

VLR-12/17/85 NRHP-1/7/87

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic SNOWVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

VDHL File #77-48

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number State Route 693

N/A not for publication

city, town Village of Snowville

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Pulaski

code 77

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Social (Masonic Temple)

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple ownership - see continuation sheet #1

street & number N/A

city, town N/A

vicinity of N/A

state N/A

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Pulaski

state Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks
File #77-48

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date February-March 1985

federal state county local

depository for survey records Virginia Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date prior to 1900 (Masonic Temple)

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Nestled in a bend of the Little River, Snowville is a small rural village on State Route 693 in east-central Pulaski County. The entire community lies within the historic district, which consists of 21 contributory buildings, 23 contributory structures, 7 noncontributory buildings and structures, and 1 site. The contributory buildings include an abandoned commercial structure, a Masonic temple, a church, 17 houses, an abandoned school, and 23 outbuildings. Noncontributory buildings include three mobile homes, and two houses which postdate the historic period, and two garages. The single site is a cemetery containing the graves of most of the significant early residents of Snowville. The buildings line State Route 693, forming a linear district. Stylistically, most of the buildings in the district are vernacular structures built between the mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The similarities in style, scale, and building materials, the open space around the district, and the lack of major twentieth-century intrusions provide visual cohesiveness and help to preserve the historic character of Snowville.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The earliest remaining structures within the historic district appear to have been built during the 1850s when Snowville reached its height as the manufacturing center of Pulaski County. Among the most notable is the Snowville Milling Complex (lot 52), built by Snowville's founder, Asiel Snow, between 1855 and 1857. The building, which originally housed linseed-oil production, a sawmill, and a wool-carding operation, is a two-and-one-half story, wood-frame structure with stone foundation, gable roof, and false front. Although the principal facade has been altered with the addition of cedar shingles, it retains the triple-pointed arch windows; prominent, bracketed cornice; and pilasters. The building, now used as a summer residence, is the only vestige of Snowville's early manufacturing facilities.

The Elmore House (lot 35) and the Snow-Bullard House (lot 28), also date from the 1850s. The Elmore House is a two-story, wood-frame, T-shaped structure with a one-story porch along the northwest side. The fluted Doric columns on the porch, the returns in the gable ends, and the low-pitched gable roof add a Greek Revival character to this vernacular structure. Like the Elmore House, the Snow-Bullard House is a vernacular building with Greek Revival detailing. It is an L-shaped, two-story structure with gable roof and returns in the gable ends. The main entrance, located at the center of the principal facade, consists of a paneled door, sidelights, and transom. The Greek Revival character of this now abandoned house was more pronounced before removal of its one-bay entrance porch.

(See Continuation Sheet # 3)

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates mid 19th-early 20th centuries Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Snowville is a small village located in east-central Pulaski County along State Route 693. Founded in the 1830s by Asiel Snow on the banks of the Little River, the village grew to be the manufacturing center of Pulaski County by the 1850s. Its industries were supported by locally-produced raw materials, such as iron ore, lumber, and wool. Bypassed by the railroad in the mid 1850s, Snowville declined. Snowville's manufacturing role was paralleled by its importance as a dominant religious, social, and cultural center. One of its most distinguished residents, Dr. Chester Bullard, was instrumental in establishing the Disciples of Christ, or Christian Church, in southwestern Virginia. An early progressive school and the county's first newspaper, public library, and Masonic temple were also initiated in Snowville. The district is a collection of relatively intact vernacular buildings of similar scale and materials that are typical of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Several structures, including the Snowville Milling Complex, remain from the 1850s, when the village reached its peak as an industrial center. Snowville's buildings, their linear arrangement along State Route 693, and the open space and rolling hills surrounding the community provide a visual cohesiveness to the district. Lacking major contemporary intrusions, Snowville retains the sense of nineteenth-century, rural isolation that was characteristic of many, pre-railroad, industrial villages.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1833 Asiel Snow, a cabinetmaker, settled on the banks of the Little River in what is now Snowville. Attracted by the potential for water power from the river, Snow hoped to establish a manufacturing town like those of his native New England. Over the following decades, the village was populated by New England manufacturers and southern craftsmen, including metal workers, carpenters, coopers, millwrights, tanners, shoemakers, and textile workers.¹ By the 1850s, the village had become the manufacturing center of Pulaski County.

(See Continuation Sheet # 10)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Allison, Louise B. Early History of Snowville. No pl.: no publ., no date.
Hundley, W. R. Historical Sketch of Snowville, Virginia. No pl.: no publ., 1932.
Smith, Conway Howard. The Land that is Pulaski County. Pulaski, Virginia:
Edmonds Printing, Inc., 1980.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 76 acres

Quadrangle name Radford South, Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References (See Continuation Sheet #13)

A

1	7	5	3	9	3	2	0	4	0	9	8	9	6	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

B

1	7	5	3	9	4	4	0	4	0	9	8	7	9	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

C

1	7	5	3	9	1	1	0	4	0	9	8	3	6	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

D

1	7	5	3	9	0	1	0	4	0	9	8	2	4	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

E

1	7	5	3	8	7	6	0	4	0	9	8	1	1	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

F

1	7	5	3	8	6	1	0	4	0	9	8	0	4	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

G

1	7	5	3	8	5	9	0	4	0	9	8	1	7	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

H

1	7	5	3	8	5	0	0	4	0	9	8	6	4	0
Zone		Easting					Northing							

 (cont.)

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet #13

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code	N/A
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state	N/A	code	county	N/A	code	N/A
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Barbara Hightower, Research Associate, and Robert Mack, Partner

organization MacDonald and Mack Partnership

date July 1985

street & number 305 Grain Exchange Building

telephone (612) 341-4051

city or town Minneapolis

state Minnesota 55415

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



H. Bryan Mitchell, Director

title Division of Historic Landmarks

date December 5, 1986

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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4. OWNERS OF PROPERTIES

Lot #:

- 6/7/8 Roscoe J. Shelburne, Rt. 1 Box 284, Hiwassee, VA 24347
62 Snowville Christian Church, c/o Reverend Don J. Simpson,
Rt. 1 Box 278, Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 60/61 George T. and Frances C. Simpkins, Rt. 1 Box 276, Hiwassee,
VA 24347
- 59 Edgar T. and Nancy R. Stafford, c/o Carl J. Simpkins, Rt. 1
Box 247, Hiwassee 24347
- 56/57/58 Snowville Christian Church, c/o Reverend Don J. Simpson, Rt. 1
Box 278, Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 55 T. H. Elmore, (Deceased), c/o Connie Elmore, 1007 Franklin
St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101
- 52 Charles David and Cheryl L. Taylor, 1602 Grove Drive, Radford,
VA 24141
- 50/51/51A William Terry and Connie R. McCrow, 26 Roundhill Drive,
Radford, VA 24141
- 49 Marvin R. Phillips, Rt. 1 Box 308, Radford, VA 24141
- 48 Ernest K. and Nydia R. Meredith, Rt. 1 Box 266A, Hiwassee, VA
24347
- 44/45 Snowville AF & AM Lodge #159, c/o Ray Lancaster, Rt. 1 Box
282A, Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 43 Georgia Duncan Quesenberry, c/o Mrs. Clark Duncan, Rt. 1 Box
268, Hiwassee 24347
- 42 William T. and Connie R. McCrow, 26 Roundhill Dr., Radford, VA
24141
- 41 Thomas G. and Jenette I. Phillips, Rt. 1, Sowers Trailer Park,
Lot 5, Christiansburg, VA 24073
- 40 Quinton and Anna M. Quesenberry, Rt. 1, Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 39 J. D. Reed, (Deceased), c/o Quinton Quesenberry, Rt. 1,
Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 38 James E. Reese (Deceased), c/o Melvin E. Reese, Rt. 1 Box 305,
Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 37 Sadie Covey Smith (Life Estate), c/o Quinton Quesenberry, Rt.
1, Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 36 T. H. Elmore (Deceased), c/o Connie Elmore, 1007 Franklin St.,
Winston-Salem, NC 27101
- 35 George T. and Frances C. Simpkins, Rt. 1 Box 276, Hiwassee, VA
24347
- 28 Lonnie Elmore, 1007 Franklin St., Winston-Salem, NC 27101
- 34 Snowville Christian Church, c/o Reverend Don J. Simpson, Rt. 1
Box 278, Hiwassee, VA 24347
- 33 Mrs. G. W. Akell, c/o Raymond Bocock, Rt. 1 Box 279, Hiwassee,
VA 24347

(See continuation sheet # 2)

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-
- | | |
|----|---|
| 32 | Arbra R. Harris, (Deceased), Rt. 1 Box 279, Hiwassee, VA 24347 |
| 31 | Thomas W. and Carolyn S. Estes, Jr., 16 Riverview Dr.,
Radford, VA 24141 |
| 30 | Ray Lancaster, Rt. 1 Box 282A, Hiwassee, VA 24347 |
| 29 | Thomas W. and Carolyn S. Estes, Jr., 16 Riverview Dr.,
Radford, VA 24141 |
| 27 | Sherrill F. and Barbara R. Van Dyke, Rt. 1 Box 375, Radford,
VA 24141 |
| 26 | A. J. Carroll, c/o Mrs. Curtis Simpkins, Rt. 1, Hiwassee, VA
24347 |
| 25 | Richard L. Martin, Rt. 1, Hiwassee, VA 24347 |
| 24 | James K. and Elizabeth L. Palmer, Rt. 1, Radford, VA 24141 |

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A third house, "Humility" (lots 6, 7, 8) built by Dr. Chester Bullard, who was instrumental in establishing a number of Christian Churches in south-western Virginia, was constructed prior to 1860 and probably enlarged during the last decades of the century. Situated on a hill overlooking Route 693, it is a two-and-one-half story, L-shaped, wood-frame structure with gable roof. The roof is pierced by large, gabled dormers with balconies, and the gable ends of the house open onto small balconies. The southeast facade features a large, two-story porch and several one-story bays.

Several surviving structures represent Snowville's leadership in religious, social, and educational activities in Pulaski County. The first, the Snowville Christian Church (lot 34), replaced an earlier church building in 1864. The entrance facade of this one-story, wood-frame, Greek-Revival structure has a pedimented gable front and two doorways with flat wood lintels. A polygonal cupola straddles its gabled roof. Pulaski County's first Masonic temple (lot 44) was built in Snowville in 1865. The principal facade of this two-story, wood-frame, Greek-Revival structure is ornamented by painted, fluted pilasters bearing Masonic symbols. The main door and windows are surmounted by flat wood lintels, and a wide frieze runs below the cornice in the gable end. The temple was moved to its current site from a location to the south sometime before 1900. During the 1880s, the Snowville school (lot 27) was built at the south end of the village. Now used as a warehouse, it is a simple, two-story, wood-frame building with a bell tower.

Only two commercial structures remain, and both date from around the turn of the century. The Reese Blacksmith Shop (lot 51) is a one-story, wood-frame building with a gable roof and false front; it now serves as a residence. A store and village post office (lot 55), now vacant and partially in ruins, is also a one-story, wood-frame structure.

Most of the district's other buildings are wood-frame houses built before the turn of the century. For the most part, they are one or two stories high with either gable or hipped roofs and are typical of vernacular residential structures of the period. Many, like the Slenker House (lot 43), have been enlarged with additions. Their small scale and wood-frame construction are consistent with other buildings in the district.

Many of the residences along the south side of Route 693 have wood-frame outbuildings. These buildings range in scale from small tool sheds to large barns. Nearly all have gabled roofs with metal roofing and horizontal wood siding.

(See Continuation Sheet # 4)

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Snowville has largely escaped modern construction although two residences and three trailer homes have been added to the community over the last several decades. These recent additions are considered noncontributing elements.

DESCRIPTION -- Inventory (Building descriptions were taken from the 1985 VDHL survey.)

(* = noncontributing structure)

Lots 6/7/8 "Humility," or Dr. Chester Bullard House, predates 1860, with subsequent additions. Two stories; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; gable roof; two-story porch across front; one-story bays on side; large gabled dormers with balconies; small balconies in gable ends. Built by Dr. Chester Bullard, a Snowville minister who was instrumental in establishing the Christian denomination in southwestern Virginia. The structure is an important element of the district. A large barn and a smaller storage structure lie near the house. The entire complex sits away from the road and is surrounded by rolling pasture.

Detached house, ca. 1890s with subsequent addition at the rear. Two stories; wood-frame; standing-seam metal, gable roof; one-story porch across the front. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.

* Trailer home. The building does not contribute to the district.

Lot 62 Parking lot for Snowville Christian Church.

Lot 61 * Trailer home. The building does not contribute to the district.

Lot 60 Detached house, ca. 1890s, with subsequent addition on the south. One story; four-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; one-bay, gabled porch on front. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.

(See Continuation Sheet # 5)

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- Lot 59 * Detached house, 1930s or later, with subsequent addition on the east. One story; five-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; cross-gable roof; one-bay porch on the front. Although later in date, and, therefore, noncontributory, the house is consistent in style, scale, and materials with other buildings in Snowville and does not detract from the character of the district.
- Lots 56/57/58 * Garage, 1930s or later. One story; two bay; wood-frame clad with vertical siding; uneven gable roof. The building does not contribute to the district.
- * Detached house, ca. mid-twentieth century. One story; wood-frame clad with composition siding; hipped roof. One-story, wood-frame, gable-roofed garage to the west. Because of its age, the building does not contribute to the district.
- Lot 55 Store and Post Office, early twentieth century. One story; four-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, shed roof. The building is abandoned and partially collapsed but contributes to the character of the district because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials.
- Lot 52 Snowville Milling Complex, 1855-57. Two-and-one-half stories; three-bay front; stone foundation; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding and wood shingles; standing-seam metal, gable roof behind a false front; bracketed cornice; triple-pointed arch windows at center of top story; pilasters on front facade. Property includes mill race. Constructed by Snowville's founder, Asiel Snow, to house a linseed oil factory, sawmill, and wool-carding business, the building is an important element of the district.
- Lots 50/51/51A Reese Blacksmith Shop, or "Little Riviera," ca. 1900, with subsequent addition at the rear. One story; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof behind a false front. One-story, wood-frame, gable-roofed outbuilding to the southeast. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.

(See Continuation Sheet # 6)

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- Lot 49 Detached house, early twentieth century. One story; two-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; corrugated-metal, gable roof extending across front to form overhang. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 48 Detached house, ca. 1860s with two additions at the rear. Two stories; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, hipped roof; one-story porch extends across the front; one-bay, gabled porch on the second story. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Major outbuilding is a turn-of-the-century, gabled, wood-frame office/store which, because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials contributes to the character of the district.
- * Garage, ca. 1950s. This concrete-block building does not contribute to the district.
- Lot 45 Parking lot for the Masonic temple.
- Lot 44 Masonic Temple, ca. 1865. Greek Revival; two stories; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding and flush siding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; pilasters with flower-hatch-and-leaf ornament on the capitals at the front corners; flat wood lintels above the main door and windows; wide wooden frieze below cornice in gable end. Before 1900 the structure was moved to its present location from a site to the south. One of the oldest Masonic temples in southwest Virginia, it is an important building in the historic district.
- Lot 43 Slenker House, ca. 1860s, with subsequent additions at the rear. Two stories; four-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; pressed-tin gable roof; porch with Tuscan columns across the front. Property includes three wood-frame outbuildings. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 42 Vacant lot.

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- Lot 41 Detached house, ca. 1860s, with subsequent addition at the rear. Two stories; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; one-bay porch with wrought-iron supports at front entrance; one-story bay window with bracketed cornice on the north side. Single frame outbuilding. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district. NOTE: THIS HAS BEEN TORN DOWN.
- Lot 40 Detached house, ca. 1890s-1900, with subsequent additions to rear and side. Two stories; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding and composition siding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; one-story porch across the front. Gabled, wood-frame outbuilding. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 39 Vacant lot.
- Lot 38 Reese House, ca. 1860s, with subsequent two-story addition at the rear. Two stories; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding and composition siding; standing-seam metal, hipped roof; standing-seam metal, gable roof on rear addition; one-story, two-bay porch at front entrance. wood-frame outbuildings: coal shed, smoke house, garage, and two outhouses. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 37 Vacant lot.
- Lot 36 Vacant lot.
- Lot 35 Elmore House, ca. 1850s, with ca. 1890s addition. Greek Revival; two stories; six-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; returns in gable ends; three one-story porches; main porch has fluted, Doric columns supporting a plain cornice. Property also includes one wood-frame barn and a structure that may have been a corn crib. Because of its style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.

(See continuation sheet #8)

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- Lot 28 Covey House site and barn. Site contains steps, walkway, and wood-frame barn.
- Snow-Bullard House, ca. 1850, with ca. 1920 addition at rear. Greek Revival; two stories; three-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; returns in gable ends; entrance door has transom and side-lights. Because of its style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 34 Snowville Christian Church, 1864, with 1959 addition at the rear. Greek Revival; two stories; two-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; pedimented gable front; octagonal cupola; flat wood lintels above entrances. Established by Dr. Chester Bullard, the church was the first Christian Church west of the New River and is a major element of the district.
- The cemetery at the back of the church contains the graves of many of Snowville's early settlers including Asiel Snow and Chester Boullard.
- Lot 33 Detached house, ca. 1880s-1890, with subsequent additions. Two stories; six-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; one-story porch with turned posts and balusters across front; gabled extension over porch. Two wood-frame outbuildings. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 32 Detached house, 1860, with ca. 1890 additions. Two stories; five-bay front; wood-frame; standing-seam metal, gable roof; pyramidal hipped roof on rear tower; one-story porch on the front. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 31 Detached house, ca. 1880s-1890s. Two stories; six-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; central gabled projection at the front; one-story porch across front. Wood-frame barn. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.

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- Lot 30 Lancaster House, ca. 1850s-1860s, with subsequent additions. Two stories; four-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding and aluminum or vinyl siding; standing-seam metal, gable roof; enclosed porch across front. Seven wood frame outbuildings. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 29 Vacant lot.
- Lot 27 Snowville School, ca. 1880s, with subsequent, metal, shed addition on the rear. Two stories; four-bay front; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof with cross gable; bell tower. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.
- Lot 26 Vacant lot.
- Lot 25 * Trailer home. The building does not contribute to the district.
- Lot 24 Detached house, date unknown. Two stories; wood-frame clad with weatherboarding; standing-seam metal, gable roof with cross gable at center front; triple-pointed arch window, balcony, and bracketed cornice in cross gable. Because of its vernacular style, age, scale, and materials, the building contributes to the character of the district.

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Former resident W. A. Bishop described Snowville during its heyday:

...a group of people, of unusual skill in various lines, migrated from Massachusetts. They were the Bills, Bullards and Slenkers; and from the south could be added the Snows, Amens, Millers, Palmers, Godbys, Winstons, Graysons, Bishops and Abels.

The Bills were promoters and merchants; the Slenkers skilled textile workers; the Snows, Palmers, Godbys and Winstons were carpenters and millwrights; the Bullards were tanners, shoemakers and ministers. Factories were constructed for each particular line to be manufactured, and the factories placed in charge of the person best qualified for each particular class of work.

Cast and wrought iron for their requirements was manufactured at Max Creek and other points along the New River, using charcoal furnaces, and transported to Snowville in wagons. From the wrought iron, skilled mechanics produced horse shoe nails; horseshoes; coulters; bull-tongues; hoes; mattocks; axes; all manner of iron for wagons; buckboards; buggies; jerseys and so forth.

The carpenters' shops turned out furniture, cabinets, coffins and all manner of implements for farming.

Logs were constantly delivered by wagons, and by water when the (Little) river was at flood stage, to the nearby timber yard. The logs awaited the...buzz of the saw which would reduce them to suitable dimensions for the various uses of the industries. Close by stood a planing mill, whose bell warned the mechanics at six o'clock each morning that it was time to begin their routine of feeding rough boards into an enormous planer, from which they emerged as finished flooring, weather boarding or in a suitable form to pass along and be worked into sash, doors, blinds, mouldings and other shapes.

Across the "fore bay" could be found the Amens, dusty millers of the organization. From early morning until late at night they were converting grains into flour, meal, hominy, buckwheat flour and other products.

To the right of the mill you would find the Slenkers busily engaged in converting crude wool into yarn a part of which was used for making socks and stockings. The greater portion would appear as linseys, blankets, kerseys, flannels, skirt patterns and jeans. The finished product finally reached a large storage room for retail sale and exchange with established customers.

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A short distance away was the Company store, where everything needed by such a community would be obtained. Here butter, eggs, chickens, bacon, feathers, dried apples could be exchanged for merchandise. Grains of all kinds could be stored in the mill, a due bill would be accepted for merchandise or other products of the Company.

To the west of the store there was a paint shop, where paints were compounded and ground using pigments found in the nearby hills. Linseed oil was pressed from locally grown flax.

Continuing westward along the only street of the village you passed a large four story building run by the Ballards, equipped with machinery for cutting leather and manufacturing it into boots and shoes.

Snowville reached its industrial apex in the 1850s but experienced an economic decline after the Civil War. Several factors contributed to this decline: 1) interest in the various industries waned as the village founders died; 2) the growing availability of higher quality iron ores in other states made production of metal goods less feasible; and 3) rail lines were laid through the nearby towns of Dublin and Pulaski in 1855, bypassing Snowville and depriving it of its economic advantage.⁴ Today, little evidence of Snowville's once burgeoning industries remains. Only a three-story factory built by Asiel Snow between 1855 and 1857 is standing. Known as the Snowville Milling Complex, it contained linseed oil production facilities, a sawmill, and carding mill. As Snowville's industrial activity declined, its residents turned to employment in nearby towns.

Snowville was also a center of religious activity during the nineteenth century. One of its most distinguished residents, Dr. Chester Bullard, a minister, physician, and relative of Snow, was instrumental in establishing the Disciples of Christ, or Christian Church, in southwestern Virginia. Dissatisfied with the teaching of the Methodist Church, Bullard developed his own doctrine based on the New Testament. Bullard's teachings coincided with those of Alexander Campbell who was spreading a new religious movement throughout Virginia. One of the earliest churches organized by Bullard was the Cypress Grove Church in Snowville. The church building, constructed in 1850, was replaced in 1864 by the present Snowville Christian Church. While Bullard organized numerous other churches in the area, Snowville remained the hub of his operation, as well as the site of his home "Humility," earning the village the name of "Jerusalem of Southwest Virginia."⁵

Snowville was also a leader in cultural and social activities important to the history of Pulaski County. Publication of the county's first newspaper, the Virginia People, began in the village in 1872. Established by

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Charles Heermans, the paper was moved to Newbern in 1874 and renamed the Pulaski People.⁶ Snowville's public library, organized about 1890, was the first in the county. For more than a decade before the institution of Virginia's free public schools in 1870, Snowville's school offered a higher quality education than neighboring private academies. The school was supported by private subscriptions and tuition paid by its students. The Snowville Masonic Lodge, chartered in 1865, erected the county's first Masonic temple in the same year. The temple has continued in active use ever since.

¹Conway Howard Smith, The Land That Is Pulaski County (Pulaski, Virginia: Edmonds Printing, Inc., 1980), p. 197.

²Wrought iron was produced by a trip-hammer forge set up by Snow and his son-in-law, David B. Bill. The forge "consisted of a large stack... built of rock and mortar with an opening at the bottom." Iron was melted in the forge and by "means of a very heavy hammer, operated by water power," was converted into wrought iron. W. R. Hundley, Historical Sketch of Snowville Virginia (No pl.: no publ., 1932), pp. 1-2.

³John Nicolay, "Snowville Remembered: the Past Industrial Center," Montgomery County News Messenger, 4 September 1982, p. 6.

⁴Ibid.

⁵Louise B. Allison, Early History of Snowville (No pl.: no publ., no date), pp. 8-12; Hundley, pp. 6-7.

⁶The paper was later named the The People and was eventually moved to Dublin, where it was published by Messrs. Gardner and Payne. Gibson Worsham, David Rotenizer, C. A. Cooper-Ruska, and Joe Koelbel, "Pulaski County Heritage Conservation Study" (unpublished study funded by the Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, n.d.).

⁷Smith, pp. 199-200.

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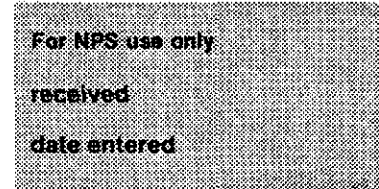
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM References (cont.)

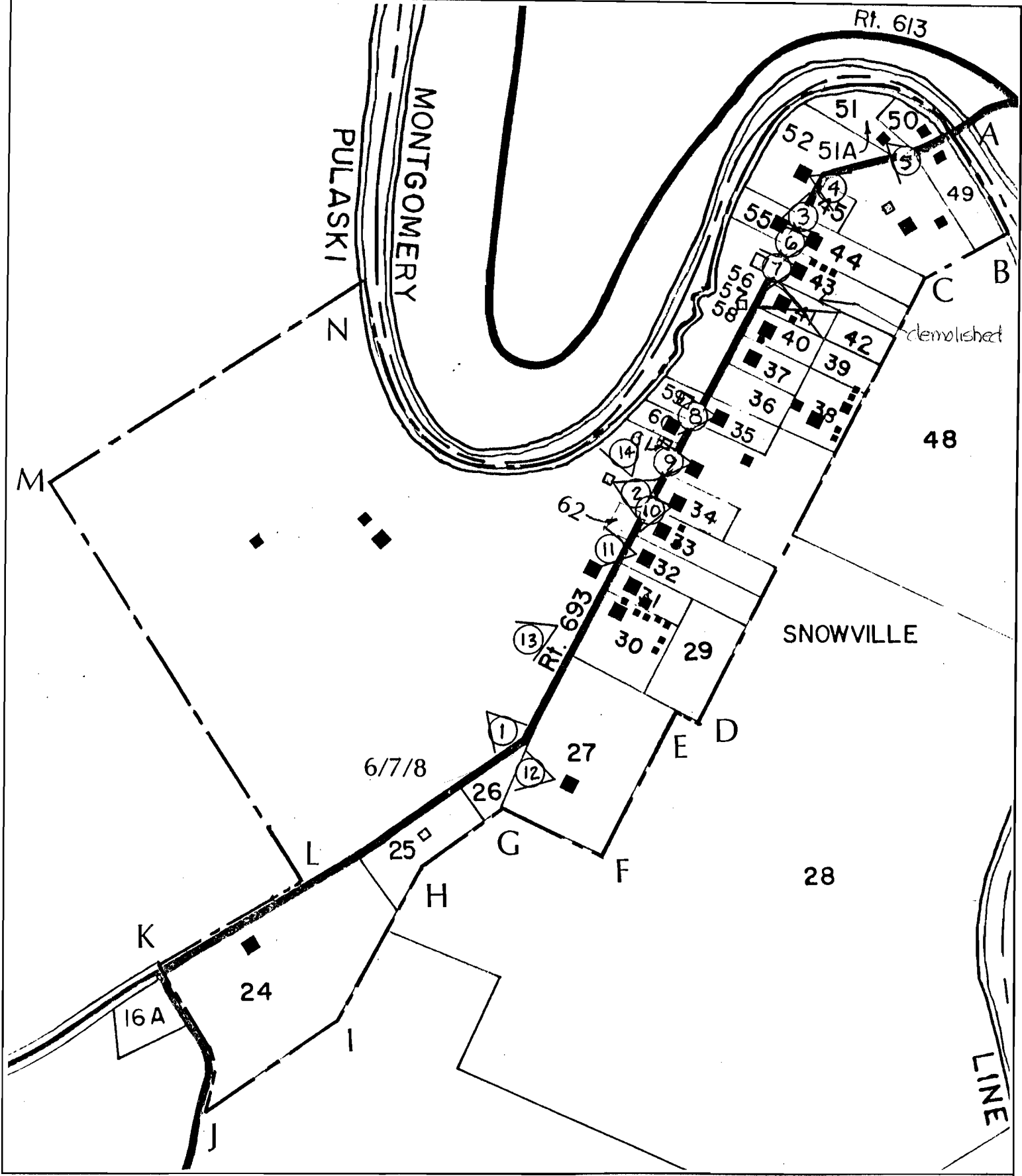
I 17 /538830/4098790

Verbal Boundary Description and Boundary Justification

Beginning at a point (A) at the northwest corner of Lot 49; thence approximately 350' southeast along the west shore of the Little River to a point (B); thence approximately 300' southwest to a point (C) at the northeast corner of Lot 44; thence approximately 1600' southwest to a point (D) at the southeast corner of Lot 29; thence approximately 75' northwest to a point (E) at the northeast corner of Lot 27; thence approximately 525' southwest to a point (F) at the southeast corner of said lot; thence approximately 350' northwest to a point (G) at the northwest corner of said lot; thence approximately 325' southwest to a point (H); thence approximately 550' southwest to a point (I); thence approximately 525' southwest to a point (J) at the intersection of Lot 24 and Route 665; thence approximately 500' northwest to a point (K) at the northwest corner of said lot; thence approximately 500' northeast along Route 693 to a point (L); thence approximately 1350' northwest to a point (M); thence approximately 1100' northeast to a point (N) on the south shore of the Little River; thence following that shore of the river to the point of origin.

(LETTERED POINTS REFER TO SKETCH MAP.) *Map 1 of 2*

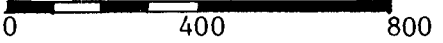
Boundary Justification: The Snowville Historic District includes the entire remaining community of Snowville. For the most part, the boundaries coincide with the property lines of the historic buildings situated along State Route 693 south of the Little River. The boundaries from Point B to Point J also follow the approximate separation between woodland to the east and residential and agricultural land to the west. The boundaries for the southwest corner of the district include only the northeast section of lots 6/7/8 to encompass the Bullard House, its outbuildings and the immediate surrounding open space; these boundaries also follow the approximate ridgeline of the rolling pasture. The district is bounded on the north by the Little River, which historically defined the northern limits of the village.



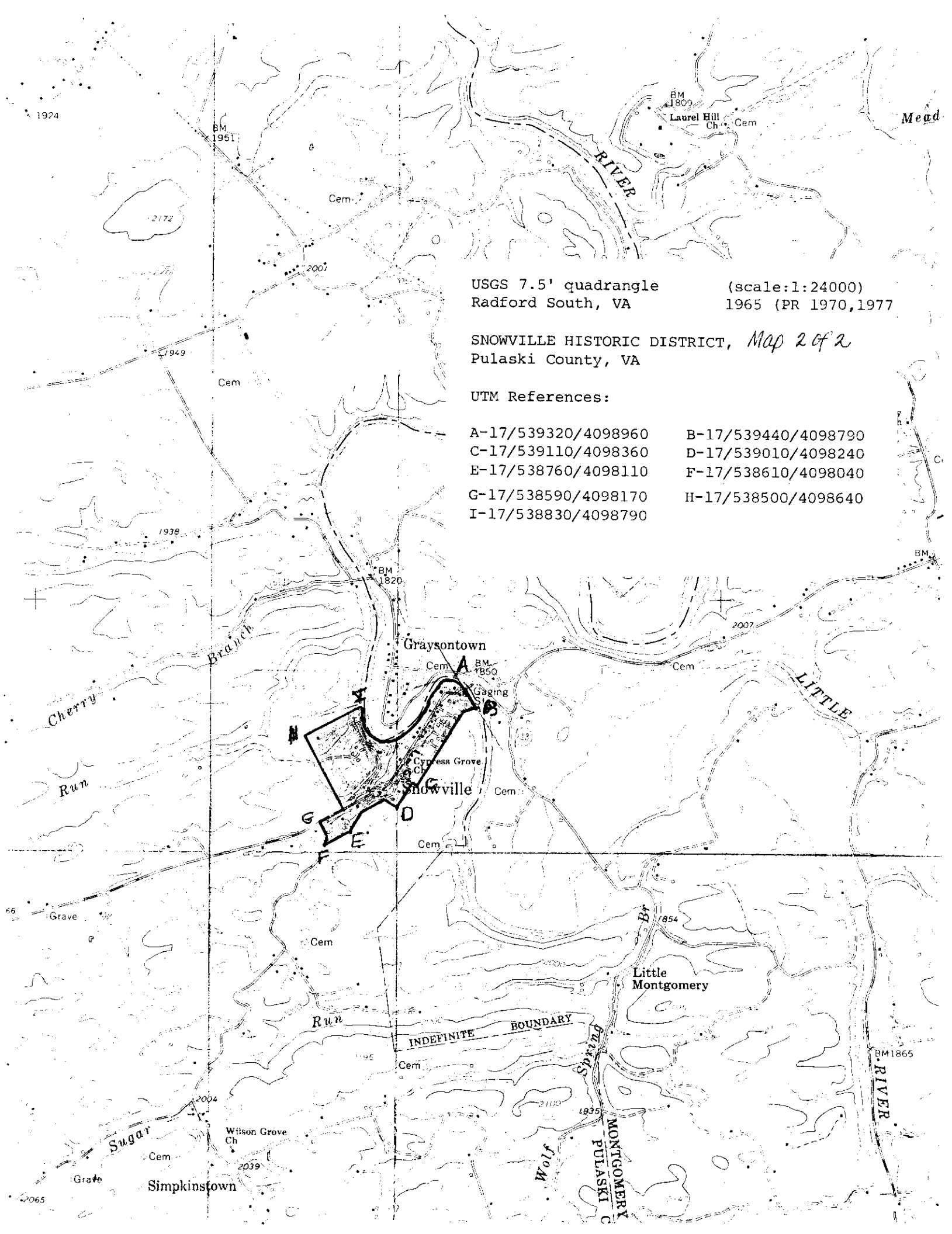
SNOWVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT MAP 1 of 2

Source: Virginia State Dept. of Taxation Map, Pulaski County, Section 86

Scale: 1" = 400'



- = Contributing Buildings
- ▨ = Noncontributing Buildings



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24000)
Radford South, VA 1965 (PR 1970,1977)

SNOWVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, Map 2 of 2
Pulaski County, VA

UTM References:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| A-17/539320/4098960 | B-17/539440/4098790 |
| C-17/539110/4098360 | D-17/539010/4098240 |
| E-17/538760/4098110 | F-17/538610/4098040 |
| G-17/538590/4098170 | H-17/538500/4098640 |
| I-17/538830/4098790 | |