

VLR-12/14/82 NRHP-2/10/83

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

received

date entered

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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

8. Name

historic SPERRYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Various

N/A not for publication

city, town Sperryville

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Rappahannock

code 157

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 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 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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number N/A

city, town Sperryville

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 22740

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Rappahannock County Courthouse

street & number N/A

city, town Washington

state Virginia 22747

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

title Survey

has this property been determined eligible? y e s no

date 1982

federal state county local

depository for survey records 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

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

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Sperryville Historic District is comprised of over seventy structures along Routes 1001, 522, 600 and "Split Street," the only so-designated way within the village limits. The buildings are predominantly wood-frame, one- and two-story residences, the earliest of which were erected on lots originally laid out by Francis Thornton, Jr. in 1820. The oldest dwellings, found on the western edge of the district on Route 1001, are distinguished by stone chimneys and double front entrances, a characteristic of early houses in the region. In addition to its vernacular residences, the town also contains a number of dwellings influenced by the Romantic Revivals of the mid- and late 19th century. Interspersed among these structures is a collection of former factory workers' housing built to serve the workers of the Smoot tannery from 1867 to the early 20th century. In addition to its relatively untouched residential housing, the town has three early 20th-century churches and a row of stores. The many streets are softened visually by numerous trees and shrubs as well as white picket fences that run along the roads. The district maintains high integrity and is virtually free of modern intrusions.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Geographically, the town of Sperryville sits on a small plain bounded on the Thornton River to the north, steep hills to the south, and the Shenandoah Mountains to the west. The potential value of the level site was recognized as early as 1820 by Francis Thornton, Jr. who laid out the lots of the first settlement. The village was slow in developing with the earliest houses built on what is now Route 1001 near the intersection of Route 211. The two-story, wood-frame dwellings have features that were to characterize the antebellum vernacular residences of the modest village: wood frame, if not log, covered by weatherboarding, stone-end chimneys, 6/6 hung-sash and in several cases, double entrances with no center hall. An exception to this type is found in the first tavern at the intersection of Routes 522 and 1001 which was the first brick structure in the town. Although the building has been extensively altered and expanded, it does retain a two-story porch on its facade, a characteristic of early 19th-century taverns. Like all the first period structures, the tavern is built close to the road.

While the settlement period houses are late-Federal vernacular in character, a number of the houses built after 1850 have ornamentation and board-and-batten siding that is suggestive of the mid-century Romantic Revivals. Notable examples include a house on the south side of Route 1001 whose scalloped porch and eaves trim suggests a naive interpretation of the swags and tassels found on more pretentious residences. The Totten's Mill House at the intersection of Routes 211 and 1001 and the elaborately treated porch on the Dr. Amiss House on the south side of Route 1001 show the influence of the mid-19th-century Romantic Revival styles on the architecture of Sperryville. The vertical board-and-batten siding found on the Apple Tree Cottage and a number of other small dwellings is also a characteristic of the mid-19th-century Romantic Revival movement.

Following the establishment of the Smoot tannery in 1867, a group of residences was erected in the south end of the village along the Thornton River and in the open spaces that separated the houses along Routes 1001 and 522. While the houses continue the earlier wood-frame tradition, a distinction can be made between the houses of the wealthier citizens and the tannery workers. The houses of the factory managers, store owners and professionals

(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 type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
Specific dates	Various	Builder/Architect	N/A	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Originally laid out by Francis Thornton, Jr. in ca. 1818-20 on a small plain between the Thornton River and the hills of the northern Blue Ridge, Sperryville survives as an upper Piedmont crossroads town that has been virtually unchanged since the 1920s. From the beginning Sperryville found its development limited by the natural landscape to expansion in a linear east-west direction along the junction of the Winchester and New Market turnpikes. The village grew slowly until 1867 when the Smoot family of Alexandria established a tannery on the Thornton River, thereby rapidly increasing the town's population and resulting in construction of many of the simple wooden residences that today give Sperryville visual charm and architectural identity. Intermingled with the village's vernacular architecture of the settlement period are postbellum houses built under the influence of the picturesque styles of the 19th-century Romantic Revivals, as well as a diverse collection of workers' housing along the Thornton River and on Routes 522 and 1001. Since the demise of the tannery in 1918, new construction has been rare, with the result that Sperryville retains much of its turn-of-century village character. This image is enhanced by the presence of a modest number of commercial buildings and churches, tree-lined roads, and few modern intrusions. Today a familiar landmark and stopover for motorists making seasonal excursions to the upper Blue Ridge, the historic district may be counted among the very few such villages remaining in the Commonwealth.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The site of the present town of Sperryville originally formed part of a tract of 4452 acres granted in 1749 by the Northern Neck proprietary to Francis Thornton of Caroline County. A direct descendant and namesake, Francis Thornton, Jr. inherited the land by will from his brother-in-law, John A. Thornton, in 1817 and shortly thereafter laid out lots for what became the town of Sperryville. In August 1820, Francis Thornton, Jr. sold the first two lots in what was then a flat adjoining the lands of John Menefree between the pass mill and Thornton's Gap. The town is identified on John Woods' map of 1821 of Culpeper County and also in an 1826 deed, which referred to a lot lying within "the village of Sperryville." The origin of the name Sperryville has several different theories, one of which is that it comes from an early postmaster. From the period of town settlement, a number of houses survive on the west end of the village, south of Routes 211 and 522. They include the George William Cooper House, the Dr. Amis House, Totten's Mill House and two houses adjacent to each other on the north side of Route 1001. All the houses were constructed from the period ca. 1830 to 1850 and are wood-frame with either weatherboarding or board-and-batten siding. All have exterior stone chimneys, a characteristic of the earliest houses in the region.

Sperryville grew randomly and slowly until ca. 1867 when the local Smoot Tannery was organized by the Smoot family of Alexandria. In addition to their tannery, the

9. Major Bibliographical References

Culpeper County Deed Books DD (1808-1810); HH (1815-1817); LL (1819-1820); RR (1824-1825); SS (1825-1826); UU (1827-1828); VV (1828-1829); ZZ (1832-1833).

Culpeper County Minute Book 10 (1818-1820).

Culpeper County Will Book H (1817-1822).

Hite, Mary Elizabeth. My Rappahannock Story Book. Richmond: Dietz Press, 1950.

Johnson, Elizabeth B. Rappahannock County, Virginia. Orange, Va.: Green Publishers, 1981.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 38 acres

Quadrangle name Sperryville, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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

Verbal boundary description and justification The boundaries for the Sperryville Historic District are defined as follows: to the north by the Thornton River; to the south by a public access road and by the rear of the property lines of buildings fronting on Routes 522 and 1001; to the west by Route 211 and to the east by a line that coincides with the position of the

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries (See Continuation Sheet #1)

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date November 1982

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, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date DEC 14 1982

For NPS use only

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
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

SPERRYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VA

Continuation sheet #1

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date entered

7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

are large two-story and 2½ -story structures with fancy sawn trim typical of the last decades of the 19th century. The sawn brackets and balusters that embellish the eaves and porch of Fairlawn Antiques are especially ornate and contribute to the village's picturesque feelings. In contrast to the stylish upper-class residences, the workers' housing is much plainer. Typical of these structures are the houses along the Thornton River and the shotgun houses found along Route 1001. Larger duplex worker housing is found on the west side of Split Street directly across from the houses of more prosperous citizens. This intermingling of houses from various social classes lends a notable variety of mass and scale to Sperryville's streetscapes.

Sperryville continued to keep abreast, though modestly, with America's domestic architectural trends of the early 20th century. Dating to this century's early decades are a number of bungalows that are scattered among the houses on Routes 211 and 522. The most distinguished bungalow is "Rock Villa" built, as its name suggests, of stone rubble. While not full-blown bungalows, a number of residences have large, single dormers that were inspired from this popular form of housing.

Evidence of Sperryville's commercial prosperity at the end of the 19th century and early 20th century are a number of commercial buildings. The most notable is the "Sperryville Corner Store" which is actually composed of three buildings that were built in a row. Smaller structures that at one time served as stores have been readapted to a variety of uses, just as a number of houses have been also adapted into antique shops, the town's present principal commercial activity.

Sperryville contains three churches all of which date to the early 20th century. The Reynolds Memorial Church with its Tuscan order was built in 1929. The country Gothic-style Sperryville Methodist Church was constructed in 1915. Its combination bell-entrance tower, stained-glass windows and cross-gable massing make this church one of the most distinguished buildings in the town. A third church, the Church of God of Prophecy, was formerly the Episcopal Church and is a simple but dignified vernacular building.

The streets of Sperryville retain the flavor of a late 19th-century rural town. There are no sidewalks or curbs, and white picket fences line many of the front yards. Although many of the houses are built close together, trees and shrubs soften the townscape along with the small gardens planted to the rear or sides of many of the houses. The rural flavor of the village is suggested by several small complexes of outbuildings. Fairlawn Antiques has a particularly noteworthy set. The stone embankment of the river on the district's edge adds another visual note of interest.

While most of the buildings within the town's limits contribute visually to the district, the C & P telephone building, the United States Post Office and a concrete block warehouse-garage are modern structures that do not conform to the character of the district. Metal sheds adjacent to the old tavern are also non-contributing buildings.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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7. DESCRIPTION--Architectural Analysis

The historic district boundaries conform to the Commissioner of Revenue's Plate 38A with certain exceptions. The buildings on the north side of Route 211 are not included as well as a gasoline station to the north of the Thornton River at the intersection of Routes 211 and 522. These buildings do not conform to the visual cohesiveness of the rest of the village. The gasoline station would have constituted an intrusion. Two houses on the east side of Route 600 were judged non-contributing and were not included within the proposed district. The Totten Mill House, while not on Plate 38A, is on property that abuts the district and was included as a significant early settlement structure. The old tannery site is not included since a number of non-contributing buildings were erected on its site, precluding any potential for archaeology.

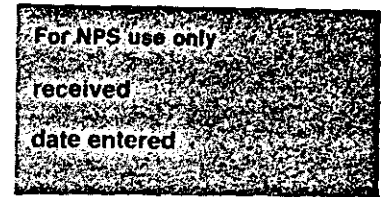
RCC

(See Continuation Sheet #3 for inventory of structures in the district)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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SPERRYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VA
Continuation sheet #3 Item number 7



7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory

(78-93)

SOUTH SIDE

(78-92)

INTERSECTION ROUTES 211 & 1001: (Totten's Mill House): wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with sawn brackets, geometric cutout pattern and balustrade ca. 1870s. Detached house. Federal, Victorian Influence. Ca. 1825-30.

ROUTE 1001:

- 78-93-1 concrete block; 2 stories; gable roof (asbestos shingle); 2 bays. Garage. ca. 1960. Non-contributing element. ✓ *flw*
- 2 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with sawn brackets, cutout pattern, and balustrade. Detached house. Late 19th century. *16 MAIN ST*
- 3 (Intersection with Route 600): concrete block; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay shed roof porch supported by posts. Commercial (store). Ca. 1950. Non-contributing element.
- 4 (Intersection with Route 600): wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, turned balustrade, and turned spindle brackets. Detached house. Late 19th century. *COUNTRY HOME ANTIQUES*
- 5 vacant lot.
- 6 wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story porch with shed roof and turned balusters. Detached house. Late 19th century. *28 MAIN ST*
- 7 wood frame (shingle); 1½ story; gable roof (composition); 2 gable dormers; 5 bays. Detached house. Cape Cod. Ca. 1950s. *30 MAIN ST*
- 8 wood frame (board and batten); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch with sawn cut roof, swags along lattice-type piers and balustrade. Detached house. Ca. 1840s. *32 MAIN ST*
- 9 wood frame (formal shiplap siding); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch with square posts, geometric wood (board) balustrade. Detached house. Ca. 1965. *34 MAIN ST*
- 10 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof and square posts. Detached house. Ca. 1890s. *36 MAIN ST*
- 11 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with iron supports and shed roof. Detached house. Ca. 1910.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

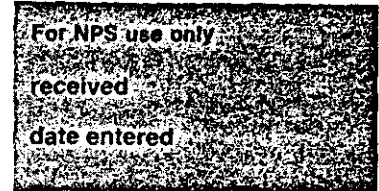
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SPERRYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VA

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7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory (continued)

SOUTH SIDE

ROUTE 1001:

-12 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof and turned posts. Detached house. Shotgun. Ca. 1910.

-13 (Dr. Amiss House): wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with pedimented gable roof, paired sawn brackets, geometric lattice piers, and paneled pilasters. Detached house. Late Federal, Victorian Influence. Ca. 1830.

-14 vacant lot owned by church.

-15 (Sperryville Episcopal Church): wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-side-bay porch with stick-style gable verge board. Church. Carpenter Gothic. Ca. 1910-20.

44 Main St.

-16 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center and 1-side-bay porch with tapered wood columns on brick pedestals and balustrade deck. Detached house with commercial (store). Ca. 1920s.

40 MAIN ST

INTERSECTION ROUTES 1001 and 522:

-17 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 12 bays; 1-story porch across 2/3 facade with shed roof and supported by diagonal braces. Commercial (store). 3710 Sperryville Pike

ROUTE 522:

-18 wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 4-bay porch with chamfered posts, hipped roof, and thin simple balusters. Detached house. Ca. 1890s. 4th St

-19 (4(outbuildings): wood frame; 1 story; varied (mixed); 19th-20th century.

-20 brick; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 4 bays. Commercial (office for telephone company). Ca. 1970s. Non-contributing element. VERNON

-21 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; cross-gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 2-story, 3-bay porch with full pedimented gable, turned posts, sawn brackets, and turned balusters. Detached house. Queen Anne. Ca. 1890s. 3726 SPERRYVILLE PIKE DOCKBROWNS HOUSE

-22 wood frame (aluminum); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with iron supports and shed roof. Detached house. Ca. 1860s. 3730 SPERRYVILLE PIKE

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

EXP. 10/31/84

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

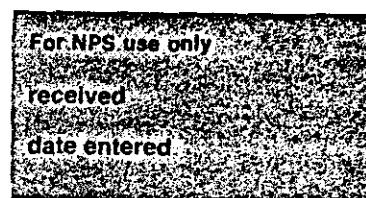
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Continuation sheet #5

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7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory (continued)SOUTH SIDEROUTE 522:

- 23 wood frame (aluminum); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts, sawn brackets, and turned balusters. Detached house. Ca. 1900s. *3732 SPERRYVILLE PIKE*
- 24 wood frame (shingle) with concrete block addition; 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Detached house. Commercial (store). Ca. 1900s.
- 25 brick (common bond); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 shed dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof and square post supports. Detached house. Bungalow. Ca. 1920s. *3738 SPERRYVILLE PIKE*
- 26 vacant lot.
- 27 wood frame; 1 story; shed roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Detached house (former gas station). Early 20th century.
- 28 (Reynolds Memorial Baptist Church): stucco; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1½-story, 4-bay porch with full tetrastyle pedimented portico in Tuscan order and full entablature. Church. Classical Revival. Ca. 1925.

NORTH SIDEROUTE 522:

- 29 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1 gable dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay shed roof porch with square posts. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.
- 30 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 1-story, 2-bay porch with shed roof, column supports (Tuscan order). Detached house. Ca. 1850s.
- 31 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 1-side-bay porch with shed roof, turned posts, and spindle brackets. Detached house. Ca. 1870s. *3745 SPERRYVILLE PIKE*
- 32 wood frame (aluminum); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch with pedimented gable roof and Tuscan columns. Detached house. Ca. 1910. *3700 2x SW SPERRYVILLE PIKE*
- 33 wood frame (aluminum); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof and turned posts. Detached house. Ca. 1900.

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

**United States Department of the Interior
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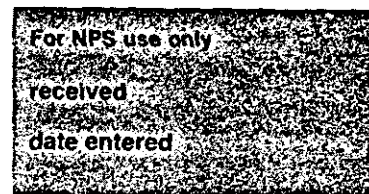
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7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory (continued)

NORTH SIDE

ROUTE 522:

- 34 (Sperryville Methodist-Episcopal Church, South): wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Church. Shingle Style. Ca. 1915. *3721 Sperryville Ave*
- 35 wood frame; 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal). Stove (rubble) foundation.
- 36 wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; shed roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Barn. Late 19th-early 20th century.
- 37 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof and turned posts. Detached house. Ca. 1870s.
- 38 wood frame (shingle and asphalt); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); shed roof portico with supports. Detached house. Ca. 1860s. *3727 Sperryville Ave*
- 39 wood frame (weatherboard and shingle); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Detached house. Ca. 1870s-1880s. *3719 Sperryville Ave*
- 40 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable and hipped roof (standing seam metal); 1 gable and flat domer; 1- and 2-story, 2-tier front porch with turned balusters, posts, ornamental brackets and sawn balustrade. Detached house; outbuildings. Ca. 1880s. *3721 Sperryville Ave (3720-3724)*
- 41 brick (Flemish bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 2-story porch with posts with bracket-type supports (plain). Detached house. Federal. Ca. 1830. *Sperryville Hotel 47 Main St.*

ROUTE 1001:

- 42 wood frame (shingle and asphalt); 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1 story, 5-bay porch with iron supports overhanging roof. Detached house. Ca. 1920s.
- 43 concrete block; 1 story; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay porch with iron pipe supports. Government. Ca. 1960s. Non-contributing element. *33 Main St. Post Office*
- 44 vacant.
- 45 wood frame originally and brick (stretcher bond); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays. Detached house; double house. Federal. 1830s. *31 Main Street*

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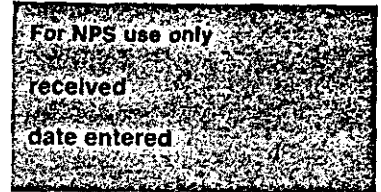
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7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory (continued)NORTH SIDEROUTE 1001:

- 46 wood frame (shingle); 2½ stories; flat/gable roof (standing seam metal); 7 bays; 1-story porch with posts and brackets. Double house. Ca. 1880s, 1910.
- 47 wood frame (weatherboard); 1 story; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Detached house. Ca. 1910. *DISCOUNT RIVER FLY SHOP*
29 Main St
- 48 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story porch with turned posts, spindle ornamental brackets. Detached house. Late Federal. Ca. 1830s. *JOHN B. WIGGINS HOUSE*
27 Main St
- 49 wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 2-bay shed roof porch supported by posts. Detached house. Late Federal. Ca. 1830s. *23 MAIN ST.*
- 50 wood frame (shingle); 1½ stories; gable roof (composition); 1-story, 3-bay shed roof porch with plain posts. Double house. Ca. 1880s.

WEST SIDEROUTE 600:

- 51 wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays. Detached house. Ca. 1940s.
- 52 wood frame (weatherboard, board and batten); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 6 bays. Detached house. Ca. 1850s.
- 53 wood frame (aluminum); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 2 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts and spindle brackets. Detached house. Ca. 1880s.

EAST SIDEROUTE 600:

- 54 wood frame (board and batten); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays. Detached house. Ca. 1850s.

WEST SIDEROUTE 522:

- 55 concrete block and metal; 2 stories; shed, gable, and hipped roof (standing seam metal); 7 bays; canopy. Garage. Ca. 1950s. Non-contributing element.

(See Continuation Sheet # 8)

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7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory (continued)

SOUTH SIDE

ROUTE 1002:

- 56 wood frame; 1-1½ stories; gable roof. Outbuildings.
- 57 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with posts supporting roof. Detached house. Ca. 1880s.
- 58 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts and shed roof. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.
- 59 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with shed roof and posts. Detached house. Shotgun. Ca. 1890s.
- 60 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts and shed roof. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.
- 61 wood frame (aluminum); 2 stories; gable roof (composition); 3 bays; 1-story, 1-center-bay porch with posts supporting pediment. Detached house. Ca. 1880s.
- 62 wood frame (aluminum); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with posts supporting roof. Detached house. Ca. 1880s.
- 63 stone (coursed ashlar); 1½ stories; hipped roof (composition); 1 hipped dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with stone piers supporting overhanging roof and stone balustrade. Detached house. Ca. 1920s.
- 64 wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 1 shed dormer; 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with tapering posts on plinths supporting overhanging roof. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.
- 65 wood frame (weatherboard); 1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 5 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with posts and psindle bracket. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.
25 Main Street

"SPLIT STREET":

WEST SIDE

ROAD CONNECTING ROUTES 1002 & 522:

- 66 wood frame (shingle); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 4 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts sloping roof. Detached house. Ca. 1880s.

(See Continuation Sheet # 9)

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7. DESCRIPTION--Inventory (continued)

"SPLIT STREET":

EAST SIDE

ROAD CONNECTING ROUTES 1002 & 522:

- 67 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts supporting roof. Detached house. Ca. 1880s.
- 68 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with turned posts supporting roof. Detached house. Ca. 1880s. 15 YARDS RC
- 69 wood frame (weatherboard); 2½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 2-bay enclosed sleeping porch with pier supported porte cochere. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.
- 70 wood frame (weatherboard); 2 stories; gable roof (standing seam metal); 3 bays; 1-story, 3-bay porch with posts supporting roof. Detached house. Ca. 1890s.

NORTH SIDE

ROUTE 1002:

- 71 concrete block; 1-1½ stories; gable roof (standing seam metal). Garage; commercial (office). Ca. 1960s. Non-contributing element.

Northside

Rt 1001: 21 MAIN ST.

-72 wood frame 2 story c. 1830's

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8. SIGNIFICANCE--Historical Background

Smoots constructed a number of houses in Sperryville to accommodate tannery workers. Not only did the new industry increase the population of the village, but it also provided work for area farmers who began to supply the tannery with oak bark used in the tanning process. The surviving houses on the east end of the village were largely built by the tannery workers. Unfortunately, the tannery itself, located outside the village on Route 1002 between the two branches of the Thornton River, has not survived. As the tannery prospered, the Smoots purchased more land within the village for more workers' housing. In its prime the factory employed between forty and fifty workers and was the leading industry in Sperryville.

By 1890 the town of Sperryville boasted a population of 350 people. Within the town then were three stores, one hotel, three flour mills, a woolen mill, a saw mill and the C.C. Smoot and Sons tannery. In 1908 a Masonic Hall was built which also housed town meetings and entertainments. As is evident from the location of the surviving late 19th- and early 20th-century residences, the center of the town developed at this time, with the larger houses erected near the intersection of Routes 522 and 1001.

By 1910 Sperryville reached its prime. Four churches stood within the bustling village: two Baptist, one Episcopal, and one Methodist. The town had five general stores, five corn and flour mills, a jeweler and watch maker, a saw mill, several furniture dealers as well as a number of blacksmiths-wheelwrights. However, the growth was abruptly halted in 1911 when the Smoot tannery closed, resulting in the loss of many jobs. While a number of residents followed the business to North Carolina, others left the town to find jobs elsewhere. Stores and businesses suffered along with local farmers who could no longer sell bark to the tannery.

Temporary relief came in 1918 when the Rappahannock Evaporating Plant began its operations in Sperryville. The company furnished employment to the area residents, while serving as a major outlet for apples grown on surrounding farms. The plant operated until 1937 and was the last industry to serve Sperryville. Today, the town has only one general store, seasonal produce stands, and a number of antique and gift shops.

Sperryville has been the site of a number of churches since the mid-19th century. One of the first churches to be established in Sperryville was the Baptist, whose Sperryville Baptist Church dates to 1838. In the 1925 the church was renamed the Reynolds Memorial Church to honor a former pastor, and in 1929 the present church building was erected. The Tuscan-style portico church was built after the plans of Charles W. Hawkins whose use of the Tuscan order is unusual for this late date. The old meeting house was destroyed by fire in 1968. The first Sperryville Methodist Church was built in 1852, and was replaced in 1915 by the present church. Like the Reynolds Memorial Church, the architectural style of the Methodist Church suggests an earlier period, in this case, the eclecticism of the Romantic Revivals of the last quarter of the 19th century. The last church in the village is the Church of God of Prophecy, housed in the former Sperryville Episcopal Church, a wood-frame structure erected in ca. 1910.

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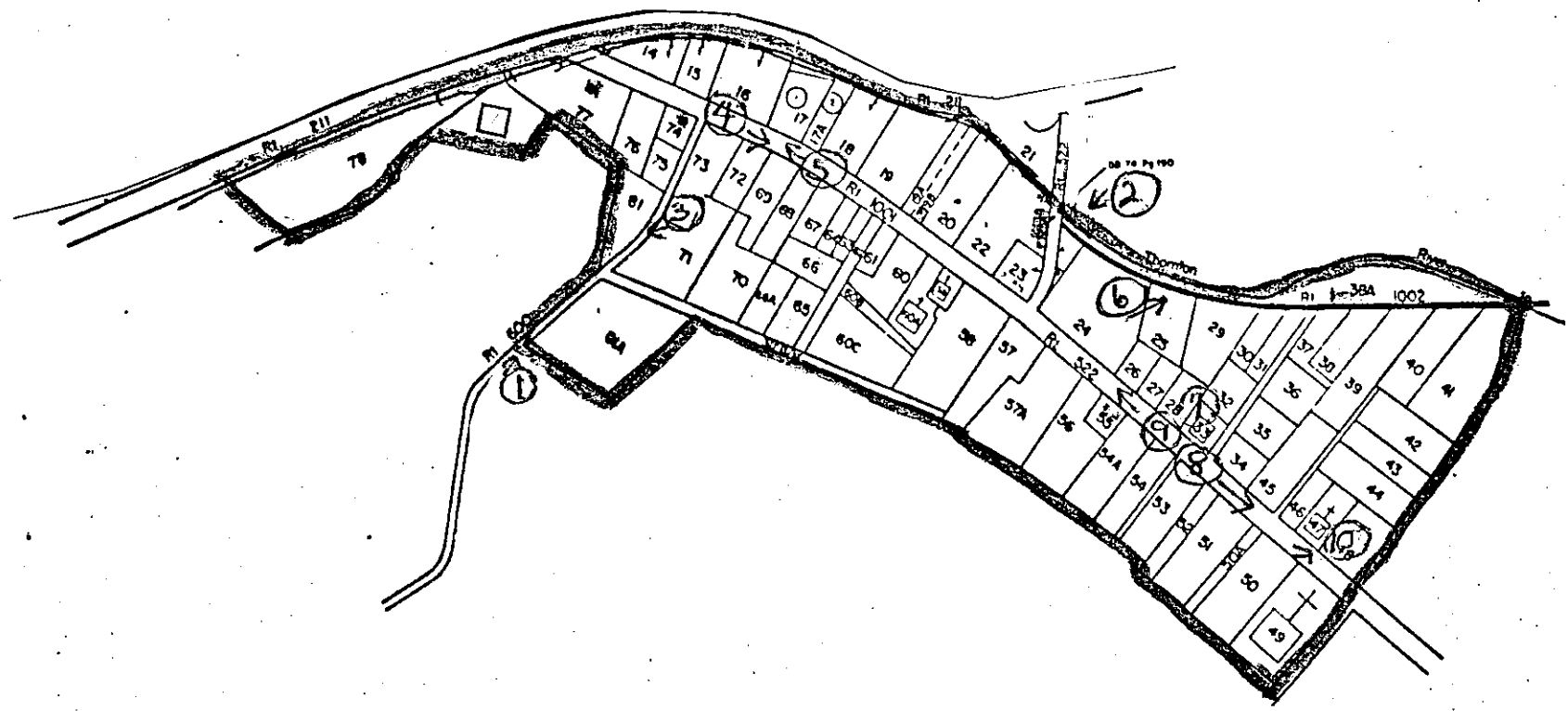
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA--Verbal Boundary Description (continued) and Boundary Justification

highway sign on Route 522 identifying the town of Sperryville. The properties within the district are found on Plate 38A in the Rappahannock County Commissioner of Revenue's Office and Plate 38 for the Totten Mill House.

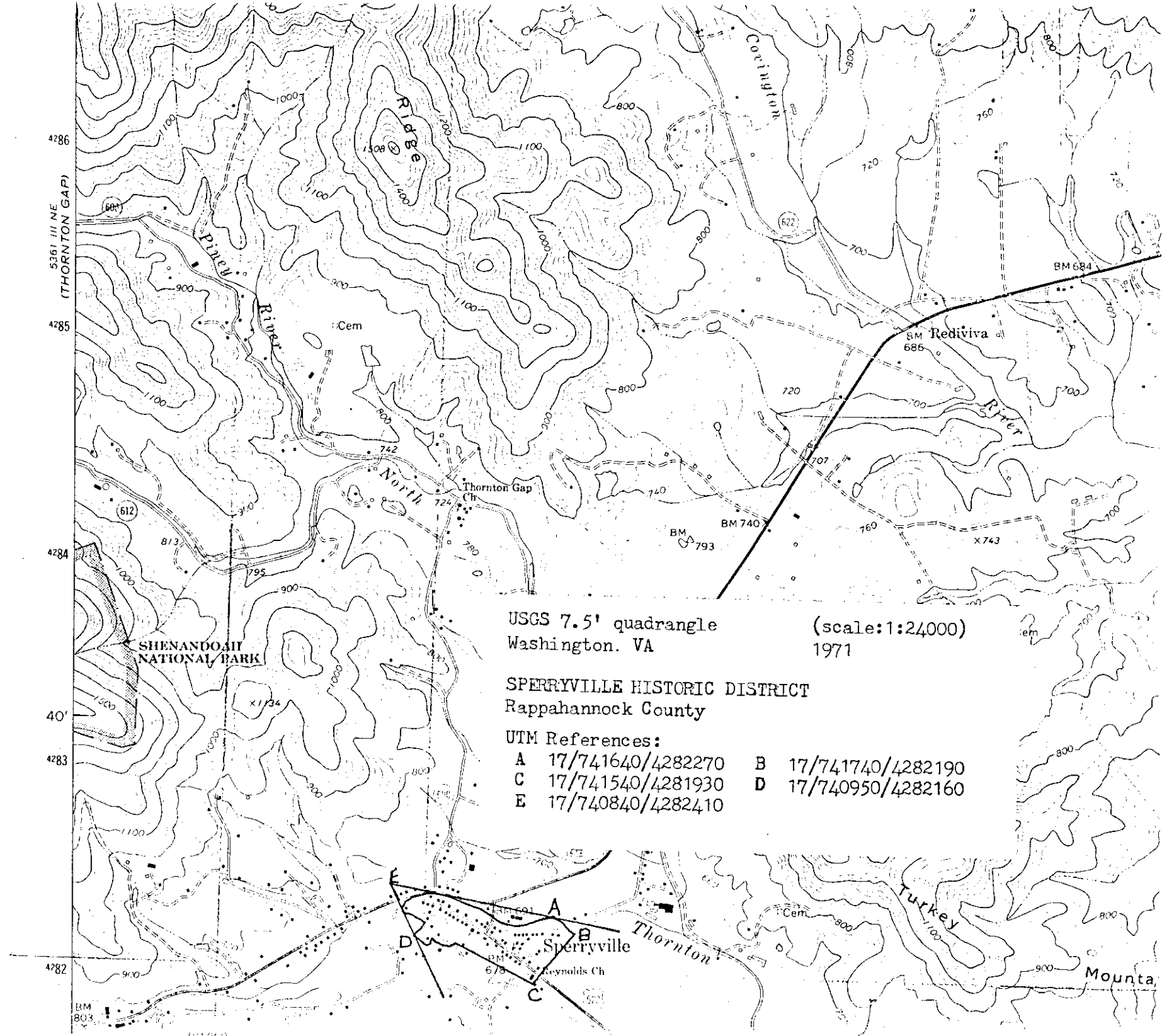
Boundary Justification: The boundary to the north is a natural boundary, the Thornton River, as is the boundary to the south, the hills that originally defined the plain upon which Francis Thornton, Jr. laid out the town. The east boundary is the same line that defines the town limits of Sperryville for the Rappahannock County Commissioner of Revenue's Office. The west boundary is Route 211 that runs along the Thornton River, also the district's northern boundary. Non-contributing buildings include the C & P Telephone building, the U.S. Post Office, a concrete block structure on the north side of Route 1002 and metal sheds on the west side of Route 522 at its intersection with Route 1001. With the one exception of the Totten Mill House, all the buildings are located on Plate 32A, Rappahannock Commissioner of Revenue's Office. Since buildings to the north of the Thornton River are not included, a gas station and several houses are not part of the district marred by modern commercial intrusion.

 = boundary

Coded to photographs



Sperryville Historic District



5361 III NE
(THORNTON GAP)
4286
4285
4284
40'
4283
4282

USGS 7.5' quadrangle
Washington, VA
(scale:1:24000)
1971

SPERRYVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
Rappahannock County

UTM References:
A 17/741640/4282270 B 17/741740/4282190
C 17/741540/4281930 D 17/740950/4282160
E 17/740840/4282410

SHENANDOAH NATIONAL PARK

Rippe

Cornington

Rediviva

North Thornton Gap Ch

Sperryville

Reynolds Ch

Thornton

Turkey

Mounta