

VLR-4/28/69 NRHP-10/1/69

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Augusta and Nelson	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Swannanoa

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Swannanoa

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .5 mi. W of Rt. 610, .4 mi. S of intersection of Rt. 610 and Rt. 250.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Augusta and Nelson CODE: 015/125

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Center
Educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>	

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:  
Skyline Swannanoa, Inc. MRS. LAO RUSSELL

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Peoples National Bank SWANNANOA

CITY OR TOWN: Charlottesville WAYNESBORO STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Nelson County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Lovingson STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 590

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #62-22

DATE OF SURVEY: 1968 Federal  State  County  Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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**7. DESCRIPTION**

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The main house at Swannanoa is a beautifully situated structure of white Georgia marble in the sixteenth century Italian Renaissance style, reminiscent of the Villa Medici in Rome. The facade of the house is composed of a three-story, five bay center section flanked by two protruding four-story towers. At each corner of the facade is a two-story pavilion, making the whole facade nine bays wide. Filling in the space between the towers is a one-story vaulted arcade which connects at either end with an open gallery continuing around each corner of the facade. As a result of the combination of arcade and galleries, the rooms on the front of the first floor are shaded. The architectural decoration on the whole of the exterior is extremely rich, having a variety of types of window enframements and surface treatment.

The interior of Swannanoa is finely appointed with costly materials. The outstanding feature is a huge Tiffany stained glass window on the landing of the double staircase at one end of the very large central hall. The principal rooms include the Florentine style oak paneled dining room, the gold damasked Louis XV music room, a Persian style office, and an Italian style library. The second floor contains six principal bedrooms, with various dressing rooms and bathrooms.

The terraced Italian style garden at the rear of the house is especially noteworthy. A long pergola across the end of the last terrace separates the formal garden from an informal park, in which is situated a very tall campanile-like water tower.

See also pages 12 and 13 of the report for a description of the house and its grounds.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**8. SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian       16th Century       18th Century       20th Century   
 15th Century       17th Century       19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1913

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Swannanoa was designed by the Richmond architectural firm of Baskervill and Noland as a summer home for the Richmond railroad magnate, Major James Dooley. The house and its gardens, located on the crest of the Blue Ridge Mountains overlooking the Shenandoah and Rockfish Valleys, took several years to construct, and were completed by 1913. After the property passed from the Dooley family in the 1920's, it was made into an exclusive club, and it was during this period that President Calvin Coolidge spent a Thanksgiving holiday there. Swannanoa is now owned by the University of Science and Philosophy, and is maintained as a cultural center and museum of the works of the sculptor, Walter Russell.

In addition to being an important piece of eclectic architecture, the house, in its beautiful setting, is an excellent example of a great summer villa of the Edwardian era. Though generous in conception, Swannanoa is a refined and dignified work, and it remains one of the most complete and thoughtfully handled "Gilded Age" estates in Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Pamphlet; Swannanoa, published by University of Science and Philosophy. O'Neal, William B., Architecture in Virginia. Richmond: Virginia Museum, 1968.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

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 ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		38° 01' 41"	78° 52' 08"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
Virginia	45	Augusta	015
Virginia	45	Nelson	125
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission      DATE: April 28, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond      STATE: Virginia      CODE: 45

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: Edward P. Alexander  
Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
Title: Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date: June 2, 1969

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

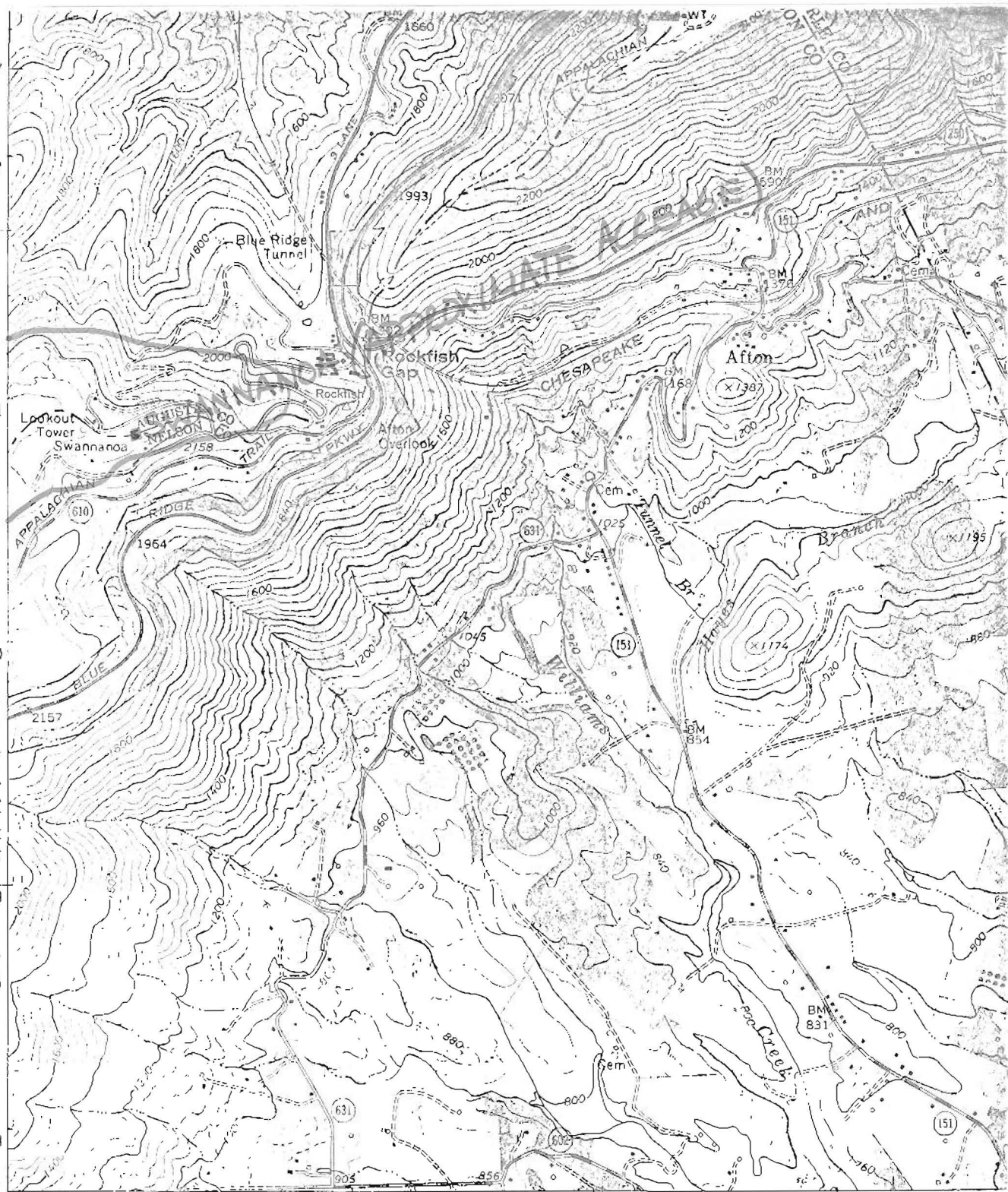
ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

38° 2' 30"

2'30"  
4212  
4211  
4210  
4209  
4208  
38° 00'



610 000 FEET  
(SOUTH)

78° 52' 30" 1887 1888 689 1 900 000 FEET (SOUTH) 1890 50'

78° 50'

5259 IV  
LOVINGSTON  
1:62 500

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey

Control by USGS and USC&GS

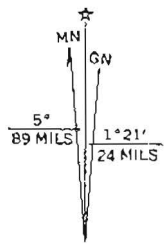
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum. 10,000-foot grids based on Virginia coordinate system, south and north zones

1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

Red tint indicates area in which only landmark buildings are shown



UTM GRID AND 1964 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

AND