

VLR-6/20/89 NRHP-11/13/89

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 of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Alleghany Springs Springhouse  
other names/site number 60-476

### 2. Location

street & number East side of VA Route 673 at Alleghany Springs N/A  not for publication  
city, town Alleghany Springs N/A  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24162

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official \_\_\_\_\_ Oats  
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my Opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or Other official \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Health care: resort  
Landscape: object

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Vacant/not in use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete  
walls N/A  
roof asphalt  
other wood: rough cedar posts

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Alleghany Springs Springhouse is located in a section of lawn behind a modern brick ranch house on what was once the grounds of Alleghany Springs, on the east side of the South Fork of the Roanoke River south of Shawsville. The two-tier, rustic, hip-roofed, octagonal pavilion is supported on rough cedar posts with complex intertwined knots of rhododendron branches and roots forming brackets, railings, and even vaulted "ceilings." The spring, which was originally located in the center of the structure in a small pit, has been blocked. This center section of the springhouse is surrounded by a wooden rail with two marble counters for serving spring water. The center section is surrounded by an open covered walkway containing knob-like "bosses" in the center of each bay. The apex of the roof carries a somewhat decayed square-sectioned projecting vertical decorative element.

About 400 feet to the north is a long row of one-story frame cottages originally known as "Purgatory Row", and to the east of it there is a one-story pyramidal-roofed building and to the west just beyond the present road are river-stone gates and a smaller gazebo relocated from the lawn in front of Purgatory Row. These structures were not included because they are dispersed in a modern subdivision, divided from each other by modern roads, and not related visually in a meaningful way. In addition, the cottage row has been altered and the small gazebo relocated.

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation  
Architecture

Period of Significance

ca. 1890

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The property is significant as the central feature of an important spa in western Virginia in the late nineteenth century. The structure is significant under criteria A and C as an outstanding relic of the springs resort phenomena of the nineteenth century and as a unique architectural expression of an important late nineteenth-century building form. It is the only known rustic springhouse to survive among the springs resorts of the Virginias, although a similar one is known to exist in North Carolina. Rustic architecture has been most frequently associated with the Adirondack camps of the late nineteenth century. The structure was built to cover the spring and to shelter the patrons of the resort as they took the waters twice or more daily during the summer season. It was widely believed that drinking as well as bathing in mineral water could cure a large number of chronic and acute illnesses. In addition the resorts were popular destinations for healthy and fashionable persons fleeing the heat of the cities and Tidewater lowlands.

Alleghany Springs is one of three major resorts that developed within close reach of the railway after it arrived in the southwestern Virginia region in the mid-1850s. Along with the Montgomery White Sulphur Springs (1855) and Crockett Springs (1889), the Alleghany attracted visitors from the entire nation. The earlier Yellow Sulphur Springs resort was forced to build a turnpike from the railroad to the resort in order to be more accessible.

Although never as architecturally sophisticated as the contemporary Montgomery White Sulphur Springs, the Alleghany competed very well for visitors from 1853 until it burned in 1904, the same year the Montgomery White closed its doors. The Alleghany ranked closely behind such leading spas as the Greenbrier White Sulphur and Rockbridge Alum in the amount of

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Bengochea, Arthur et al. "Springs of Montgomery County." Report submitted for History 4120 at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg, Virginia, June 1976.

Montgomery County tax parcel maps.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, VA 23219

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property less than one acre.

UTM References

A 117 565420 4109180  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries begin at point A 100 feet east of VA Route 673 on the south side of a drive 1/10 mile south of Calhoun Run, thence 100 feet east of point B, thence 100 feet south to point C, thence west 100 feet to point D, thence 100 feet north to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries enclose the section of lawn still undeveloped and surrounding the springhouse in the now much-altered landscape of the Alleghany Springs site. The boundaries correspond to the eastern half of lot 97-(A)-77 in the Alleghany Springs Subdivision.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Gibson Worsham date June 1988  
 organization Gibson Worsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730  
 street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073  
 city or town Christiansburg

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

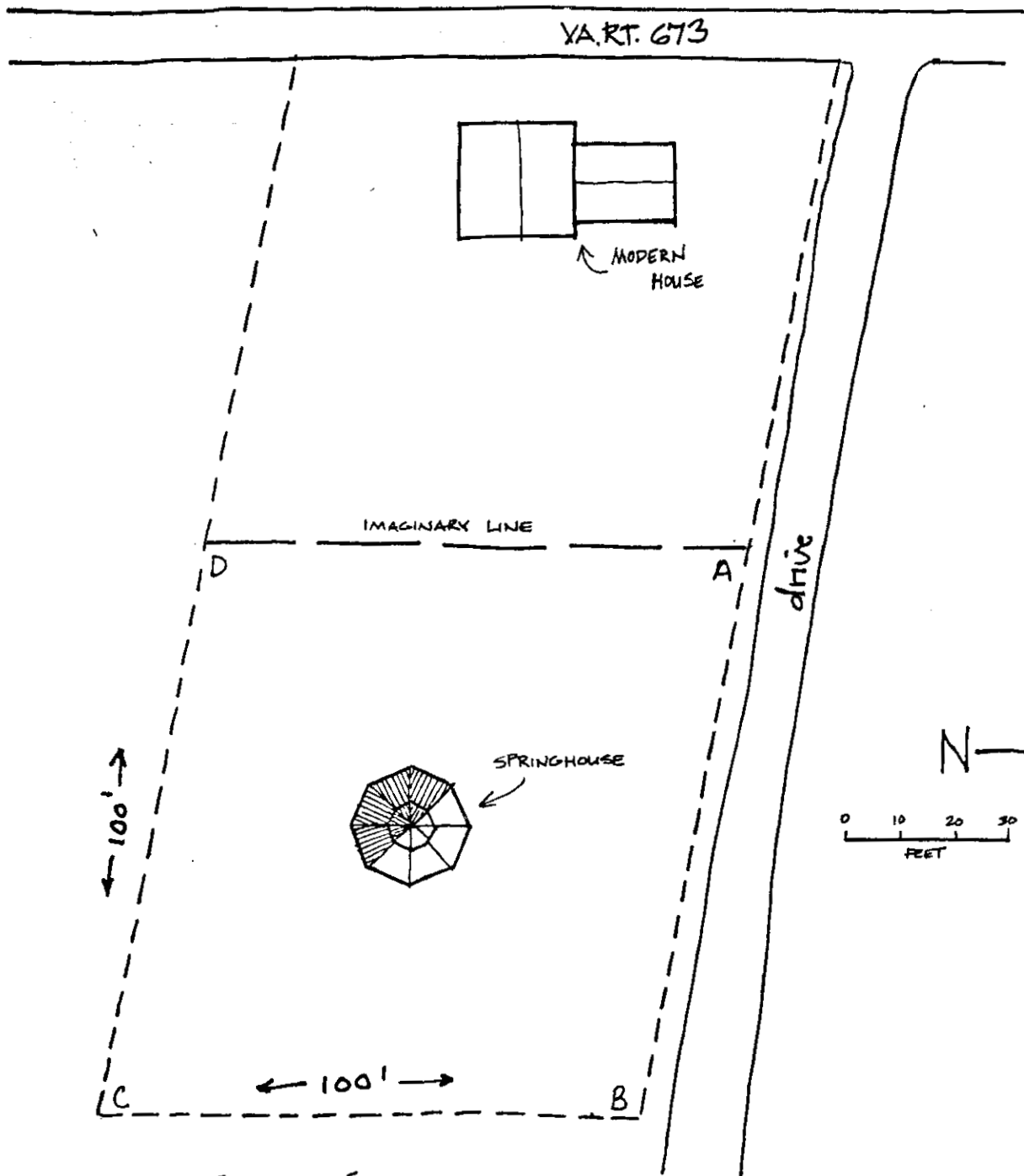
## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Prehistoric and Historic  
Resources of Montgomery County  
Alleghany Springs Springhouse  
60-476

Section number 8 Page 1

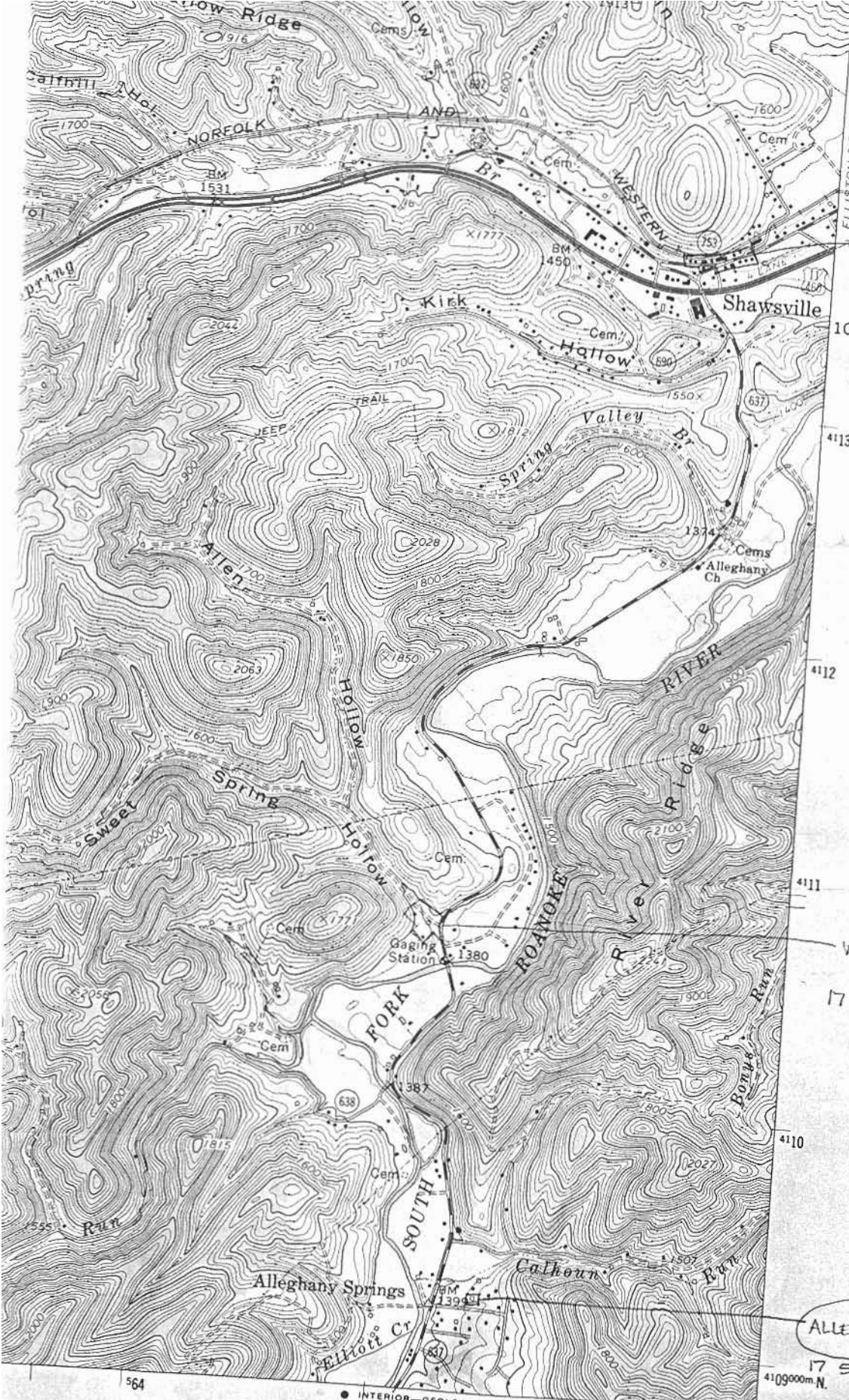
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newspaper coverage. At one point after the Civil War there were nine former Confederate generals there. The hotel reached its greatest size in the 1880s when the resort could accommodate almost 1,000 guests. The hotel is documented by a large collection of photographs owned by the Piedmont Pentecostal Holiness Church. The springhouse is not visible in any of the 1888 photographs, so it seems to have been built between that date and 1904, the year the spa closed (it did continue to sell bottled water by rail). The grounds have been developed in the mid-twentieth century as a subdivision making a district difficult to compose among the other surviving structures and buildings. The springhouse is in excellent condition.



60-476 ALLEGHANY SPRINGS SPRINGHOUSE

G. WORSHAM  
K. MARTIN 04/88



SHAWSVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

17	565975	4113680
17	566247	4113740
17	566270	4113664
17	566040	4113619

WILLIAM BARNETT HOUSE

17 565100 4110680

ALLEGHANY SPRINGS SPRINGHOUSE

17 565350 4109100

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1983  
 \*PIEDMONT 4.2 MI. 566000m.E.

37° 07' 30"  
 80° 15'

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————  
 Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
 Interstate Route U.S. Route State Route

(CHECK)  
 4988 11 SW



IRONTO, VA.

N3707.5—W8015/7.5  
 PHOTOINSPECTED 1982  
 1965