

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For HCRS use only  
received JUN 18 1982  
date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Catlett House

and/or common Catlett House

**2. Location**

street & number 303 Berkeley Place N/A not for publication  
city, town Staunton (Independent City) N/A vicinity of 6th congressional district (M. Caldwell Butler)  
state Virginia code 51 county (incity) code 790

**3. Classification**

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: rest home

**4. Owner of Property**

name Mrs. Ida A. Showker

street & number P.O. Box 2535

city, town Staunton N/A vicinity of Virginia state 24401

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. City Hall; Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court

street & number 109-113 East Beverley Street

city, town Staunton state Virginia 24401

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Historic Staunton Foundation Architectural Inventory has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date April 1976  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Staunton Foundation Office

city, town Staunton state Virginia 24401

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**  
SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Catlett House is a detached Queen Anne-style dwelling on a raised corner lot in the historic "Gospel Hill" neighborhood of Staunton. The three-story, three-bay structure is faced with shingles on the upper floors and with rough-faced rubble fieldstone on the foundation and first floor. The exterior presents an irregular outline with its steep hipped roof broken by a tower and gables. The interior is elaborate and handsome and survives with few significant alterations. The house stands as one of the best representatives of its style in the region.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The complex hipped and gable roof of the Catlett House is interrupted by large projecting gables, a rounded tower, and gabled and eyebrow dormers. The main roof was originally shingled but was replaced ca. 1920 with a metal roof, now painted bright red. The roof of the tower is bell shaped and is covered with dark brown shingles. The metal roof is impressed with a shingle-like design, further adding to the richness of the design.

The fishscale shingles on the upper two stories are set in an imbricated pattern and are stained and weathered a rich, dark brown. The stone of the foundation and first floor is coursed fieldstone rubble of a warm yellow-brown. All the exterior trim is painted flat white. Fenestration throughout the house is varied, with many windows featuring leaded and stained glass.

The main facade, facing south, is separated into three bays: a projecting gable on the west and a round turret on the east, connected by a plain central bay. This arrangement produces a pleasing and balanced design with an emphasis on the horizontal lines of the house.

The upper floor features a Palladian window in the gable end on the west; an eyebrow dormer in the center; and a three-part, double-hung-sash window in the turret. The third and second floors are separated by a wide frieze with classical garlands and swags. On the second floor are a three-part bay window on the west, a door in the center that opens onto the balcony created by the porch roof below, and two 1/1 windows in the turret.

The first floor is embraced by a wide verandah that wraps around three sides of the house. The west bay of the first floor has a bay window similar to that on the second floor, while the turret bay has a rounded bay window. The central bay contains the main entrance doorway with its wide paneled door with a window panel; the door is flanked by sidelights with elaborately leaded glass. There are auxiliary entrances under the verandah in both the east and west side walls. Both the east and west elevations have large projecting gables and chimneys with corbeled caps.

Exterior alterations include a carport on the east side, a bathroom addition under the verandah's west side, and an enclosed porch in the rear. None are considered permanent alterations and can be removed.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 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 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 type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1896-7 **Builder/Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architectural heritage of Staunton embraces not only the city's outstanding institutional and residential buildings of the early and mid-19th century but a collection of unusually sophisticated turn-of-the-century dwellings dotting the downtown neighborhoods. Of the first rank is the Catlett House, a rich, classic example of the American interpretation of the Queen Anne Style of the late 19th century. The house incorporates all the elements associated with the mode: a mixture of materials, asymmetrical plan, tower, gables, classical details, and a multiplicity of window types. Lending particular interest is the lavish use of wood shingle cladding echoing the tile cladding of English vernacular buildings. The house was completed in 1897 for Fannie Catlett, widow of a prominent local citizen.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Staunton was a particularly prosperous community in the late Victorian and Edwardian eras, and the wealth of its leading citizens is reflected in the many fine houses they built up and down the hills of the town. Fortunately the citizens have maintained pride in their architectural achievements, and an unusually high proportion of these quite large houses survives for a town of its size. Conspicuously located on the corner of Coalter Street and Berkeley Place, immediately adjacent to the campus of Mary Baldwin College, is the outstanding Queen Anne house begun in 1896 by R.H. Catlett, a wealthy and prominent local attorney. Catlett died that same year, and the house was inherited by his widow, Fannie. It remained in the Catlett family until 1973, the continuity of ownership apparently being an important factor in the preservation of the house. The Catlett family sold the house to Vernon Greaver, who sold it the next year to the present owner, Mrs. Ida Showker. Mrs. Showker now uses the house as a retirement home for ladies.

Although the house is in the more-restrained Queen Anne style, as compared to other modes of the period, it stands as a showcase of late Victorian opulence and design. There are nine fireplaces, all different, and twenty-one leaded-glass windows on the first floor alone. Most of the original woodwork and detailing is intact, including a magnificent butler's pantry in natural oak, bathrooms with original marble fixtures, and a wealth of louvered interior blinds.

EAB/CCL

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Armistead, Mrs. Robert Morris. Staunton, Va. Interview.

Staunton Tax and Deed Records. City Hall; Office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court, Staunton, Va.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property Double lot averages 110' x 110'

Quadrangle name Staunton, Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

**UMT References**

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Zone Easting Northing

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Zone Easting Northing

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at a point on NE corner of N. Coalter St. and Berkeley Place; thence extending about 135' N along N. Coalter to alley; thence about 100' E along S side of alley; thence about 110' S to N side of Berkeley Place; thence about 110' W along Berkeley to point of origin. (Staunton's City Assessor's Map 376, Lots 16 & 17.)

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries** (See Continuation Sheet #1)

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

(1) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street, Richmond, Va. (804) 786-3144

name/title (2) Elizabeth A. Bray, Administrative Assistant

organization Historic Staunton Foundation

date June 1981; April 1982

street & number P.O. Box 2534

telephone (703) 885-7676

city or town Staunton

state Virginia 24401

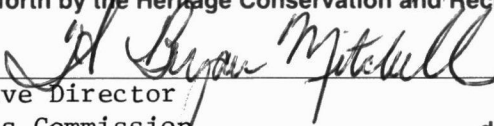
# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature



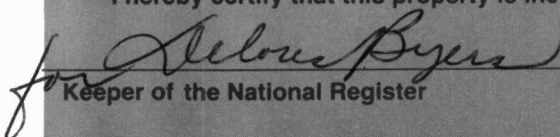
H. Bryan Mitchell, Executive Director

title Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

date MAY 18 1982

For HCRS use only

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



Keeper of the National Register

Entered in the National Register

date 7/15/82

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

CATLETT HOUSE, STAUNTON, VA

Continuation sheet #1

Item number 7, 10

Page 1, 1

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

7. Description -- Architectural Analysis

The interior of the Catlett House abounds with rich decoration including leaded and stained glass, five-panel doors, chair rails, and nine fireplaces. The mantel in the entry hall is flanked by very tall fluted columns supporting an overmantel shelf with egg-and-dart molding. The overmantel has a beveled mirror and carved foliage decoration; there is also carved foliage under the main mantel shelf. A beautiful butler's pantry with built-in cabinets and a dumbwaiter is executed in natural golden oak. The kitchen still has its original cabinets. A handsome, three-story open staircase with fluted newel posts leads to the upper floors which also have five-panel doors, stained and leaded glass, and some bathrooms with the original marble fixtures. Another unusual feature is the series of three oval rooms, one on each floor of the turret.

EAB

10. Geographical Data - Boundary Justification

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION: The bounds have been drawn to coincide with those of the city lots on which the house is situated.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

82 004600

Catlett House, Staunton (Independent City), VIRGINIA,

Working No. 6/13/82-1827

Fed. Reg. Date: 2/18/83

Date Due: 7/15/82 - 8/2/82

Action:  ACCEPT 7/15/82

Entered in the  RETURN

National Register  REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

Recom./Criteria \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewer \_\_\_\_\_

Discipline \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

**1. Name**

**2. Location**

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
	Public Acquisition	Accessible	

**4. Owner of Property**

**5. Location of Legal Description**

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

**7. Description**

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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## **8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_\_\_ summary paragraph
- \_\_\_\_\_ completeness
- \_\_\_\_\_ clarity
- \_\_\_\_\_ applicable criteria
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_\_\_ relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_\_\_ context
- \_\_\_\_\_ relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_\_\_ justification of exception
- \_\_\_\_\_ other

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## **9. Major Bibliographical References**

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## **10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UMT References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

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## **11. Form Prepared By**

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## **12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_\_ national \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature \_\_\_\_\_

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

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## **13. Other**

- \_\_\_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_\_\_ Photographs
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: 202 272 - 3504

Comments for any item may be continued on an attached sheet



CATLETT HOUSE, 303 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, VA

Credit: Historic Staunton Foundation

Date: 1978

Neg. Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View from South

1 of 4

Neg. No. 2198 (16)

File No. 132-

Catlett House  
303 Berkeley Place

March 1973



3702-13  
CATLETT HOUSE, 303 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, VA

Credit: Historic Staunton Foundation

Date: 1978

Neg. Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View: main entrance doorway from interior

2 of 4 in entrance doorway,

Neg. No. 3702 (13)

File No. 132-

October 1978



11-0-028

CATLETT HOUSE, 303 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, VA

Credit: Historic Staunton Foundation

Date: 1978

Neg. Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

View of mantel in entry hall

3 of 4

Neg. No. 3702 (11) entry hall.

File No. 132-

October 1978



CATLETT HOUSE, 303 Berkeley Place  
Staunton, VA

Credit: Historic Staunton Foundation

Date: 1978

Neg. Filed: VA State Library, Richmond, VA

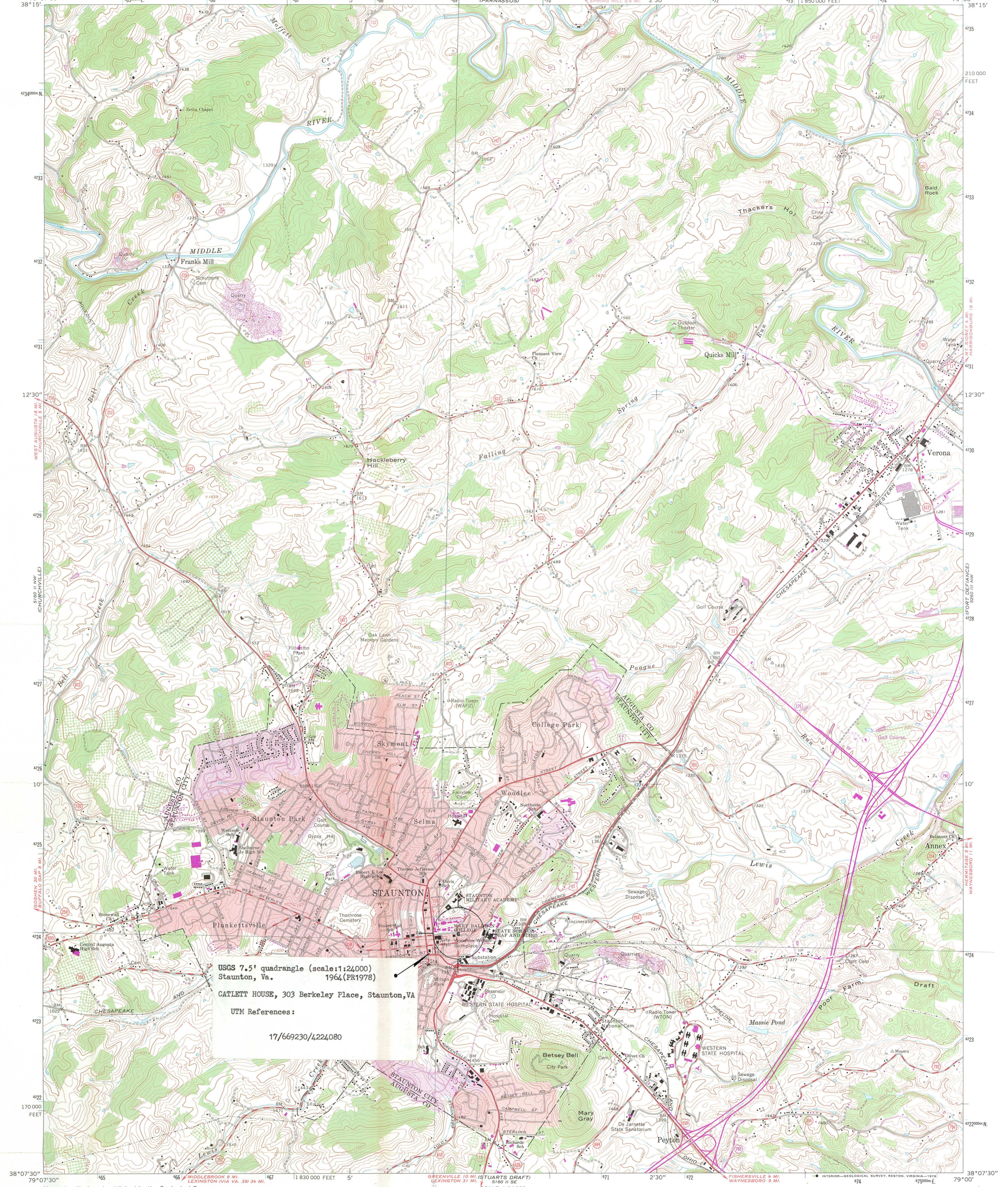
View of staircase from 3rd-floor landing

4 of 4

Neg. No. 3702 (17)

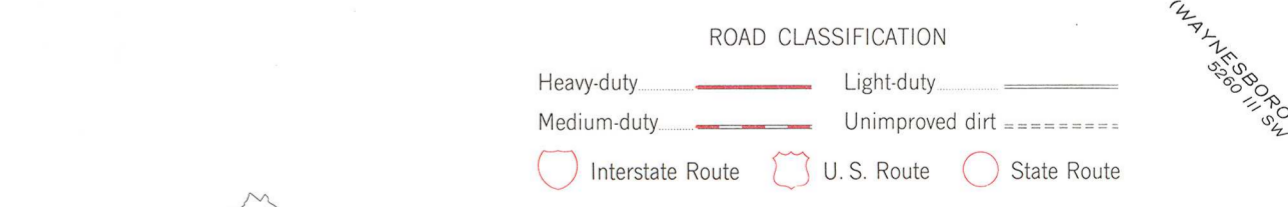
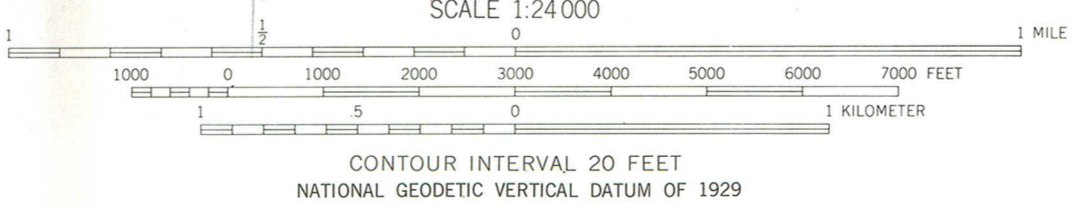
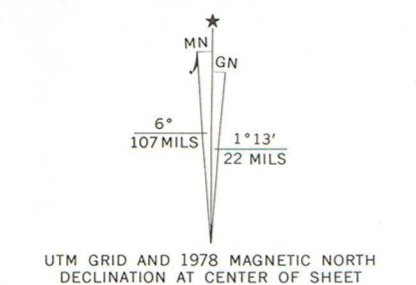
File No. 132-

October 1978



USGS 7.5' quadrangle (scale:1:24,000)  
Staunton, Va. 1964 (PR1978)  
CATLETT HOUSE, 303 Berkeley Place, Staunton, VA  
UTM References:  
17/669230/4224080

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
Control by USGS and USC&GS  
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1964  
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grid based on Virginia coordinate system, north zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 17, shown in blue  
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked  
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown  
Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas  
Revisions shown in purple compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1977 and other source data. This information not field checked. Map edited 1978



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
AND VIRGINIA DIVISION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, CHARLOTTESVILLE, VIRGINIA 22903  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST



STAUNTON, VA.  
N3807.5—W7900/7.5

1964  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 5160 11 NE—SERIES V834

**MEMBERS**

FREDERIC H. COX, JR., AIA, CHAIRMAN  
MRS. NELLIE WHITE BUNDY, VICE CHAIRMAN  
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DAVID A. HARRISON, III  
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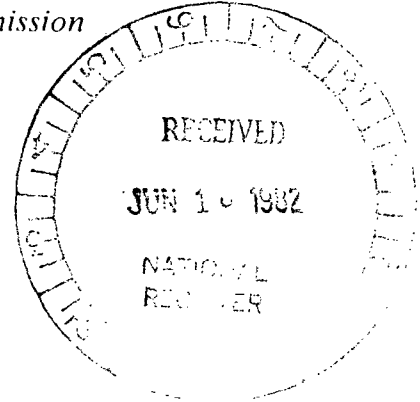


# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

*Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission*

H. BRYAN MITCHELL  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

221 GOVERNOR STREET  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23219  
TELEPHONE: (804) 786-3143



June 11, 1982

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Acting Keeper  
National Register of Historic Places  
Department of the Interior, National Park Service  
Washington, DC 20240

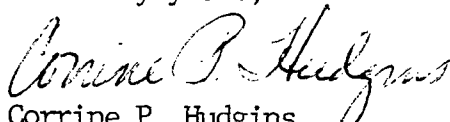
RE: NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NOMINATIONS

Dear Ms. Shull:

The enclosed five reports are being submitted in nomination to the National Register of Historic Places:

- ✓ 1. Catlett House, Staunton
2. Charlottesville and Albemarle County Courthouse Historic District, Charlottesville
3. George Earman House, Rockingham County
4. Patrick Henry's Birthplace Archaeological Site, Hanover County
5. Arista Hoge House, Staunton

Sincerely yours,

  
Corrine P. Hudgins  
Registrar

Enclosures

CPH/vmm