

98-167

VLR-11/5/68 NRHP-10/1/69

Form 10-303
(Dec. 1968)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Virginia	
COUNTY: Wythe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
69-11-45-0009	10-1-69

1. NAME

COMMON:
Shot Tower

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Shot Tower

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. West of intersection of Route 608 and Route 52, 2.3 mi. southeast of intersection of Route 52 and Route 619.

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Virginia CODE: 45 COUNTY: Wythe CODE: 197

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Restricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Preservation work in progress <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Historical park
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>		
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNERS NAME:
Commonwealth of Virginia (Division of State Parks)

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Division of State Parks, Department of Conservation and Economic Development

STREET AND NUMBER:
501 Southern States Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 8 acres

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE OF SURVEY: 1958 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Washington STATE: District of Columbia CODE: 08

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Virginia
COUNTY: Wythe

ENTRY NUMBER: 08
FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)	
	Altered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unaltered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Moved <input type="checkbox"/>	Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built of local limestone, the Shot Tower is a seventy-five foot high, square tower with a pyramidal roof. The walls are 2½ feet thick, and the base of the tower measures twenty feet square. At the top of the structure, on one side, is a simple wooden balcony sheltering an entrance. Originally on the interior there were winding wooden steps leading to the top to a room containing a fireplace and chimney. Here there was a shaft which sunk to a depth seventy-five feet below the floor through which the hot molten metal was then poured through a sieve. The metal fell the depth of the shaft into a kettle of water, it being thought necessary for the shot to fall this distance to give it the proper round shape. The shaft connected with a tunnel to the riverbank.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Phi-		Other (Specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	losophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Human-		_____	
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	itarian	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

Built about 1807 by Thomas Jackson, the Shot Tower was used to manufacture shot for the firearms of the frontiersmen and settlers. Using the lead obtained from his Austinville mines, Jackson built the tower to manufacture commercial shot. As there was no war at the time, there was little military market for the lead.

Ideally situated on a site overlooking the New River and the nearby ferry, the Shot Tower was four miles from the lead mines, and just off one of the main roads in the region. While the ammunition produced at the Shot Tower was not used in any of the nation's wars, F. B. Kegley, a local historian of Wytheville, suggests that it represents "the vision and enterprise of an alert business man."

The structure itself is significant as it is one of only three shot towers remaining in the United States, and possibly the only one of its particular kind in the world. It stands as a relic and reminder of an industry essential to the opening of America's frontier.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Coleman, Elizabeth Dabney, "Showers of Shot," Virginia Cavalcade, Vol. 5 No. 2, Autumn 1955.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		36° 52' 14"	80° 52' 16"	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director
 ORGANIZATION
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE
May 2, 1969
 STREET AND NUMBER:
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
 CITY OR TOWN: STATE CODE
Richmond Virginia 45

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

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

National State Local

Name Dr. Edward P. Alexander
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.
 Date June 2, 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Ernest Allen Casanville
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 Date Oct 1 1969
 ATTEST:
William G. Winter
 Keeper of The National Register
 Date Oct 1 1969

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	
Virginia	
COUNTY	
Wythe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #98-16
1968 State
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building
Richmond, Virginia Code: 45

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Wythe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Shot Tower			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Shot Tower			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. West of intersection of Route 608 and Route 52, 2.3 mi. southeast of intersection of Route 52 and Route 619.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Wythe	197
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 15', quadrangle Max Meadows			
SCALE: 1:62500			
DATE: 1945			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

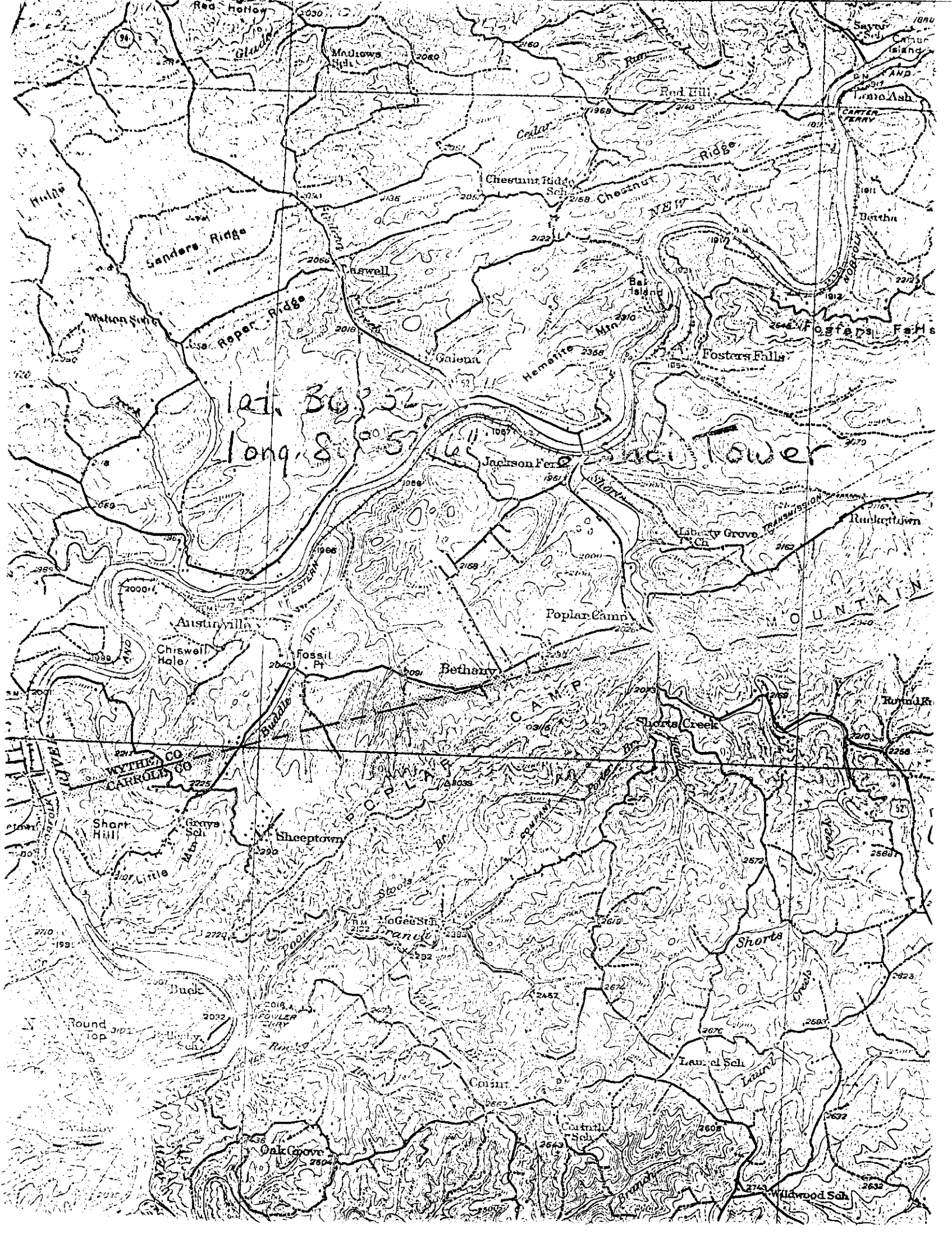
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with photograph)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Wythe	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
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2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: .1 mi. West of intersection of Route 608 and Route 52, 2.3 mi. southeast of intersection of Route 52 and Route 619.			
CITY OR TOWN:			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Virginia	45	Wythe	197
3. PHOTO REFERENCE			
PHOTO CREDIT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission			
DATE OF PHOTO: 1968			
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Richmond, Virginia			
4. IDENTIFICATION			
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC.			
View of West side.			



lat. 36° 52'
long. 81° 51'

New Tower

WYTHE CO
CARROLL CO

MOUNTAIN

Sanders Ridge

Roper Ridge

Austinville

Bethany

Poplar Camp

Shorts Creek

Short Hill

Sheeptown

Stoops

Shorts

Duck

Laural Sch

Oak Grove

Carroll Sch

Wildwood Sch

Jackson Ferry

Fosters Falls

Walton Sch

Aswell

Galena

Hemnite

Bar Island

Fosters Falls

Ridge

Chestnut Ridge Sch

Chestnut

Bethany

Carter Ferry

Laura Ash

Seyars Sch

Carter Island

D.M. AND

Carter Ferry

Bartha

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