

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.

1. Name of PropertyHistoric name: Norwich Historic DistrictOther names/site number: VDHR# 128-6478Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. LocationStreet & number: 1815-2433 Roanoke Avenue SW, 614-920 Bridge Street SW, Penn Street SW, Russell Avenue SW, Buford Avenue SW, Charlevoix Court SW, Irvine Street SW, Warwick Street SW, Rolfe Street SW, Ashlawn Street SW, and Bedford Street SWCity or town: Roanoke State: VA County: Independent CityNot For Publication: Vicinity: **3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

		<u>8/7/2024</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:		Date
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government		
In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.		
Signature of commenting official:		Date
Title :		State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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 only **one** box.)

- Building(s) ☐
- District ☒
- Site ☐
- Structure ☐
- Object ☐

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6. Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>113</u>	<u>10</u>	buildings
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>55</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>116</u>	<u>65</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

EDUCATION: School

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

COMMERCE/TRADE

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Manufacturing Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling

DOMESTIC: Secondary Structure

EDUCATION: School

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Cemetery

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

COMMERCE/TRADE

COMMERCE/TRADE: Business

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: Manufacturing Facility

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Folk National/Vernacular, Folk Victorian

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE VICTORIAN: Gothic

LATE 19th AND 20th CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

NO STYLE

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Foundation: CONCRETE

Walls: WOOD, SYNTHETICS: Vinyl, ASBESTOS, BRICK, METAL: Aluminum

Roof: ASPHALT, METAL

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

The Norwich neighborhood is located within the City of Roanoke directly south of the Roanoke River and west of downtown Roanoke. The Norwich Historic District lies within the floodplain of the Roanoke River in a natural depression in the landscape with the surrounding neighborhoods being at a higher elevation than the historic district. The district is largely flat with slight changes in grade on some streets. There is one noticeable change in grade on Bridge Street as it steeply rises out of the Norwich bowl to meet Mountain View Terrace, which is located above the Norwich neighborhood. Most residential streets in the district were platted with alleys bisecting each block creating access to the back of each residential lot. There is moderate to sparse tree cover in the neighborhood. The district is predominantly comprised of residential resources although there are some commercial, civic, and industrial resources as well. The residential resources reflect the working-class nature of the neighborhood and contain few, if any, architectural embellishments. Most residential resources are Folk National in style while, in terms of form, cross gable, shotgun, and pyramidal cottages are common. The Norwich School is

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located in the district and is a standout resource due to its Georgian Revival style, raised foundation, and large lot, centrally placed in the neighborhood on Roanoke Avenue. The entire 55-acre district contains 181 total resources of which 116 are contributing and 65 are non-contributing. A small cemetery off of Roanoke Avenue is included as a contributing site.

Narrative Description

Setting

Norwich is located approximately two miles west of downtown Roanoke on the southern side of the Roanoke River. The Roanoke River, in turn, provides the general northern boundary of the neighborhood while the southern edge of the neighborhood is demarcated by a prominent ridge that runs south of Norwich Park and Buford Avenue SW. The west boundary of the neighborhood is demarcated by Roanoke Avenue SW near Irvine Street SW where Roanoke Avenue SW begins to ascend toward the top of the ridge. The eastern boundary is demarcated by Roanoke Avenue SW where it exits the natural bowl-shaped depression near James Street SW. The ridge, bowl-shaped depression, and the river create a natural boundary for the Norwich neighborhood and this topography has contributed to the cohesive setting and feel the neighborhood still evokes.

Three of the primary thoroughfares in the Norwich neighborhood are Roanoke Avenue SW, Bridge Street SW, and Russell Avenue SW. Roanoke Avenue SW spans the entire length of the district and off this street lies Norwich Park and all three of the community's churches. Bridge Street SW spans the district from north to south and was the historic commercial corridor in the neighborhood. There are several small storefronts still extant on Bridge Street SW; however density has diminished and vacant parcels are not uncommon. Russell Avenue SW runs through the industrial heart of Norwich; however, there are several densely built rows of workers housing on this street as well.

The Roanoke River is a prominent feature located just north of the neighborhood and the topography near the north end of the district slopes down slightly to meet the river's edge. The Roanoke River is wide and shallow near Norwich with dense tree growth on both sides of the river. A vacated railway line runs just south of the river—the railroad ties and gravel bed have been removed and, today, the Roanoke River Greenway now follows the route of the old railway through Norwich. Two major bridges connect Norwich to the wider city while a third steel truss bridge at the end of Ashlawn Street provides bike and pedestrian access across the river via the Roanoke River Greenway. The Memorial Bridge located at the intersection of Roanoke Avenue SW and Memorial Avenue SW is located just east of the Norwich neighborhood while the Bridge Street SW bridge (also known as the Norwich Bridge) is located just north of the district. These bridges provide connections to neighborhoods to the north and to downtown Roanoke which is located across the river and northeast of Norwich.

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The Roanoke River is not readily visible in the Norwich neighborhood due to the dense tree cover along the banks of the river and because the residential and commercial development in Norwich is set back from the river's edge by 300-400 feet in most places. Where the river runs closer to the neighborhood (near Ashlawn and Bedford Streets) the industrial buildings in those areas conceal the river from the neighborhood at large. A vacated railroad spur (with railroad ties removed) is still extant between the Roanoke River and the Norwich neighborhood which further separates the neighborhood from the river. Historically, there was a road that ran along this spur called Railroad Avenue, but this road is no longer extant.

Detailed Description

Norwich developed in the late 1800s and early 1900s as an industrial and residential area built around several manufacturing companies located in the area. The Norwich Lock Manufacturing Company, Bridgewater Carriage Company, and the Duvall Engine Company were all present in the neighborhood in 1893 and these entities contributed greatly to the growth of Norwich as a residential area.¹ Densely built worker housing was constructed along the streets in Norwich and many of these homes were built from a common plan. There are eight identical Folk National style shotgun cottages on Penn Street SW, ten identical Folk National style shotgun cottages on Roanoke Avenue SW, and four identical pyramidal cottages on Russell Avenue SW, and eleven cross gable cottages also located on Russell. There are examples of repeated designs on Charlevoix Court SW and Buford Avenue SW as well.

The architectural detailing in the extant houses in Norwich is limited with turned porch columns, brick chimney detailing, and divided-light windows being the main decorative features seen on resources in the district. One pyramidal cottage at 2301 Russell Avenue SW has exposed rafter tails. Many of the houses have asphalt shingles roofs but some of the resources still retain a seamed metal roof which was, based on photographs from the 1920s, the historic roofing material on these cottages. The cross-gable houses at 2202 and 2218 Charlevoix Court SW have gable returns on the front and side gables while the cottages at both 2201 and 2218 Charlevoix Court SW have a stepped brick detail at the tops of their chimneys. Other houses in the district also have simple brick detailing on their chimneys. There are several residential resources in the district that are larger than the typical workers' cottages. Examples of this include the large Folk National style house at 2229 Russell Avenue SW, the Folk Victorian style house at 2215 Roanoke Avenue SW, and two Folk Victorian styles houses at 2326 and 2320 Roanoke Avenue SW. There are several brick houses located on Roanoke Avenue SW, between Warwick and Rolfe Streets, which were built in the 1940s by F. E. Graves. These houses are front gabled, clad in brick, and historically had metal seam roofs—most have been replaced with asphalt shingles.

Bridge Street was the retail hub of Norwich and there is just one commercial building standing that dates to the district's period of significance: 630 Bridge Street SW. The rest of the businesses on Bridge Street SW in the district (including Smiley's Jamaican Spot restaurant at 702 Bridge Street SW and an extermination company at 708 Bridge Street SW) all date to after

¹ Sanborn-Perris Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Roanoke, Independent Cities, Virginia* (New York: Sanborn- Perris Map Company, 1893).

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the period of significance or do not retain sufficient integrity and are therefore non-contributing. The gas station at the corner of Bridge Street SW and Roanoke Avenue SW and the buildings at 614 Bridge Street SW are outside the boundaries of the district. The historic commercial building at 630 Bridge Street SW is an Italianate two-story frame building with storefronts on the first floor. The building has some architectural styling with a cornice supported by small brackets about the first floor on the primary façade and another cornice at the parapet, also with wood brackets.

In addition to commercial resources, Norwich also has several church buildings. The building at 614 Bridge Street SW is a front-gabled building made of concrete masonry units (CMU) with three gabled dormers on each side of the roof. A shed-roofed addition has been added to the south side of the building. 614 Bridge Street SW is vacant now but was used as a church (the Faith Tabernacle Church) during the 1950s. The Gothic Revival-style Woodside Presbyterian Church is located at 2323 Roanoke Avenue SW and features Gothic arched windows and a transom over the main door as well as a large green lawn with decorative shrubs near the perimeter of the church. The Church of God of Prophecy is a very simple front gabled building with no discernable architectural style located at 2301 Roanoke Avenue SW. The Roanoke Baptist Church (also known as the Norwich Baptist Church, historically) is a modern style church located at 2202 Roanoke Avenue SW and features spandrel panels beneath each window, a flat roof administrative wing, and a squared, modern style open bell tower. In addition to the commercial buildings and churches, Norwich also contains one school, located at 2218 Roanoke Avenue SW. The school was constructed in 1921 and is Georgian Revival in style. The building is clad in red brick and rests above grade on a raised foundation and features a centrally placed entrance. At two stories in height and set upon a raised basement, the school is a prominent feature on Roanoke Avenue SW.

The vast majority of the industrial resources that provided the economic backbone of Norwich are no longer extant. However, properties with extant resources are included in the district because the industrial sites are an integral part of the history of Norwich. The Harris Hardwood Company's office building is extant and is located where Rolfe Street SW dead ends at the vacated railroad tracks. Addressed as 605 Ashlawn Street SW, the Harris Hardwood Company office building is a one-story modern style building clad in red brick with a slightly taller, one-and-a-half story section near the back of the building. The other extant historic building associated with the industrial history of Norwich is the Walker Foundry and Machine office and pattern shop buildings located at 2415 Russell Avenue SW. The office is a one-story Art Deco style building clad in honey colored brick with contrasting red brick quoins and trim. The pattern shop building is a steel framed building constructed in 1950.

The block spanning from the railroad tracks to Russell Avenue SW, and from Rolfe Avenue SW to Ashlawn Street SW, historically contained the buildings of the Norwich Lock Company/Roanoke Cotton Mill/Morice Twine Company which are no longer extant. However, the site is still utilized for industrial and manufacturing operations. The site is now occupied by a large side gabled metal pole barn, addressed as 621 Ashlawn Street SW, and houses the CNC Fabricators company. Just beyond the CNC Fabricators is the Black Dog Architectural Salvage

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building located at 629 Ashlawn Street SW and is housed in a modern metal pole barn with a concrete masonry unit (CMU) raised foundation. Many of the buildings that comprised the Walker Machine and Foundry Corporation plant, located at the northwest corner of Bridge Street and Russell Avenue, were recently demolished, however, the brick office building and three industrial buildings remain. The Picture Frame Warehouse, located at 619 Warwick Street SW, is a large steel frame and steel sided building with side gable roofs located just west of Charlevoix Court.

Statement of Integrity

Overall, the Norwich Historic District retains a high degree of integrity in terms of the residential resources. Norwich is remarkable because very few modern houses have been built in the neighborhood—there are just 21 residential resources that were built after 1920. Most of the historic industrial resources have been demolished, however, in their place, many newer industrial buildings have been constructed which helps the neighborhood retain a sense of place given that the new industrial buildings are in the same locations as the historic industrial buildings.

The residential resources in Norwich are still highly intact with a wide array of small cottages still extant. There are several streets in the district with identical houses, built close together on narrow lots with common setbacks which, visually, creates a highly cohesive neighborhood. Replacement materials and features include vinyl windows, vinyl siding, and asphalt shingle roofs. Some houses have received small additions; however, these changes have not unduly altered the historic fabric of these buildings. Most of the resources retain integrity in materials, workmanship, and design as alterations to contributing resources have been relatively minimal.

The district also retains a high degree of integrity due to the cohesive nature of the district—the repeated houses on Penn Street, Charlevoix Court, Roanoke Avenue, and Russell Avenue in particular evoke a strong sense of feeling, association, and setting to the period of significance. Most of the historic industrial buildings that date to the period of significance have been demolished and most of the industrial lots were not surveyed as a part of this project. Bridge Street was the commercial heart of Norwich, and two remaining historic commercial resources are still extant.

Despite the loss of historic industrial buildings in the district, the industrial development of Norwich played an important role in its development as a residential neighborhood as the houses in Norwich were developed alongside the manufacturing facilities. Thus, industrial areas with extant historic buildings were included within the bounds of the district. The modern industrial buildings located just outside the district nonetheless evoke the same visual and aesthetic relationship as would have been seen historically as these industrial buildings are directly adjacent to the historic workers cottages on Russell Avenue SW, Charlevoix Court SW, and Warwick Street SW.

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The Norwich neighborhood possesses all seven aspects of integrity with the location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association still intact in the neighborhood. Norwich still evokes the era when mill owners built small, unadorned cottages for their workers and very few of these resources have been lost. Because the historic district gains its significance from the history of industrial and residential development in the neighborhood, the period of significance for the district is 1890 to 1955 which begins in the year that the Roanoke Development Company was established and ends in 1955, the year the Harris Hardwood office building was constructed.

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Inventory

The following inventory lists the resources within the Norwich Historic District. It is organized alphabetically by street name and then numerically by street number. Each entry provides the address, building name (if applicable), date of construction, architectural style, current building use, VDHR file number, and the contributing status within the district. Determination of a building to be contributing or non-contributing is based on its physical integrity (intact historic materials) as it supports the historic district's significance under Criteria A (Community Planning & Development) and C (Architecture) during the Period of Significance (1890-1955). Resources are keyed to the Sketch Map/Photo Key by their numerical street address.

Ashlawn Street

SW 605 Ashlawn Street **128-6478-0001** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Modernist, Ca 1955**
Contributing *Total:* 1

Bridge Street

SW 630 Bridge Street **128-6478-0003** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Italianate, Ca 1890**
Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 702 Bridge Street **128-6478-0004** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1938**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

SW 708 Bridge Street **128-6478-0005** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1988**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

SW 814 Bridge Street **128-5003** *Other DHR Id#:* 128-6478-0006
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920**
Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 902 Bridge Street **128-6478-0007** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**
Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 912 Bridge Street **128-6478-0008** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**
Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 916 Bridge Street **128-6478-0009** *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1905**

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Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 920 Bridge Street

128-6478-0010

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Buford Avenue

SW 2128 Buford Avenue

128-6478-0012

Other DHR Id#:

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

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2202 Buford Avenue

128-6478-0014

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

SW 2203 Buford Avenue

128-6478-0015

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Queen Anne, Ca 1890**

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2209 Buford Avenue

128-6478-0016

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Queen Anne, Ca 1890**

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2210 Buford Avenue

128-6478-0017

Other DHR Id#:

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

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2317 Buford Avenue

128-6478-0020

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1930**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

SW Buford Avenue

128-6478-0011

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Parking Lot (Structure), Stories , Style: No discernible style, Ca 2000**

Non-contributing *Total:* 1

Charlevoix Court

SW 2201 Charlevoix Court

128-6478-0021

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

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SW 2202 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0022

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2205 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0023

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1911
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) **Contributing Total: 1**

SW 2206 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0024

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) **Non-contributing Total: 1**

SW 2209 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0025

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1906
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) **Non-contributing Total: 1**

SW 2210 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0026

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) **Non-contributing Total: 1**

SW 2213 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0027

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2214 Charlevoix Court 128-5015

Other DHR Id#: 128-6478-0028

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) **Non-contributing Total: 1**

SW 2217 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0029

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2218 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0030

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2221 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0031

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910

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Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2222 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0032

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2225 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0033

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1906**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

SW 2226 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0034

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Contributing** *Total:* 1

SW 2229 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0035

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1906**

Contributing *Total:* 1

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

SW 2230 Charlevoix Court 128-6478-0036

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910**

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

Penn Street

SW 2416 Penn Street 128-6478-0037

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1928**

Contributing *Total:* 1

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

SW 2422 Penn Street 128-6478-0038

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**

Contributing *Total:* 1

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

Secondary Resource: **Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)** **Non-contributing** *Total:* 1

SW 2424 Penn Street 128-6478-0039

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900**

Contributing *Total:* 1

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SW 2426 Penn Street **128-6478-0040** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2428 Penn Street **128-6478-0041** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2430 Penn Street **128-6478-0042** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2432 Penn Street **128-6478-0043** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2434 Penn Street **128-6478-0044** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2436 Penn Street **128-6478-0045** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2438 Penn Street **128-6478-0046** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2440 Penn Street **128-6478-0047** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1895
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

Roanoke Avenue

SW 1815 Roanoke Avenue **128-6478-0048** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1915
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 1827 Roanoke Avenue **128-6478-0049** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

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		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
SW 2101 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0050	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
SW 2103 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0051	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
SW 2105 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0052	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	2
SW 2107 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0053	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
SW 2109 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0054	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
SW 2113 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0055	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
SW 2117 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0056	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	2
SW 2119 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0057	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>				
		Contributing	Total:	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		Non-contributing	Total:	1
SW 2120 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0058	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>		
<i>Primary Resource: Park (Site), Stories , Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940</i>				

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<i>Secondary Resource: Clubhouse (Building)</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Clubhouse (Building)</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2121 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0059	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2127 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0060	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2131 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0061	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2201 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0062	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1947</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2202 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0063	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Modernist, Ca 1960</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2205 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0064	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1947</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2209 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0065	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1947</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2213 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0066	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1946</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2215 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0067	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Folk Victorian, Ca 1910</i>	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1

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SW 2218 Roanoke Avenue 128-6411

Other DHR Id#: 128-6478-0068

Primary Resource: School (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1921

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed - Vehicle (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2219 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0069

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1947

Contributing Total: 1

SW 2223 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0070

Other DHR Id#:

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

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2227 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0071

Other DHR Id#:

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

Contributing Total: 1

SW 2230 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0072

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2231 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0073

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1943

Contributing Total: 1

SW 2301 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0074

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1941

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2302 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0075

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Workshop (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950

Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2308 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0076

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

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

SW 2315 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0077

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1940

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		Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource:</i>	Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2316 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0078		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource:</i>	Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2320 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0079		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Folk Victorian, Ca 1910	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource:</i>	Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2321 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0080		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Gothic Revival, Ca 1903	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2326 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0081		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Folk Victorian, Ca 1910	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2405 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0082		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2417 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0083		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
<i>Secondary Resource:</i>	Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)	Non-contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2419 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0084		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2425 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0085		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2427 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0086		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900	Contributing	<i>Total:</i>	1
SW 2429 Roanoke Avenue	128-6478-0088		<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>	
<i>Primary Resource:</i>	Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910			

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Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2433 Roanoke Avenue 128-6478-0089

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1890

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2500 block Roanoke Avenue 128-6377

Other DHR Id#: 128-6478-0124

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Norwich Cemetery), No style, Date unknown

Contributing site *Total:* 1

Russell Avenue

SW 2106 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0092

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2110 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0093

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2114 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0094

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2116 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0095

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2120 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0096

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940

Contributing *Total:* 1

SW 2124 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0097

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2130 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0098

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

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

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SW 2201 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0099	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building)</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2204 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0100	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2205 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0101	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2206 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0102	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)</i>		
	Non-contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2209 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0103	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)</i>		
	Non-contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2210 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0104	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
<i>Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)</i>		
	Non-contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2213 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0105	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2214 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0106	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2217 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0107	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>
SW 2218 Russell Avenue	128-6478-0108	<i>Other DHR Id#:</i>
<i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1920</i>		
	Contributing	<i>Total: 1</i>

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SW 2221 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0109

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2222 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0110

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2225 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0111

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2226 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0112

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2229 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0113

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Multiple Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2230 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0114

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2301 Russell Avenue 128-5769

Other DHR Id#: 128-6478-0115

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2302 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0116

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1907
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 2

SW 2311 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0117

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 2316 Russell Avenue 128-6478-0118

Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

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SW 2319 Russell Avenue **128-6478-0119** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1912
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2322 Russell Avenue **128-6478-0120** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1952
Contributing Total: 1

SW 2415 Russell Avenue **128-6478-0121** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Foundry (Building), Stories 1, Style: Art Deco, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Foundry (Building) **Contributing Total: 2**
Secondary Resource: Foundry (Building) **Non-contributing Total: 1**

Warwick Street

SW 607-619 Warwick Street **128-6478-0123** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Other (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1973
Non-contributing Total: 1

SW 815 Warwick Street **128-6478-0122** *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1914
Contributing Total: 1

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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 broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ 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 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.
- ☐ 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
- ☐ F. A commemorative property
- ☐ G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT
ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1890-1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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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 Norwich Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A as an example of an intact late 1800s mill town neighborhood that developed around several large industrial factories in the middle of the community. In 1891, after enticement from the Roanoke Development Company, the Norwich Lock Company was one of the first large manufacturers to open in Norwich and attracted families to the area. The neighborhood continued to develop as a series of industrial companies began operating in Norwich, taking advantage of the neighborhood's strategic location on the Roanoke River and adjacency to several major railroad lines. The Norwich Historic District is also eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. Norwich is notable for its extant collection of late-nineteenth century mill workers' cottages, the vast majority of which are relatively unchanged from their date of construction. Norwich grew and developed around the industrial entities and, due to this growth, Norwich was annexed to the City of Roanoke in 1919. Norwich is a vital part of the history of Roanoke as it contributed to the industrial boom years Roanoke experienced in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Industries and workers in Norwich helped to make Roanoke the industrial powerhouse of western Virginia. The period of significance for the district extends from 1890 to 1955, beginning in the year that the Roanoke Development Company was established and ending in the year the Harris Hardwood office building was constructed.

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

Criterion A: Community Planning and Development

The Norwich Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion A for its association with the history of Roanoke's community planning and development, social history, and industrial and residential history. Norwich developed around several manufacturing entities that were built in the neighborhood to take advantage of the nearby river and railway lines. The Roanoke Development Company was integral to the platting and development of this neighborhood as they assiduously courted potential manufacturing firms to relocate to the area and also played a vital role in providing roads, bridges, and other infrastructure to the neighborhood. In 1891 a streetcar line was extended to Norwich to provide access to the burgeoning industries, and shops were built up around Bridge Street SW and Roanoke Avenue SW to service the families that lived there. The first major industry to build in Norwich was the Norwich Lock Company. Although short lived (Norwich Lock Company closed in 1893) other industries followed. The Norwich Lock factory was later utilized by the Roanoke Cotton Mill. The Roanoke Cotton Mill, in turn, built many of

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the neighborhood's small cottages for its workers, the majority of which are still extant in the neighborhood. Norwich is an extant example of a turn-of-the-century mill village with many extant houses that have changed little since their construction.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Norwich Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places at the local level of significance under Criterion C for Architecture due to the large collection of intact workers cottages still extant in the district. The industrial companies that built factories in Norwich also constructed housing for their workers and these houses were primarily built from a small set of stock plans. The Norwich Historic District has a very cohesive set of intact residential resources that are indicative of the kind of 'company town' architecture that was often developed by industrial entities during the period of significance. The residential resources in Norwich are not elaborately adorned and are generally either Folk National or Folk Victorian in style with pyramidal, cross gable, or front gable cottage common forms that feature minor decorative details such as turned porch posts and divided-light windows. The resources in Norwich are situated directly adjacent to several large factories and are a remarkably intact set of repetitive plan worker cottages, set close together with common setbacks and without significant garages or outbuildings, which evoke the pre-automobile era in which they were built.

Early Roanoke History

Native Americans have been a presence in the Roanoke area for thousands of years as the natural valley located along the Roanoke River provided space for easier travel, agriculture, and hunting. The Roanoke area was predominately populated by Native Americans of the Siouan language groups including the Tutelo, Monacan, and Saponi groups. Iroquoian peoples were located further west of the Roanoke area while Algonquian peoples occupied eastern Virginia.² A primary Native American trail known as the Great Path or Great Trail ran near modern day Roanoke and provided north-south access for trade, hunting, and war route for Native Americans.³ This Native American trail was the predecessor of the first major land route into the Roanoke Valley used by early European settlers and known to these White travelers as the Great Road (also called the Great Valley Road or the Great Wagon Road) which spanned from the Shanandoah Valley in northern Virginia near Winchester down to Roanoke. Beyond Roanoke the road was often known as Carolina Road. The Great Road provided the first major thoroughfare into the Appalachian and Blue Ridge Mountains for early European settlers. The first non-Native American explorers to reach the Roanoke Valley did so in the 1740s—these were primarily Scotch-Irish immigrants although German Palatine (Pennsylvania Dutch) settlers were also common.

Early land grants indicate that White pioneers began settling in the Roanoke River valley in the mid-1700s but the earliest non-Native American village settlement in the vicinity of modern-day

² "Native American Tribes in Virginia Since Contact," Virginia Places, accessed December 13, 2023, <http://www.virginiaplaces.org/nativeamerican/tribes.html>.

³ George S. Jack, *History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, VA: Stone, 1912), 12.

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Roanoke was the hamlet of Gainsborough which consisted of two buildings in 1825.⁴ The area around Roanoke contained a large salt marsh where wild animals would congregate to access salt deposits which were necessary for their nutritional health. These natural salt deposits were often called licks. Gainsborough was later renamed Big Lick and then renamed again (this time to Old Lick) to distinguish it from a new burgeoning settlement located nearer to the newly built train tracks and also called Big Lick.

Roanoke County was formed by an Act of the Virginia Legislature in 1838 and was formulated from lands previously located in Botetourt County.⁵ A stagecoach route than ran through the Shenandoah Valley (and further south) stopped in Roanoke. By 1840 the mail delivered by stagecoach in Big Lick was received in the newly built post office.⁶ Despite these advances, sustained growth in Big Lick did not occur until 1852 when the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad built a depot in the town and several new buildings were constructed.⁷ The railroad was a major influence in the growth and development of Roanoke.

Roanoke's Development and the Railroads

The developmental history of Roanoke and Norwich is inextricably linked with the history of the railroad in western Virginia. The first railroad to arrive in the small community of Big Lick was the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad which was extended to Big Lick from Lynchburg, Virginia and eventually ran from Lynchburg to Bristol, Tennessee providing an economic stimulus to communities located along its route. Further supporting growth in Big Lick, a telegraph line was finished in 1857 which provided telegraph service along the railway from Lynchburg to Bristol, Tennessee.⁸

The Virginia and Tennessee operated under that name until 1870 when it merged with the Southside Railroad Company and the Norfolk & Petersburg Railroad becoming known as the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad at that time.⁹ In 1881 "Clarence H. Clark of the E.W. Clark banking firm of Philadelphia...purchased the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad and renamed it the Norfolk & Western."¹⁰ E.W. Clark had previously acquired the Shenandoah Valley Railroad before 1879 and, with the acquisition of the newly christened Norfolk &

⁴ Jack, *History of Roanoke County*, 10; Frank Williams Hoffer, *Public and Private Welfare Roanoke, Virginia* (Roanoke City Planning and Zoning Commissions, 1928), 2, accessed December 13, 2023, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=wu.89098714215&seq=7>.

⁵ Jack, *History of Roanoke County*, 6.

⁶ Alice Constance Moore, "The Story of Roanoke," (Federal Works Agency, 1939), 11, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.

⁷ E.B. Jacobs, *History of Roanoke City and History of the Norfolk & Western Railway Company* (Roanoke, VA: Stone, 1912), 93; Robert Kinney, "Industry and Commerce in Roanoke," (Federal Works Agency, 1939), 17, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.

⁸ "Norfolk And Western And City Have Grown Together," *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

⁹ "Norfolk And Western And City Have Grown Together," *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

¹⁰ Douglas J. Harnsberger and Nancy Kraus, "Norfolk & Western Railway Company Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1999, section 8 page 10.

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Western (N&W), Clark set about extending the Shenandoah further south to connect with N&W. The two railroad lines were connected in 1882, the same year that Big Lick became a city.¹¹

In 1882 N&W moved their general offices from Lynchburg to Big Lick consolidating their presence in the city and spurring further growth as people were attracted by the jobs the railroad offered. Once N&W relocated to Big Lick the city became a central hub of the railroading industry in Virginia and growth continued in the early 1880s—from 1881 to 1883 Big Lick grew from 700 residents to 5,000.¹² Seeking a more sophisticated name Big Lick was renamed Roanoke in 1884. Because of this concentration of railroad industry, Roanoke also became a center for steam locomotive innovation as well. Due to these developments, by 1890 Roanoke was the fifth largest municipality in Virginia and would be the third largest by 1900.¹³

In addition to its strategic location at a crossroads of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad (running roughly north-south) and the Norfolk & Western Railroad (running roughly east-west), Roanoke was also situated between the coalfields in West Virginia and the wider eastern seaboard and benefitted from the transportation needs of this vital natural resource. In 1883 the N&W hauled 81,900 tons of coal and transporting coal out of West Virginia would later become the backbone of the company's financial success.¹⁴ N&W continued buying other railroads to grow their footprint, buying the Roanoke and Southern Railroad in 1896 which gave N&W access to the Roanoke to Winston-Salem, North Carolina route.¹⁵

Although the primacy of the railroads was key to Roanoke's development, Roanoke had a wide range of industries beyond the railroad companies. And, with the burgeoning transportation opportunities available in Roanoke, the city became a magnet for other industries. Other early industry in Roanoke included a viscose plant, a tobacco factory, a canning factory, and a cotton mill.¹⁶ It is the cotton mill that featured most prominently in the development of Norwich.

Early Norwich History

The area that is now called Norwich was originally farmland and was located outside the bounds of the City of Roanoke for much of its early history. Early in its history this area was known as Turkey Bottom.¹⁷ The Persinger and Hannah families held vast acreage in the area with parts of modern-day Norwich, Raleigh Court, and Grandin Court in their possession.¹⁸ In 1825 the

¹¹ Rand Dotson, "The Progressive Reform Movement in Roanoke, Virginia, 1900-1912," *History Museum & Historical Society of Western Virginia* 16, no. 2 (2006), 4-11, Virginia Museum of History and Culture.

¹² Harnsberger and Kraus, "Norfolk & Western Railway Company Historic District," section 8 page 12.

¹³ Dotson, "The Progressive Reform Movement in Roanoke," 4-11.

¹⁴ Geoffrey B. Henry, "Norfolk & Western Railway Freight Station," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2012, section 8, page 9.

¹⁵ Frazier Associates, "Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report," (Roanoke, VA: Roanoke County, 1992), 69.

¹⁶ Kinney, "Industry and Commerce in Roanoke," 2.

¹⁷ Raymond P. Barnes, *A History of Roanoke* (Radford, VA: Commonwealth Press, 1968), 229.

¹⁸ "Persinger Cemetery," Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation, accessed January 4, 2024, <https://roanokepreservation.org/persinger-cemetery-ii-interpretive-marker/>.

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Persinger family built a mill on the Roanoke River in Norwich.¹⁹ An early 1864 map shows the homestead of William Persinger located just to the west of Norwich and just south of where Peter's Creek empties into the Roanoke River. A photograph published in 1959 in the *World-News* newspaper indicated that the old Persinger home was located at the corner of Roanoke Avenue SW and Burke Street SW—just outside the bounds of the historic district.²⁰ Around 1854 William's son, James Persinger, commissioned a large house from noted builder Benjamin Deyerle which still stands today at 1606 Persinger Road (albeit outside the bounds of the Norwich district).²¹ The small Persinger Cemetery is located outside of the district, just south of Norwich at the northeast corner of Memorial Avenue SW and Edgewood Street SW. Before Norwich developed as an industrial and residential area, the Persinger family planted wheat near where Harris Hardwood Company is now located.²² Much of the original Persinger lands were broken up and bought by developers in the 1890s.²³

The Norwich area is contained within the floodplain of the river and is located at a lower elevation than the surrounding area. Norwich's location next to the river was an advantage and crucial to its development as a home for industry. Early industrialists used rivers for power generation, transportation, for cooling equipment, and as a convenient source for dumping industrial waste. Because of this, as Roanoke expanded and grew, Norwich was quickly identified as an ideal location for manufacturing. In addition to the prime location next to the Roanoke River, Norwich was also located close to the various railroad lines running through Roanoke which made the construction of railroad spurs easier and more financially advantageous. Transportation within Roanoke was facilitated by a system of streetcars.

The Roanoke Development Company and the Development of Norwich's Infrastructure

Norwich's development was largely the work of a real estate development company called the Roanoke Development Company. On October 11, 1890 the charter of the Roanoke Development Company was filed.²⁴ Sometime around 1890 the Roanoke Development company began acquiring land options on acreage on the west end of Roanoke amassing around 1,300 acres by October that same year.²⁵ Roanoke Development Company was capitalized with \$1,100,000 with \$500,000 set aside to acquire property and \$600,000 reserved to "aid in the establishment of manufacturing enterprises on its lands and for the improvements of its property."²⁶ Accordingly,

¹⁹ Barnes, *A History of Roanoke*, 229.

²⁰ Raymond P. Barnes, "Mill Town Boom of 1890s Turned Rich Bottom Land into Our Ill-fated Norwich," *World-News*, May 5, 1959.

²¹ Raymond P. Barnes and Betty B. Low, "The Persingers," *A History of Roanoke* (Roanoke, VA: Historical Society of Western Virginia, 2008), 16–17.

²² "City Builds Over Fields," *Roanoke Times*, January 28, 1934.

²³ Kevin Kittredge, "Looking After Their Neighbors, Long After Their Deaths," *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, June 19, 2011.

²⁴ "New Companies Formed," *Roanoke Times*, October 12, 1890.

²⁵ "Mr. James S. Simmons Talks," *Roanoke Times*, October 11, 1890.

²⁶ "A Powerful Corporation," *Roanoke Times*, October 12, 1890.

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officers of the company began soliciting manufacturers to relocate to Roanoke as the land they had acquired was deemed “especially adapted to manufacturing and business purposes.”²⁷

The Roanoke Development Company made bold promises to plat the lots and streets, build bridges, and obtain the extension of the streetcar line to their acreage.²⁸ To that end, land in the Norwich neighborhood was first platted in 1891 and the plat included most of the parcels in the district.²⁹ There are some discrepancies as to the directors of the Roanoke Development Company, however, it appears undisputed that Arthur C. Denniston was president.³⁰ Other men involved included James S. Simmons and P.L. Terry. Prominent investors in the Roanoke Development Company included The Virginia Development Company, Second Virginia Syndicate, the Virginia Real Estate and Investment Company, Joseph H. Sands, P.L. Terry, James S. Simmons, and S.W. Jamison, among others.³¹ The Roanoke Development Company platted Irvine Street, Morris Street (now Penn Street), Bridge Street from Railroad Avenue to just past Buford Avenue, Warwick Street, Rolfe Avenue, Hampton Street (now Ashlawn Street), Bedford Street as well as Russell Avenue, Roanoke Avenue from Irvine Street to York Street, and Buford Avenue from Irvine Street to Bedford Street.

In order to facilitate industrial development in Norwich, the Roanoke Development Company, city leaders, and railroad officials worked together to extend the necessary infrastructure. By 1891 a bridge was built near the furnace and rolling mill factories located across the Roanoke River to the northwest of Norwich—this is likely the Bridge Street/Norwich Bridge.³² That same year, the steel girder style Woodrum Bridge was constructed across the Roanoke River at 13th Street and Memorial Avenue, just east of Norwich.³³ The Roanoke Development Company was integral to the construction of the bridge and “upon the completion of the [Woodrum] bridge the street railway company extended its lines so as to provide streetcar facilities for Norwich.” Years later, in 1926, a new bridge, called the Memorial Bridge was built just west of the Woodrum Bridge. For a few years the Woodrum Bridge and Memorial Bridge coexisted but, finally, in 1934 the Woodrum Bridge was dismantled with the metal being salvaged for reuse.³⁴

The Roanoke Development Company also planned a main business thoroughfare in Norwich which was intended to host an extension to the streetcar line.³⁵ The streetcar played an important role in providing access to the nascent Norwich community. Founded in 1887, the Roanoke Railway & Electric Company (originally named the Roanoke Street Railway Company) extended the streetcar to Norwich in 1890 partially due to the advocacy done by the Roanoke

²⁷ “Mr. James S. Simmons Talks,” *Roanoke Times*, October 11, 1890.

²⁸ “Mr. James S. Simmons Talks,” *Roanoke Times*, October 11, 1890.

²⁹ Barnes, *A History of Roanoke*, 213.

³⁰ “All is Settled, Many Industries Coming to Roanoke,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

³¹ “Mr. James S. Simmons Talks,” *Roanoke Times*, October 11, 1890; “All is Settled, Many Industries Coming to Roanoke,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

³² “Norwich Started In Boom Era As Industrial Center,” *World-News*, November 30, 1936; Raymond P. Barnes, “Mill Town Boom of 1890s Turned Rich Bottom Land Into Our Ill-Fated Norwich,” *World-News*, May 5, 1959.

³³ Ray Cox, “Old Norwich School Echoes With Industry,” *Roanoke Times*, November 24, 2014.

³⁴ “Norwich Started In Boom Era As Industrial Center,” *World-News*, November 30, 1936.

³⁵ “A Powerful Corporation,” *Roanoke Times*, October 12, 1890.

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Development Company.³⁶ During its operation from 1890 to 1940, the streetcar ran along Roanoke Avenue SW before turning north to Bridge Street SW. A new road to Salem was also built largely due to the advocacy of the Roanoke Development Company. This road ran from the west end of the Company's land in Norwich, across the Roanoke River, before connecting with the old Neeley Road (which is, today, U.S. Route 460).³⁷

Further supporting the transportation routes into Norwich, in 1904 the Norfolk and Western Railroad constructed a belt line from the Norwich neighborhood to Franklin Road on the south side of the Roanoke River.³⁸ This belt line ran between the platted and developed land in Norwich and the Roanoke River and serviced the industrial sites located in Norwich. Individual factories then built spurs from the belt line directly to their operations to transport both raw materials and finished products.

Anticipating rising property values, the Roanoke Development Company intended to reserve some lots in Norwich for later development to take advantage of the increase in prices of those same lots.³⁹ This could be why some lots in Norwich appear to have never been developed. This is most readily apparent on Roanoke Avenue SW and Buford Avenue SW both of which had many vacant lots as shown on the 1919 and 1951 Sanborn maps. Another interesting theory that may explain the many vacant lots in Norwich is detailed in an article from 1959 discussing the economic depression Norwich suffered through in 1893: "So many of the cottages were vacant that owners of lots in the more desirable sections of Roanoke purchased some of the little dwellings and moved them bodily over to a new location where they fetched a handsome profit."⁴⁰

The Roanoke Development Company also owned and developed the higher elevation property south of Norwich. This area was intended to be "the most desirable residence quarter of Roanoke" because of the beautiful views.⁴¹ This area included portions of the Virginia Heights neighborhood including Oxford Street, Harvard Street, and portions of Cambridge Street and Denniston Avenue.⁴² Denniston Avenue was likely named for Arthur C. Denniston, president of the Roanoke Development Company. In general, the houses developed on these streets are larger than the homes found in Norwich and comprise a range of styles including Craftsman, Prairie, and Colonial Revival styles.

³⁶ James E. Dalmas, "Roanoke's Streetcars Operated for 61 Years," *History Museum & Historical Society of Western Virginia* 16, no. 2 (2006), 84, Virginia Museum of History and Culture; Alison S. Blanton, *Wasena Historic District*, National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2011, section 8, page 107; James E. Dalmas, *Street Railways of Roanoke* (Roanoke, VA: Historical Society of Western Virginia, 2006), 19.

³⁷ Barnes, *A History of Roanoke*, 237.

³⁸ Alison S. Blanton, "Factory, 1414 Memorial Avenue SW," DHR ID: 128-6124, Virginia Department of Historic Resources Architectural Survey Form, 2014, 2.

³⁹ "A Powerful Corporation," *Roanoke Times*, October 12, 1890.

⁴⁰ Raymond P. Barnes, "Grandiose Plans for Norwich Collapsed in 1893 Depression with Floods and Tornado," *World-News*, May 6, 1959.

⁴¹ "A Powerful Corporation," *Roanoke Times*, October 12, 1890.

⁴² "Roanoke Development Company No. 1," subdivision plat, [1891?], engineering maps and plan, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

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Industrial and Residential Development in Norwich

In 1891, as the Roanoke Development Company was platting the land and securing the necessary infrastructure projects, they also began pursuing potential manufacturers to ensure the success of their development. The leaders of the Roanoke Development Company had several interested entities, and rumors swirled in the local newspapers. Initial reports called one company a “shelf hardware” company, however it would eventually come out that the name of the new industry coming to Roanoke was the Norwich Lock Company.⁴³ The Norwich Lock Company was initially called a “shelf hardware” company in the papers likely because, according to general manager Charles H. Beebe, it manufactured “everything in the line of builders’ hardware: everything which goes into the finishing of a house, except gas and water pipes, chandeliers, ranges, grates and registers. There are over two thousand articles in this list.”⁴⁴ After inspecting sites across the South, and swayed by men involved with the Roanoke Development Company, Charles H. Beebe and Henry P. Appleton, owners of the Norwich Lock Company, decided to move the factory from Norwich, Connecticut to Roanoke in 1891.⁴⁵ The Norwich Lock Company was the first large manufacturer to arrive in Norwich and the neighborhood has borne its name ever since. The Roanoke Development Company was heavily invested in ensuring the success of the industrial companies they courted and went so far as to take out advertisements in the *Roanoke Times* to extol the virtues of the Norwich Lock Company’s products and to encourage local citizens to purchase their wares.⁴⁶

By all accounts the relocation of Norwich Lock Company proceeded quite quickly. By May of 1891 architect William C. Noland of the firm Noland & DeSaussure had completed drawings for the Norwich Lock buildings and bids were being received by the owners.⁴⁷ By July of that year Frank R. May had won the contract to construct the factory with the expectation that the facility would be completed in four months.⁴⁸ This prediction did not come to fruition as reports in November of that same year indicated the buildings wouldn’t be completed until early 1892.⁴⁹ Later news reports confirm the buildings were completed in 1892.⁵⁰ The buildings were described as being in the shape of an L with the main portion of the building being two stories high. The factory included a brass and iron moulding room, shaker room, assembling and finishing room, plating, packing, engine, and box making rooms as well.⁵¹ It seems likely that many of the cottages in Norwich were built between 1891 and 1893. Sanborn maps from 1893

⁴³ “\$75,000 In Sight,” *Roanoke Times*, February 17, 1891; “Roanoke, The Magic City,” *Roanoke Times*, February 22, 1891; “The Hardware Industry,” *Roanoke Times*, March 5, 1891; “New Industries,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891; “The Shelf Hardware Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, May 15, 1891.

⁴⁴ “The Shelf Hardware Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, May 15, 1891.

⁴⁵ “Southward Bound,” *Boston Globe*, May 23, 1891.

⁴⁶ “The Roanoke Development Company,” *Roanoke Times*, July 10, 1891.

⁴⁷ “What the Architects Are Doing,” *Roanoke Times*, May 31, 1891; “The Shelf Hardware Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, July 2, 1891.

⁴⁸ “The Shelf Hardware Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, July 2, 1891.

⁴⁹ “Look Ahead,” *Roanoke Times*, November 12, 1891.

⁵⁰ “The Roanoke Development Co.,” *Roanoke Times*, February 20, 1893.

⁵¹ “The Shelf Hardware Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, July 2, 1891.

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show five identical cottages on Penn Street and a series of three different types of identical cottages on Buford Avenue (labeled Stag on the 1893 map). Additionally, a newspaper article from February of 1893 indicates that over fifty cottages had already been built at that point.⁵²

The Norwich Lock Company was perhaps the most anticipated industry settled in Norwich in the early 1890s, but it was a short-lived venture. The 1890s were a tumultuous time in American economic history with an economic depression spanning from 1893 to 1897. In part due to these woes and compounded by allegations that the tools and equipment installed at the factory were second hand (resulting in inferior locks), the Norwich Lock Company ceased production sometime around 1893 and went into receivership around 1895.⁵³

The lock factory buildings remained idle for several years with an 1898 news article stating, "...for the last few years the plant has lain idly just as it was the day work stopped."⁵⁴ That same article noted that many of the houses in the Norwich neighborhood were vacant.⁵⁵ However, things were in the works behind the scenes that would get the facility back into production. As early as 1893 the Roanoke Cotton Mill, which eventually took over the Norwich Lock Company's factory, were soliciting in the *Roanoke Times* for individuals interested in investing in the new company.⁵⁶ Apparently after some delay, the Roanoke Cotton Mill Company finally acquired the Norwich Lock buildings in 1899.⁵⁷ In May of 1900 a judge granted the charter for the Roanoke Cotton Mill Company which allowed it to build houses on its property, lay out streets, establish gas or electric works, and hold up to ten thousand acres of land.⁵⁸ To further support industry in the area, the N&W Railroad built a railroad siding from the main line to the cotton mill property by late 1900.⁵⁹ The cotton mill finally opened in the summer of 1901 and the company bought the adjacent Cushman Iron Company building to use as a warehouse.⁶⁰

It was common for cotton and textile mill owners to build housing for their workers. Early cotton mill owners had paternalistic views regarding their workers and often exerted immense control over their workforce by acting as both employer and landlord, and by, often, providing company stores and schools in addition to housing.⁶¹ It is unknown if the Roanoke Cotton Mill had a company store or whether they sponsored a school. That being said, there was reportedly a school in the "Norwich Lock Hotel" in 1893 but it is unclear where that building was located. See the *Education in Norwich* section for additional details.

⁵² "The Roanoke Development Co.," *Roanoke Times*, February 20, 1893

⁵³ "Norwich Started In Boom Era As Industrial Center," *World-News*, November 30, 1936.

⁵⁴ "Lock Works Sold," *Roanoke Times*, November 15, 1898.

⁵⁵ "Lock Works Sold," *Roanoke Times*, November 15, 1898.

⁵⁶ "The Cotton Mill Company," *Roanoke Times*, May 17, 1893; "The Board of Trade," *Roanoke Times*, June 13, 1893.

⁵⁷ "Roanoke's Cotton Mill," *Roanoke Times*, December 2, 1899.

⁵⁸ "The Charter Granted," *Roanoke Times*, May 18, 1900.

⁵⁹ "Roanoke Cotton Mill," *Roanoke Times*, October 25, 1900.

⁶⁰ "The Roanoke Cotton Mill," *Roanoke Times*, May 24, 1901; "Roanoke Cotton Mill Annual Meeting and Election of Officers—Other Work," *Roanoke Times*, May 21, 1901.

⁶¹ Bennett M. Judkins and Dorothy Lodge, "The Evolution of Textile Mill Villages," NCPedia.org (Fall 1986, revised 2022), accessed January 26, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/textiles/mill-villages>.

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For struggling Virginia families with few resources, the housing offered by mill owners like the Roanoke Cotton Mill was a strong enticement to move to places like Norwich. By 1896 it was reported, “work on the new cottages for the Roanoke Cotton Mill has been pushed rapidly, and about a dozen of the fifty buildings contracted for will be completed by January 1st.”⁶² According to one source, the “Norwich Twine Mill” was responsible for building the workers cottages on Roanoke Avenue and Russell Avenue in 1900; however, given the date cited it seems likely that the Roanoke Cotton Mill was responsible for the construction of these cottages.⁶³ The houses built by these companies were typically small with just two or three rooms and generally no indoor plumbing and the houses in Norwich comport with this norm. A photograph of the mill houses in Norwich from 1911 shows outhouses behind each house and no electrical lines in the neighborhood meaning the houses had no electricity. A photograph from the 1920s shows electrical lines running down Russell Avenue SW indicating at least some of the houses had electrical service by that point.

Almost immediately the Roanoke Cotton Mill encountered economic trouble. The mill ceased operations in 1903 but resumed again in 1904. By 1907 the Roanoke Cotton Mill was in partial production—the 1907 Sanborn map notes that several areas of the building were vacant at this time period.⁶⁴ Difficulties continued—one newspaper article attributed the issues as an insufficient supply of skilled labor—and by 1910 the property was sold to the Twine Mills Corporation.⁶⁵ The Twine Mills Corporation began operations in mid-1911 and reportedly employed between 100 and 125 employees.⁶⁶ In 1913, the Twine Mills Corporation subdivided new lots on Charlevoix Court and also presumably built the cottages thereon.⁶⁷

Although the cotton mill industry grew exponentially in the last 1800s and early 1900s—the number of spindles in the South grew from less than 1 million in 1880 to more than 11 million in 1910—the cotton industry experienced fluctuations in the market during this time period.⁶⁸ After the devastation caused by the Civil War, the cotton industry slowly recovered in the South but additional disruptions included the arrival of the boll weevil infestations from Mexico. The boll weevil decimated cotton-producing areas and at first caused a boom in production in the non-weevil afflicted planting areas.⁶⁹ Eventually, though, the boll weevil continued its advance and

⁶² “Town and Vicinity,” *Roanoke News*, December 10, 1896; It seems likely that the vast majority of the small cottages built from common plans in Norwich were built by the Roanoke Cotton Mill company, see: Raymond P. Barnes “Norwich Community Stages Comeback With New Industry and Sense of Pride,” *World-News*, May 7, 1959.

⁶³ Barnes, *A History of Roanoke*, 242.

⁶⁴ Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Roanoke, Independent Cities, Virginia* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1907).

⁶⁵ “Cotton Mill is Sold at Auction,” *Roanoke Times*, May 18, 1910; “Roanoke’s Way,” *World-News*, May 6, 1910.

⁶⁶ “Twine Mill Sold Product Ahead,” *Roanoke Times*, September 8, 1911.

⁶⁷ “Plat for Roanoke Twine Mills Co.,” subdivision plat, 1913, engineering maps and plan, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

⁶⁸ Melvin Thomas Copeland, *The Cotton Manufacturing Industry of the United States* (1917), 34, accessed January 30, 2024, <https://historyofeconomicthought.mcmaster.ca/copeland/CottonManufacturingUS.pdf>.

⁶⁹ Matt Shipman, “The Boll Weevil War, or How Farmers and Scientists Saved Cotton in the South,” NC State University News, May 17, 2017.

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few if any cotton planting areas were left unaffected. In addition to the decline in available raw cotton, the increasing regulations to the labor market also likely affected the profitability of cotton mills. In 1904 a staggering 50,000 children were employed as textile workers in mills in the United States. In 1906, a federal child labor bill was introduced in Congress which kickstarted stricter legislation regarding child labor in mills, mines, and other manufacturing facilities.⁷⁰

Perhaps due to part to these challenges in the cotton industry, in 1921, the Twine Mills Corporation sold their holdings in Norwich to the Morice Twine Mills Corporation for \$230,000.⁷¹ In the 1920s the Morice Twine Mill advertised looking for families to work in the mill, seeking parents and children over age fourteen. The Mill advertised “cheap rent and fuel” as well as “free lights and water.”⁷² By 1924, the workforce at the twine mill was reportedly reduced.⁷³ However, the Morice Twine Mill continued operations until about 1928 when production was shuttered completely.⁷⁴ In 1939 Frank E. Graves bought the old mill buildings and approximately 60 houses conveyed with the mill indicating that none of these 60 houses were owner occupied in 1939.⁷⁵ Graves began selling these homes shortly thereafter.⁷⁶ Graves established a small foundry, called the Foundry Service, Inc. in one part of the factory. In 1942, Graves shut down his foundry business and, in 1943, he sold the site to R. Watson Sadler of Sadler Cast Metals.⁷⁷ Even though he had sold the factory, Graves built several five room cottages on Roanoke Avenue SW in 1945 including 323 Roanoke Avenue and 321 Roanoke Avenue.⁷⁸ Graves then constructed more five room cottages in 1946 including 301, 305, 309 and 313 Roanoke Avenue.⁷⁹ After Sadler took over the factory, there were plans to renovate the buildings for his metal working business including demolishing some of the factory.⁸⁰ After this acquisition, various plans were made for the buildings including a foundry and a cabbage dehydrating plant.⁸¹ After the metal casting plant and the cabbage processing plant came to nothing, the building remained mostly empty. It is likely the historic buildings were demolished sometime in the mid to late 1950s as the buildings are still extant in a 1953 aerial photograph.

In addition to the Norwich Lock Company, officials with the Roanoke Development Company continued courting potential industrial firms. An 1891 a map shows early industry located in Norwich including the Roanoke Blanket Mills.⁸² The Roanoke Blanket Mills was likely the same

⁷⁰ “History of Child Labor in the United States,” U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, January 2017.

⁷¹ “Twine Mills Corporation At Norwich Sold to New York Firm for \$230,000,” *World-News*, February 1, 1921.

⁷² “Help Wanted—General,” *World-News*, April 13, 1923.

⁷³ “Cut in Force at Morice Twine Mills,” *World-News*, April 14, 1924.

⁷⁴ “Norwich Grew from Boom Era,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

⁷⁵ “Morris Twine Mill Property Purchased by Richmond Man,” *World News*, March 3, 1939.

⁷⁶ Frank E. Graves sold 2103 Roanoke Avenue SW to Emmitt Ball in 1939 and 2107 Roanoke Avenue SW to James L. Weeks in 1941, among others. “2103 Roanoke Ave SW,” deed cards, parcel #1421121, Roanoke Real Estate GIS; “2107 Roanoke Ave SW,” deed cards, parcel #1421119, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

⁷⁷ “Morice Twine Mill in Norwich to be Remodeled Into Metal Working Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, February 11, 1943.

⁷⁸ “Permits-Transfers,” *World-News*, August 29, 1945.

⁷⁹ “Building Permits,” *World-News*, April 22, 1946.

⁸⁰ “Morice Twine Mill in Norwich to be Remodeled Into Metal Working Plant,” *Roanoke Times*, February 11, 1943.

⁸¹ “New Industry to Dehydrate 50 Tons of Cabbage Daily,” *World-News*, May 7, 1943.

⁸² Perspective Map of Roanoke, VA (1891); “New Industries,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

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as the Virginia Blanket Mill, which was reportedly being courted by the Roanoke Development Company to establish a facility in Norwich.⁸³ It is unclear if the blanket mill facility was ever built in Norwich as there are no mentions of it beyond a few newspaper articles in the spring and early summer of 1891.⁸⁴

The Roanoke Development Company also helped the owners of the Duval Engine Works and the Bridgewater Carriage Company establish their companies in Norwich. Duval Engine Works apparently moved to Roanoke in 1891 from Zanesville, Ohio.⁸⁵ Bridgewater Carriage Company was chartered in 1889 and the company had a factory at the northwest corner of Bridge Street and Russell Avenue by 1893.⁸⁶ There was much coverage of these industrial developments in the newspapers at the time and it was advertised that Norwich Lock Company would employ 300 while the nearby Duvall Engine Works would employ 100.⁸⁷ In 1893, the Bridgewater Carriage Company, which had a location at the northwest corner of Bridge Street and Russell Avenue in addition to their factory just west of Norwich, was reported to employ 150.⁸⁸

There were several other early industrial concerns in Norwich. The Crystal Springs Soap Company was organized in 1896 and by 1907 they occupied the old Bridgewater Carriage company building (at the northwest corner of Bridge Street and Russell Avenue). The Crystal Springs Soap Company was shuttered sometime around 1908 or 1909.⁸⁹ This building was later disassembled and moved to northeast Roanoke to house a fertilizer company per a 1936 *Roanoke Times* article.⁹⁰

In 1908 the Acme Match Company signed a contract with the Roanoke Chamber of Commerce to build a factory on ten acres in Norwich “on the river [and] just beyond” the cotton mill factory.⁹¹ The exact location of this factory has not been determined. By April of 1910 the factory was in operation when expert match maker Henry C. Kennedy died in an explosion while mixing the materials needed to make the match head. The company had been reorganized in 1909-1910 when the company was idled due to lack of skilled labor and problems with the factory’s machinery.⁹² The company went into receivership again to be reorganized in late 1910; however, the factory and the land were sold in 1911 to R.D. Martin and that appears to be the last attempt at match production in Norwich.⁹³

⁸³ “New Industries,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

⁸⁴ “The Roanoke Development Company,” *Roanoke Times*, June 18, 1891; “To Rush the Blanket Mills,” *Roanoke Times*, May 15, 1891; “New Industries,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

⁸⁵ “Roanoke, The Magic City,” *Roanoke Times*, February 22, 1891.

⁸⁶ “Norwich Grew from Boom Era,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936; Sanborn-Perris Map Company, *Sanborn Map from Roanoke* (1893).

⁸⁷ “All is Settled, Many Industries Coming to Roanoke,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

⁸⁸ “All is Settled, Many Industries Coming to Roanoke,” *Roanoke Times*, May 12, 1891.

⁸⁹ “Norwich Grew from Boom Era,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

⁹⁰ “Norwich Grew from Boom Era,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

⁹¹ “Site for the Match Factory,” *Roanoke Times*, August 14, 1908; “The Acme Match Factory Site,” *World-News*, August 25, 1908.

⁹² “Matches Mixture Kills Foreman,” *Roanoke Times*, April 15, 1910.

⁹³ “Receivers for Match Factory,” *Roanoke Times*, November 23, 1910; “Acme Property Sold Yesterday,” *Roanoke Times*, April 30, 1911.

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Founded and headquartered in 1898 in Johnson City, Tennessee, the Harris Manufacturing Company initially produced a variety of wooden products like plow handles, broom handles, and other products. By 1908 the firm began focusing on wooden strip flooring. The company expanded beyond Tennessee and, by 1911, early news reports in Roanoke called the company the Roanoke Hardwood Flooring Company. However, by 1919, the company opened in Norwich with the moniker Harris Hardwood Company with the intention of manufacturing maple and oak flooring.⁹⁴ Located at 605 Ashlawn Street the Harris facility was situated south of the Roanoke River and north of the houses on Charlevoix Court. Harris prospered through the 1920s and, during World War II, produced tent pins and dummy shells for the war effort.⁹⁵ Despite these successes the plant in Norwich faced both fire and flood in the 1940s: the factory was heavily damaged by flood waters when the Roanoke River crested 21 feet about its banks in 1940 and the factory sustained further damage during a factory fire that same year, causing over \$100,000 in damages.⁹⁶ Additional floods in 1972, 1978, and 1985 eventually contributed to the closure of the factory. By 1985 the Harris Hardwood Company in Norwich was producing parquet flooring with about 18 to 20 employees. After the flood in November of that year, the production in Norwich was shuttered and the facility was used as a warehouse with just a few remaining employees.⁹⁷ The Harris Harwood office building is still extant in the neighborhood at the north end of Rolfe Street SW where the street dead ends at the vacated railroad spur bed.

Other early industrial firms that employed local Norwich residents included factories located just outside the boundaries of Norwich Historic District. These included the Southern Varnish Company and the West End Furnace Company and Rolling mill, among others. The Southern Varnish Company was located just west of Norwich while the West End Furnace Company factory was located just across the Roanoke River on the west side of Bridge Street.

By the mid-century the original industrial entities in Norwich were, largely, no longer operational, however, newer companies emerged. The Walker Machine & Foundry Corporation built their large factory at the corner of Bridge Street and Roanoke Avenue in 1920. The first building was reportedly a “steel and sash construction, 60 by 100 feet” and was built by the Virginia Bridge and Iron Works at a total cost of \$14,000.⁹⁸ It was also reported that this was a “much needed industry” at that time. That same year, the company anticipated employing fifteen men, but the factory eventually employed many more with 155 on the payroll by 1936.⁹⁹ The factory eventually sprawled across more than eight acres with dozens of buildings. With the cessation of production at the Harris Hardwood Company in 1985, the Walker Machine &

⁹⁴ “Chamber Acts on the Terry Tract,” *World-News*, February 10, 1911; Anne L. Worrell, “Industry and Commerce in Roanoke,” 48, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.

⁹⁵ “Harris Manufacturing Company,” Archives of Appalachia, East Tennessee State University, accessed January 24, 2024, https://archives.etsu.edu/agents/corporate_entities/96.

⁹⁶ Nelson Harris, *The Roanoke Valley in the 1940s* (Charleston, SC: The History Press, 2020), 45; Worrell, “Industry and Commerce In Roanoke,” 48.

⁹⁷ “Eli Lilly Works to Get Production Going Again; Flood Loss \$30 Million,” *Roanoke Times*, November 20, 1985.

⁹⁸ “New Industry Is Underway at Norwich,” *World News*, March 24, 1920.

⁹⁹ “New Industry to Go Up at Norwich,” *Roanoke Times*, March 215, 1920; “Norwich Grew From Boom Era,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

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Foundry factory was left as the neighborhood's largest industry still in operation. After a long history of employing Norwich residents, in 2019, Walker Machine & Foundry largely ceased its operations after a protracted legal battle with the City of Roanoke over the expansion of the Roanoke River Greenway.¹⁰⁰ Sometime after 2019, most of the Walker factories buildings were demolished. Today the historic office building and several industrial shop buildings are all that remain.

Life in Norwich: Commercial, Educational, Cultural, and Religious History

Norwich was largely developed because of the industrial employers who located to the area in the late 1890s. Once established, families began moving to Norwich to work in the area factories, and these new citizens played an active role in creating a viable community by opening businesses and advocating for schools and parks. In the early 1900s Norwich was described as being neither administered by the City of Roanoke nor the County and was too far from Salem to be governed by that town.¹⁰¹ Thus the small settlement of Norwich was self-governed in the sense that formal governmental services were not provided by either political entity. Even when annexed to the City of Roanoke in 1919, city services like water and sanitation lines were far behind. As late as the 1940s some Norwich children recalled pulling water from a well near Penn Street and hauling it back to their home.¹⁰²

Commerce in Norwich

For most of its history, grocery stores have been the primary commercial activity in Norwich. Early commercial development included several stores shown in the 1893 Sanborn map, however, many of the shops were noted as vacant in both the 1893 and 1898 Sanborn maps perhaps illustrating the tough economic times Norwich experienced during the post-1893 depression. Vacant stores noted in the 1898 Sanborn include 211 Penn Street (near the corner of Penn Street and Russell Avenue), 127 Russell Avenue SW, and 132-133 Russell Avenue SW.¹⁰³ One of these early grocery stores was Lynaman's Store House. In 1894 the Ladies Aid Society of Mount View Methodist Church hosted a night of "musical entertainment" at Lynaman's Store House in Norwich which was located "opposite the Bridgewater carriage building."¹⁰⁴ It is unknown which of the store buildings on the east side of Bridge Street was occupied by Lynaman's as, historically, there were several commercial buildings in that location.

¹⁰⁰ Matt Chittum, "Greenway Holdout Walker Foundry Ceases Production, Land Up For Sale, But Lawsuit Against Roanoke To Continue," *Roanoke Times*, November 13, 2019.

¹⁰¹ Raymond P. Barnes, "Norwich Community Stages Comeback With New Industry and Sense of Pride," *World-News*, May 7, 1959; Raymond P. Barnes, "Grandiose Plans for Norwich Collapsed in 1893 Depression with Floods and Tornado," *World-News*, May 6, 1959.

¹⁰² "Norwich Community Stages Comeback With New Industry and Sense of Pride," *World-News*, May 7, 1959.

¹⁰³ These addresses do not correspond to modern addresses. See exhibits for Sanborn maps for approximate locations of these addresses.

¹⁰⁴ "From All Around the City," *Roanoke Times*, April 20, 1894.

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By 1907 there were three small grocery stores—one at 306 Bridge Street, one at 312 Bridge Street, and another at 127 Russell Avenue SW.¹⁰⁵ The names of these early 1907 grocery stores are not known, however, an advertisement from 1916 indicates there were several grocery stores operating in Norwich including the Old Reliable Store located at Rural Free Delivery (RFD) 3 and the Goriab Brothers grocery and the Ideal Grocery Co. both listed as only being in “Norwich” with no RFD or address. There was also the Norwich Cash Grocery Store located in Norwich at RFD 4.¹⁰⁶

Norwich shoppers were victims of a price gouging scandal in 1920. Due to a sugar crop failure and wild speculation in the world’s sugar market, the price of sugar went from seven cents per pound in 1919 to over twenty-one cents per pound in May of 1920.¹⁰⁷ In April of 1920 Department of Justice operatives arrested S.M. and Fred Goriab of the Norwich Cash Grocery Store because they were accused of selling sugar at thirty-six cents per pound.¹⁰⁸ The Goriabs were also accused of hoarding sugar to inflate its price, price gouging, and engaging in “unfair and discriminatory practices and devices in handling and dealing in necessities.”¹⁰⁹ The Goriabs were found guilty and fined fifty dollars.¹¹⁰ The Goriab family appear to have continually operated a grocery in Norwich for many decades as, in the 1960s, there was a “Norwich Self Service Grocery” located 2325 Roanoke Avenue SW and this address was owned by the Goriab family from 1935 to 1964.¹¹¹ The building at 2325 Roanoke Avenue SW was historically located just west of the Woodside Presbyterian Church but it is no longer extant.¹¹²

One of the few remaining historic commercial buildings in Norwich is located at 630 Bridge Street at the northeast corner of Bridge Street SW and Russell Avenue SW. This building was owned by James M. Eanes in 1913 and he ran a grocery store out of this building. The Eanes family sold it to Norman Saleeba in 1948.¹¹³ The Saleeba family were a prominent Lebanese family involved in the grocery business, with a thriving market located on the east side of Roanoke at 926 Tazewell Avenue SE.¹¹⁴ In 1952 a building permit was issued to Norman Saleeba to build an addition at 630 Bridge Street and, at this point, it was reportedly used as a residence.¹¹⁵ Today, the building is no longer used for retail, but it is still extant and readily identifiable as a historic commercial storefront.

¹⁰⁵ Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Map from Roanoke, Virginia* (1907).

¹⁰⁶ “These Grocers Will Feature the Cooker Offer Next Week,” *Roanoke Times*, December 29, 1916.

¹⁰⁷ “The Sweet and Sour History of Sugar Prices,” Winton, April 6, 2017, accessed January 25, 2024, <https://www.winton.com/news/the-sweet-and-sour-history-of-sugar-prices>.

¹⁰⁸ “Petition is Bankruptcy,” *World-News*, December 24, 1920; “Norwich Merchants Get Hearing Today,” *World-News*, April 29, 1920.

¹⁰⁹ “Goriab Hearing Postponed Until Monday Afternoon,” *World-News*, April 30, 1920.

¹¹⁰ “Authorities Win Victory in Case of Profiteering,” *World-News*, August 6, 1920.

¹¹¹ “2325 Roanoke Ave SW,” deed cards, parcel #1420906, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

¹¹² “Seasons Greetings to All,” *Roanoke Times*, December 25, 1964.

¹¹³ Hill Directory Co., *Roanoke Virginia Directory* (Roanoke, VA: Hill Directory Co., 1913); “630 Bridge St SW,” deed cards, parcel #1420314, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

¹¹⁴ “Saleeba Grocery,” *Roanoke Times*, June 4, 2003.

¹¹⁵ “Building Permits,” *Roanoke Times*, October 15, 1952.

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Historically 702 Bridge Street was the location of a gas station and store as of 1951. In 1957 the Saleeba family acquired this facility and, later, from at least 1970 to the early 1980s Richard Ata and his wife Dolores (daughter of Norman Saleeba) operated the Norwich Diner at this location.¹¹⁶ By 1989 Chuck and Ana Bratcher were operating a new restaurant, called the Bridge Street Diner, from this location.¹¹⁷ Today, the site is the location of a restaurant, Smiley's Jamaican Spot, however the extant building does not appear to be historic.

The lot at 614 Bridge Street was owned by W.B. Tinsley sometime before 1946 and it was conveyed to James M. Eanes that year.¹¹⁸ In 1947 Eanes conveyed it to Samuel and Octavia Dewitt. In 1951 a front gabled building with six dormers was built. In 1955 it was used to house the Faith Tabernacle Church but little else is known about the historic uses of this building.¹¹⁹

Grocery stores were the main commercial businesses in Norwich, however, there were many other small commercial establishments in the neighborhood throughout the years. There was also a barber in Norwich in 1913 by the name of Samuel Castro.¹²⁰ In 1958 there was a "Bridge Street Confectionary" company at 624 Bridge Street.¹²¹ The store at 624 Bridge Street was later known as the Bridge Street Trade Center in 1968 and dealt in antiques.¹²² More recently, in the 1980s, the Bridge Street Used Furniture store was run by Waitman Weeks who had lived in Norwich for more than sixty years.¹²³ Weeks lived at 2412 Penn Street (no longer extant).¹²⁴ Today, there is a gas station and convenience store located at 801 Bridge Street SW and an extermination company located in a non-historic building at 708 Bridge Street SW.

Education in Norwich

With the construction of the factories in Norwich, commercial, civic, and educational buildings became a priority for the workers who moved into the neighborhood. One of the first schools in Norwich was located in the Norwich Hotel (also called the Norwich Lock Hotel). The hotel was run by a woman named Mrs. Milner however the exact location of this building is not known.¹²⁵ The Norwich Hotel School had 80 to 90 pupils in 1893.¹²⁶ A small "public school" is visible on

¹¹⁶ "Norwich Diner Proud of Hot Dogs, Chili," *Roanoke Times*, March 12, 1981; "702 Bridge St SW," deed cards, parcel #1420901, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

¹¹⁷ "Bridge Street Diner," *Roanoke Times*, August 3, 1989.

¹¹⁸ 614 Bridge St SW," deed cards, parcel #1420307, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

¹¹⁹ Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Roanoke, Independent Cities, Virginia* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1955).

¹²⁰ Hill Directory Co., *Roanoke Virginia Directory* (Roanoke, VA: Hill Directory Co., 1913).

¹²¹ "Three Youths Held in Theft," *World-News*, June 16, 1958.

¹²² "Tool Theft Largest of Six Break-ins," *World-News*, December 2, 1968; "Antique Shop Hit by Blaze," *World-News*, April 3, 1969.

¹²³ "No Drunks, No Disturbances," *Roanoke Times*, October 7, 1982.

¹²⁴ "Bogus Bovine," *Roanoke Times*, November 10, 1988.

¹²⁵ "Democratic Club," *Roanoke Times*, October 13, 1892; The Norwich Hotel was two stories and originally contained forty rooms. It was built by the West End Building Company of Roanoke in 1893. That same year the West End Building Company also built five two story frame houses in Norwich, each with nine rooms, for \$2,000 per house.

¹²⁶ "Norwich News Notes," *Roanoke Times*, November 23, 1893.

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the 1907 Sanborn map at the southeast corner of Bridge Street and Roanoke Avenue. No other information is known about this school, and it seems it was short lived in this location as it shows up on no other maps.

Due to the need for a neighborhood school, a site on Roanoke Avenue SW was acquired in 1921 for \$3,000.¹²⁷ Excavation for a new school on Roanoke Avenue SW started in the summer of 1921 and the school opened in the fall of 1921 with an estimated build cost of \$22,000.¹²⁸ The Norwich School served students who had limited resources at home and the social programs and activities that took place at the school evidence this. A donation drive in 1921 sought to buy the school a Victrola while a supplemental nutrition program (milk provided to fifty school children) was begun in 1923—students who were “much underweight at the beginning of the term last fall...gained their normal weights” by March of that same school year.¹²⁹ In 1923 the Norwich Presbyterian Church held a night of entertainment in order to contribute money to the Norwich School’s piano fund.¹³⁰ Later, in 1941, the local Parent Teacher Association started a hot lunch program for students who were under-nourished at home—the lunches were sourced from a central WPA-sponsored kitchen in Roanoke.¹³¹

Although a centerpiece of the neighborhood, the Norwich School was not without its shortcomings. In 1940 the school was deemed so poorly lit that classes could not be held on cloudy days because students could not read their texts or the chalkboard. To combat the issue, the City Council appropriated more funds to run more wiring and install more lights in the school.¹³² In 1942 the school received a thorough report by the staff at the *Roanoke Times* who concluded that, while the instruction was “splendid” the school building and equipment were inadequate. That year the school had an enrollment of 112 children housed in four classrooms, but the building contained no assembly room, no library, and dangerously narrow staircases.¹³³ The Norwich School was renamed Parkview Elementary in 1959 and housed classes until the end of the school year in 1963. In 1975 the Roanoke School Board sold the property.¹³⁴ Today the building is in use for industrial purposes, but the building is still readily identifiable as a school building. The building stands out for its architecture, size, massing, and its history as a site of education for many of Norwich’s longtime residents.

Society and Culture in Norwich

¹²⁷ “Roanoke School Budget Submitted to Council By Chairman Persinger,” *World-News*, March 18, 1921.

¹²⁸ “Excavating for School Building,” *World-News*, June 11, 1921.

¹²⁹ “Norwich School Raising Funds to Buy Victrola,” *World-News*, November 4, 1921; “Parent Teachers Name Committee,” *Roanoke Times*, March 8, 1923.

¹³⁰ “Entertainment Given for Benefit of Norwich School Piano,” *Roanoke Times*, October 14, 1923.

¹³¹ “Hot Lunches Given Pupils,” *World-News*, November 8, 1941; “Norwich School, Smallest in City System, Recommended for Abandonment,” *Roanoke Times*, January 11, 1942.

¹³² Harris, *The Roanoke Valley in the 1940s*, 12; “Norwich School Work Contracted,” *Roanoke Times*, August 31, 1940.

¹³³ “Norwich School, Smallest in City System, Recommended for Abandonment,” *Roanoke Times*, January 11, 1942.

¹³⁴ Ray Cox, “Old Norwich School Echoes With Industry,” *Roanoke Times*, November 24, 2014.

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Through much of its early history Norwich was exclusively populated by White families until the middle decades of the twentieth century, and this followed the typical pattern in cotton mills in the South.¹³⁵ The White families in Norwich were working class and many could not make ends meet on the wages of one or two adult earners. Thus, many families in Norwich relied on wages from their children and child labor was extremely common in textile and cotton mills at this time.

A slow but steady nationwide movement to end child labor began in earnest in the early 1900s: “From 1902 to 1906, national magazines published 69 articles under the heading “child labor,” while only a handful were penned in the previous 5-year period.”¹³⁶ The National Child Labor Committee (NCLC) was formed in 1904 to campaign against child labor.¹³⁷ Photographer Lewis Hine worked for the NCLC from 1908 to 1924 and his photographs were used to help rally public opinion against child labor. In 1911, Hine arrived in Roanoke to document the working conditions of children in southern industrial settings. The photographs that Hine took illustrate how young and poorly protected these children were—many have no shoes and the equipment pictured lacks protective equipment. By 1910 the efforts of the NCLC and Hine bore fruit when the State of Virginia passed a child labor law, restricting work for children younger than fourteen. An article about Hine from 1912 noted that “In the Roanoke Cotton Mills he reported that for such a small mill there is a large proportion of children under fourteen years of age.”¹³⁸ Due to increased scrutiny in the mills, when questioned, children routinely stated they were fourteen to avoid punishment. But the photographs Hine took indicate the children were likely far younger. Many of the children could not read or write—a statewide survey conducted by the Bureau of Labor study found that 70% of children under age fourteen and employed in cotton mills were illiterate. As further evidence of the youth, naivete, and inexperience of these child mill workers, one child, likely concerned about the repercussions of Hine’s visit asked Hine “whether the camera would tell the ages of the children.”¹³⁹

Likely in response to the new law, and to ensure enforcement of it, in 1912 a state factory inspector visited the mill in Norwich (called the Roanoke Cotton Twine Mill at this juncture) and served warrants to the manager of the mill along with four sets of parents. The parents charged were Rush Barnes, J.H. Shell, E.E. Collins, and Eli Webb. The warrants alleged that the mill employed children younger than fourteen, which violated the state child labor law. Trials were set to occur in the offices of the mill company, in front of a magistrate with penalties ranging from \$25 to \$100 in fines.¹⁴⁰ After hearing the case, the manager was fined \$25 but the

¹³⁵ Thomas R. Butchko, “Edenton Cotton Mill Historic District,” National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 1998, section 8 page 9.

¹³⁶ Michael Schuman, “History of Child Labor in the United States—Part 2: The Reform Movement,” Monthly Labor Review, Bureau of Labor Statistics (January 2017), accessed January 24, 2024, <https://www.bls.gov/opub/mlr/2017/article/history-of-child-labor-in-the-united-states-part-2-the-reform-movement.htm>.

¹³⁷ Barbara Orbach Natanson, “National Child Labor Committee Collection,” Library of Congress, accessed January 24, 2024, <https://www.loc.gov/pictures/collection/nclc/background.html>.

¹³⁸ “Child Labor in Virginia,” *Roanoke Times*, January 16, 1912.

¹³⁹ “Child Labor in Virginia,” *Roanoke Times*, January 16, 1912.

¹⁴⁰ “For Violation of Child Labor Laws,” *Roanoke Times*, April 6, 1912; “Try Mill Cases Tomorrow,” *World-News*, April 10, 1912.

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complaints against the parents were dismissed as “the evidence tended to show that one of the children, a son of Noah Robinson, was under age.”¹⁴¹

In addition to the low pay, working conditions in Norwich’s factories were poor. Some of these hazards were discussed in local newspaper articles. In 1902 an action was started against the Roanoke Cotton Mill owners for working women and children employed at the factory for eleven and a half hours per day which exceeded the ten-hour cap.¹⁴² In 1903 a man sued the Roanoke Cotton Mill Company because he lost a finger in the machinery and was awarded \$195 dollars on a \$2,000 claim.¹⁴³

The public health and sanitation of the Norwich neighborhood was also poor. In June and July of 1913 typhoid spread through Norwich sickening twelve and killing one individual due to poor sanitary conditions in the neighborhood.¹⁴⁴ Whooping cough was noted on the death certificate of Jephthan Daniel Conner of Norwich; Juanita Virginia Weeks of 17 Bridge Street died of malnutrition; and twenty-one-day old Aubry Canaday of 105 Buford Avenue died in his sleep likely due to congenital defects.¹⁴⁵

Even with these challenges, the Norwich community found ways to build a thriving neighborhood. At its earliest, there were no city sponsored recreation facilities in Norwich, but children played in yards and in the wood surrounding the residences. And by the 1920s sports teams were organized including the Morice Twine Mill which fielded a local baseball team made up of workers from its factory, and the team had a baseball diamond in Norwich.¹⁴⁶ The Walker Machine & Foundry Corporation also had a men’s baseball team that played other local teams including the Gamma Phi Kappa fraternity and the Times-World printers, among others.¹⁴⁷ In 1926 a girl’s club was organized by the Y.W.C.A. for girls that worked in the mill.¹⁴⁸

A Norwich branch of the Y.M.C.A. was established in Norwich in 1931 at a house on Russell Avenue SW between Rolfe and Warwick Streets.¹⁴⁹ Use of the house was given to the organization by the Morice Twine Mill and Harris Hardwood Company supplied wood to construct tables and benches. The branch hosted meetings and was equipped with darts, checkers, and marbles.

¹⁴¹ “Cotton Mills Cases are Disposed Of,” *Roanoke Times*, April 17, 1912.

¹⁴² “Violation of Law Charged,” *Richmond Dispatch*, May 21, 1902

¹⁴³ “Got Small Amount,” *Roanoke Times*, April 11, 1903.

¹⁴⁴ “Typhoid Situation at Norwich is Bad,” *World-News*, July 30, 1913.

¹⁴⁵ “Jephthan Daniel Conner,” death certificate, 1919, record 24115, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106032535/jephthan-daniel-conner>; “Aubry Canaday Wimmer,” death certificate, 1926, record 4758, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106033540/aubry-canaday-wimmer>; “Virginia Juanita Weeks,” death certificate, 1927, record 2006, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/196241726/virginia-juanita-weeks>.

¹⁴⁶ “Morice Twine Mills Trounces Brethren,” *Roanoke Times*, July 25, 1925.

¹⁴⁷ “Club Boys Defeat Foundry Tossers,” *Roanoke Times*, June 11, 1926; “Times-World Is Given Drubbing,” *World-News*, May 27, 1926.

¹⁴⁸ “Morice Twine Mills Girls Organize Club,” *Roanoke Times*, November 19, 1926.

¹⁴⁹ “Norwich Branch Y.M.C.A. Opened,” *Roanoke Times*, February 14, 1931.

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One of the most prominent recreation facilities in the neighborhood is the former Optimist Clubhouse located at northeast corner of Buford Avenue and Rolfe Street. The old Optimist Clubhouse has its origins in the Great Depression when the Norwich neighborhood was a neglected section of the city with few paved streets, no sidewalks, and few recreation options for children. Thus, in 1938 the Roanoke Optimist Club began recruiting boys in Norwich to join what became the Norwich Junior Optimist club with a goal of curbing juvenile delinquency in the neighborhood.¹⁵⁰ Located directly adjacent to Norwich Park the original Optimist Club Building was completed in 1940 and was a seven-room concrete masonry unit (CMU) building.¹⁵¹ After the clubhouse was constructed, boys staffed and helped run the clubhouse and helped build improvements to the clubhouse including meeting rooms, workshops, and a boxing ring as well as fielding a sandlot football team.¹⁵² The CMU building contained a large playroom with a fireplace along with table tennis games, a wood and engraving workshop, and a small shower and locker room.¹⁵³ The barrel-vaulted Quonset hut wing was added to the Optimist Club property in 1949 to expand the recreational activities available to boys in the club.¹⁵⁴ The extension cost \$9,000 and was paid for by Optimist Club monies. Once completed it was anticipated that the clubhouse would be utilized by the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Junior Optimists and several other groups.

The Optimists ceased operations at the building sometime in the late 1950s or early 1960s and by 1965 the building was leased to the Wasena Recreation Club.¹⁵⁵ The City of Roanoke was in talks with the Optimist Club to buy the building in 1967 and that purchase was completed in 1968 for \$10,000. The old clubhouse was rechristened the Norwich Community Center and its acquisition accompanied other improvements at Norwich Park including \$800 of new playground equipment, a \$750 basketball court, new picnic tables and benches, and clearing and cleaning the park.¹⁵⁶ In 1976-1977 the old CMU block community center building was demolished and replaced with a new facility; however, the Quonset hut gymnasium wing remained.¹⁵⁷ The City closed the Norwich Community Center in 2009 due to budget cuts.¹⁵⁸

One of the most prominent features in Norwich is Norwich Park, which is still regularly used and enjoyed by the community. The land that became Norwich Park was deeded to the City of Roanoke by Junius B. Fishburn around 1949.¹⁵⁹ The land was originally low lying, prone to flooding, and was also reportedly used as an informal dumping ground. However, around 1950,

¹⁵⁰ "Norwich Junior Club Hires Director As it Grows Under Optimist Guidance," *World-News*, October 3, 1956.

¹⁵¹ "Optimist Club Dedicates New Boys Clubhouse in Norwich," *Roanoke Times*, December 4, 1940; "Optimist Week" Observance Starts; Spotlight on Dinner Tuesday Evening," *Roanoke Times*, October 5, 1947; "Junior Optimist Club is Formed in Norwich," *Roanoke Times*, September 5, 1940.

¹⁵² "Optimist Week" Observance Starts; Spotlight on Dinner Tuesday Evening," *Roanoke Times*, October 5, 1947.

¹⁵³ "Optimist Club Dedicates New Boys Clubhouse in Norwich," *Roanoke Times*, December 4, 1940.

¹⁵⁴ "Boys Clubhouse to be Enlarged," *Roanoke Times*, September 21, 1949.

¹⁵⁵ "Norwich Group Complains Park Work Lagging," *World-News*, July 20, 1967; "Roanoke Purchases, Opens Center," *World-News*, August 21, 1968.

¹⁵⁶ "Roanoke Purchases, Opens Center," *World-News*, August 21, 1968.

¹⁵⁷ "Notice of Finding of No Significant Effect on the Environment," *World-News*, July 1, 1976; "Roanoke Council in Summary," *Roanoke Times*, May 3, 1977.

¹⁵⁸ Mason Adams, "Doing More with Less," *Roanoke Times*, September 21, 2010.

¹⁵⁹ "Norwich Group Complains Park Work Lagging," *World-News*, July 20, 1967.

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the city filled in the low areas and turned it into Norwich Park.¹⁶⁰ After years of neglect a group of Norwich citizens began advocating for improvements to Norwich Park. Thus, in 1967 a baseball diamond was added when these Norwich citizens petitioned the City Council for \$3,600 in funds to improve the park.¹⁶¹

Norwich Religious History

Several churches have operated in Norwich throughout its history and there is one local cemetery in the district, the small, unenclosed Norwich Cemetery (128-6377) on the north side of Roanoke Avenue SW in the 2500 block. The 1898 Sanborn map indicates that a Baptist church was holding services on the first floor of the vacant Bridgewater Carriage Company building at the northwest corner of Bridge and Russell. A Methodist church was holding services on the first floor of a house at the northeast corner of that same intersection, which is the extant building at 630 Bridge Street. From the 1920s through the 1940s a Pentecostal church was located on Penn Street. The church was located on the north side of the street and is no longer extant.¹⁶² There are three churches extant in the district that have served the community's spiritual needs, and these include the Woodside Presbyterian Church, the Roanoke Baptist Church, and the Norwich Church of God of Prophecy.

Woodside Presbyterian Church at 2321 Roanoke Avenue SW is the oldest extant church in the district. The First Presbyterian Church in downtown Roanoke recognized the need for a church in Norwich and helped found the Woodside Presbyterian Church as a mission in 1893.¹⁶³ As a mission, the church received support from the First Presbyterian Church.¹⁶⁴ The church was originally located at the corner of Mountain View Terrace and Chesterfield Street, in the present-day Virginia Heights neighborhood.¹⁶⁵ From its perch atop Mountain View Terrace, the church physically and spiritually overlooked the Norwich neighborhood. In August 1899, the church was destroyed in an intense storm where the "building appeared to have been taken up in a whirlwind and twisted all to pieces."¹⁶⁶ It took several years to rebuild the church, but church members remained active in fundraising to complete construction of a new church.¹⁶⁷ The 1903 Sanborn map illustrates the church in its present location on Roanoke Avenue and the *Roanoke*

¹⁶⁰ "Norwich Junior Club Hires Director As it Grows Under Optimist Guidance," *World-News*, October 3, 1956;

"Norwich Park Grounds Improvement Has Come Long Way in Short Time," *World-News*, August 21, 1968.

¹⁶¹ "City Parks Head Says Critics Expect Miracles," *World-News*, July 20, 1967; "Norwich Group Complains Park Work Lagging," *World-News*, July 20, 1967.

¹⁶² Hill Directory Co., *Hill Directory Co.'s Roanoke, VA. City Directory* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., 1922), 698; Hill Directory Co., *Hill's Roanoke City Directory* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., 1945), 80; "2415 Russell Ave SW," deed cards, parcel #1420201, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

¹⁶³ Raymond P. Barnes, "Grandiose Plans for Norwich Collapsed in 1893 Depression with Floods and Tornado," *World-News*, May 6, 1959; "Church to Observe 70th Anniversary," *Roanoke Times*, July 27, 1963; "Woodside Church Destroyed," *Roanoke Times*, August 13, 1899.

¹⁶⁴ "Norwich Mission Will Be Known as Woodside Church," *World-News*, February 6, 1952.

¹⁶⁵ "Church Directory," *Roanoke Times*, March 31, 1895.

¹⁶⁶ "Woodside Church Destroyed," *Roanoke Times*, August 13, 1899.

¹⁶⁷ "Sale of Fancy Articles," *Roanoke Times*, December 22, 1899; "Entertainment at Norwich," *Roanoke Times*, May 6, 1902.

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Times mentioned services at the “little white church at Norwich.”¹⁶⁸ There were few full-time pastors in the church’s history yet the church has provided a place for worship and provided social services to the community such as dinners for the needy and a Sunday school for children.¹⁶⁹ In 1962, ground was broken for an educational building addition, which was appended to the east side of the church.¹⁷⁰

The Roanoke Avenue Baptist Church began in 1923 as the Norwich Baptist Church.¹⁷¹ The congregation was small and in 1924 Norwich Baptist sought to create a circuit with three other Baptist churches, as none of the churches could support their own pastor.¹⁷² By 1929 the church was located at the southwest corner of Roanoke Avenue and Rolfe Street.¹⁷³ In 1958 the church became the Turner Memorial Baptist Church, named after Reverend Jesse F. Turner who was pastor in the 1920s and early 1930s.¹⁷⁴ The small frame church shown on the 1951 Sanborn map was replaced by the current, modern style church in 1960. The new building cost \$45,000 and contained a sanctuary and educational building.¹⁷⁵ In 1988 the church became the Roanoke Avenue Baptist Church.¹⁷⁶ The church held events for neighborhood families such as picnics, Easter egg hunts, Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and parades through the Norwich.¹⁷⁷ It also held events in the 1950s in partnership with Woodside Presbyterian Church.¹⁷⁸

Located at 2301 Roanoke Avenue, the Norwich Church of God of Prophecy purchased the property at the northwest corner of Roanoke Avenue and Warwick Street in 1940, and the church was constructed in 1941.¹⁷⁹ Newspaper references to the church date to as early as 1933, and a Church of God was located on Bridge Street in Norwich from 1922 through the 1930s.¹⁸⁰ Similar to the other churches in Norwich, the congregation of Church of God Prophecy was a modest

¹⁶⁸ “Entertainment at Norwich,” *Roanoke Times*, April 19, 1903.

¹⁶⁹ “Woodside Presbyterian,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936; “First Full-time Pastor,” *Roanoke Times*, November 29, 1980; “The Dinner for the Poor,” *Roanoke Times*, January 3, 1894; “Entertainment at Norwich,” *Roanoke Times*, April 19, 1903; “Area Churches Continue Vacation Bible Schools,” *World-News*, June 14, 1969.

¹⁷⁰ “Ground is Broken,” *Roanoke Times*, December 3, 1962.

¹⁷¹ “Norwich Baptist,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936.

¹⁷² “Four Nearby Baptist Churches Will Meet To Form a Circuit,” *World-News*, August 16, 1924.

¹⁷³ “New \$45,000 Turner Memorial Baptist Church Is Planned,” *World-News*, March 2, 1960.

¹⁷⁴ “Norwich Area,” *World-News*, April 5, 1958; “Norwich Baptist,” *Roanoke Times*, November 30, 1936; “Baptist Evangelists and Singer for Meetings Here,” advertisement, *Roanoke Times*, February 18, 1922.

¹⁷⁵ “New \$45,000 Turner Memorial Baptist Church Is Planned,” *World-News*, March 2, 1960.

¹⁷⁶ Frances Stebbins, “Southern Baptists Rally To Revive Ailing Congregation,” *Roanoke Times*, November 16, 1989.

¹⁷⁷ “Norwich Church Planning Picnic,” *World-News*, July 11, 1936; “Easter Egg Hunt,” *Roanoke Times*, April 14, 1925; “Sunday School Institute,” *Roanoke Times*, April 14, 1925; “Vacation Bible School Scheduled,” *World-News*, August 5, 1955.

¹⁷⁸ “Joint Service,” *World-News*, December 30, 1957.

¹⁷⁹ “2301 Roanoke Ave SW,” deed cards, parcel #1420914, Roanoke Real Estate GIS; “Permits—Transfers,” *World-News*, February 3, 1941.

¹⁸⁰ Hill Directory Co., *Hill Directory Co.’s Roanoke, VA. City Directory* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., 1922), 614; Hill Directory Co., *Hill’s Roanoke City Directory* (Richmond, VA: Hill Directory Co., 1935), 513; “Stephen L. Crook,” obituary, *Roanoke Times*, July 7, 1933; “Building Slumps,” *World-News*, March 3, 1941.

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size and held events in the community.¹⁸¹ In 1957 the Wings of Prophecy, a group of pilots who were members of the Church of God of Prophecy and traveled the country promoting the church, flew into Roanoke and held a rally at the Norwich church.¹⁸²

Norwich Cemetery (128-6377) is within the bounds of the district, set on a knoll just west of Irvine Street SW. The cemetery is unmarked and fenced off inside the Walker Foundry & Machine Co. property. Several plat maps illustrate the location of the few known graves in the cemetery, all of which are oriented east to west.¹⁸³ Referred to as the Norwich Cemetery now, this burying ground has had various names over the years including the Henry Mitchell Cemetery and the Hickey Graveyard (Burial Ground).¹⁸⁴ The Mitchell family were early settlers in the area which likely explains this additional name.¹⁸⁵ Undated oral history testimony, held at the Roanoke Public Library's Virginia Room collection, given by Buren Hall indicates that a small log cabin located near the cemetery was occupied by "Granny Mitchell."¹⁸⁶ Granny Mitchell had indicated that people had been buried at Norwich Cemetery for as long as she could remember.

The individuals buried in the Norwich cemetery often came from families with very limited means and there is a corresponding lack of extant gravestones in the cemetery. Residents of Norwich were buried there like William Harris who lived at 207 Roanoke Avenue (present-day 2107 Roanoke Avenue) and died in 1930—his funeral services were held at Norwich Baptist Church, and he was buried in Norwich Cemetery.¹⁸⁷ Buren Hall mentions of the four marked graves in the cemetery, two are for members of the Sweeney family who were longtime residents

¹⁸¹ Ozzie Osborne, "No Drunks, No Disturbances," *Roanoke Times*, October 7, 1982; "One Church Planning All Night Service," *World-News*, December 31, 1948.

¹⁸² "Ten Wings Of Prophecy Pilots To Fly Into Roanoke Aug. 28," *World-News*, August 24, 1957.

¹⁸³ "Plat Showing Survey Property of John H. Mitchell," plat, 1945, engineering maps and plan, parcel #1410207, Roanoke Real Estate GIS; "Plat for Mrs. Terry," plat, n.d., engineering maps and plan, parcel #1410207, Roanoke Real Estate GIS; "Plat of Survey Made for Fuel Oil & Equipment Co., Inc.," plat, 1973, engineering maps and plan, parcel #1410207, Roanoke Real Estate GIS; "Plat of Survey Showing Property of Rufus K. Cox," plat, 1975, engineering maps and plan, parcel #1410208, Roanoke Real Estate GIS.

¹⁸⁴ "Memories of 'Graveyard Hill'," *Roanoke Times*, November 15, 2021; "Jephthan Daniel Conner," death certificate, 1919, record 24115, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106032535/jephthan-daniel-conner>; "Aubry Canaday Wimmer," death certificate, 1926, record 4758, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/106033540/aubry-canaday-wimmer>; "Coolidge Allen Weeks," death certificate, 1924, record 28421, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/176069894/coolidge-allen-weeks>; "Mary Shell," death certificate, 1929, record 14127, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/198068997/mary-elizabeth-shell>; "Henry Brown," death certificate, 1926, record 27271, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/182703368/henry-brown>; "Virginia Juanita Weeks," death certificate, 1927, record 2006, Find a Grave, accessed January 10, 2024, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/196241726/virginia-juanita-weeks>.

¹⁸⁵ Nelson Harris, "Norwich Cemetery: Raleigh Court's Oldest Community Burial Ground," *Court Reporter*, Greater Raleigh Court Civic League (2010), Cemeteries – VA – Roanoke Norwich folder, 8, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library; Bruce B. Harper, "RoanokeCity1937," Bruce Harper's Norfolk & Western and Virginian Info, accessed December 8, 2023, https://nwhistory.info/maps_photos/aerials/index.php.

¹⁸⁶ Oral History of Buren Hall, undated, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.

¹⁸⁷ "William A. Harris," obituary, *World-News*, February 26, 1930.

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of Norwich. John Sweeney, who lived at 2209 Buford Avenue and passed away in 1927, is one of the Sweeneys buried in the cemetery.¹⁸⁸ Although only a few gravestones remain, local researchers believe as many as 100 graves may be located there.¹⁸⁹ Hall was 93 at the time of his oral history and he thought there could be more than 300 graves in the cemetery, with many of the deaths caused by typhoid and scarlet fever.¹⁹⁰ There is no official accounting of the number of graves in the Norwich Cemetery but due to its importance to the history of Norwich, it is included within the bounds of the district.

Architecture in Norwich

The extant workers' cottages in Norwich are the primary buildings with architectural significance in the district. The cottages are an excellent and intact example of workers' housing dating to the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Folk National style cottages are simple with minimal architectural detailing but when evaluated collectively, illustrate the typical mill workers living experience. The Folk National style was popularized in the late 1800s and early 1900s and is characterized by unadorned and simple, often vernacular, forms constructed of standardized materials made possible due to the expansion of a national railway system. The Folk National style is indicative of a transition from the use of regional, locally sourced materials to standardized materials such as nominal lumber which could easily be transported via rail. There are a few examples of Folk Victorian style houses in the district. These houses exhibit additional architectural detailing from the Folk National style including added spindlework or patterned siding detailing. These houses were likely not constructed for the mill workers but were perhaps constructed later or constructed for upper managers of the nearby factories.

The workers' cottages appear to have been built from a set of common plans and there are a few repeating forms found throughout Norwich which include a pyramidal cottage, a cross gable cottage, and a shotgun cottage. For example, there are eight identical Folk National style shotgun cottages on Penn Street, ten identical Folk National style shotgun cottages on Roanoke Avenue, and four identical pyramidal cottages on Russell Avenue, and eleven cross gable cottages also located on Russell Avenue. There are other examples of repeated designs on Charlevoix Court and Buford Avenue as well.

The workers' cottages in Norwich have limited architectural detailing. There are some instances of exposed rafter tails, particularly on the pyramidal cottages, and some examples of turned porch columns and brick chimney detailing but otherwise the cottages are quite simple in design. Some of the houses retain their original seamed metal roofs while others have asphalt shingle roofs. The houses tend to be clad in vinyl siding. The cottages are spaced closely together, particularly the shotgun cottages on Penn Street, Roanoke Avenue, and Russell Avenue. The form, detailing, and arrangement of the cottages is a quintessential representation of late-

¹⁸⁸ Oral History of Buren Hall, undated, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library; "John Thomas Sweeney," death certificate, 1927, record 28057, Virginia, U.S., Death Records, 1912-2014; Ray Cox, "Norwich Cemetery Story Deepens," *Roanoke Times*, March 27, 2017.

¹⁸⁹ Ray Cox, "Memories of 'Graveyard Hill'," *Roanoke Times*, November 15, 2021.

¹⁹⁰ Oral History of Buren Hall, undated, Virginia Room, Roanoke Public Library.

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nineteenth and early-twentieth century workers' housing. The 'shotgun house' is the characteristic form of company-provided housing for coal miners, loggers, and mill workers among others.¹⁹¹ While the shotgun cottage was the most prevalent workers housing form, guidebooks from the era purported that mill companies should construct houses in varying styles as "different families have different tastes." Daniel Tompkins, industrialist and publisher, published *Cotton Mill, Commercial Features* in 1899 and spoke significantly about the ideal design of mill workers' cottages.¹⁹² The guidebook suggests constructing houses in a small shotgun style, a gable and wing style, and a two-story style.¹⁹³ The pyramidal cottage, the cross gable cottage, and the shotgun cottage found in Norwich exemplify the typical forms found in a mill town in the early-twentieth century. The style and expectations of mill workers' housing evolved in the early 1900s and by the 1920s, a professional design industry for mill workers' housing was well established and professionals advertised more elaborate housing forms which featured bungalow detailing, varied rooflines, full brick foundations, and fireplaces.¹⁹⁴ The intact collection of workers' cottages in Norwich represent a specific moment in the evolution of mill workers' housing prior to the onslaught of professional planning firms in the 1915s and 1920s. Norwich can be seen as an implementation of Tompkins' writings, from the varied form of the cottages, to the relationship between the cottages and the former mill location, and the size of the yards and spacing between the cottages.

Few examples of dense and intact workers' housing exist in Roanoke or even in the broader South. In the early 1900s, the West End Furnace Company operated across the Roanoke River from the Norwich neighborhood. The West End Furnace Company platted dwellings for its workers, most appearing to be cross gable form houses or houses in a T-plan from historic plat maps.¹⁹⁵ A 1919 Sanborn map depicts a row of dwellings just north of the Roanoke River. The map labels these houses as "Negro Dwellings." Other houses for the West End Furnace Company were located on Patterson Avenue. These houses were likely for the company's White employees as workers' housing was often segregated.¹⁹⁶ The 1951 Sanborn Map depicts a less dense concentration of houses at this time as houses had likely been demolished as the need for worker housing decreased. Today, none of the worker housing constructed by the West End Furnace Company remains. The growth of the Norfolk and Western Railroad and the development of new industries replaced the workers' housing sometime in the mid- to late-twentieth century.

¹⁹¹ "Labor History in the United States," A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, National Park Service, 2022, 109.

¹⁹² "Primary Source: Mill Villages," Anchor: A North Carolina History Online Resource, accessed January 30, 2024, <https://www.ncpedia.org/anchor/primary-source-mill-villages>.

¹⁹³ Sara Lachenman, "Company Housing Designs in the South: Progressives, Planners, and Practice," The Historic Dimension Series, UNCG Department of Interior Architecture, April 2004, https://preservationnc.quadland.org/files/2014/03/Lachenman-Company_Housing.pdf.

¹⁹⁴ Lachenman, "Company Housing Designs in the South."

¹⁹⁵ "The West End Furnace Co.," plat, 1915, engineering maps and plan, Roanoke Real Estate GIS; Sanborn Map Company, *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Roanoke, Independent Cities, Virginia* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1919).

¹⁹⁶ "Labor History in the United States," A National Historic Landmarks Theme Study, National Park Service, 2022, 109-110.

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The American Viscose Plant, also in Roanoke, operated from 1917 until 1958 producing artificial silk.¹⁹⁷ Like the West End Furnace Company, there is not a significant number of intact workers' housing still extant. While many of the factory buildings are still extant, the workers were historically housed in a dormitory for young women or lived scattered throughout the southeast Roanoke neighborhoods.¹⁹⁸ The dormitory is no longer extant and there is no extant example of housing developed or built by the American Viscose Plant for its workers. The workers' housing in Norwich appears to be some of the only extant workers' housing in Roanoke and is thus a significant and rare example of workers' housing conditions in this region from the late nineteenth and early-twentieth century.

Additional contributing resources in the district which are of architectural significance include the Norwich School, the Woodside Presbyterian Church and the Norwich Church of God of Prophecy Church. The Norwich School is located at 2218 Roanoke Avenue SW and was constructed in 1921 in the Georgian Revival style. The school is clad in red brick on a raised foundation with a standing metal seam roof. The school is rectangular in form and has a covered front entrance centrally located on the primary façade featuring Roanoke Avenue SW. While Sanborn maps indicate the school was a public school, it is possible this school was constructed to educate the children residing in the nearby workers' cottages—contributing to the company town atmosphere of the Norwich neighborhood. The school lacks significant architectural detailing and the windows are currently boarded over or missing.

The Woodside Presbyterian Church is located at 2321 Roanoke Avenue SW and was constructed circa 1903. The church is designed in the Gothic Revival style with pointed arch windows and transoms and gabled end returns. A one-story educational wing is appended to the east side of the church and lacks architectural detailing. The church is a simplified iteration of the Gothic Revival style and lacks ornamentation.

The Norwich Church of God of Prophecy church building was constructed in 1941 and lacks an identifiable architectural style. The church is a simple front gabled building with a rectangular plan clad in painted brick. The church currently retains single hung vinyl replacement window units. The primary significance of the Norwich Church of God of Prophecy and the Woodside Presbyterian Church lie in the social history of the residents of Norwich rather than in their architectural significance.

The key architectural significance of the Norwich neighborhood lies in the dense and intact groupings of workers' housing which embody the distinctive characteristics of mill worker housing in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. Few examples of still extant concentrations of workers housing exist regionally and these houses illuminate the living conditions of the working-class population in Roanoke in this time period.

¹⁹⁷ Alison S. Blanton, "American Viscose Plant Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination, 2019.

¹⁹⁸ Blanton, "American Viscose Plant Historic District."

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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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

_____ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

_____ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

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_____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR# 128-6478

10. Geographical Data

Acres of Property: approximately 55 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 37.274420 | Longitude: -79.985554 |
| 2. Latitude: 37.273921 | Longitude: -79.973151 |
| 3. Latitude: 37.268697 | Longitude: -79.973428 |
| 4. Latitude: 37.269013 | Longitude: -79.985925 |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

- | | | |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

The boundary of the Norwich Historic District encompasses all parcels within the Norwich Historic District Boundary illustrated on the attached map entitled, "Norwich Historic District National Register Nomination, Historic District Boundary Map."

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The Norwich Historic District boundaries were selected based on an 1891 subdivision plat for the Roanoke Development Company, and the extant historic resources located within the plat boundaries. The plat, entitled Section Three, encompasses nearly the entire Norwich neighborhood. Additionally, the land encompassed by this plat is in a natural depression along the Roanoke River and is at a significantly lower elevation than the surrounding area. The Roanoke River to the north and the abrupt change in elevation to the south serve as natural boundaries for the district.

The district is predominantly comprised of residential resources with commercial, civic, and industrial resources interspersed throughout. The residential resources reflect the working-class nature of the neighborhood and contain few, if any, architectural embellishments. Most residential resources are Folk National in style while, in terms of form, cross gable, shotgun, and pyramidal cottages are common. The residential resources in Norwich are still highly intact with a wide array of small cottages still extant. The high degree of integrity of the district stems from the cohesive nature of the district—the repeated houses on Penn Street, Charlevoix Court, Roanoke Avenue, and Russell Avenue in particular evoke a strong sense of feeling, association, and setting to the period of significance.

The district also contains the land upon which the Norwich Cemetery is located. While this land is not within Section Three of the Roanoke Development Company plat, the cemetery is inextricably linked to the people of Norwich and has therefore been included in the district.

Historic resources in Norwich are distinct from those at the higher elevation surrounding the district. Resources at the higher elevation are within the neighborhood known as Virginia Heights. While adjacent to Norwich, Virginia Heights is physically separated by the change in elevation and is also distinct from Norwich in terms of architectural styles, building sizes, and massing. Only a portion of the Virginia Heights neighborhood was surveyed as a part of this project, but Virginia Heights appears to be a cohesive neighborhood of comparatively larger Craftsman, Prairie, and Folk Victorian style houses dating to the early-twentieth century.

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11. Form Prepared By

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date: March 2024

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Norwich Historic District

City or Vicinity: Roanoke (City)

County: Independent City State: Virginia

Photographer: Cassandra Talley, Katie Cook

Date Photographed: November 7, 2023

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0001. Bridge Street SW Looking Northeast (614 Bridge Street SW).

2 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0002. Bridge Street SW Looking Northeast (630 Bridge Street SW).

3 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0003. Intersection of Bridge Street SW and Russell Avenue SW Looking East.

4 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0004. Bridge Street SW Looking South.

5 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0005. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Southwest (2417 Roanoke Avenue SW).

6 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0006. Intersection of Bridge Street SW and Russell Avenue SW Looking Northwest (Walker Machine & Foundry).

7 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0007. Russell Avenue SW West of Bridge Street SW (2415 Russell Avenue SW).

8 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0008. Bridge Street SW Looking East (814 Bridge Street SW).

9 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0009. Bridge Street SW Looking East (912 Bridge Street SW).

10 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0010. Penn Street SW Looking Southeast.

11 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0011. Penn Street SW Looking Northeast (2432 Penn Street SW).

12 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0012. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Northwest.

13 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0013. Russell Avenue SW Looking West.

14 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0014. Russell Avenue SW Looking Northeast (2225 Russell Avenue SW).

Norwich Historic District

Name of Property

Roanoke (Ind. City), VA

County and State

15 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0015. Rolfe Street SW Looking North (605 Ashlawn Street SW).

16 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0016. Rolfe Street SW Looking Northeast (2120 Roanoke Avenue SW).

17 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0017. Buford Avenue SW Looking North (2203 Buford Avenue SW).

18 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0018. Charlevoix Court SW Looking Southwest (2206 Charlevoix Court SW).

19 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0019. Alley north of Charlevoix Court SW.

20 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0020. Railroad Spur on Ashlawn Street SW Looking East.

21 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0021. Russell Avenue SW Looking Northeast (2229 Russell Avenue SW).

22 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0022. Russell Avenue SW Looking Southwest (2218 Russell Avenue SW).

23 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0023. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Northeast.

24 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0024. Alley North of Roanoke Avenue SW.

25 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0025. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Northeast (2301 Roanoke Avenue SW Church of God of Prophecy).

26 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0026. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Northwest (2120 Roanoke Avenue SW Norwich Park).

27 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0027. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Southeast (2120 Roanoke Avenue SW Norwich Park).

28 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0028. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Southeast (2218 Roanoke Avenue SW Norwich School).

Norwich Historic District

Name of Property

Roanoke (Ind. City), VA

County and State

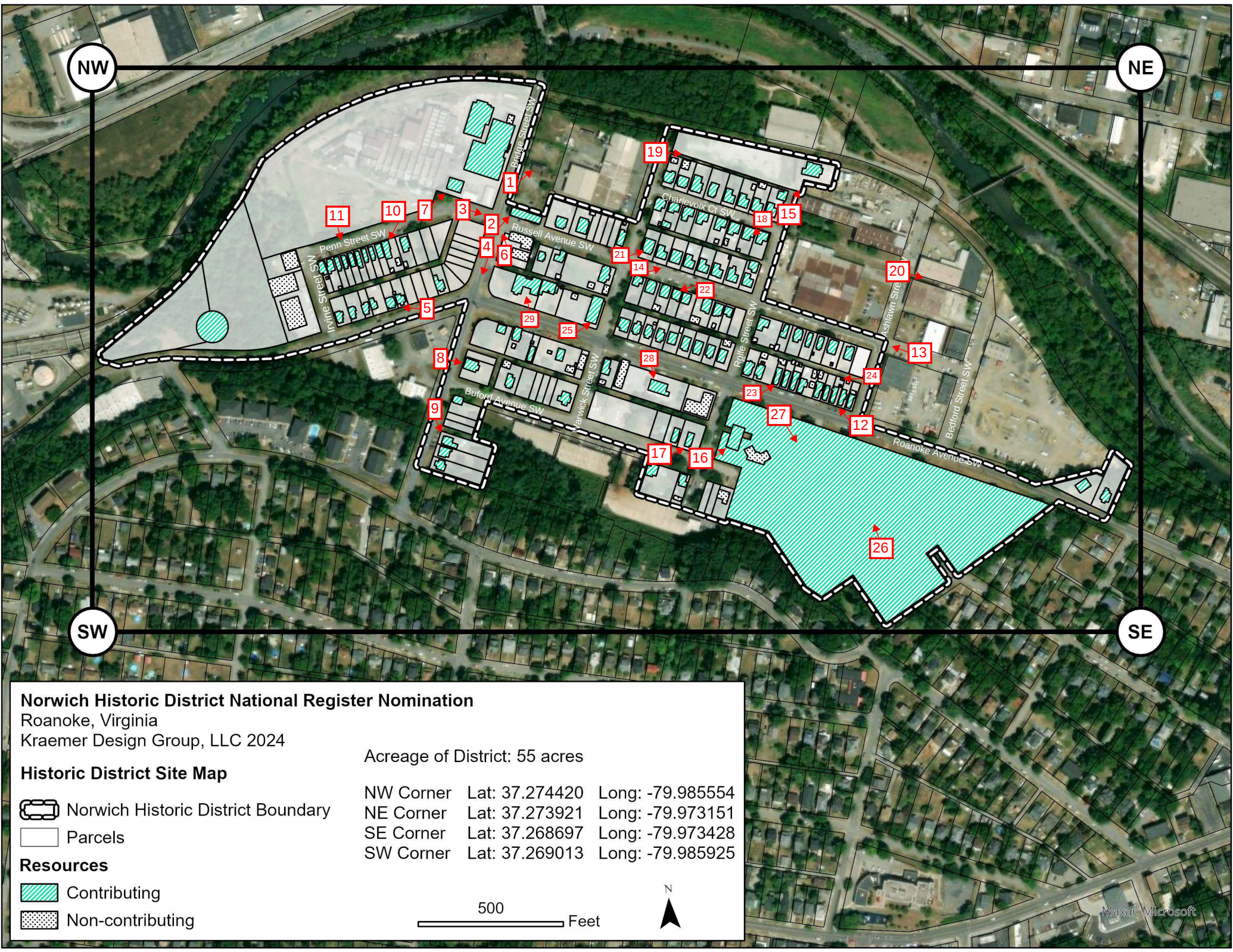
29 of 29. VA_Roanoke City_Norwich Historic District_0029. Roanoke Avenue SW Looking Northwest (2321 Roanoke Avenue SW Woodside Presbyterian Church).

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.



Norwich Historic District National Register Nomination

Roanoke, Virginia
Kraemer Design Group, LLC 2024

Historic District Site Map

 Norwich Historic District Boundary

 Parcels

Resources

 Contributing

 Non-contributing

Acreage of District: 55 acres

NW Corner	Lat: 37.274420	Long: -79.985554
NE Corner	Lat: 37.273921	Long: -79.973151
SE Corner	Lat: 37.268697	Long: -79.973428
SW Corner	Lat: 37.269013	Long: -79.985925





Norwich Historic District National Register Nomination
Roanoke, Virginia
Kraemer Design Group, LLC 2024

Historic District Boundary Map

 Norwich Historic District Boundary

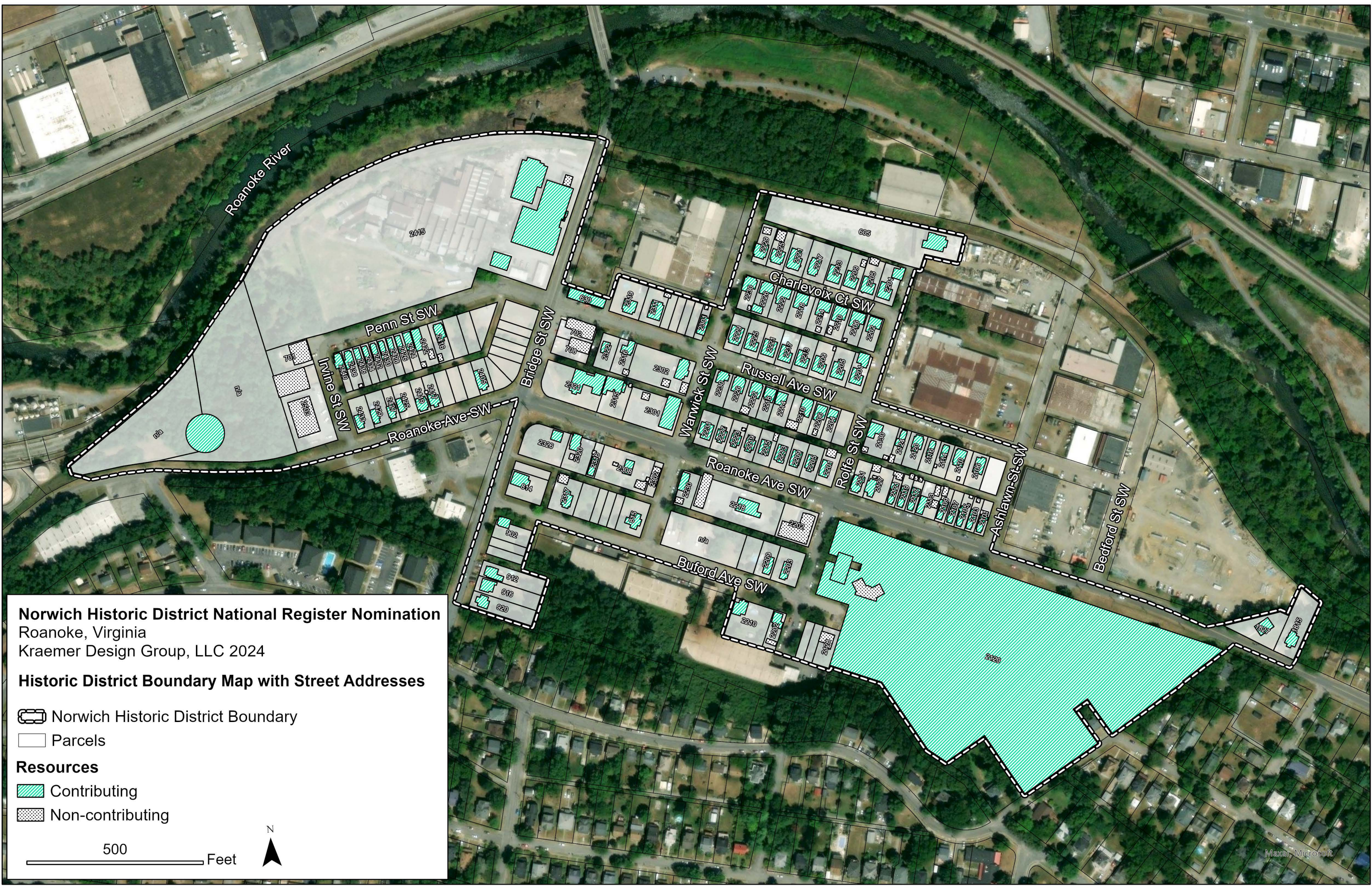
 Parcels

Resources

 Contributing

 Non-contributing





Norwich Historic District National Register Nomination
Roanoke, Virginia
Kraemer Design Group, LLC 2024

Historic District Boundary Map with Street Addresses

 Norwich Historic District Boundary

 Parcels

Resources

 Contributing

 Non-contributing

500 Feet

