

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Luke Mountain Historic District  
other names/site number DHR file no. 003-5006 / Luke's Mountain

**2. Location**

street & number Luke Mountain Road  
city or town Covington  vicinity N/A not for publication  
state Virginia code VA county Alleghany code 005 zip code 24426

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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

*McCotter*  
Signature of certifying official/Title  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

May 18, 1998  
Date

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official/Title  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ determined eligible for the National Register. ___ See continuation sheet.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ determined not eligible for the National Register.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ removed from the National Register.	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action
___ other (explain):	_____ Signature of the Keeper	_____ Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
12	3	buildings
4	<input type="radio"/>	sites
6	3	structures
1	<input type="radio"/>	objects
23	6	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**

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

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>RECREATION&amp;CULTURE</u>	<u>sports facility</u>
<u>RECREATION&amp;CULTURE</u>	<u>hiking trail</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>animal facility</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>road-related (vehicular)</u>

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	Subcategory
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>single dwelling</u>
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u>
<u>RECREATION&amp;CULTURE</u>	<u>sports facility</u>
<u>RECREATION&amp;CULTURE</u>	<u>hiking trail</u>
<u>AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE</u>	<u>agricultural field</u>
<u>TRANSPORTATION</u>	<u>road-related (vehicular)</u>

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Craftsman/Bungalow
- Tudor Revival
- Colonial Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation** concrete
- walls** brick
- wood
- roof** slate
- other** wood
- concrete

**Narrative Description**

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

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

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

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Luke, Sr., William Allan

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**Bibliography**

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

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey  
# \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record  
# \_\_\_\_\_

**Criteria Considerations**

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

Property is:

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

**Period of Significance**

1916-1947

**Significant Dates**

1916; 1919; 1929; 1938

**Architect/Builder**

Frye, Edward Graham

Eubank & Caldwell

Smithey & Boynton

Jones, J.R.

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Luke Mountain Historic District**

Name of Property

**Alleghany County, Va.**

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** approximately 100 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	586900	4183290	3	17	588030	4183300
2	17	587860	4183650	4	17	587930	4182540

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title	<u>Leslie A. Giles and J. Daniel Pezzoni, Architectural Historians</u>		
organization	<u>Landmark Preservation Associates</u>	date	<u>October 15, 1997</u>
street & number	<u>6 Houston Street</u>	telephone	<u>(540) 366-0787</u>
city or town	<u>Lexington</u> state <u>VA</u>	zip code	<u>24450</u>

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

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

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

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

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

**Property Owner**

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

name	<b>see attached list of property owners/adjacent property owners</b>		
street & number	_____	telephone	_____
city or town	_____	state	_____ zip code _____

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

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

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Continuation Sheet

Luke Mountain Historic District  
Alleghany County, Va.

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DESCRIPTION

Materials (continued)

foundation	brick
walls	stucco
roof	asphalt
other	vinyl

Narrative Description

*Summary*

The Luke Mountain Historic District, located in Alleghany County, Virginia, includes several large single-family dwellings and associated resources built on Luke Mountain, overlooking the City of Covington to the east and the Westvaco industrial complex to the north. Three principal dwellings, each of which was built for a member of the Luke family, are the dominant buildings on the mountain.

Each is an architect-designed residence of high quality in style and finish on the exterior and interior. Secondary resources in the district include the former farm manager's house; agricultural barns, shelters, greenhouses, and storage buildings; and domestic structures such as swimming pools and garages. The mountain backdrop of the enclave is mostly wooded, but also incorporates man-made landscape features such as a winding entrance drive, a pair of gateposts, stone-lined drainage ditches, a concrete bridge/culvert over Lindsay Glen Run, a reservoir and private water system, terraced fields, pastureland, formal garden spaces, and walking/hiking paths. The area proposed for listing as the Luke Mountain Historic District includes eight (8) parcels, plus a right-of-way on a portion of a ninth parcel, that together comprise an area of approximately one hundred (100) acres. While this area is about one-seventh the size of the much larger historic Luke estate, it embraces all of the man-made resources historically developed on the property. Areas of the original Luke estate that have been excluded from the district are principally mountainous timberlands without developed buildings or structures other than logging roads. The Luke Mountain Historic District encompasses twenty-nine (29) resources (counting buildings, structures, objects, and sites), of which twenty-three (23), or 79%, are classified as contributing and six (6), or 21%, are considered to be non-contributing.

*Inventory*

1. Lindsay Glen Run culvert/bridge (1916). Contributing structure.
2. Luke Mountain Road (1917). Contributing structure.
3. Reservoir and water system(1917; 1928). Contributing structure.

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Description (continued)

4. Gateposts (1919). Contributing object.
5. Pen-Y-Bryn (1919). Contributing building.
6. The Brierpatch (1919; 1920s). Contributing building.
7. Greenhouse site (ca. 1920). Contributing site.
8. Garden terraces (ca. 1920). Contributing site.
9. Pastures (ca. 1920). Contributing site.
10. Barn (ca. 1920). Contributing building.
11. Chicken coop (ca. 1920). Contributing building.
12. Walking trail system (ca. 1920). Contributing structure.
13. Lookout site (ca. 1920). Contributing site.
14. Windy Knoll (ca. 1920). Contributing building.
15. Garage/barn (ca. 1920). Contributing building.
16. Corn crib (ca. 1920). Contributing structure.
17. Storage shed (ca. 1920). Contributing building.
18. Swimming pool (ca. 1920). Contributing structure.
19. Pool house (ca. 1920). Contributing building.
20. Glencairn (1929). Contributing building.
21. Glencairn garage (1929). Contributing building.
22. Homewood (1938). Contributing building.
23. Playhouse (ca. 1940). Contributing building.
24. Stable (ca. 1960). Non-contributing building.
25. Garage (ca. 1960). Non-contributing building.
26. Antenna tower (ca. 1960). Non-contributing structure.
27. Greenhouse (ca. 1980). Non-contributing building.
28. Swimming pool (ca. 1980). Non-contributing structure.
29. Swimming pool (1997). Non-contributing structure.

*Principal Dwellings*

The earliest house in the district is that of William A. and Mary Otelia Luke. Known as Pen-Y-Bryn, the 1919 Arts-and-Crafts-influenced mansion was apparently designed by Roanoke architect Edward Graham Frye, whose initials appear on the original blueprints. Frye, a prolific regional architect who worked independently and in various partnerships, had scores of institutional and residential commissions to his credit by the late 1910s. Well-known examples of his work during this period include Kriselea, the Philip Asa Krise Residence (1909-1911) in Lynchburg, the Roanoke City Hall & Jail (1913-1916)—both with Aubrey Chesterman—and Roanoke's W.W. Boxley Office Building (1921-

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Description (continued)

1922).<sup>1</sup> Sited on the east flank of Luke Mountain with expansive views of Covington and the Westvaco plant, Pen-Y-Bryn has two dominant elevations. The entry façade, on the west side of the house, is linked to the driveway by a brick and cast-concrete *porte-cochere*, while an equally impressive garden façade on the opposite side of the house features a cast-concrete tiered stair with “1919” in bold relief that leads down to terraced grounds. At two-and-one-half stories, Pen-Y-Bryn incorporates over twenty rooms on three living levels, in addition to a full walkout basement. A poured concrete foundation, smoothly finished on the house’s exterior, includes perimeter walls and ground-level and first-floor slabs. The first floor’s reinforced concrete slab incorporates multiple shallow vaults, visible in the basement. Above the basement level, exterior materials include textured dark-red brick, cast concrete, textured stucco, and half-timbered woodwork. A slate-shingled hipped roof, numerous hipped dormers, broad overhanging eaves, overscaled wooden brackets, and multi-pane double-hung sash and casement windows round out the collection of exterior features.

Pen-Y-Bryn’s interior incorporates a large number of comfortably scaled rooms with high-quality finishes such as oak strip flooring, plaster walls and ceilings, simple architectural detailing, and coordinated wall and ceiling light fixtures. On the first floor, the principal rooms (names derived from first floor plan as drawn in July 1919) include the Hall, which extends the depth of the building and features a plaster ceiling medallion, deep crown moldings, and the house’s main staircase; the Living Room, with a Craftsman-influenced fireplace, beamed ceiling, quartersawn oak paneling, oak-leaf-patterned sconces and chandeliers, and French doors; an adjacent south-facing Sun Parlor with ceramic tile flooring and extensive glazing; the Billiard Room, with evidence of *portiere* hangings that could be used to close off the cased openings between it and the Living Room; an Office with a separate outside entrance; a formal Dining Room with washed-silver finished sconces and chandeliers; the adjoining Breakfast Room with an eastern exposure; two Cloak Rooms (half-baths) with original fixtures and finishes; and a suite of service rooms that include the Butler’s Pantry, Kitchen, Servants’ Sitting Room, Screened Porch, and a service stair with an open well designed to accommodate an elevator (which was never installed). The second floor has six bedrooms, four bathrooms, several sleeping porches, and a private Sitting Room with a fireplace. The attic level, with a suite of servants’ rooms including three bedrooms and one bath, also has four additional bedrooms and a full bathroom.

In 1929, the Helen D. and William A. Luke Jr. House, christened Glencairn, was built on the mountain’s north flank, out of view of Pen-Y-Bryn. The house, designed by the Roanoke architectural firm of Eubank & Caldwell, is a two-and-a-half-story Tudor Revival dwelling of dark red clinker brick laid in stretcher bond with cast-concrete sills and eight- and six-over-one double-hung wooden sash.

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<sup>1</sup>Wells and Dalton, 156-161.

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Alleghany County, Va.

## Description (continued)

Beaufort N. Eubank and James A. W. Caldwell established their architectural firm in Roanoke about 1920, and often served as both architects and contractors on their projects, among which medium-scale residential, commercial, and institutional buildings such as the Y.W.C.A. Building (1926-1927) and the Grandin Theater (1931) in Roanoke predominate.<sup>2</sup> Like Pen-Y-Bryn, Glencairn has two dominant facades—the house's south side adjoins the driveway and incorporates a *porte-cochere* that shelters the French door and sidelights of the main entry, while the north side has a prominent half-timbered gabled element and a former porch (now enclosed) that leads out to a terraced garden area. Three interior brick chimneys and several hipped dormers break up the planes of the picturesque hipped roof clad in slate shingles. Polygonal bays on the east and west sides of the house introduce irregularity to the otherwise simple rectangular footprint. A slate-paved terrace, distinguished from the remainder of the yard by low wrought iron fencing, wraps around the west end of the house. At most exterior doors, original light fixtures of wrought iron with amber glass shades emphasize the hand-crafted character of the house.

The house's interior finishes include walls of smooth plaster applied to an irregular substrate, dark-stained strip oak flooring, wood cornice moldings, and simple door and window surrounds. Glencairn's plan accommodates a variety of public and private spaces; those on the first floor include the Hall, with a paneled staircase; the Living Room, with a beamed ceiling and Craftsman-influenced brick fireplace surround; the Dining Room, with a beamed ceiling and architrave-surround fireplace; a Breakfast Room, with a stone fireplace surround incised with a quote by Scottish writer John Burns; an Office/Den, with a corner fireplace and built-in floor-to-ceiling bookshelves; and a collection of more utilitarian rooms including the Kitchen, Butler's Pantry, Laundry, and other service spaces. The second story holds four large bedrooms and three bathrooms, while the attic story contains an additional bathroom, storage areas, and servants' rooms.

Homewood, built in 1938 for Emily Luke Whitlock and her husband Perry C. Whitlock, was designed by Smithey & Boynton, another Roanoke-based architectural firm fluent in various revival styles and in more modern modes. In 1929, Louis Philippe Smithey designed the J. S. Mathers Residence in Covington; Smithey & Henry Boynton together designed the 1939 Covington High School and the 1940 Covington Armory.<sup>3</sup> Sited within view of Pen-Y-Bryn, Homewood adopts an eclectic, asymmetrical variation of the Colonial Revival style as its architectural theme, and gives the impression of having been added to over time, although in actuality the house was built of a piece. The two-and-a-half-story, L-shaped main block is flanked on the east gable end by a one-story screened porch with

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid., 133-135.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid., 421-423.



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Alleghany County, Va.**Description (continued)**

octagonal supports and a sunburst motif, and on the west by a one-and-a-half-story servants' wing that is oriented perpendicularly to the house's principal massing and linked back to it by a short hyphen. The building's exterior of orange-red brick laid in Flemish bond is carefully detailed with a wood modillion cornice and architrave surrounds at eight-over-eight and six-over-six double-hung wood sash. Jack arches top each of the window openings, which are further embellished with operable louvered wooden blinds. A door surround composed of unfluted pilasters and a broken pediment ornaments the slightly recessed principal entry on the south façade. To one side of the front door, a copper-roofed polygonal bay projects from the wall plane, while on the other side of the entry a small window is embellished with a painted wooden trellis. A one-story arcaded brick porch, now screened, extends from the west elevation of the servants' wing, and is echoed on the main block's rear ell by a wooden porch with arched friezeboards. Variegated slate shingles cover the gable and shed roofs throughout the house, and slate landings provide impervious surfaces at each of the exterior entrances.

Homewood's recently updated interiors retain numerous original finishes, fixtures, and architectural features. Hardwood strip flooring, painted or varnished woodwork, tiled bathrooms, built-in wall radiators, plastered walls, six-panel doors, and windows with patented "Pella Rolcreens" typify the house's interior. The principal first-floor rooms include the Living Room, which is lined with oiled knotty pine raised paneling and features built-in bookcases, fluted pilasters, dentil moldings, large fireplace with mantelshelf, and mirrored Federal-style wall sconces; the Dining Room, which has paneled wainscoting, chair rails, crown moldings, an original crystal and antique brass chandelier, and built-in corner cabinets with pilasters and ornamental shell details; the Reception Hall, with a stained glass chandelier and two connecting half-baths; an adjoining transverse Stair Hall with a paneled staircase, turned newels and balusters, and carved stair brackets; and a Library/Den with knotty pine paneling, punched-tin chandelier, built-in bookcases, and a corner fireplace. The first floor also includes a large eat-in kitchen created by combining the original kitchen space with that of the butler's pantry and other storage areas. The main block's second floor has four bedrooms and three bathrooms, while the attic includes several storage closets in addition to a finished playroom. The half-story of the servants' wing has three additional rooms, a bathroom, a laundry area with built-in cabinets and an ironing board, and a service stair that connects to the kitchen area.

***Secondary Dwellings***

Secondary dwellings in the proposed district include Windy Knoll (the former farm manager's house), situated near the mountaintop reservoir, and The Briarpatch, Pen-Y-Bryn's detached multi-car garage with a two-story apartment. Both buildings were erected about 1920. Windy Knoll is a one-and-a-half-story Craftsman-influenced frame bungalow with half-timbered and stuccoed exterior walls (the stucco is now covered with vinyl siding), a shed dormer, triangular braces and exposed rafter ends, and

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**Description (continued)**

other hallmarks of the style. A full-length integral front porch is supported with brick columns, while a one-story rear porch of similar detail has been enclosed in recent years. The Briarpatch, which was actually built in two stages (the northernmost first-story brick section is earliest), features a poured concrete basement level foundation, brick first story, and stucco with half-timbering on the second story. Windows with nine-over-nine and twelve-over-twelve double-hung wooden sash light the interior, and a hipped roof with deep overhanging eaves and asphalt shingles covers the T-shaped block. The building's large garage bays have side-folding doors of braced matchboard construction with fixed multi-pane windows.

***Other Outbuildings***

Other historic-era outbuildings include agricultural buildings associated with the farm activities of the estate and domestic buildings associated with the occupation of the dwellings on the mountain. Agricultural outbuildings in the vicinity of Pen-Y-Bryn include a one-story, shed-roofed, board-and-batten-sided frame chicken house (ca. 1920) and a gable-roofed frame barn (ca. 1920) finished with stucco and half-timbering. A frame barn (ca. 1920) with board-and-batten siding and a shed-roofed lath corn crib (ca. 1920) are situated nearer the farm manager's house. Windy Knoll's building complex also includes a small frame storage shed (ca. 1920) with board-and-batten siding. Pen-Y-Bryn's domestic complex included, in addition to the mansion, a pool house (ca. 1920) consisting of a pair of stuccoed frame changing rooms with pyramidal slate roofs and a connecting pergola supported on brick columns; only a portion of the building remains intact at present. Near the pool house, a diminutive log playhouse (ca. 1940), built of unhewn timbers joined with saddle notching and chinked with plaster, has six-over-six double-hung sash and a brick chimney. At Glencairn, the detached four-car brick garage dates to the same period (1929) as the house.

Modern or otherwise non-historic outbuildings in the district include a board-and-batten-sided frame stable-barn (ca. 1960), a contemporary concrete block garage with a front-gable roof, and a prefabricated metal and fiberglass greenhouse (now in ruinous condition).

***Landscape Features***

The predominant natural aspect of the district is its setting, Luke Mountain. Rising to a summit of over 1,600 feet (some 400 feet above the Jackson River), the mostly wooded mountain provides exceptional views of the picturesque Alleghany Highlands, even while overlooking the City of Covington and its industries. Elements of the landscape that contribute to the district's historic character include both man-made modifications of the land and the ruins or foundations of former buildings. Historic-period landscape features include the original winding entry drive with turnaround loops, now named Luke Mountain Road (ca. 1917). Designed by William A. Luke Sr. with estate

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Alleghany County, Va.**Description (continued)**

manager J. R. Jones, the roadway skillfully negotiates the steep mountainside with a series of switchbacks and banked turns; stone-lined drainage ditches help direct water from the roadway. Although the current surface is a modern layer of asphalt, the road design is intact. Ornamental plantings of native understory trees (dogwoods, redbuds) and non-native species (forsythia, flowering bulbs) enhance the background landscape of deciduous and evergreen forest. The road crosses Lindsay Glen Run over a poured-concrete culvert/bridge (1916), which is considered a contributing historic structure; and past a pair of cast-concrete and brick gateposts with "Pen-Y-Bryn" lettered on them (1919). Historic-era infrastructure elements of the district include a cast-concrete reservoir and water system (1917; 1931) incorporating underground water lines leading to the houses and pumps near the Rosedale neighborhood that provide access to city water lines. A more recent antenna-tower (ca. 1960) atop the mountain is a non-contributing element. A system of recreational walking trails (ca. 1920), partially restored as of late 1997, links the houses to the adjoining Rosedale neighborhood and to various lookout points on Luke Mountain. One developed lookout point, marked by a now-collapsed covered viewing platform (ca. 1920), has been identified as of this writing. Important agriculture-related landscape features in the district include the stepped garden terraces (ca. 1920) and fenced pastures (ca. 1920) in the unforested areas near Pen-Y-Bryn. The poured concrete greenhouse foundation (ca. 1920), and the reservoir-supplied rectangular in-ground swimming pool (ca. 1920)—also of poured concrete—are considered to be contributing sites in the district.

Two modern-era in-ground swimming pools—one (ca. 1970) on the grounds of Pen-Y-Bryn, the other (1997) in a fenced portion of Homewood's yard—are considered non-contributing structures due to their recent construction and lack of association with members of the Luke family.

***Integrity Statement***

The three principal dwellings in the district are in excellent condition and have undergone only minimal exterior alterations. The district's other historic resources are generally in good condition. Some have been modified, but are still considered to be contributing; these include the original swimming pool, which has been filled with dirt for use as a garden; the pool house, which has had one changing room razed to its foundation due to an advanced state of deterioration; the original greenhouse, now only a foundation; the manager's house, Windy Knoll, which has had vinyl siding installed over its stucco wall panels, though original half-timbering remains exposed and presumably the stucco is also intact; the log playhouse, with a severely deteriorated roof; the original walking trail system, which is partially overgrown and impassable.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Narrative Statement of Significance

*Summary*

The Luke Mountain Historic District, located in Alleghany County, Virginia, comprises a cluster of historic estates located on the sides and summit of Luke Mountain, overlooking the Jackson River and the City of Covington to the east. In 1917 William A. Luke Sr., general manager of the Luke family-owned West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company's Covington plant, began to purchase land on the mountain and develop a curving mountain drive leading to his estate Pen-Y-Bryn, designed by Roanoke architect Edward G. Frye and completed in 1919. The Craftsman-influenced Pen-Y-Bryn was joined in 1929 by Glencairn, a Tudor Revival-style mansion designed by the Roanoke firm Eubank & Caldwell for William A. Luke Jr. A daughter, Emily Luke Whitlock, built the mountain's third mansion, Homewood, in 1937: a Colonial Revival-style home designed by the Roanoke firm Smithey & Boynton. Joining these three architecturally distinguished houses on the mountain are several secondary dwellings, barns, garages, and recreational structures such as a log playhouse, a swimming pool, and a bath house with pergola-linked changing rooms. From 1900 until his death in 1935, William A. Luke Sr. helped direct the growth of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company's (now Westvaco) Covington plant into Covington and surrounding Alleghany County's leading industry.

*Justification of Criteria*

The Luke Mountain Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B in the area of Industry for its association with William Allan Luke Sr., general manager of the West Virginia Pulp & Paper Company (later Westvaco) plant at Covington for several decades of the early twentieth century. In addition, the proposed district is eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as an unusual and distinctive example of a gentleman farmer's informal country estate, which evolved into a family enclave with the addition of large houses built by two of Luke's children. The period of significance for the proposed district begins in 1916--the date cast into a concrete culvert that supports the private drive over Lindsay Glen Run, and the year preceding Luke's purchase of the large tracts that initially made up the estate (presumably Luke spent considerable time in 1916 defining the area he wished to purchase)—and extends to 1947, encompassing the dates of construction of architecturally significant resources.

*Acknowledgments*

The authors wish to thank the following individuals for their assistance with research and documentation or for reviewing the nomination report: Anne Beckett, Suzanne Durham, John Kern, and Marc Wagner of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources; Luke Mountain property owners Dr. Mary Jane Luke, Michael and Beatrice Kasnick, Michael and Jean Shepard, and Shirley Bruffey;

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Westvaco Public Affairs office personnel Ricki Carruth and Debbie Bolt; Lydia McAllister Mefford; and Anne L. Wright of the Alleghany Historical Society.

***Historical Background***

The Luke Mountain Historic District is intimately associated with the Luke family, which since 1899 has played an important role in the economic life of Covington, Virginia. Covington was established in 1818, made the county seat of Alleghany County in 1822, and experienced steady growth over the course of the nineteenth century. In 1867 the Virginia Central railroad (a predecessor of the Chesapeake and Ohio system) reached Covington, linking the town to outside markets and fostering industrial development. Twenty years later, in 1887, the timber reserves of Covington's mountainous surroundings led to the establishment of the E. M. Nettleton planing mill, the community's first large lumber processing plant.<sup>4</sup>

In 1899, William Luke, founder of the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, began construction of an extensive paper manufacturing plant on a site northwest of downtown Covington. Paper-making was in Luke's blood; in the 1820s his Scottish father had been a member of the Society of Irish and Scotch Paper Makers. William emigrated to the United States in 1852, and in the late 1880s he and two of his six sons established a pulp plant at the eponymously named town of Luke, Maryland. William's other sons joined him, a second plant was built in Tyrone, Pennsylvania, and in the late 1890s the family business was reorganized as the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company, known since 1969 as Westvaco.<sup>5</sup>

When it was placed into operation in the Spring of 1900, the Luke family's Covington plant figured as the leading industry in the town and was the driving force behind Covington's growth from 2,950 inhabitants in 1900 to 4,234 in 1910 and 5,623 in 1920. In 1907 the plant employed about four-hundred men and women in the daily production of approximately 80,000 pounds of finished paper. Most of this went into the printing of nationally distributed magazines such as *Harper's Weekly*, *Collier's Weekly*, and *Life*, although book, lithograph, map, poster and parchment paper were also manufactured. While the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company's plant produced papers, its by-products were utilized by at least two other Covington-area businesses in 1923. That year, a local historian reported on the operations of the West Virginia Pulp Products Company --a corporation allied with the pulp

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<sup>4</sup> Kern and Pezzoni, "Covington Historic District," 8.1-8.6; Morton, *Centennial History*, 79.

<sup>5</sup> Arritt, *Historical Sketches*, 118-121; "Luke, Allan [Lindsay]," in *National Cyclopedia* (vol. 40), 218.

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mill—as a producer of fiber and card boards; and an associated industry, a glutrin extract plant operated by the Robeson Process Company. By 1923, the pulp mill's daily output had risen to one hundred tons of paper and the payroll stood at between 1,200 and 1,500 workers. Thirteen years later a University of Virginia sociologist described the Covington plant as one of the largest combined pulp and paper mills in the world, and by 1953 the workforce had grown to 2,000 employees. Originally, the Covington plant primarily used spruce wood from West Virginia's Cheat River drainage in its products, but over the decades it turned increasingly to local hardwoods, providing a source of income to western Virginia forestland owners. Today, New York City-headquartered Westvaco remains an economic mainstay of Covington and surrounding Alleghany County.<sup>6</sup>

The Luke family oversaw the development of the Covington pulp plant into the community's leading industry. The day-to-day operations of the plant were delegated to two of William Luke's sons, William Allan Sr. (1857-1935) and Thomas (b. 1870). According to most accounts, William Allan served as the Covington plant's first general manager, whereas Thomas moved on to become West Virginia Pulp and Paper's fourth president. Both appear in the 1900 census as "pulp manufacturers" living with their families in Covington. In the 1910s, William A. Luke, his wife Mary Otelia Owens Luke, and the couple's four children lived in the large Queen Anne-style house at 610 Midland Trail in Covington's Rosedale suburb.<sup>7</sup>

The area comprising the Luke Mountain Historic District was initially developed as a country estate beginning in 1917, when William Allan Luke Sr. began purchasing large mountain tracts south of the old Kanawha Turnpike/Midland Trail (U.S. Route 60) and west of the Jackson River. The land adjoined the Rosedale neighborhood, just west of the Covington city limits, where the Luke family resided. According to family tradition, the Lukes regularly took Sunday walks over the mountain

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<sup>6</sup> Chamber of Commerce of Covington, *Alleghany County*, 28; Morton, *Centennial History*, 75-78; Walker, *Economic and Social Survey*, 59; Reaves, "Brief Industrial History," 2; *Covington Virginian*, November 13, 1972; and Gottman, *Virginia*, 259.

<sup>7</sup> Dr. Mary Jane Luke, personal communication, May 28, 1997; Luke Family Genealogy; Hammond, *History of Rosedale*, 29; *Covington Virginian*, October 24, 1935; Alleghany County Deed Book 22, p. 706; Alleghany County tax records; United States census; and "Luke, Allan [Lindsay]," in *National Cyclopaedia* (vol. 40), 218. In 1958, local historian Gay Arritt wrote that Tom Luke was the Covington plant's first manager, an account repeated in Howard R. Hammond's 1993 history of Rosedale (Arritt, *Historical Sketches*, 121, and Hammond, *History of Rosedale*, 28).

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property, and decided to purchase it. By the end of 1917 Luke had amassed over 625 acres of mountain land; with the assistance of his property manager J.R. Jones, Luke initiated work on the estate's infrastructure, including a concrete reservoir, gravity-fed water system, and winding entrance drive. In 1919 Roanoke architect Edward Graham Frye's plans for the Luke mansion, Pen-Y-Bryn, were completed and construction on the house began. During its first decade, the estate's assets grew to include -- in addition to the main house -- domestic facilities like the detached six-car garage/apartment, dubbed The Briarpatch by the Lukes; recreational features such as a concrete swimming pool, two pool houses, and walking trails throughout the property; and agricultural improvements including two barns, a hen house, a corncrib, pastures, terraced flower and vegetable gardens, and a greenhouse. The property, including the farm activities, was managed by J.R. Jones, who lived at Windy Knoll, an Arts-and-Crafts bungalow located on the estate near the reservoir.

The country estate complex is a rare property type for the region. Only a handful of large country houses, such as the 1874 Gothic Revival-style Milton Hall in the Callaghan area of Alleghany County, had been erected in the Alleghany Highlands. In the 1880s, Longdale Furnace's owner Harry Firmstone built across from his Alleghany County ironworks an Italianate/Queen Anne-style mansion, greenhouse, and a picturesque carriage barn. Situated among landscaped grounds, the complex established a country house precedent that was fully realized years later at the Luke's Mountain estate.

Of the four children that William A. Luke Sr. and Mary Otelia Luke raised to adulthood, two ultimately elected to build their own dwellings on the mountain near their parents' home. In 1929 William A. Luke Jr. obtained a 5.66-acre homesite and began construction on Glencairn, designed by the Roanoke firm of Eubank & Caldwell. In 1937 Emily Luke Whitlock and her husband acquired a 4.33-acre homesite and began construction of Homewood, using plans prepared by Smithey & Boynton of Roanoke. By June of 1937 the Luke Mountain estate, including lands owned or occupied by members of the family, totaled nearly 740 acres.

Although William A. Luke Sr. died in 1935, his widow and children continued to live on the mountain for many years. Each of the Luke households also included servants' quarters for live-in and daily domestic help. Summertime heat brought additional family members from Richmond and elsewhere to vacation at the cool mountain estate. One granddaughter, Dr. Mary Jane Luke (daughter of William A. Luke Jr.), still lives on the mountain at Glencairn. The other houses, and much of the land in the original estate, have passed out of Luke ownership in recent decades.

After William A. Luke Sr.'s death in October 1935, obituaries appeared in both the *Covington Virginian* and the *New York Times*. The local paper credited Luke's "ability and efficiency" for making the

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Covington pulp plant "one of the finest and largest in the world" before his retirement in 1927, and it noted Luke's involvement in local affairs as a vice-president and director of Covington's Citizens National Bank and a backer of the Covington Collegians baseball team.<sup>8</sup>

***Recent History***

Ownership of the land that made up the historic Luke Mountain estate remained mostly within the Luke family until 1971, when Barbara and Dudley Engleby purchased several tracts from Emily Luke Whitlock and Isabel Luke Witt. The following year, the Englebys sold the property to W. B. and Helen C. Booth and W. H. Burruss. Burruss and the Booths then subdivided the property and sold off smaller tracts (most of which remained undeveloped timber). The boundaries of the Luke Mountain Historic District approximate the plat of a 74.4-acre tract conveyed by Burruss and the Booths to Paul A. and Mildred I. Miller in 1976; this tract encompasses the majority of the Luke Mountain estate's historic resources, other than certain logging roads and walking trails. The Millers further subdivided the property, selling the 2.722-acre Windy Knoll tract to Shirley and W. T. Bruffey Jr. and a three-acre parcel with Pen-Y-Bryn to Michael and Jean Shepard. The rest of the acreage was sold to Jeffrey and Susan Jensen; the Jensens sold almost twenty-two acres to the Shepards, who in the 1980s had begun acquiring former Luke estate lands adjoining Pen-Y-Bryn, reuniting the house lot with its setting; and more than forty-three acres (including Homewood) to Michael and Beatrice Kasnick in 1996. The 5.66 acres associated with Glencairn never left the Luke family; Glencairn's present owner, Dr. Mary Jane Luke, recently acquired an additional 3.6-acre parcel located within the boundaries of the original estate.

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<sup>8</sup> *Covington Virginian*, October 24, 1935; *New York Times*, October 25, 1935; and Hillis, *Alleghany County Illustrated*, n.p.



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### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

#### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district are depicted on the accompanying map, drawn at a scale of 1" = 200', derived from county tax maps and various surveyors maps.

#### Boundary Justification

The boundaries encompass the contiguous parcels of the William A. Luke Sr. estate that retain historic resources associated with the construction and use of the various residences and agricultural resources associated with Luke family ownership. A portion of another parcel that underlies a contiguous right-of-way associated with the historic approach drive is also included. The district's boundaries are comprised exclusively of property and right-of-way lines. In addition, the boundaries encompass the rugged forested slopes of Luke Mountain on the mountain's north, east, and south sides. These rustic surroundings were an important factor in the Luke family's choice of the mountain as a site for their estates. The inclusion of this acreage is justified by virtue of its comprising an appropriate setting for the country estates on the top and sides of the mountain.

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**PHOTOGRAPHS**

All photographs are of: Luke Mountain Historic District, Allegheny County, Virginia.  
DHR File No. 003-5006. All negatives filed at the Library of Virginia, Richmond.

1. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Pen-Y-Bryn (entrance elevation)  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 1 of 17
2. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Pen-Y-Bryn (garden elevation)  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 2 of 17
3. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Pen-Y-Bryn (living room)  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 3 of 17
4. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Gateposts/Luke Mountain Road  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 4 of 17
5. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: The Briarpatch garage/apartment (front view)  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 5 of 17
6. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Half-timbered and stuccoed barn  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 6 of 17
7. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Terraced garden beds  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 7 of 17
8. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Pool house  
DHR Negative No. 15793                      PHOTO 8 of 17

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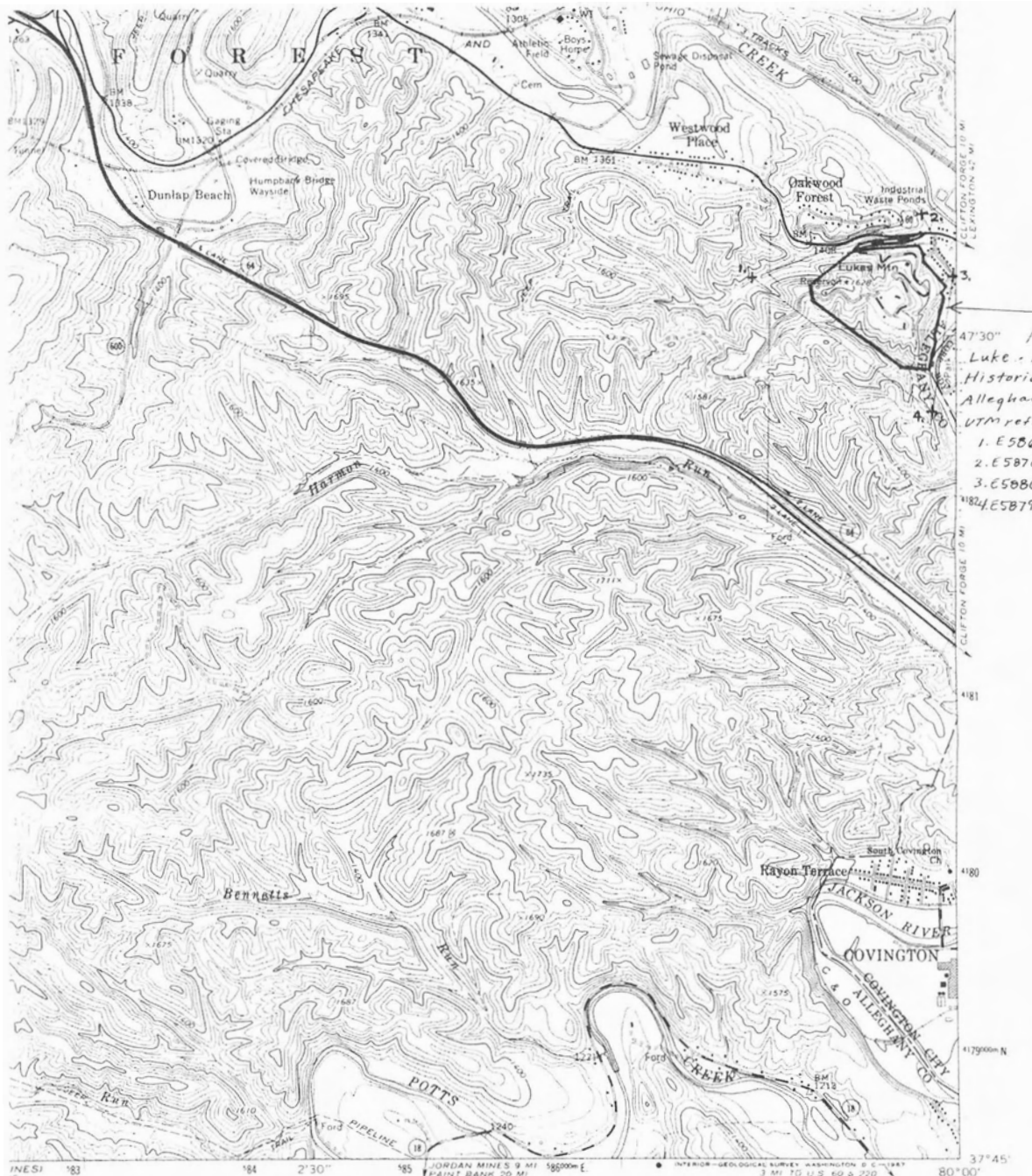
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**Photographs (continued):**

9. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Windy Knoll (estate manager's house)  
DHR Negative No. 15794                      PHOTO 9 of 17
  
10. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Glencairn (entrance elevation)  
DHR Negative No. 15794                      PHOTO 10 of 17
  
11. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Glencairn (garden elevation)  
DHR Negative No. 15794                      PHOTO 11 of 17
  
12. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Glencairn (stair hall)  
DHR Negative No. 15794                      PHOTO 12 of 17
  
13. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Glencairn (breakfast room fireplace surround)  
DHR Negative No. 15794                      PHOTO 13 of 17
  
14. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Homewood (front elevation)  
DHR Negative No. 15793                      PHOTO 14 of 17
  
15. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Homewood (rear angle view)  
DHR Negative No. 15793                      PHOTO 15 of 17
  
16. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Homewood (living room)  
DHR Negative No. 15793                      PHOTO 16 of 17
  
17. CREDIT: Leslie A. Giles                      DATE: March 1997  
VIEW OF: Log playhouse  
DHR Negative No. 15512                      PHOTO 17 of 17



MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
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 U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
 NO SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CALLAGHAN, VA.  
 SE/4 CALLAGHAN 15 QUADRANGLE  
 N3745—W8000/7.5  
 PHOTOINSPECTED 1977  
 1966

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