

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **SEP** 7 1983
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT (VHLC file #230-78)

and or common N/A

2. Location

Roughly Mountain Rd. from M. M. Mason Dr. To Academy St.

street & number ~~U.S. Route 360~~ N/A not for publication

city, town Halifax N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Halifax code 083

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Masonic Hall

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet #1)

street & number N/A

city, town N/A N/A vicinity of state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Halifax County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Halifax state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (2) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

title Survey (file #230-78) has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1969, 1971, 1973 federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Halifax's Mountain Road Historic District is comprised of thirty structures stretched along Mountain Road (Route 360) from just west of the courthouse for a half mile to the west. Its buildings consist of two churches, a parish hall, a masonic hall, and a host of private residences dating to the 19th and early 20th centuries. The oldest intact edifices are the 1828 Masonic Lodge and the 1831 Methodist Church. With the exception of the 1844 Episcopal Church and modern parish hall, the remaining buildings are private residences. The dwellings encompass a variety of styles from the late Federal to the eclecticism of the early 20th century. Small outbuildings survive to the rear of several of the residences. One of the most distinctive and commanding features of the district is its landscape. Many of the houses are set in spacious yards planted with a large variety of trees and shrubs. In several instances the landscaping dates to the mid-19th century. There are eight noncontributing structures within the district; all except for a modern parish hall are modern, non-obtrusive dwellings.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The Mountain Road Historic District is situated along Route 360 to the west of the Halifax County Courthouse. It extends from Academy Street on its north side and 80 Mountain Road on the south to the town's corporate limits and Mimosa Drive. The present residential character of the road was slow in developing with the late Federal Masonic Hall (123 Mountain Road, 1828) and the present Methodist Church (133 Mountain Road, 1831), also of late Federal design, constituting the district's earliest structures. The Masonic Hall is distinguished by its original Georgian doorway.

A third institutional building, St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road) was erected in 1844 by Dabney Cosby, Jr., who with his father, Dabney Cosby, Sr., built the Halifax County Courthouse in 1837-38. Like the Masonic Hall and the Methodist Church, St. John's is built close to the road. Distinguishing it from these earlier edifices, however, is its Greek Revival styling, which at its time of construction, was America's most popular architectural mode. A cemetery containing the grave of the architect is located to the rear of the church.

In addition to St. John's Church, Cosby constructed three houses along Mountain Road. They are Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road), Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) and St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road). All built in the mid-1840s, the residences combine late Federal and Greek Revival architecture with fine brickwork, similar to that found on the Halifax County Courthouse. Cosby's father worked under Thomas Jefferson's supervision at the University of Virginia where, according to the elder Cosby's obituary, he learned the "art of making bricks." This particular skill is exemplified by the Mountain Road residences of his son which compare in their fine quality craftsmanship to the senior Cosby's Halifax County Courthouse.

All three of Cosby's houses are set back from the road, a precedent that was followed for many of the later dwellings erected on the street. Judging from the age of the trees and their positions around the buildings, an early effort was made at landscaping the grounds. The large expanse of land between 160 and 230 Mountain Road is gently rolling with trees and a grass undercovering providing a park-like setting for the two residences.

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Continuation sheet #1

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4. OWNERS OF PROPERTIES

1. ✓ 167 Mountain Road: Walter & Mary Brady, Box 299, Halifax, VA 24558
- * 2. 295 Mountain Road: Cathryn D. Aldworth, Box 368, Halifax, VA 24558
3. ✓ 309 Mountain Road: Edward Taylor & Elizabeth Overton, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
4. Frances McClennan, 216 Catherine Street, Scotia, NY 12302
5. ✓ 329 Mountain Road: J.P. Hankins, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
6. ✓ 349 Mountain Road: Elizabeth Lovelace & Virginia Covington, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
7. ✓ 389 Mountain Road: James & Mildred Farrington, Box 1758, Halifax, VA 24558
8. ✓ 415 Mountain Road: Robert & Nancy Evans, c/o Farrington, Box 1758, Halifax, VA 24558
- * 9. 471 Mountain Road: Samuel J. Dunavant, Jr., Box 915, Halifax, VA 24558
- * 10. 543 Mountain Road: Barbara Cage, Box 413, Halifax, VA 24558
- * 11. 575 Mountain Road: Major P.C. Edmunds, III, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
12. ✓ 615 Mountain Road: Dr. & Mrs. W. Allen, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
13. ✓ 655 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Richard C. Edmunds, Box 87, Halifax, VA 24558
14. ✓ 80 Mountain Road: Ethelyn N. Powell, Box 4, Halifax, VA 24558
15. ✓ 100 Mountain Road: W.K. Thompson, Box 591, Halifax, VA 24558
16. ✓ 110 Mountain Road: Frank C. Chaffin, Jr., Box 53, Halifax, VA 24558
17. ✓ 136 Mountain Road: W. Wirt & Patsy Shapard, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
18. ✓ 160 Mountain Road: Mrs. Paul C. Edmunds, Sr., P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558
19. ✓ 230 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. W.E. Rowland, Box 28, Halifax, VA 24558
20. ✓ 370 Mountain Road: Chastain Home, c/o Mrs. Helen Moore, P.O. Box 758, Halifax, VA 24558
21. ✓ 442 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Stutts, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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4. OWNERS OF PROPERTIES (continued)

22. ✓484

✓197

* 221 Mountain Road: Rev. A.C. Martin, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558

✓267

249

* 23. 530 Mountain Road: Mrs. Tucker W. McLaughlin, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558

24. ✓580 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Ned Evans, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558

* 25. 610 Mountain Road: The Honorable & Mrs. C.L. McCormick, III, P.O. Box, Halifax, VA 24558

* 26. 640 Mountain Road: Mr. & Mrs. Harry L. Mapp, Box 57, Halifax, VA 24558

27. ✓123 Mountain Road: Masonic Lodge, c/o Dabney Hudson, Route 1, Halifax, VA 24558

28. ✓133 Mountain Road: Halifax Methodist Church, c/o Mr. James Clark, Route 1, Box 161C, South Boston, VA 24592

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory (HABSI)

1958 Federal

Library of Congress

Washington, DC

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

No major structures were built on Mountain Road from the 1850s through the 1870s. The next building period occurred during the 1880s when the district experienced something of a boom in residential construction. At this time a number of houses were constructed in the Romantic Revival styles, many of which still stand. Dating from the 1880s through 1900, they are: 100, 110, 167, 329, 349, 389 and 415 Mountain Road.

The wood-frame residences numbered 100 and 329 Mountain Road are stylistically distinguished by fanciful sawn trim; 100 retains its original vergeboard. The houses at 389 and 415 once belonged to the Holt Easley estate with the former serving as his office and billiards room. Along with 389, the kitchen, well house, chicken house, necessary house, and smokehouse survive and constitute the most complete set of domestic structures found on Mountain Road. In addition to the outbuildings, the Easley House preserves its original circular tree-lined drive.

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

Two houses on the street are particularly good examples of early 20th-century architectural eclecticism. They are 136 Mountain Road, built in 1912, and 370 Mountain Road, now the Chastain Home, erected in 1910. Combining elements of the Queen Anne and Georgian Revival, both houses are brick and have hipped roofs and two-story porticoes. The cast-iron fence fronting 370 Mountain Road is original to the house's date of construction.

Mountain Road has several residences that are Colonial Revival. Perhaps the most interesting is 655 Mountain Road, Bonbrook. It was built in 1929 with materials salvaged from Springwood, an early 19th-century Halifax residence. In an attempt to revive Neoclassical architecture, several older residences have been remodeled by the addition of large porticoes. They are Seven Oaks at 615 Mountain Road, 442, and 580 Mountain Road. The remodelings occurred during the mid-20th century.

The bungalow style was popular in America during the early decades of the 20th century. A representative example of this house form is found at 80 Mountain Road. Typical of such a dwelling, it is wood-frame and has a classically inspired front porch.

It is unfortunate that several of the late 19th-century residences built on Mountain Road have burned. In several instances, however, the original landscaping has been preserved although modern dwellings have been constructed on their sites. 471 Mountain Road is a noteworthy example of this trend. While the original Queen Anne house burned in 1970 and was replaced by the present structure, the original landscaping survives. It consists of a variety of trees and shrubs with a grass undercovering. Like the grounds between 160 and 230, the lawn is expansive and rolling, suggestive more of a park than a front yard. While not so extensive, 530 Mountain Road also preserves its original landscape, as well as the former kitchen and office.

Pre-dating the houses they now shade, the very large and old oak trees between 615 and 655 Mountain Road deserve mention. Locally referred to as the "Indian Trees," the six large oaks date to the Indian occupation of Halifax County and were probably planted during the 17th century. The fact that six trees have survived is an excellent indication of the concern by the residents of Mountain Road for the maintenance of the street's landscape.

It should be noted that while eight structures are listed as noncontributing since they are less than fifty years old, all have retained the scale of earlier structures.

RCC

Inventory: The following is an inventory of the thirty buildings which comprise the Mountain Road Historic District. Eight of these structures have been termed noncontributing because they are less than fifty years old, and each is indicated by an asterisk (*):

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD:

0-99 Block:

80: wood frame (aluminum siding); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square piers that support a gable roof. Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1920s. The dwelling at 80 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as a typical example of the bungalow, an architectural form popular throughout the country during the early 20th century.

100 Block:

100: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts and sawn brackets. Detached house. Queen Anne (modified). Ca. 1880s. 100 Mountain Road is a picturesque, homey dwelling showing the influence of the Queen Anne style on small-town dwellings and is important to the 19th-century character of the district.

110: wood frame (weatherboard and shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (composition) 2 bays; 1-story porch. Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1890s. 110 Mountain Road was built in the 1890s in the Queen Anne style. A wood-frame dwelling, it is typical of the architectural expression of that style in rural America. It contributes to the historic district.

123: brick (Flemish and 4-course American bond on sides and rear); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Masonic Lodge. Federal. 1828. The Masonic Hall is one of the earliest structures built on Mountain Road. It is an excellent example of the eclecticism of early 19th-century buildings in rural areas as demonstrated by its combination of Federal and late Georgian elements. The positioning of the building directly on the road established a precedent for the street's other public edifices. (Hiram Lodge).

133: brick (4-course American bond); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Church. Federal. 1831. The former St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a salient example of late Federal architecture on Mountain Road. Like its neighboring Masonic Hall, the church helped set the standard of architectural quality that has been continually maintained by the street's later buildings. (St. Mark's Episcopal Church).

136: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (pressed tin); 3 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay pedimented portico with Tuscan columns. Detached house. Colonial Revival-Queen Anne. Ca. 1912. Built in 1912, 136 Mountain Road is an early example of the Colonial Revival. Its spacious lawn retains a number of trees planted as part of the dwelling's original landscape. It contributes to the district.

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

100 Block (continued):

160: brick (Flemish and 7-course American bond on sides); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch (Greek Ionic replacement). Detached house. Greek Revival. 1840s. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. The dwelling at 160 Mountain Road contributes to the district as an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture of the type popular in Southside Virginia during the 1830s through the 1850s. It retains a significant number of trees and shrubs that were planted during the mid-19th century possibly as part of the house's original landscape. (Magnolia Hill).

167: brick (5-course American bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with turned posts and sawn balustrade. Detached house. Queen Anne. 1881. Architect/builder: Howard Cosby. The Carrington-Brady House is one of a few documented works by the builder Howard Cosby, son of the local builder Dabney Cosby, Jr. and grandson of the Jeffersonian workman, Dabney Cosby, Sr. It is a rather restrained example of the late 19th-century Romantic Revival residence and in this way is quite similar to other Mountain Road dwellings of the same period. (Carrington House).

197 (St. John's Episcopal Church): brick (stucco); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 entrance. Church. Greek Revival. 1844. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. & Sr. St. John's Episcopal Church is one of the best examples of the Greek Revival church found in Southside Virginia. The work of Dabney Cosby, Jr., the building contributes to the fine quality of the Greek Revival style as constructed on Mountain Road by this local architect.

200 Block:

*221: brick (stucco); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 6 bays. Parish house. Colonial Revival. 1962. Architect/builder: Benton & Phillips. The Parish House is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the district.

230 (Grand Oaks): brick (Flemish bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (slate); 5 gable dormers; 7 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico with Tuscan columns. Detached house. Greek Revival (modified). Ca. 1845. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. While somewhat altered by the addition of flanking wings and portico, Grand Oaks contributes to the district as one of the three dwellings built by Dabney Cosby, Jr. during the 1840s. Like its neighbor, Magnolia Hill, the grounds around the house preserve a number of trees and shrubs that date to the mid-19th century and are believed to have constituted the original landscape.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

200 Block (continued):

267: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 dormer; 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with Tuscan columns and plain balustrade. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1910. The residence at 267 Mountain Road provides the district with a variation of the Colonial Revival and therefore contributes to the architecture of the district.

*295: brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gambrel roof (composition); 9 bays. Detached house. Cape-Modern Colonial Revival. Ca. 1970. 295 Mountain Road is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the historic district.

300 Block:

309: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with Tuscan columns and plain balustrade. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1914. 309 Mountain Road is an excellent example of the Colonial Revival and stylistically contributes to the architectural character of the historic district. The trees surrounding the house would appear to date to the late 19th century and contribute to the historic landscape.

329: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with turned posts and brackets. Detached house. Eastlake. 1898-99. The dwelling at 329 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as a particularly fine example of the Eastlake style that proved popular during the late 19th century. The landscape surrounding the house consists of trees and shrubs, many of which date to the structure's date of construction.

349: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1880s. The residence at 349 Mountain Road was originally a Romantic Revival structure renovated in the 20th century into a Colonial Revival dwelling. Despite its modifications, the building by virtue of scale and materials is a contributing element of the district.

370 (Rest-A-While): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 5 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico and 1-story porch-facade. Detached house. Colonial Revival-Queen Anne. 1910. 370 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as an important example of Colonial Revival architecture showing elements of the Queen Anne style. This dwelling and 136 Mountain Road are relatively early for the style in Southside Virginia and are probably by the same architect.

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

300 Block (continued):

389 (Holt Easley's Office): wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch, remodeled. Detached house. Eastlake (modified). 1880s. The structure at 389 Mountain Road was originally the office and the billiard parlor of the Holt Easley estate. While somewhat altered by the addition of an enclosed porch, a sufficient portion of the original structure remains so as to make the present dwelling a contributing element to the Mountain Road district.

400 Block:

415 (Holt Easley House): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch found on either side of projecting bay. Detached house. Eastlake. 1880s. 415 Mountain Road is a picturesque, rambling frame house showing influences from the Queen Anne style with its landscaped grounds. It is an important element for the 19th-century character of the district.

442 (Thomas Jefferson Greene Residence): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico (later addition). Detached house. Colonial Revival (extensively renovated). Ca. 1822. The residence at 442 Mountain Road contributes to the historic district as the residence of the prominent Halifax County lawyer, Thomas Jefferson Greene. While the original central-passage "I" house has been altered, the house is a good example of the Colonial Revival adapted to an older residence. The most notable changes are the addition of the portico and the alteration of the first-story openings on the facade.

*471 (James S. Easley Estate): brick (stucco); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays. Detached house. Modern. 1970. The residence at 471 Mountain Road was built in 1970, is less than fifty years old, and therefore does not contribute to the district. However, the grounds that surround the house were originally laid out for a late 19th-century Queen Anne dwelling that burned. The spacious landscaped grounds have maintained their 19th-century character and are a contributing element in the district.

484 (Rectory—St. John's Church): brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch which dates to 1930s. Detached house. Greek Revival. 1844. Architect/builder: Dabney Cosby, Jr. 484 Mountain Road contributes to the district as one of the first Greek Revival residences built on the street by Dabney Cosby, Jr., following his work on St. John's Episcopal Church. The dwelling, like Cosby's other work, has extremely fine brickwork.

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7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

500 Block:

*530 (Giant Poplars): brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay porch with Tuscan columns and plain balustrade. Detached house. Chateau Revival. 1967-69. Architect/builder: Calvert, Lewis & Smith. 530 Mountain Road was built in 1967 and does not contribute to the historic character of the district.

*543: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 2 dormers; 3 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1940s. 543 Mountain Road is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the historic district.

*575: brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 3 bays. Detached house. Georgian Revival. 1968. Architect/builder: Calvert, Lewis & Smith. Although a virtually pleasing composition, 575 Mountain Road is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the character of the historic district.

580: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 3-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival (altered). 1840s. The dwelling at 580 Mountain Road was built in the 1840s and typifies a Southside Virginia vernacular "I" house and as such contributes to the district. The portico is a later addition but enough of the original integrity of the main block remains to make a contributing element.

600 Block:

*610: wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 5 bays. Modern Colonial Revival. 1970. The dwelling at 610 Mountain Road was built in 1970. Although it is a dignified example of the modern Colonial Revival, as a structure less than fifty years old, it is not significant to the historic character of the district.

615 (Seven Oaks): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; hipped roof (composition); 3 bays; 2-story, 2-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1820s; 1884; 1960s. In spite of its remodelings, Seven Oaks contributes to the Mountain Road Historic District both in its scale and as a Colonial Revival house. Moreover, the grounds surrounding the house still retain six oak trees planted in the 17th century which contribute to the overall landscape of the district.

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates N/A

Builder Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mountain Road in the courthouse of Halifax has been highly regarded for its distinguished architecture and beautiful landscape since the early 20th century. Named for its location near White Oak Mountain, the road features several notable 19th-century institutional buildings, including an early Masonic Hall (1828) and two handsome antebellum churches: St. Mark's Church (1831), now Halifax Methodist Church, and St. John's Church (1846). Also contributing to the architectural quality of the district is a fine collection of 19th- and early 20th-century residences built in a variety of styles ranging from the late Federal to the Bungalow. Several of the earlier dwellings were designed by Dabney Cosby, Jr., son of the Jeffersonian workman, Dabney Cosby, Sr. Cosby worked with his father on the construction of the Halifax County Courthouse of 1838-39 and he also built St. John's Church. From the mid-1840s generations of residents on Mountain Road have labored to provide attractive and compatible landscape settings for their houses. Many of the older plantings have survived in a good state of preservation, thus giving Mountain Road a marked, 19th-century ambiance.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The county of Halifax, named for the Second Earl of Halifax, was formed from Lunenburg County in 1752. After designating numerous sites for the county courthouse, the present location was officially established in October 1776 by the General Assembly. At that time the Assembly ordered the courthouse to be erected south of the Banister River on land donated by John Boram. According to Boram, the property was almost in the center of the county and "had the advantage of a 'very high & healthy Scituation [sic] & a Spring of Excellent Water.'"¹

A courthouse was built on the Boram site, and around it grew the courthouse town of Banister, named after the neighboring river. A detailed description of the village ca. 1830 which was published in Martin's Gazetteer of Virginia (1834) read, in part:

Besides the usual county buildings, this village contains 25 dwelling houses with a number of outhouses, mechanics shops, etc., two spacious houses of public worship, one Episcopalian and the other Methodist, a large and handsome Masonic Hall (which has lately been erected of brick, in an elevated and advantageous situation, about the middle of the village,) several handsome and commodious taverns, three general stores and one grocery...The face of the country on each side of the village is very much broken, which causes it to be very long and narrow, and the houses to be built in a scattering manner, except immediately around the court house where all the stores and mechanics shops are

(See Continuation Sheet #9)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #11)

Barbour, Dr. W.B. Halifacts. Danville, Va.: J.T. Townes Printing Co., 1941.
 Carrington, Wirt Johnson. The History of Halifax County, Virginia. Boston: Regional Publishing Co., 1969.
 Edmunds, Pocahontas Wight. History of Halifax. Vols. I, II. Privately Printed, n.d.
 Gaines, William H., Jr. "Courthouses of Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties," The Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. XX, No. 4, 1971.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 67 acres
 Quadrangle name Halifax, Va. Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A	1 7	6 8 4 2 8 0	4 0 7 1 0 8 0	B	1 7	6 8 4 6 9 0	4 0 7 0 8 3 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	1 7	6 8 4 7 5 0	4 0 7 0 7 2 0	D	1 7	6 8 4 5 8 0	4 0 7 0 4 7 0
E	1 7	6 8 3 9 2 0	4 0 7 0 5 4 0	F	1 7	6 8 3 8 6 0	4 0 7 0 6 5 0
G	1 7	6 8 3 8 6 0	4 0 7 0 8 4 0	H			

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on N side of Mountain Road at east property line (Epl) of 80 Mountain Road; thence extending about 100' S along said pl; thence about 250' W to W side of Academy St.; thence about 950' S along said side to N side of drive; thence about 375' E along said side and continuing about 575'

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #11)

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff
 organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date August 1983
 street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144
 city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell
 H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date AUG 16 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

for Helene Bryan
 Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the
 National Register

date 10/6/83

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

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Continuation sheet #9

Item number 7, 8

Page 8, 1

7. Inventory (continued)

MOUNTAIN ROAD (continued):

600 Block (continued):

*640: brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 5 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival (late). 1964. 640 Mountain Road does not contribute to the historic district in that it is not fifty years old. It was built in 1964.

655 (Bonbrook): wood (weatherboard-additions) and brick (painted white); 2 stories; hipped roof (slate); 5 bays; 2-story, 1-center-bay portico. Detached house. Colonial Revival. 1929-47. Bonbrook was built in 1929 as a Colonial Revival residence and as a structure over fifty years old in a harmonious scale and style it contributes to the architectural character of the Mountain Road district.

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

located. The village is remarkable for its health, being well elevated by a gradual ascent of three quarters of a mile from the river. It² is situated on the main road from Fredericksburg to the South.

While the stores and tavern described by Martin have long since disappeared, the handsome Masonic Hall survives as the present Hiram Mason's Lodge and is the oldest structure in the district. It is distinguished by a late-Georgian doorway, original to the 1828 date of construction. The position of the hall directly on the street without a large and expansive front yard set a precedent that was followed in the construction of the district's other institutional buildings.

Built in ca. 1831, the brickwork of the neighboring St. Mark's Church suggests that it was executed by the same mason as the Masonic Lodge. Unfortunately, the builder of either structure is unknown.

In January 1835 the former University of Virginia workman Dabney Cosby came to Halifax to build a new clerk's office. Together with his son and namesake, Dabney Cosby, Jr., Cosby also built the new county courthouse, completed in 1839. After much building activity throughout the county, Cosby left Halifax in the early 1840s. However, his son, Dabney Cosby, Jr., remained in Halifax and built a number of structures on Mountain Road.

The first of the younger Cosby's buildings was St. John's Church. While the facade is relatively plain, Cosby's keen sense of scale and proportion places St. John's as one of the handsomest examples of Greek Revival ecclesiastical architecture in Southside

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #10

Item number 8

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received

date entered

8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Virginia. In addition to the church, Cosby was responsible for three late-Federal and Greek Revival residences on Mountain Road. They are Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road), Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road), and the Rectory of St. John's Church (484 Mountain Road). All dating to the mid-1840s, the dwellings are uniformly of brick and, like the Halifax County Courthouse, display Cosby's fine craftsmanship. As noted in Martin's Gazetteer of earlier Halifax residences, Cosby's houses were built "in a scattering manner," all removed at some distance from the main road. The open expanse of land provided land for the planting of trees, from which two of Cosby's houses derived their names: Magnolia Hill and Grand Oaks.

Mountain Road had no further development of any consequence until the 1880s when a number of residences were built. By this time the name of the town had been changed to Houston and had begun to attract a growing class of professionals. The most substantial of these later residences is the Holt Easley House, now 415 and 389 Mountain Road. In addition to its large, two-story, wood-frame dwelling, the estate has a range of early outbuildings including an office-billiards parlor, kitchen, well house, chicken house, necessary house, and smokehouse. In addition to the Easley residence, 100 and 329 Mountain Road are also wood-frame dwellings from the late 19th century and are distinguished by fanciful sawn trim. The house at 167 Mountain Road dates to 1881 and was built by Howard Cosby, son of Dabney Cosby, Jr. Howard maintained a brickyard in the town and worked as a mason throughout the county.

According to the Halifax County Handbook of 1907, Mountain Road was "one of the most beautiful streets in Virginia."³ Much of the beauty derived from its landscape, for it was during the period from the 1880s to the early 1900s that the settings for many of the houses were planned. This was undoubtedly influenced by the examples of the many neighborhood improvement societies which were then popular in America. Especially marked by this late 19th-century influence is the property at 471 Mountain Road. While the original residence burned in 1970, the grounds continue to maintain their late 19th-century atmosphere. Its tall trees, planted randomly in the front yard provided a park-like setting for the original Queen Anne-style residence.

The eclecticism of early 20th-century architecture is represented on Mountain Road by several residences. Two particularly fine examples are 136 and 370 Mountain Road. Built in 1912 and 1910, both dwellings combine the Queen Anne and Georgian Revival styles popular during the late 19th century. The residence at 370 Mountain Road now serves as the Chastain Home, a retirement home for women. The lawn surrounding the structure is well landscaped with many of its trees and shrubs dating to 1910.

Enjoying considerable popularity in Virginia after the Jamestown Exposition, the Colonial Revival continues to be the preferred style on Mountain Road. An early example is Bonbrook, 655 Mountain Road, which was built in 1929 from materials salvaged from Springwood, an early Halifax County residence. It is believed to be the first Halifax residence to incorporate old architectural materials into a new residence. With its neighbor, 615 Mountain Road, the edifice shares six large oak trees that date to the 17th century. The trees figure rather prominently into the landscaped grounds of both dwellings.

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MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #11

Item number 8, 9, 10

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

In addition to the Colonial Revival, the architectural fashion of the early 20th century is represented by a bungalow at 80 Mountain Road. Typical of such dwellings, it is wood-frame and has a classically inspired porch.

The Halifax County Handbook of 1907 noted that Mountain Road "only needs a more efficient macadamizing to make it thoroughly satisfactory."⁴ Since that time, the town of Halifax was formally incorporated, and the road has been repeatedly paved. Concrete sidewalks have also been installed in front of a number of the residences, only a very few of which have front fences. The iron fence of the Chastain Home is the most elaborate.

While some of the newer residences are less than fifty years old and therefore do not qualify as contributing structures, they all maintain the residential scale of the historic district.

RCC

¹William H. Gaines, Jr. "Courthouses of Halifax and Pittsylvania Counties," The Virginia Cavalcade, Vol XX, No. 4, 1971, p. 8.

²Joseph Martin, Gazetteer of Virginia. (Charlottesville: Moseley and Tompkins, printers, 1835), pp. 184-185.

³Alfred J. Morrison, Halifax County Virginia, A Handbook, 1907. (Richmond: Everett Waddey & Co., 1907), p. 22.

⁴Ibid.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Martin, Joseph. Gazetteer of Virginia. Moseley and Tompkins, printers, 1835.
Morrison, Alfred J. Halifax County Virginia, A Handbook, 1907. Richmond: Everett Waddey & Co., 1907.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

to a point about 550' S of Mountain Road; thence about 860' W to W side of Cedar Lane; thence about 250' S along said side to rear pl of 484 Mountain Road; thence about 850' W to E side of Mimosa Dr.; thence about 180' N along said side to S side of Mountain Road; thence about 30' NW to W corporate line; thence about 240' N along said line, then about 60' W, 40' N, then 70' E to encompass W half of 655 Mountain Road; thence continuing about 550' N. along corporate line; thence about 1600' NE along said line to W side of Woodview Rd.; thence about 600' S along said side; thence about 530' E to W pl of 267 Mountain Rd.; thence about 480' E along rear pls to NE corner of 197 Mountain Rd.; thence

(See Continuation Sheet #12)

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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, HALIFAX COUNTY, VA

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Continuation sheet #12

Item number 10

Page 2

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

about 160' S along E pl of said lot; thence about 320' E to E pl of 123 Mountain Road; thence about 260' S to S side of Mountain Road; thence about 200' E to pt. of origin.

Boundary Justification: The boundary for the Mountain Road Historic District for the north side of the road is defined on the west by the corporate limits of the Town of Halifax, and on the east by a line that designates the adjoining property as R-2 zoning. It includes the structures numbered 123 to 655 Mountain Road. On the south side of the road, the district is defined on the west by Mimosa Drive and on the east by Academy Street and the eastern property line for 80 Mountain Road. The property to the east of the property line is 20th-century commercial and is not in keeping with the character of the district. On both sides of the road the boundary is drawn so as to include not only the buildings but their contributing landscapes as well. While now surrounding noncontributing residences, a number of yards were laid out originally for historic structures since destroyed.



MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Halifax
Halifax County, VA (Methodist Church; Masonic
Hall)

Credit: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission

Date: 1983

Negative Filed: Va. State Library, Richmond, VA
View from East

Neg. No. 7321

File No. 230-78



MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Halifax
Halifax County, VA (110, 100 Mountain Road)
Credit: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission
Date: 1983
Neg. No. 7321
File No. 230-78
2 of 4
View from West
Negative Filed: Va, State Library, Richmond, Va.



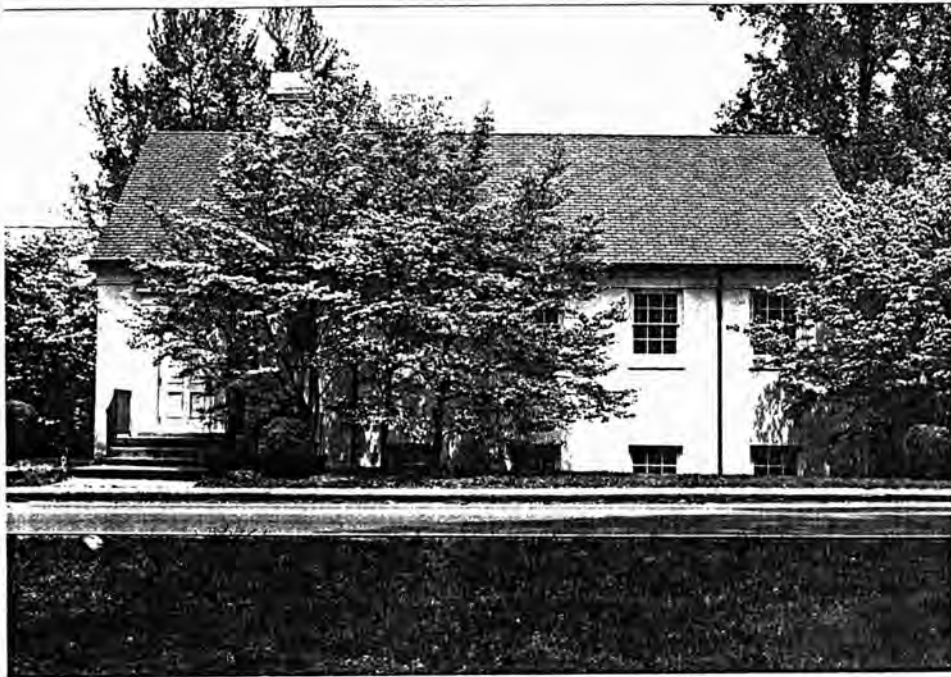
MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Halifax
Halifax County, VA (309, 329 Mountain Road)
Credit: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission
Date: 1983
Neg. No. 7321
File No. 230-78
View from South
Negative Filed: Va. State Library, Richmond, Va.
3 of 4

7321-8



MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Halifax
Halifax County, VA (St. John's Episcopal Church)
Credit: Va. Historic Landmarks Commission
Date: 1983
Negative Filed: Va. State Library, Richmond, Va.
View from South
Neg. No. 7319
File No. 230-78
4 of 4

7319-9a10

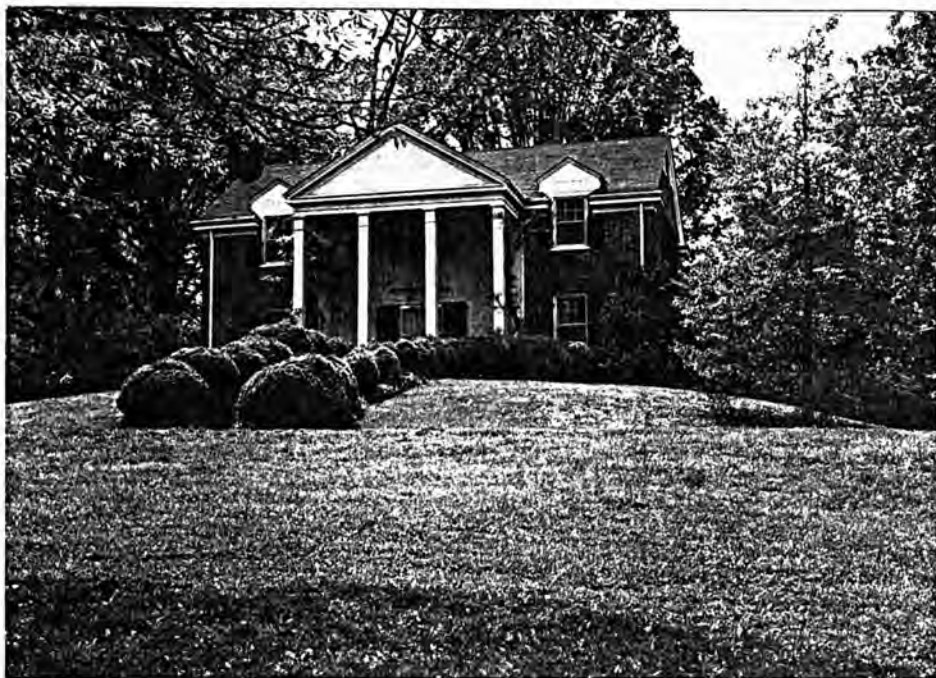


221 Mountain Road
471 Mountain Road



295 Mountain Road
530 Mountain Road





543 Mountain Road
610 Mountain Road



575 Mountain Road
640 Mountain Road





View 5: 484 Mountain Road (Rectory, St. John's Church)
View 7: 415 Mountain Road



View 6: 471 Mountain Road within landscape
View 8: 389 and 415 Mountain Road





View 9: 370 Mountain Road from the north



View 10: 160 Mountain Road from the east

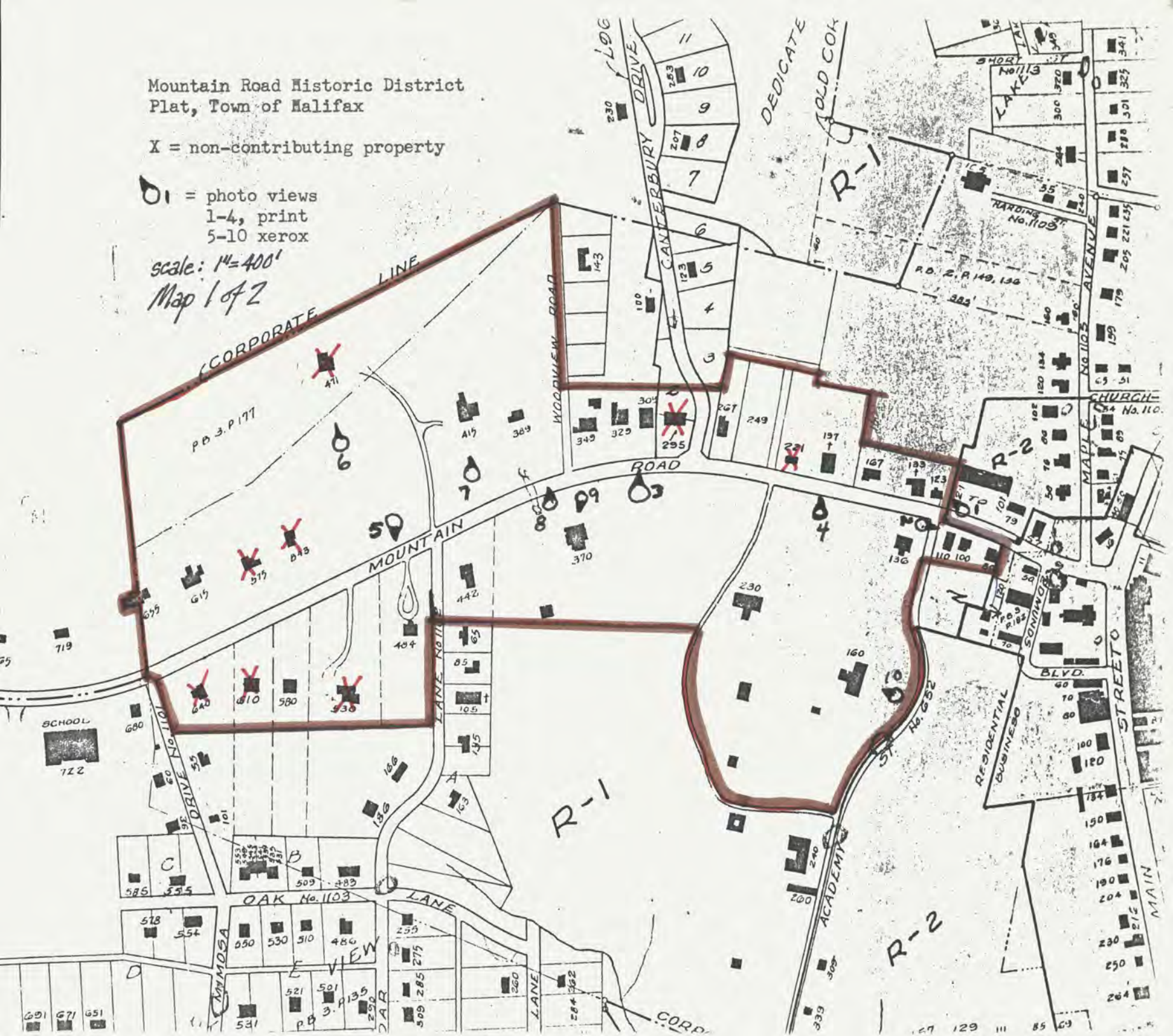
Mountain Road Historic District
Plat, Town of Halifax

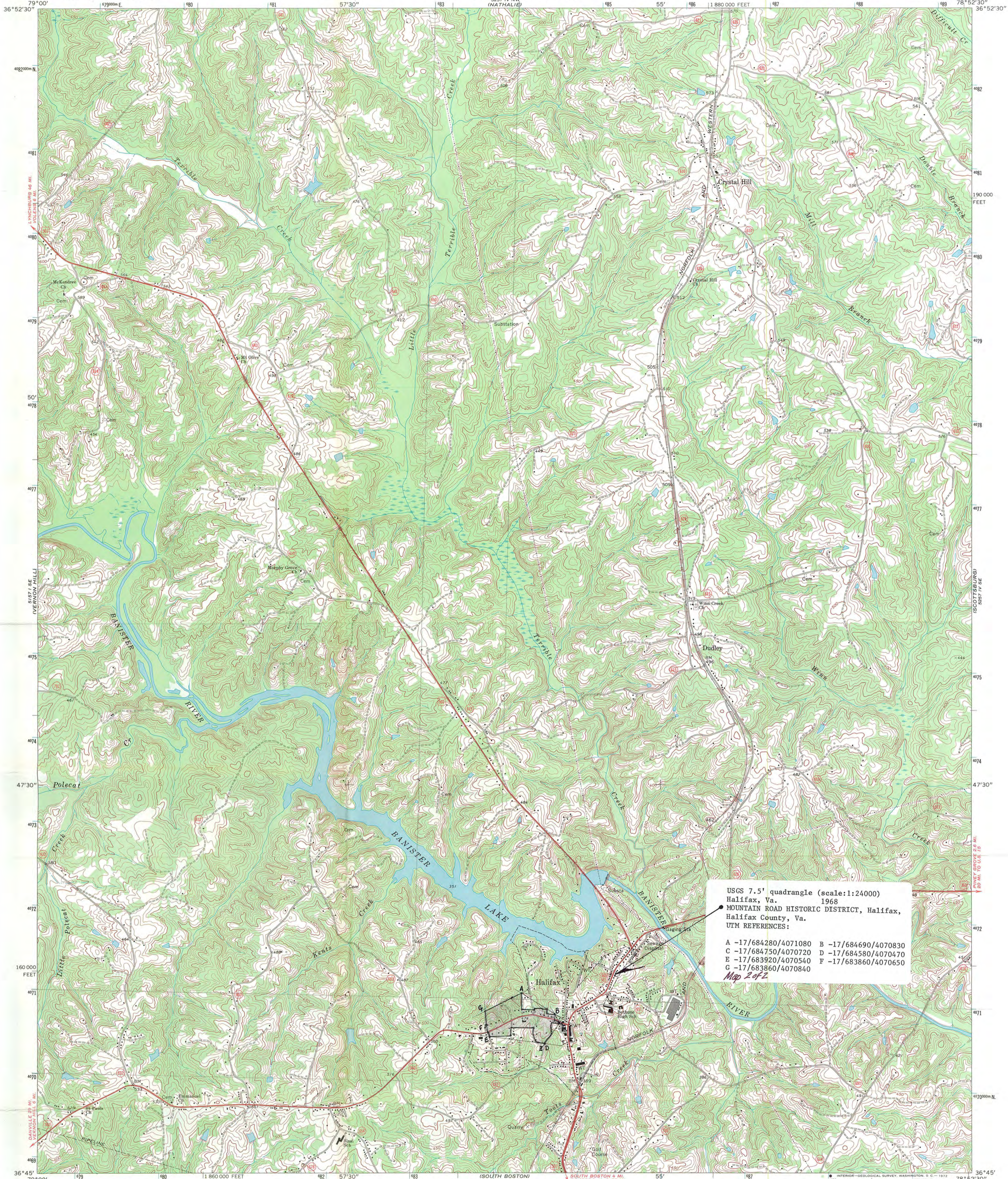
X = non-contributing property

○ = photo views
1-4, print
5-10 xerox

scale: 1" = 400'

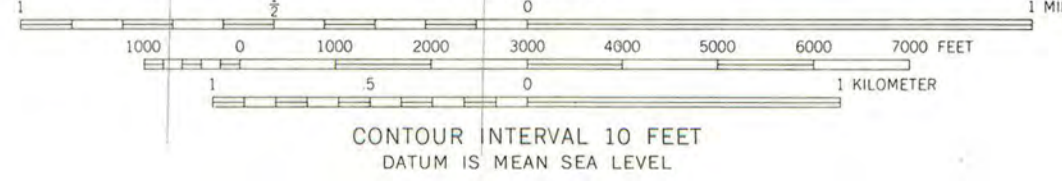
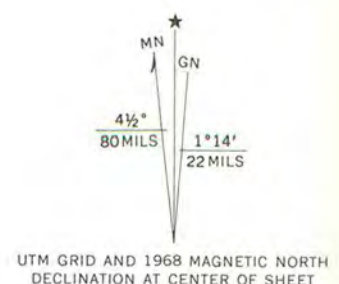
Map 1 of 2





USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Halifax, Va. 1968
MOUNTAIN ROAD HISTORIC DISTRICT, Halifax,
Halifax County, Va.
UTM REFERENCES:
A -17/684280/4071080 B -17/684690/4070830
C -17/684750/4070720 D -17/684580/4070470
E -17/683920/4070540 F -17/683860/4070650
G -17/683860/4070840
Map 2 of 2

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1967. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, south zone
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
John H. Kerr Reservoir is subject to controlled
inundation to 320 feet in Banister River



CONTOUR INTERVAL 10 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Primary highway, all weather, Light-duty road, all weather,
hard surface improved surface
Unimproved road, fair or dry
weather



HALIFAX, VA.
SW/4 HALIFAX 15' QUADRANGLE
N3645—W7852.5/7.5
1968

AMS 5257 IV SW—SERIES V834

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2015

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Update
Name of Property Halifax, VA
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Introduction

The following continuation sheets provide additional documentation for the Mountain Road Historic District [VDHR) File #230-0078], located in the town of Halifax, the courthouse seat of Halifax County, Virginia. The Mountain Road Historic District was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1983. The 88-acre district consists of 30 primary resources, including residential and institutional properties that are significant in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture from the early 1800s to the early 1900s. The original district boundaries extended one-half mile west along Mountain Road from Academy Street to Mimosa Drive, which served as the corporate town limits at the time of the 1983 nomination. The Town of Halifax Court House Historic District (VLR 2008; NRHP 2011) extends along Main Street just east of the Mountain Road Historic District.

In May 2003, a windshield survey was conducted to investigate the potential of expanding the original district to the west and south to include buildings beyond the earlier town limits. In addition to the ca. 1843 Halifax Academy, the 1935-1939 Halifax High School, and the 1938 Halifax Library, the proposed expansion area includes several residences associated with the Cosby family, master builders of the Halifax Courthouse and other significant buildings in the town and existing Mountain Road Historic District. In 2015, a nomination was prepared for the Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase.

As part of the survey and nomination of the Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase, resources within the original Mountain Road Historic District were resurveyed to verify their condition and document all significant secondary resources in order to create an accurate inventory for the historic district. In addition, the period of significance was extended from 1934 to 1965 to better reflect the continued development of the area through the mid-20th century. The contributing status of resources built between 1934 and 1965 within the original district boundary have been updated to reflect the expanded period of significance to 1965.

These continuation sheets for the Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Update do not repeat information previously included in the 1983 district nomination. The additional information included in this update is limited to information that was not included in the initial nomination. All new information is organized by section headings as listed in the current NRHP nomination form with parenthetical reference to the original nomination headings where applicable.

Section 5: Classification

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

Noncontributing

49
1
0
0

14
0
0
0

buildings
sites
buildings
objects

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mountain Road Historic District 2015

Update

Name of Property

Halifax, VA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 50 Additional Documentation Page 2

50

14

Total

Section 6: Function or Use

Historic Functions

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

EDUCATION: school

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary building

RELIGION: religious facility

RELIGION: church-related residence

SOCIAL: clubhouse

Current Functions

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

DOMESTIC: secondary building

RELIGION: religious facility

SOCIAL: clubhouse

VACANT/NOT IN USE

Section 7: Description

Architectural Classification

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Stick/Eastlake

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

FOUNDATION: BRICK, CONCRETE

WALLS: WOOD (weatherboard), BRICK, STUCCO

ROOF: ASPHALT, METAL (tin), STONE (slate)

Summary Description

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mountain Road Historic District 2015

Update

Name of Property

Halifax, VA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 3

The 1983 National Register nomination for the Mountain Road Historic District includes 30 primary resources with eight buildings listed as non-contributing due to their post 1933 date of construction, making them less than fifty years of age at the time. The nomination, however, notes that these non-contributing buildings all retained the scale of the earlier contributing buildings in the district. Three of these buildings were built within the expanded period of significance (1934-1965) and they continue the same development pattern of the earlier buildings in the district. Two of these buildings are large residences situated on spacious lawns with mature landscaping that continue the park-like ambience of Mountain Road established by Dabney Cosby Jr. in his 1840s designs for three of the earliest residences in the district. The third property is the 1962 St. John's Episcopal Church Parish House, which is located next to the church and continues the scale and siting of the other institutional buildings nearby. These three buildings are now more than 50 years old and considered to be contributing resources to the district.

It should be noted again that the remaining five non-contributing buildings, constructed between 1967 and 1981, also continue the traditional development patterns characteristic of the Mountain Road Historic District. Two of these non-contributing houses, Giant Poplars, built in 1967 at 530 Mountain Road, and Woodland, built in 1974 at 471 Mountain Road, replaced earlier buildings that burned; each property includes earlier secondary buildings and original landscaping that date to the 19th century that contribute to the district. The five non-contributing buildings that currently are not 50 years of age should be reevaluated in the future.

Architectural Analysis

The Colonial Revival style gained popularity throughout the nation with the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876, the Columbian Exposition in 1893, the Jamestown Bicentennial in 1807 and the reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1930s. This style is the predominant style in the Mountain Road Historic District with 11 of the 30 properties built between 1822 and 1981 exhibiting elements of this style. Several of the earlier houses were remodeled in the 1960s with Colonial Revival-style porticos replacing their original porches. Examples of these "updated" houses include the ca. 1820 Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road), the 1822 Thomas Jefferson Green House (442 Mountain Road) and the 1912 Watts Leigh House (136 Mountain Road).

All three of the resources constructed between 1933 and 1965 are designed in the Colonial Revival style. The St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Office, built in 1962 at 221 Mountain Road, is a simple, one-story building on a raised basement with a side-gable roof. Designed by the architectural firm Benton & Phillips, the concrete-block building is covered with stucco to complement the 1844 design by Dabney Cosby Jr. of St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road) with its "rough-cast" stucco lined to simulate granite block. The Colonial Revival-style house at 543 Mountain Road, built in 1940 using brick salvaged from the ca. 1830 Banister Lodge, features Flemish-bond brick, a side-gable roof with dormers and a two-story, gabled entrance portico. The two-story, five-bay brick house at 630 Mountain Road, built in 1964, features a side-gable roof and a one-story, gabled entry porch. This property also includes a kitchen dependency dating to the 19th century.

In addition to the properties constructed between 1933 and 1965, a number of significant secondary

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mountain Road Historic District 2015

Update

Name of Property

Halifax, VA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 4

resources, dating from the 1820s to the mid-20th century, contribute to the historic district. The most complete collections of secondary buildings are found at Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) and the Robert Holt Easley property at 415 Mountain Road. Grand Oaks, built in 1843 by Dabney Cosby Jr., features two one-story, frame dwellings located behind the house that may have originally served as slave quarters and were later used by Colonel Vaughan as his office and residence for his chauffeur. The frame stable, which appears to date to the early 1900s, is notable with its stalls surrounding an open paddock and with a front gable over the open entry. The ca. 1876 Robert Holt Easley House at 415 Mountain Road retains a full complement of domestic outbuildings, including a kitchen, double smokehouse, privy and well house as well as a separate summer house and office/billiard room. Although the main house at Woodland burned in 1970, the late-19th century stable and carriage house survive and are testimony to the Victorian style of the original house. These two frame buildings feature side-gable roofs with a prominent central gable with decorative scroll-sawn vergeboards and siding in the gable ends. Woodland also includes a unique secondary building in the ca. 1930 log house that was built for Craddock Edmunds, a well-known Southern poet. Two other properties in the district include former school buildings. The school at Giant Poplars, 530 Mountain Road, is known as the “Dooryard School” as well as “Judge Barksdale’s Office” and dates to ca. 1870. This one-story building features board-and-batten siding and a projecting gable roof over the entrance. A frame school is also located on the 1820 property of Seven Oaks at 615 Mountain Road.

Inventory

The inventory below is a full listing of all resources, including significant secondary resources, within the original Mountain Road Historic District (NRHP 1983). Generated using the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS), the resource information is based on the 1983 survey and a field verification of all resources conducted by Hill Studio in 2015. Information listed for each resource includes the address, DHR ID number, primary resource type, architectural style, date of construction, secondary resource type and contributing or non-contributing status. The properties are placed in sequential order.

The properties constructed between 1933 and 1965 have been updated to reflect their revised contributing status within the expanded period of significance for the district and the address line of each of these properties is underlined. For the purposes of this survey, “contributing” was defined as possessing the capacity to convey reliable historic information about the physical and cultural development of Mountain Road in the Town of Halifax. A property was considered “contributing” if the primary resource was constructed in or before 1965 and the resource retained sufficient integrity dating to the period of significance for the district. A property was determined to be “non-contributing” to the historic district if the primary resource was constructed in or after 1966 or the primary resource was altered to a level that any historic integrity it might have possessed was significantly destroyed or obscured.

Mountain Road

80 Mountain Road 230-0047 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0002*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mountain Road Historic District 2015

Update

Name of Property

Halifax, VA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 5

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1920**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

100 Mountain Road 230-0039 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0003*

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne, Ca 1880**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Non-contributing Total: 1

110 Mountain Road 230-0029 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0004*

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne, Ca 1890**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

123 Mountain Road 230-0009 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0005*

Halifax Hiram Lodge 96

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, 1828**

Contributing Total: 1

133 Mountain Road 230-0004 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0006*

Halifax United Methodist Church

Primary Resource: **Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, 1828**

Contributing Total: 1

136 Mountain Road 230-0021 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0007*

Watt Leigh House

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1912**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Smoke/Meat House (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

160 Mountain Road 230-0042 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0008*

Magnolia Hill

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1840**

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Mountain Road Historic District 2015

Update

Name of Property

Halifax, VA

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page **6**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Kitchen (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

167 Mountain Road 230-0031 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0009*

Carrington House

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1881**

Contributing Total: 1

197 Mountain Road 230-0005 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0010*

St. John's Episcopal Church

Primary Resource: **Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Greek Revival, 1844**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Cemetery (Site)**

Contributing Total: 1

221 Mountain Road 230-0020 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0011*

St. John's Episcopal Church Parish House

Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1962**

Contributing Total: 1

230-234 Mountain Road 230-0003 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0012*

Grand Oaks

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1843**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Stable (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Pool House (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

267 Mountain Road 230-0044 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0013*

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1910**

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Carriage House (Building)**

Contributing Total: 1

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N/A

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295 Mountain Road 230-0014 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0014*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1970

Non-contributing Total: 1

309 Mountain Road 230-0017 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0015*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Vernacular, 1914

Contributing Total: 1

329 Mountain Road 230-0037 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0016*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Stick/Eastlake, Ca 1898

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

349 Mountain Road 230-0041 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0017*

Lovelace-Covington House

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1901

Contributing Total: 1

370 Mountain Road 230-0023 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0018*

Edmunds House / Chastain Home for Gentle Women

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1885

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

389 Mountain Road 230-0026 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0019*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Stick/Eastlake, Ca 1880

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

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415 Mountain Road 230-0024 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0020*

Robert Holt Easley House and Office

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Stick/Eastlake, Ca 1876

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Kitchen (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Privy (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Smoke/Meat House (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Well/Well House (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

442 Mountain Road 230-0030 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0020*

Thomas Jefferson Green House

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1822

Contributing Total: 1

471 Mountain Road 230-0025 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0022*

Woodland

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Neo-Eclectic, 1974

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Carriage House (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Stable (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

484 Mountain Road 230-0006 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0023*

St. John's Episcopal Church Rectory

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, 1844

Contributing Total: 1

530 Mountain Road 230-0078-0024 *Other DHR Id#:*

Giant Poplars / Barksdale School

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Exotic Revival, Ca 1967

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Kitchen (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: School (Building)

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Contributing Total: 1

543 Mountain Road 230-0015 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0025*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Smoke/Meat House (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

575 Mountain Road 230-0016 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0026*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1968

Non-contributing Total: 1

580 Mountain Road 230-0045 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0027*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1840

Contributing Total: 1

610 Mountain Road 230-0078-0001 *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1981

Non-contributing Total: 1

615 Mountain Road 230-0049 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0028*

Seven Oaks

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1820

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: School (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

640 Mountain Road 230-0043 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0029*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1964

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Kitchen (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

655 Mountain Road 230-0001 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0030*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1929

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

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Section 8

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Mountain Road Historic District, stretching along Route 360 in the Town of Halifax, Virginia, depicts the gradual evolution of this rural Southside area from large tracts of farmland owned by prominent county leaders in the 19th century to a mid-20th century community established around the county seat. The district continues to serve as a premiere residential neighborhood and institutional center for the town. Comprised primarily of residential properties ranging in date from the 1820s to the mid-1960s, the district is characterized by large lots with well-designed and constructed houses set back from the road and surrounded by mature landscaping. Institutional buildings, including the Halifax Hiram Lodge 96 (1828), Halifax United Methodist Church (1828) and St. John’s Episcopal Church (1844), are concentrated at the east end of the district, just west of Main Street and the 1839 Halifax Courthouse. Whether the properties along Mountain Road have a rural 19th-century character or a 20th-century suburban development pattern, they are strongly connected by the road itself with its historically significant role as a main artery leading into the courthouse town and its park-like character of large, gracious lots with substantial houses and mature landscaping.

The Mountain Road Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning & Development as it represents the residential and institutional growth along Mountain Road in the Town of Halifax. It is also locally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture as it is highly regarded for its distinguished mid-19th- to mid-20th-century collection of well-designed residential and institutional buildings with mature landscaping, which retains the park-like setting established by Dabney Cosby Jr. in his design of several of the earlier residences. The district is significant for the period from the 1820s, representing the construction of the earliest houses and institutional buildings, through 1965, which is the traditional cutoff for properties where significant activities continued into the more recent past.

Historical Background

Halifax County was formed from Lunenburg County in 1752 and William Ghent received a grant for a large tract of land on what is now Mountain Road in 1755.¹ Halifax County was later subdivided in 1766 to form Pittsylvania County and the county seat of Halifax moved 14 miles east from Peytonsburg to Faulkner’s (or Hawkin’s) Crossing. After several petitions from residents to move the court to the south side of the Banister River, the General Assembly finally ordered that the court be moved to land offered by John Boram in 1777. This land, located on the south side of the Banister River on what is now Toot’s Creek, was located near the geographical center of the county with a spring of excellent water”.² John Boram’s land became known as Banister Town and later Halifax. At this time, Thomas Ghent owned a large tract of land along what is now Mountain Road. Ghent’s one-story, hall-and-parlor house, built ca. 1774, survives as the rear section of Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road), built ca. 1820. By 1784, plans were approved for the construction of a new courthouse and prison. A second new courthouse was constructed in 1803 and the General Assembly established the town of Banister in 1817.

In addition to the county seat, Banister became the commercial, social and religious center of the county. By 1830, there were several taverns in operation as well as the ca. 1828 Halifax Masonic Lodge (Hiram

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Lodge 96, 123 Mountain Road) and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, also built ca. 1828 at 133 Mountain Road. The land along Mountain Road continued to be settled by prominent Halifax County families, including the Barksdales, Easleys, and Ghents. Thomas Ghent's 1774 Seven Oaks was greatly enlarged ca. 1820 with the addition of a two-story, double-pile frame house with central passage. Further east, William Bailey built "Four Chimneys" (now known as the Thomas Jefferson Green House, 442 Mountain Road) in 1822. This house later served as the rectory for Reverend John Grammer of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the early 1840s while St. John's Church and Rectory were being built.³

The town grew rapidly, with a population of approximately 250 by 1835, including three attorneys and three physicians, according to Joseph Martin in his 1835 gazetteer. In his description of the post village and county seat, Martin noted:

"Besides the usual county buildings it contains 25 dwelling houses, with a number of out houses, mechanics' shops, etc, two spacious houses of public worship, one Episcopalian and the other Methodist, a large and handsome Masonic Hall, which has lately been erected of brick in an elevated and advantageous situation above the middle of the village, several handsome and commodious taverns, three general stores, and one grocery."⁴

In 1838, after numerous repair orders, the court contracted Dabney Cosby Sr. and his son, Dabney Cosby Jr. to construct a new courthouse. Dabney Cosby Sr., who had worked on the University of Virginia with Thomas Jefferson, had recently completed courthouses in Sussex and Goochland counties.⁵ The Greek Revival-style Halifax County Courthouse (8 South Main Street) was completed by September 1839 and continues to operate today. The Cosbys remained in the Halifax area to construct several houses and churches, including the Greek Revival-style St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road) in 1844 and St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road) in 1845. The Cosby family were members of St. John's and are buried in the cemetery there. With the construction of the new Episcopal Church, the former St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 133 Mountain Road was sold to the Courthouse Presbyterian Church, who worshipped there from 1845 to 1875.⁶

Dabney Cosby Jr. established the pattern of large houses set back on gracious lawns that gives Mountain Road its distinct character with his design and construction of three Greek Revival-style residences in the early 1840s. In addition to the 1845 St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road) Cosby Jr. designed and built Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road) in ca. 1840. James S. Easley, business partner to James Bruce and one of Halifax County's wealthiest land owners, and his wife Elizabeth Holt Easley purchased Magnolia Hill in 1843.⁷ Located just west of Toots Creek and the courthouse, this property was originally a much larger tract of land, as evidenced by several spring stones associated with it that survive, but are not part of the property (or the district) today. Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) was built in 1843 by Cosby Jr. for William Holt, Clerk of Court in Halifax County, and his wife Phoebe Ferguson Holt – parents of Elizabeth Holt Easley of Magnolia Hill. The brick kiln used by Cosby for these buildings may have been located on the property of the 1880s Edmunds House/Chastain Home (370 Mountain Road) as county court records indicate Cosby sold a house on this property, but not the lot with the kiln, to Elisha Barksdale in 1841.⁸

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Other prominent citizens of Halifax County living along Mountain Road at this time included Thomas Stanhope Flournoy, member of the United States Congress (1841 to 1857), who purchased Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road) in 1841. Thomas Jefferson Green, a prominent attorney in Halifax County and member of the building committee for the Halifax County courthouse, purchased “Four Chimneys” at 442 Mountain Road in the 1850s.⁹

By 1853, the population of Banister had grown to about 600 according to the *1855 Statistical Gazetteer of The State of Virginia*, in which Richard Edwards refers to Banister as “the capital of Halifax.”¹⁰ Edwards also notes that Banister was the terminus of three stagecoach lines, with Mountain Road providing a connection to Danville. However, the Civil War and the coming of the railroad would change the development of land in Halifax and along Mountain Road during the second half of the 19th century.

Although the end of slavery changed the way the large plantations of Halifax County were farmed after the Civil War, Banister continued to develop as the county seat. With a population of 700 in 1885, it was incorporated as a town by the General Assembly in 1887. In 1890, the Lynchburg & Durham Railroad was completed at the south end of town and new commercial and industrial growth began to develop in that area. Reflecting this shift, the name of the town was changed in 1890 from “Banister,” after the river, to “Houston,” named for William C. Houston Jr. of Philadelphia, the treasurer of the construction company which built the Lynchburg & Durham Railroad.¹¹

Along Mountain Road, many of the large antebellum tracts of land began to be subdivided as a result of changes in farming practices after the war, as well as a demand for more residential development along this desirable route leading into town. Mountain Road continued to be developed by many of the leading citizens of the county with well-designed and well-constructed houses situated on large, landscaped lots. *The 1907 Halifax Handbook* described Houston as a town with a population of 800 and boasting that Mountain Road was “one of the most beautiful streets in Virginia.”¹²

Robert Holt Easley, son of James S. Easley of Magnolia Hill, built a Victorian-era house on Banister Farm (415 Mountain Road) in 1876. Easley, an attorney, served as president of the Bank of South Boston and mayor of Halifax.¹³ In addition to numerous domestic outbuildings, the property includes a one-story frame building, constructed ca. 1880, which served as his law office and billiards room.

A portion of Banister Farm was further subdivided when Robert Holt Easley sold land to Edward Shaeffer to build Woodland (371 Mountain Road) in 1901. As stipulated in the deed, when Shaeffer decided to sell Woodland in 1912, it returned to the Easley family, being purchased by Robert Holt Easley’s son, James Stone Easley. Easley was Halifax County’s Commonwealth Attorney, founder and president of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Halifax County Man of the Year (1955) and State of Virginia’s Outstanding Citizen in 1957.¹⁴ Unfortunately, the elaborate Queen Anne-style house burned in 1970 but the carriage house and stables, which were also designed in the Queen Anne-style, remain.

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During this period of growth in Halifax and further development of Mountain Road, Howard W. Cosby, son of Dabney Cosby Jr., carried on the family tradition of designing and building substantial brick houses for Halifax's leading citizens. In the 1880s, Captain Henry Edmunds built the Edmunds House/Chastain Home at 370 Mountain Road on land that was once part of the Barksdale property. This house and the 1881 Carrington House (167 Mountain Road) are attributed to Howard W. Cosby. Watt Leigh, president of the Bank of Halifax, built the Colonial Revival-style house at 136 Mountain Road in 1912. While local tradition credits Howard W. Cosby as the builder, it is possible that the design was influenced by the architectural firm of Heard and Caldwell as they designed the Bank of Halifax on Main Street in 1911 for Watt Leigh. Three other presidents of the bank have lived in this house.¹⁵

Several other prominent citizens of Halifax either built or remodeled earlier houses on Mountain Road at the turn of the century. Judge John Riely purchased Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road) in 1875 and updated it once again by adding a two-story front addition with a Victorian porch. In 1901, Dr. William Lovelace built the Colonial Revival-style house at 349 Mountain Road. Lovelace practiced as a dentist in Halifax County for 60 years and served as the town's mayor for 28 years. The Lovelace-Covington House has remained in the family for five generations and Lovelace's grandson also served as mayor for 36 years. Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) was purchased in 1917 by Hannah Vaughan, wife of Colonel Ira Vaughan. The Vaughans came to Halifax from Philadelphia for Colonel Vaughan to oversee the construction of the hydroelectric dam and power plant on the Banister River. Grand Oaks was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style with the addition of a two-story portico, dormers and side wings.¹⁶

1934 to 1965 (Expanded Period of Significance)

By the 1930s, the town's modern infrastructure was well established with electrical and telephone companies as well as the Banister River Dam in operation. A new Halifax High School for white students and the Halifax County Library were built on Mountain Road just west of the historic district in the late 1930s. It was also during this period that the Halifax Hiram Lodge 96 invited the Halifax Women's Club to share the use of their ca. 1828 meeting hall. Another significant change was the conversion of the 1880s Edmunds House at 370 Mountain Road to the Chastain Home for Gentle Women in 1949.

Industry in the Town of Halifax also diversified during this period with the introduction of the textile industry as Carter Fabrics was established in 1940, followed by the Halifax Worsted Mills (later Burlington) in 1947. The Craddock-Terry Shoe Corporation built a plant on South Main Street in 1946. These new industries brought many jobs to the area. As testament to the town's growth, a new Municipal Building/Fire Station and water tower were constructed by 1950 on North Main Street near the intersection of Mountain Road. As a result of this continued growth in the town of Halifax after World War II, the area along Mountain Road continued to develop as well.

The two churches in the district, Halifax United Methodist Church and St. John's Episcopal Church,

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both experienced growth in their congregations and expanded their facilities during this period. Halifax United Methodist Church, built ca. 1928 at 133 Mountain Road, added a library, office and classrooms to the rear of the chancel in 1950. Another two-story addition with a new entrance was added in 1974. St. John's Episcopal Church built a one-story parish house on an adjacent lot at 221 Mountain Road in 1962. The new parish house, constructed of concrete block, was covered in stucco to match the original 1844 church designed by Dabney Cosby Jr.

The growing popularity of the automobile impacted the town of Halifax and Mountain Road in the mid-20th century. As both Main Street (Route 501) and Mountain Road (Route 360) began as stagecoach routes connecting Halifax to Southside Virginia and beyond in the 19th century, these roads continued to serve as major thoroughfares in the 20th century. By the 1930s, automobiles were becoming more common and the roads of Halifax and South Boston were paved. The late-19th-century Lord Halifax Hotel, located at the juncture of Main Street and Mountain Road, experienced a revival during this period of automobile travel before being demolished in the 1950s for a service station. The intersection of Main Street and Mountain Road featured two service stations by the mid-20th century—the ca. 1935 Republic Crown Station (60 Mountain Road) and a ca. 1950 Shell Service Station across the street (demolished). Another business related to these highways was the bus station (demolished), which was located at the corner of Mountain Road and Maple Avenue.¹⁷ The impact of the automobile on residential development along Mountain Road after the 1930s is evident in a more direct relationship between the residences and the road in their siting and orientation as well as the presence of driveways leading to a garage.

As the population of Halifax continued to grow after World War II, the large rural tracts of land owned by prominent families in the 19th century were further subdivided to provide more building lots along Mountain Road as it became a premiere residential street. This new development differed from the earlier residential properties of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which were more reflective of the rural origins of the area with large houses set back from the road, sometimes with a long “approach drive,” and surrounded by domestic or agricultural outbuildings. The mid-20th century residences tended to be more closely oriented to the road but still featured large, well-designed and constructed houses sited on spacious lots and surrounded by well-established landscaping. In many cases the large trees date back to a time when much of the land along Mountain Road was covered in woods.

Colonial Revival continued to be the most popular style for houses along Mountain Road. The land associated with Seven Oaks was subdivided for the construction of three additional houses while carefully maintaining the ancient grove of oaks believed to date to the 17th century. Bonbrook (655 Mountain Road) was built in 1929 by Richard Coles and Pocahontas Edmunds using materials salvaged from Springwood, the Coles family home. To the east of Seven Oaks, the Edmunds-Cage House (543 Mountain Road) was built in 1941. Designed in the Colonial Revival style with a two-story portico, the house was constructed of bricks from Banister Lodge, the ca. 1830 plantation home of William Howson Clark.¹⁸ Nostalgia also inspired the ca. 1930 construction of a rustic log house by James Stone Easley on the Woodland property for his relative Craddock Edmunds. Edmunds was a well-known Southern poet who achieved great acclaim in 1937 for his work.

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Other residential neighborhoods that developed in Halifax after World War II tended to be less auspicious in their siting, size, and style. Most of these houses were built for the managers and workers associated with the new industries and were located in subdivisions off of the main thoroughfares. These houses are typically a smaller, simpler version of the Colonial Revival or Ranch style. While the lots were often large, they do not feature mature landscaping or retain the cohesive, park-like character that distinguishes Mountain Road Historic District.

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Halifax County Historical Society

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1981 "Halifax County Courthouse." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.

1. Section 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alison S. Blanton and Katherine Coffield
organization: Hill Studio, PC
street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW
city or town: Roanoke state: Virginia zip code: 24011
e-mail: ablanton@hillstudio.com
telephone: 540-342-5263
date: February 2015

Section: Photographs:

Property: Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Update
Location: Town of Halifax, Halifax County, Virginia
Photographer: Katherine Coffield, Hill Studio
Date: February 2015
VDHR File #: 230-0078

Photo 1 of 6: Edmunds House/Chastain Home for Gentle Women, view SE

Photo 2 of 6: Thomas Jefferson Green House, view SW

Photo 3 of 6: Grand Oaks, view south

Photo 4 of 6: Mountain Road - 100 Block, view east

Photo 5 of 6: Halifax United Methodist Church and Halifax Hiram Lodge 96, view NE

Photo 6 of 6: St. John's Episcopal Church, view NW

Endnotes

¹ www.oldhalifax.com

² Cook, 1972: 9.

³ Halifax County Historical Society, 2015

⁴ Martin, 1835:184-185.

⁵ Cook: 13

⁶ Halifax county Historical Society

⁷ *ibid*

⁸ *ibid*

⁹ *ibid*

¹⁰ Edwards, 1855:16

¹¹ *The Daily Virginian*, 1/8/1891

¹² Morrison 1907: 22-23 12

¹³ www.oldhalifax.com

¹⁴ Halifax County Historical Society

¹⁵ *ibid*

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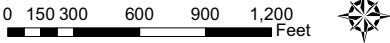
¹⁶ *ibid*







¹⁷ Hill Studio, 2008: Section 8 Page 19

¹⁸ www.oldhalifax.com



**Sketch Map/ Photo Key
 Mountain Road Historic
 District 2015 Update
 Town of Halifax, Halifax
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 DHR No. 230-0078**



- Legend**
-  Mountain Road Historic District
 -  Boundary Increase 2015
 -  Contributing Resources
 -  Non-Contributing Resources
 -  Building Not Observed
 -  Cemeteries

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY Mountain Road Historic District
NAME:

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Halifax

DATE RECEIVED: 7/10/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/25/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 83004245

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 8-24-15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Additional Documentation Approved

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept

REVIEWER Edson Beall

DISCIPLINE Halifax

TELEPHONE _____

DATE 8-24-15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.













National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Mountain Road Historic District
Halifax County
VIRGINIA

SEP 7 1993

Working No. _____

Fed. Reg. Date: 2.5.85

Date Due: 10/6/83 - 10/22/83

Action: ACCEPT 10/6/83

_____ RETURN _____

Entered in National Register

Federal Agency: _____

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review: sample request appeal NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria _____

Reviewer _____

Discipline _____

Date _____

_____ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for: _____ technical corrections cited below
_____ substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible? yes no

7. Description

Condition

- excellent
- good
- fair
- deteriorated
- ruins
- unexposed

Check one

- unaltered
- altered

Check one

- original site
- moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

8. Significance

Period _____ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

9. Major Bibliographical References

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name _____

UTM References _____

Verbal boundary description and justification

11. Form Prepared By

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

____ national ____ state ____ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title _____ date _____

13. Other

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to _____

Signed _____ Date _____ Phone: _____

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet

July 26, 1983

Ms. Corrine P. Hudgins
Registrar for H. Bryan Mitchell
State Historic Preservation Officer
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Ms. Hudgins:

Re: Mountain Road Historic District, Halifax, Halifax County

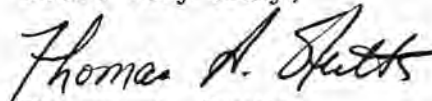
Thank you for your letter of July 15, 1983 in which we were informed that our section of Mountain Road is being considered for nomination to the Virginia Landmarks Register.

We would like to express our support of this nomination and trust that there will be no opposition to it.

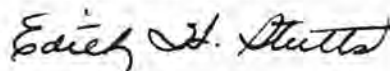
This is a beautiful section of the town of Halifax and encompasses an outstanding example of the history of the county. The architecture of the homes and other buildings deserve to have the designation for which they are now being considered.

With best wishes and kindest regards, we are

Yours very truly,



Thomas A. Stutts



Edith H. Stutts

/ehs



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MRS. NELLIE WHITE BUNDY, VICE CHAIRMAN
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MRS. T. EUGENE WORRELL

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

H. BRYAN MITCHELL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

221 GOVERNOR STREET
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219
TELEPHONE: (804) 786-3143

August 30, 1983

Mr. Jerry Rogers, Keeper
National Register of Historic Places
Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1100 L Street, NW
Washington, DC 20240

RE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATIONS

Dear Mr. Rogers:

The enclosed report is being submitted in nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

1. Mountain Road Historic District, Halifax County (letter from owner)

Sincerely,

Susan W. Alexander
Assistant Registrar

Enclosure



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

RECEIVED 2280
Leticia V. Langan
Media

JUL 10 2015
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

July 6, 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
www.dhr.virginia.gov

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 I ("Eye") Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Update, City of Danville, Virginia

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed additional documentation, referenced above, is being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Danville Historic District originally was listed in the National Register in 1983. The enclosed nomination update provides a full, updated inventory of all resources within the historic district, justification for extending the period of significance to end in 1965, a detailed sketch map, and representative photos of current conditions within the district. The historic district's original boundaries *have not been altered* as a result of this nomination update.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Lena Sweeten McDonald
National/State Register Historian

Enclosures

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 862-6408
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033