

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: WSVS Radio Station
 Other names/site number: WSVS Pure Country Radio; DHR #067-5058
 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)


2. Location

Street & number: 1032 Melody Lane
 City or town: Crewe State: Virginia County: Nottoway
 Not For Publication: n/a Vicinity: n/a

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local
 Applicable National Register Criteria:
X A X B ___ C ___ D

 Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	2/8/2022 Date
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In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/Communications Facility = radio station

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION/Communications Facility = radio station

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: CONCRETE; METAL; GLASS

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located on the north side of Melody Lane (State Route 630) near Crewe, Virginia, the WSVS radio station was established in 1947 by the Southern Virginia Broadcasting Corporation, headquartered in Crewe, Virginia. The nominated property, approximately 11 acres, consists of the 1953 station building attached to the original 1947 transmitter building, the 1949 tower and transmitter building with an attached ca. 1965 fallout shelter, and a small ca. 1960 generator building with a historic generator. A low concrete block retaining wall separates the lot from the rear of the building which sits at a slightly lower grade. Located about 75 feet behind the 1947 transmitter building is the partial remains of a small brick equipment shelter, speculated to be an earlier generator building. The tower, transmitter building with fallout shelter addition, and generator building are located roughly 400 feet to the north of Melody Lane, in a small clearing within a dense wooded area that is accessed by a winding dirt and gravel road leading from the station's gravel parking lot. All resources are considered contributing to the nominated property.

Designed in a minimalist Moderne style, the 1947 transmitter building is constructed of concrete block, which is now parged. It has a flat roof and original glass block windows flanking the central single-leaf entry. This building became a wing to the main studio building that was built in 1953, which is also stylistically minimal Moderne and constructed of parged concrete block.

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Stylistic elements include rounded corners and a metal awning, as well as the flat roof. Built in 1949, after the original tower was toppled by vandals, is a 400 foot radio tower. Also constructed in 1949 was a new transmitter building at the base of the tower. Attached to this transmitter building is a ca. 1965 fallout shelter addition. Located close to the tower and transmitter building is a ca. 1960 concrete block generator building, with a ca. 1950s generator still located in it. All of these resources were designed for functionality and constructed with concrete blocks and flat roofs. The roof of the transmitter building was constructed with wood, and that of the fallout shelter is formed concrete. The WSVS Radio Station property retains integrity of location and setting as it continues to occupy its original, undeveloped site. The entire site retains integrity of association, as it is still an operating radio station, utilizing both identified buildings and the radio tower. The WSVS Station building retains integrity of design and materials in their simple forms with flat roof and detailing limited to the rounded corners flanking the station's entry, and metal awning. Interior finishes of acoustic tile, wood floors, trim and some equipment remain. The interior plan reflects its function as a radio station as it retains the original transmitter building, as well as three offices, a main studio, performance studio, small news studio and production studio, and a sales/conference room. The floor plan remains in its original configuration.

Narrative Description

Setting

The station is located in rural Nottoway County, in the southern piedmont of Virginia and is surrounded by agricultural fields (photograph 0001). The parcel itself is densely wooded except for the area surrounding the station and auxiliary buildings. An unpaved driveway runs from the station to those auxiliary buildings. This site of WSVS was chosen for its marshy land. Wet land acts somewhat as an amplifier and increases the antenna's ability to radiate a strong signal for AM frequency. The station is located just northwest of the Town of Crewe and just northeast of the Town of Burkeville, both railroad towns established in the nineteenth century.

Station Building (contributing building)

Exterior

What is now the main station building began as the original 1947 transmitter building, constructed of concrete block, which was stuccoed when the 1953 station and studios were added (photograph 0003). The original 1947 section is to the east and is three bays wide, with a central entry flanked by original glass block windows and has an interior end brick flue. The western 5-bay mass is also pierced at the center by a recessed entry flanked immediately by rounded corners and two 1-over-1 windows on either side. The exterior entrance door is original, as is the metal awning above which recently had non-historic applied signage removed. Just below this awning is a historic "WSVS" sign; another hangs from the southwestern corner of the building. Both the 1947 and 1953 sections have flat roofs with parapet and metal coping. On the rear elevation, where the 1947 section joins the larger 1953 section, is an at grade concrete pad.

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Original 1947 transmitter building and radio tower. This building is now the east wing of the 1953 station and has been parged. Photo in the collection of WSVS Pure Country Radio Station.

A basement under the 1953 station section is accessed through a below-grade door on the western elevation. Just above this entry, on the main level, are three unevenly spaced windows with concrete sills. The eastern elevation of the original transmitter building has no fenestration, and that of the 1953 studio has a single-leaf egress reached by two concrete steps. The northern (rear) elevation of the original transmitter building is pierced by a single egress, now boarded shut, flanked on either side by small rectangular openings that were used to link the original transmitter equipment to the tower. The northern (rear) elevation of the 1953 studio building is pierced by four evenly spaced windows with concrete sills. A small exterior chimney sits near the northwestern corner of the building. The roof's parapet for both building periods run along the east, west, and southern elevations.

Interior

The original floorplan of the 1953 Station WSVS is still intact, retaining its three offices, main studio, performance studio, production studio and small news studio, as well as a sales/meeting room. The space that was the original 1947 transmitter building remains unfinished and is currently used for storage (photograph 0007). The original 1953 front entrance opens to a small lobby area. Immediately to the left is an office with a large plate glass transaction window with a hole for speaking and an opening for handing documents to the station staff (photograph 0008). Adjoining this office, on the west side is another office, also with a large plate glass transaction window. The office in the northwest corner of the building, across the hall from the above offices, is more private and may have been the station owner's office. The largest room, on the east side of the lobby, is believed to be the original marketing and sales department and is now a meeting space and library of older albums and 45s (photographs 0009 and 0010). Only the

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Performing Studio (photograph 0011) can be accessed from the public lobby area. The other three, for station staff and guests, are accessed from the large conference or sales/marketing space. All four studios can be viewed through large rectangular plate glass windows, from the lobby, the sales/marketing area and from each other. For sound reduction, each studio has applied acoustic tile, ca. 1960, on the walls and each studio is separated by two, single-leaf, solid wood connecting doors (photograph 0013).

The small news studio (photograph 0012) allowed visitors to observe performances in the performance studio and observe the disc jockey/announcer in the main studio (photograph 0014) at the same time. Wood flooring, which was once covered by carpet, remains and though it may not be original, was installed before 1970. All rooms retain historic wooden speakers which hang on the wall, although some have been painted. The speaker hanging in the original transmitter building remains unpainted. "ON THE AIR" signs hang above studio doorways, both in the studios and above the doors in the public spaces that access the studios and likely date from the 1960s. Studios retain acoustic tiles which have been painted. The date of these tiles is unknown, however some appear in photos from the 1960s. Baseboards and window trim throughout appear to be original and in good condition. Exterior sash windows have been replaced and the date of the updated windows is unknown.



Example of "On the Air" signs and broadcasting speakers, found throughout the station. Photos by Elizabeth Lipford, 2021, DHR Archives

The original, 1947 transmission building – now an addition to the main building – is currently used for storage. Still present is the metal track along the concrete floor to which the transmission equipment was attached. Wires from the transmission equipment were fed through two wooden doored openings on the north (rear) wall to reach the tower. The walls are whitewashed and the wooden ceiling is exposed. Electrical components are affixed to the eastern wall and wires remain exposed.

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Wooden doors for cables, rear wall, 1947 transmitter building. Photo by Elizabeth Lipford, 2021, DHR Archives

1949 Transmitter Building/ca. 1965 Fallout Shelter (contributing building)

Shortly after going on the air in 1947 as an AM frequency station, the owners applied with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to add FM frequency to their broadcasting capabilities. Just prior to acceptance of this application, on August 12, 1948, the 294-foot antenna tower fell when vandals cut several of the stabilizing cables¹. Following approval for expanding to FM frequency, the existing 1949 transmitter building and 449-foot antenna tower were constructed (photograph 0017). The transmitter building's façade is three bays wide with a central single-leaf entry flanked by window apertures. An 8-light metal window fills the opening to the east of the entry, and an aperture infilled with a vent pierces the façade to the west of the entry. A single louvered window pierces the transmission building's western elevation. Poured concrete lintels sit above historic window and door openings. The interior houses new and old transmission equipment, sitting on concrete floors (photograph 0020). The newer equipment is partitioned from the old by a modern plywood wall and is accessed through double-leaf hollow core doors.

The fallout shelter addition (photographs 0019, 0021 and 0022), constructed ca. 1965, is concrete block with a concrete slab floor and has a formed concrete roof and houses old radio equipment, storage space and shelving for rations, as well as plumbing that feeds a sink and toilet, which date from 1965.² It appears to have been built in almost exact accordance with a set of FCC plans for fallout shelters that were sent to the station in 1964.³ A modern air-conditioning unit hangs on the northern wall of the fallout shelter and vents through an opening in the northern elevation. Separating the fallout shelter space from the transmitter building is a thick solid metal door and

¹ There are numerous accounts of this incident in the local paper, *The Crewe Chronicle*, following the incident. No accounts report ever identifying the vandals.

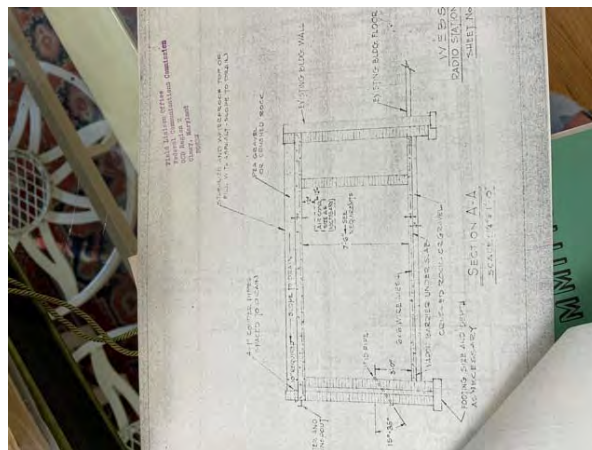
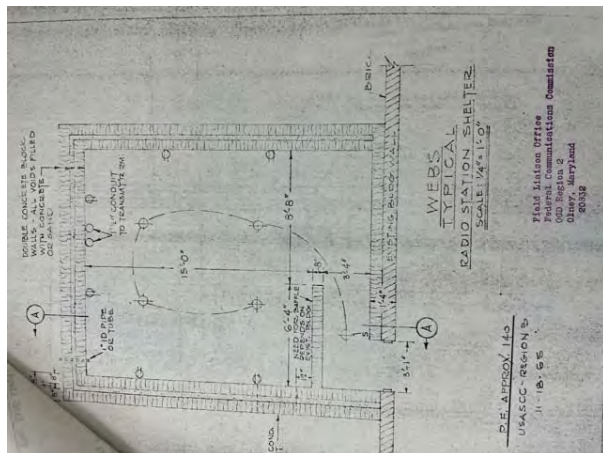
² The inside of the tank cover on the toilet is dated 1965.

³ In the records at the station is a memo, dated April 15, 1964, from the Field Liaison Office of the FCC, OCD Region 2, Olney, Maryland, that outlines basic information about the establishment of fallout shelters at broadcasting stations and the contracting of such facilities. Attached to the memo were official drawings of "Typical Radio Station Shelter."

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casings. The door has a small, square, thick, double-plate glass window and is pierced by a small round opening, with hinged cover panels on both sides, presumably to pass a transmitting cable through.



FCC drawings for a "Typical Radio Station Shelter," sent to WSVS in 1964. In the papers of WSVS Pure Country Radio Station.

Generator Building (contributing building)

The small concrete block generator building (photograph 0023) with generator was built ca. 1960.⁴ Like the other functional buildings, it is painted concrete block and features a flat roof. A solid-core, 6-panel door pierces the eastern elevation and a large vent pierces the northern elevation. The single-room interior has concrete floors and unpainted walls and houses historic generator equipment. The extant equipment is an Onan electric generator, built by the Waukesha Company, and sold and serviced by the J.P. Long Company of Richmond, Virginia. On the exterior is a partially above ground fuel tank.

⁴ Correspondence dated 1960 from the Office of Civil Defense of the FCC indicate that the station acquired "emergency generating equipment under the Surplus Property Program and Federal Contributions Program." The generating equipment was to be operated in the event of normal power failure, for use during a civil defense emergency, until normal power was restored. Letter, February 10, 1960, from the Executive Office of the President, Office of Civil Defense Mobilization, Washington, D.C. to Mr. Robert E. Lee, Defense Commissioner, FCC. In the files at the WSVS Pure Country radio station.

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Ca. 1950-1960 generating equipment located in the generator building. Photo by Jonathan Valalick, 2021, DHR Archives

Antenna Tower (contributing structure)

The existing antenna tower (photograph 0015) was constructed in 1949 after the 1947 tower was vandalized, and upon completion stood at 449 feet. The tower (400-feet) is constructed of riveted structural steel vertical pieces and is supported by cross-bracing and guy-lines. The 1949 antenna (42-feet) was described as a folded dipole type, with the number of elements indicated to be eight bays. The antenna make was Wincharger, manufactured by Radio Corporation of America (RCA)⁵. The tower sits on a round, concrete base (7-feet). The 1949 antenna piece has been replaced on several occasions as technology improved and frequency increased. The original antenna was 42 feet high. The current antenna type and size is unknown, however it appears to be a relatively small unit on top of the 1949 tower with an aircraft light.

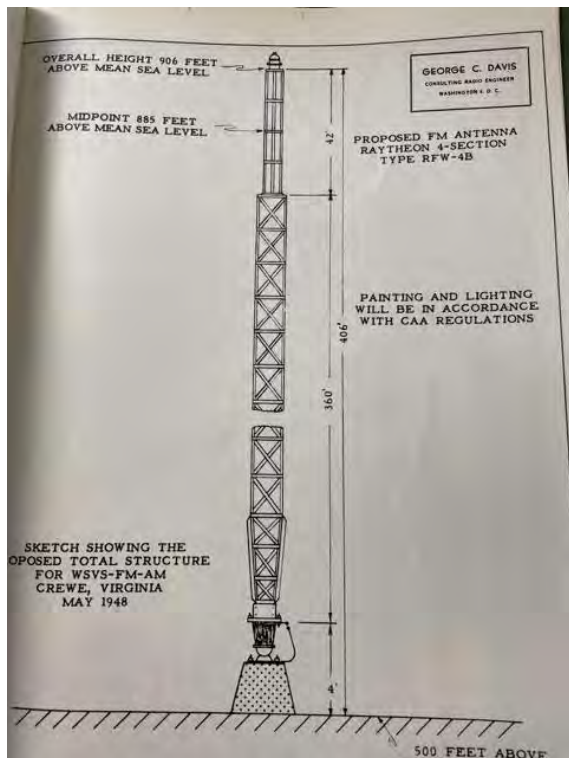
⁵ Southern Virginia Broadcasting Corporation 1948 application to the FCC, copy located in the records at WSVS Pure Country radio station.

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1948 drawing of the existing tower and a 1949 photograph of the top part of the FM antenna being hoisted to the top. In the document collection of WSVS Pure Country Radio Station.

Ruins of Generator Shed/ Equipment Storage Structure (contributing structure)

The partial ruin of a small brick structure (photograph 0024) sits between the main station and auxiliary buildings, about 75 feet behind the original 1947 transmitter building. It has no roof and retains only a door with iron hardware hinge pins and part of a latch. The machine-made bricks appear to date to the 1940s-1950s. This building historically may have housed an earlier generator for backup power, prior to the addition of the ca. 1960 generator building. The ruins contribute because the resource dates to the property's period of significance and helps to illustrate the station's historic layout and function as it is in alignment with the original transmitter building and the tower.

Integrity Analysis

The WSVS radio station complex began broadcasting on this site in 1947 and continues to the present time as WSVS Pure Country, which contributes greatly to the integrity of feeling and association. The contributing resources were constructed between 1947 and 1965, and retain integrity of location and setting. There are no non-contributing resources on the property. Visible extant materials, supported by extensive written documentation describing the various expansions of the radio station, illustrate that the complex retains a high degree of integrity of

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design, workmanship, and materials. The station reports to be the oldest radio station in southside Virginia, but a search of the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System at the time of this nomination indicates that the 1947 transmitter building may be the oldest surviving radio station in Virginia. Known radio stations in Roanoke, Danville, Richmond, Christiansburg and Loudon County date to the 1950s, the period that WSVS expanded on this site by adding the studio building. It remains as one of few stations from this period and with few alterations.

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8. Statement of Significance

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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNICATIONS

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

Period of Significance

1947-1971

Significant Dates

1952

1953

Ca. 1965

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Rainwater, Jody

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The WSVS radio station complex, located in Crewe, Virginia, is eligible at the local level of significance for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the area of Communications. The station has broadcast continuously since April 6, 1947. Originally, the eleven-acre property served as the transmission site for three off-site broadcast stations. The local studios were consolidated on this site with a new studio building in 1953. The complex represents the history of communications in a rural community from the 1940s through the 1960s, as a hub for entertainment and news as well as participating in local civil defense efforts and as a member of the Emergency Broadcast System, established in 1963. As part of this effort, a fallout shelter was constructed in accordance with specifications provided by the Federal Communications Commission, ca. 1965, as an addition to the 1949 transmitter building. As home base to popular deejay and musician Jody Rainwater for nearly 20 years, the station is eligible under Criterion B at the local level in the area of Entertainment/Recreation. Jody Rainwater played a significant role in the success and popularity of WSVS, beginning in 1952, through his promotion of bluegrass music and popular musicians who performed in the studio. The period of significance begins in 1947 when the original transmitter building and tower were constructed, and extends to 1971, the year Jody Rainwater left the station's employment. The property retains a high level of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, feeling, and association and on April 6, 2022, will celebrate its 75th year in operation on this site.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Historical Background

Radio, the first broadcast medium, enjoyed a golden age between the 1920s and 1950s, after which it began to be superseded by television broadcasting. The origins of radio broadcasting date back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, after the work of several inventors, scientists, and engineers in the United States and Western Europe coalesced to create the new communications platform. James Clerk Maxwell, a physics professor at Cambridge University, began developing his theory about electromagnetic waves and distance in the 1860s, paving the way for the advent of wireless transmission technology. Two decades later, German physicist Heinrich Hertz conducted experiments that proved electric waves could be transmitted and received wirelessly. Then, in 1899, Italian scientist Guglielmo Marconi announced the results of the America's Cup races from a ship at sea using wireless telegraph. Marconi later won the Nobel Prize for his feat and became known as the "Father of Radio."⁶ Wireless broadcasts did not convey sound until 1906, when Reginald Fessenden, a Canadian inventor and physicist, broadcasted the first audio radio transmission from a station in Massachusetts. Fessenden's recording of himself singing and playing the violin reached listeners as far away as Virginia.

⁶ "Golden Age of Radio in the U.S.," Digital Public Library of America, <https://dp.la/exhibitions/radio-golden-age/experiments-and-breakthroughs>

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On November 2, 1920, Station KDKA out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, transmitted the first commercial radio broadcast in the United States, and kick started the commercial broadcasting sensation that swept the country. Its first broadcast consisted of “live returns of the Presidential election between Warren G. Harding and James Cox.” The live reading of the results cemented news dissemination as a primary function of these stations. The following year, KDKA would broadcast live sports games, which would also prove indispensable in the function of radio. Music would likewise become a staple in radio broadcasting, and “Barn Dance”, which would later become “Grand Ole Opry”, first premiered on WSM-AM in Nashville, Tennessee, on November 28, 1925. The Grand Ole Opry was the longest running radio show in U.S. history⁷, a tremendously influential force in music, especially in the popularization of many bluegrass and country musicians.⁸ Nicknamed the “show that made country music famous,” the Grand Ole Opry has, over the years, branched out from radio to include stage concerts and a television network dedicated to country music, livestreamed performances, and other types of programming. The Opry has hosted a number of iconic musicians and entertainers, including Bill Monroe, Johnny Cash and June Carter, Roy Acuff, Minnie Pearl, and Dolly Parton.⁹

Radio broadcasts quickly gained popularity with the American public in the 1920s. To regulate the hundreds of radio stations that emerged across the country, Congress passed the Radio Act of 1927, which created the Federal Radio Commission (FRC), an agency tasked with overseeing licensing and broadcasting procedures. The FRC was replaced by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) in 1934. Radio gave listeners a level of immediacy and intimacy that newspapers lacked. Americans who owned radios no longer had to wait until the following day to read about an event in print; they could tune in to hear breaking news and entertainment in the form of announcements, radio plays, comedy performances, music (both live and recorded), and more. Writer E.B. White once described radio as having a “godlike presence” in rural communities after it permeated American lives and homes in the early 20th century.¹⁰ By bringing news and entertainment across state lines and allowing audiences to share in a common experience, radio united Americans and strengthened their national identity.¹¹

Approximately 40 percent of U.S. homes owned a radio in 1930.¹² That number would more than double, to around 83 percent, by 1940.¹³ President Franklin D. Roosevelt was arguably the most distinguished voice on radio during the 1930s and ‘40s. From fireside chats to speeches, FDR used the radio to speak directly to average Americans in order to garner support for his policies

⁷ “History of Commercial Radio,” Federal Communications Commission, <https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/history-of-commercial-radio>

⁸ “Radio History Documents.” *Federal Communications Commission*

⁹ “Our Story,” Grand Ole Opry, <https://www.opry.com/our-story/>

¹⁰ Tom Lewis, “‘A Godlike Presence’: The Impact of Radio on the 1920s and 1930s,” *OAH Magazine of History* 6, no. 4 (Spring 1992): 26

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 28

¹² “Abstract of the Fifteenth Census of the United States,” U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1930radiosets.pdf>

¹³ “Sixteenth Census of the United States: 1940 / Housing,” U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, <https://www.census.gov/history/pdf/1940radiosets.pdf>

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and programs. After Japanese forces attacked Pearl Harbor in December 1941, FDR delivered his “Day of Infamy” speech to members of Congress and a nationwide radio audience. Ninety percent of American homes had a radio in 1941, and four out of five families tuned in to listen to FDR’s speech.¹⁴ Shortly after the U.S. entered World War II, the Roosevelt administration established the Voice of America (VOA), the first government-funded international broadcasting agency, in 1942. Its goals were to combat enemy propaganda, inform international audiences of the Allied powers’ activities in the war—and, in turn, bring hope of freedom to conquered nations—as well as provide accurate and objective news coverage.¹⁵ By the end of the war, the Federal government had built 19 transmitters in the continental U.S. for international VOA broadcasts,¹⁶ including ones that were located in the Bethany Relay Station in Bethany, Ohio. In 1944 the Crosley Broadcasting Corporation, under its contract with the Federal government, erected the Bethany station, a 200-kilowatt shortwave transmitting facility, under the leadership of its founder, the inventor and radio pioneer Powel Crosley Jr., and his chief engineer, R.J. Rockwell. At the height of its power, the Bethany station housed six transmitters and was so successful in getting VOA programming to Axis-occupied nations that Hitler referred to the facility as “those Cincinnati liars.”¹⁷ Radio broadcasting also played an important role in the fight against communism during the Cold War. Despite Soviet efforts to block and interfere with wireless communications from Western radio stations (a process known as jamming), the U.S. and its allies still managed to gain the upper hand on the broadcasting front in the Cold War. Since networks like the BBC and the VOA did not engage in attempts to suppress information to silence the other side, they could better concentrate on producing content and broadcasting it to audiences abroad.¹⁸

The rise of television in the 1950s ushered in an era of change for the radio industry. Television became popular among American families fairly quickly. Only a few thousand U.S. homes had a television set before 1947, but in 1955—less than a decade later—half of American homes owned a TV.¹⁹ Television’s displacement of radio as a primary source of entertainment caused radio programming to adapt, and surviving stations reformatted to focus largely on popular music.

In Virginia, Station WRVA began its first broadcast in 1925 from downtown Richmond. Known as the “Voice of Virginia,” WRVA was the third commercial radio station in Virginia, but quickly became its largest. By 1929, the station had increased its power from 1,000 watts to 5,000 and became affiliated with the National Broadcasting Company (NBC) in that same year. Currently owned by Audacy, Inc., WRVA is one of Virginia’s oldest radio stations in continuous

¹⁴ “Rhetoric Revisited: FDR’s ‘Infamy’ Speech,” PBS, <https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/rhetoric-revisited-fdrs-infamy-speech/>

¹⁵ Voice of America Bethany Relay Station, National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, Section 8, pp. 6-8

¹⁶ Ibid., Section 8, p. 9

¹⁷ Ibid., Section 8, p. 29

¹⁸ J.A., “Radio In the Cold War,” *The World Today* 10, no. 6 (June 1954): 245-49

¹⁹ “Golden Age of Radio in the U.S.,” Digital Public Library of America, <https://dp.la/exhibitions/radio-golden-age/radio-tv>

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operation. It provides extensive news coverage on the local and national levels for politics, sports, business, and entertainment, and airs several talk shows. WRVA is representative of a major metropolitan radio station and its affiliation with NBC, and later the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS), is indicative of the influence of a high-powered metropolitan station.²⁰ In 1968, WRVA moved from its original 1925 location to a new studio designed by architect Philip Johnson in Richmond's Church Hill neighborhood. The radio station has been based in the West End of Richmond since 2000.

Rural stations, meanwhile, had the responsibility of sometimes being the only source of news and entertainment in a given community. While metropolitan stations needed to appeal to a larger, multi-region audience, stations in small towns could focus on providing news coverage and entertainment for specifically targeted rural populations.

Criterion A: Communications

The WSVS radio station is the oldest station in Southside Virginia and possibly has the oldest surviving transmitter building in Virginia, based on survey information at the Department of Historic Resources. It is an important representative of the history of small radio station transmission during the second and third quarters of the twentieth century. WSVS was owned and operated by Southern Virginia Broadcasting Corporation (SVBC) at the time of its April 6, 1947, dedication, and has broadcast continuously since then.²¹ The 1946 application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) indicated the establishment of the station was estimated to cost \$18,750 and was financed by the Bank of Crewe. The SVBC was a stockholding company, with Calvin S. Willis as president. The station planned to broadcast for a minimum of 10 hours a day at a frequency of 650 kilocycles with a daytime power of 1,000 watts. The transmitting apparatus was made by Western Electric, the modulation and frequency monitors by General Radio Company, the 294-foot antenna by Hoke Radiator Company and the transmitter and studio equipment by Graybar Company²².

The site location was selected due to its proximity to low, wet, marshy land. Wet land acts somewhat as an amplifier and increases the antenna's ability to radiate a strong signal for AM frequency. The ideal plan for such transmission was to locate the transmitter building on high ground, with a short transmission run to the antenna tower that is located in or near the body of water²³. This likely explains the nearly 400-foot distance between the original transmitter building, which is on a slight knoll, and the original antenna.

During this period, the radio industry technical advice included consideration of architectural design for both broadcasting stations and transmitter buildings. Technical needs and accommodations for both the operations and the operators dictated a certain degree of the layout

²⁰ *Radio in Virginia - WRVA - The Voice of Virginia*

²¹ "Broadcasting Magazine", 23 Dec. 1946

²² 1946 SVBC application to the FCC. Copy located in the papers of WSVS Pure Country Radio Station.

²³ Western Electric, *Oscillator*, The Architecture of Broadcast Transmitter Buildings, Number 9, September 1947, p. 14.

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and plan for these facilities; however, there was no need to be strictly utilitarian. As stated in the September 1947 publication of the *Oscillator*, “because a radio transmitter is a very modern phenomenon, it seems appropriate that the transmitter building should usually follow a style belonging within that broad range roughly known as ‘contemporary.’”²⁴ Advice included that considerations be given to expense based on location as well. In a city or populated area, more expense and thought of architectural style, be it modern or traditional, was appropriate. For stations and transmitters in remote rural areas, a more utilitarian, functional approach may be more practical. Seemingly heeding this advice, the WSVS 1947 transmitter was strictly utilitarian in its design with only the glass block windows as a hint to the “contemporary” style of the 1940s. More attention to the popular Moderne style was given to the 1953 building expansion when the broadcasting and office spaces were moved to this site. Although still remote and rural, a public presence was now brought to this location by way of the performing studio and the marketing and business aspects of the station business.

The station originally broadcast its programming from three stations in the area. In Farmville, the studio was located in the Farmville Herald Building at 109 South Main Street; in Blackstone at the Sheffield Furniture Company Building at 121 North Main Street;²⁵ and in Crewe at 117 Carter Street in the Continental Hotel building, where the main offices of the Southern Virginia Broadcasting Corporation also were located. Programs were fed from these stations to the Crewe transmitter building over specially leased telephone lines. The 117 Carter Street building retains glass block windows similar to those found in the original transmitter building. WSVS was on the air daily from 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm and offered a variety of music, including popular tunes, classical, dance tunes, Latin-American tunes, barbershop harmonies, and hymns and religious music. Local and national news reports were offered along with farm reports, comments on great books, shopping hints, veterans’ affairs, nutrition and health, sports, and weather. Sunday broadcasts added additional religious music including “negro spirituals,” hymns and evening services from local churches. Every broadcast, every day, ended with a prayer, hymn, and the Star Spangled Banner²⁶.

²⁴ Western Electric, *Oscillator*, The Architecture of Broadcast Transmitter Buildings, Number 9, September 1947, p.28.

²⁵ This building is identified as the Blackstone Hotel in some sources.

²⁶ Daily programming report to the FCC. Copy located in the papers of WSVS Pure Country Radio Station.

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117 Carter Street in the Town of Crewe. Location of the original offices of the SVBC and one of the original studios. Photo by Jonathan Valalick, 2021, DHR Archives

In 1948, the original 294-foot tower was destroyed after vandals cut four of its supporting guy lines. A temporary tower was immediately erected until a new tower could be built.²⁷ An application was already in the works for adding FM frequency, along with a new antenna and transmitter building. Approved and added in 1949, WSVS became the only FM station in Southside Virginia. This expansion involved the addition of the existing 449-foot tower and transmitter building. Today, this transmitter building contains both the earlier transmitting monitors and the current transmitting monitors. WSVS-FM put out a signal of 14,000 watts compared to the AM's 1000. On July 1, 1962, the AM station's power was increased to 5000 watts.²⁸

The local broadcasting stations in Crewe, Blackstone, and Farmville were consolidated at the Melody Lane site in 1953 when a new office and studio building were constructed as an addition to the 1947 transmitter building. A performance studio was incorporated into the 1953 building design as a space for traveling artists to perform and promote their music. This allowed musical acts to play live for the entire WSVS audience and likely helped to spread the popularity of bluegrass music in the region.

Together with its entertainment programming, WSVS provided important local and global news for its listeners. The station covered a number of popular topics in the community, from the agricultural programs in local high schools and poultry auctions, to weather reports and market information for farmers and religious programs.²⁹ In 1950, the station began broadcasting a series on mental health and family life in cooperation with the Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Mental Hygiene and Hospitals and the local Junior Chamber of Commerce.³⁰

²⁷ "Broadcasting Magazine", 16 Aug. 1948

²⁸ "Talk About Coverage," *The Farmville Herald* 72, no. 77, July 6, 1962: p.10

²⁹ "Radio Daily", 5 Jun. 1950 and 26 Jun. 1950

³⁰ "Broadcasting Magazine", 5 Jun. 1950

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Also in 1950, WSVS began airing the daily BBC News Reel program during weekdays to present a more well-rounded picture of current events around the world.³¹ The station's programs and comprehensive coverage of wide-ranging topics indicate that it held an indispensable place as the main source of news and entertainment for thousands of listeners in the region. As its 75th-year anniversary approaches, WSVS continues to serve Southside Virginia today.

Jim Eanes, who moved to Crewe on February 1, 1958, remembers WSVS as a hub of news and entertainment in the region, along with his newspaper: *Crewe-Burkeville Journal*. Eanes insists on the substantial importance of the station in keeping the region informed and entertained. He remembers that WSVS and the *Crewe-Burkeville Journal* often worked together on news reporting. He even took journalists from the station with him to go around the region to gather stories.³²

WSVS entertained and informed those within the signal radius, which by the early 1960s had reached over 200,000 people,³³ and included listeners residing as far away as Orange County.³⁴ In 1955, the radio station received the first non-metropolitan Douglas Southall Freeman Award for public service in journalism from the Virginia Association of Press Broadcasters for their coverage of Hurricanes Connie, Diane, and Hazel.³⁵ WSVS was also recognized for its eight-week newscast by Don Greene, then Station News Director, who read a portion of the *Yalta Papers* each day from March 21st to May 13th in 1955. According to a broadcasting newsletter printed on May 23rd of that year, Greene received mail from listeners in 31 states, applauding his effort.³⁶ This was a testament to the far reach of WSVS, which would go on to win several more broadcasting awards through the 1950s and 1960s.

Many local and national talents visited or performed at the station over the years. Among the most popular were the bluegrass group Flatt & Scruggs and celebrated rock band Alabama. Bill Blevins, a popular Richmond radio personality at WRVA, also got his start at WSVS in 1970 at the age of 20.

Station WSVS also has connections to the Cold War era, as represented by the construction of a bomb shelter and auxiliary power generator on its premises. In June of 1961, tensions between the U.S. and the Soviet Union regarding the Allied occupation of Berlin reached new heights. President John F. Kennedy addressed the nation on July 25, 1961, to warn about the possibility of a nuclear war and to reiterate his plans to implement a nationwide fallout shelter program. As JFK encouraged Americans to build fallout shelters in their backyards, he also asked Congress for an appropriation of \$207 million to finance the country's first large-scale public shelter program. By the end of 1961, JFK had shifted his focus from private shelter construction to the National Fallout Shelter Survey and Marking Program, a new civil defense initiative

³¹ *Radio Daily*, August 7, 1950

³² Jim Eanes oral history interview, 6 Jul. 2021

³³ "Talk About Coverage," *The Farmville Herald* 72, no. 77, July 6, 1962: p.10

³⁴ WSVS Coverage Map, National Association of Broadcasters, ca. 1963

³⁵ "Broadcasting Magazine", 14 Nov. 1955

³⁶ "Broadcasting Magazine", 23 May 1955

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administered by local and state governments, to identify, label, and stock public shelters in existing buildings and structures across the country.³⁷ At the request of the U.S. Department of the Navy, WSVS added a shelter to its 1949 transmission building and built a power generator by 1965. Shelters at radio stations were constructed all over the country to protect personnel and ensure that broadcasting could continue in the event of a nuclear attack.³⁸ WSVS chief engineer C.E. “Everett” Wilson, a retired technician and instructor with the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington D.C., oversaw the construction of the shelter and generator, and later earned praise from the Navy for his leadership in the project.³⁹ There were 5,231 fallout shelter spaces and five public buildings with basements for stocking in Nottoway County by August of 1965, according to the county’s civil defense coordinator, W.M. Marsden of Crewe.⁴⁰ One of the buildings for stocking would serve as the County Emergency Operations Center, and the Federal government planned to pay for communications between WSVS and the center in the case of a local or national emergency.⁴¹ Today, much of the historic generator and Raytheon transmission equipment still remain in the generator and transmitter buildings, and the bomb shelter serves as a storage space for radio equipment.

Criterion B: Jody Rainwater

Jim Eanes, long-time resident of Crewe, was a close friend of Jody Rainwater; a man he claims was “the face and the personality of the station.” Jody Rainwater “*was* WSVS” according to Eanes⁴².

Jody Rainwater, born Charles Edward Johnson in Surry County, North Carolina, and former bandmate and booking agent of renowned musicians Flatt & Scruggs, began his radio deejay career at WSVS in 1952 soon after leaving the band. He continued as deejay until he was fired for refusing to play rock and roll music in 1971. During his time at WSVS, he promoted bluegrass music and musicians who were invited to play in the performance studio. He was able to use his connections to lure Flatt & Scruggs to Crewe in August of 1952 when they had trouble finding work in Nashville. During this time, they played a couple of shows per day in the WSVS performance studio in order to promote their music locally, but also recorded shows to send back to station WSM in Nashville, Tennessee.⁴³

³⁷ “Kennedy, Rockefeller, and Civil Defense,” NPS,

https://www.nps.gov/articles/coldwar_civildefense_kennedyrockefellerandcd.htm

³⁸ Julie Rose, “Cold War Bunker Network Repurposed for 21st Century Threats,” NPR,

<https://www.npr.org/2013/02/19/172398326/cold-war-bunker-network-repurposed-for-21st-century-threats>

³⁹ “President of the Corporation...But He’s ‘Chief’ to the Staff,” Supplement to Crewe-Burkeville Journal, *WSVS 25th Anniversary: 1947-1972*, p.6

⁴⁰ “Civil Defense Preparations in Nottoway County Are Currently Being Brought Up-to-Date,” *The Crewe-Burkeville Journal*, August 12, 1965, p.1

⁴¹ *Ibid.*, p.1

⁴² Jim Eanes oral history interview, 6 Jul. 2021

⁴³ “Interview with Jody Rainwater, July 3, 2005”

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Jody Rainwater played a significant role in the success and popularity of WSVS, beginning in 1952 through his promotion of bluegrass music and musicians as a deejay at WSVS for nearly 20 years. The wide reach of WSVS allowed Rainwater to help promote and popularize bluegrass artists and its role as the only station in Southside Virginia meant that its influence in the region was strong. As a popular entertainer and accomplished musician, Rainwater's association with WSVS is significant at the local level in the area of Entertainment and Recreation.



Photo of Jody Rainwater at WSVS studio, date unknown. Photo in the collections of WSVS Pure Country radio station.

Background History

Jody Rainwater was born Charles Edward Johnson in Surry County, North Carolina, on April 13, 1919, and was the middle child of 13. As sharecroppers, his family moved from Surry County to Guilford and Forsyth Counties in North Carolina to farm tobacco, wheat, and corn “on a 50/50 basis” with the farms owners, according to Rainwater.

Jody began to play music in his teens, inspired by a childhood of watching his father play the fiddle and attending concerts. His first instrument was the mandolin, purchased by his father for a sister who soon lost interest. Shortly after beginning the mandolin, Jody was introduced to the guitar and other instruments. His career in music started when he and an older brother formed a band called “Chuck and Slim, the Johnson Brothers.” The Brothers would play at reunions, birthday parties, chicken stews and other gatherings and crowds would often “pass the hat” to collect money to pay the band. The band was also featured during the famous 1927 Bristol Sessions in Bristol, Tennessee. Here they played along with such acts as the Carter Family and Jimmie Rogers. In 1936, the band played at a July 4th celebration in Kernersville, North Carolina, and won a blue ribbon for Best Individual Performance.

His introduction to radio came around this time, when he and his brother would perform a 30-minute show on Thursdays at 3:00 pm at a station in High Point, North Carolina, for which they were not paid. Rainwater joined the military in February of 1942, inspired by the attack at Pearl

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Harbor. Upon leaving the military on May 5, 1945, he began his first job in radio with a band. It was also around this time that Jody assisted in signing on a radio station in Winston-Salem. He would continue working at this station for about a year before joining a local band, Smokey Graves and the Blue Star Boys, to play at another local station.

Jody continued to play shows around North Carolina and, at a tent show in Lexington, he was introduced to Lester Flatt for the first time. Flatt had been the emcee that night when Rainwater, then going by Charles Johnson, asked if he could play during intermissions. Flatt allowed the band to play three songs that night, but what was most important was the relationship that began between the two musicians.

In October 1948, Smokey Graves and the Blue Star Boys attended a Bill Monroe show where he met up again with Flatt & Scruggs, as well as their opening act, comedian Cedric Rainwater. It was March of 1949 that Flatt & Scruggs offered to hire Jody to do the booking for the band. Five to six weeks later, Lester Flatt suggested that he go by Jody Rainwater and be billed as Cedric's brother.

Around this time, Cedric Rainwater left the act to take his then-pregnant wife to Nashville to have their baby and Jody Rainwater stepped in to play bass for the band for the next three years. He would also do the booking for the band, making \$60 per week plus 10 percent of what they earned while performing.

The band continued to travel, perform, and record albums, as well as perform regularly for a radio station in Lexington, Kentucky, and even performing once at the Grand Ole Opry in Nashville. Jody would assist in the recording of four albums that Flatt & Scruggs recorded for Columbia Records, as well as one album recorded for Mercury Records. When the auditorium used to record the show in Lexington was under renovation, the band traveled to Tampa, Florida, to work with Old Brother Charlie and Daisy May at Station WDAE. They played in Tampa for about six weeks, even recording an album in the mezzanine of the band's hotel. Benny Sims played the fiddle for the band at the time, and Everett Lilly the mandolin. Jody played bass and occasionally the mandolin on that album.

In 1950, the band was performing for a station in Roanoke, Virginia, while also traveling around playing shows in other cities. During this time Bill Stell, a deejay at Station WSVS in Crewe, Virginia, began to promote their shows around Southside Virginia, which led to many more performance opportunities in the area. To express thanks for the free promotion, Rainwater offered to take Stell and his wife out to dinner, and a friendship between the two soon developed. Around this time, Jody had been considering getting off the road to alleviate health concerns, and Stell began to discuss with him the possibility of doing deejay work. Jody left Flatt & Scruggs on June 7, 1952, and began work at Station WSVS the following Monday, where he would stay for a little over 19 years.

Jody Rainwater brought bluegrass to the forefront for the station and became one of the most popular radio personalities in the station's history. Shortly after arriving in Crewe he convinced

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Flatt & Scruggs to leave Nashville and perform live at Station WSVS. Flatt & Scruggs, however, were under contract with Martha White Flour to do a daily noontime show in Nashville and for 5 months, the band recorded their daily show at WSVS and sent it to Nashville for broadcasting. Rainwater's knowledge and connections in the industry allowed him to bring in many other popular bluegrass names to the studio to perform. Eventually, Jody was pressured by the station management to start to play rock and roll music, in addition to the bluegrass he had been playing. Rainwater refused several times and was eventually fired for it in 1971.

Rainwater's career in radio continued, however. After being fired from Station WSVS, he worked at a station in Appomattox, Virginia, where he remained for five years. From there he would work at stations in Brookneal, South Boston, and Altavista, Virginia, as well as Fair Bluff, North Carolina. He would continue to work in radio until he retired on April 1, 1984. Rainwater also became a popular emcee for bluegrass concerts and festivals throughout the southeastern U.S. In 2000, Jody Rainwater was inducted into the Virginia Folk Music Hall of Fame and in 2009 he received the International Bluegrass Music Association's Distinguished Achievement Award. Jody Rainwater passed away in 2011.⁴⁴

⁴⁴ "Interview with Jody Rainwater, July 3, 2005"

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

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Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA:
WSVS Radio Station, Crewe, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #067-5058

10. Geographical Data

Acreege of Property approximately 11

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.196720 Longitude: -78.168020

2. Latitude: 37.196720 Longitude: -78.166200

3. Latitude: 37.194450 Longitude: -78.166080

4. Latitude: 37.194820 Longitude: -78.168080

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary is coterminous with the parcel recorded as #17 164 (GPIN 5579-94-8996) by Nottoway County, Virginia, and as recorded in Deed Book 383, p. 334 at the Nottoway County courthouse. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map and Sketch Map/Photo Key.

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary matches the boundaries of the tax parcel with which the WSVS Radio Station has been associated since construction of the 1947 transmitter building and antenna, and, therefore, encompasses the property's historic setting as well as all known associated historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Elizabeth Lipford, Jonathan Valalick, and Ivy Tan, staff
organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources
street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue
city or town: Richmond state: VA zip code: 23221
e-mail: elizabeth.lipford@dhr.virginia.gov
telephone: 804-482-6446
date: December, 2021

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: WSVS Radio Station
City or Vicinity: Crewe, vicinity
County: Nottoway

State: VA

Photographer: Jonathan Valalick

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Name of Property

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Date Photographed: June 14, 2021

Photographer: Elizabeth Lipford

Date Photographed: September 10, 2021

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo 1 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0001

View: Rural setting along Melody Lane, camera facing west

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 2 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0002

View: Studio Building, south elevation, camera facing north

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 3 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0003

View: Studio Building, southeast elevation, camera facing northwest

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 4 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0004

View: Studio Building, southwest elevation, camera facing northeast

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 5 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0005

View: Studio Building, northeast elevation, camera facing southwest

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 6 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0006

View: Studio Building, north elevation, camera facing south

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 7 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0007

View: Studio Building, interior of 1947 transmitter building, camera facing northeast

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 8 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0008

View: Studio Building, interior of 1953 lobby area and office with transaction window, camera facing southwest

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 9 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0009

View: Studio Building, interior of 1953 marketing & Sales office, camera facing northwest

Photographer: Valalick

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Photo 10 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0010

View: Studio Building, interior of 1953 marketing & Sales office, camera facing northeast

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 11 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0011

View: Studio Building, interior of Performing Studio (C), camera facing southeast

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 12 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0012

View: Studio Building, interior of News Studio (B), camera facing northwest

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 13 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0013

View: Studio Building, interior of Production Studio (A), camera facing southwest

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 14 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0014

View: Studio Building, interior of Main Studio (D), camera facing south

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 15 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0015

View: Antenna Tower, camera facing northwest

Photographer: Lipford

Photo 16 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0016

View: Antenna Tower, base, camera facing southeast

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 17 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0017

View: Antenna Tower, 1949 transmitter building, ca. 1960 generator building, southwest elevations, camera facing northeast

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 18 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0018

View: 1949 transmitter building with ca. 1965 fallout shelter addition, south elevation, camera facing north

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 19 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0019

View: ca. 1965 fallout shelter addition to the 1949 transmitter building, northwest elevation, camera facing southeast

Photographer: Valalick

WSVS Radio Station

Name of Property

Nottoway County, VA

County and State

Photo 20 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0020

View: 1949 transmitter building, interior, camera facing northwest

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 21 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0021

View: ca. 1965 fallout shelter addition, interior, camera facing southwest

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 22 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0022

View: ca. 1965 fallout shelter addition, interior metal entrance door, camera facing north

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 23 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0022

View: ca. 1960 generator building, northeast elevation, camera facing southwest

Photographer: Valalick

Photo 24 of 24: VA_NottowayCounty_WSVSRadioStation_0024

View: unknown equipment shelter ruin, southeast elevation, camera facing northwest

Photographer: Valalick

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 – 60-100 hours

Tier 2 – 120 hours

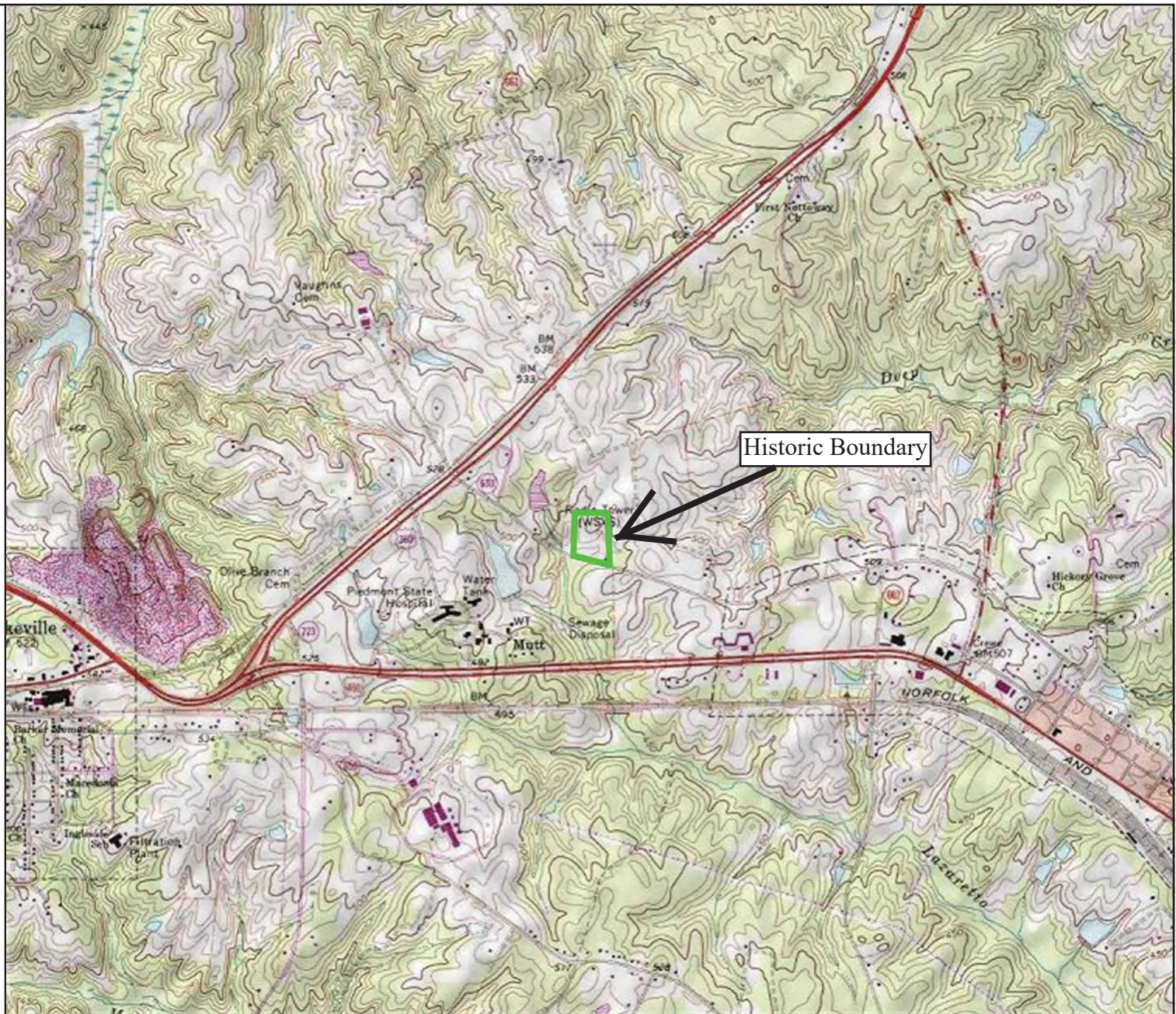
Tier 3 – 230 hours

Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

WSVS Radio Station
Nottoway County, VA
DHR No. 067-5058



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 10/15/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

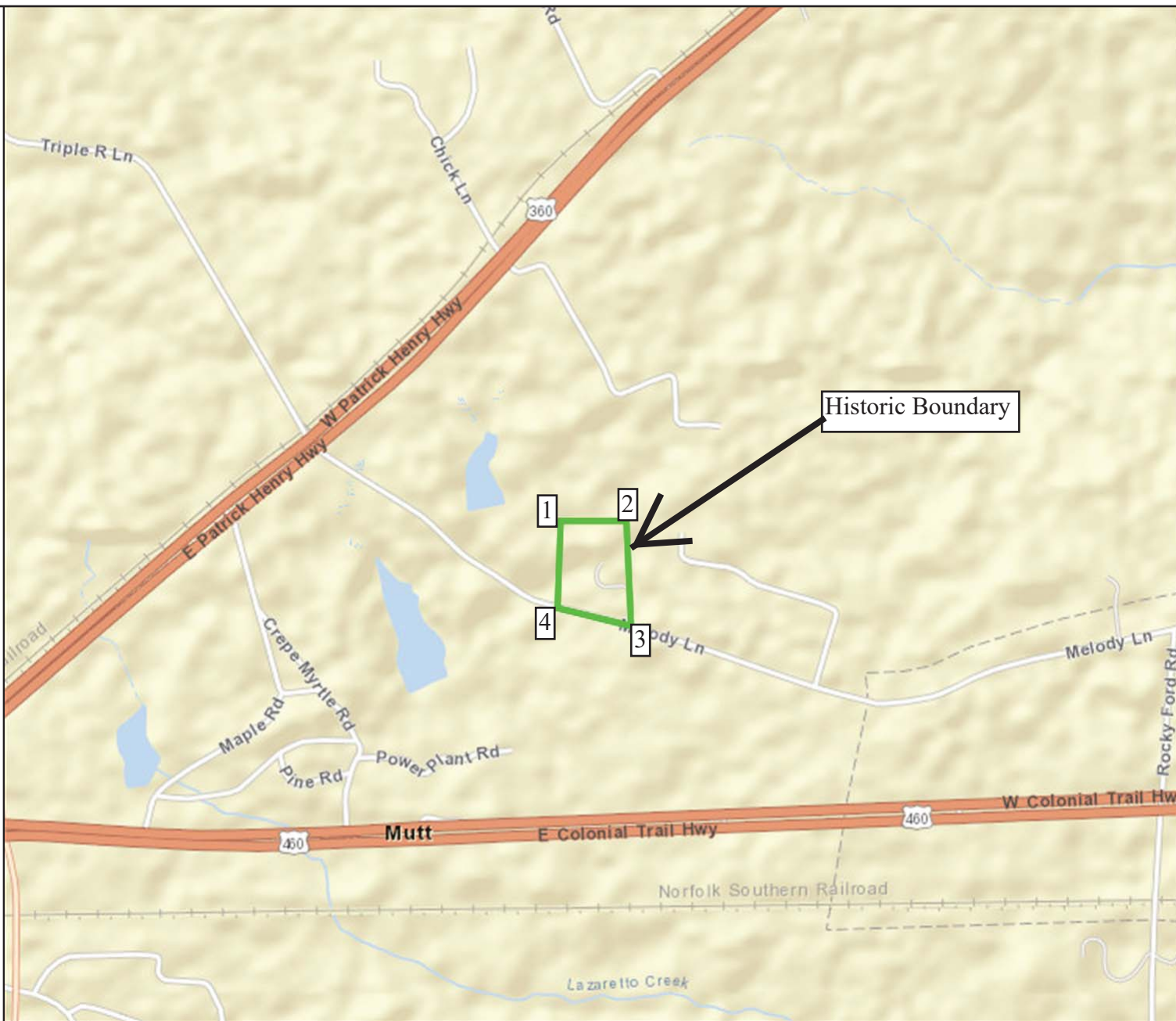


LOCATION MAP

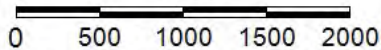
WSVS Radio Station
Nottoway County, VA
DHR No. 067-5058

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

- 1. Latitude: 37.196720
Longitude: -78.168020
- 2. Latitude: 37.196720
Longitude: -78.166200
- 3. Latitude: 37.194450
Longitude: -78.166080
- 4. Latitude: 37.194820
Longitude: -78.168080



Feet



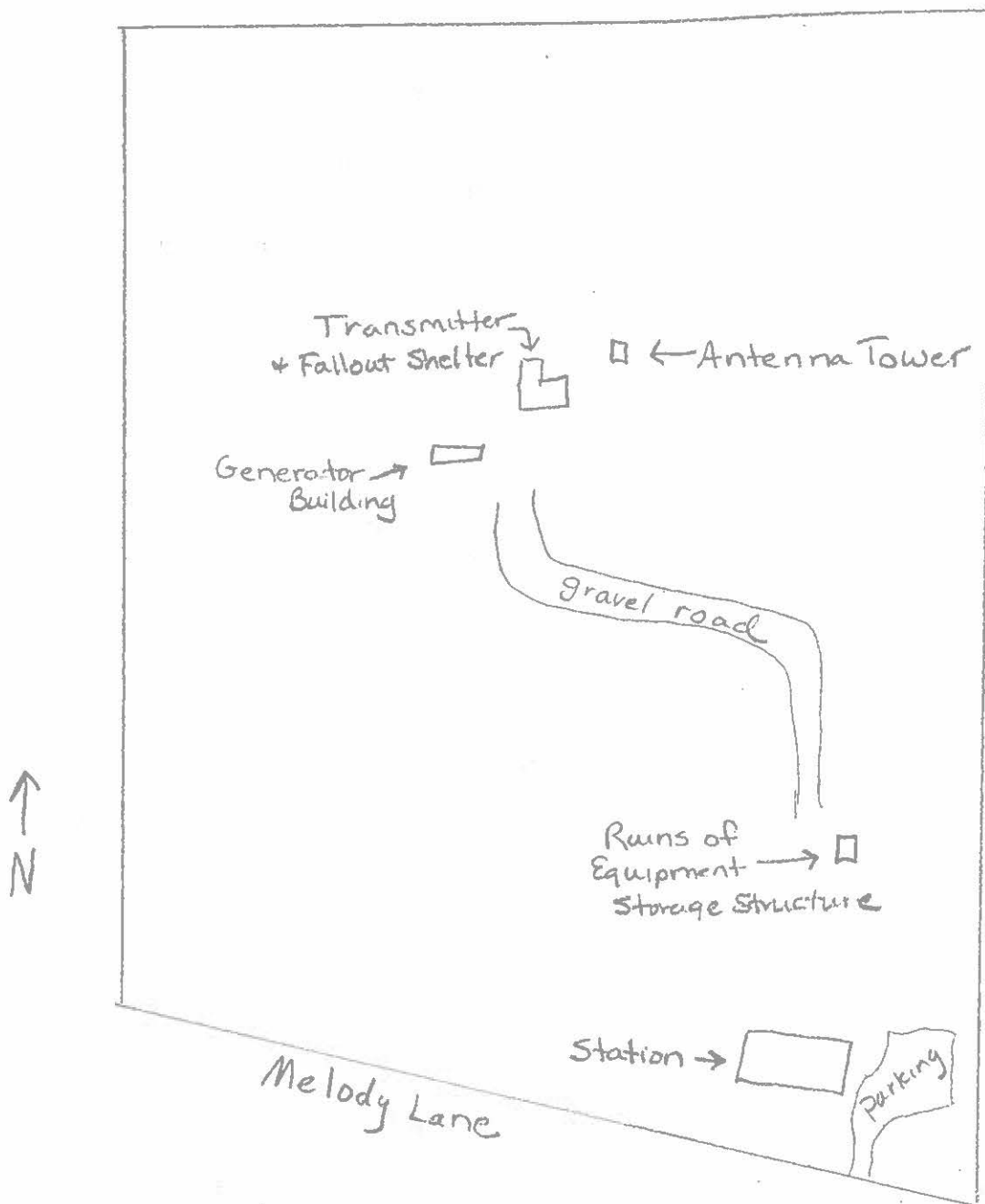
1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title:

Date: 10/15/2021

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Sketch Map
 Not to Scale
 WSVS Radio Station
 Nottoway County, VA
 DHR file no. 067-5058

- List of Resources (all are contributing)
- Station Building
 - Transmitter Building/ Fallout Shelter
 - Generator Building
 - Antenna Tower
 - Ruins of Equipment Storage Structure



SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY

(exterior views)

WSVS Radio Station
Nottoway County, VA
DHR No. 067-5058

List of Resources (all are contributing)

- A. Station Building
- B. Transmitter Building/ Fallout Shelter
- C. Generator Building
- D. Antenna Tower
- E. Ruins of Equipment Storage Structure

Photo Locations



Feet



1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet



Title:

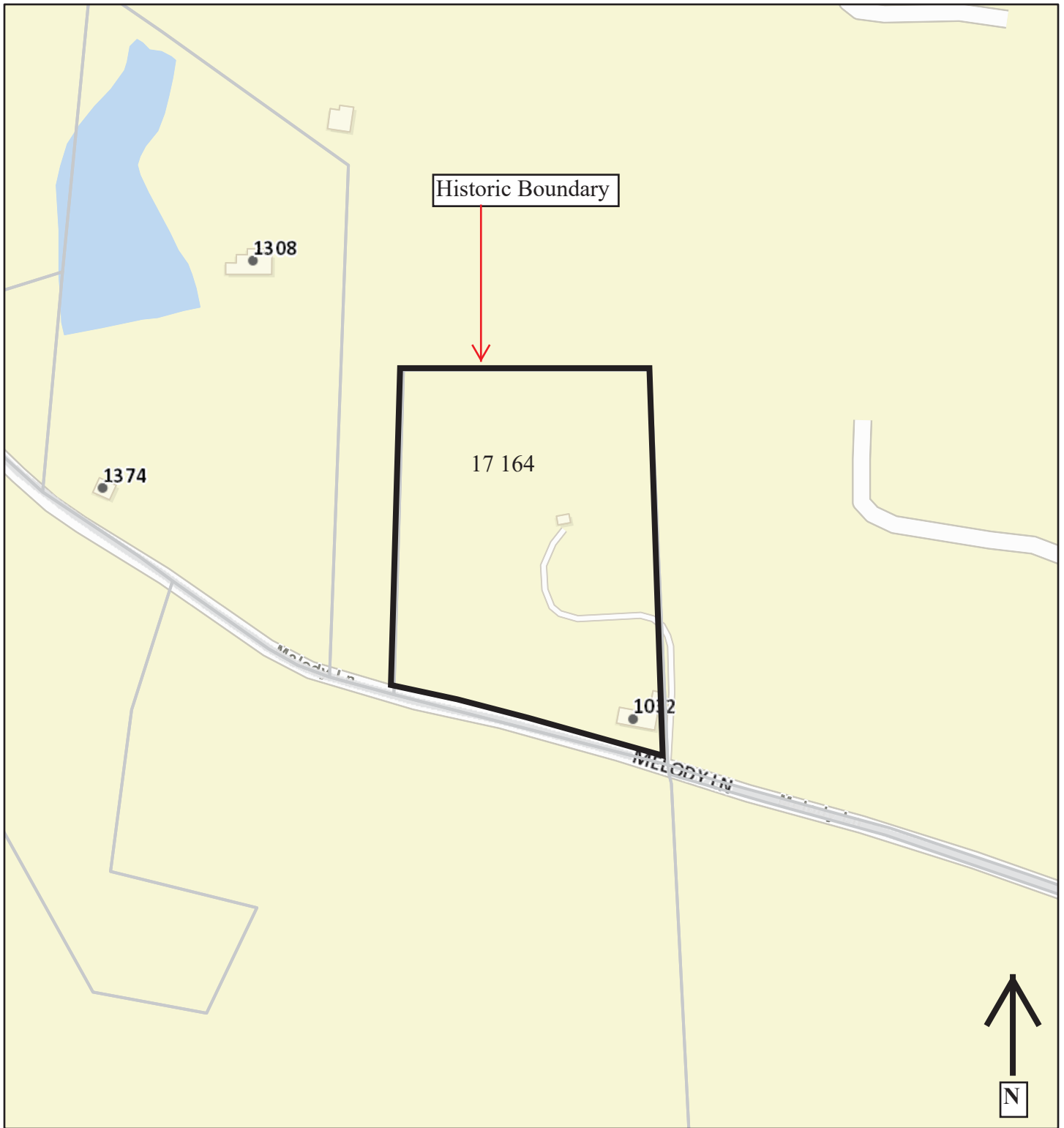
Date: 10/15/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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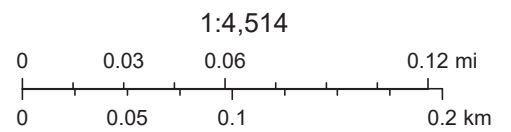
TAX PARCEL MAP

WSVS Radio Station, Nottoway County, VA
DHR No. 067-5058



October 7, 2021

https://nottowaygis.timmons.com/#/mwl?zoom=17&location=-78.167070_37.195555



Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community