

VLR Listed: 11/5/1968
 NRHP Listed: 10/1/1969

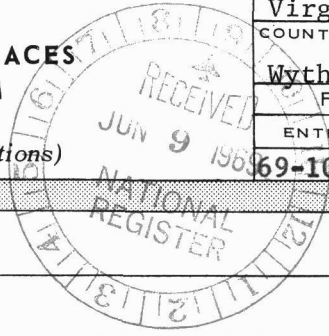
Form 10-300
 (Dec. 1968)

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: Wythe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 69-10-45-0041	DATE 10/1/69



1. NAME

COMMON:
Shot Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Shot Tower

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. West of intersection of Route 608 and Route 52, 2.3 mi. southeast of intersection of Route 52 and Route 619.

CITY OR TOWN:
May Meadows vicinity

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45	COUNTY: Wythe	CODE: 197
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <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"/> <u>Historical park</u>
Educational <input 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:
Commonwealth of Virginia (Division of State Parks)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Economic Development

STREET AND NUMBER:
501 Southern States Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

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: District of Columbia

CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia

COUNTY: Wythe

FOR NPS USE ONLY

ENTRY NUMBER: 69-10-45-0041

DATE: 10/1/69

7. DESCRIPTION

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

X Built of local limestone, the Shot Tower is a seventy-five foot high, square tower with a pyramidal roof. The walls are $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, and the base of the tower measures twenty feet square. At the top of the structure, on one side, is a simple wooden balcony sheltering an entrance. Originally on the interior there were winding wooden steps leading to the top to a room containing a fireplace and chimney. Here there was a shaft which sunk to a depth seventy-five feet below the floor through which the hot molten metal was then poured through a sieve. The metal fell the depth of the shaft into a kettle of water, it being thought necessary for the shot to fall this distance to give it the proper round shape. The shaft connected with a tunnel to the riverbank.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Wythe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-10-45-0041	10/1/69

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #98-16
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia

Code: 45



8. SIGNIFICANCE

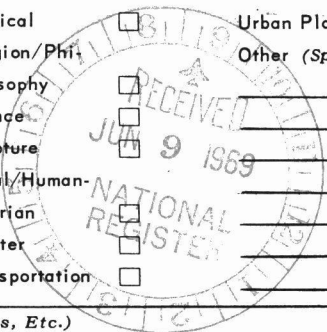
PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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



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

Built about 1807 by Thomas Jackson, the Shot Tower was used to manufacture shot for the firearms of the frontiersmen and settlers. Using the lead obtained from his Austinville mines, Jackson built the tower to manufacture commercial shot. As there was no war at the time, there was little military market for the lead.

Ideally situated on a site overlooking the New River and the nearby ferry, the Shot Tower was four miles from the lead mines, and just off one of the main roads in the region. While the ammunition produced at the Shot Tower was not used in any of the nation's wars, F. B. Kegley, a local historian of Wytheville, suggests that it represents "the vision and enterprise of an alert business man."

The structure itself is significant as it is one of only three shot towers remaining in the United States, and possibly the only one of its particular kind in the world. It stands as a relic and reminder of an industry essential to the opening of America's frontier.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coleman, Elizabeth Dabney, "Showers of Shot," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 5 No. 2, Autumn 1955.

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UIN P&F
12-1-75 um

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	° ' "	° ' "		36° 52' 14"	80° 52' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

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

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

DATE: May 2, 1969

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

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond

STATE: Virginia

CODE: 45

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

Date June 2, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Carmally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

OCT 1 1969

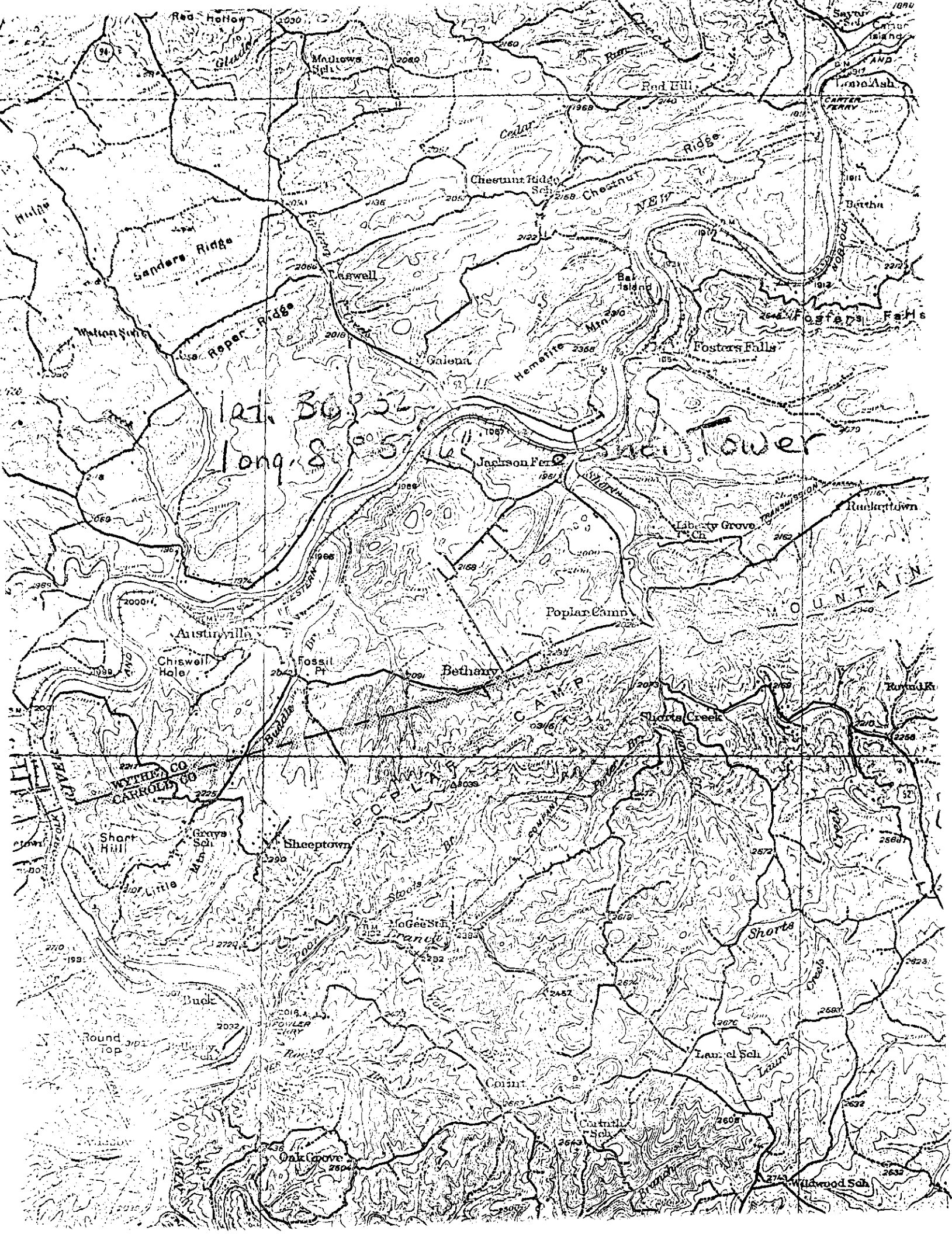
Date _____

ATTEST:

William J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date SEP 29 1969

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



Lat. 30° 32'
Long. 81° 51' 11"

New Tower

