

# NATURAL BRIDGE RESORT

## HISTORIC SURVEY REPORT

ROCKBRIDGE COUNTY, VIRGINIA



Funded By: Virginia Department of Historic Resources Cost Share  
Survey & Planning Grant, 2014-2015

June 1, 2015

**Prepared by:**

**Consultant Team**

**Anne Stuart Beckett**

1024 Hamilton Avenue, Roanoke, Virginia

**with Sara Hollberg, AICP**

**Prepared for:**

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**

2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, Virginia 23221

**Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc. c/o Kissito Healthcare Inc.**

5228 Valleypointe Pkwy  
Building B, Suite 1  
Roanoke, Virginia 24019

**Rockbridge County**

County Administration Building  
150 S. Main Street  
Lexington, Virginia 24450

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

We would like to thank the following for their support during this project:

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources:**

Carey Jones, Cost Share Survey & Planning Grant Program Manager  
Michael Pulice, Western Regional Preservation Office  
Quatro Hubbard, Archivist

**Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund:**

Tom Clarke, President  
Paul Cooper, General Manager, Natural Bridge Hotel  
Billie Jo Clark, Assistant to the General Manager

**Rockbridge County Resources:**

Dan Grim, Rockbridge County GIS Manager  
Arthur Bartenstein, ABL Landscape Architecture  
Eric Wilson, Rockbridge Historical Society  
Thomas Camden and staff, Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library Special Collections & Archives  
Kurt Russ, Mountain Valley Preservation Alliance  
Ken Koons, History Professor, Virginia Military Institute

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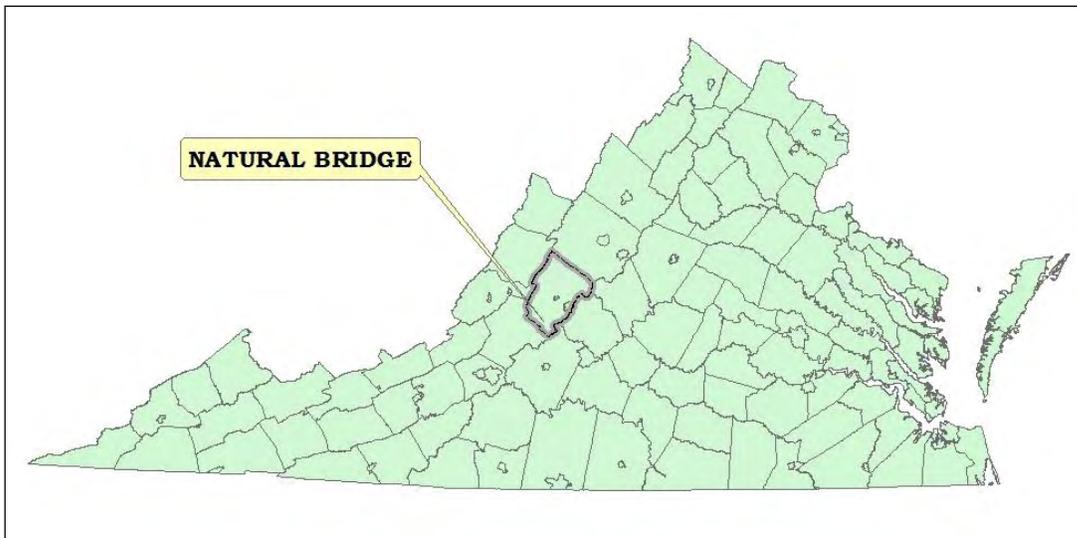
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## ABSTRACT

In July 2014, Rockbridge County was awarded a matching grant by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources as part of the Cost Share program available to localities in order to conduct historic surveys. In December 2014, through a Request for Proposal process, the Virginia Department of Historic Resources awarded a contract for the project to Anne Stuart Beckett. Ms. Beckett served as Project Manager and Project Architectural Historian. Sara S. Hollberg, AICP, assisted as Project Planner/Historian.

Reflecting the unique character of the Natural Bridge Resort and the pending transition of the larger property into a state park, this project has two parts: an architectural reconnaissance survey and a comprehensive report. The Department of Historic Resources designated that 36-40 properties within the 1,600-acre survey area were to be surveyed at the reconnaissance level. A total of 42 properties were surveyed. These were documented to Department of Historic Resource's standards and entered into their Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) database. A comprehensive report was also a required product of the project to provide additional information about the 18<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup>-century patterns of the land use and development that have occurred around the Natural Bridge geologic feature.

The information collected and analyzed through this project should contribute to the recognition and protection of important historic resources in both the short- and long-term planning needs of the Natural Bridge Resort. This report serves as an educational tool to encourage preservation of these historic resources. Specific recommendations for private initiatives are included in this report. The project is intended to provide information to support the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund's proposed Natural Bridge Historic District and to help the owners and the county and the state prepare for the Natural Bridge to become Virginia's newest state park.



**Figure 1: Location map of Natural Bridge, Virginia. (Image courtesy of Dan Grim, County of Rockbridge, 2015).**

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## **CHAPTER 1: PROJECT BACKGROUND**

### **INTRODUCTION**

In 2015, consultant Anne Stuart Beckett conducted a reconnaissance-level historic resources survey and an archival research study of the 1,600-acre Natural Bridge resort property in Natural Bridge, Rockbridge County, Virginia. The survey was completed for Virginia's Department of Historic Resources as part of their cost-share program. The survey represents the first major effort to document the historic resources in the Natural Bridge resort area and to assess their significance and integrity. This survey report includes a description of the survey methodology, survey findings, and recommendations for further research.

### **PURPOSE**

The Natural Bridge Hotel and Conference Center is a tourist resort located in the central Valley of Virginia around the Natural Bridge geologic feature, widely known as a "natural wonder." In February, 2014, the entire property was transferred from private ownership to the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, Inc. (VCLF), which seeks to conserve Virginia's natural resources for public access and enjoyment through conservation, education, and outdoor recreation. The VCLF's goal is to preserve Natural Bridge's unique cultural and natural resources for public enrichment and enjoyment by donating significant parts of the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia for conversion to a State Park. In September, 2014 DHR's Architecture Evaluation Committee determined the Natural Bridge Historic District to be potentially eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

In 2014, Rockbridge County also identified the Natural Bridge resort area as a high priority for architectural survey and submitted a Cost Share Survey Planning Application. The county's aim was to provide a foundation for educated decisions related to capital improvements and subsequent management, maintenance, and site interpretation. It was anticipated that the reconnaissance survey and background research would serve as the basis for a Natural Bridge Historic District nomination, the first step in a process of creating a management and preservation plan for the historic tourist resort complex.

### **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

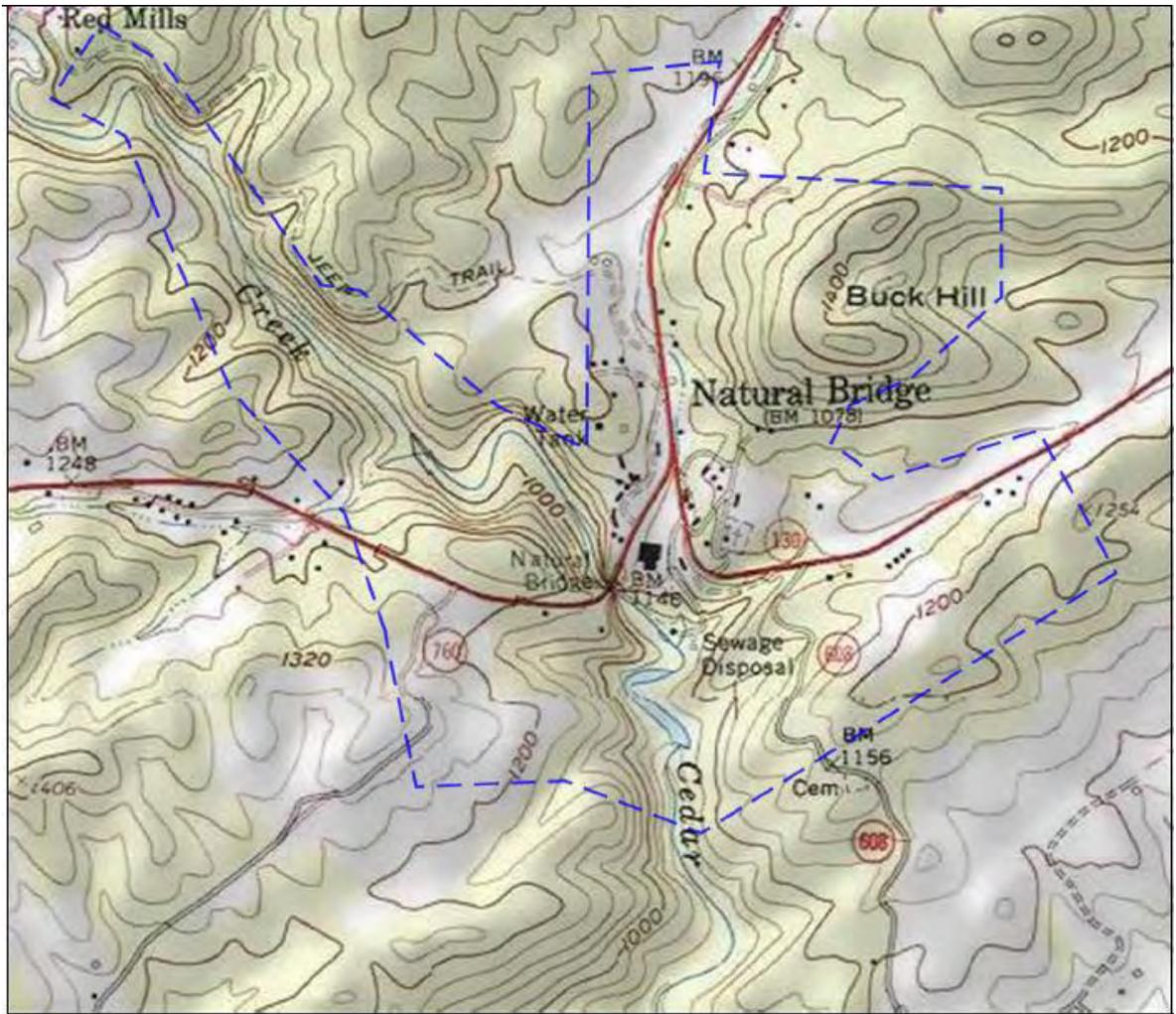
In December 2014, Anne Stuart Beckett was awarded the cost-share contract to perform the reconnaissance survey of 36-40 properties and to conduct in-depth research of the Natural Bridge area with a main focus on the tourist resort complex. Beginning in January 2015, she worked with DHR to identify the resources to survey and ultimately provided documentation at the reconnaissance survey level for 42 primary resources and 14 secondary resources within the approximately 1,600-acre Natural Bridge property. The survey of these resources should provide insight to the evolution of the Natural Bridge Resort as a tourist destination, as well as the resort's contributions to the region's economy over the last 250 years. The survey and documentation also includes recommendations for contributing status to the identified historic resources.

Survey tasks included a field survey, historical research, data entry, photography, and the creation of site plans and base maps. All work was completed in accordance with the standards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the National Park Service. In addition to the reconnaissance survey, in-depth research was conducted to provide additional information about 18<sup>th</sup>–20<sup>th</sup>-century patterns of land use and development that have occurred around the Natural Bridge geologic feature.

## **STUDY AREA**

The area for the Natural Bridge Resort Survey Report is located at the southern edge of the Shenandoah Valley and encompasses the approximately 1,600-acre VCLF property in southern Rockbridge County centered on the community of Natural Bridge. The Natural Bridge and the Natural Bridge Caverns actually demarcate the southern end of the Shenandoah Valley. The area is situated 14 miles south of the county seat of Lexington, three miles east of Interstate Highway 81, 12 miles north of the town of Buchanan, and two miles west of Natural Bridge Station, a hamlet that overlooks the James River where the Norfolk & Western and the Chesapeake & Ohio railroads intersected and shared a joint depot. The town of Glasgow and the city of Lynchburg are further east on the same road. The rural landscape is hilly and wooded with scrub forest and is cut through by the Cedar Creek valley, a steep gorge that carries Cedar Creek a total of six miles to the James River and through the Natural Bridge. U.S. Highway 11 (South Lee Highway) travels over the Natural Bridge and through the resort before merging with State Highway 130 (Wert Faulkner Highway) from the east. The Natural Bridge resort area predominately displays late 1940s to mid-1960s Colonial Revival style resort buildings with a few vernacular and Colonial Revival-style domestic buildings dating from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth centuries. There are 41 primary resources and 14 secondary resources located in the immediate survey area. An additional resource that was recently purchased by the owner, but is located outside of the survey area, was documented at their request, bringing the survey total to 42.

The majority of the resort's buildings are of the Colonial Revival style, built of brick and large in scale. These commercial buildings were mostly erected during the late 1940s into the mid-1960s. Some smaller frame Colonial Revival style buildings were built in the 1930s and early 1940s for management staff housing. More modest frame houses in a vernacular form were built in the 1920s for staff. Cinder block and stucco commercial buildings were also erected in the 1920s. The survey area also includes the site of one house destroyed by fire. Various natural features, such as the Natural Bridge itself and the Saltpetre Cave are also considered sites in the historic district inventory. The two earliest buildings, both domestic resources, were built of log in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The majority of the resources remain in good condition, some have been modified, some have been neglected, and still others were recently destroyed. Two are in ruinous condition. The roads are in good condition and the viewsheds have remained unspoiled. The Jefferson National Forest encompasses the Blue Ridge Mountains to the southeast and Short Hills Mountain to the northwest.



Title: Natural Bridge, Rockbridge County Survey Area

Date: 10/14/2014

Figure 2: Natural Bridge Survey Area Map. (Department of Historic Resources, 2014).

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## CHAPTER 2: RESEARCH METHODS

### SURVEY METHODOLOGY

All work was planned in accordance with established state and federal standards for documentation of historic resources. Survey tasks included historical research, field survey, photography, and the creation of site plans and base maps. All survey data was entered into the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS). The survey files were completed in accordance with instructions provided by VDHR. All survey designs and plans were made in accordance with National Register Bulletin #24.

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Background data was reviewed prior to, during, and after completion of the field study. The literature and records search was conducted in Rockbridge County, Richmond, Charlottesville, and Roanoke, Virginia at the following locations:

Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia  
Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia  
University of Virginia, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, Charlottesville, Virginia  
Rockbridge Historical Society, Lexington, Virginia  
Rockbridge County Clerk's Office, Lexington, Virginia  
Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, Lexington, Virginia  
Natural Bridge Hotel archives, Natural Bridge, Virginia  
Rockbridge County Geographic Information System (GIS) Department, Lexington, Virginia  
ABL Landscape Architects, Lexington, Virginia  
Roanoke Regional Public Library, Virginia Room, Roanoke, Virginia  
Historical Society of Western Virginia, Roanoke, Virginia

Specific sources included the 1858 Edward Beyer Lithograph, the 1860 William Gilham map, the 1882 Carmichael Map, a 1954 Natural Bridge resort area site plan, county deeds, and general history books. *Jefferson's Western Travels: Over Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains* by Gene Crotty, *Images of America: Natural Bridge* by Ernst H. Kastning, *The Natural Bridge and Its Historical Surroundings* by E.P. Tompkins and J. Lee Davis, *Bits of History and Legend Around and About The Natural Bridge of Virginia* by J. Lee Davis, and the Natural Bridge Historic District Preliminary Information Form (2014) written by Daniel J. Pezzoni were especially useful.

### PREVIOUSLY SURVEYED RESOURCES

Six properties within the 1,600-acre study area had been previously surveyed. One of these resources, **The Natural Bridge of Virginia** (081-0415) is on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as listed as a National Historic Landmark.

Further, the proposed **Natural Bridge Historic District** (081-7147), a roughly 150-200 acre area was recently approved eligible for listing to the National Register of Historic Places by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

## **DELIVERABLES**

### Task 1: Project Initiation

The Consultant met with VDHR staff and representatives from the VCLF and Rockbridge County to discuss the project scope. A windshield survey was conducted to review the survey area as part of a second meeting with the Natural Bridge Hotel staff.

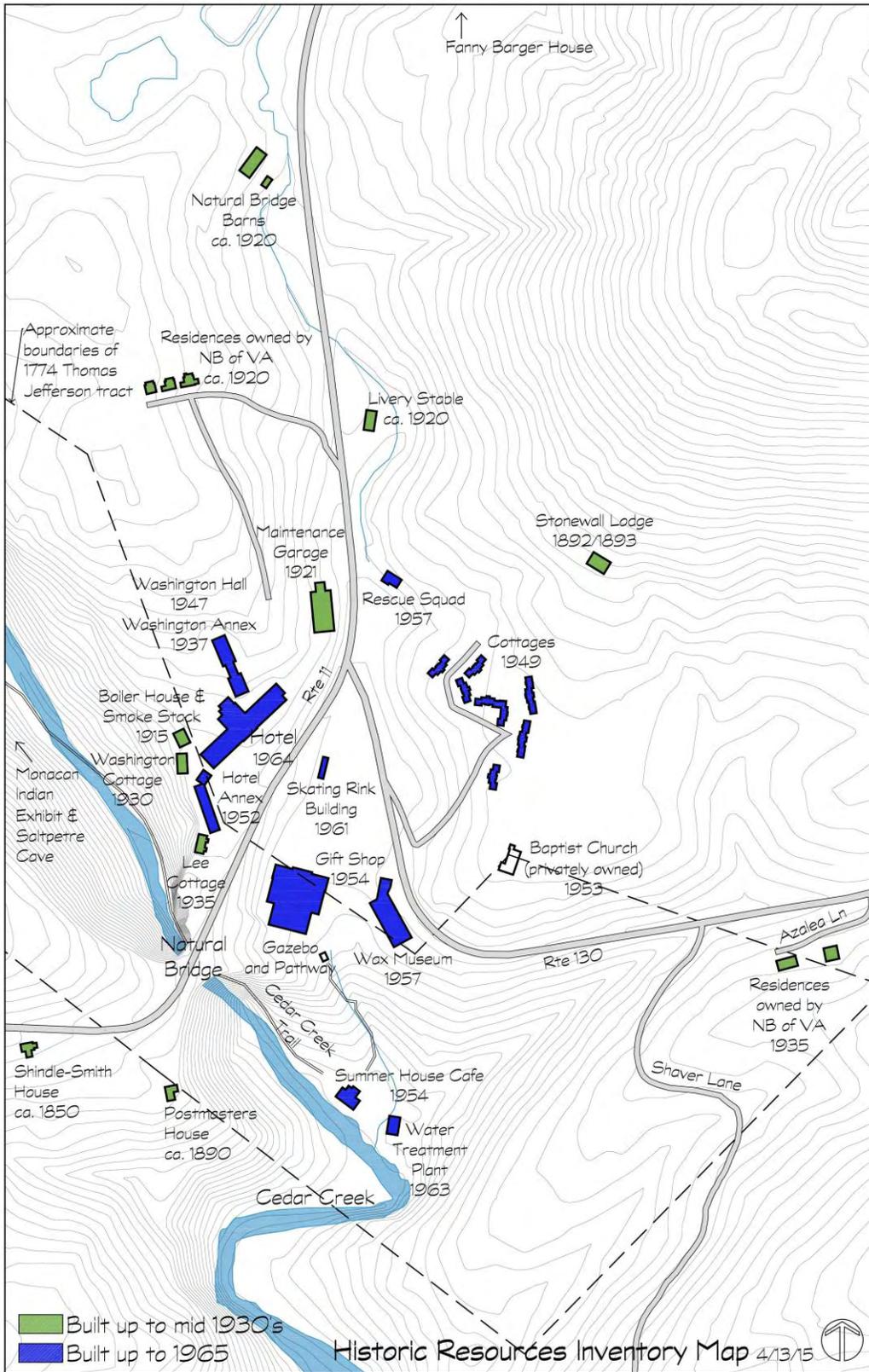
### Task 2: Background Research

The Consultant conducted a review of relevant documents and records concerning the project area. Materials available in the VDHR archives as well as in County records and local repositories were used to understand what documentation exists. Background data was reviewed prior to fieldwork so that known buildings, sites, and structures could be located and further investigated during field survey.

### Task 3: Reconnaissance-Level Survey

The Consultant conducted the field survey of 42 properties in the Natural Bridge area. The survey was consistent with the procedures established by the *Secretary of the Interior's Guidelines for a Comprehensive Reconnaissance Survey*.

All field data was entered into the Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (V-CRIS). Survey files were compiled for each property surveyed and included reconnaissance documentation in accordance with 2011 DHR Guidelines. The Consultant completed this survey report containing an architectural summary of the Natural Bridge resort area, as well as recommendations for further work.



**Figure 3: Historic Resources Inventory Map. (ABL Landscape Architecture, 2015).**

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## CHAPTER 3: HISTORIC TIMELINE

Located in the backcountry of Rockbridge County near the James River, the Natural Bridge of Virginia, often touted as one of the Seven Wonders of the World, was first discovered by European settlers around the mid-1700s. Prior to the Contact Period, the Monacan Indians roamed the area, and they held strong associations with the bridge, although little has been documented about this tribe. The property was first purchased in 1774 by Thomas Jefferson, but it was not developed until after it passed out of his family around 1835, and the first major building, the Forest Inn was built.

Natural Bridge began to be developed more fully as a resort after the arrival of the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad in 1881. The Norfolk and Western Railway soon followed, and the joint depot at the nearby Natural Bridge Station served 12 trains daily. Under the ownership of Col. Henry C. Parsons from 1881 to 1894, the growing resort was turned into a campus-like setting, with new buildings erected, existing ones expanded, and a pond, gazebo, and extensive walking and bridle trails established, and long sweeping vistas created. The resort layout was physically changed during the mid-1930s when the new US Highway 11 was diverted through the resort. Buildings were torn down, roads were realigned and in the case of US 11, elevated, and the previous campus-like feel was minimized.

During the post-World War II economic boom and under the new management of the Natural Bridge Company and its new General Manager James Hunter from 1946 to 1971, most of the remaining earlier buildings were destroyed by fire or by design. New buildings of a much greater scale that clearly catered to mass tourism removed any semblance of the resort's bucolic late-nineteenth-century atmosphere. In 1988, the property went up for sale and Washington D.C. area real estate developer, Angelo Puglisi headed a group that bought the site for \$6.5 million. Few physical changes were made in the next few decades. In mid-2013, Puglisi decided to sell the property and in February 2014, a complex conservation deal came to fruition with a total of about 1,600 acres transferred to the private Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, created as an interim caretaker and owner. Once the \$9 million note used to finance the purchase is retired, VCLF will donate all but the hotel (under renovation), cottages, and caverns to the Commonwealth of Virginia for a state park.

## **Colonial Through Post-Jefferson Era: 1742-1869**

The first settlements in the area, Native American or European, occurred in the rich bottom lands of the confluence of the Maury (then North River) and James Rivers in what is now present-day Glasgow (a small industrial town incorporated in 1892) six miles east of Natural Bridge. Thomas Jefferson recorded in his 1784 published *Notes on the State of Virginia* that there was a Monacan encampment there in 1669 with 30 warriors and a total of not more than 120 residents (Crotty 2002:21). The earliest white explorers do not appear until the mid-1730s, and even then the land was virtually unexplored. Even the Native Americans used the land only for hunting, having an agreement among the different tribes that the Valley of Virginia was to be used as a common hunting-ground. Multiple tribes, such as the Delawares and the Iroquois from the north, the Shawnees from the West, and the Catawbias and the Cherokees from the South, came here annually to hunt the buffalo and elk upon which they depended for their food (Tompkins 1939:2). The various Native tribes all travelled on the “Great (Warrior) Path,” the main north/south corridor that traversed the trough-like Shenandoah Valley between the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east and the Allegheny Mountains to the West. As the European settlers begin to trickle down from the north, they brought their diseases with them, and coupled with “competition for nationhood” from other tribes, the Monacans slowly left the area (Crotty 2002:21).

John Salling [Salley], a German weaver, was the first white person to live near the Natural Bridge. In 1741 he and his brother Peter settled on a 400-acre tract above the confluence of the Maury and James rivers in present-day Glasgow. John Salling kept a diary, which provides the first description of the Natural Bridge. His 1742 diary entry stated: “We set off from my House went to Cedar Creek, about five miles, where is a Natural Bridge over said Creek, reaching from the Hill on one side to the Hill on the other. It is a solid Rock and is two hundred and three feet high, having a large Spacious arch, where the water runs thro” (Tompkins 1939:1; Crotty 2002:50).

The previously established Native American ‘Great Path’ was the precursor to the Great Wagon Road that developed from Philadelphia south during the decade after 1745. Prior to this, most of the trail within the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia remained a trail and at times wagon transportation was impossible. Although this trail as far south as the New River had been authorized as a public road since 1746, few major improvements had been made to it south of Staunton before 1755. It would be another decade before wagon traffic increased and only as far as Lexington, with little settlement beyond there (Mitchell 1977:149-51). Lexington became the courthouse town of Rockbridge County a year after it was formed from parts of Augusta and Botetourt counties in 1777.

Despite the number of towns in the Shenandoah Valley after 1775, the entire region remained rural. As a new settlement, Lexington (14 miles north of Natural Bridge), in 1800 had about 300 people, and the village of Springfield, an important crossroads community west of Natural Bridge had 86 (Mitchell 1977:198). While the lower valley (the northern end) continued to expand, the upper valley (Natural Bridge region) remained sparsely populated; less than 10 percent of the population lived in towns, which were spaced every 22-30 miles apart. Furthermore, while the lower valley traded with Alexandria, Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Richmond, Rockbridge County being the most southern county in the Shenandoah Valley, relied almost exclusively on Richmond and other trading centers along the middle James River, especially Lynchburg (Mitchell 1997:227).

Starting around 1750, Thomas Jefferson's father Peter Jefferson and Joshua Fry surveyed the area in preparation for their 1775 publication of the *Fry-Jefferson Map of Virginia*. The Natural Bridge area was isolated, with only a trail over the bridge, also known as the Rock Bridge. The main north/south route through the Shenandoah Valley, the Great Road, ran two miles northwest of the bridge where it could safely cross Cedar Creek, and where a small mill-based hamlet flourished. Thomas Jefferson may have first heard about the Natural Bridge from his father, and his initial visit coincided with his budding law practice.

As a 25-year old attorney-at-law, Jefferson began practicing law in the Augusta County courthouse town of Staunton, and it was from there that he would detour the 68 miles to visit the bridge. After his first court proceedings in Staunton (leaving from Shadwell) on August 18, 1767, Jefferson began his 38-mile journey to the bridge on August 21, spending the second night at Paxton's Tavern in Glasgow. (His first night was at Steeles Tavern, also in Rockbridge County). The tavern was operated by John Paxton, Sr. and his two sons, who were neighbors with John Salling. Paxton's sons most likely brought Jefferson to the bridge as it was difficult to find, and only a bridle path crossed the bridge in a wooded and un-farmed area (Crotty 2002:6 and 15-21).

### **Jefferson Era: 1774-1835**

Jefferson's legal career spanned from March 1767 to August 1774, which coincided with his introduction to and purchase of the Natural Bridge. In 1773, a year before his purchase, Jefferson and his wife Martha inherited the Bedford County plantation Poplar Forest from her father. This 4,819-acre plantation would provide Jefferson with significant income and the perfect setting after retiring from public life in 1809. It was from here, that Jefferson would travel to visit his property at Natural Bridge.

In September 1773, Jefferson paid James Tremble to survey what would become his 157-acre tract, an oddly shaped tract that resulted from no one else claiming the property.

Apparently the surrounding property owners, such as the Cloyds, McGavocks, Barclays, Greenlees, and Houstons, had no interest in acquiring the non-productive land. On July 5, 1774, Lord Dunmore, King George III's Colonial Governor, signed the Crown Grant issued to Jefferson in the Botetourt County Patent Book for 1773-1774. The grant describes several waterways and a path, but no road traversing the bridge (Crotty 2002:54-55).

After purchasing the property in 1774, Jefferson did not visit again until 1781. Afterwards he made only three more recorded visits, all while he was in retirement from public office and was visiting Poplar Forest—in 1815, 1817, and 1821. It was only when Jefferson retreated to Poplar Forest (three to four times a year for seasonal responsibilities) that he would journey further to Natural Bridge.

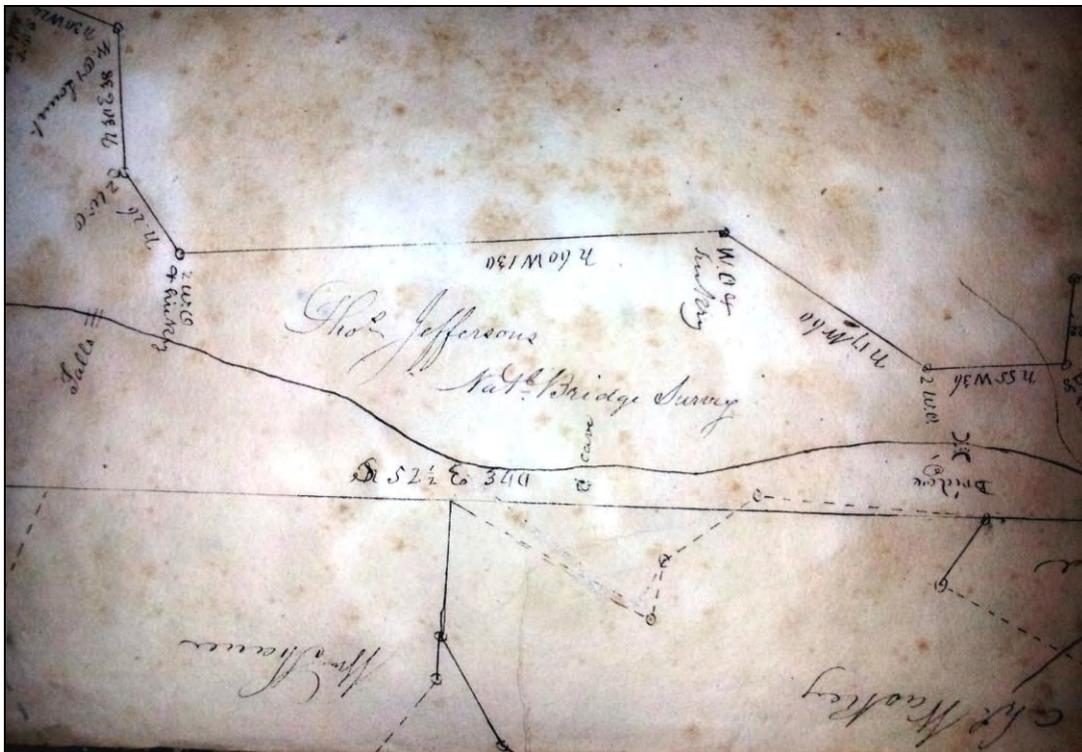
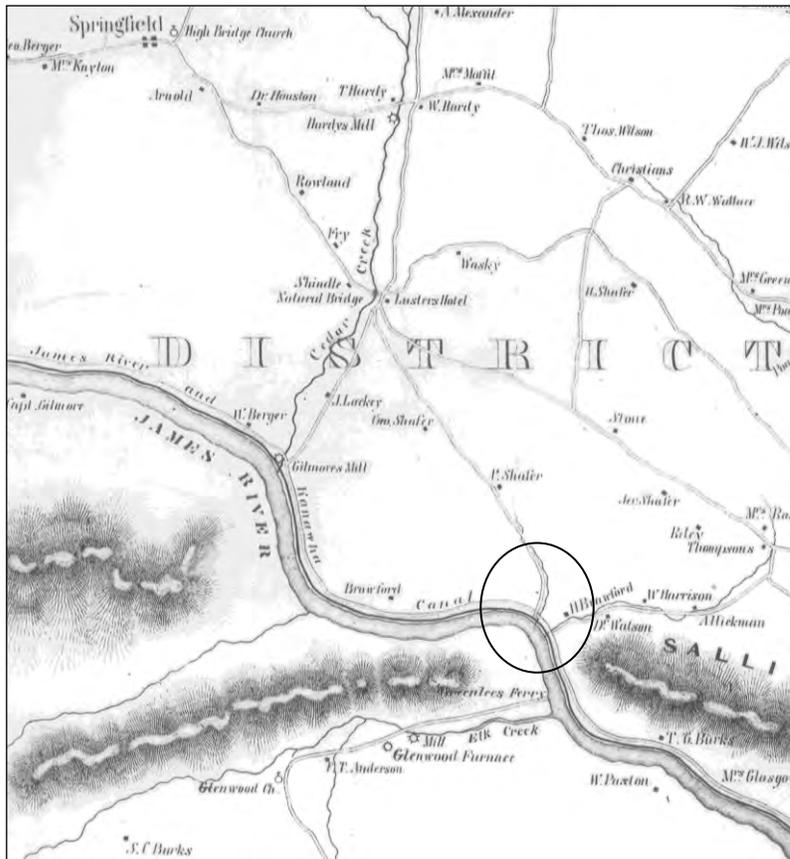


Figure 4: Thomas Jefferson's 157-acre plat map in William Douthat's 1830 Ledger. Douthat allegedly operated a store in the area. (Virginia Historical Society, 2015).

Jefferson stayed at one of two places, either at Greenlee's Ferry on the James River below the bridge, or at Robert Douthat's two-story five-bay Stone Castle at Red Mills, two miles northwest of the bridge, on the Great Wagon Road (now the Plank Road) where it crossed Cedar Creek. The first owner of this land was Hugh Barclay, who built a tavern between 1787 and 1814 and sold it to Robert Douthat in 1814. The deed to Douthat was described as "Commonly known as the tract upon which the old Natural Bridge tavern was situated." Jefferson's tract adjoined this Red Mills area property (Crotty 2002:72). A later Natural Bridge promotional booklet *Description of the Natural*

*Bridge of Virginia and its History 1891* stated that “the first hotel was built by Major Douthat, a Revolutionary soldier, in 1815, at a place about two miles north of the Bridge. An opposition hotel was built near the former in 1820” (Virginia Historic Society Archives 2015). This competing hotel could refer to the Barclay’s Tavern, an extant two-story, five-bay brick and stone dwelling. Prior to the resorts development, visitors to

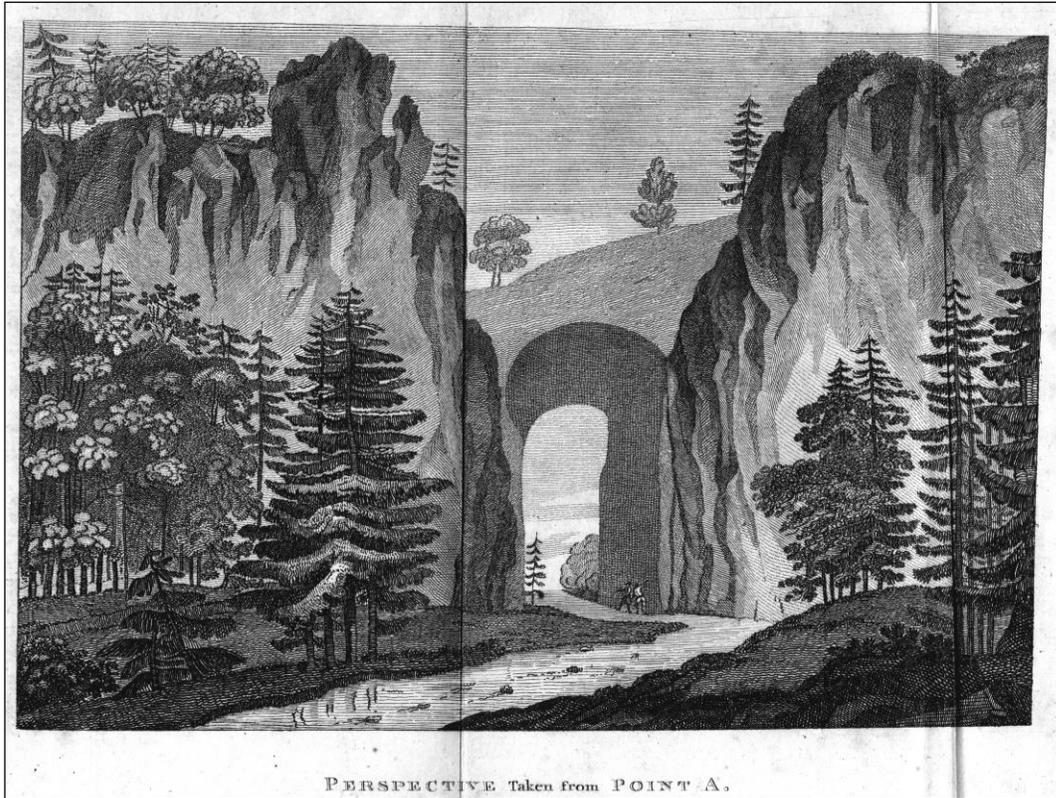
these taverns would have approached the bridge from a narrow path alongside Cedar Creek, thus viewing it from its north elevation, opposite its later as well as its current approach.



**Figure 5: A detailed section of the William Gilham 1860 Map of Rockbridge County denoting the location of Greenlee’s Ferry, Gilmore’s Mill, and the Red Mills area where Barclay’s Tavern and Stone Castle are located. Note the establishment of Springfield in the upper left corner (Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

The first images of the Natural Bridge were published in London in the 1787 *Travels in America In The Years 1780, 1781, and 1782* by the Marquis de Chastellux, “One of the Forty Members of the French Academy and Major-General of the French Army, serving under the Count de Rochambeau.” (Figure 6). The image shown coincides with Jefferson’s eloquent description of the bridge in his 1784 book *Notes on the State of Virginia* “the most sublime of nature’s works ...It is impossible for the emotions arising from the sublime, to be felt beyond what they are here; so beautiful an arch, so elevated, so light: and springing as it were up to heaven, the rapture of the spectator is really indescribable” (Chambers 1993:9). As Jefferson stated, “If the view from the top be painful and intolerable, that from the below is delightful in an equal degree” (Tompkins 1939:21). The view from the top cannot be overstated. The only access to look down into the Cedar Creek Gorge and straight into the arch is from Pulpit Rock, an outcropping of limestone that also allows a breath-taking view north into the Cedar Creek Valley from the edge of the east-side cliff. (Figure 7). Jefferson also noted that the “Bridge affords a

public and commodious passage over a valley which cannot be crossed elsewhere for a considerable distance” and the “very pleasing view of the North Mountain on one side and Blue Ridge on the other.”



**Figure 6: One of the two first images of the Natural Bridge published in London in the 1787 *Travels in America In The Years 1780, 1781, and 1782* by the Marquis de Chastellux. (Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

In 1816, at the age of 73, Jefferson allowed his granddaughters Ellen (19) and Cornelia (16) to visit him at Poplar Forest. From there, they would travel, the following summer, on a two-day, 30-mile journey to Natural Bridge. On the morning of August 13, 1817, the two granddaughters, “Grandpapa” and slaves Gil and Israel set out to Natural Bridge. They began their journey leisurely enough in his four-horse-drawn carriage to the foot of the Blue Ridge Mountains where they switched to horseback and crossed through Petite’s Gap to Greenlee’s Ferry on the south side of the James River. Here they lodged at “an excellent brick house” as described by Cornelia, before crossing the James River to Gilmore’s Mills and up the connecting road, (Shafer Lane) to the Natural Bridge (Chambers 1993:108-109).

As Jefferson was a rare visitor to his property, and the adjoining properties were being farmed and timbered, his neighbors encroached on his isolated and unoccupied parcel and began harvesting its timber. Being made aware of this situation in 1815 through his business associate and friend William Caruthers in Lexington, Jefferson agreed to

Caruthers' suggestion to have a permanent caretaker live on the premises. As Jefferson had trouble paying the property taxes, he hired Patrick Henry, five years a freed black man from Westmoreland County who found his way to Lexington through family connections to live on the property as a caretaker and provisional tour guide. In 1816, Henry purchased and freed a slave named Louisa and took her for his wife and the following year set up a permanent residence near the bridge. In 1817, Henry constructed their two-room log house on a stone foundation less than 150 yards northwest of the arch (Coffey 2002:143-145). (It is from this humble dwelling and/or foundation that the elaborate Jefferson Cottage would later emerge.) (*Figure 13*).

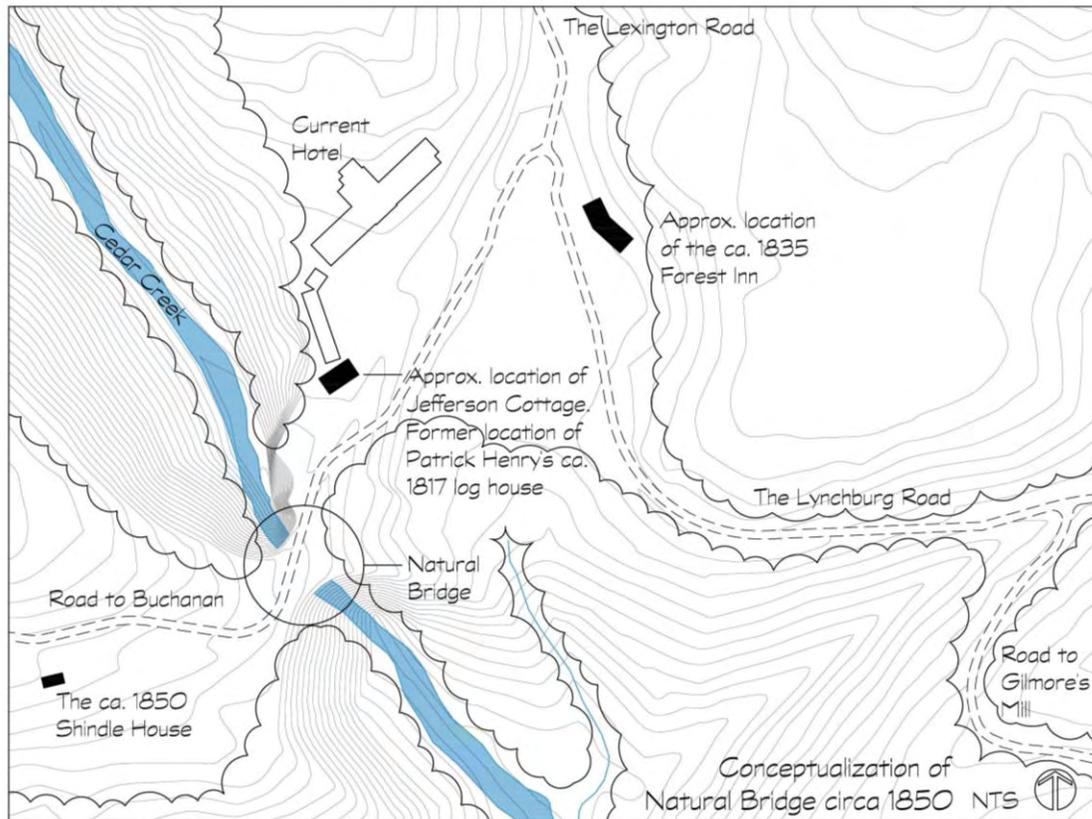
During their August, 1817 visit to the bridge, Cornelia described Henry as "a mulatto man [who]...generally goes with persons who go to see the bridge." Patrick Henry assisted the party to the creek bed below the bridge, and Jefferson paid Henry a dollar, and left five dollars with him "to be pd. to the Sher. of Rockbridge for taxes past & to come" (Chambers 1993:107-110). Aside from Henry's dwelling, it appears that there are no other buildings or improvements on Jefferson's 157-acre property.

In 1821, at age 78, Jefferson made his last recorded trip to his bridge. Following in 1823, Jefferson also made his last trip to Poplar Forest, in which to settle his grandson, Francis Eppes and his bride on that property. On July 4, 1826, Thomas Jefferson died, after which, Patrick Henry and Louisa, and their two children Joseph and Eliza were allowed to continue living in the cabin at Natural Bridge as long as it remained with Jefferson heirs. However, in 1831, Henry died but Louisa and the children apparently continued to stay in the house (Coffey 2002:145). The property was then passed down to Jefferson's grandsons Eppes and then to Thomas J. Randolph, who sold it November 2, 1835, to Revolutionary War Capt. Joel/Joseph Lackland for \$1,200. Lackland built the first substantial building on the property, the ca. 1835 Forest Inn, and the development of the Natural Bridge resort began. Louisa stayed on with Lackland as a domestic and a quasi-docent for the bridge. Several visitors reported the delight of meeting an elderly black woman there who had known Jefferson. It is not known what happened to Henry and Louise's two children (Davis 1949:57; Coffey 2002:145).

Within the survey area, only one building remains from the Jefferson Era: the **Fannie Barger House** (081-7152). This reputed ca. 1790 log house is located outside of the resort area, and the historic district, but was requested to be surveyed as the property was newly purchased by the VCLF during this project. The ca. 1790 construction date is found in the Rockbridge County real estate records, which are generally not researched for accuracy. A recent field investigation suggests a later construction period of 1820s-1830s.

**Post-Jefferson Era: 1835 (Capt. Lackland/John B. Luster) to 1869**

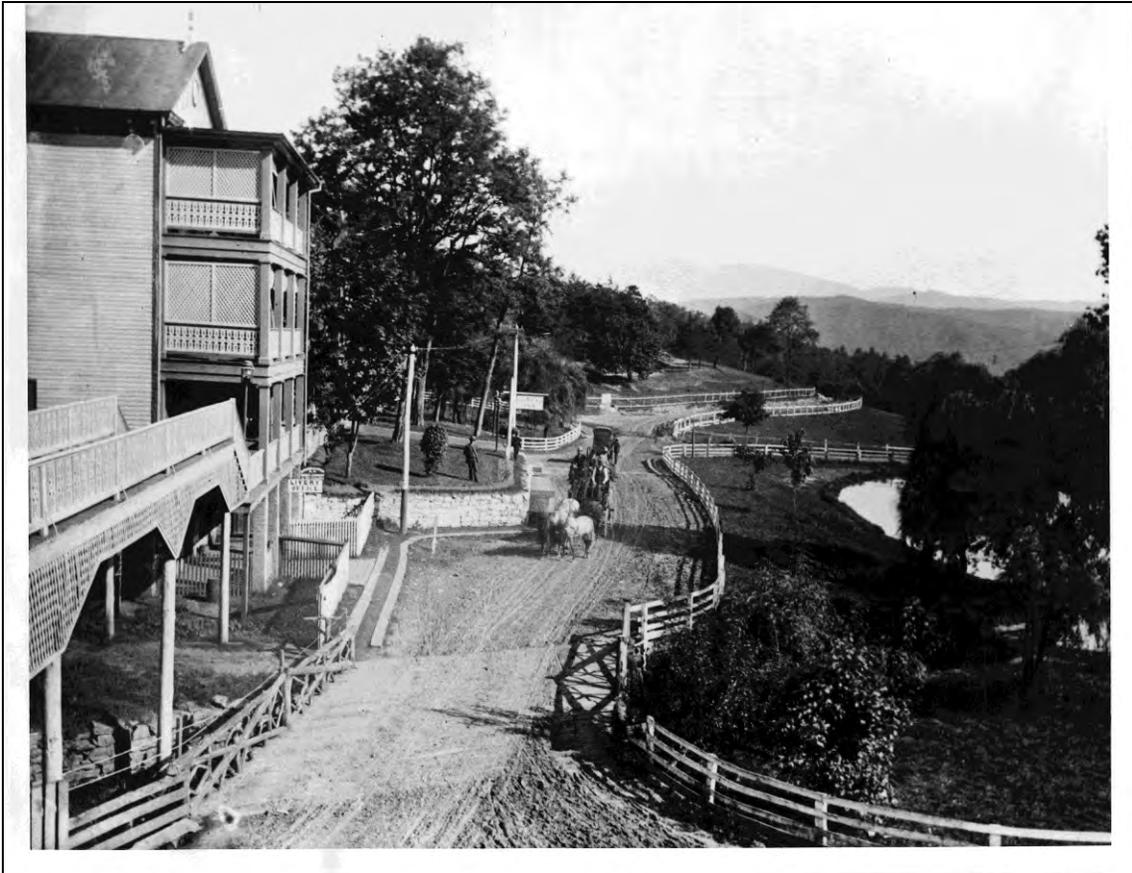
By 1835, Capt. Joseph Lackland had constructed the first major hotel on the resort property. The three-story frame Forest Inn faced west along present-day Route 130 which leads southeast to Natural Bridge Station and on to Glasgow and Lynchburg (the Lynchburg Road) and also runs north to Lexington (the Lexington Road). The Forest Inn stood in the same location as the 1949 Natural Bridge Motor Lodge (demolished 2015).



**Figure 7: A ca. 1850 conceptualization map of Natural Bridge. (ABL Landscape Architecture, 2015).**

Even before he became the hotel’s owner, John B. Luster was associated with the early development of the resort as his previous establishment is mentioned in different publications. A published account of an eyewitness to someone that climbed the bridge began “On Saturday, the 26<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1845, there being myself and several other guests at the tavern of Mr. Luster at the Natural Bridge...” (Tompkins 1939:22). And a 1855 handbill distributed by J. H. L. Sheffield encourages visitors to stay at his “house” instead of “Mr. Luster’s” because his is more “convenient to the Bridge” and states that the ‘Harmon & Brown’s Stages from Buford’s Depot to the Rockbridge Alum, by Lexington...and to the James River Canal Packets’ (Kastning 2014:37). The stagecoach, or ‘stages,’ was the main mode of transportation in the mid-1800s, and the Harmon Line that ran from Buchanan to Natural Bridge would take all day (Pierce 1994:7-9).

“Buford’s Depot” may have been located in Lynchburg where the Virginia and Tennessee was established in 1850, and ran through Bedford County to Big Lick (Roanoke), where it later merged with the Norfolk and Western.



**Figure 8: A ca. 1890 photograph of the Forest Inn, looking east down the Lynchburg Road, which would become Route 130. Note the pond on the right of photograph, the *Loch Bell* was created when the spring that flows into Cascade Creek was dammed (now the parking lot for the Rockbridge Center). The Blue Ridge Mountains are in the background. The Natural Bridge is to the right of the photograph. (Rockbridge Historical Society image courtesy of Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

John Luster was already committed to the growing village when he became the owner of the Natural Bridge in 1859. In the same year, he donated land and materials to establish the Natural Bridge Baptist Church. Built on the hillside overlooking the Forest Inn, the building soon outgrew the growing congregation and reflecting the growth of the community was rebuilt in 1890 (Davis 1949:72; Tompkins 1939:24-25). The current brick church was built in 1953. (The privately owned Natural Bridge Baptist Church and cemetery are not included in the survey). This Baptist congregation as well as the African-American congregation located on Shafer Lane (whose cemetery remains) participated in regularly occurring baptisms in Cedar Creek below the bridge.

The construction of the Forest Inn further increased the Natural Bridge's popularity with Americans as well as Europeans, and the bridge became the subject of numerous paintings, lithographs, decorative wall paper, and editorials. Frederick Church, of the Hudson River School of American landscape painters, depicted a panoramic view of the bridge in 1852, followed by German artist Edward Beyer's lithograph of a similar view in 1858. These views are oriented to the north, towards the bridge from Shafer Lane, and both depict what appears to be the ca. 1850 **Shindle-Smith House** to the left of the bridge (the Forest Inn is to the right). These 1850s images denote the physical development of the fledging resort in contrast to the first 1770s images that only emphasized the bridge.

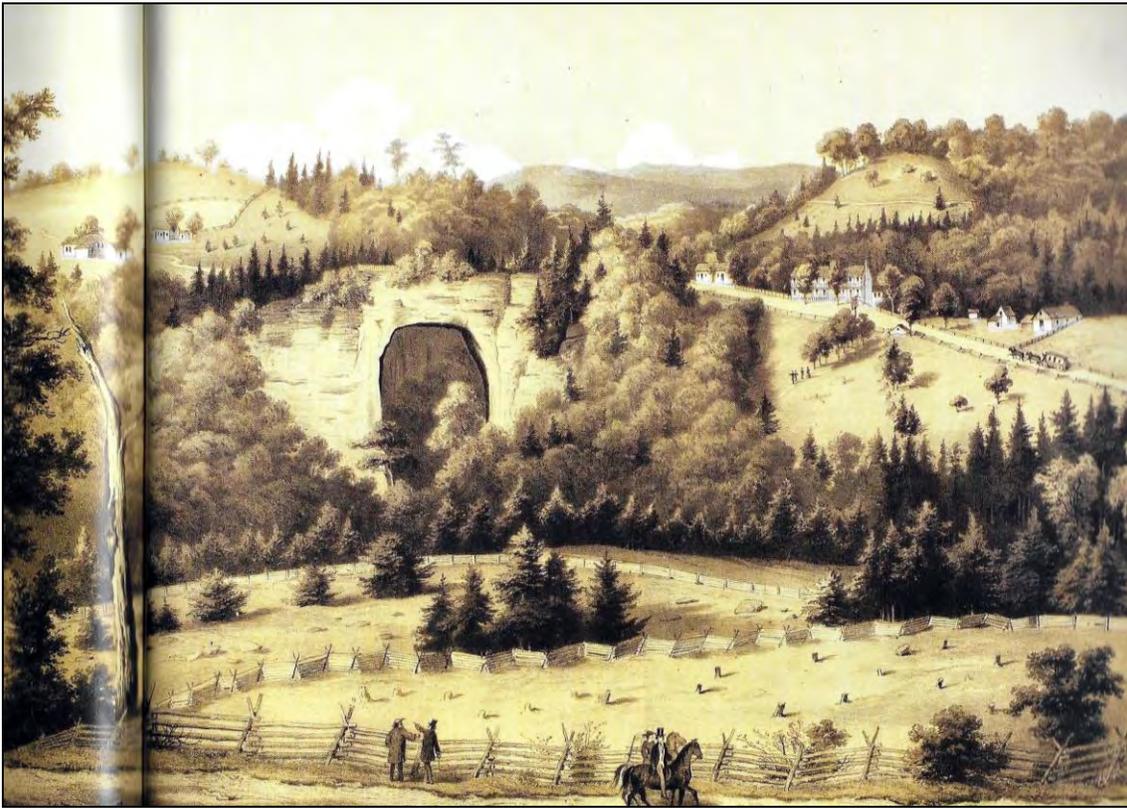
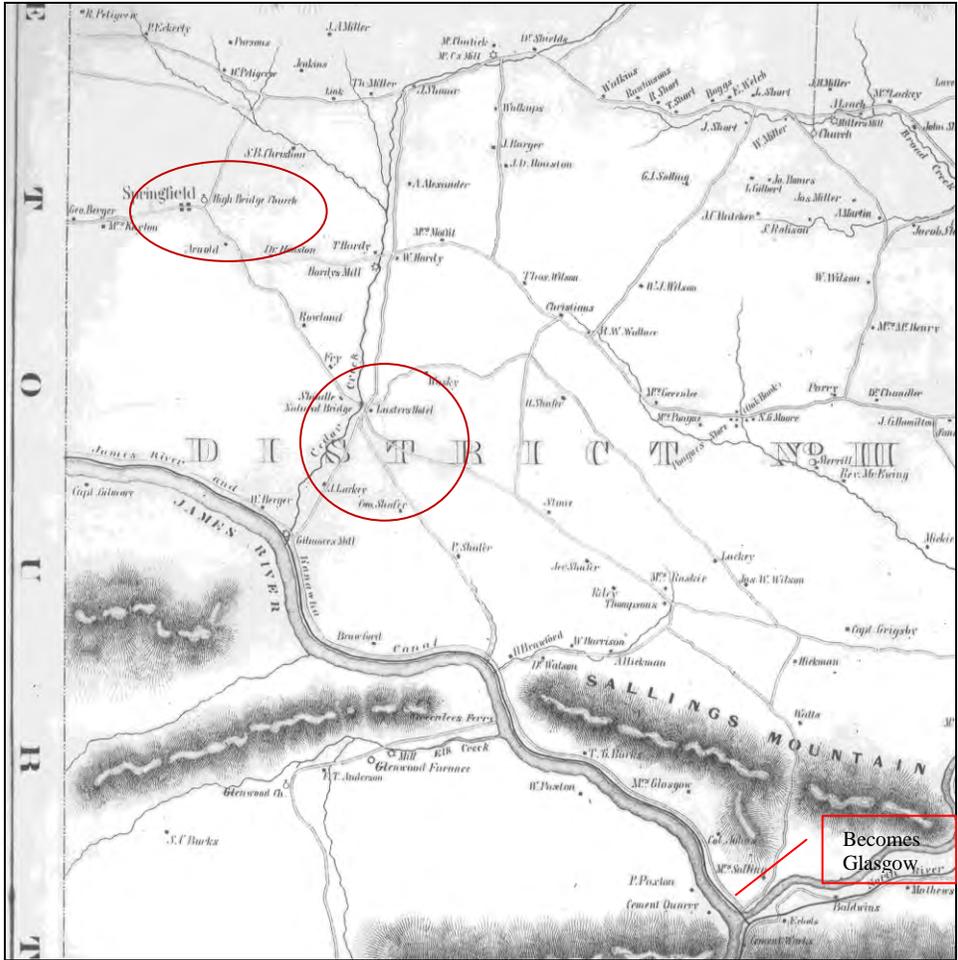


Figure 9: Edward Beyer's 1858 lithograph of Natural Bridge from his *Album of Virginia*, Plate 36. View west from Shafer Lane that led down to Gilmore's Mills on the James River. Note the fencing and timbering in the foreground (the tree stumps indicate that this might have been a newly opened view); the Shindle-Smith House in the upper left corner; the Forest Inn to the upper right corner; visitors strolling down the path to the bridge; and the "stage" bringing in visitors on the Lynchburg Road. Short Hills is in the distance. (*Edward Beyer's Travels Through America*. 2011).

The first major map that denotes the Natural Bridge area is the *William Gilham 1860 Map of Rockbridge County*. "Lusters Hotel" (and "Shindle") appears on this map, even though the Forest Inn had been established since 1835. The James River and Kanawha Canal appears on this map, although no rail lines are depicted, as the V&T runs out of Lynchburg and southeast through Bedford County. The canal was built in 1841 to

connect Richmond with western reaches of Virginia along the James River. Clearly the community is established but still difficult to reach, situated a day’s journey between Lexington, Lynchburg, and Buchanan. Ultimately, in these periods, the bridge remained a destination of the privileged and determined.



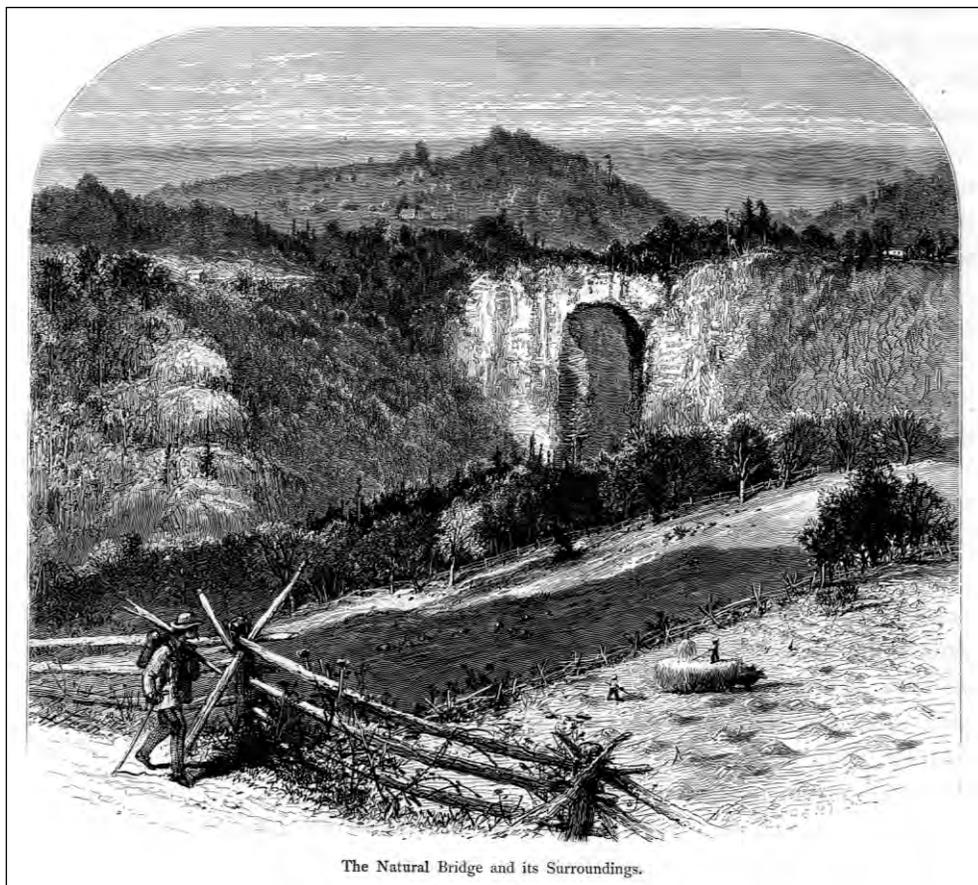
**Figure 10: A section of the William Gilham 1860 Map of Rockbridge County denoting the Natural Bridge area. Circled is the ca. 1790 village of Springfield and High Bridge Church. (Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

Travel descriptions and artwork show that the natural surroundings of the Natural Bridge have always been a large part of its allure as a destination. Set in the backcountry and in a steep gorge, the Natural Bridge remained forested and difficult to access until the mid-1800s. The approach was often mentioned by early visitors. Harriet Martineau described an 1838 excursion by stagecoach and horse and the high anticipation of the traveling party. She noted the road turned off through a wood and there was so much foliage that they were “warned in fact that we should get over the Bridge without knowing it.” There was too much foliage to see the bottom. “I went on to the inn, deposited my horse, and returned on foot to the Bridge...the way to the Glen is through a field, opposite the inn, and down a steep, rough, rocky path, which leads under the Bridge and a few yards

beyond it. I think the finest view of all is from this path just before reaching the Bridge” (Parsons 1891:8).

Many of the visitor descriptions mention not just the bridge itself but such experiences as the deep forested approach, the ancient arbor vitae trees, the waterfalls, the caves. Artists too, starting with the 1780s Chastellux drawing of a picnic in the pines, provide a long succession of renderings showing the enjoyment of nature in the vicinity. From this period forward, “the Bridge surroundings seem, to the lover of nature, almost as admirable as the Bridge itself,” as noted in the Parsons booklet (Parsons 1891:31).

The only remaining building from the post-Jefferson Era is the ca. 1850 **Shindle-Smith House** (081-7147-0035). This two-story log dwelling appears to be depicted on the Beyer lithograph (*Figure 9*) and below on the Harry Fenn drawing. It was used during the 1920s as a lodge for the Natural Bridge Golf Course that was located nearby on Golf Course Road off US 11 (then the Lee Highway) (Reeds 1927:20). This neglected and vandalized building is recommended for a Phase II Architectural Evaluation.



**Figure 11:** This 1872 Harry Fenn drawing that appeared in the two-volume set *Picturesque America*, edited by William Cullen Bryant, is a similar view to Beyer’s 1858 lithograph (*Figure 9*). (Note the hay baling). (Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).

## Railroads, Reconstruction, and Consolidated Resort Era: 1870-1925

The railroad played a significant role in the development of the resort during the latter half of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The newly formed Richmond and Alleghany Railroad arrived at Natural Bridge Station in 1881 and the Shenandoah Valley Railroad followed by 1883, as depicted on the 1883 *Carmichael Map*. The Richmond and Alleghany, which was constructed on the vacated James River and Kanawha Canal towpath, ran along the James River for 220 miles from Richmond through Natural Bridge to Clifton Forge; it merged with the Chesapeake and Ohio in 1890 and served as its James River Division. The Shenandoah Valley Railroad, which ran from Hagerstown, Maryland, to Roanoke, Virginia, to connect with the Norfolk and Western, went bankrupt in 1890 and merged with the Norfolk and Western. Between the two railroads, they stopped 12 times daily at the Natural Bridge Station where “coaches” transported the visitors to the Forest Inn, still the main hotel. The trains especially provided a continuous influx of tourists during the spring and summer seasons when the numerous railroad excursion routes ran through the picturesque Shenandoah Valley, Natural Bridge being one of its main attractions.

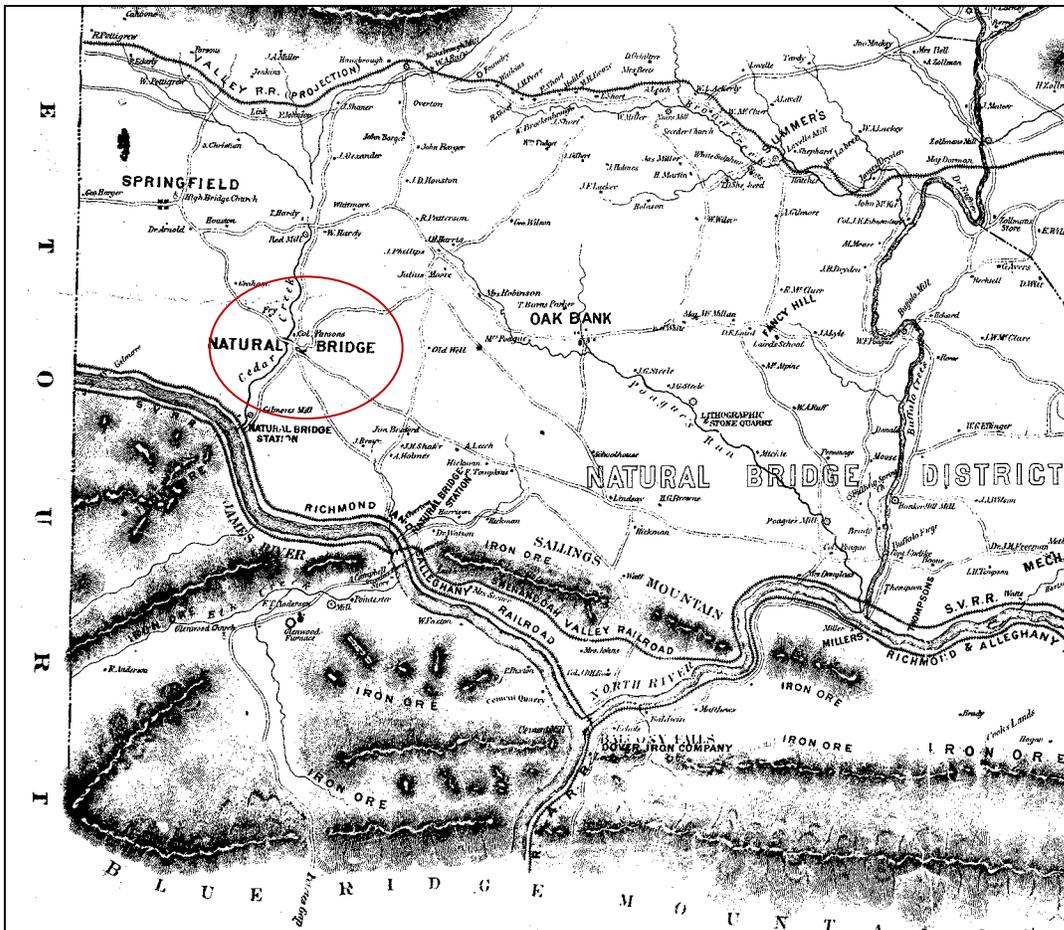


Figure 12: A detailed section of John Carmichael's 1883 County of Rockbridge map denoting Natural Bridge and its environs. (ABL Landscape Architecture, Lexington, Virginia).

Although Natural Bridge lay between the Valley Road to the north and the railroad to the south, the area became a thriving village with five intersecting roads. Roads headed west to Buchanan, north to Lexington, two roads in an easterly direction, one to Buffalo Forge, the other to Oak Bank, and south to Natural Bridge Station and beyond for the trains. The coming of the railroad not only brought prosperity to Natural Bridge, it brought a new owner, Col. Henry Chester Parsons, who forever transformed the Natural Bridge resort. An 1890 Shenandoah Valley Railroad brochure highlighted the trio of stops to natural curiosities of Luray Caverns (Page County), Natural Bridge, and the Grottoes of the Shenandoah (Grand Caverns, Augusta County). This train schedule would label which hotel the passengers lodged in overnight; the stop at Roanoke for instance was the Hotel Roanoke (Virginia Historical Society). The train excursion routes augment the already established spring and summer seasonal routes to the healing spring resorts of Virginia such as Rockbridge Alum Springs and north to the Warm Springs and Sweet Chalybeate Springs. The Natural Bridge is well publicized at this time and often compared to its arch rival Niagara Falls, which is 55 feet shorter.

### **Col. Parsons and Beyond Era: 1881to 1925**

While working for the former Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Col. Parsons formed a company to build the Richmond and Alleghany Railroad, of which he became vice president. The Richmond and Alleghany had bought the vacated towpath of the James River Canal and that brought Parsons to the Natural Bridge area. At that time, the Col. Parsons lived in Richmond, Virginia, along with his wife Nellie Loomis Parsons and their three daughters Katherine (12), Grace (10), and Maude (8) (U.S. Census 1880, [www.Ancestry.com](http://www.Ancestry.com)). Upon discovering Natural Bridge, Parsons was so enamored with the area that he not only purchased the *Rockbridge Inn* (081-0399) (the Galbraith Tavern north of Natural Bridge on the Valley Road) but he also bought the Natural Bridge and 200 acres (\$14,000) and moved his family into the Jefferson Cottage. The Jefferson Cottage was built upon the ca. 1817 Patrick Henry two-room log house and over the 20<sup>th</sup> century, grew into a rambling, eclectically-designed, 2 ½ -story, Queen Anne-style frame house with a three-story corner tower.

Parsons went immediately to work: he added side wings to the Forest Inn; built the two-story Appledore Cottage (1881-82) a small hotel that later became the South Wing of the 1906 Natural Bridge Hotel; the square-shaped, two-story frame Pavilion with full wraparound porches (for dancing and entertainment); a small, frame ornamental gatehouse on the approach to the bridge; a store that was run by the Burgers (possibly Bargers); cottages behind the hotel; enlarged the Jefferson Cottage; and created “Ten miles of carriage roads and bridle paths [that] lead over these summits and through the great arches” (Virginia Historical Society 1885 Brochure and 1891 Booklet). He also built new stables, and enlarged existing stables that housed 40-50 horses at a time, and

encouraged women to ride (Pierce 1994:11; Tompkins 1939:47). Several Library of Congress photographs denote his three daughters on horses as well as on carriages.



**Figure 13: Ca. 1890 view of the Jefferson Cottage. View looking north. (Rockbridge Historical Society). (Library of Congress image courtesy of Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

The Parsons and their three daughters lived at the Jefferson Cottage (their “summer home”) and the Rockbridge Inn, which he also enlarged. Parsons provided jobs for craftsmen, drivers, cooks, waiters, and arranged with the local farmers to supply food for the guests and hay for the horses (Tompkins 1939:47). An 1885 foldout brochure for Natural Bridge stated “The Hotels are new, commodious and comfortable. They are handsomely furnished. The tables are supplied and served in the manner of a country home. The gardens furnish fresh vegetables, and the blue grass farms in the neighborhood supply chickens, eggs, butter, milk, and real cream. For the sick a special kitchen is provided, and a trained nurse is engaged” (Virginia Historical Society).

Ever the entrepreneur and adventurer, Parsons also attempted to open to the public the Buck Hill Cave (Natural Bridge Caverns), which had just been discovered in September, 1891 but the natural entrance into the cave was too steep. It was not until 1977, when engineers were able to blast a 550-foot long tunnel through the limestone hillside that allowed for a more gradual descent, that the cave could be opened to the public (Davis 1949:84; Spencer 2011:41). (The Caverns are not included in this survey).

Perhaps one of Parson’s greatest accomplishments was hiring Charles Eliot, a landscape architect with the Frederick Law Olmsted office in New York City, to help plan the development of the property. Photographs of the resort during this time period portray its

park-like setting emphasized by natural features, winding pathways, fence-lined roadways, and well-sited, eclectically designed, and appropriately scaled buildings.



**Figure 14: A detailed section of Charles M. Yeates 1882 Natural Bridge Map depicting the core area of the resort. Note the H.C. Parsons house (which is the Jefferson Cottage), the Forest Inn Hotel, the Baptist Church to the left of the hotel, the Store to the right of the hotel, the cleared areas, the spring/tributary that leads to Cascade Creek, Loch Bell, and the fence-lined roads. (Rockbridge Historical Society).**

The management of the hotel property changed rapidly around the turn-of-the-20<sup>th</sup> century. On January 10, 1884, Parsons and his wife Nellie deeded the ownership of the Natural Bridge property, 2,000 acres more or less, to the Natural Bridge Forest Company (for \$100,000), although he continued to manage it. On August 2, 1890, the Natural Bridge Forest Company transferred 1,060 acres of this property to the Natural Bridge Park Company (for \$160,000), excluding the Jefferson Cottage, the Gate House, and the bridge, thus dividing ownership into two separate companies and, as had been described, creating the largest private park in America. The Natural Bridge Park Company had expected a land boom around the park and in the town of Glasgow to occur. After laying out building lots; however, the boom never occurred, and the company returned to focusing on the Natural Bridge itself (Pierce 1994:11; Davis 1949:30 and 83). Further, in December 1900, the Natural Bridge Forest Company deeded 475 acres (\$29,475) (including the bridge) to the Natural Bridge Development Company. In 1906, the Natural

Bridge Development Company changed its name to the Natural Bridge Company and continued management of the resort (Davis 1949:30 and 83).

The foldout brochure *Natural Bridge of Virginia: Its Natural and Social Attractions in 1885* described its two tourist seasons: Spring and Summer. The Spring Season ran March 1 through May while the Summer Season included June, July, and August. Guests were charged \$3.00 per night, \$14.00 per week, and in the Spring Season \$50.00 per month, and in the Summer Season \$60.00 per month (Virginia Historical Society). The Parsons' era was coming to an end, especially when in 1892 the Forest Inn succumbed to fire, the first of two major fires to occur at Natural Bridge.



**Figure 15: A ca. 1890 view of the Forest Inn looking northeast. The location is where the present-day Routes 130 and 11 merge at the parking lot of the Rockbridge Center. (Rockbridge Historical Society).**

The Parsons era did come to an abrupt and tragic end on June 29, 1894, when Parsons was shot to death in Clifton Forge by Thomas A. Goodman, a conductor on the Chesapeake and Ohio. Col. H. C. Parsons was buried at High Bridge Church cemetery at nearby Springfield (Natural Bridge Archives). Nellie Parsons inherited Parsons' property including the *Rockbridge Inn*, but continued living at the Jefferson Cottage. The 1900 US Census listed Nellie L. Parsons as 58 years old, living at Natural Bridge, head of household, with daughters Grace (24) and Maude (23). Katherine is not listed. In 1901, Nellie Parsons moved with her daughter Maude to the *Rockbridge Inn*, which she sold in 1905 to a George W. Parsons (Pierce 1994:11-12).

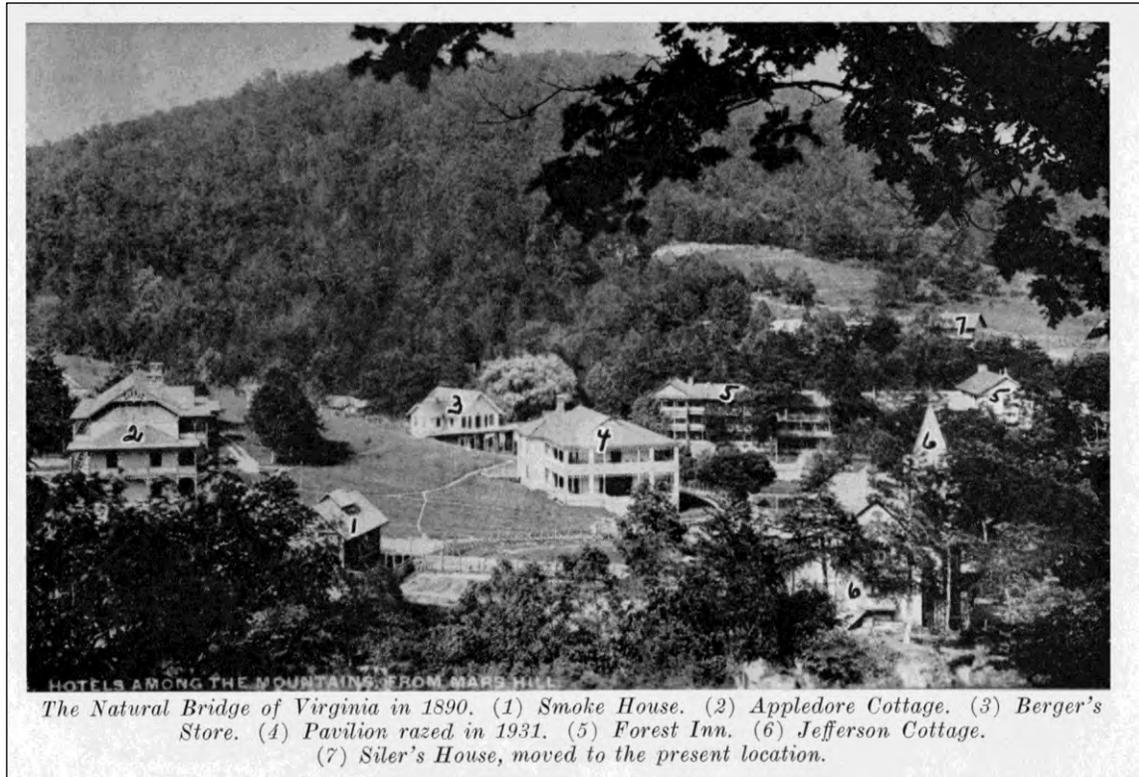


Figure 16: A ca. 1900 view looking east over the Natural Bridge property from the Appledore Cottage towards the Pavilion to the left, the Gatehouse in the middle, and a gazebo. Note the winding paths and the fence-lined roads, framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains. (Library of Congress image courtesy of Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).

A significant African-American community grew around the hotel, with many blacks employed there. There was a black church on Shafer Lane, and numerous baptisms were performed on Sundays in Cedar Creek underneath the bridge. By 1920, a one-story, linear-shaped frame duplex was constructed behind the Natural Bridge Hotel on the edge of a wooded hillside. The duplex is labeled “**Colored Quarters**” on a 1954 Natural Bridge site plan. The building is in ruinous condition (081-7147-0019). A Phase II Architectural Evaluation is recommended for this building.

The same year that the Forest Inn burned, a new private residence was constructed right above it on a large wooded parcel acquired by Norfolk, Virginia, businessman Leroy H. Shields and his wife, Mary Orra Novella Love Shields. The large rambling frame and stone Queen Anne-style **Stonewall Lodge** (081-5710) was built by the Lynchburg contactors Adams and Woodson in 1893 (Pezzoni 2014:7). This building served in various domestic and commercial capacities until it too was destroyed by fire in April

2012. From 1892 to 1964, all the major buildings on the resort property were built by contractors and/or designed by architects from Lynchburg, Virginia. Perhaps this is due to Lynchburg's close proximity to Natural Bridge (just 22 miles over the Blue Ridge Mountains) and they had historic economic connections through the James River Canal and the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad.

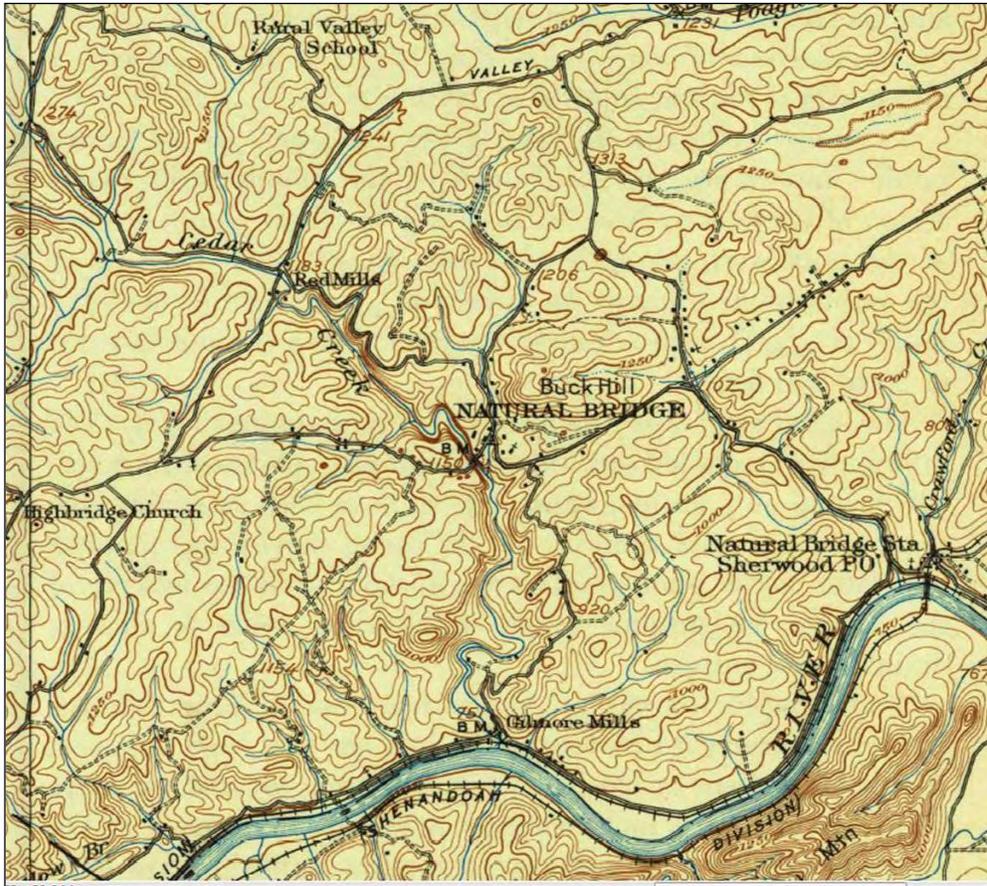


**Figure 17: The Natural Bridge resort in 1890 during Col. Parson's tenure. View looking north with Buck Hill in the background. (Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

Although the roadways were always important, and now the railroads, the main roads still did not go through Natural Bridge. The 1894 Natural Bridge Topographic Map denotes the main road north of Natural Bridge going through the village of Springfield west of Natural Bridge. The 1907 Natural Bridge Topographic Map labeled this main road the "Valley Road" and shows it going through Red Millss where it crossed Cedar Creek ([www.Nationalmap.gov](http://www.Nationalmap.gov)).

After the Forest Inn burned, construction on a new hotel began, but in a different location. The central section of the new Natural Bridge Hotel was added onto the north side of Parsons' 1891-92 Appledore Cottage and the Appledore Cottage became known as the South Wing. Owing to the Economic Panic of 1893, the hotel was not completed until 1906. The hotel was built in the same general location as the current hotel. Also in 1906, stockholders of the Natural Bridge Development Company agreed to amend the charter to

change the name to the Natural Bridge Company, Inc. In 1916-17, the Natural Bridge Company built the north wing of the hotel from plans drawn by architect Stanhope S. Johnson of Lynchburg.



**Figure 18: A section of the 1907 Natural Bridge Topographic Map. Note the northern route labelled “Valley Road,” the location of Red Millss, the High Bridge Church to the left, and Gilmore Mills and the Natural Bridge Station towards the bottom. (www.Nationalmap.gov.).**

Remaining extant resources from the Railroads, Reconstruction, and Consolidated Resort Era that have not been discussed include the ca. 1890 frame **Postmaster House** (081-7147-0034), so labelled on a 1930s Natural Bridge site plan; the ca. 1920 one-story, frame Folk Victorian-style **Washington Cottage** (081-7147-0011); the frame **Livery Stable** (081-0787) on the east side of US 11 (the Lexington Road), that may have been rebuilt from a ca. 1880 stable; the post-and-beam **Natural Bridge Dairy** (081-0786) that provided milk and beef for the hotel guests; and the 1921 concrete and stucco **Maintenance Garage** (081-7147-0012).



**Figure 19: A ca. 1909 panoramic view of the Natural Bridge resort after the completion of the 1906 Natural Bridge Hotel. View looking northwest from the bridge (behind and to the right). From left to right, is the Jefferson Cottage, the former Lee Cottage, Marshall Cottage, the Natural Bridge Hotel, the Pavilion (built by Parsons), the road over the bridge, the Gatehouse, and the Bathhouse. (Library of Congress photograph courtesy of Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

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### **Mainstream Resort and Auto Tourism Era: 1925-1945**

In 1925, the Natural Bridge Company was transferred to the Natural Bridge of Virginia, Inc. and J. Lee Davis was appointed its president. They commenced work immediately, and in 1926 the large three-story frame Natural Bridge Hotel was remodeled. Gardens, orchards, dairies and stables that were in the rear of the hotel property offered fresh food for the increasing number of guests. On January 1, 1933, Davis was given the responsibilities of Treasurer and General Manager. In 1935, Davis constructed his own home on the property, the 1 ½-story, frame Colonial Revival-style **Lee Cottage** (081-7147-0010) then far south of the main hotel and behind the Jefferson Cottage. Other managers who had lived in the Jefferson Cottage, Davis chose to build a new house, perhaps because the Jefferson Cottage was in disrepair or was occupied as guest cottages. Davis' long-term tenure (as president until 1950) coincided with the Auto Tourism Age, and the property developed into a viable destination resort as opposed to a stop along an excursion route. With the advent of the radio, the development of a state and national road system, and the consequential improvements of highways, the resort was becoming more popular and accessible to the general public. Additionally, the N&W continued daily stops at the Natural Bridge Station, and a motor bus picked up guests for the hotel.

Several events highlighted the resort's popularity in 1927. Humorist, commentator, and motion picture star Will Rogers visited, with his editorial published in the *Roanoke Times & World News* (Davis 101). The Natural Bridge was illuminated for the first time, and continues to be today. The lighting contractor, Phinehas V. Stephens of New York City had just completed the illumination of Niagara Falls in New York, as well as the newly opened Endless Caverns south of New Market, Virginia (Davis 1939:105). Also in 1927, Dr. Chester A. Reeds, Ph. D. of the American Museum of Natural History published his

relevant and often-referenced history and geology book, *The Natural Bridge of Virginia and Its Environs*.

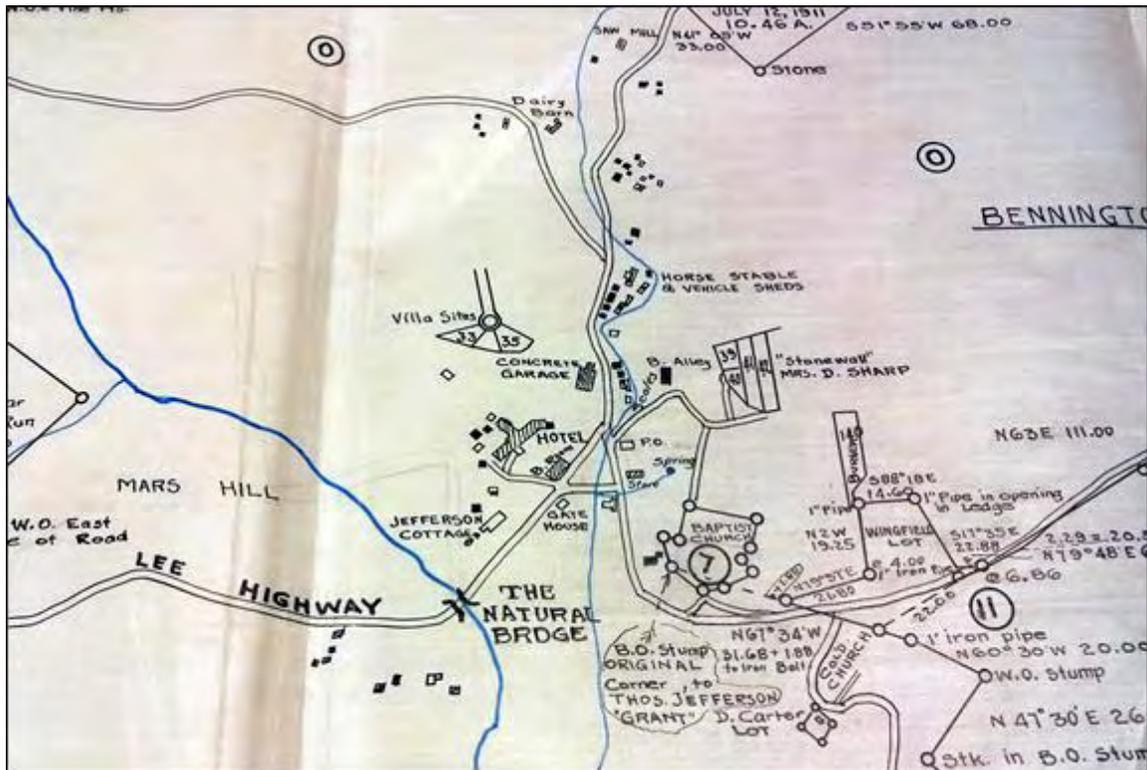


Figure 20: A section of the *Plat of the Natural Bridge Co. Property*, Oct. 1925. Note the location of a saw mill in the upper corner, the abundance of stables in the middle, and the location of the “Col’d Church” towards the lower right corner on Shafer Lane. (Natural Bridge Archives).

Reeds may have described the early 20<sup>th</sup> century resort best when he stated that “The view from the Natural Bridge Hotel is a charming one. Beyond the well-kept lawns, shrubs and driveways appear the timbered walls of Cedar Creek and its tributaries. The James River, however, is hidden from view by the nearby slopes of Mount Jefferson and its encircling golf links. The distant Blue Ridge Mountains and National Forest rise up beyond the James River Valley to form an inviting background” (Reeds 1927:8).

The early 1930s continued with the expansion and transportation theme as two pivotal events occurred: the first section of the Skyline Drive in the lower Shenandoah Valley opened to tourists and US 11 was re-routed through the resort property. In promoting auto-tourism, in 1932, the State Commission on Conservation and Development erected a bronze **commemorative plaque** (a secondary resource to the Natural Bridge Hotel [081-7147-0002]) that is imbedded in a vertically-shaped rock on the front lawn of the hotel. The plaque is embossed with the spiritual poem “The Bridge of Years” by Virginia’s poet laureate at the time, Carter W. Wormeley.



**Figure 21: Post-1939 view of the Natural Bridge Hotel. Note the ivy-covered 1932 commemorative plaque in the front lawn. (Rockbridge Historical Society image courtesy of Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).**

Prior to US 11 coming through the resort in 1935, Reeds described his 1926 visit: “After a brief rest at the Natural Bridge Hotel most tourists are anxious to see the Bridge. The walk is a delightful one. After crossing the spacious hotel grounds and the Lee Highway, the visitor writes his name in the register at the entrance gate and proceeds along the foot path, which crosses the lawn to the cascades and arbor-vitae trees of Cascade Creek. The Bridge is still hidden away in the bosom of Mother Earth” (Reeds 1927:6)

US 11 was improved in 1934-36, the road was diverted from its straight north/south axis along the Valley Road two miles north, in front of the competing early nineteenth-century brick Rockbridge Inn, and rerouted to the resort and over the Natural Bridge. J. Lee Davis wrote that “This necessitated the moving of some of our stables, barns and a number of other outbuildings, to new locations. The grade between the Hotel and Gatehouse was raised some twelve feet” (Pierce 1994:11; Davis 1939:117). This rerouting and grading obstructed the sweeping easterly views from the Natural Bridge Hotel across the lawn towards the gatehouse. In 1935, the decorative concrete **Underpass** (081-7147-0008) had to be built for pedestrian access between the Hotel and Gatehouse. The exit of the Underpass led directly to the gatehouse, which was also enlarged at this time with a kitchen and cafeteria, affirming its permanence and attraction to visitors.

The hotel’s continued prosperity prompted the need for more permanent staff, and Davis oversaw the construction of various forms of staff housing, mostly along the periphery of the resort, and all within walking distance. Located north above the hotel and with a

narrow connecting road five one-story frame, vernacular dwellings were provided. Three of these remain, **Staff Housing** (081-7147-0016/18). To the southeast of the hotel and off Route 130 (the former Lynchburg Road) stand two frame Colonial Revival style management houses, including the 1 ½-story **Managers House** (081-7147-0030) and the two-story **General Managers House** (081-7147-0031). In 1937, a two-story, 16-room frame wing was built off the rear of the hotel. This West Wing or **Washington Annex** (081-7147-0003) served for additional staff housing. The 5,544-square foot modified Colonial Revival-style wing was renovated in 1990 and has first-floor meeting rooms and second-floor offices.



Figure 22: A ca. 1950 photograph of the Gatehouse, view east from US 11 with the exit/entrance to the Underpass to the left of photograph. Note the Post Office in the middle background; now one is located within the Rockbridge Center. (Natural Bridge Archives).

Other improvements at this time included the 1932 concrete **Bridge #1109** (081-5045) that spans the tributary that flows to Cedar Creek where Route 130 merges into US 11 at the current Rockbridge Center parking lot (the tributary continues to flow under this parking lot to Cascade Creek), and the 1937 cinder block **Boiler House and Smokestack** (081-7147-0009) located behind the hotel and close to the Cedar Creek Cliff.



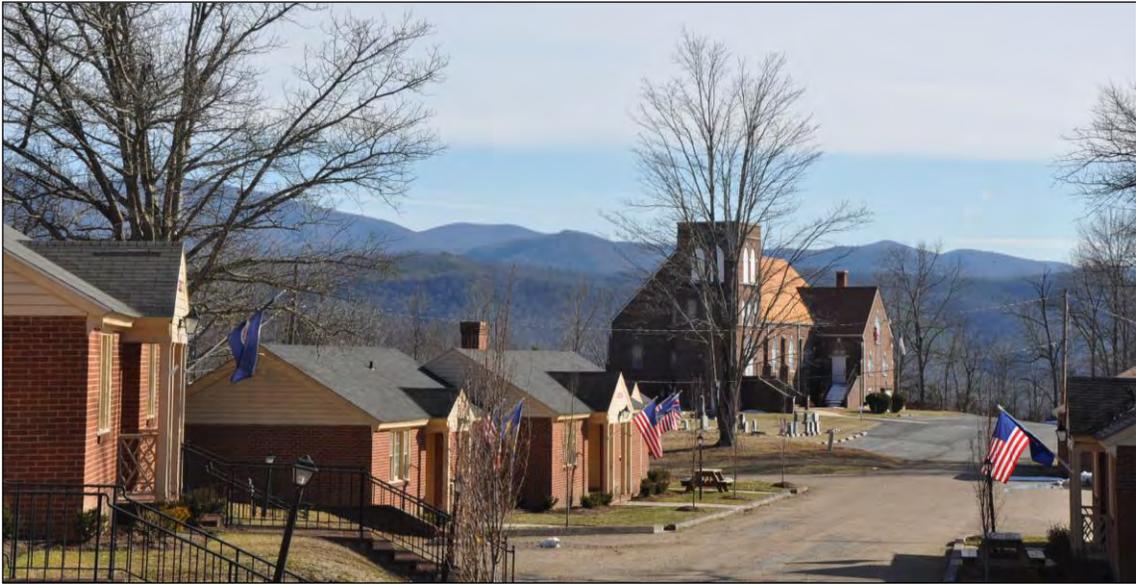
Figure 23: View looking south at the Gatehouse and parking lot, which is the current location of the Rockbridge Center, and where Routes 11 and 130 merge. The Natural Bridge is under US 11 to the right, and the Natural Bridge Hotel is off to the right. (Washington and Lee University, Leyburn Library, Special Collections, 2015).

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### **Hotel and Conference Center Era: 1946-1975**

In 1945, Scott, Horner & Mason of Lynchburg and C. F. Cassell & Company of Charlottesville, along with others, purchased the controlling interest in the Natural Bridge of Virginia, Inc. and hired a new general manager (J. Lee Davis was re-elected as President) (Davis 1939:132-3). Mr. James N. Hunter arrived on December 26, 1945 and began his duties as resident manager on January 1, 1946. Hunter, who was also named Secretary of the Corporation, was recruited from the Hotel Roanoke in Roanoke. Most of the current buildings in the resort were erected during his tenure. Any campus- or bucolic village-feel that remained after the rerouting of US 11 in 1935 was lost after the construction of large-scale public buildings and parking lots during the 1950s and into the 1960s. Natural Bridge witnessed its own form of “urban renewal.”

Hunter began 1946 in earnest with three major construction projects. The quaint and attractive three-story frame Natural Bridge Hotel situated on a slope overlooking the resort to the southeast was “remodeled and enlarged” at a cost of \$120,000, which included \$25,000 for a new stainless steel kitchen (*Roanoke Times & World News* March 4, 1946, Roanoke Public Libraries Virginia Room). With an eye towards attracting additional visitors and tourism, **Washington Hall** (081-7147-0004) opened as a convention center with a 350-person capacity. The \$40,000 brick ‘auditorium’ opened in 1947 and was successful in attracting conventions, particularly annual Baptist conventions. (Natural Bridge Archives; *Roanoke Times & World News* March 4, 1946, Roanoke Public Libraries Virginia Room). The 2,400-square foot building was renovated in 1990, including window and roof replacements. Washington Hall was the first of many buildings erected at Natural Bridge under Hunter’s supervision and designed by the architectural firm Fred B. Fuqua and Company of Lynchburg, Virginia.



**Figure 24: View towards the southeast of the Natural Bridge Cottages (081-7147-0022 / 0029) framed by the Blue Ridge Mountains. The 1953 Natural Bridge Baptist Church in the background (not included in the survey) is the third church on the site, which Luster donated for the first Baptist Church in 1859. (Photograph by the author).**

Along with the construction of Washington Hall in 1946, the Natural Bridge Motor Lodge and eight separate cottages also opened that year. Designed by Fuqua, the motor lodge and manager's office building were built at the base of the hill on the north side of SR 130 near where it merges into US 11 and facing the Natural Bridge Hotel (the same location of the 1835 Forest Inn). Built over a natural spring that originally flowed into Loch Bell and Cascade Creek, these two vacant buildings were demolished in 2015. The remaining eight cottages, six duplexes and two triplexes, were built on top of the hill overlooking the 1953 Natural Bridge Baptist Church (privately owned and not included in the survey). These one-story Colonial Revival-style brick **Natural Bridge Cottages** (081-7147-0022/29), all named for southern capitol cities, remain in good condition.

In 1952, with the continued increase in auto-tourism, a three-story brick annex was added off the south elevation of the 1906 hotel. Also known as the Veranda, this 9,720-square-foot annex features 30 recently renovated guestrooms. Its lower-level brick arcade gave precedence to the design of the 1963 hotel.

To provide better access down to Cedar Creek and the bridge, a stone entrance gazebo highlights a paved and limestone retaining walkway. The **Gazebo and Pathway** (081-71747-0036) lead down along Cascade Creek to Cedar Creek and the **Summer House** (081-7147-0037). The Summer House replaced the early-1900s cedar-post-constructed Ticket House or Summer House, where tickets were collected for visiting the Natural Bridge. This 1950 Rustic-style, 1½-story limestone-veneered café is open on two sides supported by narrow coursed limestone posts and topped with a side-gabled roof clad

with asphalt shingles (two vacant staff quarters are in the half-story). The open-air dining area features a limestone fireplace. Overlooking Cedar Creek south of the Natural Bridge, the café and flagstone terrace were designed by architect Fred B. Fuqua and called the Pavilion. It later became known as Cedar Creek Café, and now as The Summer House (or Summerhouse Café). South of the café is a 1953 **Water Treatment Plant** (081-7147-0038). The low concrete structure was built from Wiley & Wilson engineering plans.

In terms of new construction, perhaps the most visible as well as the largest physical change in the resort's history was the construction of the \$500,000 Rockbridge Center in 1954. The **Rockbridge Center** (081-7147-005) (still locally called the “gatehouse” or “giftshop”) replaced the early 1900s, rambling frame gatehouse that had been renovated and enlarged in 1935. The massive two-story, 50,990-square foot, brick-veneered, Colonial Revival-style building contains the gift shop (ticket sales), cafe, offices, and restrooms. The lower level contains a heated indoor swimming pool (not in use, with demolition possible), a game room (not in use), the entrance to the bridge path, and the Natural Bridge Post Office. The upper level contains eight vacant staff dormitory rooms.



**Figure 25: Late 1950s publicity photo of the indoor heated pool at the Rockbridge Center (081-7147-005). (Note the open overhead door at the far right of photograph that led to the outdoor beach area.) (Natural Bridge Archives).**

Prior to the construction of I-81 and shopping malls, the Rockbridge Center served as a popular destination for Rockbridge County families and local college students. The Greyhound Bus route from Lexington to Buchanan made regular stops at this popular destination for eating at the large cafeteria and swimming in the heated pool. The pool enclosure included an overhead door that opened to an outside patio with a sand-covered beach area for sunbathing (Miller 2015). An

asphalt parking lot covers the tributary that flows into Cascade Creek. A popular feature added just east of the Rockbridge Center (where tickets were purchased), was the **Skyliner** (secondary resource to the Natural Bridge). This chairlift-style ride provided round-trip transportation down to Cedar Creek through the wooded hillside alongside Cascade Falls. Concrete pads remain where passengers embarked and disembarked.

New construction did not cease, and in 1957, both the Wax Museum and the Texaco Gas Station were built. The brick-veneered, two-story, Colonial Revival-style **Wax Museum**

(081-7147-0006) originally opened as the Motorama Building that displayed Bill Pettit's collection of over 30 "antique and classic automobiles" in the Museum of Motoring Memories. This "New Vacation Thrill for all the Family" continued from August 1958 into the 1960s. The building was then turned into a wax museum, which closed in 2014. The **Texaco Gas Station** (081-7147-0014) faces southwest towards US 11 on the east side of the hotel. This one-story Colonial Revival style building replaced a ca. 1940 Sinclair gas station and now serves as the "Glasgow Life Saving & First Aid Crew Station #2." Another popular attraction was an outdoor skating rink that was added in the winter of 1963. The **Skating Rink Building** (081-7147-0007) is at the northern end of the Rockbridge Center parking lot. The one-story 1961 brick-veneered building served as the maintenance and skating shop when the skating rink was added in front of it two years later.



**Figure 26: 1960s aerial photograph of the Natural Bridge resort. View towards northwest. Circled is the Jefferson Cottage (demolished mid-1960s); and behind it the Lee Cottage; at center is the Natural Bridge Hotel, behind which is the Boiler House and Smokestack; the Reservoir is in background, and also the Maintenance Garage; in the foreground are the Rockbridge Center and Wax Museum. (Natural Bridge Archives).**

At the peak of its popularity; however, the 1906 hotel along with its 1917 Stanhope Johnson-designed North Wing caught fire on April 23, 1963 and was destroyed. The 1883 Appledore Cottage South Wing survived but was torn down. The rear two-story 1935 West Wing also survived the fire and was later connected to the new hotel. Hunter supervised the construction of the new \$1 million hotel beginning in September 1964.

Architect Garland Mason Gay, of Lynchburg, designed the new hotel that was loosely based on the colonnade detail of the adjacent 1954 Annex. The Annex was connected to the new hotel, and the rear West Wing was bricked-over in 1964 to emulate the new brick hotel. The hotel opened in June 1964. The large, three-story, Flemish-bond brick-veneered Colonial Revival-style **Natural Bridge Hotel** (081-7147-0002) features a temple-fronted center pavilion with a Tuscan portico. Its low-pitched hipped roof is accented by a modillioned cornice, roof balustrade, and interior end brick chimneys. The first floor of the 71,640-square foot hotel contains the main lobby, the Colonial Dining Room, the Red Fox Tavern, and the Jefferson Ballroom (5,600 sf) that is accessed via a smaller lobby. The second and third floors contain 92 guestrooms, while the basement level is used for housekeeping, engineering, laundry, boilers, an equipment room, and an exercise room. The renovation of the main block of the hotel is nearing completion.



**Figure 27: View of the 1964 Natural Bridge Hotel (081-7147-0002), looking north from the 1952 Annex. (Photograph by the author).**

After over 30 years of continuous service as Vice-President and General Manager of the Natural Bridge of Virginia, Inc. James N. Hunter died in early April, 1976 (*Roanoke Times & World News* 4-5-1976, Roanoke Public Libraries Virginia Room). No new buildings have been built since the 1964 Natural Bridge Hotel. Further, no other major 19<sup>th</sup> or early 20<sup>th</sup> century resort building remains standing; the earliest buildings that remain in the core resort area are the 1920s and 1930s staff housing. The earlier domestic buildings of the ca. 1900 Postmasters House and the ca. 1850 Shindle-Smith House are slightly out of the core resort area but may be included in the historic district. Further, in the “mid-1960s,” perhaps in connection with the 1962 demolition of the burnt 1906 Natural Bridge Hotel, the Jefferson Cottage that began as Patrick Henry’s two-room log dwelling was demolished (Natural Bridge Archives). A parking lot now serves the offices

of the Lee Cottage. Five 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings (all related to lodging) were demolished in 2015, and two more are in ruinous condition: the “Colored Quarters” and the Postmasters House.

Through all the changes that have occurred at the resort, some traditions still continue, such as the nightly illumination of the bridge during tourist season, held since 1927 together with the Drama of Creation Pageant since 1932. Beginning in 1947, Natural Bridge has hosted an annual Easter Sunrise Service along the **Cedar Creek Trail** (081-7147-0039). A choir sings from a set of elliptically arched concrete choir rows behind a stone-veneered **Pulpit** (secondary resource to the Cedar Creek Trail) for the minister. Also accessed from Cedar Creek Trail, is the **Saltpetre Cave** (081-7147-0041), a deep rock shelter where saltpetre (saltpeter or potassium nitrate) was mined for the manufacturing of gun powder during the Civil War and possibly during the War of 1812. Its entrance is 30-feet above Cedar Creek, and a stone and wood pedestrian bridge provides access to the cave, formerly a grotto or undercut developed by the waters of Cedar Creek when it flowed at a much higher level (Spencer 2011:24-25; Reeds 1927:30).

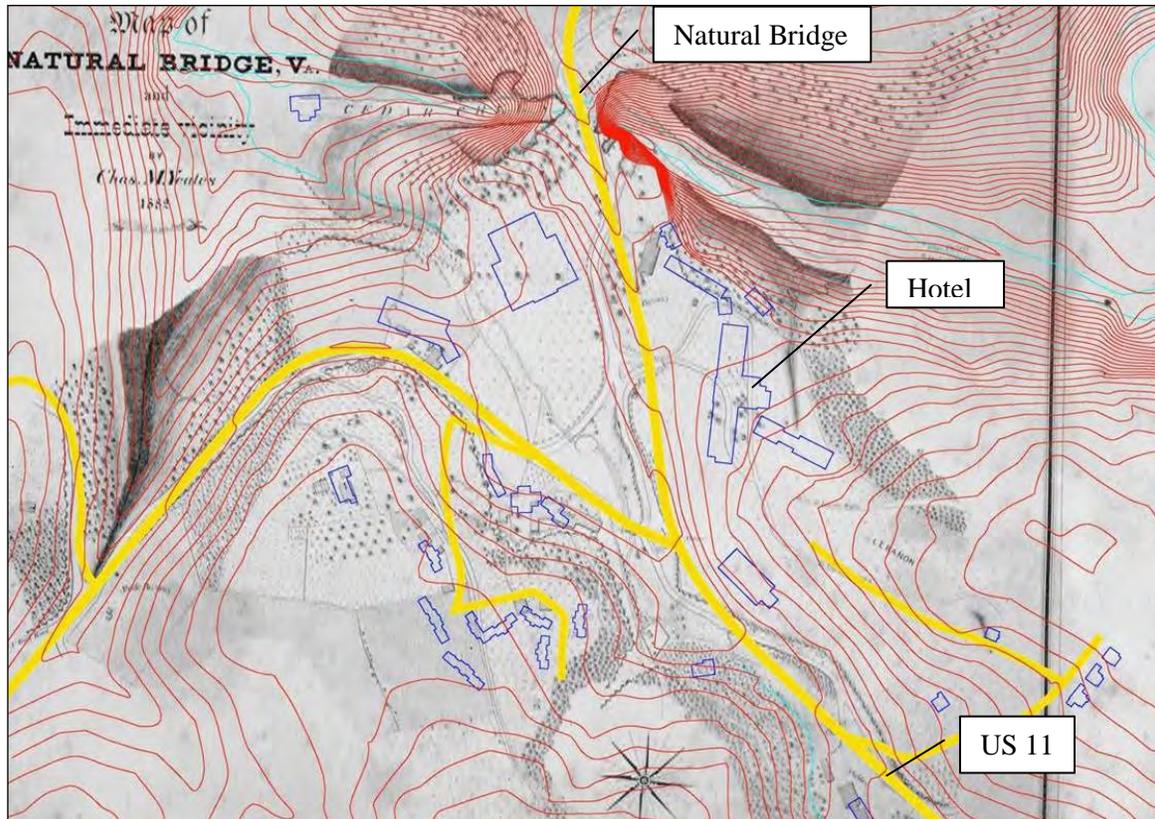
The Caverns of Natural Bridge, formerly Buck Hill Cave, opened to the public in 1977. The 85-acre cavern parcel is located off the east side of US 11 in a wooded area just north of the Natural Bridge resort. Noted as the deepest caverns on America’s East Coast, the tours descend more than 34 stories and operate seasonally April to December. (The caverns are not included in the survey).

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### **Recent Era: 1976 to Present**

Still operated by the Natural Bridge of Virginia, Inc. and doing a good business in 1987, the property had a 3.8 percent net sales increase and net sales figure of \$3.3 million. However, the property went up for sale, and Washington D.C. area real estate developer, Angelo Puglisi headed a group that bought the site for \$6.5 million in 1988 (*Roanoke Times & World News* 11-4-1987). Winston Tolley, the general manager, and all staff were allowed to stay on. In 1997, Puglisi tried unsuccessfully to sell the property for \$39 million, and continued operating the property. Meanwhile, the owners successfully pursued historic designations. The Natural Bridge became a Virginia Historic Landmark on May 7, 1997. Two years later on May 22, 1999, it was designated as a National Historic Landmark by the U. S. National Park Service, the highest honor for a historic resource. To further its historic tourism theme, also in 1999, the **Monacan Indian Living History Exhibit** (081-7147-0040) was established 600 yards north of the Summer House along the Cedar Creek Trail. The exhibit is a recreated ca. 1699 settlement that includes

bark-covered dwellings (wigwams) enclosed by a woven stick palisade. Costumed interpreters use the exhibit to present the history of the Monacan Indians, who roamed this area 2,000 years ago. They are now the largest American Indian tribe in Virginia (Spencer 2011:21-23).



**Figure 28: Yeates 1883 Map of Natural Bridge Va, with an overlay of current buildings. (ABL Landscape Architecture, 2015).**

In mid-2013, Puglisi decided to sell the property again and the 1,600 acre property including the bridge was scheduled to be auctioned November 13, 2013. One proposal for selling the property was to divide it into 35 parcels. Due to the surveying logistics, and amid great local and statewide interest in pursuing conservation options, the auction was postponed until December 18, 2013. A long process of fact-finding and negotiations followed. Many parties were involved in piecing together the complex arrangement. As part of the final transaction, Puglisi offered to donate 188 acres including the Natural Bridge to the Commonwealth of Virginia to form a state park. The auction was cancelled and a tentative agreement with a then anonymous conservation group was reached. In February 2014, the Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund, created as an interim caretaker and owner, received the total of about 1,600 acres. Once the \$9 million note used to finance the purchase is retired, VCLF will donate all but the hotel, cottages, and caverns to be run as a Virginia state park (*Roanoke Times* 9-15-2013 and 10-4-2013; Kastning 2014:125-126).

Ironically, the state had twice before considered buying the bridge. In 1948 Governor William Tuck wanted to buy it for \$2 million, but legislators thought the price too high. Again in 1976, Governor Mills Godwin considered “buying it for \$4.3 million when critics were complaining that commercial interests were exploiting a natural monument. But the legislation was killed after the state Chamber of Commerce and other groups objected to the state’s competing with private tourism” (*Roanoke Times* 5-26-94).

All along though, Puglisi wanted Natural Bridge to become either a state park or a national park. The Virginia Conservation Legacy Fund has committed \$2.5 million into property renovations, specifically the 162-room hotel, which has already partially reopened. When the Commonwealth takes title to the donated parcels, Natural Bridge will become its 37<sup>th</sup> state park.



**Figure 29: Google Earth image of the Natural Bridge resort. (Dan Grim, County of Rockbridge, 2014).**



**Figure 30: The Natural Bridge of Virginia (081-0415), view northwest. (Photograph by the author).**

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## CHAPTER 4: SURVEY EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### SURVEY FINDINGS AND EVALUATION

For this survey project, the Consultant was originally asked to document between 36-40 properties at the reconnaissance level for the proposed **Natural Bridge Historic District (081-7147)**. A total of 42 properties were recorded, 41 inside the proposed historic district boundaries and one property located outside the proposed historic district boundaries at the request of the VCLF. Of the 41 properties that were documented inside the proposed historic district boundaries, six properties were re-surveyed. The list of properties inventoried during the survey is included as an appendix. All surveyed resources are contained within the Natural Bridge U. S. Topographic Quadrangle.

Each surveyed property was evaluated according to the criteria of the National Park Service through the National Register Criteria for Evaluation administered by the Virginia Landmarks and National Registers. These criteria are outlined in National Register Bulletin 15: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* and were used by the Consultant to determine a property's relation to its period and areas of significance, and its level of integrity. All but one of the 41 surveyed resources within the proposed boundaries contributes to the significance of the historic district. The Monacan Indian Exhibit (081-7147-0040) is considered a non-contributing resource due to its 1999 construction date. Aside from the already listed **Natural Bridge of Virginia (081-0415) (NHL)**, none of the other 41 recorded resources appear to be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Figure 31 shows the breakdown of surveyed resources by architectural style. The largest individual category is "no discernible style." The most dominant style is Colonial Revival, reflected in 17 (more than 40 percent) of the buildings. Four of these Colonial Revival buildings were constructed in the 1930s, twelve in the 1940s and 1950s, and a single building—though the most significant, Natural Bridge Hotel--in 1964. No other style has more than two examples. The Appendix provides details on each resource.

Style	# of Resources	Percentage
Colonial Revival	17	40.48%
Craftsman	1	2.38%
Folk Victorian	1	2.38%
Queen Anne	1	2.38%
Rustic Revival	2	4.76%
No Discernible Style	18	42.86%
Not Applicable	2	4.76%
TOTAL	42	100.00%

**Figure 31: Surveyed Resources by Architectural Style.**

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research and survey of 42 properties in the Natural Bridge resort area, the Consultant recommends that the following actions be taken in planning for future survey work and for stewardship of the historic resources already identified. The surveyed area is already slated to become a historic district, so that is not proposed.

### *Further Research-Survey Work--Documentation*

- Research the Frontier roads and early modes of transportation—the Great Road, James River Canal, Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.
- Research the non-extant village of Springfield (ca. 1790 –1900) and the nearby High Bridge Presbyterian Church and cemetery where Col. Parsons is buried.
- Research the town of Glasgow and its frontier beginnings and connections to Natural Bridge; possible historic district. Conduct a Phase I Architectural and Archaeological Survey on Peter Sallings House, if extant. Possible National Register nomination.
- Conduct a Phase I Architectural and Archaeological Survey on the Greenlee Inn on the south side of the James River near Natural Bridge Station, if extant. Could also lead to a National Register nomination.
- Conduct a Phase II Architectural and Archaeological Evaluation of the following historic properties owned by VCLF: Red Millss area with **Barclay Tavern** two miles north of Natural Bridge; the **Shindle-Smith House** (081-7147-0035) on US 11 west of the bridge (also investigate the house that shows across the road in the Church and Beyer mid-nineteenth century paintings; and the ca. 1790 **Fannie Barger House** (081-7152) on US 11 north of Natural Bridge.
- Conduct Phase II Architectural Evaluations on the ca. 1900 **Postmaster House** (081-7174-0034) and the ca. 1920 “**Colored Quarters**” (081-7147-0019). They are in poor to ruinous condition and threatened with neglect.
- Conduct a Phase I Architectural Survey on the hamlet of Natural Bridge Station associated with the N&W and the C&O—also connection to Col. H.C. Parsons. Or consider a Preliminary Information Form for a potential historic district.
- Research the black community, from Jefferson’s time period but particularly the c. 1890 Parsons time period—their sense of community, their roles played at the hotel, their spiritual concerns, and their non-extant church.
- Restore the Summer House, including its metal windows to its more open appearance as denoted in the existing Fred B. Fuqua floor plans.
- Prepare maintenance plans for all historic buildings that are in poor condition.
- Organize the Natural Bridge Archives for future research.
- Research the role of US 11, and how it changed the resort landscape and economy in 1935/36 and other taverns and overnight lodging (i.e. Rockbridge Inn) when it was diverted from the Valley Road through Natural Bridge.
- Research what role if any did the construction of I-81 have on the resort, did it pull tourists away from US 11, or does it bring in more tourists off the Interstate because of the advertisements along the highway. Does it help or hinder tourism.

## Tourism

- Convene a Tourism Committee to create and implement events.
- Create Historic Awareness Week – An Annual Affair. May is National Preservation Month—designated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org).
- Develop and produce a guided open-house tour of the above-mentioned VCLF properties, **Barclay Tavern**, **Shindle-Smith House**, and the **Fannie Barger House**. Perhaps include Robert Douthat’s **Stone Castle** (where Jefferson stayed) and the **Rockbridge Inn** (once owned by Col. Parsons), and possibly the Greenlee Inn and Sallings House if extant.
- Develop a guided driving tour of the route that Thomas Jefferson (and his granddaughters) traveled between Poplar Forest and Natural Bridge.
- Develop a guided driving tour of the historic healing spring routes in Rockbridge County, southwest Virginia, and West Virginia.
- Develop train excursions of the historic N&W RR routes through the Shenandoah Valley and Lynchburg to Roanoke (similar to new excursions available through the Virginia Museum of Transportation, Roanoke, Virginia).
- Develop a professionally-produced film documentary on the in-depth history of Natural Bridge and its environs.
- Develop geologic- and nature-based guided tours along the Cedar Creek Trail.
- Develop signage with historic images of landscape features and viewsheds that were part of the visitor experience and source of art and travelogue (ex: first view (Shafer Lane), Pulpit Rock, Saltpetre Cave, Lace-Water Falls, and Lost River).
- Research and document the work of Landscape Architect Charles Eliot and his plans for the resort complex; execute any if possible.
- Investigate and consider recreating the walking and bridle paths that Col. Parsons laid out.
- Research and consider adding links to other historic excursion sites and trails such as to Jefferson Knob.

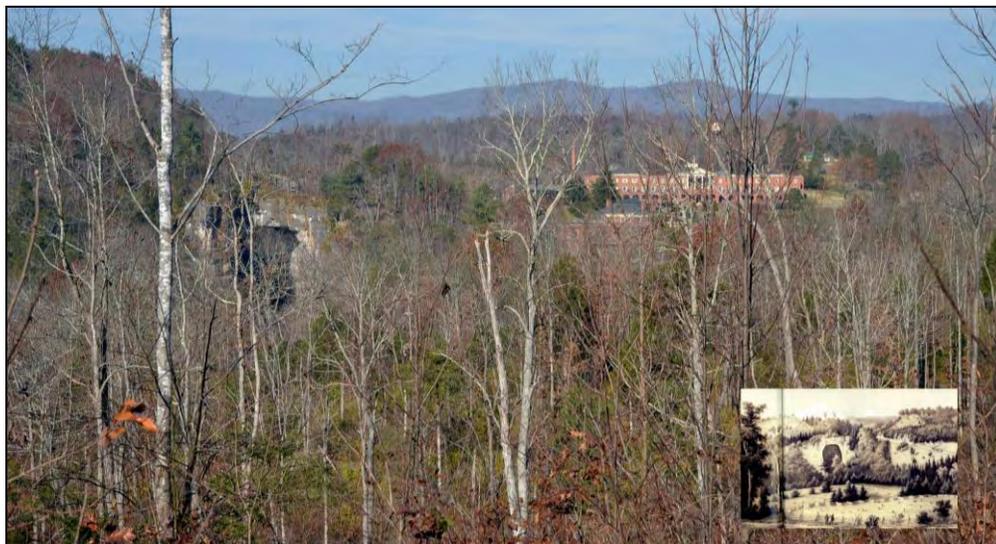


Figure 32: View west of the Natural Bridge resort from Shafer Lane, with an overlay image of Edward Beyer’s 1858 lithograph. (Photograph courtesy of ABL Landscape Architecture, 2014).

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Virginia Historical Society, Richmond, Virginia

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**APPENDIX****RESOURCE INVENTORY OF 42 PROPERTIES**

NAME	PRE SUR	SURVEY #	DATE	STYLE
The Natural Bridge	081-0415	081-7147-0001	NA	NA
Natural Bridge Hotel/Veranda		081-7147-0002	1964/1952	Colonial Revival
Washington Annex		081-7147-0003	1937	Colonial Revival
Washington Hall		081-7147-0004	1947	Colonial Revival
Rockbridge Center/Gift Shop		081-7147-0005	1954	Colonial Revival
Wax Museum		081-7147-0006	1957	Colonial Revival
Skating Rink Building		081-7147-0007	1961	No Discernible Style
Underpass		081-7147-0008	1934-5	No Discernible Style
Boiler House and Smokestack		081-7147-0009	1919	No Discernible Style
Lee Cottage		081-7147-0010	ca. 1935	Colonial Revival
Washington Cottage		081-7147-0011	ca. 1920	Folk Victorian
Maintenance Garage		081-7147-0012	1921	Craftsman Style
Livery Stable	081-0787	081-7147-0013	ca. 1920	No Discernible Style
Rescue Squad / Texaco service station		081-7147-0014	1957	Colonial Revival
Natural Bridge Dairy	081-0786	081-7147-0015	ca. 1920	No Discernible Style
Staff Housing	081-0788	081-7147-0016	ca. 1930	No Discernible Style
Staff Housing		081-7147-0017	ca. 1930	No Discernible Style
Staff Housing		081-7147-0018	ca. 1930	No Discernible Style
"Colored Quarters"		081-7147-0019	ca. 1920	No Discernible Style
Cinder Block Building		081-7147-0020	1963	No Discernible Style
Water Tower		081-7147-0021	ca. 1940	No Discernible Style

Jackson Cottage	431-434		081-7147-0022	1949	Colonial Revival
Columbia Cottage	441-446		081-7147-0023	1949	Colonial Revival
Tallahassee Cottage	451-456		081-7147-0024	1949	Colonial Revival
Frankfort Cottage	461-464		081-7147-0025	1949	Colonial Revival
Nashville Cottage	471-474		081-7147-0026	1949	Colonial Revival
Montgomery Cottage	481-484		081-7147-0027	1949	Colonial Revival
Atlanta Cottage	491-494		081-7147-0028	1949	Colonial Revival
Austin Cottage	495-498		081-7147-0029	1949	Colonial Revival
Manager's House			081-7147-0030	1935	Colonial Revival
General Manager's House			081-7147-0031	1935	Colonial Revival
Bridge #1109		081-5045	081-7147-0032	1932	No Discernible Style
NB Lodge/Stonewall Inn (Site)		081-5710	081-7147-0033	1893	Queen Anne
Postmaster House			081-7147-0034	ca. 1890	No Discernible Style
Shindle-Smith House			081-7147-0035	ca. 1850	No Discernible Style
Gazebo and Pathway			081-7147-0036	ca. 1953	Rustic Revival Style
The Summerhouse			081-7147-0037	1953	Rustic Revival Style
Sewage Treatment Plant			081-7147-0038	1963	No Discernible Style
Cedar Creek Trail			081-7147-0039	ca. 1950	No Discernible Style
Monacan Indian Exhibit			081-7147-0040	1999	No Discernible Style
Saltpetre Cave			081-7147-0041	NA	NA
Fannie Barger House			081-7152	ca. 1790-1820	No Discernible Style