

VLR - 04-28-95
NRHP - 07-28-95

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House
Other names/site number: VDHR FILE # 00-82

2. Location

Street & Number: 3900 North Lee Highway [] Not for Publication
City or town: Arlington [] Vicinity
State: Virginia Code: VA County: Arlington Code: 013 Zip Code: 22207

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this [] 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 [] meets [] does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant [] nationally [] statewide locally. ([] See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Julia D. Lammick 2/16/95
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
VA DEPT. OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date
State or Federal agency or bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

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

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Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House, 3900 North Lee Highway, Arlington, Virginia

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SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House, located at 3900 North Lee Highway, is a modest masonry building, veneered in brick. Since its construction in 1919, the building has been used as a fire house, community center, and specialty store for the Cherrydale neighborhood of Arlington County, Virginia. It embodies the Colonial Revival style with its hipped roof, gabled dormers, belt courses, and jack-arched lintels. Except for minimal alterations on the exterior, and renovations and modernization on the interior, the fire house retains its 1919 appearance and continues its historical associations with the community of Cherrydale.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The slightly polygonal-shaped building is two-and-a-half-stories in height with a hipped roof, clad in asphalt shingles. Set upon a brick foundation, the building is three bays wide and six bays deep. The masonry constructed building is veneered in brick, laid in five-course American bond on the side and rear elevations. The primary facade has been faced with a veneer of all-stretcher bond, ornamented with belt courses. The walls of the building are pierced by segmentally arched window openings, a large garage door, and a commercial-style entry. The roof is detailed with an overhanging eave, exposed rafters, and gabled dormers. Two slender interior brick chimneys, with corbelling, project from the roof.

The primary facade, fronting on North Lee Highway, has contemporary brick facing that is laid in all-stretcher bond and set upon a poured concrete foundation. The exterior wall consists of a wide opening with a rolling metal garage door. To the west of the garage door is a single entry and a plate glass show window. Originally, the entry and show window were utilized by the specialty store that occupied the small commercial space in the northwestern corner of the building. The single entry contains a paneled wooden door, a metal storm door, and an enclosed transom. The show window consists of a large square plate glass light. The second story of the facade is pierced by three equally-spaced, segmentally arched openings. The openings contain 6/1 double-hung wooden sash windows with brick sills. A granite cornerstone, set at the northeast corner, has been engraved with "C.V.F.D. A.D. 1919." A granite name plate, reading "VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT," has been placed between the first and second stories of the facade.

The first floor of the western elevation consists of six bays, pierced with segmentally arched openings and a single entry. The openings are capped with jack-arched lintels composed of three courses of brick rowlocks, and have brick sills. The first two bays contain square metal casement windows,

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while the third and fourth bays contain square 1/1 double-hung metal sash windows. A single entry, created in the 1980s, has a paneled and glazed wooden door. The sixth bay contains a rectangular opening, also created in the 1980s, that has a 1/1 double-hung metal sash window. The second story of the western elevation has five segmentally arched openings with 1/1 double-hung metal sash windows. The opening placed directly over the single entry contains a 6/1 double-hung wooden sash window and an air conditioning unit.

The southern elevation, with a slightly polygonal projection, is four bays wide. Slightly altered, the elevation was, at one time, pierced by five segmentally arched openings, four of which have been enclosed with concrete blocks. The fifth opening, located in the western-most bay of the first story, has a 6/1 double-hung wooden sash window. The second story has four equally spaced 6/1 double-hung wooden sash windows. All of the openings are capped with jack-arched lintels composed of three courses of rowlocks.

The eastern elevation has been slightly altered by the introduction of a commercial-style double entry. The entry, located in the southern-most bay, consists of a metal and glass door, enframed by side lights and a transom. The third bay to the left contains a single entry with a wooden paneled and glazed door with an enclosed transom. The fourth bay of the elevation originally served as a single entry opening, as evidenced by the granite sill and brick infill. The remaining segmentally arched openings have 1/1 double-hung wooden sash windows. The second story of the eastern elevation has five 6/1 double-hung wooden sash windows and a single entry with a wooden paneled door and transom. Originally a window opening, the single entry serves as a fire escape and has a sliding metal stair and landing. Again, all of the openings are capped with the same jack-arched lintels found on the other elevations.

The hipped roof, clad in asphalt shingles, is pierced by gable dormers covered with vinyl siding. The dormers, located above the eastern and western elevations, have wide 6/1 double-hung wooden sash windows.¹ Slender, corbelled cap brick chimneys project from the interior of the eastern and western elevations. The overhanging eave is ornamented with equally-spaced exposed rafters and an ogee cornice.

The interior of the building, renovated in the 1980s, consists on the first floor of several office and conference rooms, the fire truck garage, and sleeping quarters. The entry hall, located beyond the

¹According to the Preliminary Information Form, dated 1994, the gabled dormers were not present in historic photographs, indicating the dormers were added at a later date.

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double metal doors on the eastern elevation, is ornamented as originally designed. The plaster walls are covered with a vertical board wainscotting with an ogee wainscot cap. Two openings contain original wooden doors with five-panels and square-edge casing. The enclosed dog-leg stair is finished with a vertical board wall stringer, circle end starting steps, and round railings. The office and conference rooms were finished in the 1980s with plastic kick plates, acoustical tile ceilings, and linoleum floors. The garage for the fire truck is located in the northeast corner of the first floor. The rectilinear room has exposed brick walls, a concrete floor, and a pressed tin ceiling. The ceiling is ornamented with an anthemion motif on the cornice, a textured filler, and a geometrical floral field. *The sleeping quarters are located in the northwest corner of the first floor. Historically this area was used as a commercial space, separate from the main function of the building.*

The second floor of the fire house consists of a small kitchen, restrooms, and a community hall. The landing/sitting area at the top of the stair is finished with the same vertical board wainscotting and cap as that found on the first floor. The five-paneled wooden doors have square-edge casing and the windows have plain cap trim. The community hall is a large rectilinear space with a raised stage at the northern end. The room has linoleum flooring, high square-edge baseboards, square-edged chair rail, and a narrow cornice. The walls surrounding the stage are covered with vertical boards. The window and door openings have plain cap trim and casing. Florescent lighting has been installed on the plaster ceiling. The contemporary kitchen is located in the southwest corner of the community hall, behind a serving bar.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House is historically significant for its association with the 20th century development of the community of Cherrydale, one of Arlington County's commuter subdivisions. Additionally, the building has significance as a physical reminder of 20th-century progress in firefighting technology and the establishment of firefighting as a discipline. Since its construction in 1919, the Fire House has been an important structure in community affairs, serving collectively as a fire house, movie theater, specialty shop, and community center. The first fire house to be constructed in Arlington County, the Cherrydale Fire House is the home of the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department, the first officially organized fire department in the county. Therefore, the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House meets Criteria A of the National Register of Historic Places.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

ARLINGTON COUNTY AND ITS TWENTIETH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT

During the years before the turn-of-the-century Arlington County maintained its rural character. Few formalized services or community provisions such as water and sewer systems enhanced the quality of life usually associated with suburban areas. Public utilities such as gas and electricity were not available to the majority of Arlington County residents until 1910. Much of the County was still rural farmland, and its residents continued to transport produce along dirt roads into the District of Columbia for distribution.

The commencement of the 20th century heralded major civic, social and governmental improvements throughout the county. By the 1920s the character of the County had dramatically changed with rapid subdivision and development of suburbs such as Ballston, Cherrydale, and Barcroft. This suburban development is evidenced by the increase in the county's population, from 6,430 in 1900 to 16,040 in 1920.² During the 1930s and 1940s, large numbers of houses and garden apartments were constructed, throughout the county as Arlington kept pace with the expansion of Federal activities and the demand for housing throughout the metropolitan area.

²Nan & Ross Netherton. *Arlington County in Virginia: A Pictorial History*. (Norfolk, VA: The Donning Co., 1987), p 106.

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The rapid expansion and enormous development activity of the Northern Virginia suburbs in the 1960s and 1970s transformed the rural, community based character of Arlington County to a predominately transient urban/suburban area. The resultant population increase and augmented traffic in the residential and commercial sections of the County have strained the cohesiveness and capacity of the County's communities as well as public services. Many of the County's civic associations and community groups have banded together to ensure that important neighborhood structures are maintained as figurative points of reference within these rapidly changing environments.

Despite the overall change in the County's historic context over the last 100 years, the neighborhood buildings such as the Cherrydale Fire Station, the Barcroft Community House and the Clarendon School, retain their land use context and the communities have remained very much the same. Consequently, these structures have achieved a significance and importance in their communities as the social relationship between the buildings and their neighborhoods has gotten stronger over time.

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CHERRYDALE

Cherrydale, and its surrounding area, was originally deeded by Lord Fairfax to Thomas Goings in 1708. The Goings family, who bred horses, were one of the largest early landowners in Arlington County. The city of Alexandria was founded on part of the land holdings of Alexander Goings. Primarily growing tobacco, the smaller farms in the area soon became infertile, causing the 18th century farmer to relocate farther west to what is now Fairfax and Loudoun Counties.

It was not until the creation of Washington, D.C., in 1801, concurrent with the erection of bridges and turnpikes connecting the county with the District, that the farmers were encouraged to diversify their agricultural crops. The easy access to Washington, D.C., and Georgetown markets made Arlington County an ideal location for fruit orchards and truck farming.³ Andrew Donaldson, the first known settler to this area of Arlington county that would later become Cherrydale, began farming as early as the 1780s.

Despite the destruction caused by the Civil War in the 1860s, small settlements began to appear throughout Arlington County. Union troops who had camped and maneuvered in the area, remained after the war to establish farms. One of the settlements that developed was Cherrydale, bounded on

³Andrea Rebeck. "Contextual History, Lee Highway Study Area." (Rockville, MD: History Associates Incorporated, June 1989), p 2.

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the east and south by what is now I-66, on the north by Lorcom Lane and Old Dominion Drive, and on the west by North Utah Street and the H. B. Woodlawn School property. Inspired by the family-operated cherry orchard, Dorsey Donaldson, along with his son-in-law Robert Shreve, named the area Cherrydale in their 1893 application for a post office. Only a few remnants of the original cherry orchards survive today along what was Cherry Valley Road, now Quincy Street.

The notion of Cherrydale as a commuter village began by the turn of the century with the extension of the Great Falls Division of the Washington and Old Dominion Railway. The commuter trains and trolleys ran on the north side of Lee Highway, providing an inexpensive, reliable form of transportation for people living in the "country" of Cherrydale. Concurrent with the expansion of the railroad, astute developers were acquiring land for real estate development. Initially development was impeded by the scandalous reputation of Arlington County as the home of unapproved pastimes, such as drinking and gambling. The developers, together with the law-abiding citizens, established the Good Citizens League. Civic pride ensued and reformer, Crandal Mackey, was elected the commonwealth's attorney. Mackey proceeded to make Arlington safe, and development prospered by the first decades of the 20th century.

Despite the steady growth of the Arlington County population as a whole, Cherrydale contained only a small concentration of citizens. Nevertheless, this little community is credited with organizing Arlington County's first volunteer fire department and constructing the first Arlington County firehouse. Cherrydale boasts a number of other Arlington County firsts as well. Cherrydale founded Arlington County's first Girl Scout troop (1917), the first motion picture theater (1912), the first health care clinic (1921), and the first county-employed dentist (1920). One of the county's earliest citizens groups, the Cherrydale Citizens Association, was created in 1910. During the years between 1900 and 1930, the Cherrydale area was divided into residential lots measuring 20'x 50'. By the 1930s the built environment included one apartment building, a few multiple dwellings, and numerous single dwellings.

THE CHERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Originally formed in 1898, the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department was officially established in 1904 by 14 citizens under the direction of Ben Dye. The fire department consisted of 10 leather buckets, a ladder, and a sizable number of volunteers. Originally stored at the home of Mr. Turnburke, the first fire chief, the buckets were made with round bottoms so that when full, they could not be placed on the ground, thus assuring passage from one man to the next. The area to be served was limited to the sprinting ability of firefighters, who were alerted by a bell set upon a pole on Lee

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Highway. The number of rings would indicate the location of the fire. A second Cherrydale fire company was formed a short time later to assist in covering the entire community, and by 1910, the two companies were consolidated.

The fire fighting equipment was originally stored at the substation located at 22nd Street between Monroe and Lincoln Streets. The first fire engine, a hand-drawn cart, was purchased by the end of 1904 to transport the equipment to the fire. Following the construction of the Cherrydale School in 1907, the fire department erected a storage shed for the fire engine and a hose tower. By 1912, an additional substation was utilized at 2042 North Taylor Street, currently used as a single dwelling. Assisted by county funding, Cherrydale purchased its first chemical pumper engine for \$250 in 1914. Motorized equipment was not purchased until 1917 due to funding problems.

The first fire department established in Arlington County, the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department motivated the surrounding communities to establish fire departments. The Ballston Fire Department, formed in 1908, was the first department to have motorized equipment. Clarendon established the third department in Arlington County in 1909. The Falls Church community had attempted to form a fire department in 1898, but it was not officially organized until 1925.

THE CHERRYDALE FIRE HOUSE

The need for a permanent fire house became apparent in the late 1910s. An active, community-wide fund-raising campaign was launched. The building, located at 3900 North Lee Highway, was literally constructed a brick at a time: a portion of the fund-raising drive involved the purchase of individual bricks for the structure that were identified by the purchaser's name. President and Mrs. Wilson each purchased a brick during the fund-raising drive. The Ladies' Auxiliary held suppers, raffles, bazaars, and box lunch auctions to raise additional funding for the new building and equipment. The newspapers documented the fund-raising efforts, noting that "almost every man belonged to the fire department and every woman to the Auxiliary."⁴

Completed by 1921, the Cherrydale Fire House was the first permanent fire house erected in Arlington County. Characteristic of fire house design for this period, the Cherrydale Fire House is a free-standing building located on a major thoroughfare, making it a highly visible landmark for the

⁴Kathryn Holt. *Cherrydale: Cherries, Characters and Characteristics*. (Arlington, VA: Sterling Press, 1986), p 57.

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neighborhood. Typically fire houses constructed prior to World War II served not only the safety and security needs of the neighborhoods they protected, but also functioned as places for socializing and organized community activities.⁵ Indicative of this trend, the Cherrydale Fire House became the center of community activity, providing a gathering place for civic and cultural development. The second floor hall served as the site of the county's first movie theater. Additionally, a commercial space was located at the northwest corner of the first floor, extending the citizen's perception of the fire house as a part of the community. The Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House served as the prototype for the buildings constructed in the surrounding neighborhoods, which were not erected until the mid-to-late 1920s and 1930s.

Membership in the Volunteer Fire Department, which was directly related to the operation costs of the building, declined by the late 1920s despite the negligible annual fee of twenty-five cents. Fund-raising efforts to cover the operation costs were then facilitated by dinners, raffles, turkey shoots, and county fairs. In 1932, the State Legislature outlawed games of chance, the fire department's main source of revenue. Financial support and legal control over the equipment was assumed by the Arlington County Board. The nationwide reorganization of the fire department justified the consolidation of all Arlington County volunteer fire departments into one central unit. Following the reorganization, the Fire Division of Arlington included a total of 165 paid fire fighters, 20 pumper engines, 4 ladder trucks, 6 ambulances, 10 fire houses, and 500 volunteers.

CONCLUSION

The continued ownership to the present day of the Fire House by the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire Department has ensured the utilization of the building by the Cherrydale community through the second half of the 20th century. A highly valued resource in the community, the fire station continues to provide "first-response capability to the entire neighborhood."⁶ Consequently, the firehouse endures as a critical component of the neighborhoods emergency response services as well as a gathering place for the Cherrydale community. The building's large community hall continues to be the site of weekly bingo games, creating revenue for the building's maintenance. *The Cherrydale Neighborhood Conservation Plan* notes that "The neighborhood strongly supports both the station and the Cherrydale

⁵Sally Berk. "Washington, D.C.'s Pre-World War II Firehouses." Summary Report. (unpublished paper, nd), p 1.

⁶*Cherrydale Neighborhood Conservation Plan*. (Arlington, VA: Arlington County Board, September, 1987), p 32.

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Volunteer Firemen."⁷ The Fire House is recognized for its role as an important neighborhood resource dating from the early 20th century, when Arlington was undergoing a major transformation from a rural area to a suburban neighborhood. The building, occupied by Arlington's first officially organized fire department, is the oldest extant fire house in the county. Additionally, the Cherrydale Volunteer Fire House is significant as evidence of the 20th century progress in firefighting technology and the establishment of firefighting as a discipline.

⁷Ibid. p 33.

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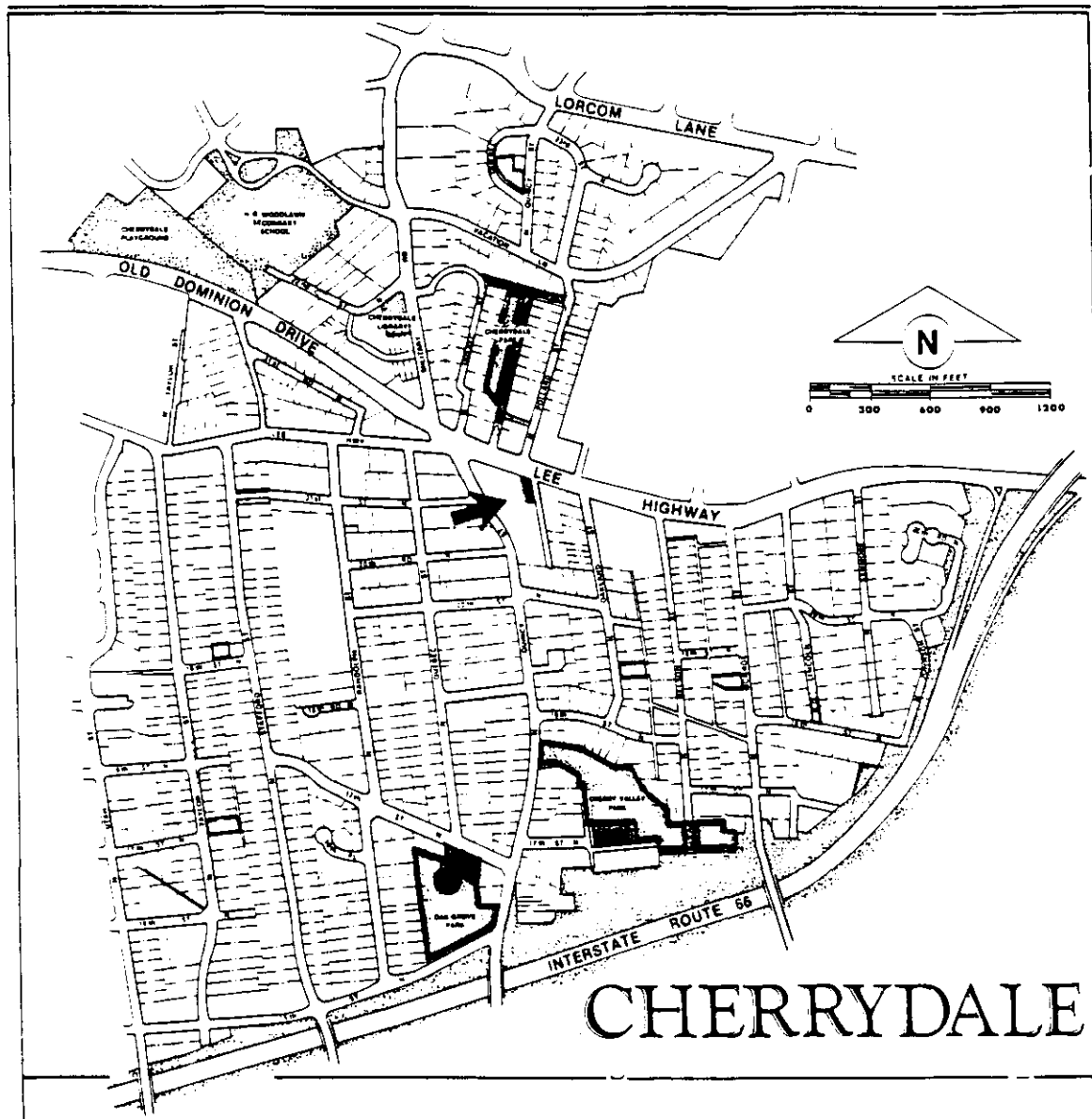
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THE CHERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE

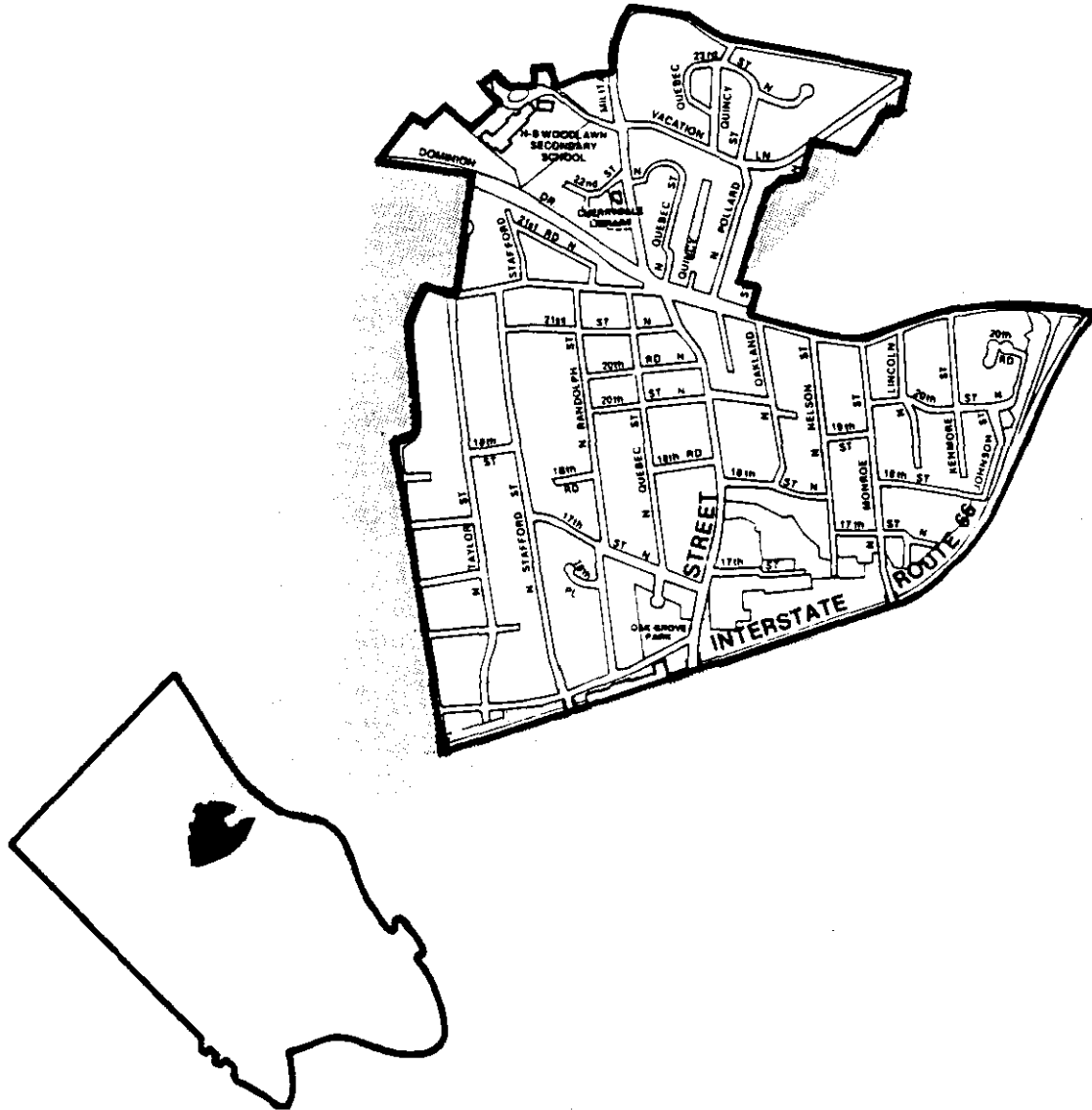
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CHERRYDALE



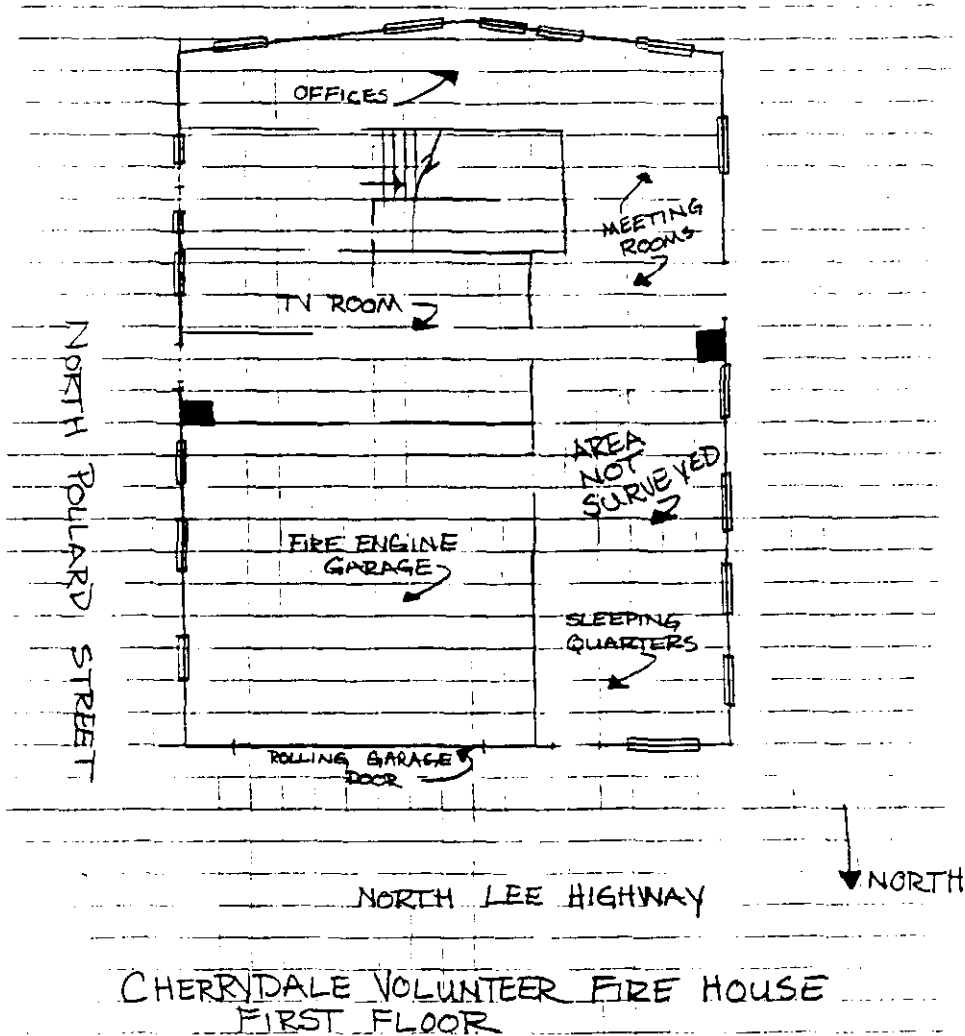
THE CHERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE
(not to scale)

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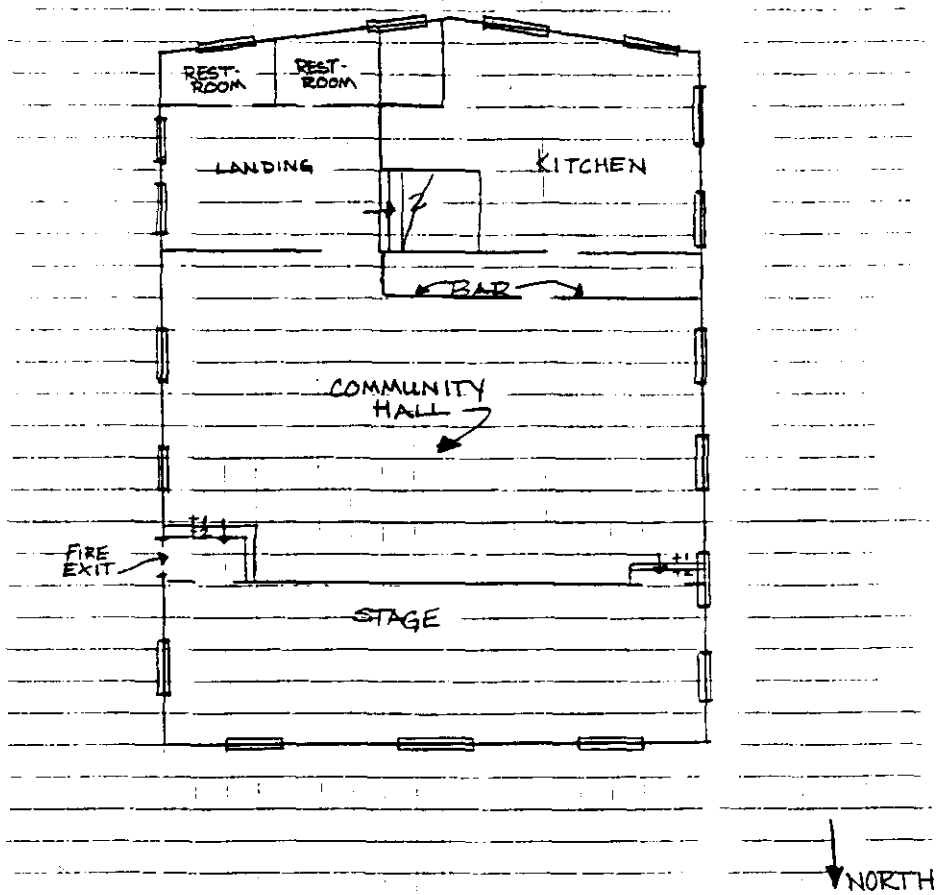
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CHERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE
SECOND FLOOR

(not to scale)

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All photographs are of:

**CHERRYDALE VOLUNTEER FIRE HOUSE
3900 NORTH LEE HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA
VDHR FILE #00-82**

All photographs were taken by Tracerics in December 1994. Negatives are on file with the VDHR collection at the Virginia State Library and Archives.

VIEW OF: Northeast Corner, View Looking Southwest NEG. NO: 14016-34 PHOTO 1 OF 15	VIEW OF: West Elevation, View Looking South NEG. NO: 14016-21 PHOTO 6 OF 15
VIEW OF: North Elevation, View Looking South NEG. NO: 14016-35 PHOTO 2 OF 15	VIEW OF: South Elevation, View Looking Northwest NEG. NO: 14016-23 PHOTO 7 OF 15
VIEW OF: Northwest Corner, View Looking Southeast NEG. NO: 14016-18 PHOTO 3 OF 15	VIEW OF: Southeast Corner, View Looking Northwest NEG. NO: 14016-24 PHOTO 8 OF 15
VIEW OF: West Elevation, View Looking Southeast NEG. NO: 14016-19 PHOTO 4 OF 15	VIEW OF: East Elevation, View Looking West NEG. NO: 14016-22 PHOTO 9 OF 15
VIEW OF: West Elevation, View Looking Southeast NEG. NO: 14016-20 PHOTO 5 OF 15	VIEW OF: Detail of First Floor, East Elevation, View Looking West NEG. NO: 14016-33 PHOTO 10 OF 15

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Photograph 11:

VIEW OF: First Floor Entry and Stair, View Looking West
NEG. NO: 14016-30
PHOTO 11 OF 15

VIEW OF: Second Floor, View Looking Southeast
NEG. NO: 14016-28
PHOTO 12 OF 15

VIEW OF: Second Floor, View Looking North
NEG. NO: 14016-26
PHOTO 13 OF 15

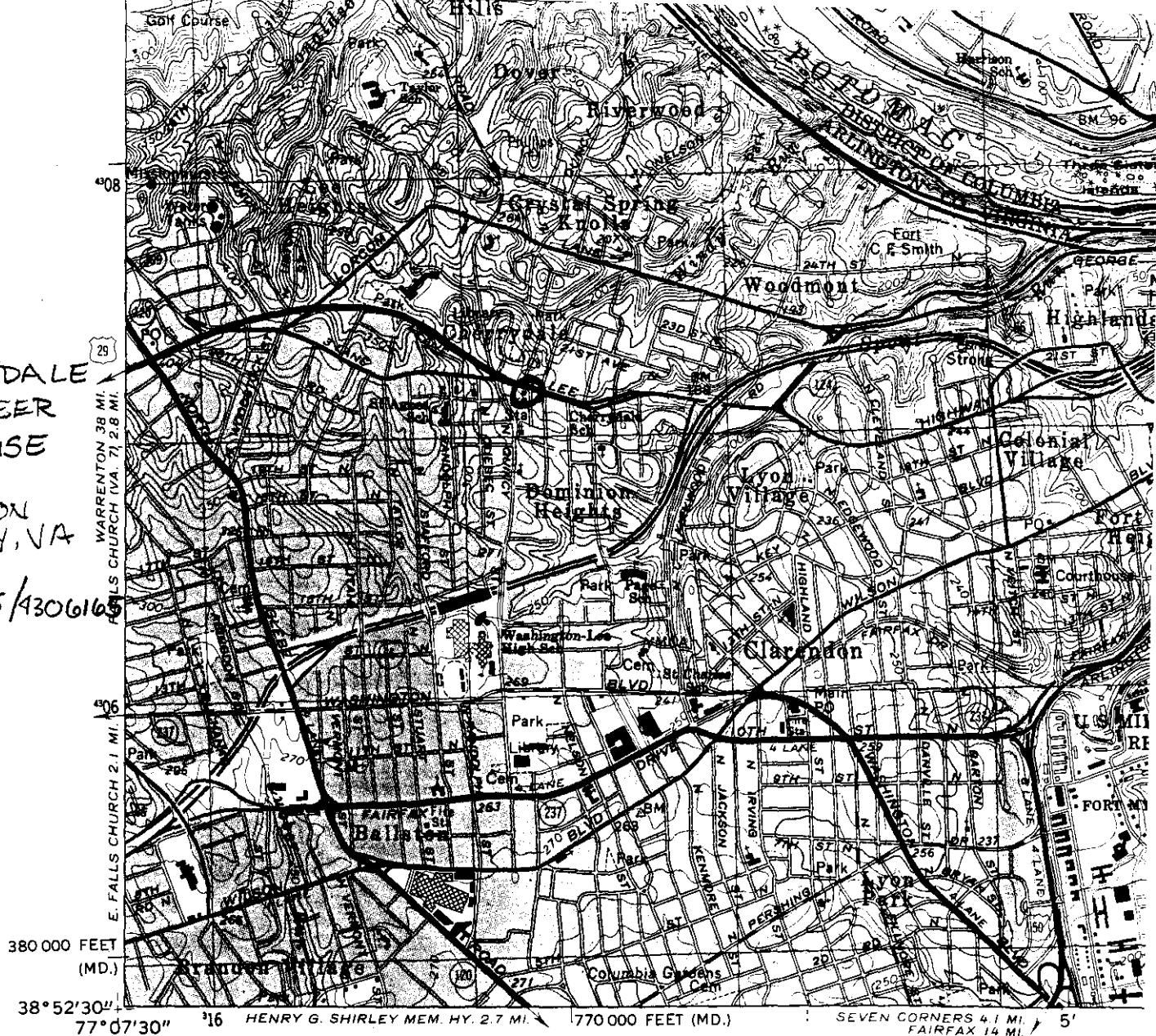
VIEW OF: Second Floor, View Looking South
NEG. NO: 14016-27
PHOTO 14 OF 15

VIEW OF: Ceiling, First Floor, View Looking Northeast
NEG. NO: 14016-31
PHOTO 15 OF 15

CHERRYDALE
VOLUNTEER
FIREHOUSE

ARLINGTON
COUNTY, VA

18/317225/4306165



(ANNANDALE)
5561 / SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey and the National Ocean Service

Control by USGS, NOS/NOAA, NCPS, and WSSC

Compiled by photogrammetric methods from aerial photographs taken 1955. Field checked 1956. Revised 1965

Bathymetry compiled by the National Ocean Service from tide-coordinated hydrographic surveys. This information is not intended for navigational purposes

Mean low water (dotted) line and mean high water (heavy solid) line compiled by NOS from tide-coordinated aerial photographs. Apparent shoreline (outer edge of vegetation) shown by light solid line

Polyconic projection. 10,000-foot grid ticks based on Maryland coordinate system, and Virginia coordinate system, north zone 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid, zone 18 1927 North American Datum

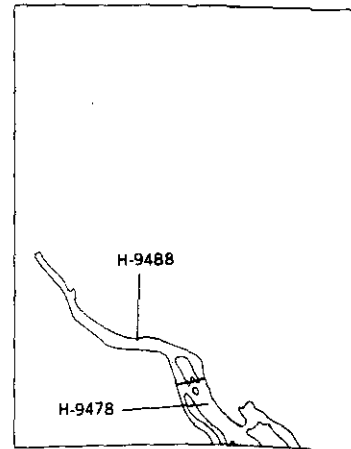
To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983 move the projection lines 8 meters south and 26 meters west as shown by dashed corner ticks

Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of the National or State reservations shown on this map

Revisions shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with Commonwealth of Virginia agencies from aerial photographs taken 1981 and other sources. This information not field checked Map edited 1983

Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas

NATIONAL OCEAN SERVICE
HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY INDEX



HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEY
INFORMATION

Survey Number	Survey Date	Survey Scale	Survey Line spacing (Naut. Miles)
H-9478	1977	1:5,000	.01-.08
H-9488	1976	1:5,000	.01-.05