

VLR 9/14/15  
NRHP 11/10/15

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Casanova Historic District  
other names/site number VDHR #030-5163

**2. Location**

street & number Area including parts of Casanova Road, Rogues Road, and Weston Road.  
city or town Casanova not for publication N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Fauquier code 061 vicinity N/A  
Zip 20139

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets        does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant        nationally        statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 9/29/15  
Signature of certifying official  
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 for additional comments.)

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

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
       entered in the National Register  
       See continuation sheet. Signature of Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
       determined eligible for the National Register  
       See continuation sheet. Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_  
       determined not eligible for the National Register  
       removed from the National Register  
       other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

**United States Department of the Interior  
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State or Federal agency and bureau

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     removed from the National Register  
     other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_



U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Casanova Historic District  
Fauquier County, Virginia

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### 7. Description

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic Revival

Other: I-house; Commercial

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**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 8. Statement of Significance

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**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

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**Period of Significance** 1879-1955

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**Significant Dates** 1879

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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### 9. Major Bibliographical References

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#### Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

#### Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property Approximately 32 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_ 4 \_\_\_\_\_

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

---

name/title: Maral S. Kalbian/Architectural Historian and Margaret T. Peters/Research Historian

Organization: Maral S. Kalbian date June 10, 2005

street & number: 2026 Old Chapel Road telephone 540-955-1231

city or town Boyce state VA zip code 22620

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**Additional Documentation**

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Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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**Property Owner**

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(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name SEE ATTACHED PROPERTY OWNER'S LIST

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Fauquier County, Virginia

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**6. HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:**

DOMESTIC

Single dwelling  
Secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE

Department Store

INDUSTRY

Manufacturing facility

RELIGION

Religious facility  
Church-related residence

EDUCATION

School

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE

Storage  
Agricultural Outbuilding

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:**

DOMESTIC

Single dwelling  
Secondary structure

GOVERNMENT

Post Office

RELIGION

Religious facility

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AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  
Agricultural outbuilding

**7. DESCRIPTION**

**Materials:**

FOUNDATION  
STONE  
CONCRETE

WALLS  
STONE  
WOOD: weatherboard  
SYNTHETICS  
STUCCO

ROOF  
METAL: tin

OTHER  
WOOD  
BRICK  
STONE

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Casanova is located in Fauquier County a few miles southeast of Warrenton and developed in the 1850s at the intersection of Rogue's Road (Carolina Road) and the newly laid Warrenton Branch Railroad, a spur of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad that connected the main line at Calverton to the county seat of Warrenton. When a switching station was installed, the village, originally called "Three Mile Station" grew up around it. Although the train station is no longer standing, and the name of the village has changed, the Casanova Historic District is very much intact and contains a collection of buildings that represent the town during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup>

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centuries. A historic marker on the west side of the tracks contains a picture of the old train station, which once stood along the east side of the tracks.

Although Casanova has no official limits, the boundaries of the district have been drawn to include the area around the junction of Casanova Road, Rogues Road, Weston Road, and the railroad tracks. This area, which contains approximately 32 acres, includes 16 properties and is primarily a village setting with 32 contributing resources. More remote rural areas surrounding Casanova are not included in the district boundaries. The nine non-contributing resources are all outbuildings.

The majority of resources in the district are dwellings, ranging in date from ca. 1880 to 1910. These buildings are mainly I-houses with central front gables and Late Victorian detailing in the gable ends. Some include historic outbuildings such as sheds, garages, meat houses, and chicken coops. Two properties also maintain historic agricultural outbuildings including corncribs and barns. The most visually prominent building in the community is the former Casanova Store [030-5076; 030-5163-0016] located at the junction of the major roads and the railroad in the village. Across from it is a 2-story stone mill constructed in 1879 and converted into a dwelling in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Gothic Revival-style Parish Hall for Grace Church was constructed in stages during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Other buildings in the district include a former school and a small garage used as the community's post office since the mid-1950s.

The village of Casanova is surrounded by large estates and for many years functioned as a rural crossroads and commercial center for this rural area. The store is now closed but the community still maintains its post office. The collection of buildings included within the district have high architectural integrity, and although the train that passes through Casanova is now only used by a local quarry company, the historical character of the village is still retained by its fairly intact collection of late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century commercial and residential buildings.

### **ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Casanova is a small rural community that lies in the southeastern part of Fauquier County at the intersection of several roads and the Warrenton Branch Railroad, a spur of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad that connected the main line at Calverton to the county seat of Warrenton. Although the community first developed after the arrival of the railroad in 1852, the resources that

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survive in the district represent a late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century rural crossroads community. There

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has been very little modern construction and the district retains remarkable visual cohesiveness.

The architectural resources in the Casanova Historic District are generally centered on the intersection of the roads and railroad, and the district contains a mill, store, post office, parish hall, and ten houses, all from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The earliest building is the two-story three-bay stone mill constructed in 1879 and remodeled in 1947 for use as a dwelling. Constructed by the local builder George Holtzclaw for E. L. Wetmore, the building is located just east of the railroad tracks and housed a steam-powered stave mill between 1879 and 1918. The two stories of yellow sandstone, blue sandstone, and other native rocks were gathered from the local area and make up this fine building that includes a gable roof, large stone corner quoins, wooden lintels, an interior brick flue, 4 x 4 casement windows, and a 1-story gable-roofed stone wing. It is said that George Holtzclaw placed a 5-dollar gold piece between the corner stones, a traditional sign of good luck at that time.

Although the land tax records from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century suggest there was moderate building activity in Casanova, it was not until the turn-of-the-century that the community developed. A public school was constructed in the community by 1906, which has since been converted into a dwelling [030-0096; 030-5163-0006]. Because of alterations, today the one-story, three-bay, gable-end, stuccoed building has more of a residential appearance than that of a school, although elements of its original design are still present.

Also during this time a parish hall was constructed in Casanova for Grace Episcopal Church [030-0444; 030-5163-0012]. Constructed in stages between 1890 and 1920, the one-story, gable-end, stuccoed building is prominently located in the center of the community. With its double-hung diamond-sash lancet windows, gable-roofed rear apse with tripartite lancet window, lancet-arched louvered attic vents in the gable ends, paired lancet windows on the side elevation, and double-leaf door protected by a gabled entry hood supported by brackets, the building is an excellent example of the country Gothic Revival style, often used for churches and ancillary buildings of this period. Located directly behind it is the former Grace Church Rectory, now a private dwelling [030-0445; 030-5163-0013]. The two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, stuccoed house uses elements of the Tudor Revival style in its detailing including a cross-gabled roof that was originally clad in slate, ranked windows, overhanging eaves with decorative purlin ends, and a front porch with square columns on brick piers and a false-timbered gable end.

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The only surviving commercial building in the district is the former Casanova Store [030-5076; 030-5163-0016], constructed in 1906. First known as W. T. Cowhig's Store, the two-story,

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gable-end building has an intact tripartite storefront and a four-bay shed-roofed front porch. Resting on a stone foundation, the gable roof is clad in standing-seam metal, while the exterior walls are covered in pressed tin shingle patterned after rough-faced ashlar blocks. The store, now closed, housed the Casanova post office until 1956 when it moved into the small Model-A-sized garage next door [030-5163-0015]. That building, which still contains the post office, measures roughly 12 x 18 feet and is reputedly one of the smallest post offices in the country. It is a one-story, three-bay, gable-end frame building with an integral overhang, exposed rafter ends, six-light windows, a standing-seam metal roof, and a formed concrete foundation.

The Casanova Historic District also contains ten historic dwellings, ranging in date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to ca. 1910. All are of frame construction and follow either I-house, hall-parlor-plan, or side-passage-plan forms and vary in degree of exterior decoration. The most rural of the dwellings in the district is located at 5202 Casanova Road [030-5070; 030-5163-0005], at the western edge of the district. One of five dwellings with a central front gable, this is perhaps the best preserved of the group. Constructed ca. 1900 on land owned by George W. Holtzclaw, a well-known local builder, the house is a two-story, three-bay, stuccoed frame I-house with a front center-gable and a Colonial Revival-style, hip-roofed, four-bay front porch with large round Tuscan columns. A half-round attic window is located in the central front gable, a four-light transom and sidelights surround the front door, and the rear two-story ell has enclosed side porches. The house represents a well-preserved I-house, a common form of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. A similar house is located at the southern edge of the district at 5111 Casanova Road [030-5075; 030-5163-0001]. Constructed ca. 1900, this two-story, three-bay, vernacular frame I-house features a central front gable, a three-bay front porch with Tuscan columns, a four-light transom and two-light sidelights surrounding the door, and a rear two-story wing that appears to have been added in two sections. These two houses may in fact have been constructed by the same builder.

The house at 5135 Casanova Road [030-5074; 030-5163-0002] also has a central front gable, but features an unusual detail of having four bays on the first floor and three on the second. Originally constructed as a three-bay side-passage-plan dwelling at 5116 Weston Road [030-450; 030-5163-0011], it was later enlarged to its current configuration and also features a central front gable with a lancet-arched attic window. This property is also notable for the one-story, two-bay, gable-end, frame building clad in weatherboard that is located in the side yard. Probably

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constructed as a servant's quarter, the late-19<sup>th</sup>-century building rests on a pier foundation and features an enclosed hip-roofed porch and interior-end brick flue.

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The use of Gothic Revival-style detailing is also applied to the house at 5128 Weston Road [030-0451; 030-5163-0010], which is of a fairly common late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century form. The two-story, three-bay, frame T-plan dwelling has a steeply-pitched central front gable with a lancet-arched sash window and diamond pattern wooden shingles. The four-bay front porch is supported by chamfered posts and has a sawn balustrade. A four-light transom and two-light sidelights surround the front door, which is flanked by full-height two-over-two sash windows, the ledges of which are as low as the deck of the porch. The property also includes some period outbuildings including a small shed with metal siding that looks like brick, a gable-end corncrib on a rock pier foundation with vertical wood siding on the ends and horizontal wood siding on the sides, and a frame, gable-end barn clad in board-and-batten siding that has been enlarged with side lean-to wings.

Other common vernacular residential forms of the period that are found in the district include the House at 9201 Rogues Road [030-0446; 030-5163-0009]. First constructed ca. 1880 as a hall-parlor-plan dwelling, the house appears to have originally consisted of two rooms and two stories. Additions were made in 1940 and 1952 bringing it to its current configuration that incorporates a rear two-story ell and a rear wing. Architectural details include an exterior-end brick chimney, a three-bay front porch with square posts, a standing-seam metal roof, six-over-six-sash windows and unusual diamond-paned casement windows that give the dwelling a Tudor Revival feel. The property, believed to have been associated with Wetmore's Mill across the road, also includes a fine mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century garage, said to have been built with stones from the razed chimney at the mill, a pumphouse, a corncrib, and two sheds.

The ca. 1900 house at 5162 Casanova Road [030-5071; 030-5163-0007], a two-story, two-bay, gable-end dwelling with a two-bay front porch with turned spindles as supports, is an example of another common vernacular form of the period. A historic marker in the side yard near the railroad tracks contains a picture of the old train station, which stood along the east side of the tracks, and was demolished in 1956.<sup>1</sup>

The house at 5143 Casanova Road [030-5073; 030-5163-0003] was constructed ca. 1910 and is the only dwelling in the district that is one-and-one-half stories in height. It features a cross-gabled roof, gabled dormers with paired 6-light casement windows, weatherboard siding, a standing-seam metal

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roof, a stone foundation, a central stone chimney, and six-over-six-sash windows. Next door at 5149 Casanova Road [030-5072; 030-5163-0004], is a two-story, three-bay vernacular I-house that has been remodeled. Although it is a somewhat altered example of a common early-20<sup>th</sup>-century form,

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it maintains the streetscape of Casanova. The house at 5119 Weston Road [030-5077; 030-5163-0014] was constructed in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and is a gable-roofed double-pile-dwelling with an exterior-end brick chimney, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, and a five-bay front porch.

A stuccoed garage in the rear yard has a standing-seam-metal gabled roof, exposed rafter ends, an interior chimney, and side wing.

The Casanova Historic District is a distinct community in southeastern Fauquier County. The historic resources capture the essence of the community much as it appeared in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century and help tell the story of its development as a rural crossroads community that grew around the intersection with the railroad.

**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Don Del Rosso, "A Piece of History," *Citizenet.com*, undated in the files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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**CASANOVA HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY**

**NOTES ON FORMAT AND ORGANIZATION OF INVENTORY:**

The properties are listed numerically by street address. All resources are contributing unless otherwise noted in bold and are keyed to the map in regular order.

**Casanova Road**

**5111 Casanova Road 030-5075** *Other DHR Id #: 030-5163-0001*

*Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1900*

Constructed ca. 1900, this 2-story, 3-bay, vernacular frame I-house features a central front gable. The 3-bay front porch has Tuscan columns and a hipped roof. A 4-light transom and 2-light sidelights surround the door. A rear 2-story wing appears to have been added in two sections and has an end porch with turned spindles. Details include: missing chimneys, stone foundation, new standing-seam metal roof, vinyl siding, and 2/2-sash windows with vinyl shutters.

*Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling*

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status: Machine Shed*

**Non-Contributing**

**5135 Casanova Road 030-5074** *Other DHR Id #: 030-5163-0002*

*Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1900*

This 2-story, asymmetrical, 4-bay, frame T-plan vernacular dwelling features a central front gable and a 3-bay hipped roof front porch supported by Tuscan columns. The building appears to have been constructed sometime in the early 1900s and is unusual because it has 4 bays on the first floor and 3 bays on the second. Details include a clear light front door, interior-end brick chimneys, a stone foundation, a rectangular attic vent in central front gable, overhanging eaves, and a rear 2-story wing with enclosed side porch and interior end flue.

*Individual Resource Status: Garage*

**Non-Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling*

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status: Smoke/Meat House*

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status: Shed*

**Non-Contributing**

**5143 Casanova Road 030-5073** *Other DHR Id #: 030-5163-0003*

*Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories 1.5, Style: Other, ca 1910*

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This 1 ½-story, 4-bay, frame, cross gable-roofed dwelling with a shed-roofed porch appears to have been constructed ca. 1910. The vernacular building features side gabled dormers with paired 6-light casement windows, weatherboard siding, standing-seam metal roof, 6/6-sash windows, a central stone chimney, a stone foundation, a side lean-to, a cross-gable-roofed wing on the south side, a modern deck, and no apparent front door (only side door).

*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

**5149 Casanova Road 030-5072**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0004**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1910**

This was a 2-story, 3-bay, vernacular I-house that has undergone a series of alterations and additions over the past half century. With the exception of the coursed rubble foundation, little of the original fabric is visible. The original form of the building is visible in the breaks in the roofline and massing. Details include new 1/1-sash windows, a modern exterior-end brick chimney, vinyl siding, brick apron and storefront windows on first floor facade, 3-bay porch, and rear 2-story wing with side additions.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage**

**Non-Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Chicken Coop**

**Contributing**

**5162 Casanova Road 030-5071**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0007**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1900**

This 2-story, 2-bay, gable-end vernacular frame dwelling appears to have been constructed ca. 1900. Details include vinyl siding, standing-seam metal roof, 1/1-sash windows, interior brick flue, 2-bay front porch with turned spindles, side hip-roofed bathroom addition, and modern rear deck.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage**

**Non-Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Non-Contributing**

**5176 Casanova Road 030-0096**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0006**

*Primary Resource Information:* **School, Stories 1, Style: Other, ca 1900**

This is a ca. 1900, 1-story, 3-bay former school that has been converted into a dwelling. The gable-end (asphalt shingle), frame (stuccoed) building has some original 6/6-sash windows as well as more

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modern 12/12-sash on the side. The exterior-end brick chimney on the front is a later addition as are the round arches above the window openings. Other details include a modern front patio with metal railing, exterior end brick flue in rear, side 1 ½-story wing and rear shed-roofed wing. Because of alterations, the building has more of a residential appearance than that of a school.

*Individual Resource Status:* **School**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage**

**Contributing**

**5202 Casanova Road 030-5070**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0005**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1900**

This is a 2-story, 3-bay, stuccoed frame I-house with a front-center gable and Colonial Revival-style hip-roofed 4-bay porch. A half-round attic window is located in the center front-gable. Large round Tuscan columns support the roof of the porch, while the decking is supported by a brick foundation. Details include: standing-seam metal roof; 4-light transom and sidelights around door; 3-light basement windows; parged foundation; gable-end returns; interior chimney on south end; exterior brick chimney on north end; plain frieze board; and rear 2-story ell with enclosed side porches and central brick chimney.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Contributing**

**Rogues Road**

**9201 Rogues Road 030-0446**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0009**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1880**

This ca. 1880 vernacular dwelling appears to originally have been a 2-story, 4-bay, frame hall-parlor dwelling. The diamond-paned casement windows are believed to be original, but may have come from another building. The original house consisted of two rooms on each of two stories. Additions were made to the house in 1940 and 1952. Ceiling height is about 7 ft. in the oldest part. Under the front porch is a large stone that came from the chimney of the mill across the street that is carved with the building date of the mill, April 29, 1879. Architectural details include an exterior-end brick chimney, 3-bay porch with square posts, a standing-seam metal roof, 6/6 windows and diamond-pane casement windows, rear 2-story ell, and multiple rear wings.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Pump House**

**Contributing**

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*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Contributing**



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*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage**  
*Individual Resource Status:* **Corncrib**  
*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**  
*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Contributing**  
**Contributing**  
**Contributing**  
**Contributing**

**9206 Rogues Road 030-0442**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0008**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Mill, Stories 2, Style: Other, 1879**

This 2-story, three-bay, squared rubble mill was constructed in 1879 as a stave mill and was remodeled for use as a dwelling in 1947. Details include: large stone quoins on the corners; wooden lintels over the doors and windows on first floor; interior brick flue; 4x4 casement windows; side 1-story gable-roofed stone kitchen wing with brick chimney; bulkhead basement entry; side porch; recessed entry door; and 1-bay pedimented front porch with square posts.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Mill**

**Contributing**

**Weston Road**

**5102 Weston Road 030-0445**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0013**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.5, Style: Tudor Revival, ca 1911**

This is a two-and-a-half-story, three-bay, stuccoed Tudor Revival-style dwelling that was constructed as the Grace Church rectory. The cross-gabled roof now clad in asphalt shingle, originally had slate. Most of the 1/1-sash windows are ranked: in a group of four on the projecting gable on the first floor and paired on the second and half-story floors. The windows may have originally been diamond-paned and later replaced. Other details include, overhanging eaves with decorative purlin ends, 2-light steel basement windows, decorative molding along the eaves, corner boards, bulkhead basement entry on east side, 2 interior chimneys, and rear porch with jalousie windows. The 1-bay, 2-bay-deep front porch has square columns on brick piers as supports and false timbering in the gable end. The house is now a private residence.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

**5108 Weston Road 030-0444**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0012**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Parish House, Stories 1, Style: Gothic Revival, ca 1900**

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Constructed ca. 1900 in the Gothic Revival style, this 1-story, 3-bay, gable-end stuccoed building features the following details: interior-end brick chimney, stone foundation, asphalt

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shingle roof, double-hung diamond-sash lancet windows, a gable-roofed apse with tripartite lancet window, lancet-arched louvered attic vents in the gable ends, paired lancet windows on side elevation, gabled entry hood supported by brackets, double-leaf door, and side 1-story gable-roofed education wing addition.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Parish House**

**Contributing**

**5116 Weston Road 030-0450**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0011**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1900**

This appears originally to have been a 2-story, 3-bay, frame, side-passage-plan dwelling that was extended to its current configuration. It has a central front gable with Gothic-arched vent, 5-bay front porch with turned posts, 2/2-sash windows, weatherboard siding, and a standing-seam metal roof. The rear 1-story wing was recently raised to 2 stories and there is another rear ell addition with a stone chimney.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Pump House**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Non-Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Servant Quarters**

**Contributing**

**5119 Weston Road 030-5077**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0014**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1910**

This is a 2-story, 3-bay, stuccoed, gable-roofed, double-pile dwelling constructed ca. 1910. The 5-bay hip-roofed front porch is supported by square columns. The new 1/1-sash windows are paired on the first floor ends. Other details include 3-light basement windows, 4-light attic vents in the gable ends, an interior brick chimney, an exterior-end brick chimney, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, and a rear shed-roofed wing.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Non-Contributing**

**5128 Weston Road 030-0451**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0010**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Late Victorian, ca 1900**

This is a 2-story, 3-bay, frame T-plan with a Gothic Revival center front-gable and a 4-bay

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hip-roofed front porch. A lancet-arched sash window and diamond-patterned wooden shingles are in the central-front gable. The 4-bay porch is supported by chamfered posts and has a sawn balustrade. A 4-light transom and 2-light sidelights surround the front door. Large, six-foot-high,

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2/2-sash windows are on the first floor front, the ledges of which are as low as the deck of the porch. Other details include a stone foundation, some new 6/6 and 4/4-sash windows, rear 2-story ell, 2 interior-end brick chimneys, and rectangular attic vents in the gable ends.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Cornerrib**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Non-Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Shed**

**Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* **Barn**

**Contributing**

**5137 Weston Road 030-5163-0015**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Post Office, Stories 1, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1910**

This small 1-story, 3-bay, gable-end frame building has an integral overhang with rectangular vent in the gable end, exposed rafter ends, 6-light windows, a standing-seam metal roof, vinyl siding, a formed concrete foundation, and 1/1 windows along the side. Apparently constructed as a Model-A garage, this building has housed the Casanova Post Office since 1956. It measures roughly 12 x 18 feet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Post Office**

**Contributing**

**5141 Weston Road 030-5076**

*Other DHR Id #:* **030-5163-0016**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Other, ca 1906**

Constructed ca. 1906, this 2-story, 4-bay, gable-end store has a 3-part storefront and a 4-bay shed-roofed porch. The building rests on a stone foundation, has a standing-seam metal roof, and is clad in pressed tin shingle patterned after rough-faced ashlar blocks. Other details include a 3-light transom over the door; interior brick flue, batten shutters; freight door on front; 4-bay porch with chamfered posts on short brick piers, and exposed rafter ends.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**

**Contributing**

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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Casanova Historic District is a small cluster of late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century buildings located in southeastern Fauquier County, Virginia. The significance of the tiny village derives

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from its remarkably intact collection of historic structures including a rare steam-powered mill, a late-19<sup>th</sup>-century schoolhouse, a tiny post office, two church-related properties--a parish house and a rectory--and a small collection of commercial buildings and several residences. The district also incorporates a small farm parcel whose owners were closely associated with the development of Casanova. The village of Casanova began its life in the mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century as "Three Mile Station," or "Three Mile Switch" as it was located exactly three miles along a railroad spur of the old Orange and Alexandria Railroad to Warrenton from the main north-south line of the railroad from Alexandria to the south. However, the earliest surviving architectural resource in the district dates to 1879: the train station and all other rail-related buildings have not survived. Three Mile Station was located where Rogues Road, which provided access to a number of local landholders, intersected the tracks. The railroad became part of the Southern Railroad system in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. Casanova lies at the heart of a rich collection of prominent estates in Fauquier associated with the Fitzhugh family and other early plantation owners in the county including Melrose [NR,1983; 030-0070], Rock Hill, Weston, [NR 1979; 030-0226] and Poplar Springs. It was from Melrose Castle that Three Mile Station derived its first name of "Melrose" or "Melrose Station". By the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, it was determined that the name "Melrose" duplicated a post office village in Rockingham County and the name was changed to "Casanova." The well-known Italian name came from a Juan Casanova who married into the Murray family, the original owners of Melrose Castle. With commercial, industrial, institutional, and fine residential structures dating from 1879 to 1920, Casanova presents a rare image of a small community virtually untouched by modern intrusions. Casanova is locally significant under Criterion C as a well-preserved late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century rural crossroads community centered around the railroad.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

The area around Casanova was long a center of some of the largest and most prosperous landholders in the county, most notably the Fitzhugh family. From the 18<sup>th</sup> century this was considered some of the richest agricultural land in the area. The village of Three Mile Station (now Casanova), however, did not emerge until the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and the construction of the railroad. Like many small towns in Fauquier County, Casanova's history is closely linked with

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the coming of the railroad. The 1850s saw the largest railroad building campaign in the county. The Orange and Alexandria Railroad was formed by an act of the Virginia General Assembly in 1848; in 1868 it merged with the Manassas Gap Railroad, also built in the 1850s as a link from the eastern and northern portions of the state to the Shenandoah Valley.<sup>1</sup> The main line of the Orange and Alexandria Railroad that ran from Alexandria south to Orange, Charlottesville, and

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ultimately Lynchburg, Danville, and Atlanta, did not run through Warrenton. As the county seat and center of much of the commercial activity in Fauquier and surrounding counties like Loudoun and Clarke, Warrenton was important to the commercial well-being of a large and rich agricultural region. Warrenton residents lobbied strenuously for a link to the new major north-south railroad and the resulting link connected the main line to Warrenton. Three Mile Station or Casanova grew up where the railroad line intersected with Rogues Road, an early northeast-southwest road in the area. This rail spur is depicted on most of the primary Civil War maps of the period although little or no military activity seems to have been associated with it. Local historian, Eugene Scheel, does indicate that a Union Brigade under the command of General Wesley Merrit camped at Three Mile Switch in 1863.<sup>2</sup> One map does show this clearly as the "Warrenton Branch," with the notation of "Three Mile Station," with at least four structures rendered on the map in 1862.<sup>3</sup> It does not appear that any of these buildings survive. Local historians refer to the village as "Three Mile Switch" as apparently there was a switching capacity there that allowed local farmers to use the village as a shipping point for their valuable agricultural products.<sup>4</sup> Unfortunately, no structures directly related to the railroad and transportation system survive today, with the small railroad station that is depicted in a photograph from 1898 having been demolished in 1956.<sup>5</sup>

From the local land records it appears that Three Mile Station continued to thrive in the years following the Civil War. According to a deed of land to Dennis Cowhig in 1872, a "new road at Melrose Station" had been constructed linking Rogues Road with the road to Falmouth. Tax records for 1880 indicate that the railroad village was often referred to now as "Melrose," or "Melrose Station." The name "Melrose" clearly derives from "Melrose Castle" built for Dr. James H. Murray from Maryland between 1857 and 1860. According to local historians, the builder was George W. Holtzclaw, who also lived and owned property in the vicinity. The architect was Edmund George Lind of Baltimore.<sup>6</sup>

The 1880 land tax records indicate prominent owners of land and dwellings in Melrose Station (also in some instances still called Three Mile Station), including Dennis McCarty with 10 acres and \$200 of improvements; Jeremiah Sullivan, with 39 acres and \$200 of improvements,

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William Cow[e]n with \$100 improvements on his 7 acres, and Dennis Cowhig with 6 acres with \$200 improvements. Two members of the Wetmore family, Theodore and E. L., who owned respectively 110 acres with \$1800 improvements and E. L. Wetmore who was charged with 1 acre in Melrose Station with improvements valued at \$2000, likely for his steam-powered stave mill constructed for him in 1879 by George W. Holtzclaw at 9206 Rogues Road [030-0442; 030-5163-0008]. The surnames of "McCarty" and "Sullivan" confirm the presence of several Irish

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property owners who continued to own land in the area well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Cowhig family appears in the Fauquier Land Tax records well into the 20<sup>th</sup> century as well, and their store dating from ca. 1900 at 5141 Weston Road [030-5076; 030-5153-0016] undoubtedly stands on the parcel owned by the family as early as the 1870s.<sup>7</sup>

By 1906, land books for the village clearly indicate that the name for the town had been changed to “Casanova,” although business directories refer to it as Casanova as early as the 1880s. In Virginia, no two post offices could have the same name, and apparently a village in Rockingham County had claimed the name “Melrose” first. It can be presumed that “Casanova,” derived from a Juan Casanova who married into the Murray family of Melrose Castle and lived nearby at Rock Hill, continuing to underscore the influence of the landed property holders surrounding the village. Use of such romantic names for towns was not unknown in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The 1906 records indicate that occasionally the name “Melrose” still appeared, just as “Three Mile Station” did after Melrose was selected for the railroad village. Also evident in 1906 is the emergence of a number of parcels described as “lots” in the town, mostly ranging in size from 1/3 to 5 acres. Most lots had modest improvements valued from \$300 to \$600 and were owned by the Carters, Calos, Coffroths, McCarthys and Garretts.<sup>8</sup> One of the parcels in Casanova was charged to Annie C. Nourse in 1906 with \$316 improvements. According to local historian Eugene Scheel, a Constance and Charlotte Nourse operated a girls school at the rural property known as Weston nearby, for which the Weston Road was named.

In 1906, there were several parcels recorded in Casanova charged to “Colored,” residents, all of the same family. Boyton, Randolph, Sims, and Alexander Bell are each charged with parcels of about 11 acres with \$79 worth of improvements on each parcel. It appears that these parcels are not within the boundaries of the district and their improvements do not survive today. It is important, however, that there was an African-American presence in Casanova in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Among the institutional buildings that survive in Casanova from the early 20<sup>th</sup> century is the  
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Casanova School at 5176 Casanova Road [030-0096; 030-5163-0006]. The 1906 land records indicate that the Cedar Run School Board owned a tract in Casanova. The building functioned as a school until the 1940s. Two of the most impressive institutional buildings in Casanova again reflect the central importance of this village to the surrounding community. Grace Episcopal Church stands several miles away from Casanova. The church was part of Cedar Run Parish, which was formed in 1842. That parish included Catlett, Calverton, and Midland, as well as the area around Casanova. Because of the prominence and probably the size of Grace Church,

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its vestry became the vestry for the entire parish. This would probably account for the substantial size of Grace Church's Rectory (ca. 1911) at 5102 Weston Road [030-0445; 030-5163-0013] as the Grace Church rector would likely have served several churches in the parish. The substantial Gothic Revival Parish Hall at 5108 Weston Road [030-0444; 030-5163-0012] again reflects the prosperity and prominence of the Episcopal Church in this area of wealthy landowners.<sup>9</sup> Tax records of 1906 reflect a building valued at \$275 charged to Grace Church trustees, which probably reflects part of the parish hall.

The 1879 mill built by G. W. Holtzclaw for Theodore and E. L. Wetmore located at 9206 Rogues Road [030-0442; 030-5163-0008;], is among the more impressive structures in Casanova and the earliest documented building in the district. A measure of its size and value is the assessment of its value in 1880 at \$2000. A steam-powered mill, it was conveniently located immediately adjacent to the railroad, indicating that the barrel staves (hogshead barrels) it produced as containers for Virginia's leading tobacco crop were shipped by rail throughout the state. It remained in operation until 1918, an unusual type of mill for Fauquier County where most mills were powered by water. Local historians say that the Holtzclaws placed a five-dollar gold piece between the corner stones, a traditional sign of good luck. The building now serves as a residence.<sup>10</sup>

The Cowhig family owned property in Casanova from as early as the 1870s. Dennis Cowhig is charged in 1880 with an improved lot at "Three Mile Station" plus another parcel of 17 acres, also at Three Mile Station. By 1906 the Cowhig family is charged with several improved lots, at least one of which is the present structure known as "W. T. Cowhig's Store" at 5141 Weston Road [030-5076; 030-5163-0016]. This site, in addition to the store, includes the present tiny Post Office [030-5163-0015] that was formerly a small garage for a Model-A car along with a ca.1910 dwelling [030-5077; 030-5163-0014]. The post office, which originally was housed in the Cowhig Store, now occupies the Model-A garage and is apparently among the smallest post offices in the country. A Citation For Excellence from the Postmaster General in 1967

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commended the community of Casanova and the post office employees for "...maintaining the building and grounds of the main office in such a manner as to provide a clean, attractive and pleasant place in which the public may conduct US postal business."<sup>11</sup>

The largest parcel in the Casanova Historic District is the Old Pearson Place at 5202 Casanova Road. [030-0441; 030-5163-0005]. From its physical appearance, the house on the parcel dates from ca. 1906. It was likely built by George A. Pearson, then age 25, who had acquired the property from E. L. Childs Sr., a farmer in the vicinity of Casanova. The parcel was likely part

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of the large land holdings of Thomas Fitzhugh known as “Ajax.” Pearson had lived in the area since at least 1900 when he is listed as a son to John Pearson of the same district. Pearson appears in the 1910, 1920, and 1930 census records for Cedar Run District, Fauquier County, as associated with the railroad, which would have been convenient to his residence. In 1910 his occupation is given as “railroad;” by 1920 and 1930 he appears as a “railroad section foreman.”<sup>12</sup>

The significance of this village rests primarily in the survival of a remarkably intact collection of domestic and commercial structures that impressively exemplify the fabric of any early-20<sup>th</sup>-century community. The roadways and land parcels still display the early configuration of the community. Still standing on an operating rail line amidst rich agricultural land, Casanova, with a legacy of three distinct names, incorporates a fast disappearing resource in Northern Virginia with distinctive buildings from its most prosperous era.

**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Burke Davis. The Southern Railway: Road of the Innovators, [Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1985].

<sup>2</sup> Eugene Scheel. The Civil War in Fauquier County. [Warrenton: Fauquier National Bank, 1985], 65.

<sup>3</sup> George B. Davis, Leslie J. Perry, Joseph W. Kirkley, Official Military Atlas of the Civil War, [New York, Gramercy Books, 1983, reprinted from 1891-1895] Maps # XXII (7); XLV (6).

<sup>4</sup> Eugene Scheel. The Guide to Fauquier: A Survey of the Architecture and History of a Virginia County, with 15 Walking Tours of Towns and Villages, [Warrenton: Fauquier County Board of Supervisors, 1956], 39.

<sup>5</sup> Don Del Rosso, “A Piece of History,” Citizennet.com,” undated in the files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

<sup>6</sup> Calder Loth, editor. The Virginia Landmarks Register, (Fourth Edition) [Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1999] 165.

<sup>7</sup> Fauquier County Land Tax Books, 1880.

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<sup>8</sup> Fauquier County Land Tax Books, 1906, 1910.

<sup>9</sup> Charles Francis Cocke. Parish Lines of the Diocese of Virginia, [Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1978]; 214, 287 (map); Fauquier County Land Tax Books, 1906.

<sup>10</sup> Louise Lewis. “Survey Report: Old Mill at Casanova,” Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project, sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission, 1936.

<sup>11</sup> Postmaster General Citation for Excellence. [Casanova Post Office, Casanova, VA, April 13, 1967].

<sup>12</sup> U. S. Census for Cedar Run District, Fauquier County, 1900, 1910, 1920, 1930; Correspondence from Mildred Riddell, resident of property adjoining Casanova Historic District in Fauquier County, dated July 12, 2006.

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC SOURCES**



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Virginia Board of Public Works, Orange and Alexandria Railroad Company Records, 1836-1885, [John S. Salmon, compiler, Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1978].

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**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**UTM REFERENCES**

A	263000E	4282020N	B	263120E	4282320N
C	263430E	4282300N	D	263700E	4282300N
E	263765E	4282230N	F	263840E	4281890N
G	263700E	4281800N	H	263440E	4282005N

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundaries of the nominated Casanova Historic District are shown on the accompanying map (scale 1" = 200') entitled "Casanova Historic District."

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**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The Casanova Historic District boundaries were drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings in the village of Casanova. Noncontributing buildings and more rural properties were excluded. The district boundaries coincide with property lines and natural landscape features whenever possible.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

**CASANOVA HISTORIC DISTRICT**

Location: Casanova, Virginia (Fauquier County)

VDHR File Number: 030-5163

Date of photograph: March 2005

Photographer: Maral S. Kalbian

All negatives are stored at the DHR Archives in Richmond, VA unless noted.

SUBJECT: Wetmore's Stave Mill [030-0042; 030-5163-0008]

VIEW: Southeast view

NEG. NO.: 22083 (27)

PHOTO 1 of 9

SUBJECT: House, 5111 Casanova Road [030-5075; 030-5163-0001]

VIEW: Northeast view

NEG. NO.: 22082 (35)

PHOTO 2 of 9

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SUBJECT: House, 5128 Weston Road [030-0451; 030-5163-0010]

VIEW: South view

NEG. NO.: 22083 (14)

PHOTO 3 of 9

SUBJECT: Barn and corncrib at House, 5128 Weston Road [030-0451; 030-5163-0010]

VIEW: Southwest view

NEG. NO.: 22083 (15)

PHOTO 4 of 9

SUBJECT: W. T. Cowhig's Store [030-5076; 030-5163-0015]

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VIEW: Northwest view  
NEG. NO.: 22082 (1)  
PHOTO 5 of 9

SUBJECT: Grace Episcopal Church Hall [030-0444; 030-5163-0012]  
VIEW: Southwest view  
NEG. NO.: 22084 (15)  
PHOTO 6 of 9

SUBJECT: Casanova Post Office [030-5163-0015]  
VIEW: Northwest view  
NEG. NO.: 22084 (15)  
PHOTO 7 of 9

SUBJECT: Streetscape  
VIEW: Looking south down Casanova Road at intersection with Weston Road  
NEG. NO.: 22084 (10)  
PHOTO 8 of 9

SUBJECT: Streetscape  
VIEW: Looking northwest across Weston Road toward Casanova Road  
NEG. NO.: 22084 (19)  
PHOTO 9 of 9





Casanova  
Historic District

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DHR # 030-5163

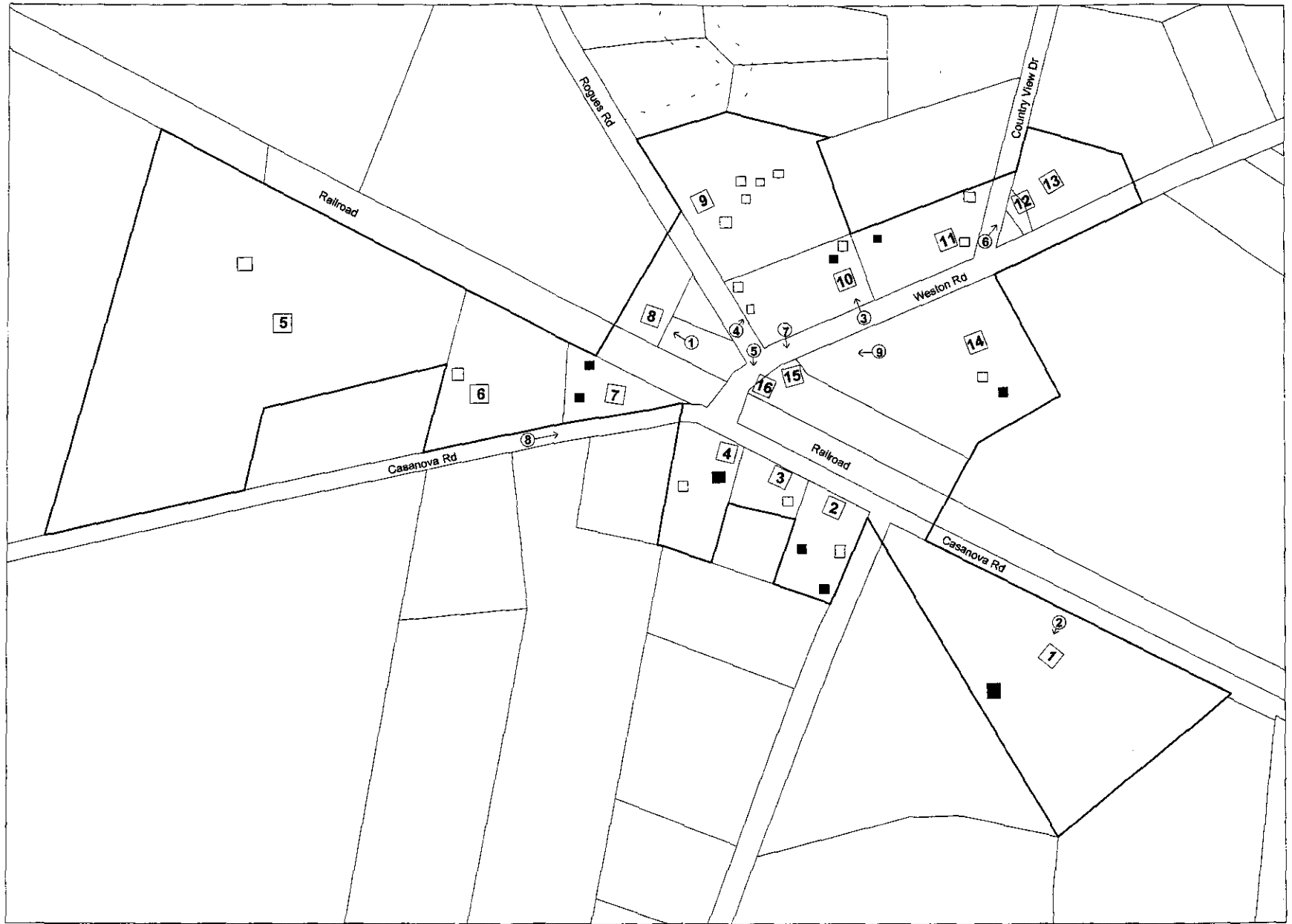


Numbers indicate properties in inventory.  
All numbers are preceded by the  
District # 030-5163.

-  Contributing
-  Non contributing
-  Boundary
-  Photo key

Date: June 2005

Scale : 1 Inch = 200 Feet.



Cattle #  
30-5163

Casanova H.D.  
Fauquier Co.  
UTM Zone 18

- A 263000 E  
4282020 N
- B 263120 E  
4282320 N
- C 263430 E  
4282300 N
- D 263700 E  
4282300 N
- E 263765 E  
4282230 N
- F 263845 E  
4281890 N
- G 263700 E  
4281800 N
- H 263440 E  
4282005 N

