

VLR-12/13/88 NRHP-10/30/89

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

HISTORIC SITE FILE: *Mount Atlas*
PRINCE WILLIAM PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
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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: Mt. Atlas
other names/site number: 76-15

2. Location

street number:
city, town: Haymarket X vicinity
state: Virginia code: VA county: Prince William code: 153 zip code: 22069

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	2	1 buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	2	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		objects
		4	1 Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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
DOMESTIC/ Secondary Structure
FUNERARY/ cemetery
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/ processing

Current Functions
VACANT/ Not in use

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

COLONIAL/ Georgian
LATE VICTORIAN/ Victorian Vernacular
20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/ Classical Revival

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation: Limestone
walls: Wood
roof: Metal
other: Wood porch

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally

statewide

X locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance
1790-1800
1870-1910

Significant Dates
1795

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.

X See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

X See continuation sheet

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 #

Primary location of additional data:
X State historic preservation office
Other State agency
Federal agency
X Local government
University
Other:
Specify repository:
Prince William Planning Dept.
Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property:

8.17 acres

UTM References

A	18/ Zone	268950/ Easting	4305340 Northing	B	/ Zone	/ Easting	/ Northing
C.	___ See continuation sheet			D.			

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This is the current legal boundary of the property and retains enough land to maintain sufficient open space around the main house and smokehouse to provide the feeling of a rural setting.

___ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	William T. Frazier and George W. Polhill, Jr.	date	July 1988
organization	Frazier Associates	telephone	(703) 886-6230
street and number	213 N. Augusta Street	state	VA
city or town	Staunton	zip code	24401

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Mt. Atlas is a two-and-one-half-story, Georgian style, frame dwelling dating from the late eighteenth century. The structure has three bays and a single-pile, side hall plan. Additions include the front porch, dormer windows, and a rear ell. The house has a single, exterior, stone rubble, end brick chimney, a metal gable roof, and a fine, molded, boxed cornice with modillions that is original. The interior retains much of its fine woodwork including the parlor Federal mantel and an overmantel that contains an early-nineteenth-century portrait painted on the paneling. The house has been vacant for several years and is in deteriorated condition. A frame smoke-house is located behind the main house to the west. Some of the grounds are overgrown and two other outbuildings, the former kitchen and a carriage house, have been demolished. In 1974 the current owners constructed a one-story residence that is located across the lane to the north of the original house. Sited on 8.17 acres, Mt. Atlas is now entered from the west off of Mt. Atlas Road (State Route 731) although it faces east and access was formerly gained off of Padgett Drive, formerly known as Carriage Lane. Mt. Atlas is located north of Haymarket near the settlement of Waterfall in northwest Prince William County.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

Mt. Atlas is a two-story, gable-roofed dwelling with three bays and a side hall plan; it rests on a coursed stone foundation. The exterior is clad with weatherboards and the facade boxed cornice has carved modillion blocks. The two-bay front porch was added in the early twentieth century. Its coursed stone foundation is said to have come from the remains of a demolished kitchen. Three vernacular Roman Doric columns on raised concrete piers support a partially hipped roof which is covered with standing seam metal. The roof of the main house is currently clad with asphalt shingles.

The first floor windows are nine-over-nine sash with a plain architrave surround that is probably a mid-to-late-nineteenth-century replacement. These first floor sash were replaced in the 1950s, according to the current owner. The upper floor windows contain six-over-six sash as do the

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gable-roofed, shingle-clad dormers that were added in the early twentieth century. The exterior end chimney is constructed of coursed stone rubble with brick above the shoulder. The front door is constructed of six raised panels and is capped by a transom with five lights. Between these two entrance elements is an unusually pronounced cyma recta molding.

On the south end there is a recently constructed, one-story porch that leads down into the cellar and is completely overgrown.

The late-nineteenth-century, one-and-one-half-story frame ell extends off the west rear of the dwelling and contains the kitchen and dining room, although it was originally just one room. It has a shallow gable roof, six-over-six windows, a coursed stone rubble foundation, and is clad in German siding. A one-story, shed-roofed porch with a brick foundation was added to the south side of the ell in the 1920s. It has been enclosed with German siding.

The side hall interior plan is single-pile with the exception of a small chamber located behind the entrance hall. The single-flight open-string staircase is on the north wall of the hall and features winders at the bottom. It has ornamental brackets, a square newel with a molded cap, a molded handrail, and plain square balusters which are turned on the diagonal. There is a closet underneath the stair with a raised four-panel door that retains curly maple graining as does the door into the west chamber. The stairwell is lit by a nine-paned casement window in the north wall that retains its original molded surround and much of its original glass. The six-panel front door still has its original H-L hinges.

The most interesting interior feature is the painted overmantel in the parlor that was probably done first quarter of the nineteenth century. It features a folk portrait of a young lady and is titled *Maiden in Prayer*, according to the current owner. The subject, possibly a daughter of the Carter family, is featured in early-nineteenth-century dress with balloon sleeves, a white collar, and a cape. Her black hair is arranged in ringlettes. The portrait is placed within a painted oval mat that is surrounded by a square painted frame set within rectangular painted bands with cut corners.

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The overmantel has fluted pilasters with molded capitals that support an ornately carved crown molding that includes a cyma reversa molding and echinus moldings. The lower pilasters of the mantel are also fluted. They support the mantel shelf, which includes torus molding and two rows of cyma reversa moldings. The frieze is undecorated with the exception of a narrow surrounding molding that is shouldered at the corners and indented on the sides. The picture molding was added in the early twentieth century.

There are raised six-panel doors, original beaded chair rail with a molded cap, and original molded and beaded baseboards throughout the house. The floor in the hallway and in the small chamber off of the hallway to the west retains its original five to six inch tongue-and-groove pine flooring but the parlor floor has been replaced with narrow pine boards. The original plaster is largely intact but hand-split lath and rose-head nails are visible.

The second floor contains two chambers; the simple mantel in the large bed chamber, which also may have been used as a dining room, has a wide plain frieze that is beaded on the edges. The fireplace surround repeats the triple edge molding that is used throughout the house on the window and door trim.

The small (east) chamber on the second floor was used originally as a pantry according to the present owner. Evidence of shelving remains on the original plaster. On the north wall of this space are two raised stepped shelves that cover the main staircase below. The upstairs hall contains the enclosed attic stair with winders. Beneath the stair is a small closet with a raised four-panel door. An opening has been added to the west wall of the hall to gain access to the second floor of the rear ell.

The second floor contains six-panel doors, plain beaded baseboard, and molded chair rail that is beaded on its lower edge. The five-to-six-inch tongue-and-groove pine flooring is original but the metal rim locks with brown porcelain knobs date from the nineteenth century.

In the finished attic, which is in poor condition, are two small bed chambers with simple beaded baseboard, chair rail, and moldings. The pit-sawn rafters are of mortise and tenon construction

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and the collar beams are dovetailed. The attic flooring is a slightly wider than the floors on the other levels. The attic fireplace opening has been enclosed for a wood burning stove as have the other openings in the original house.

Part of the rear ell is rumored to be an earlier one-and-one-half story weaver's cottage which was moved and attached to the main house in the late nineteenth century. The roof supposedly was raised in the early twentieth century and the large first floor space was divided into a dining room and kitchen. The mantel is a simple Greek Revival design with a segmental-arched, beaded surround. The pilasters, capitals, and bases are plain and the mantel shelf is supported with Victorian-era, sawn brackets. The dining room has wainscoting capped by a simple chair rail with chamfered edges. The south wall contains a paired of two-over-two sash windows that form a bay that adjoins a screened porch. There is a six-panel door and a four-pane transom between the the dining room and parlor. The kitchen has a brick stove flue, narrow pine floors, and several early-twentieth-century wall cabinets. The baseboard and trim are undecorated.

Access is gained to the second story of the ell through a door in the upstairs front hall added in the 1920s in place of a former window. There is also a small enclosed rear stairway in the ell's west chamber that leads down to the kitchen. The large single second floor chamber of the ell was divided into three smaller rooms probably at the same time the access from the original house was added. All of the plain woodwork and five vertical-paneled doors of the second floor of the ell date from the early twentieth century. Flooring throughout this wing is narrow tongue-and-groove pine.

According to earlier descriptions and a previous survey there is a large cooking fireplace in the basement. The original fireplace cranes are still in the possession of the current owner. The concrete slab floor was added sometime in the early part of the twentieth century.

Southwest of the house is a one-story smokehouse with a metal hipped roof. It retains its original beaded cornerboards but the weatherboard siding has been replaced and is applied with wire nails. The original door has three layers of boards: diagonal beaded boards on the exterior; vertical beaded boards in the middle; and on the inside horizontal plain boards and battens. The

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diagonal boards are applied with early rose-head nails. The structure has hand-hewn mortise-and-tenon construction, diagonal framing members, and part of the interior is paneled with narrow beaded boards, probably from the early twentieth century.

There were several other outbuildings on the property that have been demolished including a one-and-one-half-story kitchen/servants' quarters formerly located approximately forty feet south of the present ell, and a carriage house formerly located northeast of the main house off of the approach from an old lane that no longer exists. East of the original house is the grave of Charles B. Carter. The overgrown ruins of a frame barn (circa 1906) is located northeast of the new residence, which was constructed in 1974.

The two contributing buildings are the main house and the smokehouse. The two contributing sites are the ruins of the barn and Charles B. Carter's grave. The noncontributing building is the one-story residence built by the Padgetts in 1974. The barn ruins were too overgrown to photograph.

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Statement of Significance

Constructed in 1795, Mt. Atlas is one of the finest and least altered examples of late Georgian, domestic architecture in Prince William County. Situated on a rising knoll overlooking the Blue Ridge Mountains, the house was built by Peter B. Whiting and later sold to Charles B. Carter, son of Charles Carter, of Shirley. The most important interior feature is the parlor's finely carved and molded classical mantel and overmantel, which is in marked contrast to the relatively simple woodwork throughout the rest of the house. The parlor overmantel includes a circa 1830-1840 portrait of a young lady known as *Maiden in Prayer*. Obviously the work of an itinerant artist, the painting is a unique example in Prince William County of folk portraiture being used for interior architectural decoration. Although in deteriorating condition, Mt. Atlas merits preservation because of its unique interior features and its architectural integrity.

Historical Information

Mt. Atlas is situated near the rural village of Waterfall on land which was originally part of Robert ("King") Carter's 41,600-acre Bull Run Tract, patented in 1724 in the names of his sons, Landon and George Carter, and grandsons, Lewis Burwell, Carter Burwell, Robert Burwell, Mann Page, and Carter Page. The present two-and-one-half-story, Georgian house was built in 1795 by Peter Whiting, who later sold the property in 1801 to Charles B. Carter, of Richmond Hill, son of Charles Carter, of Shirley. Charles B. Carter married his cousin, Ann Beale Carter, daughter of Wormeley Carter, of Sabine Hall, and granddaughter of Landon Carter (1710-1779). Charles B. Carter's only will was written in 1800, prior to his purchase of Mt. Atlas, and apparently was never updated. Upon his death in 1807 a dispute arose over the property's ownership with Ann B. Carter filing "an instrument in writing . . . purporting to be a renunciation of the will of her husband." Despite of her efforts, the property passed to her son, John Hill, a bachelor, who eventually sold it to John W. and Henry B. Tyler.

In 1835 Willis Foley of Fauquier County acquired the property from the Tylers. It is still owned by Foley's great-great-granddaughter. Foley and his wife, Nancy Mallory Foley, had eleven

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children, and upon his death in 1863, the property was divided into eight lots by surveyor Silas Butler, with the house and forty-six acres going to Foley's unmarried daughter, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth Foley willed the property to her niece, Mildred Jackson Smith, the daughter of Richard A. Foley, in 1894. In 1900 Mildred and George Smith sold the forty-six acre tract to the current owner's father, R.B. Gossom. It was during the Gossom's ownership that most of the significant changes were made including the addition of the west ell and the Colonial Revival, hip-roofed porch, circa 1910, that incorporates stones from the old kitchen/servants' quarters in its foundation. The ell is said to be part of an early one-and-one-half-story weaving house that was moved to its present site and raised to two stories in the early twentieth century. The wall construction suggests a remodeling from this period and it is difficult to determine which sections, if any, were part of the earlier structure.

The current owners, Mr. Barton C. Padgett and Mrs. Pauline G. Padgett, purchased the property in 1952, adding the east dormers in the attic. They continued to live in Mt. Atlas until 1974 when structural problems arose in the foundation, and they decided to build the adjacent rambler instead of going to the expense of restoring the early house. As it stands today, Mt. Atlas is in deteriorating condition, but its interiors retain a high degree of architectural integrity, making the house worthy of preservation.

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Bibliographical References

Published Sources

Prince William County Historical Commission. *Prince William: A Past to Preserve*. Prince William County Historical Commission, 1982. pp. 66, 132.

Works Progress Administration Writers' Program. *Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places*. Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1941; 4th ed., (Bicentennial Edition) 1976. p. 183.

Unpublished Sources

Historical photographs and genealogical information on the Willis Foley family. Collection of Mrs. Pauline Padgett, 4105 Mt. Atlas Lane, Haymarket, VA 22069.

Prince William County Records, Prince William County Courthouse, Manassas, Virginia.

Interviews

Mrs. Pauline Padgett
4105 Mt. Atlas Lane
Haymarket, VA 22069
June 1988

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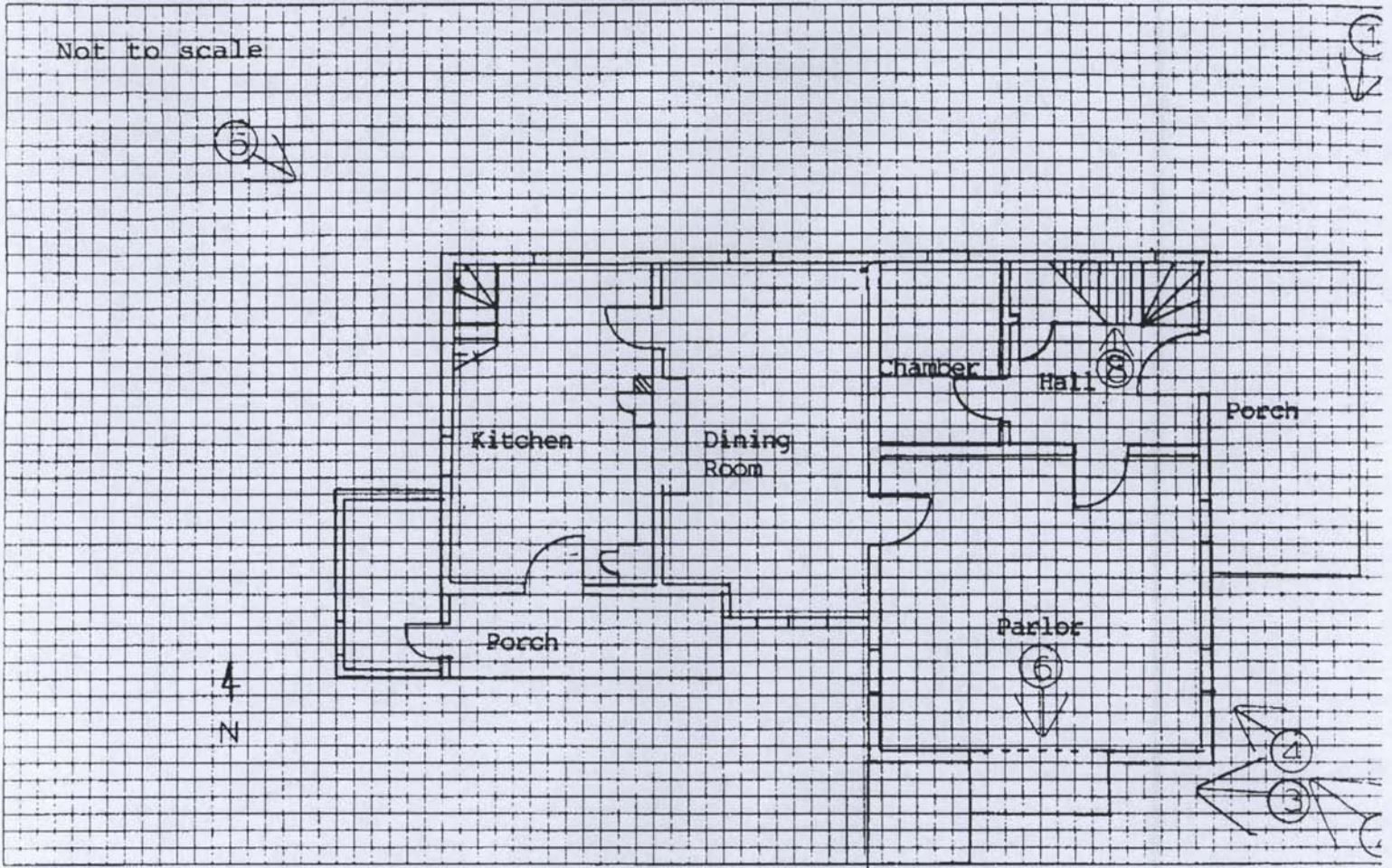
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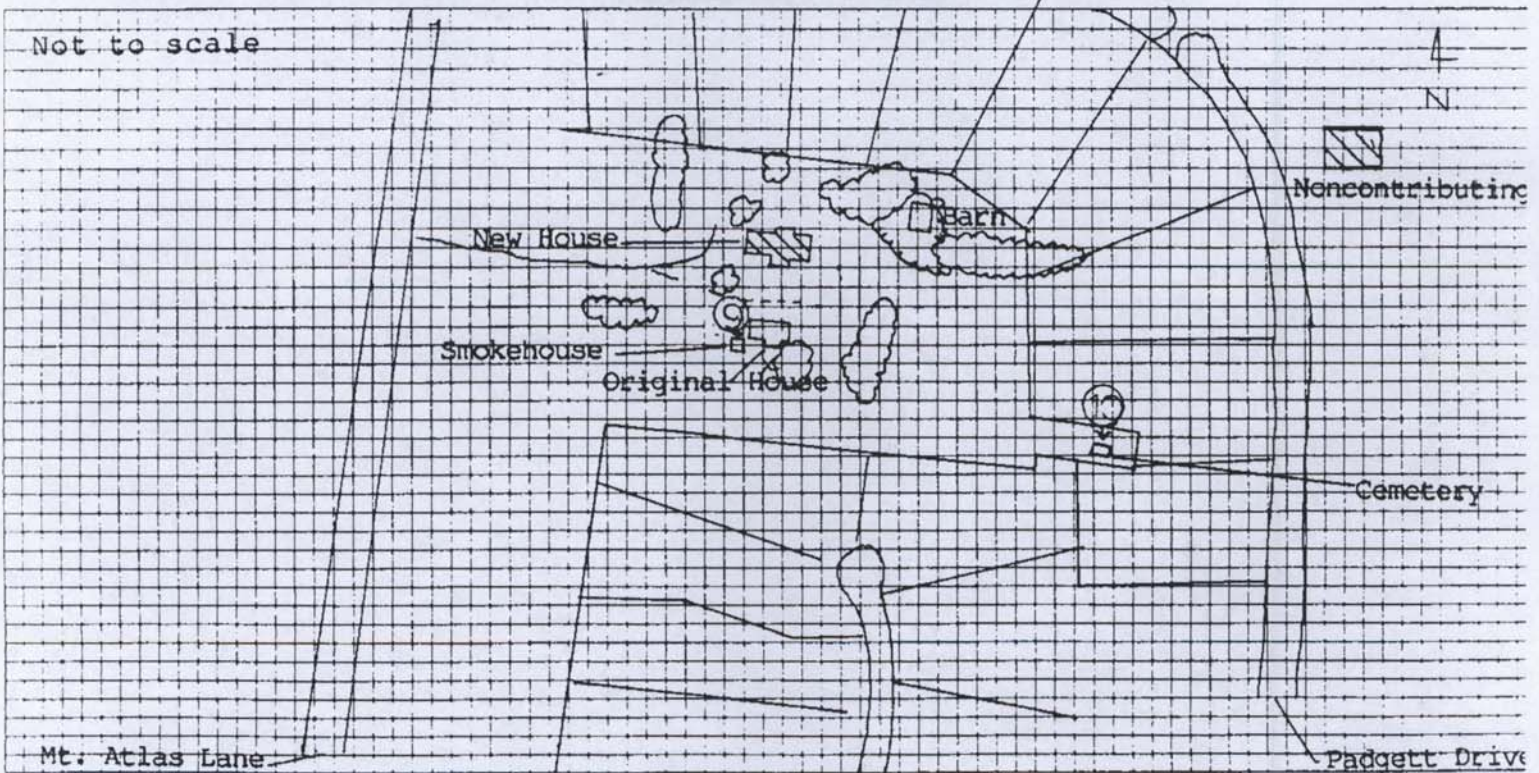
Verbal Boundary Description

The property occupies parcel 2 of Prince William County Public Works maps # 152N and 153N. Beginning at a point along the east side of Mt. Atlas Lane 230 feet south of the southeast corner of Mt. Atlas Lane and Crescent Hill Drive, proceed in an easterly direction for 780 feet. Then proceed in a southeasterly direction 125 feet. Then proceed in a southerly direction 270 feet. Then proceed in an easterly direction 150 feet. Then proceed in a southerly direction 50 feet. Then proceed in a westerly direction 140 feet. Then proceed in a southerly direction 10 feet. Then proceed in a northwesterly direction 890 feet to the east side of Mt. Atlas Lane. Then proceed in a northerly direction 400 feet along the east side of Mt. Atlas Lane to the point of origin.

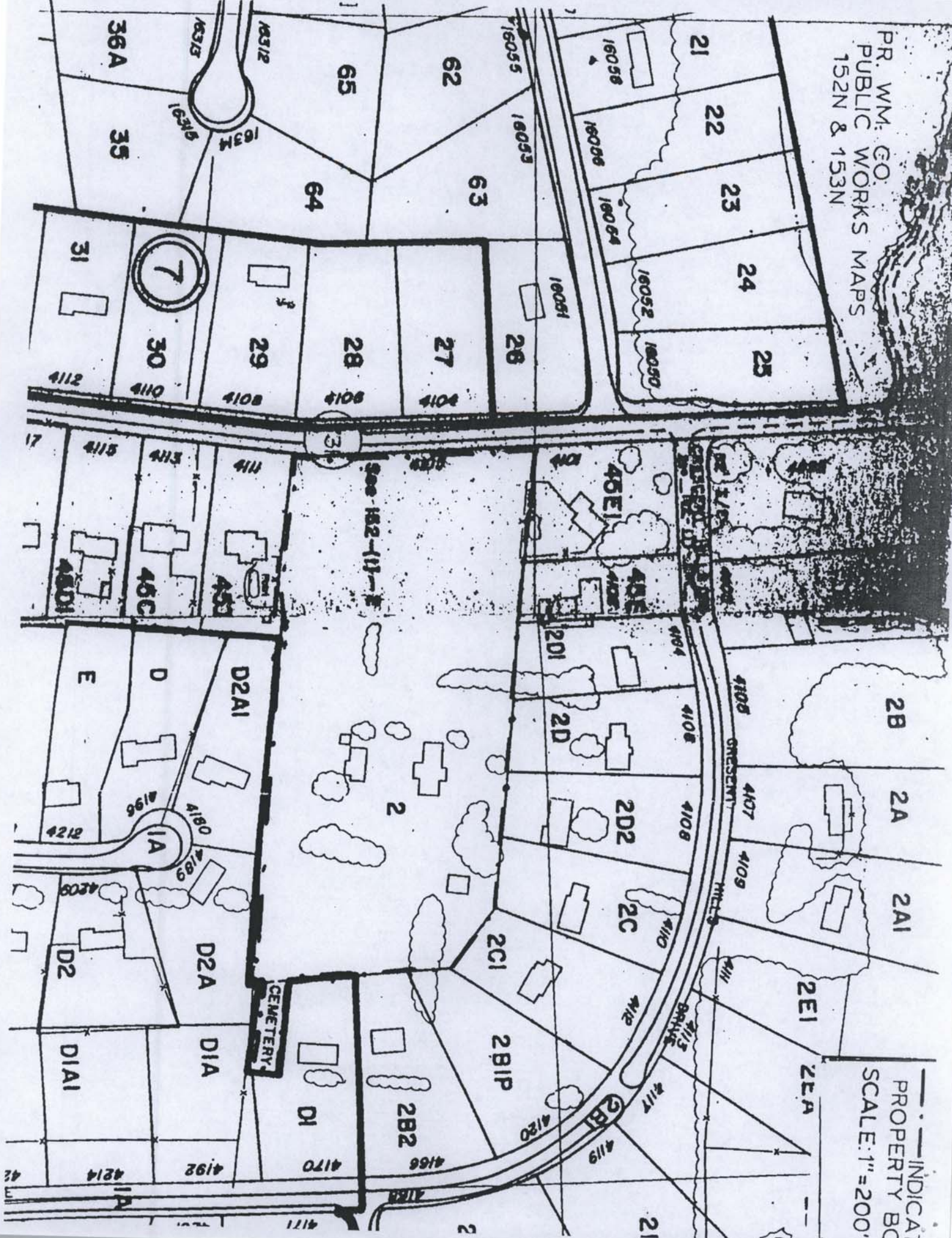
Plan (Indicate locations of rooms, doorways, windows, alterations, etc.)



Site plan (Locate and identify outbuildings, dependencies and significant topographical features.)



PR. WM. GO.
PUBLIC WORKS MAPS
152N & 153N



INDICAT
PROPERTY BO
SCALE: 1"=200'

See H&E-11-1

CEMETERY

GRESSENT HILLS

GRESSENT DRIVE

HILLS DRIVE

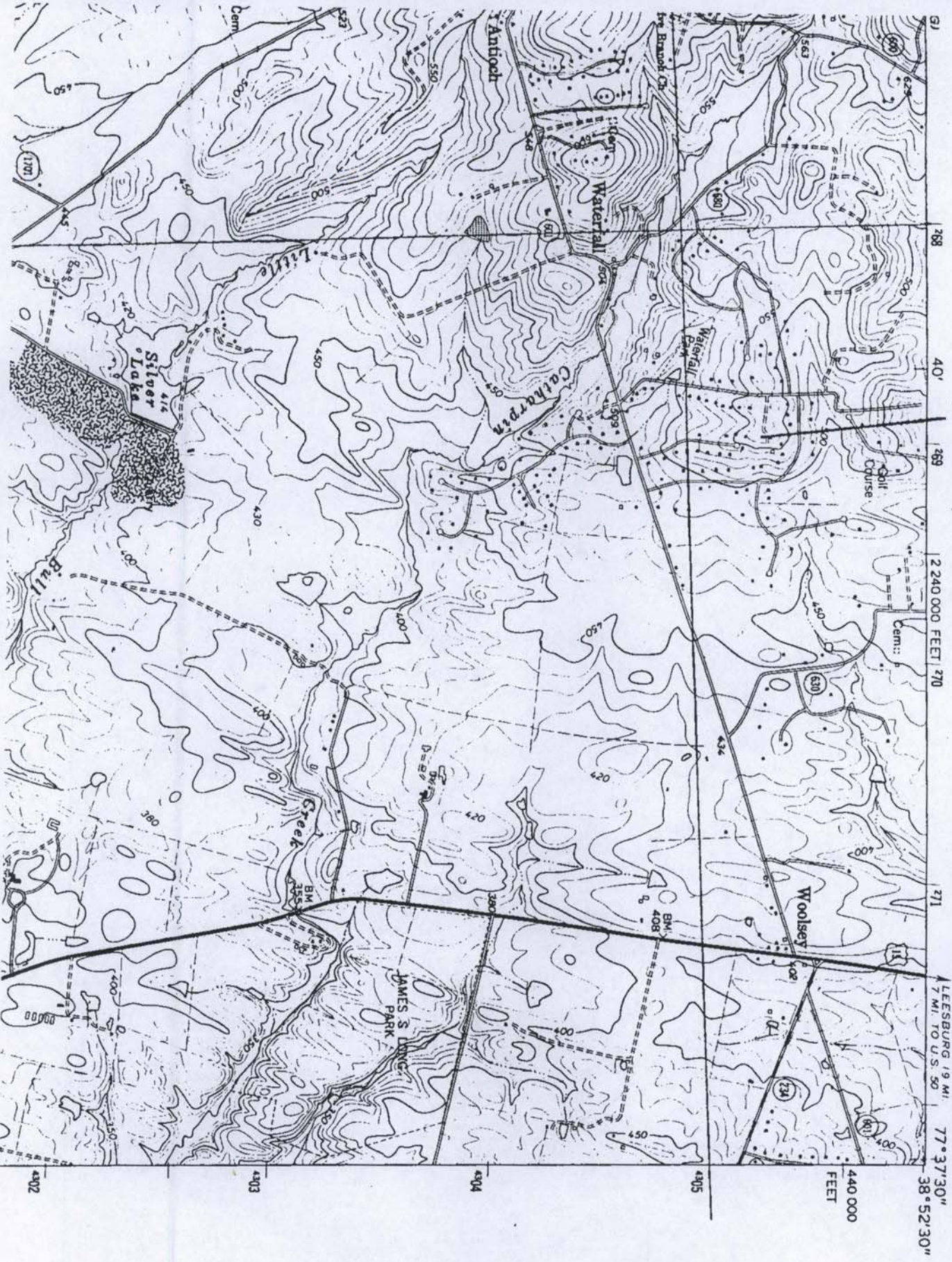
GRESSENT DRIVE

OF VIRGINIA
RESOURCES

8.17 acres
Mt. Atlas
Prince William Co., Va.
A-18/a68950/4305340

THOROUGHFARE GAP QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

361 LINE
(ARCOLA)



National Register Nomination: Mount Atlas, Prince William County

