

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Philomont Historic District
Other names/site number: DHR No. 053-6509
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

2. Location

Street & number: Intersection of State Route 630 (JEB Stuart Road) and State Route 734 (Snickersville Turnpike)
City or town: Philomont State: VA County: Loudoun
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

Julie E. Langston
Signature of certifying official/Title:

10-9-23
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private:

☒

Public – Local

☒

Public – State

☒

Public – Federal

☐

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

Building(s)

☐

District

☒

Site

☐

Structure

☐

Object

☐

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>31</u>	<u>24</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>35</u>	<u>28</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1
(Snickersville Turnpike, NRHP 2022; DHR 053-6487)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ hotel (boarding house or inn)

COMMERCE/ department store (general store)

COMMERCE/ specialty store (trade)

GOVERNMENT/ fire station

RELIGION/ religious facility (chapel)

SOCIAL/ meeting hall

EDUCATION/ school

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ single dwelling

DOMESTIC/ hotel (bed and breakfast or inn)

COMMERCE/ department store (general store)

GOVERNMENT/ fire station; post office

RELIGION/ religious facility (chapel)

SOCIAL/ meeting hall

EDUCATION/ school

RECREATION AND CULTURE/ sports facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

OTHER: Log building

MID-19TH CENTURY/ Greek Revival

LATE VICTORIAN/ French Gothic, Queen Anne-Eastlake

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/ Commercial

Style

MODERN MOVEMENT: Ranch

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD/log, STONE, BRICK, CONCRETE, SYNTHETICS

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Philomont Historic District is approximately 43 acres, and its compact size retains its pedestrian scale and rural setting. The village is nestled in western Loudoun County, a largely rural and agricultural area. Parcels within the district vary from less than one acre to a little more than seven acres. Many have irregular shapes, a result of organic growth, as parcels were passed between generations and divided among family members. A few have deep lots with short frontages on Snickersville Turnpike, providing access to the Turnpike while reserving maximum acreage for family gardens and livestock at the rear. The district has 35 contributing resources, comprised of 1 site, 3 structures, and 31 buildings while there are 26 noncontributing resources consisting of 24 buildings and 4 structures. Another contributing structure, Snickersville Turnpike, was individually listed in the NRHP in 2022. Organized along the historic crossroads of Snickersville Turnpike and JEB Stuart Road, Philomont's dwellings front onto one of these two roads. Philomont's late 18th and early 19th century dwellings were made from readily available native materials – typically log or stone. In the mid-19th century, with the presence of a nearby sawmill and the nearby brickyard, balloon frame construction with weatherboard or brick cladding also appeared. The 20th century ushered in standardized, but economical, materials, including dimensional lumber, molded concrete block, concrete masonry units, and manufactured brick, and construction methods that evolved as these and other new materials were introduced. Philomont's built environment is illustrative of how building materials and methods have changed over time.

Architectural styles within the district typically are local variations of nationally popular revival styles and twentieth-century American Movement and Modern Movement styles. The integrity of the village is displayed not only in the intact historic resources and preservation of the compact village scale, but also in the pristine surrounding and limited modern intrusions,

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providing the district with overall good integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Narrative Description

The village of Philomont, located in the center of the Loudoun Valley, is a richly fertile agricultural area characterized by open farmland interspersed with historic villages and some contemporary residential development. Philomont is in the vicinity of Lincoln, roughly equal distance north of the town of Middleburg and south of the town of Purcellville. Hay fields, rolling hills, abundant waterways, wide vistas, with some newer homes, are typical of this area. Loudoun's 19th century rural economy, rooted mainly in wheat and livestock, historically supported the valley. Today, a few farms remain in agricultural production, mainly producing hay, with a few vineyards and cattle operations. Other farms retain their agrarian appearance while serving the commuter population. Some agricultural properties have been subdivided and developed into exurban housing developments.

Setting and Landscape Features

Although located in Northern Virginia, which in many areas is characterized by sprawling suburban development that have imposed immense pressures on Loudoun County's historically rural landscape, the village of Philomont maintains its late-18th to mid-20th-century rural village feeling. The area retains a high degree of historic integrity, in part due to its immediate proximity to the Unison Battlefield Historic District (**NRHP 2011; DHR 053-6087**) and its associated with and continued presence along the Snickersville Turnpike (**NRHP 2022; DHR 053-6487**). The intact character of the Philomont area's historic cultural landscape is a significant representation of the County's once-prevalent rural character.

Philomont sits at the crossroad intersection of Snickersville Turnpike (VA734) and JEB Stuart Road (VA630), on a slight rise above Butcher's Branch to the west. Traffic along the turnpike is varied, increasing in volume and speed in the recent years. JEB Stuart Road remains gravel and a walk along this road is an immersion into the village atmosphere.

Architectural Analysis

Philomont and her sister communities, Airmont and Mountville, share settlement patterns derived from the growth and decline of commerce along the Snickersville Turnpike. Historically, all three villages drew economic vitality from developments along the Turnpike. The completion of the Turnpike, with construction of Hibbs Bridge in 1829, fueled Philomont's 1830/1840 building boom – the period of greatest growth during Philomont's two centuries of existence. Residential growth was coupled with construction of purpose-built commercial establishments. Philomont's second building boom – the post-Civil War decades of 1870 and 1880 – coincides with postwar repairs to the Turnpike.¹ Even so, travel across western Loudoun's rural roads remained difficult at best and, accordingly, typical late-19th-century rural villages such as Philomont remained self-sufficient community centers that provided necessary personal and social needs, including a store, school, doctor, church, and blacksmith shop. The first half of the 20th century was stagnant for Philomont and difficult for all of rural Loudoun County.

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Agricultural markets that temporarily boomed during the Civil War suffered losses as prices of commodities fell during the 1920s. The Great Depression years, starting in 1928, were especially difficult for Virginia's rural economy, which was further stymied by continuing struggles to modernize infrastructure, particularly roads to meet the demands created by growing adoption of trucking and automobile use. After the Civil War and Reconstruction, maintenance of Snickersville Turnpike had been increasingly intermittent for almost fifty years, only reversing after the 1932 Byrd Act placed roads under state ownership and control. By the late 1930s, New Deal era federal highway funds also contributed to road improvements. Local legend states Philomont was a center for Prohibition-era bootleg whisky, which economically sustained the village as a commercial center through the 1930s. Gas and diesel pumps were installed at the community stores at this time, providing fuel for farm equipment, which increasingly was mechanized as farmers sought to improve yields even if they had to borrow to purchase the equipment. These trends ensured Philomont's continued role as a center for the local agricultural economy. Philomont's third building boom from the 1950s through early 1970s, coincided with the emerging availability of local, non-farm, blue-collar jobs that offered better salaries, from plumbers and mechanics to teachers, administrative workers, and mail carriers. Minimal Traditional dwellings were typical of the World War II and immediate postwar years because they were designed to be built quickly with standardized materials and construction methods and they usually had modest size that rarely exceeded 1,000 square feet. These trends made housing more affordable and opened the door to homeownership after the difficult years of the Great Depression, but an usual aspect of the Philomont Historic District is that it has no examples of this dwelling type. Instead, as the postwar economic boom matured during the 1950s, the Ranch house, with its character-defining low-slung, rectangular massing, wide eaves, picture window, and off-centered main entry, quickly emerged as the housing type of choice. Its sprawling form was a locally recognized stamp of relative affluence.

Philomont's late 18th- and early 19th-century dwellings were made from native materials - typically log or stone. In the mid-19th century, with the nearby sawmill² and the nearby brickyard,³ frame and brick construction also appeared. Architectural styles were vernacular interpretations of national revival styles and twentieth century American Movement and Modern Movement styles. Several frame houses in the village are attributed to local carpenters, Jonah, Brite, and John Tavenner, a father-and-sons team, all gifted carpenters, furniture makers, and coffin makers. The Tavenners may have added porches to many of the village dwellings, a feature which was once a hallmark of Philomont. Some of these porches have been lost or just a portion remains. Additionally, by the early 20th century, Philomont boasted two fireproof buildings - the General Store had been made of concrete block and the School (today's Community Center) was of frame construction with a pebble dash exterior cladding.⁴ Fire-proof brick-clad Ranch houses followed in the mid-20th century. Due to these trends, as well as the preserved character of the historic built environment, the district's dwellings vary in height from one to two stories but all fit within the pedestrian scale and massing of the historic village.

The integrity of the village rests not only in the intact historic buildings and structures, but also the pristine surroundings and limited modern intrusions. The village is nestled in Western Loudoun, a still largely rural and agricultural area. Organized along the crossroads of

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Snickersville Turnpike and JEB Stuart Road, Philomont's dwellings front onto one of these two roads. The historic boundaries of the village were delineated by water sources –at the north end is a tributary to Butcher's Branch and at the south is a tributary to Beaverdam Creek. The community focus – Philomont's Store, Community Center (formerly the school), and Fire Department – still anchor the village crossroads.

The area around Philomont was settled long before it became Virginia's frontier territory. Native Americans carved traces of hunting and migratory paths, upon which colonial-era traders followed. By the late 1700s, Euro-American traders stayed, settling the area of western Loudoun County and claimed the fruitful soils, best drainage, and productive waters, in places throughout the Loudoun Valley such as Philomont. Euro-American settlers used readily available native materials, unskilled labor, combined with their European traditions to build residences and other supporting buildings, such as spring houses and barns. More substantial buildings of solid stone followed. With the sawmill along Beaverdam Creek, in operation by the 1800s, cheaper and easier to build frame dwellings appeared in the village of Philomont by the mid-19th century. With the influx of cash from the bustling commerce long the turnpike, more exotic, expensive, and luxurious materials appeared, such as pressed brick and later concrete block. So too did Philomont's local skilled craftsmen develop their trade, apprenticing within the family unit and leaving their mark of vernacular interpretations of national architectural styles. Building forms were shaped by function. Originally commercial structures were housed within dwellings and later, as commerce developed along the turnpike, apartments were separated from the commercial functions and specialty structures were created for each commercial function.

Dwellings

Of the historic dwellings, three are log, three are brick, two are concrete block, and one is stone, and others are balloon frame with varying cladding materials. The dwellings display a range of vernacular interpretations of nationally popular architectural styles, as most were built by local artisans. One dwelling, the **Megeath-Milhollen-Lake House (DHR 053-6509-0013) located at 37110 Snickersville Turnpike** is an example of the Queen Anne-Eastlake style, and is indicative of a higher level of socioeconomic means and the work of skilled, local craftsmen. Dwellings from the early to mid-20th century represent the largely working-class population of the village, with some indicating self-reliance in the use of local vernacular construction materials and methods. A typical example is at **37175 Snickersville Turnpike, the John Hall House (DHR 053-6509-0008)**. The ca. 1904 side-gable, three bay, two-story dwelling features a one-story square-plan porch supported by four square posts adorned with machine-cut scrolls and a picket railing, which appears to post-date the construction of the porch. The frame dwelling is clad in German siding, the roof is standing-seam metal and has returned eaves, and the windows have two-over-two double-hung sash. The basement is composed of ashlar cut stone and is accessed by a stone bulkhead.

Traditional styles and ornamentation continued to prevail through the 1930s, but after World War II, new standardized construction materials and methods led to new dwelling types and

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forms. The **Weller House at 37111 Snickersville Turnpike (DHR 053-6509-0012)** is a 1962 Ranch house with character-defining features that include low-slung horizontal massing, with a multiple-bay façade, a side-gable, low-pitched roof covered with asphalt-shingles, an offset main entry accessed via a simple, unadorned brick-and-concrete stoop, and window openings flanked by too-small decorative shutters. The dwelling is clad with brick veneer and an interior chimney separates the living space from the attached garage. Additional examples of this later period are the **Longerbeam House (DHR 053-6509-0011)** located at **37116 Snickersville Turnpike** and the **West Jr and Laura Pearson House (DHR 053-6509-0015)**, located at **37085 Snickersville**, both of which are one-story, red brick, Ranch houses with a side-gable, asphalt-shingled roofs.

Colonial Period

Prior to its operation as a toll road beginning in the early 19th century,⁵ the Snickersville Turnpike served as a 18th century travel corridor between the Tidewater areas, the Blue Ridge and beyond. In his 1747/1748 journals, George Washington records traveling along the route, which preceded the improvements constructed by the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company. The travel corridor is mapped at least as early as 1755 (likely as early as 1751/3) in Fry and Jefferson's map of Virginia.

Timber was readily available, inexpensive, and could be assembled using unskilled labor, making log a preferred a building material.⁶ Settlement patterns were scattered along the Turnpike as the crossroads village of Philomont had not yet coalesced. There are many log buildings still standing in Philomont, with several dating from the colonial period. One of Philomont's earliest extant dwellings⁷ from Loudoun's frontier period is **Bowman Tavern (DHR 053-6509-0006)**, located at **37215 Snickersville Turnpike**. The two-story log building sits catcorner to the Turnpike and was likely constructed as a side-gable residence oriented to the south.

Although the orientation to the Turnpike is curious, the location of Bowman Tavern likely relates to the close proximity to the Beaverdam Creek tributary. An easy source of water would have been an advantageous site during Loudoun's frontier era. The log building has a rear shed addition of uncoursed fieldstone, an odd choice of materials for a one-story addition. Stone is more expensive than log, but maybe the comparatively luxurious addition was testimony to the dwelling's owner benefiting from trade along the Turnpike.

Early Republic 1785 - 1825

The Benjamin Walker House (**DHR 053-6509-0020**) located **36645 JEB Stuart Road**, is attributed to circa 1808, possibly describing the date of the stone addition of the front elevation, which was added to an earlier two-story log residence.⁸ Benjamin Walker owned a tannery along Beaverdam and it is possible that Walker sold leather goods and leather for shoes⁹ from his house in the village. There are openings on the west side of the stone portion of the house, which have since been filled, that show the stone structure once had openings not consistent with a

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dwelling. It is possible Benjamin Walker used this stone portion of the house for commerce. Philomont's early commercial building typology – retail/ residential – appears elsewhere in Philomont before the War.

Although demolished, one of Philomont's earliest houses, previously located at **37085 Snickersville Turnpike**, is worth discussion as another example of a retail operation within a dwelling. Built before the 1850s, a house attributed to the Megeath family was located at the southwest corner of the crossroads of Snickersville Turnpike and JEB Stuart Road. This parcel was carved out of the Gabriel Megeath estate and sold to neighbors Henry Milhollen, Joseph G Gregg, and F. O. Welsh.¹⁰ Described as a 'certain house and lot' in the deed, the building was already standing at the time of the 1852 sale.¹¹ Archival photos of the house show a structure directly facing the Turnpike with two front doors. One front door has a square porch with hipped roof and the other side has only a stoop. Later archival deeds describe "a dwelling house, shoemaker shop."¹² It is possible that this double front entrance structure was used for both a dwelling and retail just as the Benjamin Walker House. Judging from the asymmetry of the house, the dwelling was possibly built in two campaigns, and it is possible that at least one side was log.¹³ A standing-seam side-gable roof unites the two structures, creating the appearance of one larger structure. Exterior-end chimneys stand at the north and south ends of the house. The house had double-hung, wood windows with louvered shutters and was clad in weatherboard.



A house attributed to the Megeath family, as it appeared in a 1961 photograph. From the files of Laura Pearson

The 1827 Herman Broyle Map shows **JEB Stuart Road (DHR 053-6509-0023)** as a 'stage road' meaning it was 'improved' enough to carry stagecoaches. JEB Stuart Road, like many of

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Loudoun's historic gravel roads, is remarkable in that it maintains its original alignment and width in places. High banks, from centuries of travel, mark the original pathway as do village structures, which front directly onto the road. JEB Stuart Road has had many names as it evolved through the centuries. Late 1800s deeds refer to the portion of the road to the west of the village as the 'Road to Union' and the portion of the road to the east of the village as the 'Braddock Road.' Other names were 'Lake Lane' and 'School Street,'¹⁴ referring to the portion of the road passing through the village.

Although the **Snickersville Turnpike (DHR 053-6487)** was not fully in operation until 1829 with the completion of Hibbs's Bridge, portions of the roadway were in operation well before then. Late-18th-century deeds refer to the Turnpike as the "Great Road" and early-19th-century deeds refer to the Turnpike as the 'main road.'¹⁵ After 1830, deeds sometimes abbreviate the name to 'SGT Pike,' standing for Snickers Gap Turnpike. During the local Civil War commemoration in 1861, a portion of the road that passed through Philomont was renamed to Mosby Avenue.¹⁶

Antebellum Period (1825-1860)

A flurry of building construction followed the completion of Hibbs Bridge and increased commercial traffic along the Turnpike. According to Historian Eugene Scheel, Howell/Buist, Bishop and others, the **Megeath-Milhollen -Lake House (DHR 053-6509-0013; also known as the Milhollen-Lake House)**, located at **37110 Snickersville Turnpike**, is attributed to an antebellum construction date and the Megeath family. The dwelling sits directly facing the Turnpike at the southeast corner of the crossroads, a favorable location as commerce developed in the Turnpike era. The dwelling, as originally constructed, is a five-bay, two-story, single-pile symmetrical structure with two exterior-end brick chimneys. Joseph P. Megeath built a store north of the house, at the southeast corner of the crossroads. Although no longer standing, the store occupied a prominent location at the crossroads and had an imposing façade. Facing west, fronting the turnpike, the brick store was three-bays wide, two and a half stories tall, with a sharply pitched front-gable roof. A single-story, full-length porch with a shed roof was supported by four classically detailed square posts. Windows at the first floor were large to allow interior natural light. Windows at the second floor were smaller and supported with brick jack arches. Unlike stone and log that was native, abundant and relatively inexpensive, in rural Loudoun, brick was relatively rare and expensive. As well, brick construction, and certainly jack arches, demanded skilled labor.

Also attributed to a pre-1850 construction¹⁷ date is the **Charles Dawson House, (DHR 053-6509-0022)** located **36538 JEB Stuart Road**. Although the dwelling has a large 20th century addition, the original two-story, side-gable log dwelling directly faces and is in close proximity to the road. The log residence originally faced south and has been re-oriented to the west along with a contemporary addition. Also attributed to this time period is the **David Tavenner House (DHR 053-6509-0010)** located **37160 Snickersville Turnpike**. Judging from the single, stone exterior-end chimney, the rebuilt brick flue, the at-grade first floor, and the

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asymmetrical front elevation, it is possible this house was constructed before 1850 as a two-story, hall-and-parlor dwelling.

Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1919)

The post-Civil War years witnessed a mini-building boom in Philomont. It is possible that, during this time, the then two-bay **David Tavenner house** received an addition to create three bays, an 'ell' addition to the rear, and the wrap-around porch.¹⁸ Other houses constructed during the postwar decades include the **Lycurgus Tavenner House (DHR 053-6509-0009)**, located **37151 Snickersville Turnpike** and attributed to an 1879 construction date.¹⁹ The Tavenner family was full of notable carpenters, including Franklin Lycurgus Tavenner (b.1844). The three-bay, two-and-a-half story house has whimsical elements such as the attic story cross-gable with semi-circular window and patterned siding. Also notable is the full-width, one-story, front porch with projecting front entrance and paired Doric columns sitting on piers, another example of Philomont's notable porches. Also built during this time were the **Weadon-Borger House (DHR 053-6509-0017)** located **36593 JEB Stuart Road** and the **Rawlings Roop House (DHR 053-6509-0018)** located **36623 JEB Stuart Road**, neighboring houses both constructed in 1886. Franklin Lycurgus Tavenner (b.1844) and Jonah Tavenner (b. 1838) are both listed as carpenters in the 1870 census and are possibly responsible for construction of several houses in the village built before the end of the 1800s. Jonah's son, John T (b 1872) and James 'Brite' Kirkbrite Tavenner (b. 1879) would continue the tradition in the beginning of the 20th century. Larger economic influences slowed new construction in western Loudoun County from the post-World War I agricultural slump to the nationwide crisis at the onset of the Great Depression in 1928 to the demands of putting all available resources toward the U.S. participation in World War II starting in December 1941.

Modern Period 1956 – 1972

Transportation in Loudoun County improved significantly during the 1950s with paving of some of western Loudoun's rural roads and the rebuilding of the historic Snickersville Turnpike's Goose Creek Bridge in 1958. However, 600 miles of 'all weather' (unpaved) roads remained in western Loudoun, which were suitable for local, agricultural traffic, but not suitable for the commuters whose ranks began to grow due to suburban sprawl from the Washington, DC, area. Although life in eastern Loudoun became increasingly oriented toward the suburbs, Philomont's residents chose to remain with their farms and families rather than look beyond the area; they were able to provide large quantities of food for themselves from family plots and to obtain everything else from the Philomont Store. Many village residents worked locally on neighboring farms in the county's thriving dairy and equestrian industries. Of the Philomont residents who worked in non-farm jobs, a few commuted to federal government jobs in the DC area, but most worked locally as plumbers, telephone linesmen, masons, mail carriers, and at the Philomont Store.

Philomont residents, now thoroughly rooted in the middle class, were able to start building again during the 1950s. Standardized construction materials and rapid construction methods also

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placed homeownership within reach of the working class. As well, standardization of materials and methods allowed Philomont locals to build with their own hands, as they had during Philomont's pioneer days.²⁰ Ranch houses represent this standardization in Philomont, and represented a departure from the days when bustling commerce along the Turnpike afforded elegant ornamental styling and generously sized porches. By the mid 20th century, the brick rancher – firmly rooted in the Modern Movement with its lack of ornament and standardized rectangular footprint – came to represent Philomont's mid-20th century economic rebirth. Bobby Longerbeam, a farmer's son, local mason, and Philomont native, built his home, the **Longerbeam House (DHR 053-6509-0011)** located at **37116 Snickersville Turnpike**, himself by devoting time to it every day after work and on weekends. The **West Jr and Laura Pearson House (DHR 053-6509-0015)**, located at **37085 Snickersville**, purposefully sited with a bay window (a version of the character-defining picture windows typical of Ranch houses) overlooking the **Charles Dawson House**, the circa 1840 log home where Laura Pearson was born, connecting the new modern house to her Philomont roots. West worked at the store in Philomont, Laura was the postmistress and, with their combined salaries, the couple was able to qualify for a mortgage to pay for their brick rancher.

Commerce / Trade

Loudoun County's early-19th-century commerce centered on agricultural products stored in barns, corncribs, and sheds, many of which have been lost. Mills were also common and were important to Philomont's early commerce, although only ruins and memory remain. In 1812, Stephen Megeath applied for a Mill license, also on the Beaverdam, possibly near Hibbs Bridge. Humphry Shepherd had a mill along the Beaverdam,²¹ likely on his property, which today is known as Butcher's Run Farm. Other Philomont notables including Stephen Rozelle, one of the first preachers, George Tavenner, and Daniel Brown, another Philomont native, both of whom applied for mill licenses in the early 1800s.²²

By the mid-19th century, industrial uses were clustered north of the village along the Snickersville Turnpike including Thomas Saffle's Wheelwright shop, now demolished but formerly standing at 37041 Snickersville Turnpike, just north of the northwest corner of JEB Stuart and the Turnpike. Standing opposite the wheelwright shop was John Martin's blacksmith shop, now demolished but formerly located near 37024 Snickersville Turnpike,²³ just north of the current firehouse. John Martin also had a blacksmith shop formerly standing at 37085 Snickersville Turnpike.²⁴

Also, by this time, Philomont's commercial buildings began to be placed in purpose-built buildings instead of occupying part of a dwelling. Although lost to fire, the brick Megeath store is worth study. According to Drew Bishop, the brick store was built in the 1820s. The front-gable, two-and-a-half story building is an example of how important commerce was to this village. The three-bay edifice had a high front porch (above the muddy street), large first floor windows to allow natural light to the interior, and smaller windows at the second story. The brick

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Megeath store was testimony to the lucrative trade centered in Philomont that moved along the Turnpike.



Megeath's brick front- gable store with retail on the first floor and possibly living quarters at the second floor, is depicted in this photo, taken in the late 1800s. The Megeaths were merchants, mill owners, and purveyors of liquor. Joseph P. Megeath, also Philomont's second postmaster, applied for a liquor license in 1829 and again in 1840. His brother may have sold liquor out of their mill in 1840 and 1866. The store was struck by lightning and burned in 1908.

The 'Upper Store,' also known as 'Van Sickler's Store,' (DHR 053-6352, 053-6509-0004) located **36610 JEB Stuart Road**, was built circa 1890 and stands east from the location of Megeath's brick store. The 'Upper Store' had retail space on the first floor and possibly apartments in the second story. The 'Upper Store' was a much more modest commercial establishment, a reflection of Loudoun County's diminished post-Civil War rural economy and the deterioration of the Turnpike. Originally constructed as a three-bay, front-gable, two-and-a-half story building, the store was similar in design to the brick Megeath store but smaller in. The façade has two large windows, adding light to the interior, which flank a centered front door leading to the first-floor retail space. A second front door to the right leads to an upstairs apartment. Later, a fourth bay was added with a third front door, possibly to access another second-floor apartment or this additional bay might have been added to accommodate a school that was temporarily housed in the Upper Store (1917-1919).

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The Tavenner brothers, Jonah and Brite, who grew up and continued to live **20263 Colchester Road (DHR 053-6509-0019)**, were carpenters, undertakers, furniture makers, and casket fabricators.²⁵ Their workshop and store, which is no longer standing, stood along the road front at the intersection of Colchester and JEB Stuart.²⁶ The Tavenner workshop was a separate building from the dwelling, evidence of the evolving design of commercial resources in Philomont. One vestige of the Tavenner's business is the garage, a front-gable building that fronts directly onto JEB Stuart Road with two large doors accessing the road. The siding is board and batten, and the gable roof is standing seam metal. A notable feature of the garage is its length, considerably longer than the Milhollen's square-plan garage of the same period and located at **37111 Snickersville Turnpike (DHR 053-6509-0012.)** Possibly the garage was used in conjunction with the undertaker and casket workshop, as the garage would have been long enough to accommodate a hearse.

Philomont's commercial activity grew during the 1910s and 1920s with the advent of motorized traffic along the Snickersville Turnpike. The **Philomont General Store**, located at **36550 JEB Stuart Road (DHR 053-6509-0002 and 053-1009)** was built in 1913 after the brick Megeath Store burned and, in true self-sufficient Philomont fashion, was constructed by the Tavenner brothers with both locally sourced and mass-produced, standardized materials. The Philomont General Store is a vernacular example of the early 20th century Commercial style as it appears in rural Virginia²⁷, and is unique in terms of its materials and style in the village. The 1913 store also stands apart when compared to other village general stores along the Turnpike. In contrast to Airmont's and Mountville's more modest stores, the 1913 store once again illustrated Philomont as a locally important commercial center in rural Loudoun. The Philomont General Store is comparable to Purcellville's "White Palace," **(DHR 286-5001-0031)** built in 1908, but for a much larger urban environment. Another similar commercial structure is the 1901 (also 1905) **EE Lake General Store (DHR 053-0000-0000)**. As originally constructed, the EE Lake store had a hipped roof and clapboard siding and now appears with a false front. All of these buildings have high-first floor ceiling heights, commercial-sized, first-floor, plate glass windows for interior lighting, and "fireproof" masonry exterior materials. As well, at different times, all three of these stores also housed the village post office.²⁸

Education

Philomont's first school was established in 1819 and was a log building. By the 1870s, Philomont had evolved and grown as a commercial rural center. So too, did the schoolhouse design evolve. In 1876, the village built a two-room, two-story stone schoolhouse. Limited evidence of this building survives and indicated that it was constructed by local masons, again demonstrating the artisans and vernacular methods available to the village.²⁹ The stone school burned in 1917 and was replaced in 1919 by the existing schoolhouse, now used as the **Community Center (DHR 053-1110, 053-6509-0003)** and standing at **36592 JEB Stuart Road**. The five-bay schoolhouse was constructed by the Tavenner brothers, Brite and Jonah, who also were responsible for other buildings in the village after the turn of the century. The two-story³⁰ building has a Four-square form with a hipped standing seam metal roof and

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generous overhanging eaves. A cross-gable roof marks the front entrance. The balloon-frame building has a 'pebbledash' exterior cladding, a vernacular method of the period for fire-proofing a building. Common to many Loudoun County buildings, the foundation is rubble fieldstone. The windows are large, almost floor to ceiling, to maximize natural light in the interior, although original sashes have been replaced.

Religion

Philomont did not have a religious building within the village boundary until 1890 when the Methodist stone chapel was dismantled and moved from Shelbourne (**DHR 053-0058**), one mile south of the village. The stone chapel was the third in an evolution of this congregation's sanctuary. Originally constructed in the 1770s, the "Mountain Chapple" [sic] was log and lasted 50 years until it was replaced with a more substantial fieldstone building in 1842.³¹ In 1890, this chapel was reportedly moved stone by stone to the center of Philomont. As it now stands, the **Roszell Chapel (053-6509-1008, 053-6509-0001)** was designed in the French Gothic Revival style. The front elevation's quoins – larger stones precisely cut to add structural stability to corners – demonstrate the work of a skilled mason. The lancet windows are a character-defining feature of the French Gothic Revival style and another mark of trained craftsmen. The stones of the side elevations of the chapel are smaller than the ones on the façade. One can speculate that only the larger stones were brought from Shelbourne and smaller stones were gathered more locally within the village. The belfry was added later. The rear addition, a community hall, was built in 2003. In true Philomont tradition, the addition to the church was a community effort. Members of the community not only helped with financial donations, but also volunteered their time and labor to construct the concrete block wing.

Civic

Two civic resources remain in Philomont from the post-World War II period. The 1956 **Philomont Fire Station (DHR 053-6509-0016)**, located at **36560 JEB Stuart Road**, was originally constructed as a two-bay front-gable concrete block edifice. Tall, south-facing bays were built to accommodate firetrucks. As the village and surrounding areas have grown in density, the fire station has evolved and expanded twice more with concrete-block additions added during the 1970s and 1990s to meet the growing demands of the area.

The **Horse Show Grounds [DHR 053-6509-0005]**, purchased in 1962³² and located at **37180 Snickersville Turnpike**, is typical of a horse show ground found throughout rural Virginia, particularly the northern piedmont area. Character defining features such as turf footing, oval rings, and vernacular construction, often hand-built by locals, were typical of this resource type. The **Philomont Horse Show Ground's Cook Shack**, also (**DHR 053-6509-0005**) located at **37180 Snickersville Turnpike**, is another example of a vernacular building built in true Philomont style, constructed by hand by village locals. Similar in terms of its historic purpose, popularity, and design, is the Upperville Colt and Horse Show Grounds (NRHP 2022; 030-5917) in neighboring Fauquier County. Both it and the

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Horse Show Grounds in Philomont are indicative of the enduring cultural significance and popularity of equestrian events in the western reaches of northern Virginia.

Philomont Historic Resource 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 historic district's areas of significance as listed under Criteria A (Commerce) and Criterion C (Architecture) and based upon the period of significance from 1789 to 1972. A large percentage of the primary resources are contributing resources due to the unaltered character of the village. The setting, the rural context surrounding the village and anchored by the Turnpike, which bisects the village, remain much as it was during the period of significance.

The resources listed in the inventory are keyed to the accompanying sketch maps by street address and the last four digits of the resource's 11-digit DHR number. The inventory includes the property address, DHR file number (s), property name, and property information and contributing status.

^Indicates a property previously listed within a historic district that is listed in the VLR and NRHP

^37061 to 37215 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6487
Primary Resource Status: Historic roadway

Snickersville Turnpike
Contributing (structure)

The Snickersville Turnpike runs southeast to northwest between the villages of Aldie and Bluemont, with the village of Philomont located roughly halfway between. The original travel corridor, which the Turnpike primarily follows today, appears as early on the 1755 Fry & Jefferson Map. The Turnpike also appears on the 1845 Yardley Taylor Map. The Turnpike linearly organizes the village of Philomont and was named 'Mosby Avenue' in 1961 during the re-enactment of the Civil War skirmish at Philomont. Snickersville Turnpike was listed in the NRHP in 2022.

36538 Jeb Stuart to Colchester Road 053-6509-0023
Primary Resource Status: Historic roadway

JEB Stuart Road
Contributing (structure)

JEB Stuart Road is a gravel road that forms the Philomont crossroad where it meets the Snickersville Turnpike. In the 1827 Broyle map of Loudoun, JEB Stuart is identified as a 'stage road,' a relatively major east-west throughfare from Leesburg to Unison. In the early 1900s, it is identified as 'School Street,' as it provided local access to Philomont's school. Today it is a gravel road, which follows its original 19th century alignment and width.

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37061 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0021 New house at NW corner of village

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5 Style: Neo-Colonial Date 2003

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling non-contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: modular shed non-contributing (building)

This is a contemporary five-bay, three-story dwelling with an asphalt shingle roof and dormer windows at the attic floor. There is an arched portico over the front entrance. The exterior is clad in weatherboard. Fenestration consists of double-hung, six-over-six windows. There is an attached three-bay garage to the south.

This is a side-gable modular shed with an asphalt single roof. The shed faces north towards the house and is located at the southwest corner of the lot.

37085 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0015 West Jr and Laura Pearson House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1 Style: Ranch Date 1966

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling **Contributing (building)**

Individual Resource Status: modular shed non-contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: carport non-contributing (structure)

This four-bay, one-story brick Ranch dwelling faces north towards JEB Stuart Road. Windows emphasize the horizontal elements of the house; windows are paired and are one-over-one, with one large, curved bay window at the east end of the house. The house is partially built into the hillside and four window wells provide light into the basement. There is a single, interior end brick chimney. The side gable roof is asphalt shingle.

A carport, located southwest of the house, is a metal frame structure that sits on a cinder block foundation and is covered with a large tarp. The owner states that it houses the original firetruck from the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department.

The modular shed is located adjacent to the carport and has a front gable roof that faces north.

37095 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0014 Hill Rector House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2 Style: Vernacular Date ca 1840, 1870

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling **Contributing (building)**

Individual Resource Status: modular shed non-contributing (building)

This three-bay house sits at the front of the lot and faces Snickersville Turnpike. The dwelling has an octagonal bay at the south end of the dwelling – possibly a later addition. Irregularities in the exterior stucco indicate a full-length one-story porch was once ran along the front elevation. There is a one-story, side-gable, rear addition with asphalt shingle roof.

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A side gable board-and-batten shed sits to the rear of the house. The front (south) elevation is open. The roof is V-crimped metal. This shed is difficult to see from the public right of way.

37111 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0012

Weller House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling,

Stories: 1, Style: Ranch Date: 1962

Individual Resource Status: Single Dwelling

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: garage

Contributing (building)

This Ranch house sits in the middle of a grassy lawn with mature trees. The lot lines follow original boundaries. A gravel drive is located on the north end of the property, which is punctuated by a frame and weatherboard, square-plan garage with pyramid roof of standing seam metal. The single overhead door is possibly vinyl, replacing the original garage door. The garage predates the Weller House, possibly dating to circa 1920.³³ The mature trees, early 20th century garage, and incorporation of the mid-20th century dwelling into a cohesive site design, allows the Ranch dwelling to fit seamlessly into the village fabric.

The four-bay, one-story, brick house exhibits characteristics typical of the Ranch style, including asymmetry, emphasis on horizontal massing, and wide eaves. At the north elevation, a brick, exterior-end chimney is located between the house and an attached garage. The façade features a cement stoop accessed by side steps leading to the off-center entry. Windows with double-hung sash are banded together to emphasize the horizontal. The side gable roof is sheathed in asphalt shingles.

37141 Snickersville Turnpike 053-1008, 053-6509-0001

Roszell Chapel

Primary Resource Information: Chapel, Stories: 1.5, Style: Vernacular French Gothic, 1890

Individual Resource Status: Chapel

Contributing (building)

The Roszell Chapel is stone with a steeply pitched front-gable standing-seam roof with a square cupola topped by a pyramidal, copper roof. The front gable is characterized by diamond-shaped shingles and is punctuated by a single window opening, currently closed with louvered shutters. The exterior stonework is notable: large rough-cut quoins secure the front corners and smaller rough-cut quoins secure the windows. The uncut field stones are larger on the front elevation than they are on the sides. Lancet shaped window openings have triple wood sashes – the top and bottom sashes are two-lite and operable; the center sash is fixed. Iron shutter hinges remain. The symmetrically placed front door also has a lancet shape with a date stone above that reads ‘Roszell Chapel Reerected 1890.’ On the interior, the balcony has an unusual curvilinear edge with a turned baluster railing. There is a rectangular rear addition constructed in 2003 by church members and neighbors who donated their time and money. The stucco-over-frame rear addition dates to 2003, serves as a community space and was built by Philomont native, Bobby Longerbeam.

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37151 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0009 Franklin Lycurgus Tavenner House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Victorian Date: 1879

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: **modular shed**

non-contributing (building)

This three-bay, two-story dwelling is characterized by a lively, full-length, one-story front porch with a front entrance, slightly projected front entrance. Six Doric posts sit on platforms of concrete block, which are parged smooth in stucco and stand on a poured concrete porch, which sits at grade. The front entrance is also marked by a cross-gable dormer roof with semi-circular window. Windows are double hung one-over-one. Interior end chimneys are constructed of brick. The house is frame clad in aluminum siding. There is a three-bay rear addition, which sits on a stone foundation.

37175 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0008

John Hall House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular Date ca 1904

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: **Shed / Barn**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: **spring house**

Contributing (structure)

This side-gable, three bay, two-story dwelling faces east towards the Turnpike. The front elevation is characterized by a one-story square-plan porch supported by four square posts adorned with machine-cut scrolls. There is a picket railing, which appears to post-date the construction of the porch. The frame dwelling is clad in German siding and the roof is standing seam metal. Windows are two-over-two double-hung. The basement is ashlar cut stone, like the stonework seen in Aldie and is accessed by a stone bulkhead. At the rear, there is a one story shed-roof addition, which sits high on a one-story walk-out basement. The rear windows are contemporary.

A side-gable, board-and-batten barn is located southwest of the main house and sits on a concrete block foundation. The roofing material is corrugated metal. A side exterior stainless-steel flue is located on the south side

A springhouse built of concrete block is located south of the main house in a low-lying area.

37203 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0007

Emma Tavenner House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style vernacular Date ca 1820

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

This one-and-a-half story house has a side-gable with a cat slide roof, which extends over a three-bay, one -story, front porch. The front porch is low, and the porch sits at grade. The first floor is stucco and the second story is clad possibly with aluminum siding. Windows are six-

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over-six with applied shutters at the ground floor and appear to be contemporary. The rear of the dwelling has been heavily modified and has been raised to two stories. Two one-story additions telescope to the side off the west elevation. The house is located at the east edge of the lot, near the Turnpike, and faces south.

There is an adjacent 0.36 – acre parcel with same address but separate tax parcel number that was created as a right of way to an adjoining lot.

37215 Snickersville Turnpike

053-6509-0006

Bowman Tavern

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1.5, Style: vernacular Date ca. 1789

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: **Barn / Shed**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: **Modular Shed**

non-contributing (building)

Originally a side-gable structure facing south, this front-gable dwelling framed in log has been modified with a front door facing east catacorner to the Snickersville Turnpike. The south elevation of the cabin, likely originally the front, now has a one-story addition consisting of three bays of French doors at the first floor and three bays of double-hung windows at the second floor. The north elevation consists of a stone, one-story shed addition with exterior-end stone chimney, each showing different workmanship, possibly an indication of past repairs.

A side-gable one-story, rectangular stucco - frame shed sits at the south edge of the property under mature trees.

A front-gable modular shed sits at the northeast corner of the property.

37110 Snickersville Turnpike

053-6509-0013

Megeath -Milhollen-Lake House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5, Style: Vernacular Eastlake Date 1840, 1877

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: garage

non-contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: guest house

non-contributing (building)

The original 1840 portion of the house faces west towards Snickersville Turnpike and is five bays wide with a side gable roof and two exterior end chimneys that are brick. A later circa 1877 addition was added to the north elevation of the original dwelling and features a one-story, full-length, wrap-around porch, connecting the addition and original house with a curve intersection as one structure. With a protruding bay, the porch re-orientes the front elevation of the dwelling to face the north. Windows on both the original house and addition have one-over-one contemporary sashes. The roof is pressed tin.

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There is a guest house, which is not fully visible from the public right of way, which was reportedly built on the site of the original meat house. There is a garage with two roll-up doors that face west, dating to the 2000s and was reportedly built on the site of the original corn crib.

37116 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0011 Longerbeam house
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 1, Style: Ranch Date 1958
Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing (building)**
Individual Resource Status: shed non-contributing (building)
Individual Resource Status: shed non-contributing (building)

This is a typical one-story, side-gable, typical brick Ranch house with four bays. The entrance has a slightly protruding fieldstone porch covered by a hipped roof, supported by square posts. The house was built by local Philomont resident, Bobby Longerbeam and faces the Weller House across Snickersville Turnpike, which was constructed four years later.

There are two sheds behind the house that is not visible from the public right of way.

37160 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0010 David Tavenner House
Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, Date ca 1830
Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling** **Contributing (building)**
Individual Resource Status: shed non-contributing (building)
Individual Resource Status: shed non-contributing (building)
Individual Resource Status: shed non-contributing (building)

This two-story, three-bay frame dwelling faces Snickersville Turnpike. An exterior-end chimney made of field stone with rebuilt brick flue indicates an early to mid-19th century construction date. A one-story porch runs the full length of the front façade. The porch is low and sits at grade. The side-gable roof is clad in standing seam tin. Windows on the front elevation are six over six.

There are three sheds to the rear of the house; one open shed, one modular shed, and one square plan shed.

37180 Snickersville Turnpike 053-6509-0005 Horse Show Grounds
Primary Resource Information: Recreation Grounds, Stories:, N/A Style: vernacular Date 1962
Individual Resource Status: **Grounds** **Contributing, 1962 (site)**
Individual Resource Status: **Cook Shack** **Contributing, 1972 (building)**
Individual Resource Status: **shed** Non-contributing (building)

The site, locally known as the Horse Show Grounds, is an open grassy area, slightly elevated above Snickersville Turnpike. The property is accessed at the north boundary, along a short,

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paved drive. The show rings are turf ovals, centrally located. Although the fence posts were removed, the gravel-filled holes remain. The property is surrounded by woodlands on the south and east sides.

The Cook Shack sits at the south edge of the property and is made of cement block. Four pairs of sliding glass windows are on the front façade and form a type of store front. The roof slopes to the rear of the building. The front entrance is on the west side of the building. There is a sheet metal shed to the east of the cook shack that was constructed to house equipment.

A wire fence encloses a water body, located at the northwest corner of the site

36538 Jeb Stuart Road 053-6509-0022

Charles Dawson House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular, log Date 1840

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: shed

non-contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: **meat house**

Contributing (building)

The original core of this house is a log structure facing JEB Stuart Road. A much larger, 20th century addition was added to the north. A one-story, shed-roof porch now orients the house to the west and connects the log structure to the new addition. The entire dwelling is sheathed in weatherboard with standing seam metal roofs.

There is a secondary structure on the site that is not visible from the public right of way.

Jeb Stuart east side – south side of street

36593 Jeb Stuart Road 053-6509-0017

Weadon House - Borger

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5, Style: Vernacular Date: ca 1886

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: shed

non-contributing (building)

Individual Resource Status: shed

non-contributing (building)

This four-square, three-bay house faces north onto JEB Stuart Road. The cross-gable roof is standing seam metal. A double hung lancet window sits at the top of the gable end. The horizontal weatherboard siding appears to be vinyl and vinyl shutters are applied. The transom and sidelights of the original door surround appear to be updated with no mullions.

Two rear dependencies cannot be observed from the public right of way.

36623 Jeb Stuart Road 053-6509-0018

Rawlings - Roop House

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2.5, Style: Vernacular Date: ca 1886

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Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Individual Resource Status: shed

Individual Resource Status: garage

Contributing (building)

contributing (building)

contributing (building)

This five-bay, side-gable I-house is a vernacular interpretation of Gothic Revival and has a full-length one-story porch sitting on square posts. The foundation and exterior end chimneys are brick and appear to be recently repointed in concrete. The roof is clad in standing-seam metal. Visible fenestration consists of two over two windows. Multiple additions telescope to the rear, creating a large footprint.

A front gable shed has a metal V-Crimp roof and is showing wear. Paint peels from the weatherboard siding. Windows are two over two double hung. The front of the building has retrofitted sliding glass doors.

A front gable garage sits immediately to the rear of the main house and has paired garage doors on the front. It sits on a poured slab.

36645 Jeb Stuart Road 053-6509-0020

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling, Stories: 2, Style: Vernacular Date: 1808

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Individual Resource Status: garage

Individual Resource Status: garage

Individual Resource Status: shed

Individual Resource Status: shed

Individual Resource Status: barn

Individual Resource Status: well

Benjamin Walker House

Contributing (building)

non-contributing (building)

non-contributing (building)

non-contributing (building)

contributing (building)

contributing (building)

contributing (structure)

This dwelling was originally constructed as a two-story log structure with an early 1800s stone addition to the west. A rear stone addition was added in the early 1900s. Repairs in the stonework are evidence of former openings in the early 1800s stone portion of the house, which have since been filled. A covered one-story front porch was added in the 21st century.

A red barn sits to the west of the main house. The siding is board and batten with a standing seam metal roof. The barn is obscured behind bushes and only observable from the neighbor's yard.

A front gable structure is vinyl or metal covered with two oversized garage doors facing west. A shed roof faces toward the rear agricultural field.

A detached garage has two garage doors facing west towards the house. Two dormer windows at the second story also face west. The construction date is unknown.

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A rectangular one-story dependency sits on a rubble stone foundation and is weather board above and is located just west of the main house. Large full story windows light the interior, giving it the appearance of possibly a greenhouse. The structure was built in the 21st century.

A one story rectangular white shed with side gable standing seam metal roof is only visible from the neighbor's yard and is difficult to see.

An abandoned well capped with concrete with the historic hand pump still in place.

36550 Jeb Stuart Road 053-1009 053-6509-0002 Philomont General Store
Primary Resource Information: Commercial Stories: 2 Style: commercial Date 1913
Individual Resource Status: **Commercial Contributing (building)**

The Philomont General Store is a well-preserved early 20th century general store with three apartments on the second floor, which were added in the mid - 20th century. The U. S. post office leases space within the first floor of the building. The exterior of the store is finished in pressed stone blocks. A decorative pressed tin cornice is part of a false front which features a wide, semi-circular element. A 4-bay porch with iron posts extends across the front. Storefront windows and recessed double doors mark the front elevation. A front entrance at the far right leads to a stair, which serves the current apartments above. The interior has tall shelving topped by a heavy molded cornice and windows flanked by plain pilasters with broad window heads with some molding above.

The structure, including the woodwork on the interior, was reportedly built by 'Brite' and John Tavenner, two brothers who were also responsible for other late 19th and early 20th century woodwork in the village. According to longtime resident, Laura Pearson, sand from the Beaverdam Creek ford was used to make the concrete block.

36560 Jeb Stuart Road 053-6509-0016 Fire Station
Primary Resource Information: Fire Station, Stories 2, Style: vernacular Date 1956, 1970, 1990s
Individual Resource Status: **Fire Station Contributing (building)**
Individual Resource Status: shed non-contributing (building)
Individual Resource Status: communications tower non-contributing (structure)

The two-left hand (western) bays were built of cinderblock in 1956 with a third bay built circa 1970 to create a three-bay harmonious front. The structure is a two-story front gable building with large garage bay openings and living quarters above. A later east-facing cinder block addition was constructed in the 1990s.

There is a large mono-pole structure to the north (rear) of the fire station and a storage shed to the northeast of the firehouse.

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36592 Jeb Stuart Road 053-1110, 053-6509-0003

Primary Resource Information: School

Individual Resource Status: **School Building**

Individual Resource Status: garage

Individual Resource Status: picnic shelter

Individual Resource Status: modular shed

Individual Resource Status: jungle gym

Philomont Community Center

Stories: 2, Style: Date 1919

Contributing (building)

contributing (building)

non-contributing (structure)

non-contributing (building)

non-contributing (structure)

The Philomont School is a five-bay two-story structure, possibly originally clad in weather board and now clad in stucco. A cross-gable roof, above a two-story porch across the center bay, defines the front entrance. The porch sits on square columns. There is a railing at the second story of the porch, accessed only by a double hung window. The roof is hipped and sheathed in standing seam metal. Originally constructed as a school, the community center has large windows (with new sashes) to allow ample light into the interior. A rear, two-story wing was possibly added to accommodate interior plumbing.

According to Laura Pearson's account on Philomont's schools John and Brite Tavenner, two brothers who were carpenters, built the school.

36610 Jeb Stuart Road 053-6352, 053-6509-0004

Upper Store

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

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Individual Resource Status: shed

Contributing (building)

non-contributing (building)

The ca. 1900 two-story, front-gabled, three-bay frame dwelling with side addition has three front doors and is clad in weatherboard and now covered in vinyl. The dwelling sits on original stone piers now with cinderblock infill. The windows have been replaced with six-over-six-light vinyl windows. All exterior door and window framing is believed to be original. The shed-roofed addition on the north elevation was most likely added in the mid-20th century.

A rear shed cannot be viewed from the public right of way.

Colchester Road

20263 Colchester Road 053-6509-0019

Primary Resource Information: Single Dwelling,

Individual Resource Status: **Single Dwelling**

Individual Resource Status: shed

Individual Resource Status: carport

Jonah (junior) Tavenner House

Stores: 2, Style: Date: ca 1820

Contributing (building)

non-contributing (building)

contributing (building)

This frame and stucco house is partially obscured from the public right of way by mature trees and bushes. The two story, center-hall plan house has a front cross - gable lighting an attic floor.

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Windows are one over one. The roof is standing seam with three or possibly four interior end flues of brick. The house has a center portico with front gable roof and Doric columns on a poured concrete porch. Archival photos show that the house had a two-story wrap around porch.

This structure was likely built as an early garage, although it is longer than the typical dimensions of an early garage. It is built directly along JEB Stuart Road facing the public right of way. It has a front gable roof and two large wood garage doors which swing outwards on metal strap hinges. The siding is red painted wood board.

This is a long shed located along the north property line. A neighbor reports this shed is modern construction. The shed has board siding and a low slope side gable metal roof. Garage doors facing the house (south) are visible from the public right of way. There is a CMU square addition on the south elevation with a CMU flue. The building is only partially visible from the public right of way.

Integrity Analysis

The Philomont Historic District retains high integrity of setting and location. The surrounding area continues to have a rural character with agricultural activities and woodlands across the landscape. The one resource not original to the village, Roszell Chapel, was dismantled and the stones were moved to Philomont to contribute to construction of a new building. Good integrity of workmanship, design, and materials is evident throughout the historic district with commercial, religious, civic, and residential resources displaying character-defining features of their respective period of construction and architectural style. Common alterations to resources, particularly dwellings, include replacement of window sash and exterior doors and modifications to front porches. The 1956 Fire Station has two additions that were constructed to allow the property to retain its historic function while accommodating additional equipment needed for firefighting. Other buildings, perhaps most notably the Philomont General Store, display a remarkable level of integrity that make them essential to the village's historic character. More recently built resources, such as the three ranch dwellings in the district, demonstrate that the village continued to grow at a modest rate after World War II without sacrificing its rural character. The Philomont Historic District has high integrity of feeling and association as a crossroads village that has enjoyed modest prosperity since its founding and retains the pivotal buildings, such as stores and community buildings, that provide local residents with necessary services.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- ☐ B. Removed from its original location
- ☐ C. A birthplace or grave
- ☐ D. A cemetery
- ☐ E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1789 – 1972

Significant Dates

1829 – Snickers Gap Turnpike is completed

1890 – chapel is re-erected

1913 – existing store constructed

1919 – existing school constructed

1956 / 1957– fire station constructed / Philomont horse show established

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Tavener, Lycurgus (b. 1845)

Tavener, Jonah (b. 1838),

Tavener, John (b. 1873)

Tavener, Brite (b. 1879),

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

The Philomont Historic District is an intact, rural village with a high degree of historic integrity, reflecting over two centuries of Euro-American settlement. The tightly clustered village is set within the expansive landscape of the Loudoun Valley. The crossroads of Snickersville Turnpike and JEB Stuart Road organize the village as all primary resources face directly onto one of these two roads. The district is locally significant under **Criterion C** in the area of Architecture. Philomont's streetscapes are composed of village lots that follow their original property boundaries to form a cohesive architectural fabric. Dwellings and commercial structures retain their historic integrity with limited modern intrusions. The village is particularly impressive for its range of architectural styles, dating from the late 18th century to the mid-20th century, all vernacular expressions of their time and many built by Philomont residents with their own hands. The Tavern is a well-preserved example of late 18th century frontier-type construction. The Roszell Chapel is a locally important example of a vernacular interpretation of the French Gothic Revival style of the late 1880s, and was rebuilt by the Philomont community. The Philomont General Store is a highly intact example of a vernacular, early 20th-century Commercial style building, featuring rusticated concrete block walls, a parapet with an ornamental cornice, and large, plate-glass storefront windows, and was built by the local Tavenner brothers carpentry team. The village's mid-20th century Ranch houses, with their contemporary style and horizontal lines, are an integral part of the village's pedestrian-scale fabric, built within original village lot lines while illustrating post-World War II trends in socioeconomics.

Philomont is locally significant under **Criterion A** in the areas of Commerce and Social History. For two centuries, the village has been a local hub for commercial activity, enhanced by its location at the crossroads of Snickersville Turnpike and Jeb Stuart Road, formerly a 'stage' road to Leesburg. Other rural village stores throughout northern Virginia have been abandoned or adaptively reused, largely due to lack of commercial activity in these smaller commercial centers. Philomont stands apart, with its post office that continues to be located in the back of the General Store and continues to serve as both the commercial center for daily needs and social center for daily gossip. Philomont is also locally significant in the area of Social History. Many of its resources – including its school (now community center), Fire House, and Horse Show Grounds - are reflective of the strong value that the village places on social connections. The district's period of significance spans over two centuries, beginning with the construction of the village's earliest dwellings in 1789 and ending in 1972 with the construction of the Cook Shack at the Philomont Horse Show Grounds, which anchors the south boundary of the village and served as Philomont's social and recreational center for decades. Significant dates for the historic district include 1829, when the Snickersville Turnpike was completed; 1890, with erection of the Roszell Chapel; 1913 with the construction of the Philomont General Store; 1919, when the third school was built; and 1956 / 1957, when the fire station was built and the establishment of the locally renowned Philomont Horse Show.

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

Loudoun County's earliest rural settlements were scattered dwellings, established along the County's most productive soils and waterways. Transportation routes evolved and villages sprang up at crossroads.³⁴ Philomont's earliest dwellings followed this pattern – dotted throughout the fertile landscape of the Loudoun Valley and clustered along travel ways and waterways. Rudimentary two-story log cabins, made from readily available materials and frontier labor, were common. Many have been lost including Philomont's first school, but several log buildings still stand today including Bowman Tavern (**DHR 053-6509-0006**), located at **37215 Snickersville Turnpike**, the Charles Dawson House (**DHR 053-6509-0022**) located at **36538 JEB Stuart Road**, and the Benjamin Walker House located **36645 JEB Stuart Road (DHR 053-6509-0020)**.

By the early 19th century, Philomont's scattered dwellings coalesced into a village, clustered along JEB Stuart Road and along the Turnpike. Philomont's legacy families started moving to the area including but not limited to the Roszell, Vanhorne, Tavenner, Megeath,³⁵ and Walker families. On May 2, 1809, Gabriel Megeath (1771-1845) purchased 116 acres "by a road" from Michael Bell, who had inherited the Virginia Colony property from Lord Thomas Fairfax.³⁶ The same day, May 2, 1809, Benjamin Walker (1757-1821), also purchased from Michael Bell 169 acres described as "... part of the Lovell Jackson Grant by Thomas Fairfax, ... [along] the Beaver damm [sic]."³⁷ One can speculate if Megeath and Walker knew each other and coordinated the purchase, as both Walker and Megeath witnessed the other's signature on the deed, as did Stephen G Roszell (1770-1841) and John Vanhorne - other early families in the area of Philomont. Jonah Tavenner (1776-1828), another early settler who owned the acreage immediately north of the area that would become Philomont, began to amass parcels as early as 1812.³⁸ These men were from various backgrounds; Benjamin Walker was a Quaker from Pennsylvania; and Jonah Tavenner was a Quaker from nearby Goose Creek (today known as Lincoln.) Stephen Roszell³⁹ was born in Loudoun County.

Loudoun's early 19th century commerce centered on the mill industry. By the end of the 1700s the price of tobacco had collapsed and with it took the potential fortunes of many of the Tidewater region who depended on this cash crop. Tobacco had also depleted the land of nutrients in eastern Loudoun, rendering the Loudoun Valley comparatively a more important agricultural area. At the same time, there was an increasing demand for wheat and flour from abroad.⁴⁰ Quakers from Pennsylvania imported their milling technology and German and Irish immigrants imported their work ethic. With this, mills flourished along Butcher's Run, also known as the Southwest Fork of the Beaverdam⁴¹ and along the North Fork of Beaverdam. Possibly one or more of these mills belonged to Humphrey Shepherd, an early Philomont landholder.⁴² These waterways ran either side of what would become the village of Philomont. Joshua Duncan, one of the first grant holders of this area, and Stephen G Rozell [sic], one of the first families of the area, applied for mill licenses as early as 1760. Stephen Megeath and George Tavenner both applied for mill licenses in 1812 and 1813, respectively, nearby on the North Fork of the Beaverdam.⁴³ Gabriel Megeath, one of Philomont's early landowners - with his three sons

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- Joseph P., James, and Alfred - would invest in what would later be known as Hibb's Mill, at that time a merchant mill and sawmill.⁴⁴

In addition to milling technology, Quakers imported their cultural values of education. Philomont's earliest school dates to 1814, when Jonah Tavenner sold a quarter acre lot to 'School Trustees,' local families including Benjamin Walker and Gabriel Megeath who wanted education for their children. The school appears to be private and is described in the deed as:

"whereas a schoolhouse has been built by subscription from the before mentioned Persons ... Jonah Tavenner reserve to himself and his heirs the use of said schoolhouse plot in common with the other subscribing ... the intention and meeting of this that the house be appropriated to the use of a permanent school to be enjoyed by the subscribers."

The deed describes a lot 'near the pavement' indicating the school was located along the Turnpike.⁴⁵ Eugene Scheel, in his book Loudoun Discovered, identifies the location was just north of the Fire Station. Multiple sources indicate the first Philomont schoolhouse was log, typical of many of Loudoun's early 19th century rural one-room schoolhouses.⁴⁶ A 1832 plat refers to the "1/4 acre school lot" at the northeast edge of the village, so it is possible the school was still in operation two decades later.⁴⁷

By all accounts, many early families who settled the Philomont area profited from their investment in the Loudoun Valley. Three men – Gabriel Megeath, Benjamin Walker and Jonah Tavenner – were also early investors in the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company.⁴⁸ Although the direct financial return was unclear, the benefit to Loudoun farmers of reliable transportation for transporting products and agricultural produce to market was unmeasurable. What each of these men left to the next generation gives insight into the wealth that they built in the Loudoun Valley. Benjamin Walker died in 1821 and divided his real estate between his six children and his widow.⁴⁹ Walker died without a will and local community leaders signed his 'Inventory and Appraisement' including his friend Jonah Tavenner; Isaac Nichols, a fellow Quaker and a successful miller; and John Pursel. Walker's "cash account for leather" and various "upper and soal [sic] leather"⁵⁰ gives insight into Philomont's emerging leather and shoe industry, which would come into full bloom with the next generation. Jonah Tavenner died in 1828, leaving a farm, livestock and a harvest in addition to a 388-acre parcel to his seven heirs, the southern boundary of the farm forming the north edge of what would become Philomont.⁵¹ As both merchants⁵² and millers,⁵³ the Megeaths⁵⁴ built an enormous fortune. Gabriel Megeath's land holdings were subdivided during and after his death into what would form the center of Philomont.⁵⁵

The sons of these first families, building on sound financial footing created by their fathers and benefitting from the emerging commerce along the Snickers Gap Turnpike, would become the next generation community leaders as the scattered buildings coalesced into the village of Philomont. This second-generation wealth was clearly visible in the quality of architecture in the village.

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Village settlement - 1830s - 1860

Early 19th century Loudoun typically centered on a mill, church, or crossroads and the village of Philomont's beginnings followed this pattern as Philomont's center is anchored at the crossroad intersection of the Snickersville Turnpike and JEB Stuart Road. On the 1827 Broyle Map of Virginia, JEB Stuart Road is indicated as a 'stage road,'⁵⁶ running from Union (today's Unison) to Leesburg. Although primitive by today's standards, transportation along a 'stage road' would have been a relatively prominent route. As well, the Snickers Gap Turnpike was also well-travelled route by 1830.

Philomont's first post office was officially established in 1825 with the appointment of Hendly H. Gregg but discontinued for a short period in 1830.⁵⁷ By then, Snickersville Turnpike, with the completion of Hibbs Bridge, was a relatively vibrant commercial thoroughfare, traversing the Loudoun Valley. Early post offices were often co-located with a store or a mill as merchants and millers were more facile with numbers and could therefore handle simple accounting. As well, stores and mills were natural community centers, a convenient place to deposit and collect mail. Joseph P. Megeath was Philomont's second Postmaster and, with his father, was also a merchant and mill owner. Joseph P Megeath was also the treasurer of the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company from 1837 until his death – so certainly had the skill set to run a post office. In addition, Joseph P Megeath held a liquor license by 1829,⁵⁸ which would have certainly added lively interest to collecting one's mail. It is not clear where the first Philomont post office was housed but could have been located with the Megeath's store.

It is possible that Philomont's first free-standing Post Office was constructed in 1882, when David Tavenner was appointed postmaster or even earlier in 1831 with the appointment of Joseph P Megeath. A photograph taken circa 1955 shows a one or two room frame structure with weatherboard siding. The building faces west directly onto the Snickersville Turnpike with large two-over-two wood windows that provided ample light into the interior. The front elevation has a small overhang roof and a sidewalk of wood planking. This post office was located at the northwest corner of David Tavenner's property 37160 Snickersville Turnpike.

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A circa 1955 photograph of Philomont's first and only free-standing post office. The north chimney of David Tavenner's house is visible above the post office roof line in the background. The location of the Philomont post office would move between this location at 37160 Snickersville Turnpike, Megeath's brick store and the Philomont General Store over the next almost century and a half.⁵⁹

Joseph Martin, in his 1835 summary of Virginia, writes: "Philomont [sic] ... contained 6 dwellings houses, 1 common school, 1 mercantile store, and 2 saddlers." Nearby, the village of Mountville, also benefiting from commerce along the Snickersville Turnpike, is also a thriving commercial center "...contains several dwelling houses, 1 mercantile store, 2 taverns, 1 manufacturing flour mill, 2 smith shops, 2 boot and shoe factories, and various other merchandise." By 1835, the first small lot purchases begin to appear in Philomont. This year, James Brown, a miller, sells 5 acres to Mahlon Tavenner, son of Jonah Tavenner. A year later, Tavenner defaults on his loan and sells the five acres to Jos P Megeath. At the time of the sale, there is already a house on the lot and Jos P owns the adjoining lot.⁶⁰ Clearly, Mountville and Philomont had relatively equal beginnings, but later Philomont would surpass Mountville as demonstrated by the quality of architecture. Martin also described the area around Philomont as "fertile and wealthy, settled for the part by Quakers."⁶¹ Quakers traditionally did not own slaves; however, there were a few neighboring families who enslaved others, such as the locally prominent Shepherd, Roszell, Megeath,⁶² and Milhollen⁶³ families. The Roszells would later renounced slavery and this conflict would eventually come into play after the Civil War.

The 1840s witnessed continued growth in Philomont. By the 1840s, John Van Sickler, Henry Milhollen, and Nailor Shoemaker (b. 1801) purchased property in the area.⁶⁴ These new families and sons of Philomont's early settlers would invest in the commercial activities established by the previous generation. Shoemaker was a farmer. Van Sicker and Milhollen were merchants. Gabriel Megeath's sons – Joseph P., Samuel, and Alfred – purchased a milling operation along the Beaverdam in 1840, a mill today known as Hibb's Mill. There appeared to be two mills – a merchant mill, (a commercial mill to grind wheat) and a sawmill. The Megeaths would later

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build a house on the property.⁶⁵ Perpetually entrepreneurial, James T. Megeath had a liquor license in the 'Megeath Mill' in 1840 and 1866,⁶⁶ indicating the Megeaths may have also produced liquor at the mill.⁶⁷ The increased commercial activity from milling and liquor sales would be reinvested into the Philomont community.

In the mid-1840s, some of the larger landholders around Philomont began to sell smaller 'village-sized' lots. In January of 1844, Humphrey Shepherd of Butcher's Run (**DHR 053-1007**),⁶⁸ sold the northwest corner of JEB Stuart Road and Snickersville Turnpike to Henry Milhollen.⁶⁹ In 1843, Gabriel Megeath died and, in his will, stipulates that his real estate is sold at public auction. At this auction, Megeath's sons bought back some of the family lots in Philomont. In March of 1844, the Megeath estate sold a one-acre lot to Joseph Megeath "on the east side of the Turnpike road on the line between Jos. P. and James Megeath on the road leading to North Fork meeting house"⁷⁰ and sold a half-acre lot to another son, Alfred, "the west edge of the Turnpike, corner to Margaret Megeath's lot."⁷¹

Yardley Taylor produced his famous map of Loudoun County in 1853. Although only subscribers of Taylor's map are identified by name, the map lends insight into the development of Philomont. There are nine structures clearly marked within the village of "Philemont" [sic]. In the compendium, Taylor described the area surrounding Philomont as an area with "farms of moderate size and chiefly cultivated by free labor. Good buildings are more common than in any other part of the County and land rates are higher."⁷² The quality of construction and architectural details found today in the buildings in Philomont reflect Yardley Taylor's description. Large landowners surrounding Philomont are also featured on the Taylor Map. Starting in the mid-19th century, these landowners sold smaller lots at the crossroads. Gabriel Megeath's large tract had been divided and "J [Joseph] McGeath" owned the southeast quadrant of Philomont and "A [Alfred] McGeath" owned the southwest quadrant. Jonah Tavenner's large acreage had been subdivided and Mahlon Tavenner owned the northeast quadrant of Philomont, including the schoolhouse lot, possibly located at north of the firehouse.⁷³ "N [Nailor] Shoemaker" is living northeast of the village.⁷⁴ William Tate is living north of Shoemaker; part of this farm would later become the Tate School.

In the context of an agrarian economy, Philomont is like other rural villages and had a diverse mix of trades. By 1850, when occupations are first enumerated in the census, Philomont boasts three merchants, a tailor, carpenter, a plasterer, two tobacconist, two physicians, and two teachers, within the small village of about 15 dwellings. Several are living together in one dwelling, possibly boarding together to take advantage of the commercial opportunities along the Turnpike. Henry Milhollen is listed as a 'shoemaker' from 'Ireland' and is living with three other shoemakers in his household, assumed to be apprentices.⁷⁵ Henry Hope runs an 'apparel and accessories store, except shoe.'⁷⁶ Joseph P Megeath (born 1801) and his sons Joseph [junior] (b. 1825) and Samuel Megeath⁷⁷ (b. 1827) are the village merchants. Milling remained the backbone of Loudoun's economy and some Philomont families owned mills.⁷⁸ Alfred Wright held a liquor license 'near Philomont.'⁷⁹ In 1852, Thomas Saffle purchased a half-acre lot along the Turnpike and set up his blacksmith shop.⁸⁰

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In 1852, Milhollen, Gregg and Welch purchase another small lot from the Megeath estate. Milhollen and Gregg are neighbors, living on the north side of JEB Stuart Road. The deed describes a ‘certain house and lot in the town of Philomont on the south side of the Turnpike and in the road leading from North Fork to Union.’⁸¹ Megeath was a merchant, and it is possible that the structure on the lot was his store. This lot had a structure likely built of log⁸² with two entrances. It is not known if one entrance was for the dwelling and one entrance was for Milhollen shoe business or if the dwelling was expanded. In the 1850 Census, Milhollen is listed as a shoemaker with three apprentices. Gregg is a tobacconist, so it is reasonable to assume purchasing a workshop/ retail outlet along the Turnpike would have been a desirable real estate investment. Three years later, Milhollen, Gregg and Welch sell to Wm Gains⁸³ who in turn sells three years later to Quincy Skinner.⁸⁴ Skinner is an apprentice shoemaker to Milhollen in the 1850 census. It is not clear if Skinner is expanding the Milhollen shoe franchise or is going out on his own. In any event, it is clear that Philomont’s emerging shoe industry is expanding.⁸⁵

As with any economy, there needs to be a financing source and the Megeaths played this role in Philomont. Joseph P. Megeath was not only a mill owner, merchant, liquor purveyor and postmaster, but also Megeath purchased distressed properties, and lent money either directly or through store credit. Megeath made no less than three real estate purchases from neighbors who moved to West Virginia (then part of the state of Virginia), likely to avoid the impending disagreement over slavery.⁸⁶ Several curious deeds from the 1850s show Megeath as providing credit to his neighbors. In 1852, a loan from Megeath was secured by a house in Unison.⁸⁷ In 1855, Thomas Hoge secures a debt to Megeath with “a negro woman named Margaret and her three children ...”⁸⁸ And, in 1856, Dr. James Leith finds himself indebted to Megeath and others and secures the loan with an extensive list of luxury household items.⁸⁹

Philomont was a mix of slave-owning and slave eschewing families and even some families who had split opinions. Some farms were smaller acreage, which would be farmed with family labor. By the mid-nineteenth century, Philomont was largely White with a few free Black people living on the outskirts of the village. Quakers would have been sympathetic to their plight allowing free Black individuals to live on their farms or withing their households, but even slave holding families also appear sympathetic. The 1850 census lists John James, a free Black male, living on Samuel Megeath’s farm. Melia Hollyday, a 13-year-old child, is living on Humphry Shepherd’s farm, south of the village. Jonah Tavenner, (b. 1801) of Quaker descent Quaker who lived north of town, possibly operated an Ordinary and had two African American children living in his farm. The Jacksons, a free Black family, are living at the south end of town and own their own house.⁹⁰ However, there were others who were not tolerant of free persons of color and enslaved people. At his death, Gabriel Megeath allowed his “servant boy John” to “choose either of my other children hereafter ... to be his master.”⁹¹ Joseph P Megeath inherited his father’s slaves and later, in 1843, sold them at auction, including “servant boy John.”⁹² Henry Milhollen was a farmer and used enslaved labor.⁹³ The Roszell family-owned slaves but would later renounce their position on slavery.⁹⁴

The 1860 U. S. Census showed Philomont as a bustling crossroads. Henry Milhollen, and his two former apprentices, Quincy Skinner and Charles Hales (b.1823) continue making shoes. John

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Conner (b.1841) is a 19-year-old 'laborer' [apprentice?] shoemaker.⁹⁵ Daniel J Ramsey (b. 1830) is a 'B [oot?] Shoemaker;' F. D. Welsh (b. 1829) is a 'Sadler and H[arness] maker;' all confirming Philomont's thriving on the shoe and leather industry, established a half century before with Benjamin Walker's tannery. Joseph P. Megeath had died in the two years before; John Morand is listed as a 'merchant' but it is not clear if he is the one who has assumed operation of Megeath's store. William Garrett (b. 1839) is also at merchant. Thomas Saffle is the local wheelwright. Henry Hibbs is a 'driver' [sic].⁹⁶ Zackery Jackson is an African American laborer living inside the village.⁹⁷ James Mount assumed Megeath's position as postmaster. According to the 1860 Slave Schedules, Enoch Garrett, George Bowman, Elizabeth Megeath (Joseph P's widow) and Hawling Sidney (living at Butcher's Run) were local farmers and slave owners.

Civil War

The Civil War took its toll on Philomont as it did in other areas of the county. Although a few Quaker-held areas were spared, Philomont was in the path of the November 1864 'Burning Raid,' which destroyed agricultural buildings in its wake. Over the course of the War, in addition to loss of agricultural structures and livestock, the biggest toll to Philomont was the destruction of the Turnpike and the subsequent decline in commerce. Hibbs Bridge over the Beaverdam survived, but the bridge at Goose Creek was burned and destroyed. The War also took a financial hit on the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company, impairing its ability to collect tolls, increase subscriptions, and make repairs. Commerce along the Turnpike ground to a halt. The condition of the Turnpike declined precipitously, and the County eventually assumed ownership of the road, turning it into a 'local' road. The 1869 Annual Report of Stockholders of the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company noted that 'The County Court of Loudoun have [sic] taken possession of all that part of the road commencing at Aldie and running thence up to some point below Snickersville,' (today's Bluemont. The 1869 Annual Report would also note "... The sum of \$1,161.70 still due from the Estate of Joseph P Megeath former Treasurer of this Company is still unsettled and it is not known now whether it can be recovered or not." It is not clear what Megeath's debt was for, but the debt lingered on the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company balance sheet for years.⁹⁸

Postwar Recovery

Post War recovery included education for emancipated African American children. Likely because of the Quaker traditions, a school for African American children was started in Philomont by 1868, relatively early compared to other similar efforts in the County when William Tate and Susanna sold a lot to "Trustees of the School."⁹⁹ Like many rural schools of this vintage, it was likely log construction. The school was located at the intersection of Greggsville and North Fork Roads but is no longer standing. The deed prescribes school for African American children:

"on which is to be erected a schoolhouse for the education of the Colored children of the neighborhood and their survivors ... the Trustees is [sic] authorized to appoint other

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trustees who are to see that the aforementioned [sic] conditions for the education of the colored children of the community are carried out fully and for nothing else.”¹⁰⁰

The deed is exacting to ensure future use for African American students and succession of Trustees.¹⁰¹ Several African American children in Philomont in the 1870s census are listed as ‘attending school’ including the Willis children who lived near the school (northwest of Philomont) and the Travis and Jackson¹⁰² children who possibly lived at the south edge of Philomont.¹⁰³ Before construction of the Tate School, African American had to walk five miles to the Colored school in Lincoln.

The Tate School was a ‘Freedmen’s School,’¹⁰⁴ supported by the Freedmen’s Bureau, an organization that supported many early African American schools in conjunction with community and local churches. However, the Freedmen’s Bureau was poorly funded, closing in 1870 and along with it, so did many of the fledgling African American schools. It is possible the Tate School was replaced by the **Shoemaker School**, on the ‘west side of the public road North Fork to Philomont.” William Shoemaker allowed construction of a school on the back of his property and his daughters, who inherited the property, continued to allow the school to remain. Many early African American schools were associated and co-located with churches and the Shoemaker School was supported by the Greegsville [sic] Baptist Church.¹⁰⁵ The school operated until at least through 1926.



The Shoemaker School appears on this 1926 postal map, northwest of the village of Philomont at the corner of North Fork and Greggsville Road

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Normal life slowly returned to Philomont after the War. 1870 U.S. Census lends insight into the type of commerce that survived along the Turnpike and how skills were passed from father to son. Henry Milhollen,¹⁰⁶ is listed as a 'farmer' and is appointed to postmaster. His son, Edward (b. 1842), is living at home is identified as a 'dry goods merchant' although it is not clear the location of the store.¹⁰⁷ John Milhollen, (b. 1848 and presumably Henry's grown son living outside the household?) a 'stock dealer' (livestock dealer?) John B. Van Sickler, who is renting a room to live, is a 'dry goods merchant. Thomas Saffle continues to work as a wheelwright in his shop located at the northwest corner of JEB Stuart and Snickersville Turnpike.¹⁰⁸ Saffle's son is apprenticing and Saffle's father, a retired carpenter, is living in the same household. John Martin is a blacksmith working with his sons, Joseph and William at his shop across the turnpike, north of where the fire station is now.¹⁰⁹ Basil Shoemaker is also working as a blacksmith, outside of the village, with 18-year-old John Whitacre, an apprentice. Joseph Brown, also a blacksmith, is living in the village, with several boarders.¹¹⁰ and John Conner is still working as a shoemaker, presumably in the Charles Dawson House.¹¹¹ Sixteen-year-old Benjamin Hibbs, 'Appie (apprentice) to Shoemaker is living in Conner's household and so is James A Hix, a Mulatto shoemaker. Jonah (b. 1838) Tavenner, working as a carpenter, is living just north of the village with his father Mahlon, (b. 1810.)

In 1876, John Dillon established a free elementary school for the white children of Philomont, presumably replacing Tavenner's 1819 log school. Dillon sells a lot to the Mt Gilead School District for \$18 for a "*schoolhouse to be erected.*" Archival photos show a picture of a stone school. The deed prescribes use the second floor for the "Philomont Town hall association" limiting times of use to when school was not in sessions so as not to be "injurious or detrimental to school when in session."¹¹² It is not clear if Philomont was recognized as a self-governing entity by the County, but the inference of a 'town hall association' shows a clear sense of community self-determination.

Properties in the village begin to be bought and sold again – some for dwelling and some for speculation – and also a period of a mini-building boom. In 1867 David Tavenner (b.1835? b. 1827?) and Martha purchase lot from George Bowman (1823 – 1883.) The purchase price indicates there may have been a modest house on the lot at the time of purchase.¹¹³ Eventually, one of Philomont's early post offices was built on the northwest corner of the property. According to Gene Scheel, David Tavenner's son Americus 'Bud' Tavenner (b. 1856) "manufactured liquor, ran a barroom in the sometime post office, and also ran a drug store."¹¹⁴ Varied commercial activity would have easily justified the additional expense of constructing a stand-alone post office along the turnpike. In 1868, Jonah Tavenner, Jr (b.1838?), was a 30-year-old carpenter and built or enlarged a house at **20263 Colchester Road** and raised his family, including Kirkbrite 'Brite' and John (b.1873) Tavenner,¹¹⁵ who would both later become carpenters like their father. In 1878, Franklin Lycurgus Tavenner¹¹⁶ (b. 1845) builds his house at **37151 Snickersville Turnpike.**¹¹⁷ In 1871, Henry Milhollen made several speculative purchases in the village, purchasing "four houses and lots in Philomont about 4 and ¼ acres" at auction.¹¹⁸ Again in 1877, Henry Milhollen purchased the Philomont Store, including the "dwelling house and store house and lots attached thereto situated in Philomont formerly owned by the late Joseph Megeath."¹¹⁹ It is possible that 1877 is the time when the north addition was added to the

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dwelling at 37110 Snickersville Turnpike, orienting the house also to the north. The “store house” would have been the large, two-story brick store built by the Megeath family.

After losing most of the grist mill, dams, railroads and bridges during the War, largely recovered by the 1880s. In Charles Head’s description of the County, Loudoun is listed as leading the state in agricultural production including corn, butter, eggs, wood, milk, and sheep.¹²⁰ A flurry of 1870 and 1880 road cases also reflect the resurgent growth and emphasize the need to connect communities to transportation centers. One road case is typical of others and reads “...It is a public necessity for a highway leading from Circleville PO on the present road from Janney’s Mill to Philomont.”¹²¹ However, the physical condition of the Turnpike never really recovered to pre-War condition; Aldie to Bluemont remained a local road and the last five miles – Bluemont to the River – was owned by the Turnpike. The road was so expensive to maintain over the mountain that the Company offered the road to Clarke County, who refused to accept.¹²²

In the 1880s, Charlotte Milhollen, widow of store owner Henry Milhollen, is still living at the house she and Henry purchased and has a home of grown children working in Philomont. Albert Milhollen is working at the store; R H Milhollen is a ‘travelling agent,’ and the two younger, LL and Lee are at school. Mrs. Milhollen is wealthy enough to have a servant. Van Sickler is still working as a merchant, although it is not clear if he’s working for Milhollen or if he has opened his second store at 36610 JEB Stuart Road.¹²³ LL Chamblin is serving as the local physician. Three village sons, John Milhollen, Henry Saffle, and John Walker are working as Drovers, (one of drives livestock to market,) taking advantage of the commercial traffic along the Turnpike. John Martin and Thomas Saffle are still working as a blacksmith and wheelwright respectively.

In 1886, Dillon purchases John Martin’s blacksmith shop, which was operating next door to the school, and making a provision that the lot no longer be used for blacksmithing Dillon then sells the lot at a discount to the School Board for use as ‘a wood pile,’¹²⁴ presumably for storing firewood to heat the school. By 1894, Lincoln High school opened for those who chose to continue their education after graduating from Philomont’s stone elementary school.

Reconstruction, Commerce and Mill Industry – late 1880s and Turn of the Century

Although the Methodist Episcopal Church split over the issue of slavery in 1844,¹²⁵ it wasn’t until three decades later, the issue was addressed in Philomont, when the Southern branch ceded from the Methodist Church. For the century before, Philomont’s church was a mile and a half south of the village center near the Roszell farm.¹²⁶ It is particularly curious that the village didn’t have a church in the village core, a reminder of the community’s strong emphasis on commercial activity. To locally resolve the split in the Methodist Church, Charlotte (Walker) Milhollen, who was a slaveholder before the War, split off a half-acre of land “lying in the village of Philomont ... for a place of Divine Worship” and gifted the lot to Methodist Episcopal Church South in 1890. The Philomont community moved its 1840 stone church from its original location south of town to the new lot in the center of the village.¹²⁷ It is possible at this time that some architectural elements of the church were altered as the lacet detail of the doors and windows dates to the Victorian Period rather than 1840s. The stonework bears the mark of

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traditional Loudoun building techniques; corners are buttressed with large quoins while the side walls are field stone. It is also notable that the field stones of the front elevation are larger than those of the side elevations; possibly only the stones of the front elevation were moved from Shelbourne and the stones for the side were gathered locally from the new site.

In 1900, widow Charlottes Milhollen is living with some of her adult children – William Milhollen is working as a dentist, Albert (b.1853) is working at the store, and Eugene B is working as a jeweler. John Van Sickler is farming and his son, Hempston (b.1881) is working as a clerk, so likely Van Sickler's store. David Tavenner is the postmaster. Charles Simpson is one of Philomont's last village shoemakers. Jonah Tavenner, a widower, is working as a carpenter with his two sons, John and Brite (James Kirkbrite) The sons would later open a furniture shop.¹²⁸ Like the rest of Loudoun County, the 1900 Census reveals segregated living patterns in Philomont. Four Black families – Henry Parker, James Thomas, William Robinson and Author Hunt - congregated north of Van Sickler's Upper Store, along JEB Stuart or Colchester Road, but outside of the village core. With limited educational opportunities, Black families worked primarily as day laborers or domestics and did not own their own homes.¹²⁹

In 1908, Milhollen's brick store¹³⁰ located at the southeast corner of the crossroads, was struck by lightning and burned. The event was memorable; in her recollections with Gene Scheel, Dixie Lodge Lake recounts " ...Bullets were going off to beat the band. It was difficult to salvage anything ... When fire hit the [oil] drum, you could just see this black smoke going up through everything."¹³¹ In 1913, the store was rebuilt across the street by Philomont village neighbors, Brite and John Tavenner, two brothers and talented carpenters, who were taught by their father Jonah. Likely built with fireproofing in mind, the walls of the new store are pressed concrete block, made from sand gathered along the banks of Butcher's Branch.¹³²

John Dillon's stone school operated until 1917 when it too was destroyed by fire¹³³ and the log school was torn down the following year. Classes were then housed in Van Sickler's 'Upper Store' for the next few years,¹³⁴ until the new school was built in 1919 by the Tavenner brothers. An insurance record from the 1930s identifies JEB Stuart Road as 'School Street.'¹³⁵

The early 1900s was a turning point in Loudoun County when the automobile became more than just a rare oddity.¹³⁴ As it still true today, automobiles often struggled with Loudoun's "all weather" (gravel) roads, making travel still difficult at best. As well, Loudoun's pattern of roads still reflected the mill-to-market hub-and-spoke pattern, so there were few direct routes between towns and villages. Snickersville Turnpike, despite its potholes "that seem bottomless," according to a 1933 insurance report, still served local traffic.¹³⁵ Historian Elizabeth Morgan in her 1937 piece on Loudoun County remarked that Snickers Gap had been allowed to go down until "... it is now a very little used road except locally."¹³⁶ The Turnpike, the critical artery that had brought commerce to the Philomont crossroads since the late 18th century, remained in disrepair even 70 years after the Civil War. Hibbs Bridge had survived the Civil War, although the then-Virginia Department of Highways (Virginia Department of Transportation) did not rebuild the turnpike's other bridges until 1948, starting with the timber deck bridge over the

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North Fork of the Beaverdam (north of Philomont) and, in 1958, with the concrete bridge over Goose Creek (south of Philomont), finally modernizing the length of the Turnpike.

The Philomont General Store continued to keep its doors open, remaining a village focal point. According to an interview with Milhollen descendant Dixie Lodge Lake, the store sold everything then widely used for medical purposes, including “morphine, laudanum, and lemon extract, made with alcohol, which doubled as whiskey.”¹³⁷ According to Laura Pearson, gas pumps, with diesel for farm equipment, were installed in the 1930s, when West M. Pearson began working there as a clerk. Local rumor proports that – true to Philomont’s roots when the McGeaths sold homemade whiskey at their mill and when Bud Tavenner sold moonshine from the rear of the timber-frame post office – Philomont’s bootleg industry thrived during Prohibition, contributing to the village economy during the other-wise difficult 1920s and early 1930s. Although there was little to no new construction to show for this era, small mom-and pop businesses and small plot farming supported local families. Western Loudoun County remained agricultural and the majority of residents around Philomont were farmers. Without zoning restrictions, local businesses, such as Mr. Stan Lickey’s small motor repair shop, popped up around Philomont. In contrast, sister villages such as nearby Mountville and Airmont never recovered prosperity after the Civil War and the Great Depression-era economy sealed their fate, with neither continuing to offer any commercial services.



Philomont’s General Store in 1961. The sign reads ‘Pearson’s General Store.’ In 1946, the store transferred out of decades of Milhollen ownership when it as sold to Alec Walsh Pearson, Sr. and by 1950, the name changed to Pearson’s General Store.

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Mid-Twentieth Century

After World War II, worried by recent losses of nearby agricultural buildings and structures to fire, in true self-reliant fashion, the Philomont community pulled together to create a volunteer fire department. At that time, firefighting was based on volunteer contributions, as there were not organized professional units funded by Loudoun County. Philomont native Captain Richard Patch, in a conversation in the Philomont Store with owner Pomp Pearson, made a deal: if the community built a firehouse, then he would purchase a firetruck. It was an enormous challenge and a remarkable endeavor for such a small community, even during the postwar boom years. Funding sources reflected the modest means of the community and included sales by the local Women's Auxiliary and "turkey shoots" for the men.¹³⁶

The community moved quickly. In May 1956, Nelson Ryan (1917 – 1977) and his father, two Philomont natives and locally renowned masons who contributed to the construction of Trinity Church in Upperville, began construction on the two-story, two-bay firehouse with their own hands. Other Philomont locals, such as Bobby Longerbeam, also contributed labor and skills.¹³⁷ In June 1956, Richard and Dixie Lodge Lake of the McGeath-Millhollen-Lake House, donated land across the street to the Philomont Volunteer Fire Company.¹³⁸ On November 28, 1956, Captain Patch made good on his promise, donating \$18,500 to the PVFD for the purchase of the first firetruck, which is still housed on the Pearson property today.¹³⁹ West Pearson Jr. flew to Wisconsin to purchase the vehicle and drove it back to Virginia. The firehouse was not quite yet complete and the heating system had not yet been installed. So completely committed to the new PVFD, during the first cold days of December 1956, West Pearson slept under the truck with a blow torch to keep the truck from freezing.¹⁴⁰ The following summer, Philomont proudly displayed their firetruck in local parades.¹⁴¹ In a short 6 months, the Philomont Fire Department had transformed from a promise to reality, reflecting the level of trust between members of the village and their commitment to one another.

The new fire department was an enormous source of pride and opportunity for community gatherings. On Saturday nights, Philomont residents would hold dances in the firehouse. Families would picnic on the firehouse grounds.¹⁴² The community leveraged this enthusiasm, hosting events to raise funds for the newly formed PVFD. The firemen hosted a regular "turkey shoot,"¹⁴³ where men would shoot target practice out of a first-floor window of the firehouse. The fire station grounds became home to the "Pit Beef BBQ," a fundraiser which often served over 1,000 guests and raised thousands of dollars for the PVFD.

By the mid-twentieth century, Loudoun County had become synonymous with 'Hunt Country.' Equestrian events – horse shows, racing and foxhunting – were the center of social and recreational activity. The Loudoun Times Mirror, the local newspaper, often carried headlines of local events and results of competitions. Larger Northern Virginia towns such as Middleburg, Leesburg, Warrenton and Culpepper,¹⁴⁴ held their own horse shows. Even the hamlets of Mountville and Unison-Bloomfield hosted annual shows¹⁴⁵ as did other nearby towns and villages, including Mountville's annual fundraiser for the community school, Upperville's horse show to benefit the Loudoun Hospital, and Bloomfield, Unison,¹⁴² Ashburn, Purcellville, and

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nearby Charlestown, West Virginia. This was an era when horses and equestrian sports were still a central way of life for the rural population and the shows served as a major focal point of social and recreational entertainment, often dominating local headlines.¹⁴⁶ The Black community provided the work force behind the equestrian industry and sometimes were also the best riders, but the Jim Crow segregation practices of the time meant they were not welcome to compete in most horse shows, including Philomont's. St Louis, a Reconstruction-Era rural community in close proximity to Middleburg's Training Center, hosted a horse show for the Black community and was well attended.¹⁴⁷

With equestrian shows more popular than ever, in April 1957, Philomont's residents hosted its first Philomont Horse Show, another community-driven event to financially support the PVFD. The Griffith family were horsemen, Philomont natives, and donated their farm to the show. Mr. Griffith served as the chairman of the show and Mrs. Griffith served as Show secretary. Local newspapers heralded that 115 entries were received "from some of the best stables in northern Virginia." Competitors represented the best in class, including horsemen such as "Cappy" Morton Smith¹⁴⁸ and Jimmy Hatcher, who would later be inducted into Upperville's Wall of Fame. Hollywood's best, including Tab Hunter and starlet Elizabeth Whitney, also participated. Well known competition horse Duke of Paeonian, who would be later inducted into the Show Jumping Hall of Fame, started his season at the Philomont Horse Show. Classes were held over a two-day period for both ponies and horses alike, allowing children and adults to compete at the same venue. Horse shows were truly family affairs. Horses were shown "in hand," meaning a person would compete a horse from the ground, demonstrating confirmation and breeding. Horses were also competed "under saddle," meaning horses were ridden in the ring either "on the flat" (no jumps) or over jumps. There also were the "hunter" classes where horses were judged on style of going over jumps or the 'jumper classes' where horses were judged on speed and athletic ability. Ponies competed in a second ring that was eventually constructed. Some competitors were so young that they would compete in a "lead line" class, where pony and child rider were led around by a parent.

Not only was the number of entries and competitors noted, but also "the rail" was packed with countless spectators and social activities. "The rail" was the board fencing that surrounded the horse show oval. Families would purchase parking tickets "along the rail" for the two-day show and host guests for social tailgating. As the show grew, so did its prestige and popularity. The Philomont horse show eventually earned a Virginia Horse Shows Association (VSHA) ranking¹⁴⁹ and dates for the show were advertised statewide.¹⁵⁰ Local bands played, there were exhibition classes, and society women had their pictures appear in the paper as they watched competitors from the rail. The Philomont event was described as an "annual neighborhood event that brings together many local sports-loving folk."¹⁴⁶

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Gathering along "the rail" was as much for watching the equestrian activities as it was for the social status.

In 1962, the Griffith family sold their farm, where the horse show had been hosted. That same year, the PVFD and the Philomont community purchased a new site at the south edge of the village. Mr. Frank Pierce sold his cow field, which would be transformed to the new horse show grounds.¹⁵¹ In 1972, Nelson Ryan, the same mason who constructed the firehouse 15 years earlier, hand-built the cinder block Cook Shack, which remains today, replacing an earlier frame shed. The Cook Shack was rudimentary, constructed without indoor plumbing, a testament to the volunteer fire department's Women's Auxiliary who served endless breakfasts and lunches to raise funds for the PVFD. Meals were legendary and guests would join the horse show just for the food. Participants, their family, and friends along with the spectators looked forward to the breakfast casseroles and sausage gravy with biscuits, country ham biscuits, fresh sandwiches, grilled lunch items and the many home-baked goods being served from the Cook Shack. A special lunch awaited at the firehouse for the sought-after judges, rewarded for their long hours of work. The whole community pitched in to help with tickets, parking, setting up the ring, jump crew, and clean up. The Ladies' Auxiliary and Junior Auxiliary would provide a check to the Philomont VFD every year at their annual banquet at the firehouse, a significant social event. All in all, these activities were tangible representations of the enormous significance the firehouse and horse show grounds held for the entire Philomont community. Trophies were donated by local jewelers. Thousands of dollars were brought in by patrons who donated to the show or who purchased advertising in the "prize list," the list of different classes in a horse show. By the 1990s, the PVFD operating budget, even with volunteer firemen, had grown to \$100,000 annually, which did not include capital expenditures, but was an enormous sum raised each year by local volunteers.

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Philomont Horse Show Grounds Cook Shack as it appeared in 1968, with Truman Hawes in the foreground, who was one of the original volunteer firemen. This structure was the predecessor to the existing concrete block structure, built 1972.

During the last quarter of the 20th century, Loudoun County's demographics shifted; as urban populations grew, fewer people had a connection with the equestrian events that had defined social activity for so many. Enthusiasm for horse shows waned across the state and entries began to decline. The Philomont Horse Show cut back from a two-day affair to just one. However, the horse show grounds remained the center of village recreational and social activity. In addition to serving the horse show every spring, other events took hold on what would in essence become Philomont's "village green." Children showed their 4-H animals to prepare for the Loudoun County Fair, and every summer, baseball games would take place. A baseball diamond was erected in the southeast corner of the property, complete with scoreboard. During the 1990s, Philomont native Robert Duvall sponsored a local baseball team with weekly summer matches between Duvall's team and the PVFD team. Sometimes Duvall would bring in a legendary "ringer" such as a retired professional player. Although the volunteer firemen's team did not stand a chance in such games, onlookers loved the entertainment.

Beginning in early 2000s and over the next two decades, strategic leadership change occurred in the PVFD. Through a bylaw rewrite and gradual removal of voting rights of lifetime volunteers, a new PVFD leadership emerged, gaining control over the horse show grounds with the vision of erecting a sprawling fire station complex.¹⁵² The new PVFD leadership reduced their dedication to the popular horse show, starving the show of much needed volunteer labor. In 2019, the Philomont Village Foundation, a local non-profit dedicated to preservation of the village,

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planned to assume show operations to continue this valuable community-based event. Immediately upon this announcement, the PVFD removed the legendary and beloved “rail” and suspended the show. That year, Philomont had been one of the few heritage shows in Virginia still in operation on their original grounds.

The Philomont Horse Show grounds is a significant, intact example of Loudoun County’s association with centuries of equestrian activities. Almost all, except Philomont, of the above-mentioned village-centered horse show grounds have been lost. Purcellville, Belmont, Raspberry Plains, Ashburn, St .Louis, Mountville and Bloomfield – to name a few – are gone. The only other historic show grounds in the vicinity is the Upperville Horse Show Grounds [NRHP 2022; DHR 030-5917], in nearby Fauquier County. Philomont’s turf rings, carved by generations of ponies and horses, and its simple Cook Shack, constructed by the hands of volunteers of the local community, are a rare example of Loudoun County’s mid- 20th century social and equestrian life.

Today

Long gone are Philomont’s thriving 19th century leather and shoe making industry and the variety of trades such as Thomas Saffler the wheelwright, John Martin the blacksmith and the venerable Tavenner brothers – Brite and John’s – furniture and casket business. There’s no longer a practicing village doctor and now a doctor’s visit takes one to Purcellville or beyond. Children are bussed, rather than walk, to school. Gas pumps and public phone stand have been removed. However, Philomont’s center remains the Philomont General Store, fire station and community center where neighbors can meet, collect mail, grab a sandwich or swap gossip. One can still walk to the village church and or walk down JEB Stuart Road and know most of the neighbors. Even with 20th century changes, Philomont still retains its village feeling, almost as it has for the past two centuries.

Comparison to other villages and general stores

In the 18th and early 19th centuries, communities thrived along the Snickersville Turnpike, including the villages of Philomont and Bluemont, interspersed with the hamlets of Paxson, Airmont, and Mountville. African American hamlets – Butcher’s Hollow, Murphy’s Corner, Powell’s Grove, Turner Town, Marble Quarry, and Berryman – grew at the edges of the Turnpike, as the areas immediately adjacent to the Turnpike were more coveted and predominantly owned by White families. Most villages along the Turnpike were similar, originating as crossroads benefiting from commercial traffic and evolving into a commercial and social nexus, each with a village post office, store, school, blacksmith, and doctor.¹⁵³

Much of the commercial activity in the hamlets dwindled with the arrival of the automobile and rural route delivery service in the 1920s. The automobile allowed for more dispersed commercial activity and the rural route delivery – delivery to each rural address - reduced the importance of the village post office. Of all the commercial villages and hamlets¹⁵⁴ along Snickersville Turnpike, only Aldie, Philomont, and Bluemont¹⁵⁵ remain as commercial centers. All three are

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unique for their largely intact late 19th and early 20th century historic fabric, modest infill development, and preservation of the surrounding agricultural context.

It is not immediately clear why Philomont survived. Obviously, Bluemont and Aldie benefitted from the intersection of Route 50 and 7. Rumors include the liquor trade propped up Philomont's waning commerce during the Depression. Starting with postmaster Joseph P Megeath in the 1830s and continuing through David Tavenner's son, Bud, in the early 20th century, the liquor trade was tradition in Philomont. Alternatively, Philomont could have survived because of the success of its general store and gas pumps installed in the 1930s to adapt to newer transportation methods and mechanized agricultural equipment. General stores were social and commercial centers for villages dotted throughout Loudoun. As learned from Philomont's legacy stories, its general store carried everything from "medicine" to liquor to mail to ammunition. Later at the end of the 20th century, the Philomont General Stores does a healthy trade with wine, ham biscuits and sitting on the front porch with neighbors, a long-standing Philomont tradition.

Criterion A – Commerce

The Philomont Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. As a 19th century agrarian village, Philomont served as a vital commercial center for the surrounding rural community. Since the early 1800s when economic activity appeared at the cross roads of the 'stage road' and the 'turnpike,' Philomont's commercial center was a crux for local tradesmen who provided critical services to local farmers. In turn, local farmers provided additional produce to supplement villagers' agricultural plots. The 1850 and 1860 U. S. Census list a complex set of tradesmen in the village, including several shoemakers, a blacksmith, a wheel wright, a tailor, a tobacconist, a physician, and a schoolteacher. Located along the vibrant commercial corridor of the Snickersville Turnpike at the cross roads of the old 'stage' road to Leesburg (now Jeb Stuart Road), Philomont also served those who travelled along the Turnpike. Drovers also appear during the mid-19th century census as do merchants and hucksters. There was at least one ordinary and several purveyors of liquor. Construction of the Philomont General Store in 1913 demonstrates that Philomont continued to be a commercial center and its ongoing use as a store contributes to the district's significance and integrity.

Criterion A – Social History

Philomont is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Social History for its association with successful local efforts to establish community resources and village improvements. Several resources associated with this trend are extant and contribute to the built environment.

Philomont's earliest buildings were inhabited by Quakers, the second sons of Tidewater gentry, and freed and enslaved African Americans. With the development of smaller lots within the village, construction of a school, and residences that doubled as taverns, the community began to take shape and the social structure between different cultural groups who had settled this rural area began to evolve and merge. Throughout the early to mid-19th century the small village became an important crossroads, but after the Civil War, like many communities, it struggled to

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recover physically and economically. During this period, residents banded together to keep Philomont a viable commercial and social center, which is evident by the establishment of the “Philomont Town Hall Association.” During the late 19th century and around the turn of the century, the importance of improving the general welfare of its residents is showcased with the establishment of segregated schools for White and Black students and moving the Town’s only church, which was located south of the village, to the center of village. In 1912, the general store was constructed at the corner of Jeb Stuart Road and Snickersville Turnpike, which was a place for local residents to purchase goods, but it also became the center of social activity, where neighbors could interact and discuss the news from the village and surrounding area. A new and larger school building was constructed in 1919 and, along with the general store, is tangible evidence of the village’s evolving civic and social mindset. During the 1950s, after several fires, the village established the Philomont Volunteer Fire Department, which continues to operate in its 1956 fire station at the center of the village. In order to fund the department, residents and the firefighters established the Philomont Horse Show. The current horse show grounds were purchased in 1962 and became a very important center of recreation and social activity for the village, one that supported the general welfare of the village’s residents. The horse show in Philomont remained an active social event until 2019.

Criterion C – Architecture

Philomont is locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its intact historic built environment made up largely of 19th- and 20th-century buildings and structures. A significant aspect of the village’s architectural importance is the embodiment of vernacular construction methods and materials by local skilled carpenters, masons, and woodworkers. Individual resources of particular note are the Roszell Chapel (1890) and the Philomont General Store (1912)

Re-erected in 1890, the chapel features French Gothic Revival stylistic attributes. The French Gothic Revival originated in France during the early 19th century due to fascination with the massive cathedrals of the Middle Ages. Growing nationalism led architectural connoisseurs in France, England, and Germany claiming that the original Gothic style had originated in their respective countries. The Basilica of Sainte Clothilde, built between 1846-1857, has been identified as the earliest important example of French Gothic Revival in Europe.¹⁵⁶ The Roszell Chapel is a considerably scaled-down example of the style and was built by local craftsmen who added their own interpretations to the ornamental elements, such as the façade’s large stone quoins. The building’s emphasis on steeply angled lancet arches is evidenced in the lancet-arched central entry bay and flanking windows, the pedimented gable end with a centered lancet-arched louvered vent, and the later belfry with its steeply pitched roof that echoes a lancet arch. The distinctive design makes the building a local landmark.

The Philomont General Store, meanwhile, is a classic example of the Commercial Style in a “Main Street” setting, as defined in the *Classic Commonwealth* style guide published by the Department of Historic Resources. With regard to stylistic features, such buildings are

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characterized by both their location along a thoroughfare and their function of providing goods to customers. Facades of Commercial Style buildings are typically symmetrical with a centered entrance flanked by display windows, as is the case with Philomont's store. The upper story of these stores often, but not always, contained living quarters, originally for shop owners and later for rental use.¹⁵⁷ The building's exterior walls of rusticated concrete block feature what at the time was a new and innovative, mass-produced material that was advertised for its decorative potential as well as fire-resistant qualities. The one-story, façade-spanning porch created a shaded space for customers to congregate, adding to the building's function as a community hub. The inclusion of a post office at the rear of the store's interior further contributes to the importance of the building to daily life in Philomont.

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Newspapers

Virginia Chronicle, newspaper archive
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deeds, wills, land tax records

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As seen: <https://www.loudoun.gov/3438/Minute-Books>

Loudoun County Road Cases
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond; Library of Congress; Library of Virginia, Richmond; Loudoun County Circuit Court

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #053-6509

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 43

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

A 39 03' 25" N	77 44' 25" W
B 39 03' 28" N	77 44' 17" W

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C 39 03'17" N	77 44' 09" W
D 39 03'13" N	77 44' 17" W
E 39 03'22" N	77 44' 31" W

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

The boundaries of the Philomont Historic District encompass the historic pedestrian core and begin at the northeast corner of JEB Stuart Road (State Route 630) and Snickersville Turnpike (State Route 734) and continue east one-half mile south along Snickersville Turnpike.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic district boundary is defined by village resources that were historically interdependent on one another – the general store, firehouse, shoe shop, blacksmith shop, tavern, school, church, horse show grounds, and village dwellings on small lots – and excludes farmhouses and buildings associated with larger acreage agricultural production in the village's larger setting. All known associated historic resources are included within the historic boundary.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jane Covington
organization: Jane Covington Restoration
street & number: PO Box 741
city or town: Middelburg state: VA zip code: 20118
e-mail: jane@janecovington.com
telephone: 434-960-4678
date: February 2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Philomont Historic District

City or Vicinity: Lincoln

County: Loudoun State: VA

Photographer: Jane Covington

Date Photographed: Spring 2022

Photo 1 - Philomont General Store, south elevation

Photo 2 - Streetscape facing northeast along JEB Stuart Road

Photo 3 - Streetscape facing southwest along JEB Stuart Road, Firehouse in foreground and Philomont General Store behind

Photo 4 - Philomont School, now Philomont Community Center, south elevation

Photo 5 - 'Upper Store,' facing southwest along JEB Stuart Road

Photo 6 - Megeath-Milhollen-Lake House, north elevation

Photo 7 - David Tavenner House, 37160 Snickersville Turnpike, west elevation

Photo 8 - Streetscape facing southeast down Snickersville Turnpike (standing between the Chapel and the David Tavenner House)

Photo 9 - Roszell Chapel, east elevation

Photo 10 - 37175 Snickersville Turnpike (Blue House)

Photo 11 - Bowman Tavern, 37215 Snickersville Turnpike, south elevation

Photo 12 - Horse Show Grounds, facing southeast

Photo 13 - Facing west along JEB Stuart Road, 36538 JEB Stuart Road, Charles Dawson House is in background

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Photo 14 - Stuart Weller House, facing west

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. 460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

ENDNOTES

¹ According to the Snickers Gap Turnpike Company, Annual Report, 1869 The Turnpike was in such bad repair after the War, that in 1869, the County 'adopted' the Turnpike, deeming it a County road in order to administer public funds for needed repairs. By 1869, only the last five miles from Bluemont over the Mountain to the Shenandoah remained a private road. The toll at the top of the Mountain continued operation until 1915.

² **LCDB 4R:226, 1840** The mill at Hibbs Bridge was also operating as a saw mill by 1840

³ Nearby Leithtown (aka Pot House) had a brick yard as early as 1830. Brick was a rare commodity in rural Loudoun and the presence of 19th century brick buildings is notable. Two neighboring Philomont brick houses are 20152 Greggsville Road and 36940 JEB Stuart Road. It is possible there could have been another brick factory in closer proximity.

⁴ Stucco, or here called pebble-dash, was an early form of fire proofing, applied to the exterior of frame structures to insulate wood siding from heat. Two of Philomont's earlier 'fireproof' buildings previously burned – the 1845/1850 brick Milhollen store and the 1876 stone school. In the 19th century, fireproofing was a relative term.

⁵ Snickers Gap Turnpike Company Annual Report. The 'Map of the Paved Road from the Little River Bridge at Aldie to the Shenandoah' was sent to Richmond December 11, 1929

⁶ In addition to the log structures remaining standing inside the district, there are other log structures dating to Loudoun's Colonial period which are outside the district. These include: 1) 36700 JEB Stuart Road, circa 1790s 2) 36809 JEB Stuart Road [Tom Lacey's house]; 3) 20820 Beaverdam Bridge Road [Llyod Cabin]; 4) 20670 Beaverdam Bridge Road [Clea Toledano's house aka first Benjamin walker house attributed 1790]; 5) Naylor Shoemaker House, circa 1790s [now the Skinner's House]; 6) Original Philomont School House, circa 1819, [dismantled]; 7) Original Roszell Chapel aka Mountain Chapple circa 1773 [dismantled]. There are at least two other log cabins within the historic district boundary but are attributed to a later date: 1) 36538 JEB Stuart circa 1840 [Charles Dawson House]; 2) Alfred Megeath House 37085 Snickersville Turnpike, [dismantled] assumed to be circa 1835

⁷ The date is reported by the owner and the building typology supports this construction date. The property was patented by William West in 1740. For more information, see Original Land Grants of Loudoun County: <https://loudoungis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapTools/index.html?appid=d3c4ba1031564f919ca28c9bb5a48350>

⁸ Eugene Scheel, in his 'Map of Snickersville Turnpike,' attributes the Benjamin Walker house to 1808. Benjamin Walker, senior, purchased acreage along "Beaver damm," **LCDB 2K:377, 1809**. The house still stands and is located at **20670 Beaverdam Bridge Road**.

⁹ **LCWB O:42, 1821** Benjamin Walker died without a will but had leather and leather pieces cut for shoes in his inventory at this death.

¹⁰ Welsh is also spelled Welch

¹¹ **LCDB 5F:204, 1852** Megeath to Milhollen, Gregg, and Welsh

¹² **LCDB 5Q:213, 1858** describes a "dwelling house, shoe maker shop, and stable" The Megeath family were merchants, post masters and liquor purveyors and could have used the structure in this manner. Henry Milhollen started his career as a shoe-maker but did not occupy the house as a dwelling

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¹³ In Dixie Lodge Lake's 1977 interview with Eugene Scheel, Mrs. Lake ruminates that the structure could have been log.

¹⁴ Archives of Laura Pearson

¹⁵ **LCDB I:194, 1773** and **LCDB 2P:205, 1812** are two examples. The early route of the Snickersville Turnpike did not follow the exact path established by 1829.

¹⁶ The original street sign is no longer in place but still remains.

¹⁷ Laura Pearson, interviews, 2022 and Eugene Scheel, Map of Snickersville Turnpike

¹⁸ **LCDB 5W:359, 1867**; Geo Bowman to David Tavenner and Martha 6A 2R 11P. The price is \$900, a sum large enough to justify the value of a modest dwelling. Laura Pearson reported that the house once had a large wrap-around porch, a statement supported by Eugene Scheel's stories of late night gatherings at the house when it was used as an inn prior to 1915.

¹⁹ "The House That Tavenner Built," Journal of the Philomont Historical Society, October 1997 and Eugene Scheel, Map of Snickersville Turnpike 1997.

²⁰ Philomont local men built the fire house, and horse show cook shack with their own hands. Bobby Longerbeam built his own house and with the help of others, also built the addition to the Roszell Chapel.

²¹ **LCDB 4D:91, 1834**, Nichols to Shepherd. There are several items but it is reasonable to speculate there was a mill on this property. Shepherd purchases 162 acres for \$4,500, a sum far exceeding the value of any farm, indicating a mill, especially since the deed refers to the "waters of the NW fork of Goose Creek." Several mills appear on Beaverdam on the 1827 Broyle Map in this vicinity. As well, the Nichols family were Quaker mill owners.

²² Loudoun County Clerk of the Court Archives, Historic Business Licenses, 'Mill Licenses, 1758 - 1915'

²³ **LCDB 6Y:466, 1876**

²⁴ **LCDB 5U:390, 1860** Skinner to John Martin

²⁵ Scheel, interview with Dixie Loge Lake 1977, page 10

²⁶ Philomont Historical Society, 'brown box' and interview with Laura Pearson

²⁷ The style guide entitled, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*, describes the Commercial style as it appears in crossroads villages, such as Philomont, as being typically a detached building that is one- to two-stories tall with a rectangular footprint, front-gable form with a false front, and centered entry flanked by display windows. Many of these commercial buildings are located along a transportation route, as is the case with stores in Philomont, which is alongside the Snickersville Turnpike. See www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Classic_Commonwealth_Style_Guide.pdf, p. 82-83.

²⁸ The EE Lake store is frame with stucco exterior. A rear post office addition was added 1918. VDHR reports the original construction date was 1905.

²⁹ Scheel, interview with Dixie Loge Lake 1977, page 11

³⁰ Originally built as one story

³¹ **LCDB 4S:341, 1842** the stone chapel was erected nearby, but in a different location

³² The tradition of the Philomont Horse Show preceded the purchase of the horse show grounds. The original 1950s location was at Mr. Griffith's farm located at 20141 Colchester Road.

³³ This garage was likely first associated with the Megeath - Milhollen - Lake House 37110 Snickersville Turnpike

³⁴ James W. Head, *History and Comprehensive Description of Loudoun County, Virginia*. Park View Press, 1908, page 1.

³⁵ There are many spellings of this family name including Roswell, Rozel, Rozell, Rossell, Roswell. For the purposes of this document, the spelling carved in the front gable end of the chapel is used although Roszel is used in several deeds. Tavenner is also seen spelled Tavenner; Megeath is also spelled McGeath.

³⁶ **LCDB 2L:376, 1809** John Littlejohn, attorney to Michael Bell, to Gabriel Megeath. Lovell Jackson, who received the patent, passed the Virginia acreage to Michael Bell of Great Britain. It is not clear if Jackson or Bell ever visited the property. Roszell, Walker and Vanhorn witnessed.

³⁷ **LCDB 2K:377, May 2, 1809**, John Littlejohn, attorney to Michael Bell, to Benjamin Walker. Vanhorne, Roszell and Megeath would witness.

³⁸ **LCDB 2P:205, 1812**; Trahern to Tavenner "on the side of the main road"; **LCDB 30:67, 1827**, Nichols et al to Tavenner, 96 acres at the head of "a long branch a branch of Beaverdam Creek."

³⁹ Stephen G Roszell, son of Sarah and Stephen Roszell (senior) who was born in Prince William County and built Shelbourne in 1719. Stephen also had a son named George [from files of Laura Pearson]

⁴⁰ Fairfax Harrison, *Landmarks of Old Prince William, Vols I and II*. Gateway Press, Baltimore, 1987 pp. 401-401

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⁴¹ Herman Broye map, 1827; What is known today as Butcher's Run was also known as the Southwest Fork of the Beaverdam. Chancery Case Garret Walker vs Ann Vanhorn 1819-010, plat:

<https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalInternet/0/edoc/326225/Mill%20Licenses.pdf>

⁴² **LCDB 3L:269, 1825** Wm Castleman to Humphrey Shepherd NW fork of Goose Creek This property later had a mill; same purchase of Shepherd from Thos Swayne in **LCDB 3F:53, 1822** and the same mill later sold to Joshua Nichols **LCDB 4D:91, 1834**. Jesse Richards, a local miller, sold to Humphrey Shepherd **LCDB 4Z:420, 1849**

⁴³ Loudoun County Clerks Office, Archives, historic business records

⁴⁴ **LCDB 4R:226, 1840** Griffith Thomas and Rebecca to Samuel Megeath "merchant and saw mill at the Beaverdam Bridge" Also see Chancery Case Megeath vs Megeath

⁴⁵ **LCDB 2Y:105, 1814**. Tavenner to Trustees Benjamin Walker, Stephen Daniel, Joseph Garret, James Brown, Gabriel MeGeath, James MeGeath, Stephen McPearson, Levi Tate, Isaac Nichols, Samuel Nichols, Stephen MeGeath, George Tavenner, John Free [?], Asa Traheim, Jonathan Ewers, Garret Walker, Johnathan Redi, Joshy Pancoast, Isaac Nichols Sr. At this time, the Turnpike would have been the only paved road.

⁴⁶ "Philomont Schools," handwritten history of schools in Philomont Historical Society folder. Yardley Taylor, in his 1834 description of the village, also refers to a log school.

⁴⁷ **LCDB 3X:302, 1832**, survey by Yardley Taylor, "Division of Jonah Tavenner's land pursuant to an order from the County Court of Loudoun ..." Jonah Tavenner's 388- acre property, located at the north edge of the village of Philomont. Jonah's heirs were: Lot 1 to Jonathan Tavenner, 113 acres; Lot 2 to ??? Tavenner, 41 acres; Lot 3 to Lott Tavenner, 18 acres; Lot 4 to Jesse Tavenner, 57 acres; Lot 5 to Mahlon Tavenner, 56 acres with a ¼ to the schoolhouse; Lot 6 to Jonah Tavenner, 53 acres, Lot 7 to Feilding and Hannah Tavenner, 50 acres.

⁴⁸ Snickers Gap Turnpike Company Annual Reports beginning in 1819, Also see Walker's inventory **LCWB O:42, 1821** and Tavenner's inventory **LCWB R:302, 1829**

⁴⁹ **LCDB 3E:167, 1822** Benjamin Walker's 177-acre farm was along Beaverdam Bridge Road with Butcher's Run forming the southern boundary Parcels for each child and his widow were 50 acres +/-

⁵⁰ **LCWB O:42, 1821**

⁵¹ **LCDB 3X:302, 1832** Tavenner division and **LCWB R:302, 1828**, Tavenner's inventory

⁵² Philomont's mercantile establishment was established by 1835. It is not clear if Gabriel or his son Joseph ran the store, or maybe both did. Gabriel Megeath's inventory at his death lists items in bulk, as would be sold in a store **LCWB 2F:290, 1851**

⁵³ As an owner of a mill had to have some rudimentary understanding of the milling business, and therefore Gabriel Megeath is listed as miller. The family would own several mills. In the 1870 census, Gabriel's son Samuel and grandson, James T, are listed as millers.

⁵⁴ Gabriel MeGeath is buried in the North Fork cemetery and died in 1845. He was married to Martha and his surviving sons were Alfred, Samuel and Joseph P.

⁵⁵ In 1845, the same year Gabriel Megeath died, Yardley Taylor's map indicates the Megeath sons own both sides of the Turnpike at the JEB Stuart Road intersection.

⁵⁶ improved enough for stagecoaches

⁵⁷ Files of Laura Pearson and USPS 'Post Master Finder,' as seen: <https://webpmt.usps.gov/pmt003.cfm>

⁵⁸ Loudoun historic businesses, As seen:

<https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalInternet/0/edoc/326224/Liquor%20%20Ordinary%20Licenses.pdf>

⁵⁹ Summer 2022 interview with Laura Pearson who remembers a structure located at the NW corner of the David Tavenner lot. **LCDB 5W:349** (1867) identifies the David Tavenner house as 'adj Joseph Megeath.' Joseph Megeath had died by this time, but possibly the parcel was held in his estate. It is possible the post office was located at **37116 Snickersville Turnpike** (Joseph Megeath's) or **37160 Snickersville Turnpike** (David Tavenner's) or on the lot line between the two parcels.

⁶⁰ **LCDB 4F:258, 1836** Tavenner Mahlon and Mary Ann to Megeath. Also see **4D:148** (1834) James Brown to Mahlon Tavenner, which describes 'west edge of Turnpike, stone in road, original list of Gabriel Megeath.

⁶¹ Joseph Martin, *A New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia, and the District of Columbia*, Charlottesville, 1835 page 214, 215.

⁶² Megeath inventory and will; Joseph P Megeath will

⁶³ US Census, 1860 Milhollen hired one enslaved person from his master,

⁶⁴ **LCDB 4U:90, 1844**, Nailor Shoemaker would marry Sarah Tate

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⁶⁵ **LCDB 4R:226, 1840** Griffith Thomas to Samuel Megeath, “Merchant Mill and Saw Mill at the Beaver Dam Bridge on the SGTR.” Samuel (b 1806) purchases Hibb’s Mill at the northeast corner off of Hibb’s Bridge “lot with Merchant Mill and Saw Mill at the Beaver Dam Bridge on the Snicker’s Gap turn Pike Road, contiguous lots with merchant mill and saw mill on the Beaverdam Bridge on Snickers Gap Turnpike Road On the 1845 Yardley Taylor Map, it appears the Mill belongs to S Hibbs who could have been renting and operating the Mill or could have just owned the land adjacent to the mill. The Megeaths sold the mill 17 years later to William Hibbs, “merchant mill, saw mill, dwelling house and two lots adj said merchant mill.” LCDB 5O:474, 1857 Samuel would sell the mill in 1857 but possibly continued involvement the mill from his home in Mountville See US Census, 1870. See Chancery Case Megeath vs Megeath

⁶⁶ Liquor and Ordinary Licenses, 1768-1933, ‘Historic Business License,’
https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalInternet/0/edoc/326224/Liquor_Ordinary_Licenses.pdf

⁶⁷ It is not clear if Hibb’s Mill was once known as Megeath’s Mill. There is also the mill along Goose Creek, closer to Leesburg known as Megeath’s Mill; LCDB 5X:357, 1868 Samuel Megeath to James Megeath

⁶⁸ At that time, Butcher’s Run was 221 acres and spanned both the north and south sides of JEB Stuart Road. For boundary description see LCDB 5O:363, 1855

⁶⁹ **LCDB 4U;90, 1844;** Shepherd to Milhollen. “the southwest side of the Snickers Gap Turnpike at Philomont on the south side of the road leading to Union, corner of Shephard and Megeath, running along the Union Road south to a stone opposite the mouth of the lane leading to Benjamin Walkers, to the side of the pavement. 3 acres, 1 rod and 4 perches for \$318 This is the three-acre parcel today composed of 36538 and 37061 JEB Stuart Road.

⁷⁰ 4U:379, 1844 Gabriel Megeath to Jos P Megeath. Today, this house is known as the Milhollen- Lake House.

⁷¹ **LCDB 4T: 501, 1844** Gabriel Megeath to Alfred Megeath Margaret may have been James’s Megeath’s widow, so Gabriel’s daughter in law

⁷² Yardley Taylor *Memoir of Loudoun County Virginia to Accompany the Map of Loudoun County*, Thomas Reynolds Publisher, Leesburg VA 1853 page 7

⁷³ **37024 Snickersville Turnpike.**

⁷⁴ This is likely the Nailor-Shoemakaer House, which is the Skinner’s house today.

⁷⁵ US Census 1850, This is later confirmed in the Dixie Lodge Lake interview Apprentices are Quincy Skinner, Ehos Hales, and George Beaty

⁷⁶ US Census 1850

⁷⁷ assumed to be son, nephew of Samuel Megeath

⁷⁸ **LCDB 4G:93** Samuel Brown; **LCDB 4R:226, 1840** Samuel McGeath

⁷⁹ Loudoun County index of “Historic Business Licenses,” as seen <https://www.loudoun.gov/2182/Business-Licenses>

⁸⁰ **LCDB 5P:178, 1852** Otley to Saffle “in town of Philomont on SW side of SGT adj a lot sold by Humphrey Shepherd to Henry Milhollen.” [4U:13]

⁸¹ **LCDB 5F:204, 1852** Gabriel Megeath to Henry Milhollen and Joseph G Gregg, F O Welsh, “a certain house and lot in the town of Philomont at a planted stone on the south side of the Turnpike Road and in the road leading from North Fork to Union and running thence with the Southside of the Turnpike in the fence to a corner to Alfred Megeath’s lot thence with a line to a stone in the original [Gabriel] Megeath tract.”

⁸² Dixie Lodge Lake interview

⁸³ **5K:382, 1855** Milhollen et al to Gains

⁸⁴ **LCDB 5Q:213, 1858** Gains to Skinner

⁸⁵ Laura Pearson describes a frame or log structure at the NW corner of JEB Stuart and the Turnpike that could have been one of the shoe shops Later it was used as a garage for the Charles Dawson house. The structure was destroyed in the mid 1900s.

⁸⁶ **4Y:258, 4Y:259, 4Y:260, and 5C:438.** All from individuals residing in ‘County of Ohio, Virginia’ to Jos P Megeath.

⁸⁷ **LCDB 5F:107, 1852** Monroe to Wm Frances \$500 “James and Caroline Monroe are justly indebted to Megeath, sell to Wm Frances a certain house and lot in Union” Also see 5M:312, 1855

⁸⁸ **LCDB 5K:165, 1855** Hogue to Smith,

⁸⁹ **LCDB 5N:21, 1856** debt owed to Jos P Megeath (\$84), Burr Richards and Co. (\$69), Edwin Brown (\$110) Leith to grant to William Chamblin following property in trust to secure the above debts, 1 Gray Mare: Fine Mahogany Beauto: 1 Wardrobe : 2 Wash Stands: 2 Looking Glasses : 1 Table : 1/2 doz Winsor Chairs: 1/2 doz Split

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bottom do : 1 Fine Mahogany rocking Chair, 1 fine work Stand :3 Lounges, 1 large map, 1 pair transparent Blinds : 1 pair Brass Andirons: 1 pr Cast do : 1 Safe : 1 eight day Clock, 1 Feather Bed & bedding : 1 Small Feather bed and bedding, 1 pr Bedsteads and acorn posts, 1 pair small bedsteads, 2 Toilets, 1 Candlesstand, a set of Queens ware, A set of stone do : 2 Carpets etc etc Kitchen furniture, Cooking Stove & fixtures, 1 table to have and to hold”

⁹⁰ U.S. 1850 Census as seen: https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/33323670:3578?tid=&pid=&queryId=53fb6086a52b99af3a0d25c4ec5b52c2&_phsrc=mQz3&_phstart=successSource. Members of the Jackson family were Sally Mercer, Zachery Jackson, Jerimiah Jackson, Obediah Jackson (1830), Nancy Jackson, John Jackson

⁹¹ **WB 2B:321**, 1843 Gabriel Megeath

⁹² **WB 2N:109**, 1858 Joseph P Megeath, Joseph P Megeath’s possessions are sold at auction on his death including “Slave Boy John, slave woman Hannah and Sue, slave man Martin, slave Patsey, Frank, and Henry”

⁹³ US Agricultural Census, 1860

⁹⁴ Laura Pearson’s notes on Roszell Chapel

⁹⁵ In 1868, John Thomas Conner, would purchase Henry Milhollen’s house at the northwest corner of JEB Stuart and Snickersville **LCDB 5Y:380, 1868** Milhollen to Conner; same at 4U:90, 1844 Shepherd to Milhollen

⁹⁶ More likely this spelling is Drover, one who drives livestock to market

⁹⁷ In the 1850 Census, Sally Mercer is a Free Black who owns her own home at the edge of the village Zachery Jackson (B. 1830) is living with her. It is possible Zachena Jackson is of this family of Free Black people.

⁹⁸ Snickers Gap Turnpike Company, Annual Reports, 1869

⁹⁹ **LCDB 6B:342, 1868** Tate to Trustee’s Schoolhouse, col

¹⁰⁰ **Ibid.**, Trustees are William F Shoemaker, Wm H Taylor, Samuel Colbert, Robert Webb and Sandy Smith. There were several schools in this area and it is not clear if these were different schools or successive schools.

¹⁰¹ The Edwin Washington Project has research backgrounds of the Tate School trustees and has come up with the following: **Enoch Fenton**. Mr. Fenton was a wealthy (worth \$20,000) white farmer in Circleville, which is a community about 2 miles S of Lincoln and an equal distance from Mt Gilead. (US Census Bureau 1870); **William T. Shoemaker** This gentleman was very likely William Tate Shoemaker, an important Quaker in Loudoun County (Marshall 1947); **William H. Taylor**. Mr. William H. Taylor was a farmer in the Philomont area and lived in the household of Mr. Tate. (US Census Bureau 1870) The background of the named Africa Americans serving as Tate School Trusees is not as clear. According to the Edwin Washington Project: **Samuel Colbert**. Mr. Colbert could have been an African-American Black Smith living in Bloomfield (US Census Bureau 1870); **Robert Webb**. Mr. Webb could have been a “mulatto” farm laborer born in 1810 and in 1870 living in the Mercer District (US Census Bureau 1870); **Sandy Smith**. Unclear about Mr. Smith.

¹⁰² The Jackson family was that of Obediah Jackson (b 1833) a black farmer and land owner who was freed in 1857 or could have been of Zachery Jackson or it is possible they were all related. See Loudoun County Historic Records, Black History, Free Black Papers: [https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalInternet/0/edoc/326212/Free Black Papers 1757-1861.pdf](https://lfportal.loudoun.gov/LFPortalInternet/0/edoc/326212/Free%20Black%20Papers%201757-1861.pdf)

¹⁰³ Although the exact location is not known, judging from listing in the 1870 US Census, it is possible these families lived at the south edge of the village. More research is needed here.

¹⁰⁴ Edwin Washington Project as seen: <https://edwinwashingtonproject.org/research/schools/colored-schools/tate-school/>

¹⁰⁵ **LCDB 344/256 1952** Cornelia and Mary Shoemaker to Trustees of Bethany Greegsville [sic] Baptist Church Also see Wm Shoemaker Will **LCWB 3U:365, 1909** It is not clear if this was also the Greggsville School

¹⁰⁶ Property Tax Records, Mt Gilead District, 1875; Loudoun County archives.

¹⁰⁷ In 1870, Henry Milhollen had sold the log structure at the SW corner of JEB Stuart and Snickersville but would not purchase Megeath’s brick store until 1877. It is possible Henry Milhollen’s son was working for another merchant.

¹⁰⁸ 37041 Snickersville Turnpike

¹⁰⁹ John Martin’s blacksmith shop was located just north of the fire station property along the Turnpike See Chancery Suit 1800-023 (plat) and also see **LCDB 6I:463, 1876**

¹¹⁰ John Milhollen and Van Sickler are his boarders

¹¹¹ 36538 JEB Stuart Road

Philomont Historic District

Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA

County and State

¹¹² **LCDB 6I:462, 1876** J J Dillion and Elizabeth to School District for Philomont Second school. The Dillions supported local schools. Also **LCDB 7Q:478, 1898** Dillon, Joseph A to Mt Gilead School District 'a certain school house and lot in the town of Purcellville'

¹¹³ **LCDB 5W:349, 1867** Bowman to David Tavenner \$900 'a lot of land on north side of turnpike adj Joseph P Megeath,' 6A 2R 11P David Tavenner would become Philomont's oldest postmaster The appearance of the house as it stands today also supports an early construction date.

¹¹⁴ LTM "History of Loudoun Village" as seen in files of Philomont Historical Society.

¹¹⁵ **LCDB 5X:131, 1868** Dillion to Jonah Tavenner, (jr) 1A 1R 7P \$100/acre

¹¹⁶ Franklin (b 1845) was possibly son of Johnathan (b 1801) and uncle of Brite (b 1878) and John

¹¹⁷ Philomont Historical Society, "The house that Tavenner Built" Volume 1, No 1, November 1997

¹¹⁸ **LCDB 6B:248, 1871**, Noland, Commissioner to Henry Milhollen

¹¹⁹ **LCDB 6K:30, 1877** Elizabeth Megeath to Henry Milhollen. With inflation, \$4,200 equals \$110,000 in 2021 The same day, Milhollen takes out a mortgage financed through Samuel Rogers or \$1,500, payable to Elizabeth Megeath

¹²⁰ Head, 1884, page 409-410

¹²¹ Loudoun County Road case **RP-1873-004** There were many Janney mills and it is assumed this Janney Mill was the one in Circleville. The hamlet of Circleville was located directly east of Philomont. Also see **RP:1873**, Road Petition, "Janey's Mill to Philomont"

¹²² From the 1885 Annual Report: "The company has only one section from below Snickersville to Castlemans [sic] Ferry five miles and it is a very hard road to keep in order as the mountain is steep and sandy it washes so badly when we have heavy rains and the gate dont [sic] take in money enough to keep it in repair, their [sic] was a motion made by some person last fall before the Clarke county court to have the road condemned and make a county road of it, and the company was glad of it but when it come before the court they would not condemn [sic] it and make a county road of it. So the company will have to do the best they can so long as what little money they have holds out."

¹²³ In the 1880 U. S Census, JB Van Sickler [sic], is already listed as a 'Merchant' a decade ahead of when he reportedly opened his store. Today, the building sill stands [36610 JEB Stuart Road]

¹²⁴ **LCDB 6Y:446, 1886** John W and James M Martin to John J Dillion and Elizabeth \$400; and **LCDB 6Z:492, 1886** Dillon to Trustees of Public Schools of Mt Gilead District, \$50. It is not clear where John Martin moved or if he re-opened in Philomont. A Joseph Martin is a blacksmith in Middleburg in the 1870s. It is not clear if it is the same person.

¹²⁵ In 1844, the General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church split because of tensions over slavery and other reasons. The two general conferences, Methodist Episcopal Church (the northern faction) and Methodist Episcopal Church South, remained separate until 1939. In later archival documents, the Roszell Chapel is referred to as the Methodist Episcopal Church South. This is not the only congregation that moved locations. Middleburg also split, abandoning their church and building a new one.

¹²⁶ **LCDB I:194, 1773** Stephen and Sarah Roszel to Shelbourne Parish. The deed describes 'a certain lot or parcel of Land whereon is standing what is usually Called the Mountain Chapple ... on the said Roszel's field.' **LCDB 4S:341, 1842** In 1842, the Roszel family deed the property to trustees. The Roszel family is Mary Roszel, Stephen G Roszel and Mary, Stephen A Roszel and Louisa, , ?[hard to decipher] wife Phoebe Roszel and Nancy Shepherd. Trustees are Jacob R Shepherd, James Johnson and Thomas H Gallehen [?sp] The parcel is located "*fifteen yards in a north easterly course .. from the present dwelling house of Pheobe Roszel and Jacob R Shepherd .. for use of graveyard and ... for the erection of a house of worship .. for the members of the Methodist Episcopal Church*" It is possible the two-acre tract was located on both sides of the Turnpike.

¹²⁷ **LCDB 7E:80, 1890** Charlotte Milhollen, Edwin Milhollen and Agnes A Milhollen his wife, Robert Chamblin and Mary E his wife, John and Nannie Milhollen, William Milhollen and Sara Milhollen his wife, Albert Milhollen, Eugene Milhollen, Lucy Milhollen, Silas Milhollen to Joseph A Hutchinson, Frances M Lakes, Albert Milhollen, Thomas Saffle, Rob Chamblin, Alfred Welch Also see **LCDB 6O:492, 1878** George Bowman to Henry Milhollen The Chapel is to be known as '**Roszell Chapel**' even though the previous spelling in deeds was '**Roszel**.'

¹²⁸ "Philomont folder," Archives, Balch Library. "James Kirkbride "Brite" Tavenner, brother John Tavenner photographed in front of their 'corner shop' furniture store

¹²⁹ Henry Parker, James Thomas, and William Robison [sp], all were Day Laborers and all rented their homes

¹³⁰ Formerly Megeath's brick store, then owned by Henry Milhollen

Philomont Historic District

Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA

County and State

¹³¹ Scheel interview with Dixie Lodge Lake page 10

¹³² Interview with Laura Pearson

¹³³ Local stories state the school caught fire during drama practice.

¹³⁴ "Philomont's Schools," handwritten history in Philomont Historical Society files

¹³⁵ "Philomont folder," Archives, Balch Library. "Virginia Insurance Rating Bureau, June 7, 1933

¹³⁶ Blue Ridge Herald, Dec 20 1956. Advertisement for Turkey shoot to raise money for PVFD. "Turkey shoots" were activities where men would shoot targets out of the back window of the Philomont Fire House. As seen: <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=BRHR19561220.1.4&srpos=29&e=-----195-en-20--21--txt-txIN-philomont----->

¹³⁷ Conversations with Laura Pearson, Spring and Summer 2023

¹³⁸ LCDB 358:34, 1956 Lake to PVFD, Inc. The deed was recorded after start of construction on the firehouse, obviously honoring a pledge that had been previously made

¹³⁹ Diary of Mrs Sewell Dawson, 1956, property of Mrs West Pearson, Jr

¹⁴⁰ Conversation with Laura Pearson, Spring 2022

¹⁴¹ Philomont Fire Equipment called Best at Round Hill, "Raflo, Philomont Firemen Win Leesburg parade," Blue Ridge Herald, July 4, 1957, as seen <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=BRHR19570704.1.1&srpos=7&e=-----195-en-20--1--txt-txIN-philomont----->; "Philomont Fire Companies competed in local parade competitions in Lovettsville," Blade Times, October 29, 1964 as seen: <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=TBT19641029.1.2&srpos=12&e=-----196-en-20--1--txt-txIN-philomont----->

¹⁴² Blue Ridge Herald, May 23, 1957 Page 2 "Philomont," by Mrs. Sewell Dawson <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=BRHR19570523.1.2&srpos=43&e=-----195-en-20--41--txt-txIN-philomont----->

¹⁴³ Blue Ridge Herald, Dec 20 1956 <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=BRHR19561220.1.4&srpos=29&e=-----195-en-20--21--txt-txIN-philomont----->

¹⁴⁴ "Loudoun Hunt Resumes Show Event in June: Sportsmen Back Plan for Annual Exhibition at Farmhill School Early June," Loudoun Times Mirror, March 28, 1940 front page; "Horse Show July 4 Set for Culpepper, Loudoun Times Mirror, June 20, 1940; "Tenth Annual Middleburg Hunter Show, Wednesday June 19, 1931," Loudoun Times Mirror, May 14, 1931

¹⁴⁵ "Mountville Horse Show Lists Total of Eleven Events," Loudoun Times-Mirror, October 29, 1931. Proceeds benefited the Mountville School. The Unison Horse Show is documented in "Unison Horse Show is Slated for May 6 Funds for Charity," Loudoun Times Mirror, April 4, 1940 front page. The Unison Bloomfield horse show was held on the grounds of the school. Also see "Unison-Bloomfield Horse Show Slated Monday," Loudoun Times Mirror, Thursday, May 2, 1940, front page headline.

¹⁴⁶ "Horse Show at Foxcroft, The Blue Ridge Herald, May 12 1932, <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=BRHR19320512.1.1&srpos=2&e=-----en-20--1--txt-txIN-philomont+horse+show----->

¹⁴⁷ The Manassas Horse Show was the only other local horse show open to African Americans.

¹⁴⁸ "115 Entries received for First Philomont Horse Show, "Blue Ridge Herald, April 25th, 1957, Page A8, as seen <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=BRHR19570425.1.8&srpos=14&e=-----195-en-20--1--txt-txIN-philomont----->

¹⁴⁹ VHSA Virginia Horse Show Association. Shows were rated or unrated. Rated shows were more prestigious. In rated shows, like Philomont, competitors would compete for 'points' that would accumulate throughout the summer horse show season, culminating in 'finals' in the Fall. Philomont Horse Show retained it's VSA ranking at least through 2014

¹⁵⁰ "Nansemond 4-H Equine Club Holds Monthly Meeting, Suffolk News-Herald, Volume 49 Numb 3r 73, March 1971, Page 3 as seen: <https://virginiachronicle.com/?a=d&d=SNH19710326.1.3&srpos=6&e=-----197-en-20--1--txt-txIN-philomont----->

¹⁵¹ LCDB 464:649 Pierce to PVFD, 1962. Note that the date of the sale is after the first show

¹⁵² Details of the future fire station project can be seen here: <https://www.philomontvfd.org/future-fire-station-project>

Philomont Historic District

Name of Property

Loudoun County, VA

County and State

¹⁵³ Dixie Lodge Lake recounts a few village "Doctors" by name Dr Luck, Middleburg; Dr Copeland, Round Hill; Henry Plaster, Bluemont; Adrian Baldwin, North Fork (1856 – 1930+); Luther Chamblin (1855 - ?) listed as physician in 1900,

¹⁵⁴ Paxson, Airmont, and Mountville were once commercial centers which only a skeletal presence remains.

¹⁵⁵ The Bluemont Store, established in 1840 at the western end of Snickersville Turnpike, continues to sell wide variety of products to serve its rural community. The front porch sign advertises everything one could ever dream of in a county store including "*black walnuts, hot coffee, harness bells, conversation, laying hens, antiques, guineas and keets.*" There's seating on the front porch for enjoying the morning paper or to share ice-cream. Bluemont once supported two stores. The E. E. Lake Store, which operated from 1901 to 1930s and served as the post office, is still standing but serves as a community center. Further down the Turnpike, is the former Airmont Store, which regularly sold homemade Mexican fare, but which is now closed. The old Airmont Post Office, established in 1897 and once operated by Lucien Powell, is now a B & B. Mountville's store remains standing but is not in use as a store. Aldie's General Store, along Route 50 at Snickersville, recently closed.

¹⁵⁶ "Gothic Revival," New World Encyclopedia, https://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Gothic_Revival.

¹⁵⁷ "Commercial Style: Main Street (1875-1940)," *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940* (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 2015), p. 80.



Legend

 County Boundaries

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Philomont Historic District

Loudoun County, VA

DHR No. 053-6509



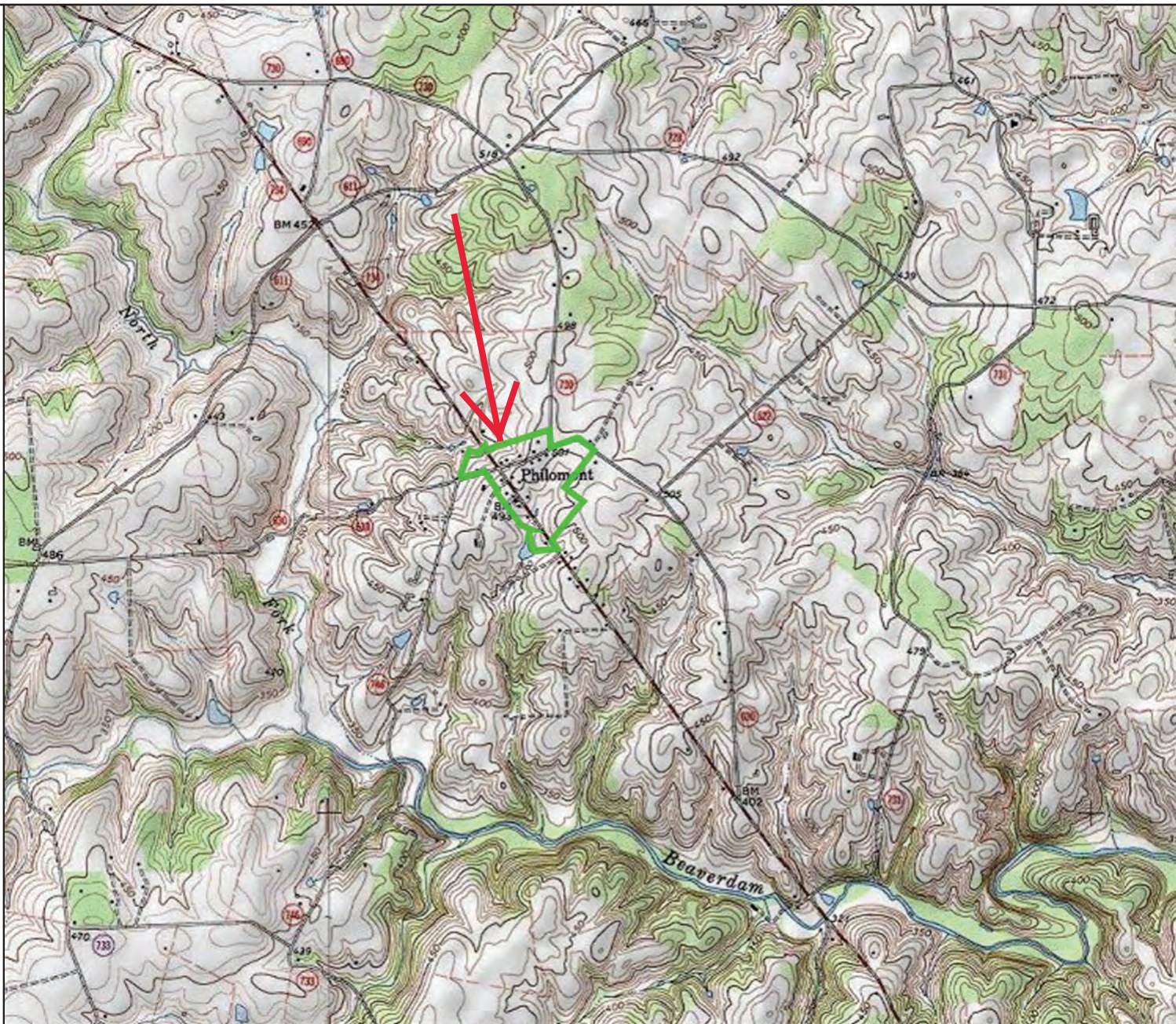
Historic Boundary



Feet

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



Title:

Date: 6/8/2023

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

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



Legend

 County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY
Philomont Historic District
Loudoun County, VA
DHR No. 053-6509



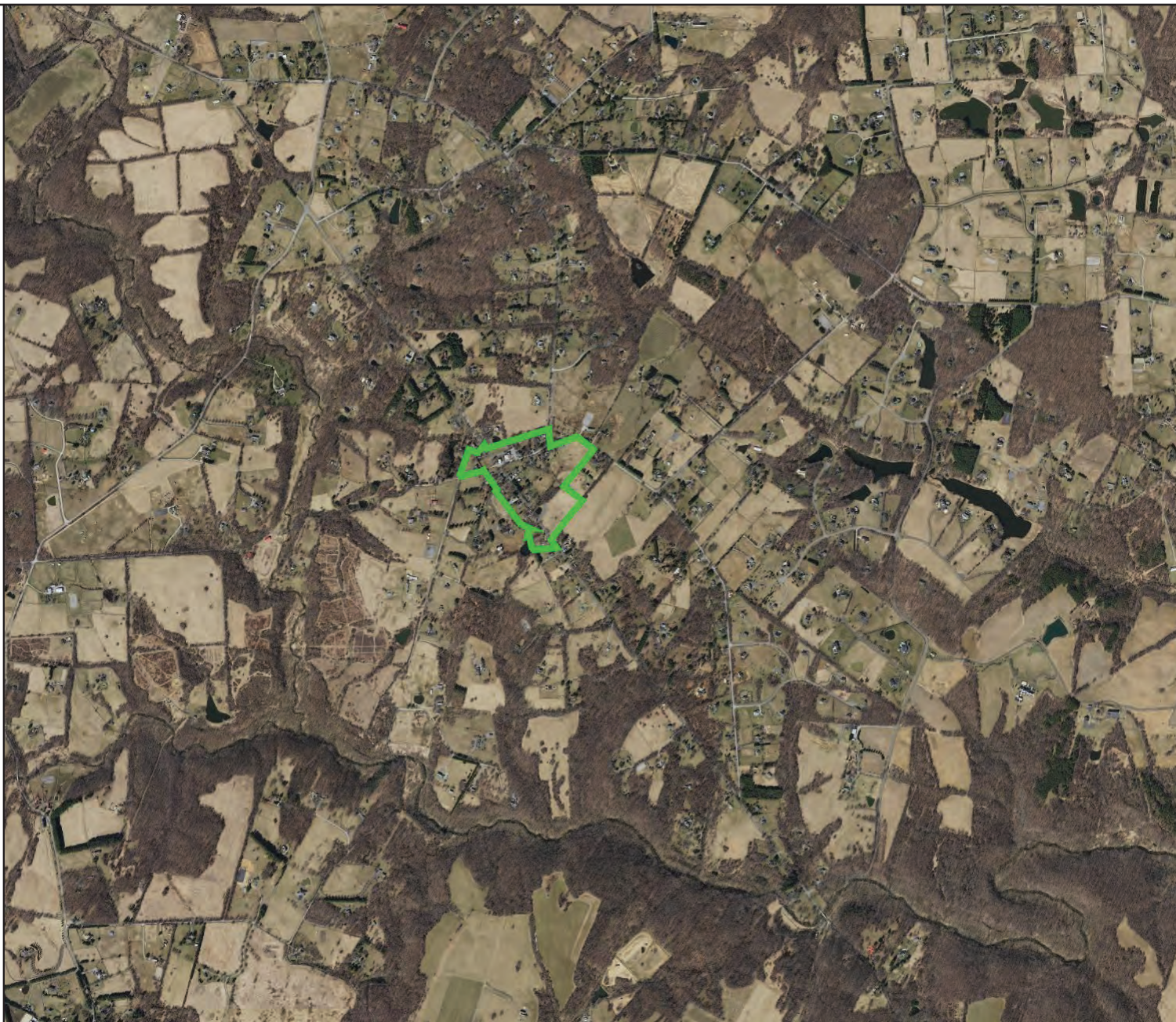
Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

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



Title:

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Legend

County Boundaries

LOCATION MAP

Philomont Historic District

Loudoun County, VA

DHR No. 063-6509

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

1. Latitude: 39.057150 Longitude: -77.742080
2. Latitude: 39.057340 Longitude: -77.741210
3. Latitude: 39.058010 Longitude: -77.737670
4. Latitude: 39.057660 Longitude: -77.736150
5. Latitude: 39.057110 Longitude: -77.735230
6. Latitude: 39.055590 Longitude: -77.736850
7. Latitude: 39.054950 Longitude: -77.735840
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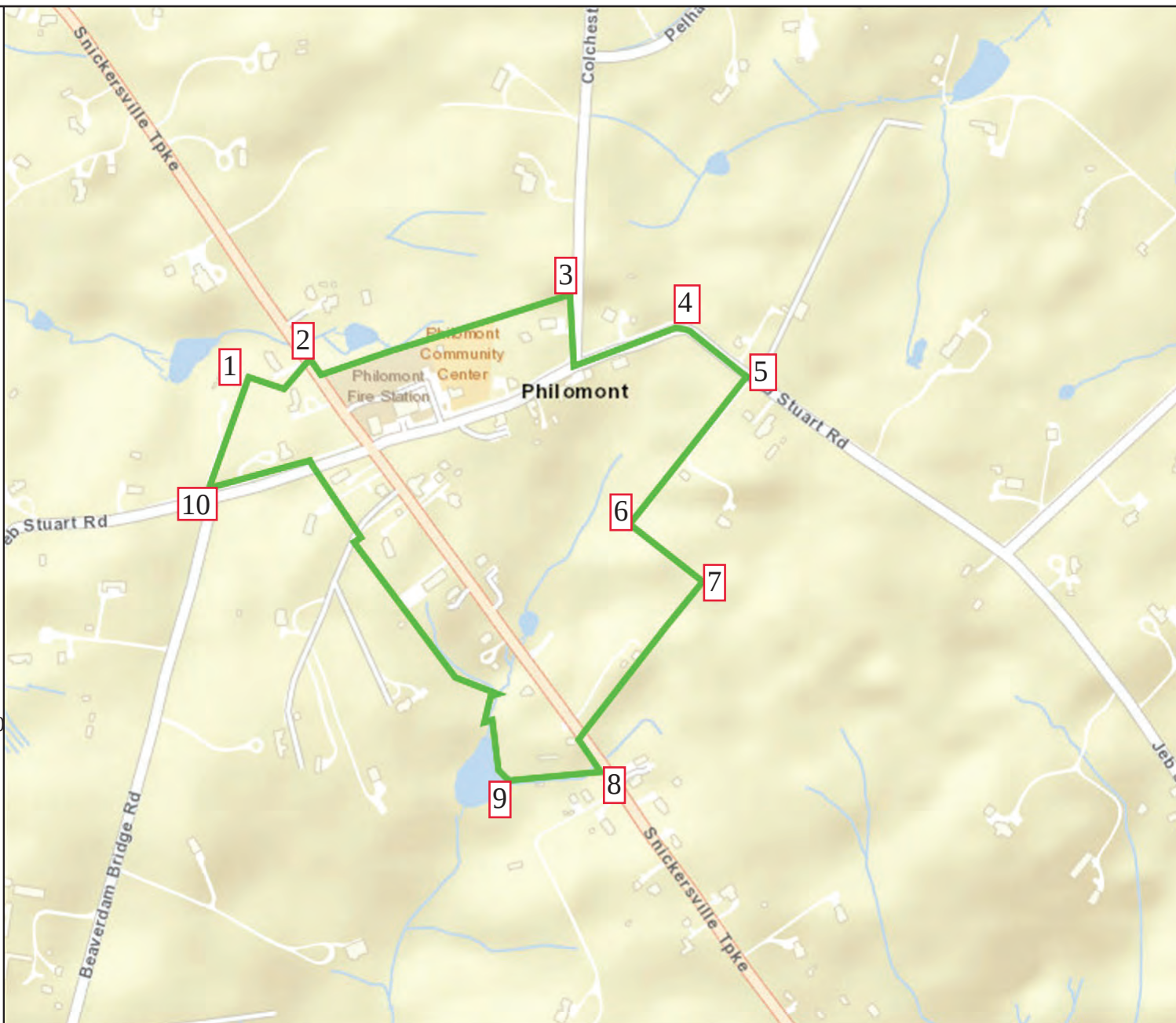


Historic Boundary



Feet

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1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet



Title:

Date: 6/8/2023

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

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Legend

 County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Philomont Historic District

Loudoun County, VA

DHR No. 053-6509



Historic Boundary



Feet

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1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

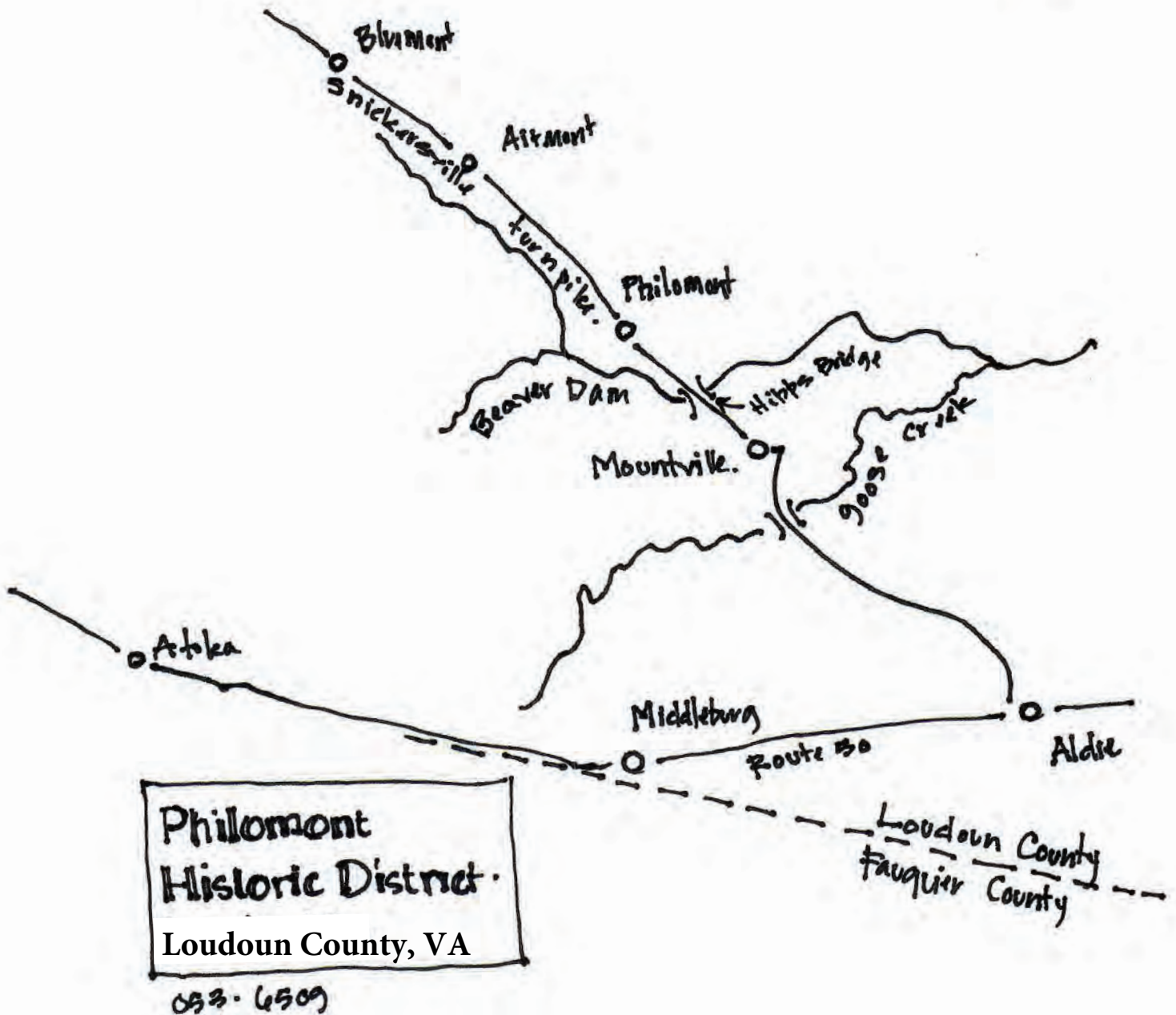
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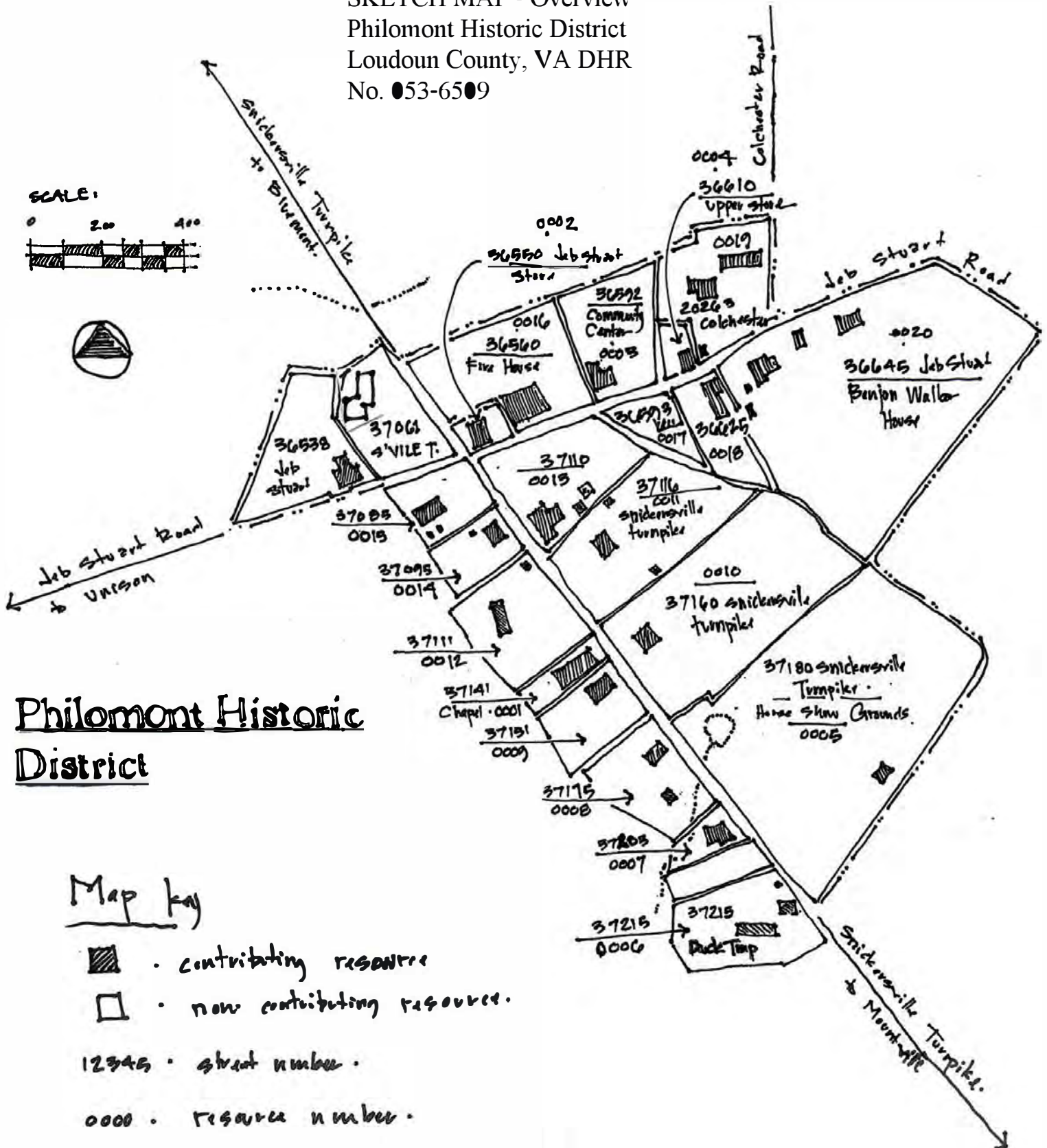
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MAP OF VILLAGES ALONG SNICKERSVILLE TURNPIKE



**SKETCH MAP - Overview
Philomont Historic District
Loudoun County, VA DHR
No. 053-6509**



Philomont Historic District

Map key

- ☒ • contributing resource
- ☐ • non contributing resource.

12345 - street number.

0000 . Resource number .

—□— district boundary

••••• water body.

Philomont Historic District

Sketch Map Detail Views (1 of 6)

Legend:

 Contributing structure

 Non-contributing structure

∴ Demolished structure

— — Lot line

— ··· — District boundary

..... Driveway

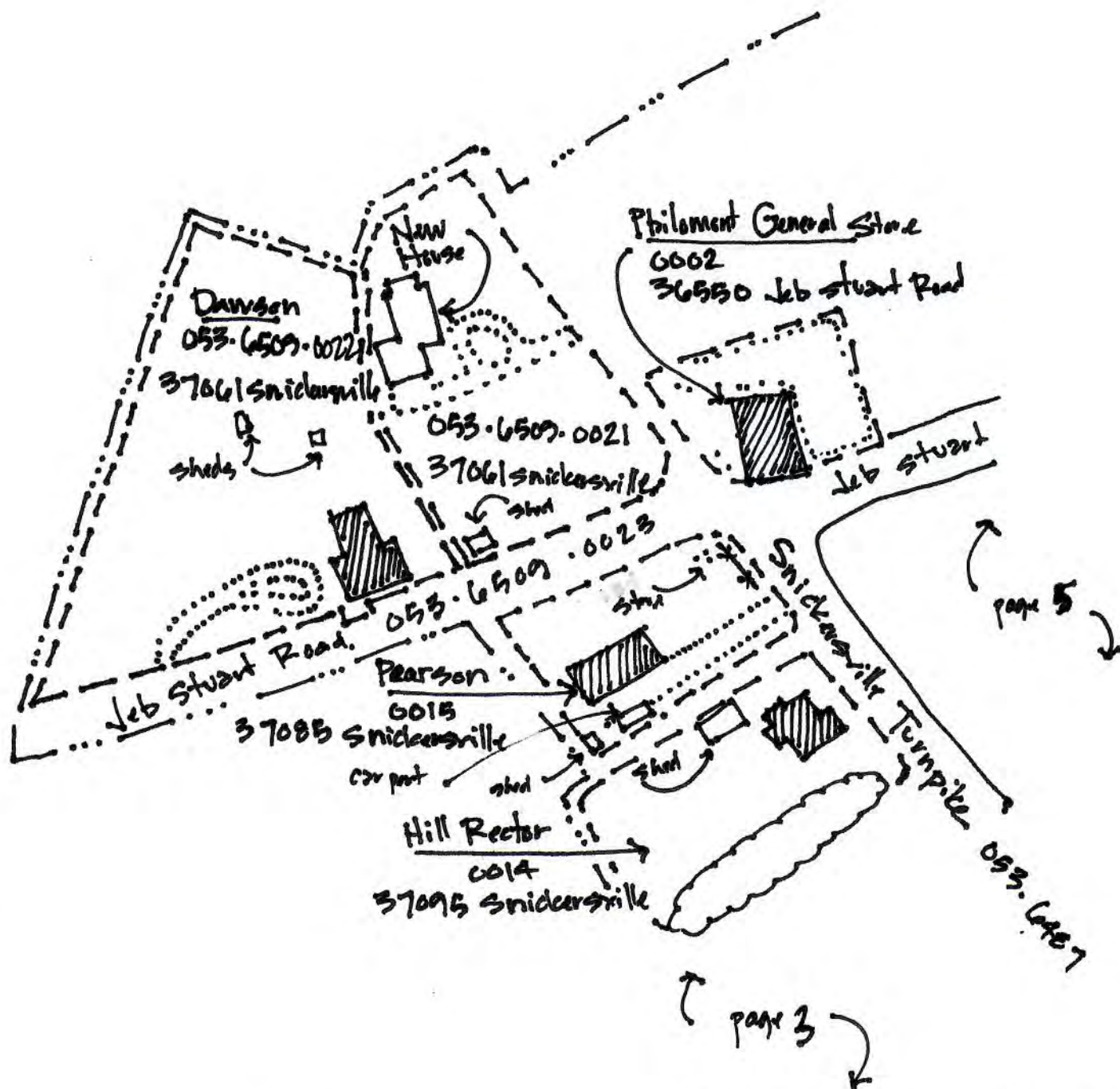
— ✕ — Fence

~ · / Stream or water body

 Tree or shrub

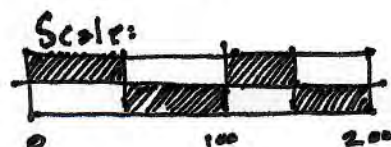
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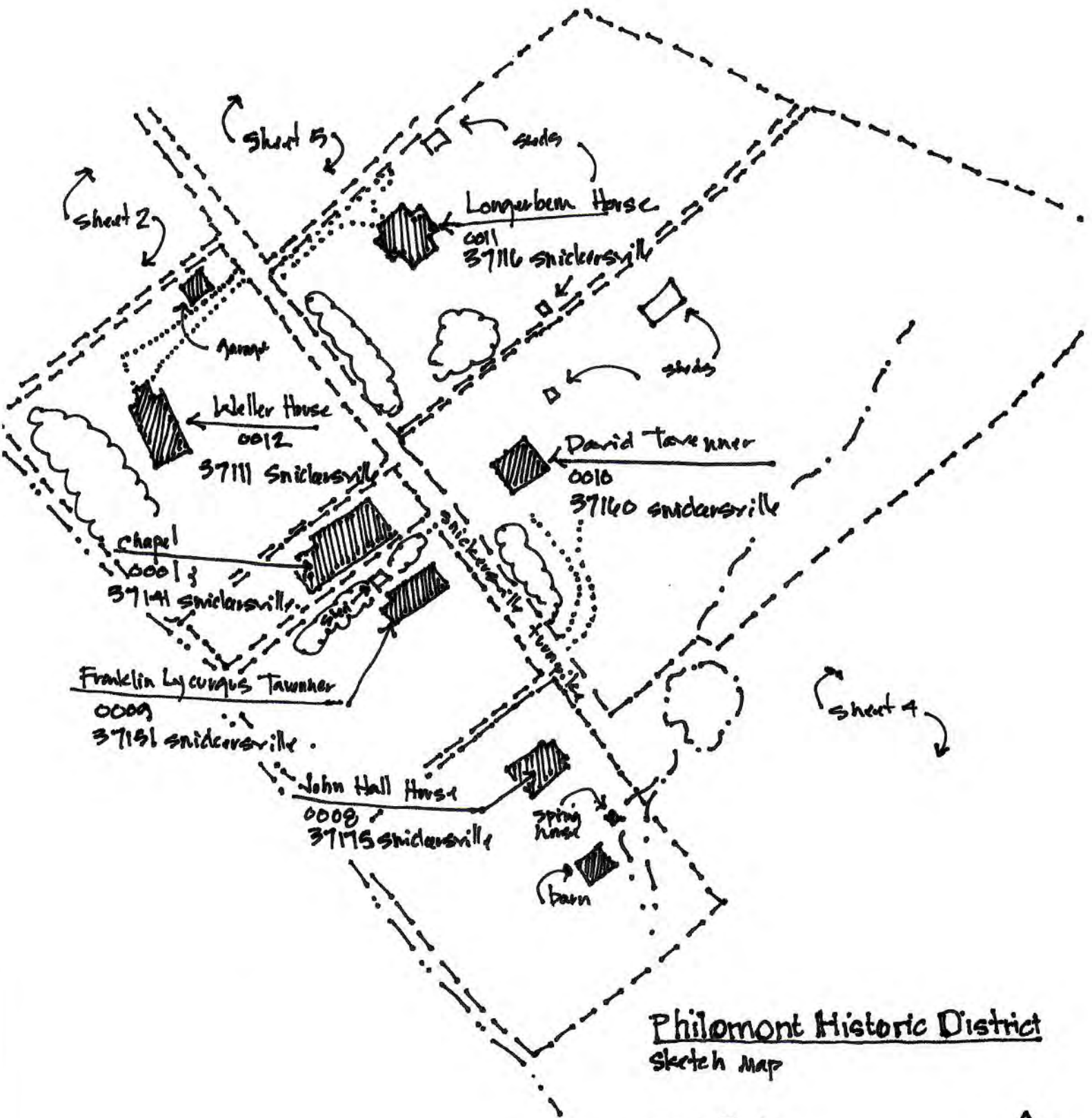




Philomont Historic District
Sketch map

page 2 of 6



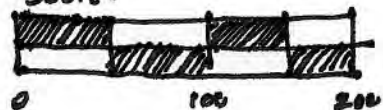


Philomont Historic District
Sketch Map

page 3 of 6



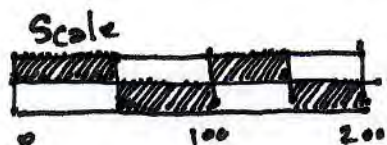
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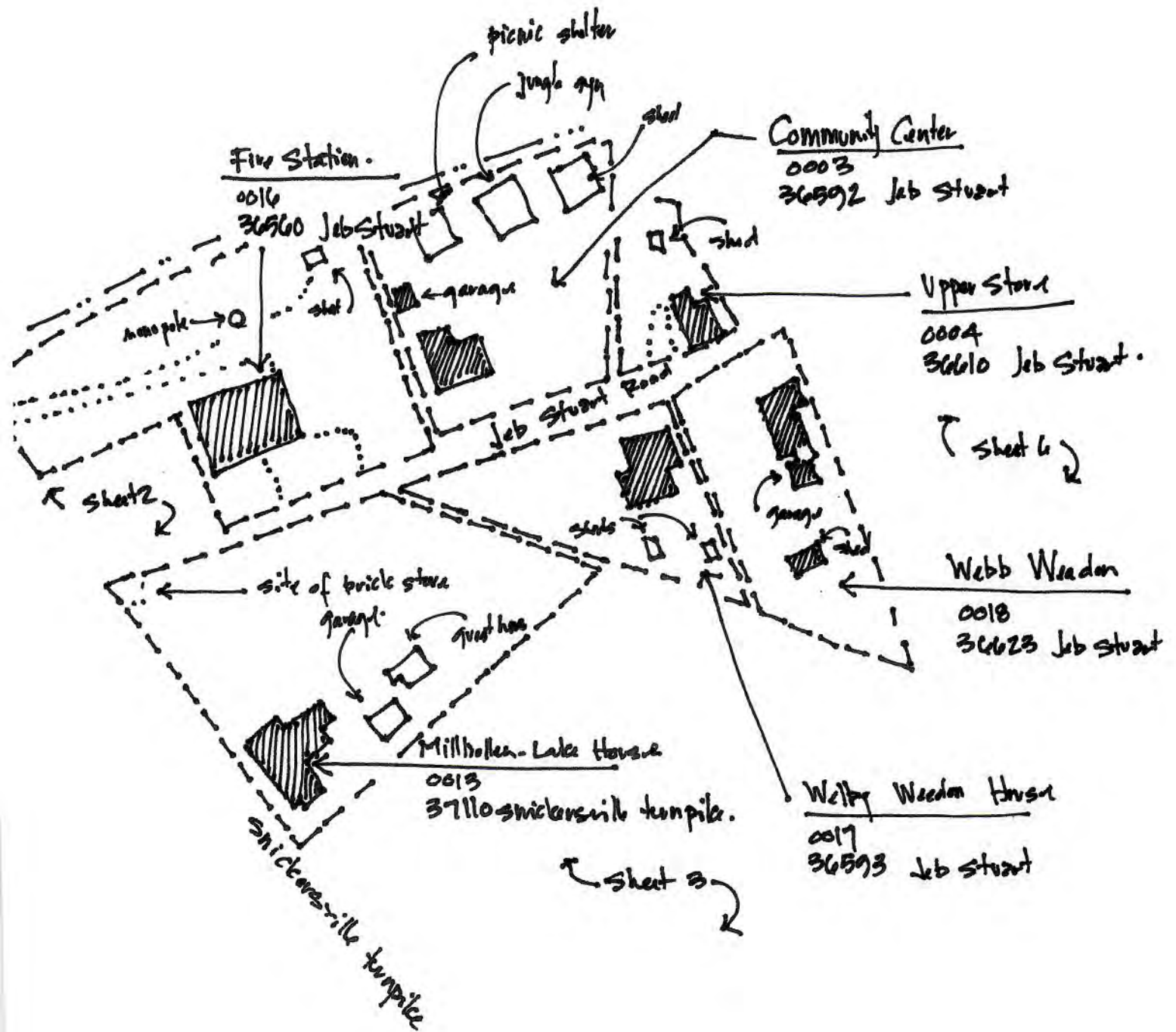




Philomont Historic District
Sketch map

page 4 of 6





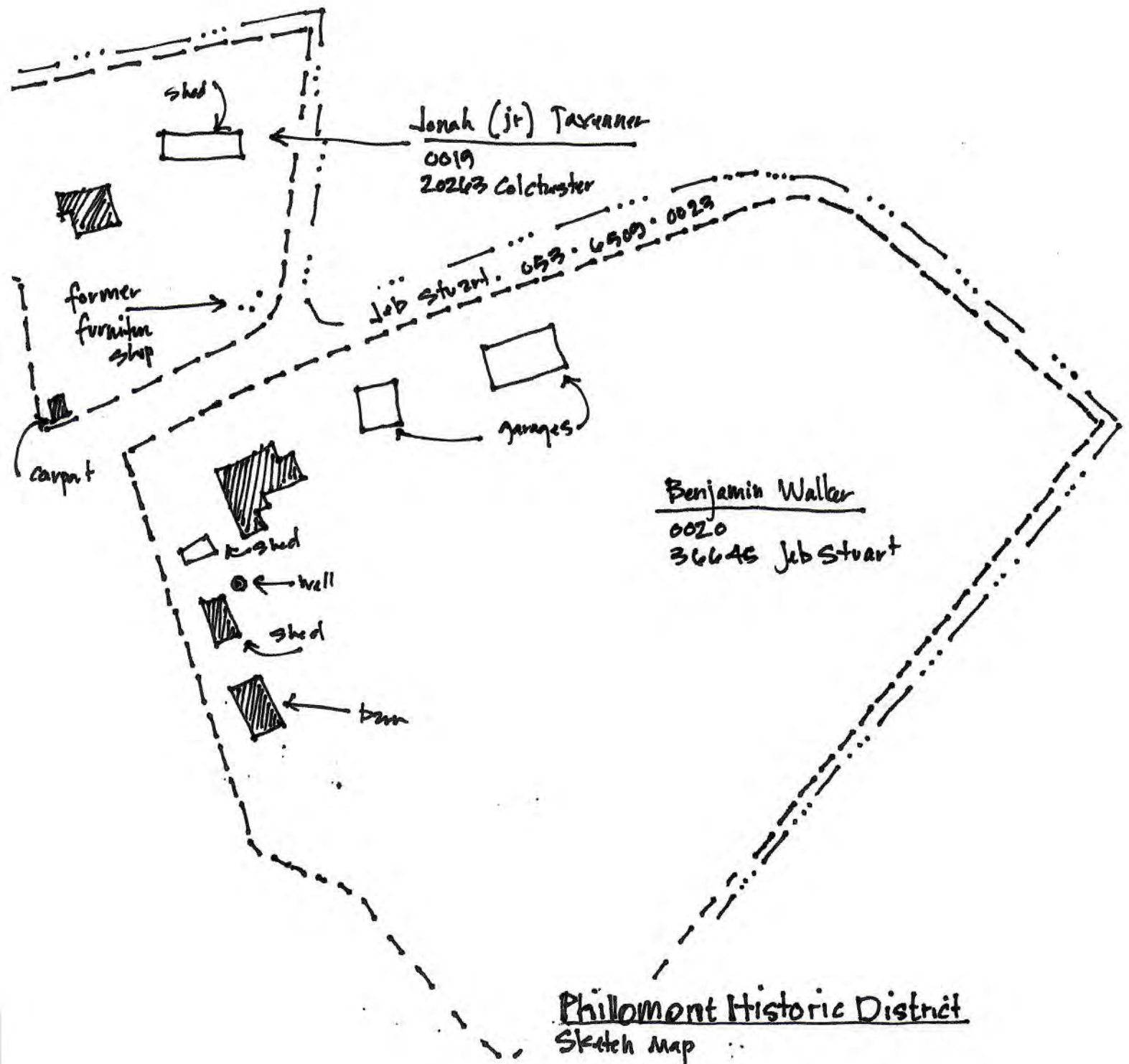
Philomont Historic District Sketch map

page 5 of 6

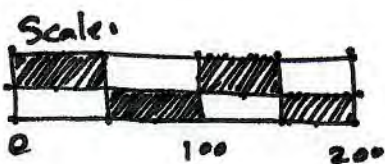


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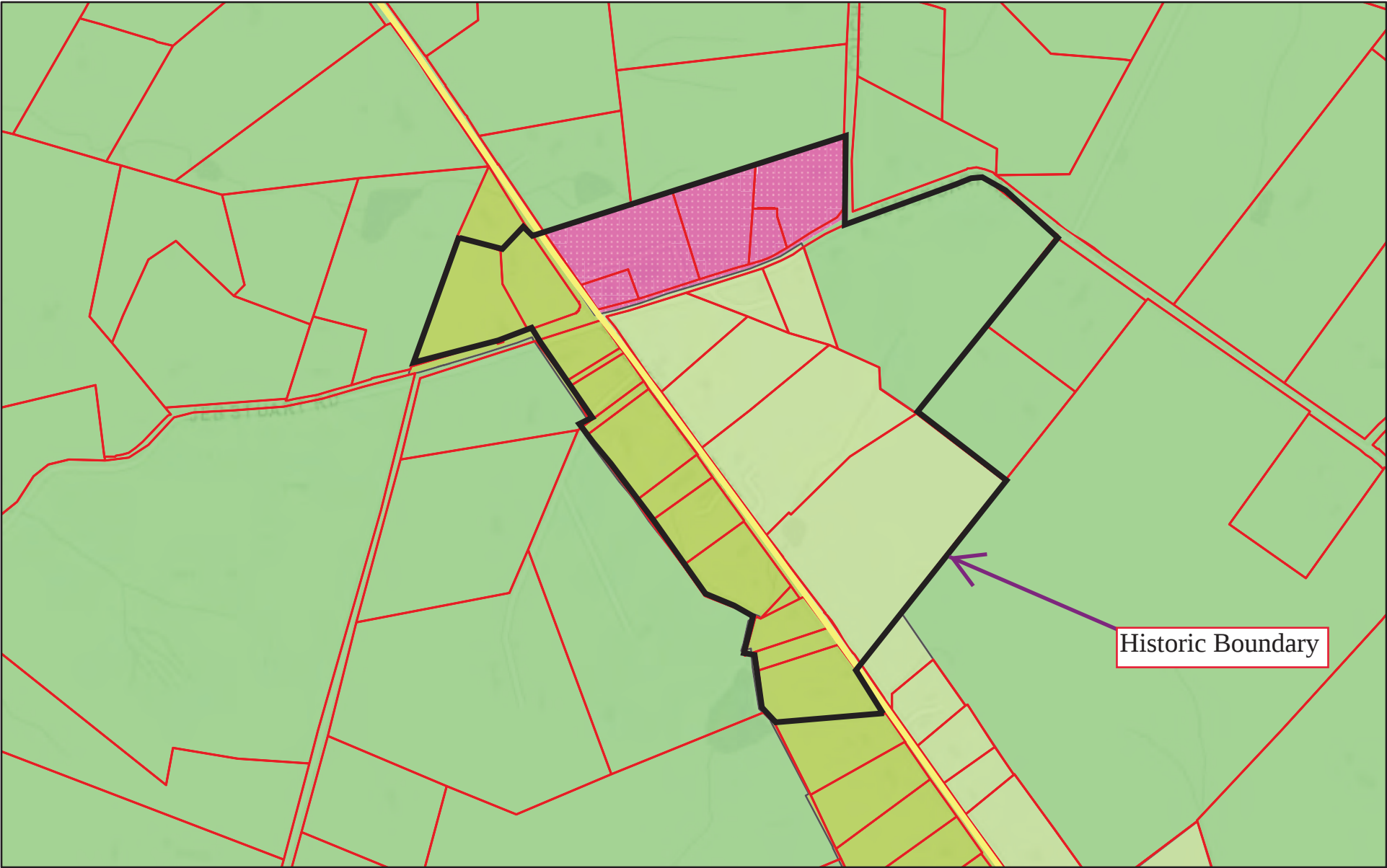


page 6 of 6



TAX PARCEL MAP

Philomont Historic District, Loudoun County, VA; DHR No. 053-6509



June 8, 2023

County Boundary Parcel Boundaries

Major Roads

Major Road

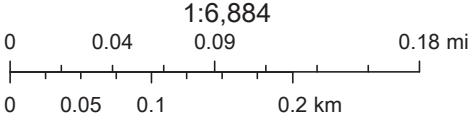
(93R) Zoning Ordinance

AR1 Agricultural Rural - 1

CR1 Countryside Residential-1

CR2 Countryside Residential-2

RC Rural Commercial



County of Loudoun, VITA, West Virginia GIS, Esri, HERE, Garmin, GeoTechnologies, Inc., Intermap, USGS, EPA, Esri, HERE

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