

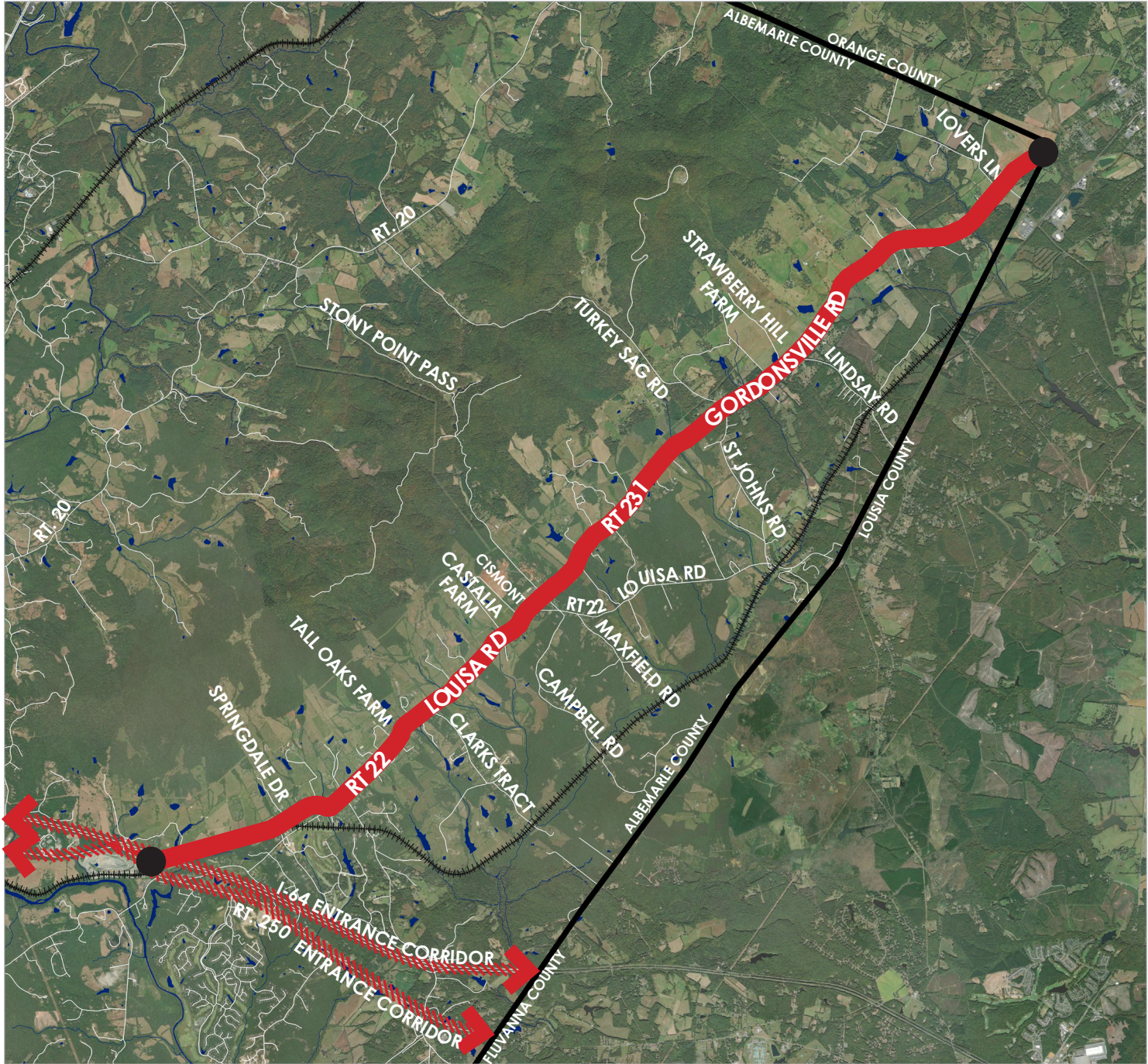
Entrance Corridor // Routes 231 (Gordonsville Rd.) and 22 (Louisa Rd.)

From the Albemarle/Louisa County line at the north to the Rt. 22 intersection at Cismont, and continuing to the Rt. 250 intersection at Shadwell at the south

DRAFT



Last updated: 04.24.2023



LENGTH: 13.5 MILES

The Rt. 22 and 231 corridors are described together because travelers experience them as a single path, even though Rt. 22 diverges to the east at Cismont.

HISTORY

Most of the Rt. 22/231 corridor (all but a third of a mile at the southernmost end) is included in the Southwest Mountains National Register Historic District. The district is known for its mix of high style and vernacular architecture set in a scenic rural landscape, all illustrating the cultural evolution of the region from the 18th through the 20th centuries. Settlers were drawn to the area because of the rich agricultural lands and primary routes on the east side of the Southwest Mountains were in place by the mid-18th century. These included Rt. 22 (known as Old Mountain Road) connecting Hanover County with the Blue Ridge, and Rt. 231 (known as the Fredericksburg Road) connecting the Three Notch'd Road at Shadwell with Orange County and Fredericksburg. Settlers established houses and farms along both roads. Many of the homes were accessed by long, tree-lined lanes leading off the main road. This form of development is seen at Castle Hill (constructed in 1764 as a traditional frame residence and expanded in 1823-24 with a brick addition in the Jeffersonian Classicism style) and at East Belmont (original frame portion constructed ca. 1811 with a brick addition constructed ca. 1834-35). The pattern of tree-lined lanes persists today. The deep setback of residences and supporting structures results in fleeting, distant views of the historic structures. Eventually, taverns, mills and churches were built to serve the growing population and small settlements developed where roads crossed, including Keswick, Shadwell, Cismont and Cash's Corner – all place names that remain today. Noteworthy non-residential buildings along the route include Walker Mill, a vernacular stone and wood gristmill dating to 1783; the South Plains Presbyterian Church, a simple rectangular brick

church dating to 1829; and Grace Episcopal Church, a Gothic style stone structure designed in 1847 by nationally recognized architect William Strickland. (Grace is Strickland's only work in Virginia.) Towards the end of the 19th century, breeding and raising horses gained popularity. Farming dropped during the Great Depression years and by the late 20th century, with horse breeding still popular, agricultural pursuits were focused on hay and pasture.

These roads were designated Entrance Corridors in 1990.

**This history was taken from the National Register nomination forms for the resources mentioned in the text, all found at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Website: <https://www.dhr.virginia.gov>.*

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF PROGRESSION

The corridor is remarkably consistent in its scenic, rural, and agricultural character. Undulating pastures, mature trees, winding roads, forested hills, tree-lined lanes, and board fences predominate. Though historic structures are numerous, very few are highly visible from the street. There are views of the mountains to the south and west, and gently rising slopes in many areas to the east. Some limited industrial development at the north end of the corridor is well hidden from the street. More recent development is located between the Interstate overpass and the Rt. 250 intersection.

ZONING & LAND USE

Land along the corridor is zoned Rural Areas, with the exception of one small pocket of commercial development at the southern end of Rt. 22. The mix of residential and agricultural uses conforms to the established zoning district. With residential development of the single-family detached variety, Entrance Corridor review is limited to the few commercial and institutional properties along the corridor.

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STRUCTURES – PREDOMINANT FEATURES

- Form: Simple, rectangular, vernacular
- Scale: Generally, 1-2 stories, but some footprints sprawl
- Materials: Wood, masonry, metal
- Colors: White/off-white, red, muted browns and greys

LANDSCAPE – PREDOMINANT FEATURES / ELEMENTS OF ORDERLY AND ATTRACTIVE DEVELOPMENT

- Order is established by the consistent scenic, rural/agricultural appearance.
- Some open views of rolling terrain and mountains
- Some wooded borders
- Tree-lined lanes intersecting the corridor
- Board fences
- Deep setbacks

CHARACTERISTICS TO AVOID

- Placement of structures that blocks views of mountains, views of rolling terrain, sweeping vistas
- Setbacks inconsistent with the historic pattern

PRECEDENT IMAGES



3140 Logon Ln.

Open fields marked by board fences, mature trees, and a deep setback are typical of the region. Consistently deep setbacks result in only a few buildings being readily visible from the street.



6831 Gordonsville Rd.

Horse breeding and raising gained popularity in the area during the late 19th century and remains prevalent along the corridor today.



5607-09 Gordonsville Rd., Grace Episcopal Church

This Gothic style stone structure was designed in 1847 by nationally recognized architect William Strickland.



7886-7890 Gordonsville Rd.

Walker Mill, a stone and frame structure dating to 1783, is one of the earliest gristmills in the region.



Gordonsville Rd./St. John's Rd. intersection

The addition of a second story on a mid-20th century store retains the scale, character and setting typical of the corridor.



Vicinity of 7185 Gordonsville Rd.

A historical marker commemorates the site of a classical school operated by the Rev. James Maury. Thomas Jefferson was a student at the school.



6505 and 6495 Gordonsville Rd.

Although the area is known for its high-style estates, many of the buildings exhibit vernacular building traditions.



Vicinity of 4609 Louisa Rd.

The signature elements of this corridor are evident in this view: curving roads, board fences, rolling terrain, mature trees, and mountain views.