NPS Form 10-900

VLR Listed: 6/16/2022 NRHP Listed: 4/27/2023

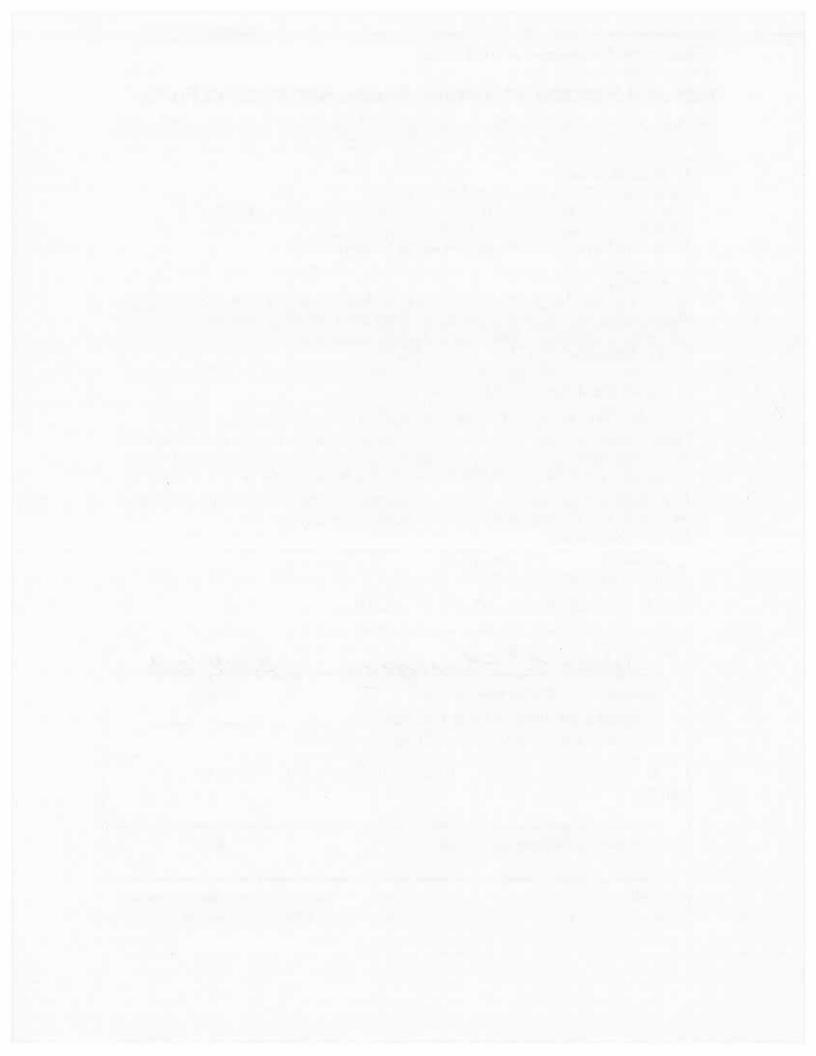
OMB Control No. 1024-0018 expiration date 03/31/2022

**United States Department of the Interior**National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions

Title:	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
Signature of commenting official:	Date
In my opinion, the property meets doe criteria.	es not meet the National Register
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Go	overnment
Virginia Department of Historic Resources	3
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
alie & Sangar	2 3/27/23
X A X B X C X	D
nationalxstatewidex Applicable National Register Criteria:	_ local
In my opinion, the property _x_ meets does not recommend that this property be considered signific level(s) of significance:	
the documentation standards for registering properti Places and meets the procedural and professional re-	es in the National Register of Historic quirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
As the designated authority under the National Historian I hereby certify that this <u>x</u> nomination requestions.	
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: X	
Sliding Hill Road, Lewistown Road, Brook Spring F City or town: Ashland State: VA County:	
2. Location Street & number: Ashcake Road, Carters Heights R	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple pro	operty listing
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A	P
Other names/site number: <u>VDHR Architectural Inventors</u>	
1. Name of Property Historic name: Brown Grove Rural Historic District	



Object

Control No	1024-0018

Brown Grove Rural Historic District Hanover County, VA Name of Property County and State 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: \_\_\_ entered in the National Register \_\_\_ determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_ removed from the National Register \_\_\_ other (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5. Classification **Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.) Private: Public – Local Public – State Public – Federal **Category of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.) Building(s) District Site Structure

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Brown Grove Rural Historic District Hanover County, VA Name of Property County and State **Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Noncontributing 126 175 buildings \_10\_\_\_\_ sites 15 structures objects 142 191 Total Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

Slash Church (NRHP Ref # 72001399; DHR #042-0033 and 042-5802-0133) was

# 6. Function or Use

individually listed in 1972.

#### **Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

EDUCATION/school/schoolhouse

RELIGION/religious facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/barn

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

#### **Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

DOMESTIC/secondary structure

RELIGION/religious facility

FUNERARY/cemetery

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/barn

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

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# 7. Description

#### **Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COLONIAL

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch Style

MODERN MOVEMENT/Neo-Eclectic

MODERN MOVEMENT/Split-Level

OTHER/Minimal Traditional

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: ASPHALT; ASBESTOS; BRICK; CONCRETE;

WOOD: weatherboard, shingle; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

### **Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with **a summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

#### **Summary Paragraph**

This rural historic district consists of the historic African American rural community of Brown Grove, established in the 1870s by families that included formerly enslaved individuals. The boundaries encompass two discontiguous areas near the geographic center of Hanover County, separated by the Interstate 95 corridor and located about three-quarters of a mile southeast of the corporate limits of the Town of Ashland. Section 1 of the district encompasses approximately 1,181 acres while a small discontiguous area, Section 2, includes approximately 45 acres; the total historic district area is approximately 1,226 acres. The district boundary excludes encroachments into the historic extents of the Brown Grove community, such as a county landfill, a concrete plant, a modern cul-de-sac, and the Hanover County Airport. Although industrial and commercial development has approached the southern and western portions of the boundary, the district itself remains rural in character. Contributing resources include sixty-five single dwellings, one commercial building, ten cemeteries, and four archaeological sites. There are two churches within the district. Slash Church (042-0033/042-5802-0133) was individually listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places in 1972. Brown Grove Baptist Church (042-5799/042-5802-0136) was recommended eligible for both Registers by the Virginia State Review Board in 2021. All of the dwellings date to the twentieth century except for Candlewick, a ca. 1840 building that may have begun as a hall-parlor plan house. Twenty-nine of the contributing dwellings do not follow a discernible formal architectural style. Some distinctive attributes of these dwellings include unpainted cinder block construction with brick window and door trim as well as brick chimneys. Common architectural stylistic categories among the

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contributing dwellings include Ranch (19), Minimal Traditional (15), Colonial Revival (3), and Split Level (1). Contributing dwellings tend to occupy large, partially wooded tracts of approximately one to ten acres or more, many with contributing domestic outbuildings. The district's four recorded archaeological sites are the sites of the 1927 Brown Grove School (Site 44HN0452) and an early nineteenth-century domestic complex associated with Merry Oaks Tavern (also known as the Robert Smith Farm/Site) (44HN0326). Two other sites, a domestic complex (Site 44HN0406) and a trash scatter (Site 44HN0449), contribute to the district because of their association with African American domestic complexes, though at present they do not appear to have research potential to be individually eligible. Patterning of many smaller parcels in long, narrow strips, combined with selected land records research, indicates subdivision of many modest-sized family farms for distribution among heirs; some families, such as the Garnetts, owned larger tracts like Merry Oaks (44HN0326), a large farm and tavern property that dates to the late eighteenth to nineteenth century. Since the eighteenth century, the main thoroughfare within the district has been the east-west Ashcake Road. Some secondary roads branching off this main road, such as Lewistown, Johnson Town, and Morris Town (now Egypt) Road, bear the names of the earliest African American families who purchased small farms in the district in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. The main north-south thoroughfare is Sliding Hill Road. The generally flat landscape of moderately productive agricultural soils also includes low, swampy wooded areas known as "slashes." The lands within the district drain into creeks that feed both the Chickahominy and Pamunkey River drainages. Overall the historic district has a high level of integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association. Integrity of design, materials, and workmanship for some individual resources has been altered by later additions or installation of new materials over historic fabric, whereas the district's overall integrity of these three aspects is quite good due to limited but compatible infill construction within the historic boundary. Construction of Interstate 95 through the community during the 1950s-1960s occurred during the district's period of significance and is an example of a major public infrastructure project that was built within or through a pre-existing African American community, which was a commonplace occurrence in Virginia throughout the twentieth century.

### **Narrative Description**

#### Setting

The 1,226-acre Brown Grove Rural Historic District encompasses the historic African American community of Brown Grove. The district consists of two discontiguous parts separated by the Interstate 95 corridor and areas of industrial, transportation, and commercial development adjacent to the highway. The major eastern portion (Section 1) covers 1,181 acres while Section 2, located west of the interstate and often known as Lewistown, comprises 45 acres. Located in central Hanover County, Brown Grove is about 15 miles north of the corporate limits of Virginia's capital city, Richmond; less than a mile southeast of the corporate limits of the Town of Ashland; and 3.7 miles southwest of unincorporated Hanover, the county seat. Although the district remains rural, suburban residential development for Richmond commuters has extended from the more densely developed vicinity of Mechanicsville (along the southern edge of Hanover County) up to the southeast boundary of the district. The southwest boundary of Section 1 is adjacent to the Hanover

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County Municipal Airport. Between the airport and Interstate 95 are several blocks of light industry and warehouse buildings. Section 2 of the district is immediately south of an area of mixed light industrial and residential development on the outskirts of Ashland. The area to the north and east of the main portion of the district remains a rural patchwork of farms and small rural neighborhoods that characterize most of Hanover County beyond the more densely developed areas around Ashland and Mechanicsville.

The district lies in the Tidewater physiographic province, less than a mile east of the Fall Line, which marks the boundary with the Piedmont physiographic province to the west. Topography within the district is generally flat, with the highest areas only about 200 feet above mean sea level. The district includes areas known as "slashes," consisting of low, flat, swampy woodlands, usually forested with pine trees and some ravines that drop down to stream beds. The areas are common across the eastern half of Hanover County and more generally in the Tidewater physiographic province where the district lies. Within the district, Slash Church (NRHP 1972; 042-0033/042-5802-0133) highlights local use of this term. Despite poor drainage in some areas, three major streams traverse the district, flowing into the two major rivers that define the northern and southern limits of Hanover County: the Chickahominy and the Pamunkey. Lickinghole Creek flows southward cutting across Section 2 of the district, while Totopotomoy Creek has its source near the west limit of Section 1 of the district and then flows along this section's southwest boundary; both of these streams empty in the Chickahominy River. Also drawing its source in the district is Kersey Creek, which flows out of the southeast corner of Section 1 as a tributary of Crump's Creek, which, in turn, is a tributary of the Pamunkey River.

Review of historic maps and available LiDAR imagery reveals distinctive features of a district landscape that developed before the widespread use and availability of automobiles. A 1938 topographic map shows an extensive network of paths through heavily wooded areas. Rather than connecting mainly to the principal state and county roads, these paths provided the most direct access by foot or horse from the small subsistence farmsteads and isolated dwellings to major hubs of community activity such as general stores, churches, and the Brown Grove School (see Figure 1 below).

Other distinctive aspects of the landscape of this rural community includes family cemeteries. These cemeteries continued a Virginia tradition that persisted from the colonial era among Whites and African Americans. Burials in churchyards were less common than on private land until Virginia laws enacted in 1919 (and later) restricted the establishment of cemeteries near dwellings. Most of the ten known cemeteries in the district are small burying grounds associated with African American families and established during the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, and one is a cemetery associated with the aforementioned Slash Church.

Code of Virginia, 1919, § 56; 1926, p. 866; 1934, p. 13; 1942, p. 102; 1944, p. 462; 1948, p. 492; 1952, c. 108; 1954, c. 10; 1960, c. 161; 1994, c. 229.

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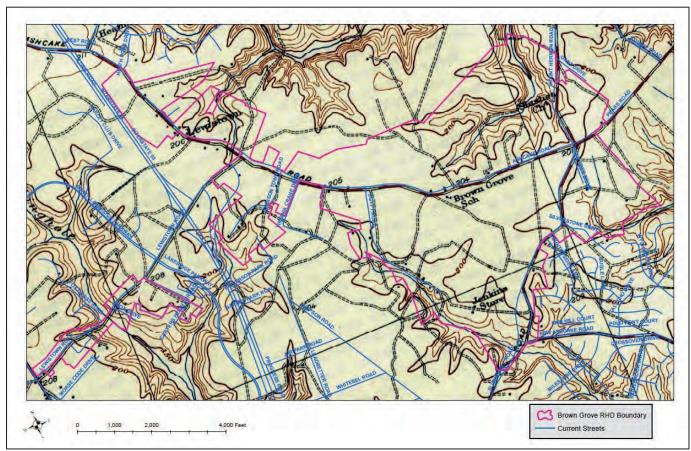


Figure 1. 1938 Topographic map showing an extensive network of paths through heavily wooded areas

#### **Architectural Development**

The Brown Grove Rural Historic District is a discontiguous district composed of two sections separated by the Interstate 95 corridor in a rapidly developing area of Hanover County. Section 2, the smaller, western section (45 acres), historically known as Lewistown, extends along Lewistown Road between the interstate and U.S. Route 1, which runs nearly parallel to the interstate at this point. Between Sections 2 and 1 is an area with recent commercial and infrastructure development along the interstate corridor. Section 1, the eastern section of the district, is larger (1,181 acres) and runs mainly along Lewistown, Ashcake, Egypt, and Sliding Hill roads. Both areas are largely residential with modest dwellings, usually one story, set on large lots or subdivided outparcels. Section 1, the eastern portion, contains a greater variety of resource types with two churches, numerous cemeteries, and a historic commercial building. The eastern section also includes large expanses of undeveloped wooded acreage but excludes areas of adjacent industrial and transportation development.

Despite recent construction and nearby commercial and transportation-related activities, the overall impression within the Brown Grove Rural Historic District itself is of a quiet, rural community of small dwellings on large lots amongst significant wooded acreage that today provides a buffer from the interstate, a county airport, and commercial and industrial development.

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Most houses are set relatively close to the roads, although a network of pedestrian paths historically augmented the vehicular roadways.

The district contains two churches—Slash Church (NRHP 1972; 042-0033/042-5802-0133) and Brown Grove Baptist Church (042-5802-0136). Though enlarged with a later education wing, the core of Slash Church is a front-gabled frame building, rectangular in footprint, that is relatively simple and devoid of much decoration. The primary entrance is a double-leaf door, centered on the west elevation, each leaf with three raised panels. Above the door is a shield-shaped sign in a square frame reading "SLASH / CHRISTIAN / CHURCH / ERECTED / 1729." Above the sign are two nine-over-nine, wood sash windows. The south elevation has three nine-over-nine windows to the west of a secondary entrance, and one to the east. The entrance is sheltered by a pedimented portico with cast metal supports. Presumably the north elevation was identical to the southern, though the once exterior door now leads into the education wing. The east elevation has three cased openings, the lower two house widows, and the one centered above it a louvered vent. The church rests on a brick foundation, is clad in weatherboard siding, and has modillions along the eaves, partially obscured by rain gutters.

In contrast, the core of Brown Grove Baptist Church (042-5799/042-5802-0136), built in 1945 to replace an earlier building is simple in form but has more ornament. The Gothic Revival, front-gable, brick building has a telescoping gabled vestibule on the south end, housing a glazed double-leaf door with a triangular window above in a pentagonal opening. The exterior walls are laid in eight-course American bond, and the four bays on the east and west elevations are divided by thin brick buttresses. Flanking the entrance vestibule and in each of the bays on the east and west elevations are quasi-lancet shaped, milk-glass window sash in masonry openings with rowlock sills. The sloping top sides of the masonry openings have two rowlock courses that meet at a brick keystone inscribed with a cross. A replacement standing seam metal roof covers the sanctuary, obscuring carved endboards.

The district contains a single contributing commercial building (although it is likely that many businesses historically were run from outbuildings and garages on residential properties). Located at the eastern terminus of Lewistown Road at Ashcake Road, the two-bay concrete block Professional Shoe Shine building, built originally as the Jackson Grocery, has a single-leaf door and one-over-one sash window with a rowlock sill on the facade with similar windows on the north and south elevations. This small, utilitarian building at the intersection of two major roads would have been convenient to residents within the district. Despite more limited transportation options in the early twentieth century, the Jackson Grocery and the White-owned Jenkins Store along Egypt Road had competition from stores outside the Brown Grove community. Residents of Brown Grove also shopped in Ashland and especially the African American enclave of Ashland called Berkleytown.<sup>2</sup>

The district is notable for a number of small, private cemeteries. These appear to be either family or community cemeteries. Most are moderate-sized with 10 to 20 marked graves, though there is the possibility of unmarked graves. The varied markers include tablets, flush markers, and exposed concrete vaults. The Williams cemetery has a few graves marked by low enclosures—masonry

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The Berkleytown Historic District (166-5073) was nominated to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places at the same time as the Brown Grove Rural Historic District.

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pavers and, in one case, upright stanchions with swagged lengths of chain between them. A few contain U S Government-issued markers for military veterans.<sup>3</sup> Some burials are marked only with metal signs issued by funeral homes. These private cemeteries are scattered throughout the district, often close to residences and generally away from the road in wooded or semi-wooded areas. They are generally not enclosed, and most have some evidence of recent maintenance or decoration with plastic flowers and other items.

The vast majority of the contributing resources in the district are single-family residences. Most of the contributing dwellings are one story, and the most commonly represented styles are Ranch, Minimal Traditional, and vernacular dwellings with ornamental references to the Colonial Revival and Craftsman styles. Family settlement patterns are evident in close groupings of houses, carved out of historically larger family holdings. A good example is the houses at 10134, 10128, 10126, 10120, and 10118 Ashcake Road. The oldest of them, a ca. 1958 one-story, hipped-roofed, brick-veneered dwelling, anchors the northwest corner of a cleared area, while the others, built between 1963 and 2014, are distributed in a large expanse of grassy lawn to the south and east, often sharing common egress drives.

Photos that date to the 1940s and 1950s show that many of the current masonry buildings replaced wood frame vernacular buildings. The masonry buildings were known to have been built by Brown Grove residents.

The district contains one nineteenth century dwelling known as Candlewick (or the Ford Farm), a two-story, frame I-house with exterior end chimneys and a small, hipped roofed porch, that appears to have evolved from a smaller, two-bay hall-parlor core. Additional one-story frame accretions to the rear allowed for continued use and the incorporation of secondary rooms. Excluding this ca. 1840 farm, contributing houses are all twentieth century and range from 1910 to 1971 with the majority dating from the 1930s through the 1950s.

The property at 10446 Lewistown Road is among the earlier extant houses. This small, one-story, side-gabled, frame vernacular dwelling retains a standing-seam metal roof, a partial-width, shed-roofed porch that has been screened, and Bricktex siding. The house at 9357 Ashcake Road is visually prominent, sited in a clearing at a turn in the road and facing Brown Grove Baptist Church across the street. This house has Craftsman-inspired detailing with its full-width inset porch and gabled dormer with exposed rafter tails. Another notable house at 10306 Lewistown Road appears to have been architect-designed, given its sophisticated mid-twentieth century, Wrightian attributes. The side-gabled house with projecting cross-gabled end pavilions is clad in brick veneer and vertical siding. Masonry steps lead to a double-leaf door, each leaf having eight square, raised panels. An imposing interior chimneystack of the same buff-colored brick as on the exterior walls rises from the roof in a flat, rectangular mass housing multiple flues.

The district contains a number of hipped-roofed Ranch-style houses. Neighboring houses at 10033 and 10017 Johnsontown Road are good examples. Both are of concrete block construction with

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Additional information about the history and information potential of U.S. Government-issued markers is available at "Grave Markers for Veterans: Military History in a Rural Cemetery," Department of Historic Resources, 2022; available at https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/cemetery-newsletter-content/grave-markers-for-veterans-military-history-in-a-rural-cemetery/.

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limited brick trim at the windowsills, sport a Chicago-style (or "picture") window on the facade, and are painted in vivid colors. The dwelling at 10033 Johnsontown Road is more complex with a hipped portico at the main entrance and a screened, hipped-roofed, side porch wing.

Many of the houses are vernacular or Minimal Traditional side-gable houses rendered in frame or masonry. As with the Ranch-style houses noted above, several are built of concrete block with limited brick trim. Some of these masonry houses have been re-clad in vinyl siding with rowlock windowsills left exposed.

The Carter Heights subdivision, which is situated just south of Lewistown Road, was platted in 1948. The houses that date to the 1950s to 1970s (and later) show the later phases of architecture in the district when the area had started developing towards a suburban lifestyle, away from the rural agricultural past. The houses show Ranch and Minimal Traditional styles and forms.

At least three houses have notable masonry yard art, apparently by the same maker. One striking example at 9392 Ashcake Road is a concrete birdbath, studded with buff colored rocks, with a cast concrete cardinal perched in the well of the bath.

Noncontributing status generally falls on resources that postdate the district's period of significance (1729-1971). Infill construction varies and includes some larger two-story houses as well as several smaller Habitat for Humanity–built dwellings with a stock, front-gable design. While more recent and in contemporary styles, the presence of newer infill housing in and of itself is not a distraction given the community's tradition of family compounds composed of housing with a broad range of styles and construction dates on subdivided tracts.

While most of the resources within the district are not individually architecturally distinctive, as a whole they create a consistent rhythm and pattern of scale and typology, giving the district a strong visual identity.

Archaeological Resources and Landscape Features

Site 44HN0326 (9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)

Merry Oaks Tavern aka Robert Smith Farm/Site

Dwelling, single, ca. 1700-1890

Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American (Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0406 (Tax Parcel GPIN 7788-88-7413)

Dwelling, single, ca. 1900-1999

Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American [African

American?]

(Not individually eligible) Contributing *Total:* 1

Site 44HN0449

9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903 and 9382 Sliding Hill Road; GPIN 7798-32-4765

Artifact scatter, ca. 1866-1945 Cultural Affiliation: Indeterminate [African American] (Not individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

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Site 44HN0452 (9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)

Brown Grove School Site School, 1927–mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Cultural Affiliation: African

American

(Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Of the four above archaeological sites recorded within the district, two have undergone evaluation-level investigations. Site 44HN0326 is a late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century domestic complex with structural features and intact archaeological deposits representing domestic and possibly tavern activities. A tavern on the property known as Merry Oaks or The Oaks that contained the site was active from 1795 until the early 1840s. Robert Smith used the former tavern as a residence and farmed there during this period. Documentary research on the history of the property reveals the potential for sites representing dwellings/quarters for enslaved workers. Site 44HN0452, representing the Brown Grove School, also has significant informationa potential. The Brown Grove School site is located on the south side of Ashcake Road, not far from Brown Grove Baptist Church. The site features intact, above-ground, foundation piers. Both of these sites were found to be potentially eligible for the NRHP and VLR in 2021 during an environmental review project required by federal regulations for the National Historic Preservation Act.

Likewise, Site 44HN0449, a late nineteenth-century to twentieth-century trash scatter, was found to be not individually eligible during the 2020 environmental review project due to lack of research potential. However, the site contributes to the district under Criterion A due to its probable association with the prominent African American Garnett family, who owned a large property on both sides of Sliding Hill Road and whose house and outbuildings are a good example of a domestic complex from the period. Site 44HN0406 has low integrity and was evaluated as not individually eligible for the National Register during a 2011 environmental review project; nevertheless, it contributes to the historic district under Criterion A as the site of one of the early twentieth-century African American dwellings in the community.

#### **Potential for Sites**

Due to the rural nature of much of the historic district and the practice of building replacement houses near an older dwelling, there is some potential for relatively undisturbed older house sites. While not documented at this time, the Caroline Dobson Morris House along Egypt Road may be an undisturbed site. In addition, DHR staff located the foundations of the Coleman family house near the cemetery at the end of Egypt Road. There is also some potential for unmarked family cemeteries yet to be identified.

#### **Integrity Analysis**

The Brown Grove Rural Historic District retains high integrity of setting. The main thoroughfare, Ashcake Road (SR 657) follows its historic alignment, evident on mid-nineteenth-century maps and possibly dating as early as European settlement of the area during the early eighteenth century. Detailed topographic maps from the first one-third of the twentieth century and aerial imagery from 1937 reveal footpaths and rudimentary tracks that are still evident on current LiDAR imagery of the district. Exclusion of neighboring commercial and industrial encroachments bolster the integrity of setting. The construction of Interstate 95 in the 1950s and 1960s through the Brown

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Grove community caused demolition of several dwellings and loss of farmsteads, as well as resulting in the two halves of today's discontiguous district; however, the highway project does fall within the district's period of significance. The pattern of locating large public infrastructure projects in minority communities could be construed as a traditional development pattern, though discriminatory. The division of Brown Grove by the interstate mirrors the devastation of Richmond's African American Jackson Ward Historic District (NHL 1978, NRHP 1976; 127-0237) by the same highway project.

Integrity of design is evident through the retention of traditional settlement patterns, including the location of domestic buildings close to small family and community cemeteries. Despite later residential infill, the sense of resource distribution and the small scale of individual housing units largely survives.

Despite replacement or encasing of some materials, much of the original fabric of the district remains and some replacements have occurred within the period of significance, thus not impairing integrity. Likewise, the integrity of workmanship remains high.

The district as a whole, despite some changes, continues to strongly embody a sense of a rural, working class, African American settlement with roots in the Reconstruction Era. The continued occupancy of multi-generational descendants of early inhabitants, the continued visitation and maintenance of historic cemeteries, and the vibrant and engaged congregation of Brown Grove Baptist Church reinforce the district's robust integrity of feeling and association.

# **Inventory of Resources**

Properties in the Brown Grove Rural Historic District inventory are organized alphabetically by street (under centered street name headings) and numerically by street number. The headings in bold for each property include the street address and the Department of Historic Resources (DHR) Identification Number. This consists of an 11-digit number, with the first seven digits identifying the district 042-5802) and a four-digit suffix. In cases where a property has been previously recorded individually, the originally assigned seven-digit identification number appears, followed by the Other DHR ID# (11-digit number and any other associated numbers, including an archaeological site number, if applicable). Each resource within a property appears on a separate line. Information for the primary resource includes the description or resource type (e.g., Dwelling, Church, Cemetery, etc.); the National Register resource type in parentheses (Building, Structure, Site, or Object); the number of stories (if the primary resource is a building); architectural style; date of construction; status—whether contributing or non-contributing to the district—and the quantity of resources of that description. Below the primary resource entry, less detailed information appears for the property's secondary resources.

Contributing resources date to sometime within the district's period of significance (ca. 1729-1971) and have retained a sufficient degree of integrity to convey their significant historical associations with the district. Dates are based on field observation and/or tax records. Resources identified as non-contributing either were of more recent date than the period of significance or have been moved, altered, or deteriorated to such an extent that they lack minimum physical integrity requirements.

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Information in the inventory is also accessible through DHR's architectural survey archives in Richmond and the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) online database. Resources are keyed to the attached historic district Sketch Map by the last 4 digits of the resource's 11-digit DHR number (e.g., -0001 for the resource assigned inventory number 042-5208-0001).

#### ASHCAKE ROAD

9293 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0109 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1, Style: No discernible style, 1965

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 4

9307 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0108 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1, Style: No discernible style, 1971

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

9315 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0106 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), 1.5 St., Style: Vernacular, 1940

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

9319 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0107 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1, Style: Ranch, 1960

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

9328 Ashcake Road 042-5799 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0136

**Brown Grove Baptist Church** 

Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Story 1, Style: Gothic Revival, Ca 1945

Contributing Total: 1

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

Secondary Resource: Cemetery (Site) [Brown Cemetery] **Contributing** *Total:* 1

9357 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0105 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1.5, Style: Vernacular, 1935

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

9377 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0104 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1960

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing *Total:* 1

9392 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0103 Other DHR Id#:

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 2 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Brown Grove Rural Historic District Hanover County, VA Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Non-contributing Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) Secondary Resource: Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Other) **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 9393 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0102 Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 9399 Ashcake Road Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0101 Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2021 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 9403 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0100 Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1962 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) 9423 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0131 Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1 Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) 9424 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0091 Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1967 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) 042-5802-0099 9453 Ashcake Road Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1981 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1 Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Secondary Resource: Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Other) Non-contributing Total: 1

9466 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0090 Other DHR Id#:

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1936 **Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Landscape Feature, Man-Made(Other) Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

9475 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0092 Other DHR Id#:

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, 1945

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building) Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Privy (Building)

Contributing Total: 2

Non-contributing Total: 2

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 2

**10009 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0089** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1972

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10033 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0087** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1970 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 3

**10039 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0088** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1999 Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

**10042 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0098** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, 1930

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10047 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0086 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1976

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10076 Ashcake Road 042-5504 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0059

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable

Style, Ca 1930 Contributing Total: 1

**10076 Ashcake Road 042-5503** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0058* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Cape

Cod, Ca 1940 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building) Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 4

**10084 Ashcake Road 042-5502** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0057* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional,

Ca 1940 Contributing Total: 1

**10088 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0056** *Other DHR Id#:* 

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

2005 Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

**10108 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0055** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional,

1957

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

10118 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0053 Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1963

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

**10120 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0052** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2014

Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10126 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0054** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1979
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)
Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10128 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0051** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1984 Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

**10134 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0050** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1958

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Contributing Total: 1

**10146 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0049** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style,
1949
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

**10156 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0048** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Neo-Eclectic, 2013

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

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**10168 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0047** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1930 Contributing Total: 1

**10181 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0046** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Split-Level/

Split Foyer, 1969

Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Secondary Resource: Well House (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Contributing Total: 1

**10184 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0126** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1949 Contributing Total: 1

**10185 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0045** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2006
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

**10197 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0044** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1950 Contributing Total: 1

10205 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0043 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1972

Non-contributing *Total:* 1 Non-contributing *Total:* 1

**10207 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0042** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2005
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

**10209 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0041** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2005

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

**10213 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0040** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

2005

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10215 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0039** *Other DHR Id#:* 

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, 2017 Non-contributing Total: 1

**10227 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0038** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2005
Non-contributing Total: 1

**10231 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0037** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2002

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**10253 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0036** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca
1955

Secondary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

**10267 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0035** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1975

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**10285 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0112** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1975

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

**Ashcake Road** 042-5802-0137 *Other DHR Id#:* 

**Jones/Lewis Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1963 Contributing Total: 1

# **BROOK SPRING ROAD**

**11200 Brook Spring Road 042-5552** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0119* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1967

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**11208 Brook Spring Road 042-5551** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0118* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1967

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

**11216 Brook Spring Road 042-5025** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0111* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1962

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Gazebo (Structure)

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

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**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building) Contributing** *Total:* **2** 

11225 Brook Spring Road 042-5550 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0117

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1958

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

# **CARTERS HEIGHTS ROAD**

11355 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 1955

**11341 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000** Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, C. 1980 **Contributing** *Total:* 1

11333 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, C. 1967 **Contributing** *Total:* 1

**11325 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000** Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1962

**Contributing** *Total:* **1 Contributing** *Total:* 1

11315 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, C. 1965 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

11305 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1973 **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

11295 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, C. 1968 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**11284 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000** Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional,

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1948 **Contributing** *Total:* **1 Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

**11270** Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1948-1950 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1 Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

11270 Carters Heights Road 042-000-0000 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1935 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

EGYPT ROAD

11000 Egypt Road 042-5802-0002 Other DHR Id#:

Morris/Coleman/Lewis Cemetery

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1950 Contributing Total: 1

11174 Egypt Road 042-5802-0061 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2014

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

11178 Egypt Road 042-5802-0060 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

11203 Egypt Road 042-5802-0069 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Contributing** *Total:* 2 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

042-5802-0062 11208 Egypt Road Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, 2005

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)

11212 Egypt Road 042-5802-0063 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, 1996

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2 Secondary Resource: Gazebo (Structure) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 4

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**11229 Egypt Road 042-5802-0068** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional,

1953 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 2

**11232 Egypt Road 042-5802-0070** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1978

Non-contributing Total: 1

**11242 Egypt Road 042-5802-0071** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1994

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**11256 Egypt Road 042-5802-0072** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1977

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

11277 Egypt Road 042-5802-0067 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2012 Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

11283 Egypt Road 042-5802-0066 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1975

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

11284 Egypt Road 042-5802-0073 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

2012 Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 4

11297 Egypt Road 042-5802-0065 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional,

1950 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

11332 Egypt Road 042-5802-0064 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1964

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Other) Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1

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**Egypt Road** 042-5802-0001 *Other DHR Id#:* 

**Coleman/Jones Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1919 Contributing Total: 1

**Egypt Road** 042-5802-0003 *Other DHR Id#:* 

**Harris Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1950 Contributing Total: 1

**JOHNSON TOWN ROAD** 

**10016 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0081** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1960 Contributing Total: 1

**10017 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0080** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, 1960

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**10024 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0082** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2006 Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10028 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0083** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2006

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10033 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0079** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1968 Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1

10036 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0084 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2006

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10040 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0085** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

**10041 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0078** *Other DHR Id#:* 

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2018

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

**10051 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0077** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1970 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10063 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0076** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1970 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10065 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0075** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1970 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10131 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0074** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1950

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0132 Other DHR Id#:

**Carter-Johnson Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1960

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

#### KNOX DRIVE

11305 Knox Drive 042-5802-0010 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1972 Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

#### LEWISTOWN ROAD

**10095 Lewistown Road 042-5507** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0129* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style,

1948 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1

**10097 Lewistown Road 042-5141** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0127* 

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, **Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

10103 Lewistown Road 042-5506 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0128 Primary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 **Style, Ca 1973** 

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

042-5802-0004 10277 Lewistown Road Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1972 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Non-contributing Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Other DHR Id#: 10282 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0031

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1981

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10285 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0005 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1945 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Contributing** *Total:* **2** Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

10290 Lewistown Road 042-5140 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0032

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1952 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10293 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0006 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10298 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0030 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1980 **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10301 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0007 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2009

Non-contributing Total: 1

10306 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0029 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1965 Contributing Total: 1 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

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Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

**10309 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0008** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1980

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**10317 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0009** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca
1950
Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10318 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0028** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Split-Level/Split Foyer,
1973 Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10383 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0012** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional,
1957

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1

**10386 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0027** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1945 Contributing Total: 1

10399 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0021 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1958

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**10400 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0026** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1995 Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

10410 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0025 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, 1948 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 1

**10411 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0022** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1969 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

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**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10419 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0023 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Gateposts/Entry (Object) **Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10420 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0024 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

10428 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0130 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1984

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Warehouse (Building)

10446 Lewistown Road 042-5223 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0033

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca

1910 Contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)

Secondary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* **3** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

10449 Lewistown Road 042-5224 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-**0034** 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca **Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Lewistown Road** 042-5802-0116 Other DHR Id#:

**Lewis/Coleman Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1970

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

#### MT. HERMON ROAD

11353 Mt. Hermon Road 042-0033 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0133

Slash Church (NRHP Ref # 72001399; DHR #042-0033 and 042-5802-0133) was

individually listed in 1972.

Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, 1729

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Cemetery (Site)

Secondary Resource: Meeting/Fellowship Hall (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

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Secondary Resource: Shelter (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** Secondary Resource: Sign (Object) **Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Mt. Hermon Road 042-5802-0138 Other DHR Id#:

**Church O Field Cemetery/Price Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1935 Contributing Total: 1

NEW ASHCAKE ROAD

042-5476 9340 New Ashcake Road Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0114

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1955 **Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

PEAR TREE DRIVE

11237 Pear Tree Drive 042-5802-0093 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1963

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

11241 Pear Tree Drive 042-5802-0094 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1974

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

11253 Pear Tree Drive 042-5802-0096 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1968 **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Other DHR Id#: 11258 Pear Tree Drive 042-5802-0095

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1978

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

**ROUTE 657** 

**Route 657** 042-0253 Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0110

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1840

**Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Barn (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

**Contributing** *Total:* **2** Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

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#### SHELLIE LEE DRIVE

10351 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0011 Other DHR Id#: Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

10361 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0013 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

10364 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0014 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

10367 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0015 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1950 **Contributing** *Total:* 1

10373 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0016 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

1957 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

10377 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0017 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1955 **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

10383 Shellie Lee Drive 042-5802-0018 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1979

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 4

**Shellie Lee Drive** 042-5802-0019 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2021

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**Shellie Lee Drive** 042-5802-0020 Other DHR Id#:

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

# SLIDING HILL ROAD

Other DHR Id#: 9163 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0097

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

042-5802-0120 9177 Sliding Hill Road Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

9177 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0120 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,

**Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Shed - Vehicle (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

9209 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0121 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1991

**Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 2

9211 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0122 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1950

**Contributing** *Total:* 1 **Non-contributing** *Total:* 2

Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**) Secondary Resource: Work in Progress (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

9221 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0123 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1968

**Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: Privy (Building) **Contributing** *Total:* 1

**Contributing** *Total:* 1 Secondary Resource: **Shed** (**Building**)

9229 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0124 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) **Non-contributing** *Total:* **1** 

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**9255 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0125** *Other DHR Id#:* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style,
1986
Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

**9303 Sliding Hill Road 042-5548** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0115* 

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca

1950 Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Total: 1

**9323 Sliding Hill Road 042-5285** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0113* 

Frank and Lucy Garnett House

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1930 (or earlier)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource:: Shed (Building) Contributing Total: 2

**Sliding Hill Road 042-5002** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0134* 

**Archibald Williams Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: No Discernable Style, 1899

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

**Sliding Hill Road 042-5549** *Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0135* 

**Garnett Family Cemetery** 

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930

**Contributing** *Total:* **1** 

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Site 44HN0326 (9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)

Dwelling, single, ca. 1700-1890 *Cultural Affiliation:* Euro-American

(Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0406 (Tax Parcel GPIN 7788-88-7413)

Dwelling, single, ca. 1900-1999 Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American [African

American?

(Not individually eligible) Contributing *Total:* 1

**Site 44HN0449** 

9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903 and

9382 Sliding Hill Road; GPIN 7798-32-4765

Artifact scatter, ca. 1866-1945 Cultural Affiliation: Indeterminate [African American]

(Not individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

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Site 44HN0452 – Brown Grove School (9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903) School, 1927–mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Cul

Cultural Affiliation: African American (Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

F. A commemorative property

NPS Form 10-900 OMB Control No. 1024-0018 Brown Grove Rural Historic District Hanover County, VA Name of Property County and State 8. Statement of Significance **Applicable National Register Criteria** (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.) A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the X broad patterns of our history. X B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past. C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of X construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction. X D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history. **Criteria Considerations** (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.) A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes B. Removed from its original location C. A birthplace or grave D. A cemetery E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure

G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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# **Areas of Significance**

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American
<u>AGRICULTURE</u>
COMMERCE
EDUCATION
RELIGION
SOCIAL HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significanc 1729-1971	E
1/2/-1//1	
	_
<b>Significant Dates</b>	
1729	
May 27, 1862	
1927	
1945	

# **Significant Person**

Cultural Affiliation	
N/A	

Morris, Caroline Dobson

# Architect/Builder

Pinchback, Thomas
Chambers, Edward, Jr.
Breedlove Construction
Coleman, Ollie "Skit," Sr.

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# Acknowledgements

Over the period 2019 to 2022, members of the Brown Grove community led an effort to celebrate the heritage of their rural area. This nomination resulted from that effort. The community group researched the legacy families, encouraged the documentation of family cemeteries, and actively interviewed community elders to confirm facts. The Brown Grove Preservation Group led the effort for community recognition. Diane Smith Drake served as community historian. Bonnica Harris Cotman, Renada Harris, McKinley Harris, Helen Jackson King, Betty Jones King-Lozano, Saundra Mason Watkins, Blanche Morris Champion, Jackie Hayes, Leon Harris, Rev. Benjamin H. Jackson Sr., Deacon Charles Tyler Sr., Dr. Lakshmi Fjord, Deacon Ernest Hayes Sr. (deceased), and Frances Jackson Jones (deceased) were key contributors for community history (including historic photos from personal collections). Marcella Price Singh, a descendant of the Garnett family, provided many photos from her family collection. The photos provided by the community conveyed the landscape of the early to mid-twentieth century farming period. Ms. Singh's photos showed members of the Garnett and Winston family farm on Sliding Hill Road and historic farm buildings. Pastor Darius Beechaum at Brown Grove Baptist Church provided critical support for this nomination. Support for the nomination effort also came from the African American Redress Network: a collaboration of the Thurgood Marshall Center at Howard University's School of Law, and the Institute for the Study of Human Rights, and the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University. Additional research of Brown Grove was shared by R. Christopher French, Environmental Justice Committee Chair, Hanover County NAACP. The Hanover County NAACP supported work on the nomination.

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Brown Grove Historic District is a historically African American rural community south of Ashland in Hanover County established during the Reconstruction Era, with roots that extend back to colonial-era settlement during the second quarter of the eighteenth century. It is an excellent example of the rural landscape of African American heritage that grew from Virginia's plantation economy to a Reconstruction Era self-sufficient agricultural community and transitioned during the twentieth century into a middle-class residential neighborhood. The evolution of the Brown Grove community shows the persistence of African Americans to improve their community from rural conditions into a modern neighborhood. This community maintained tight family connections with reliance on supporting institutions like Brown Grove Baptist Church, the anchor of spiritual life in the historic district area. During the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, formerly enslaved African American householders purchased parcels or five to twenty acres from the large estates of White landowners in this portion of the county. The community that emerged by the turn of the twentieth century featured a landscape of small subsistence farms connected by a network of paths and tracks to each other, the wider world, and community hubs such as the centrally located Baptist church and schoolhouse and a few general stores. In addition, the district contains significant resources associated with its earlier configuration as a rural community of large plantations and farms, including architectural resources (an antebellum farm complex, a colonialera frame church) and two archaeological sites (44HN0236, an early nineteenth-century farm and

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tavern, and 44HN0452, site of the Brown Grove School). With these earlier contributing resources included, the district has a long period of significance of 1729-1971, beginning with construction of Slash Churchand ending with the construction of the most recent contributing dwelling; construction of the Hanover County Airport in 1971 also marked a major disruption to the district's spatial relationships and land uses. Despite this disruption, the historic Black community has remained intact and has continued to organize and advocate for its interests. Two additional recorded sites, though not individually eligible, contribute to the significance of the district as the remains of homesteads representative of the African American community in the late nineteenth to twentieth century (the homesteads are likely associated with the Garnett family, though not confirmed to be). The district is also notable for the large number of small family cemeteries (10), including a cemetery associated with Slash Church (built in 1729). The Brown Grove Baptist Church Cemetery likely started as the Brown family cemetery and expanded when the church developed on their former farm. For these reasons, Brown Grove Rural Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American, Agriculture, Religion, and Social History; under Criterion B in the area of Social History for the significant contributions of Caroline Dobson Morris, a midwife nicknamed "the mother of Brown Grove;" and under Criterion D in the areas of Education and Commerce due to information potential of two archaeological sites, the Brown Grove School (44HN0452) and Merry Oaks Tavern (44HN0236). A significant date in the district's history relates to the May 27, 1862, Battle of Hanover Court House during the Civil War. Slash Church (042-0033/042-5802-0133) was individually listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places in 1972 with statewide significance in the areas of Architecture and Religion and its integrity continues to convey this significance today.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

# Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: African American

The district is locally significant in the area of African American Ethnic Heritage as rural historic district largely inhabited by descendants of families whose roots on this land extend back to the eighteenth century, and established the larger Brown Grove community by the 1870s. Before the Civil War, the local landscape and economy had been dominated by large plantations, a common characteristic shared in most areas of eastern Virginia. While most of the district's current resources date to 1930-1960s, the African American heritage can be understood from the colonial period when enslaved workers had access to worship in the gallery of Slash Church; lived and worked on plantations and farms like the surviving Candlestick/Ford Farm within the district, and, after the Civil War, progressed to establishing their own productive farms in place of the plantation economy. Enslaved African Americans lived here through the Revolutionary War and the Civil War, during the latter of which they endured part of the May 27, 1862, Battle of Hanover Court House. During the twentieth century, their descendants went on to establish solid middle-class status in a semi-rural twentieth-century landscape subject to increasing development.

The area that currently comprises Brown Grove consisted of several large properties during the eighteenth century. The African American population settled on smaller parcels as these larger

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tracts were subdivided during the Reconstruction period. A large area of the district was in wetlands and swamp. It is likely that the swampy area may have been less desirable for farming, but founding families like the Carters, Morrises, and the Garnetts farmed in and around the area within a mile of the Brown Grove Baptist Church. It is likely that these farmers improved some of this land for better farming over time. By the early twentieth century, the community was well established over the larger Brown Grove area and few, if any, White residents sought to establish farms in the area that is currently identified as the district. Before the 1930s, the area was named after the former Merry Oaks Tavern on USGS maps. The Merry Oaks name gave way to the Brown Grove name as a recognition that this was an African American community known more for its association with the Brown Grove Baptist Church.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, Brown Grove residents experienced the same dire conomic straits that were felt worldwide. Through their cooperative relationships and a long tradition of sharing limited resources, the community survived. In addition to sustaining themselves with subsistence farming, the people of Brown Grove raised cash crops such as tobacco to generate cash income and also sought paid employment through firms such as booming railroad companies (the nearby town of Ashland was a local hub, and the City of Richmond served as a major nexus where railroads converged from across Virginia) and at cigarette factories. Black women typically could find gainful employment only in narrowly defined positions such as domestic work. When World War II began, however, Black residents of Hanover County could find new employment opportunities at defense-related manufacturing facilities in the nearby Richmond and Mechanicsville areas. As men were drafted for military service, jobs previously offlimits to women opened up, such as at the Richmond Engineering Company, where they fabricated bomb parts. Women also worked in foundries, textile plants (using nylon to make parachutes instead of stockings), and other industrial concerns that supported the war effort. Black women typically were limited to the most difficult and lowest-paying jobs, but these nevertheless reflected opportunities for economic advances. The number of newly built dwellings that proliferated in Brown Grove after the war is indicative of the improved economic circumstances the community experienced.

Just after the mid-twentieth century, the federal government and local governments viewed the area more for its potential for infrastructure development than agriculture and residential use, and Interstate 95 was planned within and nearby the community; Hanover Airport (and supporting commercial land) was planned and built within and next to Brown Grove; a landfill was placed within the community; and the County encouraged commercial development that impacted the rural, residential nature of the community. During the mid- to late-twentieth century, consultation with minority communities affected by publicly-funded infrastructure development projects was minimal. All levels of government exercised rights of eminent domain to condemn private properties in order to build publicly-funded projects. Compensation to African American families who were displaced rarely was at full market value. Unlike today, community members also were not consultaed to provide input on project designs in order to minimize adverse impacts to their homes, businesses, churches, schools, and communities. The Civil Rights Movement of the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century focused on gaining the full rights of citizenship, such as voting, holding political office, being able to travel freely without threat of racial terrorism, admittance to public schools from kindergarten to universities, and access to public accommodations. The residents of Brown

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Grove lacked most of these rights when Interstate 95 was planned and built through their community. When the Hanover County Airport was built in 1971, complete desegregation of Virginia's public schools was less than four years in the past (prompted by the 1968 U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Green v. New Kent County*). The Civil Rights Act was passed in 1964, the Voting Rights Act in 1965, and the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Passage of the National Historic Preservation Act in 1966 also was an important step toward granting local communities more control over infrastructure projects for which federal permits, licenses, and/or funding by the federal government were needed. Despite the infrastructure and commercial intrusions into Brown Grove, the community has persisted and thrived.

While there are no extant buildings related to African American history before c. 1920 within the district, most of the contributing houses, and many of those that are noncontributing, are still owned by African American families who have lived in Brown Grove for multiple generations. Small family cemeteries scattered throughout the district attest to their lengthy occupation. The district's history from the 1700s to the present is clearly conveyed by the array of landscape, architectural, and archaeological resources that have been recorded here. Brown Grove Rural Historic District includes Candlewick Farm (also known as the Ford Farm/DHR number (042-0253/042-5802-0110). It is a remnant of the pre-1865 plantation economy. The rest of the district reflects the evolution of African American landholders, some of whom farmed and others who had businesses or were employed within and outside of the community. The same families who farmed in Brown Grove held on to their land and passed it on to heirs down to the present day. As farming gave way to a largely residential community, many of the legacy families have remained in Brown Grove. Many of these families, whether they live in Brown Grove or outside of the community, still attend Brown Grove Baptist Church, which has been a focal point of the community since Reconstruction. Two sites, a domestic complex, Site 44HN0406, and a trash scatter, Site 44HN0449, contribute to the district because of their association with African American domestic complexes and how they can inform understanding of material culture in the community

## Criterion A: Religion

The district is locally significant in the area of Religion based on the statewide significance of the individually-listed Slash Church. Built in 1729 for the parish of St. Paul's of the Established Church of England (Anglican), Slash Church is among the oldest and best-preserved historic wood frame churches in Virginia. After disestablishment of the Church of England in Virginia following the American Revolution, participation declined and the congregation of the succeeding Protestant Episcopal denomination abandoned Slash Church for a building near Hanover Court House in the 1830s. Other denominations, most prominently the Disciples of Christ and the Methodist Episcopal shared the Slash Church building for their services. In 1842, the Disciples of Christ purchased Slash Church, and the Methodist congregation erected Lebanon Church (east of the district). The original 1729 church continues in use for worship by the Disciples of Christ congregation. The property also includes a cemetery. Burials at Slash Church are largely from the twentieth century. The limited amount of land around the building and the rural practice of home property burials may be the reason for the few burials there prior to 1900.

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## Criterion A: Social History

Brown Grove Baptist Church, like many Reconstruction Era African American churches in latenineteenth-century Virginia, began with open-air services held along Sliding Hill Road beginning ca. 1870. In 1883, Edwin Brown conveyed a small parcel of 0.1 acre to the church trustees This core piece of the current property was the site of a frame building by the early twentieth century. The church was geographically and symbolically at the center of the Brown Grove community. Church members were instrumental in supporting the Brown Grove School built opposite the church along Ashcake Road ca. 1927. The current Gothic Revival brick church (built in 1945) replaced the earlier frame building, which burned in 1941. Brown Grove Baptist Church has a cemetery on its property. The cemetery started as the Brown family cemetery and became the church cemetery after the Browns sold a parcel to the congregation. There are marked and unmarked burials at Brown Grove Baptist Church. The church has maintained an active congregation for the entirety of its existence. During the Jim Crow era, rural Black churches served as vital places of respite and reprieve from the period's oppressive segregation practices as well as places for recovery from incidents of racial terror. Church members also supported community improvement and uplift, such as advocating for educational opportunities for Black children after Virginia's first statewide public education system was mandated in 1870. The earliest schools often were housed in Black churches, and these congregations often supported community schools through fundraising and offering of small plots of church-owned property as school building sites. The documented Brown Grove School that was established for Black children during Jim Crow dates to c. 1927, and is archaeologically significant (see Criterion D: Education below). Extant examples of late-nineteenth century schools are rare in Virginia and it is not currently known where any earlier schools for Brown Grove's students may have been located.

## Criterion A: Agriculture

The district is locally significant in the area of Agriculture for its potential for information about subsistence farming of African American-owned properties in Hanover County from the late nineteenth through twentieth century. The subdivision of large properties into smaller strips for offspring attests to the importance of land ownership through multiple generations in African American communities. The Garnett family farm and cemetery at 9323 Sliding Hill Road represents an example of a large landholding by the African American family. The Garnetts farmed the area from at least the late nineteenth century well into the 1950s. Archaeological sites on the west side of Sliding Hill may relate to part of their family complex, such as additional residences and/or farm buildings or a designated refuse area. At the writing of this nomination, a collection of family photographs reveal the configuration of their farm complex next to the Garnett/Winston House on the east side of Sliding Hill Road. The photos feature at least two generations of the Garnetts who are buried at the cemetery on Sliding Hill Road. The photos show Frank L. Garnett (1880-1932) and his wife Lucy G. Price (1881-1967) and Nathaniel T. Winston (1917-1976) and his wife Lucy Alice Garnett Winston (1918-2013). Lucy T. Garnett identified as a Pamunkey Indian from King William County according to Garnett family descendants. The available

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information provides an excellent opportunity for research into African American agricultural heritage in Hanover County.<sup>4</sup>



Figure 2. Frank L. Garnett, 1880-1932, Brown Grove farmer and likely builder of the house at 9323 Sliding Hill Road (DHR File number 042-5285), owned upwards of 200 acres of land that at one time included the Merry Oaks Tavern. Photo from the Marcella Price Singh collection.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Family member Marcella Price Singh provided family history and a significant collection of photos that dated from the c. 1920s to the 1980s.

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Figure 3. Nathaniel T. Winston, 1917-1976, married into the Garnett family and took over management of the large Garnett farm. The photo dates to c. 1950. He lived with wife Lucy Alice Garnett Winston (1918-2013) at the house built by Frank Garnett at 9323 Sliding Hill Road (DHR File number 042042-5285). Marcella Price Singh collection.

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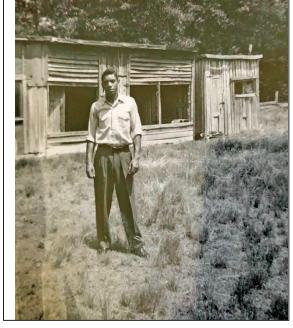




Figure 4. At left, Nathaniel T. Winston, 1917-1976, in front of his farm buildings at 9323 Sliding Hill Road in c. 1950. At right, Lucy Alice Garnett Winston in front of her farm buildings at 9323 Sliding Hill Road, c. 1950. Marcella Price Singh collection.

Historic topographic maps of the Brown Grove area trace its gradual evolution between 1894 and 1969. Two major roads already were present through the area – Ashcake Road, which continues to follow the majority of its historic alignment, and Telegraph Road, which would become US Route 1 during the twentieth century. A Chesapeake & Ohio Railraod line ran north/south through the area east of Brown Grove; although it was an important transportation route for decades, by the 1960s it had fallen into disuse. Very little development was shown on the 1894 map in the Brown Grove vicinity, but for the Merry Oaks Church, which is identified by name at an intersection south of Ashcake Road and a short distance east of Brown Grove. The larger vicinity was known as Merry Oaks until the early twentieth century, by which time the Brown Grove name began to be used. Numerous drainages, such as Possum Creek, Lickinghole Creek, and Mechum's Creek, cross the landscape and changes in relief show the flatlands where agricultural activity most likely occurred. A 1938 topographic map of the area shows that U.S. Route 1 now was colocated with Telegraph Road. The Brown Grove School's location was marked on the map as well. This map also shows more development in the Brown Grove area, primarily adjacent to Ashcake Road, Telegraph Road, and Lewistown Road. These three roads continue in use today. The larger landscape, however, had little development and the terraces along the drainages, presumably, largely was either farmland or regrown woodlands. An important character of the landscape is shown on the 1938 map – a series of informal roads and paths are illustrative of the circulation network that Brown Grove's residents had established by this time. Many of these features are extant today and contribute to the integrity of Brown Grove's cultural landscape.

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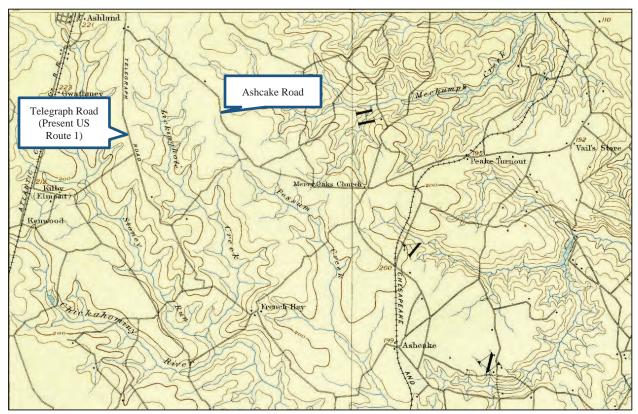


Figure 5. Detail of 1894 topographic map 1:62500 (retrieved from USGS TopoView website, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#14/37.7115/-77.4378).

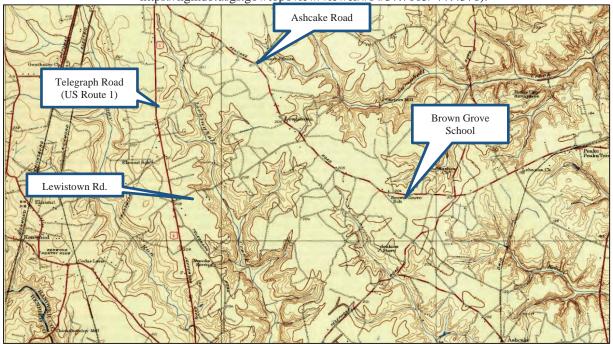


Figure 6. Detail of 1938 topographic map 1:31680 (retrieved from USGS TopoView website, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#14/37.7115/-77.4378).

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By 1951, the informal circulation network shown on topographic maps no longer was as extensive. Additionally, the Brown Grove School no longer is indicated on the map. The map does, however, identify the general area as Brown Grove, thus affirming that the community's name was widely recognized by this time. The historic Brown Grove Baptist Church is just north of the location where the Brown Grove name is shown on the map but it is not labeled as such. The three roads that continue to organize the historic district remained in place – Telegraph Road (US Route1), Lewistown Road, and Ashcake Road. Further development appears along each of the road corridors and is illustrative of the changing landscape during the post-Word War II period. Terraces along drainages remained open for the most part. Hanover County remained a largely rural county during the mid-twentieth century, but infrastructure projects, industrial projects, and suburban sprawl began to change the county's character by the 1960s. Development occurred first along major roads such as US Route 1, at intersections and crossroads, and along the outskirts of existing communities such as Ashland, Richmond, Mechanicsville, and smaller locales such as Elmont and Kernwood.

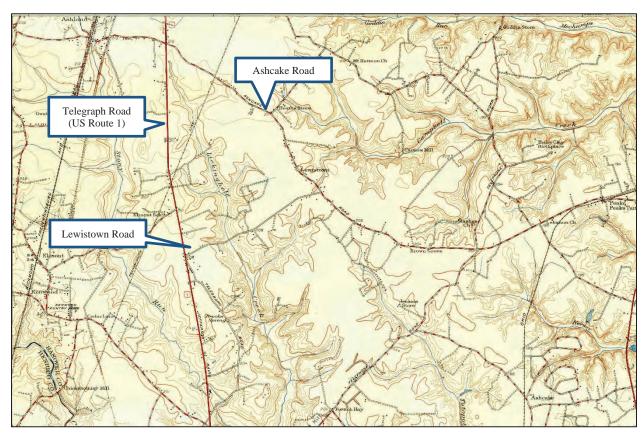


Figure 7. Detail of 1951 topographic map 1:24000 (retrieved from USGS TopoView website, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#14/37.7115/-77.4378).

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By 1969, the I-95 corridor had been built through the Brown Grove community, although the airport was not yet constructed. The location of Brown Grove Baptist Church and an associated cemetery are shown as well. This map depicts some infrastructure elements not shown on earlier maps, including an electrical substation and a sewage disposal plant, but these were beyond the Brown Grove area. Further development along the major roads continued the development patterns established during the early twentieth century. Comparing this map to more recent topographic maps shows that construction of the airport along the east side of I-95 constituted the largest disruption to the historic landscape. Another interesting aspect of the 1969 map is that the name for the Lewistown community was moved from its position just northeast of Ashcake Road to its present location along Lewistown Road. It is not known why the name was moved as the buildings associated with the earlier location continued to be extant. Despite these changes, the continued rural, agricultural character of Brown Grove remains to be seen along Ashcake Road. Lewistown Road began as a connector between Telegraph Road and Ashcake Roads and residential development started along the road by the 1930s and increased during the 1950s. In more recent decades, redevelopment related to the airport has occurred on parts of Lewistown Road but the earlier residential development has been retained too.

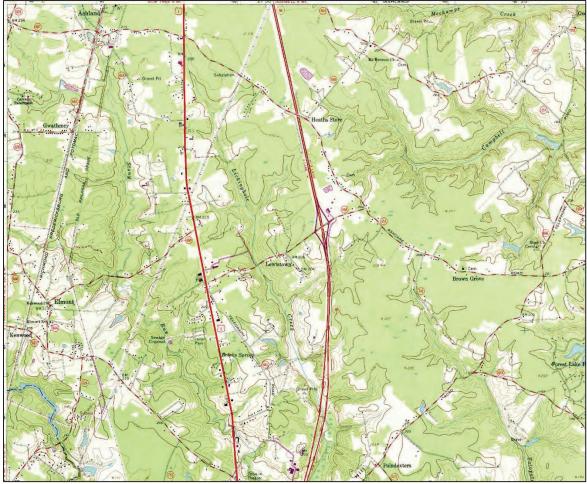


Figure 8. Detail of 1963 topographic map (updated to 1969) 1:24000, (retrieved from USGS TopoView website, https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#15/37.7150/-77.4494).

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Additional parcel mapping also shows the intent to sustain an African American farming community but adapted for changing employment patterns of the period and, perhaps, the volatile agricultural economy that typified the 1920s and was worsened by the Great Depression. In 1925, Brown Grove residents Samuel R. Carter and Elizabeth D. Carter (husband and wife) and Frank Garnett and Lucy A. Garnett (husband and wife) platted a development called the Oakland Subdivision. At this period much of Brown Grove had already been settled by African American families, a majority of them farming on small- to medim-sized tracts. The Oakland Subdivision was located just south of Brown Grove Baptist Church with Egypt Road on the west and Sliding Hill Road on the east. The area was heavily wooded and had swampy land in many areas. The parcels were accessed by Church Road, a part of that which exists near Brown Grove Baptist Church (after which it is named), and Morris Road, likely named after the Morris family, founding residents, who lived near the southwest edge of the proposed development. Like many other farmed parcels in the community each parcel in Oakland averaged about 4-6 acres. The intention was to provide enough land to allow income from timbering and farming, with the assumption that a property owner also likely would be engaged in other types of employment to supplement this income. The area was criss-crossed with walking paths and had been timbered for commercial purposes over the years. It is not clear whether any of the parcels were ever developed beyond those at the edges of the plat. The land is now the site of a Wegmans Food Markets distribution center.

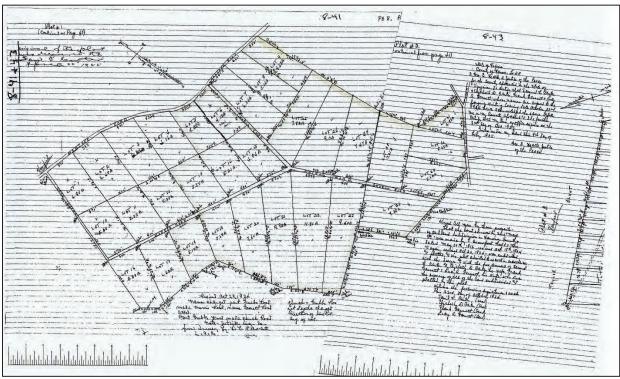


Figure 9. The Oakland Subdivision parcel map with notes that officially record the plan and ownership as of February 9<sup>th</sup>, 1925. Hanover County property records. The image above show two separate sheets that give a full view of the intended Oakland Subdivision.

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# Criterion B: Social History and Caroline Dobson Morris

The Morris family was one of the earliest to settle in the area and Caroline Dobson Morris (1846-1944) ranks high in the local history of Brown Grove. Born enslaved on the plantation of the Perrin family, owners of a farm in the district before the Civil War, Caroline (Carrie) Dobson married Jefferson Morris, also born into slavery in Hanover County, and in 1897 they purchased a 20-acre farm in the southern portion of the district, on the current Egypt Road. Many families in the community can trace their ancestry back to this woman, known as the "mother of Brown Grove" both for her matriarchal role in the community and her service as a midwife to local families at a time when the vast majority of childbirths occurred at a person's home. Midwifery has been intertwined with human history for millennia. During the colonial era, West African midwives who had been kidnapped and enslaved attended both Black and White women's childbirths, and their traditions informed midwifery for later generations. After the Civil War, African American midwives continued to care for Black and poor White women in rural areas across Virginia and other southern states. Often mothers themselves, midwives relied on their own experience as well as practices learned from elders and from attending births of family and community members. They often also served as healers for other maladies and injuries, using extensive knowledge of herbalism (the use of medicinal plants). Midwifery offered a means for married, older, and/or widowed women to contribute to their communities in substantial ways. Continued memory of Caroline Dobson Morris among descendants of the Brown Grove community is a testament to her enduring influence and significance for more than a century.<sup>5</sup> Caroline Dobson Morris was buried in the Morris family cemetery that is located within 300 feet to the southeast of her house site on Egypt Road. Her grave is unmarked. There are approximately fifty to one hundred burials in the cemetery. This is the only known surviving resource related to Caroline Dobson Morris. There is potential for intact archaeological deposits at her house site but no professional testing has occurred.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Winnifred C. Connerton, "Midwifery," in *Britannica*, n.d., <a href="https://www.britannica.com/science/midwifery">https://www.britannica.com/science/midwifery</a>, and Judith P. Rooks, "The History of Midwifery," in Our Bodies Ourselves Today at Suffolk University, 2022, <a href="https://www.ourbodiesourselves.org/health-info/history-of-midwifery/">https://www.ourbodiesourselves.org/health-info/history-of-midwifery/</a>.

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Figure 10. Only known photograph of Caroline Dobson Morris at the time of this nomination preparation. The photo is likely c. 1890-1910. Displayed at the Brown Grove Baptist Church in Brown Grove, Hanover County.

### Criterion D: Education and Commerce

## Brown Grove School (Site 44HN0452)

The district is locally significant under Criterion D in the area of Education for the site of the two-room Brown Grove School (ca. 1927), a focal point of the historically African American community directly across Ashcake Road from the Brown Grove Baptist Church. The 1927 Brown Grove School (Site 44HN0452) has had some initial surface collection of artifacts and no excavation, but there are a series of masonry piers that provide the dimensions of the school.

The school site has a direct association with the early stages of free public education in Virginia, following ratification of a new Virginia constitution in 1870, a required element that had to be in place as part of Virginia's readmission to the United States.<sup>6</sup> As a major achievement of the Reconstruction period, the first statewide public education system in Virginia was racially segregated but with the goal of providing access to free instruction at least through elementary

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Marianne Julienne and Brent Tarter, "Public School System in Virginia, Establishment of The," in *Encyclopedia Virginia*, n.d., <a href="https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/public-school-system-in-virginia-establishment-of-the">https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/public-school-system-in-virginia-establishment-of-the</a>.

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grades for Black, White, and Virginia Indian students of all socio-economic levels; adults who never had an opportunity to learn to read and write often could learn through informal night schools offered at churches and schools. Although from its beginning the segregated school system operated on a separate and unequal basis with the majority of public resources funneled to schools for White children, the free education system was a major departure from antebellum state laws that had imposed criminal penalties on individuals providing education to African Americans while fornal education primarily was available to White children whose families could pay for tutors or private academies. At the time of this nomination's research and writing, there were no historic photographs of the Brown Grove School available, but with above-ground foundations piers still visible, some of the dimensions of the building can be understood without archaeological fieldwork. The site features consist of a series of Portland cement and machine-made brick piers forming a rectangle measuring about 40 feet east-west by 20 feet north-south, set back about 100 feet from Ashcake Road. A scatter of coursed machine-made brick with Portland cement mortar was also observed, likely associated with a small chimney. An outhouse pit with a cement cover with two holes was observed south of the structural remains. A pile of slate flagstones mortared together with Portland cement was observed to the southwest of the structural remains; these appeared to be associated with a walkway or paved area that had been torn out.7 Phase one archaeological work at the school site yielded a cast iron stove leg and a fragment of colorless glass, and some iron objects recovered from the metal detector survey may in fact be legs for school desks.8

Archaeological field investigations at other African American schools in Virginia of the latenineteenth century through the 1930s have yielded significant information about socioeconomics and educational practices of the period. In Gloucester County, the Woodville School (NRHP 2004; 036-5045) includes the site of an 1880s frame school that has been subject to periodic field investigations since 2016 through the combined efforts of graduate student Colleen Betti (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), the Fairfield Foundation, and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Over 38,000 artifacts have been recovered, in large part through discovery of a likely midden, and include materials such as slate (used as writing surfaces), broken pencils, window glass, nails, brick and mortar fragments, glass bottle pieces, oil lamp glass, beads, a stove leg, a leg from a doll, numerous pieces of coal (historically used to heat the building), jelly jars, pharmaceutical bottles, and small items that included a gold collar pin, a marble, and a copper alloy brooch. Traces of historic landscape features, such as a path to the 1880s school's front door, also were identified. These materials, coupled with historic records and oral history, illuminate aspects of everyday activities at the school. For example, oral history revealed that students often used jelly jars as drinking water vessels. Slate and pencil fragments are typical materials students

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Dutton and Associates, *Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the* ±87.9-Hectare (±217.4-Acre) Wegmans Distribution Center Project Area, VDHR File Number 2019-0791, Hanover County, Virginia, June, 2020, p. 7-28

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Dutton and Associates, *Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the* ±87.9-Hectare (±217.4-Acre) Wegmans Distribution Center Project Area, VDHR File Number 2019-0791, Hanover County, Virginia, June 2020, p.7-31.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Colleen Betti and DATA Investigations LLC, *Archaeological Testings of the Southern Side yard and Front Yard, Woodville School (44GL532), Ordinary, Virginia, May 27, 2022, report available at the Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia, p. 8-13.* 

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used for spelling, math, and other lessons. Small items such as the doll's leg and the marble were among the bits of toys found here and would have been used during recess periods. Investigations such as this have demonstrated that late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century school sites has potential to yield significant information about African Americans' educational opportunities, social activities, and material culture.

The Brown Grove School was a frame, one-story, two room school built c. 1927. The dimensions as defined by the piers provide comparative information to understand how Hanover County provided facilities for African American children at this period. The DHR Virginia Cultural Resources Inventory System provides some resource context for Hanover County schools. A search for schools built between 1865 and 1940 (the period when private education transitioned to public) yielded twenty schools in the database. The last comprehensive architectural survey of the County was conduced in 1989-1990 and some of the recorded resources may no longer be extant. There were at least five schools identified as African American facilities: Elmont School, 1920 (DHR# 42-0116); Linney Grove School, 1930 (DHR# 42-0266); Providence Church School, 1880 (DHR# 42-0302); Ebenezer School, c. 1925(DHR# 42-039), and Mount Hewlett School, 1910 (DHR# 42-0460). Like Brown Grove School, all of thes were small, typically one to two rooms, and of frame construction. Further archaeology work at the Brown Grove School site may yield more artifacts covering the 1920s to the 1950s (the school disappeared from County records during the early 1950s). Unlike some of the other schools in the DHR survey records, Brown Grove School was never converted into domestic use and the location is in a more remote wooded area that has had very slight disturbance over the past one hundred years. Taking all of these factors into account, along with the presence of intact, in situ resources associated with the school and the uncommon nature of an intact archaeological site associated with a Jim Crow era school, the Brown Grove School Site also may have potential for archaeological significance under Criterion D in the area of Archaeology – Historic – Non-Aboriginal. Future investigations are needed to demonstrate the site's significance in this area.

## Merry Oaks Tavern (also known as the Robert Smith Farm/Site) (44HN0326)

The district also is locally significant under Criterion D in the area of Commerce for the archaeological site of the Merry Oaks Tavern (Robert Smith Farm site). The early nineteenthcentury domestic complex associated with Merry Oaks Tavern (also known as the Robert Smith Farm/Site; 44HN0326) has yielded significant information dating to the early period of the district. At the time this nomination was being prepared Phase II and III work was being conducted on the Tavern site.

The Merry Oaks Tavern (44HN0326) that once stood within or adjacent to the eastern boundary of the district has been confused with the tayern where Patrick Henry raised Virginia's first Revolutionary War militia. The tavern related to Patrick Henry was located to the east, closer to Hanover Court House. A site that was explored previously, work in 2022 was more thorough and was able to positively identify 44HN0326 as the Merry Oaks Tavern. The site had previously been identified as the residence of Robert Smith. One of the proprietors of the Merry Oaks Tavern in the district was Robert Smith, who lived here with his family from 1848 to 1874. The tavern operated from John Bowe's ownership of the property in 1801 and the building disappeared by about 1913. Work conducted by Dutton + Associates in 2022 positively identified the site as a

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tavern with a footprint that matched insurance records dimensions. Field investigations answered the question about whether the site was simply a farmhouse or a commercial tavern site. The recent archaeology work identified artifacts consistent with a commercial tavern and located the primary tavern building as well as a stable complex and an outbuilding. The recent work was not able to identify how many enslaved workers were at the site over time, but many taverns employed enslaved African Americans prior to the Civil War and the property went through several owners before the end of slavery in 1865. The Merry Oaks Tavern tells the story of commerce at an important east-west and north-south intersection. The surviving site contributes to the district and recovered artifacts may yield further information about early commerce in the district as it gets analyzed (at the time of this nomination, the Phase III report was being prepared).

## **Developmental History**

The area encompassed by the Brown Grove Rural Historic District remained beyond the limits of English colonial settlement along the lower James River valley until the mid-seventeenth century. Although Capt. John Smith had ventured up the Chickahominy River in 1607, he did not proceed farther than the vicinity of what is now Providence Forge in present New Kent County. In 1646, after decades of territorial wars between the English and the Powhatan Indians, a treaty opened up English settlement of the entire James-York Peninsula but prohibited settlers from encroaching on Powhatan territory elsewhere. Three years later, however, the Virginia Assembly modified the wording of the treaties and opened virtually all of the coastal plain (or Tidewater region) for English settlement, including the area that is now central Hanover County.

Fertile agricultural soils and proximity to river and land transportation routes were the primary factors influencing early European and African settlement and development of central Hanover County. Settlement began as early as the 1660s, with intensive colonization in the 1680s to the 1690s. Expansion followed the demand for productive areas to grow tobacco and river landings for the export of that crop, which already was a vital part of the colonial economy. Although originally colonists and indentured servants performed agricultural labor, by the late seventeenth century, the increasingly wealthy planter class depended almost exclusively on labor of enslaved people transported from Africa to produce this cash crop. By the turn of the eighteenth century or possibly earlier, some small farms may have been established within the current reaches of Hanover County. In 1720, settlement of the area had increased to the point that the General Assembly of Virginia formed Hanover County from the western extent of New Kent County. 14

Upon the formation of Hanover County, its entire territory comprised St. Paul's Parish of the Established (Anglican) Church. Due to the vast size of the parish, the colonial government formed

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Dutton and Associates, Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Edward Wright Haile, *Jamestown Narratives, Eyewitness Accounts of the Virginia Colony, The First Decade: 1607-1617* (Champlain, Virginia: RoundHouse, 1998), 627.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Martha W. McCartney, *Nature's Bounty, Nation's Glory: The Heritage and History of Hanover County, Virginia* (Hanover: Heritage and History of Hanover County, Inc., 2009), 228-229.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Robert Bolling Lancaster, *A Sketch of the Early History of Hanover County, Virginia* (Hanover, Va.: Hanover Chapter, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1957.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Michael F. Doran, *Atlas of County Boundary Changes in Virginia*, *1634-1895* (Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Company, 1987).

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St. Martin's Parish from the western part of the first parish. The first church in St. Paul's Parish, a log building, stood about 1.5 miles north of the historic district boundary. In 1729, the parish vestry decided to build a new church. They purchased a 3-acre parcel from the 400-acre property William Alsop Jr. had acquired through a land grant five years earlier. The site of the new house of worship, known as Slash Church, was on an elevated landform, near a road, with a spring, and had mature trees that would serve as building materials. According to vestry records, on August 30, 1729, the vestry entered a contract with Thomas Pinchback and Edward Chambers, Jr. to construct a frame church measuring 60 by 26 feet and 16 feet high. The builders were to complete the project within a year for the price of 60,000 pounds of tobacco (then commonly used in place of currency in Virginia). 15 It is likely that Pinchback and Chambers had enslaved workers perform at least a portion of the clearing and construction tasks, perhaps alongside free African American and White workers and craftsmen. The term "Slash" church comes from the term used for the setting of surrounding swampy pine forests. If not the original name, it was in use at least by 1768, when a real estate advertisement in the Virginia Gazette referred to the "Slash Church" as a nearby landmark of reference. <sup>16</sup> Slash Church is the earliest extant building within the Brown Grove Rural Historic District.

The Rev. Patrick Henry, uncle of the Revolutionary War Patriot and Virginia governor of the same name, served as the rector of Slash Church from the 1730s to 1777. During this long tenure, many prominent figures of late colonial-era history attended the church, including the reverend's famous nephew, Dolley Madison (1768-1849), and statesman Henry Clay (1777-1852). Due to her marriage to James Madison, Dolley Madison was First Lady of the United States from 1809-1817. She gained enduring national acclaim for her role in directing the removal of significant American artifacts from the White House during the War of 1812 prior to the arrival of British soldiers. Born less than a mile northeast of the district at Clay Spring, Henry Clay moved west and, during his long political career, represented Kentucky in both houses of Congress. He also served as Secretary of State during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. When Clay ran for president as the Whig candidate in 1844, he made use of his Hanover County roots to create a populist persona for himself. Just as Jackson had benefitted politically by underscoring his humble origins, Clay hoped to connect with a broader electorate through the nickname "Mill-boy of the Slashes." One historian calls this appeal to modest, agrarian origins the Cincinnatus complex—deep ties to the land implying the "honesty, integrity, instinctive democracy" necessary for good statesmanship. 18 Clay's campaign literature conjured just such an agrarian image. The son of a young widow, Clay was described riding barefoot to the local mill "seated on a bag of corn thrown across his horse's

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Diane A. Jones, "The History of Slash Church, St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County: The Oldest Frame Colonial Church in Continuous Use in Virginia" (Ashland, Virginia: Slash Christian Church, 2010).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Virginia Gazette, August 18, 1768.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Carrol H. Quenzel, *The History and Background of St. George's Episcopal Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia* (Richmond: Printed by Clyde W. Saunders and Sons, 1951), 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> W. Burlie Brown, "The Cincinnatus Image in Presidential Politics," *Agricultural History* 31, no. 1 (1957): 23.

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back" from the family's home on the edge of the low, swampy pinelands, known as the "Slashes." <sup>19</sup>

Following the American Revolution, the Virginia Assembly disestablished the Anglican Church in the Commonwealth. In a new era of religious liberty provided by the Virginia constitution, many congregants left for other denominations. Moreover, the succeeding Protestant Episcopal denomination abandoned Slash Church for a building near Hanover Court House in the 1830s. For about a decade, the Disciples of Christ and the Methodist Episcopal denomination shared the Slash Church building for their services. In 1842, the Disciples of Christ purchased Slash Church, and the Methodist congregation erected Lebanon Church (east of the district). The original 1729 church continues in use for worship by the Disciples of Christ congregation. The church has the distinction of being the best-preserved colonial-period frame church in Virginia and the only church from that era that has not undergone expansion. The church is a church in Virginia and the only church from that era that has not undergone expansion.

It is likely that early African American residents of the Brown Grove community and their ancestors worshiped at the church throughout its transitions through Anglican, Episcopalian, and Disciples of Christ denominations. Although the interior displays several alterations since initial construction, the gallery, which by the period's hierarchical social customs would have accommodated enslaved congregants, remains unaltered.<sup>22</sup> Local historians note that when the late-nineteenth-century, frame Brown Grove Baptist Church building burned in 1941, Slash Church provided assistance to the congregation. The assistance may have been included some of the furniture/fixtures needed for setting up the new Brown Grove Church building. More research may reveal the relationship between the two churches. Some of the maps from the 1930s show that there was a path through the woods from Brown Grove Baptist Church to Slash Church, a more direct route than by Ashcake and Mount Hermon roads.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Gertrude van Duyn Southworth, *Builders of Our Country: Book II* (New York, Boston, and Chicago: D. Appleton & Company, 1910), 158. While the exact mill that Clay was speaking of is not known, there is a recorded mill site with ruins still visible just north of the district boundary. The Clay property is less than a mile from this mill site. The site is likely the Carter or Perrin family mill. Current residents of Brown Grove have their ancestral roots on farms of the Carter and Perrin families, most notably Caroline Dobson Morris, who was born into slavery on the Perrin plantation. The Perrin farm spanned a large area in the eastern section of the district area. Local residents have confirmed the ruins of the mill at the time of the research and writing of the nomination and the site is recorded in the DHR VCRIS database. The mill site in the DHR database is 44HN304. The site is called Perrin Mill and dates to 1900-1924, but it may have stood on the site of an older mill. Campbell's Creek was most likely the site of several mills over two hundred years. The mill site was not included in the nominated area, but may be considered for inclusion later as more research reveals the associations of Brown Grove families with this area on the northern edge of the district boundary.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Jones, "The History of Slash Church, St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Calder Loth, *The Virginia Landmarks Register*, 3d ed. (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1987), 195; Ashley M. Neville, "Survey of Historic Resources, Hanover County, Virginia" (Land and Community Associates, Charlottesville, Virginia. Submitted to Virginia Department of Historic Resources and Hanover County Planning Department, n.d.), 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Dell Upton, *Holy Things and Profane: Anglican Parish Churches in Colonial Virginia* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1997), 36-37.

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The historical significance of churches in Virginia's African American communities is difficult to overstate. During the slavery era, religious worship provided individual and communal spiritual and emotional sustenance for people held in lifelong bondage. During the first three decades of the nineteenth century, Virginia law introduced restrictions on religious practices of free and enslaved African Americans as slaveowners grew increasingly fearful of slave revolts in the aftermath of events such as Gabriel's Rebellion in 1800, which included conspirators in Hanover and Henrico counties as well as Richmond and Nat Turner's Revolt in 1830, which occurred in Southampton County. A White supervisor was required to be present at religious gatherings, which were viewed as a means for enslaved people to plot against slaveowners. Even churches that served free persons of color, such as Williamsburg's First Baptist Church (NRHP 2017; 137-5071) which was founded prior to the American Revolution, were subject to these restrictions. Following emancipation, such impositions ceased and churches, along with schools and cemeteries, represented some of the first organizations that African Americans could operate with complete autonomy from White society. The ability for African Americans to exercise their own judgement, make and enforce their own decisions, manage physical and financial resources, and practice spiritual beliefs as they saw fit were of primary importance. Churches were almost always the first institutions that African American freedpeople established in their new communities, often but not always as part of Protestant denominations such as Baptist and African Methodist Episcopal; all-black Catholic churches also were founded. Managing their own religious and funerary practices provided vital experience to African Americans as they created other institutions, ranging from mutual aid societies, fraternal and sororal societies, and businesses to schools, agricultural improvement programs, civil rights organizations, and societies for doctors, lawyers, real estate agents, and other professions, particularly during the Jim Crow era of segregation.

The pattern of land ownership and occupation in the Brown Grove Rural Historic District from the eighteenth to the late nineteenth century appears to have consisted of large plantations owned by White families and worked by enslaved African Americans. The forced labor of African Americans generated wealth for slaveowners that resulted in concentration of power and money among an elite few for generations of Virginians. Documentary evidence suggests at least one notable exception, however, by the late eighteenth century. A 1789 description of a boundary for a property southwest of the intersection of present Ashcake and Sliding Hill Roads mentions a "Black Tom Slash." Use of the word "Black" likely identifies Tom Slash as being of African descent. Individual mention of Slash in the description with owners of larger tracts (some of whose names, such as Turner and Perrin, appear on later nineteenth-century maps of the area) indicates that Tom Slash was an independent householder who owned or leased adjacent property.<sup>23</sup>

By the eighteenth century, the district was at the crossroads of two major transportation routes. The forerunner of Ashcake Road was part of a road corridor connecting the eastern end of Hanover County and the Pamunkey River with the Piedmont. Sliding Hill Road was part of a network of roads running north-south between Fredericksburg and Richmond. Somewhere near the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> J. Hope Smith, "Research Design for Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia" (Dutton +Associates, LLC, Midlothian, Virginia. Submitted to Timmons Group, Richmond, Virginia, 2021).p. 2-15; Robert Bolling Lancaster, A Sketch of the Early History of Hanover County, Virginia, Third Printing (Hanover Historical Society: Richmond, 1988), p. 3.

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intersection of the two routes, a tavern called Merry Oaks began serving travelers by the early nineteenth century.

The Merry Oaks Tavern (44HN0326) that once stood within or adjacent to the eastern boundary of the district should not be confused with the tavern where Patrick Henry raised Virginia's first Revolutionary War militia. Some researchers have mistakenly assumed that the Merry Oaks Tavern was where the militia formation occurred because its owner's last name was Smith. An 1892 biography by Henry's grandson quotes a contemporary of Patrick Henry who identified the location of the militia gathering as "Mr. Smith's Tavern in the neighborhood of Hanover Court House." A June 1776 advertisement for the sale of Francis Smith's tavern property placed by his son, Thomas, more precisely identifies the location of this landmark of the Revolution outside the Brown Grove Rural Historic District, "on the road from Hanover Courthouse to Hanover Town."

In fact, the proprietor of the Merry Oaks Tavern in or near the district was Robert Smith and his family from 1848 to 1874—decades after the Revolutionary War. <sup>26</sup> Archaeological investigations and a combination of tax records, court records, and insurance policies document the ownership and use of Site 44HN0326 (southeast of the intersection of Ashcake Road and Sliding Hill Road) as part of the Merry Oaks property. <sup>27</sup> The name Merry Oaks originated from a farm of that name at the head of Totopotomoy Creek owned by Geddes Winston in the late eighteenth century. When John Bowe acquired the property in 1801, he purchased an insurance policy with values of \$1,200 for a tavern and \$100 for a tavern dependency. <sup>28</sup> Beginning in 1820, tax records with details about total building values reveal that a substantial dwelling, valued at about \$1,500, stood on the property along with the tavern complex. Archaeological investigations on the southwest corner of the crossroads area beginning in the 1990s and subsequently in 2020 have not yet revealed the archaeological remains of the tavern, which probably stood until about 1913. Archaeological investigations in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act in advance of a commercial distribution development led to a recommendation of individual eligibility for the Merry Oaks Tavern site (44HN0326). A data recovery plan has outlined a research design for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> J. Hope Smith, "Research Design for Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia" (Dutton +Associates, LLC, Midlothian, Virginia. Submitted to Timmons Group, Richmond, Virginia, 2021), p. 2-15. Some researchers acknowledge the lack of court records documenting any conveyances that connect Francis Smith to the owners of the Merry Oaks property in the late eighteenth century.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Virginia Gazette, 12 June 1776, quoted in Anne Geddes Cross, "Smith's Tavern v. Merry Oaks Tavern," *Hanover Historical Society Bulletin*, no. 105 (Spring 2022). Hanover Town is a deserted port along the Pamunkey River; thus, the tavern would have stood several miles west of the district.

<sup>26</sup> Cross, "Smith's Tavern v. Merry Oaks Tavern."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Gray & Pape, Inc., "Interim Report of Phase I Archaeological Investigations of a Two-Acre Parcel Owned by Air Park Associates, Hanover County, Virginia"; Smith, "Research Design for Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Robert Clarke and Ashley Neville, "Archaeological Investigations of 44HN326, Hanover County, Virginia" (Gray & Pape, Inc., Richmond. Submitted to Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 2000), 23; Mutual Assurance Society records, Policy No. 439.

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further excavation associated with the development project.<sup>29</sup> The results of this further research will be in VDHR Archives in 2022.

Maps of Hanover County prepared during the Civil War depict the area within and around the district as a rural landscape of large farms with relatively low-density settlement, which was a typical pattern across Virginia where slaveowners owned the majority of land. In Hanover County, a considerable portion of the land consisted of poorly drained woodland (sometimes identified as swampland, and colloquially called "slashes"), especially in a wide swath extending north-south through the center of the main, eastern section of the district. Predecessors of the main roads in the district (Ashcake and Sliding Hill) followed very similar alignments to their present ones. <sup>30</sup>

The rural historic district overlaps a portion of the battlefield study area and National Registereligible area for the May 27, 1862, Battle of Hanover Court House (often also called the Battle of Slash Church in Confederate sources). To launch the Peninsula Campaign, Union General George B. McClellan had landed at Fort Monroe in Hampton in March 1862. His goal was to take the City of Richmond—capital of both Virginia and the Confederacy—by advancing his 100,000-man Army of the Potomac up the peninsula between the York and James rivers. Over the course of two months, his powerful army pushed most of the opposing Confederate divisions on the Peninsula back to defend Richmond. However, a force of 4,000 men under the command of Confederate Brig. Gen. Lawrence O'B Branch had shifted eastward from Gordonsville to guard the Virginia Central Railroad at Peake's Turnout, about a mile-and-a-half east of the district. This railroad was a crucial transportation asset for the Confederate Army because it provided the only rail access north of the James River that connected Richmond to the combat units operating in the Shenandoah Valley and provided a transportation link to markets for that region's agricultural products. The location of O'B Branch's force, in turn, was a threat to McClellan because of its proximity to the Richmond, Fredericksburg, & Potomac Railroad, a north-south corridor that McClellan hoped would be the route for reinforcements from Maj. Gen. Irving McDowell in Fredericksburg.<sup>31</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Gray & Pape, Inc., "Interim Report of Phase I Archaeological Investigations of a Two-Acre Parcel Owned by Air Park Associates, Hanover County, Virginia" (Richmond: Gray & Pape, Inc., 1996), p. 2; Robert Clarke, Bradley McDonald, and Maureen Meyers, "Archaeological Investigations to Determine the Location of Merry Oaks Tavern, Hanover County, Virginia" (Gray & Pape, Inc., Cultural Resources Consultants, Richmond, Virginia. Submitted to Resource International, Ltd, Ashland, Virginia, 2002); Robert Clarke and Ashley Neville, "Archaeological Investigations of 44HN326, Hanover County, Virginia" (Gray & Pape, Inc., Richmond. Submitted to Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 2000).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Anonymous, "[Map of the Northern Portion of Hanover County, Va., Showing Fortifications on the South Anna River near Taylorsville].,", <a href="https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883h.cwh00038/">https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883h.cwh00038/</a>; Edward Porter Alexander, Map of the Counties of Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, and Part of the Counties of Caroline and Louisa, Virginia (Chief Engineer's Office, Dept. of Northern Virginia Confederate States of America, Army, 1863), <a href="https://www.loc.gov/item/gvhs01.vhs00354/">https://www.loc.gov/item/gvhs01.vhs00354/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> W. L. Nicholson, A. D. Bache, and U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey, *Map of Eastern Virginia*, image (Washington, D.C.: W.H. & O.H. Morrison, 1862), <a href="https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3880.cw0465350/">https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3880.cw0465350/</a>.

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McClellan sent approximately 12,000 men under the command of Gen. Fitz John Porter to secure this approach.<sup>32</sup>

Behind his men's forward position along the railroad, Branch set up his headquarters in Slash Church on May 26. Its choice as headquarters later drew some criticism due to its location far behind the intense fighting, which made communication and supervision more challenging. Branch favored Slash Church for his headquarters, however, precisely because of its rear location, near the road to Ashland. It was convenient as a retreat route, which Branch probably would need when facing the enemy's larger force.<sup>33</sup>

On the morning of May 27, shortly before the action began, the 28th North Carolina Infantry (890 troops) and a section of A. C. Latham's Battery of Artillery moved forward to support Companies D and E of the 37th North Carolina Infantry, which had been on picket at Taliaferro's Mill since midnight.<sup>34</sup> The 28th North Carolina and the artillery returned northward almost immediately, however, after discovering the direction of the enemy's approach to have been incorrect.<sup>35</sup> Reaching the house of Dr. Thomas Kinney, the 28th came under attack from a Union division and fell back northward to the courthouse. Later the Union forces turned westward and pushed the rest of their foe from the field. Porter's force suffered less than half the casualties (355) of Branch's (746) and managed to disrupt Confederate railroad operations.<sup>36</sup> Although hailed by the Northern press as an important victory, the action only added delays to McClellan's halting attempts to take the Confederate capital.

Slash Church, along with Lebanon Church (just east of the district), probably served as a field hospital during the battle. Although the majority of combat associated with the Battle of Hanover Court House occurred to the east, near Peake's Turnout, trees felled in the churchyard of Slash Church during the 1950s contained rifled Civil War-era bullets, indicating that some fighting also occurred within the district.<sup>37</sup> As Branch's brigade withdrew from the battlefield, the units headed west through the district along Ashcake Road to Ashland, taking the baggage train and any wounded who could be moved.

Today's rural African American neighborhood known as Brown Grove originated during the 1870s when formerly enslaved individuals began to purchase property subdivided from large White-owned agricultural and forest tracts that could not be kept productive, and incomegenerating, without forced labor. This trend was characteristic of the economic transformation in central Virginia that followed the Civil War. With damage to infrastructure during the war, changes

<sup>35</sup> United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies (OR)* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1880-1901), Series 1, Vol. 11, Pt. 1:741, 743, 745.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Hanover County, Virginia, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and National Park Service, *A Survey of Civil War Sites in Hanover County, Virginia* (Hanover County, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, and National Park Service, 2002), 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Hardy, *The Battle of Hanover Court House*, 43, 50, 130.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> *Ibid.*, 54.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>36</sup> *Ibid*.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>37</sup> Diane A. Jones, "The History of Slash Church, St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County: The Oldest Frame Colonial Church in Continuous Use in Virginia" (Ashland, Virginia: Slash Christian Church, 2010).

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in market networks, and the end of chattel slavery, many White families who had operated large farms and benefitted from enslaved labor began selling portions, sometimes all, of their land and turned their attention to other occupations and sectors in Virginia postwar economy.

Meanwhile, newly emancipated African Americans welcomed the chance to purchase parcels for themselves. Such land represented a tangible asset that could be passed down through generations and a means for self-sustaining farming and other economic activity. Presently, it is not clear to what degree locally enslaved individuals purchased parcels of the larger tracts where they had previously been held in bondage. In studies of the African American communities of Charles Corner and Magruder in York County, Virginia, both of which developed during the Reconstruction Era, available records are inconclusive concerning the proportion of African American landowners who had formerly served as enslaved laborers on the same land prior to the Civil War.<sup>38</sup> On the other hand, the ample documentation available concerning the antebellum enslaved population at the Hickory Hill plantation in Hanover County demonstrates that several families formerly enslaved here remained in the immediate vicinity. A small freedmen's community was established on a sliver of the former plantation's land near the slave cemetery that had existed here since at least the 1810s; these freedmen worked for pay at Hickory Hill in positions such as cook, housekeeper, farm laborer, and other roles. Other emancipated individuals from Hickory Hill established three freedmen's communities, Canaan, Middletown, and Newtown, on the outskirts of Ashland. <sup>39</sup> Research concerning the Willisville Historic District (NRHP 2019; 053-5116) in Loudoun County has revealed a similar pattern of freed people's settlement patterns during Reconstruction. Regarding the Brown Grove Rural Historic District, it is clear from a survey of current resident's names and names of families in the district's cemeteries that historic names of families who owned land in the area before the Civil War persist in the community. The Carter and Winston names are most prominent. Carter and Winston are also names found throughout Hanover County.

Until the early twentieth century, Hanover County's economy was based almost exclusively on agriculture and processing of agricultural products. The only manufacturing concerns were water-powered and later steam-powered mills. During the late antebellum era, the county's heavy reliance on enslaved labor is revealed through census data: African Americans made up more than half of the population (9,730; 56 percent in 1860); through the aftermath of the Civil War, however, the Black population declined gradually to 42 percent (7,898) in 1900. Many emancipated African Americans used their freedom to search for better opportunities elsewhere, especially in the rapidly growing western territories and in Northern cities. Regarding emancipated Black residents who

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>38</sup> Travis Terrell Harris, "Lost Tribe of Magruder: The Untold Story of the Navy's Dispossession of a Black Community" (Ph.D. dissertation, Williamsburg, Virginia, American Studies Program, William & Mary, 2019), 83-84; Shannon Sheila Mahoney, "Community Building After Emancipation: An Anthropological Study of Charles' Corner, Virginia, 1862-1922" (Ph.D. dissertation, Williamsburg, Virginia, Department of Anthropology, William & Mary, 2013), 83.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>39</sup> D. Reber Dunkel et al., Hickory Hill Slave and African American Cemetery National Register nomination, February 2020, www.dhr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/042-5792\_Hickory\_Hill\_Cemetery\_2020\_NRHP\_FINAL.pdf. The Hickory Hill Slave and African American Cemetery was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places in 2020. The Hickory Hill plantation was listed in both registers in 1974.

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chose to remain in Hanover County, most members of the Brown Grove community depended on farming for their livelihoods, as was the case with the majority of the county's White population.

One of the early purchases of property by African Americans within the district was by the Morris family along what is now Egypt Road. Formerly, this was known as Morris Road or Morristown Road. Jefferson and Caroline (Carrie) Morris purchased 20 acres from White landowner Patrick H. Carter in July 1897. Carter had purchased the tract at an 1888 auction following a chancery suit brought by creditors against the estate of Henry Saunders, an owner of hundreds of acres in and around the district in the late nineteenth century. Previously, the property had been part of properties owned by William Huffman (1859-1866) and Macon Green (prior to 1859), all White landowners. It appears that the 20-acre tract had no improvements until its purchase by the Morris family.<sup>40</sup>

Caroline and Jefferson Morris had married on Christmas Day 1872. Until then, the 21-year-old bride had lived with her parents, Oliver and Sophia Dobson, and six siblings at their home in the Beaverdam District of Hanover County (1870 census). Born in 1854, Caroline had been enslaved by the Perrin family, who owned a large acreage north of the Ashcake and Sliding Hill Road intersection in the mid-nineteenth century. Likewise, Jefferson Morris (born in 1845) appears to have been formerly enslaved. By 1880, Jefferson and Caroline Morris had their own household, living on Railroad Street in Ashland with four daughters between the ages of one and nine (Fanny 9, Victoria 7, Susan 4, and Lilly). After establishing themselves on their 20-acre tract, the Morrises became pillars of the Brown Grove community. As a beloved midwife, Caroline earned the nickname "Mother of Brown Grove".

A second family associated with African American acquisition of land in Brown Grove is the namesake of the community. Edwin Brown was apparently an alternate or misspelling of the name Edmund Brown. This early African American landowner in Brown Grove owned his own farm property immediately east of the church property. In 1870, it had consisted of 11 acres with only 5 acres under cultivation with a real estate value of \$100. Livestock on the subsistence farm included one mule/donkey, one dairy cow, and six swine worth \$110. The small acreage yielded a surprising amount of crops, including 20 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of barley, and 260 pounds of tobacco. As noted earlier, the Brown family conveyed a small parcel to the trustees of the Baptist Church for the construction of a church building. The cemetery, just east of the church, is believed to have started as the Brown family cemetery and became a burial site for congregants during the early twentieth century.

In the southeast quadrant of the district, the African American Garnett family acquired a considerable amount of property along both sides of Sliding Hill Road during the early twentieth century, including the homeplace that still stands on the east side of Sliding Hill Road and part of the old Merry Oaks property on the west side of the road. The homeplace, built by Frank Garnett during the early twentieth century, survives as an example that may have been typical of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Hanover County Deed Books 23, p. 426; 35 p. 37; Chancery Records Index 085-1903-033; 085-1873-027.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Diane Smith Drake, Preliminary Information Form for Brown Grove Rural Historic District (2021), 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census Agricultural Schedule, 1870.

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contemporary small subsistence farms in the district. 43 A one-story frame dwelling stands amid poultry shelters, a workshop, and various sheds. The family cemetery is in the wooded rear portion of the remnant 5.57-acre parcel. The Garnett family homestead and associated archaeology sites on the west side of Sliding Hill Road provide an opportunity for further research into an African American farming family. A recent discovery of family photos that cover c. 1930-c. 1990 are a window into the productive years of Frank Garnett's farm. Frank and Lucy Garnett likely built the house on the east side of Sliding Hill Road, but there may have been Garnett houses on both sides of the road. Frank and Lucy Garnett's property stayed in the family and was actively farmed by Nathaniel T. Winston and his wife Lucy Garnett Winston, Frank and Lucy Garnett's daughter. 44

While many African American families purchased land in the district by the late nineteenth century, the White Jenkins family was prominent well into the twentieth century not only for their farm but also as owners of a general store that appears on a 1938 topographic map. John Jenkins had been listed as a 26-year-old overseer locally in the 1850 census. Ten years later, John and his wife, Judith, had three young children (one, five, and seven years old) in their household. Sometime before 1864, John Jenkins acquired property along both sides of the forerunner of Egypt Road, which formerly connected to Sliding Hill via what is now known as Garnett Road. Judith had been widowed by 1880 and was the head of household on the 130-acre property, of which 50 acres were improved for farming. By 1904, the property was in possession of John and Judith's eldest son Edward T. Jenkins. That year, Edward also acquired the remaining 121 acres of the neighboring Merry Oaks tract to the north (this tract remained in the Jenkins family until 1947).<sup>45</sup> Although the 1900 and 1910 census listed Edward Jenkins as a farmer, it is possible that his son, Lloyd later operated the store that appears on a 1938 topographic map within the Jenkins' original home tract. The 1930 census identified Lloyd Jenkins as a wage-earning clerk living in the household of his widowed mother, Malissa. 46 Ruins of the store and the Jenkins homeplace are still evident on the ground surface along the abandoned portion of Egypt Road. Current residents remember an operating store in that area when Egypt Road still connected from Ashcake Road to Sliding Hill.<sup>47</sup>

Following the Civil War, many formerly enslaved and free African Americans in Hanover County and across Virginia who had worshipped as part of mixed congregations with White residents formed their own congregations and began to build their own churches. 48 Prior to the Civil War, enslaved workers often worshiped in the same buildings as Whites, but in accord with the social hierarchy of the period, they remained somewhat apart in galleries raised above the rearmost pews.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>43</sup> Diane Smith Drake, Preliminary Information Form, p. 32.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Marcella Price Singh, descendant of the Garnett family provided oral history information on the Garnett and Winston farms.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> David H. Dutton, Letter to Todd Miller, Chief, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Norfolk District with summary report on "Post Review Discovery #2, Wegman's Distribution Facility, Hanover County (VDHR File No. 2019-0791)," (Midlothian, Va.: Dutton + Associates, November 30, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>46</sup> U.S. Census, 1850-1930, population and agricultural schedules as mentioned;

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>47</sup> Members of the Brown Grove Preservation Group provided oral history information about the Jenkins Store.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>48</sup> Melinda Dawn Gales, "African-American Baptist Churches in Hanover County, Virginia, 1865-1900" (Master's thesis, Richmond, Virginia Commonwealth University, 1999), https://search.proquest.com/ docview/304575430?pq-origsite=primo, p. 2.

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Often though, African Americans had their own separate antebellum congregations that worshiped in places such as brush arbors or perhaps a carriage house, like the early African American Baptists in Williamsburg, Virginia. First Baptist Church in Williamsburg is a rare example of a congregation that had its own substantial masonry church building during the antebellum period. Following the Nat Turner Rebellion of 1831, the Virginia legislature enacted laws prohibiting African American literacy and free assembly. African American congregations persisted, but the law required a White clergy member to be present and oversee church services.<sup>49</sup>

Based on oral history, the Brown Grove Baptist Church originated ca. 1870 with six local men joining for outdoor services in a brush arbor located along Sliding Hill Road.<sup>50</sup> In 1883, Edwin Brown conveyed a small parcel of 0.1 acre to church trustees Emmett Kinney, Botts Morris, and Walter Williams. Brown stipulated that the land should only serve as the site of a church and that the property would revert to him if the trustees did not follow through with a church building.<sup>51</sup> This conveyance was the core of the property; the church later acquired additional land to form the current property of more than 2 acres. The congregants built the first church, a frame building, in 1920 or possibly earlier. Aerial photography from 1936 indicates that this building stood on the same spot as the present church. This first building burned in 1941. Construction of the current Gothic Revival brick church in 1945 may have made use of the foundation of the original church, given the similarity of location and size of their respective footprints. Later, a parish hall expanded the footprint to the rear.<sup>52</sup>

In 1926, the community hosted an agricultural conference for African American farmers at Brown Grove Baptist Church. By this time, segregation penetrated most institutions, even government support of farmers. In Hanover County, there was an extension agent for White farmers, J. C. Stiles, but none assigned to African Americans. Nevertheless, Stiles attended the event. Representatives from the Negro Organization Society, Hampton Institute, the African American 4-H Club of Ashland, and the farm extension agent for the district all gave presentations.<sup>53</sup>

Records of the Hanover County school superintendent indicate that he planned to open a segregated school at Brown Grove for the 1925-1926 school year. It was one of eight schools for the 795 African American students in the Ashland District (one of the three districts in the county). Five schools served the 969 White students in the district. Brown Grove School opened in 1927, two years later than planned, as a two-room facility. Among the disparities in the offerings of public education to Black children compared to White children was the length of the school year (nine months for White students versus only five months for African American students) and White teachers were consistently paid at a higher rate than Black teachers. In towns and cities across Virginia, by the 1920s, public schools for White students also were larger, offered more

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>49</sup> Tommy Bogger, Since 1776: The History of the First Baptist Church, Williamsburg, Virginia (Williamsburg, Virginia: First Baptist Church, 2006), 13, 15-17; Erik Root, "The Virginia Slavery Debate of 1831–1832," in Encyclopedia Virginia (Virginia Humanities, 2020; accessed November 30, 2021, https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/virginia-slavery-debate-of-1831-1832-the/)...

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>50</sup> Drake, Preliminary Information Form for Brown Grove Rural Historic District (2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>51</sup> Hanover County, Deed Book16, p. 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>52</sup> Drake, Preliminary Information Form, pp. 6-7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>53</sup> Jody Lynn Allen, "Roses in December: Black Life in Hanover County, Virginia during the Era of Disfranchisement" (Ph.D. dissertation, Williamsburg, Virginia, College of William & Mary, 2007), 143.

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advanced curriculums, and included amenities such as cafeterias that offered hot lunches. Publicly funded bus transportation also became available to White children years before similar service was extended to African American students.

Such trends occurred in rural counties such as Hanover, albeit at a slower place. Information on the typical sizes of schools in Hanover County collected eight years earlier indicates that there were 65 school buildings in the county in 1919. Forty-one were one-room buildings and 12 were two-room. Of these, twenty-seven were one-room and four two-room schools for African Americans. Records for the 1941-1942 school year identify the Brown Grove principal as Theresa Callenden. In addition, the school's faculty included two teachers. The 1940 census had identified Callenden as a 24-year-old single African American woman lodging in the household of the African American Heiskill family in the Henry District of the county. Five years earlier Ms. Callenden had lived in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The Heiskills also had a 20-year-old African American teacher, Helen James, lodging with them. St

Recollections of Benjamin Jackson, Jr., whose family settled in the district in 1908, provide a portrait of early twentieth-century Brown Grove, a community anchored by its church and school with a web of tracks and paths connecting them to the families' small farms and dwellings. Jackson's father acquired a farm of 20 acres in the district in 1908, and Benjamin attended Brown Grove School during the 1930s and early 1940s to the eighth grade; especially in rural areas, high school education was rarely offered for Black students prior to World War II. Two teachers taught grades 1-3 and 4-8, respectively, in the 1927 school's two classrooms. In addition to providing academic subjects, the school followed common practices of the period by including Christian prayers and religious poetry in everyday activities. Though small, the Brown Grove schoolhouse was the center of extracurricular activities for the students, with Junior League meetings that offered drama, poetry recitals, a May Day celebration, as well as athletic games. Although Jackson and his fellow students walked from their homes to school, and to church across the road, by the 1940s buses provided transportation to Ashland where African American students could attend upper grades at the county's training school. Unlike high schools attended by White students, training schools emphasized industrial arts training for male students and domestic arts for female students, a deliberate course of action by Whites intended to funnel Black students into low-paying jobs as farm and industrial laborers and domestic servants. Many training schools lacked accreditation as four-year high schools, with tenth or eleventh grade the highest available. Such limitations affected Black students' ability to pursue higher education and entry to professions such as teaching, medicine, law, architecture, science, and other fields. 56

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>54</sup> Mackosky et al. 2001:22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>55</sup> Rebecca Bray and Lloyd Jones, *A History of Education in Hanover County, Virginia 1778-2008*, 2010, 57,58, 70, 74; USBC, Population census, 1940.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>56</sup> Allen, "Roses in December," 261-263; In 1950, the John M. Gandy School, with modern features such as central heating and indoor plumbing, replaced the antiquated training school on the same site—an early step toward improving conditions for African American students in Hanover County before the Brown vs. the Board of Education Supreme Court decision of 1954 and eventual full integration of the county's schools in the 1969-1970 school year; https://ashlandmuseum.org/tour/berkleytown/john-m-gandy-school

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The importance of the interconnected spheres of religion and education at the core of the Brown Grove community cannot be overemphasized. Besides serving as the loci of their principal functions, the church and school also provided a venue for important social organizations that were crucial for the advancement of African American communities during an era of intense discrimination. Historian Jody Allen has contrasted social development organizations associated with the church with the faith-based organizations that exist today. Unlike the separation of religion from many areas of civic life often expected today,

organizations in the black community, including public schools, were faith-based. For example, each of the black schools was associated with a community league, and quite often these community leagues were led by men and women who were devout church members. As a result, hymns and prayers were a standard part of the meetings as they were of the public school day.<sup>57</sup>

Community leagues focused much of their efforts on improvements in educational opportunities, the key to improving the lives of African Americans in Hanover County and across the United States. As described above, during the years of Jim Crow segregation before the late 1960s, Virginia's county school boards led by White residents had allocated a disproportionate amount of funding to the education of White students. Although the quality of education at African American schools suffered from shorter school years (often as little as five months), lower pay for teachers and principals, inferior books and supplies, small, crowded buildings, lack of school transportation, and initially no opportunities for education beyond the eighth grade, Black communities responded with fierce support of their schools, going to such lengths as raising private donations within their communities to pay for improvements that local school boards refused to provide and organizing to advocate and negotiate for more equitable treatment within the extreme constraints of the Jim Crow era. The persistence of community leagues advocating for equitable treatment resulted in the addition of buses, construction of larger and better equipped new schools, and establishment of the aforementioned training school in Ashland for the upper grades. By the 1950s, Black parents and students in Virginia were participants in lawsuits filed by the NAACP and other civil rights organizations to eliminate the outdated "separate but equal" doctrine that had justified segregated public schools for more than five decades. A 1951 lawsuit, Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County, Virginia, was consolidated with four suits from elsewhere that together resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court's Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas decision that struck down laws requiring segregation in public schools. During the 1960s, parents and students in New Kent County filed what became the 1968 Green v. New Kent County Supreme Court decision, which finally required school boards to complete integration and "defined the standards by which the Court judged whether a violation of the U.S. Constitution had been remedied in school desegregation cases."58

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>57</sup> *Ibid*, 265.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>58</sup> Ibid., 265-266; John Kern and Lena Sweeten McDonald, First Baptist Church National Register nomination, October 2012, www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR\_to\_transfer/PDFNoms/144-0027-0167\_First\_Baptist\_Church\_2012\_NRHP\_FINAL.pdf; and Susan Cianci Salvatore and John H. Sprinkle Jr., New Kent School and George W. Watkins School National Historic Landmark nomination, March 7, 2001, www.dhr.virginia.gov/VLR to transfer/PDFNoms/063-5011 George WatkinsSchool 2001 Nomination\_NHL.pdf.

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# **Middle Class Prosperity**

As Hanover County developed into more of a suburban bedroom community in the larger Richmond region during the 1960s and 1970s, the Brown Grove Rural Historic District's architecture and landscape evolved in keeping with the suburban lifestyle. Many of the older frame houses were replaced with masonry dwelling, often built by residents in the community and displaying vernacular flourishes, such as concrete block construction with contrasting brick window sills, that are character-defining to the district's appearance today. The concrete block house at 11178 Egypt Road is an example of a house that was built over several years by the Coleman family. The Coleman family transitioned from an older frame house that stood across the road where a site is still recognizable in the woods. Ollie "Skit" Coleman Sr., a brick mason, built the cinderblock house in the early 1960s. He worked for a Mr. Breedlove, who owned a construction company. The area that best shows post-World War II suburban prosperity is Carters Heights, a long street that comes off of the south side of Lewistown Road. There are several frame 1930s houses still standing there, but in 1948 the area was platted as Carters Heights and members of the Carter family began building new houses. The neighborhood was not completely built out in the plat that was recorded. Today, the neighborhood features mostly large, brick or concrete block, Minimal Traditional or Ranch-style houses dating to the 1940s through 1970s. Also during this period, modern infrastructure, like Hanover Airport (first phase completed in 1971) and Interstate 95 (constructed from the 1950s to 1960s), were imposed on the rural area with little public input, as was often the practice during this period, particularly with regard to minority communities. Nevertheless, Brown Grove was progressing with World War II and Korean War veterans returning and creating suburban neighborhoods. A majority of the historic houses in Brown Grove date to this period of prosperity and transition of the local economy away from reliance on agriculture toward suburban, residential patterns reliant on availability of blue- and white-collar jobs in the growing urban areas of Ashland, Mechanicsville, and Richmond. At the writing of this application, members of the Carter family still live in Carter Heights.

### Archaeological Potential and Landscape

Of the four archaeological sites recorded within the district, two have undergone evaluation-level investigations required by the National Historic Preservation Act, for which they were handled as individually eligible for the National Register during the undertaking's environmental review. Site 44HN0326 represents the remains of Merry Oaks (or The Oaks), a late eighteenth/early nineteenthcentury domestic complex with structural features and intact archaeological deposits representing domestic and likely tavern activities. The Merry Oaks tavern was active from 1795 until the early 1840s. Documentary research on the history of the property reveals the potential for sites representing dwellings for enslaved workers as well as outbuildings and the main dwelling.<sup>59</sup> Also recommended individually eligible through environmental review, the Brown Grove School site (44HN0452) includes above-ground architectural elements such as concrete stairs and piers, as well as privy pits and the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits with research potential. Two other sites, a domestic complex (44HN0406) and a trash scatter (44HN0449), identified

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>59</sup> Smith and Friedberg, "Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the ±87.9-Hectare (±217.4-Acre) Wegmans Distribution Center Project Area"; Smith, "Research Design for Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia."

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through environmental review lack sufficient integrity and research potential but contribute under Criterion A due to their association with the early African American settlement of Brown Grove because these two sites may be related to the Garnett family, successful farmers of a large landholding in the eastern area of the historic district.<sup>60</sup>

Church and family burial grounds within the district have left a distinctive and lasting imprint on of the landscape, as have the evolution of parcel sizes and remnants of the late nineteenth- to early twentieth-century circulation system of tracks and paths providing shortcuts between important community nodes, such as church, school, stores, and dwellings. Overlays of current roads on a 1938 topographic map (see Figure 1) and review of aerial imagery from 1936 reveals that the pattern of primary roads in the district has remained largely unchanged, but the a dense network of paths and tracks augmented the road network for the more common mode of foot traffic during the early twentieth century and earlier. Hillshade LiDAR imagery reveals that some of these older pathways, no longer mapped or easily visible on aerial imagery, nonetheless survive beneath the vegetation.

## Environmental Justice

Like other historic African American communities across Virginia (e.g., Union Hill in Buckingham County and Pine Grove in Cumberland County) that are targets of infrastructure intrusions, Brown Grove has been subjected to intrusive industrial, transportation, and extraction development over the course of recent decades. Construction of the Interstate 95 corridor and of the county airport caused the demolition of several dwellings, loss of farmsteads, and displacement of community residents, all of which are part of the district's living memory. Both of these events occurred during the district's period of significance and account for the district's discontiguous configuration composed of two sections. Similar patterns nationwide have called into action the concept of environmental justice, which seeks to distribute an equitable burden from infrastructure projects, to diverge from a history of disproportionate burden of these development projects on minority communities, and to avoid the ensuing disruption to historic settings, economics, and quality of life in these communities.

Despite a history of encroachments within and adjacent to the Brown Grove community (the Hanover County Municipal Airport, 1969; Interstate 95, early 1960s; dense suburban housing developments, 1980s to present; commercial development, 1980s to present), the Brown Grove Rural Historic District retains its historic character and integrity. The dispersed rural community of dwellings on large parcels has largely remained in the possession of African American families for multiple generations, in many cases since the late nineteenth century. Even currently planned additional development in the heart of the district south of Ashcake Road will retain the integrity of significant archaeological sites through mitigation research and avoidance required by the National Historic Preservation Act. Moreover, the community members convey cohesiveness and passion for a sense of place. The energy and dedication of residents and organizations such as the Brown Grove Historic Preservation Group in their pursuit of Virginia Landmarks and National

<sup>60</sup> Marcella Price Singh, descendant of the Garnett family provided oral history on the Garnett/Winston family history.

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Register district listing and strong voices of opposition to intrusive commercial development bear testament to the special character of this corner of Hanover County.

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# Previous documentation on file (NPS): \_\_\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested \_\_\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register \_\_\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

rown Grove Rural Historic District		Hanover County, VA County and State
recorded by Historic An	nerican Buildings Survey # nerican Engineering Record # _ nerican Landscape Survey #	
Primary location of addition	nal data:	
_X State Historic Preservat	ion Office	
<ul><li>Other State agency</li><li>Federal agency</li></ul>		
Local government		
University Other		
Name of repository: _De	epartment of Historic Resources	s, Richmond, VA
Historic Resources Survey N	Number (if assigned): _DHR #	042-5802
10. Geographical Data		
Acreage of Property Section acres; TOTAL: approximatel	1: approximately 1,181 acres; y 1,226 acres	Section 2: approximately 45
Use either the UTM system of	r latitude/longitude coordinates	
Latitude/Longitude Coordin Datum if other than WGS84:_ (enter coordinates to 6 decima		
<u>Section 1</u> 1. Latitude: 37.732860	Longitude: -77.451690	
2. Latitude: 37.733510	Longitude: -77.449450	
3. Latitude: 37.731200	Longitude: -77.441040	
4. Latitude: 37.726140	Longitude: -77.438510	
5. Latitude: 37.722750	Longitude: -77.407100	
6. Latitude: 37.720170	Longitude: -77.425550	
7. Latitude: 37.724920	Longitude: -77.414990	
8. Latitude: 37.722100	Longitude: -77.411470	
9. Latitude: 37.717450	Longitude: -77.408510	

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10. Latitude: 37.708760	Longitude: -77.407780

## Section 2

26. Latitude: 37.715450	Longitude: -77.467720
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27. Latitude: 37.717110	Longitude: -77.463470

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32. Latitude: 37.715410 Longitude: -77.458230

33. Latitude: 37.714230 Longitude: -77.464200

34. Latitude: 37.714430 Longitude: -77.466560

35. Latitude: 37.714800 Longitude: -77.467630

## **Verbal Boundary Description** (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The district boundary follows the boundary lines of parcels contained within the historic community of Brown Grove while excluding areas of the community that have undergone extensive character-altering commercial, industrial, and transportation development since the mid-twentieth century. The most significant influence of these later developments on the shape of the boundary is the Interstate 95 corridor and associated development. This necessitated the division of the district into two separate parts, with the major part extending from the east side of the interstate for approximately one mile to the east and southeast and a small remnant cluster of the historic community along Lewistown Road approximately 1,000 feet west of the interstate. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Maps/ Photo Keys, which have a scale of 1"=200'.

Section 1 - The northwest extent of the larger, eastern section of the district begins at the northern corner of the northwesternmost rural property containing a building along Ashcake Road. The boundary crosses the road and continues east-southeast, taking in the distinctive long, narrow parcels adjacent to the north side of the road, while excluding a more recent, highdensity residential lane. The boundary extends east, then northeast to a point along the east side of Mt. Hermon Road about 0.47 mile north of its intersection with Ashcake Road. It continues along the east side of this road for 0.15 mile before cutting eastward to include a secluded wooded cemetery in the midst of a large forested area. The boundary zig-zags along the south edges of some more recent residential properties until reaching Giant Drive. From there, the boundary runs southeast along this road and past its terminus, continuing along a parcel line through the forest, then turning southwest to a point on Peaks Road that is 0.2 mile northeast of its intersection with Mt. Hermon Road. After ranging southwest along Peaks Road for nearly 400 feet, the boundary cuts southwest through forest for one-half mile before an abrupt turn westward along the south parcel line of a property that follows the north banks of the upper reaches of Kersey Creek for 0.2 mile. After crossing to the south side of the creek, the boundary zig-zags westward along the north side of a recent residential development until it reaches Sliding Hill Road. The boundary hugs the west side of the road for a tenth of a mile southward, then opens up to include historic parcels along the west side of Sliding Hill Road and along both sides of Brook Spring Road. Crossing New Ashcake Road, the boundary turns west, following the south side of that road for about 270 feet, turns south-southwest, and extends down the east side of Sliding Hill Road for an additional 900 feet. From here, the boundary trends northwest for 1.7 miles until it reaches the south side of Ashcake Road. This portion of the boundary zig-zags along the southern parcel lines of historic rural properties,

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running along the upper reaches of Totopotomoy Creek. The boundary line in this area separates the district from the county airport and some industrial properties developed since the 1990s. The boundary runs along the south side of Ashcake Road for 650 feet to Virginia Crane Drive. Running southwest along the west edge of the drive nearly to its terminus, the boundary then zig-zags west, north, east, then north again to encompass a roughly rectangular area of small historic properties between Virginia Crane Drive and a cloverleaf of exit/entrance ramps for Interstate 95. Reaching Lewistown Road, the boundary then runs east along the south side of the road for 1,120 feet to the intersection with Ashcake Road. The boundary then hugs the south side of Ashcake Road as it runs northwest for 1,900 feet. At this point, the boundary opens to the west to include the long, narrow historic properties along the west side of the road for the remaining 2,300-foot stretch until returning to the beginning point of the boundary.

Section 2 - The boundary of the second, much smaller section of the district begins at a point on Lewistown Road that is approximately 2,060 feet southwest of the road's bridge crossing of Interstate 95. Heading southwest, the boundary encompasses most properties along both sides of Lewistown Road for a distance of 0.77 mile, along with properties on both sides of Shellie Lee Drive, a crescent that loops off the south side of Lewistown Road. The boundary pinches in to the north side of the road to exclude some vacant properties and then farther to the west near the end of this section of the district, the boundary excludes three non-historic properties along the south side of the road.

### **Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The district boundary reflects the extent of the Brown Grove community that retains its rural character as well as buildings and sites dating to period of significance (1729-1971). The boundary includes the historic setting within the district and encompasses all known associated historic resources.

### 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: <u>Primary Authors, Research and Fieldwork: David Lewes, Historian; Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Architectural Historian; Additional contributions: Diane Smith Drake (Research and Oral History), Lena McDonald (Research/Historic Context); Marc Wagner (Research/Fieldwork)</u>

organizations:	Hanbury	Preservation	Consulting;	William	and Mary	Center for
Archaeologica	l Researc	<u>:h</u>				

street & number: \_\_\_\_\_\_ city or town: Raleigh state: NC zip code:

e-mail: dwlewe@wm.edu; maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com\_\_\_\_

telephone: (757) 221-2579; (919) 828-1905

date: August 5, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_

### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photo Log

Unless otherwise indicated, the following information applies to all photographs.

Name of Property: Brown Grove Rural Historic District

City or Vicinity: Ashland

County: Hanover State: VA

Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

View: Characteristic rural neighborhood scene at 10134 Ashcake Road, view to northeast

Date Photographed: February 2022

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0001.jpg

View: Professional Shoe Shine Mens and Ladies, originally Jackson Grocery, at 10076

Ashcake Road (042-5504/042-5802-0059), south corner

Date Photographed: October 2021

Image: VA HanoverCounty BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict 0002.jpg

View: House at 10084 Ashcake Road (042-5502/042-5802-0057), south corner

Date Photographed: October 2021

Image: VA HanoverCounty BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict 0003.jpg

View: Brown Grove Baptist Church, 9328 Ashcake Road (042-5799/042-5802-0136),

southwest corner

Date Photographed: October 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0004.jpg

View: Slash Church, 11353 Mt. Hermon Road (042-0033/042-5802-0133), southwest corner

Date Photographed: October 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0005.jpg

View: Candlewick, Route 657 (042-0253/042-5802-0110), southeast corner

Date Photographed: December 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0006.jpg

View: House at 10446 Lewistown Road (042-5223/042-5802-0033), facade

Date Photographed: October 2021

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Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0007.jpg

View: Lewis/Coleman Cemetery, Lewistown Road (042-5802-0116), view to northwest

Date Photographed: February 2022

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0008.jpg

View: Jones/Lewis Cemetery, Ashcake Road (042-5802-0137), view to west

Date Photographed: February 2022

Image: VA HanoverCounty BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict 0009.jpg

View: Birdbath at house at 9392 Ashcake Road (042-5802-01032021)

Date Photographed: December 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0010.jpg

View: House at 9357 Ashcake Road (042-5802-0105), east corner

Date Photographed: December 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0011.jpg

View: House at 9393 Ashcake Road (042-5802-0102), northeast corner

Date Photographed: December 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0012.jpg

View: House at 11237 Pear Tree Drive (042-5802-0093), facade

Date Photographed: December 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0013.jpg

View: House at 10033 Johnson Town Road (042-5802-0079), northwest corner

Date Photographed: November 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0014.jpg

View: House at 11229 Egypt Road (042-5802-0068), facade

Date Photographed: November 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0015.jpg

View: House at 10306 Lewistown Road (042-5802-0029), facade

Date Photographed: October 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0016.jpg

View: House at 10373 Shellie Lee Drive (042-5802-0016), facade

Date Photographed: October 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0017.jpg

View: House 9340 New Ashcake Road (042-5476), southwest corner

Date Photographed: December 2021

Image: VA\_HanoverCounty\_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict\_0018.jpg

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Name of Property	

Hanover County, VA
County and State

OMB Control No. 1024-0018

View: Garnett Family Cemetery (042-5549/042-5802-0135), Sliding Hill Road, view to east Date Photographed: January 2022

Image: VA HanoverCounty BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict 0019.jpg

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement**: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

Tier 1 - 60-100 hours Tier 2 - 120 hours Tier 3 - 230 hours Tier 4 - 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Virginia Cultural Resource Information System

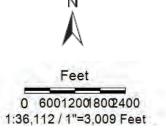
# **Legend**

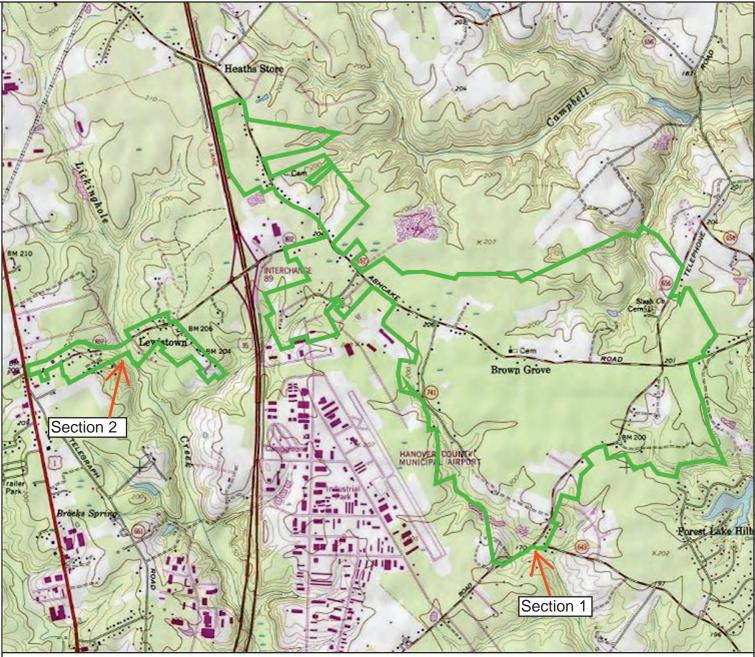
County Boundaries

#### TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Brown Grove Rural Historic District Hanover County, VA DHR No. 042-5802

Historic Boundary

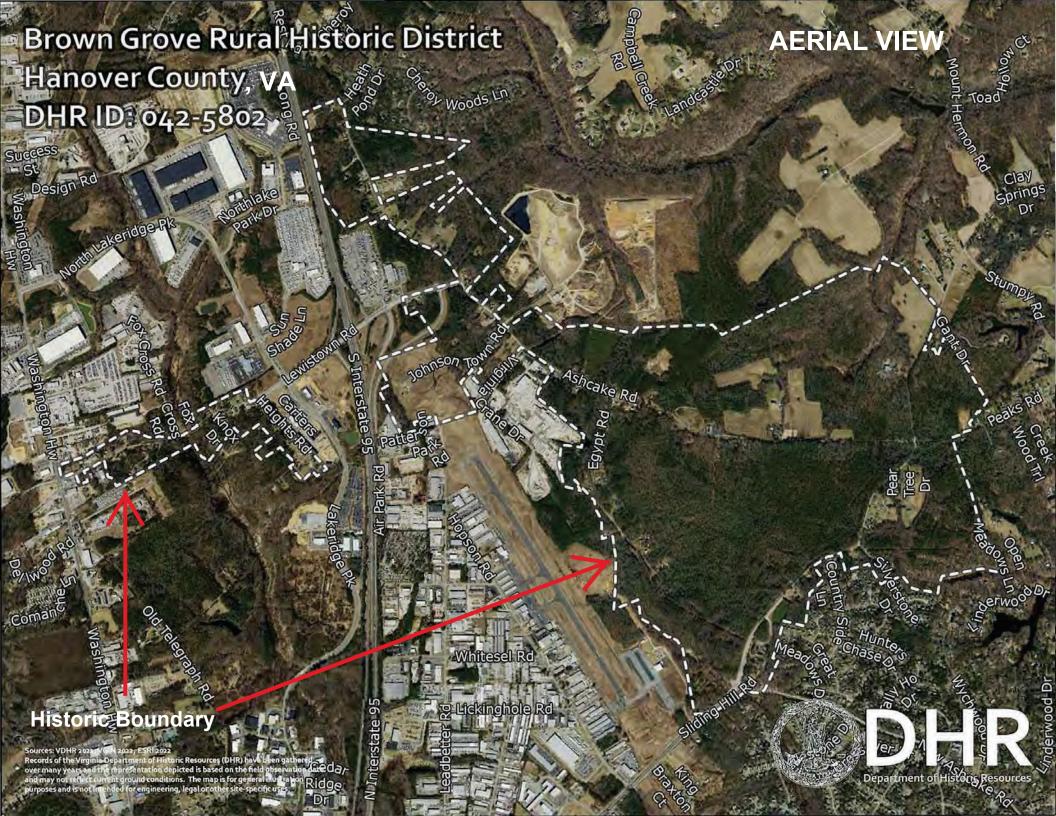


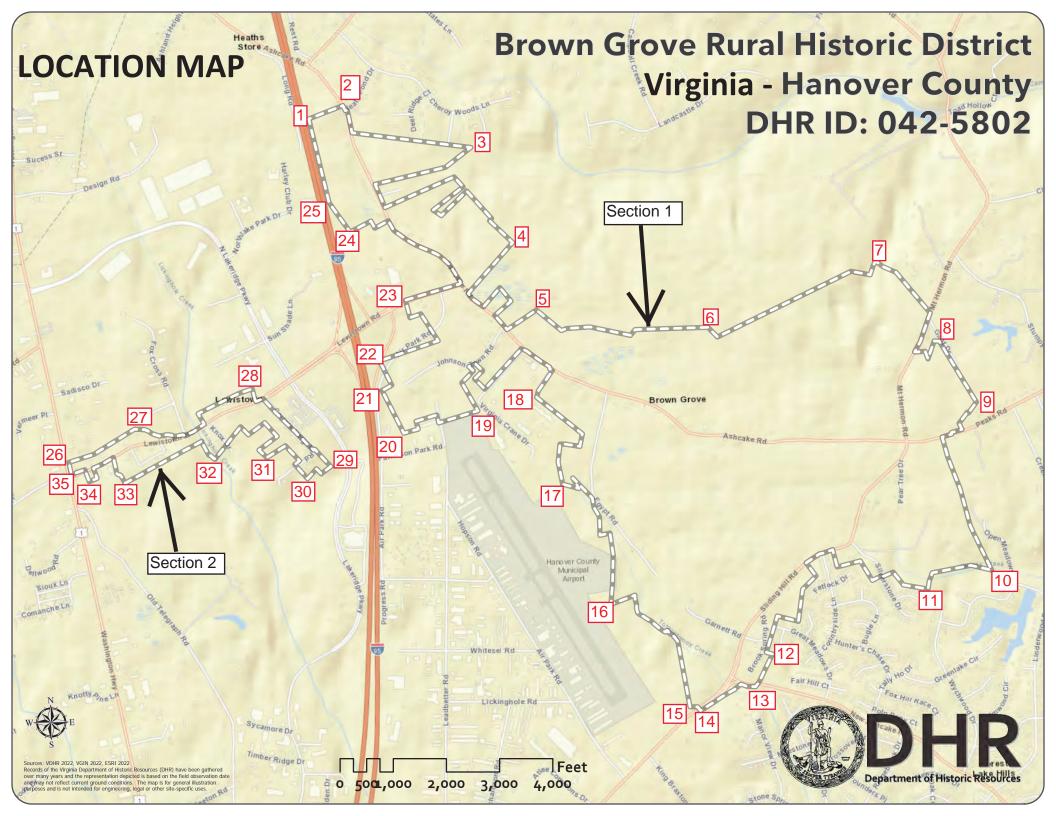


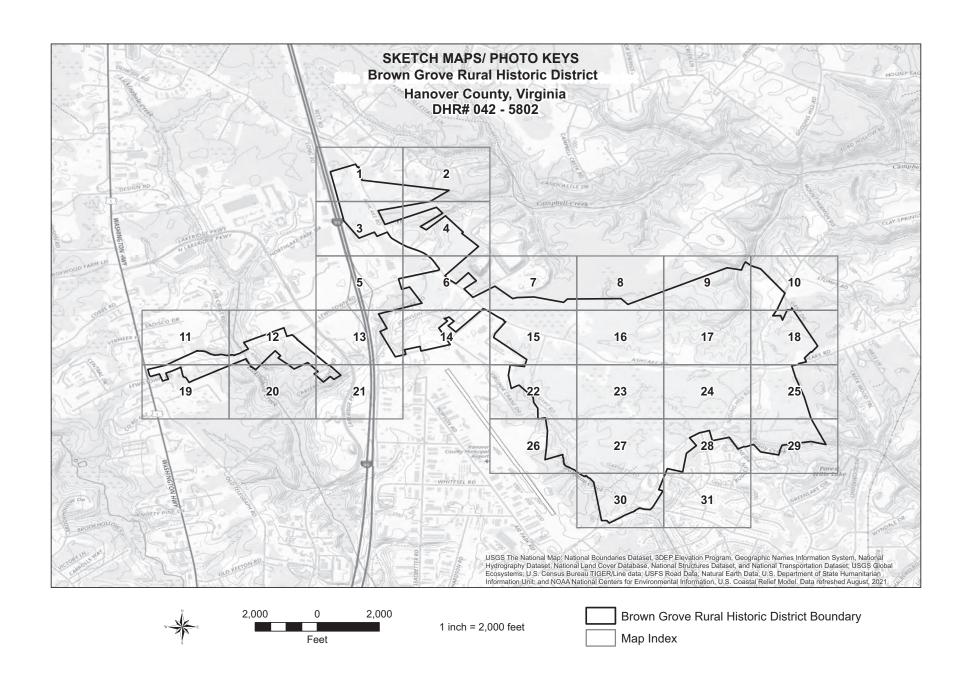
Title: Date: 8/26/2022

DISCLAIMER:Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

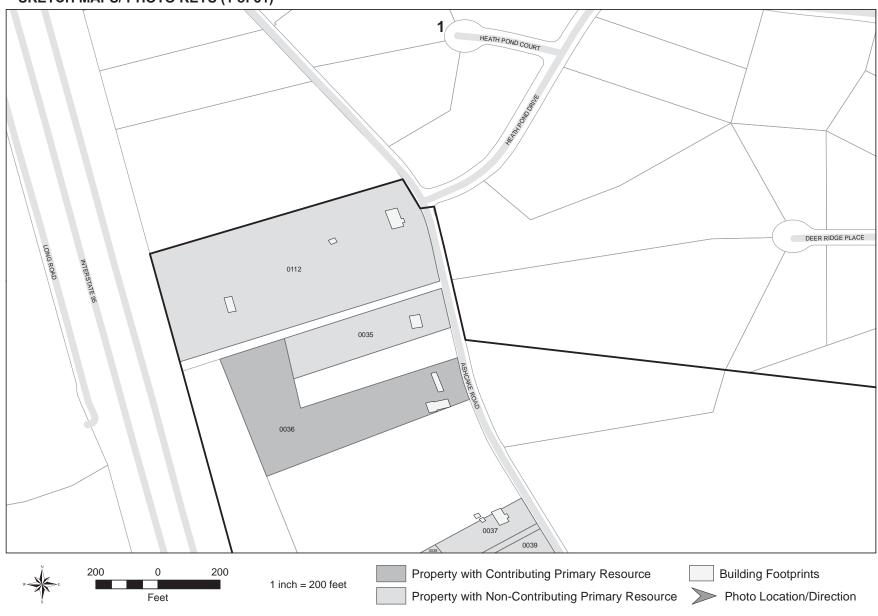
Notice if AE sites:Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.





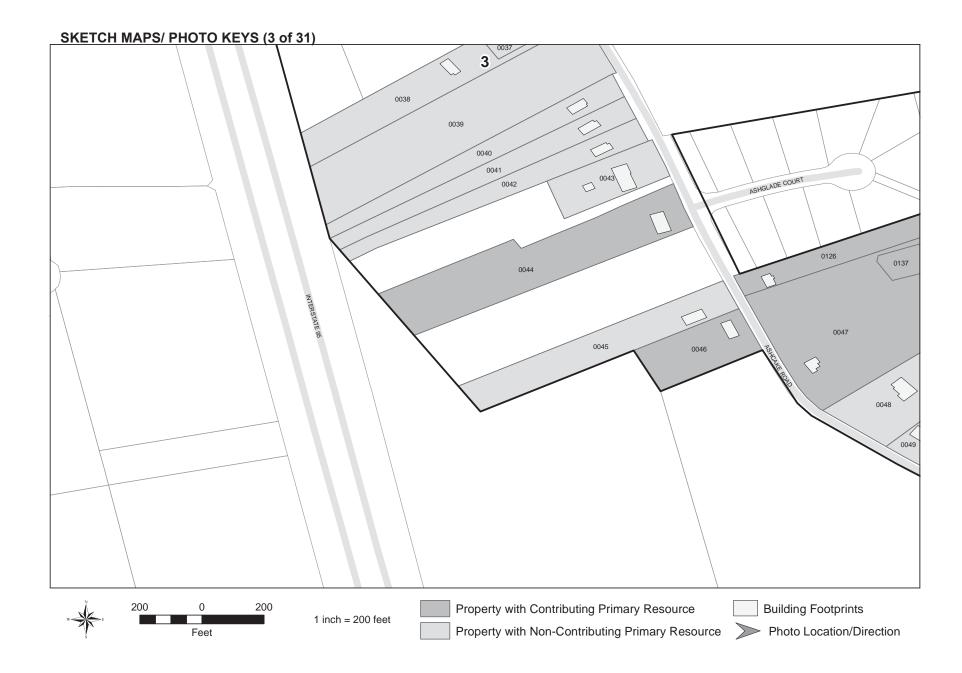


# SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (1 of 31)

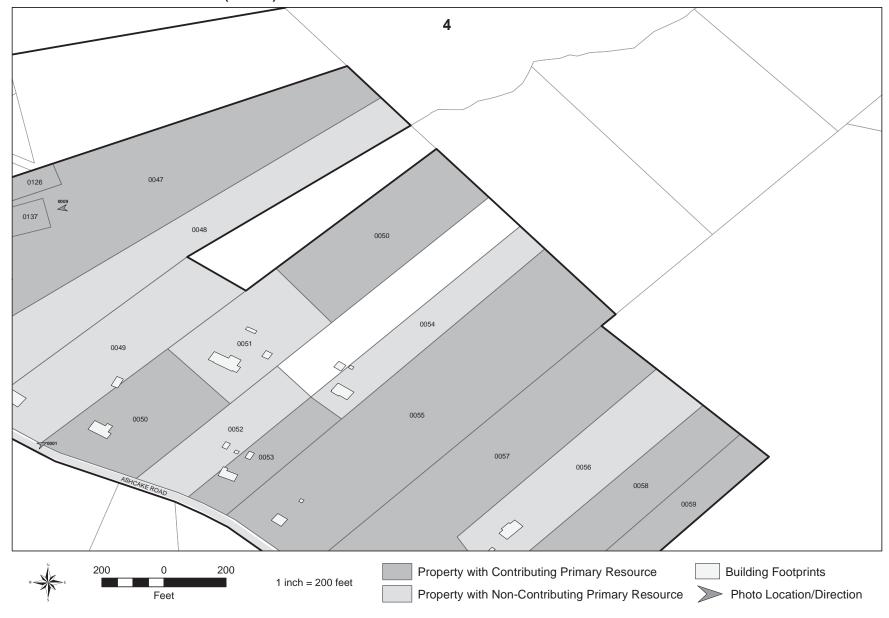


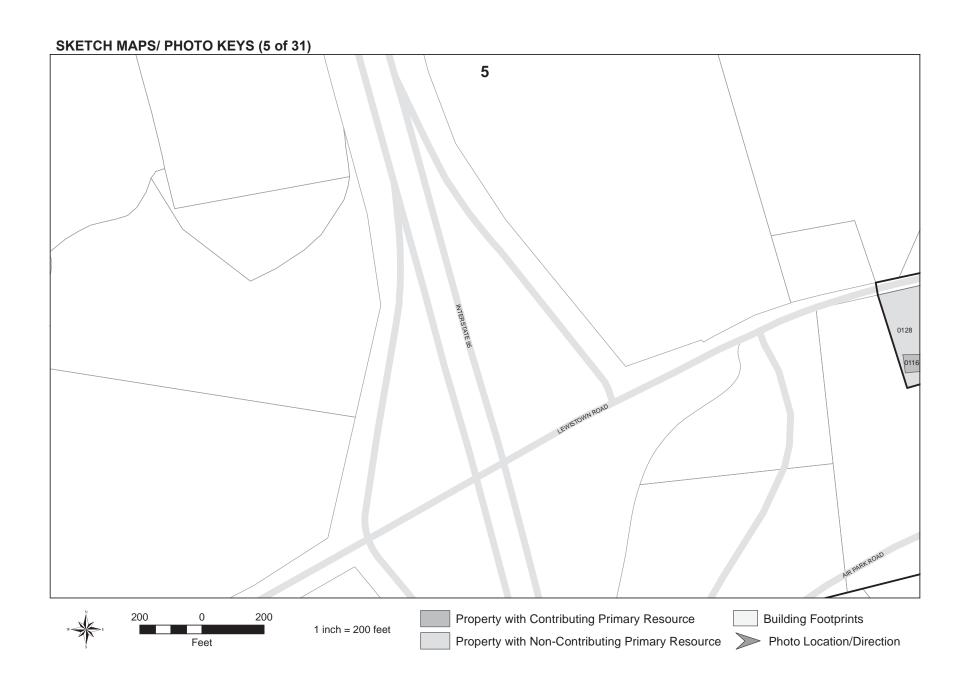
# SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (2 of 31)



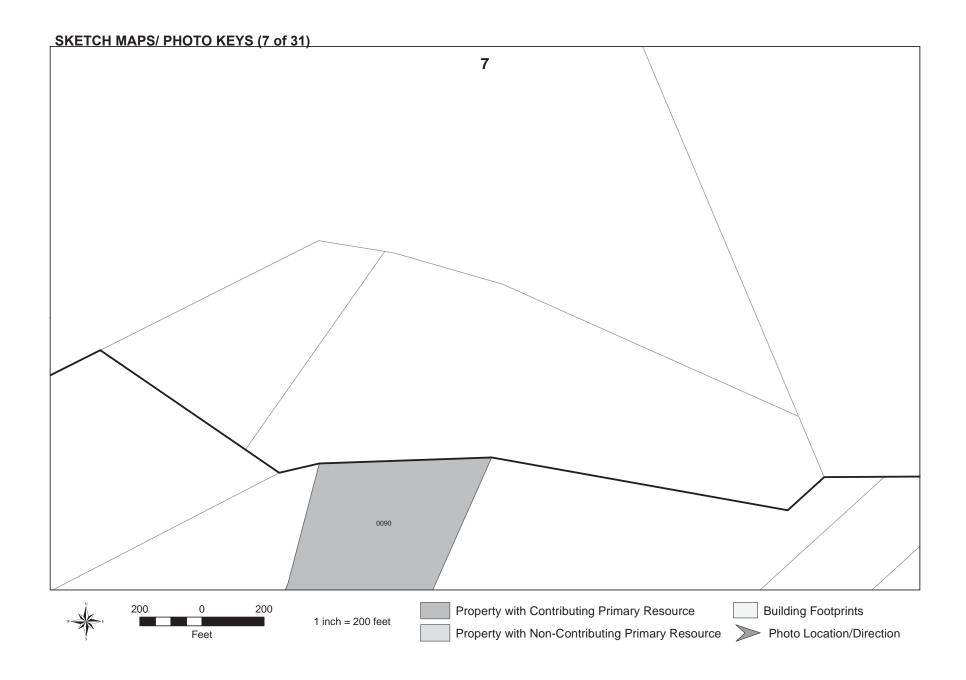


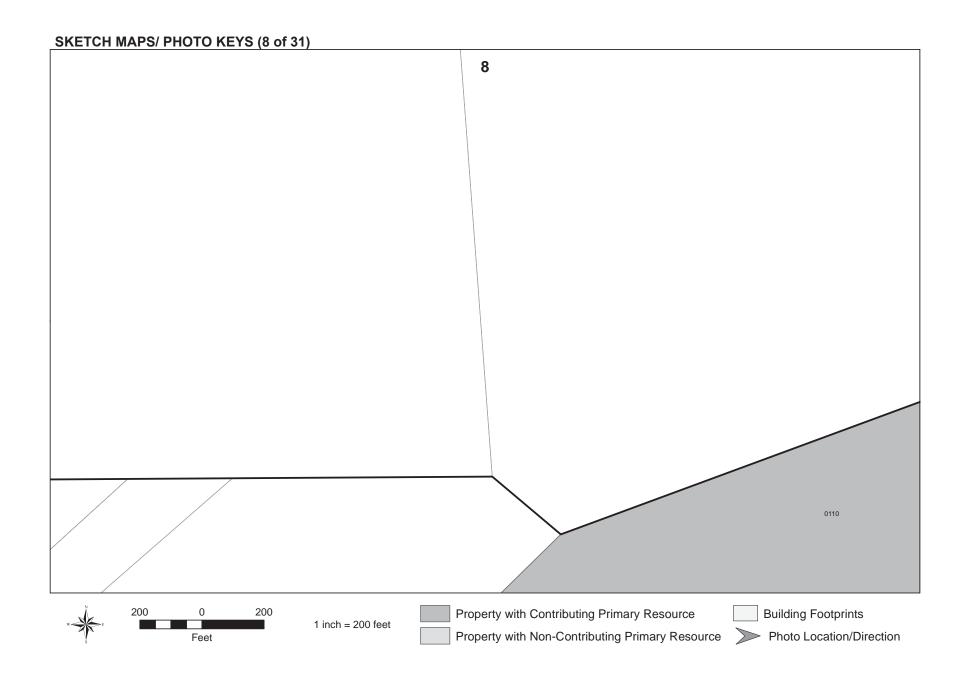
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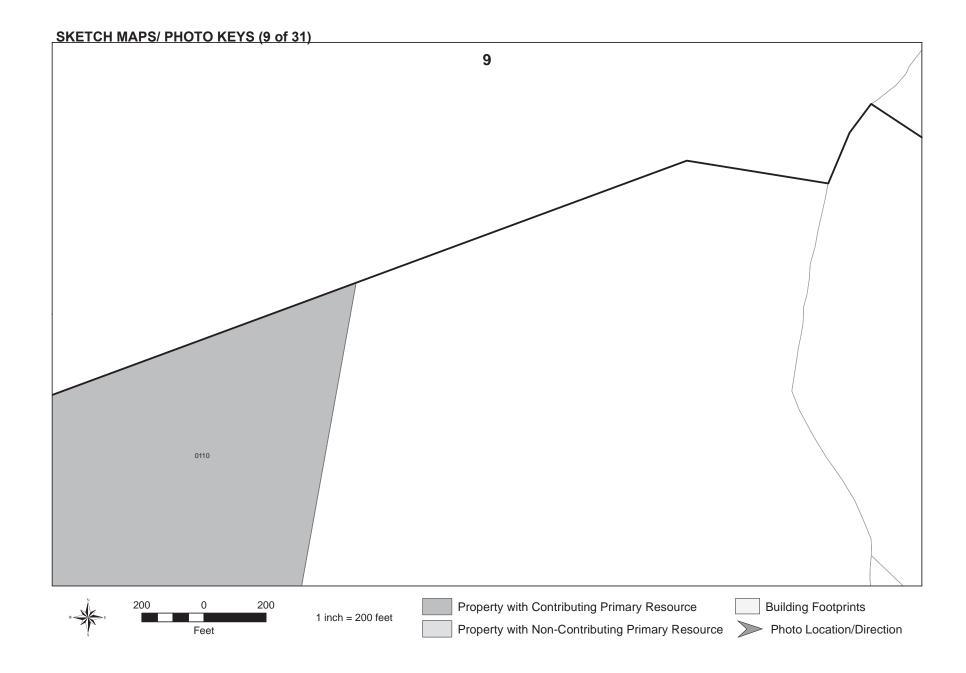


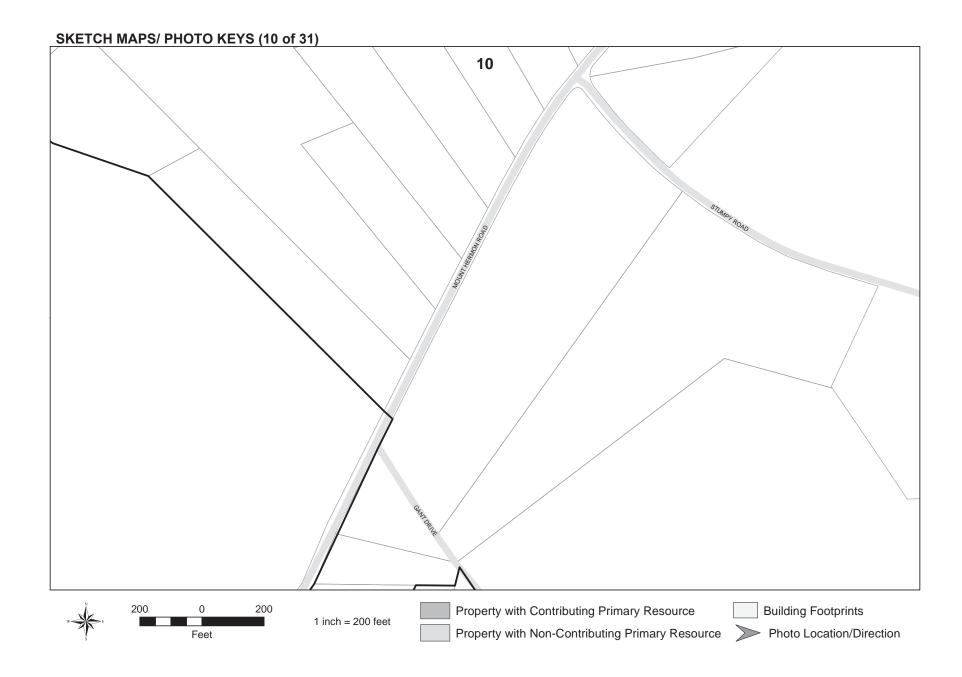


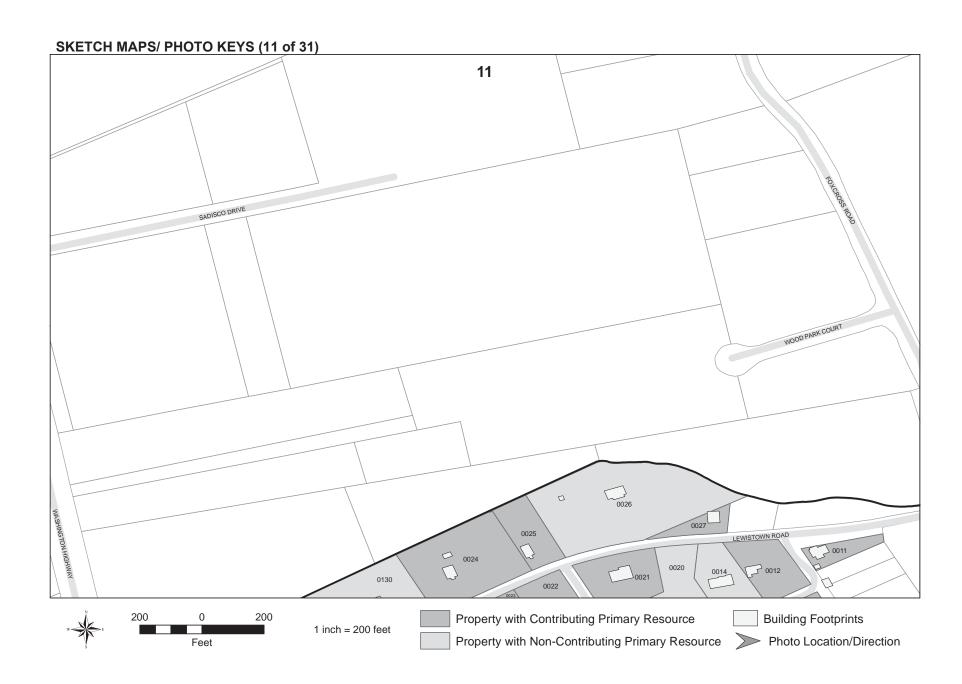




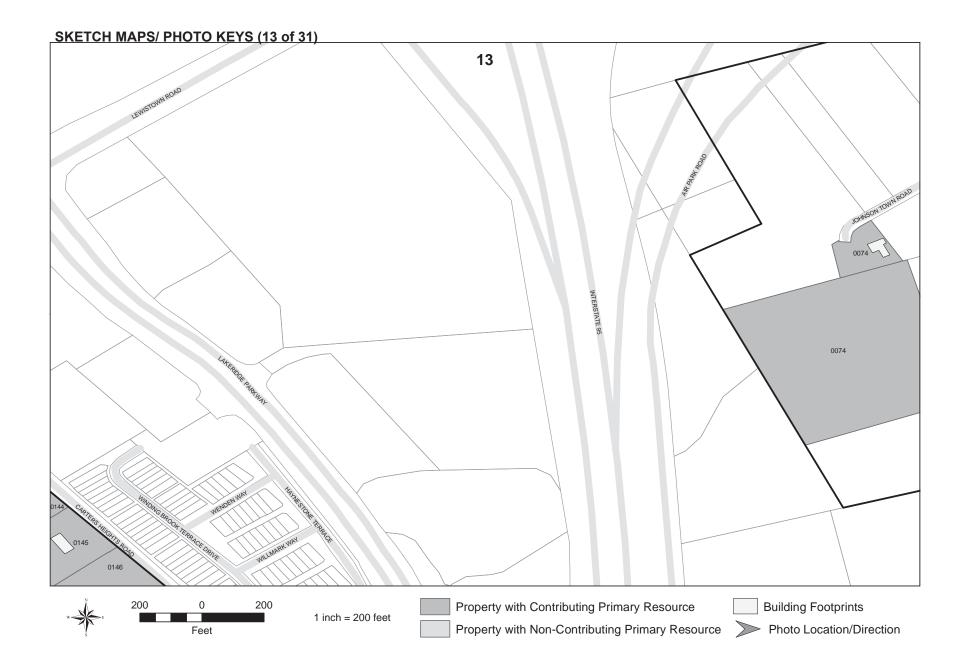






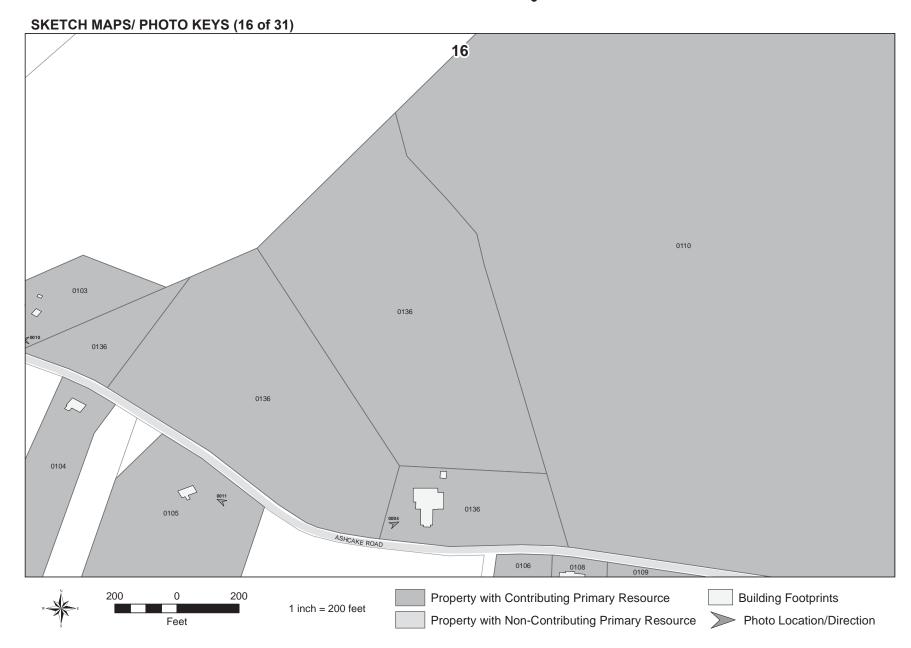


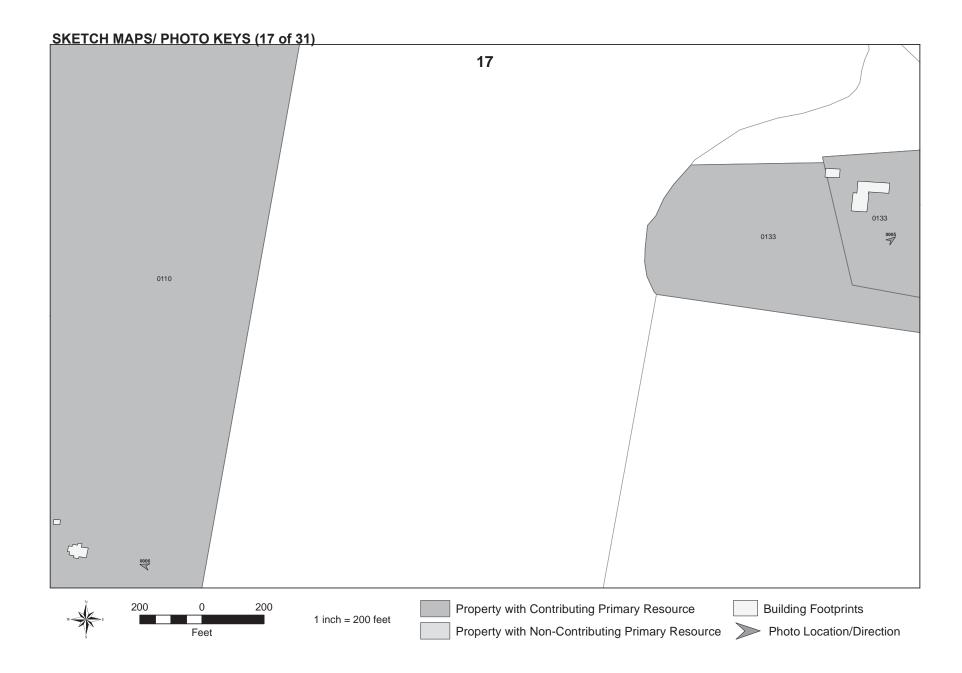


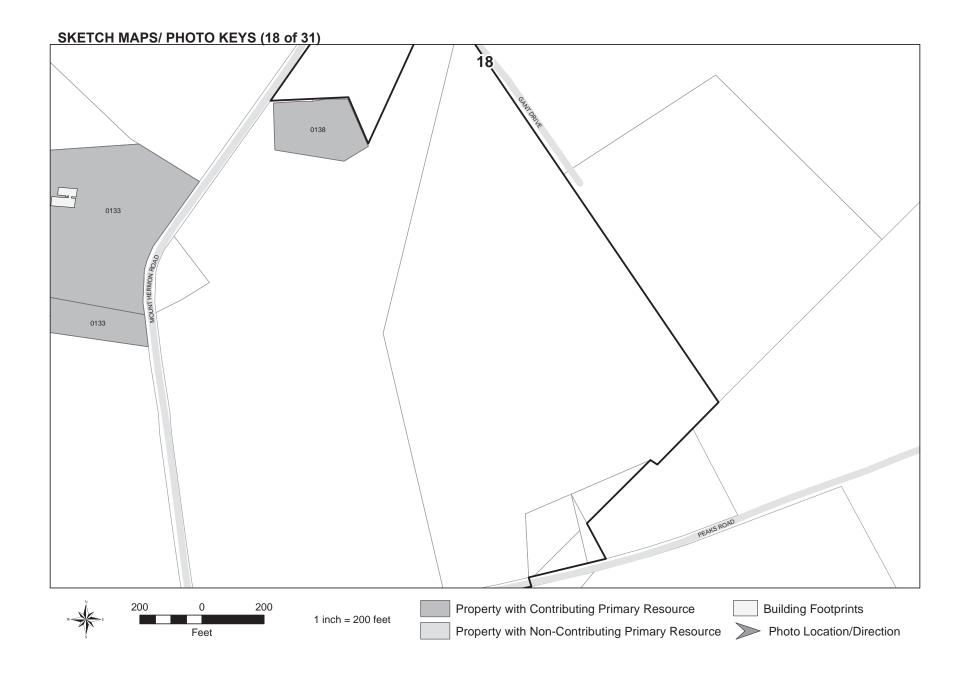




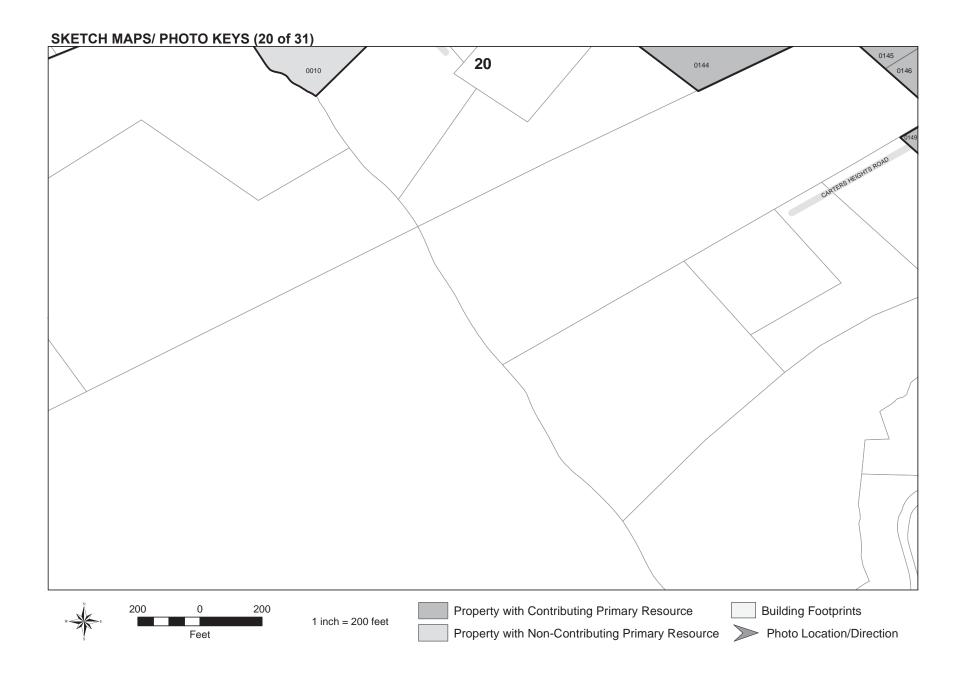
SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (15 of 31) 15 0090 0092 0103 0099 0101 0003 0064 0104 200 Property with Contributing Primary Resource **Building Footprints** 1 inch = 200 feet Feet Property with Non-Contributing Primary Resource Photo Location/Direction



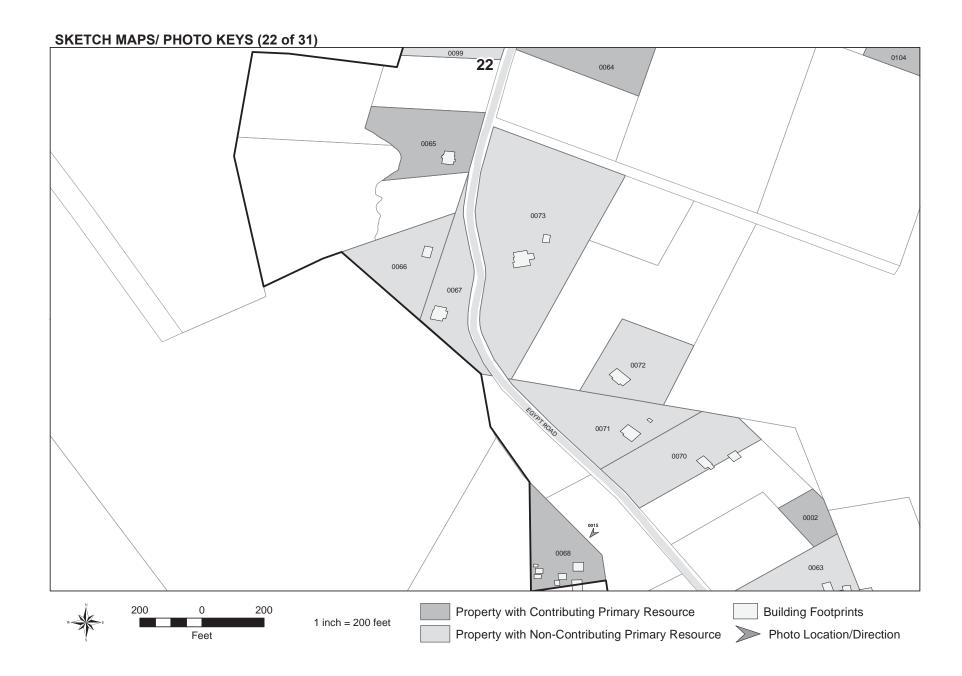




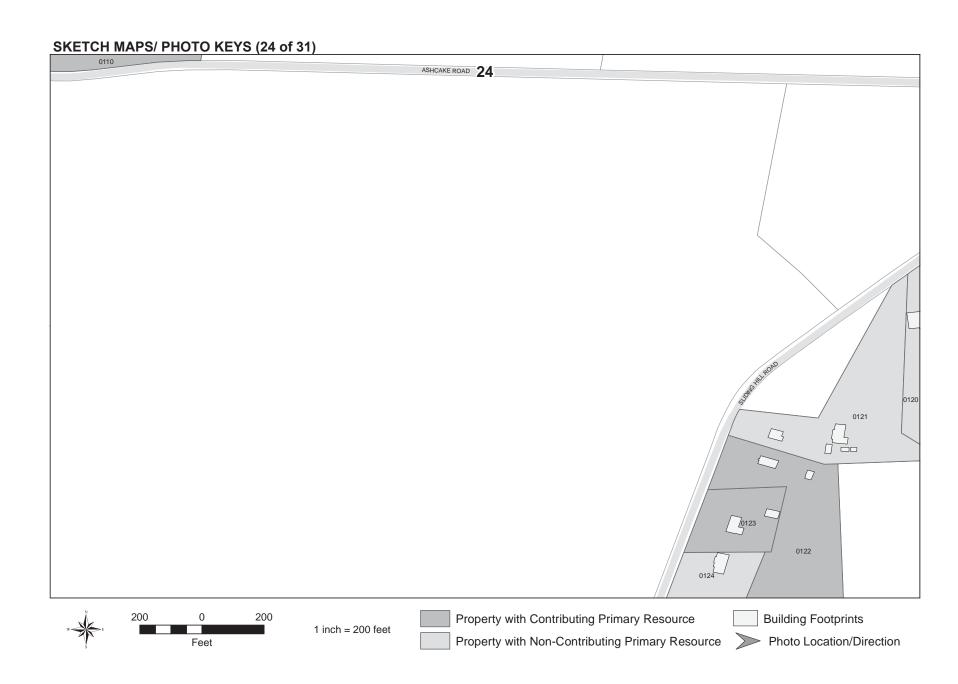
SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (19 of 31) 19 0023 0014 0020 0019 0015 PD 0033 0018 0034 MORSE CODE DRIVE 200 Property with Contributing Primary Resource **Building Footprints** 1 inch = 200 feet Property with Non-Contributing Primary Resource Photo Location/Direction Feet



SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (21 of 31) 21 0146 BROOK TERRACE DRIVE PATTERSON PARK ROAD 0147 BARRET PARK ROAD 200 Property with Contributing Primary Resource **Building Footprints** 1 inch = 200 feet Property with Non-Contributing Primary Resource Photo Location/Direction Feet

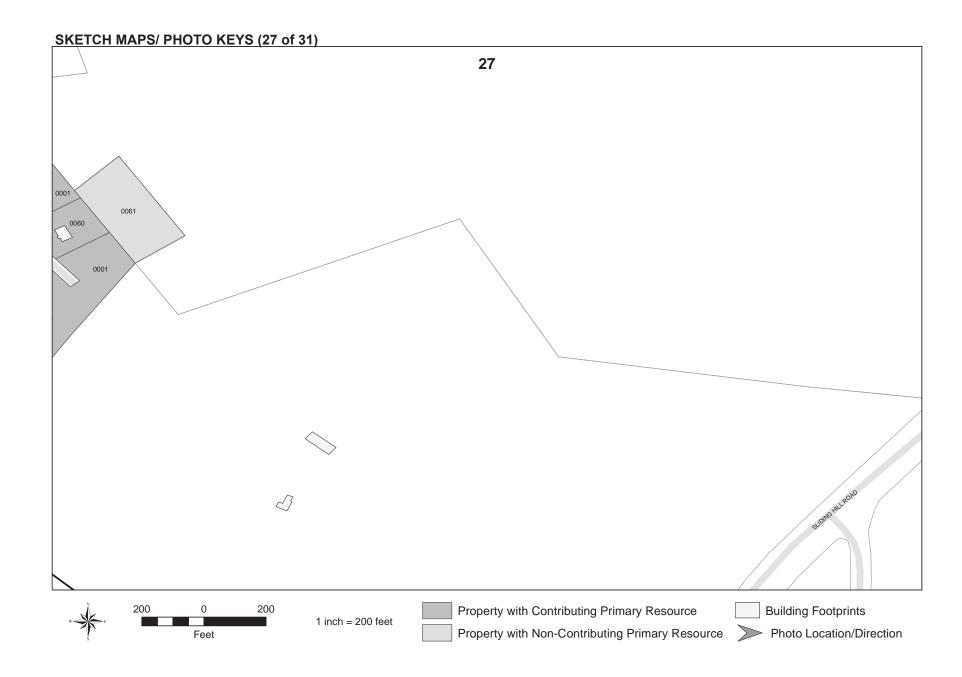


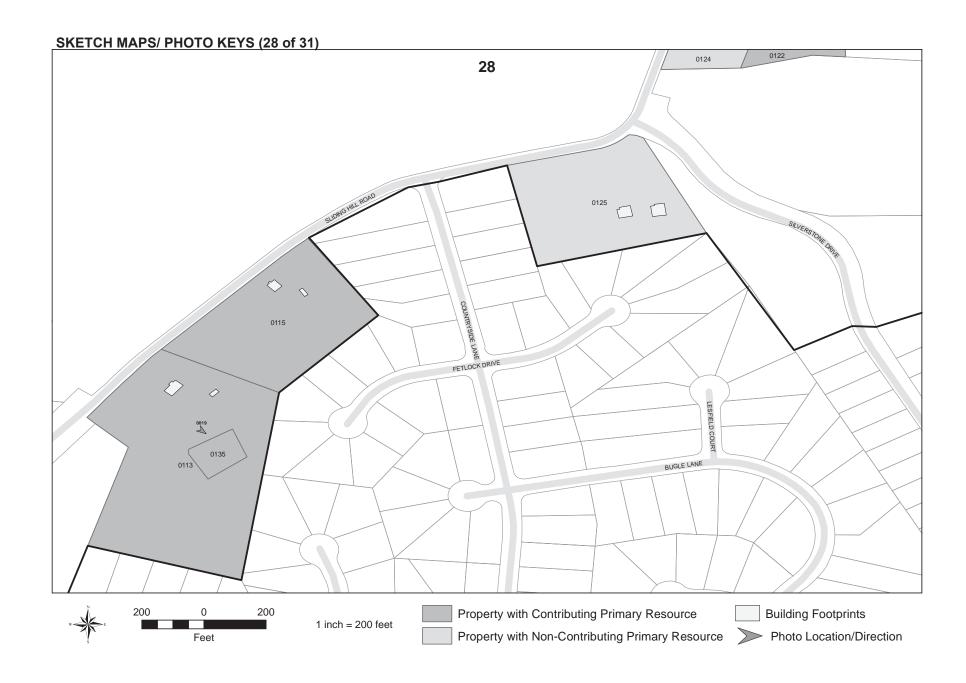


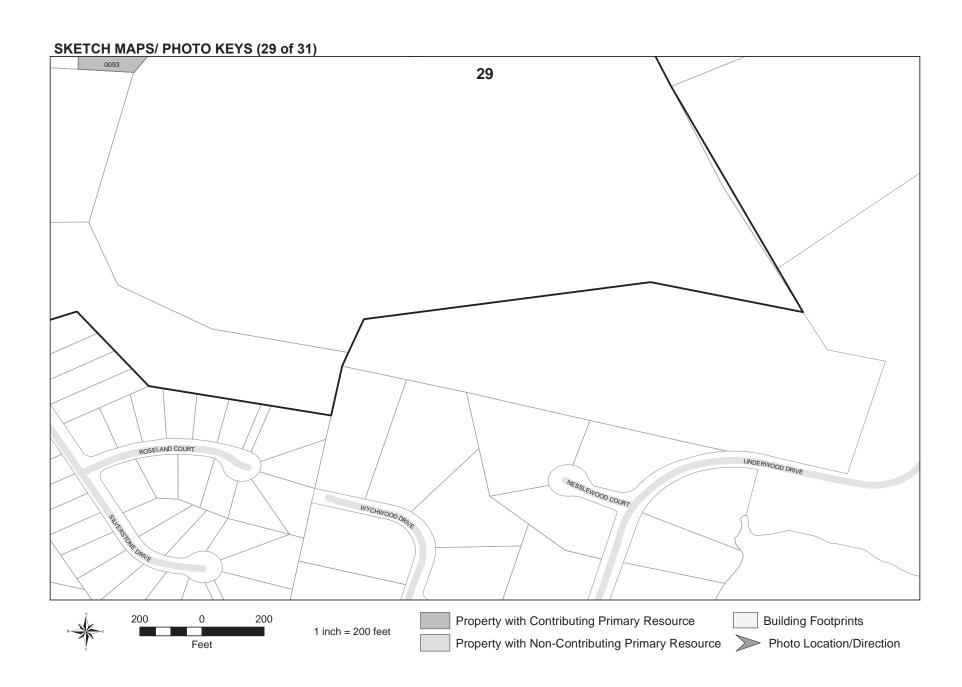


SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (25 of 31) 25 PEAKS ROAD ASHCAKE ROAD 0097 0095 0120 0096 0093 0094 0121 200 Property with Contributing Primary Resource **Building Footprints** 1 inch = 200 feet Feet Property with Non-Contributing Primary Resource Photo Location/Direction











SKETCH MAPS/ PHOTO KEYS (31 of 31) HARPE COURT 31 District Boundary HUNTERS CHASE DRIVE COUNTRYSIDE COURT JUMP CIRCLE HUNTERS CLUB COURT HUNTERS CHASE COURT FAIR HILL COURT HOOF CIRCLE FAIR HILL PLACE FOX HILL RACE COURT NEW ASHCAKE ROAD BREEDERS CUP PLACE POLO PONY COURT Property with Contributing Primary Resource **Building Footprints** 200 1 inch = 200 feet Property with Non-Contributing Primary Resource Photo Location/Direction Feet