

✓LR-4/15/75 NRHP-5/28/75

Form 10-300
(Rev. 6-72)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia
 COUNTY: Rappahannock
 FOR NPS USE ONLY
 ENTRY DATE

1. NAME
 COMMON: Washington Historic District
 AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION
 STREET AND NUMBER: See Continuation Sheet #1
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington
 CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Seventh (J. Kenneth Robinson)
 STATE: Virginia CODE: 51 COUNTY: Rappahannock CODE: 157

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <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"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No			

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
 OWNER'S NAME: Multiple Ownership
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE: CODE

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
 COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Rappahannock County Court House
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: Virginia CODE: 51

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2)
 TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
 DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local
 DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
 STREET AND NUMBER:
 CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: D. C. CODE: 11

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
 COUNTY: Rappahannock
 ENTRY NUMBER:
 DATE:
 FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Washington, the seat of Rappahannock County since its formation in 1833, is architecturally, a nineteenth-century town built on a grid plan laid out by George Washington in 1749, and named for him in 1796. It is picturesquely situated on a low ridge in the Virginia Piedmont at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains and oriented with its two main streets running north-south along the ridge, and its five cross streets running up and down the hill.

The heart of the town is the courthouse complex on Gay Street. Because the town predates the county, the courthouse is not located on a central square, but rather on lot 45 near the highest point on the ridge. The structure itself is a Jeffersonian-style building built in 1833 by James Leake Powers, who is reputed to have been one of Thomas Jefferson's workmen at the University of Virginia. A two-story, Flemish-bond brick building with the entrance in the pedimented gable end, it has a lunette window in the gable, as well as a one-stage wooden belfry. The facade is ornamented by brick Tuscan pilasters, plastered and painted white. The interior has been divided into two stories with the court room on the upper level. Adjacent to the courthouse on the north are the clerk's office and the treasurer's office. Both are three-bay, one-story, mid-nineteenth-century buildings with interior end chimneys and parapet gable ends. The clerk's office brickwork is laid in Flemish bond, and the treasurer's office in staggered Flemish bond. Also noteworthy are the handsome marble Confederate monument and an attractive cast-iron water fountain on the front lawn.

The courthouse forms the nucleus of a small business district along Gay Street which includes (from south to north) the brick Baptist Church and Masonic Hall (1873), the fire station, the county jail (mid-nineteenth-century), an Edwardian brick bank building, an unused movie theater, a small one-story, shingled Gothic cottage which now serves as the county extension office, and the Washington Methodist Church (1889). Other noteworthy buildings along Gay Street include the brick Roman Revival library (1858; formerly the Presbyterian church) and the Gothic-Revival Trinity Episcopal Church (1852), both by Powers.

Washington contains a number of nineteenth-century commercial buildings in good states of preservation. On lot 8, at the corner of Main and Middle Streets is the Washington House tavern, originally known as Coxes Hotel and then as Dean's Hotel. This picturesque, tripartite early-nineteenth-century building consists of two two-story, single-pile, frame sections, both with lean-to ells on the rear, two-story arcaded porches across the front, and brick exterior end chimneys, but the sections are of slightly different heights and profiles. To them are appended at the north a story-and-a-half frame wing with an exterior end chimney having a stone base and a brick shaft. This wing was raised to two stories in front of the ridge, and a bracketed cornice added in the mid-nineteenth century. Inside it are built-in wall shelves and drawers, testifying to its former use as a store. The same sort of shelves and drawers survive in the Washington Cash Store on lot 6, a false-fronted frame building which operates as the town's only general store.

The most distinctive of these commercial buildings is the store which stands (see continuation sheet #2

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Washington, located in the Virginia Piedmont at the base of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is a well-preserved nineteenth-century courthouse town with a fine collection of public, commercial, and domestic architecture typical of the region. Its significance stretches beyond the founding of Rappahannock County in 1833, to the town's platting by the young surveyor, George Washington, who gave it its grid plan in 1749.

Washington was surveying in the forests of the then-Culpeper County in the summer of 1749, and in late July he laid out a town having two main streets running north-south (Main and Gay Streets, respectively) and five short cross streets (Wheeler, Calvert, Middle, Jett, and Porter) which, with the exception of Middle Street, were named after the four original proprietors of the town. Gay Street, according to legend, was named by George Washington in honor of Gay Fairfax. The original plat for this nameless new town, laid off in 51 half-acre lots, survives. To a remarkable extent, the present layout of the town conforms to that of its surveyor's scheme. The half-acre lots still determine most of the property lines and were reaffirmed by the town council in 1917. The extension of the town bounds to include a number of outlying houses and the growth of a Black section west of the original village and somewhat detached from it are the principal changes.

In 1796, the town was organized by the General Assembly and its name changed, appropriately, to Washington. Thirty-seven years later, when Rappahannock County was set off from Culpeper, Washington was made the county seat. The first session of the County Court, in October 1833, was held at the present Washington House, then known as Coxes Hotel. At that meeting it was ordered by the court that a courthouse, clerk's office and jail be built, "constructed of brick instead of stone." A bell, purchased for \$100, was installed in the new courthouse in 1834, and is still in use.

The courthouse, along with Trinity Episcopal Church and the Presbyterian church (now the library) are among the architecturally significant nineteenth-century buildings in Washington, the more so for having been built by James Leake Powers (1799-1889), reputed to have been one of Jefferson's workmen at the University of Virginia.

Washington was incorporated in 1894, and its bounds extended somewhat, but despite this, it has remained very much as it was in the nineteenth century. It is currently enjoying the beginnings of a renaissance, and many of its neglected buildings are being purchased and renovated.

DTU

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Baggardly, Franklin Clyde. The History of the Town of Washington, Virginia. (1932).
 Hite, Mary Elizabeth. My Rappahannock Story Book. (1950).
The Town of Washington in Rappahannock County, Virginia, Inaugural Programme. (1932).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA See continuation sheet #3

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	° ' "	° ' "		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **140 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

ORGANIZATION: **Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission** DATE: **April 1975**

STREET AND NUMBER:
221 Governor Street

CITY OR TOWN: **Richmond** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **51**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Junius R. Fishburne, Jr.
 Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Exec. Director
 Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
 Title _____

Date **APR 15 1975**

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

 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

 Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #2

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rappahannock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

7. DESCRIPTION

as one of an outstanding group of buildings on lot 26. The store, on Gay Street, is a true story-and-a-half, three-bay, frame building with a central entry and brick flue. Original wall shelves and drawers with visible remains of tiger maple graining survive along with an L-shaped nineteenth-century counter on legs. On the same lot, on the Main Street side, is a large house composed of a mid-nineteenth century, single-pile two-story frame house with another like it built perpendicular to it, fronting the street. This later building has an attractive two-story pedimented portico with a pediment lunette and Eastlake trim recessed between two demi-octagonal bay windows. Grouped with the house are four frame outbuildings: a smokehouse with a pyramidal roof, an outhouse, a kitchen, and what was probably an office--a one-story, one-room building with a lean-to, built right on the street and having beaded joists and an elaborate Federal mantel.

Surrounding the village, in a manner typical of such towns, are the larger houses of the local squirearchy, such as The Meadows, a two-story frame building with a smaller wing on one end and double stone-and-brick end chimneys at the other. Near it is The Maples, a two-story early-nineteenth-century brick house with gable-end lunettes and parapeted gables.

Washington has been remarkably unaffected by change and retains even such such minor amenities as a wooden storm-drain grate at the corner of Main and Calvert Streets. It is fortunate in that almost all of its nineteenth-century public buildings survive, as do a good proportion of its early houses.

DTU

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #1

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rappahannock	
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(Number all entries)

2. LOCATION

BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The Washington Historic District is comprised of those properties lying in the area beginning at a starting point on Route 628, 900 feet north-west of the intersection of Routes 628 and 622; Thence extending west 1100 feet to a point on Route 622, 1100 feet northwest of the intersec-tion of Routes 628 and 622; thence extending 1500 feet southwest to a point on Route 626, 1100 feet northwest of the intersection of Routes 211 and 626; thence extending 1800 feet southeast to a point on Route 211, 1350 feet southwest of the intersection of Routes 211 and 626; thence extending 1250 feet slightly southeast to a point on Route 626, 1300 feet southeast of the intersection of Routes 626 and 1101; thence extending 1300 feet northeast to a point 1800 feet east of the inter-section of Routes 626 and 1101 and 100 feet east of Route 522/211 By-Pass; thence extending 2700 feet northwest to point of origin.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

(2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey

1968, 1975 State

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia code: 51

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet) #3

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Rappahannock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

20 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM REFERENCES

A	1, 7	7 4, 6 5, 4, 0	4, 2 8, 8 9, 7, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1, 7	7 4, 7 4, 7, 0	4, 2 8, 8 0, 0, 0

B	1, 7	7 4, 7 4, 4, 0	4, 2 8, 8 9, 9, 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	1, 7	7 4, 6 5, 6, 0	4, 2 8, 7 9, 8, 0

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet) #4

Washington Historic District
(Number all entries)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Rappahannock	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

7. DESCRIPTION

There are approximately one hundred buildings in the Washington Historic District. The District boundaries coincide with the corporate limits of the Town of Washington.

VIRGINIA - RAPPAHANNOCK CO.
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
NW/4 SPERRYVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE

5361 5
(FLINT HILL)

746 10'

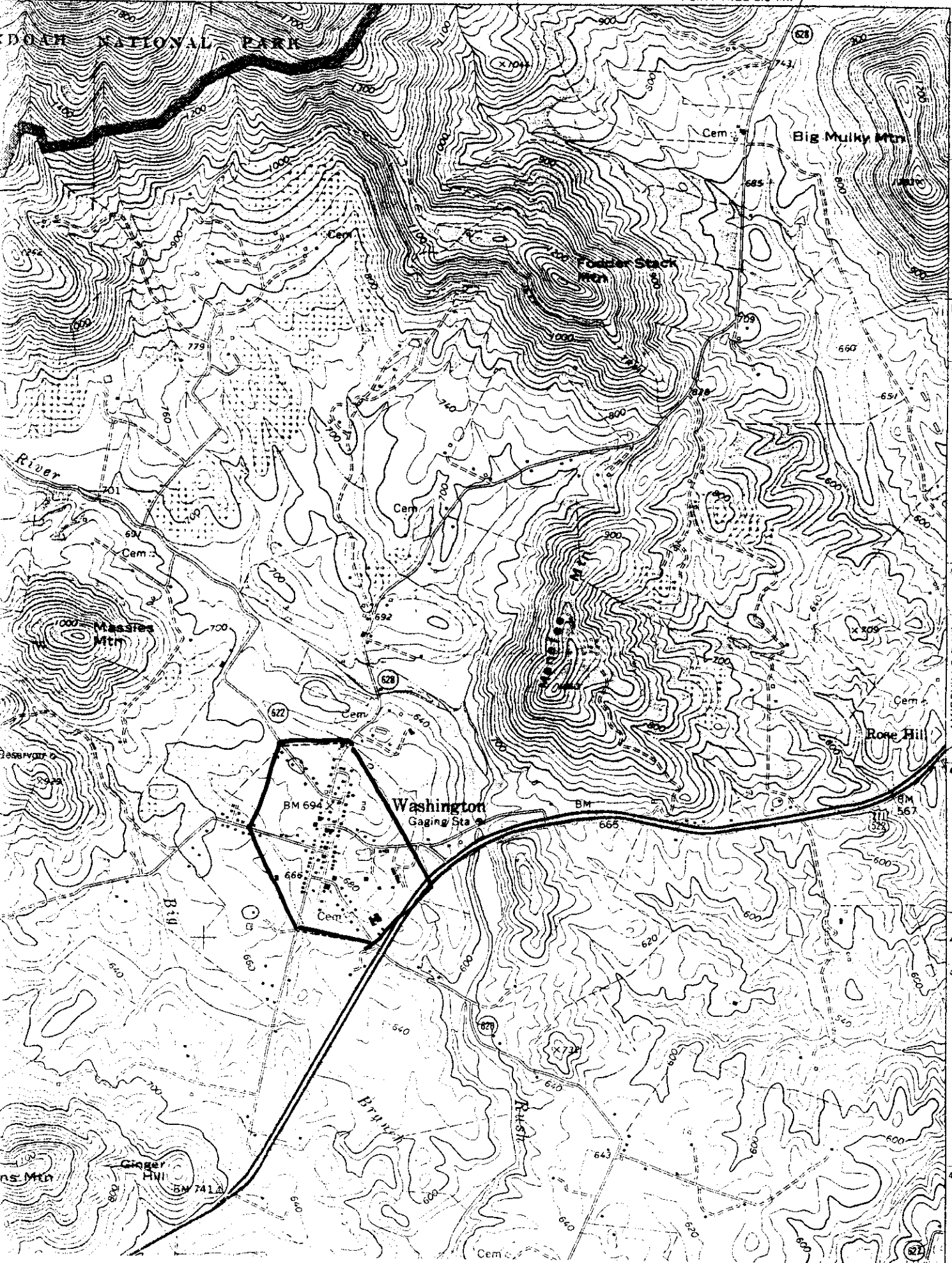
747

12 100 000 FEET

FLINT HILL 2.3 MI.

78°07'30"

38°45'



WASH
7.5

390 000
FEET

4291

4290

AMISSVILLE 7 MI.
WARRENTON 20 MI.

4289

42'30"

4288

4287