

VLR-6/20/89

VLR Listed: 6/20/1989
NRHP Listed: 11/13/1989

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NRHP Delisted: 3/15/1991
NRHP Determination of
Eligibility: 3/15/1991

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Thomas-Conner House

other names/site number 150-5

2. Location

street & number 104 Draper Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Blacksburg

N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA

county Montgomery

code 121

zip code 24060

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: Prehistoric and Historic Resources of Montgomery County

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

17 Dec 1990

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE: professional**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: double-pile center-passage plan

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICKwalls BRICKroof STONE: slate

other _____

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Thomas-Conner House is located on a large lot on a low hill to the west of Draper Road, formerly known as Water Street, beyond the southwestern edge of the platted sixteen squares of the town of Blacksburg. It was originally flanked by the 1840s female academy (demolished) and the Phillips-Ronald House (150-15, also being nominated), both of which were large buildings also located on sizable tracts. The properties were separated from the town lots by Stroubles Creek, which now flows under Draper Road. The house is a stylish version of the traditional regional double-pile, center-passage house. It features a shallow, flat-topped, hipped roof and central gables on each of the front and side walls. Both the northwest side and northeast front facade are nearly identical, with a three-bay front featuring a central arched door on each floor flanked by arch-headed, two-over-two double-hung sash windows. The openings are capped by brick, arched label molds and feature original louvered blinds. The stretcher-bond brick walls are headed by a deep cornice, supported by paired Italianate brackets, which contains a built-in gutter. Each of the entry doors on the two principal facades is sheltered by a three-bay, one-story porch with arched openings supported by square columns and surmounted by flat roofs with balustrades.

The chimneys are placed in the Georgian plan position, with mantels placed back to back between the two rooms on either side of the central passage. Mantels have plain Greek Revival pilastered forms. The rear wall of the passage is curved to accept the open-stringer stair that rises at the end of the passage. Interior doorways feature pilasters supporting a molded cornice, while door and window jambs are paneled and the architrave trim is a flat, angled, Greek Revival ovolo. The present owners have added closets in corners of the passage, paneled wainscot, and crown molding, but have not irreversibly altered the interior and most features remain. A one-story ell of stretcher-bond brick is connected to the main house by a frame vestibule and has an enclosed porch along the southeast side.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1870-1880

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Thomas-Conner House is significant under criterion C as an unusually sophisticated house of a recognized traditional form. The house incorporates some of the best Italianate-style decorative features found in the county's residential buildings. It is a two-story, double-pile, center-passage dwelling, of which there are thirteen other examples from the late nineteenth century. This house is one of the most elaborate of them. Four of the other examples are of masonry construction, and nine are of frame construction. The Thomas-Conner House, in its decorative motifs, mirrors the architectural style employed at the new quadrangle at the nearby Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College (later Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), which was being built during the 1870s.

The house is said by local tradition to have replaced the old Nan Thompson house. A Judge McKenna of Pennsylvania is said to have married one of the daughters of the Thomas family, a well-known family in nineteenth-century Blacksburg. It is believed that he designed the house for William Thomas. It later belonged for many years to the Conner family, until it was purchased by the present owners, Warren S. Neily, Jr., Donald B. Irons, and Richard L. Mitchell, who have used it for professional office space.

The house and grounds occupy one of the largest open lots in the southwest area of Blacksburg in a highly developed section bordering both Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and Main Street. A stone springhouse stood until about ten years ago near the intersection of Draper Road and Wall Street, but was filled in as part of a flood control project which buried Stroubles Creek along Wall Street. The house is in good condition and has been carefully maintained. Limited alterations, made to convert the building to office use, have not impaired the significant form and decorative elements. There are no standing outbuildings. The dates of significance are based on the architectural detailing and on the similarity to buildings built in the 1870s on the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University campus.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

"Conner House Gets New Look: Old Houses Don't Have to Die." The Blacksburg Sun, 16 October 1977.

Dunay, Donna et al. Blacksburg: Understanding a Virginia Town. Blacksburg: Townscape Committee, 1986.

Neily, Warren S., Jr. Interview, January 1988.

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 # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository:
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

221 Governor Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property Less than one acre.

UTM References

A 17 | 551940 | 4120100
 Zone Easting Northing

C _____ | _____ | _____

B _____ | _____ | _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____ | _____ | _____

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at point A on the southwest side of Draper Road 330 feet southeast of Wall Street, proceeding southwest 200 feet to point B, thence northwest 350 feet to point C, thence northwest 200 feet along the southeast side of Wall Street to point D, thence southeast 350 feet along southwest side of Draper Road to the point of origin.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundaries were chosen to include the house, landscape features, and related domestic-related space as defined by Draper Road and Wall Street.

See continuation sheet

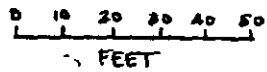
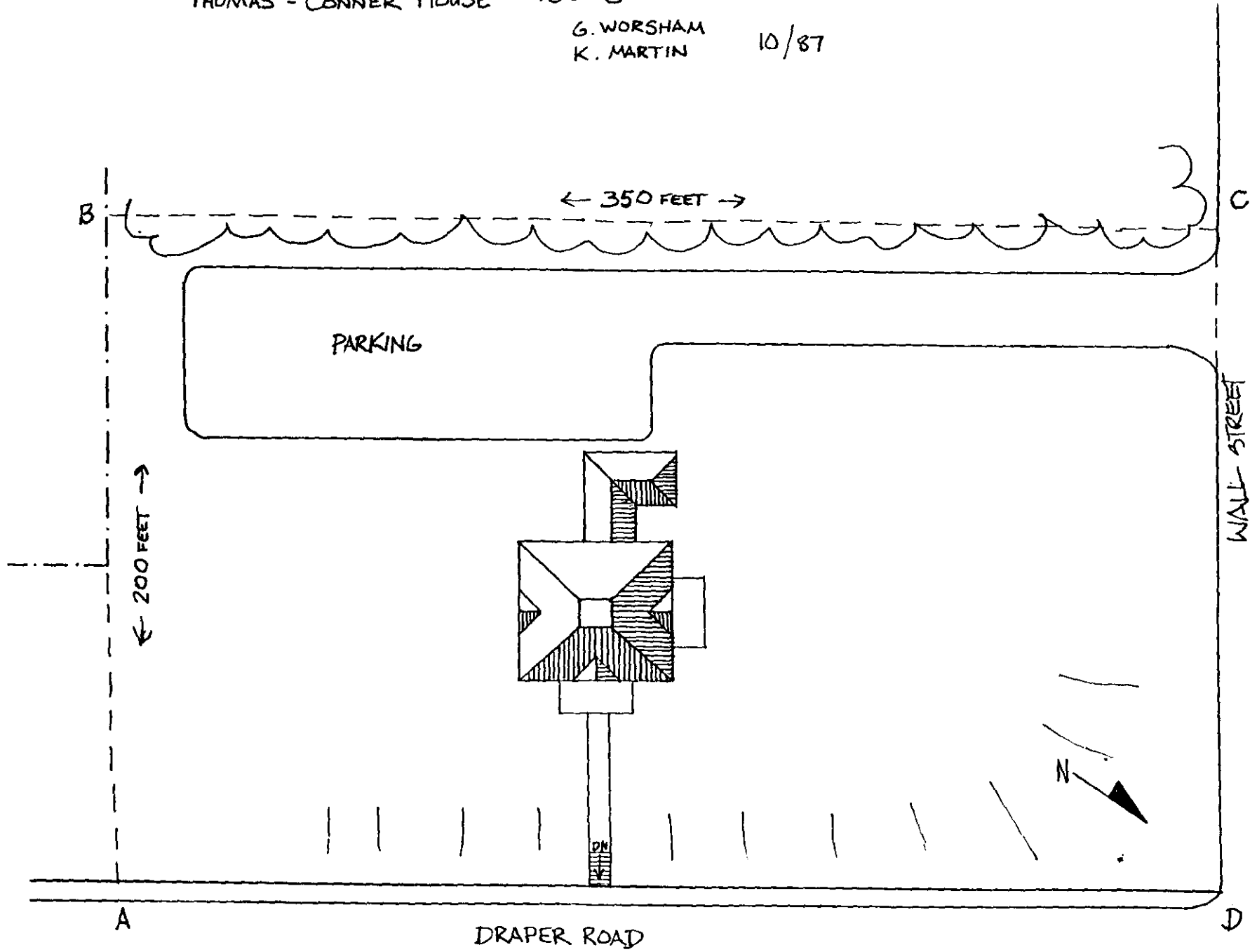
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Warsham date June 1988
 organization Gibson Warsham, Architect telephone (703) 552-4730
 street & number Route 2, Yellow Sulphur Springs state Virginia zip code 24073
 city or town Christiansburg

THOMAS - CONNER HOUSE 150-5

G. WORSHAM
K. MARTIN

10/87



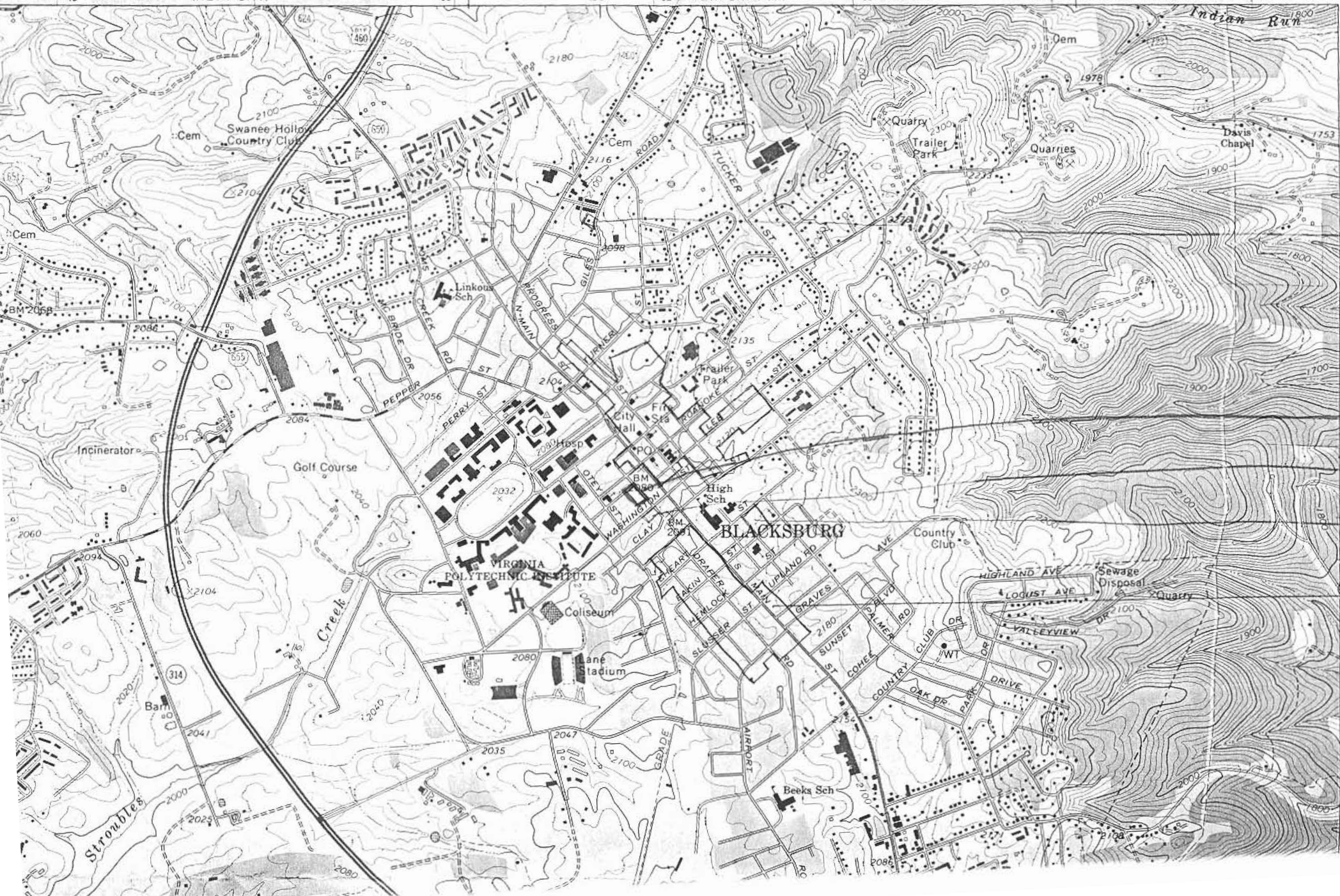
COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
 DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES
 JAMES L. CALVER, STATE GEOLOGIST

4958 IV SW
 (NEWPORT)

BLACKSBURG QUADRANGLE
 VIRGINIA—MONTGOMERY CO.
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

4958 IV SE
 (MC DONALDS MILL)

549 25' 551 552 553 554 555 1 450 000 FEET 80°22'30" 37°15"



- KIESTER HOUSE
17 551690 4121485
- BLACKSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
17 551590 4120846
41217 552040 4120855
17 552590 4120535
17 552100 4120136
- THOMAS-CORNER HOUSE
17 551905 4120110
- PHILLIPS-RONALD HOUSE
17 551990 4119960
- AMISS-PALMER HOUSE
17 552600 4120260
- 330 000 FEET
- MILLER-SOUTHSIDE HISTORIC DISTRICT
150-109

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