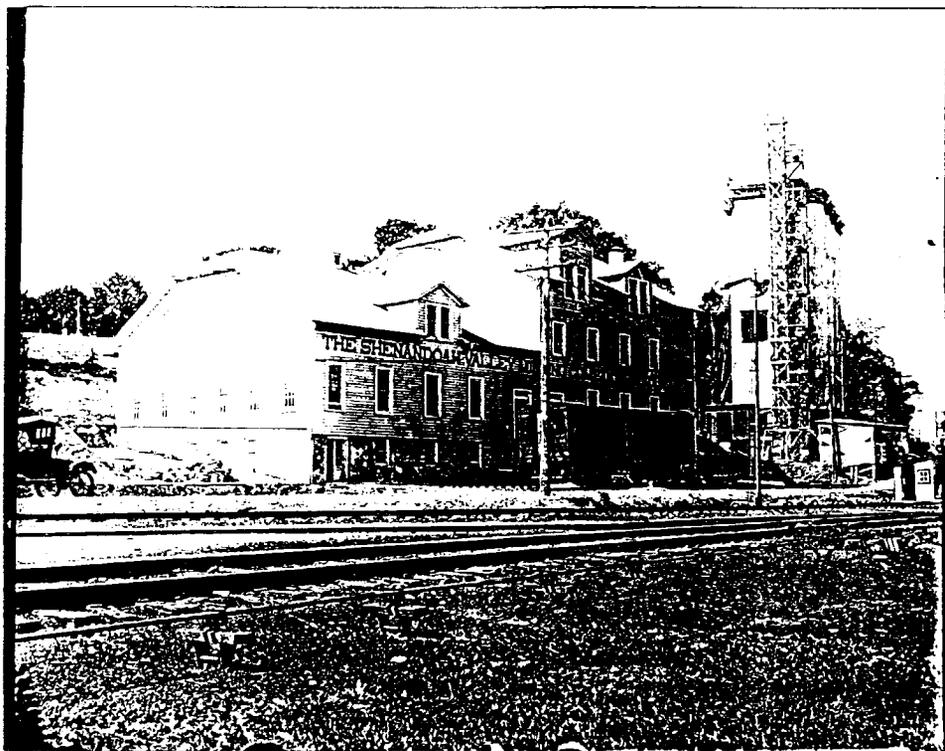


Plate 18: The Shenandoah Valley Milling Company, on Depot Street, silos are still extant (WHS)



Plate 19: Cheek-Fant-Petty House, formerly sited near the E. Wilson Morrison School playground, demolished c. 1945. (VSL)

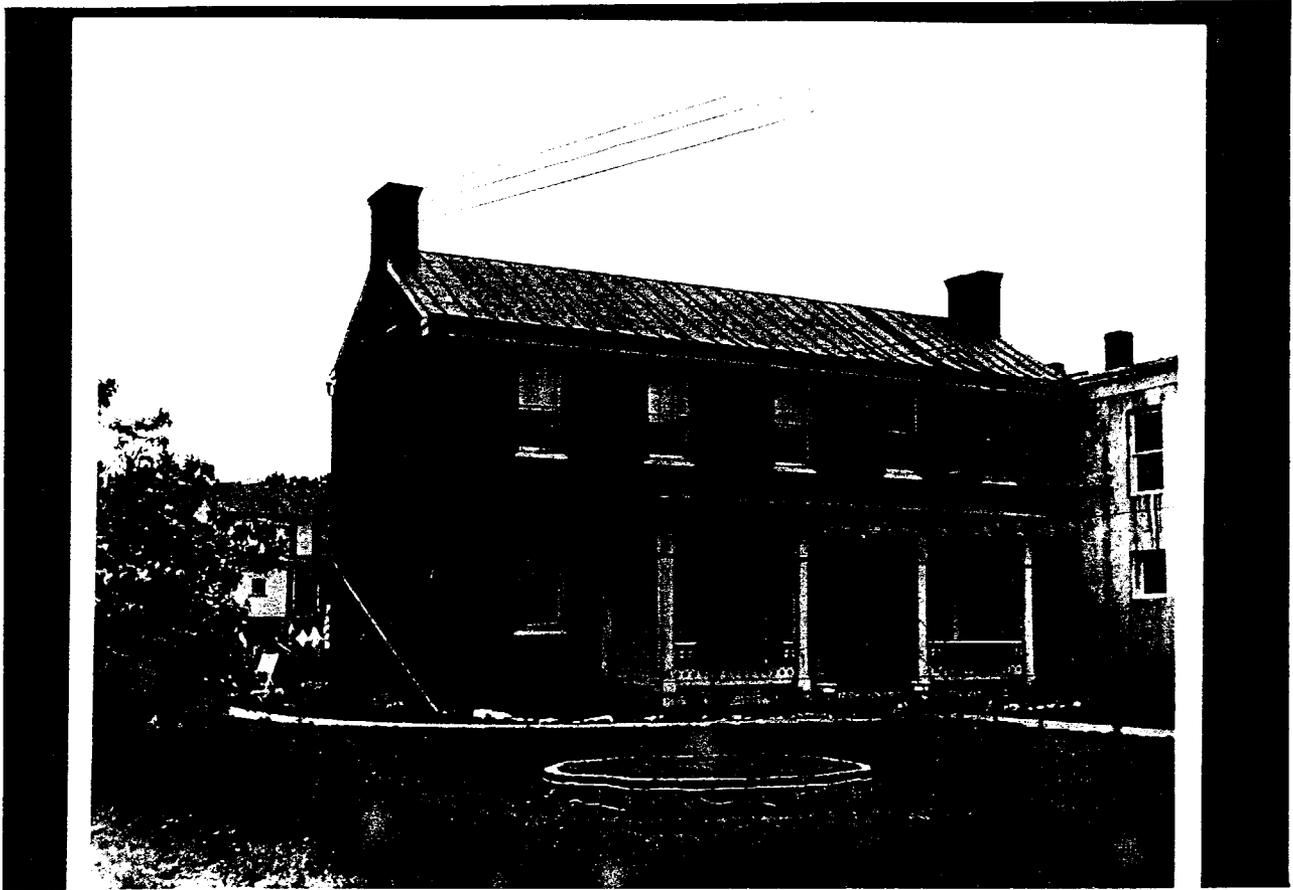
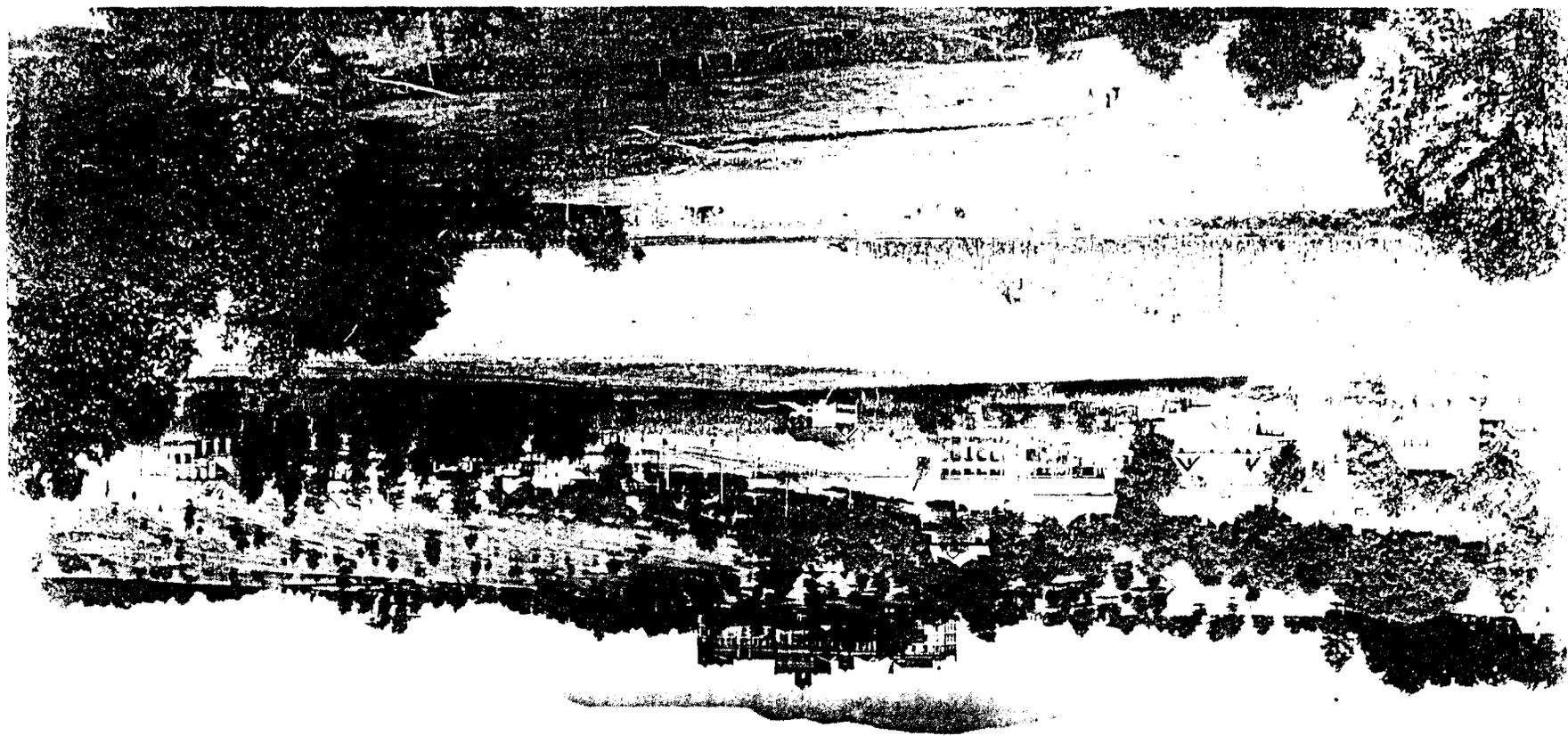


Plate 20: Cook House (VDHR 112-0011), 507 East Main Street (no date)

Plate 21 (next page): view of Chester Street and Randolph-Macon, early twentieth century (On
Chester Street)



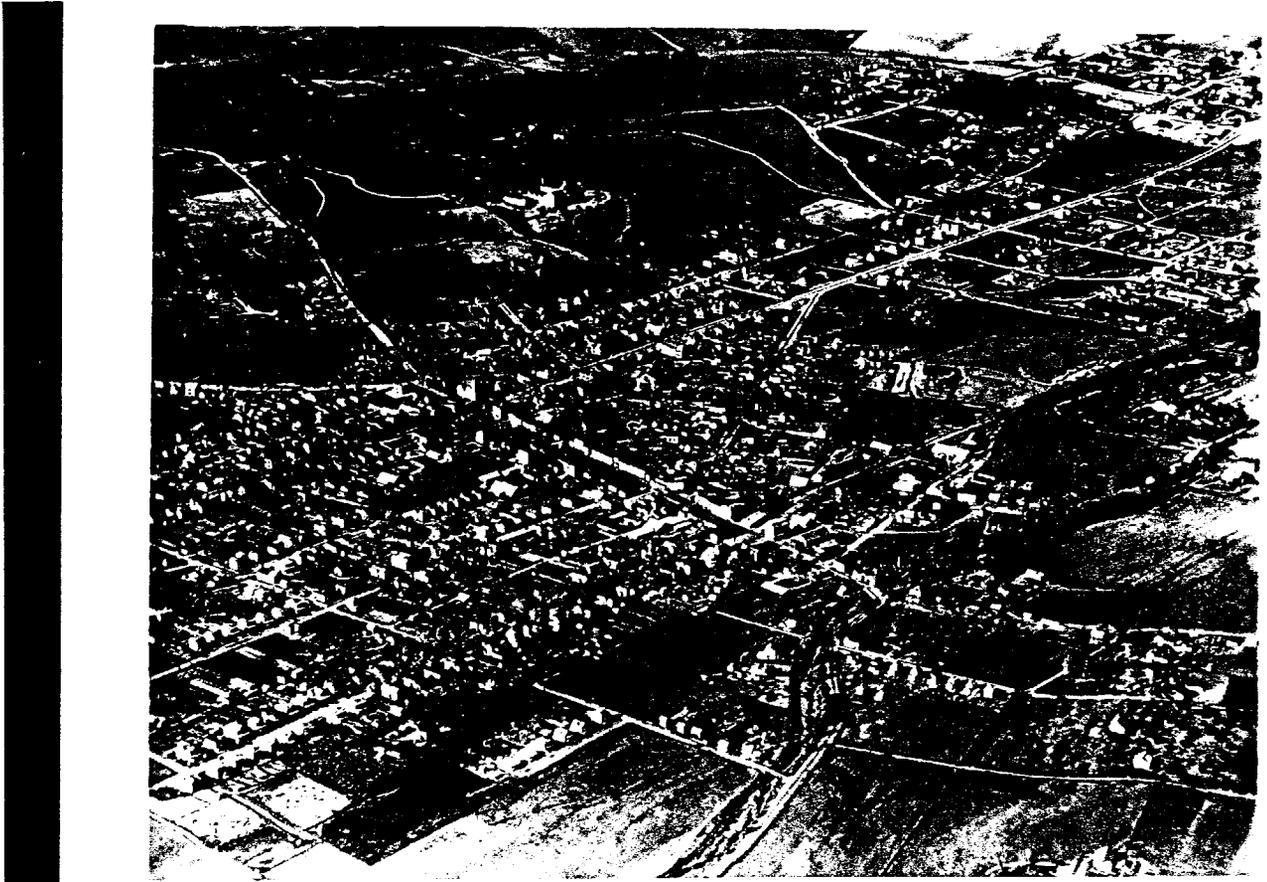


Plate 22: Front Royal aerial view from the mid to late 1930s



Plate 23: neighborhood south of East Main Street, Prospect Street intersects Happy Creek Road at left (VSL)

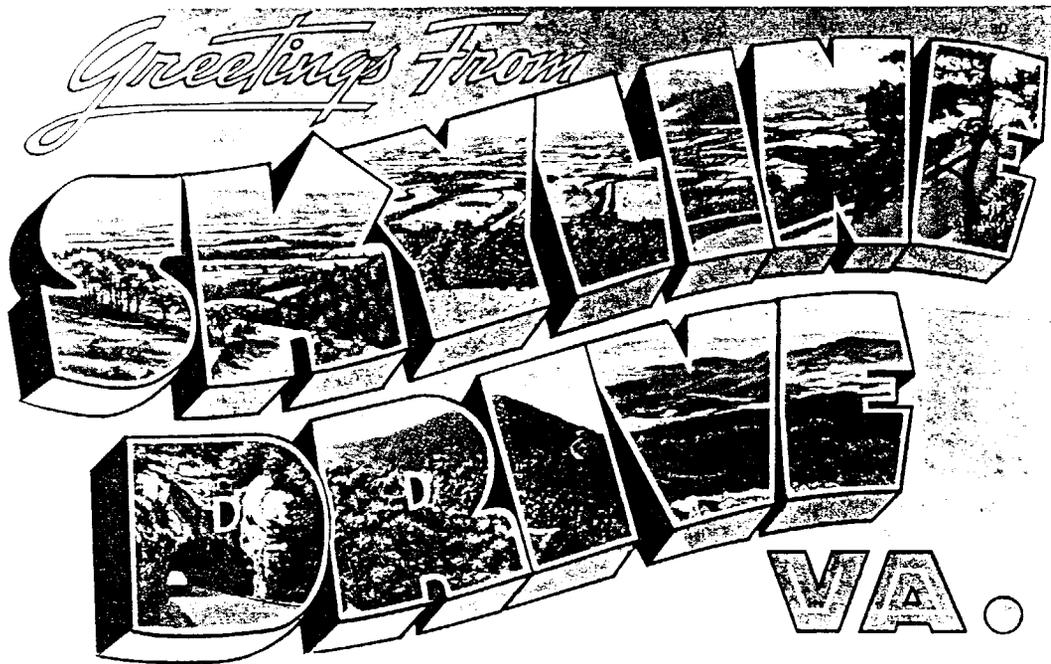
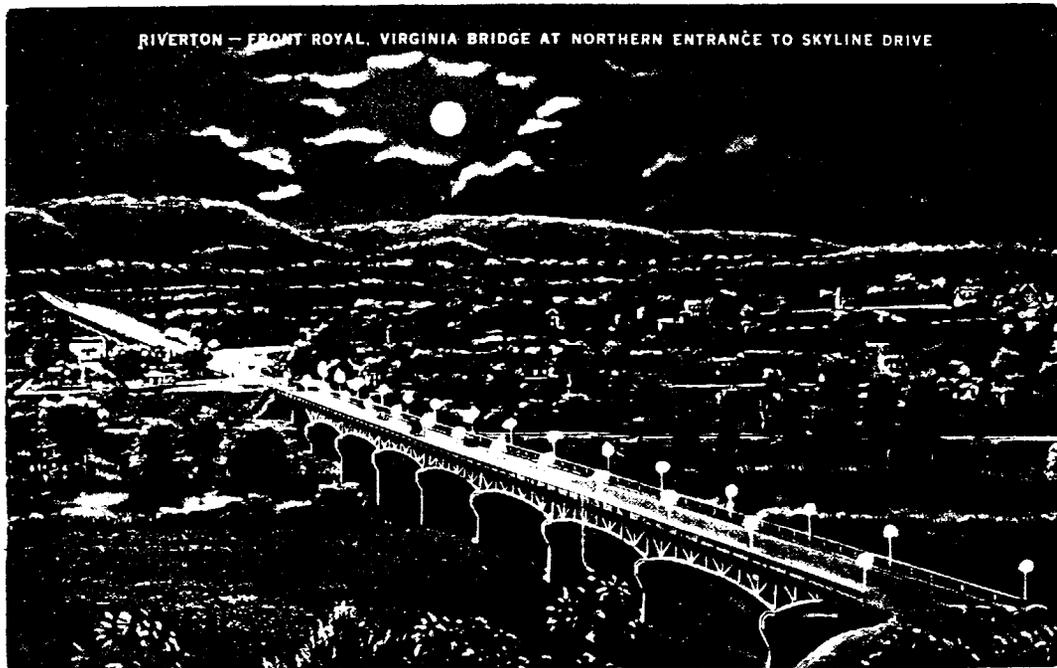
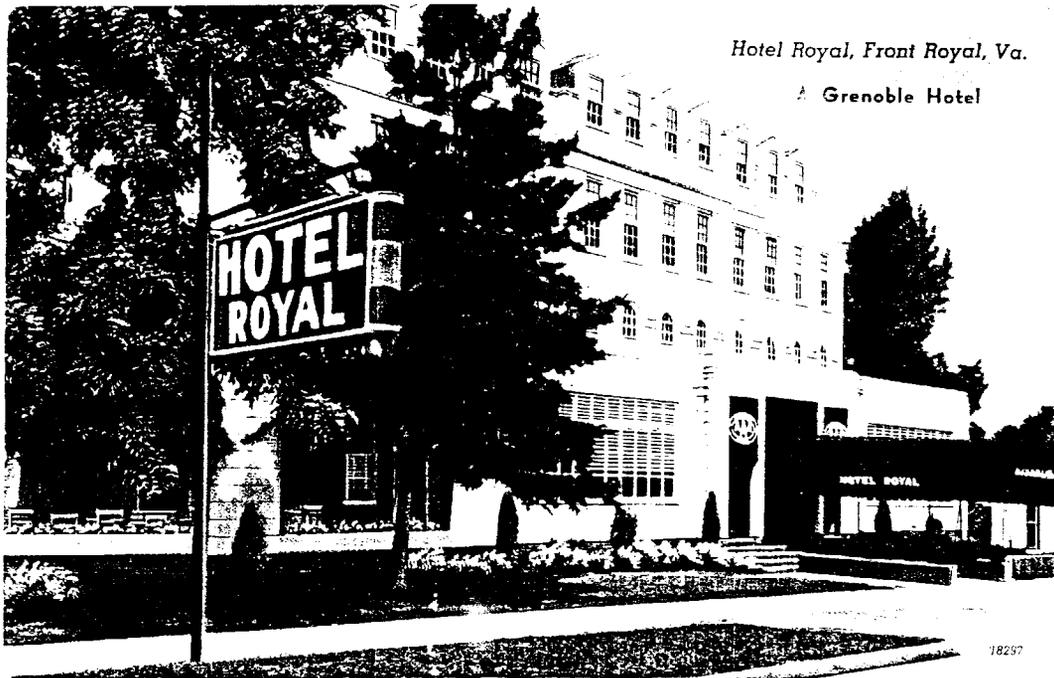


Plate 24 (top): Front Royal-Riverton Bridges, c. 1950, (post card from Marc C. Wagner collection)

Plate 25 (bottom): Skyline Drive post card, c. 1950, (from Marc C. Wagner collection)



Skyland Resort in Shenandoah National Park, Virginia

44



Plate 26 (top): Hotel Royal, the remodeled Eastern College building (now demolished), c. 1950 (post card from Marc C. Wagner Collection)

Plate 27 (bottom): Skyland Resort, on the Skyline Drive, Page County, c. 1940-1950 (post card from Marc C. Wagner collection)

Residential/Domestic Theme

Residential/Domestic Theme

This chapter concerns the human need for shelter, a home place, and community dwellings. Domestic property types include single dwellings such as a rowhouse, mansion, residence, rock shelter, farmstead, or cave; secondary domestic structures such as a dairy, smokehouse, storage pit, storage shed, kitchen, garage, or other dependency; hotels such as an inn, hotel, motel, or way station; institutional housing such as a military quarter, staff housing, poor house, or orphanage; camps such as a hunting campsite, fishing camp, forestry camp, seasonal residence, or temporary habitation site; and village sites.

Since Front Royal's initial core was an urban development, there are a greater number of houses that are urban architectural types. Although there are fewer outbuildings than on rural properties, several houses in town have outbuildings other than garages including slave quarters, kitchens, smokehouses, chicken coops, shops, and storage sheds.

Front Royal has a rich variety of architecture, spanning from early settlement to recent modern construction. One can trace Front Royal's architecture in a chronological progression. The earliest examples are log construction followed by larger frame and brick center-hall houses of the early to mid-nineteenth century. More elaborate brick and frame houses of the late nineteenth century reflect national stylistic trends. The town includes twentieth-century eclectic architecture, and many unchanged examples of the mass-produced, post-World-War-II-period, house. While a great number of houses in Front Royal are vernacular, there are several higher-style architect- or master builder-designed examples.

Settlement to Society (1730s-1750)

The Germans, Scottish, and Irish settlers who migrated from Pennsylvania in the second quarter of the eighteenth century brought log and stone construction methods to the Shenandoah Valley area. These methods were less preferred by the English who settled the Tidewater region of the state and log construction becomes more rare beyond the Valley and Piedmont regions of Virginia. The settlers who came to Warren County were more Scotch-Irish, yet they had adopted a propensity to build with logs like the Germans in nearby Shenandoah County. The log house built by Robert McKay, Jr. (**McKay House, Warren County, VDHR 93-7**) was built in the 1730s and is believed to be the oldest house in Warren County. From the earliest period of settlement in the second quarter of the eighteenth century through the first quarter of the nineteenth, log was the preferred method of construction. The earliest settler in the Front Royal area, Thomas Chester, probably lived initially in a one- to two-room log building, with an exposed dirt or a split puncheon log floor. These simple log houses developed from a northern European construction tradition dating back at least to the Neolithic period. The established settler often sheathed the logs over with weatherboard and added extra bays or floors making the evolved dwelling 2,3, or 4 times larger. There are no known log or frame buildings from the pre-1750 period in Front Royal.

Three examples of early settlers' houses survive in Warren County, well beyond Front Royal's present boundaries. Two houses built by the McKay family date to the 1730s and 40s, while

the Robert Ashby House dates to 1740. All three buildings have original log sections and later frame additions.¹

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

Examples discussed in this section

The Balthis House **55 Chester Street** **(VDHR 112-0009)** **c. 1780s**

While the small crossroads village of Front Royal, consisting of several buildings, was in existence, there are no known buildings from this period that have survived to this day. An older building section may be part of one of the Early National Period buildings, and more intensive study may reveal this fact. The architectural makeup of Front Royal just before the American Revolution most likely consisted of simple one- and two-story houses, most of them probably constructed of log.

The earliest houses in Front Royal are located on Chester Street. All of these early buildings are of wood construction in either log or heavy mortise and tenon methods. The **Balthis House, 55 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0009/plates 28-33)**, is a frame house from the 1780s. The house has three distinct sections. The earliest section is on the south end of the building which is believed to be constructed of mortise and tenon frame with brick nogging. The frame northern end dates to the mid-nineteenth century and is clearly delineated by a vertical board that covers a weatherboard seam on the street side elevation. The Balthis family also added a brick ell around 1845. The house underwent major renovation work in the 1950s, but the essential exterior form has not been altered since the nineteenth century. Outstanding features include interior brick and stone chimneys and an exposed stone foundation. There are several outbuildings: a frame kitchen with brick nogging, the only mid-nineteenth-century kitchen left in Front Royal; a log smokehouse built from logs taken from the slave quarters of the Petty House which stood where an elementary school playground is now sited on the west side of Chester Street; and a frame gazebo/playhouse which may date to the 1860s. The original interior may have been much plainer than the present details indicate. The 1950s renovation was carried out by Dr. Bernard Samuels, who included Georgian and Federal-style mantels, doors, chair rails, and hardware retrieved from other houses on the street.²

Early National Period (1789-1830)

Examples discussed in this section

Bel Air	Happy Creek Road	(VDHR 112-0007)	c. 1795
The Samuels Apartments	29 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0003)	c. 1797
Hillcrest	Jackson Lane	(VDHR 112-0005)	Late 18th century
The Dorsey House	54 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0025)	c.1800-1831
J.S.Petty-Sumption House	123 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-008)	c.1815
The Belle Boyd Cottage	99 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0013)	c. 1815
The Mullen-Trout House	12 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0041)	c. 1815
The Jones-Clark House	10 High Street	(VDHR 112-0004)	c. 1815
Rose Hill	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0032)	c. 1825
Ivy Lodge	101 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0036)	C. 1825/1858

The **Mullen-Trout House, 12 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0041/plates 34-38)**, is one of three heavy frame buildings on Chester Street. Dating to around 1815, its original form is intact while the interior has been renovated for multi-purpose use. Some original features still visible include the exterior-end brick chimneys and some 9/6 double-hung wood sash. On the interior the staircase has some elaboration: chamfered newel post with wave-like brackets and paneled spandrel. Typical for this period is the 1-1/2-story rear ell that probably contained a kitchen with slave and/or servants quarters.

There are four buildings on Chester Street that are either primarily of log construction or include log sections: **29, the Samuels Apartments, c.1797 (VDHR 112-0003)**; **54, the Dorsey House, c.1800-1831 (VDHR 112-0025)**; **123, J.S.Petty-Sumption House, c.1815 (VDHR 112-0055-0008)**; and **101, Ivy Lodge, 1825/1858 (VDHR 112-0036)**, a heavy frame house with a 3-bay log ell.

The **Samuels Apartments (plates 39-41)** was renovated from a single-family residence into several units by Dr. Bernard Samuels in the 1920s. From early photographs and an interior inspection, it can be concluded that the renovation gave the house an elaborate Colonial Revival exterior, but most of the exterior wall structure is original.³ Samuels Apartments, also known as the Trout/Brown House, was expanded from three bays to five bays and a rear ell and side addition also extend from the main block. Attic details reveal that the roof pitch was altered sometime during the nineteenth century. The Samuels Apartments and the **Balthis House** are the only two buildings in Front Royal that are believed to date from the eighteenth century.

Other log houses on Chester Street show construction methods that changed very little from the mid-eighteenth through the early nineteenth centuries. The plans of these houses reflect a desire for more interior space than the earliest one-story log settler's houses that were more common in the second quarter of the eighteenth century. Despite more spacious interiors, Front Royal's late-eighteenth- and early- nineteenth-century houses exhibited asymmetrical wall openings. The post-medieval character of **123, J.S.Petty-Sumption House, c.1815 (VDHR 112-0055-0008)**, is indicative of the frontier character of Front Royal shortly after its initial settlement period.

The **Petty-Sumption House (plate 42)** was originally clad with weatherboard. Recent renovations (1979) on the house have exposed v-notch construction, a method that was popular amongst Germans and Scotch/Irish in the Valley region. Originally located across the street where the E. Wilson Morrison School grounds are located, the house was moved to its present site in 1923. The first possible mention of this building appears in a deed when John B. Petty acquired the lot in 1831.⁴ In a pre-restoration photograph the building appears with a stucco cladding, the protective material of choice in this region for the better part of this century. The form is essentially a simple two-story log cabin that later received an ell wing as space was needed. This evolution is evident in most of the log house examples in Front Royal. While little of the original interior fabric survives, this building contributes to the Chester streetscape by virtue of its material, form and size.

In contrast to the **J.S. Petty-Sumption House**, the nearby **Dorsey House (VDHR 112-0025, 54 Chester Street/plates 43, 44)** has a symmetrical facade. But a close inspection of the interior reveals that wall openings were altered to give the house a more formal appearance to match the center-hall symmetrical I-houses built in Front Royal in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Like many vernacular buildings that have evolved as owners or residents demanded changes, the building has been altered considerably. It is interesting to note that while this is a log building, it is still sheathed on the exterior with weatherboard, a treatment that would have been more popular than leaving the logs exposed by the mid-nineteenth century in a town area. The most recent remodeling took place in 1978 when the building was converted from a five-unit apartment into a shop. Despite the fact that very little of the original fabric other than the logs are original to the first half of the nineteenth century, the house contributes to the nineteenth-century architectural character of Chester Street in its form and scale.

Ivy Lodge, 101 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0036/plates 45, 46), is composed of two structural units, one of them being a 3-bay, 1-1/2-story log or heavy frame house that became the ell for the present front section. The rear section probably originally had two rooms on the first floor--a kitchen/parlor arrangement with a bedroom in the half-story. The first floor now serves as a single open exhibition space for the Warren Heritage Society, while the upstairs is the living quarters for the museum director. Floor levels in the log section are lower than those of the front section, requiring the installation of two steps on both the first and second floors. The upper floor features some original features including recently exposed hand-hewn roof plates and the random-cut 9" to 15" pine floor boards.

Because interior partitions in log houses are relatively insubstantial, often just one panel thick, and are changed to meet different function requirements, the original room plans of the Chester Street log houses are not readily discernible.⁵ While most of the houses were used as residences into this century, more recently, some have been converted for mixed uses: the **Samuels Apartments** was a large single-family house easily remodeled into apartments in the 1920s; the **Balthis House** was renovated extensively in the 1950s, and has remained a residence; the **Dorsey House** has been converted into office and apartment spaces; **Ivy Lodge** now serves as the headquarters for the Warren Heritage Society with exhibition space and curator's residence.

The **Jones-Clark House, 10 High Street (VDHR 112-0004/plates 47-49)**, resembles **Ivy Lodge** in scale and somewhat in plan. Constructed of joined frame on a stone foundation, this house is one of the oldest houses still extant on the south side of the town. The trace of Clark Street, now a driveway, can be seen in the front yard. It is likely that when this house was built it had a drive that connected to Main Street.

Originally a single-family residence built for Z. Jones,⁶ probably in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the house has been divided up into apartments. While there have been remodelings on the interior and exterior of this house over the years, some original details are still evident. The interior includes several six-raised-panel doors and a closed-string stair with chamfered newel and simple rectangular balusters. When photographed in 1970, the house had

retained a finely milled late-nineteenth-century porch that included turned posts with sawn angle brackets and folk-patterned, flat, sawn balusters on the porch railing.

The **Jones-Clark House** not only shows how a building of this region typically expanded to the rear with ell additions, but also laterally from the original rectangular block. The western end is the oldest section and it features an exterior brick chimney. Perhaps the first two to three bays, read on the primary, north, elevation, define the early-nineteenth-century section. The two eastern bays and the half exterior chimney are clearly additions built 20-30 years after the first section. Despite its seemingly altered condition, including a twentieth-century stucco treatment, this building has a moderate amount of original fabric and displays an interesting evolution of regional construction history.

While the village of Front Royal was planned along the Chester Gap Road, there were large farm tracts stretching out into Warren County with homesteads near the village. Several of these substantial houses still stand, now inside the town limits. On the east side of town **Bel Air, c.1795 (VDHR 112-0007)**, and **Hillcrest, late eighteenth century (VDHR 112-0005)**, represent different types of contemporary construction. Bel Air is Front Royal's oldest brick house, while the nearby Hillcrest, built at the same period, was probably one of the largest frame houses near the village.

Bel Air (plates 52-58), built by Thomas Buck, was originally a 5-bay, double-pile, Federal-style house. The house has had only three owners since its late-eighteenth-century construction. A nineteenth-century photo of the house before its 1906 remodeling not only shows flanking chimney lights on the east end of the attic, but also a central front dormer which featured a Palladian-style, tripartite sash.⁷ When the house was purchased and remodeled by the Downing family in 1906, the interior of the older section was repartitioned and updated to feature showy Victorian (Queen Anne-style) trim. The remodeling was extensive on the exterior as well. A large four-column classical portico was extended from the primary facade, replacing the dormer; the two-bay, one-story eastern addition was enlarged to two stories with a bell shape-roofed projecting end bay; and the building had modifications made to a nineteenth-century rear ell; the west end of the house was outfitted with a portico-styled porte cochere. The house was purchased by Larry Lehew in the early 1970s and a rear second-story shed addition enlarged the house.⁸

The Downing family created a more dramatic hall by taking out the eastern partition wall in the entry hall and retrimmed the resulting space with a dramatic staircase. The resulting large entry features fine, mostly natural, wood-toned Queen Anne trim. The second-floor landing features a small hall space that leads to the small wrought-iron balcony centered over the front door. The balcony door is lighted by the arch top sash that was removed from the original dormer when it was replaced by the large portico. The original staircase was either left intact or reused to reach the garret space. The garret consists of two rooms accessed from a central landing where some of the early wide pine board floor still shows. Some open plaster areas in these small rooms reveal hand-riven lath.

The basement also features some early-nineteenth-century details: a wide vertical-plank door hung on iron hinges on long battered iron straps. Moderately large fireplaces indicate that the basement may have been used as a kitchen space; floor joists rest on large hexagonal-edged posts, and wood basement grills are still intact in the 15" to 20" deep wall openings.

One of the most unusual features of the house is a section of garret space where several generations of owners and visitors have signed unpainted plaster walls. Many of these signatures are those of Union and Confederate soldiers.

Robert E. Lee visited **Bel Air** on his return from Gettysburg in July, 1863. The general was entertained by Lucy and Laura Buck who played songs he requested on the family piano.⁹

The house is surrounded by twenty-two acres of horse pasture and lawn and includes several notable outbuildings and sites. On the southeast lawn of the house is a small poured concrete building that functioned as a gas generator house. Probably built when the Downings bought the property in 1906, some of the original gas generating machinery is still installed with decals of "The Sunlight Gas Machine Company." On the north side of the house there are several modern equestrian-related buildings and an early- twentieth-century garage. In pasture land adjacent to Happy Creek are stone chimney ruins that may have been quarters for a miller, tenant farmer or slaves (this site may relate to the mill industry along Happy Creek; archaeological investigation might verify date and use).

Less than a half mile to the south on another ridge area overlooking the town stands another late-eighteenth-century house known as **Hillcrest (plates 59, 60)**. The plan and exterior form are similar to the original **Bel Air**; 2 1/2 stories, five bays wide. This house began as a two-story, four-room log house (timbers exposed as interior walls) that expanded over time. This house, like **Bel Air**, shows the late-nineteenth-century owner's desire to keep up with the latest styles, especially in a house that probably featured a very simple, rather austere, functional interior. A rear ell was added before the Civil War, but the most significant addition and renovation occurred between 1887 and 1915 when another two-story addition was made on the north side and the interior was retrimmed. Like some other houses in the Valley region this house has a log core that is no longer discernible from the exterior due to the generations of changes that now give it a distinct historical character.

Rose Hill, c. 1825 (VDHR 112-0032/plates 61-64), stands atop a hill on the north side of town. A yard that features tall oaks and pines, the property originally extended from its present site on North Royal Avenue west towards the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Built by George C. Blakemore, on land originally owned by Thomas Buck, **Rose Hill** is an intact example of a well-built I-house. The house has been owned by family-related members since it was built, from the Blakemores who left for Tennessee in 1841 to the Richardsons who witnessed Union troops camp in the front yard and faced Confederate fire during the Battle of Front Royal to the Millars who conveyed it to Mrs. John D. White, a step-daughter, in 1970.

The stucco shell covers a log and frame section and the later rear ell is brick. The interior of the original section retains all of its center hall, 2 over 2 room plan with original floors, trim and mantels, while the rear two-story ell, which once accommodated a large kitchen space was remodeled in 1937 and includes many well executed Colonial Revival features. The south side of the ell section includes a two-story porch, built under the primary roof.

The property features several outbuildings, the most notable being a two-story kitchen/slave quarters that may date to the same period of the house. While the building has been remodeled for rental property, it still features a large stone hearth.

The exterior detailing of **Rose Hill** includes several periods of work that mesh carefully to complement the overall style of the house. Most of the 6/6 sash appears to be replaced and the main entry, with transom and vertical panel-door, and ell entry, with transom sidelights and vertical-panel door, date to the 1930s. The Greek Revival front porch may be a rebuilt mid-nineteenth-century element.

The **Belle Boyd Cottage (VDHR 112-0013/plate 65) at 99 Chester Street** was probably constructed before 1819. Moved to its present site behind Ivy Lodge in 1982, the house originally stood on Main Street behind the old Strickler House (also referred to as the Fishback Hotel). Early in the nineteenth century the house was surrounded by a small, village-like environment. Before it was moved to its present site, behind the Ivy Lodge on Chester Street, the house had become surrounded by commercial buildings and parking lots. Whether it was built as a cottage for the large hotel building on Main Street or served as a private residence initially is not clear. It probably served as a special guest area and residence when the Fishback, and later the Strickler, Hotel was a popular stop over.¹⁰ The house is named after Front Royal's famous Civil War spy Belle Boyd who used the house as a base for her operations. This five-bay, central-hall-plan house is of heavy frame construction keyed into place by Roman numerals carved into its timbers. Now used as exhibition space for the Warren Heritage Society, the interior has been restored and a one-story rear ell houses the society's collection.¹¹

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

Examples discussed in this section:

Bon Air	124 Luray Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-119)	c. 1820-1840
The Dunover House	144 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0029)	c. 1830
House	37 Crescent Street	(VDHR 112-0055-091)	c. 1835-1850
House	34 Cloud Street	(VDHR 112-0055-224)	c. 1850s-1870s
The Giles Cook House	507 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0011)	c. 1855
Oakley	135 Sherwood Avenue	(VDHR 112-0031)	c. 1855

The early nineteenth century saw the firm establishment of Front Royal as a village that supported several commercial establishments and served the Chester Gap Road travelers in its taverns and hotels. The era leading up to the Civil War witnessed the establishment of the courthouse which brought further prosperity to the town. While log houses continued to be constructed, there were also brick and frame structures built in the decade before the Civil War that reflected a degree of sophistication in detail and plan that was more desirable for Front

Royal's prosperous citizens. While it is possible to find higher style buildings that date to this period in Front Royal, it is likely that none of these domestic buildings were designed by architects so they would be classified as vernacular. A vernacular building of this period that exhibits an unusually well conceived plan or distinctively proportional design is most likely the work of a master builder. Trained more through apprenticeship, the American master builder of the nineteenth century was often capable of creating architect-quality designs.

Chester Street contains most of Front Royal's log dwellings, but **Bon Air (VDHR 112-0055-119/plates 66, 67)**, a log building that stands at 124 Luray Avenue, is a fine example of a mid-nineteenth-century log house. Bon Air includes both heavy frame and log sections, and is much larger than any of the average-sized log dwellings on Chester Street. Bon Air most likely evolved from a smaller core to its present size. The oldest section may date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. One of the more unusual features of Bon Air are the two front porches, one of which has a pedimented gable supported by Tuscan columns.

This property includes one of very few surviving log outbuildings left in town. The function of this one-story, one-bay building is unknown. There is no evidence of a chimney to verify its use as quarters or kitchen.

The **Dunover House at 144 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0029/plate 68)**, is a substantial brick, late Federal-style, vernacular building built sometime around 1830. There is clear evidence of the owner's prosperity in the house's double-pile depth and high ceilings. A large frame ell was added to the rear of the house before the Civil War to give the house its present form. The name "Dunover" came from a 1930s remodeling from residence into apartments to accommodate the expected population growth from the opening of the Skyline Drive and the American Viscose plant (Avtex). The small cottage behind the house may have been a smokehouse, now converted into living space.

A few streets away, at **37 Crescent Street (VDHR 112-0055-091/plates 69-71)**, stands a traditional I-house, built sometime between 1835-1850. This particular example is very modest in size, including a two-room rear ell. Despite the stucco sheathing and the later porch, the house retains its original form and includes two Greek Revival-style mantels.

Sited next to the Jones-Clark House at 10 High Street, **34 Cloud Street (VDHR 112-0055-224)** is one of the older residences that had a long drive leading back from Main Street. An east-west road trace runs through the yards of both houses. The frame dwelling has been converted into apartments and unfortunately few original interior features survive. The house was built in stages from the 1850s to the 1870s. As one of the oldest houses south of Main Street, which still retains an older appearance, it is an important Front Royal resource.

One of the unusual surviving older buildings on East Main Street is the **Giles Cook House, 507 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0011/plate 20), c. 1855**. Dating to the Civil War period, it is more probable that this building was built just before the war. A c. 1930 photograph shows the house as it appeared still used as a single-family dwelling. The brick was unpainted, all shutters

were intact and the original chimney tops still projected from the end walls. In 1930 the house featured a three-bay late-nineteenth-century porch as well as a manicured grass front lawn. The house still retains its original setback, but the lawn has been replaced by asphalt, and the porch and chimneys removed. Built of a solid and simple design, the only sign of stylistic elaboration was the front porch. This five-bay brick house was, no doubt, the home of a middle-class family that could afford to build one of few masonry buildings in town.

Oakley, 135 Sherwood Avenue (VDHR 112-0031/plates 72-76), c. 1856, is one of the more high-style vernacular houses extant from the antebellum period. Oakley's owner, Thomas A. Ashby, gave an account of the local Civil War activity in The Valley Campaigns. Ashby was mayor during the war and Oakley served as a meeting point for notable military figures as well as the locally celebrated spy, Belle Boyd.¹² Among those who used the house as headquarters were Union General Abram Duryee (June and July 1862), Union General Robert Schenk (1862), and Confederate General Thomas L. Rosser. Apparently Belle Boyd attended social occasions at Oakley while Union generals were present and was able to secure secret information that she relayed to Confederate forces.

The house was built for Thomas Newton Ashby in 1856. Thomas A. Ashby, who would later inherit Oakley, described construction of the house in his diary:

The land--covered with oak, pine and walnut trees--was cleared and our new home started. I remembered the building of the brick kiln, the digging of the foundation of the house, and the busy days the workmen spent in the erection of the dwelling house and the buildings on the place. It took over a year to build.¹³

The present building shows the evidence of several campaigns of construction. The original section of the house is the single-pile area with the projecting central bay. Stylistically and formally, the house is built in an almost standardized central-hall plan, a plan that transcends from the early Federal period. The architectural detailing is Italianate with the most noticeable features being the large brackets and labels over paired windows. Instead of placing the chimneys at either end of the main block, which was the typical placement, the builder positioned them near the interior center of the building, which allowed for regular sized windows on the sides. Later nineteenth-century additions are evident, especially the large two-story bay on the south side, between the original block and the ell.

Oakley retains a great deal of its period interior architectural detail. Along with finely crafted door and window architraves, doors with carved lozenge panels, turned newel and balusters, the center hall stairs feature an apsidal wall which creates a rounded landing between the main floors. Before the later rear ell was added a window may have lit this landing, bringing in light from the house's rear elevation.

While **Oakley** was built before the war, it includes architectural detailing that was popular well into the 1870s. Three other buildings in town are built in slight variations of the center-hall plan

and include Italianate detailing: the **Jones-Miller House (c. 1870)**, **Druid Hill (c. 1872)**, and the **Garrison House (1882)**.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Since Front Royal was a strategic crossroads during the war, most efforts to construct buildings ceased. Front Royal was a bustling community just before the war. The Orange, Alexandria, and Manassas Gap Railroad finally reached proposed stations at Happy Creek and Riverton by October 1854. Connection to other markets due to the railroad often increased the amount of standardized building products, especially hardware. There was little opportunity for the railroad to have more than a small impact on Front Royal’s construction since the rails were destroyed during military action in 1862.

As Front Royal had grown over the first half of the nineteenth century, Main Street became an important primary thoroughfare that included a mix of commercial buildings and residences. The days of zoning were still far off, so it was still possible to have substantial single-family residences alongside stores and manufacturing concerns. Photographs that show Main Street in the second half of the nineteenth century reveal the existence of mature trees and residences with open front lawns and complexes of carriage and livestock outbuildings.

Despite the numerous occupations of Front Royal by both Union and Confederate forces, there were no permanent buildings built with the expressed purpose of creating residential space for the military extant in the survey area. Those that were constructed were destroyed either by the end of the war or shortly afterwards.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Jones-Miller House	106 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0042)	c. 1870
Druid Hill	1 Druid Hill Drive	(VDHR 112-0059)	c. 1872
Garrison House	15 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0022)	c. 1882
Grant House	117 Lee Street	(VDHR 112-0055-134)	c. 1880-1885
House	513 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0017)	c. 1870-1890
House	519 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-030)	c. 1870-1890

1886-1900

Basswood Restaurant	108 S. Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-178)	c. 1880s
Grubbs House	113 S. Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-175)	c. 1880
Callahan Hall	222 S. Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-164)	c. 1890
House	125 18th Street	(VDHR 112-0072)	c. 1890s/1919
House	203 Blue Ridge Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-237)	c. 1890s
House	222 Blue Ridge Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-242)	c. 1900
House	303 Blue Ridge Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-251)	c. 1900
Duncan Gibb House	125 1st Street	(VDHR 112-0055-069)	c. 1910, or earlier

1901-1917

Sherman House	101 Luray Avenue	(VDHR 112-0061)	1904
House	139 West Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-111)	c. 1905
Chester House	43 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-016)	c. 1905

Killahevin	1401 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0024)	c. 1905
Nida House	216 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-085)	c. 1906
Rock Ledge	240 Virginia Avenue	(VDHR 112-0068)	c. 1910
Weaver House	35 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0050)	c. 1912
Fogle House	200 Virginia Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-097)	c. 1914

The period following the Civil War was one of rebuilding for the Town of Front Royal. The town had suffered from a sustained period of economic inactivity in addition to the moderate physical damage of war. In some cases stores and residences had been plundered and larger buildings, used as stables or barracks, were badly damaged. Like other regions of the Confederacy, most of the men who could serve in the military were called away on duty leaving their livelihoods for several years. The damage caused by military action in the town had to be repaired. By the early 1870s, the economy was able to support a new wave of residential building.

Before national trends in architecture became the vogue, the reliable traditional methods of construction, building plans, and styles persisted well into the 1870s, often with just slight variations in the detail. **Oakley**, a brick, two-story, center-hall-plan house ultimately replaced its predecessor, a Federal-style, center-hall plan. Earlier center-hall-plan houses like **Bel Air**, **Rose Hill**, **Ivy Lodge**, representing a time span between 1795 and the 1850s, reveal the evolution of this plan type. The intentions of the builder at **Oakley** followed the same internal arrangements, but many features of the plan as well as the architectural detailing were modified and embellished according to the limits of regional materials and technology. As the center-hall plan evolved as a Virginia plan type, subtle variations began to make the average house more sophisticated. In Front Royal, the several important houses built in the 1870s show this evolution of plan and detail.

Houses that follow, more or less, in the footsteps of **Oakley** include **Druid Hill** (c. 1872),¹⁴ the **Jones-Miller House** (c. 1870), and the **Garrison House** (1882).

Built for Samuel E. and Roberta Gardner Macatee, **Druid Hill**, 1 **Druid Hill Drive** (VDHR 112-0059/plates 77-80), c. 1872, is similar to **Oakley** with its projecting, pedimented, central bay. Constructed in brick, the oldest section of **Druid Hill** is probably the eastern end with a western addition added to create an asymmetrical cross plan. The interior of **Druid Hill** was remodeled by Lee J. Fristoe in 1908. But the most substantial changes to the house came after General Granger Adams bought **Druid Hill** for his daughter and son-in-law in 1917. Adams made some drawings, which survive, of suggested interior and exterior changes.

The older Italianate-style details on **Druid Hill** include splendid brackets, arched window hoods, and decorative round attic lights. Before the Colonial Revival portico was added, **Druid Hill's** facade had a similar appearance to the nearby **Oakley**. A nuance of difference is found in **Druid Hill's** more curvilinear window and door tops and round attic lights. **Oakley**, also built in the Italianate style has simpler rectilinear Italianate details. Both houses also feature chimneys with inset panels and corbeled tops.

While the original architect or builder of **Druid Hill** is unknown, General Beverly F. Browne of the nearby U.S. Army Remount Station commissioned Washington, D.C., architect Howard Wright Cutler (? - 1948) in 1928 to remodel the house in a more formal, classical style. The semi-circular portico may have been added at that time, and Cutler's drawings show that a large portion of the interior was reclad in carefully executed Colonial Revival detailing. The two-story portico, which may have been added in 1910, features large fluted Ionic columns with the angled volute capitals inspired by the Italian Renaissance architect Scamozzi. Matching side porches have proportional versions of the portico's Ionic columns and balusters on the porch rail. Porches and portico are capped with a chippendale-inspired railing, a feature that appears in one of Cutler's drawings. An added covered walkway, between the house and carriage building, was treated in a Renaissance-influenced hyphen manner that features paneled piers, set on plinths, supporting keystone arches. Cutler, originally from Rochester, N. Y., started work for the federal government after World War I. Cutler designed new hospitals in locations all over the country. One of his more notable commissions was an addition to Walter Reed Hospital.¹⁵

General Brown's wife was related to the Astor family and according to the present owner, the chandeliers at **Druid Hill** were reused from the Waldorf Astoria (New York City).¹⁶

The **Jones-Miller House, 106 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0042/plates 81-84), c. 1870**, takes the center-hall plan and forms it into a square, nearly flat-top, box that resembles an Italian villa. This highly urbane residence is virtually an academic example of the Italianate style. The exterior includes a frieze with horizontal attic windows; a finely crafted porch that features elaborately carved posts on pedestals, and window openings with semi-circular tops. The interior includes much of its original door and window architrave, original doors, mantels, and stair details. The fine newel and turned balusters adorn a stair case that makes a dramatic single run up to the second floor. At **Oakley**, due to the single-pile depth of the building, the stairs made a semicircular turn on a landing, then proceeded to the next floor (plate 76). The Jones-Miller House is made more dramatic by its double-pile depth.

Constructed in brick, like **Oakley, Druid Hill, and the Jones-Miller House**, the **Garrison House, 15 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0022/plates 85, 86), c. 1882**, was built much later in 1882 and shows how the center-hall plan and Italianate style persisted. Three bays wide with single-pile depth, the house may have been built with its ell in one campaign. The central stairs are reversed, running from rear to front, and make their single run to the second floor, beginning in what is actually part of the rear ell space. While there has been some repartitioning in the ell, virtually all of the Italianate detailing is intact. Like the other examples mentioned above, there is door and window architrave (at this date the milling styles were more machine standardized than the earlier examples), fine turned newel post and balusters, and large four-panel doors. The two, symmetrically placed, three window bays with the decorated porch projecting from the center makes the Garrison House's primary elevation one of the most sophisticated for the period in the town.

In the family of rectangular, center-hall-plan houses are several other buildings which received intensive survey during the study. The **Grubbs House, 113 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-175/plates 87, 88), c. 1880**, is an idiosyncratic relative to this family of buildings. It is not clear whether the central rectangular block of the house dates back to an earlier period. The mansard roof is capped with a standard gable roof, a feature which is very unique. While the exterior of the house, three bays wide with a central projecting bay, appears to indicate a central-hall plan, there is instead a single large room with stairs along the back wall in the primary entry space. There is evidence that the house was remodeled as it was expanded over several generations of use.

When Classical and Colonial Revival architecture became a preferred style beginning at the turn of the century, architects and builders continued to rely on the center-hall plan. Two of the best examples included in the survey from this period are the **Duncan Gibb House, 125 1st Street (VDHR 112-0069/plates 89-91), c. 1910** and the **Weaver House, 35 North Royal Avenue, (VDHR 112-0050), c. 1912**. The Gibb House, which is named for former resident, lawyer and judge, Duncan Gibb, is an academic assemblage of Colonial American architectural elements. A brick, five-bay, rectangular house of center-hall plan, the details include a well-proportioned tetra-style portico, a Palladian window, pedimented window hoods, a pointed-arched Gothic window on the rear elevation, and fan-topped Georgian-style dormer windows. The only house that would have ever approached this sophistication from the post-colonial period in Front Royal would have been **Bel Air** before its renovations. There is no doubt that the **Gibb House** was the work of an architect, unfortunately very little information about the history of the house was available at the time of this study.

Another Colonial Revival building that was built to include a well-defined center-hall plan is found at **Weaver House, 35 North Royal Avenue, (VDHR 112-0050/plates 92-94), c. 1912**. Like the **Gibb House**, the architectural embellishments are taken from Colonial American vocabulary. Here there is a two-level porch underneath which is a one-bay balcony. Some of the primary motifs are the balustrade across the roof and the fanlight transom above the main door.

As Front Royal recovered after the Civil War and prosperity and growth continued through the end of the century, despite setbacks from some of the national economic downturns, the town began to expand south and north of Main Street. North-south streets developed from some of the private driveways that led to houses set back on the south side of Main Street. Today it is possible to read from the architecture which streets were developed for upper middle class and middle class residents. Blue Ridge Avenue includes some of the most architecturally sophisticated houses built during the period between 1880 and 1910. Lee Street, which was developed at about the same period, includes modest, but well appointed houses.

In addition to the persistence of the center-hall plan, many other plan types and styles developed out of the period that many refer to as Victorian. What we really see, stylistically, is a profusion of eclectic design. National influences included the Colonial Revival celebrated at the American Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia, as well as A. J. Davis's pattern book

of Gothic style and cottage designs. The Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 highlighted academic classicism, and, of course, with the age of improved printing machines came a multitude of pattern books that combined details and plans from a myriad of historical examples. Just about all of the late-nineteenth-century eclectic styles for domestic architecture can be found in Front Royal.

One aspect in which houses of the latter part of the century differed from the traditional center-hall plan, which always showed a symmetrical facade and plan, was a tendency towards breaking away from symmetry and getting away from the time worn balanced box.

The best example of a residential design influenced from the American Gothic movement is **513 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0017/plates 95-98), built c. 1870-1890**. Built as a single-family dwelling, the building has been converted into apartments. Constructed of brick, the telltale stylistic feature are the Gothic-arched windows on the second floor of the main block. While not designed in a decidedly Gothic style, the one-story, three-bay front porch with chamfered posts and brackets still makes a fine residential gesture to a mostly commercial street. The interior has been divided into apartments, but still features a heavy turned newel and turned balusters on stairs, four-panel doors, built in cupboards, and Victorian-style mantels. This is one of the few buildings to have a large outbuilding standing. The two-story frame outbuilding, with exterior-end brick flue, has been converted into an apartment. It may have served as a servant's dwelling or a shop.

One of the few residential houses left on Main Street that still retains a grass lawn setback is at **519 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-030/plates 99-100), built c. 1870-1890**. While there seems to be a Gothic Revival influence on this building's design, the most distinguishing features are the cast-iron cresting and the tower with gable dormers.

One of the more noticeable architectural features of some of the more sophisticated houses in Front Royal is the use of the tower. A feature that comes from several different influences (Romanesque, Gothic, Chateausque styles to name just a few sources), the tower appears in several examples, only a few of which are mentioned here: **203 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-237/plates 101, 102), c. 1890s**; **Callahan Hall, 222 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-164/plates 103, 104), c. 1890**; **125 18th Street (VDHR 112-0072/plates 105-108), c. 1890s/1919**; and **139 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-111/plates 109, 110), c. 1905**.

All three houses mentioned above are good examples of Queen-Anne-style houses. The Queen Anne style is revealed either by superficial architectural details or in plan. The details often include decorative slate work on the roof; various patterns of shingles and siding (sometimes mixed together); multi-paned sash, sometimes with colored glass; and elaborate porches, sometimes with turned supports and balusters, sometimes with classical influenced details such as columns. Other elements that are common to this style are complex roof lines, wrap-around porches, projecting bays and complex plans. While Queen Anne houses are often built around a traditional central-hall plan, the more typical example features an asymmetrical configuration.

Basswood Restaurant, 108 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-178), c. 1880s, and Sherman House, 101 Luray Avenue (VDHR 112-0061), 1904, show nearly all of the attributes of Queen Anne styling.

Basswood Restaurant (plates 111, 112) was originally a relatively small residence, but it was moved sometime before 1900 from one of the streets east of South Royal Avenue. The complexity of the design, the numerous projecting gables and dormers, and the fact that there does not appear to be any well defined corner all make this building appear to be *evolving*, an idea that is encouraged by the shadow play between solid and void. In addition to the complex form, the details are probably the most sophisticated Queen Anne detailing in Front Royal.

The walls are sheathed in scalloped shingles. The porch, which connects into a port cochere at the north end, wraps around the front block of the house. The gables capping the bays and upper porch include fine sawn, drilled, and applied trim. Brackets of several different sizes angle out over angled walls, and to crown all of the intricate woodwork, the masons topped the chimneys with honeycomb caps. The integrity of the house is further enhanced by an exquisite iron fence. The ell and port cochere appear to be later additions, but they serve as complements to the building.

The **Sherman House (plates 113-115)**, another sophisticated Queen Anne, was built almost twenty years after Basswood Restaurant, in 1904. The complexity of form and detailing are similar, but there are subtle differences. The Sherman House has higher ceilings, and is in fact a much larger building, deeper than it is wide. The porch includes Doric columns that are part of the national movement that reintroduced classical architecture. Here the extent of classical element is confined to the front porch while all of the secondary porches and balcony supports feature turned posts.

Like **Basswood**, we find projecting bays with recessed corners and an upper balcony with a clever echo of the rounded porch corner and rounded corner window. As was common in many of these Queen Anne houses, the complex wood work continued inside the house. One of the high points of the design is found in the entry hall. The **Sherman House** includes a highly crafted spindle frieze, paneled wainscoting, newels capped with urns, and paneled doors. This is one of the least altered interiors surveyed in this study. Virtually all of the wood has been left varnished or waxed and very little has been painted. The house is architecturally and socially significant.

The present resident, Dr. Elizabeth B. Sherman who is in her nineties, has practiced in Front Royal for many years, and is the daughter of George Hupp Bowman who had the house built. Dr. Sherman's great grandfather was I. N. King, the founder of the Bank of Warren. The Queen Anne style can be seen in variations throughout Front Royal. It lingered well into the second decade of the twentieth century.

The house at **203 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-237/plates 101, 102)** dates to the late 19th century. It is one of several large residences on Blue Ridge Avenue. The large L-shaped

plan for this house is embellished with three-sided, one-story bays, on front and side elevations. A central architectural feature of the house is a three-story tower that includes paired sash in several sizes. The tower is capped with a truncated-pyramidal roof featuring small projecting gables and wide eaves. Other notable features include a front porch that is integrated into the front three-sided bay, and includes sawn brackets mounted on square posts. All original sash have are eared trim, and the sash on the front porch are full height. The house has been resided and rear additions have been made, but there is a high degree of architectural integrity left (siding treatments are often reversible). The overall stylistic expression is Italianate.

One of the best areas to view the variety of configurations and detail of Queen Anne houses is Blue Ridge Avenue. Of particular note is **222 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-242/plates 115-117), built c. 1900**. This large frame dwelling includes German siding, decorative slate gable ends, a bracketed cornice, and a nine-bay, wrap-around porch with turned posts, a spindle frieze, and brackets. A rarity for properties in town, 222 Blue Ridge features a frame meat house. This is one of several sizable houses on Blue Ridge Avenue within the first three blocks south of Main Street.

The Queen Anne-style house, on the north side of Front Royal at **125 18th Street (VDHR 112-0072/plates 105-108)** ¹⁷ is prominently sited on a bluff above the river, where it retains much of its architectural integrity as well as good examples of outbuildings. The large frame house, set upon a brick and stone foundation, features a three-story tower with pyramidal roof and decorative slate sheathing on the upper story, as well as a well crafted one-story, twelve-bay, wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns and turned balusters. Built in the 1890s and remodeled in 1919, the interior features details similar to other larger frame Queen Anne-style houses of this period, including, large double-door openings between main rooms, a prominent closed-string stair with turned balusters, and bay windows.

The frame barn/stable is one of the largest left in the town. The frame summer kitchen/wash house has German siding and includes a mansard roof, a feature unusual for a small utilitarian building. Included in this ensemble is a frame workshop/woodshed, also sheathed in German siding. This is one of the more complete house-and-outbuildings examples in Front Royal.

At the turn of the century several different styles were gaining in popularity, especially amongst architects. The work of the New York architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White at the Chicago Columbian Exposition of 1893 had made a national impression. This architecture relied on the classical design of Rome and Greece, but this time it was less filtered through the example of the Renaissance. Another movement that was beginning to take shape, one that had its roots in radical architecture of European origin, was Arts and Crafts. This was more a movement than a recognizable style, in fact one would be hard pressed to find a building in the United States that matches the charismatic designs of Hector Guimard (France) or Antonio Gaudi (Spain). But elements of the Arts and Crafts began to filter into the main stream of American design. The bungalow is partly a result of this design movement.

building campaigns. What makes the comparison of the two houses interesting is the difference in style: 303 Blue Ridge has vestiges of the vernacular styles that were popular before the war, mainly the wide fascia boards and cornice returns. The upright-and-wing plan was often used in Greek Revival houses found in western New York as well as Ohio. There is perhaps a vestige of this tradition expressed by the vestigial classical details.

Two large brick houses built in Front Royal's Boom area exhibit a transitional phase of architectural design in which Queen Anne and Colonial Revival elements are combined: the **Nida House, 216 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-085), c. 1906; and Rock Ledge, 240 Virginia Avenue (VDHR 112-0068), c. 1910.** Both houses feature plans that incorporate asymmetrical side bays, projecting from a hip-roofed block. The **Nida House (plates 141, 142)** includes a slate roof with a white bronze finial, interior axial brick chimneys with corbeled tops and paneled sides, one-over-one sash windows topped by segmental arches, and a thirteen-bay wrap-around porch with round columns and turned balusters. Typically, for this style, the Colonial details are expressed on the interior where the large entrance hall is separated from the parlor by Ionic columns on paneled piers (some of the less substantial interior Colonial Revival details date to the 1950s). Also included on the property is a period garage (c. 1906). This is one of the larger brick houses on North Royal Avenue, an area where some of the more flamboyant residences were built between the commercial district of Main Street and Eastern College (formerly at the Sixth Street intersection).

Rock Ledge, at 240 Virginia Avenue (VDHR 112-0068/plates 143-145), c. 1910, was built on land partitioned from the Duncan Gibb property (**125 1st Street, VDHR 112-0069**), on the east side of First Street. Similar in plan and material to the Nida House, both houses are asymmetrical brick block-shaped houses set on stone foundations with projecting side bays. **Rock Ledge** includes an ornate dormer that features Colonial Revival references (but is larger than any colonial period example), and the walls of the structure splay out onto the roof. The gable trim with cornice returns and the Palladian window firmly relate the design to Virginia's colonial precedent, albeit in a manneristic fashion. The cornice returns are echoed in the portico and classical columns neatly punctuate the spacing of the porch.

What is most impressive about this house is the hilltop siting and the exquisite masonry work, a specialty in the Front Royal area. The grey sedimentary stone may have come from the Fort Valley, but in any case, its use as labels and lintels over and under the windows, the cut and random courses in the foundation, and the ornamental curbing along the steps and in the walls surrounding the property are of unique quality. In addition the stone base, the roof, dormer, and portico face are all sheathed in slate. Two superbly crafted stone outbuildings round out the architectural ensemble. One building is now a garage, but may have begun as a carriage house. The smaller building probably housed the machinery for gas-powered lights. Both buildings are enhanced by central gables that feature round vents in their peaks.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Examples discussed in this section:

The Fogle House	200 2nd Street	(VDHR 112-0055-097)	c. 1914
Avalon	331 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0063)	c. 1921

Before World War I, Colonial Revival design was increasing in popularity across the nation, especially on the east coast where some of the best period examples were being rediscovered by historians and architects. Other historical styles found their way into America's mainstream architectural vocabulary. Tudoresque, a style that utilized elements from late medieval British architecture (some of the Tudor period detailing) was often used in combination with American Arts and Crafts influences. The Arts and Crafts movement exerted a strong influence on interior design before the war, and after the war, it was exemplified by simple and elaborate Bungalow-style houses and cottages. The **Fogle House, 200 Virginia Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-097) c. 1914, and Avalon, 331 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0063), c. 1921**, show the evolution of Arts and Crafts within a seven-year period.

The **Fogle House (plates 146-150)** is properly described as a variant of the English Cottage style. The house presents a symmetrical facade to the street and appears to be configured in the center-hall plan. Despite the lack of ornamentation, the sweeping, steep roof lines that bell-curve out from underneath monitor dormers are references to steep-roofed northern European houses of the medieval age. The interior includes craftsman wood work, most noticeable in the complex center-hall stair case. Involving several runs, the stairs are positioned to span the hall so that the carved, splayed balusters (perhaps a distant influence of early-twentieth-century Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh) become a primary detail of the space. The living room and dining room include fine dark wood details: applied roof beams, window and door architraves, and built-in cabinets. The main hearth in the living room consists of plain brick with a few light-color bricks in an arrow pattern at center. The upstairs fireplaces include beautiful blue tiled fire boxes with simple Colonial Revival mantels.

Without a doubt, **Avalon (plates 151-156)** is Front Royal's premier example of the Craftsman style. Constructed of stone that was probably quarried from the Fort Valley, Avalon features the characteristic long low gables that extend out over the front facade to create a generously deep porch. Built c. 1921, Avalon served part of its existence as a tourist home, perhaps after the Skyline Drive was opened and hotels could not accommodate the flow of tourists.

The interior remains in high architectural integrity. The fine unpainted oak trim, and stone fire places emphasize a rustic quality. The early integrated vacuuming system is still installed, and virtually all hardware and period light fixtures remain intact.

The property includes two unique outbuildings, a shop and a garage. The shop is a simple one-story building. The garage includes a second-floor quarters area where a servant or chauffeur lived. Both outbuildings have stone walls. The property is tied together by a finely crafted stone wall that features a gate with "Avalon" and "1920" in the pier masonry.

Chester House, 43 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-016), c. 1905; and Killahavlin, 1401 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0024, c. 1905) are architect-designed houses. The Washington, D.C. architecture firm of A. B. Mullet and Co. was responsible for the design of **Killahavlin**, while the architect for **Chester House** remains a mystery.¹⁸ Alfred B. Mullet had started the firm, and in 1880 his sons, Thomas (1869-1935) and Frederick (1870-1924), became associates. It is not entirely clear which of the sons designed the house.¹⁹ English-born Alfred Mullet designed several imposing buildings in Washington, including the State, War, and Navy Building (1871), now used as the Executive Office Building next to the White House.

Killahavlin (plates 119, 120), successfully nominated to the National Register of Historic Places in 1993, was built for William E. Carson (1870-1942),²⁰ one of the more important figures in Virginia's conservation movement. The house and its landscape show evidence of a well conceived plan. To the rear of the main house stands a medium-sized guest house and water tower. Trying to assign a specific style to Killahavlin is difficult for several reasons. The architect used an eclectic pallet of styles in this work and later alterations. Unfortunately, the enclosed upper porch obscures the original intention of the front facade. Some architectural elements such as diamond-shaped window panes, the hip roof and dormers, and corbeled chimneys are characteristic of the Queen Anne style. But there are also chateausque elements and perhaps some early influence of Arts and Crafts. The conspicuous use of stone in the building and in the landscape recalls some of the rustic seaside mansions of New England.

Chester House (plates 121-132) is also puzzling as far as style is concerned. Architect-designed with an ensemble of substantial buildings, Chester House was conceived for Charles B. Samuels, Front Royal native who went on to become a successful international lawyer. Included on the property are a garage with upstairs living quarters, a guest house with several apartments, a gardener's storage building, a medium-sized building that may have been a laundry facility, and a pergola consisting of baldachino-style columns.

Some historical sources claim that the c. 1848 Boone house, which sat in the southwest corner of the property, was incorporated into the 1905 house. This would seem highly unlikely given that a photograph in Laura Virginia Hale's *On Chester Street* shows the relationship of both houses in 1905. An architect, using modern materials in a specifically defined plan, probably would not have bothered with a mortise and tenon building. The only remote possibility is that the old house was incorporated into the rear ell portion where the present kitchen is located.

Chester House presents a perfectly symmetrical facade towards Chester Street. The five-bay-wide front facade is austere. The most distinctive features are the balanced three-window bays and the modest classical porch at the entry (one-bay wide). The upper wall includes a frieze with an applied triglyph pattern. The most elaborate exterior detail is a porch which extends from the south side of the building. The simplest classical order, Doric, was used for the supporting columns.

Not only was this an impressive show of architectural formality on a street that consisted of vernacular log houses, it also exhibited modern building technology. The exterior and interior

walls were constructed with several inches of poured concrete. The use of stucco for fire proofing in Front Royal was popular in the early twentieth century, using lime products for the **Chester House's** massive concrete walls was taking the idea of fire proofing more to the fortification level. Stucco and concrete products were easy to produce due to the proximity of the Riverton Lime and Stone Company.

The somewhat stark exterior gives way to an interior that includes a refined mixture of Classical, Colonial, and Renaissance Revival styling. The entry hall is wide and includes Doric-column supported arches. The living room is the most elaborate space including a cornice, engaged fluted pilasters, arch-top wall openings, and a Colonial Revival mantel. The carved marble mantel in the dining room is replete with organic motifs, putti, and reliefs of eighteenth-century, stylishly-attired women.

Most of the outbuildings associated with **Chester House** incorporate details that have a Mediterranean Renaissance flavor. The landscape was formally designed whereby the rear of the main house faces out onto a terrace surrounded by pergolas that create a visual bridge to the guest house. The guest house was conceived with a loggia facade creating a shaded space perfect for the warmer seasons. The carefully planned property also consists of a formal garden consisting of trimmed boxwood on the north side of the house.

Many of the late-nineteenth-century houses discussed so far were built for upper- and upper-middle-class residents of the town. The late nineteenth century was a period when the middle-class began to expand at an unprecedented rate nationally. This trend is reflected in many of Front Royal's buildings. Three buildings surveyed at the intensive level exemplify the moderate-sized, well-appointed house. The **Grant House 117 Lee Street (VDHR 112-0055-134), c. 1880-1885; 303 Blue Ridge Ave. (VDHR 112-0055-251), c. 1900; and the Fogle House, 200 Virginia Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-097) c. 1914**, trace a stylistic evolution of the medium-sized house over a twenty year period (the Fogle House is discussed in the next section).

The **Grant House (plates 133-137)** stands out as the most ornate building on Lee Street, and here, where the exterior looks elaborate, the interior is crafted to match. Built sometime in the 1880s, the Grant House includes splendid Queen Anne detailing consisting of scalloped shingles; multi-paned windows; some diamond-shaped panes; unusual saw and drill work on dormer, door, and window hoods; and a patterned porch skirt. The house plan, identified as L-plan or upright and wing, is fairly common from the Civil War on into the twentieth century. Like the **Sherman House**, much of the crafted carpentry has been left unpainted, simply finished, and maintained with wax. While not as extensive as the detailing at the Sherman House, the interior includes saw, lathe, and drill work on the main stairs; spindle friezes spanning a bay opening; a fine mantel; built in cabinets; and four panel doors (some are five). This modest house includes a kitchen wing, which may have been a separate building that was later pulled into the house, and a meat house which is in excellent condition.

303 Blue Ridge (plates 138-140) is worth noting for its similarity of plan to the **Grant House**. It also began in an upright and wing arrangement, but was extended at the rear in several

One of several fine stone Craftsman-style houses, Avalon could not be included in the proposed district because of the number of non-contributing buildings on North Royal Avenue. Further research and survey may verify the existence of a small district area comprised of high quality early-twentieth-century houses.

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

The Colonial Motel	25 South Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0002)	c. 1880
Ay View	501 South Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-114)	c. 1920-25
Shenandoah Motel	1600 Shenandoah Ave.	(VDHR 112-0067)	c. 1940
Sonner Tourist Home	122 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-080)	c. 1910
Park Inn	43 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-077)	c. 1900
House	135 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-006)	c. 1910
Dunover	144 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0021)	c. 1840
Lieberman's Tourist Home	S. Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0023)	c. 1940

With most of the areas adjacent to the Main Street area, on the north, south and west, already developed as residential areas before World War II, post-war housing is occasionally found in the older sections of Front Royal. The greater number of houses built on the street grid that was established by the end of the nineteenth century date from the 1880s to the early 1930s.

The most significant modern development, starting in the early 1940s, occurred in the northwestern area adjacent to the **American Viscose Plant (Avtex)**.

The plant was built in 1939 and immediate demand for plant-associated housing created a construction boom. Today, this community is still identified as Viscose City. Some of the earlier housing is located along Viscose Avenue, to the southeast of the plant, with more houses from the postwar period also found northeast of the plant on the other side of the primary plant access, Kendrick Avenue. The residences in this area vary from styled quotes of Colonial Revival houses--gabled roof, rectangular in plan, three bays, often with some decorative detailing such as a simple front door surround or a simple door hood. The construction is usually brick or frame, and some houses are precedents to the Ranch house, a plan and style that became popular in the 1950s.

Modern domestic architecture dating from the 1940s to the present is spread throughout the eastern area of the town, east of Happy Creek. Included in this area are Vaught Estates, Colonial Park, Williamsburg Estates and Woodland Park. Some of the architecture associated with the Schwarzenbach-Huber Company (now Jackson Furniture Company) is older, perhaps dating to the early twentieth century, but most of the domestic buildings in this eastern area may be classified as Minimal Traditional or Ranch houses.²¹

Hotels, Tourist Homes, Motels, Motel Courts and Cabins

The other significant form of architecture that relates to this theme is commercial tourist homes, cabins and/or courts, hotels, and motels. Because of Skyline Drive tourism, Front Royal has a variety of this architecture, some of it dating to before the creation of the Shenandoah National Park. Sanborn maps revised into the 1950s show the clustered development that occurred north

of the park entrance and also on North Shenandoah Avenue, approaching the Riverton Bridge (see figures 155, 156)

The crush of tourists after 1936 was preceded by motor tourists in the 1910s and the 1920s. During this era there were several more traditional establishments available for overnight stays. The Afton Inn had been in business since the late 1860s.

Tourist homes in town may have been in operation seasonally before the Shenandoah National Park opened, and they were still thriving in 1957 when the Hill's City Directory listed thirteen businesses under the separate heading of "Tourist Homes." Some of the buildings still stand and have been converted into commercial use or private homes. The list included ²²:

Blue Ridge Lodge, 322 South Royal Avenue
Colonial Manor, 528 South Royal Avenue
Colonial Motel, 25 South Royal Avenue (**The Burke House, VDHR 112-0002/plate 161**)
Conner's Tourist Home, 328 South Royal Avenue
Dickinson, Susan F., Mrs. 400 North Royal Avenue
Dowing, Caroline L., Mrs. 420 North Royal Avenue
Downing Tourist Home, 103 South Royal Avenue
Grown, Mary E., Mrs., 517 North Royal Avenue
Maddox, Roberta, 233 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-159)
Rudacille, Theresa, V. 104 South Royal Avenue
Sonner Tourist Home, 122 North Royal Avenue
Tourist Retreat 104-8 West 15th Street
Updike, Ella M., Mrs., 20th (R) [?]

Ay-View (VDHR 112-114/plate 159), surveyed in the 1980s as part of a road improvement project, is located on South Royal Avenue, at the intersection of South Street. Dating to the 1920s, the Chamber of Commerce office was located here in 1989 and it is currently referred to as the Haynes Building. Probably built as a residence, the property was called Ay-View as the name stone in the front gate post along the street states. Possibly the work of the same builder/architect of **Avalon**, **Ay-View** was probably adapted for commercial use later on, and was in a strategic position to be a tourist home or rooming house.²³

Speculation on the visitor trade began well before the opening of the national park. Several houses were converted into inns. The **Park Inn (VDHR 112-0055-077)** appears at 43 North Royal Avenue on the 1927 Sanborn map (this large building may have been an inn or hotel facility at earlier periods). The house at **135 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-006)** was an inn by 1927, and the house referred to as **Dunover** at **144 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0021)** was "done over" in 1940 to accommodate tourists and later American Viscose workers.

Lieberman's Tourist Home (VDHR 112-0023/plate 160) a decidedly Colonial Revival-style building, also on South Royal Avenue, is an example of a tourist home that was built for the

purpose of a tourist home. The large house was mentioned in 1941 as having thirteen rooms and two baths for accommodations of up to 16 guests.²⁴

Many of the cabins, courts, hotels and motels can be traced directly to the period of the national park's opening. The commercial concerns on Shenandoah Avenue were all built later than 1940-41 when the Riverton Bridges were finished.

The **Shenandoah Motel (VDHR 112-0067/plates 162-165)** is one of the most architecturally interesting motel courts in Front Royal, mainly for its marriage of regional and modern architecture style. The court is a symmetrical "U" shape with five buildings surrounding a centrally placed office. The buildings had thirty one units and a pool. Here the concrete block walls were faced in stone or stuccoed smooth. Each of the five units were half Moderne and half traditional. The Moderne, stuccoed, half featured a flat roof with nautical-style railings and a sweeping curved glass brick wall that lighted the interior entry without sacrificing privacy.

The traditional sections appear more like contemporary residential homes, featuring a gable roof and stone facing. All units included metal casement sash and interiors with fully tiled baths. Compared to modern economy hotel spaces, these were designed much larger. The center unit at the rear of the court area is two stories and was designed to be the residence of the hotel manager. Still in operation today, the motel retains a high degree of architectural integrity. This is one of the most unique designs for a motel court design in Virginia.

Several other motel courts are located near the **Shenandoah Motel**. **Front Royal Motel** at 1400 Shenandoah Avenue has the regionally distinctive stone facing, a rustic motif. It features twenty units, and is in high exterior architectural integrity for the 1940s. The **Blue Ridge Motel**, also in the court style, is sited at the southwest corner of the Shenandoah Avenue and 14th Street intersection. In a geographically strategic area for commercial use, the design featured two Colonial-style wings wrapping around the court, originally with an office at roadside and the manager's two-story residence at the rear corner of the complex. Built in concrete block and faced with concrete sections made to appear as clapboard, the same builder/designer for the **Shenandoah Motel** may have worked here because of the similar curved glass block walls in the large corner units. Surprisingly, some of the original furniture from the 1940s and 50s survives in excellent condition.

The other early motel court is located on South Royal Avenue. The **Center City Motel** may have borrowed its name from the Center City area of Front Royal,²⁵ but it is located downtown. An architecturally intact example, the Center City Motel features spectacular neon lights, a rarity in today's commercial landscape. The appreciation of older signage is important, especially where it is obviously an integral component to the architectural complex's theme.

There are few surviving tourist cabin courts within the present town limits. The one known example is found on the south side of Route 55, on the east side of town. Several good examples exist south of town along Route 340. **Bower's Riverside Motor Court** is spectacularly sited on a bluff overlooking the Shenandoah River. The cabins are perched on a

hillside and the complex includes a Moderne-style restaurant at roadside that features rounded corners and glass block.

Cabins like those at Bower's were located closer into town (the area now within the legal limits) across from the **Pioneer Hotel**. Five cabins and several buildings comprised one of several complexes that were built in this early tourist area.

The Moderne style was popular in commercial hotel design in the 1940s, and Front Royal had several good examples. The **Skyline Motor Hotel**, at 622 South Royal Avenue, consists of five buildings, and the interesting hillside complex appears more as apartments than a hotel. An article that appeared in The Sentinel, August 14, 1947, describes the architecture and siting:

A full description of the court is given from the "architectural motif of Spanish to modern" and the "longview French windows" to the "chrome plate fittings" and "steel furniture in colors to harmonize with the tinted walls." "Visualize, please," states the article, "four separate and distinct terraces, with three levels of parking areas. Think of each building actually being two-story, but each of the buildings situated so that each has ground level entrance. If this has not stirred the imagination to the point of eager curiosity, then add this final little bit, to the whole. The final little bit is that each window has a clear view all its own.

The Sentinel was quoting a laudatory article of seven pages that had appeared in Tourist Court Journal. The Skyline featured postcards with the motto: "Where the Highway meets the Skyway."

One of the most elaborate hotels was opened in 1938. The **Hotel Royal** was actually the remodeled main campus building of the defunct **Eastern College** (see Education Theme).

The 1890s building that stood at the corner of North Royal and Sixth Street was reworked into a Moderne-influenced style. Even the rounded corner tower seemed to work within the Moderne design scheme.²⁶ The hotel had forty rooms and a dining room with capacity for 125 people. The business lasted into the 1960s, and later the building was demolished. The site is now occupied by a 7-Eleven.

Front Royal has a large hotel market for the size of the community due to the continued popularity of tourism in the area. A number of the hotels date from the 1950s and 1960s. Several of these are somewhat notable in their display of modern stylistic features. **The Twin Rivers, Twi-Light, Pioneer Inn** and **Midtown Motel** all have characteristics of the "space age" 1960s design.

Several other motels and hotels have been constructed or remodeled in the past twenty years. Several of them are national chains such as Scottish Inns and Super 8.

Endnotes

1. For more information on Warren County's architectural history see Maral S. Kalbian's Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia 1991. The domestic theme sections discusses the architecture of the three earliest houses.
2. Virginia Laura Hale gives an excellent account of where most of the interior features were originally installed in her book, On Chester Street...Presence of the Past Patterns the Future. The Balthis house represents an ensemble of some of the best features taken from other Chester Street houses still standing and demolished.

The mantelpiece in the parlor came from the old Gideon Jones house which stood at the corner of Chester and Manassas streets. Those in the dining room, the bedroom above it, and the middle bedroom are Petty ones, the dining room one having been the parlor mantel in the newer brick part of the Petty house (circa 1845-48). The mantel in the north bedroom came from the Boone House and is considered an architectural gem, the shelf being "perfectly built-up." The mantelpiece in the small east bedroom was moved from the middle front bedroom and never had a "mantel" part. It dates from the 1700s. The mantel in the downstairs north room Dr. Samuels acquired from the Dorsey House across the street, which he considered as having "unusually fine woodwork for its log-type of architecture." (p. 210)

The Petty House mentioned here was a stuccoed-brick, 2-story, 4-bay building that was demolished in 1944 to create the playground area for the E. Wilson Morrison Elementary School on the west side of Chester Street.

3. A photograph in Virginia Laura Hale's On Chester Street shows the house in 1860. The house had reached its five-bay size at this period and also featured a 2-story porch with square columns on the first story and Tuscan or Doric columns on the second floor. The roof pitch had been altered by this period. When the house was renovated in the 1920s, the porch was rebuilt in 2 levels and the second-story exterior doors were fronted by small Colonial Revival balconies.
4. Hale, p.111.
5. While some of the interiors have been completely renovated over the years, it might be possible to read original plan from ghost marks on the floor and under painted walls (basically one would really need to make a detailed analysis of past renovations. This documentation work would present quite a challenge.
6. The full first name of Mr. Jones was not available at the time of this study. The name Z. Jones comes from a Historic American Building (HABS) survey form that Fleming McMullin, Jr., filled out in 1958. The form references WPA files from the 1930s, but none of these were readily available at the Virginia State Library.
7. The photo also shows a 1-story east addition, probably a kitchen with two outbuildings, one appears to be log, just east of the house.

8. Larry Lehew is a direct descendant of the eighteenth-century land tract owner, French Huguenot, William Lehew. Thomas Buck bought the land from Lehew in 1793 and built a house on the property by 1795. According to The Warren County Sesquicentennial 1836-1986 (P.26), Buck built two log houses in 1795 and connected them with the currently standing brick building by 1800.

9. According to Larry Lehew, the present owner, Lee signed the garret wall, but the signature has been cut out of the wall. Mr. Lehew has protected the wall with clear plexiglass panels.

10. The Hotel no longer stands. It had a strategic commercial position at the southern end of Chester Street where it could be seen from the present junction of Chester and North Royal streets

11. The archive includes Laura Virginia Hale's extensive personal historical collection.

12. Ashby also served as clerk of Warren County. He was director of the Front Royal-Luray Turnpike Company; clerk of the Old School Baptist Church for thirty six years; Secretary of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad Company; and a founder and director of the Bank of Warren.

13. This quote comes from a typed manuscript composed by Laura Virginia Hale, titled: "Oakley." (no page numbers). Located in the Warren County Historical Society Archives at Ivy Lodge.

14. It is probably no accident that it does resemble Oakley since it is less than a quarter mile away, on the next hill south of Ashby's house. There is a possibility that the same master builder may have been involved in both houses. Druid Hill was considerably altered in the 1920s, an architectural updating which gave it a Classical-Revival interior.

15. Henry F. Withey, A.I.A. & Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary Of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), p. 156.

16. C. John Costello, (current owner), personal interview, 26 March 1993.

17. This building was surveyed at the intensive level outside of the proposed historic district area.

18. Both houses were built around 1905, so the A.B. Mullet firm may have been responsible for Chester House. More research is needed to verify this information.

19. Shirley Maxwell gives more detail about the firm in her Killahevlin National Register Nomination, 1993.

20. Son of Samuel Carson, founder of the Riverton Lime and Stone Company.

21. Minimal traditional is a stylistic term that refers to residential architecture of the post-World War II era. Characterized by its rectangular shape, side gable roof, and one story height, the house has a traditional form with minimal detailing. When detail is featured, it is usually Colonial Revival. The Ranch house is similar, but it can be executed in a wider variety of plans that don't fit the mold of tradition. Sometimes the Ranch House includes a hipped roof.

22. Front Royal Hill's Directory 1957.

23. Avalon has the similar stone-face construction and also has the name stone imbedded into its gate post. Both houses are good examples of local masonry skill.

24. Warren Sentinel, August 7, 1941. The business had been open for six weeks when it appeared in the newspaper.

25. Center City may refer to the northern section of town that has developed during the post-World War II era of this century. More research needs to be done to confirm the name origin and area.

26. A contemporary newspaper account remarked: "Although the hotel conforms to no particular form of architecture, it is nevertheless distinctive in design and the modern exterior reflects something of the home-like and up-to-date service rendered on the inside." The Moderne styling and especially one applied to an older building was difficult to describe because it deviated from familiar classical and regional architectural design vocabularies.



Plate 28 (top): Balthis House (VDHR 112-0009), 55 Chester Street, view towards southeast (Neville)

Plate 29 (bottom): Balthis House, rear elevation (Neville)

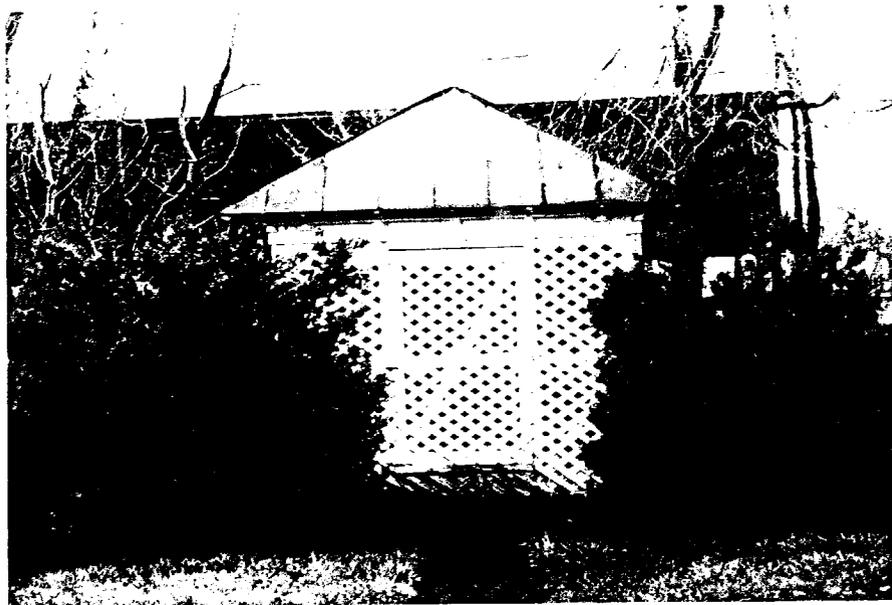


Plate 30 (top): Balthis House, kitchen and reconstructed outbuilding, view towards west (Neville)

Plate 31 (bottom): Balthis House, gazebo, view towards east (Neville)

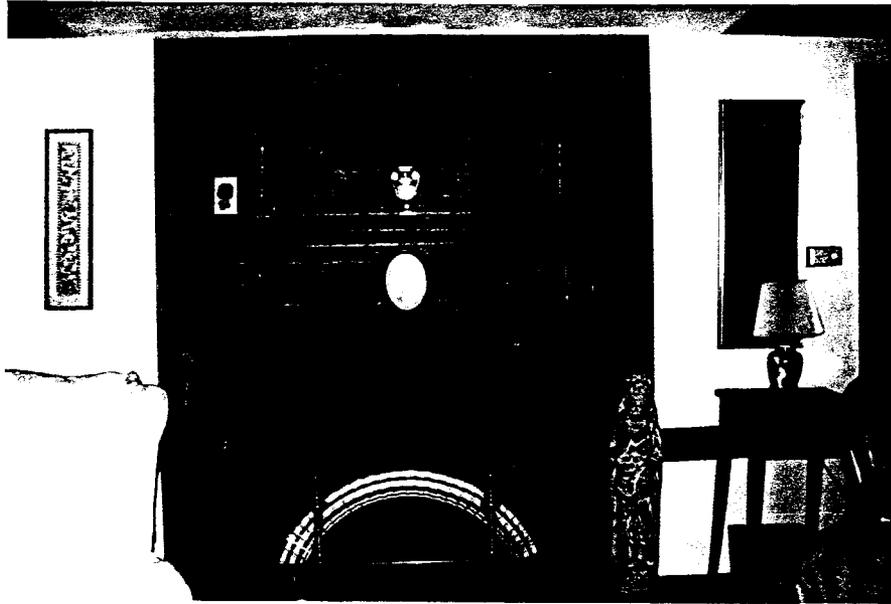


Plate 32 (top): Balthis House, detail of mantel (Neville)

Plate 33 (bottom): Balthis House, detail of room (Neville)



Plate 34 (top): Mullen-Trout House (VDHR 112-0041), 12 Chester Street, primary elevation, view towards southwest (Neville)

Plate 35 (bottom): Mullen-Trout House, rear elevation, view towards east (Neville)

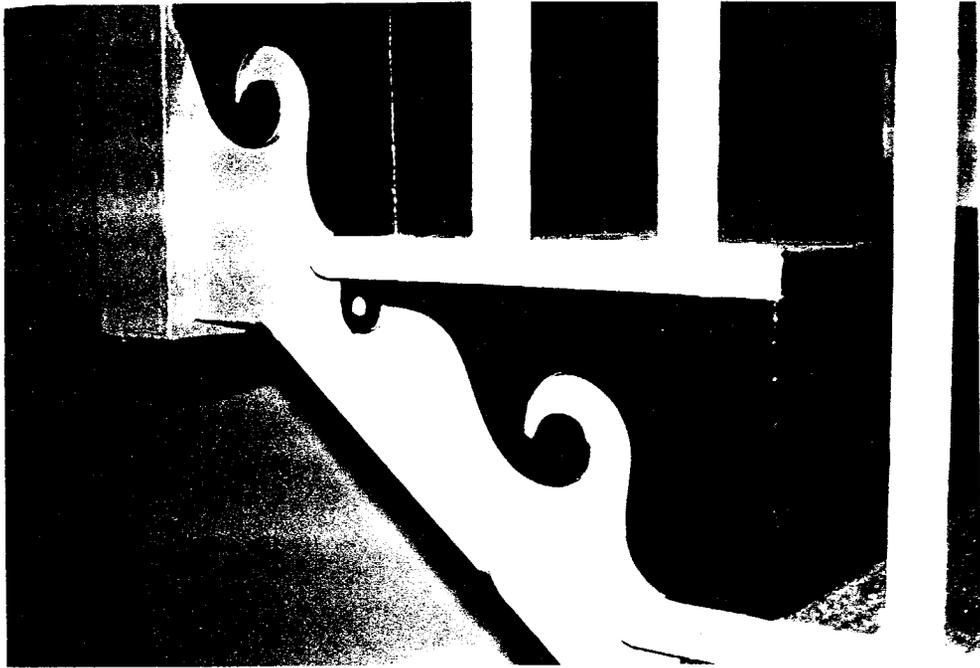


Plate 36: Mullen-Trout House, detail of main stairs (Neville)

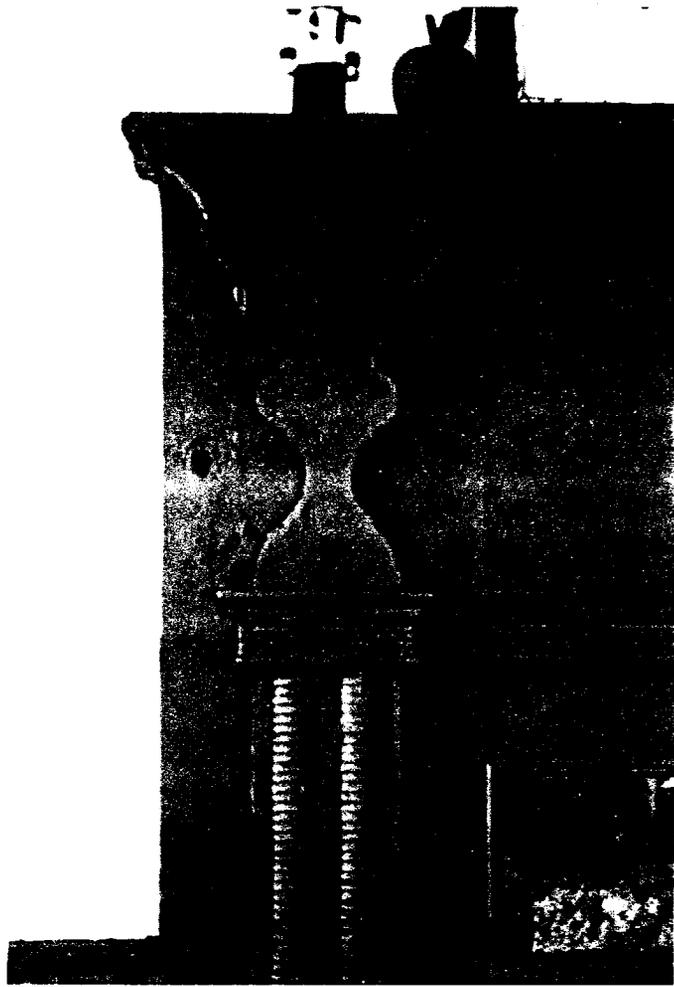


Plate 37: Mullen-Trout House, detail of mantel (Neville)



Plate 38: Mullen-Trout House, detail of mantel with over panels (Neville)



Plate 39 (top): Samuels Apartments (VDHR 112-0003), 29 Chester Street, primary elevation, view towards southwest (PAV)

Plate 40 (bottom): Samuels Apartments, rear elevation, view towards southeast (AV)

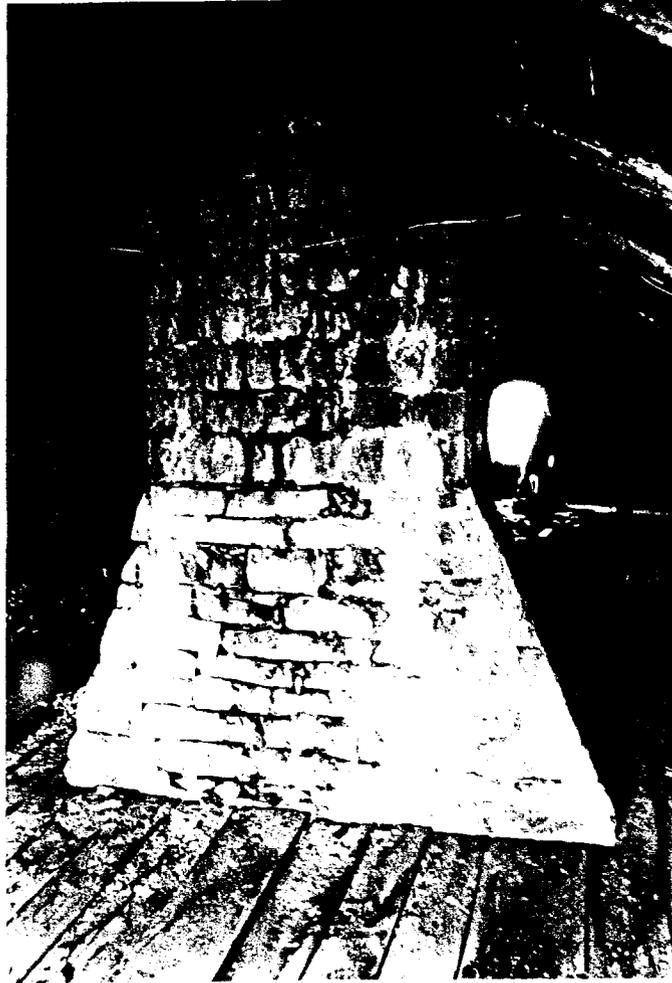


Plate 41: Samuels Apartments, detail of chimney in northern attic area (PAV)

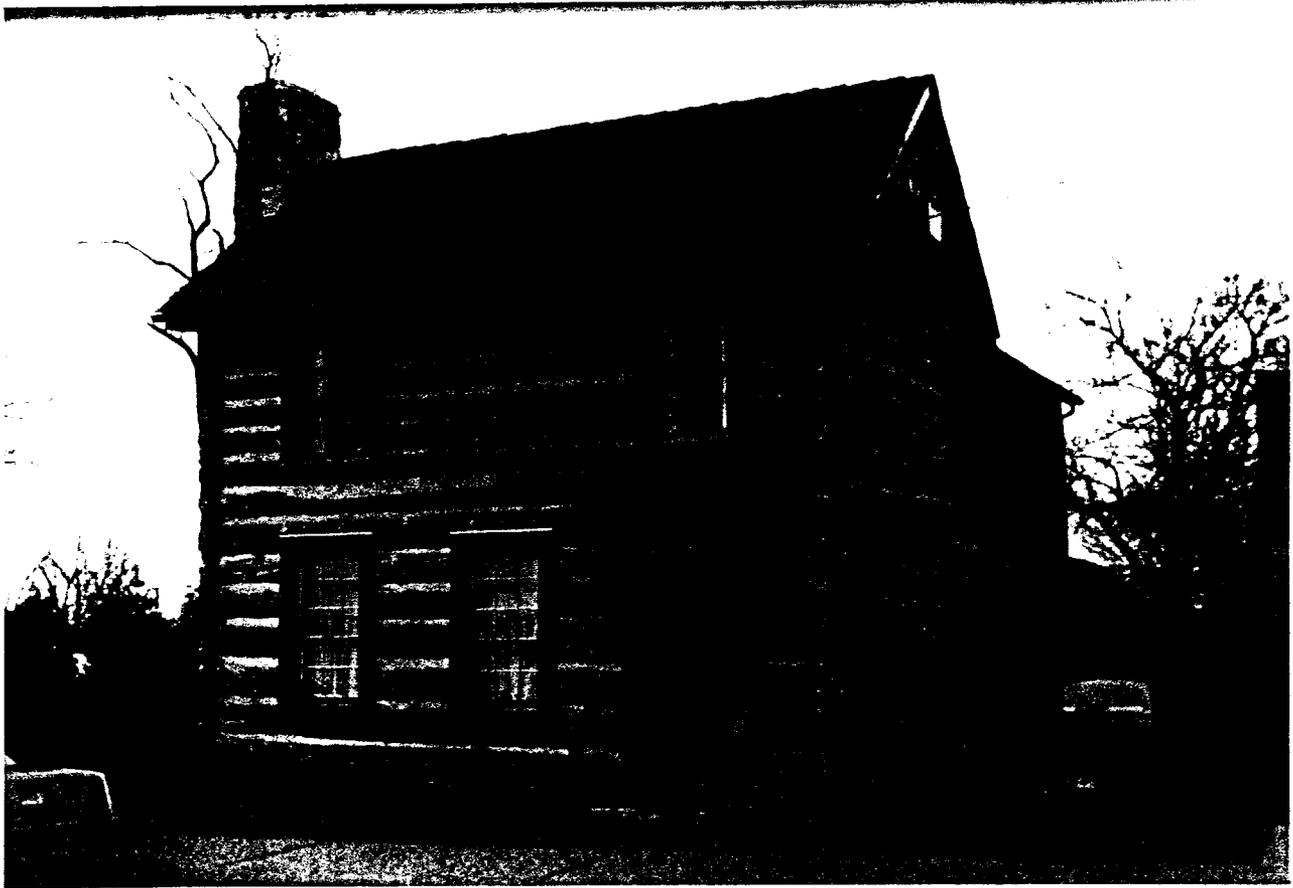


Plate 42: Petty-Sumption House (VDHR 112-0008), 123 Chester Street, view towards east

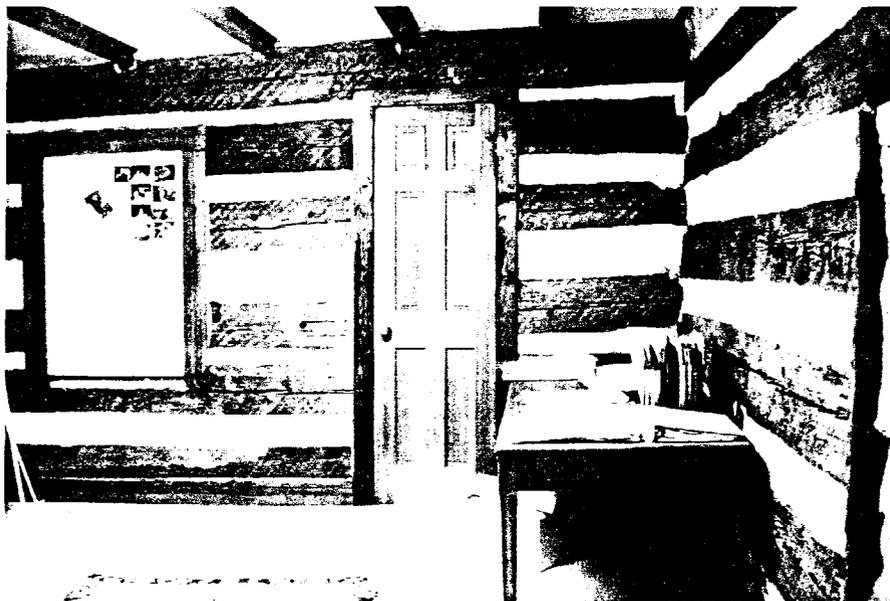


Plate 43 (top): Dorsey House (VDHR 112-0025), 54 Chester Street, primary elevation, view towards west (Neville)

Plate 44 (bottom): Dorsey House, detail of interior (Neville)



Plate 45 (top): Ivy Lodge (VDHR 112-0036), 101 Chester Street, north and west elevations, view towards southwest (PAV)

Plate 46 (bottom): Ivy Lodge, rear ell, south elevation, view towards northwest (PAV)



Plate 47 (top): Jones-Clark House (VDHR 112-0004), 10 High Street, primary elevation, view towards south (Neville)

Plate 48 (bottom): Jones-Clark House, rear elevation, view towards west (Neville)

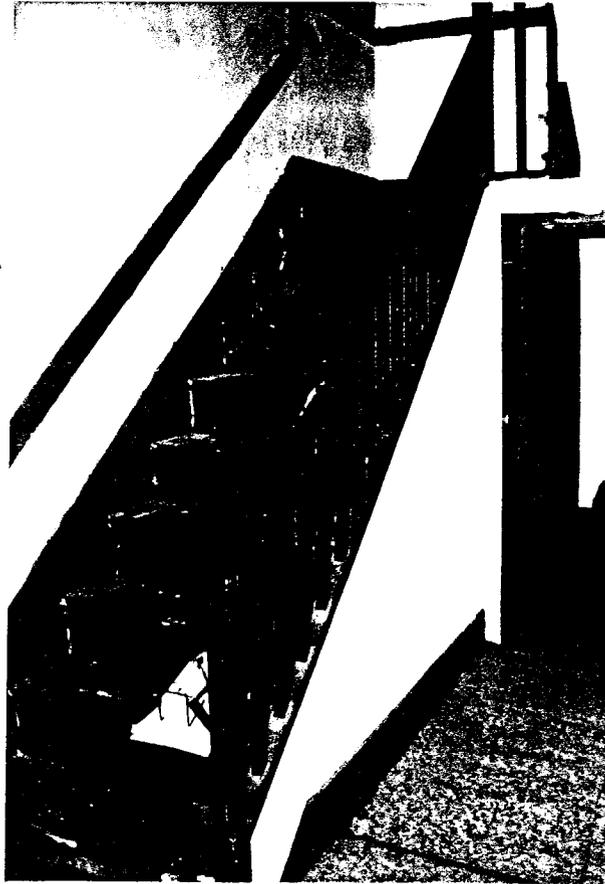


Plate 49: Jones-Clark House, detail of main stairs (Neville)



Plate 50 (top): House (VDHR 112-0055-224), 34 Cloud Street, primary elevation, view towards south (Neville)

Plate 51 (bottom): House, 34 Cloud Street, rear ell. view towards east (Neville)



Plate 52 (top): Bel Air (VDHR 112-0007), Happy Creek Road. south and east elevations. gas power house, view towards northwest (PAV)

Plate 53 (bottom): Bel Air, primary facade, view towards north (PAV)



Plate 54 (top): Bel Air, west elevation, car/carrriage port, view towards east (PAV)
Plate 55 (bottom): Bel Air, east elevation, view towards west (PAV)



Plate 56: Bel Air. detail of entry hall (PAV)



Plate 57: Bel Air, detail of basement (PAV)

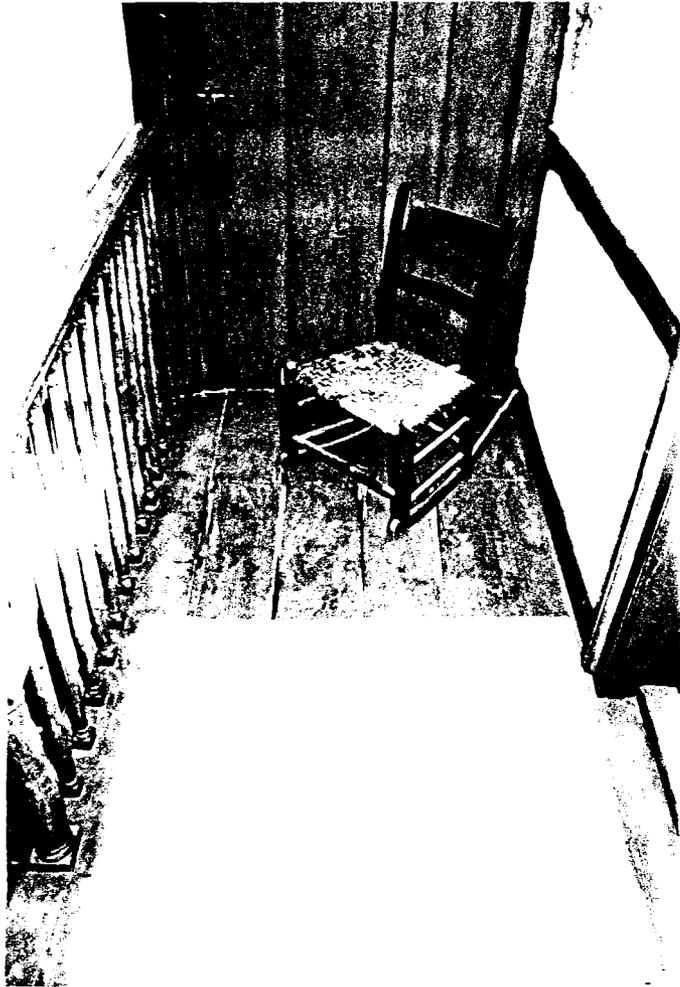


Plate 58: Bel Air, garret hall area (PAV)

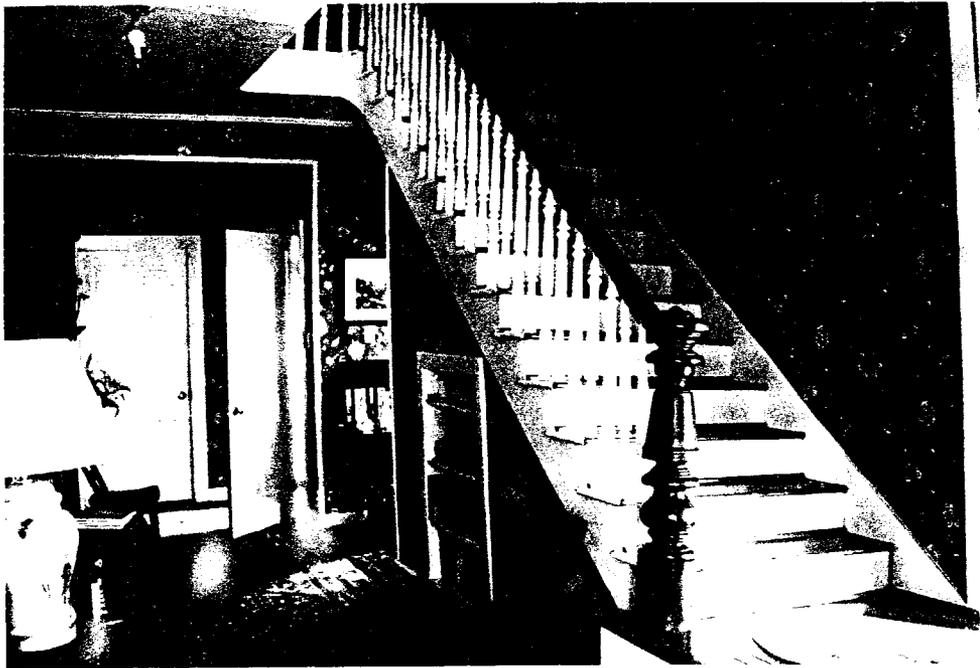


Plate 59 (top): Hillcrest (VDHR 112-0005), Jackson Lane, view towards north (Neville)
Plate 60 (bottom): Hillcrest, detail of main hall (Neville)



Plate 61 (top): Rose Hill (VDHR 112-0063), 900 block North Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards northeast (PAV)

Plate 62 (bottom): Rose Hill, rear ells, view towards northeast (PAV)



Plate 63 (top): Rose Hill, north parlor (PAV)

Plate 64 (bottom): Rose Hill, outbuilding, view towards southwest (PAV)



Plate 65: Belle Boyd Cottage (VDHR 112-0013), primary elevation (PAV)



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Plate 66 (top): Bon Air (VDHR 112-0055-119), 124 Luray Avenue, primary elevation, view towards southeast (Neville)

Plate 67 (bottom): Bon Air, log outbuilding, view towards southwest (Neville)



Plate 68: Dunover (VDHR 112-0021), 140-144 Chester Street, view towards west (PAV)



Plate 69 (top): House (VDHR 112-0055-091), 37 Crescent Street, primary elevation, view towards south (PAV)

Plate 70 (bottom): House, 37 Crescent Street, rear elevation, view towards northwest

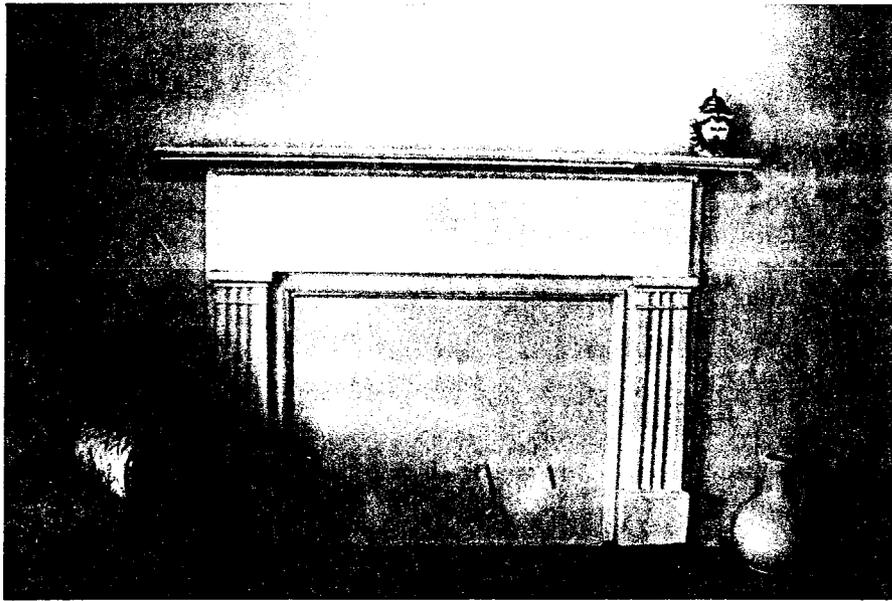


Plate 71: House, 37 Crescent Street, mantel (Neville)



Plate 72 (top): Oakley (VDHR 112-0031). 135 Sherwood Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 73 (bottom): Oakley. south and east elevation, view towards north (PAV)



Plate 74: Oakley, detail of front door (PAV)



Plate 75: Oakley. detail of interior door (PAV)

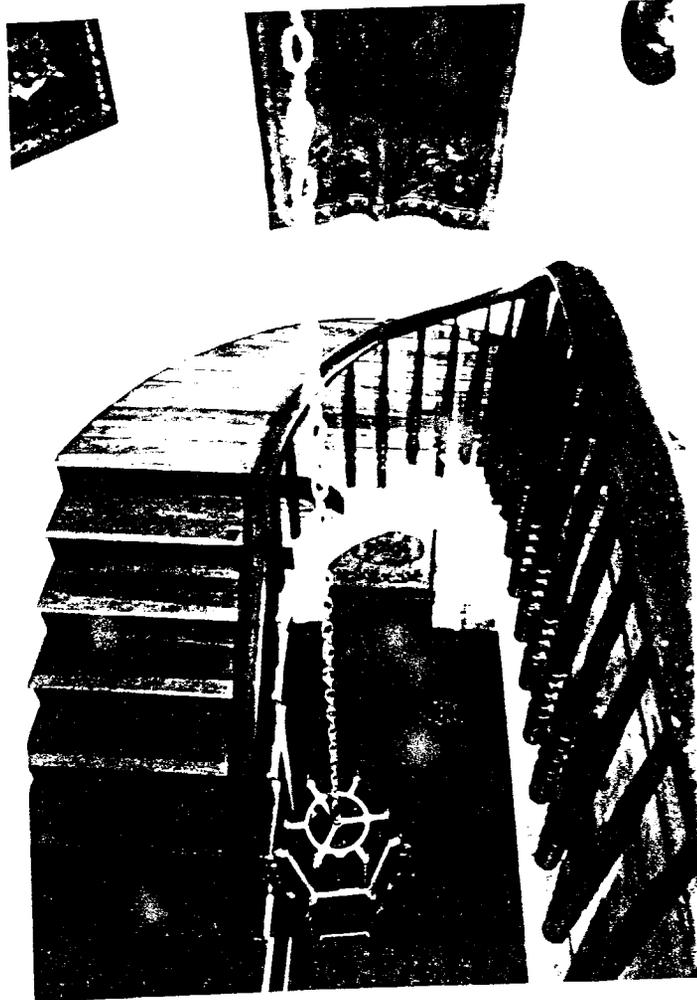


Plate 76: Oakley, detail of staircase (PAV)



Plate 77 (top): Druid Hill (VDHR 112-0059), 1 Druid Hill Lane. primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 78 (bottom): Druid Hill, rear elevation. view towards northeast



Plate 79 (top): Druid Hill, rear elevation of carriage house and hyphen, view towards northeast
(PAV)

Plate 80 (bottom): Druid Hill, entry hall



Plate 81 (top): Jones-Miller House (VDHR 112-0042), 106 Chester Street, primary elevation, view towards northwest (PAV)
Plate 82 (bottom): Jones-Miller House, rear elevation, view towards northeast (PAV)



Plate 83: Jones-Miller House, interior detail of primary first floor room (PAV)



Plate 84: Jones-Miller House, interior detail of main stairs (PAV)



Plate 85 (top): Garrison House (VDHR 112-0022), 15 Chester Street, view towards southeast (PAV)

Plate 86 (bottom): Garrison House, interior detail (PAV)



Plate 87 (top): Grubbs House (VDHR 112-0055-175), 113 South Royal Avenue. south and east elevations. view towards northwest (PAV)

Plate 88 (bottom): Grubbs House. rear ell. view towards east (PAV)



Plate 89 (top): Duncan Gibb House (VDHR 112-0069), 125 First Street, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 90 (bottom): Duncan Gibb House, rear elevation, view towards south (PAV)



Plate 91: Duncan Gibb House, outbuilding, view towards north (PAV)

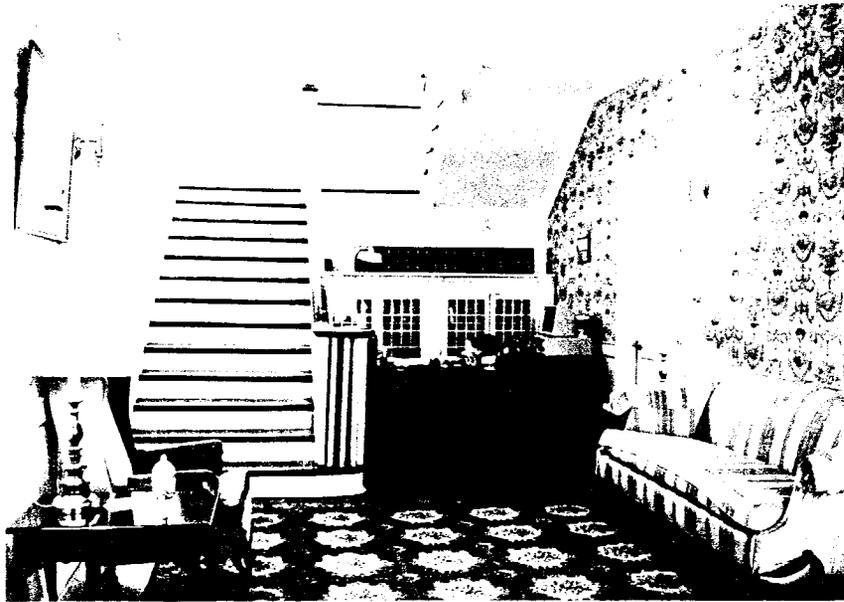


Plate 92 (top): Weaver House (VDHR 112-0050), 35 North Royal Avenue, primary elevation.
view towards northeast (Neville)

Plate 93 (bottom): Weaver House, main entry hall (Neville)



Plate 94: Weaver House. interior detail (Neville)



Plate 95 (top): Cook House (VDHR 112-0017). 513 East Main Street, primary elevation, view towards south (Neville)

Plate 96 (bottom): Cook House, rear elevation (Neville)



Plate 97 (top): Cook Houses, both late nineteenth century houses built by the Cook family, view towards east (Neville)

Plate 98 (bottom): Cook House, outbuilding (Neville)



Plate 99 (top): Cook House (VDHR 112-0055-030), 519 East Main Street, primary elevation, view towards south (Neville)

Plate 100 (bottom): Cook House, western elevation (Neville)



Plate 101 (top): House (VDHR 112-0055-237). 203 Blue Ridge Avenue. primary elevation, view towards west (Neville)

Plate 102 (bottom): House. 203 Blue Ridge Avenue. rear eli. view towards northeast (Neville)



Plate 103 (top): Callahan Hall (VDHR 112-0055-164), 222 South Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (Neville)
Plate 104 (bottom): Callahan Hall, stairs (Neville)

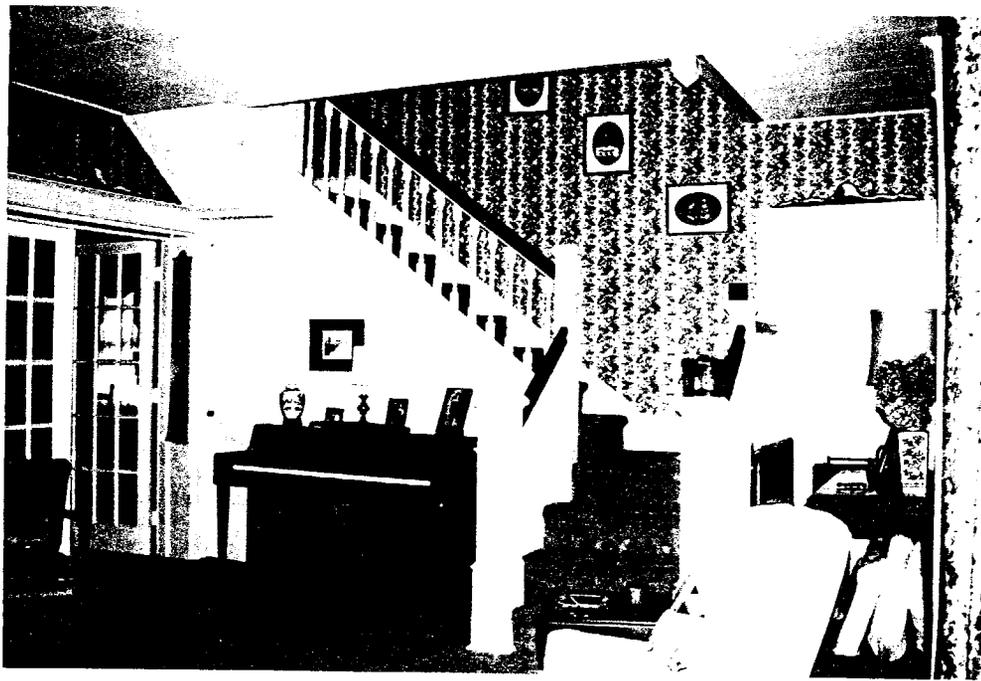


Plate 105 (top): House (VDHR 112-072), 125 Eighteenth Street, view towards northwest (Neville)

Plate 106 (bottom): House, 125 Eighteenth Street, living room/stairs (Neville)



Plate 107 (top): House, 125 Eighteenth Street, outbuilding, view towards northwest (Neville)
Plate 108 (bottom): House, 125 Eighteenth Street, outbuilding: barn, view towards west (Neville)



Plate 109: House (VDHR 112-0055-111), 139 West Main Street, primary elevation, view towards northwest (PAV)



Plate 110: House 139 West Main Street, main stairs (PAV)



Plate 111 (top): Basswood Restaurant (VDHR 112-0055-178), 108 South Royal Avenue.
primary elevation, view towards southeast (PAV)

Plate 112 (bottom): Basswood Restaurant, detail of upper front porch, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 113 (top): Sherman House (VDHR 112-0061), 101 Luray Avenue, east and north elevations, view towards southwest (PAV)

Plate 114 (bottom): Sherman House, gas power house, view towards west (PAV)



Plate 115: Sherman House, main stairs (PAV)



Plate 116 (top): House (VDHR 112-0055-242), 222 Blue Ridge Avenue, primary elevation, view towards east (Neville)

Plate 117 (bottom): House 222 Blue Ridge Avenue, southern elevation (Neville)



Plate 118: House 222 Blue Ridge Avenue, interior detail (Neville)



Plate 119: Killahevin (VDHR 112-0024), 1401 North Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards east



Plate 120: Killanevin: Guest House, south elevation, view towards northeast (Masse; & Maxwell)



Plate 121 (top): Chester House (VDHR 112-0055-016), 43 Chester Street, primary elevation (PAV)

Plate 122 (bottom): Chester House, view towards northwest, rear elevation (PAV)

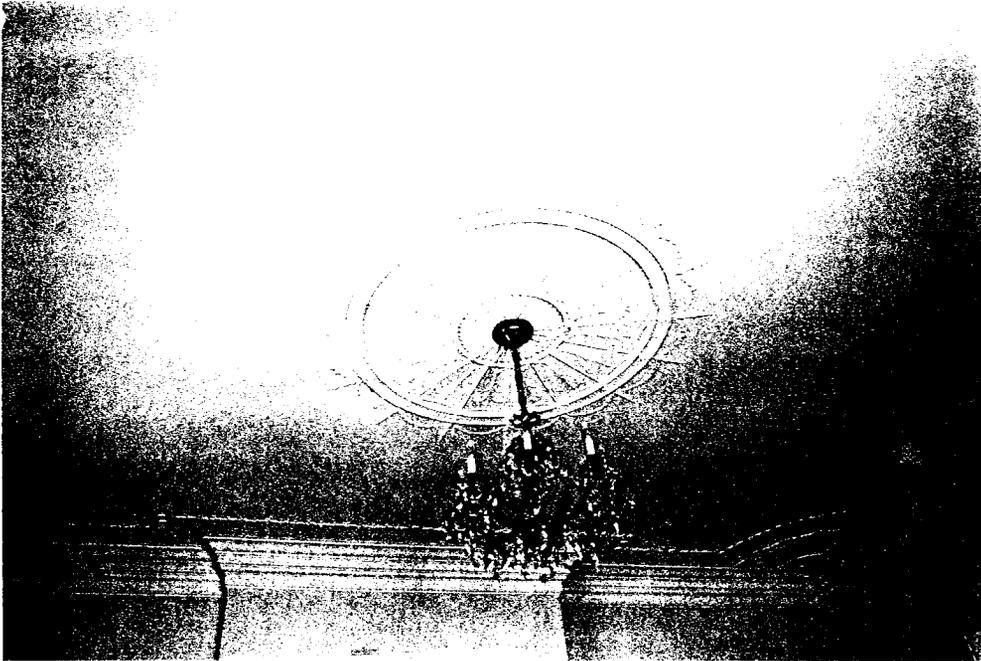


Plate 123 (top): Chester House, living room (PAV)

Plate 124 (bottom): Chester House, detail of dining room plaster work (PAV)

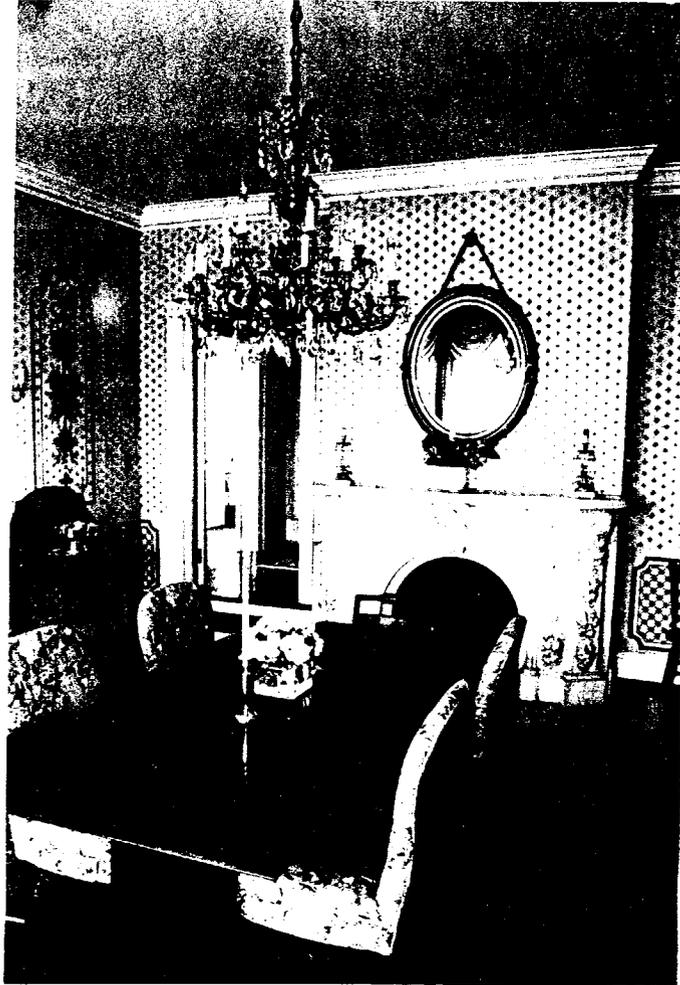


Plate 125: Chester House. dining room (PAV)



Plate 126 (top): Chester House, guest house, view towards north (PAV)

Plate 127 (bottom): Chester House, laundry house, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 128 (top): Chester House, gardening tool building, view towards east (PAV)
Plate 129 (bottom): Chester House, garage, view towards north east (PAV)



Plate 130: Chester House, northern garden, view towards west (PAV)

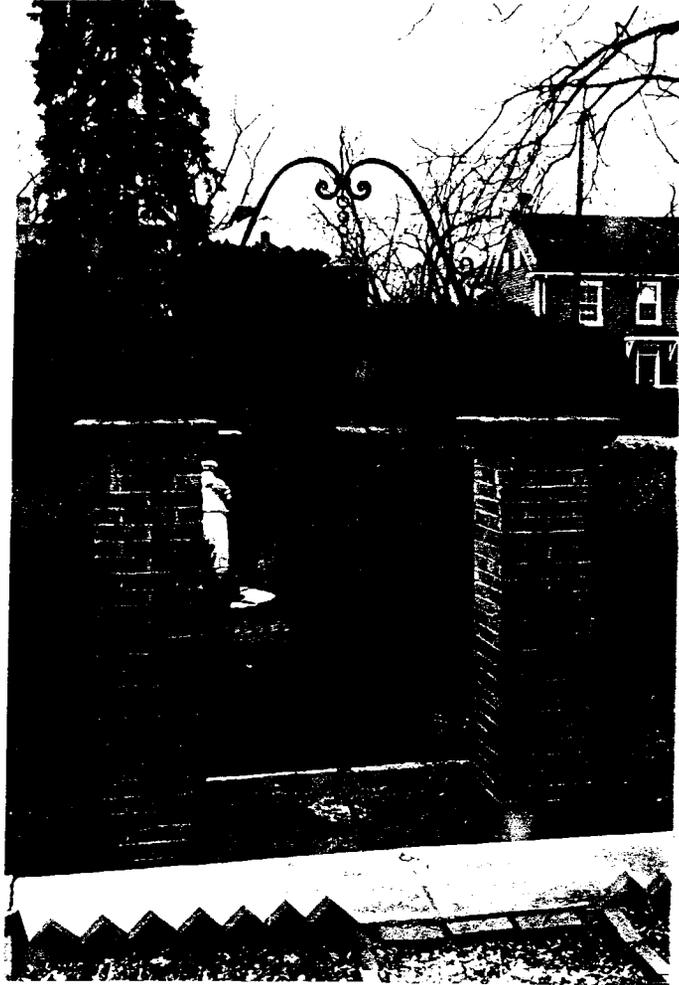


Plate 131: Chester House, boxwood garden gate, view towards west (PAV)



Plate 132: Chester House, pergola, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 133 (top): Grant House (VDHR 112-0055-034), 117 Lee Street, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 134 (bottom): Grant House, rear ell and outbuildings, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 135 (top): Grant House, front dormer detail (PAV)

Plate 136 (bottom): Grant House, living room mantel (PAV)



Plate 137: Grant House, main stairs (PAV)



Plate 138 (top): House (VDHR 112-0055-251), 303 Blue Ridge Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 139 (bottom): House, 303 Blue Ridge Avenue, north and rear elevation, view towards southeast (PAV)



Plate 140: House, 303 Blue Ridge Avenue, detail of main entry (PAV)



Plate 141 (top): Nida House (VDHR 112-0055-085), 216 North Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (Neville)

Plate 142 (bottom): Nida House, living room (Neville)



Plate 143 (top): Rock Ledge (VDHR 112-0068), 240 Virginia Avenue, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 144 (bottom): Rock Ledge, rear elevation, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 145: Rock Ledge, outbuildings, view towards south (PAV)



Plate 146 (top): Fogle House (VDHR 112-0055-097), 200 Virginia Avenue, view towards northwest (PAV)

Plate 147 (bottom): Fogle House, rear elevation, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 148: Fogle House, outbuilding, view towards west (PAV)



Plate 149: Fogle House, detail of main stairs (PAV)



Plate 150: Fogle House, first floor rooms (PAV)



Plate 151 (top): Avalon (VDHR 112-0063), 331 North Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards east (PAV)

Plate 152 (bottom): Avalon, house, garage and shop, view towards northeast (PAV)



Plate 153 (top): Avalon, living room, (PAV)

Plate 154 (bottom): Avalon, second floor sun room (PAV)



Plate 155: Avalon, interior detail (PAV)

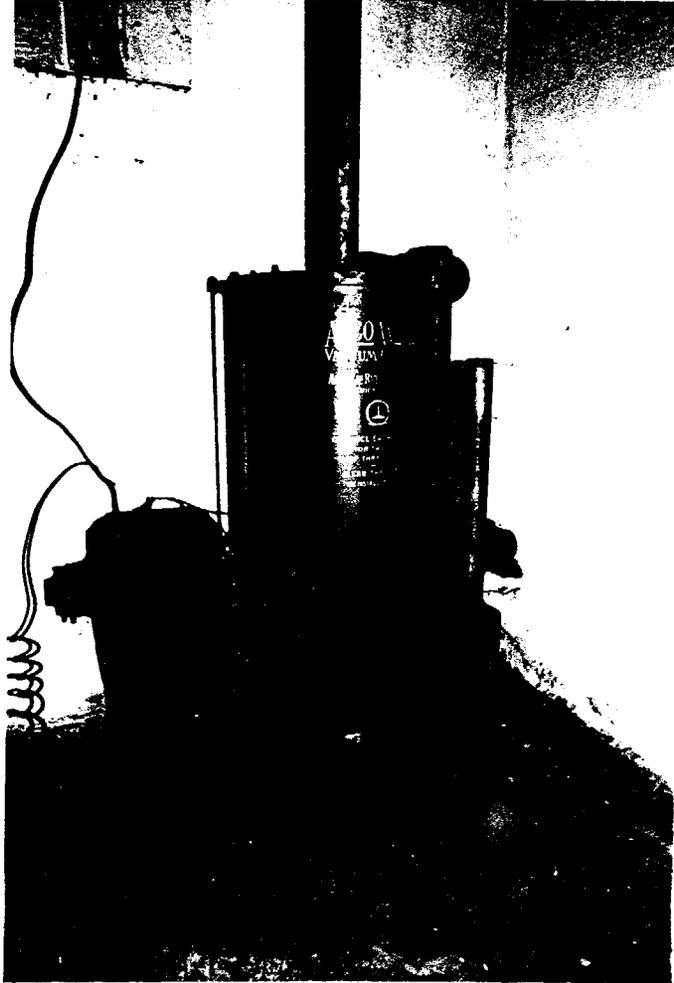


Plate 156: Avalon, interior detail, Arco Wand integrated vacuum cleaning system (PAV)

Plate 157 (next page): Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, updated to October 1956: shows southern end of South Royal Avenue cluster of tourism buildings

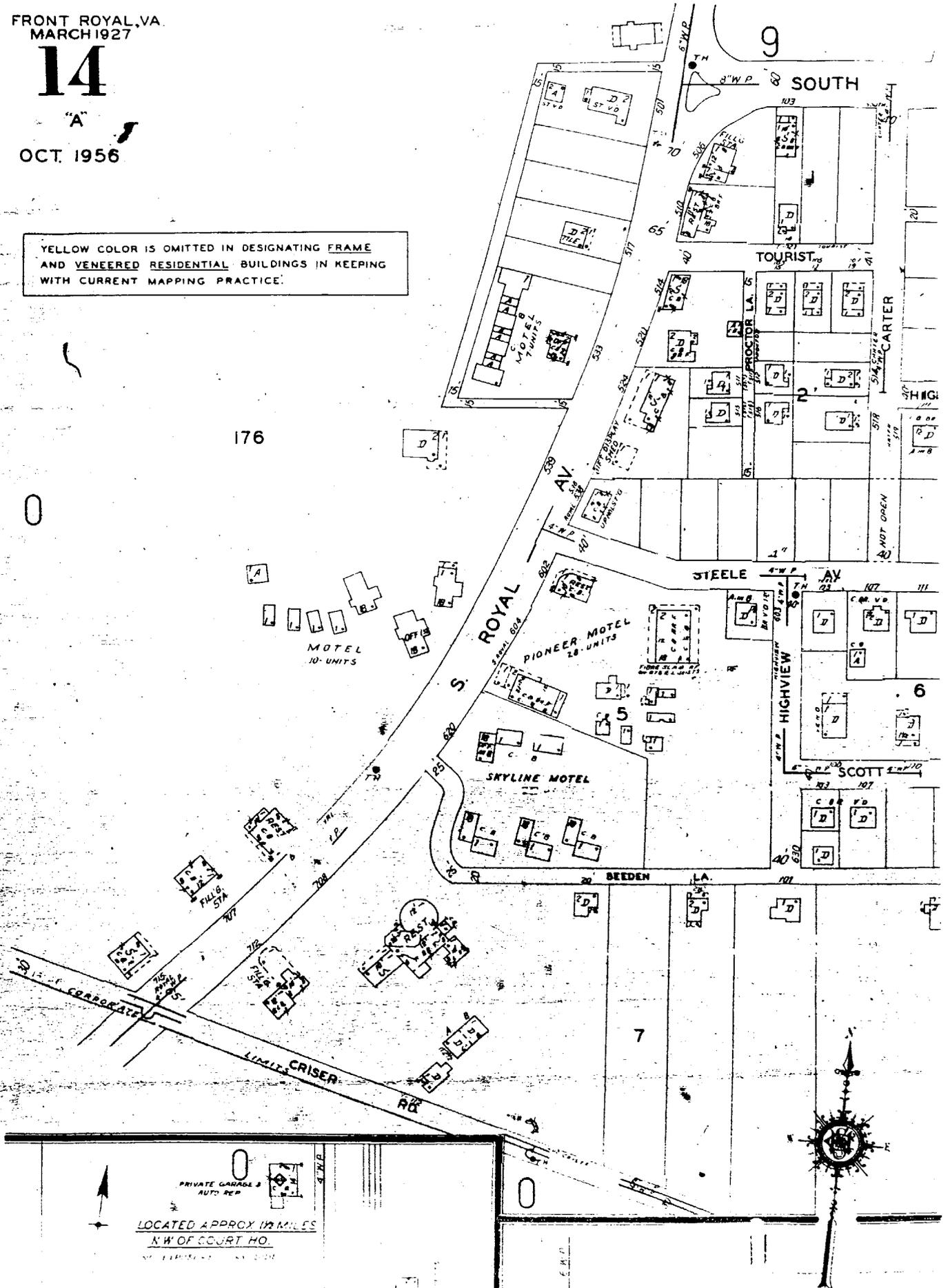
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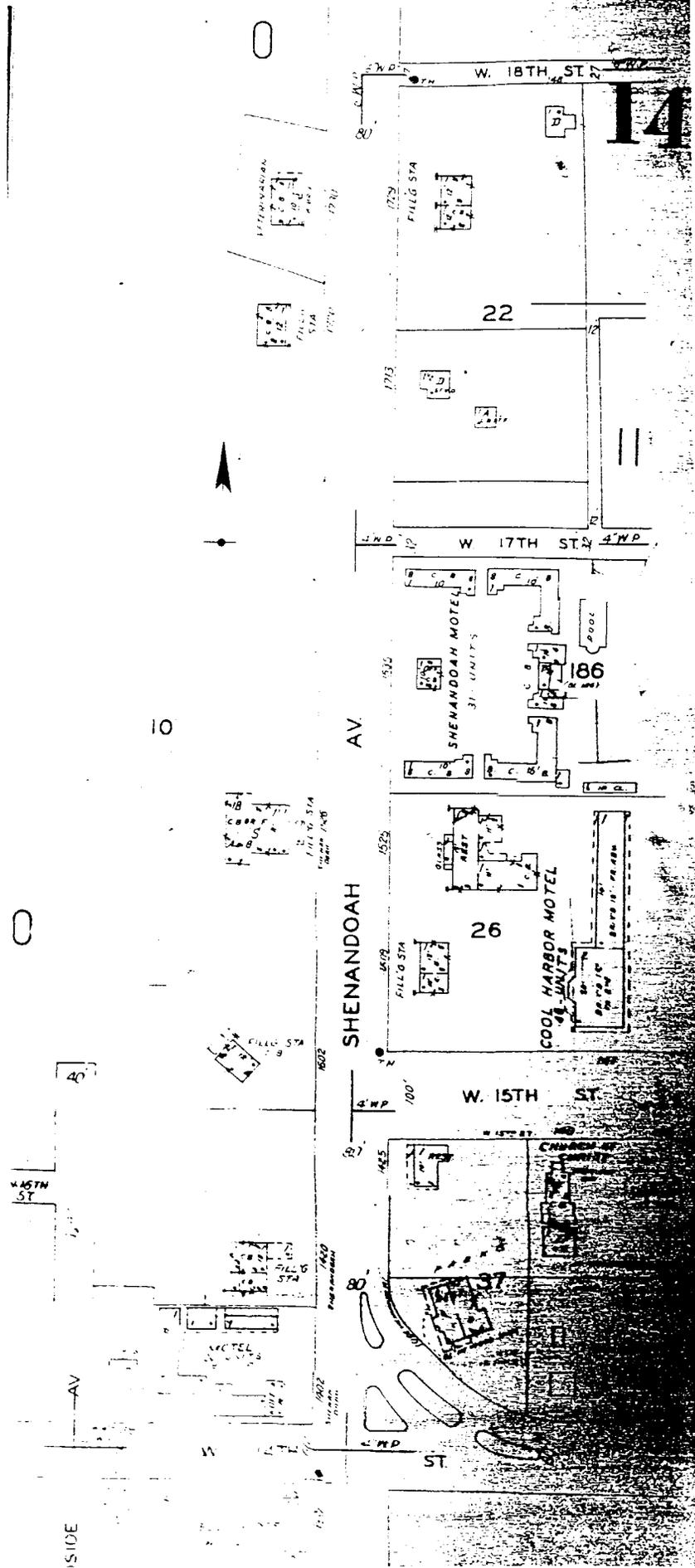
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Plate 158 (next page): Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, updated to October 1956: shows North Shenandoah Avenue cluster of tourism buildings



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Plate 159 (top): Ay-View (VDHR 112-0014), primary elevation, view towards west (Carl Lounsbury)
Plate 160 (bottom): Lieberman's Tourist Home (VDHR 112-0023), primary elevation (Carl Lounsbury)



Plate 161: Colonial Motel/Burke House (VDHR 112-0002), 25 South Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)



Plate 162 (top): Shenandoah Motel (VDHR 112-0067), 1600 Shenandoah Avenue, manager's residence and adjacent units, view towards northeast (PAV)
Plate 163 (bottom): Shenandoah Motel, units on north side, view towards northwest (PAV)

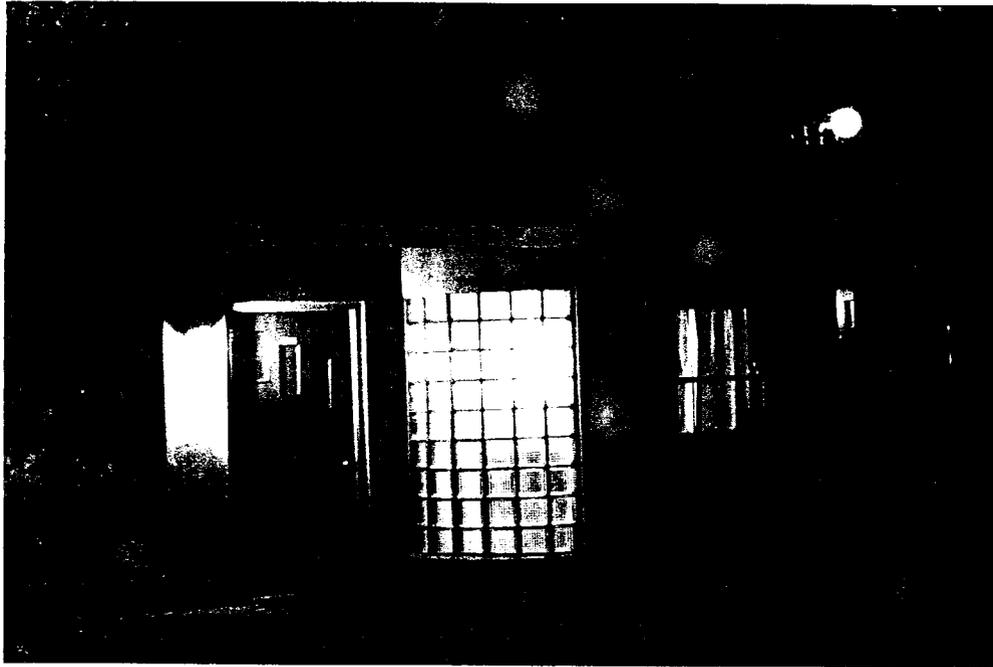
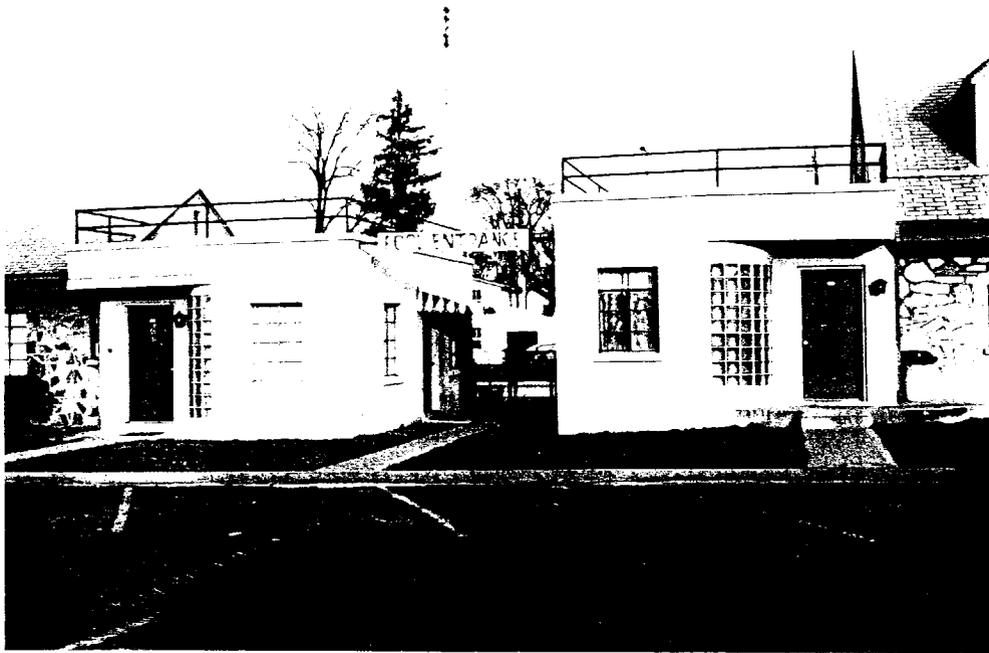


Plate 164 (top): Shenandoah Motel, pool entrance, view towards east (PAV)

Plate 165 (bottom): Shenandoah Motel, night view of unit, view towards east (PAV)

Agricultural Theme

Agricultural Theme

This chapter concerns the theme of agriculture. Agriculture refers to the process and technology of cultivating soil, producing crops, and raising livestock and plants. Properties for this theme include resources related to food production such as prehistoric villages, small family farmsteads, large plantations with representative or important collections of farm and outbuildings, and other agricultural complexes such as agribusinesses; sites or properties associated with processing such as meat or fruit packing plant, cannery, smokehouse, brewery, winery, of food processing site; storage facility such as granary, silo, wine cellar, storage site, tobacco warehouse; agricultural fields such as a pasture, vineyard, orchard, wheat field, complex of crop marks or stone alignments, terrace, or hedgerow; animal facilities such as a hunting and kill site, stock yard, barn, chicken coop, hunting corral, hunting run, or apiary; fishing facilities or sites such as a fish hatchery or fishing ground; horticultural facilities such as greenhouse, plant observatory, or garden; agricultural buildings such as a barn, chicken house, or corncrib, smokehouse, or tool shed; and irrigation facilities such as an irrigation system, canal, stone alignment, headgate, or check dam.

While there are few signs of agriculture in present-day Front Royal, the disappearance of subsistence farm fields was not too long ago. Cultivated fields surrounded the town well into this century. During settlement period, and into the nineteenth century, crops were grown for subsistence, and subsequently farming became the main activity in the Warren County region. As a growing urban entity during the second half of the nineteenth century, the areas centering around Main and Chester Streets became commercial and trade centers, but farming activities were probably maintained within the town for subsistence purposes in small lots behind residences. Larger scale farming took place in the fertile soil of the Happy Creek flood plain. The surrounding counties relied on local mills and the downstream commercial ties accessed through the early village.

Settlement to Society (1607-1750)

The town of Front Royal was settled and organized around its association to land and water-borne trade. The Chester Gap Road was probably improved during the settlement period as trade traffic sought access to the water-borne shipping on the Shenandoah River and overland routes to the north and south. Front Royal's strategic position made it a stopover point where farmers brought their crops and produce for shipping to the thriving downriver ports of Georgetown and Alexandria during the eighteenth century.

There are no above-ground or identified archaeological resources in Front Royal for this period. Any buildings or structures dating to this period would have been constructed of log, stone, or heavy, joined-timber framing. Three examples of early settlers' houses survive in Warren County, well beyond Front Royal's present boundaries. Two houses built by the McKay family date to the 1730s and 40s, while the Robert Ashby House dates to 1740. All three buildings have original log sections and later frame additions. None of these early farmsteads retains its original farm buildings.

As a rule, surviving outbuildings from the eighteenth century are extremely rare in Virginia.

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

Examples discussed in this section:

The Balthis House	55 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0009)	c. 1780s
Bel Air	Happy Creek Road	(VDHR 112-0007)	c. 1795

The Lehew family settled in the area and developed a two hundred acre farmstead after the middle of the eighteenth century. **Bel Air** is a surviving remnant of the original Lehew tract. The Thomas Buck house, **Bel Air**, which now occupies the prominent hill site, dates from the late eighteenth century, and the exact site of the Lehew farmstead has not been positively identified.

During the second half of the eighteenth century, Warren County settlers cleared forest lands and raised grain crops, mostly corn. Some of the farms in the Front Royal area may have been as large as 400 acres. After 1800, the average farm in the Shenandoah Valley was about 250 acres. While the **Balthis House** has a log outbuilding that appears to be a smokehouse, for subsistence food processing, the structure was built in this century from the logs of another building. There are no above-ground or identified archaeological-agricultural resources dating to this period within the town limits.

Early National Period (1789-1830)

Examples discussed in this section:

Jones-Clark House	10 High Street	(VDHR 112-0004)	c. 1815
Rose Hill	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0032)	c. 1825

Similar to many other regions in Virginia during the late eighteenth century, the Warren County area had shifted to wheat as the primary cash product. While mills were constructed as early as the seventeenth century in Virginia, improvements in design and milling manuals encouraged a proliferation of local milling operations starting in the late eighteenth century. There was also a trend towards crop diversification during the Early National Period. Along with wheat, rye, Indian corn, barley, and a small amount of tobacco, apples, peaches, pears and cherries were grown and processed. Local facilities used grain to produce whiskey and gin, while apples and peaches were often distilled into brandy.¹

About ten mills were located in or near the Front Royal vicinity, many on Happy Creek as well as the Shenandoah River during the Early National Period. The siting of the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill** (see Industry Theme), a twentieth-century mill and the site of the former **Riverton Mills**, on Happy Creek and the Shenandoah River, respectively, probably relate to the approximate sites of earlier operations. Houses such as **Bel Air**, **Hillcrest**, **Jones-Clark House** and **Rose Hill** were originally farmsteads on the outskirts of the town, and past survey has identified several domestic sites that must have had, at least, subsistence farm buildings associated with them. In 1970 a chimney on Criser Road marked one site and the still extant Lehew Tavern chimney, near Woodside Avenue, is the likely site of another early farm. The Lehew Tavern may have begun as a traveler's stop-over, but when Isaac Millar bought it in 1830, it reverted back to domestic-agricultural use. None of the surviving farmsteads and

Warren County had 804 farms in 1900 with an average size of 143 acres. The number decreased to 726 in 1910, but rebounded to 772 in 1920.

Several other agriculture-related activities occurred during this period. A. W. Hoster and G. W. Bell began a cigar company in the 1880s and continued their business well into the twentieth century. Their factory required little space, so in 1885 their location was a very small shop across the street from the railroad depot. They employed six to eight workers with a daily output of about 3,000 cigars. They had several brand names, "Magnolia," "Happy Moment," "Trenary's Hobby," and "Golden Charm." There is no indication of whether the tobacco was locally grown.

While Front Royal, the commerce center of Warren County, was the destination of rural agricultural production because of its mills and shipping facilities, it resembled many other small- to medium-sized Virginian towns in that farming activities were maintained right up to the edges of town. Photographs from the early twentieth century and later aerials show the ever-present adjacent farm fields. The present-day boundaries of the town encompass areas in the northwestern and eastern regions that were large areas under cultivation. These sections were found ideal for residential development after World War II.

The **Front Royal Quartermaster Remount Depot (plate 166)** (later referred to as the **Remount Station**, is also discussed under the Military theme), an Army equine training facility, is officially outside Front Royal's corporate limits, but it maintained a strong influence on the community during its almost forty-year existence. Three miles southeast of town on Route 522, the Remount Depot was begun in 1910 and lasted through World War II. Consisting of a vast area of 4,555 acres, this was one of three areas used for training a variety of Army mounts (the other two depots were in Fort Reno, Oklahoma and Fort Robinson, Nebraska). The complex included horse and mule stables and purportedly the most completely equipped veterinary field laboratory in the United States.

The buildings were built 1912-1916, in the Spanish Colonial style, probably one of the largest ensembles of this style in northwestern Virginia. There were also 100 residences for officers and enlisted men. New York architect John Sloan, designer of the **Bank of Warren** (1912) and **Weaver's Department Store** (c.1915) (see Commerce Theme), drew plans for the Remount Depot.⁴

The livestock activity at the **Remount Station** was supported by Front Royal's resources. The horses and mules were delivered by train to the Norfolk & Western stock holding yards located southwest of town, near a former bridge crossing. The herds were driven down Criser Road, across Route 340, into Harmony Hollow where they were quarantined for 21 days before finally arriving for training at the Remount Station.

The **Remount Station** had a building near the **Front Royal Freight Depot** to receive feed and also had in-town stables that were located on Jail Alley, behind the courthouse. These stables appear on the 1912 Sanborn maps, and were identified as Army property by 1919. None of

in the county. The Front Royal Livestock Market held its first sale in 1936. Started by George L. Wallihan and George W. Lewin, the market attracted buyers from New England and as far south as Georgia. The sales included about 1000 to 1700 livestock in a traditional auction ring and included cattle, horses, mules, and surplus animals from the Remount Station. The auctions were conveniently located near the railroad spurs, in a field off of Manassas Street.⁵

The **Remount Station** continued throughout this period, providing mounts from World War I into World War II. Mechanized transport and the changing tactics of war made the cavalry all but obsolete. Tanks and armed personnel carriers replaced horse and mule power by the Second World War, despite the training of pack mules for the rugged terrain of the China-India-Burma theater. Near the beginning of World War II, at the federal government's request, 125,000 dogs began training at the Remount Station for a wide variety of uses.

General Beverly F. Brown, the commander of the **Remount Station**, was also the president of the Blue Ridge Distilleries, Inc., organized in 1934. This company specialized in fruit brandies, including the best known of all, "Apple Brandy (Peak of Virginia)." The business employed from five to twenty workers.⁶

Aerial photographs from the pre-Skyline Drive, National Park, and Avtex period show that farming continued within and around the present town limits. Orchards and wheat and corn fields appear prominently in these images and clearly show the predominance of agriculture well into the twentieth century. Husbandry, mostly small roosts of chickens, existed within the town limits probably through the 1950s and 1960s. In 1919, a "piggery" was located at the end of the stable/barn building at **15-18 High Street (VDHR 112-0004)**.

The New Dominion (1945-1994)

Since the end of World War II, the nature of farming in Warren County has changed. While chicken, sheep, and lamb numbers have dropped since the 1930s, in 1982 the number of cattle compared with that of 1934 nearly doubled from 5,439 to 10,259. Fewer acres are being farmed and higher yield has resulted from more efficient farming techniques.

The **Remount Station** ended its activity in the 1940s. For a short period it acted as a processing center for German prisoners of war. The Dogs for Defense program came into being at that time. By 1948 the Department of Agriculture and Virginia Polytechnic Institute started a beef cattle research station, and in 1975, the Smithsonian Institution established its Conservation And Research Center at the site. Part of the National Zoological Park, the vast tract is now used for raising exotic animals. While this operation is outside of town, it enhances the surrounding area by preserving a rural landscape. In combination with the Shenandoah National Park, the Conservation and Research Park creates a greenbelt at the southern end of town.

Front Royal has moved further away from its association with Warren County's agricultural tradition. While Southern States Front Royal Coop Inc. still sells feed, very few businesses are involved with agricultural activities. Front Royal has become a commerce center consisting of

retail and industry, and urban pressures that have resulted from the extension of Interstate 66 will encourage residential development.

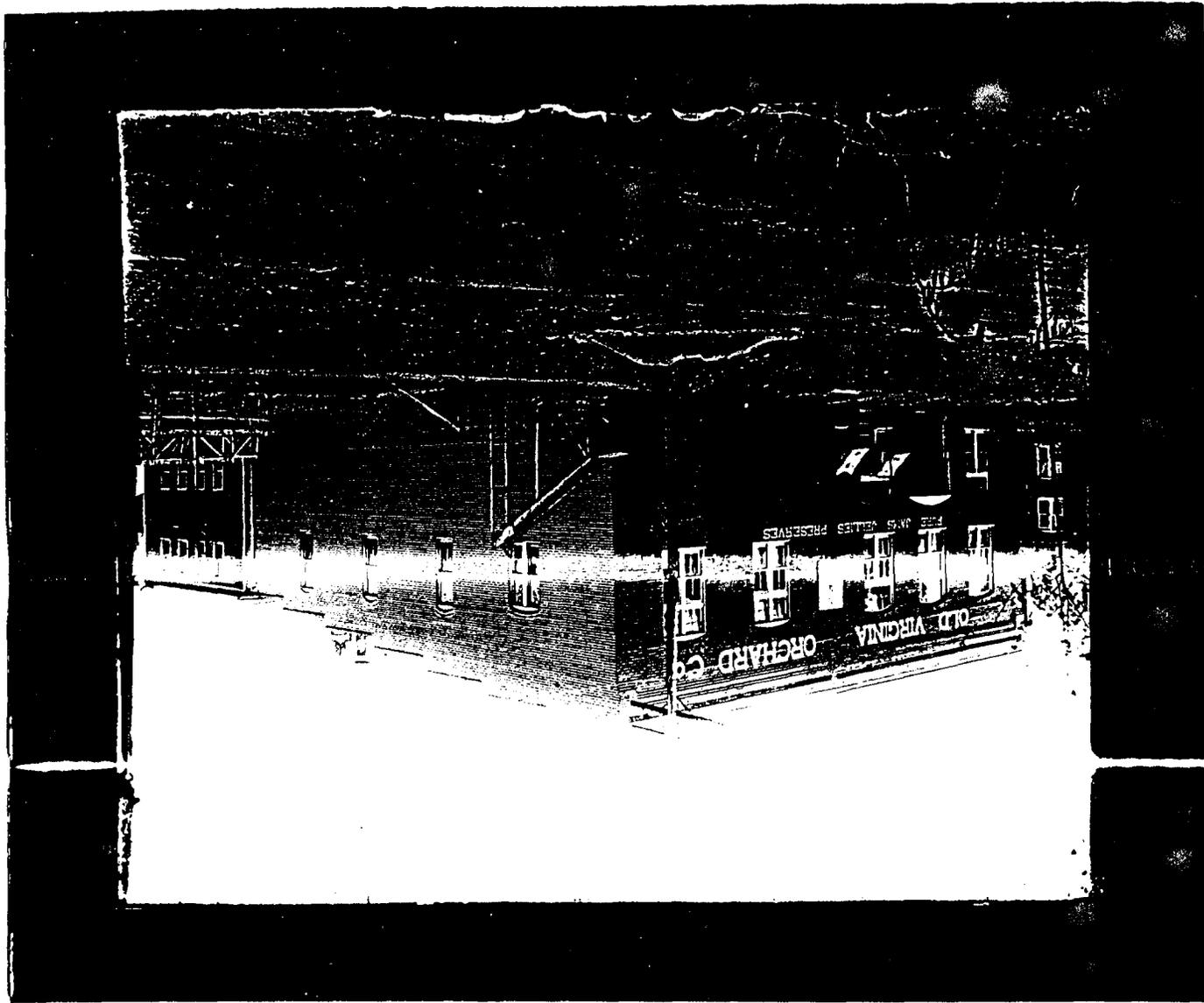
Endnotes

1. Maral S. Kalbian, Rural Historic Resources Survey Report of Warren County, Virginia, 1991, 42.
2. Kalbian, 44.
3. Laura Virginia Hale, "Warren County Sesquicentennial," (unpublished manuscript) no date, c. 1985-1986.
4. Kimberley P. Fogle, Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas, Appendix B, Historical Background for the Proposed Historic Districts, 1993, 20.
5. "Livestock Market does Big Business," Warren Sentinel, no date; "Value of Small Livestock Sales Told to Rotary," Warren Sentinel, April 9, 1942; "1,512 Horses-Mules Sold at Auction," Warren Sentinel, January 13, 1944; "Drought brings stock from pastures to market in fall exchange one month early," Warren Sentinel, October 11, 1951.
6. Elliott Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 125.



Plate 166: Remount wrangling gang (no date) (Warren County Sesquicentennial)

Plate 167 (next page): Old Virginia Orchard Company, formerly 123 North Royal Avenue
Joe Sackett and Sons Auto Parts (WHS)



Government/Law/Political Theme

Government/Law/Political Theme

This theme relates to politics and government and to the enactment and administration of laws by which a nation, state, or other political jurisdiction is governed. It embraces governmental systems, political activities, legal systems, important political/governmental events in history, and political leaders. Property types representing this theme include public administrative and service buildings such as the Capitol and the Executive Mansion as well as town/city hall, federal, state, or county courthouse, prison jail or fire/police department or station, post office, or custom house; public works projects and other types of governmental buildings; and sites of important governmental events or places associated with governmental leaders.

Settlement to Society (1607-1830)

During Front Royal's settlement period, an atmosphere of pioneer living prevailed. Life was governed more by the basic concerns of survival and personal and family welfare. Government and law was not a primary concern. Other than the land disputes between Lord Fairfax and local settlers, there was very little business brought before the distant colonial government at Williamsburg.

Warren County was formed in 1836, almost a hundred years after the beginnings of Front Royal. It was formed from Frederick and Shenandoah Counties, and traced its roots back to Orange County, which was formed from Spotsylvania in 1734. In 1738 Frederick was formed from Orange, and Shenandoah was carved out of Frederick in 1772. As the Warren area evolved, with Front Royal near its geographical center, any legal business had to be performed at a distant courthouse. While there were certainly those who practiced law at Front Royal before the county seat was placed there, all local legal activities before 1836 were performed in informal settings, probably at residences or offices. The circuit and county courts were the first organized after Warren County's founding. Records show that some of the earliest meetings were held in a Baptist meeting place, a site that is unknown. The first court met in Mrs. Lane's Tavern, a Main Street establishment, on March 24, 1836. Local legend maintains that this building was dismantled and incorporated as part of the Scroggins-Hitt House in the county.¹

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

Example discussed in this section:

Keyser House (Original Jail) 22 South Royal Ave. (VDHR-112-0026) c. 1840

Also: first Courthouse and early west Courthouse Green office

The first Warren County Courthouse was sited at the western end of Main Street where South and North Royal Streets intersect (plate 168). South Royal Avenue, which predates North, was called Court Street as early as 1885 (Sanborn map). Torn down in 1936 for a larger facility, early photographs show the courthouse as a simple rectangular plan with a stylistic evolution of details. The 1836 courthouse was two stories, with a tall second floor where the courtroom was well lit by at least nine double-sash windows. Probably built in a much more unadorned fashion than the photographs show, the nineteenth-century building had received later embellishments such as a Victorian bell tower and an Italianate front cornice. The front gable orientation with

its bell tower gave the building a church-like appearance. The front windows also included pedimental hoods and the front entry was emphasized by a rusticated surround. The attic space was lit on the front gable by a semi-circular fanlight.

The courthouse complex may have included several buildings before the Civil War. A jail, which may have included the jailor's residence, was reputedly built in the 1840s (the alterations give it an effective date of c. 1905). Also called the **Keyser House (VDHR 112-0026)**, this resource stands at 22 South Royal Avenue. If this functional brick building actually dates to the antebellum period, it would be the oldest governmental building in Front Royal.²

Like many courthouse areas throughout the state, there were offices built around the green for the clerk and lawyers. A significant one-story brick building appears on the west side of the green in late-nineteenth-century photographs. Probably an office or additional records space, the building appears on the 1902 Sanborn insurance map, but is gone by 1907.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Government activities were sporadic during the war, and the courthouse was taken over by military authorities of the Confederacy in 1861 and was used as a soldiers' hospital.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Courthouse Green Office	101 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0010)	late 19th century
Courthouse Green Office	105 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0010)	late 19th century
First Fire Department	9-11 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-182)	1888-1889
Confederate Soldiers Monument	Courthouse Green	(VDHR 112-0005)	1911

Buildings were built around courthouses as the need arose. At the northeast corner of the green two other brick buildings, built after the war and once associated with the courthouse, still stand. A small, one-story, brick building at 101 Main St. has two transom-topped entrances. Used as the **Clerk's Office (VDHR 112-0010/plates 169, 170)**, the late-nineteenth-century building still serves as office space. The building immediately next door, 105 Main Street, now used as a tattoo shop, originally served as office space associated with the courthouse. This building is larger and more decorated than its neighbor, including ornamental trim on the front gable along with finely crafted window and door woodwork.

The present-day Front Royal Fire Department is located in a modern building built in 1971 on Commerce Avenue. The roots of this organization go back to 1870 when the town council decided to fund fire-fighting efforts following a devastating fire in the Water Street area (then known as Mill Street). The town purchased ladders, gum buckets and fire hooks. During this early period ladders were actually hung on fences around town and a fine of 50 cents an hour was set for use of the ladder for any activity other than fire fighting.

In 1887 the town, aided by private funds, purchased a hook and ladder truck from Holloway of Baltimore, MD. for \$635. The Relief Hook and Ladder Company was formed with C.A. Macatee as chief. Macatee was responsible for designing and building the first firehouse, which

still stands, in remodeled condition, as part of **Forsyth Hardware Store (VDHR 112-0055-182/plate 17 shows the original front facade)** at 9-17 South Royal Avenue. Finished in 1888-89, the building originally featured an octagonal bell tower, set upon a larger brick tower base. The slate roof surmounted a fine metal cornice above brick dentils. The facade included an unusual repetition of semi-circular motifs that start with the main vehicle opening, at the bottom, and ascended with a semicircular-topped multi-pane window, and culminates in a similarly shaped attic vent.

In 1892, the Relief Hook and Ladder Company #1 separated from the town and became the Relief Fire Company. The town had been supplied with a water system and this seemed to negate the need for an engine. The water system included double-nozzle street hydrants, some of which are visible in early photographs. One was installed in front of the courthouse. A bell was purchased in 1893 and a signal system was implemented to indicate the fire location. Following the devastating fire at the **Front Royal Roller Mill** in 1922 (also known as the **C. C. Proctor Mill** and now the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill**), the private fire company disbanded and the town resumed the responsibility for fire fighting. The fire department was combined into the new **Front Royal Town Hall** built by the Public Works Administration in 1936.

Equipment was updated over the years and a recently constructed building (1971) is the site for the 1893 500-pound bell purchased from the McShane Bell Foundry of Baltimore, MD.

Before World War I the government area at the intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenues included two buildings with bell towers, the courthouse and the fire department, as well as **Front Royal United Methodist Church** with its impressive steeple. It was a well-defined town center anchored by government, fire department, religious, and commercial buildings. The town had its old "square" at the Chester and Main intersection as well as a post-Civil War focus at the west end of town.

The courthouse green gained further ceremonial status after a Confederate Soldiers Memorial was erected on Independence Day, 1911.

World War I through World War II/The New Dominion (1917-1994)

Examples discussed in this section:

Front Royal Police Dept.	West Main Street	(VDHR 112-0027)	1922
Front Royal Town Hall	16 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-073)	1936
Warren County Courthouse	5 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0005)	1936

Located at 24 West Main Street, the present **Front Royal Police Department (VDHR 112-0027/plates 171-173)** occupies the original Front Royal Post Office Building. Before the Front Royal Post Office was built in the 1920s it had been located in several places, one of them being the streetside spaces of the Murphy Theater, 131 East Main Street (the converted 1879 Front Royal Methodist Church, see Commerce and also Religion Themes).

The federally funded Post Office was built between 1922 and 1923. A cornerstone records the acting supervising architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, James A. Wetmore (1863-1940).

Wetmore's office designed over two thousand buildings during his forty-five-year tenure with the federal government. The specific design of the building was probably executed by Louis Adolphe Simon (active 1894-1958). Simon, an 1891 graduate of the Michigan Institute of Technology, worked under Wetmore at the U.S. Treasury Department from 1896 to 1944. He was chief of the architectural division from 1905 to 1933. He later succeeded Wetmore as supervising architect in 1933.³

The overall design for the Post Office was executed in a severe classical style. The building has some decorative detailing such as the fine tripartite entry featuring engaged Doric columns, pilasters, decorative frieze work, swags executed in a drill-press pattern, and a segmental pediment. The upper trim also features an attenuated classical molding featuring a drill-press pattern. Set on a stone water table, the tall brick walls are relieved by simple panels above and below all primary front and side windows.

A larger **Front Royal Post Office** was built in the 1980s at Warren Avenue and Third Street, and the older facility became home to the Front Royal Police Department in 1985.

Front Royal witnessed a flurry of government sponsored construction from the 1920s to 1940. The Post Office was built before the Great Depression and the planning for a scenic drive along the Blue Ridge Mountains was begun in the 1920s by private citizens, but was carried out by the state and federal government starting in the 1930s. The initial construction for the Skyline Drive began in the summer of 1931. In 1930 Front Royal adopted the town manager form of government and a period of rapid growth began.

While the Great Depression affected Front Royal like many other regions of the United States, the county received a new courthouse; and the town, a town hall and an elementary school. Riverton also received a new school. Built in 1935, in time for the centennial celebration for the county, the **Front Royal Town Hall** and the **Warren County Courthouse** create a unified local government architectural complex.

The **Warren County Courthouse (plates 175, 176)** was probably designed by Allen J. Saville or Bascom J. Rowlett, both respected Richmond architects, with consulting architect William Dewey Foster of New York. Given the similarity of design between the Courthouse and the Town Hall, it is likely that the designs came from the same collaboration.⁴ Rowlett was well known for such works as English Village (1927) in Richmond. Allen J. Saville's name appears on engineering drawings for the **Front Royal Town Hall (plate 174)**. Saville was also well known for his architectural engineering skills which included work on a series of impressive Depression Era concrete bridges. Saville played an important role in the engineering aspects of Windsor Farms, the impressive early-twentieth-century suburb of Richmond. Saville served as the Director of Richmond Public Works for two years.

The design solution for replacing the earlier courthouse was sympathetic to the historic siting of the building. There is evidence that one plan suggested siting the Courthouse to face South Royal Avenue. The new courthouse was built in the traditional orientation. The county

provided the locally quarried stone.⁶ The stone expressed a regional architectural signature, a quality that still makes both the Courthouse and the Town Hall unique. A tripartite Colonial Revival design, the new courthouse has a central rectangular temple-form block that echoes the 1836 courthouse's form. The central block is pronounced by keeping the trim on the large side wings simple and the roofs flat. Like its predecessor, the new courthouse has a courtroom on the second floor. The Colonial Revival facade of the central block is unusual in that the white pilasters which seem to support the pedimented gable float above the loggia-style entry on the first floor. The simple Gibbsian cupola replaced the image of the Victorian bell tower. The courthouse presents a symmetrical facade, and any additional space added to this building has been extended to the rear.

The courthouse green includes a Confederate Soldiers Monument, an obelisk for World Wars I & II, and a Vietnam Memorial placed near the small courthouse offices. The green also includes several mature trees. The edge of the green is defined by wrought-iron bollards. Photographs of the 1836 courthouse show an intricate wrought-iron fence that featured a two-door gate over which a segmental-arched wrought-iron sign read "Court House." In the southwest corner of the green an iron pump made water available from the local water system.

Warren County government is also using space in the first floor, rear section of the **Masonic Hall (VDHR 112-0055-068)** that sits at the eastern border of the green. The Masonic Hall incorporates an elaborate late-nineteenth-century, Queen-Anne-style residence into its rambling structure (formerly the Hansbrough residence). The section that fronts Main Street was added in the 1950s and the rear of the house was probably added after it was adapted for society use by the Masons. The row of district office doors facing the courthouse green has been called "lawyer's row" due to its traditional use.

Construction of the **Front Royal Town Hall** was contemporaneous with the **Warren County Courthouse**. The Town Hall also incorporates fine stone work, stone that may have come from either the Fort Valley, several miles west of town, or from rock outcrops that were being blasted and graded for Skyline Drive by local contractors and the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.). Both courthouse and town hall ultimately make reference to the classical form of the temple, which had been transplanted to Virginia by English Palladians (a seventeenth- and eighteenth-century architectural movement), and popularized during the Federal period by Thomas Jefferson, among others. The architects involved with both buildings followed a traditional adherence to hierarchy. The Courthouse, of higher political status than the Town Hall, stands taller with its three-level cupola. Despite the Town Hall's smaller scale, the two-level cupola is similar to that of the Courthouse, but has a more sophisticated design. The corners of the cupola are angled, almost creating an octagonal base. The Courthouse cupola features operating clocks on four sides of the tower's first level. There are circular trim areas on the lower area of the Town Hall cupola, but early photographs show no clocks installed.

The tympanum of the **Courthouse** features a decorative round vent, while a fanlight illuminates the attic of the **Town Hall**. The Town Hall's front facade is framed with simple corner pilasters and the main entry features a typical Colonial Revival broken pediment.

Today's Town Council Chambers are located in the **Town Hall's** side wing where space was provided for the fire department. A two-story stone garage used for storage was built directly behind the town hall.

Front Royal Town Hall was sited on property that had been used for light industry. In 1919, C. H. Smapoons Overall Factory occupied the site replacing the Norfolk and Western Freight House noted there on the 1912 Sanborn map. A cigar factory was located on the first floor of this frame building in 1907.

While the school buildings will receive more attention under the education section, it is worth noting that the Works Progress Administration, one of the federal agencies begun by the Roosevelt administration in the early 1930s, orchestrated the construction of the new elementary school, now called the **Morrison Elementary School (VDHR 112-0055-090)**, on Crescent Street in 1935 and the prominent Warren County High School of 1940.

Inevitably, Front Royal would become a much busier community after the Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, and American Viscose Plant became part of the town's environment. The new government buildings and schools were planned in a timely manner anticipating a new era of growth.

The centennial of Warren County's founding was celebrated with three days of pageantry. Some of the new buildings were dedicated and Governor George C. Peery attended the ceremonies where he reviewed the Virginia troops of the 29th Division under Adjutant-General S. Gardner Waller, a native of the county.⁷

Endnotes

1. Kalbian, 68.
2. An interior inspection may confirm the date.
3. John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The South Carolina Architects 1885 - 1935, A Biographical Dictionary (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1992), 160 & 197.

Henry F. Withey, A.I.A. & Elsie Rathburn Withey, Biographical Dictionary Of American Architects (Deceased), (Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970), 647.
4. Margaret and John Peters have conducted extensive research on their upcoming publication of Virginia courthouses. While the Peterses have verified the architect for the Warren County Courthouse, there needs to be more research to confirm the architect for the Front Royal Town Hall.
5. English Village a cooperative apartment community executed in the Tudor Style was placed on the Virginia and National Register in 1983.
6. The research of Margaret Peters (VDHR Public Information Officer) at Warren County Courthouse has uncovered several other interesting facts. T.H. Green supervised the construction of both the courthouse and the town hall; Peters Construction of Norfolk won the overall construction contract; and the work started in August, 1935 and was finished in May, 1936. Bascom J. Rowlett's signature is found on an architectural rendering of town hall and Allen J. Saville's name appears to also be prominent in the records. It is somewhat unclear whether either building can be attributed to just one architect. In addition to the architects mentioned above, Eugene Bradbury, one of the more prominent Charlottesville architects at this period, was also involved. He received a payment from the county government, but his services were not specified. Typically, the P.W.A. projects were group efforts and clear attribution is often difficult to ascertain.
7. Laura Virginia Hale, Warren County Sesquicentennial, manuscript, no date, c. 1985 - 1986.

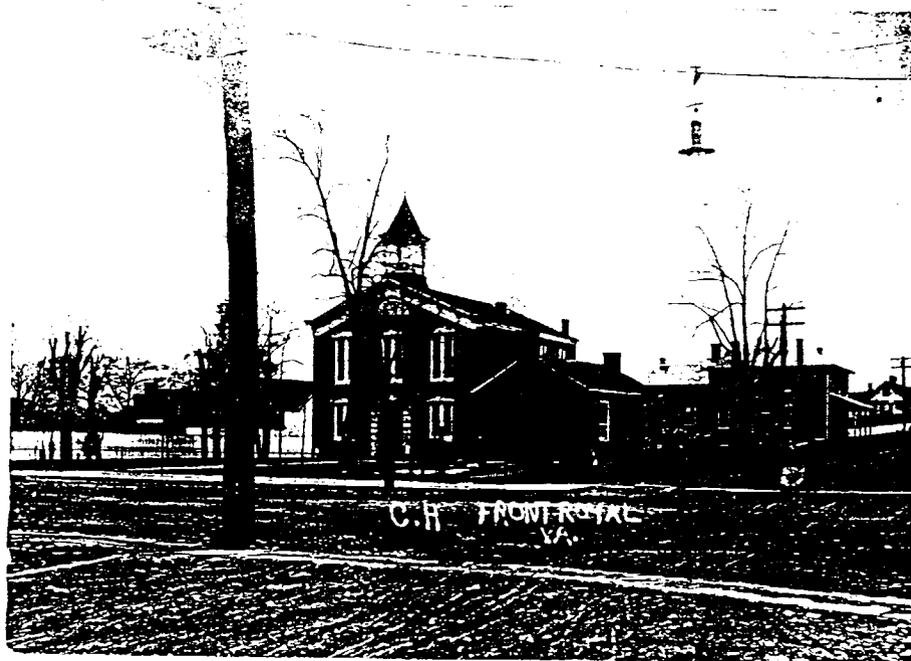


Plate 168: 1836 Warren County Courthouse, Clerk's Office, and Jail, before 1911 (post card/WHS)



Plate 169: 101-105 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0010), view towards southeast (PAV)



Plate 170: 101-105 East Main Street, detail of 105 main entry (PAV)



Plate 171 (top): Front Royal Police Department (VDHR 112-0027), West Main Street, view towards southeast (PAV)

Plate 172 (bottom): Front Royal Police Department, rear elevation, view towards northwest (PAV)

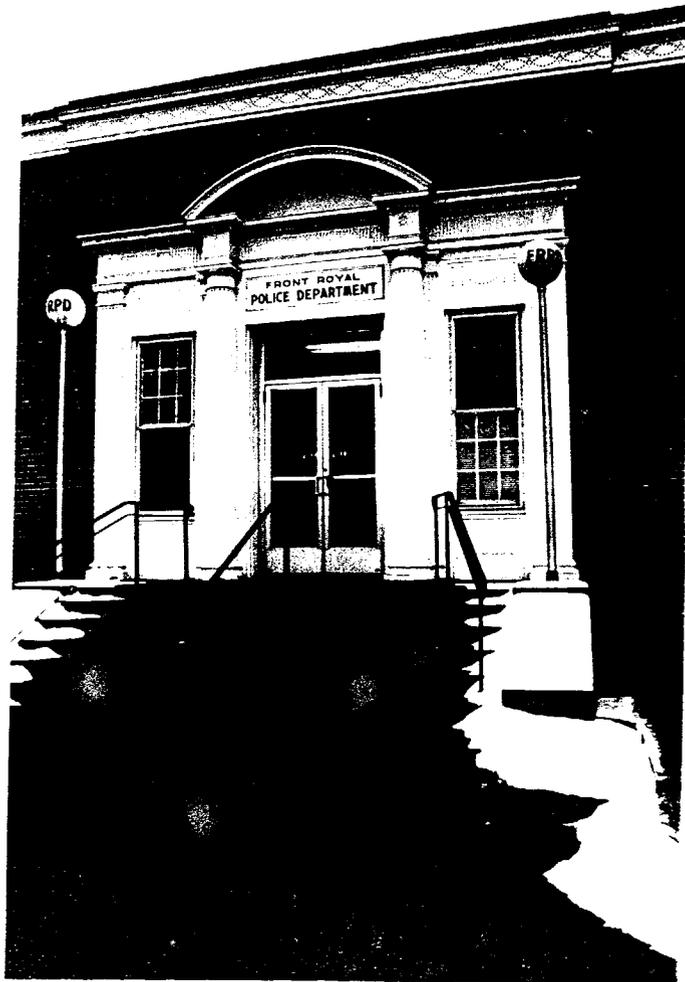


Plate 173: Front Royal Police Department, detail of main entry, view towards south (PAV)

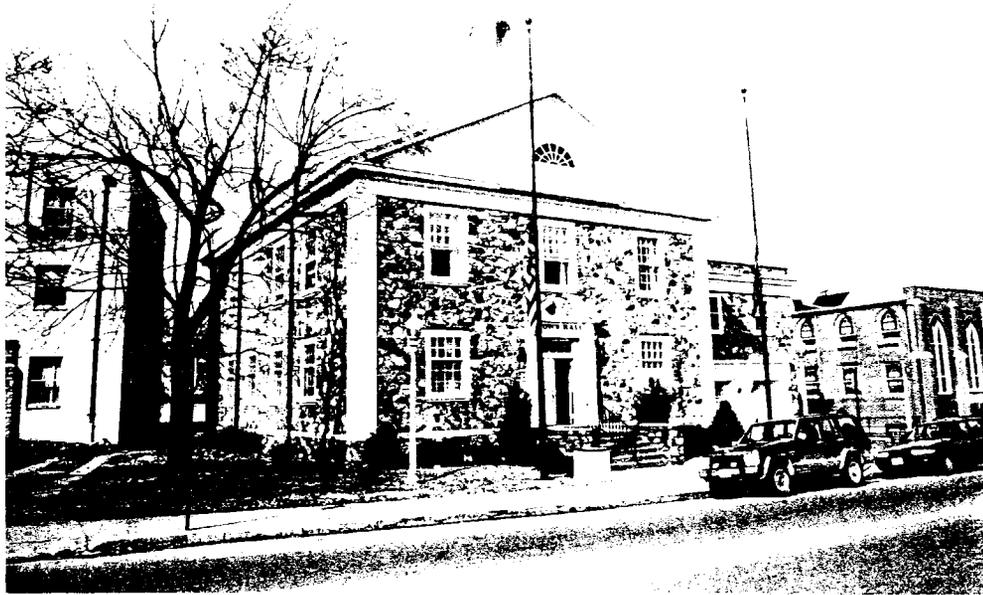


Plate 174 (top): Front Royal Town Hall (VDHR 112-0012), 16 North Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 175 (bottom): Warren County Courthouse (VDHR 112-0005), 5 East Main Street, primary elevation, view towards south (PAV)



Plate 176: Warren County Courthouse, detail of east stairs (PAV)

Health Care/Medicine Theme

Health Care/Medicine Theme

This refers to the care of the sick, elderly, and the disabled, and the promotion of health and hygiene. Property types associated with this theme include hospitals such as a veterans medical center, mental hospital, asylum, private or public hospital, or medical research facility; clinics such as a dispensary or doctor's office; sanitariums such as a nursing home, rest home, or other sanitarium; medical businesses/offices such as a pharmacy, medical supply store, or doctor or dentist office; and resorts such as a bath, spa, or other resort facility.

Resources Bolded in this section are discussed in greater physical detail in other sections, see Index;

Settlement to Early National Period (1607-1830)

There are no records identified that chronicle the early period of medical care in Front Royal. Health care in Virginia's eighteenth-century pioneer areas was sporadic at best. There were doctors practicing in offices in the eastern part of the state with greater frequency during the latter half of the eighteenth century. Williamsburg boasted an unusual health facility during the colonial era. The medical (and architectural) sophistication of the 1773 Eastern State Hospital was a rarity in the southern colonies at this period. At Front Royal, the itinerant doctor who happened to be in the area was probably the best health care that could be afforded. Doctors and midwives probably became part of the Front Royal community in the late eighteenth century or at least by the first quarter of the nineteenth century. More intensive research may reveal the earliest beginnings of the medical profession in the Front Royal and Warren County Area.

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

The earliest medical practice in Front Royal is attributed to Dr. Isaac Newton Buck who was graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 1822. He practiced in town until 1844 when his health deteriorated. Dr. Buck lived on Chester Street at a site that is now part of the **Morrison School** playground, southeast of the **Dunover House** at 140-144 Chester Street. In 1844, he moved to "Mt. View," which stood somewhere near the Shenandoah River where the Avtex Plant now stands. Born at **Bel Air** in 1800, Dr. Buck lived at the farm, then outside of town, until his death in 1877.

Dr. Hanson Dorsey, born in Howard County, Maryland in 1810, lived at **54 Chester Street**. Educated at the University of Maryland, he practiced briefly in Clarke County before he moved to Front Royal sometime between 1830 to 1840. Dr. Dorsey was remembered for his dedication and extensive travel throughout the county to serve patients.

In 1844, Dr. Anderton Brown started his practice at Front Royal. He was a University of Pennsylvania graduate who had practiced in Ohio and Middletown, Virginia. Dr. Brown is mentioned as one of several physicians in town who treated wounded soldiers during the Civil War.

One of the more notable medical events took place in the 1850s when a Dr. James H. Turner and Dr. Brown performed the first operation in Front Royal. The event occurred in an office

incorporated into the **Masonic Hall**. The primary elevation of the house is presently obscured by a large addition to the front on the building. The rear portions of the house now function as ancillary office space for Warren County government.¹

The **Dr. E. L. Grubbs House (VDHR 112-0055-175)** at 113 South Royal Avenue dates to the 1880s, and includes a 1914 medical office. The Dr. Grubbs office is a two-room frame building that is accessible from the house. The shed roof of this small addition is cleverly masked by a parapet decorated with simple molding. The office was well lit by a wide transom and side lights around the entry and a four-unit, four-over-one, double-hung sash window lighting the office space. The office was set back to respect the nearly symmetrical facade of the residence.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Examples discussed in this section:

Amiss Block	219-221 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-045)	1896
Trout Drugs	201-203 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-056)	1908

In 1925 the Warren County Public Health Association was formed and Miss Cora Coventry became the first county public health nurse.

Dr. Elizabeth Sherman began her Front Royal practice in 1934. She was the first woman to do so in Front Royal and one of two women to be the first female graduates of the University of Maryland Medical School. Before giving up the practice of obstetrics in 1965, she had delivered 2,255 babies. In 1986 she was still practicing at her office on Virginia Avenue.

Dr. Sherman's Queen Anne-style house of 1904 at 101 Luray Avenue is discussed in the Residential/Domestic theme (VDHR 112-0061).

Trout Drugs (VDHR 112-0055-056/plates 177-179) was Front Royal's oldest surviving pharmacy. The store began at the present **Amiss Block (219-221 East Main Street, VDHR 112-0055-045)**. Originally known as Sharmann and Co., Mark B. Turner, Dr. Dan Turner, and Henry Trout bought the store in 1900 and changed the name to Trout and Turner. It was moved to its present location at 201-203 East Main Street in 1908.² The business closed in June 1994.

The Trout Drugs building is one of the most elaborate masonry buildings in the East Main Street commercial corridor. Sited next to the equally prominent old **Murphy Theater**, both buildings create an intermediate town center between the "square" area and the intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenue. The building creates a gesture to the street by featuring a round corner capped by a conical slate roof. The upper trim, which includes ornamental brick courses, a dentilated cornice, pedimented dormers, and mixed pattern slate highlights the building's stylistic mix of Queen Anne and Victorian commercial architectural vocabulary. The large, floor-to-ceiling, second story, skylight is a notable feature that can be seen on the Church Street-side of the building.

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

Examples discussed in this section:

Randolph-Macon Academy	201 West Third Street	(VDHR 112-0057)	1892/1927
Warren Memorial Hospital	1000 N. Shenandoah Ave.	(Not surveyed)	1951

Until **Warren Memorial Hospital** was built in Front Royal in 1951, Winchester Hospital was the only major regional hospital. Built in 1901, the Winchester Hospital was a thirty-six bed facility that served a 75,000-person area. **Randolph-Macon Academy** served as a makeshift clinic between 1910-1920. **Oakley**, the elegant Italianate-style house of Thomas Newton Ashby, became Johnson's Nursing Home in 1928. Mrs. Sydney Johnson, a native of Scotland, was convinced by four local doctors to open a facility for various reasons. The doctors agreed to cut their child delivery fees in half if mothers would use the nursing home. Domestic child delivery at this period presented the doctor with unknown complications. As Front Royal grew, so did the nursing home. In 1941 the Medical Board of Virginia licensed Johnson's as a first class maternity hospital.

Ten years after Front Royal had its first hospital, the first section of Warren Memorial was opened on Shenandoah Avenue. Designed in the functional architectural language of the period, an offshoot of post-World War II modernism, the hospital has been augmented by additions made in 1959, 1968, 1979 and 1994.³

Endnotes

1. Caroline Carter, "The Medical Community," in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 1836 - 1986 (No publisher listed, 1986), 67-70.
2. Caroline Carter, "The Medical Community," in Warren County Sesquicentennial, p. 67.
3. Caroline Carter, "The Medical Community," in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 1836 - 1986 (No publisher listed, 1986), 67-70.



Plate 177 (top): Trout Drugs (VDHR 112-0055-056), 201-203 East Main Street, Primary elevation, view towards south (PAV)

Plate 178 (bottom): Trout Drugs, Rear elevation, view towards northeast (PAV)



Plate 179: Trout Drugs, primary retail area (PAV)

Education Theme

Education Theme

This theme relates to the process of conveying or acquiring knowledge or skills through systematic instruction, training, or study, whether through public or private efforts. Property types includes schools, such as a field school, academy, one-room, two-room, or consolidated school, secondary school, grammar school, or trade or technical school; colleges such as a university, college, or junior college; libraries; research facilities such as a laboratory, observatory, or planetarium; and other education related resources such as a college dormitory or housing at a boarding school.

Settlement to Nation (1607-1789)

The existence of any formal school on the western frontier of Virginia was rare before the nineteenth century. Education was home based or took place in one of the German churches located in the Shenandoah Valley towns of Winchester, Strasburg, and Woodstock by the mid-1760s.¹

Early National Period (1789-1830)

Education in a private school was common at this time. As the town grew in size and sophistication late in this period, some of the inhabitants most likely sent their children to distant academies and colleges.

The Virginia General Assembly passed an act for a voluntary educational program in 1796. By 1810 the State Literary Fund was established to provide money to educate poor white children. Both of these initiatives failed to make any appreciable change in the preferred manner of education in Virginia.

Samuel Rolfe Millar reported in a 1919 article that a school run by Samuel Simpson stood at the corner of Luray Avenue and Main Street, the site of the present St. John's Catholic Church. Simpson started this school sometime in the first quarter of the century. The school is described as a two-story log building. The building was moved to the entrance of Browntown Road, used by a ranger, and later demolished.

Simpson's Academy, also known as the Front Royal Academy, was finally housed in a substantial, two-story, five-bay, brick house, on Crescent Street. Erected in 1847, the school closed at the outbreak of war, served as a hospital for wounded soldiers, and reopened for a short period until 1870. Later a primary school operated by the Weaver family, the building was recently razed to make way for a drive-in bank machine.

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

When Warren County was founded in 1836, it established five school districts, each with its own commissioner. By 1850 the county had twelve public schools with thirteen teachers and 484 students.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Educational activities came to a halt as teachers and students joined the war effort. The Simpson Academy was one of several buildings converted into hospital use during the war.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Stonewall Institute	116-122 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0039)	c. 1870
Holcombe School	21 Lee Street	(VDHR 112-0055-126)	c. 1890
Shenk's Rusco Window Co.	518 North Royal Avenue	(No survey)	c. 1890
Nostalgia Shop	630 North Royal Avenue	(No survey)	c. 1890
Randolph-Macon Academy	201 West Third Street	(VDHR 112-0057)	1892/1927
Stickley Bld.	21-23 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0040)	late 19th century

The 1870 Underwood Constitution mandated that Virginia establish free public schools. Front Royal witnessed a significant growth of educational activity during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Schools closed during the war reopened, and several new schools started before 1870. The **Stonewall Institute (VDHR 112-0039)**, a private school, was active from the late 1860s through the 1870s. The Stonewall Institute building still stands within the survey area at 116-122 South Royal Avenue. Now, an apartment building, its long form is similar to that of the **Simpson Academy**. This two-story, nine-bay, frame building is probably the result of additive construction.

The **Holcombe School (VDHR 112-0055-126)**, private, was also active during the latter part of the century. The school still stands on a triangular lot at the intersection of Luray Avenue and Lee Street. This unusual, low-slung, one-story building has a later twentieth century porch. The unique wood trim work, probably milled locally, gives a finer definition to the side and rear elevation windows.

Eastern College (plates 180, 181) (c. 1900) was established during Front Royal's 1890s boom period. The campus was centered around the intersection of North Royal and Sixth Streets. The largest campus building occupied a site on the northwest corner of the intersection. This large brick building, which combined elements of the Queen Anne and Richardsonian architectural vocabulary, served as a girls dormitory. The building's outstanding features included a round corner tower with a conical roof and a projecting entry bay with a pedimented gable roof. With a total of five buildings located in the area north of town, the school appeared to be well-established. 518 North Royal Avenue, built for commercial use, with fine Italianate features served as a boys dormitory. It is now the **Shenks Rusco Window Company**, one of the most substantial commercial buildings in Front Royal. Classes were held in several buildings on Fifth and Sixth Streets, and in one on Seventh Street, known recently as the **Nostalgia Shop**. The 1906 yearbook indicates that students from seventeen states comprised a total enrollment of seventy-four students, twenty-two of whom graduated that year.

Eastern College closed sometime around 1920, and the main academic building was later remodeled as a luxury hotel. The transformation of the Victorian academic building into the **Hotel Royal** was dramatic. The new building was streamlined with simple Moderne- style

detailing, popular in the 1940s. The busy detailing was stripped away in favor of a facade decorated in bright colors. The **Hotel Royal** was later torn down and a convenience store is now located on the site.²

In 1892, Front Royal was chosen over Woodstock, Winchester, and Middletown as one of the sites for the Randolph-Macon school system. Randolph-Macon College was begun in 1830 in a remote Mecklenburg County location. The presently abandoned campus was the first Methodist Church founded college in the United States. In 1868, the school moved to Ashland, in Hanover County, just north of Richmond. In 1890, Randolph-Macon Woman's College was founded in Lynchburg. Its main campus building was designed by well-known Washington architect, William B. Poindexter. The Lynchburg building has been cited as one of Virginia's most successful examples of large-scale Queen Anne-style architecture.³ Poindexter was also commissioned to design the **Randolph-Macon Academy** (RMA hereafter) in Front Royal. When the school was finished in 1892, it was the largest building in town. The dramatic siting of the building atop a prominent hill on the west side of town has made **RMA** an important landmark to the community.

When the United States went to war in 1917, **RMA** became a military school. Enrollment had grown from sixty-five in 1892 to 200 in 1925. In 1927 a fire destroyed the main building, but with support of the local townspeople, who provided classroom space in town, the **RMA** cadets were able to continue their education.⁴

The damaged older building was not salvaged. The present **Sonner Hall** (VDHR 112-57) was built in 1927 by Lynchburg builder John P. Pettyjohn. Part of the "U" plan of **Sonner Hall** was built on the stone foundations of the 1892 building, incorporating an original swimming pool.

The design of the new building featured the Colonial Revival style. The nineteen bays of the primary elevation are arranged in two symmetrical wings framing a center pavilion. The high point of the design is the faceted dome surmounted by classical-inspired rail, urns, and lantern. The tetrastyle portico is set on a full-story, rusticated base. The decorative features in the tympanum, the Ionic columns, and the first-floor door surround all recall elements from American colonial architecture. The reconstruction of Williamsburg and the burgeoning appreciation of early American design played a role in the choice of style for **Sonner Hall**.

In 1953 the Randolph-Macon system was dissolved and all of the schools became independent. Front Royal's **RMA** is the only military preparatory boarding school in the nation operating under the auspices of the national United Methodist Church.

Since 1927 several other buildings have been added to create a larger campus, which includes a Colonial Revival-style chapel. **Sonner Hall** remains one of the most prominent landmarks in the valley area around Front Royal. In 1986 the building was successfully nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.⁵

Front Royal's first state mandated public school was built by 1910. There were several other buildings used for public education in the early years of the century. In 1906, after funds had improved, schools were improved and consolidated, a trend that was statewide.

The **Stickley Building (VDHR 112-0040/plates 182, 183)** at 21-23 South Royal Street, across from the old sheriff and jail complex (**Keyser House, VDHR 112-0026**), was used for the Front Royal grade school before 1906. Built around the turn of the century, the building was used by the Odd Fellows society. The first public high school in Warren County was begun here in 1906, and as enrollment increased, the high school was moved to Davis Hall, also known as the Opera House (**Royal Oak Computers, VDHR 112-0033**) at 131 East Main Street. Here the facilities consisted of four classrooms, an assembly room, and a study hall.

The 1910 **Front Royal High School (plate 184)** was funded by a \$25,000 bond issue authorized by the Town Council. This two-story brick building was probably the town's largest and most elaborate Colonial Revival building of the period. Architecture of the first two decades of the twentieth century was influenced by the Beaux Arts method, a standard design approach adopted from French architecture academies in the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The method championed the lessons of classical architecture. Nationally known architects such as McKim, Mead, and White had created a taste for accurate classical reference since their important buildings at the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago had become standards for grand scale public architecture. The rounded corner portico on **Druid Hill**, the classical portico on **Bel Air**, and the classically-styled **Bank of Warren** were all outgrowths of this national movement.

The first high school was sited where the west wing of the **E. Wilson Morrison School** now stands. The building had a front gable orientation and a "T" plan. Included in this elaborate building's decor were pedimented gables, a Palladian window in the primary gable, and a semicircular surround at the main entry. The building was set on a raised rusticated base. The architectural gesture at the front of the building included gracefully designed steps arranged between molded side walls. The portico was flat-roofed and featured a balustrade and smooth Ionic columns, which surprisingly had entasis and plinths. The school's front wall included fluted Ionic pilasters.

At a time when the average Warren County school building was a frame building of one or two rooms, the **Front Royal High School** had eleven classrooms, an auditorium, and a principal's office. The building was enlarged in 1923 and 1927. It was eventually replaced by the present **Warren County High School** of 1940. It served as part of the elementary school complex until it burned in 1943.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Examples discussed in this section:

E. Wilson Morrison School	Crescent Street	112-0055-090	1935
Warren County High School	Luray Ave.	(VDHR 112-0062)	1940
A. S. Rhodes School	Strasburg Road	(Not Surveyed)	c.1936

The period between the World Wars witnessed the most significant expansion of Front Royal's educational facilities. Between 1935 and 1946, three significant schools were built in town and one in nearby Riverton.

The **E. Wilson Morrison Elementary School (VDHR 112-0055-090)** was finished in 1935, the same year that Front Royal saw the construction of a new courthouse and town hall. The new school was designed in a Colonial Revival style, the most common style for the hundreds of schools built during the 1920s, and especially those built by the Federal Public Works Administration in the 1930s. The architect included oculi windows in the gable ends, a dentilated cornice, a gabled portico, and a tall semi-circular transom at the main entry. Before the high school burned, the ensemble of both buildings, sited near the Simpson Academy, made Crescent Street the core of Front Royal's educational history.

After the High School burned in 1943, a building designed in a mirror image of the 1935 elementary school was built by 1946. Temporary buildings that date to the transition period of construction of the new building still stand on the rear side of the school lot adjacent to Union Street. The temporary buildings were used through 1952, when a functionally designed "connector" building completed the present U-shaped school.

Although the **A. S. Rhodes School** was outside of the Front Royal town limits when it was built in Riverton, it was also designed in a Colonial Revival style, and was one of four newly constructed public buildings finished in time for Warren County's centennial celebrations in 1936.

The **Warren County High School (VDHR 112-0062/plates 185-189)** of 1940 was a work similar in scale to **RMA's Sonner Hall**. Also built on a prominent hill site, the new High School was planned in 1937 to accommodate the expansion of population anticipated by the arrival of the American Viscose Plant. With the aid of the Public Works Administration, the county agreed to provide \$175,000 for the new building whose total cost was \$315,000. Sited on a twelve-acre lot on Luray Avenue, the three-story brick building followed in the tradition of other P. W. A. designs as well as Front Royal's previous Colonial Revival schools. Designed by the Eubank and Caldwell architecture firm and consulting architect R. V. Long, the school was one of the most modern facilities of its day with eighteen classrooms, five laboratories, a five-room home economics department, a library, vocational shops, offices for administration and teachers, a gymnasium, an auditorium, a cafeteria, and a kitchen. The school was outfitted with a clock and bell system, a public address system, and individual student lockers.

The **High School** displays a similar design approach to that of the **E. Wilson Memorial School**, namely a symmetrical plan with a classically detailed portico. The simplicity of the large hip-roofed front block is enhanced by angled wall corners that gracefully transition into the rear wings. The corners make an inviting gesture with large semi-circular topped windows that light the corner stairwells.

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

Examples discussed in this section:

Ressie Jeffries School	Criser Road	(Not Surveyed)	1951
Warren County High School	Luray Ave.	(VDHR 112-0062)	1940
Ivy Lodge	101 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0036)	c. 1825/1858

While public education was slow in developing for white Warren County residents, primarily because of funding, it was worse for African-Americans. In 1870 there were eleven schools for whites and one for blacks. The **Front Royal Negro School** was sited at Laurel and Osage Streets. An early-twentieth-century photograph reveals that it was a simple one-story, T-plan building with a separate exterior entrance for each classroom. The building had few windows and was heated by one or two stoves. The **Ressie Jeffries Elementary School** was built in 1950 near the old school on Criser Road. The school took its name from a teacher who had taught for forty-five years, starting her career before World War I in the old building.

A combined high and elementary school was finished on a 15-acre site on Criser Road by 1950. The building was the last Colonial Revival-style school built in Front Royal. By 1959, the predominant style for school architecture was a modern, flat-roofed, machine-rectilinear design. The 1966 Intermediate School, which later became the **Ressie Jeffries School**, was designed in a nationally popular functional style.

During the segregation crisis of 1958, as per orders from the state governor, **Warren High School** was closed. Privately-funded classes continued for white children in private buildings around the town. By January, 1959 the "school closing law" was declared unconstitutional and public classes resumed. The movement for continued segregation was manifested by the formation of the John S. Mosby Academy. During its operation between 1959 and 1969, there was a gradual return of white students to the public system. In its first year 452 students attended Mosby, while 429 whites and twenty-two blacks enrolled at **Warren County High School**. The Academy initially leased the Virginia Gentlemen Restaurant-Motel, a building that until recently stood at the corner of Fourteenth and Shenandoah Avenues. A permanent building was finished in the early 1960s. Warren County purchased the facility after the Academy closed down in 1969 and converted the building into the Warren County Middle School.

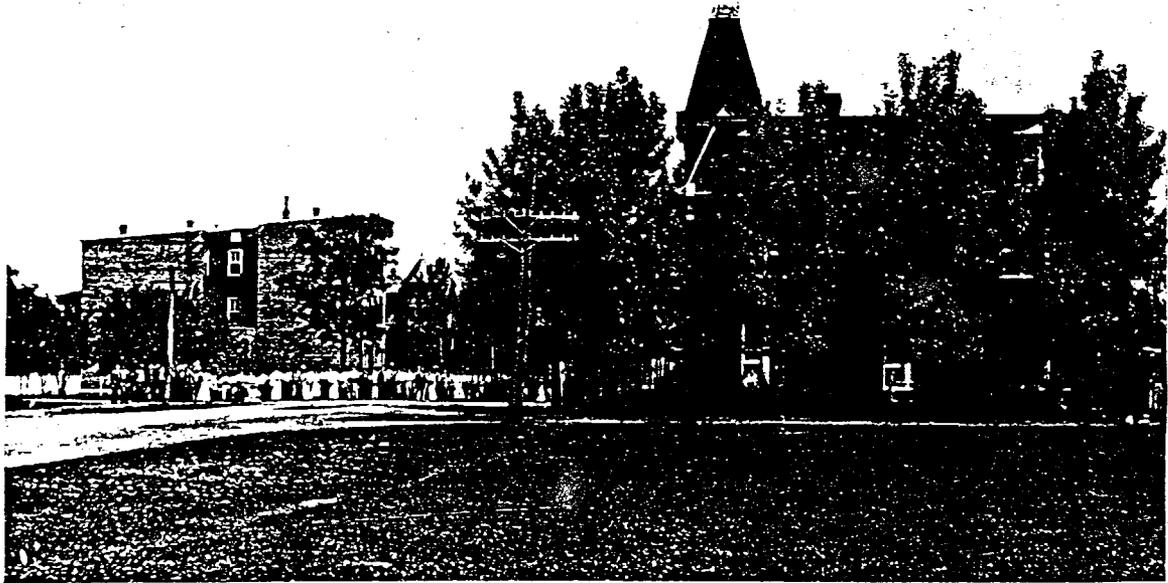
Front Royal was the second governmental entity to establish a subscription library. Begun in January, 1799 the library was chartered by the General Assembly. After the great efforts of Mrs. Charles Melton, Mrs. Coleman Ware, and Miss Mattie Brown, a library building was finally chosen in 1920. The old Steele House, which sat across from the Samuels Apartments on Chester Street, became the first of several library locations on either Chester or Main Streets. In 1952, Dr. Bernard Samuels bought **Ivy Lodge** at 101 Chester Street as a gift to the town.

The Front Royal Community Library was renamed **Samuels Library**. In 1976, Walter Samuels, Dr. Bernard Samuel's brother, left \$250,000 for the library. With some additional funds a new library of functional design was built on the corner of Villa Avenue and Kendrick Lane.

In addition to **Samuels Library**, Warren County and Front Royal have a fine research facility run by the Warren Heritage Society at **Ivy Lodge**. The facility was enhanced by the addition of the **Belle Boyd Cottage** which was moved to the site in 1982 and an archive wing was recently constructed. The archive holds three locally important collections: the Josiah Look Dickinson Collection, Earle Family Papers, and the Laura Virginia Hale Collection.⁶

Endnotes

1. Kalbian, 71.
2. O. A. Norton, "Education in Warren County," in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 1836 - 1986 (No publisher listed, 1986), 54.
3. Calder Loth, The Virginia Landmarks Register (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1986) 194 and 260.
4. O. A. Norton, "Education in Warren County" in Warren County Sesquicentennial (No publisher, 1986) 55, 56.
5. Richard Cote in Sonner Hall, National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination, 1985, 1986. Also VDHR Files 112-8 and 112-57).
6. Ruth Monnington, "Museums and Libraries - Preserving the Past," in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 1836 - 1986 (No publisher listed, 1986) 35.



Warren Drug Co.

EASTERN COLLEGE, FRONT ROYAL, VA.

Plate 180: Eastern College, shows Shenks Building on North Royal Avenue (post card/WHS)

Plate 181 (next page): Eastern College, main building on northwest corner of Sixth Street and North Royal Avenue (WHS)





Plate 182 (top): Stickley Building (VDHR 112-0040), 21-23 South Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (Neville)

Plate 183 (bottom): Stickley Building, rear elevation (Neville)

Warren County High School as it was when I attended. This is from an early photograph, apparently shortly after it was completed. The side walk does not appear to have been installed. Not the portico at the rear side entrance, the iron steps, the concrete buttresses supporting the porch and the wide concrete side rails.

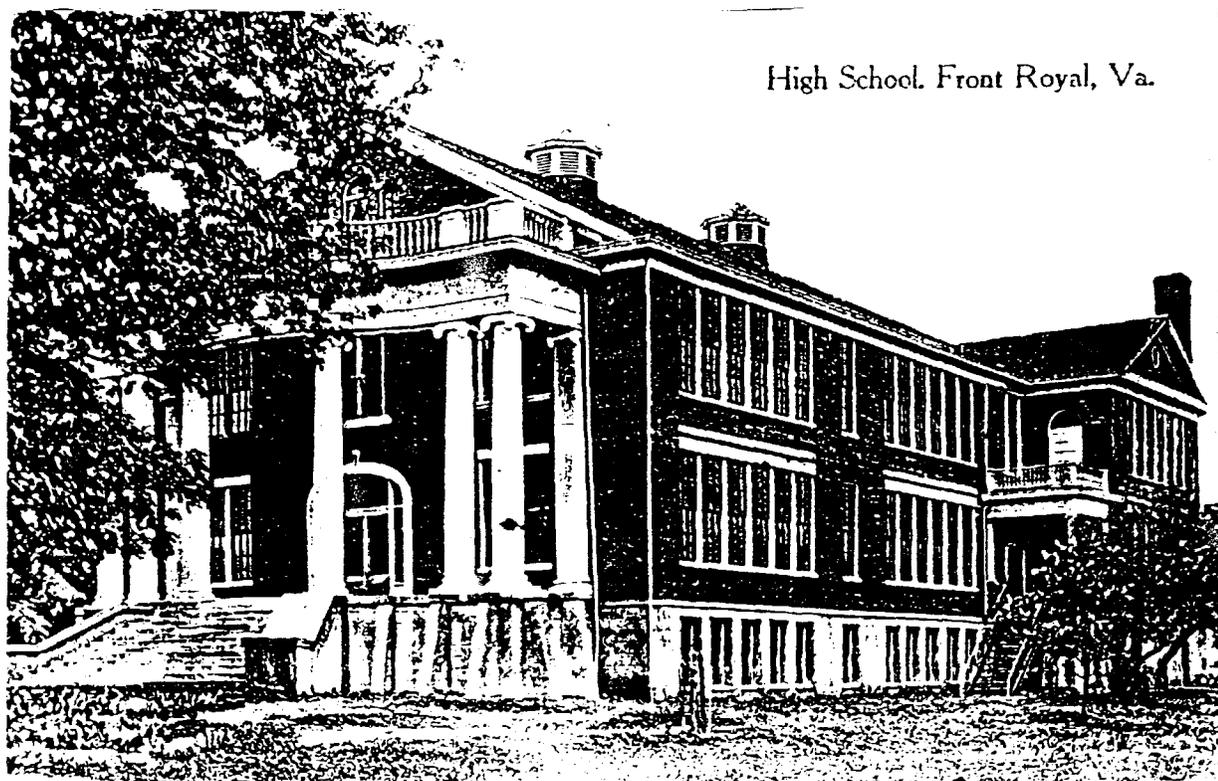


Plate 184: 1910 Front Royal High School (later renamed Warren County High School), shortly after completion (post card/WHS)

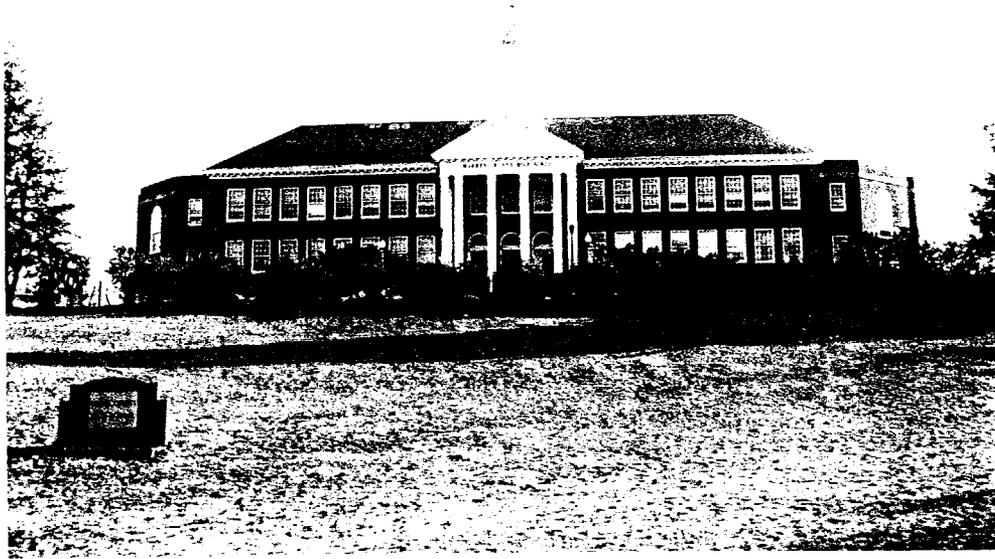


Plate 185 (top): Warren County High School (VDHR 112-0062), Luray Avenue, primary elevation, view towards southwest (PAV)

Plate 186 (bottom): Warren County High School, auditorium (PAV)

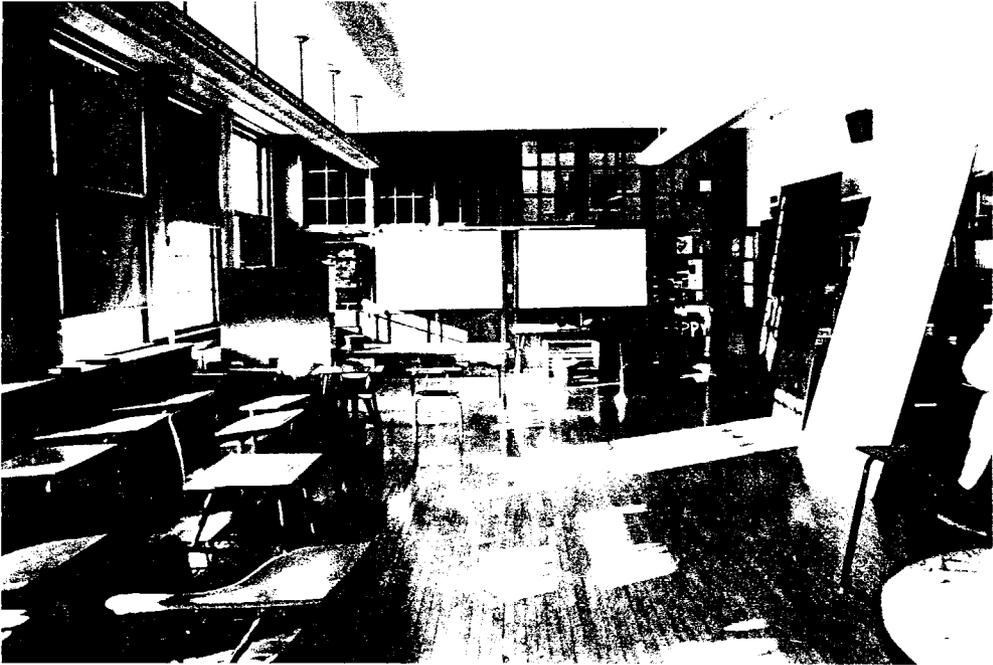
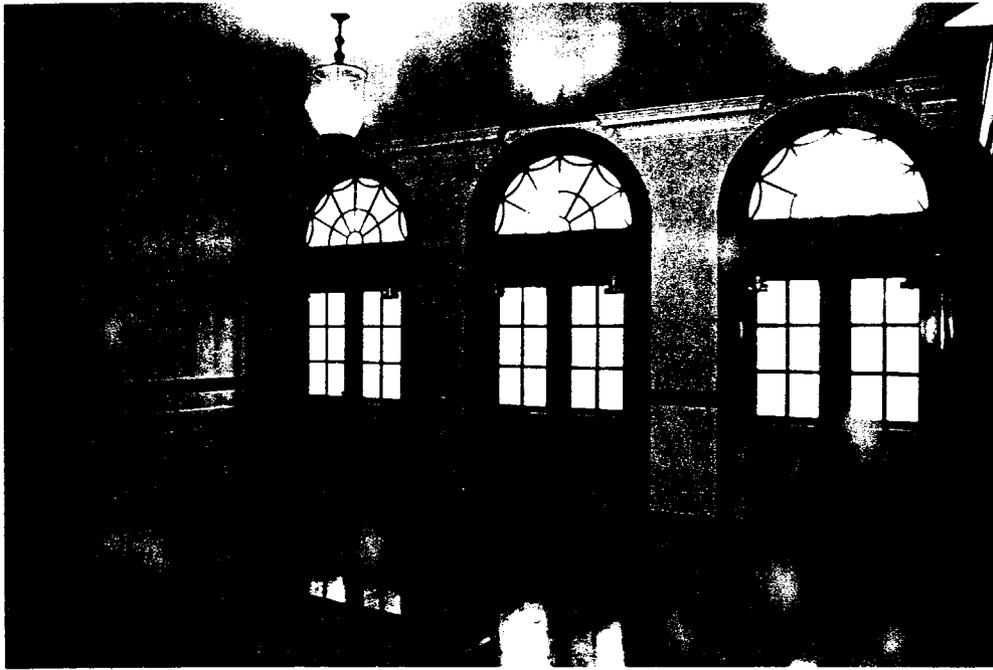


Plate 187 (top): Warren County High School, main lobby (PAV)

Plate 188 (bottom): Warren County High School, medium-sized classroom (PAV)

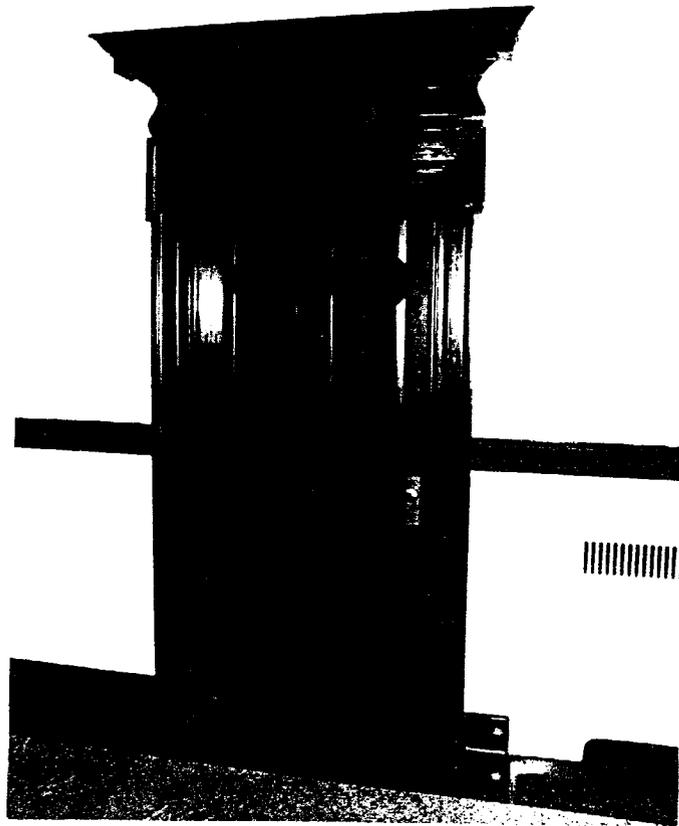


Plate 189: Warren County High School, interior door, main lobby area (PAV)

Military/Defense Theme

Military/Defense Theme

This theme relates to the system of defending the territory and the sovereignty of a people and encompasses all military activities, battles, strategic locations, and events important to military history. It includes property types related to arms production and storage such as a magazine, gun manufactory, or armory; fortifications such as a fortified military or naval post, palisaded village, fortified knoll or mountain top, battery, or bunker; military facilities such as a military post, supply depot, garrison fort, barrack, or military camp; battle sites such as a battlefield; coast guard facilities such as a lighthouse, coast guard station, pier, dock, or lifesaving station; naval facilities such as a submarine, air craft carrier, battleship, or naval base; and air facilities such as aircraft, air base, or missile launching site.

Settlement through Antebellum (1607-1860)

There is no significant documentation of military activities in the Front Royal or Warren County area for this period. There were skirmishes between white settlers and Indians during the mid-eighteenth century. But no battles were fought on Warren County lands during the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War, and the War of 1812. There were residents of the area that participated in the Revolution including Moses Allen, James Atwood, William Gordon, and Thomas Buck. Buck was chosen to lead a group of Virginia Militia in 1777. His company was called "Buck's Minute Men," part of the Eighth Virginia Regiment.¹

Some Front Royal citizens may have served in the "Valley Brigade" during the War of 1812. This military organization was centered at Winchester where the U.S. infantry and artillery recruitment office for the Valley was also located.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Examples discussed in this section:

Oakley	135 Sherwood Avenue	(VDHR 112-0031)	c. 1855
Bel Air	Happy Creek Road	(VDHR 112-0007)	c. 1795
The Belle Boyd Cottage	99 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-13)	c. 1815

As discussed in the Historical Overview, Front Royal was the site of a battle and several other significant incidents during the Civil War. A great deal of the damage done to the town during the war was due to its occupation by both armies and the pillaging of supplies and goods for military use. Consequently, the local economy suffered a setback that would require several post-war years to recover.

Several district troops, including the Warren Rifles, the Warren Blues, Bowen's Mountain Rangers, and Mosby's Rangers (led by John S. Mosby/plate 191), were formed with men from Front Royal and the county.

Robert Simpson, founder of the **Front Royal Academy**, conducted a military curriculum at his school as early as 1868. Simpson led his company as a captain on a Harpers Ferry raid and was later stationed at Alexandria. The Warren Blues were led by Col. Manley Wheatley. Their barracks were in Front Royal at the corner of Main and Chester Streets. They became Company D of the 49th Virginia Regiment under the command of former Virginia Governor, "Extra Billy

Smith." They saw their first action at the First Battle of Manassas. Bowen's Mountain Rangers became Company E of the Virginia Cavalry Regiment under the command of Col. Turner Ashby and ultimately General Stonewall Jackson.²

Union soldiers camped in and around Front Royal several times, but the most significant event of the war was the Battle of Front Royal which occurred on May 23, 1862, when a force led by General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson engaged with Union Colonel John R. Kenly's occupying army of 1,000 men. The Union forces were taken by surprise and routed. 750 men were captured, and Kenly was badly wounded (plate 190).

During the several occupations, Front Royal's buildings served as hospitals for soldiers from both sides. Among the more notable hospital-converted buildings mentioned are the 1836 **Courthouse** and **Oakley**.

Robert E. Lee passed through Front Royal on his way to and from Gettysburg. On his return trip, he stopped at **Bel Air**, the Buck family homestead. The attic space features a bare plaster wall that includes signatures of Confederate soldiers as well as later visitors.

Front Royal was home to the famous Confederate spy, Belle Boyd. She successfully relayed a message to General Jackson about the movements of Union General James Shields, which allowed the Confederate Army to attack an outmanned Col. Kenly. Her (temporary) home, now called the **Belle Boyd Cottage**, was moved in 1982 from the rear of Fishback's Hotel (now demolished) to the rear of the **Ivy Lodge** lot. The house may have been referred to as a *cottage*, despite its large size, because it functioned as guest quarters for the hotel.

In September, 1864, General George A. Custer (plate 192) gave orders to execute six of Mosby's Rangers in public, in retaliation for the death of a Union officer. Four men were shot and two were hanged. A historical marker on West Fourteenth Street recounts the event and directs attention to the vicinity of the incident, near the hill site of **Killahevin**. A rusticated granite obelisk stands in Prospect Hill Cemetery as a monument to Mosby's men.

In addition to the Mosby's Men Monument there is the Soldiers' Circle Monument, so called because the headstones are arranged in a circle facing inward towards a sculpted monument that features a cloaked Grecian urn with a carved flame atop.

Near starvation and ravaged by the local destruction, the citizens of Front Royal saw social structure break down as survival became difficult in the last year of the war. By April, 1865, an occupation force of 20,000 Federal troops was headquartered at Winchester. Confederate soldiers returned to their homes to reconstruct their lives. Over six hundred men from Warren County had served in the Confederate Army, a much higher number than that of any other county in the Valley.³

Reconstruction and Growth to the Present (1865-1994)

Royal Oak Computers	131 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0033)	1879
Remount Station	Remount Road	(Warren County)	1910
Prospect Hill Cemetery	West Prospect Street	(VDHR 112-0052)	c. 1820

As evidenced by the gradual economic growth that took place during the late nineteenth century in and around Front Royal, the town was able to rebound from the four years of hardship.

Warren County and Front Royal contributed 276 men to World War I. On the home front, the Warren County War Relief Association began meeting in the **Murphy Theater (Royal Oak Computers)** in 1916. They organized an effort to collect clothing and material for compresses.

The federal government began buying large farm tracts to the southeast of town for its **Remount Depot** in 1909. The buildings were constructed between 1912 and 1916 (the architecture and activity of the **Front Royal Remount Depot** is covered in greater detail in the Government theme section). Horses were brought and trained for military activity here. The Depot may have equipped Army units for the Mexican border policing action led by General Pershing 1916-17. Some of the mules and horses saw action in the Pacific theater during World War II.

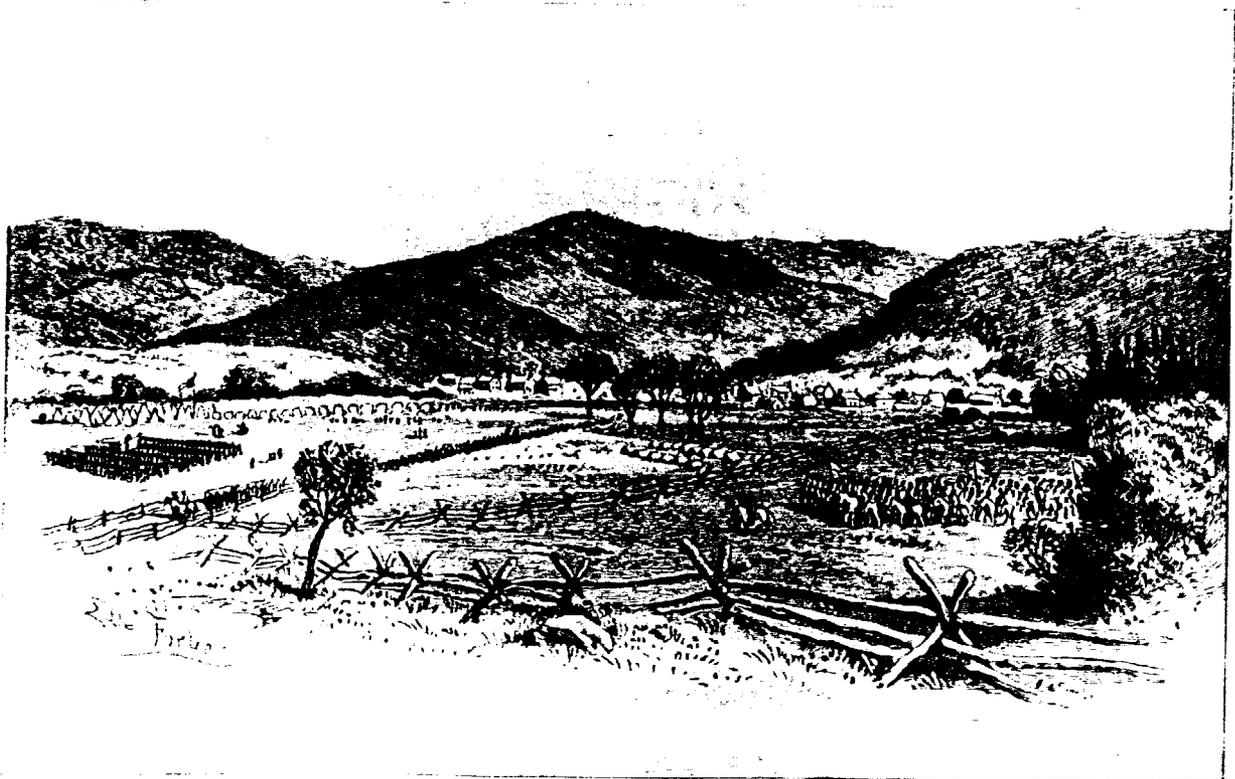
Celebrations greeting Front Royal's soldiers back from World War I took place in July, 1919. The "Welcome Home to Our Boys" was recorded on film and recovered from the **Murphy Theater** in 1985. The rare film is of great historical significance to the town and shows a rare early-twentieth-century glimpse of the old downtown area.

Front Royal was chosen as a "safe haven" during World War II. This meant that it would provide shelter and food for evacuees of adjacent cities in event of an air raid. The basement of the Duncan Building on South Royal Avenue was designated headquarters for directing blackout operations. Citizens of Warren County provided 143 tons of scrap metal including two large World War I cannons that stood in the courthouse green. The cannons weighed eight tons each and, for the period they sat at the green, they must have presented a formidable profile.

In addition to the Civil War monuments in **Prospect Hill Cemetery**, the courthouse green includes the Confederate Soldiers' Monument, erected in 1911; a monument for both World Wars; and a Korean Conflict and Vietnam War monument.

Endnotes

1. For more information on these residents see Mary Anne and Joe Bigg's "Marching Off to War" in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 1836 - 1986 (No publisher listed, 1986) 48.
2. Mary Anne and Joe Bigg's "Marching Off to War" in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 1836 - 1986 (No publisher listed, 1986) 48 and 49.
3. Kalbian, 76.



UNION CAMP AT FRONT ROYAL. FROM A WAR-TIME SKETCH.

Plate 190: Civil War sketch, second half of nineteenth century



Plate 191: Colonel John Singleton Mosby (Mathew Brady)



Plate 192: General George A. Custer (Mathew Brady)

Religion Theme

Religion Theme

This theme concerns the organized system of beliefs, practices, and traditions regarding the world view of various cultures and the material manifestations of spiritual beliefs. This theme also encompasses the study and the understanding of places of worship, religious training and education, and administration of religious facilities. Property types include various places of worship such as a church, temple, synagogue, cathedral, meetinghouse; ceremonial sites such as cave, shrine or pilgrimage route; church schools such as a religious academy, school, or seminary; and church-related residences such as a parsonage, monastery, hermitage, nunnery, convent, or rectory.

Settlement to Society (1607-1750)

Despite Front Royal's early reputation as an unruly frontier town, there were settlers who brought with them strong religious beliefs. Unlike the eastern part of Virginia where the Anglican Church was the established religion, the Valley not only included different ethnic groups, but different religious sects within each ethnic population. The English, Scotch-Irish, and Germans brought with them varying degrees of spiritual fervor. Front Royal's geographical position on the eastern edge of the Lower Valley made it somewhat more susceptible to English settlement, therefore the town had few if any German protestant churches in the early settlement period of Front Royal.

The earliest recorded religious activity in Warren County was a Quaker meeting at the home of Robert McKay, Jr. in 1736. The Quakers eventually built the Crooked Run Meeting House in the county, the site of which is next to the present Nineveh Presbyterian Church.

Church construction during the eighteenth century was probably functional. The Quakers chose to use the quick, less-finished, method of log construction.

There are no religious buildings extant in Front Royal that date to this period.

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

During this period the Anglican Church maintained a strong influence in the area, and after the Revolution it became the Protestant Episcopal Church. Several Anglican chapels were built in the county region at this period at Limeton in 1746, Cedarville in 1747, and at Ephraim Leith's Spring in 1768.

Worship at Front Royal during this period was probably still informal. Most religious activity was still performed in residences.

There are no religious buildings extant that date to this period in Front Royal.

Early National Period (1789-1830)

There were several denominations active during this period. In addition to the Protestant Episcopal Church, the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists all had followers in and around the Front Royal area.

a year after the Civil War while the Courthouse was being used as a hospital. Three political parties held conventions there in 1888 and it was the location of Belle Boyd's post-war lectures on her spy activities.

The chapel was bought by M. C. Richardson in 1889 who sold it to the **C. M. E. Church** in 1898. The M.E.C. is one of Front Royal's oldest African-American congregations. The congregation renamed the church Williams Chapel in honor of their bishop. At the time of this study, this congregation still owned the church and they have maintained its historical character for over 100 years.

During the 1830s the Herdon brothers came to Front Royal preaching new Baptist faith doctrines. As a result, a disagreement within the congregation led to a split between the "Old School" or Primitive Baptists and the "New School" or Missionary Baptists. The manifestation of this split is still clear between the two present congregations (discussed under Reconstruction and Growth).

Civil War (1861-1865)

The occupying troops used large church spaces in Front Royal for hospitals and stables. Some of the churches were so badly damaged that claims were made after the war to collect reparation fees. In the case of the Episcopal Church, several of the claims made in 1905 describe the destruction. The following is a testimonial letter written to the U.S. Senate by Irving A. Buck:

I am at present 65 years of age; I was a soldier in the Confederate Army throughout the Civil war. The following is an extract from a letter received by me in September 1862, and written by my Mother, Mrs Wm. M. Buck (now deceased) dated September 2, 1862:

"I wish you could see the condition of the court-house and the churches; the yankees made regular business to ride in one door and out of the other of the Episcopal Church; that and the Baptist churches are mere wrecks."

Whether the congregation received remuneration for the damages is unknown, but the Baptist Church, which also was used for a stable, received \$700 compensation from the federal government.¹

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Royal Oak Computers	131 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0033)	1879
St. John's Catholic Church	Luray Avenue	(VDHR 112-0034)	1884
Calvary Episcopal Church	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-086)	1898
Happy Creek Baptist Church	202 Church Street	(VDHR 112-0055-190)	1881
F. R. United Methodist Church	North Royal Avenues	(VDHR 112-0055-071)	1908
Baptist Church (Missionary)	32 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-075)	1914

This was Front Royal's most prolific period of church building to date. All major religions in town built new churches during this period.

The members of the **Front Royal United Methodist Church** referred to themselves as Southern Methodists when their new building at **131 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0033/plate 200)** was built in 1879. The congregation had been meeting in an old frame building on this site since at least the early nineteenth century. After construction of the new church, the older building became the place of worship for the **John Wesley Methodist Church** (African-American). This building trade may have occurred as early as 1868.

The new Methodist Church was probably the largest and most elaborate in town for its day. The Sanborn maps record "30' to the eaves," and the tall walls were surmounted by a steep roof. The decorative treatment was elaborate. The five side windows had Gothic tracery and semi-circular tops. The larger front windows had the identical tracery motifs of the Williams Chapel. The organization of the form featured a basement, a water table, and upper walls with bays emphasized slightly with recessed panels. The front featured a projecting bay that terminated in a belfry and steeple. The front gable trim boards had brackets and engaged pendants; the window openings on the front also were placed in slightly recessed panels (two panels with pointed tops). Ascending the projecting bay wall were tripartite ornamental windows and an oculus.

Originally a cemetery was located behind the church near the old meeting house. After the Methodists moved into their new church on North Royal Avenue, sometime around 1909, the cemetery was removed to **Prospect Hill**. The 1879 church received the present front addition that contained the post office and retail areas sometime between 1910 and 1915.² The old church space was converted into a theater and was later referred to as **Murphy's Theater** or Opera House.³

After leaving their 1879 church, the Front Royal Methodists had one of the town's finest buildings constructed at the important intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenue (**VDHR 112-0055-071**). The church, finished by 1909, is attributed to Philadelphia architect Benjamin D. Price (active 1867-1910). The building is designed in a Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, a hold over from the nineteenth century. The heavy rusticated material textures and the semi-circular stone window hoods and lintels were popularized by the nationally-known architect Henry Hobson Richardson.⁴

The Happy Creek Baptists split into two groups in 1839, but continued to worship together despite their theological differences. Their late-eighteenth-century building, which sat behind the present United Methodist Church across from the post office, was badly damaged during the Civil War and the "old school" Baptists received \$700 for rebuilding. They built their new church at **202 Church Street (VDHR 112-0055-190)** in 1881. The simple frame church stands today as an excellent example of a late-nineteenth-century church.

The "new school" Baptists, consisting of eight members, were allowed to worship at the Episcopal Church, and by 1874 they had raised enough money to build a church. The church on Crescent Street stood in what is now a parking area behind Main Street businesses (behind the F&M Bank. Early photographs of this building reveal a Carpenter Gothic-style medium-sized frame building with board-and-batten siding (the Sanborn maps record "15' to eaves"). The front entry was highlighted by a Gothic-style transom under a projecting gable. Although difficult to discern from early photographs, there also appeared to be a steeple or cupola with Gothic-arch windows. While not particularly elaborate, this was the earliest known example of Gothic-style architecture in Front Royal. The church was still shown on the 1912 Sanborn map, but by 1919, the lot was vacant and an account from 1942 explains that part of this church was being used by the Royal Baking Company.

The "new school" Baptists eventually built the **First Baptist Church (VDHR 112-0055-075/plates 201-203)** located at 32 North Royal Avenue in a large complex brick building, the earliest section of which was built in 1914.

The 1914 church has Gothic detailing including windows with Gothic arches and tracery, buttressing, and a battlemented bell tower. It also features fine stained glass windows. One of the most interesting aspects of the church is the Akron plan used for the worship space. Conceived by Lewis Miller, school superintendent of Akron, Ohio, and architect Jacob Snyder in 1868, the plan was later perfected by architect George Kramer. An Akron-plan church or meeting space includes nave or auditorium seating oriented towards an altar or speaking area, and very often the plan is semicircular. At the rear of the nave or auditorium, often installed on the first floor and gallery levels, are alcove classrooms. These additional rooms have sliding doors for easy conversion into extra seating area.

The **First Baptist Church** plan includes large side spaces on either side of the nave that can be partitioned off for Sunday school use. It also features gallery spaces that were used for small classrooms. The south wing of the church was added in 1934 to complete the Akron plan. The church is cleverly planned to use its triangular lot in the most efficient manner. The Akron plan is rare in Virginia.

In 1892 a fire devastated the mid-nineteenth-century **Calvary Episcopal Church (plate 204)** on Main Street. Within the year the congregation was offered a new site in the Boom area by the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company. The cornerstone was laid in 1892, but the church wasn't finished until 1898 (**VDHR 112-0055-086**). The design is attributed to Charles Macatee and is reputedly a duplicate of a church in Anacostia, Maryland. While the form and

plan of the church is moderately sophisticated, the exterior appearance is of a simple medieval building. The steep romantically styled roofs were common for the period on commercial buildings and residences, as were the corner towers. The church combines some of the masonry sophistication of the 1909 **Front Royal United Methodist Church (plates 205, 206)** and detail elements of the Queen Anne style. Originally, the whole roof had patterned slate and an iron fence surrounded the lot. A sympathetic addition was added to the rear of the building in 1944. The church blends in and enhances the former Boom area along North Royal Avenue.

The Presbyterians were another congregation that sought a larger space for worship during the late-nineteenth century. After leaving Williams Chapel in 1885, the congregation moved to a larger frame building that still stands at **27 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-180)**. This heavily remodeled, late nineteenth-century building has lost its corner bell tower, and retains only partial original design integrity. The Jehovah Shamman Presbyterian Church appears labeled on a 1902 Sanborn fire insurance map. Curiously, in 1912 and 1919, it was labeled as "Jehovah Shamman Synagogue." Whether this was a mistake is unknown since there is very little written about the Jewish community of the area. In 1927 the building was labeled "Episcopal Church." Today the Front Royal Presbyterians worship in a church on Luray Avenue built within the last thirty years.

Until the late nineteenth century, Catholic worship was performed at private residences in the Front Royal area. In 1884, **St. John the Baptist Church (VDHR 112-0034/plates 207-209)** was finished at the western end of Main Street's intersection with Luray Avenue. The church was built as a memorial to John Carroll Jenkins, a Maryland Confederate soldier who died at Warm Springs. The Jenkins family (from Baltimore) wanted the church built in a town near Warm Springs, but they were convinced of the need for the church in the Shenandoah Valley. The land was donated by George W. Macatee and the Jenkins family paid for the construction of the building as well as its altar, bell, pews, vestments, lamp, and sacred vessels.

St. John's remains in good condition today, with only minor changes. The church has become a recognizable landmark at the end of Main Street, quite visible from the distant end of the street during the winter months.

Two historic African-American churches in Front Royal exist within the proposed historic district. The **Williams Chapel** became the **Christian Methodist Episcopal Church** in the late 1890s. Worship for Front Royal's black community was conducted along with whites in some churches like the Williams Chapel where the races were separated by the rear gallery. Some congregations most likely met in private residences. The congregation is still very active today. The members of the Williams Chapel had organized around 1870 and met in a small frame, three-bay-deep church that was located on **Hill Street (VDHR 112-0051)** in an area called Freetown on the south side of Front Royal. This church was still standing when the area was surveyed in 1971.

The John Wesley Methodist congregation originally used the early Methodist Meetinghouse that sat to the rear of **Murphy's Theater**. The Theater was the converted 1879 Methodist Church.

The early Meeting House was probably demolished when the Theater space was extended back from the 1879 brick church. The present church (**VDHR 112-0048**), only several yards from the other's site, was built by Gus Byers in 1881. Formed in the 1860s, this is Front Royal's oldest black congregation. The **John Wesley Methodist Church** and the **Happy Creek Baptist Church (VDHR 112-0055-190)** are Front Royal's oldest frame churches. Both are located on Church Street, a name that evolved from the path that led from the 1879 Methodist Church to the older Meetinghouse and Cemetery behind. Mount Vernon Baptist Church (**VDHR 112-0055-205**), a late-nineteenth-century frame building, is also on Church Street, at its intersection with East Prospect Street. In every case the additions or acquisition of extra property has not negatively affected the integrity of these churches.

World War I to New Dominion (1917-1994)

Since World War I, and especially since the World War II, there has been a proliferation of churches in the Warren County region. The local Chamber of Commerce lists 35 churches. Some of the older churches have expanded their buildings. Most notably, the **Front Royal United Methodist Church** has built an education building; the **Calvary Episcopal Church** now has a school building; and the **First Baptist Church** built a large Colonial Revival education building that sits behind the church, facing First Street. Although plans were made to build a large Colonial Revival-style building in 1964 (renderings exist), only the education building was finished.

Religious activity has continued to grow in Front Royal. In 1986, the total number of churches in the town and county was about 40. This building type is one of Front Royal's tremendous architectural assets.

Endnotes

1. Irving A. Buck in a testimonial letter in Committee Docket No. 1426, United States Senate, Office of the Secretary, Papers in the case of Front Royal Va. Trustees of the Calvary Protestant Episcopal Church, Report No. 1250 (c. 1905) found in the Warren County Historical Society Collection.
2. The actual remodeling and front addition may have occurred earlier. This would need further research to confirm.
3. When the glazed brick rear section was added onto the building, a warehouse was demolished and revealed the sunken depressions of the former grave sites. This is recounted by Harvey Shepard in a letter found at the Warren County Historical Society Archives.
4. John Wells, architect research database at VDHR.



Plate 193 (top): Royal Oak Computers (VDHR 112-0033), 131 East Main Street, primary elevation, view towards southwest (PAV)

Plate 194 (bottom): Royal Oak Computers, rear elevation, view towards northeast (PAV)

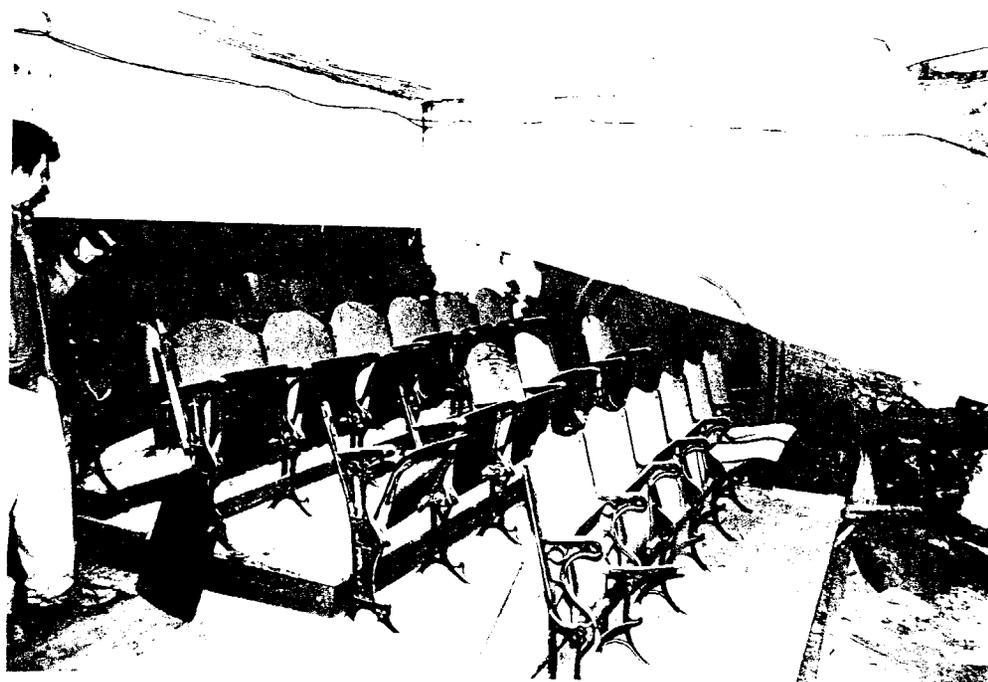


Plate 195: Royal Oak Computers, detail of interior: theater/church gallery seating (PAV)



Plate 196 (top): Williams Chapel (VDHR 112-0049), 231 Peyton Street, primary elevation. view towards west (Neville)

Plate 197 (bottom): Williams Chapel, southern elevation. view towards north (Neville)

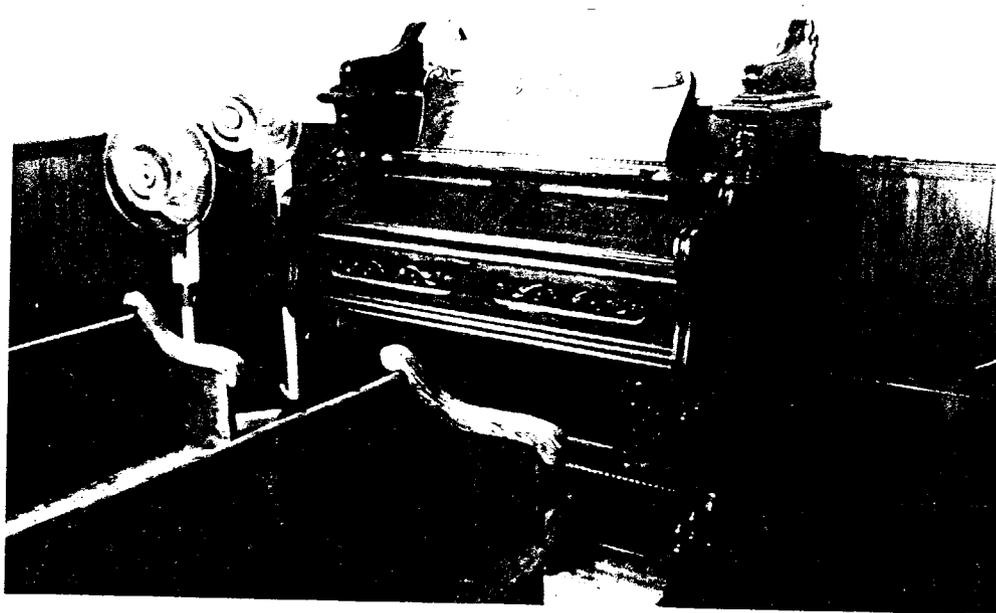
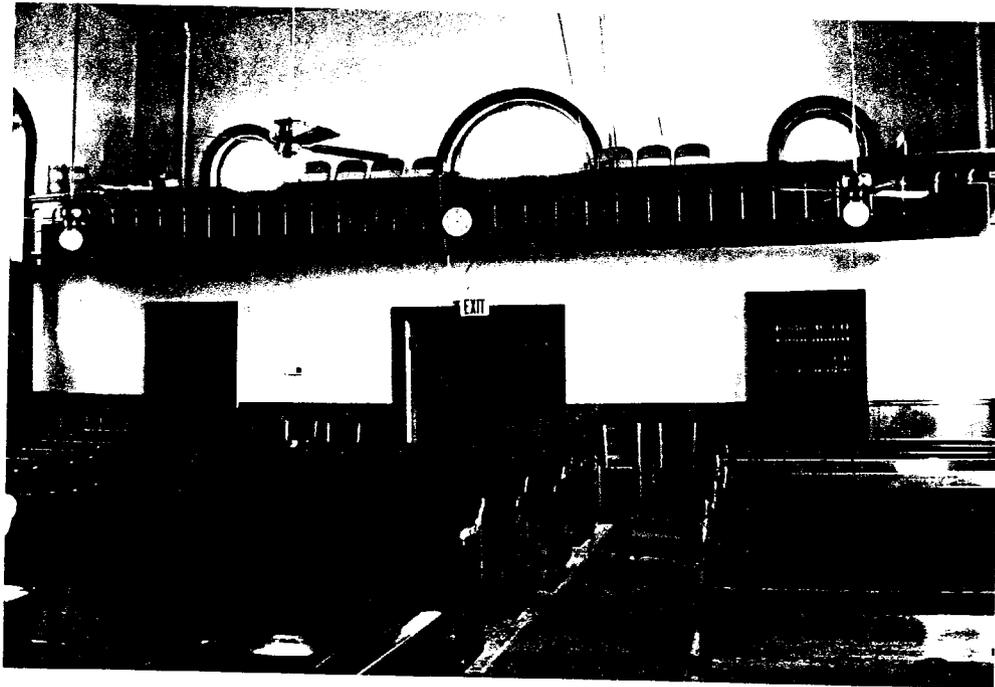


Plate 198 (top): Williams Chapel, nave (Neville)

Plate 199 (bottom): Williams Chapel, organ (Neville)

Plate 200 (next page): Methodist Church at 131 East Main Street before remodeling into the Murphy Theater.

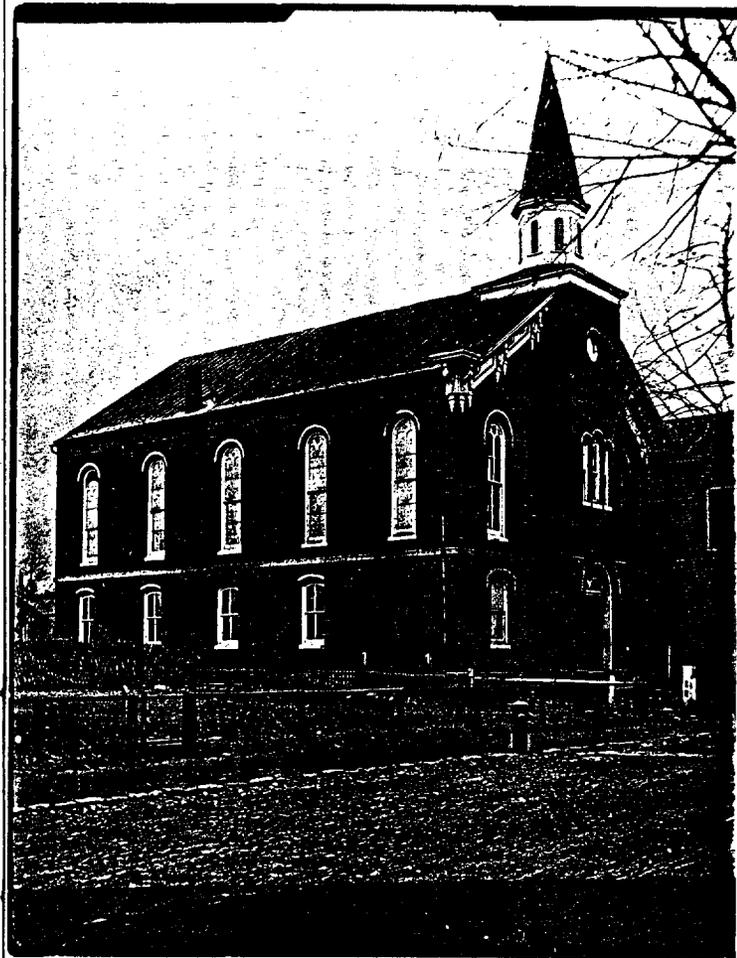




Plate 201 (top): First Baptist Church (VDHR 112-0055-075), 32 North Royal Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 202 (bottom): First Baptist Church, nave interior, view towards north (PAV)

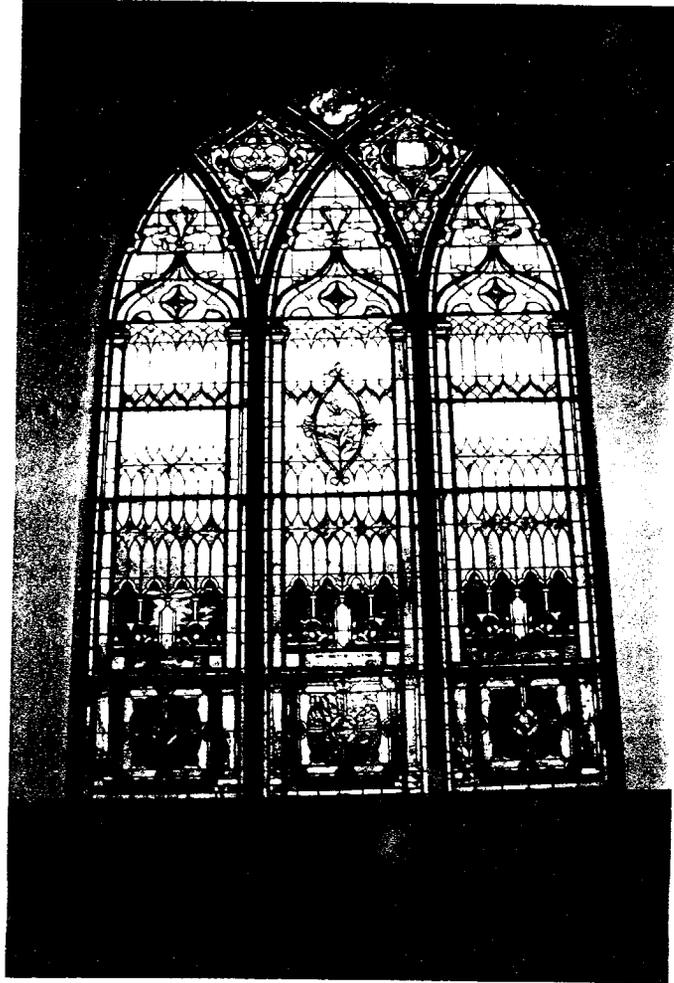


Plate 203: First Baptist Church, stained glass window (PAV)



Plate 204: Calvary Episcopal Church (VDHR 112-0055-086), North Royal Avenue, east and north elevations, view towards west (PAV)

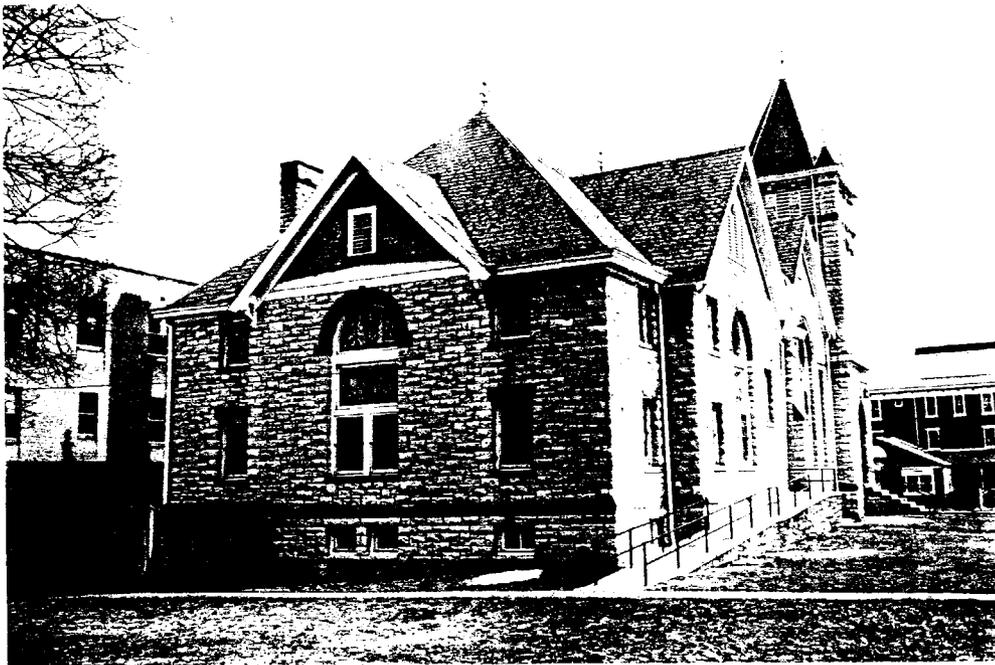


Plate 205 (top): Front Royal United Methodist Church (VDHR 112-0055-071), North R Avenue, primary elevation, view towards west (PAV)

Plate 206 (bottom): Front Royal United Methodist Church, view towards east (PAV)

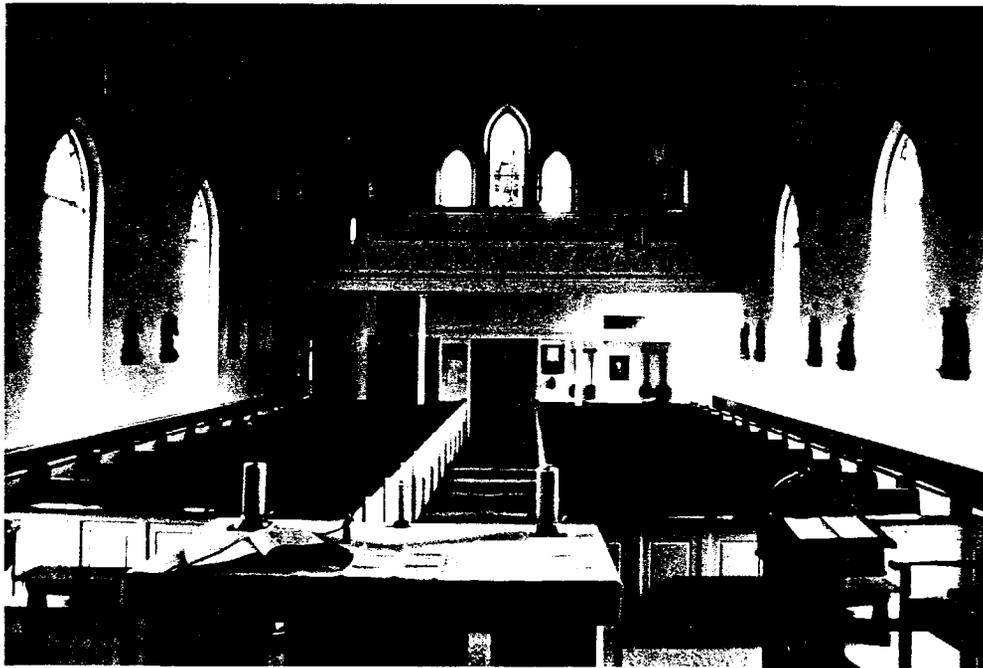


Plate 207 (top): St. John's Catholic Church (VDHR 112-0034), Luray Avenue, view towards south (PAV)

Plate 208 (bottom): St. John's Catholic Church, nave interior, view towards east (PAV)



Plate 209: St. John's Catholic Church, nave interior/altar end, view towards west (PAV)

Social Theme

Social Theme

This theme relates to social activities and institutions, the activities of the charitable, fraternal, or other community organizations and places associated with broad social movements. Property types include meeting halls such as a grange, union, masonic, or temperance hall, and the halls of other fraternal, patriotic, or political organizations; community centers; clubhouses such as the facilities of a literary, social, or garden club; and civic facilities such as a civic or community center.

Settlement to Antebellum/Civil War Period (1607-1860)

Front Royal's earliest period consisted of social activities that centered around the family. While social organizations probably formed over this span of time, there is no mention of any formal organization. However, rather informal social gatherings took place such as the reunion of veterans of the Revolutionary War. While organizations undoubtedly existed, there was more organizational activity after the Civil War.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Stickley Bld.	21-23 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0040)	late 19th century
Masonic Hall	107 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-068)	1890s/1950s

Information about Front Royal's social organization is sparse for the late nineteenth century, but by the early twentieth century some social organizations were able to purchase meeting halls.

United Confederate Veterans organization was founded after the war. The Warren Rifles Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy had their beginnings on September 4, 1904. While U. D. C. meetings were probably held at private residences, the United Confederate Veterans met on the second floor of Compton's Store, the building at the corner of Main and Chester Streets.

The Sons of Temperance was an active group in Front Royal during the late nineteenth century, but they are mentioned only in passing and the location of any meeting place was not found.¹ Other organizations around the turn-of-the-century include the Warren Memorial Association and the Loving Service Circle of King's Daughters.²

The International Order of Odd Fellows was using the old public school building at **21-23 South Royal Street (VDHR 112-0040)** by 1912. While the Masons are mentioned in association with the laying of the **United Methodist Church** cornerstone.³

Methodist Church construction may have begun as early as 1904, and the location of the Masonic Lodge is not indicated. Sometime between 1919 and 1927, the Hansbrough family moved out of the large Queen Anne-style house at 107 East Main Street, the present Masonic Hall (VDHR 112-0055-068). Dr. M. F. Hansbrough was listed in attendance at the stone laying ceremony. It is likely that his connection to the organization brought them to use his house as their hall. The Hall (Hansbrough House) was enlarged in the 1920s with a rear addition, and

in the 1950s a brick addition was completed on the front. The building presently appears more like an office rather than a residence. The first floor of the rear addition is also used for government associated offices. The line of offices that face the courthouse green were often referred to as "lawyer's row."

World War I to Present (1917-1994)

Example discussed in this section:

Warren Rifles Confederate Memorial Museum 95 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-013) 1959

In 1937, Mrs. B. Ferguson Cary urged the Warren Rifles Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy to build a museum that would house a collection of historical articles and papers from around the county. After a considerable money raising effort and the donation of Chester Street land by Dr. Bernard Samuels, the well-known Front Royal native philanthropist, The **Warren Rifles Confederate Memorial Museum (VDHR 112-0055-013)** was built in 1959. On June 28, 1959 the museum was dedicated by South Carolina Senator Strom Thurmond.

The museum also became a memorial hall for 180 Confederate soldiers from seven states, who were honored by 490 descendants from 35 states. Each soldier is honored with a bronze plaque.

The **Warren Rifles Confederate Memorial Museum** building at 95 Chester Street is a modern interpretation of the Federal style. The front facade has the most elaboration with a pedimented gable, broken pediment front door surround, and Flemish-bond brick work.

At present, social organizations in Front Royal are numerous. Some of the most significant include the American Legion, the Giles B. Cook Post; the Odd Fellow's Front Royal Lodge 374, the Masonic Lodge, the Pride of Warren Lodge 486, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1860, the Elks B. P. O., and the Loyal Order of Moose Lodge No 829.

Endnotes

1. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, 183. Further research at the Warren Heritage Society Archives would probably yield further information on Front Royal's Temperance Movement.
2. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, 223.
3. Laura Virginia Hale's transcription of "The Masonic Rites of the laying of the cornerstone of the Methodist Church. Copied from Book #4, Unity Lodge 146, Front Royal, Va." Two typed pages from Laura Virginia Hale Collection at Warren Historical Society.

Recreation/Arts Theme

Recreation/Arts Theme

This theme relates to the arts and cultural activities and institutions associated with leisure time and recreation. It encompasses activities related to the popular and academic arts including fine arts and the performing arts (painting, sculpture, dance, drama, music), literature, recreational gatherings, entertainment and leisure activity, and broad cultural movements. Property types include theaters such as a cinema, movie palace, theater, or a playhouse; auditoriums, such as a hall, lyceum, or other auditorium; museums such as an art museum, art gallery, or exhibition hall; music facilities such as a concert hall, opera house, bandstand or dancehall; sports facilities such as a gymnasium, swimming pool, tennis court, playing field, or stadium; outdoor recreational facilities such as a park, campground, picnic area, biking trail, fair, amusement park, or county or state fairground; monuments/markers such as a commemorative marker or monument; various works of art such as sculpture, carving, statue, mural, or rock art; and places associated with writers, artists and performers. Landscaped gardens, parks, and cemeteries are listed under the Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Theme.

Settlement to Society (1607-1750)

Recreation and arts at the earliest period of settlement at Front Royal would have been quite simple. Before the village developed most of this type of activity centered around the family.

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

Front Royal developed as a small crossroads settlement at this period and one of the primary leisure activities for men was assembling at the taverns and ordinaries, of which there came to be a few. Front Royal was reputedly the site of unruly behavior for which it was referred to as Helltown. Whether this name was attributable to drunkenness that resulted from drinking establishments or whether it was in reference to the condition of the roads is difficult to tell. While the town has several buildings along Chester Street that date to the eighteenth century, there are no commercial establishments surviving from this period.

Early National, Antebellum and Civil War Periods (1789-1865)

Front Royal developed from a small crossroads into a town during this period. Recreation and arts became part of community and religious activity. Music sung and played on instruments became part of religious and secular activity throughout the nineteenth century. In Front Royal, the Williams Chapel is the only antebellum church to represent the religious music of this period.

Front Royal's important geographical position as a stopover continued to encourage the establishment of taverns, ordinaries, and inns. When Warren County was formed in 1836, Front Royal became the center of activity whenever court was in session. In Virginia, the typical courthouse town of the nineteenth century included one or more taverns near the complex of legal buildings. The tavern was often the place for informal argument and was an important complement to the official halls of adjudication. In 1838, Lane's Tavern and Lacey's Tavern are mentioned in the description of the prison boundaries. Lane's Tavern stood on the north side of Main Street near the Town Square, in the area of the present gazebo. Lacey's Tavern was probably located near Warren County Courthouse. A public auction was scheduled on August

30, 1837, for the estate of Edward Jacobs before the courthouse was built so the notice was posted "before the front door of Doc't. Lacey's Tavern in Front Royal."¹

The Strickler Hotel, which stood at the town square until its demolition recently, stood on the site and probably included in its structure the Hickman Tavern, which was known to have been existing as early as 1818 when Mary Hickman was the proprietress. This location turned out to be ideal for travelers of the Chester Gap Road. The building was called Hickman's until 1837. After several owners, it became the Fishback Hotel between 1856 and 1871. The Strickler family ran the hotel until the 1930s.

There are no surviving examples of antebellum taverns in Front Royal.

Other types of recreation were probably common throughout this period such as horse racing, game hunting, and fishing. All of these activities were carried out in an informal fashion.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

The Afton Inn	4 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0029)	c. 1870
Royal Oak Computers	131 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0033)	1879

While Front Royal required time to recover from the Civil War, by the 1870s the town had stabilized with reconstruction of damaged buildings as well as construction of new buildings. **The Afton Inn (VDHR 112-0029/plates 210-212)**, also known as the Mont View Hotel, was built in the 1870s. It probably became one of the most important gathering places in town, especially when court was in session.

The design of this large building has been attributed to Front Royal native, Milton Thomas Fristoe.² Finished in the late 1860s, the three-bay brick block that faces the courthouse is the earliest section, with later frame wings extending to the rear along Crescent Street. The rear section of the inn may be a heavily remodeled house. The shouldered exterior chimneys of a residence were either incorporated into the hotel on site or moved to the inn.³

The Afton Inn has gone through many transformations through the years and now sits vacant. Early photographs show that the hotel had painted exterior walls and a decorative Italianate porch to match its bracketed cornice. The present interior shows that the bottom floor was used for a restaurant until recently.

In 1877 William L. Fuller rented the bowling alley at the Mont View Hotel and started an oyster saloon. Fuller had been proprietor of the Front Royal Saloon in 1876 where he had advertised, "Nothing but genuine, pure whiskey passed over the bar. First class wines, Liquors and cigars. Single drinks of all kinds 10 cents each. Strictly cash."⁴

Along with bowling another popular game on Main Street during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries was billiards. These games moved around to different spaces on Main over the forty-year period covered by the maps of the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company.

Field sports such as football, baseball, and bicycling, all became popular in the late nineteenth century. The Front Royal Bicycle Club posed in front of the Belle Boyd Cottage in the 1890s. Photographs of Randolph-Macon students reveal that they played a variety of sports. In a turn-of-the-century school prospectus, the gymnasium is shown with gymnastic equipment; team sports included "basket-ball," football, baseball, and track. The Front Royal Horse Show was also a sporting event with nineteenth-century roots. Col. John Rolfe Millar was president of the show, amongst his many other community involvements.

Front Royal had a Young Men's Christian Association on the second floor of Davis Hall on East Main Street. The YMCA shows up on the 1912 Sanborn, but was gone by 1919.

Davis Hall was established by a relative of Jefferson Davis who had joined up with Mosby's Rangers during the Civil War. Built sometime in the late 1870s or early 1880s, Davis Hall was Front Royal's first public auditorium. Before the building was demolished, it stood at the Newberry's Department Store site (125 East Main Street) and was described as: "the handsome two-story building of Mr. George C. Davis on Main Street. The lower floors are used for stores; the upper for an opera house, and it is a gem with seating capacity for 500 people. The hall is fitted up with a modern stage, all necessary scenery, chairs, ticket office, etc., and is well lighted and heated."⁵

Davis Hall became a center point of Front Royal's entertainment activity in the late nineteenth century with such shows as "Blind Tom, the Musical Phenomenon of the Age, and renowned throughout the world as the greatest natural pianist living" (1885); "Our American Minister," performed by the Leland Opera Company (1886); "Pygmalion and Galatea to a fine audience" by the Kittie Rhoades Theatrical Troupe (no date); Professor E.C. Taylor's "Congress of Cabalistic Wonders" (no date). The Front Royal Dramatic Club performed "The Emigrant Daughter," and other local musical talent and school performances were staged here early into the twentieth century.⁶

Belle Boyd, the famed Confederate spy, made a lecture tour in 1888. She appeared at the Williams Chapel, probably wearing her stage costume--a modified Confederate uniform replete with skirt. Part of her presentation was called "The perils of a spy."

One of the most unusual theaters in Front Royal is now part of the **Royal Oak Computer Shop (VDHR 112-0033)**. Remodeled sometime after 1907, after the congregation had moved from it, the building at 131 East Main Street was originally a Methodist church built in 1879 (also see [Religion Theme](#)).

The building was first converted into a mixed use space which included a new two-and-a-half-story addition to the front of the church. Roy Collins installed a (roller) skating rink on the

second floor (no evidence of this use has survived). The first-floor Main Street spaces were stores, and at one point the Front Royal Post Office occupied the corner space nearest to Church Street. The front addition displayed influences from Romanesque and Second Empire architectural movements. The arched sash are actually reused from the church nave, and the mansard roof is finely detailed with pedimented dormers.

The most well known use of the building was when the former nave of the church became the **Murphy Theater** or Opera House. The space was used for live entertainment and later explicitly for movies. When the building was converted for theatrical and musical entertainment, an addition to the rear of the old church building was completed. This fireproof glazed tile exterior is still a prominent feature today. The tall superstructure of this space indicates that the stage was outfitted with state-of-the-art equipment.

A front entrance to the theater originally featured decorative lighting placed over the door in a semi-circle. The upstairs balcony still features its early twentieth-century theater seating. The still-intact projectionist's booth is outfitted with special venting for the hot arc-lamp projector and a special escape dormer for fire emergencies. Movies, especially westerns, were shown by the Pitts Company until sometime in the 1950s.

The upstairs spaces at the front of the building were used as apartments. One of them was occupied by Clint Smith, the long-time pianist for the Opera House. The half-story space at the top of the building was used for a variety of purposes such as meetings.

Front Royal developed an area where most of the entertainment establishments were located. Building the Murphy Opera House next to the nineteenth-century Davis Hall was probably a strategic business decision.

Murphy Theater, situated next to the substantial and architecturally significant **Trout Drugs**, creates one of Front Royal's most impressive urban spaces, a localized center or high point along the south side of Main Street's commercial row buildings. Fortunately, the retail space at the front is in use. The large rear theater space has been vacant for some time.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Examples discussed in this section:

Park Theater	117 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-063)	c. 1920
Skyline Drive	Jackson Highway (County)	(Not Surveyed)	1936
Skyline Caverns	Jackson Highway (County)	(Not Surveyed)	1939
Bing Crosby Stadium	Eighth Street	(Not Surveyed)	1950
Front Royal Country Club	Country Club Road	(Not Surveyed)	1950

Live entertainment and the movie theater have competed in the entertainment market for just about all of the twentieth century. While plays, musical shows, and vaudeville comedy were popular at the **Murphy Theater**, other movie houses began to open around town. Movies seemed to be better at meeting national tastes and bringing citizens together in patriotism. A

poignant film of World War I soldiers parading down Main Street was discovered recently in a back room of the **Murphy Theater**.

By 1919, a "moving pictures" building sat behind some Main Street commercial buildings, and was entered from Crescent Street. This theater may have used the 1874 Missionary Baptist Church space. The congregation had left the older church for the new 1914 building on North Royal Avenue.

The **Park Theater**, Front Royal's main downtown cinema, opened in the 1920s. Located at 117 East Main Street, the building has a wide facade that features a central parapet and two side bays that appear to be small towers. In addition to the center entry for the theater, there are also several retail spaces in the front of the building.

One of Front Royal's greatest recreational assets has been its natural setting. Surrounded by mountains, hills and adjacent to the Shenandoah River, it became a jumping off point for countryside holidays for people all along the east coast, as far back as the late nineteenth century and perhaps as far back as when rail travel from the urban east was opened in the 1840s.

The government-sponsored naturalist and parks movement had been gathering support and was especially encouraged in this century by President Theodore Roosevelt. Locally, in Page County, there was Skyland, a rustic woodland resort perched atop Stony Man Mountain. Started in 1886 and later run by naturalist George Freeman Pollock, Skyland Resort attracted visitors for over fifty years.

At Skyland, meetings included Front Royal resident William E. Carson,⁷ the son of Samuel Carson, founder of Riverton Lime and Stone Company (see Industrial theme). Carson and other local philanthropists wanted the Blue Ridge Mountains preserved as a park area. Carson was the first chairman of the Virginia Conservation and Development Commission, 1926-34, and in this position he was able to influence Presidents Hoover and Roosevelt to allocate money to build the Skyline Drive as part of a relief project.⁸

The first appropriation for construction of the **Skyline Drive** was signed in 1931. Carson influenced President Roosevelt to use Civilian Conservation Corps to help private contractors build the road. According to a Commission publicist, "Mr. Roosevelt said: 'I will give you the men and the money for your state parks if you demonstrate in Virginia what such a system of parks would mean to a state.'"⁹

The Skyline Drive, which starts just south of Front Royal's legal limits and continues to Afton where it meets the Blue Ridge Parkway, is a spectacular, one-hundred-five-mile, carefully designed mountain highway that was opened in 1936, the same year that the 195,000 acre Shenandoah National Park opened.

While the Skyline Drive and Park are outside the limits of town, they have had a tremendous influence on Front Royal. Not only were individual citizens important in the establishment of

this great recreational facility, but the town lent its support because of the anticipated wave of tourism. Restaurants, tourist homes, cabin courts, hotels, and motels became popular sites along the primary arteries of the town. In 1985, 600,000 people passed through the Front Royal Skyline Drive gateway representing tremendous economic opportunities for local tourism.

The National Park system, the entrance to **Skyline Caverns** was discovered in 1937 by Walter Amos. Amos spent about a year and a half preparing the caves with a light system and guard rails and in April, 1939 the caverns were opened to the public. They were closed during World War II because the policy of rationing prevented discretionary travel. They have been a major regional recreational attraction since the 1946 reopening. The cavern entrance is sited near the Skyline Drive gateway.

While the Depression continued through most of the 1930s, Front Royal experienced an economic surge near the end of the decade. Employment increased regionally due to government projects, and the town built two schools as well as a town hall and a county courthouse. The American Viscose Plant guaranteed population increase of the town and region.

The **Front Royal Municipal Park** with Bing Crosby Stadium was built with funds donated primarily by Mr. Crosby who had visited Warren County High School in 1948 as part of "Recreation Week." He was presented with a framed lifetime honorary membership. Mr. Crosby gave the Warren County-Front Royal Recreation Association a check for \$1,000 to start the ball park construction. The next year the entertainer returned to lead a parade and appear at the world premier of "Riding High" at **Park Theater**. He contributed another \$3,572.92 to complete the \$10,000 fund drive and the park was built and named in his honor in 1950.

In June, 1938 Agnes H. and William E. Carson of Riverton deeded sixty-two acres north of Riverton to create the **Recreational Center of Front Royal** as a memorial to their son William E. Carson, Jr. The Harmony Hollow Camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps built a club house and a nine-hole golf course. While this facility is in Warren County, its name was changed to the **Front Royal Country Club** in 1950. It is the town's nearest golf course.

The New Dominion (1945-1994)

Front Royal has maintained and added to the great variety of recreational and arts activities over the past forty-nine years. Front Royal's relation with the Shenandoah National Park and tourism are an important component to the local economy. Statewide tourism is one of the top income producing businesses, and Front Royal continues to benefit from the great public interest in outdoor recreation.

Endnotes

1. Undocumented quote by Laura Virginia Hale in Chester Street, 145.
2. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, 68.
3. The Dick Richardson rendering of Front Royal of the 1870s in Warren County Sesquicentennial shows two frame houses behind the Afton Inn. These are labeled "Mandeville Stinson Residence" and "Joseph Trout Residence." One, both, or parts of these buildings may have been combined and incorporated into the hotel.
4. Undocumented quote by Laura Virginia Hale in On Chester Street, 83.
5. Undocumented quote by Laura Virginia Hale in On Chester Street, 222.
6. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, 222.
7. Killahevin, Carson's house on North Royal Avenue, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1993.
8. The Commission was begun under Governor Harry F. Byrd's administration. Byrd was one of Carson's close friends and they met at Front Royal and at Skyland to discuss the conservation projects. Byrd maintained interest in the project after he was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1933.
9. Preliminary Information Form for Killahevin.



Plate 210: Afton Inn (VDHR 112-0029), west and south elevation. late-nineteenth-century to early-twentieth-century post card view



Plate 211 (top): Afton Inn (VDHR 112-0029), 4 East Main Street, view towards northeast (PAV)

Plate 212 (bottom): Afton Inn, view towards northwest (PAV)

Transportation/Communication Theme

Transportation/Communication Theme

This theme relates to the process and technology of conveying passengers, materials and information. Studies focus on transportation and communication networks involving roads, water, canals, railroads, and air as well as on the various structures, vehicles, equipment, and technology associated with each mode. Property types may be generally classified as either rail-related, air-related, road-related, or pedestrian-related. Examples include railroads, stations, engine houses, and trains; airports, airplanes, landing fields, and space vehicles; and research facilities associated with transportation systems; boats and other watercraft, piers, and wharves, ferries, lighthouses; canals and associated structures, locks, boats; roads and turnpikes, tollhouse, automobiles and other vehicles, and streetcars; and board walks, walkways, and trails.

Settlement to Early National Period (1607-1830)

When the first settlers established themselves in the vicinity of Front Royal, one of the first needs of transportation was crossing the Shenandoah River.

Before ferries or bridges, fording was the only way across the river. While the first bridges to span the Shenandoah north of Front Royal were not built until the mid-nineteenth century, the smaller span over Happy Creek bringing travel into town may have been built sometime in the late eighteenth century (or possibly earlier).

In 1736 Thomas Chester received a license to run a ferry "from the mouth of Happy Creek to the forks of the Shenando across the main river." The waterborne traffic during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries consisted of gundalows. These crafts, used on many of Virginia's navigable rivers at that time, were long, shallow, fairly wide draft boats that could traverse rapids areas. In the late eighteenth century boatmen had to contend with the obstructions, primarily dams, built for mill operations. As the shipping trade grew, a system of canals and locks was needed to bypass mill dams.

The land-bound transportation methods improved with the technology of wagon making over this period. Wagon roads through the area, the convergence of which caused Front Royal to be sited where it is, consisted of the Manassas Gap Road, now Route 55; the Chester Gap Road, now Route 522; and one of the valley trails later known as the Front Royal-Luray Turnpike, now Route 340 south of town.

Wagon construction at Chester Street establishments was the most important Front Royal industry before the Civil War. The Trout, Fant, and Cline families won wide acclaim for their wagon design and building skills.

None of the buildings or structures associated with Front Royal's early transportation have survived.

Antebellum and Civil War Period (1830-1865)

Two significant transportation events occurred during this period. Bridges were built over the Shenandoah in 1854 and 1855 and at about the same time, the railroad was finally extended through Manassas Gap into Front Royal.

The Winchester Turnpike Company built the early covered bridges. They were destroyed purposely or by flood during the Civil War. Surprisingly, with the bridges out, the ferry was revived and became the primary means to cross the river until the 1890s boom period brought enough investment to build iron bridges.

For a short period gundalows brought goods to Confluence (the early name of Riverton) for wagon shipping. In 1847, the Shenandoah Steamboat Company was organized, but was short lived because neither it nor any other means of travel by river was able to compete with a superior means of steam-driven transportation, the train.

The Orange, Alexandria and Manassas Gap Railroad was finally extended into the Valley in 1854. The town decided not to subscribe to railroad stock, so the line was not extended through Front Royal. Rather, a spur was built to Main Street requiring the train to back into town. By 1861 sufficient investment provided for a railroad line into Front Royal. Unfortunately, because of the extent of railroad line destruction during the Civil War, it was forced to shut down until 1873.

Other than the railroad right-of-way, there are no transportation buildings or structures that have survived from this period.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Visitors Center	414 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-0023)	c. 1915
Outbuilding	15-18 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0044)	c. 1890
Duncan Gibb House	125 1st Street	(VDHR 112-0055-069)	c. 1910, or earlier
Druid Hill	1 Druid Hill Drive	(VDHR 112-0059)	c. 1872
House	125 18th Street	(VDHR 112-0072)	c. 1890s/1919

When the Virginia Midland Railroad rebuilt its line in 1873 it was extended to Harrisonburg. For a period the railroad bypassed Front Royal, stopping only at Buckton and Happy Creek. By 1887 there were four passenger trains daily, including a "Washington Special." (see plate 213)

Southern Railway took over the line in 1898, and sometime after 1912, the existing **Front Royal Passenger Depot (VDHR 112-0055-023/plate 214)** was built. The depot was originally sectioned off on the interior with a white waiting room at the Main Street end and a black waiting room at the northern end of the building.

The exterior of the **Front Royal Depot** has been altered very slightly over its approximate eighty years of activity. Simple in detail, the building is rectangular in plan, clad with novelty siding,

adorned with eaves brackets, 12-over-1 and 9-over-1 sash, round gable lights, and a finely crafted tile roof.²

The interior has been completely remodeled for use as the Front Royal Visitors Center. The interior renovation was conceived by an architect in 1988. The work respects the detailing of the late nineteenth century including stained and clear-finished wood trim in many of the primary spaces.

The Shenandoah Railway reached Riverton in 1879. There was no Front Royal depot on this line until one was built at the foot of Luray Avenue, southwest of town. By 1895 there were five passenger trains daily. In 1901 the line was taken over by Norfolk and Western.

The late nineteenth century was still a period of horse and wagon travel. Both Charles F. Sumption and John B. Petty, whose houses on Chester Street are no longer standing, continued in the wagon building business late into the nineteenth century. Petty's business was located at the present site of the Virginia Laundry, across the street from his house. His factory had employed up to 40 people before the Civil War. The business never regained its pre-war prominence and he lost possession of his shop in the mid-1870s.

By 1901, Sumption's business was located at the northeast corner of Fourth Street and North Royal Avenue, the Boom area. In 1902 he had converted his shop to the Front Royal Steam Laundry which still exists at 119 Chester Avenue.

While none of the blacksmith or wagon shops have survived from the nineteenth century, several barns and carriage houses from the same period still exist.

One of the largest survivors of a livery-stable complex, many of which survived into the first quarter of the twentieth century, is at **15-18 High Street (VDHR 112-0044)**. This barn is a rare survivor of parking lot expansions of the last thirty years. The barn at High Street is unusually large for an urban lot and was probably used for storing large quantities of hay. Parts of the building may date to the nineteenth century, but significant sections appear to have been rebuilt. A frame lean-to shop (recently damaged by fire) adjoins the barn's south side. In 1919 a "piggery" stood on this side of the building. The rambling complex of buildings that includes the barn is associated with Main Street properties.

Some of the outlying residences include carriage houses. **Druid Hill** (c. 1872) includes a two-story frame building that may have been used for carriages.

The **Duncan Gibb House** on First Street has a small one-and-a-half-story building that started out as a carriage house, but was converted into living space in recent years.

The Queen Anne-style house, on the north side of Front Royal, at **125 18th Street**, features a frame barn/stable, one of the largest left in the town.

For years after the Civil War Front Royal relied on ferry service until the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company offered to pay half the cost to build iron spans across both forks of the Shenandoah River in 1894. Warren County split the cost of \$24,000.

The grand scheme of "Twin Cities," the economic marriage between Front Royal and Riverton, required improvements in the road networks. One of the earliest "macadamized" roads appears on the 1902 Sanborn map which shows Sixth Street in front of the Royal Tapestry Company (**Silk Mill**) as hard-topped.

In 1891 Sixth Street was extended over Happy Creek on an iron bridge, while Main Street still had an older wooden bridge. By 1919 the wooden bridge was replaced by an iron bridge at the end of Main Street, a prophetic sign that the heavier automobile was beginning to demand greater consideration in Front Royal's landscape.

The automobile gained in popularity during the second decade of the twentieth century. By 1919, at the eastern end of Main Street, the rival forms of transportation faced each other with a wagon shop on the south side and a twenty-car capacity garage directly across the street.

The 1920s, the great decade of Henry Ford's mass-production, lay ahead and would begin to profoundly affect Front Royal's transportation networks and ultimately the physical character of the town (as it did in just about every other medium-to-large size American town and city).

Garages were one of the building types that accompanied the rise of the automobile. Front Royal features many examples of car garages dating from the 'teens through recent times. The earlier examples were built like miniature carriage houses. These often featured a hipped roof and side-mounted, swing-out doors. By the 1930s, garage doors were mounted on spring operated, overhead, fold-up track systems. Some garages are sited adjacent to residences, while others were accessed from an alley at the rear of the property. Garages are an important resource for historic properties, as are most substantial outbuildings that are fifty years or older.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

The affordability and popularity of the car made horse travel practically obsolete by the end of the 1920s. Horse travel became dangerous as the federal highway acts of the late 1920s began the massive undertaking of paving all the nation's major highways. Photographs of Front Royal in the 1930s show that most of the major streets (Main Street and Royal Avenues) were paved.

The automobile took business away from the railroad passenger market, eventually forcing the Southern Railway line to suspend service in 1945, and after a brief resumption in 1946, service was discontinued except for special excursions.

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

Examples discussed in this section:

Commercial Bld.	17 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-181)	c. 1910
Riverton Bridges	Shenandoah Avenue	(Not surveyed)	1940

The Norfolk and Western line continued running passenger service to Front Royal until 1954. During the 1950s the era of steam engines ended. Replaced with diesel locomotives, N&W ran three passenger cars a day from Hagerstown to Roanoke.

While passenger service ended, freight service continues to this day. Norfolk and Western eventually merged with Southern Railway to form Norfolk and Southern. Now both rail lines are used by the same company for freight service.

The tracks have been removed from the Front Royal Depot area, but spur tracks still extend from the Front Royal Junction. Freight service still runs along the river past the Kendrick Lane stop and the Avtex Plant.

By the twenties more specialized buildings were constructed to accommodate the automobile. Gas stations, car storage, downtown garages, repair shops, and dealerships all began to appear in a more specialized commercial design. While commercialism, the use of designed logos and themes to match a product, had its roots in the nineteenth century, it was not until the twentieth century that these images became mass-produced and recognizable on a national level. By the 1920s car dealerships and gas stations were beautified. Some of the gas stations were designed to appear as small cottages. Companies such as Pure Oil, Shell Oil, Quaker Oil, and Texaco all advertised their products with nationally recognizable signage.

In the early years of the automobile age, it was more common to build garages for parking, especially when the car was still competing for space with horse-drawn vehicles that still needed downtown liverys. The building at **17 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-181)** was built sometime between 1907 and 1912. It started out as stables, but by 1919 it had become a garage that could hold up to twenty-five cars. The building is frame with a brick veneer. The current retail spaces were fitted into the original vehicle entry area.

Few older buildings exist on the sites of long-time gas station properties. One of the more sophisticated designs that survives was outside of the survey area on North Royal Avenue. The Tudor-style service station, recognized by its romantic cottage appearance with its steep roof and chimney, was often a trademark of the Pure Oil fuel company. This c. 1930s building sits on the west side of North Royal Avenue, between Sixth and Eighth Streets, and now includes a larger section that may have been an addition for either a dealership and/or service area.

When Front Royal went through the major transformation from a quiet town to tourist and war-time industry area, the population increased and the need for improved auto facilities transformed the landscape.

In the late thirties the Virginia Highway Department realized that the nineteenth-century bridges across the Shenandoah would have to be replaced to accommodate the tremendous increase in traffic, especially with American Viscose and the Skyline Drive recently opened. The older spans had crossed the river at the northern end of North Royal Avenue. The new bridges were planned at the end of Shenandoah Avenue, to the west. At the time, the construction of these bridges was the largest undertaking ever attempted by the Highway Department. The construction required a cut through two hills, three large fills, and spanning three water courses (two forks of the Shenandoah River and Crooked Run). The railing sections at the edge of the deck are executed in an ornamented concrete pattern, while the lower supporting structure consists of a metal truss system. On November 17, 1941 Governor James H. Price opened the triple **Riverton Bridges**, the same span that is still in use today.

When the Boom was being designed, South Royal Avenue was known as Manor Avenue. Royal Avenue was proposed as Manor Avenue's logical northern extension. John Stinson, of the Mont View Hotel (later the **Afton Inn**), gave permission for the road to cut through his livery complex. For his acquiescence, his wife was allowed to name the road, which became Royal (later when Manor was changed to South Royal, Royal became North Royal).³

The tremendous growth that occurred in Front Royal during the first half of the twentieth century was caused by accessibility of the automobile for tourism and trucks for industry. Several major routes converged at the "Y" crossroads and grid network of the old town. The Boom extension of North Royal Avenue which connected Front Royal with its "Twin City," Riverton, was the first major through route. With the completion of the Skyline Drive and the expected increase of industrial traffic, road network improvements were needed to allow more efficient north and south bound traffic circulation.

One of the early improvements to North Royal Avenue involved the removal of a small wooden building at the intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenues. As late as 1919, the two-story building, labeled as "Ins. Off.," stood in front of the United Methodist Church and created a bottleneck. North Royal Avenue was forty-six feet wide from curb to curb at the intersection. In the Boom area it widened to eighty feet. The changes at the intersection made for a uniform width.

Other than the construction of the Riverton Bridges, the other very significant road work was the building of the By-Pass.⁴ Chester Gap Road, also referred to as Happy Creek Road (Route 522), and Manassas Gap Road (Marshall Highway/Route 55), were brought into the preexisting Commerce Avenue, which ran through late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century neighborhoods on the northeastern side of town. The Eastside Highway bypassed the traditional connection of Chester Street to North Royal Avenue.

The Route 55 and 522 intersection now takes traffic to and from the Skyline Drive across a widened South Street. South Street includes recent and older roadside facilities which cater to tourist and locals. Front Royal's most significant shopping centers are now located around this intersection at the southeast corner of town.

Because of the large volume of traffic that uses Interstate 66 as a significant connection to Washington D.C., seventy miles to the east, and Interstate 81, several miles to the west, more improvements were planned as recently as 1992. The Virginia Department of Transportation recommended upgrading North Royal Avenue to "U4" or an urban four lane. The most comprehensive study of Front Royal's parking and traffic problems was carried out by the Virginia Department of Highways in 1956 and 1991.⁵ The most recent discussion about road work outlines a traffic management solution.⁶

One of the most dramatic changes to the downtown commercial area was the gradual demolition of small sheds, outbuildings, barns, and liveryes that once stood on the north and south sides of the Main Street commercial buildings. This signaled the final transition from the horse to the automobile. Surprisingly, a considerable number of outbuildings, warehouses, and barns were still shown standing in 1950s aerial photographs of the area between East Jackson Street and the rear of Main Street businesses. At the turn of the century, the beginnings of East Jackson Street were shown as an alley that accessed stables behind the sheriff's office and jail facility facing South Royal Avenue. In 1939 East Jackson Street was extended to Church Street. Several houses and utilitarian structures were destroyed when the rest of East Jackson was finished in 1965.

Endnotes

1. Dr. Harold Lenz in Warren County Sesquicentennial, 45.
2. This same tile was used on Remount Station buildings.
3. Laura Virginia Hale, "History of Warren County," in An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County, collected study by University of Virginia School of Rural Social Economics (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1943) 28.
4. One of the early names suggested for this route was the Eastside Highway.
5. Front Royal Traffic Study (Richmond: Virginia Department of Highways, 1956); Front Royal Area Transportation Survey (Richmond: Virginia Department of Transportation, 1992).
6. This information was provided by Kimberley Fogle.

Plate 213 (next page): Norfolk and Western depot on Depot Avenue (not extant) (Norfolk and Western Depots of the Shenandoah Valley)





Plate 214: Front Royal Visitor's Center (VDHR 112-0055-023), 414 East Main Street, view towards north (PAV)

Commerce/ Trade Theme

Commerce/Trade Theme

This theme relates to the process of trading goods, services and commodities. Property types include businesses, professional, organizational, and financial institutions, and specialty stores; and department stores, restaurants, warehouses, and trade sites. Specific properties related to this theme include office buildings, trading posts, stores, warehouses, market buildings, arcades, shopping centers, offices, office blocks, and banks.

Examples discussed in this section:

Compton's Store	304 Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-041)	c. 1830/1890
Store	9 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-022)	c. 1899

Settlement to Antebellum Period (1607-1860)

Front Royal's birth was due to its strategic commercial position in the surrounding region. Well before Warren County was formed in 1836, commerce became centered at Front Royal.

As noted in the themes Agriculture and Transportation, the earliest settlers were subsistence farmers. Salt, sugar, and woven goods were brought in by wagon. The beginning of the community around Chester Street during the eighteenth century fitted the needs of settlers and travelers. Front Royal was a farm to market crossroads. While specific stores are not mentioned in this period, taverns such as Lacey's and Lane's were located on Market Street (Main Street) or Chester Street. Quite often a store was built in this area, alongside the wagon repair shops run by the Trout, Fant, and Petty (later Sumption) families. Whereas Winchester, an early trade center, probably served a wide region, Front Royal was one of several commercial hubs that continued to grow as the population increased in what later became Warren County.

Thomas Chester's ferry, the exact location of which is unknown, encouraged wagon travel along Manassas Gap and Chester Gap roads. Before the arrival of the railroad in 1854, gundalows carried cash crops downriver from Confluence (Riverton). All of this activity made Front Royal a camping place for horse teams. Exchanges of flour, bacon, and whiskey for manufactured goods was facilitated by the establishment of a commercial community.

The increasing number of grist mills in the late eighteenth century, with several located in or near early Front Royal, also created a trading environment. For many Virginia communities, the mill assumed a semi-public role in early periods where voter registration took place, and post offices, warehouses, and stores were built nearby. Buck's Mill, which was located on Happy Creek would have processed grain. The farmers would have exchanged the ground product for other commodities, or sold it for money to purchase other items in the surrounding stores before making the often long trip back to the farm.

By the early nineteenth century other manufacturing facilities arose in an area referred to as New Dublin (probably located on the east side of Happy Creek near the end of Main Street). In addition to flour mills, the New Dublin area included a woolen cloth and comb factory, as well

as a distillery sometime around 1815 to 1820.¹ There were most likely several stores in town by this time.

There are several commercial buildings that incorporate the fabric of earlier stores or residences, but the best example of one that has evolved from the Early National Period to present is **Compton's Store (VDHR 112-0055-041)** at 304 Main Street. This building reveals the complexity of the Street's built environment.

The earliest building on the site may have been here as early as the late eighteenth century. Probably the six bays that face Main Street were originally a side gable-roofed frame residence built by the Wroe family sometime in the 1830s. The three bays to the right that face the square define the brick store building, built sometime before the Civil War by Col. Edward B. Jacobs. Sometime later another section was built behind the brick store as well. All three buildings were unified in appearance by Italianate detailing sometime between 1897 and 1915.

The whole property became known as Compton's or Busy Corner around the turn of the century. An 1899 addition, now recognized as **9 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-022)**, extended the northeast corner of the irregular-shaped construction. The building's present appearance is post-1900 Italianate with a fine wood cornice featuring a projecting hood, machined brackets, and smaller dentil-like brackets; a frieze board includes horizontal panels; and the window trim includes slightly projecting hoods (the facade appears completely unified on the 1907 Sanborn map and included a wrap-around porch). The lower retail section has been updated but still gives the general idea of a turn-of-the-century facade.

In addition to stores that date to before the Civil War, several taverns are often mentioned in Front Royal histories. In addition to Lacey's and Lane's, Hickman's Tavern was situated on the Town Square. Mary Hickman ran this establishment from 1818 to 1837. The business was later known as the Fishback Hotel (1856-1871) and the Strickler Hotel (1883-1935). On the 1885 Sanborn map, the Hotel is shown as a long rectangular building with a wing that extended back along High Street. Formerly on the site of Frank's Store at **317 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-039)**, a small frame building at 311 is all that is left of the original complex that included the **Belle Boyd Cottage** and a kitchen. In photographs and engravings that date to the turn-of-the-century, the building was shown as a three-story frame building with late nineteenth-century Italianate detailing. Belle Boyd Cottage may have served as the tavern keeper's house earlier in the century or it may have been a residence that predated the hotel building. It probably had two stories with a gable roof and a one- or two-level porch on one or both sides of the building.

The rear kitchen building was used until well into the twentieth century, and the small frame section adjacent to Frank's served as a restaurant space from the late nineteenth century until the hotel closed.

Civil War (1861-1865)

Commerce and trade probably continued as normal for the early years of the war, but as occupying federal troops arrived in March, 1862 the focus of the community began to slide from normalcy to survival living by the end of the war. Shops, industries, churches, warehouses, and residences had been pilfered, damaged, and in some cases destroyed.

Commercial rebuilding would begin after the war and change the Main Street architectural building composition from residential with some commercial to nearly all commercial by the 1890s.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

The Afton Inn	4 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0029)	c. 1870
The Bank of Warren	222 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-043)	c. 1872
Warren Paint Store	415 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0046)	c. 1880
Store	200-202 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-053)	c. 1880
Store	214 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-047)	c. 1880
Windrow Gallery	401 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-0038)	1890-1920
Store	216-218 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-048)	1895-1900
Amis Block	219-221 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-045)	1896
Store	6 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-0022)	c. 1899
Weaver Department Store	205 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-055)	c. 1915
Signet Bank	305 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0012)	1914

Industrial establishments such as the Riverton Lime and Stone Company, founded by the Carson family in 1868, and the organization and issuing of the Warren Sentinel newspaper in 1869, signaled early economic growth after the war. Within twenty years after 1865, the eastern end of Main Street, near the train station, was once again a thriving industrial area. While there had been stores and other commercial establishments before the war, the properties along Main Street became even more tightly clustered, eventually creating a solid commercial building wall along several areas of the street.

Similar to other older downtown centers in the region, Front Royal residences in the commercial Main Street corridor were often converted into stores or absorbed into commercial buildings. **Compton's Store**, discussed above, is one of the most significant examples of a residential/commercial conversion. While few other buildings clearly show this evolution, it is entirely possible that earlier Main Street residences might be incorporated into some of the current commercial fabric.

Several types of commercial architecture dotted Main and Chester Streets during the Reconstruction and Growth Period: masonry, frame, and perhaps log.

The **Afton Inn** (c. 1870), referred to in 1885 as the Mont View Hotel, was one of the largest buildings in Front Royal at its construction date. It was also one of the most significant masonry buildings at the time (the Cloud residence, which was further east on Main Street, was the

earliest brick residence in town). At various times it included a restaurant or grocery on its first floor. Its position across from the **Warren County Courthouse** was strategic.

While the 1885 Sanborn map shows several masonry commercial buildings, the majority of the medium-sized buildings were frame. Most of the buildings had narrow facades and sat deep into their lots. At various times during this period stores included two-level porches, many of which lasted well into the auto age. By the 1930s, most trees and porches had been removed from sidewalk and macadamized areas.

Between 1865 and 1917, there were many commercial establishments located on Main and Chester Streets, including drug stores, groceries, furniture stores, book stores, jewelry shops, clothing boutiques, and hardware stores, as well as harness shops, undertakers, barbers, billiard halls, saloons, bakeries, tailor shops, marble stores, cobblers, and stove shops.

The **Bank of Warren**, founded in 1872, was built at **222 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-043)**. The founder, Colonel Isaac Newton King, had grown up on a Browntown farm known as Clifton. Known for a long time as "Col. King's Bank," this small brick vernacular Italianate building with a rectangular footprint is one of the more unusual commercial buildings on East Main Street. It is only one story with a front gable roof, a small, round-arched window in the gable, and has a cornice with brackets. The primary facade has molded and panelled wood surrounding two large plate-glass windows, with a central recessed entrance. A band of dentillated cornice runs across the front facade.

The building may have been freestanding in the 1870s. By 1907 the small building was surrounded by other structures on the sides and the rear (**Compton's Store** is immediately to the east). Architecturally it retains its integrity. It is one of the most significant commercial structures on East Main Street.

The **Bank of Warren** grew and plans were made to build a new bank in 1912. Located near the first building, across the street at **305 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0012/plates 215-218)**. The new bank was designed by New York architect, John Sloan. This Classical Revival building is one of the most architecturally formal spaces in Front Royal. Built in a temple form, the front elevation includes engaged, fluted Corinthian columns interspersed with panels and overlights. The classical design vocabulary is enhanced by hints of Art Nouveau detailing. The main entry features a fine pediment replete with reclining men on either side of a cartouche bearing a "W." Ornamentation includes dentils, egg and dart molding, as well as swags. The upper frieze features acanthus motifs, putti, and urns. Exterior detailing is executed right down to the concrete planters.

The main customer space matches the high quality of the exterior. The main banking room is almost perfectly square, surrounded by fluted Corinthian pilasters, and the walls are defined with recessed panels. A multi-level entablature crowns the space. The original vault is still prominent on the back side of the room and the 1912 period bank officers' names are displayed in the masonry wall along with the architects.' A shield over the vault entrance features molded

figures, possibly inspired by Gibson girls, supporting a "W" cartouche. The bank's board room is finished in dark-stained mahogany paneling and includes some original period furniture.

The adjacent store became an annexed space for the bank in 1976. **Signet Bank** now owns the building.

Warren Paint Store at 415 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0046) is a fine intact example of an Italianate frame commercial building. Probably built during the 1870s or 1880s, this building is part of a three-building Italianate facade. The three-bay section on the corner first appears on the 1885 Sanborn map first with an open space next to #413. By 1891 the space was infilled, and the whole facade of 415 was complete with a total of six bays. While these buildings are unified in design, there is still clear definition of the three separate units due to sash spacing and size as well as building heights. This section of Main Street architecture is important in understanding the visual character of late-nineteenth-century Front Royal commercial design due to the high integrity of the lower retail facades.

The cornice and stucco texture of the **Warren Paint Store** ties three late-nineteenth-century vernacular buildings together. The Warren Paint Store is defined by the eastern six bays, and a slightly higher facade. Italianate features include a very fine cornice, bracketed fascia board with two types of brackets, and very fine arch-top windows featuring eared trim boards and projecting molded window hoods. The bracketed upper cornice is echoed in a lower braced trim board that projects, in a hood manner, over the lower retail facade. The retail facade has expansive plate-glass windows and a recessed center entry. The plate-glass section includes larger low panels topped by transoms.

The **Warren Paint Store** presents one of the most intact examples of an 1880s frame commercial building facade on Main Street. Very little has changed on the exterior of this building since 1900-1910.

Front Royal's frame building stock was affected by the proximity of the Riverton Lime and Stone Company. Most towns that had frame buildings with open hearths or stoves were vulnerable to fire. While a lime-based stucco coat might not save the house in which the fire started, it certainly increased the survival of houses that were nearby. By the 1930s, the stucco coat was popular on residential and commercial buildings like **Warren Paint Store**.

The **Windrow Gallery at 401 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-0038)** is a three-story commercial vernacular building with an elaborate cornice that appears to have been added later. A late-nineteenth-century building that shares common characteristics with other moderately remodeled commercial buildings on the street, the **Windrow Gallery** was updated with a brick veneer treatment. This attractive facade was probably added after the serious fire at the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill**. The store front has been remodeled at the street level. One of the most interesting features of this property are the surviving outbuildings at the rear, including the largest in-town barn (15-18 High Street VDHR 112-0044).

The **Amiss Block** building at **219-221 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-045)** dates from 1896. While the building has been compromised by lower facade remodeling, it remains a good example of commercial Italianate style.

The **Amiss** property is mentioned in an 1865 account, and by 1885, there were two buildings on the site that filled out the lot east to west, but not as deep as the building's present footprint. The **Amiss Block** is a two-story Vernacular Italianate Commercial building with a fairly high degree of stylistic elaboration. The roof is a shallow mansard on the front facade that slopes back as a shed roof to the rear wall. The mansard section is edged at the bottom by an elaborate Italianate cornice featuring small, dentil-like brackets above a panelled frieze that ends in shallow brackets. The center of the mansard has a small pediment on brackets with an arched panel below that bears the name and date, "Amiss Block 1896."

Across from the **Amiss Block**, two buildings exhibit nearly identical Italianate features. **214 and 216-218 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-047 and VDHR 112-0055-048 respectively)** feature second stories that are clad with weatherboard (216-218 is covered with aluminum siding). Presenting a long facade like Trout Drug and the **Amiss Block**, the dentilated cornice and pedimented window hoods create a pleasing visual rhythm. **216-218** also includes an asymmetrically placed pedimented front gable. These buildings also date from the turn-of-the-century period.

200-202 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-053) exhibits an unusually attractive late-nineteenth-century facade. A two-story bay still projects from the western alley-side wall--the remnants of an incorporated residence. The second-story facade is clad in stucco over wood; the eave/cornice extends at least a foot over its large Italianate brackets, and the window hoods also project and display ornamental sawn trim.

The 1899 addition that was made to **Compton's Store** at **6 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-022)** is one of the most distinctive Queen Anne-style facades in the downtown commercial area. The building has a mansard roof with a central front pedimented gable. The symmetrical gable sits atop a semi-circular attic light, all of which is balanced over a four-unit, second-story window. Fortunately, the lower facade has survived and remains one of the best period examples of this design.

Weaver's (VDHR 112-0055-055/plates 219, 220), the former department store at **205 East Main Street**, was built sometime between 1912 and 1919. Its free-form classical style is also the work of architect John Sloan, the designer of the 1914 **Bank of Warren**. The design detailing is a similar loose interpretation of the classical architectural vocabulary; however, the **Weaver's** building is more manneristic, further removed from any real classical precedent.

Weaver's has a perfectly symmetrical facade featuring large engaged Doric pilasters supporting an entablature with triglyphs, guttae, and projecting ends. A small side entrance leading to residential space presents a medallion supported on branches showing a "W." The name **Weaver** is spelled out on the upper facade. In addition to the terra cotta, the brickwork on the front

facade is laid in a Flemish bond. The use of glazed terra cotta facade ornament on both the bank and department store buildings points to an out-of-town source for the construction materials.

The later remodeling of the lower retail facade was actually an enhancement.

During the 1940s and 1950s, decorative black and tan vitrolite cladding updated the facade to a simple Moderne-style appearance. These early plastics and composite material were high-quality architectural fabric. The rectangular panel above the lower retail area may have been a sign board. This feature, used in a subtle manner, at a harmonious scale, did not clash with the scale and proportion of the upper facade.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Example discussed in this section:

Bill's Sporting Goods 210 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-052) c. 1915

The town saw some of its greatest commercial growth during this time, especially with the opening of the Shenandoah National Park, the Skyline Drive, and new industry.

While the downtown area remained the core of the commercial establishments, such as clothing, grocery, drug, and hardware stores, the travel corridors grew as major secondary areas of commerce that catered more to tourists and general automobile and trucking traffic that came through town. Tourist shops, gas stations, tourist homes, motels, cabin courts, and restaurants began to flourish.

Sometime around 1941, the Front Royal Chamber of Commerce was founded. Until 1944, when H. F. Minter became the first president, the Chamber of Commerce operated on a part-time basis without main office space. The earliest office appears to have been located in the rear office spaces of the **Masonic Lodge** on East Main Street. Later the Chamber moved to a West Main Street office, then to 501 South Royal, and now the office is appropriately located in a historic building, the **Front Royal Depot**, on East Main Street.

The Front Royal Chamber of Commerce assisted in the establishment of a radio station and the organization of the Front Royal-Warren County Developmental Corporation which supported the Front Royal-Warren County Community Chest (now the United Way).

The Chamber has always supported tourism and town events. It organized Bing Crosby Day in 1950 which resulted in the construction of Crosby Field. Unstinting support has also been given to the Recreation Association and the Wally Byam Caravaners, a group that had its roots in the early days of trailer camping.

Architecturally, this period saw the introduction of new building materials as well as new styles. Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, numerous other revivals, Art Deco, and Moderne all became part of the design vocabulary. Front Royal's surviving Moderne-style architecture, a style that was not tremendously popular in rural areas of Virginia, and would appear more often

on a commercial building than a residential one. Most examples date to the post-World War II period.

A typical remodeling of an earlier Main Street store during this period would involve the removal of wood or iron retail fabric for replacement with steel and larger sheets of glass. **Bill's Sporting Goods (VDHR 112-0055-052) at 210 East Main Street** was probably built during or shortly after World War I. The upper facade reflects a design formula that had been popular for the previous forty years. Here instead of a wood Italianate cornice, there is a simplified tin version. The light brick with jack arch window openings highlight the body of the building. The retail facade may be a combination of 1930s to 1950s fabric, but it represents the only surviving example of Art Deco ornamentation remaining on the street. The windows feature rectilinear paint or applied design in the upper area, and the skirt is finished in square black tiles. The panels, which may be black Vitrolite or another synthetic, became one of the mid-century sheathing types preferred by designers who wanted to give a facade a modern or progressive appearance. The highly polished black, tan, or green materials were fashionable in the post-war period throughout the late 1950s.

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

Example discussed in this section:

Knotty Pine	801 North Royal Avenue	(Not Surveyed)	c. 1940
Royal Dairy	241 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-058)	c. 1947
Nick's Good Food Diner	522 North Royal Avenue	(Not Surveyed)	1952
Fox Diner	20 South Street	(Not Surveyed)	c. 1955
Mount Vista Diner	Shenandoah Avenue	(VDHR 112-0000)	1957-1963

The local tourist traffic on North and South Royal Avenues (and Shenandoah Avenue) creates a ready market for the restaurant business. Although Front Royal has had plenty of eateries in its history (the taverns, hotels, and saloons that appear on Sanborn maps), most were built since the 1930s when tourism increased. During slack time between peak tourist seasons, restaurants could depend on Front Royal's growing populace.

Several restaurant buildings have survived in their nearly original configuration and are excellent examples of this type of architecture. The **Knotty Pine at 801 North Royal Avenue** displays 1950s signage and retains a design atmosphere unique to successful family-run businesses of the 1940s and 1950s. It is a "pre-chain" restaurant.

The **Royal Dairy (VDHR 112-0055-058/plates 221-223)** is one of Virginia's premier examples of a 1940s dairy bar. A phenomenon that occurred alongside dairy processing plants, the dairy bar restaurant was once a nationally popular form, but with the decline of smaller processing plants, most of these restaurants have disappeared. The Royal Dairy processing plant began business in facilities that were located behind the **Knotty Pine Restaurant**. The present building was finished in 1947 and included the processing plant in the rear section and the restaurant facing Chester Street.

The dairy operation that once served the needs of Front Royal, Warren County, and surrounding areas went out of business and its space until recently housed a laundry cleaning business. The restaurant has changed little in appearance from the photographs that are on public display.

The interior plan is efficiently designed with a counter island in the center of the room. Booths are positioned along the outside walls. Stools with chrome and naugahyde tops contrast against the light green porcelain enamel counter side walls that feature simple Moderne patterns. The exterior is executed in a bold Moderne design that includes tan-colored brick with courses of shiny tile and a glass-block door surround. The crowning details that became a signature commercial element for the 1940s and 1950s are the multi-colored neon signs.

The **Fox Diner on South Street (plate 224)** dates to the mid-1950s and was a patented design. Originally this eatery chain, a precursor to today's Dunkin Donuts, was called the Donut Dinette. Front Royal's Fox Diner is the best of several surviving examples in Virginia (one is located on Route 11, north of Winchester). The Fox Diner features a restaurant design with counter and stools as well as an open dining room in an "L"-plan space. The signature motif for the Donut Dinette chain was the neon-lit donut circle placed like a parapet on the front of the building. The characteristic design of this building makes it a valuable example of early chain restaurant architecture.

The **Mount Vista Diner (VDHR 112-0067/plates 225-228)**, manufactured by the Mountain View Diner Company of Singac, New Jersey, was moved from Maryland to a site near the Riverton Bridges in 1963. Diners had become a part of America's commercial landscape by the early 1950s. The diner evolved in northeast factory towns in the late nineteenth century. By 1955, there were numerous diners in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and the Northern Virginia area. Today, fewer than twenty survive in Virginia, and a 1947 Mountain View product called the Tastee 29 Diner, located in Fairfax City, became the state's first diner listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now called Sandy's Diner, the building is one of the best examples of a late 1950s streamline design diner. This particular model includes stainless steel and neon with curvilinear lines on the exterior. The interior features green formica that originally coordinated with green naugahyde booth and stool tops. The concrete rear kitchen area was built to receive the front prefabricated portion of the building.² The diner features a large neon sign on its roof that spells out "DINER" in light green.

Nick's Good Food Diner, 522 North Royal Avenue was built for Nick Pedras by 1952. A local institution, the restaurant recently closed and is presently vacant. It was not of the prefabricated type, but many of the design features are part of the diner aesthetic. In addition to the well-known, charismatic signage, the building is a superb example of the Moderne style. The characteristic features are the flat roof, the curved corners, and smooth stucco surface. While some of the interior features have been removed, there are still stainless steel panels, mirrors, and unique design elements that make this one of Front Royal's more unusual historic restaurant interiors. In addition to the steel metal box sign that was lit by neon originally, the

painted "sayings" and advertisements were executed by a traveling customer that reputedly worked in exchange for meals. The nationally-known photo realist artist John Baeder has used Nick's as a painting subject. The painting was reproduced recently on a postcard.

In addition to the individual entrepreneurial spirit displayed by **Nick's Good Food Diner**, Front Royal also includes several nationally known chain restaurants. Most of these are recent buildings that feature the typical signature architecture that identifies a Burger King or a McDonald's. The **Front Royal Howard Johnson** at the intersection of Shenandoah and Commerce Avenues dates to the late 1950s or early 1960s. This particular design displays the company's highly-colorful modernized Colonial Revival design. A chain that dates back to the 1940s, **Howard Johnson** transitioned its corporate image from "white" Colonial Revival buildings that were a pastiche of the Georgian and Federal styles to a brighter "space age" image that displayed polished materials in aqua green and bright orange. The Front Royal **Howard Johnson** is a good example of the company's mid-century corporate image.

Endnotes

1. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, 16.
2. While Sandy's Diner dates to the late 1950s, the significance and rarity of the building type may qualify it for the National Register before it becomes fifty years old. Exception G would have to be explained and justified on the National Register Nomination Form.

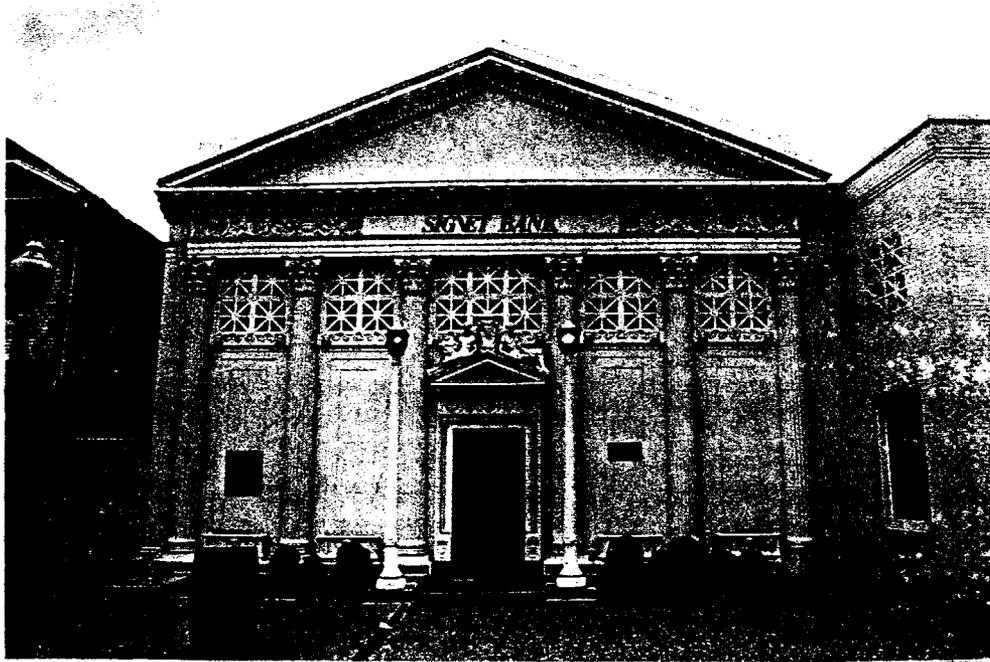


Plate 215 (top): Signet Bank (Bank of Warren) (VDHR 112-0012), 305 East Main Street, primary elevation, view towards south (PAV)

Plate 216 (bottom): Signet Bank (Bank of Warren), detail main entry (PAV)



Plate 217: Signet Bank (Bank of Warren), detail of main banking room (PAV)

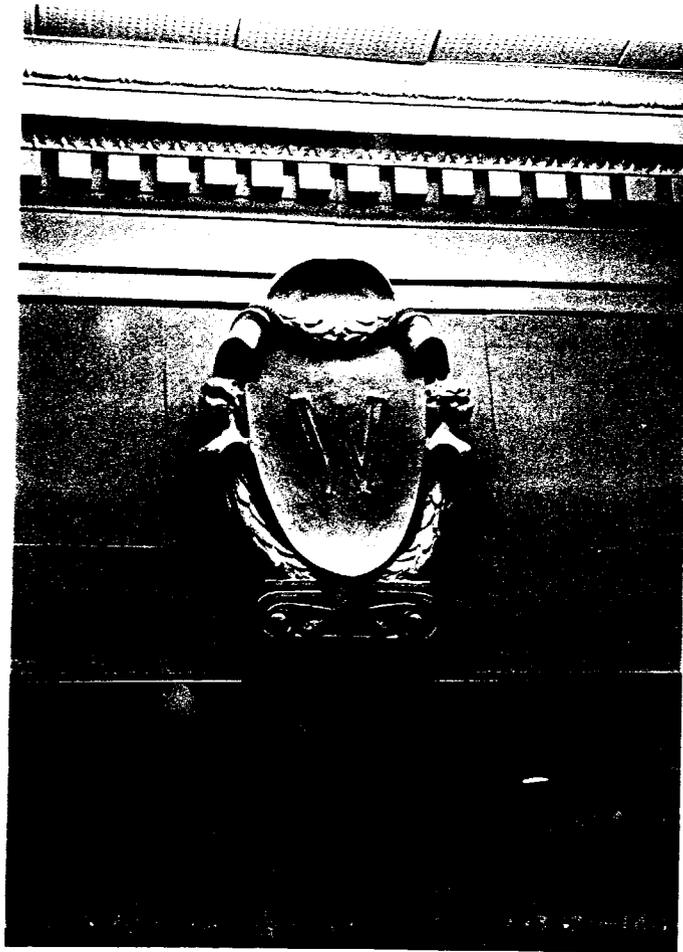


Plate 218: Signet Bank (Bank of Warren), detail of interior masonry (PAV)



Plate 219: Weaver Department Store (VDHR 112-0055-055), 205 East Main Street, primary elevation, view towards south (PAV)



Plate 220: Weaver Department Store, east entry detail (PAV)

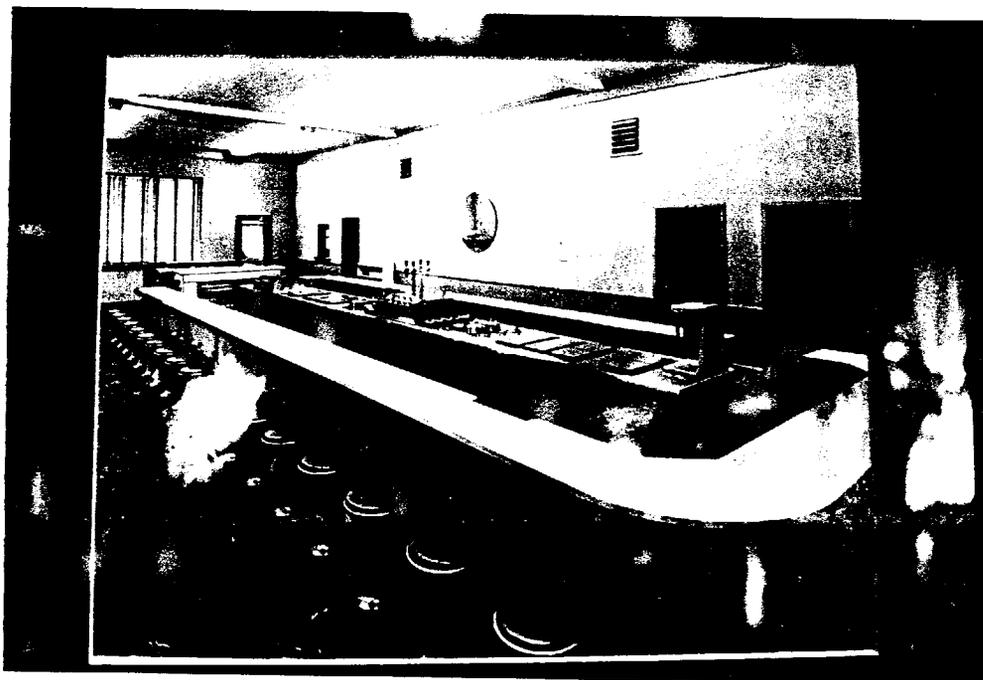


Plate 221 (top): Royal Dairy (VDHR 112-0058), 241 Chester Street, view towards east (PAV)
Plate 222 (bottom): Royal Dairy, photograph of historic photograph (c. 1947) (PAV)

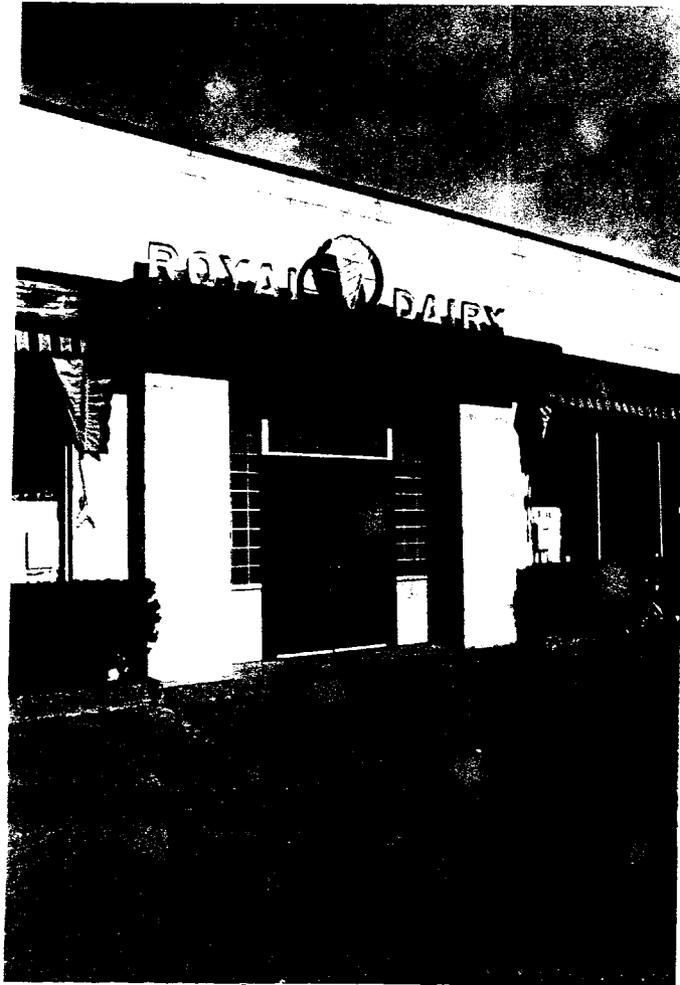
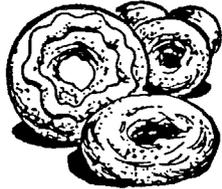


Plate 223: Royal Dairy, detail of primary entry (PAV)

Plate 224 (next page): Do-nut Diner, advertisement from 1964 Hill's Front Royal Directory

DO-NUT DINETTE



OPEN 24 HOURS

For Food With An
Old Fashioned Flavor



- **BREAKFAST**
- **STEAKS**
- **HAMBURGERS**
- **CHICKEN**
- **CHEESEBURGERS**
- **GOOD COFFEE**

GLAZED DO-NUTS

Stop for a Midnight Snack

Phone MEIrose 5-9042

20 South St. cor. Pine Located Front Royal, Va.

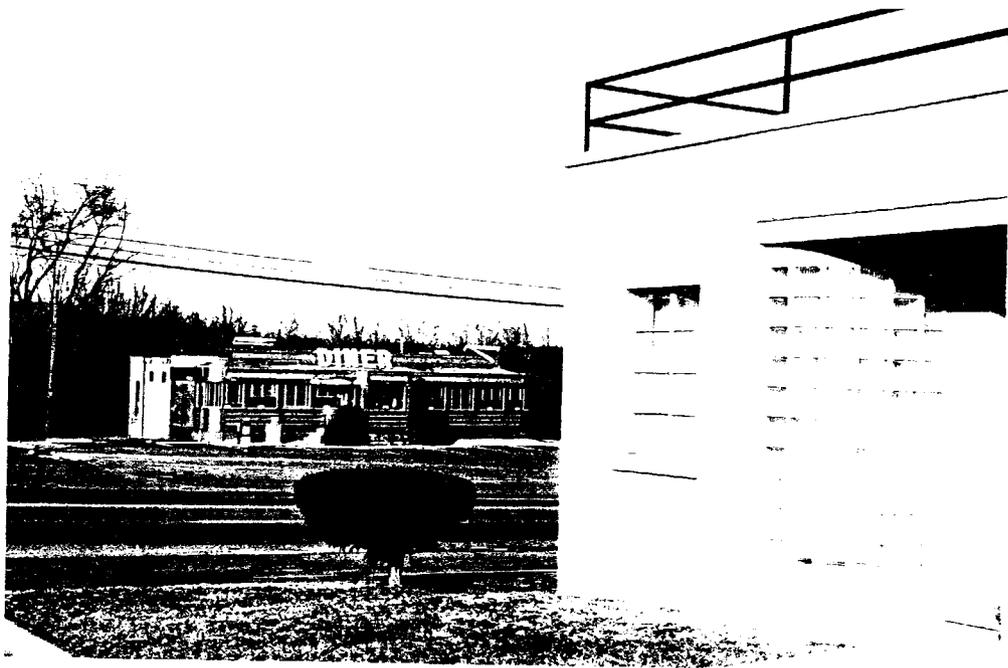
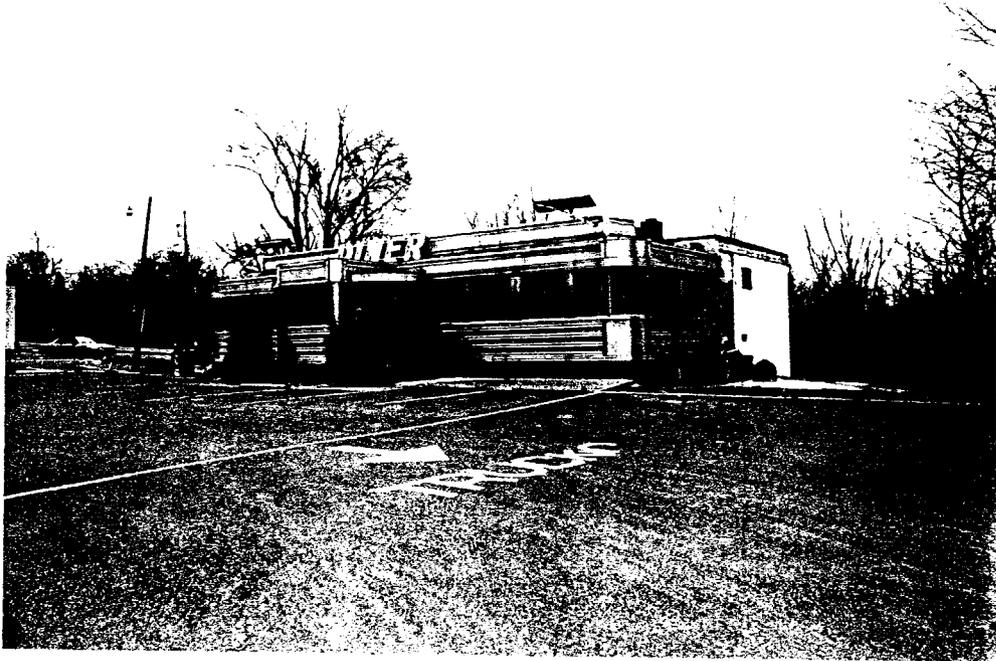


Plate 225 (top): Mount Vista Diner (VDHR 112-0066), Shenandoah Avenue, primary elevation, view towards southwest (PAV)

Plate 226 (bottom): Mount Vista Diner, view towards northwest from Shenandoah Motel parking lot (PAV)

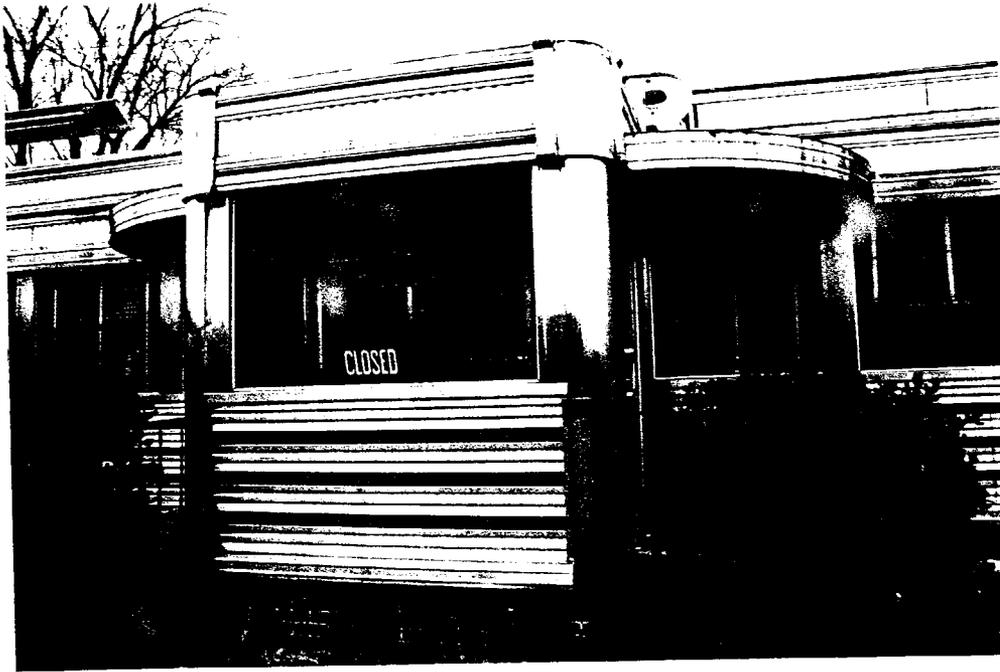


Plate 227 (top): Mount Vista Diner, detail of vestibule, view towards west (PAV)
Plate 228 (bottom): Mount Vista Diner, detail of counter and back bar (PAV)

Industry/Processing/Extraction Theme

Industry/Processing/Extraction Theme

This theme explores the technology and the process of managing materials, labor, and equipment to produce goods and services. Included in this theme are activities related to extraction, production, and processing materials such as quarrying, mining, manufacturing, lumbering, technology, electronics, pottery, textiles, food processing, distilling, fuel, building materials, tools, transportation, seafood, and many other industries. Property types include quarries, mills, (grist, carding, textile, woodworking), Factories, distilleries, shipyards, mines, forges, and furnaces, kilns, laboratories, power plants, dams, tanneries, village shops, and other small crafts and industrial sites.

Settlement to Early National Period (1607-1830)

After subsistence had been accomplished during the early years of settlement in the eighteenth century, the first economic activity involved selling surplus agricultural yield. Settlers of English descent coming from Tidewater, were familiar with and pursued tobacco farming. Other cultural groups like the Germans farmed other crops, as well as trying their fortune with tobacco. By the late eighteenth century, wheat and corn equalled or surpassed the yield of tobacco in western regions of Virginia. The cash crop was shipped raw or processed before shipping.

The construction of mills started in the last quarter of the eighteenth century. In Front Royal, milling operations were in place along Happy Creek by the last quarter of the eighteenth century. The several grist mills associated with Front Royal's early industrial history included William Buck's, Allen Willey's, Blakemore's, and Major Richards (at Riverton). The exact locations of these mill complex sites are not known.

Buck's Mill probably stood on the Bel Air side of Happy Creek; a chimney ruins standing in the flood plains of this property may be associated with this site.

Late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century photographs of area mills, which had evolved from the early nineteenth century, show that construction was typical. An early image of Kenner's Mill, on the Shenandoah River, reveals a utilitarian frame building with few wall openings for windows or doors. Kenner's Mill was built in an ell plan; One section, about two and a half stories and a lower one-story wing, probably a later addition. Kenner's had a stone foundation and a dam that appears to have extended several hundred feet across the river.

Front Royal's most notable early industry was the manufacture of wagons. As was mentioned in other sections of this report, several families became involved with this craft. Chester Street was the center of the small factories including Messrs. Trout, Cline, Fant, J. B. Petty, and C. F. Sumption; all had separate businesses that spanned the nineteenth century. Petty's wagon factory, probably the best known, stood across from his house on Chester Street where he employed thirty-five to forty people in 1851.¹ His business reopened after the war and continued until 1874. Sumption was the last to practice this tradition. His building, located in

the Boom, eventually succumbed to the popularity of the automobile. In 1919, a repair shop was being run by a C. H. Sumption, possibly a son or a mistake.²

The Sumption family's involvement with a transportation-related industry dates back to the early nineteenth century when William Sumption learned the blacksmith trade from Solomon VanMeter. VanMeter, one of Front Royal's founding residents, died in 1829 and the blacksmith trade on Chester Street, which provided the metal parts for wagon making as well as a great deal of the local farming implements and building components, was run by members of the Sumption family. The Sumptions diversified their business by progressing into wagon construction. The complex of shops stood in the area now occupied by recently constructed apartments named **Sumption Court (VDHR 112-0055-007)**.

Leather is a multi-use material. In the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, tanneries were built to process leather into usable material, often for clothing articles, animal harnesses, saddle and riding gear, and covering for numerous objects. Tree bark, plentiful in the Blue Ridge mountains, was used for preparation and coloring leather. Front Royal possessed a succession of tanneries, most of which were probably located beside Happy Creek. Solomon VanMeter operated a tannery in 1793 and his business was followed by Thomas Buck who also operated his business on East Main Street by 1819. From 1833 to 1865, Tuley's tannery operated at an East Main Street site, and the 1885 Sanborn map shows Rust & Shotwell's business there in a two-story frame building adjacent to Happy Creek. By 1897, I. N. King, the founder of the Bank of Warren, owned the business, but most traces of it had disappeared by 1902.³

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

Milling (grist and lumber), wagon construction, blacksmithing, and tanning remained Front Royal's primary industries during the period leading up to the Civil War.

The 1840 Census describes the overall industrial picture for Warren County during the period. Three tanneries were in operation with 760 sides of sole leather and 1100 sides of upper leather tanned annually. Warren County also had eight distilleries that produced 26,580 gallons of liquor annually. There were eleven stores in the county that sold dry goods and groceries.⁴

Front Royal's industries comprised part of the Warren County 1860 Census. The industries listed included one shoemaker, two carriage makers, five coopers, thirteen grist mills, six saw mills, one iron castings manufacturer, one lime kiln, two distilleries, one printer, one saddle and harness manufacturer and two wagon and cart makers. Just before the war there were thirty-six manufacturers with a total of eighty-eight employees, at the annual cost of labor of \$ 19,821.00, and an annual value of production of \$251,259.00.⁵

While these figures include the county, it is fair to say that many of these businesses were either in or near town, and that the ones in the county often relied on the railroad transportation link located in and near Font Royal. In 1850, Front Royal was a modest community of about 504 people.⁶ In the century since settlement, the town had grown at a modest rate and the business conducted up to the Civil War could be characterized as light industry.

Civil War (1861-1865)

As with commerce and agricultural activities, the Civil War interrupted industry. Manpower disappeared from the work force to field the Confederate military forces. Business continued for a short time in some factories, but as soon as occupying troops came to Front Royal, facilities were shut down, materials were confiscated, and in many cases buildings were destroyed. While barns were one of the most popular targets during Sheridan's Valley campaign, mills were also pinpointed as important providers of processed food stuffs for the Confederate Army. As a result numerous mills were burned or damaged beyond immediate repair.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Shirley Building	3 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0037)	c. 1885
Warehouse	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0064)	c. 1890
Silk Mill	East Sixth Street	(VDHR 112-0038)	c. 1890
Shenk's Rusco Window Co.	518 N. Royal Ave.	(Not Surveyed)	c. 1890
Riverton Mills	N. Royal Avenue (nearby)	(Not Surveyed)	c. 1897
Virginia Laundry & Cleaners	119 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-009)	c. 1905/1950
Ford Building	514 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-026)	c. 1915

In 1870, Warren County had ninety-one manufacturing establishments, employing 138 people. By 1919, after consolidation of industry, thirty-seven establishments were employing 324 workers. The trend during the twentieth century was toward larger factories. Late-nineteenth-century Front Royal had a assortment of entrepreneurs who conducted most of the area's business. This small business tradition was changing as the improved transportation to the region brought the national market to the region's plentiful resources.

After a period of rebuilding, Front Royal regained its pace of steady industrial growth through the end of the century. Tanneries, milling, and wagon, cart, and carriage construction continued in the same manner as they had before the war. The new industries realized the potential of the natural resources, including the tremendous potential of the Shenandoah River.

The rebuilt and often improved railroad lines gave Front Royal access to urban-based technological improvements. The lines also brought construction materials, advanced steam-driven and later electrically powered machinery, and processing chemicals that upgraded existing industries.

Some of the most important advances in milling technology were made during this period. The Riverton Mills appear on the 1891 Sanborn map as a four-story building with nearly another full story under a mansard roof. It was one of the largest mills in the Front Royal vicinity. The earliest part of the mill was a separate building at river's edge, five stories with a gable roof. Riverton Mills may have been built over another operation demolished during the Civil War.⁷

In 1891 Riverton Mills started in the riverside building that included the water-powered machinery at the end of a large dam. By 1902, the whole complex of buildings was finished, and the riverside building had become a power house and all the milling was done in the inland building that was more strategically placed near the railroad tracks. In place of the old grist stone were six sets of rolling machines. The roller method of grinding grain involved compact machines that were either water- or steam-driven. Most rolling machines were constructed in northern factories. In 1897, the **Riverton Mills** ran twenty-four hours and could produce 100 bushels of processed grain per day. The mansard-roofed building could process 175 barrels in twenty-four hours. The storage capacity was 12,000 bushels.

The mill had a relatively short period of operation. The main inland building was destroyed by fire on July 5, 1912, despite the fact that a five-inch-wide water pipe, available for fire fighting, extended to the building.

Today, the large grain silos that stand next to the railroad tracks and several small buildings are part of the **Riverton Mills** business that operated after the fire. The landmark buildings were replaced with impressive sixty-foot-tall concrete structures.

One of the new businesses begun shortly after the war was the Carson and Sons Lime Company. Founded by Samuel Carson in 1868, this lime extraction and processing industry is just outside the present town limits, but has exerted an important influence on the community. The business was renamed three times until it became the Riverton Lime and Stone Company in 1935. The Riverton plant is the only company in the United States that manufactures hydraulic hydrated lime.

Carson had emigrated from Ireland and bought land outside of Front Royal to raise sheep. Discovering the rich lime deposits at the eastern edge of Riverton, Carson founded a company that would become one of the economic mainstays of the area. His sons became important historical figures in local and national affairs. William C. Carson, who had Killahevlin built in 1905, was important in the founding of the Shenandoah National Park and the Skyline Drive. He was the first chairman of the Virginia Conservation and Development Commission.⁸

The numerous examples of stucco-clad buildings in Front Royal are due probably to the town's proximity to both Riverton Lime and Stone and Limeton Lime Companies. Stucco cladding was one of the best ways to fireproof the walls of a frame building.

By 1939 Riverton Lime and Stone Company manufactured a hydraulic lime called Flamingo for masonry mortar and concrete, lump lime, pulverized lime, a mason's hydrate called Perfection, Perfection rock wool bats, granulated and loose blankets, crushed stone for concrete and road work, and pulverized agricultural limestone.⁹

C. F. Sumption, the wagon builder that had made his name building wagons, seemed to be a flexible businessman. At the end of the nineteenth century he re-tooled his Boom factory to produce handles; he was competing with the Locust Pin Company. By 1902 he had opened

Front Royal's first steam laundry service. By 1907 the Front Royal Steam Laundry Service (later known as the Virginia Steam Laundry Service) was located at 119 Chester Street. Now called the **Virginia Laundry & Cleaners**, Sumption's business still survives (**112-0055-009**), but the storefront was replaced by a well designed brick retail building in the 1950s. The rear early-twentieth-century utilitarian section of the laundering facility remains.

The 1880s and 1890s were Front Royal's most significant period of economic expansion since settlement. The Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company brought out-of-town industry, rebuilt the critical Riverton Bridges, and proposed a grid street plan north of the old center of town, which eventually developed despite the demise of the Boom. Following an impressive decade of expansion in which a significant residential area was developed to the south, the boosterism of the 1890s labeled Front Royal and Riverton as the Twin Cities; there was even a motel of the same name.

Henry R. Cook, the Improvement Company's agent, traveled around the east coast looking for probable investors. The success of the venture was partly successful. The 1891 Sanborn map shows the Maryland Mill and Tack Factory, a piano factory, J. N. Landenburg Knitting Mill, Warren Manufacturing Company with a sash and door factory (Riverton), and the Riverton Baking Company with cracker and cake manufacturing. One building, previously a furniture factory, on North Royal Avenue was labeled "ruins of fire being rebuilt." Because of a national depression during the decade, most Boom businesses were closed by the time the 1897 Sanborn map was finished. Sumption's Wagon Factory on North Royal Avenue was vacant. The burned building had been rebuilt as J. E. Sower's Front Royal Furniture Factory, but was closed. The J. N. Landenburg Knitting Mill became a corn warehouse, and the piano factory had become a tack factory, but was also closed by 1897. According to Laura Virginia Hale, one of the nail and tack factories had been bought out by a competitor who sent men with sledge hammers to destroy the machinery.¹⁰ New stores were constructed, all with impressive design, along North Royal Avenue, but stood vacant for sometime. Instead Eastern College used some of the buildings as part of its campus. **Shenk's Rusco Window Company at 518 North Royal Avenue** was converted into a boys dormitory.

Despite the failure of the Boom to transform the area into a full-fledged city, some of the industrial architecture that remains from this period is very impressive.

By 1902, the old **piano factory, (Silk Mill, VDHR 112-0021/plates 229-231) on East Sixth Street** had become a successful silk mill. Known as the Royal Tapestry Company, for a period, the business was still in operation in 1912.

Schwarzenbach, Huber & Company, the longest owner of the building, was founded in Thalwil, Switzerland, near Lake Zurich, in 1829. The first American plant was begun in West Hoboken, New Jersey in 1888. Other mills were operated in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Alabama. Schwarzenbach, Huber & Company bought the boom factory building in 1913 and produced fabric to suit the needs of dress makers, retailers, drapery, necktie, and umbrella manufacturers.

The business continued into the 1960s. The Jackson Furniture Company presently makes complete use of the building.

Built in the 1890s, when architecture combined several different stylistic strains, the three-story Silk Mill brick building is of Romanesque Revival design with Queen Anne details. Set on a rusticated stone foundation and featuring a multiplicity of distinct brick patterns, the buildings masonry resembles the masonry work on the first Randolph-Macon Academy Building by architect John Poindexter. While this association is purely visual, more research may uncover a connection between the two buildings (both were built within the 1890s).

The **Silk Mill** originally featured two corner towers, one of which has a remodeled truncated roof. The northwest tower, while in poor condition, retains nearly all of its original features. Meant as the most prominent part of the building, the tower projects from the corner and rises another story above the factory. Detailing of the tower's fourth story includes an unusual pedimental motif, built in wood, on two facades. The tower roof is made up of two levels with a band of small ports and a roof that is covered in heavy terra cotta or metal shingles.

The plant was nearly doubled in size by a large one-story addition built in 1919. This area was used before and during World War II to manufacture parachutes. The associated water tower was built in 1922 by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.

While the various businesses in the factory over the last one hundred years have made changes to the building, it is still Front Royal's most impressive nineteenth-century industrial building, undoubtedly designed by an architect.

While the stone building (**Baker & Company Wholesale Grocers, VDHR 112-0064/plates 232-234**) at the northern end of North Royal Avenue, near the Norfolk and Western Railroad tracks, is rather functional in appearance, it is one of Front Royal's older industrial buildings. The stone construction and window openings indicate that the building dates from the middle to late 1800s. In 1891, the building was used by the Warren Manufacturing Company, a sash and door factory. According to the 1902 Sanborn map, it had become the **Baker & Company Wholesale Grocers**, which it remained until at least 1912.

The location of the building was ideal for anyone who wanted a rail side site. The building is several yards north of the Norfolk and Southern tracks. The stone building was also relatively fireproof. The configuration of the building, including the two-story frame section, has remained the same since the early years of the century.

Now used as a warehouse, the two-story building has coursed stone walls, consists of two by ten bays, has a slate gable roof, four-over-four sash, and wooden lintels and sills. It features a frame addition to the rear that connects with large frame and board-and-batten buildings. A one-story stone building is adjacent to the warehouse and is connected to it by a concrete block addition. This was labeled as the engine room when it was operating as a sash and door company.

The interior is mostly open with long rows of free-standing shelves, and office partitions at one end. This is one of Front Royal's best example of a large stone industrial building featuring high quality masonry work.

Carl Stossel & Sons Company, Inc. was founded in New York State in 1892. In 1907, the company moved to Front Royal where material resources were closer, cheaper, and more plentiful. The Stossel Handle Factory produced mallets and mauls. Still in business in the early 1940s, the company was also involved in custom work, some of which may have involved architectural elements. In 1912 the business was located in the Boom area at the end of Fourth Street in the building that had been C. F. Sumption's Wagon Shop and, for a brief period, Front Royal Steam Laundry.

The area east of Chester Street was one of Front Royal's most concentrated industrial areas. The earliest industrial establishments, dating to the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, included Buck's Mill, Willey's Mill, and Haynie's Mill, all on Happy Creek.

In 1885, the Rust and Shotwell Tannery stood on Happy Creek as well. The company owner, E. L. Shotwell, lived nearby in a residence that faced Main Street. The area between the freight depot and Water Street included several residences that were most likely workers housing. These buildings have perished. Sumac bark, used in the tanning process, was brought in from the county and stock piled immediately in front of the tannery, near the bark mill.

The Locust Pin Company, started by John Wallihan and a Mr. Hoover, manufactured locust and oak insulator pins and brackets used on telephones, telegraphs, and by power companies and railroads. By 1943 the company had between thirty and forty workers. During World War II, German prisoners of war formed part of the work force. The Warren Heritage Society Archives include a pencil drawing of the company's building, by one of the prisoners.

A building near the railroad head, shown as a general store and dance hall on the 1885, 1891, and 1897 Sanborn maps, became part of the Front Royal Milling Company (on site by 1902) (plate 235). In 1902, a wagon and paint shop stood north of the mill, and the Virginia Locust Pin Company completed this collection of industrial buildings. At this period, the rail corridor was the best place for other businesses as well. C. W. Lake's Feed Mill, a number of lumber sheds, and other utilitarian buildings were part of this landscape.

By 1907, in addition to the Front Royal Mill and the Locust Pin Company, the Jos. [sic] W. Kenner Ice Plant and the Shenandoah Produce Company were located around the rails, north of Manassas Lane (now Laura Virginia Hale Way). W. E. Rudacille Lumber Yard was labeled on the 1912 Sanborn map, and C. C. Proctor & Sons was listed as owner of the mill. Pettit and Carter ran a grain and feed store in the brick general store section of the mill building. Before the disastrous 1922 fire that destroyed the mill and other nearby buildings, another mill had started in a section of the **Ford Building (VDHR 112-0055-026)** which still stands at **514 East Main Street**. Despite the destruction of the fire, Locust Pin Company was rebuilt as was the **Proctor Mill** in fireproof concrete.¹¹

Other businesses that developed during this period included J. F. Forsyth and Company stove company and the adjoining tinning shop of Gully and Bowman, both businesses located in the present **Shirley Building at 3 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0037)**. Leather products, buck gloves and gauntlets, oil tan gloves and mitts, and dress gloves of soft kid were produced by women working at the King and Bowman Shop.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Examples discussed in this section:

Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill	500 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-024)	c. 1922
Coca-Cola Bottling Plant	8-10 Blue Ridge Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-230)	1920-1925
Avtex Gate Building	404 Kendrick Lane	(VDHR 112-0060)	c. 1939

The millers of Front Royal were persistent. The **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill (VDHR 112-0055-024/plates 236-238)** post-fire reconstruction was finished by 1923. This time the outer walls were formed in foot-thick concrete with some of the upper walls reputedly reinforced with Ford Model T frame parts. The interior framing, which survived a recent fire, is made of twelve by twelve inch chestnut beams.

Champion Cook Proctor bought the Front Royal Roller Mills in 1911. The building was converted from steam power to electrical power sometime around this period. The milling operation continued until after World War II. In 1943 its annual product was 3000 barrels of flour, 120 tons of table meal, and about 300 tons of feed. At this period it was employing twelve workers.

After the war, **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill** offered a full-line of Purina brand feed, the logo of which was put on the side of the mill. The operation converted completely over to feed grains. In 1981 another fire damaged the 1922 structure. This time floors and roof burned, but the tremendous support beams survived. The feed mill was restored and business continued until 1990 when the space was converted into a restaurant on the first floor, a special banquet hall on the second floor, and a stained glass studio on the third floor. William Biggs, grandson of C.C. Proctor, owns the building and has added a one-story 30' x 50' rear extension to accommodate offices and kitchen areas, as well as Royal Taxi's office. The building is now referred to as the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill**.

The industrial area between the rail head and Happy Creek rebounded after the 1922 fire. The mill came back as did the Locust Pin Company. The residential buildings were never rebuilt in the area. North of the mill along the railroad tracks, a feed building, hardware storage, warehouse, beer warehouse, and Southern States appear on Sanborn Maps after the fire. In addition, the Richmond Vinegar Works was established on the northeast corner of Manassas and Water Streets.

The area north of Manassas Street, adjacent to Happy Creek, became a central area for livestock feeds and fertilizer buildings. The Front Royal Stock Yards were organized by 1936 and occupied what had been open fields.

According to the 1927 Sanborn map, the **Coca Cola Bottling Works** was located behind 501 East Main Street at **8-10 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-230)**. A map updated to 1961 shows that the bottling works later moved to the rear section of 525 East Main Street. The brick Blue Ridge Avenue facility has a utilitarian appearance.

Front Royal's industrial history can be characterized as having a long period of slow growth from the last quarter of the eighteenth century through the Boom period. The growth continued in the beginning of the twentieth century, now with more large companies than small ones moving into the area. The Great Depression was hard on the whole country, but Front Royal recovered well because of employment opportunities created by federal government emergency work programs such as the construction of the Skyline Drive, and others including the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Public Works Administration which oversaw the construction of three area schools, a town hall, and a courthouse.

Although the Skyline Drive, Shenandoah National Park, and Skyline Caverns all brought a transformation to Front Royal economically and physically, the **American Viscose Corporation** plant built adjacent to town (now within the legal limits) probably had an equal or greater effect (plate 239).

The English firm Samuel Courtauld and Company, Ltd. acquired the rights to rayon patents and formed the **American Viscose Company** in 1910. The first plant was built in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania in 1911. The demand for yarn quickly increased and a second plant was built in Roanoke in 1917, followed by another in Lewistown, Pennsylvania in 1921. Other plants followed, including one in Nitro, West Virginia in 1922, another in Parkersburg, West Virginia in 1927, and one in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1930. The Front Royal plant was the company's seventh, and one of the largest rayon plants in America at its period of construction in 1939.¹²

The company chose Front Royal because of its natural resources. The reliable source of soft water, as well as the abundance of soft coniferous wood, was important in the production of rayon.¹³ In the 1980s, before the plant closed, about 10,000 gallons of water per minute were required from the South Fork of the Shenandoah to run the plant. Simultaneously, 70,000 to 90,000 gallons per minute were needed for cooling.¹⁴

The company chose a riverside site of over 700 acres and began to design buildings for the plant by 1938. The Ballinger Company, Architect & Engineers designed complex industrial plants, many of which are still on site today. The firm consisted of Robert I. Ballinger (architect), Clifford H. Shivers (architect/engineer), Carl de Moll (architect/engineer), and William R. Fogg (engineer). While there are claims that the firm was based in England, the drawings had Philadelphia and New York addresses on them. Plans were drawn up as early as 1937. Construction began in 1939, and by 1940 the plant was ready for production.

The plant included a **gate house complex (VDHR 112-060/plates 240-242)** of two large buildings. The executive office facilities, a company safe, a secretarial pool, and administrative sections were located in these buildings. The two office buildings were tied together by a roof,

and the drive-through gate area was monitored from a guard room that featured two tall circular bays that afforded excellent 180 degree surveillance of Kendrick Lane, and the plant's grounds. The two buildings, while severe in their rectangular massing, have some Moderne detailing. There are cut stone buttress caps above the gate tunnel, and the primary entry, in the western building, features a projecting cut-stone surround with "American Viscose" carved in it. The gate house bay and a secondary entry, in the eastern building, also feature a cut stone parapet with Moderne detailing.

The interior of both buildings feature very high quality mahogany office partitions, a mahogany office booth in the west building's office pool, parquet floors, a highly-crafted walk-in safe, almost all original light and toilet fixtures, and a fine tile-finished guard room.

In 1941, the British Government sold the plant to American investors to assist in payments during the war-time lend-lease program. By 1943 the **American Viscose Corporation** was the largest producer of rayon in the United States, representing one third of the world market in the 1940s.¹⁵

During the war, the plant's focus was shifted from fabric for textile purposes to tire quality rayon production. By the end of the war, 70% of the yarn output was used for tires. Rayon compared more favorably in tire wear than cotton. Tests were presented to the Truman Committee in 1943 that showed that rayon was more heat resistant than cotton, especially in large tires like those used on military vehicles.¹⁶

The increased use of synthetics in areas where wool and cotton had been used guaranteed a strong market for the plant after the war. By the time the plant closed in the 1980s, production centered on rayon staple, rayon industrial yarns, and polypropylene staple.¹⁷

When **American Viscose** began operations shortly before the beginning of World War II, it had over 1000 workers. About the time America entered the war, the plant dominated the local economy because of its important products, but also because tourism had almost disappeared due to gasoline rationing. In 1943 and 1944, the company had almost 1800 employees, surging to 3,931 employees by February, 1946. This was 100 more people than Front Royal's entire population in 1940.¹⁸ Before the company closed in the 1980s, there were 1200 employees at the plant.¹⁹

The tremendous need for worker housing created local residential neighborhoods around the plant, including Viscose City, Royal Village, and the growth of Central City. Because Front Royal was not prepared for this type of population growth, the empty tourist facilities, hotels, tourist cabins, and tourist homes provided temporary living quarters during the war for employees. When the war ended and the tourist traffic resumed, the housing crunch was a catalyst for a large residential construction boom.

Local construction companies benefited greatly from this boom. The Rust Engineering Company, which had the Viscose construction contract in 1946, had about 400 workers. About

15% of the workers were Front Royal natives, while others came from Washington and Richmond. Of the out-of-town workers, about 40 percent had brought their families to live in the Front Royal area.²⁰

In the 1960s **American Viscose** was sold to the FMC Corporation, and in 1976 **Avtex Fibers** was formed after its purchase of the FMC plant. The Avtex Fibers plant was closed in 1989 amidst a controversy involving environmental safety. **Avtex** had been the area's largest local employer. The site is now a redevelopment area.

The New Dominion (1945-1994)

American Viscose was Front Royal's largest employer for almost fifty years. Its absence from the town's economy has created an economic challenge. While several larger corporations have moved into the area, Front Royal's industrial makeup has resumed the pre-World War II makeup of small- to medium-sized establishments. Dupont is just north of town, but employs only 250 people.

The Riverton Corporation (formerly Riverton Lime and Stone Company) is still in business beyond town limits to the northeast. Jackson Furniture, already mentioned in association with the piano factory, is one of Front Royal's largest employers. The company has been in town for twenty-three years. The Shenandoah Fiberglass Products Company, a business that builds non-corrosive pipes and fittings, has been in Front Royal since 1975. 1986 records showed twenty-five employees.

Endnotes

1. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street Presence of the Past Patterns the Future, pp. 123-24.
2. This notation was made on the 1919 Sanborn fire insurance map. While Sanborn maps are usually very accurate, there are some inconsistencies in name spelling.
3. The 1897 Sanborn map noted that the tannery was "not in operation." King may have bought the property as a personal investment.
4. Maral Kalbian's citation of the 1840 Census, 83.
5. Maral Kalbian citation of 1860 census, 83.
6. Elliott Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 52.
7. An archaeological investigation of the site may reveal how long mill sites were in use.
8. W.E. Carson (1870-1942), was a friend to U.S. Presidents Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt. He brought Hoover to the Blue Ridge Mountains when the President was looking for a good fishing camp site. Camp Hoover survives today, in Rappahannock County, in the Shenandoah National Park. Carson's brothers include A.C. Carson, Judge of the District Courts of the Philippine Islands, and Justice of the Supreme Court of Appeals, Philippine Islands; Samuel K. Carson was Surgeon-General of the United States Health Service in the Philippines.
9. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 128.
10. Laura Virginia Hale in Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 28.
11. The mill has been in the Proctor family since 1911. Champion Cook Proctor bought the mill. By 1940 the owners were W.M., Clara E., and C.C. Proctor. The building is presently owned by a descendent William Biggs. The building is no longer a mill, but the attractive Purina checker board sign displays the name Proctor-Biggs.
12. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 124.
13. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 124.
14. John H. Mallinson, "Shenandoah - The Story of a River" in Warren County Sesquicentennial (Lord Fairfax Planning Commission, 1986), 42.

15. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 124 & 125.
16. Housing in Front Royal, Virginia, Facts and Trends (Washington, D.C., The American University, June 1946), 4.
17. Hartwell L. Perry, "Industry in a very small County" in Warren County Sesquicentennial (Lord Fairfax Planning Commission, 1986), 17.
18. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 52.
19. Hartwell L. Perry, "Industry in a very small County" in Warren County Sesquicentennial (Lord Fairfax Planning Commission, 1986), 17.
20. Housing in Front Royal, Virginia, Facts and Trends (Washington, D.C., The American University, June 1946), 8.

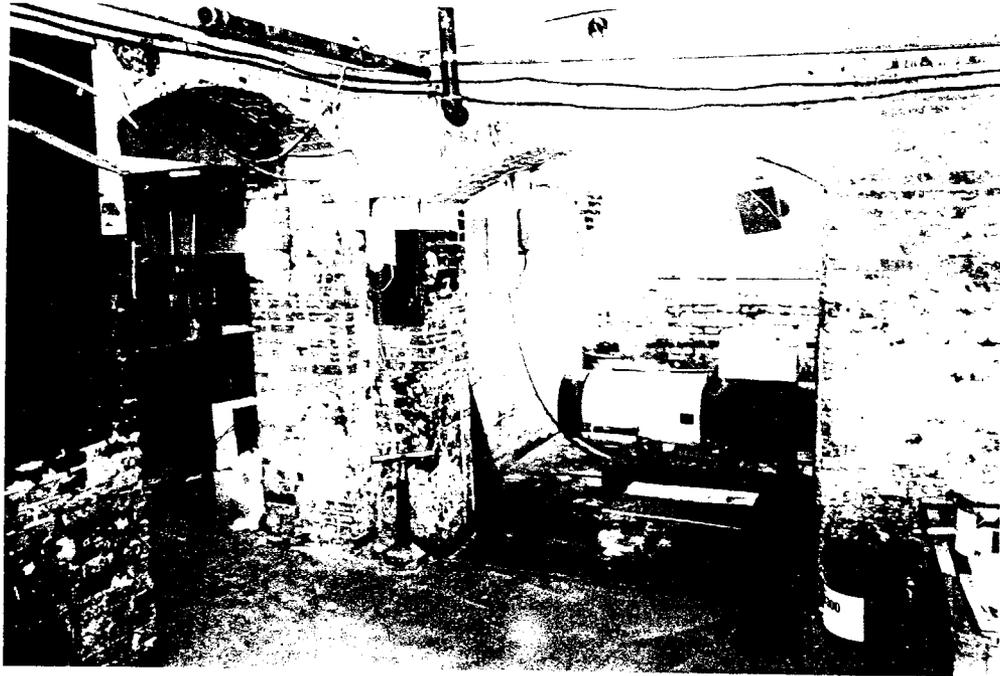


Plate 229 (top): Silk Mill (VDHR 112-0071), East Sixth Street, north and west elevations, view towards east (PAV)

Plate 230 (bottom): Silk Mill, basement masonry (PAV)



Plate 231: Silk Mill, detail of interior window with logo (PAV)



Plate 232 (top): Baker Company Wholesale Grocers (VDHR 112-0064), North Royal Avenue, view towards southwest (Neville)

Plate 233 (bottom): Baker Company Wholesale Grocers, rear elevation, view towards west (Neville)

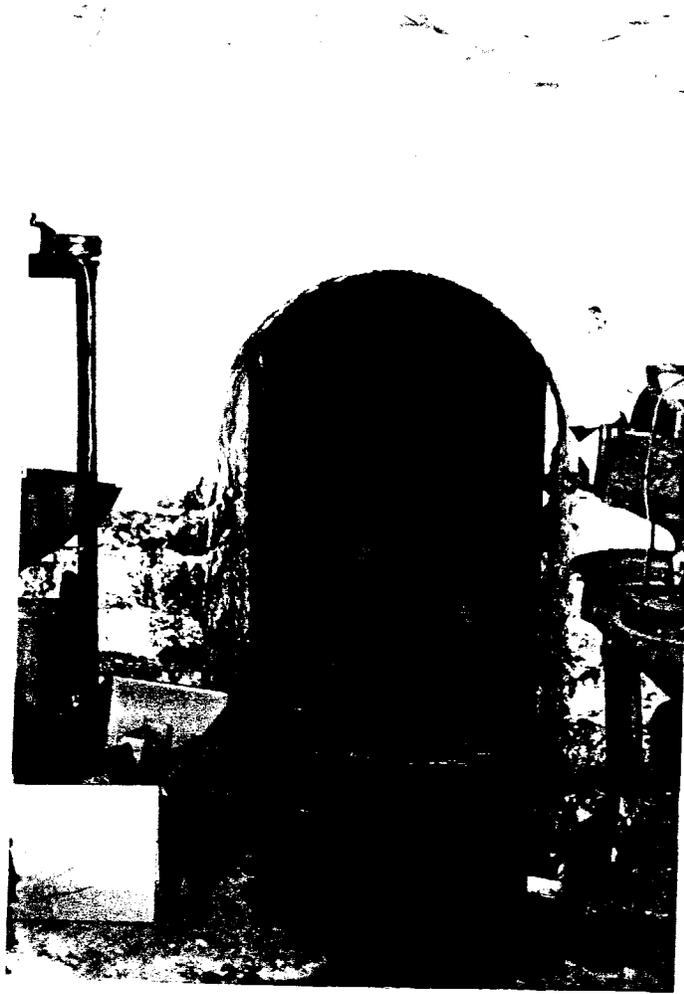


Plate 234: Baker Company Wholesale Grocers, interior detail (Neville)

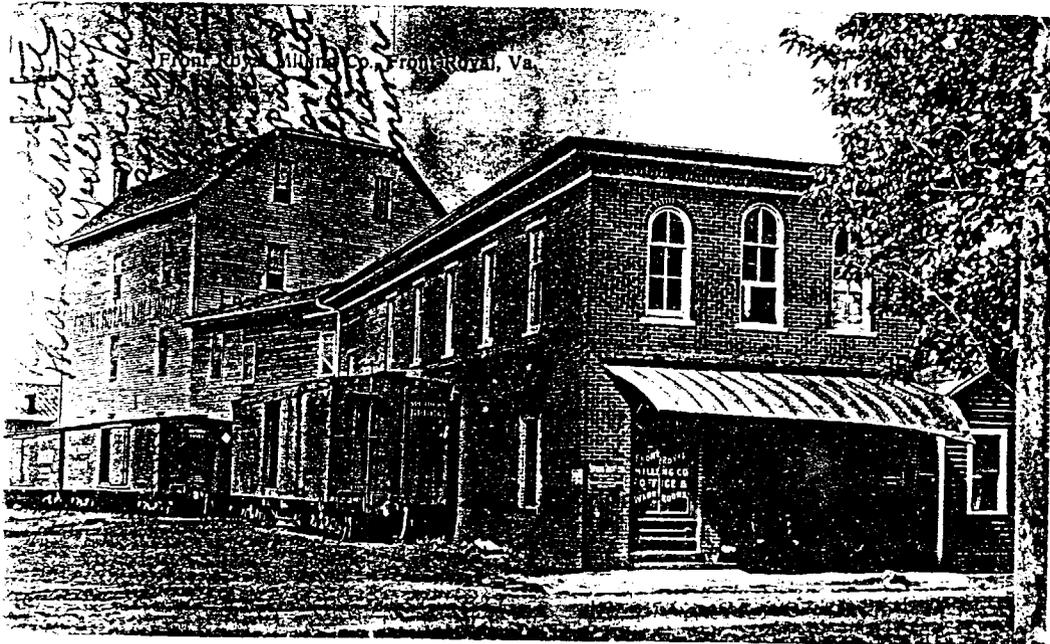


Plate 235: Front Royal Milling Company, destroyed in 1922 fire (post card/WHS)

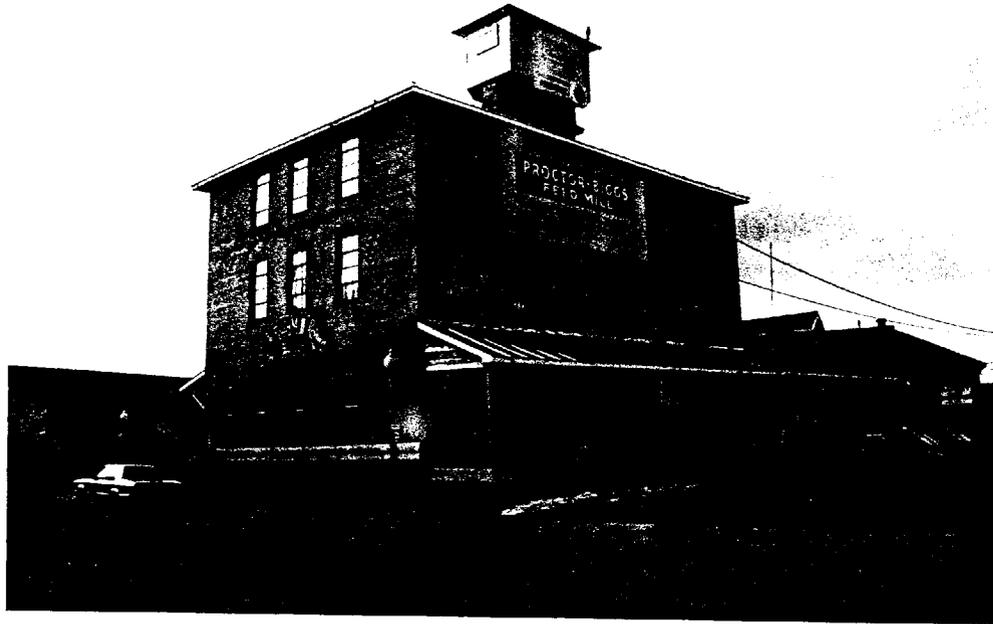


Plate 236 (top): Proctor-Biggs Mill (VDHR 112-0055-024), 500 East Main Street, view towards northwest (PAV)

Plate 237 (bottom): Proctor-Biggs Mill, view towards northeast (PAV)



Plate 238: Proctor-Biggs Mill, interior detail, second floor (PAV)

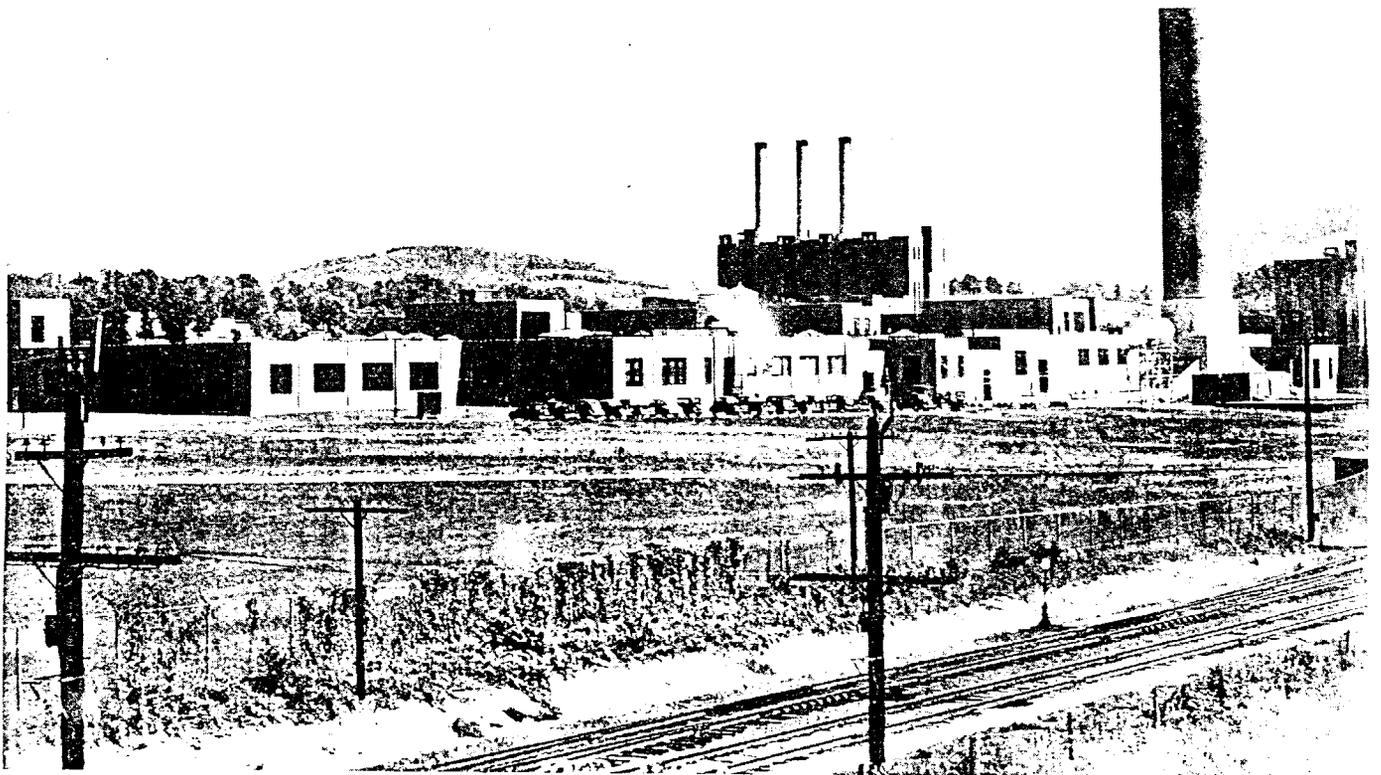


Plate 239: American Viscose Plant, view towards southeast (1943) (An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County)

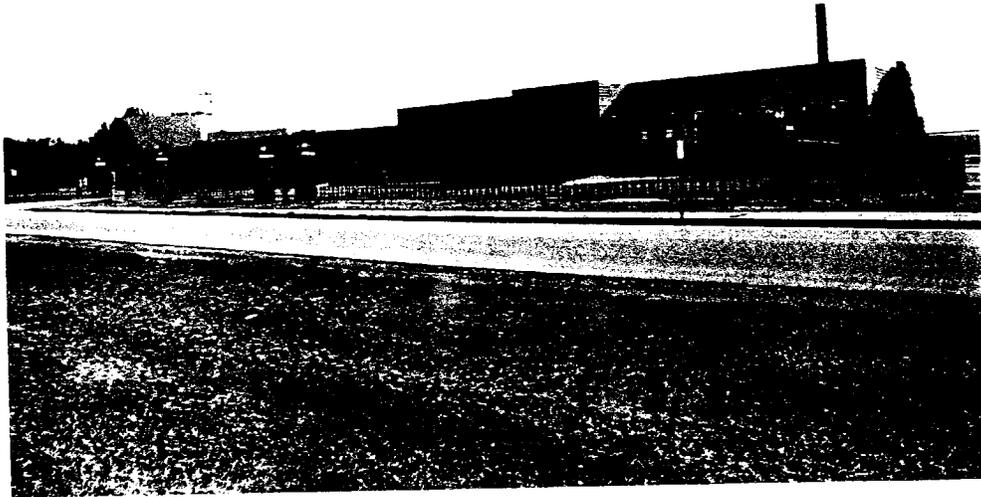


Plate 240 (top): Avtex Gate and Offices (VDHR 112-060), 404 Kendrick Lane (PAV)
Plate 241 (bottom): Avtex, detail of gate area (PAV)



Plate 242: Avtex, detail of gate bay (PAV)

Landscape Theme

Landscape Theme

This theme explores the historic, cultural, scenic, visual, and design qualities of cultural landscapes, emphasizing the reciprocal relationships affecting the natural and the human-built environment. Investigations include studies into spatial organization patterns, land use, response to natural features, circulation networks, boundaries, vegetation, cluster arrangement of buildings, fences, and paths, structures, and small landscape elements. Associated property types include not only deliberately designed or maintained landscapes such as parking lots, parks, gardens, street furniture, and objects, conservation areas, and rural historic districts but also unoccupied land, underwater sites, and natural features such as a mountain, valley, promontory, tree, river, island, pond, or lake.

Settlement to the Civil War (1607-1865)

Examples discussed in this section:

Bel Air	Happy Creek Road	(VDHR 112-0007)	c. 1795
Hillcrest	Jackson Lane	(VDHR 112-0005)	1790/1875
Rose Hill	900 Block North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0032)	c. 1820
Oakley	135 Sherwood Avenue	(VDHR 112-031)	c. 1855

Front Royal is sited in a dramatic mountain foothill and valley landscape. When European settlers arrived in the area, the path across Happy Creek that would eventually become the Chester Gap or Happy Creek Road may have been in an area where native Americans were already fording the creek.

Front Royal's original core, consisting of Chester Street and Main Street, is nestled in a natural bowl bordered on the south by mountain foothills and on all other sides by ridges and moderately steep hills. As far as can be determined, the town developed around the orientation of Chester Street.

Front Royal's unusual feature of the angled junction of Chester Street and Main Street occurred by utility rather than by design. Over time this landscape was utilized in different ways. In the nineteenth century, both streets, forming the shape of a "v" or a wishbone, were identified as prison bounds. A type of minimum security, where a prisoner was confined within this expanse, outlined by the lines of buildings, stores, taverns and residences along the streets.

The triangular space central area at the intersection of Chester and East Main Street was referred to as the "Town Square." It is not clear how early this concept was recognized, but it was important in that it informally related the urban form with grander examples and probably encouraged the use of this area as a central public space before the Courthouse was built in the 1830s.

By 1815 the area surrounding the town was described as "level land south of the town known as the Brent Lots [south of the present Jackson Street] was covered with a dense growth of small woodland of heavy timber." The north side with "level meadows, interspersed with clumps of maple, elm, and hawthorn, was sort of a common or village green, the muster ground and

favorite Sunday resort for young and old,..."¹ The core of the town would remain this way until late in the 1860s. Other streets were added over time. Two of the earliest were Peyton and Crescent Streets. Others, in their early forms, were driveways along the south side of Main Street.

Today Chester Street is relatively wide for a main thoroughfare. The original road was much narrower, and probably was tree-lined at various periods. Main Street's sidewalks have been enlarged making today's street narrower, but many of the late-nineteenth-century buildings were built close to the road anyway, restricting the road's spread, so it resembles the narrow spacial confinement seen in some urban American town plans.

The two houses that sit between Cloud and High Streets, on Jackson Street's south side, date to the first quarter of the nineteenth century and are part of a landscape fragment of the town's south side before the late-nineteenth-century grid developed. The houses face an old road trace, the former Clark Street, and the area around these houses may contain archaeological resources from early outbuildings or early industrial activities.

An informal design principle is recognizable in the siting of some of the prominent houses of this period. **Bel Air, Hillcrest, Rose Hill, and Oakley** are surviving farm houses intentionally sited on the surrounding hillsides. Slow residential development allowed for ridge-top building after the Civil War, when RMA and Warren County High School were built.

Front Royal's industrial landscape developed in the late eighteenth century along Happy Creek and in an area across the creek called New Dublin. While the number of water-powered mills at the time has never been determined, it is safe to assume that several were sited along Happy Creek during the nineteenth century. When the rail head was finally extended to Main Street, industrial activity grew along the railroad tracks all the way to Front Royal Junction early in the twentieth century.

The establishment of Warren County and the construction of the Courthouse at the west end of Main Street in 1836 encouraged further growth along the western end of the street. Inevitably a tavern was built nearby, and later replaced by the present **Afton Inn**.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Examples discussed in this section:

Druid Hill	Druid Hill Drive	(VDHR 112-0059)	c. 1872
Killahevin	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0024)	c. 1905
Chester House	43 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-16)	c. 1905
Duncan Gibb House	125 First Street	(VDHR 112-0069)	c. 1910
Rock Ledge	240 Virginia Avenue	(VDHR 112-0068)	c. 1910
Sonner Hall, RMA	Third Street	(VDHR 112-0057)	1892/1927

The post-war era is characterized by gradual expansion, a short boom in the 1890s, and gradual growth again until the Skyline Drive and **American Viscose** doubled the area's population.

The town expanded to the west and to the south. The Blue Ridge Avenue residential area was intended to be Front Royal's elite neighborhood in the 1880s and 1890s. The area west of South Royal to Luray Avenue developed about the same time as Blue Ridge Avenue. A grid pattern was used for the new residential areas. Osage and Pine Streets, edges of a traditionally African-American neighborhood, extended southward at angles, canting part of the grid to the southwest, in alignment with the bend of South Royal Avenue.

When the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company planned the town's extension in the 1890s, it planned a wide North Royal Avenue, an idealistic concept. It was a City Beautiful boulevard leading from a modest town. Today, with the decorative street lights, and the lots filled out, their plan has reached maturity.

The more imaginative landscape design during the latter part of this period probably involved architects and landscape architects, and occurred on private property. Formal landscape designs are clearly evident at **Killahevin**, **Chester House**, the **Duncan Gibb House**, **Rock Ledge**, and **Druid Hill**.

Of all of these larger houses, **Chester House** has the most elaborate scheme. Whether or not the garden dates to the 1905 house construction date is unknown. A trellis-bordered alley bridges the space between the main and guest houses. A boxwood garden replete with sculpture and iron gates is positioned to the north side of the house, laid out in parterres.

Druid Hill (1872, 1908, and 1928-29) and the **Duncan Gibb House (c. 1910)** both show graded landscapes, carefully planned drives (circular at Druid Hill), boxwood, and specimen trees.

Killahevin and **Rock Ledge**, both dating roughly to the same early-twentieth-century period, feature extensive masonry work. Regionally quarried stone was used in the construction of outbuildings, property walls, and gate openings.

Other residential communities began developing at the northern end of Royal Street near the 1890s **Riverton Bridge**. Because of the industry and the proximity of the railroad on this side of town and in Riverton, development here seemed inevitable. The grid pattern eventually extended to Depot Avenue.

The construction of **Randolph-Macon Academy** across the ridge top on the west side of town created Front Royal's most impressive landscape feature. First Street appears to have been an early entrance to the Academy, or possibly a private drive. Aerial photographs, taken sometime after the 1930s show a large house at the top of the hill at the end of First Street. North of the school, another hilltop residence was prominent on the skyline. Possibly Mount View, the house no longer stands, but a cemetery marks the site.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Examples discussed in this section:

Afton Inn	4 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0029)	c. 1868
St. John's Church	Luray Ave.	(VDHR 112-0034)	1883
Shirley Building	3 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0037)	c. 1885
Warren County Courthouse	5 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0005)	1935
American Viscose Corporation	404 Kendrick Lane	(VDHR 112-0060)	1939
Randolph-Macon Academy	201 West Third Street	(VDHR 112-0057)	1892/1917
F. R. United Methodist	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-071)	1909
Riverton Bridges	Shenandoah Ave.	(Not Surveyed)	1894/1940
Warren County High School	Luray Ave.	(VDHR 112-0062)	1940

American Viscose and the Skyline Drive are the two important factors in the twentieth-century transition of Front Royal's economy from a regional to a national marketplace. The 1920s is often considered the decade of the automobile. The Blue Ridge had become a favorite vacation and hunting spot for wealthy Americans in the late nineteenth century. The car made the area accessible to the middle class. Well before the opening of Skyline Drive, barns, stables, and dairies were giving way to auto storage, repair shops and dealerships. Parking downtown became a challenge. Utilitarian buildings and old residences behind Main Street, on the north and south sides, were razed to make way for parking lots.

Hard surfacing of the roads changed the landscape of Main Street. Photographs show large trees punctuating the vista in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The same postcard view in the 1930s revealed a more open landscape from Chester Street west, all the way to **St. John's Church**. The siting of **St. John's Church** on West Main Street created a ceremonial visual terminus.

In addition to Front Royal's "Town Square," a second formal space developed at the intersection of Main and Royal Streets. The **Warren County Courthouse** in the southeast corner, the **Afton Inn** in the northeast corner, the **Shirley Building** to the southwest, and the **Front Royal United Methodist Church** form an active center on the west end of Main Street. The Renaissance idea of having a public townscape with governmental, commercial, and ecclesiastical buildings around one area is replicated here. Here instead of a piazza, there is a courthouse green.

The older section of Front Royal was shielded from the **American Viscose** plant by a ridge. The factory included a super structure with at least five medium stacks and one large stack, which is well over 150 feet tall. Fortunately, the plant site sits low in the flood plain so that the tall stack does not compete with the prominent siting of **Randolph-Macon Academy**. The stack serves as a landmark for travelers approaching town from the north by way of Route 55 and Route 522/340

The rebuilding of the 1890s **Riverton Bridge**, at the end of North Royal Avenue, encouraged residential development north of town (now within the town limits). When the new **Riverton Bridges** were finished in 1941, and the main flow of traffic traversed Shenandoah Avenue, across 14th Street and down North Royal Avenue, a secondary commercial area that catered to

the Skyline Drive tourists began to develop. Today this stretch of Shenandoah Avenue and other sections of North Royal Avenue remain service areas for travelers.

From the late 1930s through the end of World War II, Front Royal developed at an unprecedented rate. The area known as Center City, between downtown Front Royal and Riverton, developed further in addition to Royal Village and Viscose City. The farms and orchards that had grown to the edge of town were developed into residential areas to accommodate the tremendous housing shortage for factory workers and returning veterans.

The siting of **Warren County High School** on the hilltop overlooking Luray Avenue created a powerful landscape expression. One of five major buildings constructed with Public Works Administration money, the High School was finished in 1941. Sitting in prominent positions, **Warren County High School** and **Randolph-Macon Academy** were revered as temples of learning. Both **RMA** and the **High School** were designed in fine Colonial Revival style.

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

Front Royal has continued to grow since the end of World War II. Residential construction continued in factory area neighborhoods, and commercial building continued along the corridors leading to the Skyline Drive. Several hotels were built along a hillside near the intersection of Route 340 and Criser Road, near what is now an entrance to the National Park. The **Skyline Motel**, built in the 1940s, is a neatly sited complex of five rectangular buildings that ascend a steep bank. The Moderne-style hotel stands out because of its brightly colored stucco walls.

The grid laid out by the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company has filled out, for the most part, and development has continued eastward.

The downtown area, the oldest section of Front Royal, retains a great deal of its landscape integrity. Main Street has suffered from several fires on its east end, but the absence of buildings at the Town Square area has created the opportunity to increase the public space. Renamed the Village Commons, the historic cusp of Chester Street is now enhanced with a gazebo. In the 1980s Main Street was greatly improved by the construction of brick sidewalks and the removal of street clutter. Trees have once again been planted along the street.

Commerce Street, the highway on the town's east side, now routes traffic around the downtown, while North and South Royal is a direct route to the Skyline Drive. One of Front Royal's greatest challenges is to maintain the integrity of North Royal Avenue sections where trees still shade the street, and the recently installed street lights lead ceremoniously to one of the nation's premier parks.

Endnotes

1. Anonymous author published in Warren Sentinel in 1883.

Funerary Theme

Funerary Theme

This theme concerns the investigation of grave sites for demographic data to study population composition, health, and mortality within prehistoric and historic societies. Property types include cemeteries such as a burying ground, burial site, or ossuary; graves and burials such as a burial cache, burial mound, or grave; and mortuaries such as a mortuary site, funeral home, cremation area, or crematorium.

Overview from Settlement to Present (1607-1994)

Examples discussed in this section:

Prospect Hill Cemetery	West Prospect Street	(VDHR 112-0052)	c. 1820
Maddox Funeral Home	105 West Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-114)	c. 1885
Jones-Miller House	106 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0042)	c. 1870

Front Royal has probably had several informal and formal burying areas and cemeteries. During the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, when the town was smaller, the surrounding countryside most likely had several public burial areas as well as family cemeteries.

When churches were built in town in the late eighteenth century some had enough property surrounding them to include cemeteries. The frame-constructed Methodist Church that preceded the present **Royal Oak Computer Building (VDHR 112-0033)**, at the corner of Church and East Main Streets, included a cemetery that was later moved to Prospect Hill in the early twentieth century. The Methodists moved to their new church and eventually the old one became the Murphy Theater. When the old church was converted into a theater space, a rear addition was built over the former cemetery.

A Baptist church (name unknown) cemetery was located on the Rose Hill farm on North Royal Avenue. The property has been subdivided over the years and the location of the church and cemetery sites are unknown. The cemetery may be within the present Rose Hill property boundary.

The other notable cemetery, probably the Millar family's, is located on the ridge near RMA and above the Avtex plant. This was the site of Mount View, a residence prominent in aerial photographs from the 1920s and later. Whether or not this was the oldest house associated with the Mount View name is unknown. Early settler William Russell owned 20,000 acres and had a homestead in the Avtex plant site area. The Millar family also owned a house, referred to as the "Stone House," in this area. What became of the Russell House and the Stone House after Avtex bought the land is not chronicled, but graves were moved from the plant area to the ridge top cemetery after American Viscose began construction in the late 1930s.¹

Prospect Hill Cemetery (VDHR 112-0052/plates 243-245) at the end of West Prospect Street is the most historically significant cemetery in Front Royal. Sited on a hill on the west side of town, it features several dramatic landscape designed elements. West Prospect Street passes through metal entrance gates, mounted on stone columns, and leads to terraces that are centered

around a granite obelisk. The obelisk is flanked by cannons and dedicated to Mosby's Men. The overall winding-road layout was influenced by the Rural Cemetery Movement.

A second Confederate memorial crowns the top of the hill and consists of a marble obelisk encircled by headstones of Confederate soldiers and enclosed by an intricate cast-iron fence. A wide variety of gravestone decorative art abounds. Gravestones date from 1820s to the present.

The undertaking business in Front Royal dates back well into the nineteenth century. Scrogin and Edmonds started their furniture and undertaking business near the end of the century (c. 1896). By 1898, the firm of Edmonds and Irwin were located "one door west of G.W. Amiss on the King block." Charles R. Edmonds was called a director and embalmer when he worked with William L. Updike in 1902. This store included a full selection of funerary items: "hand caskets, coffins...first-class hearses, carriages, monuments, tombstones...."²

The **Jones-Miller House** at 106 Chester Street served as a residence until 1931. It was converted the following year into a funeral home. Operating for forty-eight years, the establishment changed names several times: Scott Funeral Home, Robertshaw-Turner Funeral Home, and Turner Funeral Home. It was converted into law office space by Adamson, Crump, and Sharp in 1980.

The use of residential buildings for funeral homes continues in Front Royal. The Maddox Funeral Home, which has been in business since 1908, is located in an 1880s house at **105 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-114)**.

Endnotes

1. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street...Presence of the Past Patterns of the Future, Commercial Press, Stephens City, Virginia, 1985. 1, 2.
2. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street...Presence of the Past Patterns of the Future, Commercial Press, Stephens City, Virginia, 1985. 85-87.

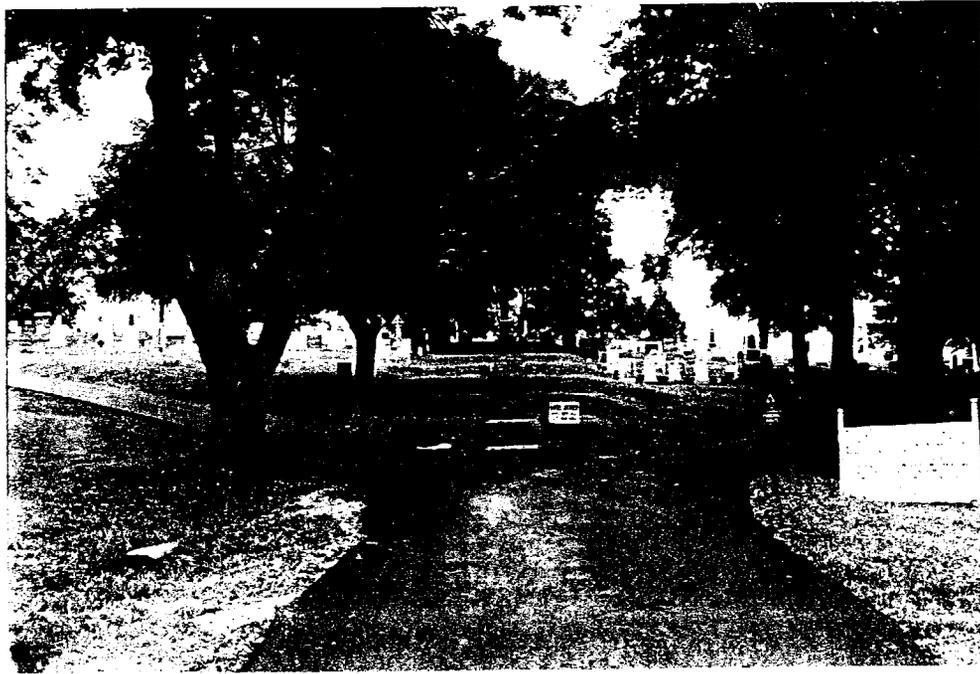


Plate 243 (top): Prospect Hill Cemetery (VDHR 112-0052), West Prospect Street, main entry, view towards west (Neville)

Plate 244 (bottom): Prospect Hill Cemetery, detail of iron fence around Soldier's Circle (Neville)

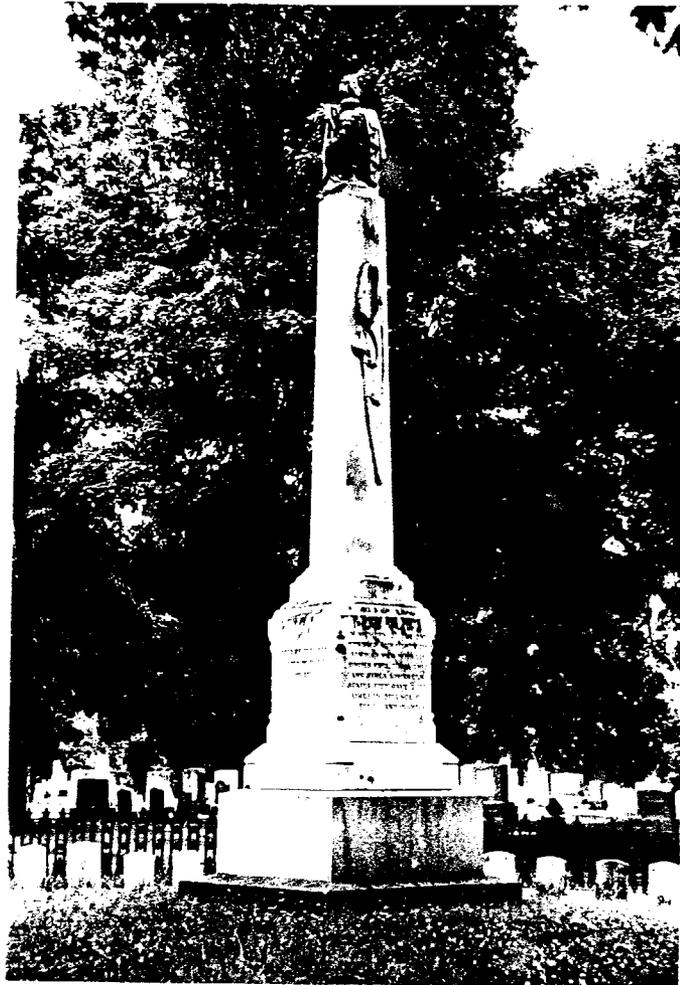


Plate 245: Prospect Hill Cemetery, Confederate Soldier's Monument, view towards west (Neville)

Ethnicity/Immigration Theme

Ethnicity/Immigration Theme

This theme explores the material manifestations of ethnic diversity and the movement of interaction of people of different ethnic heritages through time and space in Virginia. While all property types may be associated with this theme, properties that exemplify the ethos of immigrant or ethnic groups, the distinctive cultural traditions of peoples that have been transplanted to Virginia, or the dominant aspirations of an ethnic group are of particular interest. Also related to this theme are properties associated with persons of distinctive ethnic heritage who made a significant contribution to our history and culture in any field of human endeavor.

Overview from Settlement to Present (1607-1994)

Examples discussed in this section:

Williams Chapel	231 Peyton Street	(VDHR 112-0049)	c. 1845
Hill Street Church	Hill Street	(VDHR 112-0051)	c. 1880s-1890s
John Wesley Methodist	14 Church Street	(VDHR 112-0048)	1881
Mount Vernon Baptist	240 Church Street	(VDHR 112-0055-205)	c. 1900

Unlike eastern Virginia where the population in Tidewater was predominately English, the northwestern part of the state was influenced by several European ethnic groups during settlement period. Traditionally, the Shenandoah Valley has had the greatest number of German immigrants in the state. Front Royal, despite its position on the eastern edge of the Valley, has had a mix of settlers from Germany, the British Isles and Africa.

In the earlier Front Royal settlers group there were some anomalies like the French Huguenot, Peter Lehew, and a Dutchman, Solomon VanMeter, but the common names of most of the early landowners were of English descent: Buck, Moore, Haines, Cunningham, Halley, Smith, Wiley, Wroe, Chick, Morris, Trout, just to name a few.

The Hite family, Jost and Isaac are part of the area's German heritage. The name Hite was probably anglicized from Heydt.

While it is difficult to make any absolute conclusions about the ethnic makeup of the early-eighteenth-century village that preceded the town, it appears that there was more of an English influence on the community. This is also affirmed by the fact that the Lutheran Church was not established in Front Royal until 1942 (Lutheranism was practiced widely in other parts of Warren County and may have been going on informally in town for some time).

According to Laura Virginia Hale, Warren County's ethnic groups initially settled in specific areas: in the northeast, country gentry (English) came from Tidewater Virginia; on the western boundaries, Quakers and Germans; in the south, Ulster Scots-Irish; and on the slopes of the Blue Ridge, Piedmonters of English descent.¹

In 1940, there was a total of 93 foreign-born whites in Warren County. This group included English, German, Italian, Canadians, Irish, Scottish, Danish, Polish, Lithuanian, Greek,

Austrian, Hungarian, Russian, Swedish, Palestinian, Syrian, and South American emigres. While not specified in any sources, many of these people may have sought work at Front Royals' factories. Due to American Viscose, the number of foreign workers in Front Royal was probably considerably higher by the mid-1940s.²

The Chester Gap and Manassas Gap Roads were a direct line to the English culture of the eastern counties, as well as African slaves. In Warren County history Charles Buck, builder of several large plantations in the county, is credited with bringing the first African American over the Blue Ridge, reputedly, his horse jockey, Dick.³

Front Royal's ethnic makeup was effected by the institution of slavery. While there are no definite figures for the number of slaves in the early village limit of the Town, the County had 342 free Blacks and 1,434 enslaved Blacks in 1840. This compared with a White population of 3,851 at the same period. Since these are County figures, the greater part of the Black population lived in the County where they were involved in agricultural activities.⁴

In 1850 Blacks comprised 32 percent of the County's population, after the great migration of Blacks to cities in the early twentieth century, they comprised only 9.3 percent of the population in 1940. A significant number of African Americans probably moved to Front Royal after the Civil War, there were at least two established churches in town by the 1880s.⁵

The heart of Front Royal's African-American community grew in the southern area of town around Pine and Osage Streets. Here the African-American residential area is complemented by community stores, social halls, and churches (see [Religion Theme](#) for more church history).⁶

Several Front Royal churches are significant to the African American community. The **Williams Chapel** has been used by the **Christian Methodist Episcopal Church** since 1889. The **John Wesley Methodist Church** on Church Street is a modest frame building that dates to 1881. This congregation used the early, possibly late eighteenth century, frame Methodist Meetinghouse that sat near the 1879 Methodist Church. Church Street originally served as a drive way into these church properties, which included a cemetery.

The **Mount Vernon Baptist Church** at 240 Church Street is similar in construction to the John Wesley Church. The building may date closer to the turn-of-the-century, but the gable front orientation is the same and the construction is probably very similar.

The **Hill Street Church** (plates 246, 247) was demolished within recent years. Located on the south side of town, south of South Street, the church had board and batten siding, three side window bays and a entrance vestibule that was added much later. The small gabled belfry and partially pedimented window trim were unusual features on this otherwise simple building. Analyzed from photographs taken in the 1970s, the church may have dated as early as the 1870s, but was more likely built in the next decade.

During the 1960s, the Civil Rights movement made its impact on Front Royal when Blacks sought service at local restaurants. Front Royal (Warren County) was one of the earliest regions in Virginia forced to make a segregation decision. Parents of twenty students petitioned the school system for integration in 1958. Warren County High School was finally integrated in the fall of 1959. Despite progressive developments in the classroom, motels, swimming pools, theaters, housing, and recreation areas remained segregated for several years longer.

On Friday, August 3, 1962, the first restaurant sit-ins were organized by Reverend Herman D. Frank, head of the Warren County chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Reverend Frank was joined by two teenage women, Carolyn Rhodes and Velma Summers. The group visited and received service at four restaurants. Reverend Frank used a local based strategy that he explained:

The NAACP county chairman said the "full and sole desire" of the demonstration was to "do this whole thing on a local basis. We must convince the people that it is not outsiders who stir things up here."

There are those in this community who possess the intelligence to want things and to enjoy freedoms and privileges just like all the other people.⁷

The following day Frank organized a larger group of 13 people to visit six more restaurants (Front Royal had 25 restaurants within its corporate limits at this period). This time the demonstrators traveled in two separate groups. Five restaurants refused service, while Howard Johnson's posed no resistance. In several cases Front Royal Police were called upon to mediate between owners and demonstrators. No serious incidents occurred.

These actions were part of a national trend to grant equal rights to African Americans.

The John S. Mosby Academy, a private school organized as an alternative to integrated public schools, continued to function through 1969, despite the successful integration of Warren County High School. When Mosby closed, Warren County bought the school and now uses the building on West Fifteenth Street as Warren County Middle School (see [Education Theme](#) for more on schools).

Endnotes

1. Laura Virginia Hale, "From the Mountains to the Valley: A History of Warren County," Warren County Sesquicentennial, newspaper special in Warren Sentinel, 7 May 1986. 15.
2. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 53.
3. Laura Virginia Hale, "From the Mountains to the Valley: A History of Warren County," Warren County Sesquicentennial, newspaper special in Warren Sentinel, 7 May 1986. 7.
4. Elliott Clarke Haley, et. al., "People of Warren County" in An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County, collected study by University of Virginia School of Rural Social Economics (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1943) 53.
5. Elliott Clarke Haley, et. al., "People of Warren County" in An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County, collected study by University of Virginia School of Rural Social Economics (Charlottesville: University of Virginia, 1943) 53.
6. In An Economic and Social Survey of Warren County (1943), an area referred to as Brookside or Black Bottom may have been another African-American community. It is unclear where this "eastside" neighborhood was. Brookside may have been one of the areas altered when Commerce Street was improved from the 1940s through recent years.
7. Warren Sentinel, August 3, 1962.



Plate 246: Hill Street Church, 1971, front and side elevations (John V. Pearson, Jr.)
Plate 247: Hill Street Church, 1971, rear and side elevations (John V. Pearson, Jr.)

Settlement Patterns Theme

Settlement Patterns Theme

Studies related to this theme involve the analysis of different strategies available for utilization of an area in response to subsistence, demographic, sociopolitical, and religious aspects of a cultural system. Evaluations can take place on two different levels: (1) utilization of space within a settlement and (2) local/regional distribution of settlements as a result of environmental adaptations. This theme is also concerned with the investigation of unknown or little known regions as well as the establishment and the earliest development of new settlements or communities. While these primarily explore the subsistence-induced aspects of settlement patterns, studies of house types, village and town plans, and regional distributions are also combined with an analysis of political, and economic aspects of settlement. Property types reflect the entire range of buildings, structures, districts, objects, sites and landscapes.

Overview from Settlement to Present (1607-1994)

Examples in this section are discussed at greater length in other themes - see index.

The settlement pattern of Front Royal is clearly discernible by its current street patterns.

The earliest section of the town was organized around Chester Street. The Chester Gap and Manassas Gap Roads converged on a ford at Happy Creek and eventually a bridge was built to facilitate east-west, overland, shipping. Chester Street became a settlement area due to early taverns and cartwright establishments. It was probably a staging area before goods were placed on the river-bound flat boats, gundalows. Chester Street and East Main Street became an early commercial and residential area that evolved from the mid-eighteenth century and was formally named Front Royal by 1788.

Shenandoah River has changed over the last two centuries so eighteenth-century fording points are difficult to pinpoint. The exact location of Thomas Chester's ferry is also unknown. The present Chester Street probably linked to earlier roads that led to fording and ferry areas along the Shenandoah River. Kendrick's Ford was most likely near the terminus of Kendrick Lane, on the present northeastern edge of town. The only other older fording area still indicated by current road networks is at the end of Luray Avenue, west of town. Here a bridge crossed the river and continued on Catlett Mountain Road.

Luray Avenue is one of the oldest transportation links to the west, while the present Route 340 was the Front Royal-Luray Turnpike link to southern Valley areas.

As the town developed through the late eighteenth century, Main Street and Chester created the "Y" intersection "Town Square," one of Front Royal's unique features. While the architecture found along Chester Street indicates early settlement, there was also significant building along the western end on Main Street. None of the early architecture survives on Main Street; most was replaced by late-nineteenth-century commercial architecture. Some of the dwellings may have been set back from the street, and included outbuildings to the rear.¹

Older houses, which at one time would have been outside the town limits, have been absorbed into the current town fabric. **Bel Air, Rose Hill, Bon Air, Oakley, and Hillcrest** were originally working farms on medium to large tracts of land.

Other dwellings were located off of Main Street where long driveways accessed the properties. High Street is an example. A private drive that later became a public street, High Street leads past two older dwellings. The **Jones-Clark House** at 10 High Street dates to the first quarter of the nineteenth century. For quite some time after the house was built, the property was probably a sizeable farm.

Streets such as Cloud and Church started as drives into stable areas behind Main Street buildings. Church Street accessed the original frame Methodist Church. Today four church buildings line the street. (The 1879 Methodist Church is part of Royal Oak Computers.)

Front Royal was the economic center for a moderately large region. In 1836, Warren County was formed and the logical place for the government focal point was in the largest town in the area. During court days, Front Royal's population increased and hotels, ordinaries, and taverns profited from the good business. The new seat of government probably encouraged a moderate amount of economic development. The county was small and Front Royal was no further than a half day's ride from any point in Warren. By 1836, in addition to governmental activity, Front Royal's role as a trade crossroads guaranteed steady growth, at least until it was interrupted by the Civil War.

Front Royal's population growth during the nineteenth century was slow but steady. From a village of perhaps 200 during the late eighteenth century, Front Royal had 504 citizens in 1850.² The town consisted of several streets and alleys before the Civil War: Chester, Main, Union, Crescent, Peyton, and Luray.

In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, spurred on by nearby railway links, the town developed residential neighborhoods along its southern and western borders. Blue Ridge Avenue (1877) was laid out to attract upper-middle class residents. Some of Front Royal's larger scale residences are on the northern blocks of Blue Ridge Avenue. Also extending to the south side of Main Street, Cloud, Church and High Streets became residential streets with smaller urban-sized lots. Jackson, Stonewall and Prospect were run east-west to complete a grid pattern. Prospect Street was originally called Boundary because it defined the southern edge of town.

Lee Street was developed at about the same period as other southern residential areas. In the last quarter of the nineteenth century, South Royal Avenue evolved into a residential street.

The Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company designed a grid plan for development north and northwest of the older town area in 1891. This ambitious intention would only be partially fulfilled by the turn-of-the-century. While several houses in this area date to the 1890s, the greater number are post-1900 buildings. The burst of construction activity ended when the Improvement Company failed. But the new bridge, at the northern terminus of North Royal

Avenue, coupled with milling operations and a northern railroad depot made northward expansion of the town inevitable.

During the first quarter of the twentieth century North and South Royal Avenues had displaced Blue Ridge Avenue as the most fashionable neighborhood in town. Because of its emergence as a commercial corridor in the 1930s and 40s, largely due to the Skyline Drive, commercial establishments and building types have become dominant on both ends of Royal Avenue since World War II. Commercial zoning of the area presents a threat to some of Front Royal's most valuable resources inside and outside of the proposed historic district.

The opening of the Skyline Drive and Skyline Caverns prompted mostly commercial development along the South Royal Avenue corridor. To improve access to the National Parks, the new Riverton Bridge was finished early in the early 1940s and a new commercial area developed along the bridge approach, Shenandoah Avenue, at the northern edge of town.

The Main Street commercial district has competed with several other commercial districts in town. The Royal Avenues, Shenandoah Avenue, Commerce Street, and South Street have all developed into commercial corridors. In addition to these linear commercial areas, Front Royal includes the Gateway Plaza Shopping Center at the southeastern end of town.

In 1939, the year American Viscose was built, Front Royal had just under 4,000 residents. In 1960, the population nearly doubled to 7,949. This unprecedented growth created several mid- and late-twentieth-century subdivisions. Viscose City and Royal Village are two examples of plant associated neighborhoods, dating from the 1940s and 1950s. Other subdivisions have also developed on the eastern side of Happy Creek. The architecture of these neighborhoods consists largely of 1950s and 1960s Ranch-style houses as well as later examples of Minimal Traditional-style dwellings.

Despite several modifications and improvements to the traffic networks over the years, Front Royal's settlement patterns and architectural evolution remain clearly readable.

Endnotes

1. House sites may be intact in the parking lots behind East Main Street, on the north and south sides. Grading for paving may have affected the integrity of these archaeological sites.
2. Laura Virginia Hale, On Chester Street, Presence of the Past Patterns the Future Stephens City, Commercial Press, 1985. Pg. 2. Elliot Clarke Haley, et. al. An Economic Survey of Warren County (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 1943), 52.

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning Theme

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning Theme

This theme explores the design values and practical arts of planning, designing, arranging, constructing, and developing buildings, structures, landscapes, towns, and cities for human use and enjoyment. Property types include impermanent structures, rural vernacular buildings and structures, urban vernacular buildings and structures, great architectural landmarks, buildings exemplary of national styles, parks, gardens, and landscaped cemeteries, town and village plans, urban design and planned communities, and company towns.

Since architecture, landscape architecture and community planning have been discussed in other sections throughout this report, the following overview briefly traces the development of architectural styles by using examples of residential building. The last part of this theme discusses general characteristics of commercial, government, and religious buildings. In addition there is also a short section on modern material.

Settlement to Society (1740s)

Warren County was settled in the 1730 and 40s. The earliest architecture was built for pure utility, and is often referred to as vernacular or regional architecture. The character of these buildings is displayed more by the manner of construction, than by stylistic detail. The early buildings were built by craftsmen/builders. Architecture, as a profession in the United States, did not develop until the last half of the nineteenth century.

Vernacular architecture is not just confined to the earliest building periods. Usually a building without a discernible style is considered vernacular. In the United States, log construction spans from the seventeenth century to the present. Some log buildings built at the beginning of the twentieth century were constructed in the same method used in the 1800s, which can make it difficult to visually date a building solely by construction elements.

Georgian was the predominant style of this period, found mostly in the eastern part of the state, in the Tidewater region. The high-style Virginia Georgian house is characterized most often by a center hall plan; hipped roof; and classically-related details such as stone corner quoins, keystones in jack arches; fanlight transoms; and classical detailing such as dentilated cornice, and molded door surrounds. In Warren County, Mount Zion is the best example of regional interpretation of Georgian architecture. This local high-style example was built in or shortly after 1771, well after the style had been established to the east.

The time lag between the inception of styles in the more fashionable eastern areas of the state and the west persisted until the transportation links and establishment of urban areas brought more fashionable desires by the dwellers.

There are no examples of the Georgian style in Front Royal. Early Front Royal buildings would have been simple vernacular houses. The only evidence of Georgian design would have appeared on interiors. None of the surviving eighteenth-century buildings on Chester Street date to the 1740s.

Colony to Nation (1750-1789)

Several Chester Street buildings may date to this period. The town founders agreed that houses 16 feet square were to be built. The earliest buildings were constructed of log or heavy frame. The Balthis House, built as early as the 1780s, features heavy frame with brick nogging, an insulating feature.¹ Some log houses stood for a period with exposed log walls, but log construction in village settings was often weatherboarded. The more sophisticated log houses were sheathed with panels and interiors included classically-styled mantels and raised panel doors. The interiors of many of Chester Street's earliest houses were probably enhanced by elaborate detail. These houses have been remodeled to the degree that it is difficult to confirm dates.

Georgian and Federal styles predominated in the more architecturally sophisticated parts of the state. In Front Royal the classical details that derived from these styles were found on interiors. The townscape at this period was predominately vernacular.

Representative examples from this period:

The Balthis House	55 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0009)	c . 1780s
	Style: regional/vernacular		
Hillcrest	Jackson Lane	(VDHR 112-0005)	Late 18th century
	Style: regional/vernacular		

Early National Period (1789-1830)

Vernacular styles persisted throughout this period. Log and heavy frame construction continued in use even when formal exterior design was attempted. The Federal style had some influence on Front Royal. The style is found in the interior of houses like **Rose Hill** and the **Mullen-Trout House**.

The style is also manifested in house plans. **Rose Hill**, dating to the 1820s, features a center-hall plan, as does **Bel Air**, built by 1795. The symmetry of this plan was typical for the Federal style, and has persisted to the present.

The Federal style at its most sophisticated level included more applied exterior classical detail such as elaborate window and door surrounds and molded cornice elements such as dentils. In contrast to the hipped roof of the Georgian style, Federal-style buildings in the Warren County region more often have gable roofs and one-level porches with refined classical details are common. The regional Federal style is detected more by the interior detailing. The exterior character of Front Royal houses remained relatively simple.

Bel Air is the only surviving house in the survey that displays a combination of Georgian and Federal exterior details. Remodeled in 1905, earlier photographs show that a Palladian-style window was in the front dormer. Due to the interior changes, the ultimate level of early detail sophistication was not discernible.

Many of Front Royal's late-eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century houses were built in the I-house form. This architectural type consists of a rectangular shape, usually two stories, three to five bays wide, and exterior or interior chimneys at one or both ends of the house.

As Maral Kalbian found in her survey of Warren County, the Georgian and Federal styles were not distinctly used, but combined and interpreted by local craftsmen. Mount Zion is one exception that fits the Georgian category, but for the most part, the styles affected building practices twenty years after they were popularly used in urban areas. In Front Royal, few interiors from this period remain intact. The older buildings on Chester Street have been remodeled and while many of the interiors have period detailing, many houses have architectural elements taken from other nearby buildings.

One specific discovery occurred when the c. 1815 **Belle Boyd Cottage** was moved from its Main Street to Chester Street site. The framing revealed Roman numeral labeling. A feature found on some houses of this period, this positively dates the cottage to the early part of the nineteenth century.

Representative examples from this period:

Bel Air	Happy Creek Lane	(VDHR 112-0007)	c. 1795
Style: Federal			
The Samuels Apartments	29 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0003)	c. 1797
Style: Vernacular/Federal			
The Dorsey House	54 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0025)	c.1800-1831
Style: Vernacular			
J.S.Petty-Sumption House	123 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-008)	c.1815
Style: Vernacular			
The Belle Boyd Cottage	99 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-13)	c. 1815
Style: Vernacular			
The Mullen-Trout House	12 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0041)	c. 1815
Style: Vernacular			
The Jones-Clark House	10 High Street	(VDHR 112-0004)	c. 1815
Style: Vernacular			
Rose Hill	North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0032)	c. 1825
Style: Vernacular/Federal			
Ivy Lodge	101 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0036)	c. 1825/1858
Style: Vernacular/Federal			

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

Front Royal had two strains of architecture develop out of this era. The vernacular persisted as a utilitarian manner of creating shelter, while the more distinct national styles began to appear, built especially for the town's socially prominent citizens.

The vernacular buildings are typified by **37 Crescent Street**, an I-house with simple detail, and by **Bon Air**, a frame farm house with an unusual central chimney.

Dunover and the **Giles Cook House** both display the local Federal style. They are simply-designed, brick, rectangular, center-hall plan buildings with end chimneys. The interior detail (no interior inspection for either in current survey) is or may have been simply styled as well. Both of these downtown houses compare to the design and plan of **Rose Hill** (c. 1825). In the second quarter of the century more masonry houses appear in town. The Cloud House, built in the early years of the nineteenth century, originally sited on the south side of East Main Street near the Square, was reputedly the first masonry building in town.

As national styles became more popular in the western part of the state, some very sophisticated Greek and other types of revival architecture appeared in the Warren County Region. **Erin** (VDHR 93-003), c. 1848, in the northern part of the county, is one of the most distinct examples of the Greek Revival style in the area.

The word Italianate represents a variety of influences coming from the Classical and Renaissance architectural vocabularies. There were very few Renaissance revival buildings built in western Virginia before the war, but details, such as ornate brackets and arched window openings, were applied onto the traditional house forms throughout Virginia. Some houses went as far as appearing more like Italian villas. This was done by using low hipped roofs, applying smooth stucco exterior finishes, and in some elaborate examples, including a decorated cupola.

Oakley is Front Royal's best example of early Italianate-style architecture. Part of an architectural movement that began to "break the box," the projecting front-gabled bay is a subtle manipulation to create a more complex appearance. **Oakley** was built in an almost standardized central-hall plan. The Italianate features are less in the plan and more in the detailing. The Italianate details include the large brackets and labels over paired windows. The roof is also low and hipped. Technically, the house is still part of the vernacular tradition, but the beautifully executed semi-circular stairs, ornate porch, and the high-quality interior Italianate moldings make **Oakley** Front Royal's most sophisticated surviving antebellum house.

Representative examples from this period:

Bon Air	124 Luray Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-119)	c. 1820-40
Style: Vernacular			
The Dunover House	144 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0029)	c. 1830
Style: Federal/vernacular			
House	37 Crescent Street	(VDHR 112-0055-091)	c. 1835-50
Style: Vernacular			
The Giles Cook House	507 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0011)	c. 1855
Style: Federal			
Oakley	135 Sherwood Avenue	(VDHR 112-0031)	c. 1855
Style: Italianate			

Civil War, Reconstruction and Growth (1861-1917)

A multiplicity of styles was introduced to the region after the war, despite the persistence of some pre-war architectural tastes and construction methods. The **Jones-Miller House** and **Druid Hill** are part of the Italianate design tradition introduced by **Oakley**.

The **Garrison House** is further evidence that the tradition of "boxy" design was challenged by such features as the projecting front bays. The 1882 Garrison House interior features still are predominately Italianate like the houses of a decade before. While the forms of buildings evolved, using more sophisticated plans, over the last third of the nineteenth century, Italianate details competed with other local styles well into the early twentieth century.

The railroad increased the variety of standardized building materials. Nationally available pattern books and catalogs ultimately brought nationally popular styles to Front Royal much closer to following the national stylistic trends.

The romantic movement in architecture was a reaction to the long-lasting classical architectural tradition. In the 1830s Gothic and Italianate styles were popularized by architect, Alexander Jackson Davis and A. J. Downing's The Architecture of Country Houses. The impact of these two influences was far reaching not only in detail, but also in plans. Downing proposed various designs for smaller houses that were asymmetrical and defied the common regularity of most national vernacular and designed buildings. The new design spirit brought more asymmetry and experimentation with plans. The new houses, and other types of buildings were built in complex L- and T-shaped plans.

Romantic strains of architecture were also introduced. Gothic and Italian villa detailing were freely interpreted for residential architecture. The most sophisticated Davis and Downing examples were rarely replicated, but reproduction of the detailing was easier. The effect of this romantic movement in American and Virginian architecture, especially in the rural areas, was found more in the exterior detailing before the war.

Eared exterior architraves were a very popular Italianate feature in Front Royal. This trim feature, used around door and window openings, is ultimately descended from Renaissance pattern books. The "ears" are noticeable at the top and bottom of the vertical trim, with the middle section tapered in. The examples of this feature are numerous and date from the 1880s to the early twentieth century.

Front Royal's best example of Gothic Revival residential architecture is the **Cook Family House** (one of three Cook houses situated next to each other) at **513 East Main Street**. The Gothic detailing is displayed by the large, steep-roofed dormers that highlight Gothic pointed-arch windows. The center-hall, symmetrical plan still shows the reliance on traditional forms.

The other **Cook House** at **519 East Main Street** was built in the regional version of the Queen Anne and Italianate styles. The great expansion of neighborhoods in the southern section of town consists mostly of houses that show elements of both of these styles. 519 East Main Street

features a modified L plan with an octagonal tower. The iron crest work on the tower peak and the one-story front bay make this example more elaborate. While this is one of several examples of this style, there are numerous other variations of the Queen Anne/Italianate stylistic marriage.

From the 1880s to about 1915 the Queen Anne style was popular throughout the United States. The style was comprised of varied shingle patterns, polychromatic slate patterned roofs, Colonial Revival-style porches (especially in the later period examples), conical and faceted towers, multipaned windows, and often highly irregular plans with complex roof systems.

Front Royal has a wealth of Queen Anne examples both in domestic and commercial architecture. **Basswood Restaurant, Callahan Hall, Sherman House, Trout Drugs, and the Amiss Building** are all superb examples of the unadulterated Queen Anne style.

Services like plumbing and heating continually evolved throughout the nineteenth century. Toilets replaced outhouses and with the water supply brought into the interior, as well as gas and electricity, kitchens no longer needed to be in separate buildings. In older houses these improvements were usually included in rear additions. New houses also placed many of these services in a rear ell wing. Outbuildings were still built through the first third of the twentieth century. Gas generator houses like the ones at **Bel Air** and the **Sherman House** were common at some of the larger residences, while poultry sheds, carriage houses, and garages are still found at a variety of residential types.

Late-nineteenth-century Beaux Arts architecture brought a renewed interest in Classicism. The **Bank of Warren** is designed in the temple form, whereas the porticos at **Bel Air** and **Druid Hill** were added as fashionable updates. The **Duncan Gibb House** is Front Royal's finest early Colonial Revival house. Replete with portico, Federal-style door surround, and dormers, this was an architect-conceived work.

Representative examples from this period:

1865-1885

Jones-Miller House	106 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0042)	c. 1870
Style: Italianate			
Druid Hill	1 Druid Hill Drive	(VDHR 112-0059)	c. 1872
Style: Italianate			
Garrison House	15 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0022)	c. 1882
Style: Italianate (transitional)			
Grant House	117 Lee Street	(VDHR 112-0055-134)	c. 1880-1885
Style: Queen Anne			
(Cook family)	513 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0017)	c. 1870-1890
Style: Gothic Revival/vernacular			
(Cook family)	519 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-030)	c. 1870-1890
Style: Queen Anne/vernacular			

1886-1900

Basswood Restaurant	108 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-178)	c. 1880s
Style: Queen Anne			
Grubbs House	113 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-175)	c. 1880
Style: Queen Anne/eclectic			
Callahan Hall	222 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-164)	c. 1890
Style: Queen Anne/eclectic			
House	125 18th Street	(VDHR 112-0072)	c. 1890s/1919
Style: Queen Anne			
House	222 Blue Ridge Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-242)	c. 1900
Style: Queen Anne			
House	303 Blue Ridge Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-251)	1880-1900
Style: Italianate			
Duncan Gibb House	125 1st Street	(VDHR 112-0055-069)	c. 1910
Style: Colonial Revival			

1901-1917

Sherman House	101 Luray Avenue	(VDHR 112-0061)	1904
Style: Queen Anne			
House	139 W. Main St.	(VDHR 112-0055-111)	c. 1905
Style: Queen Anne			
Chester House	43 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0055-016)	c. 1905
Style: Classical Revival/eclectic			
Killahevin	1401 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0024)	c. 1905
Style: Classical Revival/Arts & Crafts			
Nida House	216 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-085)	c. 1906
Style: Classical Revival/Queen Anne			
Rock Ledge	240 Virginia Avenue	(VDHR 112-0068)	c. 1910
Style: Romanesque Revival			
Weaver House	35 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0050)	c. 1912
Style: Colonial Revival			
Fogle House	200 2nd Street	(VDHR 112-0055-097)	c. 1914
Style: English Cottage/Craftsman			

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

The period between the wars in Front Royal witnessed unprecedented growth. While residential construction in the 1920s maintained a steady pace, the boom that occurred at the end of the 1930s due to the arrival of American Viscose created the first suburban areas of the town.

Several residential styles were popular during the 1920s and 30s. The Bungalow, which is combination form and style, was nationally popular through the early 1940s. The Bungalow, cottages, and other house forms of the 1920s, exhibit influences of the Arts and Crafts decorative movement. The Craftsman-style house appeared well before the Bungalow, in the first two decades of the twentieth century.

The elaborate Bungalow form of a house like **Avalon** appeared in more conservative versions elsewhere in town. Such as the house surveyed at **107 Virginia Avenue**. **Avalon** is a large, finely crafted, Bungalow, while **107 Virginia Avenue** is more common in its modest size and spare detail. The Bungalow typically featured a long low-pitched roof that was side gabled,

often including a porch supported on pylon form posts. Many of these porches were integrated underneath the roof.

Avalon, built in 1921, is one of the highest styled Bungalows in the region. The fine stone walls were most likely quarried nearby in the Fort Valley. The unusually deep porch features pointed arches and a large gabled dormer projecting out of the front plane of the roof. A large chimney bisects the dormer face. Larger than the average Bungalow of the period, Avalon was a state-of-the-art luxury house. The basement still includes the Arco Wand central vacuum cleaning system. Avalon's interior is very similar in material and design to that of the **Fogle House**. The Arts and Crafts Movement had heralded simplistic moldings, relying more on the expressive quality of materials. The stone construction is certainly a characteristic.

Front Royal includes other examples of Arts and Crafts influenced houses: **102 and 110 First Street**. **128 North Royal Avenue**, a house that is as large as **Avalon**, is a subtler version of Arts and Crafts influence. Smaller, less pretentious, houses, many of them built in the late 1920s and throughout the 1930s, show less of the Arts and Crafts influence, but have the Bungalow form.

The interest in emulating Colonial architecture grew more popular later in the 1920s, especially after the restoration of Williamsburg. Houses built during the Great Depression tended to be smaller. The architectural profession focused on basic issues of housing, and since the federal government was funding large housing projects through the Public Works Administration and Resettlement Administration (just to name a few agencies), architects perfected the design of efficient small houses.

The 1930s and 40s houses that dot the Viscose City and Royal Village neighborhoods are often one-story and feature a side-gabled roof, and three to five window bays. The Colonial Revival house that featured the three gabled dormers on the roof was often paired down to a minimal version for Depression era or veterans suburban housing developments.

Representative examples from this period:

Avalon	331 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0063)	c. 1921
Style: Bungalow/Craftsman			
House	107 Virginia Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-100)	c. 1930
Style: Bungalow			
House	102 First Street	(VDHR 112-0055-106)	c. 1913-19
Style: Arts and Crafts			
House	110 First Street	(VDHR 112-0055-105)	c. 1920
Style: Bungalow			
House	128 North Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-082)	c. 1925
Style: Craftsman			

The New Dominion (1945-Present)

The predominant style for the average American neighborhood after the war was the simplified Colonial Revival house. The returning veterans inspired another boom in suburban development. This type of subdivision planning had already started in Front Royal before the war. Throughout the end of the forties the size of the American house rebounded. The fifties were an age of unprecedented affluence for a large middle class. The neighborhood east of Happy Creek, north and east of **Bel Air**, is comprised of Ranch houses, many of which appear to date from the 1950s and 60s.

The small, minimalistic, Colonial Revival-influenced house of the pre-World War II era was enlarged so that the roof had a lower pitch and porches were reintroduced. The side gable form was maintained, and the hipped roof also began to appear more often. The Ranch house followed in a long line of simple rectangular residential building plans that had existed in North America for over two hundred years.

Colonial Revival variants have continued to the present day. The split-level house is a more sophisticated version of the Ranch house. The Ranch plan is usually simple, whereas the split-level involves the shifts of floor levels, a benefit that usually makes the basement space more useable, and often incorporated an integrated garage.

Commercial, Government and Religious Buildings

Most of the buildings in this category share stylistic similarities to residential design. In the earliest period, buildings differed in form, but not in style or construction method. A church might have been executed in log as a single large space, but it had no discernible style. The same holds true for commercial buildings.

As Front Royal buildings began to show stylistic features by the late eighteenth century, more care was taken in specializing the building to use.

Commercial Architecture

Representative examples:

Rebel's Tattoo Parlor Style: Italianate	101-105 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0010)	1870-1900
Bank of Warren Style: Classical Revival	305 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0012)	1914
Dr. Grubb's Office Style: Vernacular	113 South Royal Avenue	(VDHR 112-0055-175)	c. 1880
Shenandoah Motel Style: Moderne	1600 Shenandoah Avenue	(VDHR 112-0067)	c. 1940
Nick's Good Food Diner Style: Moderne	North Royal Avenue	(Not Surveyed)	1952
Royal Dairy Style: Moderne	241 Chester Street	(VDHR 112-0058)	1947
Mount Vista Diner Style: Moderne	Shenandoah Avenue	(VDHR 112-0066)	1957

The commercial buildings on Main Street were probably built as free-standing one-story buildings like the original **Bank of Warren** and the present **Rebel's Tattoo Parlor**. As more space was desired, the store filled out its property to the edge, and became part of a row. Second stories were added for residential, storage and social uses. The gable roof was replaced by a sloping shed roof or hidden by a parapet. The Italianate style left its impression on East Main Street where this is still the predominant style. In the twentieth century stores that originally had porches lost them as improvements were made to the sidewalk and street. The small one-story office or store became more rare, although the **Dr. Grubb's Office** and **Rebel's Tattoo Parlor** have survived as examples of the small-scale commercial building.

Examples of Moderne and Art Deco style dwellings were not found in the survey area. Both styles were used more often on Virginia's commercial buildings. **Shenandoah Motel** (c. 1940), **Nick's Good Food Diner** (1952), and the **Royal Dairy** (1947) show progressive commercial features such as glass block, rounded corners, and flat roofs. The **Mount Vista Diner** is one of the most usual exponents of completely commercial design. Stainless steel sheathing and ornamentation make it more vehicle-like than a building.

Government Architecture

Representative Examples:

Front Royal Police Dept. Style: Classical Revival	West Main Street	(VDHR 112-0027)	1922
Warren County Courthouse Style: Colonial Revival	5 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0005)	1935
Front Royal Town Hall Style: Colonial Revival	16 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-073)	1936

When Front Royal became the Warren County seat in 1836, a courthouse and clerk's office were built. Photographs of the old courthouse, demolished in 1930s, show that the building had been remodeled by late-nineteenth-century ornamentation. The courthouse was probably a very simple brick building in its earlier form. Built with a front gable, the building has similarities to church architecture. The church was the historical example for formal meeting space. The replacement courthouse of 1935 made a reference to American colonial heritage. The building was sited so that the central rectangular block (defined by the front gable roof) sat in the same orientation as the former building. The Colonial Revival style was also used for Front Royal's Town Hall. The 1922 Post Office was designed with a specialized plan. Today, serving as the town's Police Department, the interior is remodeled, but the exterior simple Colonial Revival treatment is unchanged.

Religious Architecture

Representative Examples:

Williams Chapel Style: Vernacular	231 Peyton Street	(VDHR 112-0049)	c. 1845
Royal Oak Computer	131 East Main Street	(VDHR 112-0055-0033)	c. 1879

Style: Italianate			
John Wesley Methodist	14 Church Street	(VDHR 112-0048)	1881
Style: Vernacular			
Happy Creek Baptist	202 Church Street	(VDHR 112-0055-190)	1881
Style: Vernacular			
Calvary Episcopal Church	North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-086)	1898
Style: Gothic Revival/Queen Anne			
Mount Vernon Baptist	240 Church Street	(VDHR 112-0055-240)	c. 1900
Style: Vernacular			
F.R. United Methodist Church	North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-071)	c. 1909
Style: Romanesque			
First Baptist Church	32 North Royal Ave.	(VDHR 112-0055-075)	1914
Style: Gothic Revival			

Front Royal's religious buildings display a variety of styles and plans. The oldest surviving church, Williams Chapel (c. 1845), is a small brick building, three bays deep. The simple style, a simplified reference to a temple, was common for antebellum rural and village churches across the state.

John Wesley, Mount Vernon, and Happy Creek congregations built simple frame churches, in the 1880s and later, where the decorative elaborations were found in the colored glass windows and interior detailing.

Front Royal Baptists built an 1870s frame church on Crescent Street that was clad in board and batten siding and featured simple Gothic detailing. Their 1914 First Baptist Church was expanded in stages. Each addition respected the earliest section's Gothic Revival style. The Akron plan, a rarity in Virginia, is enhanced by fine dark wood trim.

The Methodist congregation moved from its simple frame meetinghouse into a large Italianate-style church in 1879 (later Murphy Theater, and now Royal Oak Computer). Their next church, one of the most prominent buildings in town featured the only academic version of the Romanesque style found in town. Finished in 1909, the church at the corner of North Royal Avenue and West Main Street, received a large addition in the 1950s that featured decorative Gothic-influenced entry bays.

Calvary Episcopal Church (1898) was built after the frame church on East Main Street burned. Built at a period when the Queen Anne and Gothic styles were popular, this stone church incorporated subtle features from both styles, but the overall impression is more of a simple medieval village church.

Modern Materials

One of the most important developments in twentieth-century architecture has been the evolution of building components and material. Wood and brick have been principal construction elements throughout Front Royal's history, but there are substantial construction method differences in twentieth-century buildings.

Where the early settler employed heavy logs or adzed beams to build, the present-day carpenter relies on the light 2" x 4" boards. Bricks, often considered one of the most important building materials in the Middle Atlantic colonies, was originally a load-bearing wall element. Now, in the majority of cases, bricks are used as a veneer, a thick insulation and aesthetic touch applied over wood.

The use of metal in residential construction has increased. Now, interior wall studs are often metal and exterior aluminum siding is now widely used to reduce painting and improve insulation. Recently vinyl siding has become nearly as popular as its metal counterpart.

In the earliest interior walls in Front Royal were often raw wood, sometimes white-washed, log. By the late nineteenth century most buildings in town had plaster walls. By the 1950s plaster board and sheetrock had all but replaced plaster wall construction. Today, the art of fine plaster work is rarely practiced.

All of these construction method shifts are evident in Front Royal's historic and recent architecture. The evolution of materials and design is clearly apparent on Main Street where the commercial facades vary from well-preserved to heavily altered. While some of the recent alterations hide the attractive historic design, some of the mid-century remodeling is of higher quality. The most obvious example where superficial sheathing over historic fabric does not enhance the appearance can be found at the **Royal Quality Shop, 217 East Main Street**. **Bill's Sporting Goods, 210 East Main Street** dates to 1915 and the retail facade was remodeled sometime after World War II. It features elements that work within the original facade design. The inset entry features light-colored tile flooring and a dark-colored tiled wall under the large plate glass retail windows. A distinct applied Art Deco band runs across the window tops.

Unusual materials, often perceived as exotic, were often used on commercial before residential buildings. One of the best examples of this tendencies is found on the **Shenandoah Motel** where glass blocks, pipe railing, and smooth stucco were effective in creating a modern, eye-catching look for the motorist.

Technology/Engineering Theme

Technology/Engineering Theme

While the technological aspects of a culture form the primary basis of interpretation of all themes, this theme relates primarily to the utilization of and evolutionary changes in material culture as a society adapts to its physical, biological, and cultural environments. This theme involves the practical application of scientific principles to design, construct, and operate equipment, machinery, and structures to serve human needs. Property types include wood, metal, concrete bridges, highways, dams, canal, railroad, air-transport, and other transportation related works, and various industrial structures, engines, and machinery.

Many of the engineering and technological resources have been covered under other themes. The following chronological explanation is meant to emphasize the major events that had significant effects on the development of the Front Royal.

Settlement to Early National Period (1740s-1830)

Carriage and Wagon Manufacture

The most significant engineering theme during the town's first century was the manufacturing of carriages on Chester Street. Messrs. Trout, Cline, Fant, J.B. Petty and C.F. Sumption all had separate businesses that spanned the nineteenth century. Petty's wagon factory, probably the best known, stood across from his house on Chester Street where he employed 35-40 people in 1851. His business reopened after the war and continued until 1874. C. F. Sumption was the last wagon manufacturer. His building, located in the Boom, eventually succumbed to the popularity of the automobile. In 1919, a "repair shop" was being run by a "C.H." Sumption, possibly a son or a mistake.

Grist Mills

The increasing number of grist mills in the late eighteenth century, with several located in or near early Front Royal, supported a trading environment. For many Virginia communities, the mill assumed a semi-public role in early periods where voter registration took place, and post offices, warehouses, and stores were built. Buck's Mill, on Happy Creek, was one of the earliest in town. Farmers from the region sold their grain to the miller and often used their earnings in nearby stores.

The harnessing of water power in the mill became an important industrial component in other major cities in Virginia. Richmond, Lynchburg, and Danville had tremendous industrial complexes grow near their respective rivers due to the lucrative nature of water power. In Front Royal, the Shenandoah River retained an important relationship with milling operations into the early twentieth century. In the 1930s, American Viscose chose Front Royal because of its ideal proximity to moving water.

Antebellum Period (1830-1860)

Like the wagon manufacturing, some of the most important engineering events of this period related to Front Royal's importance as a commercial transportation corridor and hub.

Covered Bridges and Railroad

Two significant transportation events occurred during this period. The first bridges were built over the Shenandoah in 1854 and 1855 and at about the same period, the railroad was finally extended through Manassas Gap into Front Royal.

The first wooden covered bridges were built by the Winchester Turnpike Company. The bridges were later purposely destroyed during the Civil War. Surprisingly, the ferry was revived and became the primary crossing method until the 1890s Boom period iron bridges were built at the end of North Royal Avenue.

Civil War (1861-1865)

During the war, Front Royal and the surrounding region suffered hardships, resources were depleted, and buildings badly damaged. Mills, barns, and railroad lines became strategic targets during Sheridan's Valley campaign. Many of the mill operations were burned or damaged beyond immediate repair.

Reconstruction and Growth (1865-1917)

Lime Quarrying and Production

Carson and Sons Lime Company was founded by Samuel Carson in 1868. This material extraction industry is still in operation just outside the present town limits. The business was renamed three times until it became the Riverton Lime and Stone Company in 1935. In recent years it has become the Riverton Corporation. The Riverton plant is the only company in the United States that manufactures hydraulic hydrated lime.

Samuel Carson, an emigrant from Ireland, bought land outside of Front Royal to raise sheep. Discovering the rich lime deposits at the eastern edge of Riverton, Carson founded a company that would become one of the economic mainstays of the area. His sons became important historical figures in local and national affairs. William C. Carson, who had Killahevin built in 1905, was important in the founding of the Shenandoah National Park and the Skyline Drive, and he was the first chairman of the Virginia Conservation and Development Commission.

The numerous examples of stucco clad buildings in Front Royal is probably due to the proximity of both Riverton Lime and Stone and Limeton Lime Companies. Stucco cladding was one of the best ways to fireproof the walls of a frame building.

By 1939 Riverton Lime and Stone Company manufactured: Flamingo hydraulic lime for masonry mortar and concrete; Perfection mason's hydrate, lump lime, and pulverized lime; Perfection

rock wool bats, blankets, granulated, and loose; crushed stone for concrete and road work; and pulverized agricultural limestone.

Roller Mills

Mechanical roller mills replaced the stone mills of the earlier part of the nineteenth century. The roller mills were self-contained machines manufactured in northern factories. Appearing almost furniture-like, these machines were positioned in rows and were driven by water-(and later steam- and electric-) powered belt lines. Roller grinding allowed for a wider choice of final grades. Ultimately most of the older stone grinders were complemented by a row of rollers. Larger roller mill establishments competed with the smaller rural operations.

Champion Cook Proctor bought the Front Royal Roller Mills in 1911. The **C.C. Proctor Mills** (now called the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill**), maintained a good business, and when the 1880s building burned in 1921, it was still worth rebuilding a fireproof concrete-walled building. The steam, and later electric, powered milling continued until late in the 1940s when the business converted over to feed mill operations. In 1943 its annual product was 3000 barrels of flour, 120 tons of table meal, and about 300 tons of feed. At this period it was employing twelve workers. The mill survived another fire in 1981, finally ending its agriculture-based association in 1990. Today the concrete building is used for mixed commercial purposes, but still has its Purina checker board signage painted on an exterior wall.

Iron Bridges

For years after the Civil War Front Royal relied on ferry service until the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company offered to pay half the cost to build iron spans across both forks of the Shenandoah River in 1894. Warren County split the cost of \$24,000.

The grand scheme of "Twin Cities," the economic marriage between Front Royal and Riverton, required improvements in the road networks. One of the earliest "macadamized" roads appears on the 1902 Sanborn showing Sixth Street hard topped in front of the Royal Tapestry Company (commonly known as the **Silk Mill, VDHR 112-0071**).

In 1891 Sixth Street had been extended over Happy Creek on an iron bridge, while Main Street still had an older wooden bridge. By 1919 there was also an iron bridge at the end of Main Street, a prophetic sign that the heavier automobile was beginning to demand greater consideration in Front Royal's landscape.

Water System

On September 10, 1889, Front Royal's Town Council voted to supply the town with a water system for fire purposes. The exact design of the system was not attainable at the time of this study, but the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps clearly show where the water lines were laid, primarily on the major streets. Double nozzle fire hydrants were in place by January of 1893.² The Sanborn maps show a variety of pipe sizes used: 4, 6, and 8 inch diameters. The water system was used exclusively for fire fighting when it was first installed, but it laid the ground work for a larger public water distribution system at an early date.

Electricity and Telephone

In addition to a town water system, generation of electricity began at the Front Royal Hydro-Electric Plant in Riverton by 1904. The plant was run by water and had the appearance of a small mill. Previously lighting buildings was accomplished by candles, kerosene, or by gas generators. The **Sherman House** and **Bel Air** still have their gas houses. Some time around 1912 the Royal Telephone Company began service. Their operations center was located in the **Shirley Building at 3 South Royal Avenue**, probably on the second floor. The phone exchange was still located here when the 1927 Sanborn maps were drawn.

Wood Manufacturing

The Locust Pin Company was started by John Wallihan and a Mr. Hoover. The main items manufactured were locust and oak insulator pins and brackets used on telephones, telegraphs, and by power companies and railroads. By 1943 the company had between 30 to 40 workers. During World War II, German prisoners of war formed part of the work force. A pencil drawing of the company's building, by one of the prisoners, is in the Warren Heritage Society Archives.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Concrete Bridge

In the late thirties the Virginia Highway Department realized that the nineteenth-century bridges across the Shenandoah would have to be replaced to accommodate the tremendous increase in Park-bound traffic. The older spans had crossed the river at the northern end of North Royal Avenue. The new bridges were planned at the end of Shenandoah Avenue (less than a half mile to the west of the older bridges). At the time, the construction of the new concrete bridges was the largest undertaking ever attempted by the Highway Department. The construction required a cut through two hills, three large fills, and the spanning of three water courses (two forks of the Shenandoah River and Crooked Run). The railing sections at the edge of the deck are executed in an ornamented concrete pattern, while the lower supporting structure consists of a metal truss system. On November 17, 1941 Governor Price opened the triple **Riverton Bridges**, the same span that is still in use today.

Rayon and other Textiles

The Swiss Schwarzenbach, Huber & Company, the longest owner of the building, was founded in Thalwil, near Lake Zurich, Switzerland in 1829. The first American plant was begun in West Hoboken, N.J. in 1888. Other mills operated in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Alabama. The Schwarzenbach, Huber & Company bought the boom factory building in 1913 and produced fabric for dress manufacturers, retailers, and drapery, necktie, and umbrella manufacturers. The business continued into the 1960s. The building is currently used by the Jackson Furniture Company.

The well-known English firm Samuel Courtauld and Company, Ltd. acquired the rights to rayon patents, and formed the **American Viscose Company** in 1910. The first plant was built in Marcus Hook, Pennsylvania in 1911. The demand for yarn quickly increased and a second plant was built in Roanoke in 1917, followed by another in Lewistown, Pennsylvania in 1921. Other

plants followed including ones in Nitro (1922) and Parkersburg (1927), West Virginia and one in Meadville, Pennsylvania in 1930. The Front Royal plant was the seventh and one of the largest rayon plants in America at its construction in 1939-40.

Front Royal was the ideal place for a plant due to the suitable natural resources. The reliable source of soft water, as well as the abundance of soft coniferous woods, especially spruce, was important in the production of rayon.

The company chose a riverside site of over 700 acres and began to design buildings for the plant by 1938. The Ballinger Company, Architects & Engineers, specializing in the integration of architecture and engineering, designed most of the buildings and structures that are still on site today. The firm consisted of Robert I. Ballinger (architect), Clifford H. Shivers (architect/engineer), Carl de Moll (architect/engineer), and William R. Fogg (engineer). While there are claims that the firm was English-based, the drawings give addresses of Philadelphia and New York. Drawings were made as early as 1937. Construction began in 1939, and by 1940, the plant was ready for production.

In the 1980s, before the plant was closed, about 10,000 gallons of water per minute was required from the South Fork of the Shenandoah to run the plant. Simultaneously, the internal use was about 70,000 to 90,000 gallons per minute for cooling purposes.

Endnotes

1. The Balthis House is considered the oldest building in Front Royal.
2. James P. Morgan, "A Century of Protection," in Warren County Sesquicentennial, April 1986, p. 62.

Survey Findings

Survey Findings

The survey confirmed most of the information that Kimberley Fogle had compiled in her Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas. In this study, section IV "Street-by-Street Discussion," provided specific and accurate information of the area that was covered by the survey. What follows below elaborates on her information and discusses new findings.

Approximately fifteen buildings were surveyed outside of the area that is proposed for historic district overlays. Front Royal consists of several neighborhoods that developed earlier this century. The survey findings here also outline some general characteristics for these areas.

Since Ms. Fogle's report followed a street-by-street analysis, it is logical to organize this text in the same fashion so that comparisons become obvious between pre- and post-survey conclusions. (The street order below follows that of Ms. Fogle).

Blue Ridge Avenue

This north-south street that extends from the south side of East Main Street features a concentration of larger residential buildings dating from the 1880s through the first quarter of the twentieth century. The most imposing buildings are on the two blocks between East Jackson Street and East Prospect Street. Houses to the south of this area appear to date from after the turn-of-the-century, and have fewer architectural pretensions than some of the finer examples to the north. The original district boundaries were proposed along Prospect Street, but the area of Blue Ridge Avenue to the south shows a continuity of architectural style evolution important to the history of the town. Our findings lead us to recommend extending the boundaries south to include this residential area with numerous contributing buildings.

The area covered by this study ends at the two houses on the south corners of the intersection of East Prospect and Blue Ridge Avenue.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	21
Commercial	1
Contributing	21
Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
Total	22

High, Cloud, and Church Streets

High, Cloud, and Church Streets run north-south and parallel Blue Ridge Avenue to the west. These streets have modest late-nineteenth-century houses, many with intact front porches that face a pleasantly tree-lined curb. Two of the town's oldest houses sit between High and Cloud Streets. Their siting suggests a period when residences were accessed from Main Street via long driveways.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Church Street

Dwellings	20
Religious	3
Commercial	1
Contributing	22
Non Contributing	<u>2</u>
Total	24

Cloud Street

Dwellings	21
Commercial	1
Contributing	20
Non Contributing	<u>2</u>
	22

High Street

Dwellings	3
Commercial	1
Contributing	4
Non Contributing	<u>0</u>
Total	4

Osage, Pine, and Laurel Streets

This area was not originally included in the historic district overlay area. The residential area south of Main Street includes the two north-south streets, Osage and Pine, that cant more at a southwest to northeast axis following the orientation of South Royal Street. Most of this neighborhood appears to be traditionally African American. Early Sanborn maps show the still-existing social halls and churches. While most of the houses in this area probably date well into the twentieth century, the neighborhood is an important part of the evolution of the town, socially and architecturally. The area should be included as part of the Front Royal Historic District. (There were no resources in this area considered during this survey).

North Royal Avenue

North Royal was a northward extension of Manor Avenue made during Front Royal's Boom Period. All of the residents in this area post-date 1890. In addition to several large Queen Anne-style residences, there are a variety of interesting commercial buildings and some fine religious architecture.

The recommended boundaries are accurate in this area. An area just north of the boundaries, separated by noncontributing buildings, features several of Front Royal's premier 1920s stone bungalow residences, and other substantial houses of various styles. The house named Avalon, surveyed in this study, is representative of this group.

In addition to the residences in this area south of Sixth Street, there are also several important commercial buildings in this area. Amongst the most important are the Shenks Window building, used earlier this century by Eastern College, and Nick's Good Food Diner, one of several buildings associated with Front Royal's role as a gate way to the Skyline Drive.

The area north of Sixth Street doesn't have enough integrity or continuity to be part of a historic district, but there are several important individual resources. Rose Hill, occupying the whole 900 block, is one of Front Royal's most impressive early-nineteenth-century houses. Several early-twentieth-century buildings present interesting context to the automobile-tourist culture of the Skyline Drive: a Tudor-cottage automobile service station (most likely Pure Oil) and the Knotty Pine Restaurant.

As North Royal Avenue curves away from Fourteenth Street it continues towards the site of the 1890s bridge crossing. Killahevlin, which is sited on a hill on the east side of the road, is one of Front Royal's National Register properties. The neighborhood that lies to the west of Killahevlin, on the gridded numbered streets, is comprised of late nineteenth century houses intermingled with some later vintage buildings. This is a potential area for further survey.

The railroad bridge crosses North Royal Avenue and provides a site for a large stone warehouse building. Several residences are clustered north of the tracks, probably dating to the late nineteenth century. The flood plain at the terminus of North Royal Avenue, as with many stretches along the Shenandoah, has the potential for significant archaeological sites.

Resources/1993 Findings

Commercial	12
Dwellings	4
Religious	3
Government	2
Contributing	17
Non Contributing	<u>4</u>
	21

South Royal Avenue

Manor Avenue, as South Royal Avenue was called before the Boom Period, competed with Blue Ridge Avenue as an area of prominent houses. Today several of the large houses still stand. Basswood Restaurant, Dr. Grubbs House, and Callahan Hall are three representative examples of larger late-nineteenth-century residences. Near the intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenue, several important late-nineteenth-century buildings face the courthouse green. The building that held the early telephone company, at the corner, the old fire house, the early school building, Burke House, and Presbyterian Church create a prominent street wall near one of the districts' most important intersections (the other being Chester and Main Streets).

Residences on the block between Stonewall Drive and Jackson Street are modest in size, but several have fine late-nineteenth-century architectural detailing. South of the proposed boundary line, the architecture is dominated by smaller scale commercial architecture. Several hotels and tourist homes dot this stretch, a few of them being contemporary with the opening of the Skyline Drive. Some of the houses in this area predated the park, and were converted into commercial use later. The tourism theme buildings may warrant closer investigation since Front Royal contains numerous examples that span the twentieth century.

Resources/ 1993 Condition

Commercial	24
Dwelling	8
Government	1
Contributing	23
Non Contributing	<u>9</u>
	32

Lee Street

The scale, style, and material of buildings on Lee Street make it an integral part of the district area.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	27
Contributing	26
Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
Total	27

East and West Jackson Streets

This street consists of a more residential western section and a commercial eastern section that defines the area between the commercial Main Street area and the adjacent residential area to the south.

Resources/1993 Findings

<u>East</u>	Commercial	6
	Dwelling	1
	Government	1
	Contributing	1
	Non Contributing	<u>7</u>
		8
<u>West</u>	Dwelling	6
	Commercial	2
	Contributing	7
	Non Contributing	<u>1</u>

East and West Stonewall Drive

Both east and west sections of this street consist of mostly residential architecture. Most of the houses date to the early twentieth century. An additional property was included adjacent to Stonewall Drive. Warren County High School with a Luray Avenue address has part of its property along Stonewall Drive where one of the school driveways enters the property.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

<u>East</u>	Dwellings	11
	Commercial	1
	Contributing	10
	Non Contributing	<u>2</u>
	Total	12
<u>West</u>	Dwellings	12
	Contributing	7
	Non Contributing	<u>5</u>
	Total	12

Prospect Street

Prospect Hill Cemetery and two contributing houses (not included in survey) on Cemetery Lane have been added into the proposed district.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

<u>East</u>	Dwellings	18
	Contributing	14
	Non Contributing	<u>4</u>
	Total	18
<u>West</u>	Dwellings	5
	Funeral Home	1
	Contributing	5
	Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
	Total	6

Virginia Avenue

Virginia Avenue was probably planned in the 1890s during the Boom. Several larger prominent buildings were built on the street as well as middle scale Bungalows and a fine example of early English Cottage style. While the boundary is accurate at the north end of the street, the house known as Rock Ledge has been excluded from the district. The avenue extends north, across several major intersections, Kendrick Lane and Fourteenth Street, past Rose Hill, and it ends at Sixteenth Street. A significant Queen Anne-style residence is located at the intersection of Virginia Avenue and Fifteenth Street.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	8
Contributing	7
Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
Total	8

First Street

The boundaries for the proposed district were extended further west (up) the street to include several Bungalows as well as the large Colonial-Revival-styled, Judge Duncan Gibb House.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	5
Religious	1
Contributing	4
Non Contributing	<u>2</u>
Total	6

Second Street

The description found in Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas was accurate and matched the field findings. Second Street only includes two buildings.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	2
Contributing	2
Non Contributing	<u>0</u>
Total	2

Chester Street

The survey of Chester Street included all of the buildings that lie within the present local Chester Street Historic District. The core of Front Royal's oldest settlement area, the street continues to have mixed residential and commercial use. Chester Street also includes the National Register eligible Royal Dairy near the intersection of Chester Street and North Royal Avenue.

The Royal Dairy is not considered below because it is outside of the proposed district boundaries.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	16
Commercial	13
Society	1
Museum	1
Contributing	26
Non Contributing	<u>5</u>
Total	31

Union Street

The description found in Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas was accurate and matched the field findings. There are no buildings with an address on Union Street.

Crescent Street

The description found in Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas was accurate.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	2
Commercial	1
Educational	1
Contributing	3
Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
Total	4

Peyton Street

The description found in Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas was accurate.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	2
Religious	1
Governmental	1
Contributing	3
Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
Total	4

Laura Virginia Hale Way (formerly Manassas Street)

There are no buildings included in the proposed district area that have an address on Laura Virginia Hale Way.

Water Street

There are five industrial buildings on this street. An area that has been used for industrial purposes, at least, since the first half of the nineteenth century, the Proctor Mill fire of 1922 destroyed all earlier buildings. There were buildings built after the fire that are now contributing resources.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Commercial	5
Contributing	2
Non Contributing	<u>3</u>
Total	5

Main Street

East Main Street features Front Royal's most important commercial buildings. One issue that arose during survey was the actual definition of buildings. An example of this problem is best exemplified by Compton's Corner, a building on the northwest corner of the intersection of East Main Street and Chester Avenue. The building has evolved from the early nineteenth century and includes several buildings within its fabric, but because the facade unified the different sections, the building is now considered one unit. There were several cases like this on East Main Street.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

<u>East</u>	Commercial	49
	Dwellings	2
	Government	2
	Recreation	1

	Society	1
	Contributing	40
	Non Contributing	<u>16</u>
	Total	56
<u>West</u>	Dwellings	2
	Religious	2
	Commercial	2
	Government	1
	Funeral	1
	Contributing	7
	Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
	Total	8

Luray Avenue

This street was not discussed in the Map Amendments for the Delineation of Historic District Overlay Areas. It is comprised of mostly late 19th century and early twentieth century buildings. Originally leading to a bridge that crossed the Shenandoah River, this is one of Front Royal's oldest roads, originally called the Front Royal-Luray Turnpike.

Resources/ 1993 Findings

Dwellings	7
Religious	1
Contributing	7
Non Contributing	<u>1</u>
Total	8

Total Number of Resources Surveyed within the locally proposed district⁶ 345

Total Number of Contributing Resources 278 (80%)

Total Number of Non Contributing Resources 70 (20%)

⁶ The total considers properties, not all outbuildings. A count of outbuildings will raise the final total to a higher number. Fourteen resources were surveyed outside of the locally-proposed historic district.

Address Order of Front Royal Survey Resources

The following list includes all resources surveyed at Reconnaissance and Intensive level. Abbreviations include:

Column Headings

VDHR # - Virginia Department of |Historic Resources record number

C/N? - Contributing or Non Contributing resources

Use: -H- = Historic

-C- = Current

Uses

DW - Dwelling	FN - Funerary
CM - Commercial	RC - Recreation
RL - Religious	HE - Health
ED - Educational	AG - Agriculture
GV - Governmental	MS - Museum
SO - Social	

Intensive Survey

Intensive Survey is indicated by the column on the right. "I" represents a property that has a completed VDHR Intensive Form, and the survey included an interior inspection with photography. "R" identifies the resources that were intended for intensive coverage, but for various reasons, an interior inspection could not be arranged so the property was surveyed at the reconnaissance level. Some of the recommended buildings warrant interior documentation since they were initially chosen as part of the group of Front Royal's most architecturally important resources.

<u>Address</u>	<u>VDHR #</u>	<u>C/N ?</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Use:</u> <u>-H- -C-</u>	<u>Intensives</u>
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Blue Ridge Avenue

8-10	112-0055-230 C		1920-1925	CM / CM	
20	112-0055-232 C		c. 1900	DW / DW	
21	112-0055-231 C		c. 1900	DW / DW	
22	112-0055-233 C		c. 1900	DW / DW	
30	112-0055-234 C		c. 1910	DW / DW	
31	112-0055-235 C		c 1890	DW / DW	
202	112-0055-236 C		c. 1910	DW / DW	
203	112-0055-237 C		c. 1900	DW / DW	
208	112-0055-238 C		c. 1910	DW / DW	
211	112-0055-239 C		c. 1940	DW / DW	

214	112-0055-240	C	1890-1910	DW / DW	
215	112-0055-241	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
222	112-0055-242	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	I
223	112-0055-243	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
227	112-0055-245	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
230	112-0055-244	C	c. 1910-1920	DW / DW	
233	112-0055-247	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
234	112-0055-246	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
237-41	112-0055-249	N	1970s	DW / DW	
240	112-0055-048	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
302	112-0055-250	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
303	112-0055-251	C	1880s	DW / DW	R

Chester Street

6	112-0055-022	C	c. 1899	CM / CM	R
8-10	112-0055-021	C	1873	DW / CM	
12	112-0041	C	c. 1815	DW / CM	I
14	112-0055-020	C	c. 1936	DW / CM	
15	112-0022	C	1882	DW / CM	I
16	112-0055-019	C	c. 1900	DW / CM	
29	112-0003	C	c. 1795	DW / DW	I
43	112-0055-016	C	C. 1905	DW / CM	I
44	112-0055-018	C	c. 1840	DW / DW	
46	112-0055-017	C	c. 1908	DW / DW	
50	112-0055-015	C	c. 1875	DW / DW	
54	112-0025	C	1800-1831	DW / DW	I
55	112-0009	C	c. 1785	DW / DW	I
56	112-0055-014	N	c. 1970-1975	CM / CM	
60-64	112-0055-012	C	c. 1905	DW / DW	
95	112-0055-013	N	1955	MS / MS	
101	112-0036	C	1818/1857	DW / SO	I
106	112-0042	C	1860-1870	DW / CM	I
109	112-0055-011	C	c. 1871	DW / DW	
115	112-0055-010	C	1933	CM / CM	
119	112-0055-009	C	c. 1905	CM / CM	
123	112-0008	C	c. 1800	DW / DW	I
127-131	112-0055-007	N	1980s	DW / DW	
135	112-0055-006	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
137	112-0055-005	N	c. 1935	DW / DW	
140-144	112-0021	C	c. 1840	DW / DW	
141-145	112-0055-004	N	1970s	DW / DW	
203	112-0055-003	C	c. 1905	DW / CM	
209	112-0055-002	C	c. 1915	DW / DW	

213	112-0055-001	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
241	112-0058	C	1947	CM / CM	I

Church Street

14	112-0048	C	1881	RL / RL	
34	112-0055-184	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
38	112-0055-185	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
40	112-0055-186	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
44	112-0055-187	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
48	112-0055-188	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
warehse.	112-0055-292	N	1980s	CM / CM	
202	112-0055-190	C	1881	RL / RL	
203	112-0055-189	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
208	112-0055-192	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
209	112-0055-191	C	1890s	DW / DW	
214	112-0055-194	N	1960s	DW / DW	
215	112-0055-193	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
216	112-0055-196	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
219	112-0055-195	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
220-222	112-0055-198	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
226	112-0055-199	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
227	112-0055-197	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
230	112-0055-201	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
231	112-0055-200	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
236	112-0055-203	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
237	112-0055-202	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
240	112-0055-205	C	c. 1900	RL / RL	
241	112-0055-204	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	

Cloud Street

26	112-0055-227	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
27	112-0055-226	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
33	112-0055-225	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
34	112-0055-224	C	1850-1870	DW / DW	I
37	112-0055-223	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
43	112-0055-222	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
203	112-0055-221	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
204	112-0055-220	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
207	112-0055-219	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
208	112-0055-218	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
209	112-0055-217	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
212-222	112-0055-214	N	1970s	DW / DW	

219	112-0055-216	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
225	112-0055-215	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
228	112-0055-212	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
229	112-0055-213	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
231	112-0055-211	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
233-235	112-0055-209	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
234	112-0055-210	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
236	112-0055-208	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
240	112-0055-206	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
241	112-0055-207	N	c. 1900	CM / CM	

Crescent Street

School	112-0055-090	C	1935	ED / ED	R
29	112-0055-093	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
33	112-0055-092	N	1990s	CM / CM	
37	112-0055-091	C	1835-1850	DW / DW	I

Druid Hill Drive

1	112-0059	C	c. 1870	DW / DW	I
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Happy Creek Road

Bel Air	112-0007	C	c. 1795	DW / DW	I
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High Street

10	112-0004	C	1820-1860	DW / DW	I
15-18	112-0044	C	c. 1890	AG / CM	
24	112-0055-228	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
28	112-0055-229	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	

Jackson Lane

Hillcrest	112-0005	C	c. 1790/1875	DW / DW	I
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East Jackson Street

(?)	112-0055-304	C	1905-1915	DW / DW	
28-28A	112-0055-301	N	1955-1970	CM / CM	
14	112-0055-303	N	1970s	CM / CM	
19	112-0055-302	N	1970s	GV / GV	
29	112-0055-300	N	1970s	CM / CM	

30-32	112-0055-299 N	1950-1960	CM / CM
34	112-0055-297 N	1960-1970	CM / CM
35	112-0055-298 N	1960s	CM / CM

West Jackson Street

15	112-0055-305 N	1960-1970	CM / CM
19	112-0055-306 C	1920s	DW / DW
20	112-0055-307 C	1890-1900	DW / DW
25	112-0055-308 C	1890-1900	DW / HE
26	112-0055-309 C	1890-1900	DW / DW
100	112-0055-310 C	1890-1900	DW / DW
110	112-0055-311 C	1920-1925	DW / DW
124	112-0055-312 C	1930-1940	DW / DW

Kendrick Lane

404	112-0060 C	1939	CM / CM I
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Lee Street

21	112-0055-126 C	c. 1890	SC / DW
24	112-0055-127 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
28	112-0055-128 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
29	112-0055-129 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
30	112-0055-130 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
31	112-0055-131 C	c. 1920	DW / DW
107	112-0055-132 C	1890-1900	DW / DW
113	112-0055-133 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
117	112-0055-134 C	1880s	DW / DW I
123	112-0055-135 C	1890-1900	DW / DW
127	112-0055-140 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
203	112-0055-141 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
205	112-0055-142 C	c. 1905	DW / DW
211	112-0055-143 C	c. 1905	DW / DW
214	112-0055-144 C	1910-1915	DW / DW
215	112-0055-145 C	c. 1890	DW / DW
217	112-0055-147 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
218	112-0055-146 C	c. 1910	DW / DW
224	112-0055-148 C	1910-1915	DW / DW
225	112-0055-149 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
227	112-0055-151 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
228	112-0055-150 C	1940-1945	DW / DW
233	112-0055-153 C	c. 1900	DW / DW

234	112-0055-152	C	1910-1915	DW / DW
236	112-0055-156	C	1920-1930	DW / DW
238	112-0055-156	C	1935-1940	DW / DW
239	112-0055-154	N	c. 1900	DW / DW

Lurray Avenue

Church	112-0034	C	1883	RL / RL	I
100	112-0055-124	C	1920s	DW / DW	
101	112-0061	C	1904	DW / DW	I
104	112-0055-123	C	1900-1915	DW / DW	
108	112-0055-122	C	c. 1915	DW / DW	
112	112-0055-121	C	c. 1905	DW / DW	
118	112-0055-120	C	c. 1905	DW / DW	
124	112-0055-119	C	c. 1840	DW / DW	I
126	112-0055-118	N	1960s	DW / DW	
School	112-0062	C	1940	ED / ED	I

East Main Street

4	112-0029	C	c. 1868	CM / CM	R
5	112-0005	C	1935	GV / GV	I
102	112-0055-069	N	1970s	CM / CM	
101-105	112-0010	C	1870-1900	GV / GV	R
107	112-0055-068	N	c. 1895	DW / SO	
109	112-0055-067	C	c. 1915	CM / CM	
111	112-0055-066	C	c. 1900	CM / CM	
112-116	112-0055-065	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
113	112-0055-064	C	1930-1940	CM / CM	
117	112-0055-063	C	c. 1920	RC / RC	
118/A	112-0055-062	N	1960-1970	CM / CM	
120-124	112-0055-061	N	1970s	CM / CM	
125	112-0055-060	C	c. 1930	CM / CM	
126-128	112-0055-059	C	1930s	CM / CM	
130	112-0055-058	C	1915-1925	CM / CM	
131	112-0033	C	1879/c. 1907	RL / CM	I
200-202	112-0055-057	C	c. 1880	DW / CM	
201-203	112-0055-056	C	1908	CM / CM	I
205	112-0055-055	C	c. 1915	CM / CM	R
206	112-0055-054	N	1960-1970	CM / CM	
207	112-0055-053	N	1930-1940	CM / CM	
210	112-0055-052	C	c. 1915	CM / CM	
211	112-0055-051	N	c. 1900	CM / CM	
212	112-0055-050	N	1950-1960	CM / CM	

213	112-0055-049	N	1985-1990	CM / CM	
214	112-0055-048	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
216-218	112-0055-047	C	1895-1900	CM / CM	
217	112-0055-046	N	1880s	CM / CM	
219-221	112-0055-045	C	1896	CM / CM	
220	112-0055-044	N	c. 1880	CM / CM	
222	112-0055-043	C	c. 1868	CM / CM	
300-304	112-0055-041	C	1830-1890	DW / CM	
303	112-0055-042	C	c. 1900	CM / CM	
305	112-0012	C	1914	CM / CM	I
311	112-0055-040	C	1920-1930	CM / CM	
317	112-0055-039	N	1970-1980	CM / CM	
Gazebo	112-0055-	N	1980s		
401	112-0055-038	C	1890-1920	CM / CM	
403	112-0055-037	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
405	112-0055-036	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
407A&B	112-0055-035	C	1930-1950	CM / CM	
409	112-0055-034	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
413	112-0055-033	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
414	112-0055-023	C	c. 1915	CM / CM	I
415	112-0055-046	C	c. 1880	CM / CM	
500	112-0055-024	C	c. 1922	CM / CM	I
501	112-0055-032	C	c. 1910	CM / CM	
505	112-0055-031	C	1920-1925	CM / CM	
506	112-0055-025	N	c. 1970	CM / CM	
507	112-0011	C	c. 1865	DW / CM	
513	112-0017	C	1870-1890	DW / DW	I
514	112-0055-026	N	c. 1915	CM / CM	
519	112-0055-030	C	1870-1890	DW / DW	I
525	112-0055-029	C	1920-1925	CM / CM	
531	112-0055-028	N	c. 1950	CM / CM	
533	112-0055-027	C	c. 1905	CM / CM	

West Main Street

10	112-0055-117	N	c. 1970s	CM / CM	
14	112-0055-116	C	c. 1880	DW / CM	
Police	112-0027	C	1922	GV / GV	I
105	112-0055-114	C	c. 1885	DW / FN	
123	112-0055-113	C	c. 1907	DW / RL	
131	112-0055-112	C	c. 1910	DW / RL	
139	112-0055-111	C	c. 1905	DW / DW	I
147	112-0055-110	C	c. 1905	DW / DW	

Peyton Street

23-33	112-0055-094	C	1935-1940	DW / DW	
128	112-0055-095	C	c. 1885	DW / DW	
134	112-0055-096	N	1970-1980	GV / GV	
231	112-0049	C	c. 1845	RL / RL	I

East Prospect Street

11	112-0055-269	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
21	112-0055-267	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
24-28	112-0055-268	N	c. 1970	DW / DW	
105	112-0055-266	C	c. 1890	DW / DW	
217	112-0055-265	C	1920-1930	DW / DW	
219	112-0055-264	C	1920-1930	DW / DW	
221	112-0055-263	C	1920-1930	DW / DW	
223	112-0055-262	C	1920-1930	DW / DW	
226	112-0055-261	C	c. 1940	DW / DW	
229	112-0055-260	C	1920-1930	DW / DW	
233	112-0055-259	N	1980s	DW / DW	
301	112-0055-258	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
305	112-0055-257	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
309	112-0055-255	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
310	112-0055-256	N	c. 1960	DW / DW	
311	112-0055-254	N	c. 1950	DW / DW	
401	112-0055-253	C	c. 1910	DW / DW	
405	112-0055-252	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	

West Prospect Street

11	112-0055-315	N	1970s	DW / DW	
16	112-0055-270	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
18	112-0055-271	C	c. 1940	DW / DW	
24	112-0055-272	C	c. 1940	DW / DW	
102	112-0055-273	C	c. 1920	DW / DW	
Cem.	112-0055-321	C	1820s-1990s	FN / FN	I

North Royal Avenue

Church	112-0055-071	C	c. 1909	RL / RL	R
Drive-up	112-0055-074	N	1970-1980	CM / CM	
5,7,9	112-0055-070	C	c. 1930	CM / CM	
15	112-0055-072	N	1980s	CM / CM	
16	112-0055-073	C	1936	GV / GV	I

32	112-0055-075	C	1914	RL / RL	I
35	112-0050	C	c. 1912	DW / CM	I
39	112-0055-076	C	1900-1910	DW / CM	
43	112-0055-077	C	c. 1900	DW / DW	
115	112-0055-078	C	1880-1900	DW / CM	
117	112-0055-079	N	c. 1955	CM / CM	
122	112-0055-080	C	c. 1910	DW / CM	
123	112-0055-081	N	1890-1950	CM / CM	
128	112-0055-082	C	c. 1925	DW / CM	
133-135	112-0055-083	C	c. 1910	DW / CM	
200	112-0055-084	C	c. 1910	DW / GV	
216	112-0055-085	C	c. 1906	DW / DW	I
Church	112-0055-086	C	1898	RL / RL	I
331	112-0063	C	1921	DW / DW	I
900	112-0032	C	c. 1820	DW / DW	I
W-hse.	112-0064	C	c. 1890	CM / CM	I

South Royal Avenue

3	112-037	C	c. 1885	CM / CM	
9	112-0055-183	C	1920-1940	CM / CM	
9A	112-0055-182	C	1882	GV / CM	
17	112-0055-181	C	c. 1910	CM / CM	
21-23	112-0040	C	c. 1901	ED / CM	I
22	112-0026	C	c. 1905	GV / GV	
25	112-002	C	1860-1880	DW / CM	
27	112-0055-180	N	1880s	RL / CM	
103-109	112-0055-177	N	1950-1965	CM / CM	
104	112-0055-179	C	1920-1930	DW / CM	
108	112-0055-178	C	1880s	DW / CM	I
110-114	112-0055-176	N	1970s	CM / CM	
113	112-0055-175	C	c. 1880	DW / DW	I
116-122	112-0039	C			
125	112-0055-173	N	1950-1970	CM / CM	
126	112-0055-174	C	c. 1905	DW / CM	
201	112-0055-171	C	1880-1900	DW / CM	
202	112-0055-172	C	1880-1900	DW / DW	
205	112-0055-170	N	1950-1970	CM / CM	
207	112-0055-169	C	1880-1900	DW / CM	
208	112-0055-168	N	c. 1900	DW / CM	
211	112-0055-167	C	1880-1900	DW / CM	
214	112-0055-166	C	1880-1900	DW / CM	
215	112-0055-165	N	1970-1980	DW / DW	
222	112-0055-164	C	c. 1890	DW / CM	I

227	112-0055-163	C	c. 1885	DW / CM
228	112-0055-162	C	1880-1900	DW / CM
232	112-0055-161	N	1955-1965	CM / CM
233	112-0055-159	C	c. 1910	DW / DW
234	112-0055-160	N	1980-1990	CM / CM
305	112-0055-157	C	1900-1910	DW / DW
306	112-0055-158	C	1880-1900	DW / DW

Shenandoah Avenue

Diner	112-0066	C	1957	CM / CM	I
1600	112-0067	C	c. 1940	CM / CM	I

Sherwood Avenue

135	112-0031	C	c. 1855	DW / DW	I
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East Stonewall Drive

14	112-0055-287	C	c. 1910	DW / DW
15	112-0055-286	C	c. 1910	DW / DW
17	112-0055-288	C	c. 1900	DW / DW
18	112-0055-289	C	c. 1910	DW / DW
23	112-0055-290	C	c. 1900	DW / DW
24	112-0055-291	N	1960-1970	CM / CM
209	112-0055-313	C	c. 1930	DW / DW
213	112-0055-314	C	c. 1930	DW / DW
309	112-0055-293	C	c. 1920	DW / DW
311	112-0055-294	C	c. 1920	DW / DW
404	112-0055-295	N	1970s	DW / DW
510	112-0055-296	C	c. 1910	DW / DW

West Stonewall Drive

20	112-0055-285	C	1900-1910	DW / DW
24	112-0055-283	C	1890-1900	DW / DW
24A	112-0055-284	C	c. 1940	DW / DW
112	112-0055-282	N	c. 1950	DW / DW
115	112-0055-281	N	c. 1960	DW / DW
118	112-0055-280	C	c. 1900	DW / DW
119	112-0055-279	C	c. 1890	DW / DW
124	112-0055-278	C	1900-1920	DW / DW
125	112-0055-277	N	c. 1960	DW / DW
128	112-0055-276	N	1900-1920	DW / DW

131	112-0055-275 C	c. 1890	DW / DW
134	112-0055-274 N	c. 1960	DW / DW

Virginia Avenue

101	112-0055-104 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
105	112-0055-103 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
107	112-0055-102 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
108	112-0055-101 C	c. 1890	DW / DW
115	112-0055-100 N	c. 1930	DW / DW
122	112-0055-099 C	c. 1890	DW / DW
123	112-0055-098 C	1890-1900	DW / DW
200	112-0055-097 C	c. 1914	DW / DW I
240	112-0068 C	c. 1910	DW / DW R

Water Street/Laura Virginia Hale Place

Five industrial buildings,
in complex behind Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill

Brown's	112-0055-316 C	c. 1940	CM / CM
Ramsey	112-0055-317 C	c. 1930s	CM / CM
S. States	112-0055-318 N	1950s	CM / CM
w-hse.	112-0055-319 N	1970s	CM / CM
S. States	112-0055-320 N	1970s	CM / CM

1st Street

14	112-0055-109 N	1965	RL / RL
22	112-0055-108 N	c. 1980	DW / DW
30	112-0055-107 C	c. 1900	DW / DW
102	112-0055-106 C	c. 1915	DW / DW
110	112-0055-105 C	c. 1920	DW / DW
125	112-0069 C	1900-1910	DW / DW R

2nd Street

9	112-0055-087 C	1880-1900	DW / DW
11	112-0055-089 C	1880-1900	DW / DW

East Sixth Street

Mill	112-0071 C	c. 1890	CM / CM I
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Lee Street

18 Grant House 117 112-0055-034

Luray Avenue

19 St. John's Catholic Church 112-0034
20 Sherman House* 101 112-0061
21 Warren County High School* 112-0062

East Main Street

22 Warren County Courthouse 5
23 Royal Oak Computers 131 112-033
24 Trout Drug Store 201-203 112-0055-056
25 Bank of Warren (Signet Bank) 305 112-0012
26 Southern Railway Depot 414 112-0055-0023
(Front Royal Visitors Center)
27 Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill 500 112-0055-024
28 Cook House (Gothic Style) 513 112-0017
29 Cook House (Victorian Style) 519 112-0055-030

Peyton Street

30 Williams Chapel 231 112-0049

West Prospect Street

31 Prospect Hill Cemetery* 112-0055-321

West Main Street

32 Front Royal Police Department 112-0027
33 (House) 139 112-0055-111

North Royal Avenue

34 Front Royal Town Hall 16 112-0055-073
35 First Baptist Church 32 112-0055-075
36 Weaver House 35 112-0050
37 Nida House 216 112-0055-085
38 Calvary Episcopal Church 112-0055-086
39 Avalon* 331 112-0063
40 Rose Hill* 900 Block 112-0032
41 Baker Company Wholesale Grocers* 112-0064

South Royal Avenue

42 Old Warren County High School 21-23 112-40

43 Basswood Restaurant	108	112-0055-178
44 Dr. Grubbs House	113	112-0055-175
45 Callahan Hall	222	112-0055-164
 <u>Shenandoah Avenue</u>		
46 Mount Vista Diner*		112-0066
47 Shenandoah Motel*	1600	112-0067
 <u>Sherwood Avenue</u>		
48 Oakley*	135	112-0031
 <u>Virginia Avenue</u>		
49 Fogle House	200	112-0055-097
 <u>East 6th Street</u>		
50 Silk Mill*		112-0071
 <u>18th Street</u>		
51 (House)*	125	112-0072

Evaluation

Evaluation

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources has a National Register Evaluation Team for the purpose of evaluating resources for their National Register eligibility. The team meets several times each month and uses a standardized scoring sheet to rate the resource under consideration. The team membership consists of at least one of each of the following disciplines: architectural history, historic preservation, archaeology, history, and landscape architecture.

All Cost-Share Survey projects that include National Register recommendations are presented to the team either by the consultants or a VDHR staff member.

The properties are recommended "potentially eligible" (or sometimes ineligible) by the consultant and information is provided to support the findings. Included in the argument for a resource's eligibility is the criteria of significance. There are four criteria by which the National Park Service justifies eligibility (there can be combinations of any or all four):

- A - Association to the broad patterns of history or a specific historical event.
- B - Association with an important person.
- C - Embodies distinctive design characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction. This usually applies to human built and/or designed resources, the work of a master, and includes groups of resources that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (historic districts are a good example of the latter criteria)
- D - a resource that has yielded or may yield information important in prehistory or history (This is often used for archaeological resources).

For more information about the National Register process at VDHR see Appendix II or consult National Park Service National Register Bulletin 16A.

The VDHR Evaluation Team scores a property on a rating sheet. The score must reach a minimum of 30 points before a resource is considered eligible for the National Register. The act of rating and determining a resource eligible does not mean that the resource is automatically listed on the Virginia Landmarks or National Register. It is simply a determination that recommends the resource's eligibility. A full National Register nomination needs to be completed; the owner of the resource should support the nomination, and review from VDHR staff, State Review Board, Historic Resources Board, and National Park Service must follow before the recommendation is confirmed as an official listing on the state and national lists.

Front Royal Survey Evaluation

The Front Royal Survey was presented to the VDHR Evaluation Team on September 22, 1994. The Team considered the eligibility of the proposed Front Royal Historic District. They determined that it was potentially eligible. Final eligibility will be determined after the upcoming review of the Preliminary Information Form.

The resources listed below were chosen for intensive survey at the outset of the project (over 60 buildings were chosen). Most of the buildings received the required interior documentation for evaluation, however several were not surveyed at the intensive level and therefore did not meet the standard for National Register evaluation. Further efforts should be made to document the interior of buildings that are potentially eligible, especially if the property owners become interested.

In some cases where intensives were not performed, the Evaluation Team determined the property as a contributing resource to the proposed historic district. Owners of any of these resources listed below, as well as other significant properties that could not be included in this survey should be encouraged to seek individual listing of their properties.

A determination of ineligible does not mean that a property may not be reconsidered. Further information can explain or add to the significance and raise the rating score.

Sixty buildings were forwarded to the Evaluation Team. Fourteen were found individually eligible. Two were found ineligible. Forty were found contributing to the proposed historic district (125 18th Street is well outside of the boundaries so it would not be included in the district, but may warrant individual rating if more information could be presented). Three properties were determined potentially eligible and warrant further study.

The following short list includes themes, and results of evaluation:

Blue Ridge Avenue

222 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-242), c. 1900. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Chester Street

Mullen-Trout House, 12 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0041) c. 1815. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District

Garrison House, 15 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0022), c. 1882. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District

Samuels Apartments, 29 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0003), c. 1795. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Chester House, 43 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-016), c. 1905. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level of significance in the areas of architecture (Criteria C) and social history (Criteria A). It was found eligible with a score of 43.

Dorsey House, 54 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0025), c. 1825-1830 . Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District

Balthis House, 55 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0009), c. 1780. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Ivy Lodge, 101 Chester Street (VDHR 112-36), c. 1830 & Belle Boyd Cottage (VDHR 112-13) at 99 Chester Street. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Jones-Miller House, 106 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0042), c. 1870. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 30.

J.S.Petty-Sumption House, 123 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-0008), c. 1815. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Royal Dairy, 241 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-058), 1947. Theme: Commerce; **Evaluation:** rated at the regional level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 42.

Cloud Street

House, 34 Cloud Street (VDHR 112-0055-224), 1850s-1870s. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Crescent Street

37 Crescent Street (VDHR 112-0055-091), c. 1835-1850. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Druid Hill Drive

Druid Hill, 1 Druid Hill Drive (VDHR 112-0059), c. 1872. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 32.

Happy Creek Road

Bel Air, Happy Creek Road (VDHR 112-0007), c. 1795. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found to be eligible with a score of 35.

High Street

Jones-Clark House, 10 High Street (VDHR 112-0004), c. 1815. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Jackson Lane

Hillcrest, Jackson Lane (VDHR 112-0005), late 18th century. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** recommended as not individually eligible due to lack of sufficient architectural integrity.

Kendrick Lane

Avtex Gate Building, 404 Kendrick Lane (VDHR 112-0060), 1939. Theme: Industry; **Evaluation:** recommended for further work. Possible eligibility of whole Avtex Plant for significance in the area of Industrial and technological history (Criteria A).

Lee Street

Grant House, 117 Lee Street (VDHR 112-0055-134), c. 1880. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Luray Avenue

Sherman House, 101 Luray Avenue (VDHR 112-0061), 1904. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Warren County High School, Luray Avenue (VDHR 112-0062), 1940. Theme: Education; **Evaluation:** rated at the regional level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 37.

East Main Street

Warren County Courthouse, 5 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0005), 1936. Theme: Government; **Evaluation:** rated at the state level of significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 44.

Royal Oak Computers, 131 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0033), c. 1879-1907. Themes: Religion, Recreation/Arts, Commerce; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Trout Drug Store, 201-203 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-056), 1908. Themes: Commerce, Health Care/Medicine; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Bank of Warren (currently Signet Bank), 305 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0012), 1912. Theme: Commerce; **Evaluation:** Rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 33.

Visitors Center (Passenger Depot), 414 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-023), c. 1912. Theme: Transportation; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill, 500 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-024), 1922. Theme: Industry; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Cook House, 513 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0017), c. 1870-1880. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Cook House, 519 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-030), c. 1870-1880. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

West Main Street

Front Royal Police Department, West Main Street (VDHR 112-0027), 1922. Theme: Government; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

St. John's Catholic Church, 123 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0034), 1884. Theme: Religion; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

House, 139 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-111), c. 1900. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Peyton Street

Williams Chapel, 231 Peyton Street (VDHR 112-0049), c. 1845. Theme: Religion; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 31.

Prospect Street

Prospect Hill Cemetery, West Prospect Street (VDHR 112-0052), c. 1820s through early 20th Century.

Theme: Funerary; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

North Royal Avenue

Front Royal Town Hall, 16 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-073), 1936. Theme: Government; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

First Baptist Church, 32 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-075), 1914. Theme: Religion; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Weaver House, 35 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0050), c. 1912. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Nida House, 216 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-085), c. 1900. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Avalon, 331 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0063), 1921. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 32.

Baker Company Wholesale, north of the Norfolk Southern bridge on North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0064), mid to late nineteenth century. Theme: Industry, Commerce; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Rose Hill, 900 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0032), c. 1825. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 30.

South Royal Street

Stickley Bld. 21-23 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0040), late 19th century. Themes: Education, Social; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Basswood Restaurant, 108 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-178), late 19th century. Theme: Domestic; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Grubbs House, 113 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-175), c. 1880. Theme: Domestic, Health care/Medicine; **Evaluation:** not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

The following are more complete descriptions of the resources that were evaluated for National Register eligibility.¹

222 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-242), c. 1900

Theme: Domestic

This large frame dwelling features German siding; decorative slate in gable ends; a bracketed cornice; a one-story nine-bay, wrap-around porch with turned posts; spindle frieze, and brackets. The surviving frame meat house is a rarity in Front Royal. This is one of several sizable houses on Blue Ridge Avenue within the first three blocks south of Main Street.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Mullen-Trout House, 12 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0041) c. 1815

Theme: Domestic

Mullen-Trout House is one of three heavy frame buildings on Chester Street. Dating to around 1815, its original form is intact while the interior has been renovated for multi-purpose use. Original features include: the exterior-end brick chimneys and some 9/6 double-hung wood sash. On the interior the staircase has some elaboration: chamfered newel post with wave-like brackets and paneled spandrel. Typical for this period is the 1-1/2-story rear ell that may have contained a kitchen with slave and/or servants quarters.

Evaluation: not individually rated: contributes to Front Royal Historic District

Garrison House, 15 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0022), c. 1882

Theme: Domestic

The house was built in 1882 and shows how the center-hall plan and Italianate style persisted. Three-bays wide with single-pile depth, the house may have been built with its ell in one campaign. The single-run stairs are reversed, running from rear to front, in the central hall, and set back in what is actually part of the rear ell block. While there has been some repartitioning in the ell, virtually all of the Italianate detail is intact. Garrison house features door and window architraves (at this date the milling styles were more machine standardized than earlier Italianate-style examples); fine turned newel post and balusters; and large four panel doors. The two, symmetrically-placed, three-window bays, with the decorated porch projecting from the center, makes the Garrison House's primary elevation one of the most sophisticated houses on Chester Street.

Evaluation: not individually rated: contributes to Front Royal Historic District

¹ These descriptions are taken from text in the eighteen theme sections or from Intensive forms.

Samuels Apartments, 29 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0003), c. 1795

Theme: Domestic

The **Samuels Apartments** was remodeled from a single-family residence into several units by Dr. Bernard Samuels in the 1920s. From early photographs and an interior inspection, it can be concluded that the renovation transformed the simple vernacular construction to an elaborate Colonial Revival design. Most of the exterior wall structure is original. **Samuels Apartments**, also known as the Trout/Brown House, was expanded from 3 bays to 5 bays and a rear ell and side addition also extend from the main block. Attic details reveal that the roof pitch was altered sometime during the nineteenth century. The **Samuels Apartments** and the **Balthis House** are the only two buildings in Front Royal that are believed to date from the eighteenth century.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Chester House, 43 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-016), c. 1905

Theme: Domestic

Chester House is puzzling as far as style is concerned. One of few houses in town that was architect designed with an ensemble of substantial buildings, Chester House was conceived for Charles B. Samuels, Front Royal native, who went on to become a successful international lawyer (the architect is unknown). Included on the property are a garage with upstairs living quarters; a guest house with several apartments; a gardener's storage building; a medium-sized building that was probably a laundry house; and a pergola consisting of baldachino-style columns. Some historical sources claim that the c. 1848 Boone House, which sat in the southwest corner of the property, was incorporated into the 1905 house. This would seem highly unlikely given that a photograph in Laura Virginia Hale's On Chester Street shows the relationship of both houses in 1905. An architect, using modern materials in a very specifically defined plan would not have bothered with a mortise and tenon building. The only remote possibility is incorporation of the older building into the rear ell portion where the present kitchen is located.

Chester House presents a perfectly symmetrical facade towards Chester Street. The five-bay-wide front facade is austere. Chester House's most distinctive features are the balanced three-window bays and the modest classical porch at the entry (one-bay wide). The upper wall includes a frieze with an applied triglyph pattern. The most elaborate exterior detail is a porch extending from the south side of the building. Like on the front porch the simplest of classical orders, Doric, is used for the side porch column supports.

Not only was this an impressive show of architectural formality on a street that consisted of primarily vernacular frame houses, but it was also a show of modern building technology. The exterior and interior walls were constructed with poured concrete, several inches thick. This construction displayed the growing preference for lime based materials produced locally (good fireproofing at this period).

The somewhat stark exterior gives way to an interior that includes a refined mixture of Classical, Colonial, and Renaissance Revival styling. The entry hall is wide and includes Doric-column supported arches. The living room is the most elaborate space including a cornice, fluted engaged pilasters, arch-top wall openings, and a Colonial Revival mantel. The carved marble mantel in the dining room, replete with organic motifs, putti, and reliefs of eighteenth-century attired women may have been imported from Europe.

Most of the outbuildings associated with **Chester House** incorporate details that have a Mediterranean Renaissance flavor. The landscape has a formal arrangement where the rear of the main house faces out onto a terrace surrounded by pergolas. The terrace creates a visual bridge to the guest house. The guest house has a loggia facade creating a shaded space perfect for the warmer seasons. The carefully planned property also consists of a formal garden, which presently consists of trimmed boxwood.

It is likely that the Chester House site was the product of a landscape architect. It is the most formally designed landscape in Front Royal.

Evaluation: rated at the local level of significance in the areas of architecture (Criteria C) and social history (Criteria A). It was found eligible with a score of 43.

Dorsey House, 54 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0025), c. 1825-1830

Theme: Domestic

The Dorsey House has a symmetrical facade. But a close inspection of the interior reveals that wall openings were altered to give the house a more formal appearance, probably to match other center-hall symmetrical I-houses built in Front Royal in the second quarter of the nineteenth century. Like many vernacular buildings that have evolved as owners or residents demanded changes, the Dorsey House has been altered considerably. It is interesting to note that while this is a log building, it is still sheathed with weatherboard, a treatment that would have been more popular than leaving the logs exposed by the mid-nineteenth century. The most recent remodeling took place in 1978 when the building was converted from a five-unit apartment into a shop. Despite the fact that very little of the original fabric, other than the logs, are original to the first half of the nineteenth century, the houses form and scale contributes to the nineteenth-century architectural character of Chester Street.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District

Balthis House, 55 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0009), c. 1780

Theme: Domestic

The Balthis House is an 1780s frame house. It has three distinct sections. The earliest section is on the south end, and is believed to be constructed of mortise and tenon frame with brick nogging. The frame northern end dates to the mid-nineteenth century and is clearly delineated by a vertical board that covers a weatherboard seam on the western street-side elevation. The Balthis family also added a brick ell around 1845. The house underwent major renovation work in the 1950s, but the essential exterior form has not been altered since the nineteenth century. Outstanding features include interior brick and stone chimneys and an exposed stone foundation. There are several outbuildings: a frame kitchen with brick nogging, the only mid-nineteenth century kitchen left in Front Royal; a log smokehouse built from logs taken from the slave quarters of the Petty House, which stood where the elementary school playground is presently sited on the west side of Chester Street; and a frame Gazebo/Playhouse, which may date to the 1860s. The original interior may have been much plainer than the present details indicate. The 1950s renovation carried out by Dr. Bernard Samuels included Georgian and Federal-style mantels, doors, chair rails, and hardware retrieved from other houses on the street.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Ivy Lodge, 101 Chester Street (VDHR 112-36), c. 1830

Theme: Domestic

Ivy Lodge is composed of two structural units: a 3-bay, 1-1/2-story log or heavy frame house that later became the ell for the present front section. The rear section originally had two rooms on the first floor--a hall-parlor plan with living quarters in the half story. The first floor presently serves as a single open exhibition space for the Warren Heritage Society, while the upstairs is the living quarters for the museum director. Floor levels in the log section are lower than those of the front section, requiring the installation of two steps on both the first and second floors. The upper floor features recently exposed hand-hewn roof plates and the random-cut 9" to 15" pine floor.

Because interior partitions in log houses are relatively insubstantial, usually just one panel thick, and are changed to meet different function requirements, the original room plans of the Chester Street log houses are not readily discernible. While most of the houses were used as residences into this century, more recently, some have been converted for mixed uses: the **Samuels Apartments** was a large single-family house easily remodeled into apartments in the 1920s; the **Balthis House** was renovated extensively in the 1950s, but has remained a residence; the **Dorsey House** has been converted into office and apartment spaces; **Ivy Lodge** now serves as the headquarters for the Warren Heritage Society with exhibition space and curator's residence.

Belle Boyd Cottage (Secondary Resource on Ivy Lodge property)

The **Belle Boyd Cottage (VDHR 112-13)** at **99 Chester Street** was probably constructed before **1819**. Moved to its present site behind Ivy Lodge in 1982, the house originally stood on Main Street behind the old Strickler Hotel (also referred to as the Fishback Hotel, demolished for the construction of Franks). Early in the nineteenth century the Cottage was surrounded by numerous outbuildings. Before it was moved to its present site, the house had become surrounded by commercial buildings and parking lots. Whether it was built as a cottage for the large hotel building on Main Street or served as a private residence initially is not clear. It probably served as a special guest area and residence when the Fishback, and later the Strickler, Hotel was a popular stop over. The house is named after Front Royal's famous Civil War spy Belle Boyd who used the house as a base for her operations. This five-bay, central-hall-plan house is of heavy frame construction keyed into place by beams with carved Roman numerals. Presently used for an exhibition space for the Warren Historical Society, the interior has been restored and a recently-constructed 1-story rear ell now houses the society's collection.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Jones-Miller House, 106 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0042), c. 1870

Theme: Domestic

The Jones-Miller House features a center-hall plan formed into a square footprint (block). The form reads as a flat-top box, resembling an Italian villa. This highly urbane residence is virtually an academic example of the Italianate style. The exterior includes a frieze with horizontal attic windows; a finely crafted porch with elaborately carved posts on pedestals; window openings with semi-circular tops. The interior includes much of its original door and window architrave, original doors, mantels, and stair details. The fine newel and turned balusters adorn a stair case that makes a dramatic single run up to the second floor. The Jones-Miller House has substantial double-pile depth.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 30.

J.S.Petty-Sumption House, 123 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-0008), c. 1815

Theme: Domestic

The **Petty-Sumption House** is indicative of the frontier character of Front Royal shortly after its initial settlement period. The Petty-Sumption House was originally clad with weatherboard. Recent renovations (1979) on the house have exposed v-notch log construction, a method that was popular amongst Germans and Scots-Irish in the Valley region. Originally located on the site presently occupied the E. Wilson Morrison School grounds, the house was moved to its present site in 1923. The first possible mention of this building appears in a deed when John B. Petty acquired the lot in 1831. In a pre-restoration photograph the building appears with a stucco cladding, the protective material of choice in this region for the better part of this century. Very little, if any, of this building's original architectural fabric survives other than the log and frame shell. It is, however, still a good example of form and

scale from the period. The form is essentially a simple two-story log cabin that later received an ell wing as space was needed. This evolution is evident in most of the log house examples in Front Royal.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Royal Dairy, 241 Chester Street (VDHR 112-0055-058), 1947

Theme: Commerce

The Royal Dairy (VDHR 112-0055-058) is one of Virginia's premier examples of a 1940s dairy bar. A phenomenon that occurred along with some dairy processing plants, the dairy bar restaurant was once a nationally popular form, but with the decline of smaller processing plants, most of these restaurants have disappeared. The Royal Dairy processing plant began business in facilities that were located behind the Knotty Pine Restaurant on North Royal Avenue. The present building was finished in 1947 and included the processing plant in the rear section and the restaurant on Chester Street side.

The dairy operation, which once served the needs of Front Royal, Warren County, and surrounding areas, went out of business, and the former dairy processing space most recently housed a laundry cleaning service. The restaurant still remains little changed in appearance from the 1947 photographs that are on public display.

The restaurant interior plan is efficiently designed with the counter island at room center and booths surrounding. Stools with chrome and naugahyde tops contrast against the porcelain enamel counter side walls that feature simple Moderne patterns. The exterior is executed in a bold Moderne design that includes tan-colored brick with courses of shiny glazed tile and a glass-block door surround. The crowning detail, what became a signature commercial element for the 1940s and 50s, is the multi-colored neon signage.

Evaluation: rated at the regional level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 42.

House, 34 Cloud Street (VDHR 112-0055-224), 1850s-1870s

Theme: Domestic

Sited next to the Jones-Clark House at 10 High Street, this is one of the older residences that had a long driveway leading back from Main Street. An east-west road trace runs through the yards of both houses. The following description is taken from Ashley Neville's reconnaissance record:

The frame dwelling has been converted into apartments. The house is stucco-clad, 2-story 3-bay; has a gable roof of standing seam metal; 1 exterior-end brick chimney on stone base; 1 exterior-end brick flue addition; 1 interior ell flue; 2/2 & 6/6 sash; 1-story 3-bay front porch with a shed roof on square posts. No original features survive on the interior. The house has been divided into apartments. House built in stages. The property includes a 1-story stone garage. 1850-1870.

Ms. Neville found this as one of the early houses in this area, more typical of the vernacular building tradition than the later houses nearby.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

37 Crescent Street (VDHR 112-0055-091), c. 1835-1850

Theme: Domestic

37 Crescent Street is a traditional I-house, built sometime between 1835-1850. This particular example is very modest in size, including a two-room rear ell. Despite the stucco sheathing and the later porch, the house retains its original form and includes two Greek Revival-style mantels.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Druid Hill, 1 Druid Hill Drive (VDHR 112-0059), c. 1872

Theme: Domestic

Built for Samuel E. and Roberta Gardner Macatee, **Druid Hill, 1 Druid Hill Drive (VDHR 112-0059), c. 1872**, is similar to **Oakley** with its projecting, pedimented, central bay. Constructed in brick, the oldest section is probably the eastern end, originally an L- or T-shaped plan. The addition of the western section created an asymmetrical cross plan. The interior of the house was remodeled by Lee J. Fristoe in 1908. But the most substantial changes to the house came after General Granger Adams bought the house for his daughter and son-in-law in 1917. Adams made some drawings, which survive, of suggested interior and exterior changes.

The older Italianate-style details on **Druid Hill** include splendid brackets, arched window hoods, and decorative round attic lights. The house also features chimneys with inset panels and corbeled tops.

While the original architect or builder of **Druid Hill** is unknown, General Beverly F. Browne, of the then nearby U.S. Army Remount Station, commissioned Washington, D.C. architect, Howard Wright Cutler (? - 1948), to remodel the house in more formal classical style, in 1928-29.

Cutler's drawings show that a large portion of the interior was reclad in carefully executed Colonial Revival detailing. The two-story portico, built in either 1910s or the 1920s, features large fluted Ionic columns with the angled volute capitals inspired by the Italian Renaissance architect Scamozzi. Matching side porches have proportional versions of the portico's Ionic columns and there are balusters on the porch rail.

Porches and portico are capped with a Chippendale-inspired railing, a feature that appears in one of Cutler's drawings. An added covered walkway, between the house and carriage building, was treated in a Renaissance-influenced hyphen manner that featured paneled piers, set on plinths, supporting keystone arches. Cutler, originally from Rochester, N. Y., started work for the Federal Government after World War I. Cutler designed new hospitals in locations all over the country with one of his more notable commissions being an addition to Walter Reed Hospital.

General Brown's wife was related to the Astor family and according to the present owner, the chandeliers at **Druid Hill** were reused from the Waldorf Astoria (New York City).

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 32.

Bel Air, Happy Creek Road (VDHR 112-0007), c. 1795

Theme: Domestic

Bel Air, built by Thomas Buck, was originally a 5-bay, double-pile, Federal-style house. The house has had only three owners since its late-eighteenth-century construction. A nineteenth-century photo of the house before its 1906 remodeling not only shows flanking chimney lights on the east end of the attic, but also a central front dormer which featured a Palladian-style sash.

When the house was purchased and remodeled by the Downing family in 1906, the interior of the older section was repartitioned and updated to feature showy Victorian (Queen-Anne-style) trim. The remodeling was extensive on the exterior as well. A large four-column classical portico was extended from the primary facade, replacing the dormer; the two-bay, one-story eastern addition was enlarged to two stories with a bell shape-roofed projecting end bay; and the building had modifications made to a nineteenth-century rear ell; the west end of the house was outfitted with a portico-styled porte cochere. The house was purchased by Larry Lehew in the early 1970s and a rear second-story shed addition enlarged the house.

The Downing family created a more dramatic entry hall by removal of walls and retrimming the resulting space with a dramatic staircase (all still dark-stained oak). The second-floor landing features a small space that serves as access to the small wrought-iron balcony centered over the front door. The balcony door is lit by the arch-top sash that was removed from the original late-eighteenth-century dormer when the large portico was built. Part of an older staircase was either left intact or reused to reach the garret space. The garret consists of two rooms accessed from a central landing where some of the early wide-pine-board floor still shows. Some broken plaster sections in the garret reveal hand-riven lath.

The basement also features some early-nineteenth-century details: a wide vertical-plank door hung on iron hinges on long battered iron straps. Moderately large fireplaces indicate that the basement may have been used as a kitchen space. The floor joists rest on large posts, hexagonal in section, and older wood grills remain in basement wall openings. The lower wall is 15" to 20" thick.

One of the most unusual features of the house is a section of garret space where several generations of owners and visitors have signed unpainted plaster walls. Many of these signatures are those of Union and Confederate soldiers.

Bel Air was visited by Robert E. Lee on his return from Gettysburg in July, 1863. The General was entertained by Lucy and Laura Buck who played songs on the family piano.

The house is surrounded by 22 acres of horse pasture and lawn and includes several notable outbuildings and sites. On the southeast lawn of the house is a small poured concrete building that functioned as a gas generator house. Probably built when the Downings bought the property in 1906, some of the original gas generating machinery is still installed with decals of "The Sunlight Gas Machine Company." On the north side of the house there are several modern equestrian-related buildings and an early- twentieth-century garage. A stone chimney ruins, that may have been quarters for a miller or slaves, stands in pasture land adjacent to Happy Creek.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found to be eligible with a score of 35.

Jones-Clark House, 10 High Street (VDHR 112-0004), c. 1815

Theme: Domestic

The Jones-Clark House resembles **Ivy Lodge** in scale and somewhat in plan. Constructed of joined frame on a stone foundation, this house is one of the oldest houses still extant south of Main Street. The trace of Clark Street, now a driveway, can be seen in the front yard. It is likely that when this house was built it had a long drive that accessed Main Street.

Originally a single-family residence built for Z. Jones, probably in the first quarter of the nineteenth century, the house has been divided into apartments. While there have been remodelings on the interior and exterior of this house over the years, some original details are still evident. The interior includes several six-raised-panel doors and a closed-string stair with chamfered newel and simple rectangular balusters. When photographed in 1970, the house had retained a finely milled late-nineteenth-century porch that included turned posts with sawn angle brackets and folk-patterned, flat-sawn balusters on the porch railing (this porch has been replaced by a simply detailed one).

The **Jones-Clark House** not only shows how a building of this region typically expanded to the rear with ell additions, but also laterally from the original rectangular block. The oldest western section features an exterior chimney. Perhaps the first two to three bays, read on the primary, north, elevation, define the early-nineteenth-century section. The two eastern bays and the half-exterior chimney are clearly additions built 20-30 years after the first section. Despite its seemingly altered condition, including a twentieth-century stucco treatment, this building has a moderate amount of original fabric and displays an interesting evolution of regional construction history.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Hillcrest, Jackson Lane (VDHR 112-0005), late 18th century

Theme: Domestic

Hillcrest is sited less than a half mile to the south on a ridge area overlooking the town. Built in the late eighteenth century, Hillcrest features a plan and exterior form similar to the original **Bel Air**; 2 1/2 stories, 5 bays wide. Hillcrest began as a 2-story, four-room log house (timbers exposed as interior walls). Hillcrest, like **Bel Air**, shows the late-nineteenth-century owner's desire to keep up with the latest styles, especially in a house that probably featured a very simple, rather austere, functional interior. A rear ell was added before the Civil War, but the most significant addition and renovation occurred between 1887 and 1915 when another two-story addition was made on the north side and the interior was retrimmed. Like many other houses in the Valley region this house has a log core that is no longer discernible from the exterior due to the generations of changes that now give it a distinct historical character.

Evaluation: recommended as not individually eligible due to lack of sufficient architectural integrity.

Avtex Gate Building, 404 Kendrick Lane (VDHR 112-0060), 1939

Theme: Industry

The American Viscose Company (later Avtex) chose a riverside site of over 700 acres and began its plant plan by 1938. The Ballinger Company, Architect & Engineers, specializing in plant architecture and engineering, designed most of the buildings and structures that are still on site today. The firm consisted of Robert I. Ballinger (architect), Clifford H. Shivers (architect/engineer), Carl de Moll (architect/engineer), and William R. Fogg (engineer). While there are claims that the firm was English-based, the drawings give addresses of Philadelphia and New York.

Drawings were made as early as 1937. Construction began in 1939, and by 1940, the plant was ready for production (construction continued into the late 1940s).

The plant included a gate house complex of two large buildings. The executive office facilities, company safe, secretarial pool, and administrative, and various other sections were located in these spaces. The buildings were tied together by a vehicle passage-way roof. The drive-through gate area was monitored from a guard room that featured tall circular bays, allowing excellent 180-degree surveillance of Kendrick Lane and the plant's grounds. The two buildings, while severe in their rectangular massing, have some Moderne detailing. There are cut stone buttress caps above the gate tunnel and the primary entry. The western building features a projecting cut-stone surround with "American Viscose" carved over the opening. The gate house bay and a secondary entry, in the eastern building, also features a cut stone parapet with Moderne trim.

The interior of both buildings feature high quality mahogany office partitions; a mahogany office booth in the west building's office pool, parquet floors; a highly-crafted, walk-in safe; almost all original light and toilet fixtures; and a fine tile-finished guard room.

In 1941, the British Government sold the plant to American investors to assist in payments during the war-time lend-lease program. In 1943 the American Viscose Corporation was the largest producer of rayon in the U.S., representing one third of the total market in the 1940s.

Evaluation: recommended for further work. Possible eligibility of whole Avtex Plant for significance in the area of Industrial and technological history (Criteria A).

Grant House, 117 Lee Street (VDHR 112-0055-134), c. 1880

Theme: Domestic

The Grant House stands out as the most ornate building on Lee Street. Where the exterior looks elaborate, the interior is crafted to match. Built sometime in the 1880s, this house includes splendid Queen Anne scalloped shingles; multi-paned windows, some diamond shaped panes; unusual saw and drill work on dormer, door and window hoods; and a patterned porch skirt. The house plan, which can be identified as L-plan or upright and wing is fairly common from the Civil War on onto the twentieth century. Like the **Sherman House**, much of the crafted interior carpentry has been left unpainted. While not as extensive as the detailing at the Sherman House, the interior includes saw, lathe, and drill work on the main stairs; spindle friezes spanning a bay opening; a fine mantel; built-in cabinets; and four-panel doors (some are five). This modest-sized house includes a kitchen wing, which may have been a separate building that was later attached to the house, and a meat house, in excellent condition.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Sherman House, 101 Luray Avenue (VDHR 112-0061), 1904

Theme: Domestic

The Sherman House, a sophisticated Queen Anne-style residence, was built in 1904. The **Sherman House** is comparable to **Basswood Restaurant** in complexity of form and detailing, but there are subtle differences. The **Sherman House** has higher ceilings, and is in fact a much larger building, deeper than it is wide. The porch includes Doric columns, an influence that came from the Beaux Arts national movement that reintroduced classical architecture. Here the extent of classical element is confined to the front porch; all of the secondary porches and balcony supports feature turned posts. Like Basswood Restaurant there are projecting bays with recessed corners. The Sherman House's upper balcony is a clever echo of the rounded porch corner and rounded corner porch-level window. The Sherman House interior includes highly-crafted spindle friezes, paneled wainscoting, newels capped

with urns, and paneled doors. This is one of the least altered interiors surveyed in this study. Virtually all of the wood has been left varnished or waxed, very little has been painted. The house is architecturally and socially significant. The present resident Dr. Elizabeth B. Sherman, in her nineties, has practiced medicine in Front Royal for many years, and is the daughter of George Hupp Bowman who had the house built. Dr. Sherman's great grandfather was I.N. King, the founder of the Bank of Warren.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Warren County High School, Luray Avenue (VDHR 112-0062), 1940

Theme: Education

The **Warren County High School (VDHR 112-0062)** of 1940 is similar in scale to **RMA's Sonner Hall**. Also built on a prominent hill site, the new high school was planned in 1937 to accommodate the expanding population anticipated by the arrival of the American Viscose Plant. With the aid of the Public Works Administration, the county agreed to provide \$175,000 for the new building. The total cost was \$315,000. Sited on a twelve-acre lot on Luray Avenue, the three-story brick building followed in the tradition of other P. W. A. designs as well as Front Royal's previous Colonial Revival high school on Crescent Street. Designed by the Eubank and Caldwell architecture firm, and consulting architect R. V. Long, the school was one of the most modern facilities of its day with 18 classrooms, five laboratories, a five-room home economics department, library, vocational shops, offices for administration and teachers, gymnasium, auditorium, cafeteria and kitchen. The school was outfitted with a clock and bell system, public address system and individual student lockers.

The **High School** displays a similar design approach to that of the **E. Wilson Memorial School**, namely the symmetrical plan with a classically-detailed portico. The simplicity of the large hipped-roof front block is enhanced by angled corners that gracefully transition into the rear wings. The corners make an inviting gesture with large semi-circular top windows that light the corner stairwells.

Evaluation: rated at the regional level for significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 37.

Warren County Courthouse, 5 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0005), 1936

Theme: Government

The **Warren County Courthouse** was probably designed by Allen J. Saville or Bascom J. Rowlett, both respected Richmond architects, with consulting architect William Dewey Foster of New York. Given the similarity of design between the Courthouse and the Town Hall, it is likely that the designs came from the same collaboration. Rowlett was well known for such works as *English Village* (1927) in Richmond.² Allen J. Saville's name appears on engineering drawings for the **Front Royal Town Hall**. Saville was also well known for his architectural engineering skills, which included work on a series of impressive Depression Era concrete bridges. Saville played an important role in the engineering aspects of Windsor Farms, the early-twentieth-century garden suburb of Richmond. Saville served as the Director of Richmond Public Works for two years.

The design solution for replacing the earlier courthouse was sympathetic to the historic siting of the building. There is evidence that one plan suggested siting the Courthouse to face South Royal Avenue. The new courthouse was

² *English Village* a cooperative apartment community executed in the Tudor Style was placed on the Virginia and National Register in 1983.

built in the traditional orientation, facing East Main Street. The county provided the locally quarried stone.³ The stone expressed a regional architectural signature, a quality that still makes both the Courthouse and the Town Hall unique. A tripartite Colonial Revival design, the new courthouse has a central rectangular temple-form block that echoes the 1836 courthouse's form. The central block is pronounced by keeping the trim on the large side wings simple and the roofs flat. Like its predecessor, the new courthouse has a courtroom on the second floor. The Colonial Revival facade of the central block is unusual in that the white pilasters which seem to support the pedimented gable float above the loggia-style entry on the first floor. The simple Gibbsian cupola replaced the image of the Victorian bell tower. The courthouse presents a symmetrical facade, and any additional space added to this building has been extended to the rear.

The courthouse green includes a Confederate Soldiers Monument, an obelisk for World Wars I & II, and a Korean and Vietnam Memorial placed near the small courthouse offices. The green also includes several mature trees. The edge of the green is defined by wrought-iron bollards. Photographs of the 1836 courthouse show an intricate wrought-iron fence that featured a two-door gate over which a segmental-arched wrought-iron sign read "Court House." In the southwest corner of the green an iron pump made water available from the local water system.

Evaluation: rated at the state level of significance in the area of architecture (Criteria C). It was found eligible with a score of 44.

Royal Oak Computers, 131 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0033), c. 1879-1907

Themes: Religion, Recreation/Arts, Commerce

One of the most unusual theatrical spaces in Front Royal is now part of the Royal Quality and Royal Oak Computer Shop. The building at 131 East Main Street was originally the 1879 Methodist Church. The church was remodeled sometime after 1907 after the congregation had moved. The building was first converted into a mixed-use space, which included a new two-and-a-half-story addition to the front. Roy Collins installed a skating rink on the second floor. Traces of the rink have disappeared. The first-floor Main Street spaces were stores, at one point including the Front Royal Post Office. The front addition was executed in a style that shows influence from Romanesque and Second Empire architectural movements. The arched sash are actually reused from the church nave, and the mansard roof is finely detailed with pedimented dormers.

The best known use of the building was the Murphy Theater or Opera House establishment. The space was used for live entertainment and later explicitly for movies. When the building was converted for theatrical and musical entertainment, an addition to the rear of the old church building was completed. This fireproof tile exterior is still a prominent feature today. The tall superstructure indicates that the stage was equipped with state-of-the-art mechanical features of the day.

The front theater entrance originally featured decorative lighting. The upstairs balcony still features early-twentieth-century theater seating and the projectionist's booth is still intact, outfitted with special venting for the hot arc-lamp

³ The research of Margaret Peters (VDHR Public Information Officer) at Warren County Courthouse has uncovered several other interesting facts. T.H. Green supervised the construction of both the courthouse and the town hall; Peters Construction of Norfolk won the overall construction contract; and the work started in August, 1935 and was finished in May, 1936. Bascom J. Rowlett's signature is found on an architectural rendering of town hall and Allen J. Saville's name appears to also be prominent in the records. It is somewhat unclear whether either building can be attributed to just one architect. In addition to the architects mentioned above, Eugene Bradbury, one of the more prominent Charlottesville architects at this period, was also involved. He received a payment from the county government, but his services were not specified. Typically, the P.W.A. projects were group efforts and clear attribution is often difficult to ascertain.

projector and a special escape dormer for fire emergencies. Movies, especially "Westerns," were shown by the Pitts Company until sometime in the 1950s.

The upstairs spaces at the front of the building were used as apartments, one of them was occupied by Clint Smith, the long-time pianist for the Opera House. The half-story space at the top of the building was used for a variety of purposes, often as a meeting space.

Front Royal developed an area where most of the entertainment establishments were concentrated. Planning the Murphy Opera House next to the nineteenth-century Davis Hall was most likely a strategic business decision. Murphy Theater, situated next to the substantial and architecturally significant Trout Drugs, creates one of Front Royal's most impressive urban spaces, a localized center (or focus) along the south side of Main Street's commercial row buildings.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Trout Drug Store, 201-203 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-056), 1908

Themes: Commerce, Health Care/Medicine

Trout Drugs is one of the most elaborate masonry buildings in the East Main Street commercial corridor. Sited next to the equally prominent old **Murphy Theater**, both buildings create an intermediate town center between the Square area and the intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenue. The building creates a gesture to the street by featuring a round corner capped by a conical slate roof. The upper trim, which includes ornamental brick courses, a dentilated cornice, pedimented dormers, and mixed pattern slate maintain the building's stylistic mix of Queen Anne and Victorian commercial architectural vocabulary.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Bank of Warren (currently Signet Bank), 305 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0012), 1912

Theme: Commerce

The **Bank of Warren**, founded in the 1870s, grew and plans were made to build a new bank in 1912. Located near the first building, across the street at 305 East Main Street, the new bank was designed by New York architect, John Sloan. This Classical Revival building is one of the most architecturally formal spaces in Front Royal. Built in a temple form, the front elevation includes engaged, fluted Corinthian columns interspersed with panels and overlights. The classical design vocabulary is enhanced by hints of Art Nouveau detailing. The main entry features a fine pediment replete with reclining men on either side of a cartouche displaying a "W." Ornamentation includes dentils, egg and dart molding, as well as swags. The upper frieze includes acanthus motifs, putti, and urns. Exterior detailing is executed right down to the concrete planters.

The main customer space matches the high quality of the exterior. The main banking room is almost perfectly square. Surrounded by fluted Corinthian pilasters, the walls are defined with recessed panels and a multi-level entablature crowns the space. The original vault is still prominent on the back side of the room and the 1912-period bank officers' names are displayed in the masonry wall along with the architects.' A shield over the vault entrance features Gibson-Girl-period-figures supporting a "W" cartouche. The Board Room is finished in mahogany paneling and includes some original period furniture.

The adjacent store became an annexed space for the bank in 1976. Signet Bank now owns the building.

Evaluation: Rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 33.

Visitors Center (Passenger Depot), 414 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-023), c. 1912

Theme: Transportation

When the Virginia Midland Railroad rebuilt its line in 1873 it was extended to Harrisonburg. For a period the railroad bypassed Front Royal, stopping only at Buckton and Happy Creek. By 1887 there were four passenger trains daily, including a "Washington Special."

Southern Railway took over the line in 1898 and it was sometime after 1912 that the present Front Royal passenger depot was built. The depot was originally sectioned off on the interior with a White waiting room at the Main Street end and a Black waiting room at the northern end of the building.

The exterior of the Front Royal Depot has been altered very slightly over its approximate eighty years of activity. Simple in detail, the building is rectangular in plan, clad with novelty siding, adorned with eaves brackets, 12-over-1 and 9-over-1 sash, round gable lights, and a finely-crafted tile roof.

The interior has been completely remodeled for use as the Front Royal Visitors Center. The interior renovation was architect conceived in 1988. The work respects the original detailing, including stained and clear finished wood trim in many of the primary spaces.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill, 500 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-024), 1922

Theme: Industry

After a tremendous fire that destroyed a late-19th-century building, the **Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill** was rebuilt by 1922. This time the outer walls were formed in foot thick concrete with some of the upper wall reputedly reinforced with Ford Model T frame parts. The 12" x 12," chestnut-beams, interior framing has survived a recent fire.

Champion Cook Proctor bought the Front Royal Roller Mills in 1911. The building was converted from steam to electrical power sometime around this period. The milling operation continued until after World War II. In 1943 its annual product was 3000 barrels of flour, 120 tons of table meal, and about 300 tons of feed. At this period it employed twelve workers.

After the war the Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill converted over to feed only and offered the full-line of Purina Brand Feed. The painted Purina logo has been restored to the side of the mill. In 1981 another fire damaged the 1922 mill. This time the floors and roof burned, but the tremendous support beams survived. The feed mill was restored and business continued until 1990 when the space was converted into a restaurant on the first floor, a special banquet hall on the second floor, and a stained glass studio on the third floor. William Biggs, grandson of C.C. Proctor, owns the building and has added a one story 30' x 50' rear extension to accommodate offices and kitchen areas.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Cook House, 513 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0017), c. 1870-1880

Theme: Domestic

Influenced by the American Gothic movement, **513 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0017), built c. 1870-1880** is Font Royal's only example of residential Gothic style. Built as a single-family dwelling, the building has been converted into apartments. Constructed of brick, the telltale stylistic features are the Gothic-arched windows and steep dormer roofs on the second floor of the main block. While not designed in a decidedly Gothic style, the one-story, three-bay front porch with chamfered posts and brackets still makes a fine residential gesture to a mostly commercial street. The interior has been divided into apartments, but still features: a heavy turned newel and turned balusters on stairs, 4-panel doors, built-in cupboards, and Victorian-style mantels. This is one of few buildings to have a large outbuilding left. The two-story frame building, with an exterior-end brick flue, is presently used as apartment and may have been a servants dwelling or a shop. One of the few houses that survives on the mostly commercial East Main Street.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Cook House, 519 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-030), c. 1870-1880

Theme: Domestic

One of the few residential houses left on Main Street that still retains a grass lawn setback, **519 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-030), was built c. 1870-1880**. The building has Queen Anne style influences, but the most distinguishing features are the cast iron cresting and the tower with gable dormers.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Williams Chapel, 231 Peyton Street (VDHR 112-0049), c. 1845

Theme: Religion

The former Presbyterian Chapel, now known as **Williams Chapel (VDHR 112-0049)**, is Front Royal's only surviving antebellum church. Built in c. 1849, the nearly square building features a pedimented front gable seemingly supported on four brick pilasters that are capped with simple molding. A temple front is inferred. Although the building is more vernacular in its form, there is no doubt about the influence of Greek Revival style, which was nationally popular at the time. The semi-circular windows with tracery are more rare, especially with the handsome transom over the main entrance.

Williams Chapel served as the historic backdrop for several events in addition to its continued service as a place of worship. Warren County's government used this space as a courthouse for a year after the Civil War while the Courthouse was being used as a hospital. Three political parties held conventions there in 1888 and it was the location of Belle Boyd's post-war lectures on her spy activities.

The chapel was sold to M. C. Richardson in 1889 who sold it to the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1898. The Christian Methodist Episcopal Church is one of Front Royal's oldest African American congregations. The congregation renamed the building Williams Chapel in honor of their Bishop.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 31.

Prospect Hill Cemetery, West Prospect Street (VDHR 112-0052), c. 1820s through early 20th Century

Theme: Funerary

Prospect Hill Cemetery is sited on a hill, on the west side of town. It is one of the oldest burial areas in the region. There are many stylized features included in the landscaped, including: metal entrance gates on stone columns; layout influences by the Rural Cemetery Movement with winding roads; terraces at entrance lead to granite obelisk flanked by cannons, dedicated to Mosby's Men; a second Confederate memorial crowns the hilltop and consists of a marble obelisk encircled by headstones of Confederate soldiers, enclosed by intricate cast iron fence. A wide variety of type of gravestones are found in cemetery, dating from the 1820's to present. This is an excellent example of public cemetery that includes a variety of funerary art, tracing the history of Front Royal and surrounding areas in stone.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Front Royal Police Department, West Main Street (VDHR 112-0027), 1922

Theme: Government

The federally-funded **Post Office** was built between 1922 and 1923. A corner stone records the Acting Supervising Architect for the U.S. Treasury Department, James A. Wetmore (1863-1940). Wetmore's office designed over two thousand buildings during his forty-five year tenure with the Federal government. The specific design of the building was probably executed by Louis Adolphe Simon (active 1894-1958). Simon, an 1891 graduate of M.I.T., worked under Wetmore at the U.S. Treasury Department from 1896 to 1944. He was chief of the architectural division from 1905 to 1933. He later succeeded Wetmore as Supervising Architect in 1933.

The overall design for the Post Office was executed in a severe classical style. The building has some decorative detailing such as the fine tripartite entry featuring engaged Doric columns, pilasters, decorative frieze work, swags executed in a drill-press pattern, and a segmental pediment. The upper trim also features an attenuated classical molding implied by drill-press work. Set on a stone defined water table, the tall brick walls are relieved by simple panels above and below all primary front and side windows.

A larger Front Royal Post Office was built in the 1980s at Warren Avenue and Third Street, the older facility now serves the Front Royal Police Department (since 1985).

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

St. John's Catholic Church, 123 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0034), 1884

Theme: Religion

Until the late nineteenth century, Catholic worship was performed at private residences in the Front Royal area. In 1884, **St. John the Baptist Church** was finished at the western end of Main Street. The church was built as a memorial to John Carroll Jenkins, a Maryland Confederate soldier who died at Warm Springs. The Jenkins family wanted the church built in a town near Warm Springs, but they were convinced of the need for a church in the Shenandoah Valley. The land was donated by George W. Macatee and the Jenkins family paid for construction, the altar, bell, pews, vestments, lamp, and sacred vessels.

St. John's remains in good condition today, with only minor changes. The church has become a recognizable landmark at the end of Main Street, quite visible from the distant end of the street during the winter months.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

House, 139 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-111), c. 1900

Theme: Domestic

139 West Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-111) features the Queen Anne style. The details include decorative slate work on the roof; an elaborate wrap around porch with doric column supports. Other typical elements include the complex roof line and irregular plan. This brick Queen Anne-style house is similar to the nearby Sherman House. Both houses feature a three-story corner tower with conical cap. The house retains all of its shutters and incorporates Colonial Revival elements, such as the dentilated cornice on the porch.

The interior features high-quality milled trim work, almost all of which is intact--though painted. Elements include: beaded window trim with corner blocks; high baseboards; interior door transoms; a two run staircase with panels, ball-topped newels and turned balusters.

The property also includes a two-story frame tenant or servant house.

The site features an iron fence, boxwood, numerous mature trees, and traces of a planned garden.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Front Royal Town Hall, 16 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-073), 1936

Theme: Government

Construction of the Front Royal Town Hall was contemporaneous with **Warren County Courthouse**. The materials and styles are so similar that any easy case can be made for claiming both buildings designs by the same architect Allen J. Saville. A period rendering is signed by Richmond architect, Bascom J. Rowlett. Both buildings were probably joint projects between Saville and Rowlett. The **Town Hall** also incorporates fine stone work - stone that may have come from either the Fort Valley, several miles west of town, or from rock outcrops that were being blasted and graded for the Skyline Drive by local contractors and the Civilian Conservation Corps (C.C.C.). Both courthouse and town hall ultimately make reference to the classical form of the temple, which had been transplanted to Virginia by English Palladians, and popularized during the Federal period by Thomas Jefferson, amongst others. The architects involved with both buildings followed a traditional adherence to hierarchy. The courthouse, of higher political status than the town hall, stands taller with its three level cupola. Despite the town hall's smaller scale, the two level cupola is similar to that of the courthouse, but has a more sophisticated design. The corners of the cupola are angled almost creating an octagonal plan in section. The courthouse cupola features operating clocks on four sides of its first level. There are circular trim areas on the lower area of the town hall cupola, but early photographs show no clocks installed.

The tympanum of the courthouse features a decorative round vent, while a fanlight adorns the town hall's front gable. The town hall's front facade is framed with simple corner pilasters and the main entry features a typical Colonial Revival broken pediment.

The town council chambers are presently located in the town hall side wing where space was originally provided for the fire department. A two-story stone garage building was built directly behind the town hall and is presently used for storage.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

First Baptist Church, 32 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-075), 1914

Theme: Religion

The new school Baptists are now the **First Baptist Church** located at 32 North Royal Avenue in a large complex brick building, the earliest section of which was built in 1914.

The 1914 church has Gothic detailing including windows with Gothic arches and tracery, buttressing, and a battlemented bell tower. Also featured are fine stained-glass windows. One of the most interesting aspects of the First Baptist Church is the Akron plan used for the worship space. The Akron plan was developed in Akron, Ohio. The plan includes large side spaces on either side of the nave that can be partitioned off for Sunday School use. It also typically features gallery spaces for small classrooms. The south wing of the church was added in 1934 to complete the Akron plan. The church is cleverly planned to use its triangular lot in the most efficient manner. The Akron Plan is rare in Virginia.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Weaver House, 35 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0050), c. 1912

Theme: Domestic

Weaver House, 35 North Royal Avenue, (VDHR 112-0050), c. 1912 is a Colonial Revival building that was built with a well-defined center-hall plan. Like the **Gibb House**, the architectural embellishments are taken from Colonial American vocabulary. Here there is a two-level porch underneath which is a one-bay balcony. Some of the primary motifs are the balustrade across the roof and the fanlight transom above the main entry. The building presently houses a law office. Many of the interior details have been left intact.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Nida House, 216 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-085), c. 1900

Theme: Domestic

The Nida House includes a slate roof with a white bronze finials; interior axial brick chimneys with corbeled tops and paneled sides; one-over-one sash windows topped by segmental arches; and a thirteen-bay wrap-around porch with round columns and turned balusters. Typically, for this style, the Colonial Revival details are expressed on the interior where the large entrance hall is separated from the parlor by Ionic columns on paneled piers (some of the less substantial interior Colonial Revival details date to the 1950s). Also included on the property is a period garage (c. 1906) This is one of the larger brick houses on North Royal Avenue, an area where some of the more flamboyant residences were built between the commercial district of Main Street and Eastern College in the early twentieth century.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Avalon, 331 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0063), 1921

Theme: Domestic

Without a doubt, Avalon is Front Royal's premier example of the bungalow house form. Constructed of stone that was probably quarried from the Fort Valley, the house features the characteristic long low gables that extend out over the front facade to create a generously deep porch. Virtually all interior detailing from the 1920s and 1930s

are intact, and much of the interior wood work remains unpainted. Built in c. 1921, Avalon served part of its existence as a tourist home, perhaps after the Skyline Drive was opened and hotels could not accommodate the flow of tourists.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 32.

Baker Company Wholesale, north of the Norfolk Southern bridge on North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0064), mid to late nineteenth century

Theme: Industry, Commerce

While the stone building (**Baker Company Wholesale, VDHR 112-0064**) at the northern end of North Royal Avenue, near the Norfolk and Western Railroad tracks, is rather functional in appearance, it is one of Front Royal's more important older industrial buildings. Dating to at least the 1890s, the stone construction and window openings indicate that the building may have been built earlier. In 1891, the building was used by the Warren Manufacturing Company, Sash and Door Factory. By 1902 (Sanborn map), it had become the Baker & Company Wholesale Grocers, which it remained until at least 1912.

The location of the building was ideal for anyone who wanted to be close to the rail line. The stone building was also relatively fireproof. The configuration of the building, including the two-story frame section, has remained the same since the early years of this century.

Now used as a warehouse, the two-story building has coursed stone walls; is 2 by 10 bays; has a gable roof of slate; 4/4 sash; and wooden lintels & sills. It features a frame addition to rear that connects with large frame board-and-batten buildings. A one-story stone building is adjacent to warehouse and is connected to it by concrete block addition. This was labeled as the engine room when it was operating as a sash and door company.

The interior is mostly open with long rows of free-standing shelves, office partitions at one end. This is Front Royal's only example of a large stone industrial building featuring high-quality masonry work.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Rose Hill, 900 North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0032), c. 1825

Theme: Domestic

Rose Hill, c. 1825 (VDHR 112-0032), stands atop a hill on the north side of town. A yard that features tall oaks and pines, the property originally extended from its present site on North Royal Avenue west towards the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. Built by George C. Blakemore, on land originally owned by Thomas Buck, Rose Hill is an intact example of a well-built I-house. The house has stayed within family-related members since it was built, from the Blakemores, who left for Tennessee in 1841, to the Richardsons who witnessed Union troops camp in the front yard, and faced Confederate fire during the Battle of Front Royal. The Millars conveyed Rose Hill to Mrs. John D. White in 1970.

The stucco shell covers a log and frame section and the later rear ell is brick. The interior of the original section retains all of its center-hall, 2-over-2 room plan with original floors, trim and mantels, while the rear 2-story ell, which once accommodated a large kitchen space, was remodeled in 1937 and includes many well-executed Colonial Revival features. The ell section includes a 2-story porch, built under the roof, on its south facade.

The property features several outbuildings, the most notable being a 2-story kitchen/slave quarters that is believed to date to the same period as the house. While the kitchen building has been remodeled for rental property, it still features a large stone hearth.

The exterior detailing of Rose Hill includes several periods of work that mesh carefully to complement the overall style of the house. Most of the 6/6 sash appears may have been replaced in a 1930s remodeling. The main entry, with transom and vertical panel-door, and ell entry, with transom sidelights and vertical-panel door, also date to the 1930s. The Greek Revival front porch may be a substantially rebuilt mid-nineteenth-century element.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 30.

Stickley Bld. 21-23 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0040), late 19th century

Themes: Education, Social

The Stickley Building (VDHR 112-0040) at 21-23 South Royal Street, across from the old sheriff and jail complex (**Keyser House, VDHR 112-0026**), was used for the Front Royal grade school before 1906. Possibly built in the 1870's, the building had been known as the Odd Fellows Building. The first public high school in Warren County was begun here in 1906, and as enrollment increased the high school was moved to Davis Hall, also known as the Opera House. The facilities in the Stickley building consisted of four classrooms, assembly room and study hall. The interior retains some older details and the exterior front elevation is largely intact despite some remodeling that has occurred at the first-floor retail areas.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Basswood Restaurant, 108 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-178), late 19th century

Theme: Domestic

Basswood Restaurant was originally a residence that sat on one of the streets further to the east, south of Main Street (possibly Blue Ridge Avenue). Apparently the building was moved to its present site on logs sometime before 1900. At a quick glance, the building, as its South Royal Avenue site, appears to be a substantial house. The original 1880s section of Basswood Restaurant is moderately small. The complexity of the design, the numerous projecting gables and dormers, and the fact that there doesn't appear to be any well defined corner, makes this building appear ever evolving, an idea that is encouraged by the shadow play between solid and void.

This house's complex form and sophisticated Queen Anne detailing make it one of the more unique early Queen Anne style houses in Front Royal. The walls are sheathed in scalloped shingles; the porch, which connects into a port cochere at the north end, surrounds the front block of the house; the gables, capping the bays and upper porch, include fine sawn, drill, and applied trim; brackets of several different sizes angle out where corners appear to be missing; and to crown all of the intricate woodwork the masons topped the chimneys with honeycomb-shaped corbel caps. The integrity of the house is further enhanced by an exquisite iron fence. The ell and port cochere are later additions, but were incorporated into the building in a complimentary fashion.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Grubbs House, 113 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-175), c. 1880

Theme: Domestic, Health care/Medicine

The Grubbs House, 113 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-175), c. 1880, is an idiosyncratic relative to the family of center hall-plan buildings. The mansard roof is capped with a standard low-pitched gable roof, a feature which is very unusual in the region and state. While the exterior of the house, three-bays wide with a central projecting bay, appears to indicate a central-hall plan, there is instead a single large room with stairs along the back wall in the primary entry space. There is evidence that the house was remodeled as it was expanded over several generations of use.

The Dr. E. L. Grubbs House at 113 South Royal Avenue includes a 1914 medical office. The Dr. Grubbs' Office is a two room frame building that is accessible through a protected passageway from the house. The shed roof of this small addition is cleverly masked by a parapet decorated with simple molding. The office was well lit by a wide transom and side lights around the entry and a four-unit, four-over-one, double-hung sash lighting the office space. The office was set back to respect the symmetrical facade of the residence.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Callahan Hall, 222 South Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-164), c. 1890

Theme: Domestic

Callahan Hall is a Queen Anne dwelling that has been converted into offices. Built of frame with a masonry foundation, the house features German siding; a gable roof of composition shingle; 2/2 sash windows; a 3-story corner tower with conical roof; bargeboards in gable ends; a second-floor side balcony, and a 1-story 9-bay wrap-around porch with slender columns and turned baluster railing. Interior features stained woodwork including a large square newel, turned balusters, and wainscot. The c. 1890 house is an excellent example of a Queen Anne-style dwelling that has been renovated into offices.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Shenandoah Motel, 1600 Shenandoah Avenue (VDHR 112-0067), c. 1940

Theme: Domestic

The Shenandoah Motel (VDHR 112-0067) is the most architecturally interesting motel court in Front Royal, mainly for its marriage of regional and modern architectural styles. The court is planned in a symmetrical "U" shape with five buildings surrounding a centrally placed office. The buildings originally had thirty one units and a pool (this number is probably still accurate). Here the concrete block walls were faced in stone or stuccoed smooth. Each of the five units were half Moderne and half traditional. The Moderne, stuccoed, half featured a flat roof with nautical style railings and a sweeping curved glass brick wall that lighted the interior entry without sacrificing privacy.

The traditional sections appear more like contemporary residential homes, featuring a side-gable roof and stone facing. All units include metal casement sash and interiors with fully tiled baths. Compared to modern economy hotel spaces, these rooms are much larger. The center two-story unit at the rear of the court area was designed as the hotel manager residence. Still in operation today, the motel retains a high degree of architectural integrity. This is one of the most sophisticated designs for a 1940s motel court in Virginia.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 30.

Oakley, 135 Sherwood Avenue (VDHR 112-0031), 1856

Themes: Domestic, Health care/Medicine

Oakley is one of Front Royal's more high-style vernacular houses extant from the antebellum period. **Oakley** also has considerable historical importance for its owner Thomas A. Ashby, who gave an account of local Civil War activity in the book, The Valley Campaigns. Ashby was a prominent citizen, serving as town mayor during the war, and his house served as a meeting point for notable military figures, as well as the locally celebrated spy, Belle Boyd. Among those who used the house as headquarters were Union General Abram Duryee (June and July 1862), Union General Robert Schenk (1862), and Confederate General Thomas L. Rosser. Apparently Belle Boyd attended social occasions at **Oakley** while Union Generals were present where she was able to secure secret information for Confederate forces.

The house was built for Thomas Newton Ashby in 1856. Thomas A. Ashby, who would later inherit **Oakley** described construction of the house in his diary:

The land--covered with oak, pine and walnut trees--was cleared and our new home started. I remembered the building of the brick kiln, the digging of the foundation of the house, and the busy days the workmen spent in the erection of the dwelling house and the buildings on the place. It took over a year to build.

The present building shows the evidence of several campaigns of construction. The original section of the house is the single-pile area with the projecting central bay. Stylistically and formally, the house is built in an almost standardized central-hall plan, a plan that transcends from the early Federal period. The architectural detailing is Italianate with the most noticeable features being the large brackets, and labels over paired windows. Instead of placing the chimneys at either exterior ends of the main block, which was the typical placement, the builder positioned them near the center interior of the building, which allowed for regular sized windows on the sides. Later nineteenth-century additions are evident, especially the large two-story bay on the south side, between the original block and the ell.

Oakley retains a great deal of its period interior architectural detail. Along with finely crafted door and window architraves; doors with carved lozenge panels; turned newel and balusters; the center hall stairs feature a rounded wall with a rounded landing between the main floors.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture. It was found eligible with a score of 30.

Fogle House, 200 Virginia Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-097), c. 1914

Theme: Domestic

The **Fogle House** is properly described as a variant of the English Cottage style. The house presents a symmetrical facade to the street and is configured in a center-hall plan. Despite the lack of ornamentation, the sweeping, steep roof lines that bell-curve out from underneath monitor dormers are references to steep-roofed northern European houses of the medieval age. The interior includes craftsman woodwork, most noticeable in the complex center-hall stair case. Involving several runs, the stairs are positioned to span the width of the hall so that the carved, splayed balusters (perhaps a distant influence of early twentieth century Scottish architect Charles Rennie Mackintosh) become a primary detail of the space.

The living room and dining room include fine dark wood details: applied roof beams, window and door architraves, and built-in cabinets. The main hearth in the living room consists of plain brick with a few light color bricks in an arrow pattern at center. The upstairs fireplaces include beautiful blue tiled fire boxes with simple Colonial Revival mantels.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Calvary Episcopal Church, southwest corner of the intersection of Second Street and North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-086), 1898

Theme: Religion

Calvary Episcopal Church, on North Royal Avenue is built of coursed and rusticated stone. The church is 1-story, 2-bays wide; includes hip, gable, and shed roofs with composition shingles; small triangular-shaped dormers on each side; corner belfry with steeple; and stained-glass windows. The church is connected to a stone-constructed fellowship hall by colonnade. Interior features exposed rafters and framing members in ceiling, arched openings, wainscot in the apse with a large oil painting over the altar. All exposed wood is stained. The church is a good example of a medium-sized late nineteenth century church.

In 1892 a fire devastated the mid-nineteenth-century **Calvary Episcopal Church** on Main Street. Within the year the congregation was offered a new site in the Boom area by the Front Royal and Riverton Improvement Company. The cornerstone was laid in 1892, but the church wasn't finished until 1898 (VDHR 112-0055-086). The design is attributed to Charles Macatee and is reputedly a duplicate of a church in Anacostia, Maryland. While the form and plan of the church is moderately sophisticated, the exterior appearance is of a simple medieval building. The steep romantically-styled roofs were common for the period on commercial buildings and residences, as were the corner towers. The church combines some of the masonry sophistication of the 1909 **Front Royal United Methodist Church** and detail elements of the Queen Anne style. Originally, the whole roof had patterned slate and an iron fence surrounded the lot. A sympathetic addition was added to the rear of the building in 1944. The church blends in and enhances the former Boom area along North Royal Avenue.

Evaluation: not individually rated; contributes to Front Royal Historic District.

Silk Mill, East Sixth Street (VDHR 112-0071), c. 1895

Theme: Industry

By 1902, the old piano factory, (**Silk Mill, VDHR 112-0021**) on **East Sixth Street** had become a successful silk mill. Known as the Royal Tapestry Company, for a period, the business was still in operation in 1912.

Schwarzenbach, Huber & Company, the longest owner of the building, was founded in Thalwil, Switzerland, near Lake Zurich, in 1829. The first American plant was begun in West Hoboken, New Jersey in 1888. Other company mills were operated in Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and Alabama. Schwarzenbach, Huber & Company bought the Boom-era factory building in 1913 and produced fabric to suit the needs of dress makers, retailers, drapery, necktie, and umbrella manufacturers. The business continued into the 1960s. The Jackson Furniture Company presently makes complete use of the building.

Built in the 1890s, an eclectic period of architectural styles, the three-story, brick Silk Mill combines Romanesque Revival design with Queen Anne details. Set on a rusticated stone foundation and featuring a multiplicity of distinct brick patterns, there is some resemblance to the masonry work on the first Randolph-Macon Academy building by architect John Poindexter. While this association is purely visual, more research may uncover a connection between the two buildings (both were built within the 1890s).

The **Silk Mill** originally featured two corner towers, one of which has a remodeled truncated roof. The northwest tower, while in poor condition, retains nearly all of its original features. Meant as the most prominent part of the building, the tower projects from the corner and rises another story above the factory. Detailing of the tower's fourth story includes an unusual pedimental motif, built in wood, on two facades. The tower roof is made up of two levels with a band of small ports and a roof that is covered in heavy terra cotta or metal shingles.

The plant was nearly doubled in size by a large one-story eastern addition built in 1919. This area was used before and during World War II to manufacture parachutes. The associated water tower was built in 1922 by the Chicago Bridge and Iron Works.

While the various businesses in the factory over the last one hundred years have made changes to the building, it is still Front Royal's most impressive nineteenth-century industrial building, undoubtedly designed by an architect.

Evaluation: rated at the local level for significance in the area of architecture and industry. It was found eligible with a score of 33.

Properties Recommended for further Evaluation

The following properties warrant further survey and research attention. Some were chosen for intensive level survey, but for various reasons they either received only reconnaissance level attention or were not included in the current survey effort. Each resource is listed below with a short description outlining the significance of the property, as well as relevant theme.

House, 203 Blue Ridge Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-237), late 19th century

Theme: Domestic

One of several large residences on Blue Ridge Avenue that warrants a closer study. Blue Ridge Avenue was designed as a broad street and was developed for Front Royal's wealthier residents. The houses, many of which date to the last quarter of the nineteenth century and the first quarter of the twentieth century, are of larger scale and feature more elaborate detailing. While some of these fine houses have been altered over the years, many probably retain highly crafted interior details. Front Royal's proximity to lumber milling operations and rail connections provided for more sophisticated houses in town.

The large L-shaped plan for this house is embellished with three-sided, one-story bays, on front and side elevations. The central architectural feature of the house is a three-story tower, which includes paired sash in several sizes. The tower is capped with a truncated-pyramidal roof featuring small projecting gables and wide eaves. The front porch is integrated into the three-sided bay and includes sawn brackets mounted on square posts. All original sash have are eared trim, and the sash on the front porch are full height. The house has been resided and rear additions have been made, but there is a high degree of architectural integrity left (siding treatments are often reversible). The overall stylistic expression is Italianate.

Recommendation: Intensive level survey (interior photography); the house will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

Hoffman House, 413 Grand Avenue (no survey), c. 1890-1900

Theme: Domestic

One of several large Queen Anne-style residences built during Front Royal's late-nineteenth-century growth period, the Hoffman House is located on the western edge of town in a subdivided neighborhood. A medium-sized barn, one of a small number within town limits, is sited east of the house between two houses (within three lots of the Hoffman House).

Recommendation: The property received no coverage in this study. The house and barn should be documented at reconnaissance level, or, if possible, at intensive level. The barn appears to be the least-altered barn from the early twentieth or late nineteenth century within the town limits.

Bon Air, 124 Luray Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-119), 1840s

Theme: Domestic

Located in a residential area on Luray Avenue, Bon Air is a good example of a farm house from the second quarter of the nineteenth century. At the time of its construction, Front Royal was a small village and the Front Royal-

Luray Turnpike, which still passes to the west of the house, was one of the primary transportation links further south in the Shenandoah Valley. The following is Ashley Neville's reconnaissance form description.

Bon Air is a frame and log dwelling clad in weatherboard and German siding, set on a stone and poured concrete foundation. The house is 2 stories by 8 bays with gable roofs of standing seam metal. Other features include: 1 interior brick chimney; an interior brick flue; an exterior-end brick flue; 1-story 3-bay main front porch with square posts and pedimented gable roof; 1-story 1-bay secondary front porch with Tuscan columns and pedimented gable roof; and 6/6 double-hung sash. The house was built in stages. The property includes a 1-story 1-bay log outbuilding with V-notches, gable roof of standing seam metal; and a 1-story 1-bay frame outbuilding.

Recommendation: Excellent example of log outbuilding. At such time that access becomes available, the interior should be documented; the house will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

The Afton Inn, 4 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0029), c. 1870

Theme: Domestic, Commerce

The design of this large building has been attributed to Front Royal native, Milton Thomas Fristoe. Finished in the late 1860s, the three-bay brick block that faces the courthouse is the earliest section, with later frame wings extending to the rear along Crescent Street. The rear section of the Inn may be a heavily remodeled house. The shouldered exterior chimneys could define the sections of a residence that was either incorporated into the hotel on site or moved there later.

The Afton Inn has gone through many transformations through the years and now sits vacant. Early photographs show that the hotel had painted exterior walls (a post card shows a stucco finish in the 1930s to 1940s) and a decorative multi-level Italianate porch to match its bracketed cornice. The present interior shows that the bottom floor was used for a restaurant until recently.

The Afton Inn is one of several larger scaled buildings near the important intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenue. The Afton is an important example of commercial vernacular architecture and complements the courthouse and the Front Royal United Methodist Church. The Inn also relates to Virginia courthouse tradition where during court days citizens traveled from all parts of the county and stayed in town, using the Inn as a base and often as a space for informal legal, political, and social activity.

Recommendation: Intensive level survey (interior photography); the building will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

Rebel's Tattoo Parlor/ Old Clerk's Office, 101-105 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0010), c. 1870

Theme: Government, Commerce

At the northeast corner of the green two brick buildings, built after the Civil War and once associated with the courthouse, still stand. 101 Main Street is a small, one-story, brick building with two transom-topped entrances. Used as the Clerks Office (VDHR 112-0010), the late nineteenth century building still serves as office space. The building immediately next door, 105 East Main Street, now used as a tattoo shop, originally served as office space, probably a government or law practice. 105 East Main Street is larger and more decorated than its neighbor, including ornamental trim on the front gable along with finely crafted window and door wood work.

An important architectural type of legal building that was once the component of many Virginia courthouse complexes, the Front Royal Clerk's Office was originally located at the western side of the green. 101 East Main Street may incorporate materials from the earlier clerk's office.

A quick inspection of the primary spaces of both the old Clerk's Office and Rebel's Tattoo Parlor revealed that interior fabric has been altered.

Recommendation: Both interiors may never have been very elaborate so eligibility may not be effected by the present interior configurations. The buildings may be eligible under Criteria A for historical significance. More research is needed to confirm whether the two buildings were associated in use or separate. Complete intensive survey is recommended (interior photography); the building will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

Weaver's Department Store 205 East Main Street (VDHR 112-0055-055), c. 1915

Theme: Religion

The former department store, at 205 East Main Street, was built sometime between 1912 and 1919. The free-form Classical style is the work of architect John Sloan, also responsible for the Bank of Warren. The design detailing is similar in that it is a loose interpretation of the classical architectural vocabulary. The use of glazed terra cotta facade ornament on both the bank and department store buildings points to an out-of-town source for the construction materials.

Weaver's has a perfectly symmetrical facade featuring large engaged Doric pilasters supporting an entablature with triglyphs, guttae, and projecting ends. A small side entrance to residential space presents a medallion supported on brackets showing a "W." Weaver's is spelled out on the upper facade. In addition to the terra cotta, the brickwork on the front facade is laid in a Flemish bond.

The later remodeling of the lower retail facade was actually an enhancement. Decorative black and tan vitrolite cladding updated the facade to a simple, yet sleek, Art-Moderne style appearance. This work was probably done in the 1940s or 50s.

Recommendation: The Weaver's Department store is one of the more impressive early twentieth century commercial buildings on East Main Street. The use of terra cotta and the fine brick work signify the progressive intentions of the Weaver family business. Complete intensive survey is recommended (interior photography); the building will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

United Methodist Church, northwest corner of West Main Street and North Royal Avenue (VDHR 112-0055-071)

Theme: Religion

After leaving their 1879 church (131 East Main Street), the Front Royal United Methodists had one of the town's finest buildings constructed at the important intersection of Main Street and Royal Avenues. The church, finished by 1909, is attributed to Philadelphia architect Benjamin D. Price (active 1867-1910). The building is designed in a Richardsonian Romanesque architectural style, a hold over from the nineteenth century. The heavy rusticated material textures and the semi-circular stone window hoods and lintels were popularized by the nationally-known architect Henry Hobson Richardson.

Recommendation: This is Front Royal's most elaborate church. It is important for its fine architecture and as a representative of the long practice of the Methodist faith in town. Complete intensive survey is recommended (interior photography); the building will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

Shenk's Rusco Window Company, 518 North Royal Avenue (no survey) c. 1890

Theme: Commerce, Education

The present Shenks Rusco Window Company building at 518 North Royal Avenue, one of the most substantial commercial buildings in Front Royal, displays fine Italianate features. It served as a boys dormitory and hall for Eastern College. Eastern College was probably underway by 1900. Its campus was centered around the intersection of North Royal and Sixth Street. The largest building, later converted into the Royal Hotel, occupied the northwest corner of the intersection. The Shenks Building was probably built for commercial use during the 1890s Boom period, but became a primary campus building of Eastern College. The college survived into the 1920s, after which the Shenk's building reverted to commercial use.

Recommendation: The Shenks building is important for its turn-of-the-century architecture and for its association to Eastern College and the Boom area. Complete intensive or reconnaissance survey is recommended (interior photography); the building is not included within the proposed Front Royal Historic District, but should be considered as one of the important buildings on North Royal Avenue, along with the several large early twentieth century residences.

Nick's Good Food Diner, 522 North Royal Avenue (no survey), c. 1952

Theme: Commerce

Nick's Diner, a local institution that has closed in recent years, was built in 1952. The business, started by Nick Pedras, was called a diner, but was not of the prefabricated type. In addition to the well-known, charismatic, signage, the building is a superb example of the Moderne style. The characteristic features here are the flat roof, the curved corners, and smooth stucco surface. While some of the interior features have been removed, there are still stainless steel panels, mirrors, and unique design features that make this one of Front Royal's more unique historic restaurant interiors. In addition to the steel metal box sign that was originally lit by neon, the applied (painted) "sayings," and advertisements were executed by a traveling customer that reputedly created the work for meals. The nationally-known photo realist artist, John Baeder, has used Nick's as a subject - versions of which have appeared on post cards.

Recommendation: The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is preparing a Multiple Property Document for the diner (also referred to as a Thematic Nomination). About twenty significant diners have been located in the state and Nick's and the Mount Vista diner should be considered for inclusion. Intensive or reconnaissance survey is recommended (interior photography); the building is not included within the proposed Front Royal Historic District, but should be considered as one of the important buildings on North Royal Avenue, along with the several large early twentieth century residences.

Mount Vista Diner, Shenandoah Avenue (VDHR 112-0066), 1957

Theme: Commerce

The Mount Vista Diner (VDHR 112-0055) was moved to its site, near the Riverton Bridges, in 1963. Relocated from Maryland, it was originally manufactured by the Mountain View Diner Company of Singac, New Jersey in 1957. Diners, buildings that were made at a remote factory and shipped to site, had become a popular part of America's commercial landscape by the late 1940s. The diner had evolved in the northeast, in factory towns during the late nineteenth century. By 1955, there were numerous diners in Baltimore, Washington, D.C., and the Northern Virginia area. Today fewer than twenty survive in Virginia, and a 1947 Mountain View model, called the Tastee 29 Diner, in the City of Fairfax, has become the state's first diner to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Now called **Sandy's Diner**, the building is one of the best examples of a late-fifties Streamline-designed diner in Virginia. This particular model includes stainless steel and neon with curvilinear lines on the exterior. The interior features green formica that was probably originally coordinated with green naugahyde. The concrete rear kitchen area was built to receive the front prefabricated portion of the building. **Sandy's Diner** was one of several diners made by Mountain View Diner Company in their last year of business. It is the largest prefabricated diner surviving in the state.

Recommendation: While the interior was photographed through the plate glass windows, further interior photography is warranted to adequately document the architecture of this unique building. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources is preparing a Multiple Property Document for the Diner Theme (also referred to as a Thematic Nomination). About twenty significant diners have been located in the state and **Nick's** and the **Mount Vista** diner should be considered for inclusion.

Rock Ledge, 240 Virginia Avenue (VDHR 112-0068), c. 1910

Theme: Domestic

Rock Ledge was built on land partitioned from the Duncan Gibb property (125 1st Street, VDHR 112-0069), on the east side of First Street. Similar in plan and material to the **Nida House**, **Rock Ledge** is an asymmetrical brick block-shaped construction, set on stone foundations, with projecting side bays. **Rock Ledge** includes an ornate dormer that features Colonial Revival references (but is larger than any colonial period example). The dormer walls splay out onto the roof in a unusual manner. The gable trim with cornice returns and the dormer's Palladian window firmly relate the design to Virginia's colonial precedent, albeit in a manneristic fashion. **Rock Ledge** includes cornice returns and classical-style columns neatly punctuate the spacing of the porch.

The house is enhanced by its hilltop siting and exquisite masonry work, a specialty in the Front Royal area. The grey sedimentary stone may have come from the Fort Valley. The stone is used as labels and lintels; for cut and random courses in the foundation, and for ornamental curbing along the steps and in the walls surrounding the property. In addition the stone base, the roof, dormer and portico face are all sheathed in slate. Two superbly crafted stone outbuildings round out the architectural ensemble. One building is now a garage, but may have begun as a carriage house. The smaller building probably housed machinery for gas-powered lights. Both buildings are enhanced by central gables that feature round vents in their peaks.

Recommendation: Intensive level survey (interior photography); this one of Front Royal's more impressive early twentieth century houses. **Rock Ledge** lies outside of the area proposed for a Historic District consideration. The present owner maintains the house in excellent condition.

Duncan Gibb House, 125 First Street (VDHR 112-0068) c. 1900-1910

Theme: Domestic

The **Gibb House**, named for former resident, lawyer and judge, **Duncan Gibb**, is an academic assemblage of Colonial American architectural elements. A brick, five-bay, rectangular house of center-hall plan, the details include a well-proportioned tetra-style portico, a Palladian window, pedimented window hoods, a pointed-arch Gothic window on the rear elevation, and arch-top Georgian-style dormer windows. The only house that would have ever approached this sophistication from the post-colonial period in Front Royal would have been **Bel Air** before its renovations. There is no doubt that the **Gibb House** was the work of an architect, unfortunately very little information about the history of the house was available at the time of this study.

Further research may reveal that the **Gibb house** is an older house that was remodeled into its present, more formal, appearance.

Recommendation: Intensive level survey (interior photography); this one of Front Royal's more impressive early twentieth century houses. The building will be a contributing resource in the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

House at corner of Fifteenth Street and Virginia Avenue (no survey), c. 1890

Theme: Domestic

The development of the present northern section of Front Royal was planned during the 1890s Boom period. The pattern was a basic grid with numbered streets running east-west, and named streets running north to south. Several large Queen Anne style houses were built in the area north of Fourteenth Street. This house sits at the corner of Fifteenth Street and Virginia Avenue. It is one of the more significant historic residences in the area. A large frame building with a tower, it has more architectural pretensions than most of the nearby houses (other than Killavehlin).

Recommendation: The owner did not want to participate in the survey. At some point in the future the house should be documented at the reconnaissance level, and if permission is granted an intensive survey should be pursued. The house lies well outside of the proposed boundaries for the Front Royal Historic District.

House, 125 18th Street (VDHR 112-0072), c. 1890

Theme: Domestic

The Queen-Anne-style house, on the north side of Front Royal, at 125 18th Street (VDHR 112-0072), is prominently sited on bluff above the river, where it retains much of its architectural integrity, and intact examples of late-nineteenth-century-outbuildings. The large frame house, set upon a brick and stone foundation, features a three story tower with pyramidal roof and decorative slate sheathing on upper story. There is a well as a well-crafted one-story, 12 bay, wrap-around porch with Tuscan columns and turned balusters. Built in the 1890s and remodeled in 1919, the interior has similar features to other larger frame Queen Anne-style houses of this period, including, large double door openings between main rooms, a prominent closed string stair with turned balusters, and bay window.

The frame barn/stable is one of the largest left in the town. The frame summer kitchen/wash house has German siding and includes a mansard roof, a feature unusual for a small utilitarian building. Included in this ensemble is a frame workshop/woodshed, also sheathed in German siding. This is the most complete house-and-outbuildings example found in this survey.

Recommendation: Ashley Neville successfully surveyed this house at the intensive level. The National Register Evaluation Team chose to defer rating this house. The information is on file if the owner ever wishes to proceed with an evaluation. The house lies well outside of the proposed boundaries for the proposed Front Royal Historic District.

Riverton Bridges, Shenandoah Avenue

In the late thirties the Virginia Highway Department realized that the nineteenth century bridges across the Shenandoah would have to be replaced to accommodate the tremendous increase in traffic brought on by increased industry and the opening of the Skyline Drive. The older 1890s spans crossed the river at the northern end of North Royal Avenue. The new bridges were planned at the end of Shenandoah Avenue, to the west. At the time, the construction of these bridges was the largest undertaking ever attempted by the Highway Department. The construction required a cut through two hills, three large fills, and spanned three water courses (two forks of the Shenandoah River and Crooked Run). The railing sections at the edge of the deck are executed in an ornamented

concrete pattern, while the lower supporting structure consists of a metal truss system. On November 17, 1941 Governor Price opened the triple Riverton Bridges, the same span that is still in use today.

Virginia Department of Transportation has proposed altering the configuration of this bridge network. While the design is probably still under consideration, one plan that was outlined in a Cultural Resources Study, Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Highway Improvements to Route 522, Warren County, Virginia (Virginia Commonwealth University, 1989), suggests using the present bridge and building a second one to the east. A survey of the Riverton area was carried during the 1989 Phase I survey. An earlier survey, A Phase I Cultural Technical Report of the Proposed Widening and Realignment of Route 522 in Warren County, Virginia (James Madison University, 1988), covered the area around Guard Hill, on the northern bank of the North Fork of the Shenandoah River.

Neither report considered the significance of the 1940-41 concrete bridges (the resource was not fifty years old at the time of the survey).

Recommendation: Considering the significance of this crossing and the magnitude of this bridge project, an undertaking that eased travel to a National Park and aided the industrial development of the town, an effort should be made to adequately document the bridge before improvements are made. Documentation and research on this bridge may already exist at VDOT Transportation Research Council in Charlottesville, but more recent photography may be desirable.

Recommendations

Recommendations

A thorough cultural resources inventory is critical to the creation of a successful cultural resources management plan. A complete study of standing structures and archaeological resources provides a full spectrum of knowledge about the quantity and quality of resources. This information offers the foundation that is required for making the best-informed decisions about cultural resources management, by establishing a context for fairly assessing each resource, delineating specific sites and areas that require special consideration, and indicating the level of regulation necessary for resource preservation.

The goal of this project was to survey as completely as possible the potentially eligible downtown historic district area, as well as various other resources outside of this area that also warrant documentation and evaluation. There are immediate and secondary considerations in the following recommendations:

Immediate Actions

- 1) This project will produce a Virginia Department of Historic Resources Preliminary Information Form for the proposed Front Royal Historic District. The form will be evaluated by VDHR staff. If found eligible, the Town of Front Royal should support the PIF presentation to the State Review Board. Following acceptance by the board, the town should follow through on the final National Register Nomination.

The recommended boundaries of the district suggested by this study will require some additional survey to include properties that can be incorporated at the edge of the boundary, as well as the neighborhood area of Osage, Pine, and Laurel Streets, and other historically significant areas on the south side of town.

- 2) The town should encourage and support owners of National Register eligible properties in their effort to nominate their buildings to the State and National Register. A list of these eligible properties is found in the Evaluation section of this report.
- 3) The town should consider protection measures for the section of higher quality early-twentieth-century residential resources on North Royal Avenue, of which Avalon is a central example. The several high quality commercial and residential resources that lie between Third and Sixth Streets, beyond proposed district boundaries, are presently zoned for commercial use and, as such, are in danger of remodeling or demolition that would hasten the deterioration of design quality of this area. The loss of the Royal Hotel is a primary example of a missed opportunity for building rehabilitation and commercial development of a historic resource.

The possibility of a small historic district for this area should be considered.

Secondary Actions

- 1) Front Royal's downtown character is dominated by late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth century architecture. This theme provides the physical context for the town's history through the early part of this century. Tourism has played a major role in the town's development since the 1930s. The architecture of this era, and the fact that Front Royal was and still is one of Virginia's leading tourism areas, is important. Many of the resources for this theme are younger than fifty years, but their charismatic designs are unique in many cases: **Nick's Good Food Diner**, **Sandy's Diner (formerly the Mount Vista)**, **Shenandoah Motel**, **Royal Dairy**, and several other establishments discussed in the theme section of this report. The buildings that replace these unusual constructions can be utilitarian and characterless. The buildings they replace often feature curved corners, smooth stucco surfaces--unusual architectural forms. What is more, the older buildings are constructed with high quality materials such as plaster walls, glass block, vitrolite, formed stainless steel, colored brick, and neon. A closer look at these buildings often reveals that the wear is repairable. This quality is rarely replaceable at modern costs, and destruction of the distinctive tourism-age buildings will erase an important part of the area's history.

Retain and Remodel vs. Demolish

Owners should be encouraged to retain these buildings, incentives may be necessary. The Royal Dairy is a prime example of continued use. While the dairy processing has ceased to exist, the restaurant continues to be a town mainstay. Despite its less-than-fifty-years age, the building was found to be eligible for the National Register. While dairy bars were once popular in the United States, operating ones are rare. The Shenandoah Motel was also found eligible. It features a creative mixture of modern and traditional design. Front Royal features several well-preserved, functioning, 1940s and 1950s motor courts. These small-scale complexes blend in more sympathetically with Front Royal's abutting residential architecture than large three- to five-story hotels.

Sympathetic remodeling should be encouraged. The railroad depot on East Main Street sets a good standard for building reuse. It is possible to retain the exterior and remodel the interior space for other purposes--this can be cost efficient. Front Royal already shows a great deal of pride when owners choose to remodel and retain buildings like the Depot, Proctor-Biggs Feed Mill, and Callahan Hall, just to name a few good examples.

- 2) Despite a focused effort to include all the important Front Royal properties within the scope of this project, several had to be left out. A limited amount of additional selective reconnaissance survey should be conducted on the north and south sides of town. Fifteen properties are recommended for further evaluation in the Evaluation Section. Some of these received reconnaissance-level attention, while other were not surveyed. These properties should be surveyed at the intensive level.

Other properties and areas that warrant further survey:

- Large late-nineteenth-century house on Grand Avenue
- Late-nineteenth-century barn on Grand Avenue
- Tourist homes on South Royal Avenue
- Older houses near the Silk Mill, Sixth St. area
- Older houses in the northern half of town, north of Sixth St. and Kendrick Lane.
- Older houses south of South Street
- Within the next twenty years: the survey of Viscose City, 1940s American Viscose plant-workers community.

3) If Front Royal does not wish to pursue a National Register Historic District, then the system of local designation should continue and be expanded beyond the Chester Street area. The town should explore educational initiatives such as a local signage program. Partnerships between government and the private sector could encourage preservation activities.

General Discussion

The approach to cultural resources management can vary from establishing a low to a high degree of resource protection. Minimal cultural resources management encompasses limited recordation of the most significant sites and structures, without the incorporation of measures that offer protection to the identified resources.

A pro-active cultural resources management plan includes a broad spectrum of resources, able to represent varying levels of society, and provides devices such as overlay or spot zoning ordinances that pinpoint sites and structures deemed important enough to preserve while including the means for evaluating proposed changes to the resources. Protective cultural resources management introduces informed decision making into the processes of growth and development, thereby allowing the best opportunity for the survival of significant resources to work hand-in-hand with economic vitality and progress.

Education and the willingness to employ creative approaches to preservation and development are important components of a successful cultural resources management plan. An understanding of the importance of cultural resources and of how they impart information about the past, is critical to ensuring their protection and their educational use. Flexibility in incorporating resources into development initiatives wherever possible, and the successful integration of development into existing built and natural fabric, allows the physical manifestations of the past and present to coexist. Where the loss of cultural resources is found to be inevitable, or in the best interest of the public, documentation of the resources will record the information provided by the resource for future use. However, even extensive documentation, such as is afforded by photographic recordation and the production of measured drawings, cannot provide data that is as accurate or as informative as that offered by the preserved resource itself.

The Virginia State Preservation Plan, compiled by VDHR and Virginia's interested citizens, offers goals and objectives for preservation state-wide. Beyond emphasizing the importance of

education, these include responsible stewardship, the inclusion of all social groups in the preservation process, and the enhancement of cultural resources appreciation through inclusion of sites and structures in tourism promotion.

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Appendices

Appendix I: Architectural Glossary

The following glossary was compiled by Jeffrey M. O'Dell, architectural historian for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

American bond: Pattern of brick work in which three or more rows of stretchers alternate with a single row of headers. (Three-course American bond is found earliest in Virginia; five-course appears later, and is followed by "random" or "mixed" American bond.)

Architrave: 1) The lowest member of an entablature. 2) Architrave-form finish surrounding a door or window.

Ashlar: Facing of squared, carefully-finished stones.

Balloon framing: Light-timber construction in which timbers are joined by nailing rather than mortise-and-tenon joinery. (Two-story buildings are characterized by studs which extend in one piece from sill to roof plate.)

Baluster: A short pillar or post in a series, supporting a rail.

Bay: Subdivision of a building, marked on the exterior by door or window openings. (e.g., a house whose main facade is pierced by a central door flanked by a single window on either side would be characterized as having a "three-bay front;")

Bay window: A window structure of angular plan projecting from a wall surface.

Bead: A rounded, decorative molding at the edge of a piece of trim (e.g., beaded weatherboard or beaded chair rail).

Bulkhead entry: An exterior entry to a basement or cellar, in which the set of steps is covered by a small projecting structure.

Ca: Abbreviation for circa (Latin: about, around), denoting approximate date or figures)

Casement window: Window frame that swings open horizontally on hinges.

Catslide: A roof having a longer slope at the rear than at the front; esp., a roof whose rear slope continues in a single plane from the ridge to cover a rear addition.

Center-hall plan: Plan incorporating a central passage, usually containing a stairway, flanked by rooms of equal or approximately equal dimension.

Chair rail: A wooden molding around the wall of a room at chair-back height to afford protection when chairs are pushed back against the wall.

Closed-string: Refers to a stair in which the treads are not visible in a side view of the stairway.

Closer brick: A brick of nonstandard size used to close the end of a course. Sometimes used as a decorative feature around openings or at the edges of chimney faces.

Collar: A horizontal beam connecting and supporting the rafters between the ridge and the wall plate.

Common bond: Brick bond composed entirely of stretchers. Also known as "stretcher bond" or "running bond." (Common bond was not used in Virginia until the nineteenth century.)

Colonette: A small or slender column.

Composite: One of the orders in classical architecture; characterized by its combination of features derived from the other orders.

Corinthian: The most elaborate of the classical orders, featuring fluted columns with capitals carved with acanthus leaves.

Cornice: 1) The uppermost part of an entablature. 2) Classical decorative treatment at the eaves of a building or at the juncture of an interior wall and ceiling.

Crossette: A lateral projection in an architrave molding; also referred to as an "eared" architrave.

Cut nail: A nail with a square or rectangular-section shaft and head.

Cyma: An ogee or "wave" molding.

Dado: A plain or paneled field that traverses the lower part of an interior wall surface. Also referred to as "wainscot."

Dentil: One in a series of oblong or square blocks used to decorate a cornice.

Distyle: Refers to a portico or porch with two frontal columns.

Doric: One of the classical orders characterized by fluted columns which lack a base.

Dormer: A window placed vertically in a projection built out from a sloping roof. (Derives from the Old French dormer ("to sleep"), since these windows usually served the upper floor of a house, which was generally used as sleeping quarters.)

Double-pile: Refers to a building plan two rooms in depth.

Drystone: Stone masonry in which no mortar is used to bind or infill between the blocks.

Elevation: 1) The external faces of a building. 2) A drawing of a building showing vertical space arrangement, as opposed to horizontal arrangement of space shown in a plan.

Ell: A projection or wing which creates a building with an L-shaped plan.

English basement: A "raised" basement, or one which projects approximately 1/2 or more feet above grade.

English bond: Brickwork pattern in which rows consisting entirely of headers alternate with rows entirely of stretchers. (Commonly used in Virginia in the seventeenth century and for basements or foundations of buildings in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.)

Facade: The front of a building, or any other face given special architectural treatment. (From the Italian *faccia*, meaning "face".)

False plate: Board or timber which rests horizontally across the ends of tie beams cantilevered beyond the wall plate, and which receives the rafter feet. (As opposed to a true plate, which rests directly on the vertical supporting members of a wall. Characteristic of Virginia building from the seventeenth century to c. 1860.)

Fanlight: A fan-shaped window, with sash bars radiating like the ribs of a fan, located over a door or window.

Federal: Period or style of U.S. architecture during the first growth of the new federal republic, from c. 1780-1830. It was derived from the neoclassical style developed by the Adam brothers and others in England in the late eighteenth century; it preceded the widespread employment of the Greek Revival and Gothic Revival styles in the 1830s and 40s.

Fenestration: The arrangement and proportioning of windows.

Flemish bond: Brickwork in which headers and stretchers alternate within each row. (Characteristic of eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century brickwork in Virginia.)

Fluting: A series of decorative vertical channels, esp. in a column or pilaster.

Fret. A repeating geometric motif which forms an ornamental band.

Frieze: The portion of an entablature between the architrave and cornice. (When referring to Federal or Greek Revival mantels, frieze is usually that horizontal field immediately below the shelf.)

Gable: A roof form triangular in section, with two slopes of equal pitch and length.

Gambrel: A two-sided roof having its slopes broken by an obtuse angle on both sides.

Georgian: Style of formal architecture in England during the reigns of Kings George I, II, and III, which found its inspiration in classical-derived Continental Renaissance forms. (In Virginia, it ranges from c. 1700-75.)

Georgian Revival: Architectural style popular in the U.S. from c. 1900-30, using forms derived from native Georgian and Federal architecture. (Also referred to as "Colonial Revival.")

Girt: Horizontal timber which intersects with the plates at the ends of a building.

Greek Revival: Revival of ancient Greek forms in U.S. architecture. (Reached the height of popularity in Virginia c. 1830-50.)

Graining: Decorative painting which attempts to simulate the grain of any particular species of wood.

Guilloche: Ornamental band composed of interlacing circular motifs.

H and HL hinges: Door hinges of wrought iron shaped in an "H" or "HL" form. (Used in Virginia in eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.)

Hall-and-Parlor plan: Dwelling plan consisting of a larger room usually containing the stair and main exterior entrance ("hall"), which joins a somewhat smaller room ("parlor"). This plan was common in 1 and 1/2-story vernacular dwellings in the Chesapeake region in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

Header: A brick laid so its short end is exposed to the weather.

Hexastyle: Refers to a portico with six frontal columns.

Hipped: A roof with two principal slopes and truncated ends; a roof which rises directly from the wall plate on all four sides.

Hyphen: A small narrow room or enclosed passageway which serves to connect one section of a building with another.

"I house": Term coined in the 1930s by geographer Fred Kniffen to denote a two-story, gable-roofed, usually center hall-plan house type (commonly seen in the midwest states of Illinois, Indiana and Iowa--hence the name--but occurring in all other parts of the U.S. as well).

Ionic: One of the classical orders, characterized by columns with scrolled capitals.

Italianate: Architectural revival style popular in U.S. in the second half of the nineteenth century, in which Italian Renaissance forms such as decorative eave brackets are employed.

Joists: Horizontal timbers to which floorboards and/or ceiling lathes are nailed.

Kneewall: Vertical wall around the bottom of a loft room which seals off the unusable space where the rafters approach the wall plate.

Lathe: Wooden strips nailed to building framework to form a base for plaster.

Lean-to: A small, shallow building or extension having a single-sloped roof whose rafters pitch or lean against another building or wall. (Also called a "shed.")

Light: A single pane of window glass.

Loft: Living space located immediately under the roof and above the wall plate. (Also referred to as an "attic" or "garret." In vernacular Virginia dwellings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, light and air are provided by windows at either gable end. In this text an upper floor with dormer windows is referred to as the "top floor" rather than as the "loft.")

Mansard: A roof having identical sets of slopes on all sides, the lower slope being steeper than the upper.

Modillion: A rectangular ornamental block, sometimes with an undulating soffit, usually applied to the underside of a projecting member of a cornice.

Mortise and tenon: 1) A joint made by connecting two pieces of wood, in which the projecting part of one piece fits into the corresponding cutout in the other piece. 2) Form of timber construction characterized by use of mortise-and-tenon joinery.

Muntin: One of a grid of small vertical and horizontal wooden strips holding the panes of glass in a window.

Nogging: Masonry (usually brick) infill between the timbers of a (usually exterior) wall.

Newel: A post at the foot, turn or head of a staircase, which supports the railing.

Novelty siding: Decoratively-molded flush weatherboarding of various types which became popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

One-and-a-half stories: Refers to a building with either dormer windows on its upper floor, or with a raised attic with floor-level front windows.

Openings: The doors and windows in the wall of a building.

Open-string: Stairs so constructed that the ends of the treads are visible from the side, as opposed to closed-string stairs.

Open-well: A stairway of two or more flights enclosing an open space between the outer sides of the flights.

Ovolo: A quarter-round molding.

Palladian: English architectural style based on a revival of the works of 16th-century Italian architect Andrea Palladio. (Palladian designs and motifs were used frequently in large formal buildings in Virginia in the mid-18th century.)

Pedestal chair rail: A chair rail with a projecting, pedestal-like top molding.

Pediment: A vertical crowning motif of porticoes, doorways or other architectural features, which is usually of low triangular form and sometimes broken at the top or bottom.

Pent: A short, single-pitched roof projecting from a wall or side of a building. By extension, a pent-roofed closet or projection, also called a "penthouse" or "outshut." (In Virginia, refers in particular to such an extension or closet located beside exterior chimneys on 18th or early 19th century dwellings.)

Picture molding: Molding skirting the upper portion of an interior wall; used to attach fasteners which support pictures.

Pilaster: A flat column placed flush against a wall and appearing to project from it.

Plate: The top horizontal member of a wall, upon which rest the roof rafters.

Post: An upright member in a frame; also, a pillar or column.

Purlin: A horizontal timber supporting the common rafters in a roof.

Quoins: Squared stones at the corner of a building, sometimes accorded special architectural treatment.

Rafter: A sloping roof member that supports the roof covering and extends from the eaves to the ridge.

Raised attic: Loft in a building in which the wall is continued above the regular plate, thereby creating more room in the attic; the top floor of a building which is contained mostly under the sloping roof, but which has low vertical interior walls consonant with the exterior walls.

Raised basement: A basement whose upper portion is raised considerably (usually more than 18") above grade. (Also referred to as an "elevated basement" or an "English basement.")

Rake: 1) The inclined portion of a cornice. 2) The angle or slope of a roof rafter.

Rakeboard: Exterior trim board which abuts the gable eaves.

Ridge: The highest point of any roof with two sloping sides.

Ridgepole: A timber laid horizontally along the ridge of a roof to protect the intersection of the two roof slopes or as an aid in joining the rafter couples. (Also called "ridgepiece.")

Riser: Vertical board beneath the tread of a stair step.

Rosehead nail: A wrought nail (with a faceted head).

Rubblestone: Unsized, unsquared rock used as a building material.

Shingle Style: The term Shingle Style was coined by architectural historian Vincent J. Scully, Jr. in *The Shingle Style and the Stick Style, Architectural Theory and Design from Downing to the Origins of Wright* (1955). Until Scully's work, houses that combined strains of the Queen Anne and New England Colonial Revival were grouped with a myriad of other styles under the category of "Victorian architecture."

Side-hall plan: Plan of a dwelling featuring at one gable end a passage which runs the full depth of the house and contains the principal exterior entrances and the stair; this "side-passage" opens into one or more rooms on one side. (This plan-type was common in late-18th- and first-half-of-the-19th-century Virginia dwellings.)

Sill: The lowest member beneath a door or window. The horizontal timbers which form the lowest members of a frame supporting the superstructure of a building.

Single-pile: Refers to a house plan a single room in depth.

Soffit: The lower horizontal face of any projecting architectural feature.

Stack: The upper portion of a chimney.

Stretcher: A brick laid lengthwise so its side is exposed to the weather.

String: The inclined member that supports the treads and risers of a stair.

Stud: An upright member used to frame a wall or partition.

Summer beam: A principal horizontal beam into which smaller joists are framed.

Surround: The facing around a fireplace opening.

Tablet: The central block on the frieze of a Federal-style period mantel.

Tetrasyle: Describes a portico with four frontal columns.

Turned: Refers to a post, baluster or finial which has been turned on a lathe for decorative effect.

Tuscan: One of the five classic orders of architecture, distinguished by its plain columns.

Underpinnings: The masonry foundations of a building. (A standard term in eighteenth-and early-nineteenth-century Virginia.)

Vernacular: Refers to traditional local or "folk" building forms and methods (as opposed to formal or academic architecture and building styles).

Wainscot: Interior wood sheathing or paneling, especially that which extends from the floor to the chair rail; i.e., dado.

Weatherings: The masonry surfaces of chimney shoulders or other architectural features.

Wind brace: A reinforcing member, or strut, used as a brace to strengthen a frame or structure against the wind. (Also called "wind beam.")

Winder: A wedge-shaped step. (Also refers to a stairway in which such steps occur.)

Wire nail: Modern nail type with round shaft, produced by cutting segments from a long metal strand or wire.

Appendix II
Virginia Landmarks and National Register Basic Facts

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street • Richmond, Virginia 23219
(804) 786-3143 • FAX 225-4261 • TDD 786-1934

THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER

The Virginia Landmarks Register was established in 1966 by the Virginia General Assembly to recognize the significant historic buildings, sites, and districts in the Commonwealth. In the words of the Virginia Supreme Court, listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register is a "hortatory" act - that is it recognizes the importance of our historic resources and "exhorts" owners to care for them.

There are no restrictions on an owner of a property that is listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register who is using private money. However, a property that is recognized officially on the register is eligible for certain State preservation grants. The Department of Historic Resources awards grants from its Threatened Properties Grant Fund on an annual basis. Properties that are threatened in some way are eligible to apply for such funds if they are listed individually on the Register or are considered contributing structures or sites within a listed historic district. The General Assembly also awards grants to historic properties for operations and renovations. These grants require that the property be listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register.

Historic Districts and individually listed properties will receive a plaque from the Department of Historic Resources in recognition of their listing. Owners of recognized historic properties are also eligible for technical assistance from the staff of the Department of Historic Resources. Professional architects, architectural historians and archaeologists are available to provide technical guidance in the care and rehabilitation of buildings and sites.

July, 1990



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

H. Alexander Wise, Jr., Director

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Department of Historic Resources

FACTS REGARDING NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION

1. National Register designation officially recognizes the cultural, architectural, and landscape features of a historically significant property, bringing it to the attention of the community, state, and nation.
2. National Register designation does not restrict an owner's use of his or her property in any way as long as private, non-federal funds are used. It does not, for example, prohibit any owner from altering or demolishing any buildings, nor does it restrict subdivision or sale.
3. National Register designation can help lessen the negative impact on a historic property from government-funded projects. By law, an environmental impact study is required for any federally-funded projects such as road building, utility installation, and public housing. Also, certain state projects are reviewed for their impact on historic resources. If any project is deemed to have an adverse effect on historic buildings, archaeological sites, or landscape features, the project may be redesigned to lessen that effect.
4. National Register designation confers two types of financial benefits on historic property owners. First, it allows the owner to claim investment tax credits for certified rehabilitations if the building is used for income-producing purposes. For additional information on the investment tax credit program, contact the Department of Historic Resources, 221 Governor Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23219 (804-786-3143). Secondly, National Register designation makes properties eligible for matching federal grants for historic preservation. Currently, however, federal funds are not available for preservation projects.
5. Any restrictions on private property owners using private funds can only be enacted by the local governing body--i. e. the city or town council or the county board of supervisors. Imposition of such restrictions does not necessarily follow from National Register designation.

SUMMARY

National Register designation:

1. Increases the public awareness of a community's historic resources and encourages preservation
2. Mitigates the negative impact of government-funded projects
3. Does not restrict the private property owner using private funds in any way
4. Provides financial benefits, mainly in the form of tax incentives for rehabilitation of income-producing buildings.



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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Department of Historic Resources

RESULTS OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Eligibility for Federal tax provisions: If a property is listed in the National Register, certain federal tax provisions may apply. *The Tax Reform Act of 1986 revises the historic preservation tax incentives authorized by Congress in the Tax Reform Act of 1976, the Revenue Act of 1978, The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980, the Economic Recovery Tax Act of 1981, and the Tax Reform Act of 1984 and as of January 1, 1987, provides for a 20 percent investment tax credit with a full adjustment to basis for rehabilitating historic, commercial, industrial, and residential rental buildings. The former 15 percent and 20 percent investment tax credits for rehabilitation of older commercial buildings are combined into a single 10 percent investment tax credit for commercial or industrial buildings built before 1936.* The Tax Treatment Extension Act of 1980 provides federal tax deductions for charitable contributions for conservation purposes of partial interests in historically important land areas or structures. Whether these provisions are advantageous to a property owner is dependent upon the particular circumstances of the property and the owner. Because tax aspects outlined above are complex, individuals should consult legal counsel or the appropriate local Internal Revenue Service office for assistance in determining the tax consequences of the above provisions. For further information on certification requirements, please refer to 36 CFR 67.

Consideration in planning for Federal, Federally licensed, and Federally assisted projects: Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 requires that Federal agencies allow for the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have an opportunity to comment on all projects affecting historic properties listed in the National Register. For further information, please refer to 36 CFR 800.

Consideration in issuing a surface coal mining permit: In accordance with the Surface Mining and Control Act of 1977, there must be consideration of historic values in the decision to issue a surface coal mining permit where coal is located. For further information, please refer to 30 CFR 700 *et seq.*

Qualification for Federal grants for historic preservation when funds are available: Funding is unavailable at present.

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

- Criterion A: Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Criterion B: Properties that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- Criterion C: Properties that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.
- Criterion D: Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- A. a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- B. a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- C. a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- D. a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- E. a reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. a property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- G. a property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

CHECKLIST FOR STATE AND NATIONAL REGISTER PROCESS IN VIRGINIA

(☑ denotes completed step in the process)

Evaluation of Eligibility

- Preliminary Information Form received and reviewed, additional information requested if necessary
- Preliminary Information Form reviewed and rated by Register Evaluation Team at semi-monthly meeting
- Information on properties potentially affected by federal undertakings reviewed and rated by Register Evaluation Team at semi-monthly meeting
- Owner(s) and officials notified of receipt of Preliminary Information Form. Department of Historic Resources archives checked for property file and any additional information
- Owner(s) and officials informed of team recommendation, notified of pending consideration by State Review Board. Additional information requested if necessary. In the case of historic districts, public informational meetings may be held at the request of the applicant or the locality
- Officials notified of review team recommendations regarding Section 106 projects
- Preliminary Information Form mailed to members of State Review Board for review two weeks prior to meeting. Board makes recommendation of eligibility at bi-monthly meeting. Section 106 evaluations are not taken before the board.
- Owner(s) and officials notified of Board's decision

Listing on the Registers

If applicant elects to pursue registration, applicant consults with Department staff regarding criteria, areas of significance, period of significance and boundaries.

- Department staff reviews nomination drafts upon request and provides technical assistance
- Department staff reviews completed nomination
- COMPLETE nomination due to Department of Historic Resources by first day of the month prior to the month of the State Review Board and Virginia Board of Historic Resources meetings at which the nomination is to be considered
- Owner(s), adjacent property owners, consultant and local officials notified by letter no less than 30 days prior to State Review Board meeting to initiate 30-day comment period
- In the case of a historic district, Department of Historic Resources holds a public hearing within the locality not less than thirty days prior to the Board meetings and publishes legal notice in the local paper to initiate 30-day comment period
- Copies of nomination sent to members of both Boards two weeks prior to meeting
- Nomination presented at State Review Board meeting. If approved, State Review Board recommends that nomination be forwarded to Keeper of the National Register; nominations presented to Virginia Board of Historic Resources if approved without owner objection will be listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register on day of presentation
- Owners), officials, and consultant notified of Boards' decisions
- Nomination is forwarded to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, D.C.
- Property is logged in at National Register office
- Following 45 day review period, Department is notified of decision. If approved without owner objection, property is listed on National Register. If owners object, Keeper declares property eligible. Subsequent owners may rescind objection.
- Owner, consultant and local officials notified of Keeper's decision



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

H. Alexander Wise, Jr., Director

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Department of Historic Resources

Completed National Register Nominations will be processed in the order in which they are received and in accordance with the stated priorities of the Department of Historic Resources. State and Federal laws require additional notification requirements for historic districts and resources within Certified Local Governments. A nomination will be scheduled for the earliest State Review Board meeting that allows for complete staff review and full compliance with notification requirements.

A complete nomination submission consists of the following:

1. A complete, original, typed National Register of Historic Places **Registration Form**. A typed, double-spaced draft should have been previously submitted and reviewed by Department staff. If the staff have not reviewed a draft prior to the submission of a completed form, no guarantee will be given that the nomination will be placed on the Boards' agenda.
2. Two sets of **black and white photographs** labeled in pencil on the reverse and an accompanying photo list (see example) and **negatives**—35mm or larger format. Prints should be 5"x 7" or 8"x 10" full-frame glossies. Archival paper and processing is preferred but not required. Photographs should fully represent all contributing and non-contributing elements of the nominated property. Interiors of all principal buildings must be included.
3. Two prints and the negative of a **publication-quality black-and-white photograph** of the property. The photograph should be crisply focused, well-composed, properly exposed, and should comprehensively capture the property in its finest light. This print will be used (and credited) in press releases and in *Notes*, the department's publication of recently registered properties and other department news.
4. Color 35mm slides that fully represent the exterior and interior of the property, the setting, and any associated outbuildings.
5. One original USGS quadrangle map, labeled in pencil, locating the property, along with properly computed UTM coordinates. As with the photographs, maps labeled in ink or with adhesive labels cannot be accepted.
6. A **sketch map**, if the property includes more than one resource, indicating all contributing and non-contributing resources. The resources indicated on the map must be consistent with those enumerated in Section 3 of the nomination form and described in Section 7.
7. A completed **owner verification form**. This document is a necessary component in the completion of legal notification requirements. The property will not be scheduled for the State Review Board and State Board of Historic Resources until this form has been submitted.

Late materials will be accepted only with the prior approval of the Survey and Register Programs Manager or the National Register Assistant. If you have any questions concerning the submission requirements please do not hesitate to contact the department at 804-786-3143.

TELEPHONE: (804) 786-3143 TDD: (804) 786-1934 FAX: (804) 225-4261

An Equal Opportunity Agency

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