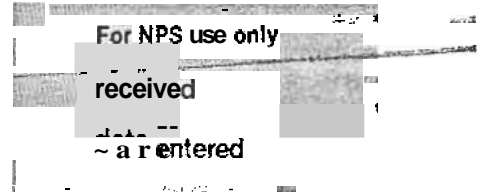


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



See Instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic The Brandon Hotel/Fairfax Hall School

and/or common Fairfax Hall (preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Winchester Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Waynesboro N/A vicinity of ~~congressional district~~

state Virginia code 52 county (In City) code 820

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
o b j e c t	<input type="checkbox"/> In process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Harry L. Nash III

street & number Maplewood Farm

city, town Waynesboro N/A vicinity of state Virginia Zip Code 22980

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Waynesboro City Hall

street & number N/A

city, town Waynesboro state Virginia Zip Code 22980

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Survey (136-10) has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1982 federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond state Virginia 23219

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Fairfax Hall is a very long and rambling resort hotel building in the shingled mode of the Queen Anne Style. The building is impressive architecturally and has an irregular symmetry with towers at either end of the facade. Dominating the facade is a wide central pavilion topped by a tall gable and fronted by a one-story porte-cochere. Above the pavilion is a distinctive octagonal belvedere and cupola. Along the first story of the 2½-story facade are various arcaded porches that have been glassed in. The building stands at the head of a long, sloping lawn with the Blue Ridge Mountains rising up behind. Included on the grounds is an architecturally sophisticated 1926 gymnasium in a modified early European Renaissance style.

### ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Fairfax Hall is sited on a hill looking west over the former community of Basic City, now incorporated into the city of Waynesboro. The focal point of the shingle-covered, wood-frame edifice is the center entrance pavilion. The wide, gabled pavilion serves not only to break the rather long 2½-story facade, but the hipped roof line as well. The main entrance is sheltered by a projecting one-story porte-cochere. The porte-cochere is supported by colonettes on square piers. A lattice work grille serves as a frieze and a wooden balustrade forms a balcony for the second story. The main entrance consists of a paneled door framed by sidelights and topped by a three-part transom. The entrance is flanked by windows also with transoms. The pediment of the gable has a deeply rounded arch containing a round opening with louvers and four hung-sash windows. The arch is flanked by two windows that were probably added by the school since they do not appear on an early photograph of the hotel. The roof of the gable overhangs at the base. The building is flanked on its north and south ends by three-story towers that are topped by belvederes with tent roofs. A large, octagonal belvedere is located on the ridge of the roof directly behind the pedimented gable. It is topped by a small open cupola. The facade is broken towards the northern end by a small projecting arcaded porch supported on the first story by brick piers. The porch is covered by a shed roof. Immediately to the south of the main entrance and extending to the tower is an open arcaded porch that has been glassed in. A porch opening on the second story has been similarly treated. Fenestration consists of a variety of hung-sash windows all framed by plain architraves. The shingles above a number of the first-story windows are scalloped as are the shingles above the main entrance and porch openings. The roof is broken by dormers. It would appear from an early photograph of the hotel that the original dormers were enlarged by the school to accommodate additional dormitory space. The roof line is further broken by chimney stacks that have finely molded brick caps. The building sits on a stone foundation.

Considering its conversion into a school, Fairfax Hall's interior survives in an excellent state of preservation. The focal point of the interior is the former hotel lobby that contains the main stair. The open-string stair has a paneled square newel post, turned balusters, and a molded handrail; its flight is broken by a landing.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)



# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1890; 1926 (gym)      **Builder/Architect** William Poindexter (1890)

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Conspicuously sited against the mountainside overlooking Waynesboro, Fairfax Hall is one of the Shenandoah Valley's few remaining late-Victorian resort hotel buildings. The establishment of these resorts came in conjunction with the construction of the Valley branch of the Norfolk and Western Railroad and the subsequent land boom of the 1890s. Easily accessible by rail, the resorts accommodated citizens from the Tidewater regions wanting to escape the summer heat. The hotel was originally known as the Brandon and was notably better in architectural quality than most of its now-vanished contemporaries. Its designer was the prominent Washington, D.C. architect William Poindexter, who provided a lively Queen Anne scheme in the shingled mode. The Brandon closed in 1913 but the building reopened as a school. In 1920 the school became Fairfax Hall, a junior college and preparatory school for girls; it achieved national fame. Today the building is leased by the State Department of Corrections and is used as a training academy.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The late 1880s and early 1890s were periods of rapid growth for Southwest Virginia and the Shenandoah Valley. A "boom fever" of land speculation came to these regions of Virginia, resulting in the rise of many new towns. One such town was Basic City, located between Waynesboro and the Blue Ridge Mountains.

The rise of Basic City, like that of neighboring towns Buena Vista and Roanoke, was linked to the arrival of the railroad which opened the natural resources of the Shenandoah Valley to northern capitalists. The economy of the area changed almost overnight from one dominated by agriculture and rural trade to one heavily emphasizing manufacturing and mining. In 1889 a development company called the Basic City Mining and Manufacturing Company was formed at Basic City, so-named for its proximity to a region rich in mineral ore used in the manufacture of "basic" steel. The company established its base of operation near Waynesboro because of the site's strategic location to the intersection of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad and what was to become the Shenandoah Valley Branch of the Norfolk and Western Railroad. In 1890 the company purchased land on both sides of the two rail lines and laid off the town's streets and building lots. Mineral lands and rights were soon obtained as well as the ownerships of several related industrial enterprises as a paper mill, brick works, and an iron furnace. By 1891 the town recorded a population of 1,200.

The pride of the new town was the Hotel Brandon, completed in 1890 on a hill overlooking the new development. A description of the Hotel and its setting in 1891 is found in Thomas Bruce's Southwest Virginia and Shenandoah Valley:

(See Continuation Sheet # 2)



# 9. Major Bibliographical References

- Bruce, Thomas. Southwest Virginia and Shenandoah Valley. Richmond: J. L. Hill Publishing Co., 1891.
- Lyle, Royster. "Rockbridge County's Boom Hotels", Virginia Calvacade, No. 3, Winter 1971, pp. 5-14.
- Nash, Harry L., III, Waynesboro, Va. Interview, 1982. Private Family Scrapbook.
- Withey, Henry, and Withey, Elsie. Biographical Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased). Los Angeles: Hennessey & Ingalls, Inc., 1970.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ 20 acres \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_ Waynesboro East, Va. \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>5</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	F			
G				H			

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The boundaries have been drawn to coincide with the city streets that enclose the Fairfax Hall property containing the main building, gymnasium, and front lawn. The streets are as follows: Winchester Avenue on the west; Reservoir Avenue on the south, D Street on the north, and Ivanhoe Avenue on the east.

**Justification:** The boundaries incorporate approximately twenty acres, much of which consists of the long front lawn in front of the main building, a landscape feature which has always been an important part of the setting of the main building. The property behind the main building contains the gymnasium and some minor school buildings described in the report.

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code
state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff

organization Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission date July 1982

street & number 221 Governor Street telephone (804) 786-3144

city or town Richmond state Virginia 23219

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_xstate \_\_\_\_\_ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature *H. Bryan Mitchell*

H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director date JUL 20 1982

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

For NPS use only

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

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

FAIRFAX HALL, WAYNESBORO, VA.

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7

Page 1

7 DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

In addition to the stair, the lobby has a large fireplace with a round-arch firebox and a Federal-style mantel. The lobby has a matchboarded wainscot and square columns that are paneled. A lateral hall is located to the north of the entrance hall. It contains the former hotel registration desk and administrator's office. The hotel desk is contained within a round arch opening that has a multi-paned glass transom, flanked by paneled pilasters. The desk is paneled. The hall has a matchboarded wainscot and architrave trim. The hall treatment is repeated on all of the above floors. A room off the lateral hall contains a small stage; the remaining rooms are plain. The dining room is located to the south of the main lobby. It has a match-boarded wainscot, round columns on paneled plinths and a fireplace similar to that in the main lobby. Two serving buffets from the hotel remain in place. The ceiling has exposed beams and joists that retain their original stain. The porch preserves its rustic-style furniture. The upper floors of the building consist of bedrooms that are entered from the main halls.

Built in 1926, the gymnasium is located behind the main building and is connected to it by a covered walkway. The gable roof walkway has a stone floor and round posts that support exposed beams. The gymnasium is a 3½-story stone and stucco-frame building covered by a cross-gable roof. The building is sited in a ravine so that the facade (south) is level with the main building while the rest of the structure is set on an exposed basement. The basement story is distinguished by a round-arch arcade, the arches supported by stone piers. The arches have multi-paned, three-part casement windows. The facade has a round-arch arcade with the arches set on columns. On the east and west elevations the building has a slight overhang over the basement story. The main-story elevation has half-timbering and rough-cast stucco. The principal fenestration consists of 9/9 hung-sash windows set in plain architraves. The east and west elevations have eyelid dormers. The gable pediment on the facade is accentuated by half timbering. The interior of the gymnasium has not been altered. The main double-door entrances lead to a basketball court still used by the Department of Corrections. The basement contains a swimming pool and the third floor is used for offices.

Immediately behind the old hotel building is a two-story brick classroom. The north elevation is distinguished by an arcade perhaps inspired by that found on the gymnasium which it faces. The flat-roof building dates to the 1950s.

A 1½-story, wood-frame shed is located to the east of the gymnasium. The facade is also arched. A small open wood-frame summer house is found to the rear of the classroom building.

The entrance to the grounds was formerly through gates located on axis with the building at the base of the hill. The gates are flanked by two stone piers connected to a stone wall which runs partially in front of the property. The grounds are enhanced by a small pond ornamented by a stone balustrade that was used by Fairfax Hall School for its May court ceremonies. The grounds retain a variety of trees randomly located.

The main building is now approached by a drive paralleling the south side of the front lawn.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

FAIRFAX HALL, WAYNESBORO, VA.

Continuation sheet # 2

Item number 8

Page 1

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date entered

8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

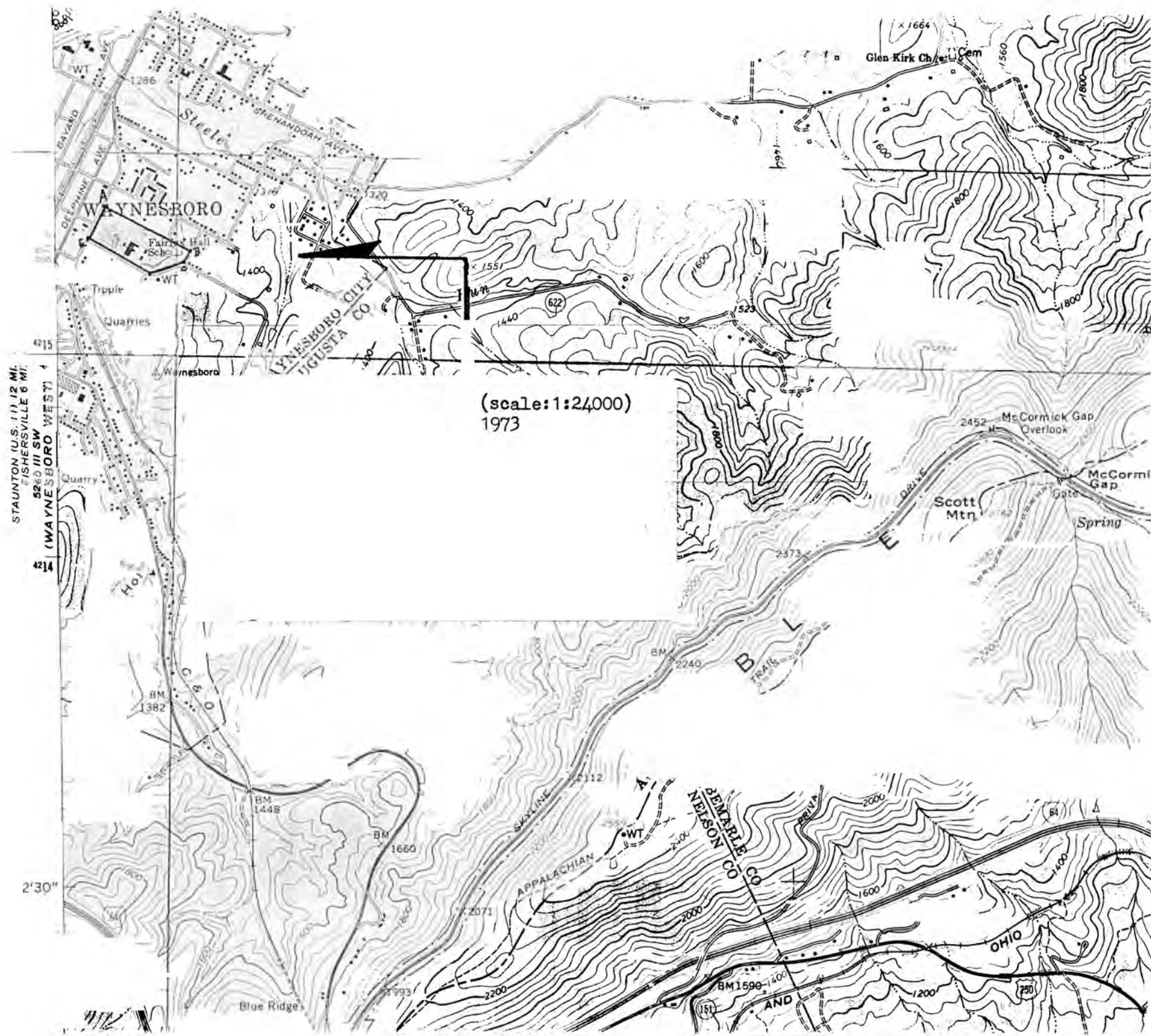
This structure, containing nearly a hundred rooms, was designed by the accomplished architect, Mr. Poindexter, of Washington, and is built in the Queen Anne style, with all the appliances and comforts known now to hotel life. It was upholstered and furnished by Philip Brown, of Blue Ridge fame, and is one of the most elegant and comfortable hostelrys that we know of anywhere. The view from the piazzas surrounding the hotel is lovely in the extreme, overlooking the growing city to the uplands beyond, and extending away westward to the ethereal blue of the everlasting mountains.<sup>1</sup>

The architect William F. Poindexter, was born and educated in Richmond and in 1868 began work as a draftsman in the office of the U.S. Supervising Architect in Washington, D. C. Ten years later he established his own practice in Washington where he designed several important buildings for the Federal city as well as the south. Among his more noted accomplishments are the old State Library Building on Capitol Square in Richmond, the Soldier's Home in Washington, and Main Hall at Randolph-Macon College in Lynchburg. He also designed several other hotels.

The Queen Anne style which Poindexter employed for the hotel was by the 1890s quite popular in America, having made its debut on large summer houses and casinos in Newport, Rhode Island. In Virginia it proved popular for residences as well as hotels, and was subsequently used on such resort hotels as the Alleghany Hotel at Goshen and the Brunswick Inn in Waynesboro (both destroyed), and what is now Southern Seminary Junior College in Buena Vista (listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places). The use of the Queen Anne style provided architects of resort hotels with a vocabulary of turrets, pavilions, and porches that proved to be not only stylish but practical.

With the collapse of the boom just prior to World War I, the hotel ceased operation becoming the Brandon Institute in 1913. In 1920 Joseph Noble Maxwell of West Virginia purchased the school and changed the name to Fairfax Hall. Maxwell developed Fairfax Hall as an exclusive school for girls, adding the gymnasium in 1926. In 1936 Fairfax Hall was purchased by W. B. Gates. Fairfax Hall continued as a nationally known preparatory school and junior college for girls until it was closed in 1975. The property is presently owned by the Nash family who are related to the Gates family and ran the school with them, and since April 1976 has been leased to the State Department of Corrections for use as a training academy.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Bruce, Southwest Virginia and Shenandoah Valley, (Richmond: J. L. Hill, 1891), p. 256.



STAUNTON U.S. 111.12 MI.  
FISHERSVILLE 6 MI.  
52° 40' 00" W  
42° 14' 00" N  
WAYNESBORO WEST 1

(scale: 1:24000)  
1973

2' 30"

