

Historic Sites

in

Roanoke County, Virginia



SITES OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE
IN
ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

A survey of thirty-seven sites in the County which have been identified as having particular historic architectural significance.

*"Architecture, of all the arts, is
the one which acts most slowly, but
the most surely, on the soul."*

Ernest Dimnet

Cover illustration is "Pleasant Grove."

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INTRODUCTION

This survey of historic sites in Roanoke County was prepared with the assistance of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission and the Roanoke Valley Historical Society. Special thanks is expressed to Mr. William L. Whitwell and to Mrs. Roger Winborne. Mr. Whitwell, Associate Professor of Art at Hollins College, is the local representative of the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission. Mrs. Winborne is Vice President of the Roanoke Valley Historical Society.

Mr. Whitwell and Mrs. Winborne identified structures within the County which they considered to be historically significant. The various sites were located, and brief descriptions were prepared. A map is provided to present a general location for each site selected.

Grading System

A five-point grading system has been devised to present the reader with a ready comparison of the historical value of each site. It should be noted that only 39 sites were selected, so even those with a low grade should be considered as having valid historical significance.

Grade 1-This grade was assigned only to those sites which are included on the National Register of Historic places. These are protected by federal legislation. It is noteworthy that there are only two such sites in the County.

Grade 2-The sites which are considered worthy of National registration, but which have not formally been included, were given a grade of 2. It is generally felt that if a grade 2 site should become threatened, National registration could be obtained expediently.

Grade 3-The grade 3 sites are those which have retained detail in addition to setting. Not only do these sites exemplify

historically significant form and style, they are virtually unaltered and are generally noted by well-known folk-architecture historians.

Grade 4-These structures are generally versions of a basic historical form, but are of particular interest because of variations in form, exceptional detail, or unusual features.

Grade 5-Structures graded 5 are good examples of early forms which may be in less than ideal condition, or may have been significantly altered. These forms are found more frequently and generally do not exhibit particularly unusual features. They are, however, examples of early architectural forms of which relatively few remain.

Dating

Dating of structures is provided only to suggest the general period of construction unless the specific date has been absolutely documented. Quite often, the owners of sites believed to be historically significant will accept dates of construction as being accurate without adequate documentation. For purposes of this report, specific dates are given only for structures for which documentary evidence exists.

TYPE

Miscellaneous
Bake oven

SITE NO.
1

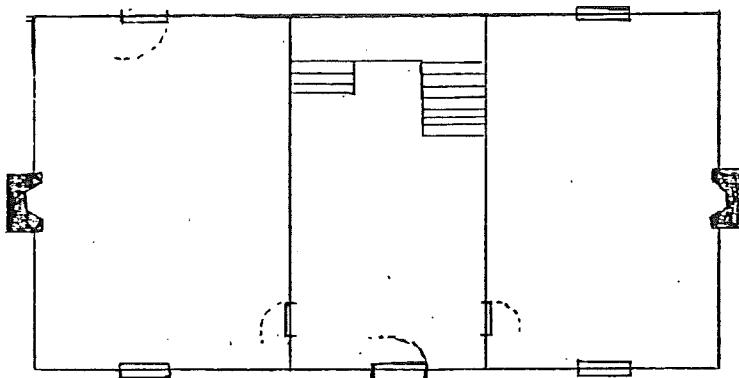
LOCATION On west side of State Route 863 (Old 311) near Hanging Rock

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Unusual survival of a mid 19th century Pennsylvania-German form this far south. The oven has now been protected by a metal roof.

GRADE 2

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS



Central Hall I-Form

Dimensions, detail, and specific layout varied, but this plan is typical of the I-form house. The second floor plan is generally similar.

SITE NO.
2

TYPE Residence

LOCATION 6909 Thirlane Road (Route 626 mid-way between Peters Creek Road and Wood Haven in the Kingston area)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A late 19th century I-form house relatively unaltered

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS

SITE NO.
3

TYPE Residence

LOCATION 6933 Thirlane Road, Kingston area

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A late 19th century I-form house relatively unaltered.

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
4

LOCATION 6621 Peters Creek Road (across from County Library)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A mid-late 19th century modified I-form house on a large tract of land

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS

TYPE Miscellaneous
Educational

SITE NO.
5

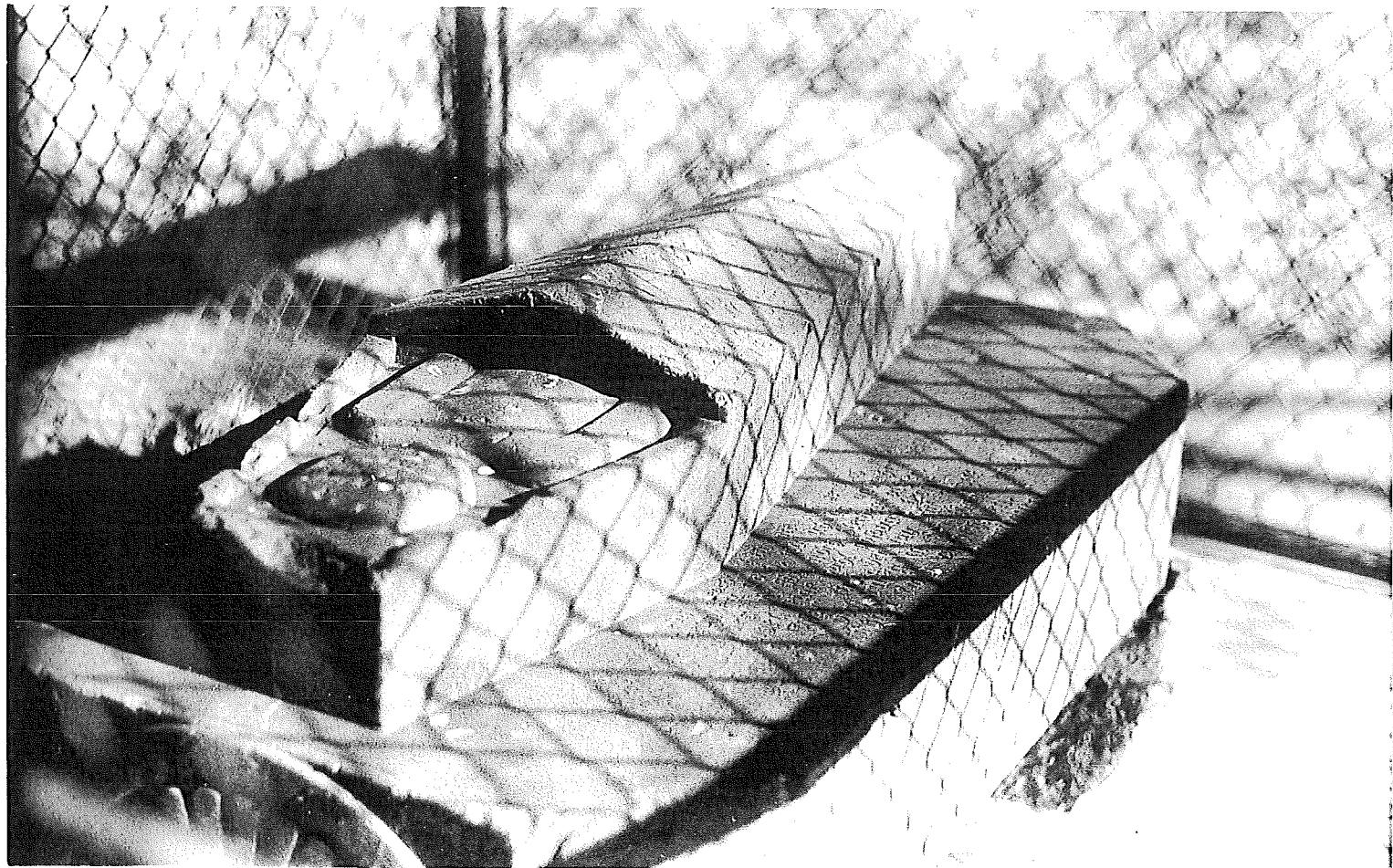
LOCATION Hollins College Quadrangle (Route 11 North)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE The West Dormitory, East Dormitory, Main Dormitory, Bradley Hall, Botetourt Dining Hall, and the Cocke Library are included. Constructed between 1856 and 1908. All are included on the National Register of Historic Places.

GRADE 1

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS



Denton Tomb in Tombstone Cemetery on Plantation Road

TYPE

Miscellaneous
Graveyard - "Tombstone Cemetery"

SITE NO.

6

LOCATION

West side of Plantation Road just south of Ridgecrest Drive

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A nationally registered landmark. The most important funerary monument in the area is the Denton Tomb, which is protected by a roof and wire enclosure.

GRADE 1

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS

See Folk Art in Stone-Southwest Virginia, Klaus Wust, Shenandoah History, 1970.

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
7

LOCATION 6100 Plantation Circle

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Mid 19th century basic I-form home with L-plan behind Ionic columns. Good setting.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS Known as "Grayholme".

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
8

LOCATION 6100 Plantation Circle (Plantation Nursery building)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A mid 19th century two-thirds I-form structure with good setting.

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.

9

LOCATION 5621 Plantation Road

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A 19th century I-form house with L-plan behind. Good detail on window lintels. Good setting.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.

10

LOCATION 6103 Plantation Road

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A late 19th century four-over-four form house. Good detail. Setting is excellent.

GRADE 3

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS

Known as "Meadowbrook." This form is unusual in Roanoke County.

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
11

LOCATION 5415 Plantation Road

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Eastlake style decoration
on house built in 1882. Good detail and setting.

GRADE 3

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
12

LOCATION Behind "Interskate II" on old Hershberger Road (Route 743)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Early stone house with brick
attachment. May be the only 18th century house remaining in the area.
The brick addition dates early 19th century.

GRADE 2

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Hollins

COMMENTS Known as "John Richardson House"
Very poor condition.

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
13

LOCATION North side of Route 651 near Blue Ridge Parkway

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Late 19th century I-form
house. Renovated and altered. Good setting.

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Vinton

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
14

LOCATION 4909 Cave Spring Lane

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A good mid 19th century
narrow I-form house with original porch. Nice setting.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS Known as the "Gale House." Built by Dr. Gale, founder of
Lewis-Gale Hospital.

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
15

LOCATION 6135 Merriman Road

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Early 19th century I-form house. Good brick work. Wooden decoration documented to Gustavus Sedon. Good outbuildings.

GRADE 2

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Cave Spring

COMMENTS Known as "Speedwell" and as the "Starkey House." View from the site has become blighted.

TYPE Farm
Two barns

SITE NO.
16

LOCATION Intersection of Routes 614 and 677 off U.S. 220 South behind the railroad overpass

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Two single-crib barns probably constructed in the early 20th century. Demonstrates a continuation of earlier folk forms.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Cave Spring

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
17

LOCATION On Route 220 South at southwest corner with intersection
with Route 677

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE English form log cabin.
Constructed early 19th century. Unusual in this area.

GRADE 3

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Cave Spring

COMMENTS Now occupied. This cabin has been mentioned in works of a
nationally-known folk-architectural historian. Family name-Murray.

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
18

LOCATION Southwest corner of intersection of Routes 221 and 690 at Poage's
Mill

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Mid-late 19th century large
I-form house with interesting varied clapboard design.

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
19

LOCATION On hill above intersection of Routes 221 and 694

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Mid-late 19th century I-form house with double porch. Typical of architecture found farther south. Unusual detail on porch and columns.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
20

LOCATION On northwest side of Route 221 east of Route 646

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Late 19th century I-form house with interesting porches and galleries

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
21

LOCATION On northwest side of Route 711 east of Route 612, Bent Mountain

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Late 19th century I-form
house with millwork decoration interesting to the period

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
22

LOCATION On northwest side of Route 711 from its southerly intersection
with Route 612, Bent Mountain

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Late 19th century right angle
form house

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
23

LOCATION Northwest side of Route 711, mid-way between Routes 612 and 607,
Bent Mountain

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A late 19th century I-form
house, somewhat modified.

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Windsor Hills

COMMENTS

TYPE Farm and Residence

SITE NO.
24

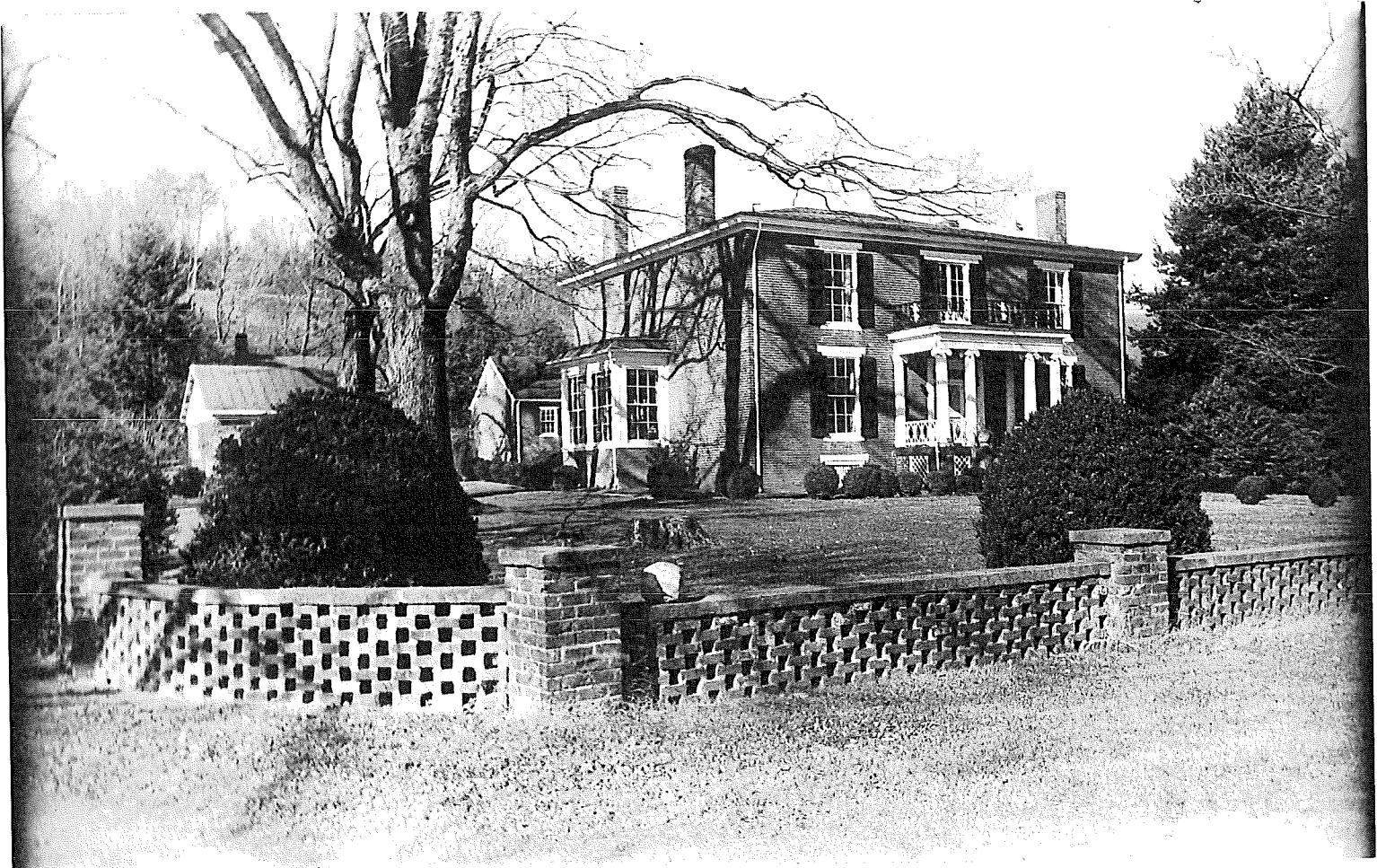
LOCATION East side of Route 612 0.2 mile north of intersection with Route 639
(Near Wabun area)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Early-mid 19th century I-form
house with good brick cornice. The outbuilding, with a bell structure above, was
probably a smokehouse.

GRADE 3

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS Known as "Cedar Bluff"



Pleasant Grove

TYPE	Residence	SITE NO.	25
LOCATION		North side of Route 11-460 just east of intersection with Route 612	
DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE		Most important four-over-four form house. Built in 1853. Woodwork documented to Gustavus Sedon. Important outbuilding on property.	
GRADE	2	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT	Catawba
COMMENTS		Known as "Pleasant Grove." Considered an outstanding landmark.	



TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
32

LOCATION South side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) about 2.2 miles east of Route 697

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A mid 19th century hall and parlor form house. Log construction. Some good detail left inside.

GRADE 3 **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT** Catawba

COMMENTS Unoccupied, but now used for storage of hay. This house stands alone in a meadow.

TYPE Church

SITE NO.
26

LOCATION Off south side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) at end of Route 851
about 0.75 mile east of Montgomery County.

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Mid-late 19th century Old
German Baptist (Dunkard) church. Unchanged. Remarkable interior and exterior
survival.

GRADE 2

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS Known as "Johnsville Meeting House."



TYPE Farm

SITE NO.
27

LOCATION West side of Route 650 about one-half mile north of Route 785

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Mid 19th century imposing double-crib barn with some sheathing and shedding. Noted as being one of the most important in the area.

GRADE 3

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
28

LOCATION North side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) immediately east of Route 650.

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE An altered mid-late 19th century hall and parlor form house. Importance mainly lies with site and proximity to the hall and parlor house next door.

GRADE 5

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS The front door has been replaced with a picture window.

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.
29

LOCATION North side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) east of Route 650
(adjacent to the previous residence)

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE Log hall and parlor form house
built in the mid-19th century. Most of the important interior woodwork survives.
Site, outbuildings, and family cemetery important.

GRADE 3

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS

TYPE Farm

SITE NO.
30

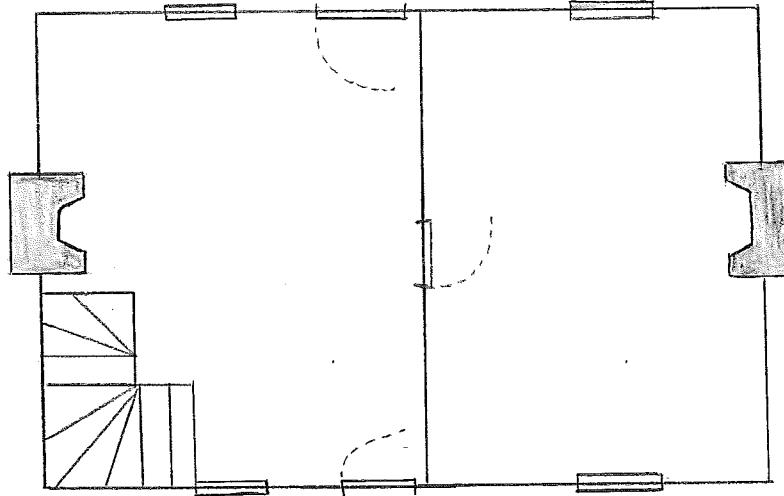
LOCATION North side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) about 0.4 mile west of
Route 697 near Wright Branch

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A late 19th century double-crib
log barn typical of this area. Outside sheathed and shedded.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS



Hall-and-Parlor Form

The hall-and-parlor form is noted in several Roanoke County sites. This plan is typical, although specific layout and detail varied.

TYPE	Farm	SITE NO.	31
LOCATION		North side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) about one-half mile east of Route 697.	
DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE		A mid 19th century sheathed log double crib barn, typical of the area.	
GRADE	4	MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT	Catawba
COMMENTS			

TYPE Residence

SITE NO.

33

LOCATION North side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) about 3 miles east of
Route 697

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A relatively unaltered
mid 19th century Scotch-Irish form log cabin. Quite well preserved.

GRADE 2

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS

TYPE Farm

SITE NO.
34

LOCATION North side of Route 785 (Blacksburg Road) about 3.5 miles east
of Route 697

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A late 19th century double-crib
log barn. Outside sheathed and shedded. Typical barn for this area.

GRADE 4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT Catawba

COMMENTS

TYPE

Farm
Springhouse

SITE NO.

35

LOCATION

West side of Route 620, just north of Route 701

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE

A most important folk log springhouse. Utilizes V-notch and half-dovetail notch construction. A unique form. Preservation particularly important.

GRADE

2

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

Catawba

COMMENTS**TYPE**

Farm
Log barn and tobacco barn

SITE NO.

36

LOCATION

West side of Route 620 about one-half mile south of Craig County line.

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE

A typical late 19th century sheathed and shedded double-crib log barn. The tobacco barn on same site is the only one known in Roanoke County.

GRADE

4

MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT

Catawba

COMMENTS

TYPE Miscellaneous
Former resort building and gazebo with spring

LOCATION Catawba Hospital grounds

DESCRIPTION AND SIGNIFICANCE A most important survival
of a mid 19th century resort building and gazebo with spring. Pictured by
historian Edward Beyer.

GRADE 2 **MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT** Catawba

COMMENTS The former Springs Resort Building now vacant and neglected.
The gazebo has had some care. Owned by Commonwealth of Virginia.