RN. 54

State of Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Reconnaissance Survey

of

ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL RESOURCES

in

THE TOWN OF VINTON

Roanoke County, Virginia

by Darlene Coulson

in cooperation with the

Roanoke Regional Preservation Office

August 1993

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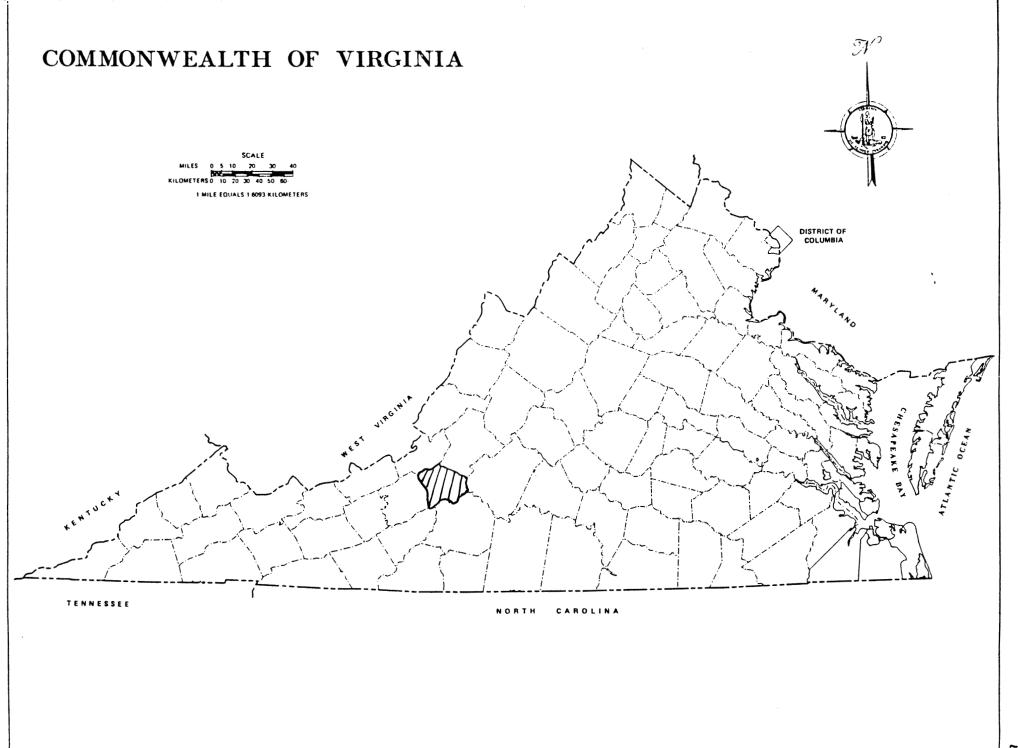
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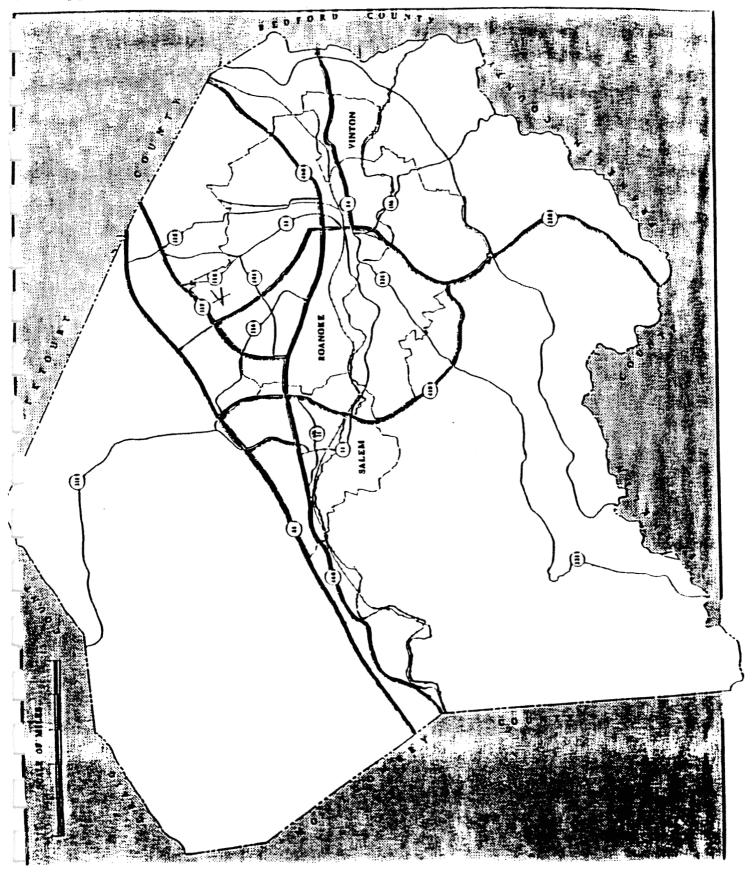
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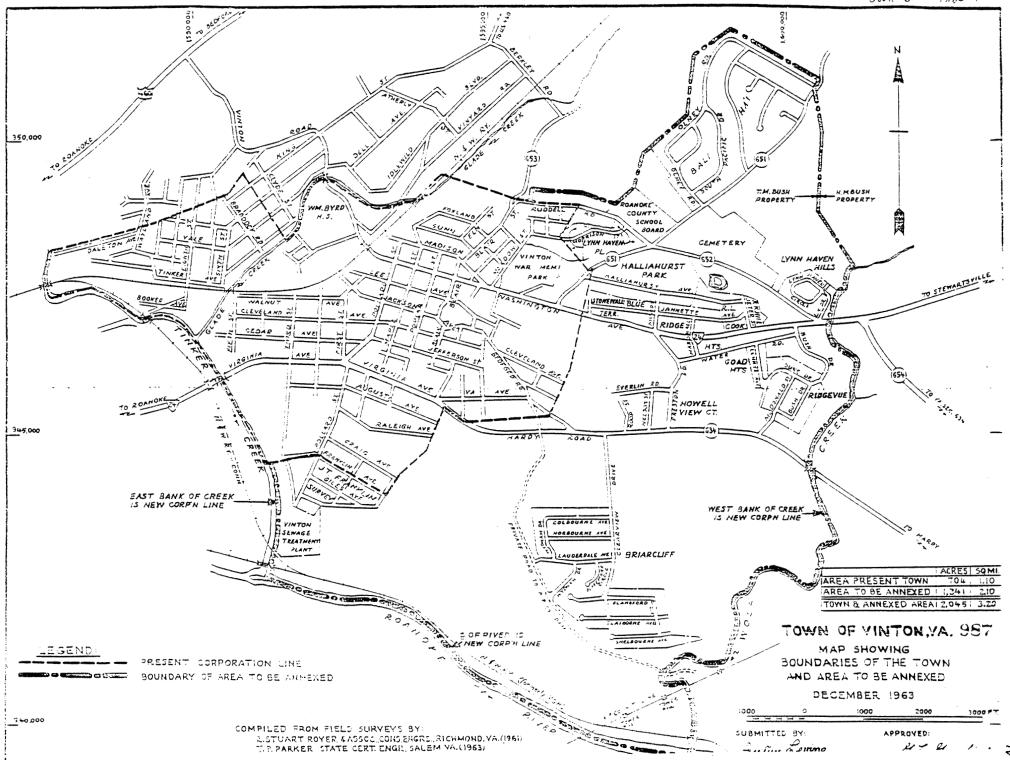
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MAP OF ROANOKE COUNTY



Map copied from Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report of Roanoke County prepared by Frazier Associates, April 1992.



INTRODUCTION

PROJECT PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, a branch of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, undertook a survey on the town of Vinton, which is located in Roanoke County, Virginia.

The survey was confined to Vinton's town limits, which is bordered along the northwest by Glade Creek, along the south by Tinker Creek, and Wolf Creek in the east. The City of Roanoke lies along the north, west and south borders of Vinton; Roanoke County lies to the east. Vinton currently covers an area of approximately 3.2 square miles.

Roanoke County, as well as the cities of Roanoke and Salem, have each had surveys conducted in recent years. Vinton, a separate governmental entity, lacked resources to undertake the survey on their own, and as the community was considered to contain properties of historic significance, a reconnaissance level survey was implemented by the VDHR's regional office.

The goal of the Vinton survey was to identify a minimum of 50 properties that had historical or architectural significance, with structural age of at least fifty years and to:

- 1. develop the historical context on the Town of Vinton
- 2. provide reconnaissance level documentation to include:
 - -taking photographs and slides of properties
 - -providing narrative and architectural descriptions of properties
 - -completing survey forms
- 3. evaluate property significance and place within VDHR historical context themes
- 4. make recommendations for future study and preservation

A reconnaissance level survey of 50 properties was executed by Darlene Coulson, an intern for RRPO, from Hollins College, supervised by RRPO Architectural Historian, Leslie Giles, and reviewed by RRPO Director, John Kern. The archival research was performed during the month of June, with field work and documentation being completed by September 30.

RESEARCH DESIGN

OBJECTIVE

The research objective was to determine previously surveyed properties in the town of Vinton and determine other potential properties to be surveyed.

METHODS

Assessment of Previous Surveys

The RRPO had a record of 7 previously identified properties that were associated with the Vinton vicinity. Sources of the early reports were as follows: WPA, in the 1930s, HABS, in the 1950s, ROANOKE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, in the 1960s, and RRPO, in 1990. The early reports documented some buildings that are no longer in existence. Several properties associated with Vinton, are actually located in Roanoke County, not Vinton. One of the previously surveyed properties was included in this survey to more fully document what remains today.

Archival Research

A majority of the archival research was performed in June, before the on-site field work. Primary sources were targeted for developing the historical context and overview. The Roanoke City Library's Virginia Room contained U.S. Census records, microfilm, Sanborn Company insurance maps, WPA works, city directories and a Vinton scrapbook that had been kept by a former librarian. Other public records at the Roanoke County and Botetourt County Courthouses, the Town of Vinton, and the Roanoke County Office of Planning and Zoning were also consulted. The RRPO library supplied additional primary and secondary resources for this study.

Fieldwork

Identification Phase

A windshield survey was performed with the assistance of the RRPO's Architectural Historian, Leslie Giles, in order to identify properties 50 years or older that should be surveyed. This phase involved driving all the streets in Vinton and choosing representative or unique resources for documentation. There were easily more than 50 suitable properties that could have been surveyed, so final selection was based on diversity of resource types, architectural integrity, and historical significance to create a broad sampling of Vintons built environment.

Documentation Phase

On-site survey field work was initiated after development of the historical context and overview draft. Leslie Giles, the Architectural Historian, accompanied the intern on several occasions into the field and provided on-going technical assistance. Black and white 35mm photographs were taken of all surveyed properties. Color slides were taken of properties to be included in future public presentations. Most properties were photographed from public sidewalks or streets. Several properties were not easily accessible from public byways, so permission was obtained from property owners for photographing of these structures.

All properties were surveyed on a reconnaissance level and included documentation of the following items:

- 1. approximate construction date
- 2. historical or architectural significance
- 3. architectural style, if applicable
- 4. condition of the property

Property and architectural information was completed on VDHR/RRPO Draft IPS Reconnaissance Survey forms (see appendix). Once all survey forms were completed, the information was entered into the Integrated Preservation Software (IPS) program at the RRPO. Any potential threats to surveyed properties were noted on the survey forms and entered into IPS.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Some antebellum agricultural and domestic resources were expected, but the majority of resources should be associated with late 19th-early 20th century industrial, commercial, and residential development.

HISTORIC CONTEXTS (OVERVIEW AND THEMES)

ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

The Town of Vinton lies due east of, and borders, the City of Roanoke occupying approximately 3.2 square lies in eastern Roanoke County. Vinton is a "foothills" community of the Blue Ridge Mountains, lying in the area northeast of Mill Mountain Roanoke City and southwest of Stewart's Mountain in Bedford County. The eastern areas of Vinton ascend to Stewart's Mountain at a steep grade and offer a spectacular view of the Roanoke Valley. the western area typically includes rolling hills that meet the floor of the valley near Tinker Creek.

Vinton is virtually surrounded by various waterways at its borders. Glade Creek runs from the north to the northwest area of town and joins Tinker Creek (formerly known as Goose Creek) near the Midway section of Vinton. Tinker Creek marks the western border of the town limits and runs on a southeasterly course into the Roanoke River. The Roanoke River marks the southern border of the town limits and is joined by Wolf Creek to the east. The west bank of Wolf Creek marks the eastern corporate limits for Vinton. The lands in and around Vinton are abundant in natural resources. The soil in eastern Roanoke County, including Vinton, contains Cecil clay. The principal crops that can be grown from this soil type are wheat, corn and clover. Also, tobacco can be cultivated to yield from 600-1600 pounds per acre. Large red and yellow clay deposits (which are useful in the manufacture of common brick) have been found around the neighboring Bonsack community. Approximately two miles east of Vinton "in a region of Pre-Cambrian rocks there is igneous rock composed of magnetite, ilmentite and apatite" and the region abounds in limestone and various iron ores. A mineral spring was discovered near Glade Creek at the turn of the century, becoming a major industrial source for Vinton.

¹George Raymond Stevens, "An Economic and Social Survey of Roanoke County", University of Virginia Record Extension Services, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia, Volume XV, No. 1, July 1930, pg. 34.

²R.L. Humber, A.M., "Industrial Survey of Roanoke County", Engineering Extension Division, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Blacksburg, Virginia, October, 1929, pg. 24.

The Blue Ridge Parkway winds its way along the easternmost fringes of Vinton and an overlook located just beyond the Bali Ha'i Subdivision provides one of the most scenic views of the Roanoke Valley. Virginia's Explore Park is located east of Wolf Creek; it adjoins Vinton's easternmost town limits.

EARLY SETTLEMENT (1750-1838)

Vinton's early history is linked to the histories of Orange, Augusta and Botetourt Counties. Early explorers venturing into the western region of Virginia before 1750 were usually commissioned by the House of Burgesses or Governor to survey land, establish trade with the Indians or to seek a short route to the South Seas.³ They established outposts in the western most regions of Virginia and homesteading settlers soon followed.

Early settlers of Roanoke County (including the area now known as Vinton) were usually Scotch-Irish Presbyterians or Germans, having moved southwest from the eastern counties of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland.⁴ English settlers from Virginia's Tidewater area migrated into this area searching for land. Among the first to establish homes in the region, many settlers were yeoman farmers--homeseekers, rather than explorers.⁵

The self sufficiency required of farmers in this period compelled them to search for land near sources of water. The land in and around the area now known as Vinton, with its abundant tributaries and springs, was especially suited for farming. David Gish, a German immigrant from Pennsylvania, settled in the area around 1790 and erected a grist mill, one of the first industries in what would later become Vinton.⁶

The local government and courthouse location changed several times during this early

³F.B. Kegley, <u>Kegley's Virginia Frontier (1740-1783)</u>, Southwest Virginia Historical Society, Roanoke, Virginia, 1938, pp. 10-20.

⁴Ibid, pg. 136.

⁵Ibid, pg. 90.

⁶Ibid, pg. 580.

period. Originally part of Orange County (until 1738), the Roanoke/Vinton area was governed under Augusta County from 1738 to 1770, and Botetourt County from 1770 until 1838, when Roanoke County was established. Active participation in government was essential to the viability of the early settlements and many of the first landowners served as surveyors, constables, or in other key roles, that influenced growth of the community. In March 1770, John McAdo, Thomas Acres (Akers), and Daniel McNeill were ordered "to view the way from the Long Lick to the Bedford line to join the road leading to Pates' settlement and make a report as to the conveniences or inconveniences of a road, thereof," essentially helping to establish one of the first major roads between Big Lick (Roanoke) and Bedford.

The settlers were a close, tight-knit group that established a strong sense of community during this period. Being somewhat isolated from the "hub" of civilization in the Tidewater and central Virginia regions, the settlers set forth to develop their community and sustain religious countenance in their lives. The first land conveyance for establishing a church in future Vinton was made in the early 1800s. Nicholas T. Vinyard donated the land for the future site of the Thrasher Memorial United Methodist Church in 1815 and the church, although no longer the original building, occupies its original site.⁸

Few architectural buildings remain from this period. According to W. Darnell Vinyard, a direct descendant of Nicholas Vinyard, a portion of David Gish's original mill structure remains on the original site. Holdren's Country Store, constructed around the old mill, now occupies the site between Glade Creek and Gus Nicks Boulevard.

⁷Lewis Preston Summers, <u>Annals of Southwest Virginia 1769-1800</u>, Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., Baltimore, Maryland, 1970, pg. 74.

⁸Irma Trammel Moseley and Madeline Simmons Forbes, <u>Vinton</u> <u>History 1884-1984</u>, House of Print, Roanoke, Virginia, 1984, pg. 98.

ANTEBELLUM AND CIVIL WAR (1838-1865)

Vinton was known as Gish's Mill/Gishes Mills/Gish's during this time period. David Gish's grist mill at Glade Creek was the center of industrial activity around which the community developed. The 1840 Roanoke County Land Book shows that a new mill was added to Property owned by David Gish, Sr. at Wolf Creek.

The 1850 census shows that most of the Gish's Mill residents were farmers, a few were carpenters and laborers, and tradesmen, such as a sawyer and miller, were evident. Agriculture was still comprised of subsistence farming for the most part. Several large land owners raised tobacco. William B. Preston, owning a 335-acre farm, grew 2,500 pounds of tobacco in 1850. Michael Ruddell, Preston's neighbor, had a farm of 211 acres and grew only 900 pounds of tobacco. According to the 1850 Agricultural Census, most farmers raised wheat, corn, oats, owned cattle, milk cows, sheep and swine. Basic essentials such as milk, butter, and wool for spinning, were produced from these farm staples. Farming and the grist mills account for most economic activity in the area until around 1850.

Slave records for the 1850 period reveal that most of the Gish's Mill farmers had slaves. William Preston, owner of the largest farm in the area, owned 12 slaves. Michael Riddle (Ruddell) and Gross Richardson each owned 5 slaves. Smaller farm owners, such as William Feather, William McDermott, Paul Thrasher and Abraham Vinyard, also owned one to six slaves, including children.

Public cemeteries were uncommon at this time. Family cemeteries were generally incorporated within the farmland and many families used decorative gates or fences to designate the sacred area. Christian Vinyard's house still stands and had been built by his father, Abraham Vinyard, who was a brickmason. The old Christian Vinyard home is supposed to be the oldest house in Vinton, and according to W. Darnell Vinyard, one of his family's two cemeteries (where Christian and Abraham Vinyard were buried) is located at the back of this property.⁹

⁹W. Darnell Vinyard, personal interview, Vinton, Virginia, 30 May 1993.

Slaves were sometimes buried in the family cemeteries of their owners, as is reportedly the case of the Vinyard family.

The Virginia-Tennessee Railroad constructed its railway through the Roanoke Valley during the years 1850-56. The 1850 census listed Nicholas Cooney, a Superintendent of Railroad Lands, from Ireland, as a Gishe's Mill resident, as well as 10 other laborers from Ireland. The railway lines already had major depots in Lynchburg, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee. Roanoke would become a major connecting stop between Lynchburg and Bristol.

Slaves were brought in by the railroad to work.¹⁰ A few of the original tenant houses, that may have been used by these slaves, are still standing in the Midway section of Vinton. A flagstop depot, using a boxcar, was established in Gish's Mill (near the mill) and in 1857, David Gish was approved to establish a House of Privates/Entertainment near his mill and store.

David Gish lost his mills, and other land holdings, at a foreclosure auction on November 16, 1860. Isaac W. Vinyard became owner of the grist mills and Thomas G. Gish became part owner of a lot and storehouse at Gish's Mill.¹¹ According to W. Darnell Vinyard, Isaac purchased the property with confederate money.

The Civil War affected the life and economy of Gish's Mill. Man of the early residents volunteered to service in the Confederate Army at the first call to arms. The Muster Roll Book of the Roanoke Grays (1861-1865) listed many Gish's Mill men as soldiers; some bravely gave their lives for the cause, while others were injured or captured. George McHenry Gish, a prominent Gish's Mill resident, was promoted to the rank of Captain the Confederate Army when Captain M.P. Deyerle was killed at Williamsburg on April 5, 1862, making him one of the higher ranking officers from Gish's Mill during the Civil War.

Slaves from the area also played a significant role in the War effort. The Governor of Virginia requisitioned slaves from Roanoke County, several times, to work on fortifications in

¹⁰ Isaac M. Warren, "Our Colored People", Federal Writer's
Project, Roanoke, Virginia, 1941.

¹¹Roanoke County Deed Book F, Roanoke County Courthouse, Public Records, Clerk of Circuit Court, Salem, Virginia, pp. 611-615.

Richmond. They were called to work for 60 days of service, some being retained for the entire war. Slave owners in the county were required to furnish slaves in proportion to the total number of slaves that they owned.¹²

Local mills and tanneries were ordered to donate flour and tanned leather for the Confederacy. A fifty dollar fine was issued to any establishment that did not deliver their goods to the local constable on assigned dates. ¹³ Union forces raided several farms in Roanoke County during the war; and after General Lee surrendered, the flagstop depot at Gish's Mill was burned by Stoneman's Cavalry.

RECONSTRUCTION (1865-1884)

The Reconstruction era proved to be a time of growth for Gish's Mill. Captain George McHenry Gish, when he returned home to Gish's Mill, went into the mercantile business. In August, 1869, he was granted a license to "sell by retail, wine, ardent spirits or a mixture thereof," at his mercantile establishment. Captain Gish also donated land to the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad Company in exchange for a permanent depot at Gish's Mill, to replace the boxcar depot that had been burned. Roads were surveyed and established in great number during this period, increasing access between Big Lick (including Gish's Mill) and outlying counties. "Road Precinct No. 40 running from the Salem and Lynchburg Turnpike at Thrasher's shop to Thrasher's Chapel be taken from said Precinct and added to Road Precinct No. 42. . . " may have been the early Vinton Mill Road. Application for a proposed road that would run through the Ruddle and Gish farms was sought in 1871, as were other roads through

¹²Isaac M. Warren, "Our Colored People", Federal Writer's
Project, Roanoke, Virginia, 1941.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Roanoke County Common Law Order Book E, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Roanoke County Courthouse, Salem, Virginia, pg. 103.

¹⁵Ibid, Book F, pg. 117.

the Gish's Mill area.¹⁶ Road improvements, the growing railroad industry, and availability of water enhanced the Valley's appeal to settlers. Southern Pennsylvania settlers were ardently pursued by the Roanoke based Piedmont Land Agency; according to the *Times-Register*, scores purchased farms in the area.¹⁷ Former slaves were among the growing number of people who decided to settle in the Gish's Mill community. The area that the ex-slaves settled in became known as the Gladetown section of Gish's Mill; several residential structures that date to this period my remain in the area.

As settlement in the area increased, demand for commercial goods increased. In 1871-72, Boyd's Virginia State Business Directory listed five businesses in Gishe's Mill: two blacksmiths, Captain Gish's Mercantile Store, and two other businesses belonging to the Vinyards. One of the Vinyard businesses was most likely the grist mill at Glade Creek. The Wolf Creek may have been the other Vinyard business. Casual reference to its demise by possible destruction or neglect is in several sources; W. Darnell Vinyard suggest that Appalachian Power Company demolished it when they built the Niagara power dam near the mill site around 1910.

Captain George McHenry Gish has been acclaimed as the person responsible for wanting to build a town at Gish's Mill. Deed references to "a recent town survey" are recorded as early as December 1875, showing the community's desire to become a town. Although Captain Gish is credited with auctioning sites in 1878, Roanoke County deed records show that a large number of lots in the original town area were, in fact, sold on January 26, 1876, by the heirs of Nicholas T. Vinyard. Most of the Vinyard lots measured at half an acre and altogether would occupy most of the downtown area of modern day Vinton. Captain Gish filed bankruptcy in 1877 and conveyed his property to Mortimer Rogers, his trustee, until his debts had been repaid. Court record show that he did not have to sell any of his Gish's Mill property which were listed as

¹⁶Ibid, pg. 344.

¹⁷Times-Register, June 29, 1867 edition, Salem, Virginia, microfilm, pg. 3.

¹⁸Roanoke County Deed Book J, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Roanoke County Courthouse, Salem, Virginia, pp. 47-650.

being: "Lot #1 - one acre, adjoining the depot lot upon which is situated his store house and dwelling. Lot #2 - one and half acres adjoining the lands of I.W. Vinyard and Lot #1,upon which is situated a store house one blue and one red tenant house and ice house. Lot #3, lies in front of the public school. . .and upon which is situated a dwelling house. Lot #4 - lies in fork of road leading from Bedford and Franklin Counties to "Roanoke". . .containing 3/4 acre with one dwelling house situated upon it." 19

A growing number of railroads were established throughout Appalachia from 1880-1920.²⁰ The Virginia and Tennessee railroad was the first to connect a railway system between Knoxville, Tennessee and Lynchburg. "Big Lick [Roanoke] owed its existence to a depot on the Virginia and Tennessee Rail Road (as did the small communities of Gish's Mill, Bonsack and Buford's Gap...)".²¹ The various railway systems changed ownership and names several times between 1850-1880. The troubled Atlantic, Mississippi and Ohio Rail Road, which as originally the Virginia and Tennessee Railway, was purchased and subsequently became the Norfolk and Western Rail Road. Coal was becoming a major fuel source and railroads offered the best choice of transportation for getting coal from Appalachia to the major rail systems of the Tidewater area.

When the railroad sought a town suitable for building a shop in the Shenandoah Valley, Big Lick [Roanoke] officials established a campaign to recruit the railroad. In 1881, Big Lick changed its name to Roanoke and won the approval as location for the railroad shops. "In 1882, the Shenandoah Valley line was completed to Roanoke and the Norfolk and Western Machine Works and Repair shops were finished. These shops provided the first major stimulus to

¹⁹Ibid, Deed Book M, pg. 103.

²⁰Karl B. Raitz and Richard Ulack, with Thomas R. Leinbach, Appalachia-A Regional History-Land, People and Development, Westview Press, Boulder and London, 1984, pp. 107-109.

²¹Daniel Pezzoni, "The Origins of Roanoke", unpublished, copy located at Roanoke Regional Preservation Office, Roanoke, Virginia, pp. 4-14.

Roanoke's population growth."²² The population boom affected all communities surrounding Roanoke. Gish's Mill (Vinton), located within 1 mile of the railroad Machine and Repair Shops, experienced massive growth as railroad workers settled there. Interest in maintaining its small town status, rather than being absorbed by Roanoke, the residents of Gish's Mill decided to take protective action. Mass meetings were held in the small schoolhouse by residents of Gish's Mill who desired the community to become incorporated as a town. The General Assembly issued the Articles of Incorporation on March 17, 1884 and while local folklore credits B.A. Jones, a merchant in the community, with combining the names of VINyard and PresTON (two prominent citizens) to make VINTON as the town name; the name most likely represents Vinyard's Town.²³ The population of Vinton grew significantly from 1880-84. The 1880 census listed a population of 96 people, of which 10 were black. The Crozer Steel and Iron Co. purchased land adjacent to Vinton, on the Roanoke side of Tinker Creek, in 1882, attracting laborer, some of who settled in neighboring Vinton. The town's population in 1884, at the time of incorporation, had grown to 584.

Post-bellum adjustment resulted in African Americans settling into their own communities and establishing their own churches and schools. The first African American congregation in Vinton was known as the First Baptist Church, Colored. In 1883, a small group of the church members purchased a lot from McDermot Smith, on the east side of Jackson Street, for the amount of \$180.00, as the site for their church. Their church building, the old Thrasher Chapel, was purchased from the Methodist congregation, disassembled in numbered order and reassembled on their Jackson Street lot. The church, which is presently known as the Star of Bethlehem Church, remains on its original site in somewhat altered condition.²⁴ The first school for black Vintonians was located on First Street (Pollard Street, now) and was convenient

²²Ibid, pg. 14.

²³Irma Trammel Mosely and Madeline Simmons Forbes, <u>Vinton</u> <u>History 1884-1984</u>, House of Print, Roanoke, Virginia, 1984, pg. 20.

²⁴Isaac M. Warren, "Our Colored People", Federal Writer's
Project, Roanoke, Virginia, 1941.

to the Gladetown residents. The building was a two-story, four room structure and was located near what is now the Vinton Municipal Building.

The children of white residents attended public school on property that had been conveyed to the county by George R. Gish and his wife, M.A., and Moses P. Preston and his wife, Lucy, on 11 July 1879.²⁵ The school was a three-room frame building located on Lee Avenue near Pollard Street, which offered instruction for students in grades one through eight (schools did not offer the customary twelve years of education) at that time. Public High Schools did not exist until the early twentieth century.²⁶ While Vinton had no secondary schools within its limits, Hollins Institute (now Hollins College) and Roanoke College offered convenient venues of higher education.

At this time, Vinton's economy was primarily based on agriculture. But incremental industrial growth began to create a pro-development climate within the community. Industry developed around the grist mill and depot areas, and the easternmost section of town, having little effect on the large farms that existed on the outlying areas. Vinton, in 1884, had adjusted to its "growing pains" without incident, having come together to form a community of its own, with an eye toward future growth. Vinton had established its own identity.

²⁵Deed Book K, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Roanoke County Courthouse, Salem, Virginia, pg. 534.

²⁶Irma Trammel Mosely and Madeline Simmons Forbes, Vinton
History 1884-1984, House of Print, Roanoke, Virginia, 1984, pg.
110.

BOOM TOWN TO HOMETOWN (1884-1940)

The town of Vinton experienced phenomenal growth between 1888 and 1890. Farming remained an important part of Vinton's culture into the early twentieth century, although encroaching industrialization and neighborhood development resulted in the demise of all but a few of these farms by 1940. A number of the older farmers passed away, leaving their land to heirs who often sold off portions to land speculators, who formed land companies and subdivided the lands into smaller lots suitable for dense urban neighborhoods. The merger of smaller railway lines into the conglomerate, Norfolk and Western Rail Road, and its' choice of Roanoke as a major hub, resulted in massive migration of northern immigrants coming into the Roanoke Valley to work.

This land speculation boom, a consequence of the railroad boom, resulted in a "rippling" effect of bringing related trades and industries into the area. A statewide business directory, Chaitaigne's Virginia Gazetteer of 1893-94, listed three land companies, eight carpenters (or builders), one iron foundry and one insurance agent as business operating from Vinton. The needs of the growing population attracted other professionals and businesses into their community as well. New additions in that same Gazetteer included an attorney, a butcher, a druggist, a dentist, several doctors, two sawmills, two saloons, and a coal agent. A weekly newspaper, the *Vinton Dispatch*, was established for local residents, but the *Roanoke Times*, a daily newspaper based in Roanoke, was probably more widely read.

Transportation for workers commuting from Vinton into Roanoke improved greatly during this period. In 1920, an electric railway (streetcar) route was implemented for the convenience of the Vinton community and was an impetus for continued growth in the area. The towns first car dealership opened in 1926, and remains in business at its original location, today.

Recollections of Mrs. Nicholas Vinyard and Mrs. Robert Garthright indicted that social events included quilting parties, wool pickings, knitting circles, church camp meetings, picnic

dinners and neighborhood parties during this time.²⁷

The frantic pace of growth that accompanied the railroads arrival stabilized and continued steadily in the early 1890s. Real estate prices stabilized and with the industrial growth of neighboring Roanoke City, many people settled in Vinton because of its small town charm and proximity to the city. Vinton, idealistically, was a crossroads community lying between the "big" city and the outlying countryside. The town was self-sufficient, yet offered a small town character that the city could not.

Vinton Town Council established laws, rules and regulations for the town in 1893. Evidence of continued farming in the urbanizing area was represented laws that imposed limits and fines on owners of free roaming animals such as horse, hogs and geese. Many of the town's early laws pertained to trespassing and to keeping animals under control and out of the streets of town. The urban mindset had begun to take priority over the needs of the farmers in the community.

Economic growth slowed to a less frantic pace after the "boom" but continued its upward trend throughout this period. According to the U.S. Census, Vinton's population numbered 1,057 in 1890, 1,438 in 1900 and 1,928 in 1910. The town continued to attract businesses and industries of its own. The People's Bank of Vinton opened in 1910 and was a prominent establishment in the downtown area, as it had a modern facade for a building of its era. A knitting mill, an enamel factory and a canning company represent a few of the industries introduced before 1920. General stores and grocery stores were new additions to the commerce community, as was the first gasoline station. The Vinton Milling Company was organized in 1924 on land that had been known as the "Mason and Cook Mill property" located "to the eastern side of Vinton and Bonsack Road". The Standard Service Station, built in 1927, was situated diagonally from the Ford dealership, where the Lancer Service Station sits today.

²⁷Gertrude Blair, "Social Customs of the Early Settlers in the Roanoke Valley and Colorful Reminiscences", WPA Writer's Project, Roanoke, Virginia, 1940, pg. 90.

²⁸Deed Book 107, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Roanoke County Courthouse, Salem, Virginia, pg. 385.

Valuable natural resources were found all over the Roanoke Valley in the early 1900s. A mineral spring was discovered in Vinton near Glade Creek in 1903. Virginia Etna Springs Co. purchased the site and became a major local industry. The mineral water was bottled, some of it having Jamaican ginger added to make ginger ale, and was sold throughout the northeast. The company found local support when the Norfolk and Western Rail Road began serving the mineral water and ginger ale on its passenger lines. According to local informant, W. Darnell Vinyard, the original spring source was capped off, although its site is indicated by a springbox adjacent to W. Virginia Avenue. The other natural resource exploited for commercial purposed during this time was iron ore. Two hillside east of Vinton were found to contain the metal. The land was leased in 1916 by H.L. Hutchins, of Roanoke,²⁹ and was still being mined in July 1940.³⁰

This period of growth also witnessed the establishment of a number of new church denominations in Vinton; their buildings helped change the landscape of the area. Vinton Baptist, Campbell Memorial Presbyterian, St. James Lutheran and Reed Street Baptist were the earliest churches from this time. Vinton Church of the Brethren, First Christian, First Church of God, Midland Baptist and many more followed. A variety of architectural styles have been used in constructing the churches; as diverse as the congregations they serve.

The town quickly outgrew its original small schoolhouse. Several frame structures were built and remodeled around the turn of the century; none of them remain today. The consolidation of small schools into larger, multi-classroom buildings, led to Vinton's first "little red schoolhouse." Vinton School (now Roland E. Cook Elementary), built around 1915, originally featured grades one through eight. Enrollment in the "high department" was very low at this time, but industrialization, new school superintendents and tougher curriculums enhanced the need for a separate four year high school. The first Vinton High School was erected in 1927 on Vinton Mill Road, across from the old grist mill. Vinton School became an elementary school, exclusively, in 1928 and has remained so since. A new Vinton High School was built

²⁹Ibid, Deed Book 80, pg. 293.

³⁰Roanoke World News, Roanoke, Virginia, 3 July 1940.

in 1933 and is the massive building located "on the hill" beside the old Vinton High School, which became Vinton Junior High School. The new high school was renamed William Byrd High School in Vinton and remained in this location until around 1970. Currently, Total Action Against Poverty (T.A.P.) occupies the 1927 high school building. The 1953 William Byrd High School building is now occupied and known as the Roanoke County Career Center.

The town's population consisted of a diverse group of migrants, as well as, long established Vinton families by this time. The newer residents required burial services to suit their needs; a public cemetery was needed. Mountain View Cemetery was founded in 1928, lying on a portion of the old Ruddell-Bush farm in Roanoke County. This area was annexed into the town's corporate limits in 1963 and has served as the final resting place for many Vinton residents. The cemetery has a well-preserved caretaker's house and contains a variety of old, unusually decorated markers. Many of Vinton's earliest residents are buried there.

Burlington Mills became a member of Vinton's industrial community in 1936. Vinton Weaving Mill, as it came to be known, played a prominent role in Vinton's economic growth by attracting new residents. The mill became an important place of work and many families would identify the mill as their source of livelihood over the course of decades.

Vinton functioned as a vital community by 1940 and was modern in every way. The town had all the conveniences of electricity, natural gas, automobiles, indoor plumbing, city water (purchased from Roanoke), sewage disposal and telephones. The downtown area consisted of many business establishments, each with its own architectural characteristics. The schools were located close to the commercial core and to mass transportation networks (train depot and trolleycars). The oldest homes were located west of the business district, and were occupied by some of the more established families in town. The areas that were built up as a result of the land companies, became neighborhoods with their own personalities and architectural styles.

The Midway area, settled by railroad workers, had a variety of frame, brick and concrete block houses, ranging from very small (~ 600 sq.ft.) to average ($\sim 1,000$ -1,200 sq.ft.) in size. The Gladetown area was settled by former slaves and migrant blacks, industrial and domestic workers who lived in one or one-and-a-half story houses of frame construction similar to those

seen in Midway. Most dwellings of this period also were accompanied by one or more small outbuildings. Neighborhoods developed by the Etna Land Company, Vinton Land, Loan and Building Company, McDonald Addition, Bowman Addition, and Fairview Club contained larger, more luxurious homes inhabited by the more affluent business people who could afford to purchase and decorate them lavishly. These dwellings were typically one-and-a-half or two stories high, of brick or frame construction, with ornamental features and fine craftsmanship. A few farms existed along the north and eastern edge of town. The Ruddells, the Vinyards and the Prestons, among others, had sold off some land or conveyed portions to children so their farms were smaller than those of fifty years earlier.

SUBURBANIZATION (1940-PRESENT)

World War II interrupted the growth of Vinton. Young men left town to fight in the war, women worked outside the home, and many building materials were too expensive to buy or were rationed. Vinton's economy would not resume its growth until the war was over.

The large farms ceased to operate between 1945-1965. Widows of the old farmers would either move into town or with relatives, abandoning, but not giving up title to the farms. W. Darnell Vinyard built his Colonial Revival-inspired brick home around 1945, on what would later become Clearview Avenue. His house faced the old family farmhouse which was located where Lake Drive Plaza stands today. According to 1960 U.S. Census records, there were no working farms remaining in Vinton by this date. Land investors converted old farm lands into residential subdivisions, although remnants of some old farming structures are visible in various subdivisions around town. A barn, apparently associated with the Ruddell-Bush farm is located adjacent to the Mountain View Cemetery.

Social venues boomed for Vinton residents in the 1950s. The Vinton War Memorial was constructed on the site of the old C.J. Cook property to pay tribute to the World War II veterans. In addition, recreation received a boost when the Vinton Pool was built in 1946. Many social organizations were established, as was an important annual tradition: The Vinton Dogwood

Festival.

The Blue Ridge Parkway, a National Park Service owned scenic highway, was constructed during this time period. Near the eastern border of the town limits, the parkway has one exit at Vinton, with two scenic overlooks north and south of the exit. The norther overlook provides a panoramic view of the Roanoke Valley. The southern overlook is located at Wolf Creek, providing hiking trails, fishing and a view of the Niagara Dam which was built by Appalachian Power Company before 1920.

The post-war "baby boom" and increased commerce in Roanoke resulted in a spillover of new residents into Vinton. The need for more land to build homes on led Vinton to annex additional Roanoke County property in 1963. The annexation increased the area of Vinton from 1.1 square mile to 3.2 square miles. According to U.S. Census records, Vinton's population increased 84.9 per cent between 1960 and 1970, from 3,432 to 6,347. African American comprised 4.7 per cent of the town's population in 1970.

Vinton's landscape changed radically during the 1960s. New subdivisions continued to be built, fast food chains, apartments, duplexes and suburban shopping centers further altered the town's appearance; becoming more colorful, yet eclectic in style. Suburban residents became dependent on the outlying shopping centers, and did not go downtown as often to shop. Although Vinton's downtown business district has lost grocery stores and certain other retailers, it has not suffered from the effects of malls as badly as have larger cities. Downtown Vinton has retained certain long-established businesses while attracting new and different commercial establishments. Service-oriented businesses, such as real estate companies, banks, and insurance agencies have helped fill the void of merchants missing from the town's core. Construction of the Lancerlot, a bowling alley and skating rink offered a variety of recreational activities for Vinton residents.

The development of recreational and residential opportunities at nearby Smith Mountain Lake has affected the volume of traffic commuting through Vinton. The two shopping centers located at the edge of Washington Avenue and Hardy Road enjoy the benefits of increased commerce. The higher traffic counts also led to major highway improvements in Vinton,

especially the widening and re-routing of Gus Nicks Boulevard (Old Vinton Mill Road) to Washington Avenue, and construction of a new four-lane bridge that replaced the 1952 two-lane Garthright Bridge.

Road improvements resulted in better access into and around Vinton, which has enhanced Vinton's desirability as a residential community. The town has a new municipal building and many old buildings have had face lifts. The old town clock still stands in front of the municipal building as a reminder of the past. Vinton contains a pleasant mix of old and new homes and buildings. Several of the old homes near town have been restored and are maintained in good condition. New churches and a new high school were built and the town enjoys a steady influx and exchange of business.

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VDHR HISTORIC THEMES

THEME: SUBSISTENCE/AGRICULTURE

Resource type: BARNS

Subsistence farming was the predominant industry and way of life throughout the antebellum period of the area now known as the Town of Vinton. The area soil was conducive for the growth of wheat, corn, and tobacco, which were part of the staple crops grown.

The typical farm, in early Vinton, contained at least 200 acres of land. The 1850 Agricultural Census Records indicate that William B. Preston had the largest farm, containing a total of 335 acres; 225 acres improved, 110 acres unimproved. His farm covered the area from the present-day Vinton War Memorial to the eastern-most limit of modern Vintons boundary. The census records also indicate that most of the early farmers grew tobacco, as well as wheat, corn and oats, owned at least 3 milk cows, produced their own butter, flax and wool.

There are few remaining structures related to farming, as subdivision development since the early 1950s has resulted in their destruction. The 1850 Slave Records showed that all of the early Vinton farmers owned slaves. The numbers owned ranged from 1-23, per farmer. There are no known remaining slave quarters in Vinton. Only two late 19th century barns were located within the town limits for this survey.

Ruddell-Bush Barn (149-30)

This barn is located on fenced-in property behind the Lynn Haven Subdivision and near the rear northeast property line of the Mountain View Cemetery. Wooden board construction and frame, with a front gabled, metal standing-seam roof. The doors have decorative wrought iron hinges and knobs, and there is a nice weathervane still attached at the front roof line of the barn. The boards are weathered and unpainted. The structure appears to be used primarily for storage now.

There are no other associated buildings that may be historically linked to this barn, at this time. A 1939 Roanoke World-News article, with photographs of old artifacts, associated slave cabins, tobacco barn and family gravesite, in the Vinton scrapbook at the Roanoke City Library Virginia Room, was one of the few remaining sources that provided a historical picture of this property.

Dillon Dairy Farm (149-54)

This barn is associated with the Dillon Dairy Farm that operated into the early 20th century. The tract of land that the barn sits on has been subdivided and is no longer part of the tract that the house structure is located on. This land may have been part of the William Preston farm at an earlier time. The barn is situated in close proximity to the dwelling structure that was once the Dillon home. The barn has been fenced in with a locked gate, so access into the barn itself was not possible.

This barn is significantly larger than the Ruddell-Bush barn. Approximately three stories high, it is of frame construction, weathered boards on the exterior. The roof is gabled over 2 large wood doors. A shed roof covers contained storage area on the left side. The roof is standing-seam metal type and a decorative wrought iron weathervane sits on the front gable roof seam. There are two small windows at the front gable end. The area around the barn has been graveled and there is no indication that the structure maintains its original function.

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THEME: EDUCATION

Resource type: SCHOOL BUILDINGS

Virginia's first school law was passed in 1796, but was not compulsory in nature. The agrarian based culture, along with modes of transportation in those days, did not facilitate centrally located schools until communities were established. Most early settlers either self-taught a basic education to their children, or hired tutors if they could be afforded.

The earliest known school established in Vinton was a small one-room log structure located near the Thrasher Memorial Chapel. The structure, believed to have been built before 1830, no longer exists today. One of the earliest orders of record concerning schools was issued by the Roanoke County Clerks Office, in 1856, for the School Commissioner to establish school districts. This marked a growing interest in educating the County's increasing population.

Vinton Consolidated School-Roland E. Cook School (149-52)

Vinton's earliest remaining elementary school, this structure was built in 1910. Later in that particular decade, the State of Virginia followed the trend of providing a higher education to its citizens. A "people's college" curriculum was implemented for the average citizen, rather than being college preparatory in nature: home economics and civics were new additions to the curriculum.

This school building doesn't follow any particular architectural order, but has many Greek revival features. A two-story brick structure with a raised basement, Doric order columns, dentilated trim along the pediment and frieze boards. The exterior shape is like an "H".

Vinton High School (149-31)

Growing industrialization, created a demand for education of people in more and more skills. The high schools significance was recognized, as was the need for a separate high school structure. Vinton's first high school was built in the 1920's. The design is similar to several other schools in the Roanoke County area that were built at that time. A basic square structure, this school has many Colonial Revival style features. Pedimented ends and center front contain white blocks set as diamonds. Decorative brick designs are on both facade ends and the entrance has an archway with white contrasting keystones. A raised mid-section has a mansard roof of slate, with windows all around it, to permit more light into the interior. The building was vacant for several years and appears to be operating as a daycare center now.

William Byrd High School (149-38)

This high school was built in 1928 and remained as such until a new high school was built in the early 1970's. The building is the most prominent structure in Vinton, as it sits high up on a hill that overlooks the town.

Following no particular academic architectural order, the building contains many Greek Revival features. A 2-story brick structure, there are 3 arched entryways at the front of the original building, with a raking cornice, overhead. Contrasting concrete keystones are centered over each window. There have been several additions to the structure: a gymnasium, an auditorium and rear expansion. An associated building is located a short distance from the back of the school and may have been an industrial arts building. This building was vacant for several years after the new high school opened, but is now being used as a career center by Roanoke County. Vinton History 1884-1984 noted that there was a school for African American children in the vicinity of (now) Pollard Street, early in the 20th century, but states that it was destroyed to make way for the municipal building constructed at that time. No other former schools have been located for this survey.

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THEME: ETHNICITY/IMMIGRATION

Resource type: DWELLINGS

The earliest settlers along the Glade Creek area were usually of Anglo-Saxon descent: Englishmen from the Tidewater area, Germans or Scot-Irish immigrants from Pennsylvania and New England. Slaves were brought into the area by these settlers and many remained in the area as freedmen, after the Civil War. The freedmen established neighborhoods within the Vinton community, building homes of architectural and historic significance. Two of the earliest known African-American neighborhoods were known as Gladetown and Carline, with some settlement in the Midway area.

Wise Smith House (149-13)

The Wise Smith house is believed to be one of the earliest remaining structures in the Gladetown neighborhood. The vernacular architecture of the building resembles a "shotgun" house, but lacks porch and eave detailing to classify it as such. A small 1-1/2 story structure with a front gable roof and raised basement, the original house was probably a 3 or 4 room plan house. The tin, standing-seam roof appears to be the original and is in need of maintenance. Simple in style, with no ornamental trim, the house is typical of the types of houses and materials used by freedmen in the late 19th century. The entire structure has reached a level of chronic deterioration and needs to be salvaged for its historic value to this neighborhood.

Fester-Lindesay House (149-12)

This house is located several houses east of the Wise-Smith House in the Gladetown neighborhood. A small, square, frame folk house of no particular architectural order, this house is similar to other early homes in the neighborhood, as it is simple design and lacks ornamentation. The roof is a hipped, pyramidal style with exposed rafter ends, which is an inexpensive treatment. The original front porch is missing. This house has been vacant for

several years and the lot is grossly overgrown. The basic structure of the dwelling is good and renovation is suggested. This house probably built in the early 20th century.

Haskins House (149-1) 67

This house is located in the vicinity of the Midway and Carline neighborhoods, in a secluded area behind the Southern States Mill and near the Norfolk Southern railroad tracks. The structure is a typical subtype of the "shotgun" house. It contains several Craftsman features: porch has brick piers and short tapered wood posts and exhibits decorative exposed rafter ends. The porch is currently a 1-bay style, but the three brick piers indicate that it previously a 2-bay porch. The notched rafter ends are the only decorative feature about the house.

A kitchen was added to the original structure and another room added to that at a later date. The additions are of similar frame construction and siding. There is an associated wood shed located at the rear of the property. This house may have been built by the railroad for the early railyard workers in the late 19th century.

Samuel Miller House (149-10)

The Samuel Miller House is a square, rock faced concrete block house of no particular architectural style. A simple designed house, it is similar to early houses found in the Gladetown neighborhood and most likely has a hall and parlor floor plan. The original porch, which may have been of masonry, has been removed and a wood frame porch put in its place. A full rear addition is contemplated, as some wood framing has been put in place. There are plain, exposed rafter ends along the roof edge. The roof is pyramidal in style.

It is believed that Albert Woods, an ex-slave who handcrafted rock faced cement blocks and tombstones, made the blocks for this house. There is evidence that another similar style house once stood several yards east of this house, on the same lot. Masonry piers and a concrete slab (possible porch) remain. There are no outbuildings other than a doghouse associated with this structure.

Strange House (149-009)

This house is a Craftsman-style structure located beside the Haskins House (149-008). A 1-1/2 story structure, Craftsman features of this particular house include the varied roof line that is pyramidal with one hip roofed dormer on each side, extended roof line over notched rafter ends and the porch has tall masonry piers with short tapered posts. Not a classic Craftsman home, it carries many of the features associated with the style.

Clad in rock faced concrete block, believed to have been hand-made by Albert Woods, this house is located behind the Samuel Miller House (149-10). The proximity of this house to the railroad may link its historical significance to early railroad workers.

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THEME: FUNERARY

Resource Types: CEMETERIES

The Vinton area was predominantly a farming community during the antebellum period, where large family farms with family cemeteries existed. An interview with W. Darnell Vinyard, a descendant of Abraham and Christian Vinyard, disclosed the approximate location of 2 of his family's cemeteries that were once part of the original farms. Darnell stated that slaves that worked for the family were also buried there.

Abraham Vinyard Cemetery (149-36)

This small family cemetery can be easily missed as it is now located in a modern subdivision and situated on a residential lot, encased in concrete block, with a small chain link gate. The only tombstones in this small cemetery belong to Abraham and his wife, Polly. There may be other possible gravesites contained within the concrete block walls, but no headstones exist. In its day, this graveyard was located at the back of the farm, to the southwest. The original farmhouse once stood in the vicinity of where Kentucky Fried Chicken's restaurant is located today.

Mountain View Cemetery (149-37)

As the community grew and subdivisions replaced the old farms, the need for a public cemetery was imminent. The cemetery was formed in 1928 and located on part of the old Ruddell-Bush farm: Charles L. Bush was its first President. Many of the Ruddell and Bush family members are buried at Mountain View and may have been posthumously moved from their old family cemeteries.

The most interesting structure at the Mountain View Cemetery is the caretakers house. Containing elements of Colonial Revival architecture, such as a hall and parlor floor plan, with end chimneys; there is a strong Spanish eclectic influence on material components. There is an archaded porch on both sides of the structure. The roof is a combination of being hipped and gabled, which creates a pedimented area on both ends over the porch area. The roof material is Spanish tile and the pedimented area contains decorative rock and cement. This is a 1-1/2 story structure with small windows at the gable ends. This building is now used as the cemetery office.

There are several uniquely decorative headstones present in an older section of the cemetery. Most of Vinton's early prominent citizens are buried in clusters together in one area near the back of the cemetery; these may have been some of the first plots to be sold.

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THEME: GOVERNMENT/LAW/POLITICAL

Resource type: POST OFFICE

Vinton became a self-governing town under charter by the Virginia General Assembly on March 17, 1884. The Vinton government is unique in that while it is self-governing, it has no court system of its own, using Roanoke County's Circuit and General District Courts as its legal venue. The Town of Vinton maintains its own deed book records which reference a corresponding deed book and page number at the Roanoke County Courthouse. Early townsfolk met in the one-room log schoolhouse for meetings that eventually led to the town being chartered, but this structure no longer remains.

The earliest municipal building was located at the corner of Jackson Street and (now) Pollard Avenue. According to <u>Vinton History 1884-1984</u>, demolition of an African American elementary school building was made so that the new municipal could be built near the center of town. The original building is still intact and once housed the fire department. This building is now a carpet and crafts store, and was not surveyed. Hopefully, inclusion of this structure can be made on a more intensive level at another time. The town has a new municipal building that was built in the 1980's that was too new to survey.

The local Post Office was the only other governmental entity that existed in Vinton since the late 1800s. The Post Office had evidently leased space in various buildings, as its location has moved several times over the years. The first location, according to an 1886 Sanborn map, was on the north side of Lee Street, between 1st and 2nd Street. A vacant lot occupies that space, currently. The second known location was on 1st Street (now Pollard) and may have been part of the 202-208 S. Pollard Street Building (149-48). The third known location was on the southwest side of Lee Street, until its move to a vacated grocery store building where it remains today. For details of the structure that housed the post office at its second known location, see Theme: Commerce.

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THEME: INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

Resource type: MILLS, FACTORIES, MINES

The earliest known industry in Vinton dates to 1800 ca. David Gish, Sr. was granted a permit, by the Botetourt County Clerk's Office, in 1798, to build a mill along Glade Creek. It is unclear when the original mill was built, but the Roanoke County Land Book of 1846 shows that David Gish, JR., had a \$5,000 improvement for a new mill on Glade Creek. The grist mill on Glade Creek and its cousin, later built on Wolf Creek by David Gish, Jr. was the source for the area being referred to as Gishs Mill (and many variations thereof) into the 1870s.

David Gish's Mill (149-57)

David Gish Jr's 1846 mill still stands today. The original structure has modern additions built around it and can be viewed only from the rear or interior. The mill is constructed of brick, American bond of 7 stretcher rows between 1 header row, is 3 stories high and at one time had a gambrel roof. A water wheel was once situated at the creek side, but was removed and destroyed during an earlier remodeling. The concrete dam has been partially removed, due somewhat to flooding in recent years and lack of repair. Holdren's Country Store occupies the building now and has made several additions to it. The manager advised me that the original belts and pulleys associated with the mill are still in use today. A granary storage area and loading docks have been added and the modern facade hides the historical importance of this building. The Wolf Creek Mill, also owned by David Gish also, was destroyed in the early 20th century when the Niagara Dam was built for generating electricity. The Niagara Dam was not surveyed, as it belongs to Appalachian Power Company, but should be included in a future survey.

A small iron ore mining enterprise was associated with Vinton, early in the 20th century, when H.L. Hutchins of 1205 Patterson Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia, mined iron ore and maintained an orchard on his 24.56 acres of land located 1 mile east of Vinton. This property was not

surveyed, as the exact location of the mine could not be discerned.

Virginia Etna Springs Co. purchased land in Vinton, in 1903, and opened for business in 1910. The Company tapped a spring that contain high mineral content and became a major producer of mineral water and ginger ale for over 50 years. Its products were staples on the Norfolk and Western passenger dining cars until the company went out of business in the 1960s. The spring has been capped off, but its location was not found. The building was destroyed, probably for the widening of Virginia Avenue, that took place in the late 1970s. A satellite dish company occupies the land, with a modern brick building, at this location today. This property was not documented, as none of the company's buildings exist, but its historical significance as one of Vinton's early successful industries could not escape honorable mention.

Southern States opened its mill in 1937 on Walnut Avenue. The mill produced various animals feeds and meal. This property was not surveyed, as Vinton had older historical architecture whose conditions precipitated their immediate inclusion in this survey.

Burlington Mills/Vinton Weaving Mill/Precision Fabrics Group, Inc. opened their textile mill in 1946, at Vinton's southwestern border next to Tinker Creek. A modern structure of brick, the building was not included in this particular survey as it had previously been documented on a HABS form.

THEME: TRANSPORTATION/COMMUNICATION

Resource type: RAILROAD, DEPOT SITE

The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad made its first appearance into the Roanoke Valley around 1850. Tracks were laid through Salem, Roanoke and Vinton, connecting a rail line between Lynchburg, Virginia and Bristol, Tennessee. The railway tracks ran from the southwest to the northeast through Vinton, near David Gish's Mill. A flagstop depot, using an empty boxcar, was established near the mill. The depot was burned by Stoneman's Cavalry after Lee's surrender on April 1, 1865.

After the war, Captain George McHenry Gish, a young Confederate officer and resident of Gish's Mill (Vinton) persuaded William Mahone, President of the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad, to build a permanent depot near the mill. There no physical remains of the depot, although it has been depicted in early drawings that several area residents possess.

An electric railway (streetcar) system was established between Roanoke and Vinton around 1920. The railway system provided quick and affordable transportation for many of the railroad workers who had settled in Vinton. The Carline neighborhood "grew up" as an increasing number of workers built homes along the route of the street car line. Photographs are all that remain of the electric railway.

The Vinton Baptist church is located behind the lot where one of the first African American elementary schools once stood. See Education Theme for more details.

Reed Street Baptist Church (149-35)

The Reed Street Baptist Church was built in 1896. The original structure burned to the ground in 1906 and was rebuilt. Similar in design to the Vinton Baptist Church, it features are more decorative. The original structures exterior is rectangular in shape and is clad with stone veneer. The windows are shaped in a variated Gothic design, with 2 over 2 fixed windows. The vestibule, possibly added at a later date, is covered in wood shingles, with a Gothic-style tower and cross on top.

There have two additions to the rear. The first addition has a gabled and hipped roof and is of similar structure and cladding as the original church. A door with concrete steps provide access from the south. The second addition is a large, plain concrete block structure with a gabled, asphalt shingle roof.

The streets have been renamed, so that the church is now located on Walnut Avenue, instead of Reed Street, but the church has not changed its name since its founding.

Midway Christian Church (149-51)

This church located in the Midway neighborhood. A cornerstone indicates that the church was built in 1927. This structure is similar in style to the Vinton Baptist Church and Reed Street Baptist Church, but it is larger, clad in brick and more ornate.

The front gabled roof is steeply pitched, indicative of a cathedral ceiling inside. The large pediment area at the gable ends have been stuccoed. Windows are rectangular-framed stained glass. A large stained glass window, located at the rear of the church, is arched and of a different design than the rest. The remnant of a prior church bell tower is located at the front

right of the original structure and have been capped off with vinyl siding.

A small vestibule addition is located at the front right of the church. A decorative in-laid brick cross is located above the metal frame and glass double doors at the entranceway. Brick plant boxes have been constructed on both sides of the concrete steps at the vestibule entrance. The basement area can be accessed by a door located at the left of the vestibule that is partitioned from the front by a decorative concrete blocks.

A brick sign encasement still stands at the right of the property, but is blank, indicating that the church have been dissolved. This church is very similar to other small churches in various other neighborhoods throughout Vinton.

Architectural and Historical Resources Survey Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Virginia

THEME: COMMERCE/TRADE

Resource type: STORES, BANKS, NEIGHBORHOOD STORES

The growth of commerce coincided with the expanding population brought in by the railroad. The town was laid out into lots, in 1875, that would eventually become the heart of the business district. Various tradesmen settling in the Glade Creek area established businesses of their own and built commercial structures reflecting their own particular architectural tastes.

There have been several references to a store, owned by David Gish, being located near his Glade Creek mill. No structure could be found, unless it was actually a part of the mill itself. Early Sanborn maps indicate that Lee Street was the primary center of commerce, containing stores whose structures remain today.

101 E. Lee Street (149-47)

This building is located on the east corner of the Lee Street and Pollard Avenue intersection. An early Sanborn map indicates that this building was once a bank. Although the structure has been altered in recent years, it retains many original features. It has no particular academic architectural style, but contains variations of Gothic-revival features.

The brick structure features a brick castellated parapet, as well as a similar design worked into the brick along the building edges. Wood beams add ornamentation between the brick protrusions. A plain cornice wraps the street-facing sides of building and there is evidence of past ornamentation at the storefront facade. The original doorways and windows incorporate some Italianate influence with arches at the top.

During renovation in the 1980s, siding that had been placed over the first story level was removed. An advertisement for Clover Creamery, a now-defunct local dairy company, was found painted on the side of the building. A similar occurrence happened in Roanoke with a

National Biscuit Company ad and has been repainted to maintain its historical significance. Hopefully, someone in Vinton will see fit to do likewise.

116 Lee Street (149-39)

This 2-story building is typical of the vernacular architectural style evident in the commercial district of Vinton. Corner quoins, an Italianate feature, are the only components vaguely related to an academic style on this building. Clad in large, rockfaced concrete blocks, is a simple structure that doesn't appear to have been altered much through the years. A step-like parapet borders the roof and large concrete spheres adorn each corner.

Early Sanborn maps show that this building was a grocery store at one time. It is now a duplex, with a vacant store at the first level and apartments upstairs. A rear, 2-story frame porch has been added at the rear.

Nancy's (149-44)

This building is similar to 149-39. Its masonry cladding is unique, as it resembles a Flemish row-lock pattern, using varied shapes of concrete block. This 2-story structure, with a stepped parapet, features an Italianate-influenced bracketed cornice along its topmost edge. The cornice is decorated in Colonial-revival influenced detailing. A one-story concrete block and plaster addition has been made to the rear of the original building. Nancy's also incorporates a small one-story building, of similar construction, adjoining its western wall, facing Lee Street. This one-story building features concrete spheres ornamenting the corner ends, similar to those at 149-39.

Vinton Messenger (149-43)

This building is a one-story structure of vernacular design, with little influence of any particular architectural style. The cladding features Flemish rowlock patterned blocks seen at Nancy's (149-44), alternating with rows of smooth-faced blocks. Decorative, Colonial-revival influenced

diamond-shaped stones are inset over the entranceway. A 1-story addition, with basement, has been made at the rear of the building. This structure is made of concrete block and finished in stucco.

Citizens Upholstery & Furniture Co. (149-45)

According to the 1918 Sanborn map, this building once housed the Vinton Post Office. This 2-story building has had its first story level covered with wood, and painted, which hides part of the brick facade. The second story brick is still exposed and has some varied Italianate features, including a protruding brick cornice and decorative brick work over the windows. The stepped roof parapets at the building's sides obscure the shed roof. A storage and loading area has been added at the rear, of concrete block construction. A permanent flagpole, or signholder, is situated at the center front of the original building.

202-208 S. Pollard Street (149-48)

The 1918 Sanborn map indicates that the Vinton Post Office was also located in this building at one time. This building, best viewed from Pollard Street, incorporates various architectural influences in its design. A Gothic-Revival castellated brick pattern is used at the corners of the building. The cornice was Colonial-Revival inspired and arched door entrances were Italianate influenced. The building has been altered for a more modern appearance and is in need of care.

People's Bank of Vinton (149-49)

The bank was built in 1910. It exhibits some Italianate influence such as corner quoins, but is of no true architectural design. A 2-story brick structure, its main entrance was once located at the corner of Pollard Street at Lee--the heart of Vinton's commercial district. Originally a structure that was conservative in design, the first floor exterior has been drastically altered. The brick has been covered with dark marble, the entrance has been covered up and moved to a different location on S. Pollard Street and all of the large windows have been changed. The

second story windows have been bricked in and the entire upper level brick has been painted in a contrasting color. Several modern additions have been made, such as drive-in windows and bays, which are located at the rear of the building.

There have been references to various other commercial businesses, but no concrete evidence regarding their exact location could be found. George McHenry Gish, a young civic leader after the Civil War, was known to operate a mercantile store and House of Privates in Gishs Mill (Vinton). He owned two lots that were part of the original town survey: one on Washington Avenue and the other, where Holdren's Appliance Store now stands. But which establishment operated on which lot is not directly known.

Neighborhood grocery stores were vital to the developing subdivisions and at least one can be found in each neighborhood. Similar in their simplistic floor plan, 4 structures, in 3 different neighborhoods were surveyed.

Sally Wagner's Store (149-42)

This structure is situated at the corner of 1st Street and W. Cleveland Avenue. The store is located beside the former residence of Sally Wagner, which is a hall-passage plan I-house discussed under the Domestic theme. The store features decorative exposed rafter ends and a gable roof with a plain parapet at the facade. Clad in clapboard siding, there is a large fixed pane window and one door at the front.

OTHER NEIGHBORHOOD STORES SURVEYED:

Bank's Grocery Store (149-15)
Thompson's Grocery Store (149-16)
Montgomery's Store (149-18)

Architectural and Historical Resources Survey Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Virginia

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THEME: DOMESTIC

Resource Type: DWELLINGS & OUTBUILDINGS

Vinton contains a large inventory of domestic dwellings. Growth of the town has been directly influenced by the Norfolk and Western Rail Road, in the late 1800s, and suburbanization, in this century. Earlier home designs were most likely dependent on the income of the homeowner and material that could be afforded at the time. Very few homes of true academic architectural styles were found; most exhibit a variety of influences and treatments.

I-House - a Colonial-Revival inspired house, most frequently 2-story center passage floor plans, with center front gable. There were a few one-story models of this style, but the 2-story design was the most prevalent and are located in the earliest subdivisions. Varied influences from the Colonial or Victorian eras dominated ornamental features. Most "I houses in Vinton were built before 1900 and commonly clad in German-style siding, wood siding or, occasionally brick. All of the I-houses surveyed had rear ells and seemed to be a standard design for the area.

I-HOUSES

David Gish's House (149-56)

This house is believed to be one of the oldest houses in Vinton. Deed references indicate that David Gish (Jr.) bought this property from Charles and Suzanna Carney on December 14, 1837. The 1838 Roanoke Land Book shows a \$500 building improvement on a 200 acre tract of land owned by David Gish, Jr. and may be when this house was built.

Originally a 2-story log structure that incorporated a center passage floor plan, this house was evidently the model for many homes to follow, in Vinton. A rear 2-story ell was added at some time in the distance past.

The house underwent major renovation in 1988. The new owners, sensitive to its historic significance, tried to restore the structure in a tasteful manner. The house has been covered with clapboard-style vinyl siding. The central front gable is supported by fluted, Doric wood columns that sit on concrete block piers. The central front gable pediment has been crafted with scalloped vinyl that resemble Victorian era/Queen Anne decorative treatments. The house has a new metal, standing seam roof. Return cornice ends have been covered in vinyl. There is a huge wraparound porch around the "I" portion of the house, that extends down the length of the ell addition.

There is an associated root cellar located about 20 yards east of the main house, which has been renovated in vinyl siding, also. This structure has a gabled roof, with return cornice ends and is now used for storage. A concrete well structure is located several feet behind the root cellar.

There appears to be evidence of a former road at the southwestern property line. The 1875 town survey indicates that the Bedford Road passed at this location, on what was known as Main Street. A concrete wall along that area may have met the road, in its day.

Nicholas/Abraham Vinyard House (149-6)

This Colonial inspired I-house most likely contained a hall-parlor floor plan, as it has 2 end chimneys. Built of brick by Abraham Vinyard, who was a brick mason, this structure may predate David Gish's house, but is believed to have been built about the same time (before 1840).

The house may have had a portico-styled entrance way at one time: there is architectural evidence that the facade has been altered. An Adams-style pediment and door surround adorns the front of the house, now. A 2-story rear ell addition was later added, as was a small 1-story enclosed porch: both are of frame construction.

The Colonial-revival influence is very evident on most of the houses built before 1900. The most common recurring component of these vernacular houses was the ornamental front central gable.

OTHER "I"-PLAN HOUSES THAT WERE SURVEYED:

201 W. Cleveland Avenue (149-20)

35 Cedar Avenue (149-28)

130 Cedar Avenue (149-29)

Gish/Vinyard House (149-34)

Sally Wagner's House (149-42)

1400 Ruddell Road (149-50)

960 Bedford Street (149-55)-1 story version

VICTORIAN/QUEEN ANNE STYLE

Joseph E. Funk's House (149-33)

This was the only house in the survey that appeared to follow a particular architectural style. Once centrally located near the depot, on Railroad Avenue, it is now secluded from general viewing. The front of the house faces the downtown area and the railroad tracks.

The house has a front ell floor plan, with the front ell having a bay window. Decorative wood brackets adorn the roof edges, as do many other "gingerbread" wood trim features. The house is covered in bricktex siding, as is the rear ell that was added at a later date. All windows and doors have ornate wood trim. The owner allowed access for photographing of one of their Queen Anne fireplaces.

Although a large amount of home building took place during the Victorian era, most of the architecture in Vinton took desired components of different styles, rather than following a true form. There were many homes of the double-pile floor plan that used Victorian elements for decoration.

DOUBLE PILE FLOOR PLAN STYLE

A two-story structure of varied floor plans with large porches. Most were of frame construction with German or clapboard siding. Some featured Victorian inspired balustrades and ornamental wood on the porches, windows, and door surrounds. Common roof styles were either pyramidal or a combination of gable and hipped styles.

Steve Wood/Charles Williamson, Jr. House (149-24)

This 2-story double pile house was selected because of its unique gambrel-styled slate roof. The roof contains a variegated pattern, common during the Victorian period. The house follows the hall and parlor floor plan and has 2 interior end chimneys with Queen Anne-styled fireplaces. A small dormer at the back has return cornice ends and windows have wide wood trim. The

porch has Doric order round columns and the porch sits on brick on piers. There are two small wood frame storage sheds associated with this house, one has no roof. The owner has lived in the house since 1922, but it was built and occupied by Steve Wood at an earlier date.

125 Gus Nicks Blvd. (149-41)

Another house of the double pile floor plan, this contains many Victorian-style decorative features such as ornamental wood brackets and return cornice ends at the roof lines. The porch has decorative scrolled wood balustrade and brackets. The house incorporates small pediments at porch entry, front gable end and over upstairs window. Overgrown vines detract from the appearance of this home and it is in need of painting. This house, as well as, the two neighboring houses are of the same double pile design, but use different elements of the Victorian-inspired ornamentation.

OTHER DOUBLE PILE HOMES SURVEYED IN VINTON:

127 Gus E. Nicks Blvd. (149-40)

Foutz House (149-23)

237 W. Cleveland Ave. (149-21) - Ell plan variation

228-230 W. Cleveland Ave. (149-22)

John McCarthy House (149-26)

428 Cedar Ave. (149-27)

440 Vale St. (149-53)

Dillon Dairy Farm (149-0054)

CRAFTSMAN STYLE

A noteworthy number of Craftsman homes were seen, though all not surveyed, in Vinton. Variations of the one and the 1-1/2 story floor plan were located in most of the older neighborhoods. The Craftsman architectural style contains notable features such as porches with brick piers that have short, tapered posts; low-pitched gabled (or hipped)roof with wide overhangs that normally exhibit exposed rafter ends and decorative brackets. Several Craftsman style homes were found and surveyed.

421 Cedar Avenue (149-17)

This one-story house of American bond brick is a classic example of Craftsman styled architecture. It contains a varied, gabled and rear hipped roof with wide overhangs, and decorative brackets. The short-roofed wraparound concrete porch has been modified to extend to the rear of the house. This is the only brick house on this section of the block.

Woody Vaught's House (149-32)

This house is a one and a-half story version in the Craftsman style. It has exposed rafter ends, decorative roof brackets, and wide overhangs. The porch has the brick piers and tapered square columns. The first story is clad in clapboard siding, the upper level with wood shingles. The roof is of asphalt shingle material.

This property has a wash house and chicken house associated with it, located to the rear. Both structures have exposed rafter ends, are of frame construction and now used for storage. The wash house has a gabled roof and is clad in bricktex siding. It has a door and 2 fixed pane windows.

Another Craftsman-style house, of the one and a-half story plan, is located at 1511 Ruddell Road (149-46). It has metal, standing roof and is clad in German-style vinyl siding.

BUNGALOW

Typically, wood frames houses clad with German siding, ranging from 3-5 rooms, most with additions at the rear. Many homes built in the 1920-40 period appear to be of this design. Houses that are classified as bungalows, often don't follow any particular architectural order, and appear to be similar in design to the Craftsman architectural style. Vernacular folk houses such as bungalows are usually considered to consist of a 5-room floor plan and built of low-cost components; some have a half-story attic area. Several shotgun houses were found in Vinton, which are not of the Craftsman style.

518 5th Street (149-25)

This front gabled house has decorative exposed rafter ends, a porch that sets on brick piers and has wood squared columns. Simple clapboard-sided cladding and no attic is evident due to the lack of a window at either gable end. There are many houses of this style throughout Vinton, but this one was surveyed because of its location in one of the earliest subdivisions of the town.

SHOTGUN HOUSES

Another style of vernacular folk house, shotgun houses usually consist of a three room floor plan, built of inexpensive components and lack ornamentation. Local folklore presumes that the shotgun style houses were built by the Norfolk and Western Railroad, for its workers.

Alda Wallace House (149-19)

This is 2-story shotgun house located in the Midway neighborhood. The front door is the only bay at the front of the house. The house is 2 bays deep and the components are asphalt shingle sheet cladding, gabled asphalt shingle roof, 3-bay wood concrete slab and wood post porch that has a hipped roof. There has been a small 1-story, shed roof addition and wood deck added at the rear of the house. This house is of similar design and features as the Haskins House (149-8) and the Wise Smith House (149-13) described under the Ethnicity/Immigration Theme.

Modern - these properties were not surveyed, but are part of present day Vinton. Subdivisions since the 1950s incorporate a plethora of ranch, split-level and split-foyer home. Components are usually a combination of brick and frame, and less ornate as some of the older homes.

THEME: TECHNOLOGY/ENGINEERING

Although Vinton has no remaining historical icons to technology remaining to survey, mention of the Garthright Bridge must be made. The bridge was dedicated in 1936 and was a 2-lane structure named in honor of one of Vinton's early prominent physicians, Dr. Robert H. Garthright. According to a 1919 Roanoke City Directory, his office was located at the corner of Lee Street and 1st (now Pollard). Vinton, and the increasing number of commuters, outgrew the 2-lane bridge and it was reconstructed into a 4-lane bridge in the 1980s.

The Niagara Dam, built by Appalachian Power Company early in this century, was not surveyed, but should be included in any future study.

THEME: ARCHITECTURE/LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE/COMMUNITY PLANNING

Resource types: SCENIC PARKWAY, STREET FURNITURE, DWELLINGS, STORES,

BANKS

The Blue Ridge Parkway lies at the easternmost border of Vinton's town limits. Its final link connected in the 1960s, one of the most scenic parkway views of the Roanoke Valley is located just north of the Vinton exit. The Parkway was intended to become a new form of recreation for a work-weary population. The basic motivation for developing the parkway system was to create jobs, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, as part of his Second New Deal. Although overlooked by many local residents, out-of-state travelers include the Blue Ridge Parkway in itineraries, more frequently. The Vinton portion of the Parkway was not surveyed, but there is a bridge that spans Wolf Creek near the Niagara Dam, that should be included in further surveys.

Vinton Town Clock (149-14)

The Vinton Town Clock is situated at the front of the town's municipal building. Believed to have been installed during the 1920s, the clock was purchased from a Roanoke jeweler who was going out of business. The clock, manufactured by Seth Thomas, is built of cast iron and has been a long-standing icon for the town.

The various architectural styles in Vinton are discusses primarily under the themes of Domestic and Commerce/Trade.

EVALUATION

The Vinton reconnaissance survey revealed several potentially eligible individual properties and districts:

POTENTIAL DISTRICTS:

1. Downtown Vinton Commercial District

This district should include all land and buildings within the original town survey of 1875. The boundary lines would run north along Madison Avenue; east to Poplar Street; south to Jackson Avenue; west to Pollard Street. This district contains several buildings erected in the late 1800s that are still intact and in good condition.

2. Depot Area District

This district would border the downtown commercial district along the west side of Gus Nicks Boulevard to Railroad Avenue and should include the old depot area. The area on the west side of Lee Avenue and the Farmers Market should be incorporated into this district. Five buildings were surveyed in this vicinity that are associated with the depot; two Victorian styled houses on Gus Nicks Boulevard may have been boarding houses for early railroad workers. There are three houses on Railroad Avenue which belonged to David Gish, then Isaac W. Vineyard in the late 1800s. The houses in the depot area are of Victorian era design and are in fairly good condition. One abandoned house on Railroad Avenue may have been an early tavern.

3. Gladetown District

This area has important ethnic and historical significance, as many freed slaves settled here after the Civil War, incorporating their own style preferences in home building. The district should include the southern end of Pollard Street from Raleigh Avenue, east to Chestnut Street, down Giles Avenue to where it meets the end of Pollard. A "shotgun" style house on Franklin Avenue is believed to be the earliest remaining home built in Gladetown; and contains many original materials and features. A cemetery is believed to be located off of Giles Avenue, which may contain some early freed slave gravesites. There are several early neighborhood grocery stores still standing, but vacancy or non-use threaten their survival.

4. Southern States District

This district should include the Southern States Mill and the three rockfaced concrete block homes located behind the mill. These houses are believed to have been built by the railroad for its early workers and a local historian claims that the concrete blocks were handcrafted by a freed slave. A brick office building, located at the Southern States site may have been a modern office in used earlier, by the railroad.

5. Etna Land/Early Residential District

This district would follow the boundaries of the original Etna Land Company map from August 1889. This area is one of the first residential neighborhoods developed in Vinton. Many of the homes in this district contain many original features and is architecturally distinct from newer neighborhoods.

Eligible Resources

Specific Properties

1. David Gish's Mill

The mill deserves nomination as it was the primary industry in the area throughout the 1800s; giving the location its early name as "Gishes Mill", until Vinton became an incorporated town in 1884. The original brick mill building still stands and has been built around, by numerous modern additions. Part of the original dam remains intact behind the structure. The local occupant, Holdrens Country Store, has played an active role in publicizing the building's historical significance as the "place where Gish's Mill began".

2. David Gish's House

This house sits at the heart of early Gish's Mill, on a hill overlooking the modern day business district of Vinton. The house was recently renovated by new owners who were sensitive in keeping with the original appearance of the home. The house is a log structured dwelling that has had many additions and modifications. Remnants of the old Bedford Road are located at the southern boundary of the property. A root cellar is located on the property. The buildings exterior has been renovated with modern coverings, so the architectural significance is questionable. But, the historical significance of this log structured house, the earliest home in present day Vinton, built by the man who gave Gish's Mill its beginning, cannot be denied.

3. Abraham Vinyard House

This house, located on Lauderdale Avenue, was built by Abraham Vinyard, a brick mason and early Gish's Mill resident. Conflicting references to its original occupant has resulted in the property being named for the builder, since his name is consistently tied to this house throughout various sources. A classic brick "I' house, this structure remains in very good condition as it has been occupied as a residence for many years. The house is believed to have been built around 1830-

one of the earliest homes in Vinton.

4. Vinyard Family Cemetery

This cemetery contains the burial site of Abraham Vinyard and other family members. It is located on land that was originally part of the Vinyard family farm. Family informant, W. Darnell Vinyard, believes that former slaves that worked for the Vinyards, are buried in this cemetery, too. The tombstones of Abraham and his wife are the originals and remain in good condition. The cemetery is now part of a dense residential subdivision neighborhood and sits on private property. The family has taken care to build a high retaining wall to deter vandalism and deterioration. This property is significant in its location to early subsistence farms and as final resting place to one of early Vinton's prominent citizens; who aided in its development and growth.

5. Roland E. Cook School, Vinton High School and (old) William Byrd High School

Each of these schools signify changes as the towns development matched changes in education and population. Roland E. Cook is the earliest remaining school structure. Vinton High School was the first high school built in town and contains interesting architectural features. William Byrd High School, one of the most prominent structures in Vinton, had several additions over the course of its 30+ year tenure. Each of these schools is currently owned by local government who use the buildings as public service centers, in one way or another.

RECOMMENDATIONS

EDUCATION

Public presentation of the survey findings will initiate awareness among citizens of the valuable historical resources that Vinton has. An article in the local newspaper advising the public what the survey is, why it was done and where the report is located should create some interest in local history. Audio-visual presentations or development of a historical video of Vinton are other venues for educating the public. Presentations should be made in the schools to educate children of the local history that abounds in Vinton. Walking tours, offering internships to assist the museum, and intensive level surveys would provide more opportunities for educating a broader range of the public.

PROTECTION

Individuals interested in preserving Vinton's local historic architecture may want to visit other localities who have implemented working preservation plans (Fincastle and Salem, for example), for ideas in developing a plan for Vinton. This could include purchase of historic properties for public use, seeking acquisition of devised property for public use and preservation (as in the case of the Vinton Museum), establishing a fund to assist historic property owners with maintenance, implementing local zoning laws and incorporating preservation into the Town's comprehensive plan, to protect historic properties.

This particular survey identified fifty contributing properties within the Vinton community, of which some should seek nomination to the National Register for designation. Historic resources, put to good use, could result in economic benefits for Vinton and the Roanoke Valley, as a whole. Vinton's small town appeal and proximity to the Blue Ridge Parkway is conducive for the development of bed and breakfasts and capitalization of Western Virginia Frontier history.

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APPENDICES

HISTORICAL AND PRESERVATION ORGANIZATIONS AND RESOURCES

National Organizations

The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions Hall of the States, Suite 332 444 North Capitol Street Washington, D.C. 20001 (301) 663-6149

The National Park Service Preservation Assistance Division Technical Preservation Services P.O. Box 37127 Washington, D. C. 20013-7127 (202) 343-9573

The National Trust for Historic Preservation 1785 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036 (202) 673-4000

The National Trust Mid-Atlantic Regional Office 6401 Germantown Avenue Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19144 (215) 438-2886

Blue Ridge Parkway National Park Service 220 BBT Building 1 Pack Square Asheville, North Carolina 28801 (704) 259-0351

STATE ORGANIZATIONS

The Preservation Alliance of Virginia P.O. Box 1407
Staunton, Virginia 24401
(703) 886-4362

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources 221 Governor Street Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 786-3143

LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS/OFFICES

Roanoke Regional Preservation Office
1030 Penmar Avenue, SE
Roanoke, Virginia 24013
(703) 857-7585
The regional office of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources serves a ten county, six city area of southwest Virginia. Archaeological, architectural and historic services are available through this office.

Roanoke Valley Historical Society
Roanoke Valley Historical Museum
Center in the Square
Roanoke, Virginia 24011
(703) 342-5770
Historical material, including photo collections, papers and letters.

Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation P.O. Box 1558 Roanoke, Virginia 24007 (703) 342-9289 Promotes the preservation of historic, natural and cultural resources of Roanoke Valley. Roanoke City Public Library
The Virginia Room
706 S. Jefferson Street
Roanoke, Virginia 24011
(703) 981-2073
Historic materials on Roanoke Valley, including books, manuscripts,
census data, photograph collections, and older newspapers on microfilm. A small
scrapbook on Vinton is located here.

Vinton Public Library 800 E. Washington Avenue Vinton, Virginia 24179 (703) 345-8145 Historic materials on Roanoke Valley

Roanoke County Clerk's Office
Roanoke County Courthouse
305 East Main Street
Salem, Virginia 24153
(703) 387-6205
Repository of official land records including deeds, wills, plats and original WPA historic survey forms from 1838 to present.

Town of Vinton Clerk's Office
Vinton Municipal Building
311 S. Pollard Street
Vinton, Virginia 24179
(703) 983-0605
Repository of official land records, town council minutes and town charters for Town of Vinton.

Jefferson National Forest-National Forest Service 5162 Valleypointe Parkway Roanoke, Virginia 24019 (703) 265-6054 Archaelogical services Architectural and Historical Resources Survey Town of Vinton, Roanoke County, Virginia

Roanoke River Parkway Project Office National Park Service Vinton War Memorial 814 East Washington Avenue Vinton, Virginia 24179 (703) 345-3959 Landscape architectural service

Virginia's Explore Park The River Foundation 101 South Jefferson Street Roanoke, Virginia 24011 (703) 345-1295

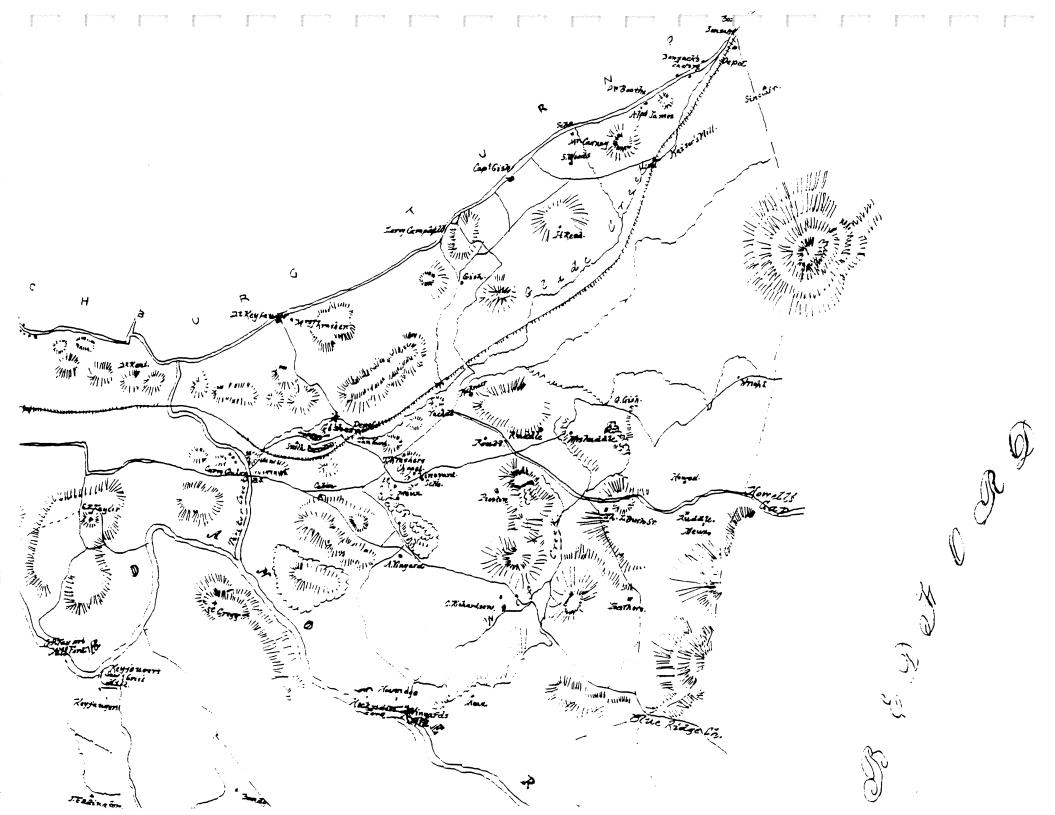
LIST OF MAPS

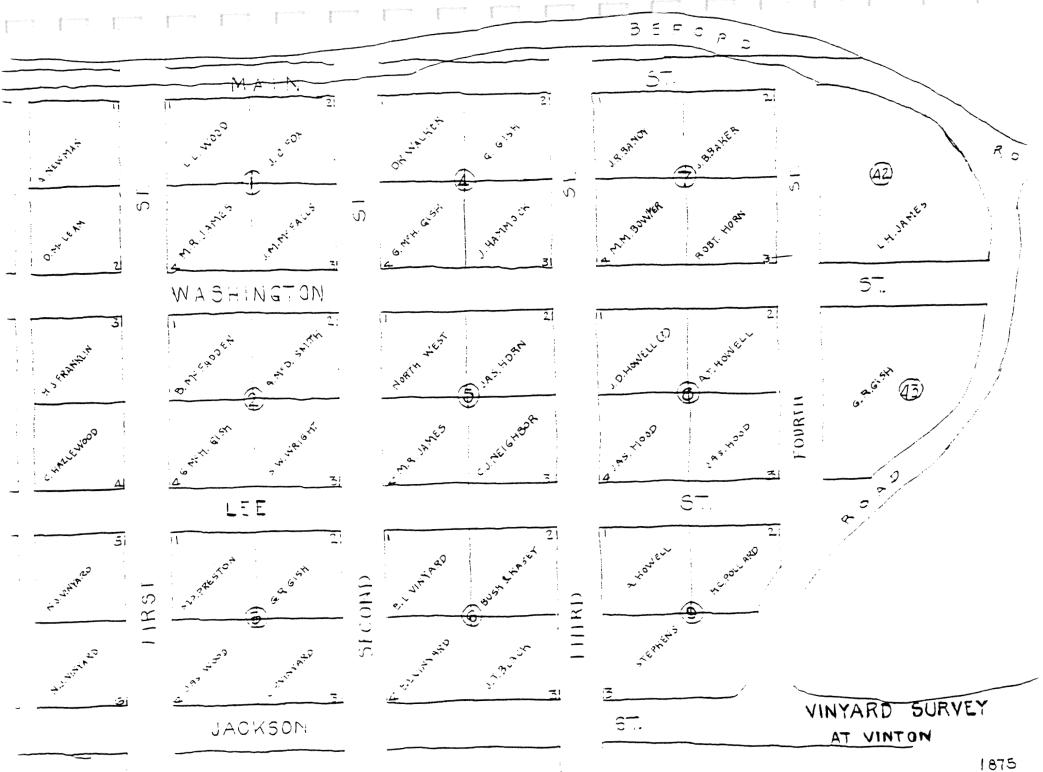
- 1.1 Gishes, as shown on a "Map of Bedford County, 1861", drawn by Jeremy Francis Gilmer. Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Va. Photocopy.
- 2.1 Vinyard Survey at Vinton, 1875. Town of Vinton Engineering Office. Photocopy.
- 3.1 1911 Official Map of Vinton. Roanoke County Deed Book 1 Page 159. Roanoke County Office of Planning and Zoning, Roanoke, Virginia.
- 4.1 Vinton Subdivision Maps. Roanoke County Plat Books, Roanoke County Office of Planning and Zoning, Roanoke, Virginia.
 - 4.2 Map of Midway Land Company and Crozer Furnaces, Plat Book 1 Page 7.
 - 4.3 Map of Etna Land Company, Plat Book 1 Page 6.
 - 4.4 Map of Vinton Land, Loan and Building Co., Plat Book 1 Page 5.
 - 4.5 Map of W.H. Dennis Heirs, Plat Book 1 Page 9.
 - 4.6 Map of Pedigo Brothers, Plat Book 1 Page 21.
 - 4.7 Map of Mechanics Home Land Co., Plat Book 1 Page 49.
 - 4.8 Map of Vinton Land and Improvement Co., Plat Book 1 Page 73.
 - 4.9 Map of Fairview Club Lot Co., Plat Book 1 Page 75.
 - 4.10 Map of McDonald Annex, Plat Book 1 Page 119.
 - 4.11 Map of Bowman Addition, Plat Book 1 Page 125.
 - 4.12 Map of John T. Franklin property, Plat Book 1 Page 127.
 - 4.13 Map of Mountain View Cemetery, Plat Book 1 Page 215.
 - 4.14 Map of G.R. Gish Estate, Plat Book 1 Pages 240 and 241.

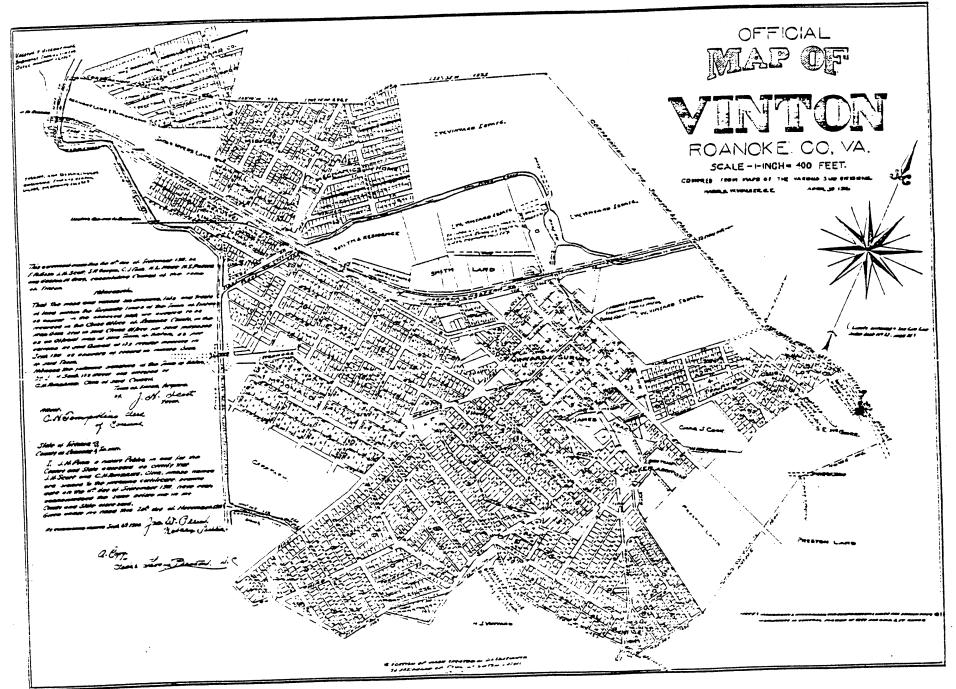
- 4.15 Map of Foxland Subdivision, Plat Book 1 Page 254.
- 4.16 Map of Kenwood Subdivision, Plat Book 1 Page 255.
- 4.17 Map of Kenwood Addition No. 3, Plat Book 1 Page 335.
- 4.18 Map of G.W. Gish conveyance, Plat Book 1 Page 375. Maps of Vinton Subdivisions
- 4.19 Map of Mountain View Cemetery Extension, Plat Book 2 Page 24.
- 4.20 Map of Kenwood Division No. 2, Plat Book 2 Page 26.
- 4.20 Map of Blue Ridge Heights, Plat Book 2 Page 104.

Some subdivisions after 1940:

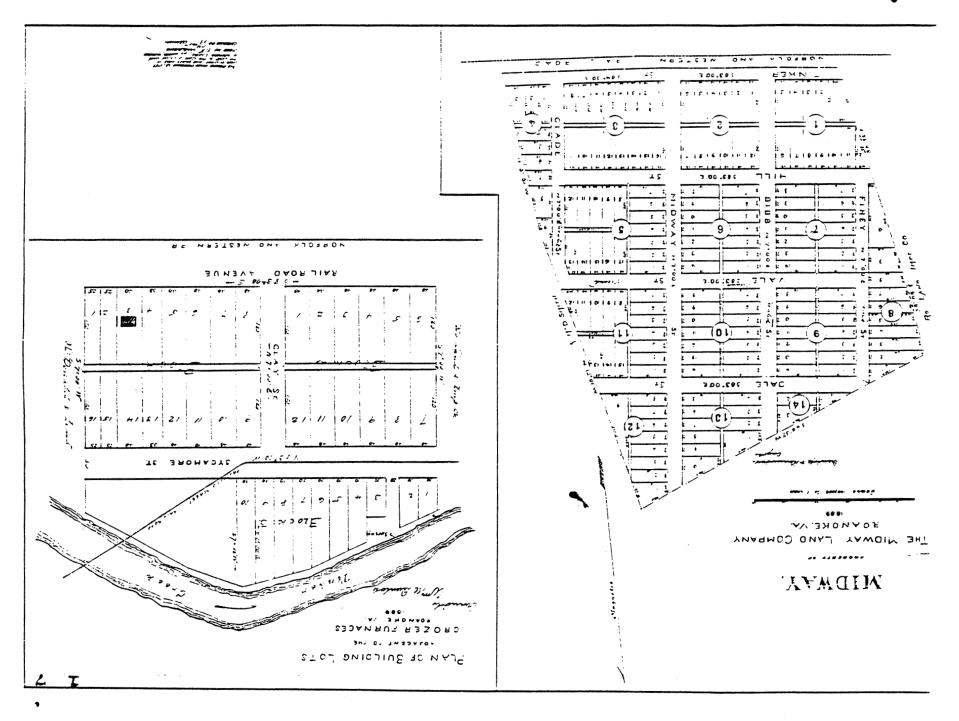
- 4.21 Map of Vinyard Gardens Annex, Plat Book 2 Page 206.
- 4.22 Map of Morgan Addition, Plat Book 2 Page 215.
- 4.23 Rufus L. Cook Subdivision No. 2, Plat Book 3 Page 65.
- 4.24 Map of Vinton Heights, Plat Book 6 Page 52.

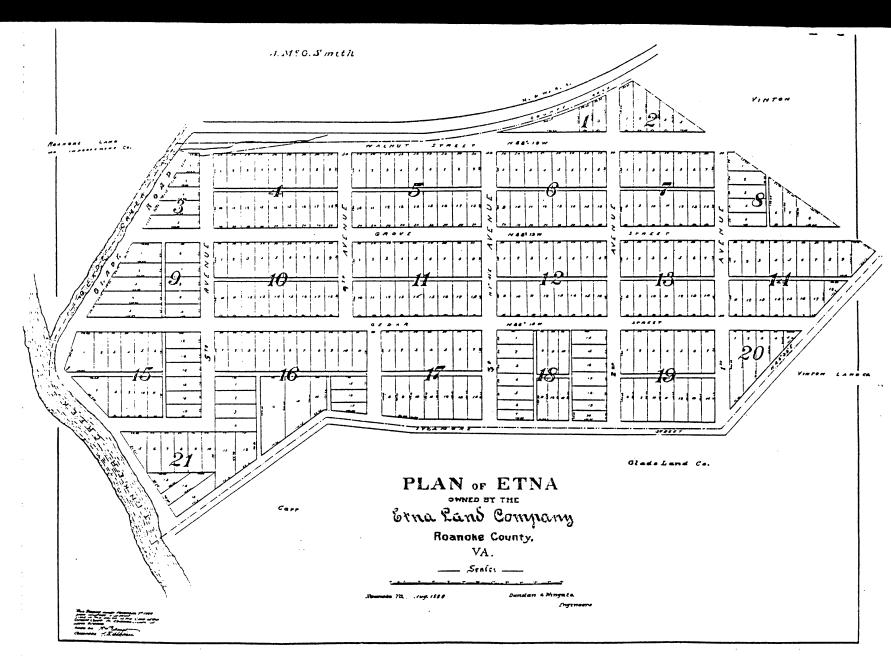


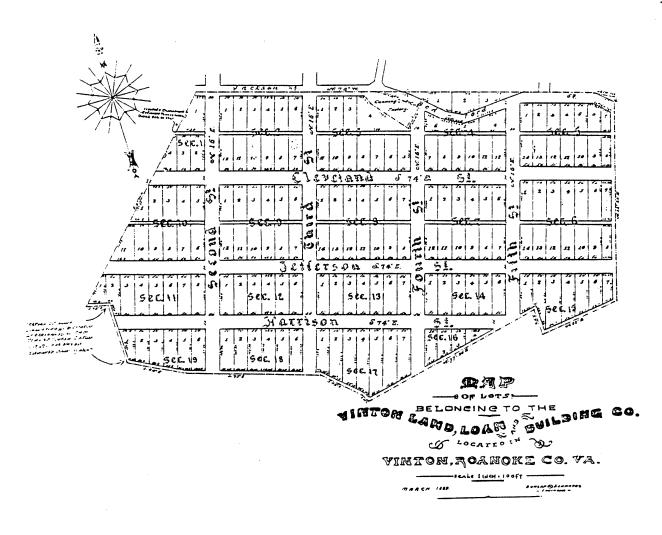




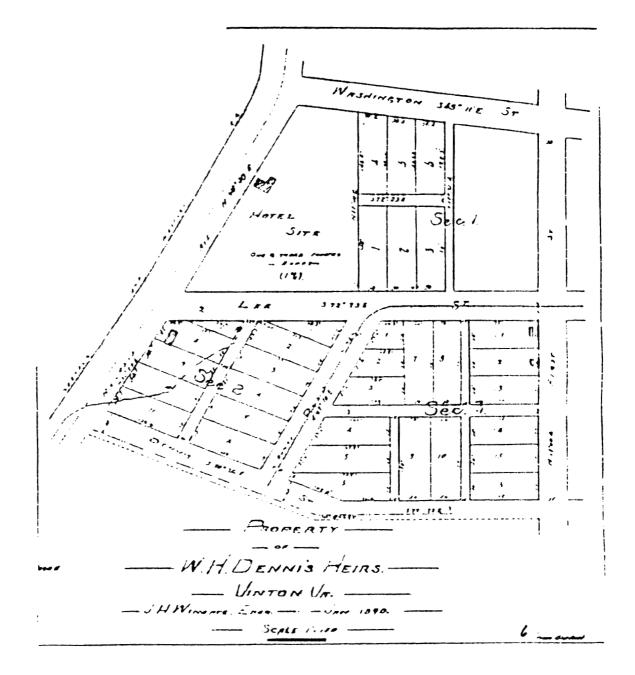
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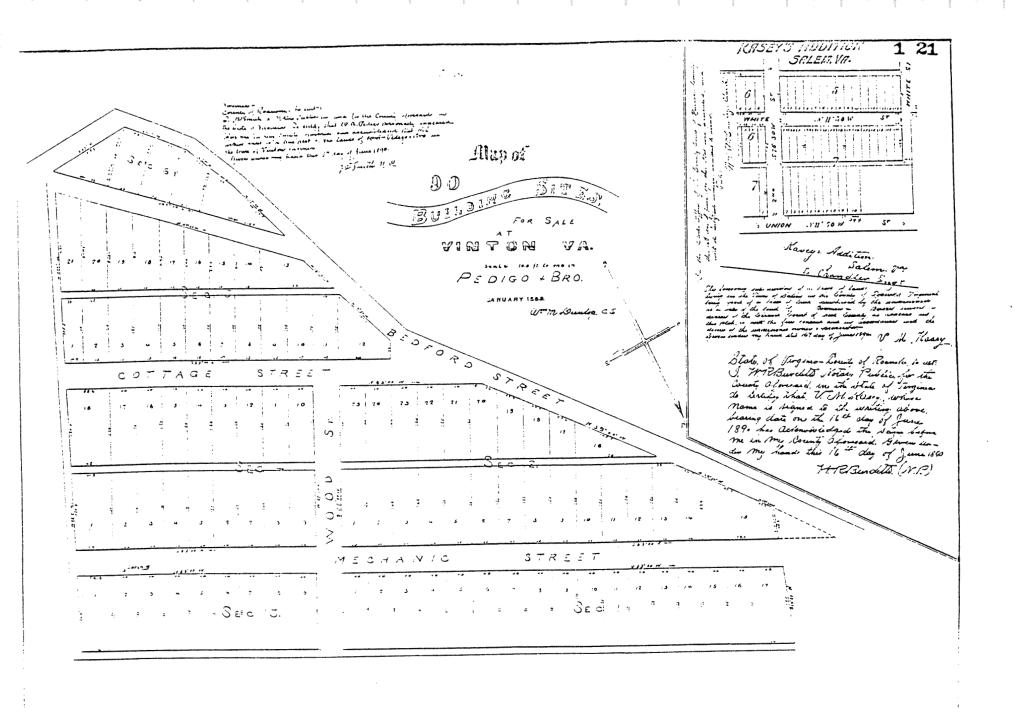




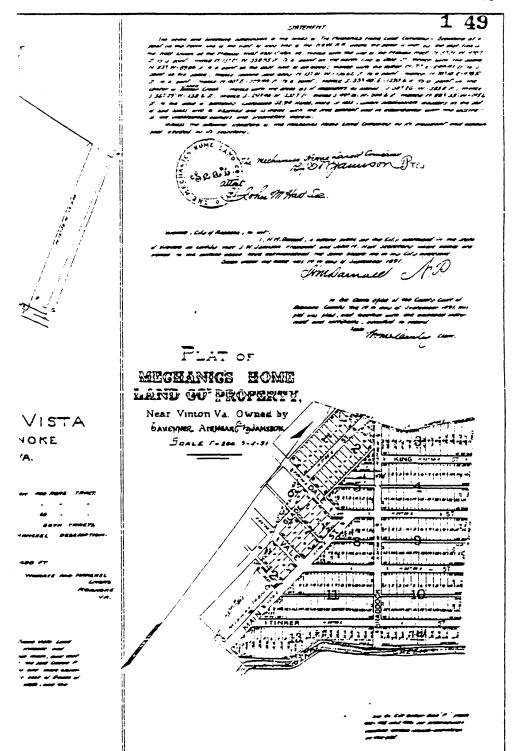


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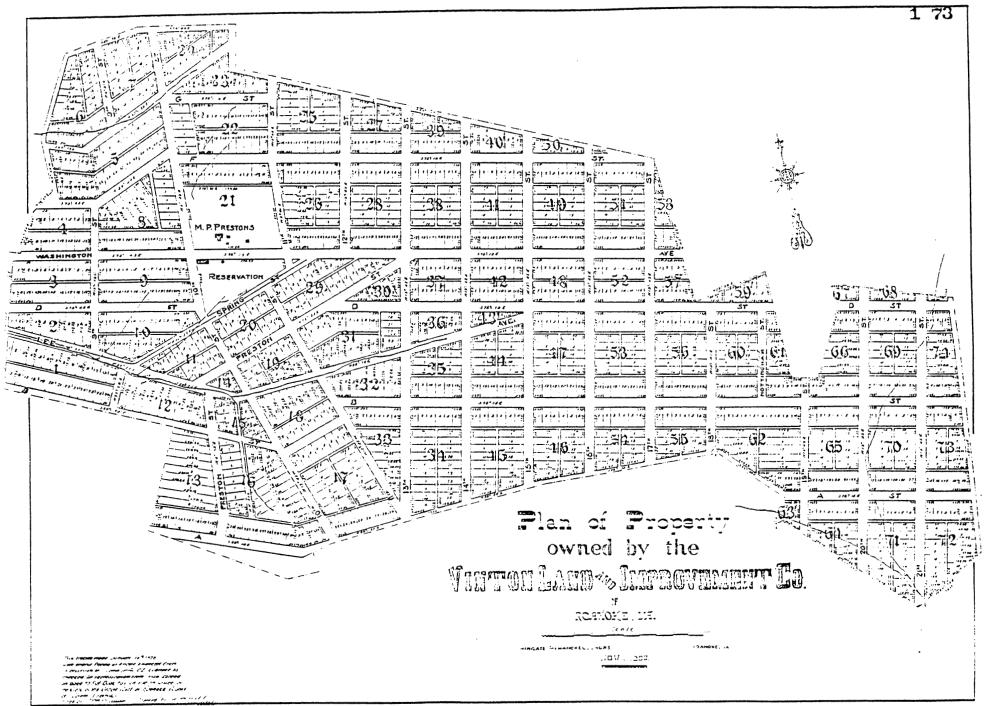


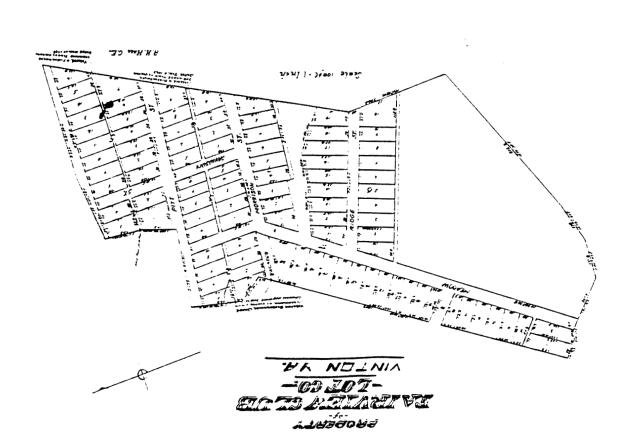


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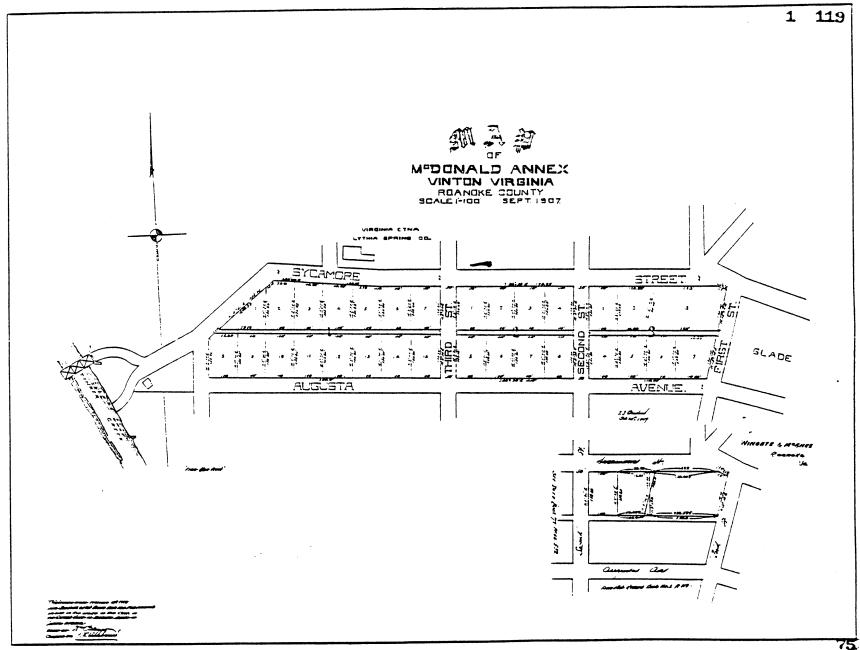


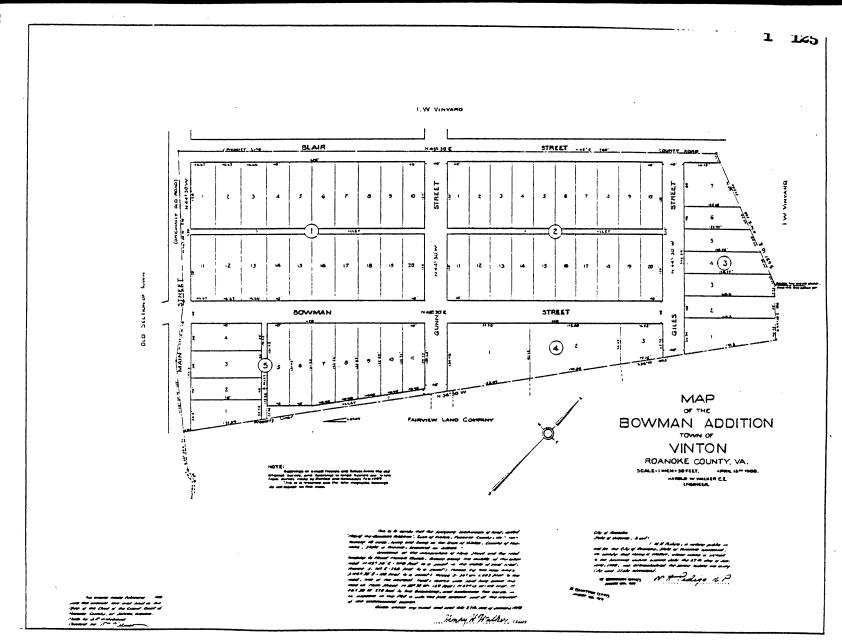
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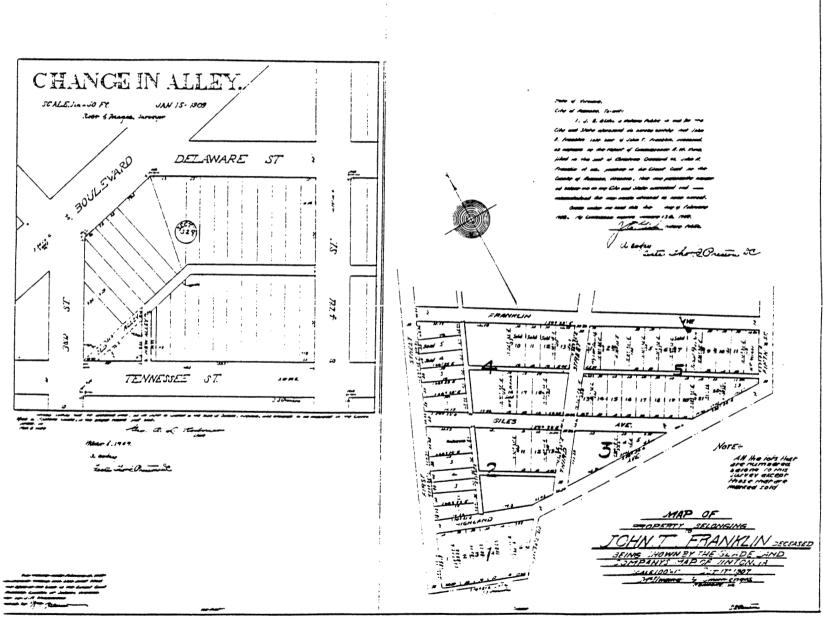


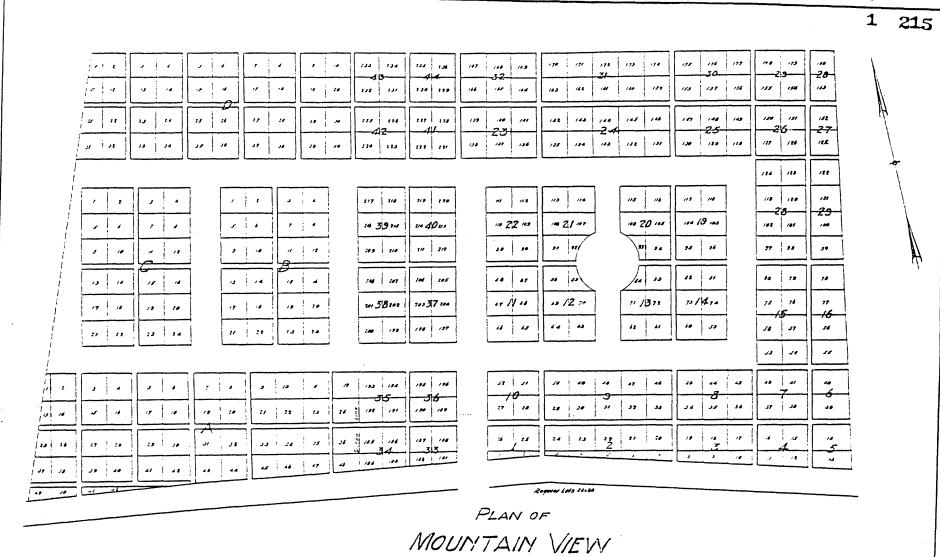


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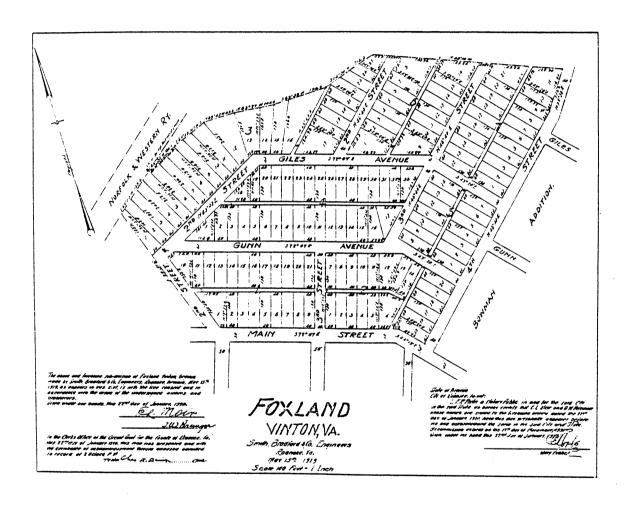
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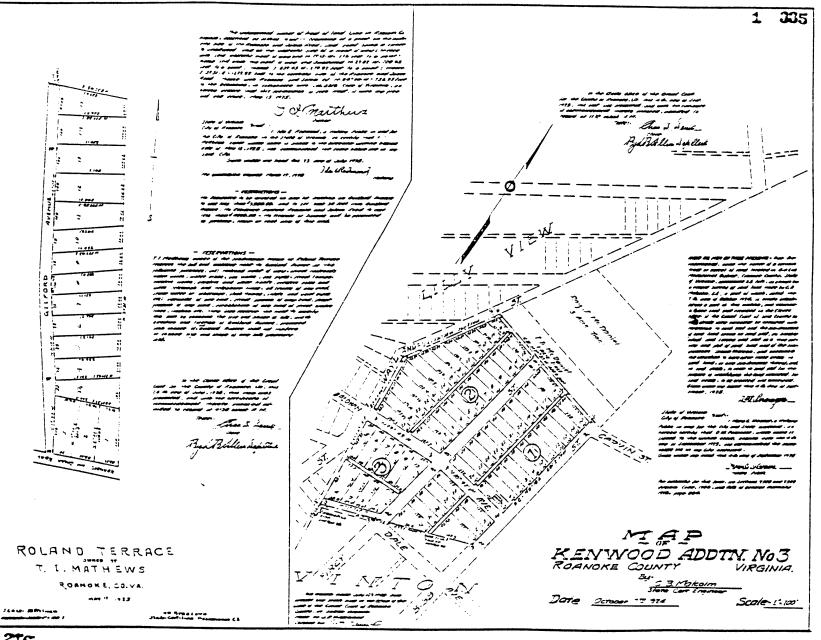




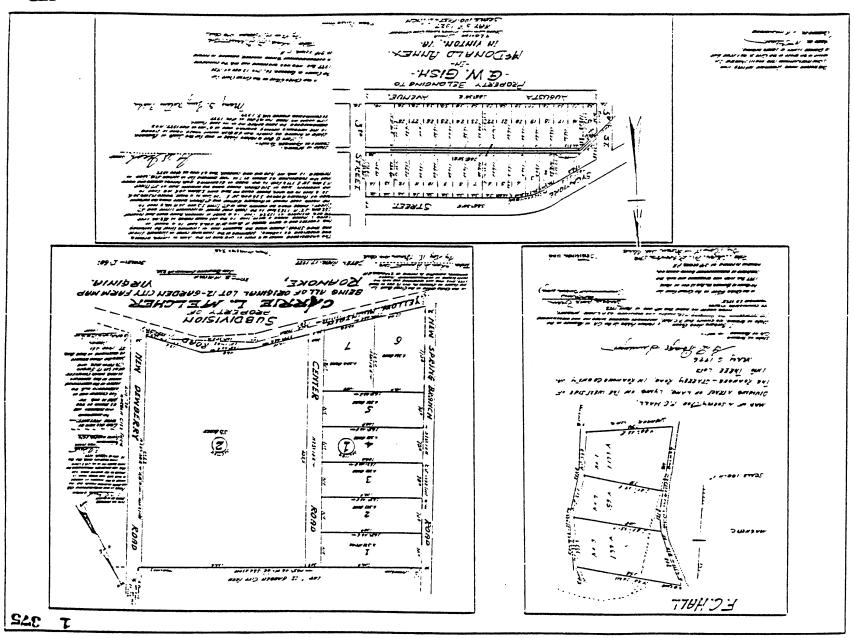
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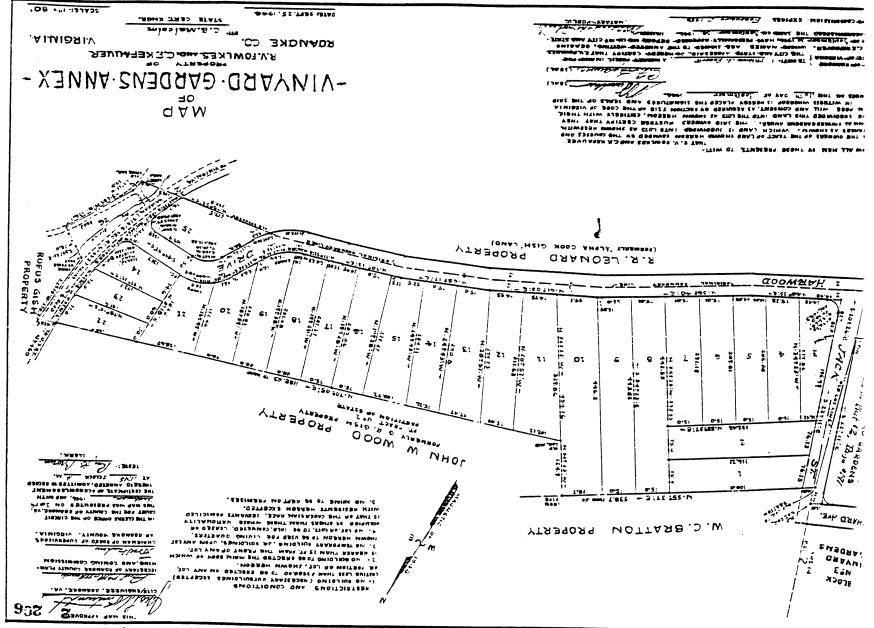
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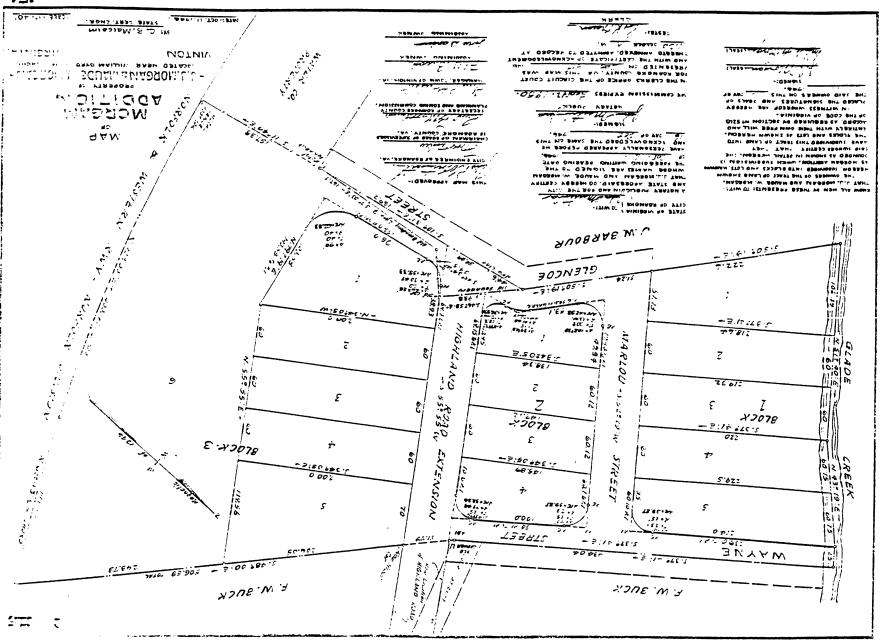
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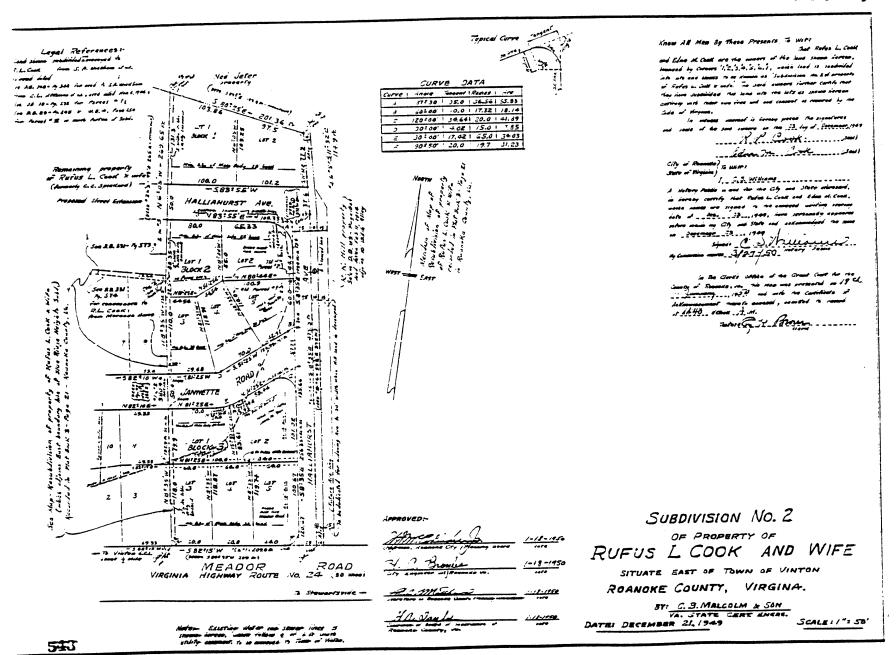
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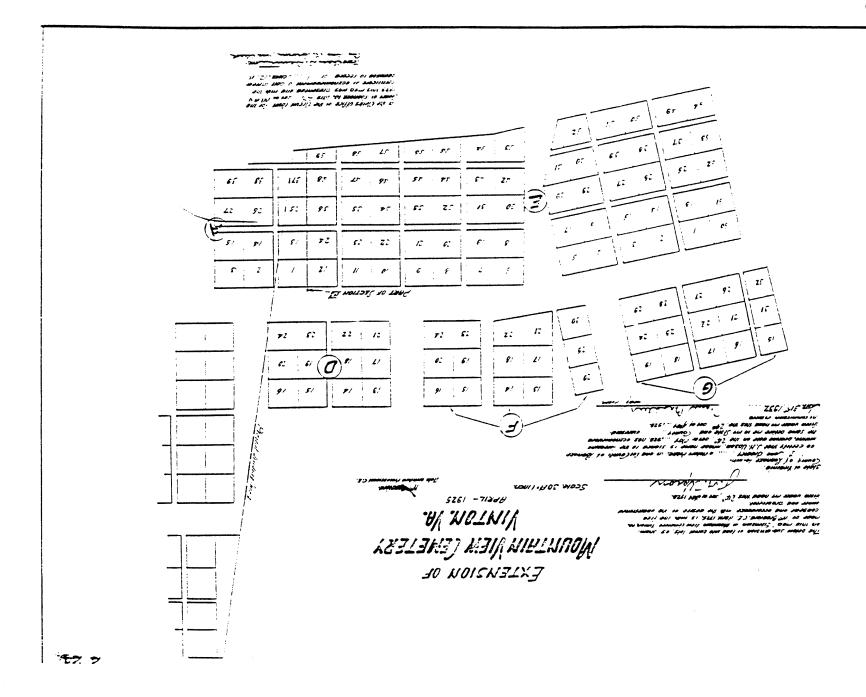
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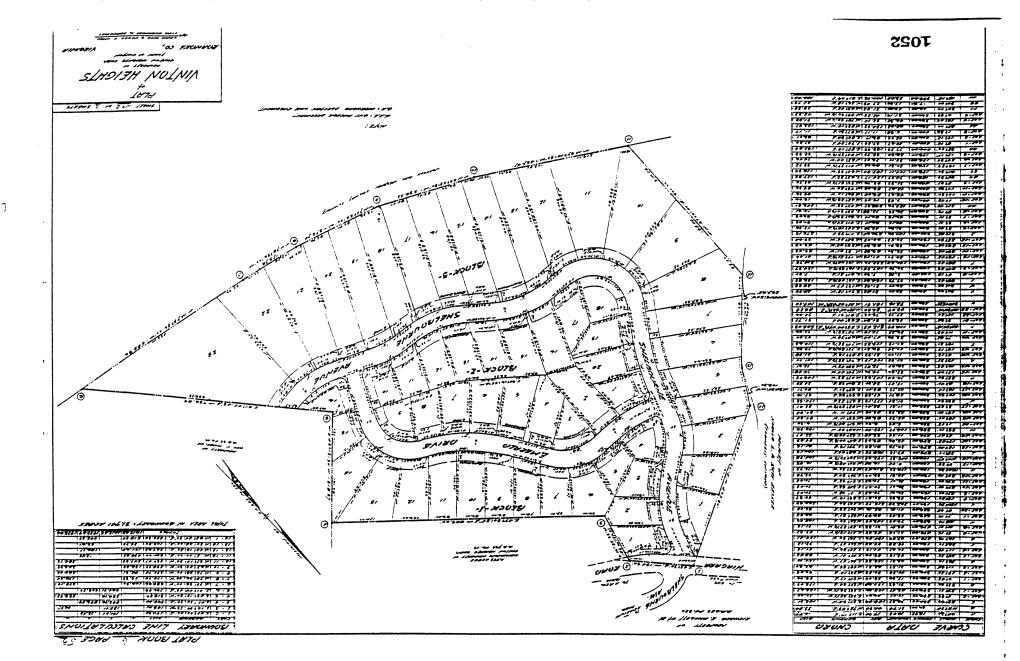
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VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES SURVEY TOWN OF VINTON, ROANOKE COUNTY, VIRGINIA AUGUST 1993

NUMERICAL PROPERTY LIST

| File No. | <u>Entry</u> | USGS 7.5 Quad |
|-----------|---|---------------|
| 149-0001- | Vinyard, White House | Roanoke |
| 149-0002- | Vinyard, Christian House | Roanoke |
| 149-0003- | Muse, William G. House | Roanoke |
| 149-0004- | Bush, Thomas J. Home | Roanoke |
| 149-0005- | Smith, Alex House | Roanoke |
| 149-0006- | Vinyard, Abraham House Vinyard, Nicholas House | Roanoke |
| 149-0007- | Precision Fabrics Group, Inc. | Roanoke |
| 149-0008- | Haskins House | Roanoke |
| 149-0009- | Strange House | Roanoke |
| 149-0010- | Miller, Samuel House | Roanoke |
| 149-0011- | First Baptist Church Star of Bethlehem Church | Roanoke |
| 149-0012- | Lindesy, Fester House | Roanoke |
| 149-0013- | Smith, Wise House | Roanoke |
| 149-0014- | Vinton Town Clock | Roanoke |
| 149-0015- | Banks Grocery Store | Roanoke |
| 149-0016- | Thompson's Grocery Store | Roanoke |
| 149-0017- | 421 Cedar Avenue | Roanoke |
| 149-0018- | Montgomery's Store | Roanoke |
| 149-0019- | Wallace, Alda House | Roanoke |
| 149-0020- | 201 W. Cleveland Avenue | Roanoke |
| 149-0021- | 237 W. Cleveland Avenue | Roanoke |

| 149-0022- | 228-230 W. Cleveland Avenue | Roanoke |
|-----------|---|---------|
| 149-0023- | Foutz Home | Roanoke |
| 149-0024- | Wood-Williamson House | Roanoke |
| 149-0025- | 518 5th Street | Roanoke |
| 149-0026- | McCarty, John and Ida House | Roanoke |
| 149-0027- | 428 Cedar Avenue | Roanoke |
| 149-0028- | 35 Cedar Avenue | Roanoke |
| 149-0029- | 130 Cedar Avenue | Roanoke |
| 149-0030- | Ruddell-Bush Barn | Roanoke |
| 149-0031- | Vinton High School Total Action Against Poverty | Roanoke |
| 149-0032- | Vaught, Woody and Minnie Sue Home Hawkins, Jessie Home | Roanoke |
| 149-0033- | Funk, Joseph S. and Elizabeth S. Home Hawkins, Jessie Home | Roanoke |
| 149-0034- | Gish-Vinyard House | Roanoke |
| 149-0035- | Reed Street Baptist Church | Roanoke |
| 149-0036- | Vinyard, Abraham Family Cemetery | Roanoke |
| 149-0037- | Mountain View Cemetery | Roanoke |
| 149-0038- | William Byrd High School Roanoke County Career Center | Roanoke |
| 149-0039- | 116 Lee Street | Roanoke |
| 149-0040- | 127 Gus E. Nicks Blvd. | Roanoke |
| 149-0041- | 125 Gus E. Nicks Blvd. | Roanoke |
| 149-0042- | Wagner, Sally Home & Store | Roanoke |
| 149-0043- | Vinton Messenger | Roanoke |
| 149-0044- | Nancy's Store | Roanoke |
| 149-0045- | Citizen's Upholstery & Furniture Co. | Roanoke |
| 149-0046- | 1511 Ruddell Road | Roanoke |

| 149-0047- | D. R. Music Store | Roanoke |
|-----------|--|---------|
| 149-0048- | 202-208 S. Pollard Street | Roanoke |
| 149-0049- | Peoples Bank of Vinton NationsBank Building | Roanoke |
| 149-0050- | 1400 Ruddell Road | Roanoke |
| 149-0051- | Midway Christian Church | Roanoke |
| 149-0052- | Roland E. Cook School Vinton Consolidated School | Roanoke |
| 149-0053- | 440 Vale Street | Roanoke |
| 149-0054- | Dillon Dairy Farm 1233 Hardy Road | Roanoke |
| 149-0055- | 960 Bedford Street | Roanoke |
| 149-0056- | Gish, David House Carver, Larry S. and Charlotte L. House | Roanoke |
| 149-0057- | Gish, David Mill Holdren's Country Store | Roanoke |

