

VLR- 1/17/84 NRHP- 2/23/84

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

For NPS use only

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

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic BLUEMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT

(VHLC File No. 404-12) ⁰⁵³⁻⁶¹⁶¹

and or common N/A

2. Location

street & number Intersection of VA routes 734 & 760

N/A not for publication

city, town Bluemont N/A vicinity of

state Virginia code 51 county Loudoun code 107

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 type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Owners (See Continuation Sheet # 14)

street & number N/A

city, town Bluemont N/A vicinity of state Virginia 22012

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Loudoun County Clerk's Office

street & number East Market Street

city, town Leesburg state Virginia 22075

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
title Survey (File 404-12)

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September 1983 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 checked="" 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 <u>N/A</u>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Bluemont, a small village on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in western Loudoun County, Virginia, is strategically located at Snickers Gap, one of three primary gaps in the mountain range that forms the western boundary of Loudoun County. The community mostly extends along state Route 734, historically known as the Snickersville Turnpike, which passes through Snickers Gap and emerges into the Shenandoah Valley. State Route 760, originally known as the Snickers Gap-Leesburg Turnpike, converges with Route 734 near the western end of the village. The historic district comprises most of the town and consists of forty-three buildings, including thirty-six residences, five commercial structures, a church, and a community center. Among these buildings, five are considered noncontributing elements. The earliest known surviving structure is Clayton Hall, built in 1797. Associated with the town's founding family, the large stone house is a significant local landmark. Early to mid-19th-century stone structures and early 19th-century log buildings are interspersed among late 19th-century frame residences and early 20th-century commercial structures situated along the town's three roads. This juxtaposition of different building styles and materials creates a picturesque collection of vernacular and high style architecture with few contemporary intrusions.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The historic district primarily includes properties facing Route 734, the principal road extending east-west through the town. A few structures situated on either side of Route 760, which intersects Route 734 near the western end of town, are also included in the district as well as properties lining Elizabeth Avenue. The avenue is a less significant street laid out in a subdivision plat of 1900. The street extends perpendicular to Route 734 and terminates a short distance to the north.

Bluemont is the highest elevated town in Loudoun County, having an elevation of approximately 700 feet above sea level. With a population of about 175, it is a small community surrounded by farmland and pastureland to the east and densely wooded mountainous land to the west. The town's geographic location at an important gap in the Blue Ridge Mountains and its salubrious climate and high altitude played important roles in the town's historical development.

Originally farmland in the 18th century, the town of Bluemont (formerly known as Snickers Gap and later as Snickersville) centered on the Amos Clayton farm at the junction of two old trade routes, now routes 734 and 760. Known today as Clayton Hall, the house is a prominent two-story stone dwelling with a single-story stone service wing extending to the north. It is the oldest surviving structure in Bluemont, having been built in 1797, and it is typical of stone farmhouses of the period in Loudoun County. A stone-and-frame bank barn to the northwest serves as a reminder of Bluemont's agricultural beginnings.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

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 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 checked="" 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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation			
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)			
				<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> recreation			

Specific dates Late 18th Century;
19th & 20th centuries Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Bluemont is a small town situated on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains at Snickers Gap in western Loudoun County, Virginia. Known originally as the town of Snickers Gap and by 1824 incorporated as the town of Snickersville, the village arose along a primary 18th- and 19th-century trade route between the Shenandoah Valley to the west and Tidewater ports on the Potomac. The community originally centered on the farm of William Clayton in the late 18th century, but took its name from the Snickers family, who pioneered settlement of the area in 1769. Developing in the early 19th century as a trading village linked to Winchester and Alexandria by the Snickers Gap Turnpike, Snickersville was the scene of several skirmishes during the Civil War, as both armies vied for control of the fertile Shenandoah Valley grainshed. After the war, Snickersville declined as a business center until the arrival of the railroad in 1900. In order to promote the town as a small mountain resort, managers of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad persuaded residents to change the town's name to Bluemont. Prosperity returned to the resort village in the early 20th century, lasting until the Great Depression when the railroad discontinued service. Bluemont today retains much of its turn-of-the-century charm and picturesque quality. Although the majority of structures, such as stores, boarding houses, and residences, date from that era, there are a number of earlier stone and log vernacular structures that line the main road and serve as reminders of the town's importance as a 19th-century trade center.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1769 Edward Snickers, a wealthy planter and businessman, purchased a 624-acre tract of land on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains at Williams Gap. Later named Snickers Gap in his honor, the gap, and the road passing through it, served as a convenient trade route for the transportation of grain and other commodities from the fertile Shenandoah Valley to markets in the Tidewater region of Virginia.

William Clayton became owner of the land in 1792. He built a home (now destroyed) north of the road and began selling lots at the junction of two roads, the Snickers Gap Road and The Snickers Gap-Leesburg Road, located on his property. There seems to be no doubt of William Clayton's intention to establish a town at the gap.¹ Clayton divided much of his land among his eight children during his lifetime. Amos Clayton, one of his eldest sons, built a large stone house, known

(See Continuation Sheet #10)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #13)

Jones, Ingrid Jewell. Edward Snickers, Yeoman. Mobile, Alabama: Interstate-2, Printers and Publishers, 1974.
 Osborn, Thomas. "A Sunday Morning Fight in Snickersville" and "Snickersville in the '50s." (Unpublished manuscripts, 1923). Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission archives.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 60 acres
 Quadrangle name Bluemont, VA Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point (A) at NE corner of lot #2 and extending S along the E property line of said lot to Butchers Branch; thence following Butchers Branch in a NW direction to a point (B) at the SW corner of lot #12; thence extending approximately 100' SSW to a point (C); thence extending

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #16)

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 December 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 January 17, 1984

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Butcher's Branch is a small stream that flows roughly parallel to Route 734 and forms the southern boundary of the historic district. A small single-story log structure situated on the south bank of Butcher's Branch is one of the oldest structures in Bluemont. Supposedly built in 1825, it originally served as the area's first private school and was known as Snickersville Academy.

Another early 19th-century structure is situated at the western end of town south of Route 734. Known as the William Ball/Meshack Silcott House, the three-part frame composition appears to have been built in sections during the 19th century. The weatherboarded house consists of a two-story central block flanked by single-story wings. The southernmost section of the house features a large exterior end stone chimney and appears to be the oldest section.

The Timothy Carrington House, a well-preserved two-story stone "I" house, is located on the south side of Route 734, and is another prominent early 19th-century Bluemont residence. It features a five-bay facade and an interior end stone chimney at each gable end. A contemporary single-story stone wing built to the east is sympathetic to the original character of the house.

Two other early 19th-century structures include the ca. 1822 William Bradfield House, a two-story frame house with beaded weatherboard and an exterior end stone and brick chimney, and the ca. 1824 Thornton Offutt House, a two-story frame house with a side hall plan and an exterior end brick chimney.

With the completion of the Snickers Gap-Leesburg Turnpike (now routes 7 and 760) in 1832, the village, then known as Snickersville, grew in importance as a trade center. A description of the town, written in 1853, indicates its prosperity:

It contains 16 dwelling houses, one house of public worship, free for all denominations, one common school, one Masonic hall, two taverns, two merchantile stores, two boot and shoe factories, one tailor, one wagon maker; three black-smiths, and one copper and tin plate worker.¹

Unfortunately, only a few antebellum structures survive in Bluemont. The most notable is the Bluemont Methodist Church, a simple stone structure which faces the main road at the eastern end of town. Built ca. 1851, the church has undergone some changes and additions, however it retains its original vernacular architectural character.

Two residences situated on the main road also appear to date from the second quarter of the 19th century. The Osburn/Scott House supposedly dates from the 1840s and was originally built as a merchantile and residence. It is a two-story frame structure with a pair of exterior end brick chimneys at the east gable end and a late 19th-century addition to the north. The building became a boarding

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

house ca. 1897 at which time it was modestly victorianized with the addition of paired Italianate scroll brackets at the eaves and a five-bay porch across the front. The Young/Overton House dates from the late 1830s. It is a two-story frame "I" house with exterior end chimneys and a rear ell. Although the exterior weather-board has been replaced by asbestos shingles, the house retains much of its integrity. Late 19th-century frame farm buildings are to the rear of the house.

The village's first public school was built in 1872 and continued to operate in the same building until 1922. Known as Mountain Shadow School, the simple frame building with its gable end facing the main road was later used as a residence. While subsequent additions tend to dwarf the original school, the building's original lines are still discernible.

The earliest extant commercial structure in Bluemont is situated near the junction of the two old turnpikes. Snickersville General Store was originally built for John and Meshack Silcott in 1888. It remains today a general store and social gathering place in the center of town. The two-story frame building is particularly well-preserved and features the original storefront windows and recessed entrance, German siding, and interior treatment.

The majority of domestic architecture in Bluemont dates from the late 19th century and the turn of the 20th century. Owing to the prosperity that followed the completion of the railroad to Bluemont in 1900, land west of the depot was subdivided into lots and the town experienced a modest but successful building boom. Residences from that period exhibit fine craftsmanship. The Fanciulli House on Route 734 features an octagonal corner turret and the John Silcott House exhibits scroll bracketed porch eaves and sawnwork. Three residences west of the depot site on Elizabeth Avenue feature double-story galleries with sawn pattern balustrades and projecting gables and bays. Most notable of these residences are two former boarding houses: the Loudoun House Hotel, built in 1900, and the Blue Ridge Inn, built in 1904. Both were needed to accommodate the growing number of summer visitors that traveled by rail from Washington, DC to enjoy the cool climate. Other houses in the area were also converted to boarding houses.

New commercial establishments also reflected the prosperity that Bluemont experienced during the early 20th century. Located at the corner of the Snickersville Turnpike and Elizabeth Avenue, E.E. Lake General Store, built ca. 1905, is a large frame and stucco structure with a false front and a typical five-bay porch across the front. A post office addition was built to the south in 1918. Although presently vacant, the building is a Bluemont landmark that retains its original character and charm.

With railroad offering a convenient and fast means of transporting grain to markets further east, (grain elevators began to appear rising above the tracks at the foot of Elizabeth Avenue), soon after regular freight service was established. Three successive wooden grain elevators were destroyed by fire before the present

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

concrete one was built in 1920 for Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company. The company shut down when the trains stopped in 1930. The depot and the tracks were subsequently destroyed.

In 1922 a larger public school was built north of Route 734 at the eastern end of town. A typical example of early 20th-century school architecture, the two-story stucco building now serves as a community center.

Only five contemporary structures have been built within the district since the mid-20th century. Although they are considered noncontributing elements, these buildings are not obtrusive, nor are they located at prominent sites in the village.

The main thoroughfare, Route 734, is paved and mostly shaded by mature trees. Lots with buildings alternate with open spaces, creating a varied streetscape. Yards are generally well maintained and many are delineated by wrought iron, stone, and board fencing. Most houses are set back only a few yards from the road; however, the more recently built structures tend to be set further back. Altogether, the town exhibits a decidedly rural character in its architecture and setting.

¹ Eugene M. Scheel. "Bluemont--A Loudoun Village," Loudoun Times-Mirror. Leesburg, VA. May 13, 1976.

7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory:

ROUTE 734

1 (John B. Young House): Detached house. Vernacular. Mid-19th century. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch, full pediment with dentils and carving. The Young/Overton House contributes to the architectural variety and character of the district.

2: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Stone (coursed ashlar); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, brackets, and cutout pattern balustrade. This house contributes to the architectural character of the district and adds variety of building material and design to the streetscape.

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

ROUTE 734 (continued)

-3
(404-3)

3 (Bluemont School): School. Vernacular. 1922. Stucco; 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story porch with center bay, hipped roof and Doric columns. Bluemont School is the largest building in the district. It is a good early 20th-century example of school architecture.

-4

*4: Detached house. Contemporary. Ca. 1950s. Stucco; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays. This building is less than fifty years old and, therefore, does not contribute to the district.

-5
(404-7)

5 (Bluemont Methodist Church): Church. Vernacular. Ca. 1851. Stone (random rubble); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Bluemont Methodist Church is a good example of mid-19th-century church architecture. Its stone exterior adds variety to the streetscape. It is one of the most important elements of the district.

-6

6 (Fanciulli House): Detached house. Modified Queen Anne. Late 19th century. Stucco; 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay enclosed porch with metal awning added. The Fanciulli House is an important late 19th-century example of modified Queen Anne architecture. It adds variety and architectural character to the streetscape.

-44

Vacant lot.

-45

Vacant lot.

-7

7 (Mountain Shadow School; now Thomas F. Rust House): Detached house now; formerly a school. Vernacular. 1872 with later additions. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 shed dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 7-bay shed-roof porch with Doric columns. Mountain Shadow School, although compromised by additions and alterations, adds visual interest to the streetscape. The original school is an important landmark in Bluemont.

-46

Vacant lot.

-8

*8: Detached house. Contemporary. Ca. 1960s. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 5 bays; 1-story porch with center bay, metal awning, wrought-iron railing, and metal poles. This building is less than fifty years old, therefore, it does not contribute to the district.

-47

Vacant lot.

-9

9 (Cochran Lumber and Millwork): Commercial (store). Commercial Vernacular. 1920. Stone (first floor: random rubble; second floor: wood frame - weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with iron poles and concrete floor. This building was once a dance

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

ROUTE 734 (continued)

hall, built in 1920. It adds visual variety of architectural scale, design, mass, etc. It is also one of two commercial establishments in Bluemont.

-10
10: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story porch with center bay, chamfered posts, and full pediment. This turn-of-the-century residence is a good example of the architectural style of the period in Bluemont.

-11
(404-14)
11 (Snickersville General Store): Commercial (store). Commercial Vernacular. 1888. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays. Snickersville General Store is an important late 19th-century commercial establishment, one of two businesses surviving in Bluemont. It is well-preserved and adds character and charm to the streetscape.

-12
(404-10)
12 (Osburn/Scott House): Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. mid-19th century with late 19th-century addition. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 pedimented dormers; 6 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with capped square columns and full entablature. The Osburn/Scott House is an important architectural element in the district. It is a mid-19th-century building with a late 19th-century addition and added Victorian features. It represents a transitional building in architectural tastes in Bluemont.

-13
(404-5)
13 (Timothy Carrington House): Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1817. Stone (random rubble); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story porch with center bay, square columns, and full pediment. The Timothy Carrington House is an important early 19th-century stone house in the district. It adds architectural character and variety of building material to the streetscape.

14: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (aluminum siding); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. This turn-of-the-century residence is typical of the period in architectural style in Bluemont.

-15
(404-4)
15 (William Bradfield House): Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1822. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. The William Bradfield House, although partially in ruins, is one of a few early 19th-century buildings in the district. It is a good example of frame architecture of the period.

16: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1812. Wood frame (aluminum siding); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square posts and shed roof. This building supposedly dates from the early 19th century. The house contributes to the architectural character of the streetscape.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

ROUTE 734 (continued)

17: Detached house. Vernacular. Early 20th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with square slender posts and shed roof. This small building probably dates from the early 20th century. It contributes to the scale and diversity of vernacular architecture in the district.

(404-1) 18 (William Ball/Meshack Silcott House): Detached house. Vernacular. Early 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 7 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square posts and simple balustrade. The William Ball/Meshack Silcott House is an important early 19th-century frame building in the district. It represents the vernacular architectural traditions of the town's residents in the 19th century.

(404-15) 19 (Tanyard Lot): Detached house. Vernacular. Early 20th century. Log; 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts. This 20th-century log residence was built of logs from a tanyard on the site. It adds architectural visual interest and character to the district.

20: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square posts and shed roof. This building contributes to the architectural character of the district. It may be a 19th-century house with a ca. 1900 second-floor addition.

48 Vacant lot.

(404-7) 21 (Ice House Lot): Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th-century. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with scroll brackets and cutout pattern balustrade. This late 19th-century house contributes to the architectural character of the district in scale, material, style, etc.

*22: Telephone building. Colonial Revival. 1960s. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 5 bays. This building is less than fifty years old, therefore, it does not contribute to the district.

(404-11) 23 (John W. Silcott House): Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with square chamfered columns, scroll brackets, eaves brackets, and cutout pattern balustrade. The John Silcott House is a fine example of a late 19th-century house with an exceptionally stylish porch. It contributes to the architectural character of the streetscape.

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ROUTE 734 (continued)

(404-13) 24 (Snickersville Academy): Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1825. Log; 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story porch with center bay, wood posts and shed roof. This small log building is one of a few early 19th-century structures in the district. It is an important landmark in Bluemont's history.

(404-6) 25 (Clayton Hall): Detached house. Federal. 1797. Stone (random rubble); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with fluted Doric columns on stone wall porch enclosure. Clayton Hall is the finest and oldest late 18th-century building in Bluemont. It is a fine example of a Federal stone house of the period in Loudoun County. Historically important, it was the home of the town's founding family.

(Intersection Route 734 & Route 760, also known as Round Hill Road) 26: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (aluminum siding); 2 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story porch with center bay, turned posts, spindle frieze, and scroll brackets. This late 19th-century frame house is typical of the period. It contributes to the scale of the streetscape.

(404-9) 27 (Thornton Offutt House): Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1834. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1-story, 3-bay porch with chamfered posts, scroll brackets, and simple balustrade. This early 19th-century house contributes to the architectural character of the district.

28: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Stucco; 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with Ionic columns and turned balusters. This turn-of-the-century house is representative of architectural tastes of the period in Bluemont.

29: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Stucco; 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with turned posts, scroll brackets, and cutout pattern balustrade. This turn-of-the-century house is representative of the architectural tastes of the period in Bluemont.

CARR STREET

33: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. This small turn-of-the-century house is representative of vernacular architecture in the town.

ELIZABETH AVENUE

(404-8) (corner of Route 734 & Elizabeth Avenue) 30 (E.E. Lake Store): Commercial

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

ELIZABETH AVENUE (continued)

20 (store). Vernacular. Ca. 1905. Stucco; 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays; 1-story, 5-bay porch with round metal columns and stone foundation. E.E. Lake Store is a good example of early 20th-century commercial architecture in Bluemont. It adds architectural distinction to the corner of two important streets in town.

31: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Stucco; 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, scroll brackets, and cutout pattern balustrade. This late 19th-century house exhibits good Victorian architectural elements. It contributes to the visual interest of the streetscape.

32 (Blue Ridge Inn): Detached house. Vernacular. 1904. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts on second floor, square posts (replacements) on first floor, and cutout pattern balustrade. This early 20th-century house exhibits fine Victorian elements that add to the architectural interest of Elizabeth Avenue.

34 (Loudoun House Hotel): Hotel. Vernacular. 1900. Wood frame (shingle); 3 stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 2 hipped dormers for ventilation only; 5 bays; 2-story, 5-bay porch enclosed on both stories, cutout pattern balustrade on second floor still intact. The former Loudoun House Hotel is a landmark of the early 20th century in Bluemont. Its size and architectural elements contribute to the streetscape of Elizabeth Avenue.

41 Vacant lot.

35: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, scroll brackets, and cutout pattern balustrade. This turn-of-the-century frame house contributes to the architectural character of Elizabeth Avenue.

36: Detached house. Vernacular. Late 19th century. Wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, scroll brackets, and simple balustrade. This late 19th-century residence is well-preserved and is representative of domestic architecture of the period in Bluemont.

37 (Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company): Commercial. Commercial Vernacular. 1920. Wood frame (weatherboard & warehouse on rear ell) and concrete grain elevator; 1-story rear ell, 6-story grain elevator; gable roof on warehouse (standing seam metal), flat roof on tower. The Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company was an important early 20th-century commercial establishment in Bluemont. The surviving buildings contribute to the historic fabric of the district and add visual interest to the end of Elizabeth Avenue.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (continued)

ELIZABETH AVENUE (continued)

38: Detached house. Vernacular. Early 20th century. Wood frame (aluminum siding); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story porch with center bay in ruins. This early 20th-century house is representative of modest houses of the period in Bluemont. It contributes to the architectural diversity of Bluemont.

*39: Detached house. Contemporary. 1970s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 5 bays. This contemporary structure is less than fifty years old and therefore does not contribute to the district.

*40: Detached house. Contemporary. 1950s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story enclosed porch. This contemporary structure is less than fifty years old, therefore, it does not contribute to the district.

41: Detached house. Vernacular. 1930s. Wood frame (shingle); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with wood posts. This small vernacular house is a representative example of modest houses of the early 20th century in Bluemont.

42: Detached house. Vernacular. Ca. 1900. Wood frame (lower story weatherboard, upper story shingle); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story porch with center bay and chamfered posts. This small house is an unusual example of an early 20th-century house. Its shape, mass, etc., add architectural variety to the streetscape.

43 (U.S. Post Office): Government building. Vernacular. 1930s. Wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. This small early 20th-century post office contributes to the character of the streetscape.

44-49
vacant
lots

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

today as Clayton Hall, at the junction of the two roads in 1797. The house is the oldest surviving structure in Bluemont.

Within a few years the nucleus of a business center formed at Snickers Gap. Merchants and craftsmen began to locate along the roads that approached the gap, providing necessary provisions and services to travelers, wagoners, and drovers. As early as 1807 a post office was located there and the community took the name of Snickers Gap. Three years later area merchants took action to incorporate the main road as the Snickers Gap Turnpike and this road became the major trade route between Winchester in the Shenandoah Valley and the port of Alexandria. By 1824 application was made to the Virginia General Assembly for incorporation as a town and the ensuing act of establishment designated an area of ten acres at the entrance to Snickers Gap to be known as the town of Snickersville.²

Snickersville continued to grow throughout the early 19th century. By 1830 the town contained a school, a church, a general store and tavern, a shoemaker, a carpenter, an undertaker, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, and a doctor. The 1830 census records a population of eighty-eight inhabitants.³ Not only did the town prosper because of the increasing grain trade from the Shenandoah Valley, Snickersville also grew due to area farmers who depended primarily upon the town as their trading center, polling place, post office, and social center. (Clayton family members continued as leaders of the town, although their influence was markedly affected by the death of Amos Clayton in 1829.)⁴

The Civil War halted the rising prosperity of Snickersville. Because of the town's location at a strategic gap in the mountains, many military forces, both Federal and Confederate, passed through Snickersville before and after battle campaigns. Scouting expeditions spawned guerilla warfare and subjected the town and surrounding farms to raids and skirmishes throughout the war.

A small localized battle took place at Snickersville on March 6, 1864 when a small Confederate force routed an encamped Federal scouting party. Later in the summer of 1864, Major General Jubal A. Early and his troops, having made their famous march on Washington, traveled the Snickers Gap-Leesburg Road (now Route 7-Route 760) through Snickersville, and returned safely to the Shenandoah Valley. Along the way, the Confederates were repeatedly engaged in battle with Major General George Crooks' Union infantry. The stone Methodist church in Snickersville, built ca. 1851, was used as a hospital after these engagements.

In November 1864 Union Major General Wesley Merritt was ordered by General Philip Sheridan to clear the countryside of menacing bands of Confederate raiders in the Loudoun Valley and to burn all barns, mills, and forage used to support the marauders and their horses. In the ensuing raid, area farmers suffered the loss of

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

230 barns, 8 mills, an estimated 10,000 tons of hay, and 25,000 bushels of grain.⁵ The town itself, however, suffered no damage.

The fertility of the surrounding farmland was probably responsible for the continued growth of the town after the Civil War. By 1870 the census records more than one hundred families in the area, almost double the number ten years earlier.⁶ The Post-Civil War era brought changes to the town and one of the most important was public education. Earlier in the 19th century, Snickersville boasted one of the earliest private schools in Loudoun County. A small log school was built on land donated by Amos Clayton in 1825. Known as the Snickersville Academy, it became a public school in 1870, but was abandoned two years later when a frame school was built on the Turnpike. The Mountain Shadow School, as the frame school was called, was built on land donated by Dr. George Emory Plaster, a noted resident physician. The school was expanded in 1890 and continued in use until the Bluemont School was built in 1922. Both 19th-century schools and the later two-story stucco building, now used as a community center, are preserved in the district.

The first blow to the town's economy after the war came with the relocation of the Snickers Gap-Leesburg Turnpike further north and at a higher elevation. This bypass affected the level of commerce the village henceforth received. The second blow was the abandonment of plans to complete the Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad to Snickersville. Financial troubles arising from the depression of 1873 caused a halt in the extension of the railroad west of Round Hill, a village four miles east of Snickersville. Dr. Plaster described the results "as simply disastrous. Trade and business were drawn away and the village left stranded in a motionless eddy."

The life of the village depended upon a change in business enterprises. Near the turn of the century, the cool climate, mountain scenery, and serenity of the village attracted many Washington, DC visitors who began to build summer homes in the mountains above Snickersville. In 1893 the Blue Ridge Inn (now destroyed), a popular summer casino-resort, was built atop the Blue Ridge Mountains above Snickersville, which further enhanced the summer resort trade for the tiny community.

The tourist trade proved so successful that the manager of the Washington and Old Dominion Railroad, which had superceded the Alexandria, Loudoun, and Hampshire Railroad, decided to extend the rail lines from Round Hill to Snickersville. The arrival of the first train in Snickersville on July 4, 1900 ushered in a new era of prosperity for the town.

Along with the physical and social changes brought by the railroad came a new name for the town. The managers of the railroad convinced the U.S. Post Office Department to change the name of Snickersville to Bluemont, which they considered a

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

more euphonious name for a popular resort. Many protests as well as approvals followed. One native wrote, "Snickersville has no music in it nor concord of sweet sounds. Captain Snickers inflicted his ugly name on one of the loveliest spots in all the whole world! Bluemont may not have been the best name, but it is infinitely better than Snickersville. All hail to Bluemont. Let the steam engine ring out the old and ring in the new!"⁸

With the coming of the railroad, Bluemont experienced its heyday. A flurry of building activity after 1900 transformed the sleepy town into a prosperous small resort. Land west of the railroad depot was subdivided and new streets laid out in an effort to expand the town's size. During the first decade of the 20th century a large store, bank and post office building was constructed at the corner of the Turnpike and Elizabeth Avenue; the first of four grain elevators was built at the end of Elizabeth Avenue for Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company, and boarding houses and hotels were built to provide accommodations for tourists. By the 1920s an electric company provided service to the village and the Snickersville Telephone Company, the first in the area, was established. Even a taxi service was available.

Economic renewal of the town was short lived, however, due to changes in the national economy, better highways, and the preference of automobile travel. The Great Depression caused the railroad to discontinue service to Bluemont in 1930. Shortly afterwards, the Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company shut down, the main store in town went out of business, and the hotels and boarding houses were transformed into residences.

Today Bluemont has approximately the same population it had in 1940--about 175 residents. It is a quiet residential community that, bypassed by major highways in the mid-20th century, has escaped modern development. Only two commercial establishments are still located in the village. Visitors and residents alike seem to enjoy the serenity and the small-town character that Bluemont offers. The architecture and picturesque setting of the town help to convey the predominant image of a preserved turn-of-the-century town. Older vernacular stone and log structures remain, however, to remind us of Bluemont's earlier history.

DE

¹Jean Herron Smith. Snickersville. (Miamisburg, Ohio: The Miamisburg News, 1970), p. 18.

²Ibid., p. 25.

³Ibid., p. 27.

⁴Ibid., p. 29. (See Continuation Sheet #13)

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Footnotes (continued)

⁵ibid., p. 59.

⁶ibid., p. 66.

⁷ibid., p. 79.

⁸Eugene M. Scheel. "Bluemont--A Loudoun Village," Loudoun Times-Mirror.
Leesburg, VA, May 13, 1976.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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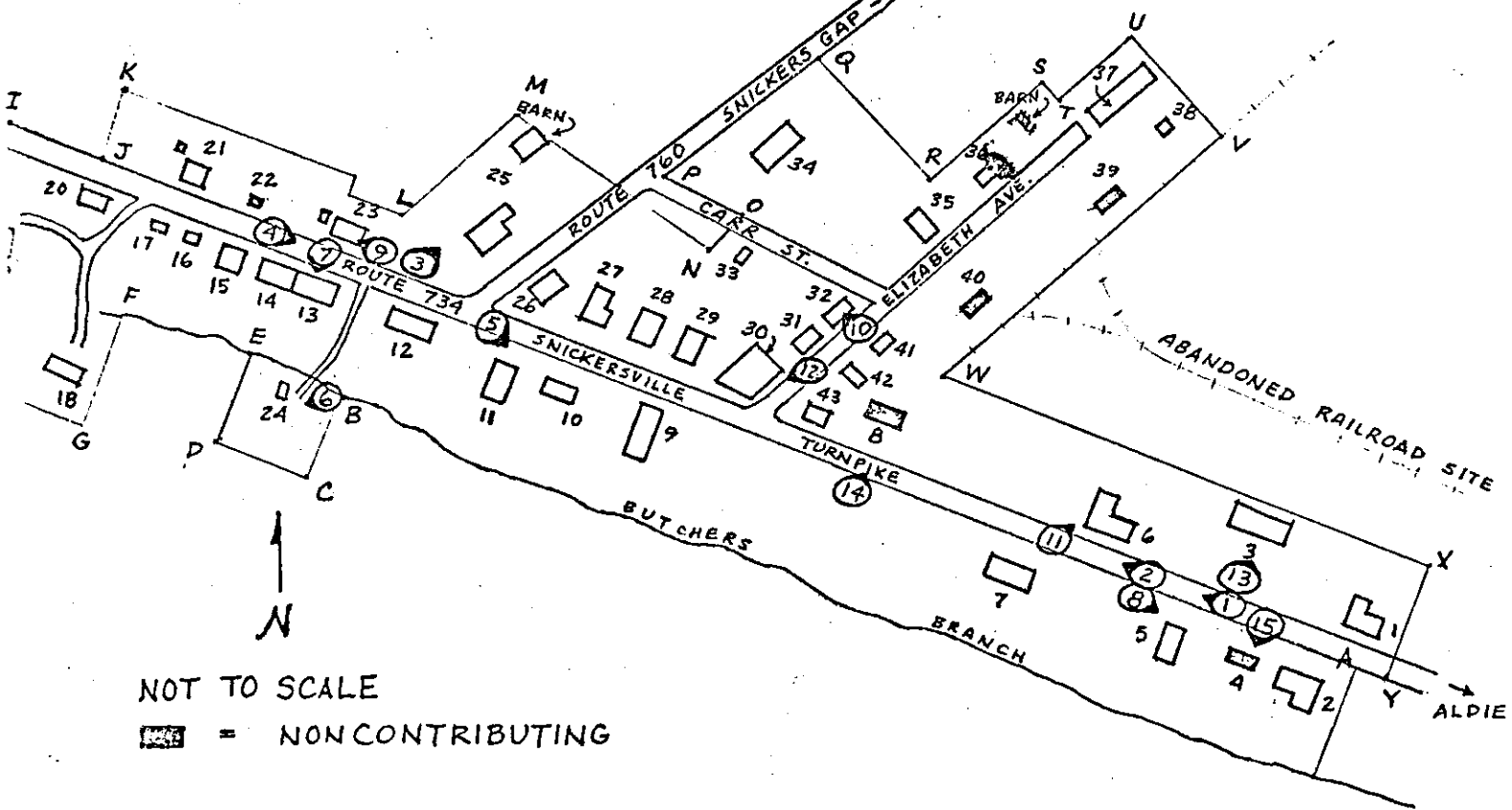
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

approximately 100' NNW to a point (D); thence extending 100' NNE to a point (E) at Butchers Branch; thence approximately 120' in a NW direction along Butchers Branch to a point (F) at the head of Butchers Branch; thence approximately 100' SSW to a point (G); thence approximately 220' NNW along the rear property line of lot #18 to a point (H); thence approximately 200' NNE to a point (I) on the N side of Route 734; thence approximately 180' SSE to a point (J) at the SW corner of lot #21; thence approximately 100' NNE to a point (K); thence following the rear property lines of lots #21 and #23 to a point (L) at the NE corner of lot #23; thence approximately 100' NNE to a point (M); thence approximately 200' SSE to a point (N); thence approximately 90' NNE to a point (O) on the N side of Carr Street; thence approximately 90' NNW to a point (P) at the NW corner of lot #34; thence approximately 100' NNE to a point (Q); thence approximately 150' SSE to a point (R); thence approximately 200' NNE to a point (S); thence approximately 50' SSE to a point (T); thence approximately 80' NNE to a point (U); thence approximately 80' SSE to a point (V); thence approximately 400' SSW to a point (W); thence approximately 500' SSE to a point (X); thence approximately 120' SSW to a point (Y) on the S side of Route 734; thence following the S side of Route 734 to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The Bluemont Historic District boundaries coincide for the most part with property lines of lots in the community: Butchers Run to the S, an imaginary line parallel to Route 734 a sufficient distance N of the road to include all buildings facing Route 734, and an imaginary line parallel to Elizabeth Avenue a sufficient distance E of the road to include all buildings facing Elizabeth Avenue. The boundaries are drawn to include the greatest concentration of historic buildings in Bluemont. Buildings E of the eastern district boundary on Route 734, W of the W district boundary on Route 734, and N of the N district boundary on Route 760 were excluded from the district because they are generally considered noncontributing elements and are separated from the district by open spaces.

BERRYVILLE ← ROUTE 7 → LEESBURG →

BLUEMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT



NOT TO SCALE

■ = NON CONTRIBUTING

BLUEMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT
Loudoun County

KETCH MAP

PHOTOGRAPHIC VIEWS KEYED

MAP 1002

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

5462 III NE
(ROUND HILL)

LESSONS 2 11
HARRISVILLE 2 11

255 50'

256

47'30"

USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Bluemont, VA 1970 (PR 1979)

BLUEMONT HISTORIC DISTRICT,
Loudoun County

UTM References:

A 18/255290/4332880	C 18/254500/4332740
B 18/255440/4332340	D 18/254610/4332870

MAP 2 of 2

