

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 Surface House  
other names/site number 154-43

### 2. Location Third house on south side of High Street east of

street & number Depot Street N/A  not for publication  
city, town Christiansburg N/A  vicinity  
state Virginia code VA county Montgomery code 121 zip code 24073

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<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 Virginia Department of Historic Resources Date \_\_\_\_\_  
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)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Double-pile center passage plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone: limestone

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

This one-story frame house is located on High Street at the crest of Zion Hill between Cambria and Christiansburg, not far from the Old Christiansburg Institute (listed on the National Register in 1979), which is also on High Street. The well preserved and recently restored house exhibits the relatively unusual chimney placement between the pair of rooms on each side of the central passage. The hipped roof is surrounded by pairs of ornamental brackets in the eaves that also decorate the pedimented four-bay porch. The porch is supported by four chamfered columns. The windows, which are centered in the outside walls of each room, are fitted with four-over-four double-hung sash surmounted by carved label molds. In recent years a one-story wing has been added, blending carefully with the building's design on the south side away from the street front. A shed on the rear (east) is an enclosed porch from the late nineteenth century. The house stands on a well built stone foundation.

The interior is well preserved and features plastered walls, molded door and window trim and molded baseboards. Italianate mantels stand in each front (west) room. The center-passage contains no stairway. The present owners have carefully restored the house.

**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)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance  
ca. 1870  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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 house is significant under criterion C as an important and well preserved dwelling representing the double-pile center-passage form from the nineteenth century. Thirteen such houses from the period 1865-1900 were identified in the county that are of one and two stories (five masonry and seven frame); this is the only one-story example. Only a small percentage of the seventeen houses of this type from any period predating the first quarter of the twentieth century have the chimneys located between the front and rear rooms.

A larger number of houses of the double-pile center-passage plan were identified (thirty-seven one-story and forty two-story examples) among the largely unornamented dwellings built of light sawn lumber in the county, as the house type reached its period of greatest popularity between 1880 and 1940. This heavily ornamented example is one of the best preserved, and is the only frame example of the two one-story examples dating prior to 1880. The recent addition to the south end faces away from the street, and is designed in such a way as to not compromise the visual integrity of the significant elements of the dwelling.

The house was referred to in a deed from Eugenia Surface and her husband, Frank, as "our residence property" when it was sold to G. T. Surface in 1916 (Deed Book 65, p. 563). The house and grounds were inherited by G. T. Surface's two children, Mary Elizabeth and Thomas, after their mother's death in 1966. Mary Elizabeth Surface Karr purchased her brother's share the following year. Her son, Thomas F. Karr, sold the lot and house to the present owner, Alan Gillis, in 1979. The Gillises have carefully restored the house.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Harman, William. Interview, July, 1988.

Montgomery County Deed Books.

**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 17 552550 4111024  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

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

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at point A on the south side of High Street 30 feet west and 25 feet north of northwest corner of the house proceeding 100 feet south to point B, thence east 90 feet to point C, thence north 100 feet to point D on the south side of High Street, thence west 90 feet to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries were chosen to include the house and its immediate domestic-related area.

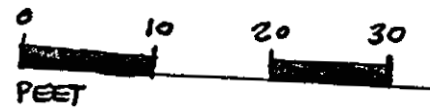
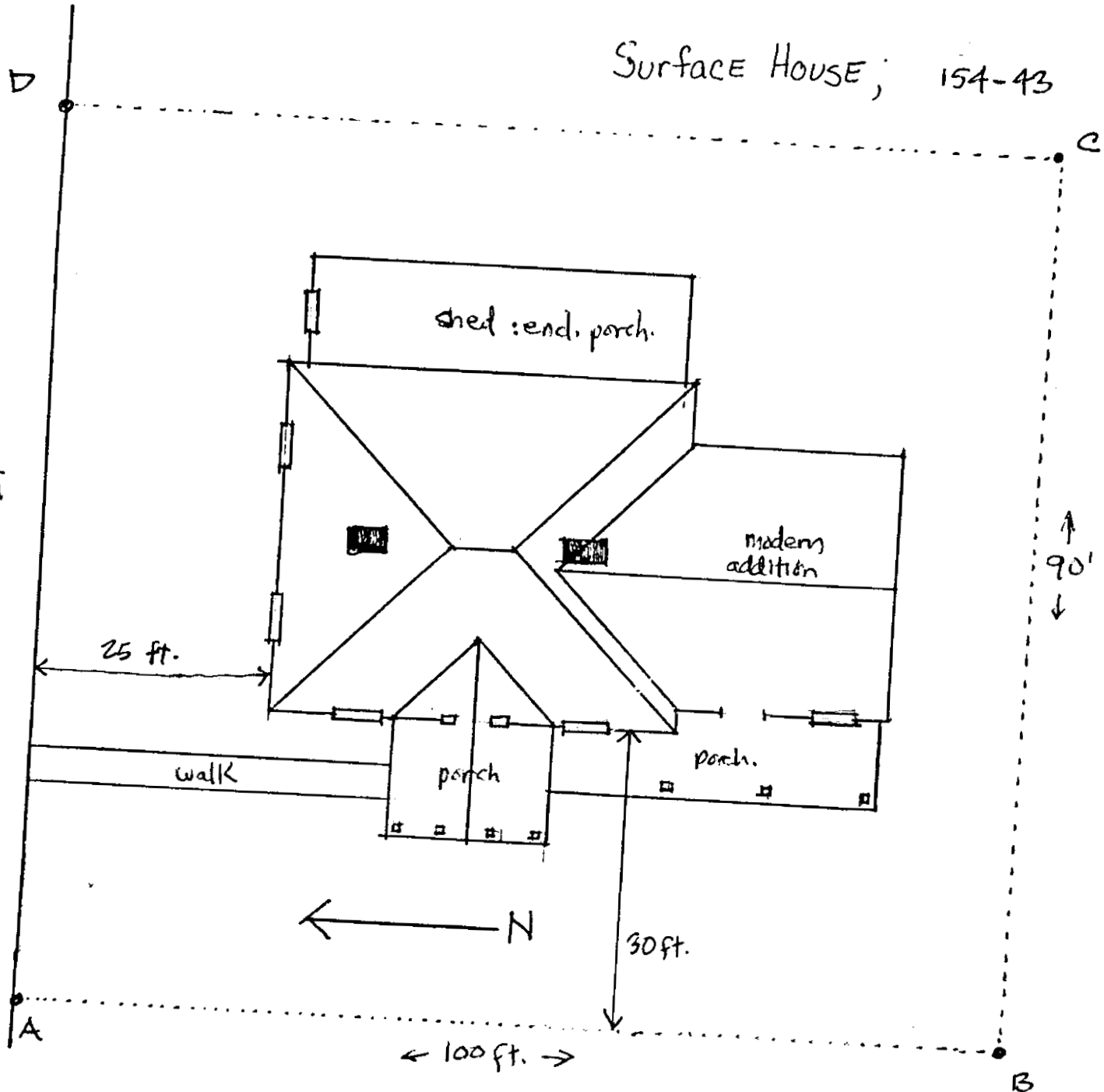
See continuation sheet

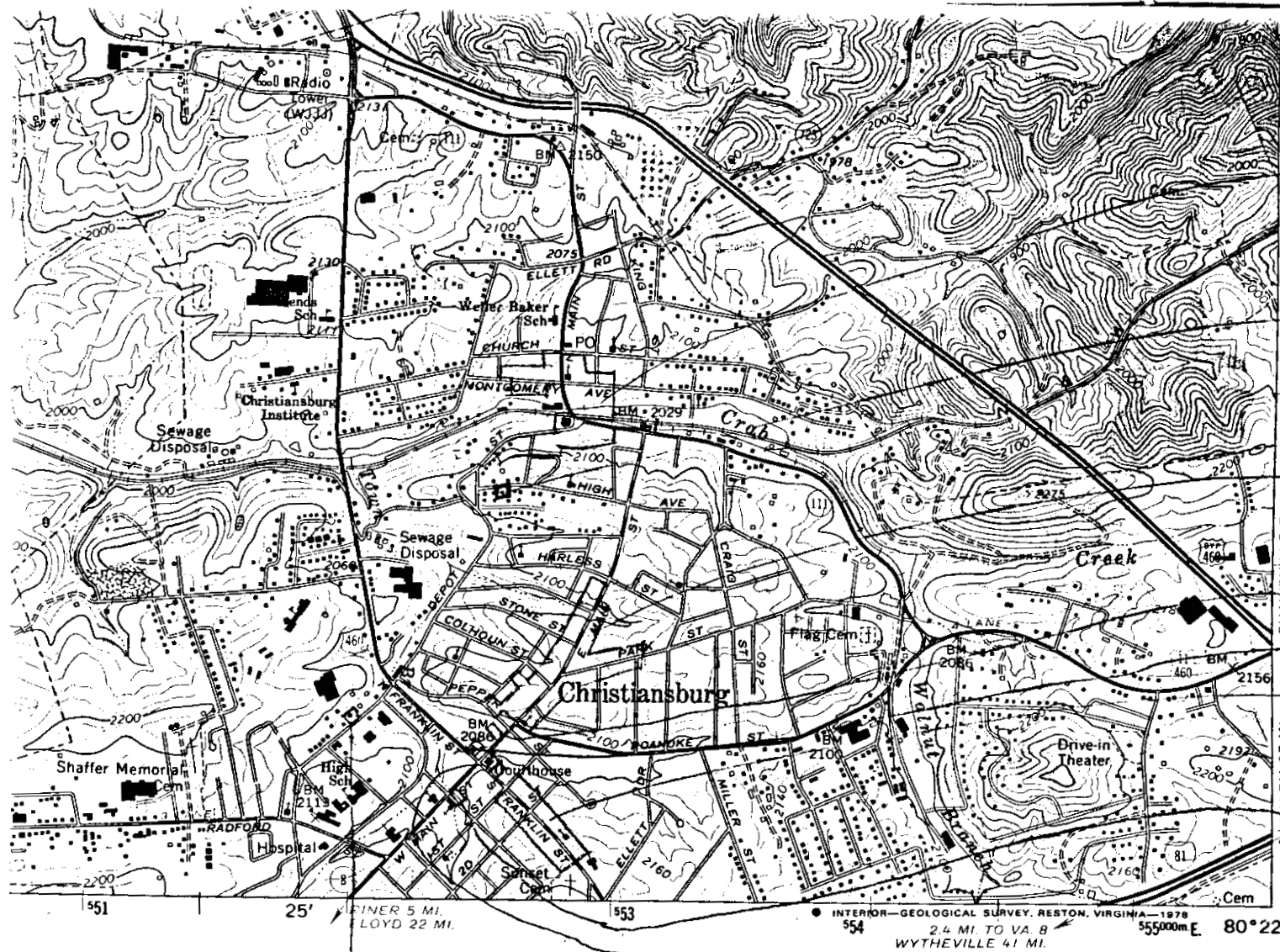
**11. Form Prepared By**

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

Surface House; 154-43

High Street





CAMBRIA HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 17 553530 4110420  
 17 552420 4110805  
 17 552420 4110010  
 17 554830 4110435

**SURFACE HOUSE**  
 17 552595 4110280

E. MAIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 17 552520 4109410  
 17 552900 4109290  
 17 553178 4109562  
 17 552690 4109300

HARRISON-HANCOCK HARDWARE  
 17 552510 4109270 BLDG.  
 CHRISTIANBURG POST OFFICE  
 17 552430 4109220

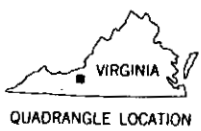
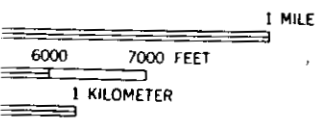
S. FRANKLIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT  
 17 553490 4109017  
 17 553320 4109320  
 17 553045 4108910  
 17 553200 4108805

A.L. JOHNSON STORE BUILDING  
 17 552410 4109070

**PILOT**  
 17 552540 4109160

MONTGOMERY WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS COTTAGE  
 17 551985 4109360

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————  
 Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
 ( ) Interstate Route ( ) U.S. Route ( ) State Route



**BLACKSBURG, VA.**

N3707.5—W8022.5/7.5

1965  
 PHOTOREVISED 1978  
 AMS 4958 III NW—SERIES V834

Boundary lines shown in purple compiled from latest information available from the controlling authority

STANDARDS  
 VIRGINIA 22092  
 CHARLOTTEVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
 AVAILABLE ON REQUEST