

WRC 9/18/9  
NRHP 5/14/9

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
other names/site number VDHR File No. 021-5010

2. Location

street & number Generally runs along both sides of ridge along parts of Raven Rocks and Blue Ridge Mtn Rds, extends down Harry Byrd Highway not for publication N/A  
city or town Bluemont vicinity X  
state Virginia code VA county Clarke and Loudoun code 043; 107 zip code 20135

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets    does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant    rationally    statewide X locally. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] 9/15/99  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property    meets    does not meet the National Register criteria. (   See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:  
   entered in the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined eligible for the National Register  
   See continuation sheet.  
   determined not eligible for the National Register  
   removed from the National Register  
   other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

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

**Number of Resources within Property**

|              |                 |            |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| Contributing | Noncontributing |            |
| <u>152</u>   | <u>47</u>       | buildings  |
| <u>12</u>    | <u>0</u>        | sites      |
| <u>8</u>     | <u>11</u>       | structures |
| <u>1</u>     | <u>0</u>        | objects    |
| <u>173</u>   | <u>58</u>       | Total      |

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

Cat: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions) **SEE CONTINUATION SHEET**

foundation \_\_\_\_\_

roof \_\_\_\_\_

walls \_\_\_\_\_

other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description** (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
**8. Statement of Significance**
=====

**Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
\_\_\_ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
 C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
\_\_\_ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations** (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- \_\_\_ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
\_\_\_ B removed from its original location.
\_\_\_ C a birthplace or a grave.
\_\_\_ D a cemetery.
\_\_\_ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
\_\_\_ F a commemorative property.
\_\_\_ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
SOCIAL HISTORY
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance** circa 1890-1958

**Significant Dates** circa 1890; 1900

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** William E. Hummer (stonemason, builder); Appleton Clarke (architect)

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====
**9. Major Bibliographical References**
=====

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS)**

- \_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register
\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register
\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark
\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Bear's Den Rural Historic District**

**Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia**

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources: Richmond, Virginia

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** Approximately 1,855 acres

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| Zone                             | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing | Zone | Easting | Northing |
|----------------------------------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1                                | _____   | _____    | 2    | _____   | _____    | 3    | _____   | _____    | 4    | _____   | _____    |
| <u>x</u> See continuation sheet. |         |          |      |         |          |      |         |          |      |         |          |

**Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Maral S. Kalbian, Architectural Historian; Margaret T. Peters, Historian

organization Maral S. Kalbian, LLC date June 13, 2008

street & number P.O. Box 468 telephone 540-955-1231

city or town Berryville state VA zip code 22611

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name See Attached Property Owners List

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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**6. FUNCTIONS OR USE**

**HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:**

DOMESTIC  
Single Dwelling  
Secondary Structure  
Hotel

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  
Processing  
Storage  
Agricultural Field  
Animal Facility  
Agricultural Outbuilding

RELIGION  
Religious Facility  
Church-related Residence

RECREATION AND CULTURE  
Outdoor Recreation

EDUCATION  
School

TRANSPORTATION  
Road-related (vehicular)

LANDSCAPE  
Garden  
Natural Feature  
Conservation Area

**CURRENT FUNCTIONS:**

DOMESTIC  
Single Dwelling  
Secondary Structure

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE  
Storage  
Agricultural Field  
Animal Facility  
Agricultural Outbuilding

RECREATION AND CULTURE  
Outdoor Recreation

TRANSPORTATION  
Road-related (vehicular)

LANDSCAPE  
Garden  
Natural Feature  
Conservation Area

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

### **Architectural Classification:**

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival; Tudor Revival, Late Gothic Revival,  
French Eclectic, Spanish Eclectic

LATE 19<sup>th</sup> and EARLY 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: Ranch; Minimal Traditional

OTHER: Vernacular

### **Materials:**

#### FOUNDATION

STONE

CONCRETE

CONCRETE BLOCK

#### ROOF

METAL: Standing Seam

STONE: Slate

ASPHALT

#### WALLS

STONE

WOOD: Weatherboard; Log

STUCCO

SYNTHETICS: Vinyl. Aluminum

#### OTHER

WOOD

BRICK

STONE

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## **7. SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:**

The Bear's Den Rural Historic District contains roughly 1,855 acres along the spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The district's northern terminus is near the Jefferson County, West Virginia, line, running south along Raven Rocks Road, approximately 1.3 miles, where it crosses State Route 7 (Harry Byrd Highway) at Snicker's Gap, and continues south along Blue Ridge Mountain Road for three miles to a point near the southern junction of Blue Ridge and Mount Weather roads. Most of the district is located in Clarke County, but some of the resources are within Loudoun County.

The district's general setting is a rugged wooded mountainous terrain with the narrow two-lane Route 601 road bed winding along the primary ridge line of the Blue Ridge Mountain Range. The maximum elevation is located near the southern end of the district at 1,760 feet above sea level. The top of the mountain is broad allowing for the placement of buildings but sharply drops off on both sides of the ridge. This results in dramatic views of the Piedmont to the east and of the Shenandoah Valley to the west. The irregular mountainous topography is rocky but also contains some open fields that traditionally have been small farmsteads or orchards. An expansive system of stone walls delineates property lines with impressive stone gateposts marking the entrances of many of the properties. The Bear's Den Rocks, located on the Bear's Den property off of Blue Ridge Mountain Road, are accessible to the public and provide a spectacular observation point from which to view the Shenandoah Valley. Views to the east towards Washington are largely visible only from private homes or from a portion of Checkmate Lane. Unlike the rest of Clarke and Loudoun counties, which were settled fairly aggressively during the late 18<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century, this area on the top ridge of the Mountain did not generally develop until the last quarter of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. It reached its peak in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Bear's Den Rural Historic District is made up of a collection of late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings that were constructed primarily as summer homes by wealthy Washingtonians who were attracted by the mountain's cooler summer climate. The district contains 66 properties with a total of 231 resources. The 152 contributing buildings are predominantly dwellings and their outbuildings. Architecturally, the resources can be classified as rustic, yet elegant. Most are constructed of native stone, a few of stone and frame, some of frame, and a very few of log. Dwellings range in size from small vernacular cabins to larger more elaborate houses. Popular architectural styles used in the district include the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Queen Anne styles, and several eclectic styles including the Tudor Revival, French Eclectic, and Spanish Eclectic. Often elements from several different styles are combined in one building or sparingly applied to an otherwise vernacular structure. Other buildings found within the district include: farm outbuildings such as barns and stables; domestic outbuildings such as springhouses, meat houses, guest cottages, root cellars, and garages; a former school; and a former church. The district also contains 12 contributing sites, which are

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primarily ruins of buildings; ten structures including picnic shelters, above-ground cisterns, an old road bed; and one object – a county boundary marker. The 58 non-contributing resources include 47 buildings that are primarily residences and outbuildings, and 11 structures that are swimming pools, picnic shelters, or tennis courts. Generally, the modern development that has occurred within the district is located on smaller parcels of land that have been subdivided off the larger historic properties. These resources are few and relatively inconspicuous. Pockets of new construction directly along Route 601 were not included within the boundary.

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION AND ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS:**

The Bear's Den Rural Historic District encompasses roughly a three-square-mile area along the ridge of the Blue Ridge Mountains in northeastern Clarke and northwestern Loudoun counties in Northern Virginia. The elongated district, which is about four miles long, is largely wooded with cleared areas concentrated around dwellings. The major road that serves as the spine of the district, Virginia Route 601, known as Blue Ridge Mountain Road south of State Route 7 and Raven Rocks Road north of State Route 7, has retained its essential two-lane track, providing access to residences on both the western and eastern sides of the mountain ridge. Checkmate and Eagle Rock lanes, both of which are graveled, provide east and west access off of Route 601 along the broadest area of the mountain.

The broad mountain ridge is flanked by steep sinuous ridges on the west that drop down to the Shenandoah Valley and gently sloping lowlands that ease down to the Piedmont on the east. Stone walls made from the native green-colored granite continue to define many of the property boundaries, and impressive stone gates mark most entrances. Many of the houses are located fairly close to State Route 601 while others are more remotely sited on the broad expanse of the mountain ridge. Numerous houses provide breathtaking views of either the Shenandoah River Valley to the west or the Piedmont to the east, and were obviously sited with these views in mind. Stone walls surround many of the residential yards, and in some cases, are used to terrace the otherwise steep yards. The Appalachian Trail runs parallel to the western edge of the district, well below the ridge line. The district ranges in elevation from a low point of 1,070 feet at Snicker's Gap to an acme of 1,760 feet at the southern end. Aerial photographs of the area from the late 1930s reveal that some of the now-wooded areas were planted as orchards at that time.<sup>1</sup>

The district contains 66 properties with late-19<sup>th</sup> - and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century historic resources that are primarily dwellings and their outbuildings. Many of the original owners of these properties were neighbors or acquaintances in Washington, D.C., who discovered this remote area around the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when a railroad running from Washington to nearby Bluemont (in Loudoun County) was completed. This made the otherwise secluded area easily accessible from the nation's capital to



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the east. Several of these houses continue to be owned by families whose primary residences are in the Washington metropolitan area, and are used as summer homes or weekend retreats. The vast majority, however, are now occupied by year-round residents. A former church and school are also in the district, as well as a former hotel and hotel site. Although the Bear's Den Rural Historic District is still fairly remote due to its rugged terrain, Blue Ridge Mountain Road from Route 7 south is busy because of its location near the U. S. Department of Homeland Security facility located at Mount Weather, about a half mile south of the southern district boundary.

The dwellings in the Bear's Den Rural Historic District range in size from small cabins to larger and more elaborate houses, and all generally share a rustic character in their design. Much of this is because of the use of native greenstone granite as the primary construction material, which was gathered from the surrounding fields as they were cleared. Nearly half of the houses within the district are of stone construction. This same stone was also used in the construction of the miles of fencing within the district. Architectural detailing rendered primarily in stone and wood uses motifs from popular architectural styles of the period including the Craftsman, Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, and Queen Anne, and gives these dwellings an air of sophistication that many other contemporary buildings in the rest of the area do not have. The dwellings of this period are also graced with large windows and porches, indicative of the growing interest in that period for enjoying the out-of-doors and a more healthful environment. Recreational facilities such as swimming pools and tennis courts are also common features. Many of the buildings share similar architectural detailing and construction methods, suggesting that they may have been constructed by the same builders. Although some new development has occurred in the area, the dozen or so non-contributing dwellings in the district are relatively unobtrusive.

The earliest resources in the district include five log cabins that date to the early to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>2</sup> These modest one- and 1 ½-story exposed log cabins with exterior-end stone chimneys were remodeled and incorporated into larger dwellings during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, thus losing much of their original architectural character. These include Green Spring Cabin [021-5010-0033], believed to be the oldest of the group; Humming Hollow [021-0390; 021-5010-0007], which was added to in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century; and the abandoned house off Blue Ridge Mountain Road [021-0389; 021-5010-0023], all of which have larger side frame additions. Edna's Cabin [021-5010-0009], located at the end of Checkmate Lane, is two stories in height and has a rear addition as well as an exterior-end stone chimney with a parged stack. It is part of Bruce Farm and was remodeled as a guest cottage. The 1½-story log cabin at Joannasberg [021-0383; 021-5010-0027] also features an exterior-end stone chimney but it has been incorporated into an early-20<sup>th</sup>-century two-story frame addition.

The land tax records indicate that this area along the mountain ridge on either side of Snicker's Gap began to be purchased by Washingtonians in the early 1890s, and several dwellings along with a hotel

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were constructed by 1900. A 1903 map of the area from Route 7 south to Mount Weather shows the location of a dozen or so houses, most of which still survive.<sup>3</sup>

The district contains two resources that were used as hotels: all other resources were private dwellings. The Blue Ridge Inn, which was destroyed by fire in the early 1910s, was built in 1893 on land that is now part of the Bear's Den property [021-0078; 021-5010-0017], catering to the vacationers who were beginning to discover this area and could easily access it by train to Bluemont. From an old postcard, it is evident that the 2½-story frame structure with central tower was a very elegant turn-of-the-century inn. The land on which it sat was purchased in 1891 from Ashford Weadon and the inn was valued at \$2,500 when it was constructed in 1893. According to newspaper accounts after the fire, which started in the laundry room, the property was known to many as the "Mountain House." The site, which is now very overgrown and sits in a densely wooded area, still contains the ruins of some of the chimneys as well as some broken dishes and charred timber. Elsea Springs [021-0939; 021-5010-0046] located on the north side of Route 7, just west of its junction with Raven Rocks Road, also catered to a vacationing clientele. According to an owner interviewed in the late 1980s, the property operated between Memorial Day and Labor Day, servicing mainly Washingtonians. The property contains an abandoned log building that was used as a cottage as well as a former dining room converted into a stable.

Several substantial stone and frame dwellings were constructed in the later 1890s, before the arrival of the railroad to Bluemont. Constructed in 1893-1894, Hohenheim is a well-preserved example of a vernacular Gothic Revival-style dwelling and the only frame dwelling to survive from before 1900. The large, two-story, five-bay, gable-roofed building rests on a stone foundation and the frame walls are clad in German-lap siding. According to local historian Joseph M. Davitt, it was built for Charles Smith by the Smoot Lumber Company of Alexandria.<sup>4</sup> The steeply-pitched gabled roof now covered in asphalt shingles, contains two interior brick chimneys. The house features paired one-over-one-sash, and single two-over-two-sash windows, all with pedimented window crowns decorated with Eastlake-style trim and chamfered side trim. All three gable-ends of the building contain fishscale wooden shingles and pointed-arched attic windows, referencing the Gothic Revival style. The five-bay, full width, screened-in front porch contains square stone supports and shelters the double-leaf paneled front doors that are topped by a four-light transom and flanked by detached sidelight windows. The house also contains a rear two-story ell with a screened-in side porch and large double-leaf doors leading to what appears to have been a garage at the rear. The steeply-pitched roof of the rear ell, as well as its architectural detailing, suggest it was constructed at the same time as the front section. The Hohenheim property also includes several historic outbuildings including a stone meat house, a stone and frame garage, a stone well house, and a stone and concrete root cellar. The tennis courts are a modern addition. Two sets of stone gateposts are found along the graveled driveway leading to the house from Blue Ridge Mountain Road. The front yard affords breathtaking views of

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the Shenandoah Valley to the west and also includes stone walls leading south of the house.

Joannasberg [021-0383; 021-5010-0027] was built in 1897 by Frank G. Carpenter who had purchased mountain land on the north side of Route 7 starting in 1896. Stone gateposts at the entrance off Raven Rocks Road bear the name of the property and the date of 1896, as well as the name "Rockwood Ridge," which it was given in 1967. Combining Craftsman and Colonial Revival detailing, the 2½-story, five-bay, stone house features a gabled roof with flared eaves, a central gabled dormer, six-over-six wood-sash windows, an interior chimney, and a nine-bay wraparound porch with stone and wooden square posts that overlooks the Valley below. About 10 years after Carpenter's death, his 414-acre property was sold at public auction. The advertisement that appeared in the 24 May 1934 edition of the Clarke Courier, gives a good description of the property and surrounding outbuildings:

By virtue of authority of that certain deed of trust dated January 6, 1926 of record in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Clarke County at Berryville Virginia in Deed Book No. 16 page 461 default having been made in the payment of the debt thereby secured, the undersigned Surviving Trustee will offer for sale at public auction and to the highest bidder in front of the Courthouse in Berryville, Virginia at 12 o'clock noon on Saturday, June 9, 1934. All of that certain tract of land, consisting of six contiguous parcels, containing in the aggregate of 414 acres...more or less situated on the top and western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Clarke County, Virginia, about one-half mile north of Snicker's Gap, improved by a stone dwelling, containing twelve rooms and two baths, a detached stone library and office building, containing five rooms and one bath, servants' cottage, two tenant houses, barns, outbuildings, swimming pool, garden, orchard, etc., originally built by the later Frank G. Carpenter, noted author and world traveler...

One of the most notable properties in the district, Joannasberg still contains many of the listed buildings and site features including the detached 1 ½-story stone library, the tenant house, as well as an unusual above-ground stone swimming pool that dates to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

High Meadows [021-0936; 021-5010-0001], located at 18777 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, contains a datestone of 1896 on the southwest corner of the house. Constructed for Elizabeth Sommers of Washington, D. C., the property contains an unusual one-story, hip-roofed, stone and frame schoolhouse. Living full time in Georgetown, Sommers was the principal of the Mount Vernon Seminary, but it appears she may have operated a local school during her time on the Mountain. In addition to the main house and school, the property contains a stone machine shed and a large stone barn, suggesting that the property was farmed. The open yard is well landscaped with mature specimen trees and is surrounded by dry-laid stone fences with square stone gateposts marking the

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entrances off Blue Ridge Mountain Road and Eagle Rock Lane. The current six-bay, gable-roofed dwelling rests on a stone foundation and has a random-rubble stone first floor and a second floor mainly of stone with the exception of the west end and part of the rear elevation that are of frame construction clad in wooden shingles. The house originally had a 1½-story frame porch with three dormers in the ½-story. This porch was removed in 1947 and replaced with the current three-bay porch with square stone posts; it was recently enclosed and a steep hipped roof added. The dormers were also removed in 1947 and the stonework in the ½-story patched in. Gable-roofed wall dormers with paired one-over-one-sash windows and a central shed-roofed wall dormer were then added. The other elevations of the house are fairly original. Details include stone corner quoins, wooden shingles in the ½ story of the west gable end and the northwest wall, stone chimneys, and deeply overhanging eaves. A one-story, shed-roofed enclosed porch runs along the rear elevation. Although the house was remodeled during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, and changed from its original appearance, it still maintains elements of a vernacular interpretation of the Shingle Style with Craftsman detailing.

A flurry of building activity occurred on the Mountain shortly after the arrival of the railroad in 1900 with a dozen houses constructed in the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of these are of stone and feature popular architectural elements of the period while still maintaining a rustic feel by the use of the native stone. Eagle Rock Farm [021-0951; 021-5010-0010], located directly adjacent to High Meadows [021-0936; 021-5010-0001] was constructed circa 1900. The first floor of this four-bay, asymmetrical, 1½-story, gambrel-roofed, Dutch Colonial Revival-style dwelling is of stone construction, laid in a random-rubble pattern. The ½-story is of frame, covered in aluminum siding. The standing-seam-metal roof features two oversized gabled dormers connected by a shed dormer both on the front and rear elevations. The dormers contain paired 24-light casement windows. Solid square stone posts support the four-bay integral porch and give it a Craftsman-style appearance. The house has several different window-sash arrangements but most are multi-light-over-one combinations and are double-hung. A semi-exterior stone chimney is located on each end of the house as well as a central stone chimney. Other details include overhanging eaves, a raised stone foundation with three-light basement windows, and a basement door, and a screened-in rear porch. The property also contains stone gateposts, stone walls, a stone pumphouse, and one of three above-ground rectangular stone cisterns that are found in the district. An interesting pyramidal-roofed shed clad in pressed tin shingles that housed a steam engine that pumped water from the stone cistern to the house and the rest of the property has been demolished. Two tenant houses were built on the property early in the 20<sup>th</sup> century: one is in ruins [021-0953; 021-5010-0012] and the other [021-0954; 021-5010-0011], though abandoned, still retains its Colonial Revival-style detailing including narrow beveled wood siding on the first floor and wooden shingles on the second.

Seltsenhorst [021-0380; 021-5010-0047] is located at 117 Seltsenhorst Lane, off the north side of Route 7 and west of Raven Rocks Road. Constructed in 1903, by Ernest Sellhousen of Washington,

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D.C., who had purchased the land in 1900 from Robert and Albert Elsea, Seltsenhorst was valued by the land tax records at \$1,000 when it was built. Commanding a view of the Shenandoah Valley to the west, the two-story, gable-roofed, five-bay dwelling is of native greenstone and contains detailing that draws from the Craftsman and the Queen Anne styles. This includes a projecting two-story polygonal bay on the south end, a central-front gable, fishscale wooden shingles in the gable ends, six-over-two-and two-over-two-sash windows, stone chimneys, and a six-bay wraparound porch with stone square columns. The backyard contains a terraced garden divided into levels by dry-laid stone fences. The garage and springhouse are of stone construction while the workshop and shed are frame.

Another impressive house from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century is Bruce Farm [021-0962; 021-5010-0054]. The majority of land associated with the property is located in Loudoun County, while the main house sits in Clarke. Constructed between the years of 1900 and 1904 for William Mackall, the 2½-story stone house is one of the best-preserved and most unaltered houses in the district. Facing east towards the Piedmont, the Craftsman-style dwelling has a hipped roof, originally covered in slate but now clad in asphalt shingles, with integral two-story three-bay porches. The first floor supports are round stone columns while the second floor is supported by square wooden posts. The porch originally wrapped around the north side of the house, affording the residents even more access to the outdoors. Other architectural details on the house include: hip-roofed dormers, a stone chimney, six-over-six-sash and eight-over-eight-sash windows with louvered wooden shutters, a double-leaf front door, overhanging eaves, and exposed rafter ends. According to an article published when the house was completed in 1904, the house measured 60 feet by 30 feet and the side frame wing to the south, which is clad in wood shingles, housed the kitchen and rooms for the “colored servants.”<sup>5</sup> The property also contains many outbuildings, some of which are located near the house and others on more remote areas of the farm. The most notable of those is the onion-domed gazebo in the front yard with cast-iron supports and a wood-shingled roof that was supposedly shipped from Italy and was located in Warrenton before being moved here in 1957.

Adjacent to Bruce Farm is High Wyndham [021-5010-0026], located at 33444 Heart Trouble Lane in Loudoun County. According to historian Joseph Davitt, the house was constructed circa 1907 by Thomas Gale, a wealthy realtor from Washington and designed by architect Appleton Clark.<sup>6</sup> One of the largest dwellings in the district, the 1½-story stone and stuccoed house has a gable roof clad in terra-cotta tiles and a full-width shed-roofed front dormer. Two-story wings extend to the rear. The five-bay integral porch has stone square posts and the paired windows have wooden lintels. The ½-story walls, as well as the dormers, are stuccoed and treated with a half-timbering reminiscent of medieval architecture, while the form, as well as the terra-cotta roof, are of the Spanish Eclectic style. The outbuildings include a whimsical two-story frame stable with cross gables, exposed rafter ends, and an octagonal cupola. A large stone meat house and springhouse and the property's park-like setting further enhance its appearance.

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Marked at the road entrance by two stone gateposts, Grey Rocks [021-0957; 021-501-0021] is located off the west side of Blue Ridge Mountain Road about one mile south of Route 7. Records suggest this was the home of Joseph Kaspar, who was one of the earliest of the Washingtonians to purchase land along the mountain ridge. The 1½-story, Craftsman-style, stone dwelling with three front wall dormers was constructed in 1902, although Kaspar purchased the land in the early 1890s. The house sits on a bluff overlooking the valley, and the terraced yard contains several historic outbuildings, including a small, one-story, stone cottage with an exterior stone chimney.

Boulder Crest [021-5010-0049], constructed circa 1905, is a fine example of the Colonial Revival style expressed in stone with some Craftsman-style detailing. The two-story, five-bay, gable-roofed stone building features stone corner quoins, central and exterior-end stone chimneys, a one-bay portico with fluted square posts, a Colonial Revival-style door surround, 36-over-one-sash windows, and overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends. The house, built into a sloped site off the east side of Blue Ridge Mountain Road, has spectacular views of the Piedmont from its glassed-in rear porch and terraced garden.

Only two properties from the first decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century within the district are frame. The oldest portion of the Blount House [021-0952; 021-5010-0005] dates to circa 1900 and exhibits characteristics of the Craftsman style. Located near the end of Eagle Rock Lane, the 1½-story, wood-shingled, three-bay frame dwelling has an integral wraparound porch, shed-roofed dormer with balcony, and a rear ell that contains an exterior-end stone chimney and casement diamond-paned patterned windows. The house was constructed by Henry Blount, a resident of Washington D. C.

Bishop's Gate [021-0937; 021-5010-0059], constructed circa 1900 by Bishop Charles C. McCabe and located at 18979 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, is another frame building from this era. The two-story, three-bay, gable-roofed, vernacular frame dwelling features two-story porches on the west side to take advantage of the spectacular view of the Shenandoah Valley. Narrow beveled wood siding is visible on part of the south side of the house and was observed in two other period houses in the district [021-0954; 021-5010-0011 and 021-5010-0066], perhaps suggesting the same builder. Bishop McCabe sold the property in 1905, and later owners built the hall-parlor-plan vernacular frame tenant house, as well as the stone and frame bank barn.

Located across the road at 18934 Blue Ridge Mountain Road is Bishops Gate Chapel [021-0391], constructed in 1910-1911. According to historian Joseph Davitt, the one-story stone chapel with a clipped gable-end roof, was used as a chapel from 1910-1914, then used as a school, and finally converted into a residence in 1950 when it was purchased by Genevieve Hendricks.<sup>7</sup> The building still maintains the appearance of a church and includes diamond-pane casement windows, stone buttresses along the sides, exposed rafter ends, and a large 1½-story stone bell tower. A 6 October 1938 ad in the

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Clarke Courier references a sale on 29 October 1938 of one acre "near the top of Blue Ridge Mountain abutting on the east side of the Mount Weather Road and bounded on the north, east, and south by the land of Mrs. William Chapin Huntington and improved by a stone dwelling house known as "Bishopsgate," suggesting the building may have been used as a dwelling even earlier. One of the most interesting things about the building is the signature of the builder, W. E. Hummer, whose name and the date 1911, are inscribed in one of the window sills. Although Hummer was a well-known local stonemason, this is the only building in the district that it is certain he constructed.

Stone continued to be a common building material during the early 1910s through the 1920s and 1930s and lent itself especially well to the Craftsman and Colonial Revival styles. The Craftsman style was very compatible with the rustic setting that had attracted so many to the Mountain in the first place. The district contains several smaller 1½-story stone bungalows that were built during this era. Constructed in 1911 for Louisa Peters of Washington, D.C., Stonycroft [021-0384; 021-5010-0043] is located at 18127 Raven Rocks Road near the intersection with Route 7. The 1½-story stone dwelling is of the Craftsman style and features an exterior-end stone chimney, overhanging eaves with exposed rafter ends, an integral wraparound porch with square posts on stone piers, and a long four-bay shed-roofed front dormer. The house at 17842 Raven Rocks Road [021-5010-0034], located in Loudoun County, is another excellent example of the Craftsman style and features a steeply-pitched gabled roof with full-width shed-roofed dormers, overhanging eaves, semi-exterior-end stone chimney, and a 4-bay integral front porch with tapered round stone columns and a stone balustrade and steps. Twin Oaks [021-0928; 021-5010-0038], located at 18035 Raven Rocks Road, is a two-story, five-bay stone dwelling on a split-level stone basement. The house originally had a wraparound porch that gave it a Craftsman appearance which was recently removed when the house was remodeled. It was constructed by Thomas Elsea, circa 1915, a long-time resident of the area.

Journey's End [021-0960; 021-5010-0003] is located off the east side of Blue Ridge Mountain Road near the southern edge of the district. Jeanette Scovill Aspinwall had purchased the property in 1911 from Charles H. Heyl, a widower from Washington, D.C. and added \$1,000 worth of buildings in 1913, presumably building what is now known as the Journey's End Tenant House [021-0961; 021-5010-0004]. The two-story stone house is vernacular in form and features an almost complete collection of period outbuildings including a barn, a garage, a root cellar, and summer kitchen. When Frances Carpenter Huntington purchased 69 acres of the property in 1928 from Jeanette S. Aspinwall, the tax records show \$2,500 worth of buildings, suggesting that Huntington added an additional \$1,500 worth of buildings when she acquired the property in 1928-- probably the large main house. The first floor of the Journey's End house is stone and the second story is frame covered in asbestos shingles. The lack of much architectural detailing except for the Craftsman porch with square stone posts suggests a circa 1928 date. Like most of the houses found within the district, it features stone end chimneys, and the wraparound porch with square stone supports overlooks the Shenandoah Valley

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below. The property also contains a large garage, many stone fences, and a log cabin that dates to the 1930s.

Several houses were constructed during the 1930s that are somewhat whimsical in nature in their reference to rustic romanticism. A fairly subdued example is Caprock, formerly known as Yawlding [021-0950; 021-5010-0019] at 18885 Blue Ridge Mountain Road. The well-preserved, 1½-story Colonial Revival-style dwelling is constructed of stone and features a steeply-pitched gabled roof covered in slate, steeply-pitched gabled dormers, two interior-end stone chimneys, and a full-width rear porch that affords a view of the valley to the west. Built circa 1935, the property also contains a log guest cottage in the rear yard, giving the property a rustic air.

Bear's Den [021-0078; 021-5010-0017], located at 18383 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, was constructed in 1933-34 by Dr. Huron Lawson, a physician in Washington D.C. land tax records of 1934 value the new building at \$2,500. Located on a secluded wooden lot set well back from the road, the large stone dwelling is now owned by the Appalachian Trail Conference and was purchased for use as a lodge for hikers on the Appalachian Trail in 1983. The massive Tudor/Medieval Revival-style, coursed, rubble stone dwelling is built on a banked site allowing for a full basement story in the rear. It features a semicircular stone bay on the south end and a two-story square crenellated tower in the back. The one-bay front porch has a stone portico with square posts and crenellations on the flat roof. The long house is comprised of a one-story stone section with an exterior-end stone chimney, a gable roof clad in slate shingles, steel casement windows with brick sills, and telescoping stone wings off the north side. The front porch and rear section are believed to have been constructed by Portuguese stonemasons whose last name was Pitta<sup>8</sup> and who lived in the area. The property also features a series of unusual tapered stone gateposts. Two small round stone structures stand near the entrance of the house. One is a pumphouse while the other, with its sliding metal window, was used as ticket house. Dr. Lawson apparently created a petting zoo to which he sold tickets that allowed visitors to visit the zoo and the view the Bear's Den overlook and picnic grounds.<sup>9</sup> Nearby is Bear's Den Rock, the famous overlook off the Appalachian Trail for which the historic district is named and which offers some of the most spectacular views of the Shenandoah Valley in the state. Other structures on the property include a cabin built in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century as well as several picnic shelters that are can be used by visitors to the property.

Llanmeath [021-0382; 021-5010-0032], located at 17677 Raven Rocks Road, was constructed in the early 1930s by Captain and Mrs. H. Turner Lewis who apparently had seen a similar dwelling on their honeymoon in Wales – hence the unusual Welsh name for the property and the unusual architectural character. The 1½-story stone house has a massive exterior stone chimney along the front that contains an exterior hearth. Two, low, one-story, hip-roofed wings flank the chimney creating a U-shaped courtyard with four pointed-arched entrance doors.



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Located nearby is Foxes' Rest [021-0381; 021-5010-0028], also along the west side of Raven Rocks Road, almost to the Jefferson County, West Virginia, state line. The 1½-story, three-bay stone dwelling with three gabled wall dormers, has an exterior-end stone chimney and a side three-bay wing. The influence of the French Eclectic style is seen in the use of the wall dormers, varied roof line, casement windows, and entrance. Several other dwellings in that immediate area were constructed around this same time including Fern Rock [021-0925; 021-5010-0029]; Rocky Wedge [021-5010-0030]; and the house at 17651 Raven Rocks Road [021-0926; 021-5010-0031].

Also constructed in the 1930s, The Poplars [021-5010-0064], a 1 ½-story, Cape Cod-style stone building was built onto an earlier house. It is located directly off the Mount Weather Road [021-5010-0063], which is a well-preserved portion of the original Route 601 road bed. Another transportation-related resource is located further north, near the entrance to Hohenheim, and is a stone county boundary marker that was installed by the Loudoun County Department of Natural Resources, probably in the 1920s [021-5010-0025].

Although construction slowed down in the period after World War II as is reflected in the diminished number of new buildings from that period, Washingtonians continued to seek out the Mountain as a summer retreat and weekend getaway. The architecture still featured architectural elements that were rustic yet refined. Ben Lomond [021-0948; 021-5010-0061] at 19094 Blue Ridge Mountain Road is a well-preserved example of one of the dwellings from this period and uses elements of the Colonial Revival style in its detailing. The 1½-story, five-bay gable-roofed building is stone on the first floor and frame in the ½-story. The building's stone construction, exposed rafter ends, and side three-bay porch with round stone supports are typical of the rustic character of the houses in the district. The six-over-six-sash windows, wooden lintels, front dormers, a transom and sidelights around the front door, a pedimented one-bay front porch, and full-height round-arched window in the rear give it a Colonial Revival-style sophistication. Other houses from this era include Stone Ridge [021-0927; 021-5010-0037]; house at 18546 Blue Ridge Mountain Road [021-5010-0052]; house at 19232 Blue Ridge Mountain Road [021-5010-0062]; the Games House [021-5010-0035]; and the Cole Cabin [021-5010-0008]. The house at 33377 Heart Trouble Lane [021-5010-0053], a vernacular one-story cabin, and the house at 18116 Raven Rocks Road [021-5010-0042], a large Tudor Revival-style dwelling, were both built in the 1940s, and use a flush wood siding that resembles log. The Pond House [021-5010-0002], a 1½-story, gable-end, stone and frame dwelling was constructed circa 1950, although architecturally it appears to date earlier and is a vernacular interpretation of the Tudor Revival style. Built into a banked site, the first floor of the building is of stone construction with a stone foundation and basement windows. Details include gabled wall dormers, balconies, false half-timbering construction, and diamond-pane-sash double-hung windows and casements. Its setting next to a pond further adds to the property's quaintness and rustic feel.

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The Bear's Den Rural Historic District contains a rare collection of well-preserved historic resources from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century that were constructed primarily by wealthy Washingtonians who were drawn to the seclusion and cooler climate of the area. While there is variety in the style of the buildings, which are primarily dwellings and their outbuildings, they share similar characteristics. They use native materials, such as greenstone and wood, and were sited so as to take the best advantage of the breath-taking views of the Shenandoah or Loudoun valleys from their wide, often wraparound porches. While rustic in their general character, these houses have detailing representative of popular architectural styles of the period which gives them an air of sophistication.

**ENDNOTES**

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<sup>1</sup> Soil Conservation Survey Aerial Photographs of Clarke County. [Berryville: Clarke County Historical Association], May 1937.

<sup>2</sup> The owner of Green Spring Cabin [021-5010-0033] believes the house dates to ca. 1776.

<sup>3</sup> Joshua C. Fletcher. "1903 Surveyor Map from Route 7 to Weather Bureau." [Berryville: Clarke County Historical Association Archives].

<sup>4</sup> Joseph M. Davitt. Mountain Lore [privately published 1999], 10.

<sup>5</sup> Frank M. Boteler. "\$10,000 Home in the Virginia Mountains," Country Life, 1904: 613.

<sup>6</sup> "Living on the Ridge," Volume 3, No. 1.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Massey-Maxwell Associates. "Preliminary Information Form for Bear's Den." [Richmond: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, January 1992].

<sup>9</sup> "What's the History of this Place," brochure provided by Appalachian Trail Conference, n.d.

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**BEAR'S DEN RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY**

**NOTES ON FORMAT, ORGANIZATION, AND JUSTIFICATION OF INVENTORY:**

In the following inventory, which is listed numerically by street address, all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the areas of significance as listed under Criteria A and C as: ARCHITECTURE and SOCIAL HISTORY and based upon the period of significance as circa 1890-1958. All non-contributing resources have, therefore, been so noted for being either constructed after 1958 or as having no integrity left to represent the period and areas of significance. The resources are keyed to the accompanying sketch map in regular order.

**Blue Ridge Mountain Road**

**18393 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0078**      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0017

*Name:* Bear's Den

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Tudor Revival, ca. 1933**

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling     | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed                | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed                | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed                | <b>Noncontributing</b>   |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Well House          | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Secondary Dwelling  | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Archaeological Site | Contributing (Site)      |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Archaeological Site | Contributing (Site)      |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shelter             | Contributing (Structure) |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shelter             | Contributing (Structure) |

**18399 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0386**      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0050

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Other, ca. 2000**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling | <b>Noncontributing</b> |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Foundation      | Contributing (Site)    |

**18473 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0048**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Other, ca. 1990**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling | <b>Noncontributing</b> |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage          | <b>Noncontributing</b> |

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**18490 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0049**

*Name:* Boulder Crest

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Colonial Revival, ca. 1905**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Well House      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool House      **Noncontributing**

**18521 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0051**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5, Style: Other, ca. 2006**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      **Noncontributing**

**18546 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0052**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1940**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      **Noncontributing**

**18554 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0024**

*Name:* Skyfield

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Springhouse Ruins      Contributing (Site)

**18623 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0020**

*Name:* The Summit

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.0, Style: Other, ca. 2006**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Pump House      Contributing

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**18667 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0957**      *Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0021**

*Name:* **Grey Rocks**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Craftsman, ca. 1902**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      **Noncontributing**

**18715 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0388**      *Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0022**

*Name:* **Hohenheim**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories;* 2, *Style:* Gothic Revival, ca. 1894**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Meat House      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Pump House      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Root Cellar      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Tennis Court      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

**House off Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-389**      *Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0023**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1850, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

**Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0025**

*Name:* **County Boundary Marker**

***Primary Resource Information:* Monument/Marker, *Stories:* 0, *Style:* None, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Monument/Marker      Contributing (Object)

**18777 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0936**      *Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0001**

*Name:* **High Meadows**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Craftsman, 1896, 1947**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* School      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Tenant House      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing

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*Individual Resource Status:* Machine Shed                      Contributing

**18788 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0962**                      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0054

*Name:* Bruce Farm

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5, Style: Craftsman, 1904**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn                                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed                                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Meat House                              Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Gazebo                                      Contributing (Structure)

*Individual Resource Status:* Tenant House                              Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage                                      **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool                                      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

*Individual Resource Status:* Tennis Court                              **Noncontributing (Structure)**

**18849 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0056**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Other, 1988**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      **Noncontributing**

**18885 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0950**                      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0019

*Name:* Caprock

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, ca. 1935**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed                                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool                                      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

**18920 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0057**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, ca. 1955**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage                                      Contributing

**18934 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0391**                      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0018

*Name:* Bishop's Gate Chapel

***Primary Resource Information:* Church, Stories: 1, Style: Tudor Revival, ca. 1910**

*Individual Resource Status:* Church                                      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage                                      Contributing

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*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      **Noncontributing**

**18935 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0058**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Other, ca. 2000**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      **Noncontributing**

**18979 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0937      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0059**

***Name:* Bishop's Gate**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1900; ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Cistern      Contributing (Structure)

**19055 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0949      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0060**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1955**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

**19094 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-0948      *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0061**

***Name:* Ben Lomond**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Colonial Revival, ca. 1940**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Well House      Contributing

**19232 Blue Ridge Mountain Road 021-5010-0062**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Other, ca. 1940**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Spring House      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

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**Checkmate Lane**

**18923 Checkmate Lane**                      **021-5010-0055**

*Name:* Checkmate Farm

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1910 with later additions**

|  |                                    |
|--|------------------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling | Contributing                       |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Tenant House    | Contributing                       |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Spring House    | Contributing                       |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Root Cellar     | Contributing                       |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Stable          | <b>Noncontributing</b>             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Stable          | <b>Noncontributing</b>             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pool            | <b>Noncontributing (Structure)</b> |

**18983 Checkmate Lane**                      **021-5010-0009**

*Name:* Edna's Cabin

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1850**

|  |                     |
|--|---------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling | Contributing        |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Foundation      | Contributing (Site) |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Barn            | Contributing        |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Barn            | Contributing        |

**Eagle Rock Lane**

**184 Eagle Rock Lane**                      **021-0951**                      *Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0010**

*Name:* Eagle Rock Farm

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, ca. 1900**

|  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pump House      | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage          | <b>Noncontributing</b>   |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Cistern         | Contributing (Structure) |

**203 Eagle Rock Lane**                      **021-5010-0016**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1940 with later alterations**

|  |                        |
|--|------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Single Dwelling | <b>Noncontributing</b> |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Garage          | <b>Noncontributing</b> |



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*Individual Resource Status:* Shed **Noncontributing**

**315 Eagle Rock Lane 021-5010-0014**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Minimal Traditional, ca. 1955**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Contributing**

**341 Eagle Rock Lane 021-5010-0013**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1960**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage **Noncontributing**

**615 Eagle Rock Lane 021-0952**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0005

***Name:* The Mailliard House-The Blount House**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Craftsman, ca. 1900**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Spring House **Contributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Well House **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool House **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool **Noncontributing (Structure)**

**909 Eagle Rock Lane 021-5010-0006**

***Name:* White Horse Rock**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Contemporary, ca. 1964**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn **Noncontributing**

**Eagle Rock Lane 021-0954**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0011

***Name:* Eagle Rock Farm Tenant House**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Colonial Revival, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Contributing**

**Eagle Rock Lane 021-0953**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0012

***Name:* Eagle Rock Farm Cabin**

***Primary Resource Information:* Ruin, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Ruin **Contributing (Site)**

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**459 Forest Ridge Lane      021-5010-0002**

*Name:* **The Pond House**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Tudor Revival, ca. 1950**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Chimney Ruin      Contributing (Site)

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      **Noncontributing**

**Harry Byrd Highway**

**232 Harry Byrd Highway      021-0929**

*Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0044**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Other, ca. 1910**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Foundation      Contributing (Site)

**302 Harry Byrd Highway      021-0930**

*Other DHR Id#:* **021-5010-0046**

*Name:* **Elsea Springs**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1900**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing

**Heart Trouble Lane**

**33377 Heart Trouble Lane      021-5010-0053**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1945**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing

**33444 Heart Trouble Lane      021-5010-0026**

*Name:* **High Wyndham**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Spanish Eclectic, ca. 1907**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Spring House      Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Meat House      Contributing

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*Individual Resource Status:* Work Shop                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Stable                      Contributing

**Journey's End Lane**

**177 Journey's End Lane      021-0961                      Other DHR Id#: 021-5010-0004**

**Name: Journey's End Tenant House**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1912**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Barn                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Garage                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Root Cellar                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Summer Kitchen                      Contributing

**280 Journey's End Lane      021-0960                      Other DHR Id#: 021-5010-0003**

**Name: Journey's End**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Craftsman, ca. 1928**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Garage                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Pump House                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Pool                      **Noncontributing (Structure)**  
*Individual Resource Status:* Well House                      **Noncontributing**

**Lost Boys Lane**

**88 Lost Boys Lane                      021-5010-0015**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, ca. 2000**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      **Noncontributing**  
*Individual Resource Status:* Garage                      **Noncontributing**

**176 Lost Boys Lane                      021-0390                      Other DHR Id#: 021-5010-0007**

**Name: Humming Hollow; Hendricks-Nye Cabin**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1850, ca. 1930**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling                      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling                      Contributing

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*Individual Resource Status:* Garage Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Cistern Contributing (Structure)

**400 Lost Boys Lane 021-5010-0008**

*Name:* Cole Cabin

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1930 with later additions**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed **Noncontributing**

**Mount Weather Road**

**32843 Mount Weather Road 021-5010-0064**

*Name:* Poplars

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Vernacular; Cape Cod, ca. 1913, late 1930s**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Secondary Dwelling Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed Contributing

**Mount Weather Road 021-5010-0063**

***Primary Resource Information:* Road Bed, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Road Bed Contributing (Structure)

**Overlook Lane**

**19529 Overlook Lane 021-5010-0066**

*Name:* Miller Property

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* House Site Foundation Contributing (Site)  
*Individual Resource Status:* Outbuilding Foundation Contributing (Site)

**19595 Overlook Lane 021-5010-0065**



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*Individual Resource Status:* Shed

**Noncontributing**

**17651 Raven Rocks Road 021-0926**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0031

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1935**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage

**Noncontributing**

**17677 Raven Rocks Road 021-0382**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0032

*Name:* Llanmeath Lodge

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Other, ca. 1932**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage

**Noncontributing**

**17836 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0035**

*Name:* Games House

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, ca. 1945**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Pool

**Noncontributing (Structure)**

**17842 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0034**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Craftsman, ca. 1920**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed

Contributing

**17846 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0036**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1950**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling

Contributing

**17939 Raven Rocks Road 021-0383**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0027

*Name:* Joannasberg; Rockwood Ridge

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5, Style: Craftsman, ca. 1896**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Workshop

Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn

Contributing

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|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Tenant House       | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Library            | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pool               | Contributing (Structure) |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pump House         | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pump House         | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pump House         | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Pool House Ruins   | Contributing (Site)      |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Chimney            | Contributing (Site)      |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed               | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed               | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Secondary Dwelling | Contributing             |
| <i>Individual Resource Status:</i> Shed               | <b>Noncontributing</b>   |

**17970 Raven Rocks Road 021-0927** *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0037

*Name:* **Stone Ridge**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1940**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Barn Contributing

**18035 Raven Rocks Road 021-0928** *Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0038

*Name:* **Twin Oaks**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1915**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Garage Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Root Cellar Contributing

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed **Noncontributing**

*Individual Resource Status:* Shed **Noncontributing**

**18039 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0039**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 1.5, *Style:* Vernacular, ca. 1995**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Noncontributing**

**18077 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0040**

***Primary Resource Information:* Single Dwelling, *Stories:* 2, *Style:* Split-level, ca.1985**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling **Noncontributing**

**18082 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0041**

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**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Ranch, ca. 1948**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      **Noncontributing**  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      **Noncontributing**

**18116 Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0042**

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Tudor Revival, ca. 1946**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      Contributing

**18127 Raven Rocks Road 021-0384**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0043

*Name:* Stonycroft

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: Craftsman, ca. 1911**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Barn      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shelter      **Noncontributing (Structure)**

**Raven Rocks Road 021-5010-0045**

**Primary Resource Information: Outbuilding, Stories: 1, Style: Vernacular, ca. 1910**

*Individual Resource Status:* Outbuilding, Domestic      Contributing

**Seltsenhorst Lane**

**117 Seltsenhorst Lane 021-0380**

*Other DHR Id#:* 021-5010-0047

*Name:* Seltsenhorst

**Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Queen Anne, 1903**

*Individual Resource Status:* Single Dwelling      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Garage      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Shed      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Root Cellar      Contributing  
*Individual Resource Status:* Spring House      Contributing



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**8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

Named for a distinctive out-cropping of rock known as “Bear’s Den” that is visible on the western slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains and has attracted visitors for over a century,<sup>1</sup> the Bear’s Den Rural Historic District is located on both sides of the boundary line between Clarke and Loudoun counties in Northern Virginia. The district is significant as a remarkable collection of sophisticated vacation homes and a scattering of farmhouses, many of which are of stone, in a region noted for its salubrious climate and relative solitude. The mountain top area that overlooks the Shenandoah River Valley to the west and the Piedmont to the east has attracted vacationers for more than a century. The scenic Appalachian Trail wends its way adjacent to the proposed district, and a paucity of roads limits ubiquitous auto traffic, serving only the limited number of residents and perhaps those visiting Mount Weather, a weather station since 1902 and currently the U. S. government’s highly secret mountain top hideaway. Mount Weather is not included within the boundaries of the district, but its presence in the immediate area undoubtedly spoke well of the remoteness of the area, making it a particularly attractive getaway for both residents and diplomats from the nation’s capital. The primary road that serves as the spine of the district, County Road 601, now known as Blue Ridge Mountain Road and Raven Rocks Road, closely follows the original road trace, and provides access to residences on both the west and east slopes of the mountain. Stone walls that were built from the easily available sturdy rocks of the area and a variety of interesting gates mark the boundaries of the secluded properties that have housed prominent government and diplomatic families. Stunning and dramatic vistas from these properties surely played a significant role in attracting those important in government and diplomatic circles in the nation’s capital. Many of the residences were constructed during a period when there was a growing fascination with natural unspoiled areas that led to the creation of national parks. President Theodore Roosevelt, who prided himself on his ability to adapt to and explore untouched regions of the world, undoubtedly stimulated a growing preoccupation with a “back to nature” movement.<sup>2</sup> The locally significant district has a period of significance from circa 1890 to 1958 and is eligible under Criterion C for the rich variety of architectural styles and the high quality of the surviving dwellings. It is also eligible under Criterion A for its exceptional representation of summer homes built by residents from the nation’s capital. The surviving dwellings represent a lifestyle that characterized the wealthy classes and upper echelons of the federal government as well as writers and musicians in a period when Washington and its environs were emerging as an important political and social hub. For those fleeing the hot and humid summers of Washington, this area offered and continues to offer privacy and solitude in a breath-taking natural setting.

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**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:**

The early roots of the Bear's Den Rural Historic District date principally from 1874 when the first train of the Washington, Ohio and Western Railroad reached Round Hill, a small community in Loudoun County, four miles east of the Blue Ridge.<sup>3</sup> Those wishing to travel farther west towards Snickers Gap, later Bluemont, were able to take the Winchester and Capon Springs stages to reach areas on the Mountain. By 1900, the rail line had been incorporated into the Southern Railroad and the tracks extended to the village of Bluemont, on the east side of the Blue Ridge, making travel from Washington to the western reaches of Loudoun County and the mountain top far easier.

Farmers had long recognized that the area on the mountain was rich for agricultural purposes, and several cabins survive from the antebellum period that attest to residency on the Mountain. Residents and agricultural activity on the Mountain would have been likely with the completion of the Snickersville Gap-Leesburg Turnpike (now Route 7 or Harry Byrd Highway) in 1832. However, these few structures -- Green Spring Cabin [021-5010-0033], which the property owner contends belonged to Ludwell Lee and Lucy Ludwell Paradise and dated from circa 1776, and four other log buildings properties: Humming Hollow [021-0390; 021-5010-0007], Edna's Cabin [021-5010-0009], a log cabin on Joannasberg [021-0383; 021-5010-0027], and a small dwelling off Blue Ridge Mountain Road [021-0389; 021-5010-0023] -- appear to date from the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century and were undoubtedly originally associated with residents who farmed on the mountain but have been incorporated into later residential properties, and these buildings no longer retain individual integrity as early-19<sup>th</sup>-century farm complexes. The Green Spring Cabin could very well have belonged to Ludwell Lee as he is documented to have been living in Loudoun County circa 1795.<sup>4</sup>

But it was not until the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century that the "cool climate, mountain scenery, and serenity, attracted many Washington, D. C. visitors who began to build summer homes in the mountains above Snickersville,"<sup>5</sup> now known as Bluemont. Later census records describe the area within the district as "The Mountain Section" and local residents often refer to the district as "The Mountain." Examination of land tax records, census records, directories, and passport applications, along with public sale announcements and brief biographies of many of the Mountain's residents reveals that a large majority of those residents and home owners had their primary home in Washington. Many of the addresses that appear in the tax records confirm that, just as is the case today, many political and diplomatic leaders lived in the Georgetown area of Washington and likely knew each other even as early as the 1890s.

The initial foray into building a resort was the construction in 1893 of the Blue Ridge Inn by William Lynn of Leesburg. Jules Demonet of Washington purchased the inn soon after it was built and served as its chef. Demonet had come to the United States in 1878, rose to become the chef for the White

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House, and was considered as the “leading pastry chef of Washington.” He was known to have “brought in a sumptuous spread of sweets arrayed with massed roses and orchids” for the popular garden parties at the White House in the 1880s.<sup>6</sup> The inn, which burned in 1910, was reported to have been valued at \$15,000. A heavily illustrated brochure entitled “On Every Height There Lies Repose,” published by the Southern Railway Company in 1900, provides a detailed description of the Blue Ridge Inn that was sure to attract those with disposable income to visit the area.<sup>7</sup> The site of the inn is now on the Bear’s Den property [021-0078; 021-5010-0017]. This popular resort attracted many visitors from Washington and introduced them to the cool temperatures and scenic beauty of the area. Even before the railroad line was extended to Bluemont, visitors were enjoying the countryside, and their presence undoubtedly encouraged the railroad to make it easier for them to get there. Dr. George E. Plaster, writing in 1902, said, “Since the building of the hotel (the Blue Ridge Inn) in the (Snickers) Gap, eight new houses have been built on the summit of the mountain, . . . and four more are in the course of erection.”<sup>8</sup> At least three fine residences survive that were constructed before the railroad arrived: Hohenheim [021-0388; 021-5010-0022] circa 1890; High Meadows [021-0936; 021-5010-0001] in 1896; and Joannasberg [021-0383; 021-5010-0017] in 1897. Hohenheim, which stands at 18715 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, was built for Charles G. Smith, a Washington merchant and New York native who lived in the Georgetown area of Washington. The contractor was the Smoot Lumber Company of Alexandria. Smith had a large family including a daughter Eliza who was listed in the 1900 Census for Washington as a music teacher. In 1908, a young visitor to Hohenheim (which means ‘High Hill’ in German) from Philadelphia, Jeanette Westcott, wrote a charming journal describing her visit. She writes of the house after reaching it from the train station: “. . . we turned through a gate, and drove through a peach orchard, another gate, a drive down – literally- through a beautiful patch of woods, . . . then out on a level with the hospitable home before me, . . . It is a roomy comfortable house with big open doors and windows, open fireplaces that are useful there even in the summer time and a long wide porch. There are no trim gravel paths, but the soft grass comes up to the steps. The lawn is smooth and green and is dotted with shrubs. . . tall walnuts give pleasant shade.” Miss Westcott goes on to describe the Smith family, noting particularly the “quiet doctor,” who likely is the Dr. Charles W. Smith listed in the 1930 census as living in Washington in 1938.<sup>9</sup>

A description written by a visitor in the 1930s provides another vivid picture of the seven-bedroom house. Laddie Fisher, writing about her 1933 visit saying: “Hohenheim was a great large house with seven bedrooms, an attic with a small stage, a three-story spiral banister that had no interruptions . . . ceiling to floor books, working fireplaces. . .” She goes on to describe the many “diplomatic neighbors” who came to call, including Cardinal Pacelli, later Pope Pius XII, who was vacationing nearby.<sup>10</sup> Smith and his descendants are listed as having “residences” on the Mountain, with his daughter Eliza listed in the 1919 phone book for the area, along with C. G. Smith, Jr., presumably a son of the builder. By 1939, the buildings at Hohenheim appear in the land tax books valued at \$3,000, a large sum for that period.<sup>11</sup>

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The affluence of many of the summer residents and the breath-taking views from the ridge overlooking the Potomac and Shenandoah river valleys, led to the construction of a significant collection of summer homes on large parcels, comparable in many ways to the second-home construction in the Adirondacks in New York, the Berkshires in Massachusetts, and the Poconos in Pennsylvania of the same period. High Meadows [021-0936; 021-5010-0001] at 18777 Blue Ridge Mountain Road was built in 1896 for Elizabeth Somers, who also lived in the Georgetown area of Washington and was the principal of the Mount Vernon Seminary, which was a girls' school located in Georgetown, and several later residents appear to have had associations with Mount Vernon Seminary. The massive stone house that stands on 12 acres is a testament to the skilled local stone masons in the area as well as the availability of high quality granite for construction. Its prominence is confirmed by its illustration in the Southern Railway brochure as "the mountain residence of Mrs. Elizabeth Somers." A building referred to as "the school house" stands on the property and possibly Mrs. Somers, with her skills as a school principal, planned to use or did use the building to conduct informal schooling for the neighborhood children. Gilbert Fowler, who died several years ago at the age of 92, and who came to the Mountain circa 1916, recalled that he attended a small stone school on Route 605 as a child.<sup>12</sup> A subsequent owner of the property was Hugh Rowland, a prominent Georgetown attorney who acquired the property in 1920 and spent time there with his two daughters.<sup>13</sup>

Joannasberg [021-0383; 021-5010-0027], located at 17939 Raven Rocks Road, was built in 1897 by Frank C. Carpenter, noted author and world traveler. Carpenter bought the 116 acres described as "on the mountain" in 1896. By 1898, the land tax books record that \$2,000 worth of buildings had been added to the property. The fine house was chosen to illustrate the Southern Railway brochure in 1900. In the Bluemont phone directory of 1919, Carpenter is described as a "writer." His books included Carpenter's Geographical Reader: Asia, (1897); and subsequent geographical readers for North America (1898); Europe (1902); and Africa (1905). A 1 ½-story stone building that was Carpenter's library stands on the Joannasberg property. One of the more intriguing books produced by Frank Carpenter was edited by his daughter Frances and entitled Carp's Washington. Carpenter, who began his journalistic career as a correspondent for the Cleveland Leader in 1882, amassed a series of articles and humorous essays describing the nation's capital in the 1880s that his daughter assembled into the book. Frances often joined him in his travels and was ultimately elected president of the International Society of Woman Geographers.<sup>14</sup> In 1928, Frances Carpenter Huntington and her husband, William Chapin Huntington, a prominent journalist, bought 80 acres of property from Jeanette Scoville Aspinwall, her Georgetown neighbor in Washington, on which they built Journey's End [021-0960; 021-5010-0003] at 280 Journey's End Road. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Aspinwall had built what is referred to as the "Journey's End Tenant House," [021-0961; 021-5010-0004] located at 177 Journey's End Road in 1912 shortly after they had acquired the property. What is particularly interesting are the numerous associations among the Bear's Den District residents with their friends and neighbors from Washington, the great majority of whom had other residences in the stylish Georgetown neighborhood

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in northwest Washington.

Following the extension of the railroad to nearby Bluemont, making the area even more convenient to reach by train from Washington, at least ten more large houses were constructed in the area. The Blount House [021-0952; 021-5010-0005], at 615 Eagle Rock Lane, was built circa 1900 by Henry Blount, president of American Securities and a Georgetown resident in Washington. Subsequently his son, Henry F. Blount, Jr., a lawyer, and his family resided in the house on the mountain.<sup>15</sup> It was later sold to Congressman William S. Mailliard, whose family still owns the property and uses it in the summer. Again, a primary house in the district had been conceived and built by a wealthy Washington resident.

Eagle Rock Farm [021-0951; 021-5010-0010] at 184 Eagle Rock Lane was built circa 1900, likely by Grace H. Brouse of Washington. She was listed in the 1910 Census for the District as a single white female teacher, renting her flat in Washington. By 1920, she is listed as being employed at the Mount Vernon Academy. By 1930, she had become the treasurer of the school.<sup>16</sup> One of its subsequent owners was Benjamin Hill, possibly an official with the Department of Commerce, who during the 1920s hosted General of the Armies John J. Pershing at his home on the Mountain.<sup>17</sup> Ms. Wescott, in her 1908 journal, describes the actual Eagle Rock outcrop, located near the end of Eagle Rock Lane, as one of the reasons people vacationed in this area. Apparently there were chairs and couches upon which to sit and view the Shenandoah Valley. She describes the “trees beneath you,” and the “great masses of rock under your feet,” and a “tiny glimpse” of the Shenandoah River. It was for just this sort of experience that many who could afford to travel and chose to vacation on the Mountain top.<sup>18</sup>

Elsa Springs [021-0930; 021-5010-0046] at 302 Harry Byrd Highway is another complex of buildings that dates from circa 1902. According to past owners, the property was originally a hotel that operated from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Undoubtedly they took advantage of the name “springs” that was currently popular in describing healthy vacation spots. Apparently several small cottages associated with the main house were demolished with the widening of Route 7. The Elsa family name is one that has been associated with Clarke County, with Thomas Elsa (1855–1930); and his son Thomas Jr. (1885–1957), both with large families. Twin Oaks, located at 18035 Raven Rock Road [021-0928; 021-5010-0038] was built by Thomas A. Elsa around 1915. The family name appears in all the census records for the county between 1870 and 1930. They are all described as “farmers” or “laborers” and do not appear to have had any association with Washington. Their presence in the district and association with a property that served as a hotel indicates that the local residents were also involved in taking advantage of the special climate and location.<sup>19</sup>

Another residence dating from this period is Grey Rocks [021-0957; 021-5010-0021] at 18667 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, built by Professor Joseph Kaspar, another prominent Washingtonian. Kaspar

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bought a lot of mountain acreage and was “followed by many of his friends,” seeking the cool mountain air and because the area was a refuge from the humidity and bustle of the nation’s capital. Kaspar was a noted musician and violinist, even being described in that manner in the federal census records. He appears in the Bluemont phone directory as a “musician.” A web site for the National Federation of Music Clubs indicates that a prestigious student violin award is named for him. His daughter, Francesca Kaspar, a noted opera singer, lived at nearby Bear’s Den [021-0078; 021-5010-0017].<sup>20</sup>

The construction of the weather station on the Mountain in 1903 was an important event for the history of the area. At that time period there was an increasing interest in recording the weather. The New York Times published an article on 7 August 1897, by Willis L. Moore, who was chief of the U. S. Weather Bureau at the time on warming in Alaska. He also wrote a book entitled Descriptive Meteorology (London and New York, 1910). Great interest in weather forecasting had been stimulated with the catastrophic hurricane that hit Galveston, Texas, in 1900. The U. S. government acquired a 434-acre site atop the mountain for the Weather Bureau to launch weather balloons to the upper atmosphere to monitor the weather patterns. According to the Mountain’s historian, “on May 5, 1910, ten box kites the size of telephone booths, flying on nine miles of piano wire, established an altitude record of four and one-half miles.” In 1936 the U. S. Bureau of Mines took over the property and concluded that the rock in the area was exceptionally “hard and tight.” These geological conditions led ultimately to the government building a secure bomb shelter, probably begun after the Soviet Union detonated its first atomic bomb in 1949. During World War II, the federal government installation housed conscientious objectors. Today this facility is under the jurisdiction of the Department of Homeland Security and is designed to house high level government officials in cases of serious emergencies. Although the property is not included within the boundaries of this historic district, its presence adjacent to the district has been important for well over 100 years, and perhaps those from Washington, both residents and government employees, who sought refuge from summer heat and desired impressive summer homes were comfortable investing in residences in the vicinity of so important and visible a government undertaking. Certainly the same qualities that made a secret facility attractive – remoteness, isolation, privacy – would have attracted government officials and other Washington upper-class citizens seeking the same for their summer retreats. The name “Mount Weather” continues to conjure up the Cold War, the War on Terrorism, and government secrecy in general.<sup>21</sup> Moreover, employees at the facility often lived in the area nearby. In 1937, Wing Agnew, project manager at Mount Weather, built the Poplars [021-5010-0064] located off a stretch of Mount Weather Road [021-5010-0063] that he was responsible for having straightened. Leo Bourassa, chief engineer for the bomb shelter project, lived at Checkmate Farm [021-5010-0055] at 18923 Checkmate Lane. Bourassa, who died in 2001, directed the development and building of the underground facility at Mount Weather during the Eisenhower administration. Bourassa was particularly active in the Virginia Lakes and Watersheds Association, and in recent years a scholarship awarded by that

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organization was named in his honor. The Martz family, who built the original house, were farmers in Loudoun County. Again, this house would not have been built as a summer residence but rather as a homestead for a large family. Mr. Davitt says that a Harrison Martz was a "first-class carpenter" and likely worked on some of the later residences. Only later, when Mr. Bourassa acquired the property, would it have associations that reached far beyond Loudoun County.

During the prosperous years prior to World War I, as people from Washington were traveling farther a field for their vacations, several other prominent residences were constructed in the district. Seltsenhorst (which means eagle's nest in German) [021-0380; 021-5010-0047], at 117 Seltsenhorst Lane, was built in 1903 by Ernest and Emily Sellhausen of Washington. Sellhausen was a physician living in Georgetown according to the Washington, D. C. Directory. They had acquired the property from Robert and Albert Elsea in 1900. The land tax books of 1904 indicate that \$1000 worth of new buildings had been added to the property. Sellhausen's sister, Elfrieda S. Droop, appears in the 1919 phone directory as Mrs. C. A. Droop and applied for a passport in 1924 to travel in Germany, the Netherlands, France, and Switzerland, indicating that she was wealthy enough to travel abroad, and demonstrates the level of affluence of residents on the Mountain.<sup>22</sup>

Bishop's Gate [021-0937; 021-5010-0059] that is located at 18979 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, is another interesting but modest residence constructed circa 1900 on the west side of the mountain road. The property was sold to a Charles C. McCabe (1838-1906), bishop in the Methodist Church in Virginia who led the Methodist Episcopal Church's Church Extension Society, an organization dedicated to building Methodist houses of worship in the western part of the United States. McCabe had served as a chaplain during the Civil War. He built a modest clapboard house on the property now known as Bishop's Gate. According to Davitt, Jeanette Scovill Aspinwall at a cost of \$4500 enlarged the house and the Aspinwalls "left their mark on one of the beams supporting the front porch which reads "Aspinwall, Wyoming Avenue, Washington, D. C." The Aspinwalls did live on Wyoming Avenue in Georgetown as confirmed by census records for 1910. Later owners included Mary F. Barker and her family who operated the property as a small farm with an orchard.

Bishop's Gate Chapel [021-0391; 021-5010-0391] at 18934 Blue Ridge Mountain Road stands across the street from Bishop's Gate and was not turned into a residence until 1950. Bishop's Gate is the only building in the district with an identified local builder, W. E. Hummer, whose name and the date 1911 is carved into one of the window sills. Hummer is described in the census records as a "mason" who built "stone houses," indicating that in this case he was responsible for the masonry work in the chapel. It is very likely that Hummer was involved in masonry work on several other residences in the area, including some of the fourteen that are of stone and masonry construction. The chapel became a residence in 1950 when famed decorator from Washington, Genevieve Hendricks, acquired the property. Hendricks is probably best known as the very opinionated decorator for the presidential

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yacht *Sequoia* when Lyndon B. Johnson was president as well as for the White House itself. She also decorated *Les Ormis*, the D.C. home of Perle Mesta after Lyndon Johnson acquired it.<sup>23</sup> She was quoted in her Washington Post obituary as saying: "Life is too short to waste on trash. There are such beautiful things in this world." Perhaps that is why she was so attracted to the Mountain.

Bruce Farm [021-0962; 021-5010-0054] is a particularly fine residence constructed circa 1904 at 18788 Blue Ridge Mountain Road in the Loudoun County portion of the district. The house was built for William Mackall, a wealthy Washington lawyer. Its opulence is attested by an article "A \$10,000 home in the Virginia Mountains," that appeared in the book Country Life In America, published by Frank M. Boteler in 1904. The article reports that the house was completed at a cost of \$5,500 and had 15 rooms. Another author describes a "Bee House," which was a distinctive gazebo on the property. The view to the east was spectacular, with visibility clear enough to see the Washington monument on a very clear day.<sup>24</sup> Nearly all of the fine summer retreats constructed in the area were sited to provide views either across the Loudoun Valley to the east or the Shenandoah Valley to the west, an approach to building that survives today in mountain-top developments like Wintergreen and Massanutten, which are located in west central Virginia.

Another impressive summer house known as High Wyndham [021-5010-0026] at 33444 Heart Trouble Lane, was built circa 1905 by Thomas Gale, a wealthy realtor from Washington. According to local historian Joe Davitt, the original small cottage was built circa 1900 and the larger residence completed in 1907. Gale owned several large Washington hotels including the Willard. Gale is listed in the 1919 Bluemont phone directory. Cardinal Pacelli, secretary of state for the Vatican in the 1930s, spent a month here in 1936. He later became Pope Pius XII. Documentary research reveals that Pacelli was in the Washington area but a search of his activities in the summer of 1936 when he was making a very public visit to the United States does not mention his presence. Leo Hall of the Friars of Atonement, who once occupied Journey's End [021-0960; 021-5010-0003], writing to Joe Davitt in 2005, recalls that Pacelli was in Washington in 1938 on a short official visit and rented the house for two weeks of rest.<sup>25</sup> It appears that he made a more private visit to the Mountain two years later. However, Laddie Fisher, mentioned in the discussion of Hohenheim and writing about this period, confirms he was staying in the area and visited Hohenheim.<sup>26</sup>

Stonycroft [021-0384; 021-5010-0043] at 18127 Raven Rocks Road, was built circa 1911 by Louisa Peters, possibly by then the widow of Navy Commander George Peters, who was a native of Washington and lived for some years on 14<sup>th</sup> Street in a neighborhood of mostly professionals and other military personnel. They had two children, Arthur and Grace, and a passport application for Louisa Peters in 1925 confirms that she was fairly affluent and well-traveled and able to afford a second home away from the District.<sup>27</sup>



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Following World War I, there was a burst of economic energy during the 1920s and early 1930s. During this period, wealthy Washingtonians continued to view the Mountain as an attractive place to spend their summers and their money. Journey's End, [021-0960; 021-5010-0003] mentioned earlier in the discussion of Frank Carpenter, was built in 1928 by Carpenter's daughter, Frances, continuing her father's long association with the area. Two buildings on the Eagle Rock property -- the Tenant House and the Farm Cabin [021-0953; 021-5010-0012 and 021-0954; 021-5010-0011] were built circa 1920 near the primary dwelling at Eagle Rock built by Grace Brouse and may have been used as guesthouses. Ben Lomond [021-0948; 021-5010-0061] at 19094 Blue Ridge Mountain Road was likely built by a member of the Charles Smith family who built Hohenheim and who owned considerable property in the area. Ben Lomond was ultimately sold by Julia M. Smith, widow of Charles Smith, in 1940 to the Mann family of Baltimore.<sup>28</sup> Other residences constructed in the 1920s include the Miller-Cefalu House [021-5010-0065] at 19595 Overlook Lane; the Miller Property [021-5010-0066] at 19529 Overlook Lane where the main house burned; and a Craftsman-style house [021-5010-0034] at 17842 Raven Rocks Road.

Close examination of census records for the period between 1920 and 1930 shows that there were many craftsmen, carpenters, and stonemasons on the Mountain. Family names such as Pitta, a large family from Portugal, Hummer, Elsey, McCarty and Tabscot appear in the area census records that clearly define this area as "the Mountain Section," or occasionally "Mount Weather Road," and it is fairly certain they would have been involved in the construction of many of the summer residences during this period. The census records for the Battletown Magisterial District of Clarke County and Mount Gilead District of Loudoun also record several farms valued between \$15,000 and \$25,000 in the "Mountain" section, indicating that just as in earlier years, small farms and orchards were scattered in the area.

A group of residences were constructed as well in the 1930s, indicating that the Depression did not affect those in government as much as those who were associated with farming and industry. Foxes' Rest [021-0381; 021-5010-0028] at 17587 Raven Rocks Road is a stone dwelling built circa 1938 for Robert D. Beeton, a native of Lexington, Virginia, and a government official who lived at 4<sup>th</sup> Street N.W. in Washington,<sup>29</sup> and Llanmeath [021-0382; 021-5010-00382] at 17677 Raven Rock Road built circa 1934, are part of an impressive group of stone residences that complement the rustic stone environment of the Mountain. It is believed that most of these houses were again built by wealthy military and government employees from Washington. Lewis in 1930 is listed in the Census as a retired navy captain renting rooms in Washington, perhaps confirming that he and his wife were building Llanmeath at this time.

Perhaps the most important dwelling constructed during the 1930s was Bear's Den, [021-0078; 021-5010-0017] at 18383 Blue Ridge Mountain Road taking its name from the same rock formation for

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which the historic district is named. Bear's Den was built in 1933 by Dr. Huron Lawson, a wealthy physician from Washington on a parcel that included the site of the Blue Ridge Inn that had burned in 1910. Lawson was a Michigan native and owned real estate valued at more than \$25,000 in Washington's Georgetown neighborhood. Most local historians say that the massive building was the work of local stonemasons, and it can probably be assumed that William Hummer, who lived in the area and is described in the census as a builder of "stone houses," played a role in its construction. Lawson's wife, Francesca Kaspar, was an accomplished opera singer. It was her father, Joseph who built Grey Rocks [021-0957; 021-5010-0021] on a parcel just to the south. The massive stone house, described as having "a curved acoustically friendly living room" was large enough to allow Francesca to perform and entertain a large number of guests. Again, chronicler Addie Fisher writes about listening to Francesca practice her operatic arias prior to performances. The Tudor Revival-style building, constructed in several sections and using the native granite from the Mountain, seems particularly appropriate for the location. In 1983 Bear's Den was purchased by the Appalachian Trail Conference (ATC), a non-profit organization responsible for the protection and management of the Appalachian Trail. The ATC converted the main house into a 26-bed youth hostel for hikers along the 2,155-mile long hiking Trail.<sup>30</sup> That the nation's first long-distance hiking trail, which traverses a dozen states from Georgia to Maine and touches two others, is adjacent to the Bear's Den Rural Historic District seems particularly appropriate, since its Washington residents were enthusiastically pursuing an outdoor natural environment in which to spend their summers.

Several properties in the district date from the post-World War II period, continuing the tradition of Washingtonians who could afford to build houses as retreats from the city. Owners of these residences continued to be members of prominent families in the arts and politics from Washington. With the construction of the secret and secure facility for high government officials at Mount Weather, there likely was increased demand for year-round housing for staff as well. Among them are: The Pond House [021-5010-0002] at 459 Forest Ridge Lane; the house at 341 Eagle Rock Lane [021-5010-0013]; the Games House [021-5010-0035] at 17836 Raven Rocks Road; the house at 17486 Raven Rocks Road [021-5010-0036]; the house at 33377 Heart Trouble Lane [021-5010-0053]; at 18920 Blue Ridge Mountain Road [021-5010-0057]; and the house at 19055 Blue Ridge Mountain Road [021-0949; 021-5010-0060] that was built for the caretaker of Ben Lomond.

The Bear's Den Rural Historic District is an intriguing collection of dwellings that provided a private getaway to many well-heeled Washingtonians for at least 65 years. It is likely that a number of the Washingtonians already knew each other or certainly moved in the same social circles. It represented a prevailing sentiment in the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the well-to-do should vacation in cool, healthy, and remote areas. The "Mountain" appeared remote, but due to railroad service beginning in 1900 and the proximity to Washington, it offered convenient solitude and privacy to government officials and diplomats alike, a function it still performs. The natural setting on a rugged mountain top clearly

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appealed to those who could afford to vacation for extended periods away from the heat and humidity of the nation's capital. Musicians, artists, writers, and chroniclers also have been attracted to this elevated spot in the reaches of Northern Virginia. The quality of their chosen dwellings attests to the exceptional beauty of the area.

### ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> Frances Benjamin Johnston. Image of unidentified persons on Bear's Den Rocks. Washington: Library of Congress Photographic Collection (1900) Francis Benjamin Collection.
- <sup>2</sup> See particularly Candice Millard, The River of Doubt: Theodore Roosevelt's Darkest Journey. [New York: Doubleday, 2005].
- <sup>3</sup> Anne Whitehead Thomas. A Story of Round Hill. [Leesburg, Va.: Friends of the Thomas Balch Library, 2004], p. 19.
- <sup>4</sup> "Tithables of Loudoun County;" Will of Francis Lightfoot Lee, (Richmond County, December, 1795) 62. See [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) under Lucy Ludwell Paradise, and Ludwell Lee. See also Virginia Families, "The Harrison Family," Volume 2, Ch. XV, p. 495.
- <sup>5</sup> "Bluemont Historic District," National Register nomination, Section 8, p 11 (1983).
- <sup>6</sup> William Seale. The White House Garden; [Washington: Archetype Press, 1996] pp. 76-77; New York Times, August 21, 1878; Clarke Courier, July, 1910. "Blue Ridge Inn Burned."
- <sup>7</sup> "on Every Height There Lies Repose," published by the Passenger Department of the Southern Railway, 1900 and reproduced in Jean Herron Smith, From Snickersville to Bluemont: The Biography and History of a Virginia Village, [Bluemont, Va.: Bluemont Citizens Association, 2003], 145-151.
- <sup>8</sup> George E. Plaster, M.D., History of Bluemont, Virginia, (1902), introduction.
- <sup>9</sup> Journal found in 1998 in the house by Margaret McClure and shared with Joe Davitt. Handwritten and transcribed by Mr. Davitt.
- <sup>10</sup> Joseph Davitt. Mountain Lore, [privately published, 1999] pp. 15-16.
- <sup>11</sup> "Subscribers Bluemont Switchboard or Exchange," (1919); U. S. Census, 1900, 1920, 1930; Clarke County Land Tax Books, 1938;
- <sup>12</sup> "Living on the Mountain," compiled by Joe Davitt, Volume 2, Number 1 (June, 2004), 2.
- <sup>13</sup> U. S. Census for Washington D. C. (1900, 1910, 1920).
- <sup>14</sup> Frank G. Carpenter. Carp's Washington (edited by Frances Carpenter and with an introduction by Cleveland Amory) New York: McGraw-Hill Book Company, Inc., 1960).
- <sup>15</sup> U. S. Census for Washington, D. C. 1900, 1910; for Clarke County, Va., 1920.
- <sup>16</sup> U. S. Census for Washington, D.C., 1910, 1920, 1930.
- <sup>17</sup> Davitt, p. 9; U. S. Census for Washington, 1920.
- <sup>18</sup> Journal of Anne Wescott, 1908. (found in 1998 and transcribed by Mr. Davitt); U. S. Census for Washington, 1910; Clarke County Land Tax Records, 1908.
- <sup>19</sup> Survey form prepared by Maral Kalbian for 021-0930 in 1999; U. S. Census for Clarke County, 1870-1930.
- <sup>20</sup> Jean Herron Smith. From Snickersville to Bluemont..., 81. [www.music.eku.edu](http://www.music.eku.edu) (2000).
- <sup>21</sup> Davitt, pp. 3-5; Ted Gup Berryville, "Civil Defense Doomsday Hideaway," Time, June 24, 2001.
- <sup>22</sup> See [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) for Elfrieda Droop and Ernest Sellhausen, including passport information from 1924.
- <sup>23</sup> Time, February 9, 1968; Washington Post, May 8, 1973; Washington Post, October 1, 1992.
- <sup>24</sup> Frank M. Boteler. "A \$10,000 Home in the Virginia Mountains," Country Life in America (1904). See also Gwynn Cochran Prideaux, Summer Houses of Virginia, [Richmond: William Byrd Press, 1976] 116.
- <sup>25</sup> Electronic correspondence from Leo Hall to Joe Davitt, May 9, 2005 and copied to Margaret Peters.
- <sup>26</sup> Davitt, "Living on the Ridge," Volume 3, No. 1; John Cornwall. Hitler's Pope The Secret History of Pius XII, ' New

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York: Penguin Group, 1999], 176-178.

<sup>27</sup> U. S. Census for Washington, 1900, 1910, 1920; passport application for Louisa Peters in 1925 at [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>28</sup> Loudoun County Deed Book 29/309 (1942).

<sup>29</sup> [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com), Robert D. Beeton, draft card for World War I and social security death records. Clarke County Land Tax Records (1938).

<sup>30</sup> U. S. Census for Washington D. C. 1930; Davitt, pp. 19-20; "About Bear's Den," [www.bearsdencenter.org](http://www.bearsdencenter.org)

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Vanderbilt. "Carpenter's World Travels," Library of Congress Bulletin, Volume 10 (April 23, 1951).

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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia**

**Section   9   Page  43**

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Washington Post, May 8, 1973; October 1, 1992.

Wescott, Jeanette. Unpublished diary (1908) found in the Hohenheim residence by a later owner, Margaret McClure in 1998.

“What’s the History of this Place?” brochure provided by the Appalachian Trail Conference, undated.  
Winchester Star, August 10, 2005.

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Records linked to this site include passport application; military registration cards for World War I; Social Security Administration death records, the Washington D. C. City Directory for 1890 and a national index to obituaries.

[www.musiceku.edu](http://www.musiceku.edu) (National Federation of Music Clubs) visited April, 2008.

[http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Pope\\_Pius\\_XII](http://encyclopedia.laborlawtalk.com/Pope_Pius_XII).

[www.bearsdencenter.org](http://www.bearsdencenter.org) (2005)

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia

Section 10 Page 44

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## **10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

### **UTM REFERENCES:**

|   |                   |   |                   |
|---|-------------------|---|-------------------|
| A | E255353, N4334923 | B | E254335, N4335521 |
| C | E253544, N4334983 | D | E253408, N4334159 |
| E | E252435, N4333135 | F | E251614, N4331905 |
| G | E251539, N4330258 | H | E251008, N4329270 |
| I | E251068, N4328618 | J | E252197, N4329149 |
| K | E253654, N4330582 | L | E254187, N4331290 |
| M | E253830, N4332191 | N | E255267, N4334252 |

### **VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundary is shown on the accompanying nine map sections each at a scale of 1"=200' that together make up the entire district as shown on the single map scaled at 2000'.

### **BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The Bear's Den Rural Historic District boundaries are drawn to include the distinctive architectural resources that are generally located along the spine of the Blue Ridge Mountains from just south of the West Virginia state line (Jefferson County) south along Raven Rocks Road 1.3 miles across Harry Byrd Highway (State Route 7) and south along Blue Ridge Mountain Road for approximately 3 miles to a point near the southern junction of Mount Weather and Blue Ridge Mountain roads. The district boundaries are drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings in the area and generally follow the tax parcel lines of properties, mountain ridges and contours, and other natural landscape features whenever possible. Concentrated areas of non-contributing resources (e.g. the east side of Blue Ridge Mountain Road, south of Harry Byrd Highway) as well as non-contributing resources at the edges of the district are excluded. The area encompassed within the district contains a large number of late-19<sup>th</sup>- and early-20<sup>th</sup>-century dwellings that were primarily constructed as summer houses by wealthy Washingtonians attracted by the mountain's cooler summer climate.



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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia

Section PHOTOGRAPHS Page 45

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**PHOTOGRAPHIC DOCUMENTATION:**

Unless otherwise noted, all photographs are of:

Property: **Bear's Den Rural Historic District**

VDHR File Number: **021-5010**

Location: **Clarke and Loudoun counties, Virginia**

Date of photograph: **March 2008**

Photographer: **Maral S. Kalbian**

Negatives filed at: **Virginia Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.**

Photo 1 of 20

Streetscape of Raven Rocks Road looking south

Negative no. 24120 [29]

Photo 2 of 20

View: Southeast view of Foxes' Rest [021-0381; 021-5010-0028]

Negative no. 24120 [28]

Photo 3 of 20

View: North view of library at Joannasberg [021-0383; 021-5010-0027]

Negative no. 23872 [35]

Photo 4 of 20

View: Northeast view of house at 17842 Raven Rocks Road [021-50101-0034]

Negative no. 24121 [12]

Photo 5 of 20

View: Northeast view of house at 18116 Raven Rocks Road [021-50101-0042]

Negative no. 24123 [7]

Photo 6 of 20

View: West view of Seltsenhorst [021-0380; 021-5010-0047]

Negative no. 24151 [23]

Photo 7 of 20

View: Northeast view of Bear's Den [021-0078; 021-5010-0017]

Negative no. 23753 [24]

Photo 8 of 20

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National Park Service**

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**Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia**

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View: View looking southwest from Bear's Den Rocks [021-0078; 021-5010-0017]  
Negative no. 23754 [33]

Photo 9 of 20

View: Streetscape of Blue Ridge Mountain Road, looking south  
Negative no. 23753 [8]

Photo 10 of 20

View: Southeast view of outbuildings at Skyfield [021-5010-0024]  
Negative no. 23757 [31]

Photo 11 of 20

View: Northeast view of Hohenheim [021-0388; 021-5010-0022]  
Negative no. 23755 [11]

Photo 12 of 20

View: Southeast view of High Wyndham [021-5010-0026]  
Negative no. 24153 [18]

Photo 13 of 20

View: Southwest view of stable at High Wyndham [021-5010-0026]  
Negative no. 24153 [11]

Photo 14 of 20

View: Southwest view of High Meadows [021-0936; 021-5010-0001]  
Negative no. 23738 [33]

Photo 15 of 20

View: Streetscape of Eagle Rock Lane, looking west  
Negative no. 23753 [29]

Photo 16 of 20

View: Southeast view of Eagle Rock Farm [021-0951; 021-5010-0010]  
Negative no. 23752 [20]

Photo 17 of 20

View: Northwest view of Edna's Cabin [021-5010-0009]  
Negative no. 23740 [12]

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun Counties, Virginia**

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Photo 18 of 20

View: East view of Bruce Farm [021-0962; 021-5010-0054]

Negative no. 24152 [13]

Photo 19 of 20

View: Northeast view of Caprock [021-0950; 021-5010-0019]

Negative no. 23754 [10]

Photo 20 of 20

View: Southwest view of Bishop's Gate [021-0937; 021-5010-0059]

Negative no. 23754 [10]

Additional Noncontributing Digitized photos, taken in 2008 by Maral Kalbian and stored at VDHR

1 of 6: 18490 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, pool [021-5010-0049]

2 of 6: 18923 Checkmate Lane, stable [021-5010-0055]

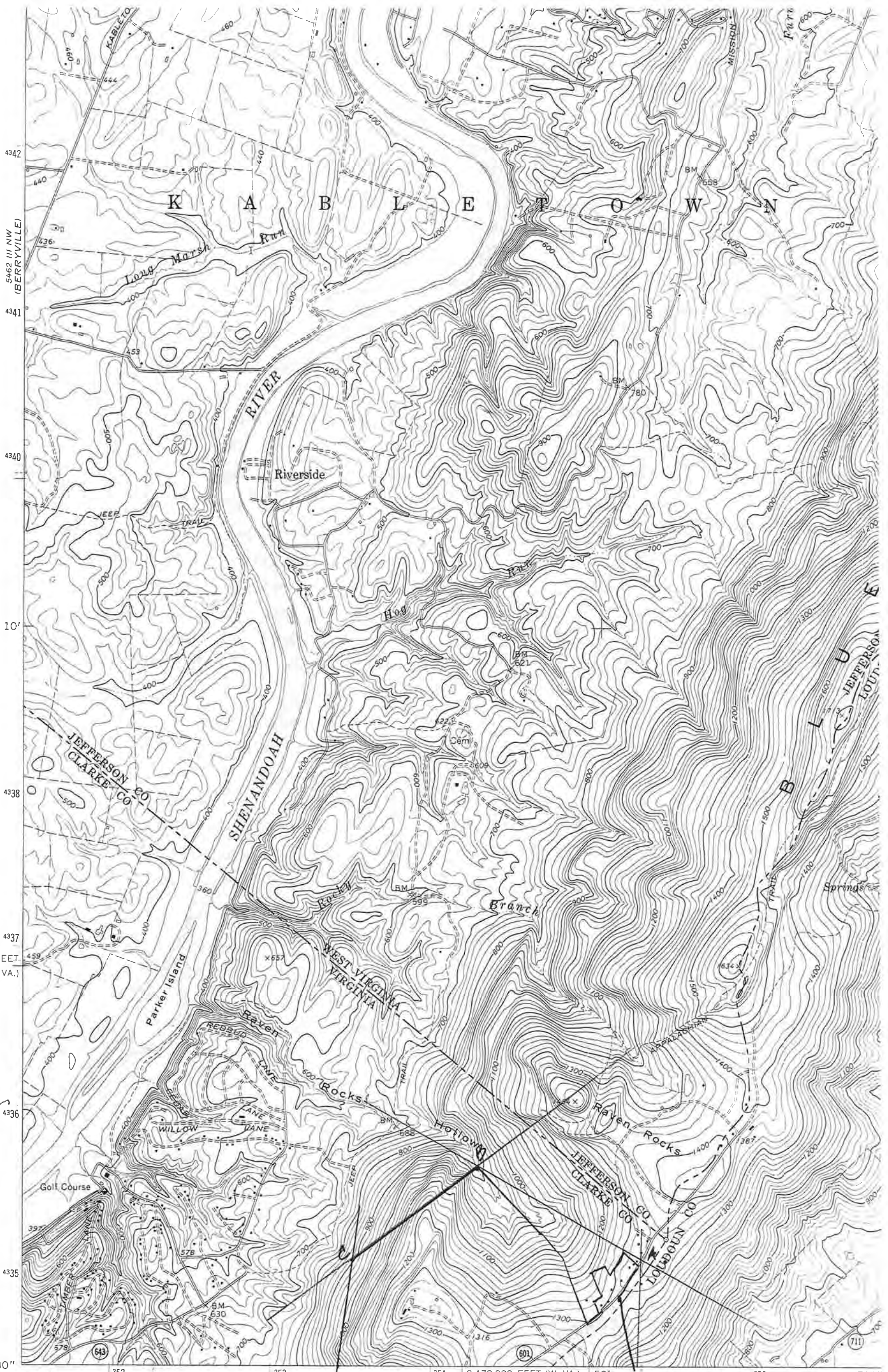
3 of 6: 341 Eagle Rock Lane, NW view of main house [021-5010-0013]

4 of 6: 17641 Raven Rocks Road, NW view of main house [021-5010-0030]

5 of 6: 18039 Raven Rocks Road, main house [021-5010-0039]

6 of 6: 18521 Blue Ridge Mountain Road, main house [021-5010-0051]

Map 1 of 3  
 Bear's Den Rural  
 Historic District  
 Clarke and Loudoun  
 Counties, VA  
 021-5010  
 UTM Points  
 ZONE 18  
 DATUM 27  
 A. E 255353  
 N 4334923  
 B. E 254335  
 N 4335521  
 C. E 253544  
 N 4334903



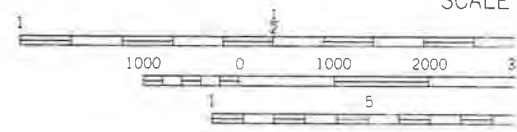
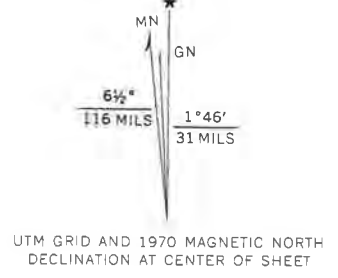
ASHBY GAP  
 5462 III SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS

Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1965 and 1969. Field checked 1970  
 Supersedes Army Map Service map dated 1953

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system  
 north zone, and Virginia coordinate system, north zone  
 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
 generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



CONTOUR INT  
 DATUM IS ME

THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIC  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL  
 AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RES  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

COMMONWEALTH  
DIVISION OF MINES  
JAMES L. CALVER  
546  
(ROU)

Map 2 of 3

77°52'30"  
39°07'30"

252000m E.

253

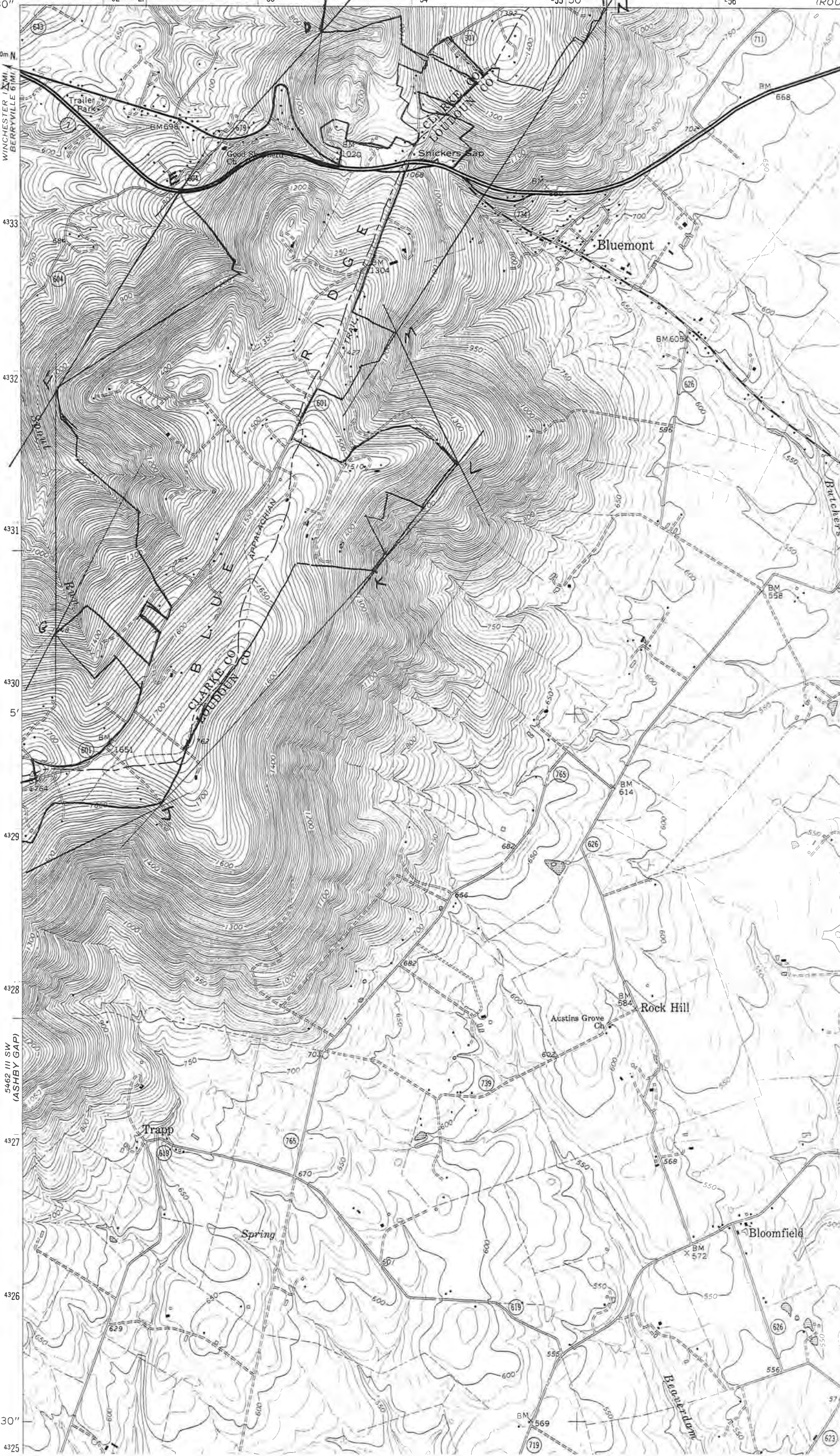
254

255 50'

256

Bears Den Rural  
Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun  
Counties, VA  
021-5010  
UTM Points  
ZONE 18  
DATUM 27

- D. E 253409  
N 4334159
- E. E 252435  
N 4333135
- F. E 251614  
N 4331905
- G. E 251539  
N 4330250
- J. E 252197  
N 4329149
- K. E 253654  
N 4330582
- L. E 254187  
N 4331290
- M. E 253830  
N 4332191
- N. E 255267  
N 4334252

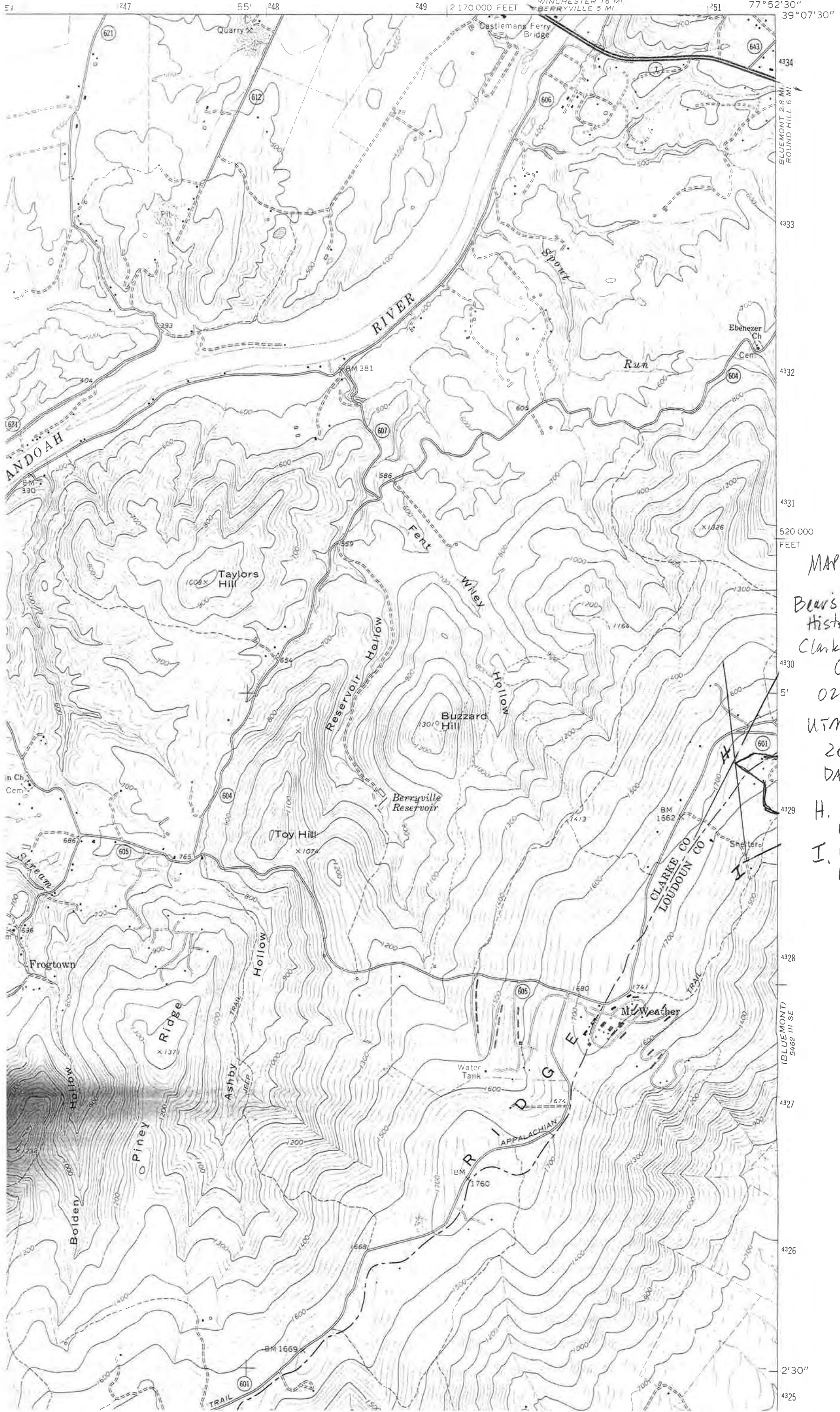


5462 III SW  
(ASHEBY GAP)

WINCHESTER TOWNSHIP  
BERRYVILLE 61MI

2'30"

5462 III NE  
(ROUND HILL)

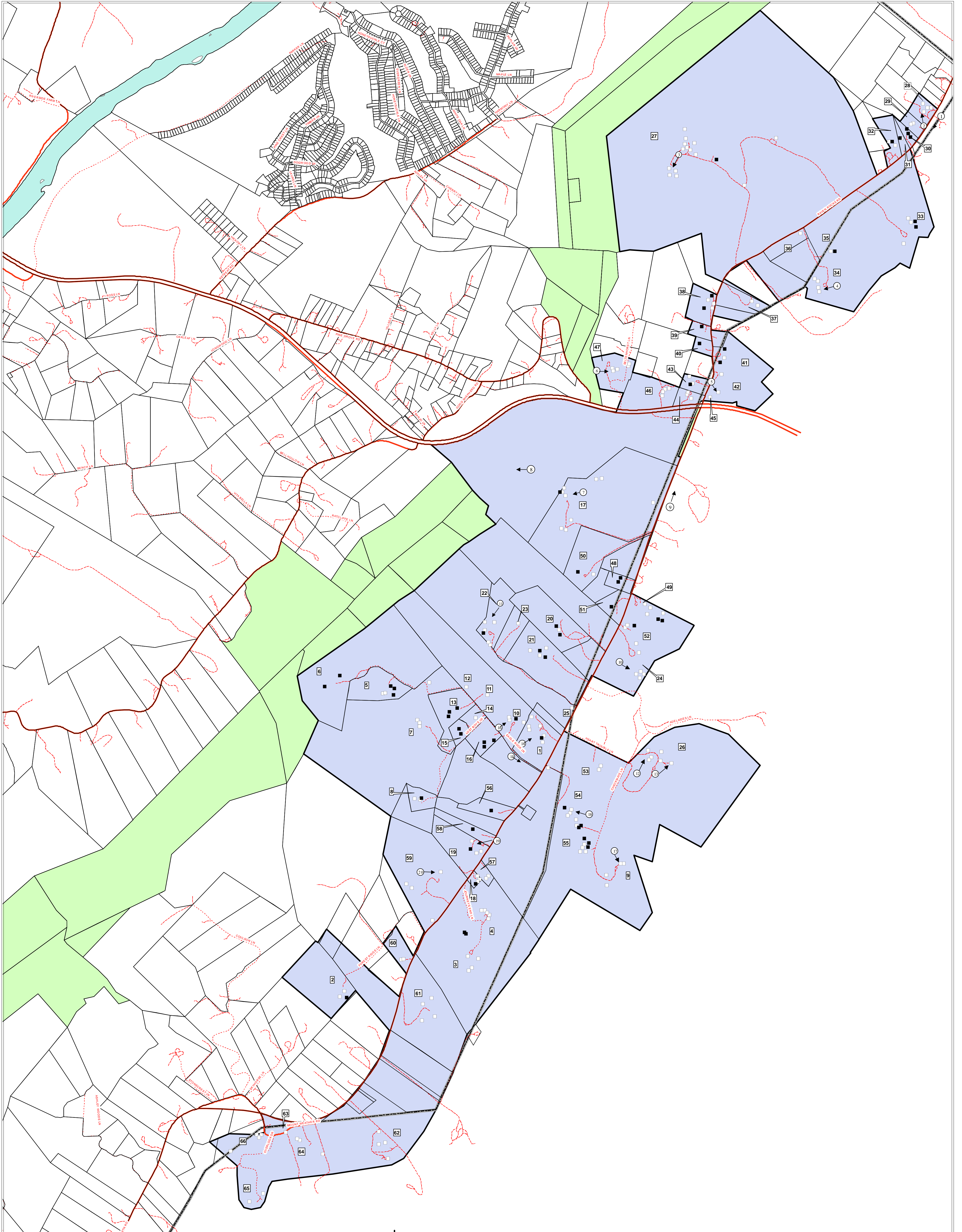


MAP 3 of 3

Bear's Den Rural  
Historic District  
Clarke and Loudoun  
Counties, VA

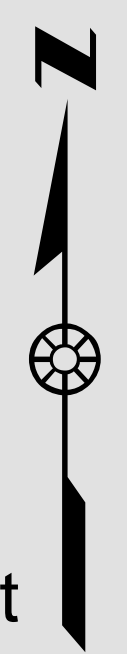
021-5010  
UTM Points  
ZONE 18  
DATUM 27

H. E 251000  
N 4329270  
I. E 251060  
N 4320610



**Bear's Den Rural Historic District  
Sketch Map  
VDHR File Number 021-5010**

June 2008  
Clarke County GIS



-  Bear's Den Rural Historic District Boundary
-  Parcel Boundary
-  Appalachian Trail Properties
-  Public Road
-  Private Road
-  Non-Contributing
-  Contributing

Numbers indicate properties in inventory.  
All numbers are preceded by the District #021-5010

**Location Map**

