UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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STATE Virginia

INVENTORY -			DATE EN		
SEEIN	STRUCTIONS IN HO TYPE ALL ENTRIE				
NAME					
HISTORIC Singer	rs Glen				
AND/OR COMMON Singers Glen	Historic Distric	t (Preferred)			
LOCATION STREET & NUMBER	At the intersec Frog Hollow Cre		ttle North		
CITY, TOWN				CONGRESSIONAL DISTR	
Singers	Glen	VICINITY OF	Seventh (J. Kenneth Robi	
STATE Virginia		CODE 51	Roc	COUNTY kingham	CODE 165
CLASSIFICA	TION				
BUILDING(S)STRUCTURE >SITEOBJECT	OWNERSHIP PUBLICPRIVATE BOTH PUBLIC ACQUISITEIN PROCESSBEING CONSIDERED	STATUS X_OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PR ON ACCESSI .YES: RESTRIC XYES: UNRES:NO	OGRESS BLE CTED	PRES AGRICULTURE COMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL ENTERTAINMENT GOVERNMENT INDUSTRIAL MILITARY	ENT USE MUSEUM PARK PRIVATE RESIDEN SCIENTIFIC TRANSPORTATION OTHER:
OWNER OF I		40			
Multiple STREET & NUMBER	Ownership	(See separate	list of ov	vners)	
CITY, TOWN		VICINITY OF		STATE	
LOCATION (OF LEGAL DES	-			
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC	Rockingham Co	ounty Courthous	e		
STREET & NUMBER	aga kandaga kandaran da akan makan menan menangan menandak akan menangan menandaran men				
CITY, TOWN	Harrisonburg			STATE Virginia 2	2801
TITLE SAME AND A	ATION IN EXI				
1975			EDERAL XSTAT	ECOUNTYLOCAL	

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission

SURVEY RECORDS

Richmond

CITY, TOWN



CONDITION

CHECK ONE

CHECK ONE

__EXCELLENT
X_GOOD

__DETERIORATED

__UNALTERED

X.ORIGINAL SITE

__FAIR

__UNEXPOSED

__RUINS

__MOVED DATE_____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The village of Singers Glen lies in a hollow, stretched east-to-west along Route 613 in rural Rockingham County. The area was originally settled in the early nine-teenth century by the Funk and Swank families, and in the mid-nineteenth century a tiny village, first known as Mountain Valley, began to grow up around the farmstead of Joseph Funk, a renowned compiler (and, later, publisher) of shape-note hymnals for use by rural religious groups. As the village grew, a post office was established there in 1860 and the name was changed to Singers Glen.

Singers Glen retains much of its late nineteeth-century air and most of its original buildings. Modern intrusions are few and consist primarily of a gasoline station at the eastern end of town and several mid-twentieth-century houses scattered through it. There are approximately 69 buildings in the Singers Glen Historic District. Of these, about 70 percent were erected before World War I.

Among the most significant houses architecturally and historically are the following:

Glen Farm (John S. Funk House), built c. 1889, is a two-story frame house elaborately decorated in late Victorian Gothic style. Two projecting bays are crowned by cross gables which shelter balconies with sawnwork balustrades. A one-story porch with a jigsawn and spindle frieze unifies the facade. Glen Farm, situated at the western edge of the district, retains a forebay bank barn and other outbuildings.

The Solomon Funk Farm, built after 1857, has the only rubble-stone dwelling house in the district. This is a two-story, three-bay, central-passage "I-house" with stout interior end chimneys piercing its low hipped roof. A crude hip-roofed porch shelters the east (rear) entrance, and a pedimented porch is at the west entrance. This is supported by four polygonal Greek Doric columns of attenuated proportions. A handsome forebay bank barn in poor condition is on the property.

The Edwin W. Funk House (Gray House), a two-story, L-plan, gable-roofed frame building, was built in 1892 by Edwin Funk, a prominent local carpenter, for himself. It is distinguished by its delicate window heads and by its one-story porch with turned balusters and rich sawnwork frieze.

The <u>Joseph Funk House</u> is a small, one-story frame building. The oldest building in Singers Glen, it hasbeen listed separately on the National Register of Historic Places. Its original forebay bank barn was demolished in 1975.

Next to the Joseph Funk house are the houses of his son Timothy and of his grandsons William and Joseph R. Funk. The <u>Timothy Funk House</u> is a plain, two-story frame building constructed around 1850 and considerably altered since. It was later the residence of State Senator John Acker, a local political figure.

The William Funk House and the Joseph R. Funk House are among the most distinctive in Singers Glen. Built 1892 and 1894, respectively, they are two-story frame houses set on high basements, with their gable ends to the street. Shaped shingles and elaborate two-story, Eastlake-style porches with sawnwork and spindle friezes embellish (See continuation sheet #1)

PERIOD —PREHISTORIC —1400-1499 —1500-1599 —1600-1699 —1700-1799 X 1800-1899 —1900-	AF ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE XARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY INVENTION	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY X_MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	X_RELIGION SCIENCE SCULPTURE SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN THEATER TRANSPORTATION OTHER (SPECIFY)
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SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Singers Glen is a small, well-preserved late nineteenth-century village in a mountain hollow in western Rockingham County. It is associated chiefly with the Funk family, whose important Mennonite music-publishing activities gave it its initial impetus. But the village's greatest period of prosperity occurred after the publishing firm left the village in 1878. The present architectural character of Singers Glen reflects its turn-of-the-century heyday and makes it one of the Shenandoah Valley's most picturesque villages.

Joseph Funk (d. 1862) moved to the area in the first decade of the nineteenth century. While operating his farm, he became interested in compiling a body of religious music suitable for his Mennonite co-religionists. In 1816 he published Choral-Music, in the German language, using a four-character shape-note notation system. Sixteen years later, Funk issued Genuine Church Music, again using the shape notes, but this time written in the English language to appeal to a wider audience. The book went through four editions before 1847, when the author established at his farm the publishing house of Joseph Funk and Sons to produce his own works. A new, expanded edition of the Genuine Church Music, published in 1851, was renamed Harmonia Sacra and used a version of Jesse Aiken's new seven-character shape-note system (a fact which Funk's successor firm, Ruebush, Kieffer and Company, was forced to acknowledge and to make amends for in 1877). Harmonia Sacra proved to be one of the most popular of the shape-note songsters and was reprinted into the twentieth century. Funk expanded his efforts in the 1850s with the initiation of a periodical, The Southern Musical Advocate and Singers' Friend (1859-61; 1867-69).

Joseph Funk's books attracted attention to himself and to his publishing activities, and a small settlement, called Mountain Valley, grew up around his farmstead. In 1860 a post office was established there, and the village was renamed Singers Glen, in honor of its most conspicuous product.

After Funk's death, his activities were carried on in part by the Patent Note Company (founded 1867; reorganized 1873 as Ruebush, Kieffer and Company) of his nephew Aldine S. Kieffer (1840-1904). Kieffer wrote many hymns and evangelical songs; some, like "The Grave on the Green Hillside", (inspired by the grave of his infant child in the Singers Glen cemetery) and "Twilight is Stealing", have passed into oral tradition. He compiled several shape-note hymnals, including The Christian Harp (1867) and The Temple Star, and initiated Ruebush-Kieffer's publication of the popular periodical The Musical Million and Fireside Friend (1870-1910) which was devoted principally to defending the cause of shape-note musical notation against the "round" note advocates. The firm moved from Singers Glen to Dayton, Virginia, in 1878.

9 MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL	REFERENCES
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Dyke, Henry P. Singers Glen Baptist Church. Singers Glen: 1970. Jackson, George P. White Spirituals of the Southern Uplands. New York: 1933. Sherrill, Evelyn Norcross and Ben Hibbs. "Singers Glen", Country Gentlemen, September 1934, Showalter, Noan D. Atlas of Rockingham County, Virginia. Harrisonburg, Virginia: 1939. Terrell, I. L. Old Houses of Rockingham County. Verona, Virginia: 1970. (See Continuation Sheet #4) 6 8 0 7 2 0 4 2 6 7 9 3 IUGEOGRAPHICAL DATA 17 ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approximately 125 acres F 681430 4 2 6 9 0 2 0 UTM REFERENCES 681600 4269220 A 1,7 6 8, 1 7, 7, 0 4, 2, 6, 9 2, 9, 0 ZONE EASTING C 1 7 6 8, 1 2, 1, 0 D 1, 7 6 8, 0 8, 9, 0 412 617 7110 VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION The acreage comprising the Singers Glen Historic District is bounded by a line beginning at a point (A) on the W side of State Route 613, at eastern edge of cemetery, 1600 feet ESE of the junction of State Routes 613 and 774; thence extending 700 feet SE to a point on the S side of State Route 613; then extending 600 feet SE at a slightly different angle, then extending 600 feet SW cutting across State Route 876; then jutting less than 200 feet NW; then running approximately 3400 feet in a generally southwestward direction, SE of and roughly paralleling State Route 613, to a point (C) 2200 feet NE of the intersection of State Routes 613 and (See Continuation Sheet # 4)
LISTALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES STATE CODE COUNTY CODE STATE CODE COUNTY CODE FORM PREPARED BY NAME / TITLE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff ORGANIZATION DATE Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission November 1976 STREET & NUMBER TELEPHONE 221 <u>Governor Street</u> (804) 786-3144 CITY OR TOWN Richmond Virginia **EXISTATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION** THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS: STATE X LOCAL_ NATIONAL_ As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE TITLE Junius R. Fishburne, Jr., Executive Director Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION ATTEST: DATE KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 2

DESCRIPTION

their fronts. The houses were built by local craftsmen Edwin Funk, Harry Funk (plasterer) and Fred Baer (mason).

Similar to these is the <u>H. "Benjamin" Franklin House</u> (built c. 1892), also a two-story frame building with its gable end to the street and with shaped shingles and a two-story porch with a sawnwork balustrade. Franklin was Singers Glen's mayor during its brief period of incorporation in 1894.

Many of the commercial and public buildings associated with Singers Glen's heyday survive. These include:

The <u>Swank Store</u> and <u>Post Office</u> (c. 1890) a story-and-a-half frame building which takes the form common to many rural commercial buildings of nineteenth-century Virginia-the entrance is through the gable end, with a single large window to either side. No longer the Swank Store, the building continues to function as the village post office.

The T. Funk and Sons Store is architecturally one of the most interesting buildings in Singers Glen. A more urban-and urbane-appearing structure than the Swank Store, it is of brick, two stories tall, and three bays wide. Entrance is through a recessed doorway in an elaborate shop front which is sheltered by a flat roof supported on brackets and embellished with a delicate fretwork cornice. The second-floor windows have round-arched heads and brick keystones. The flat roof is hidden by a tall false front sheathed in pressed tin, with a bracketed cornice and a central pediment bearing the legend "1895/T. Funk and Sons." A hall in the second story was used for town assemblies of all sorts.

The Carriage Works is a long, low, two-story brick building which has been greatly altered to serve as a residence. Reputedly built in 1826, the structure was moved to its present location in 1885. It was operated as a carriage factory by George Schaffer from c. 1885 and by S. Hinton Swank from 1903-1910.

(See continuation sheet #2)

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CONTINUATION SHEET #2

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PAGE 3

DESCRIPTION

The <u>First Schoolhouse</u> originally stood next to the present Methodist Church but has now been moved to a side street and greatly altered for use as a residence. It is presently a one-story, three-bay gable-roofed building with a cross gable on the front and an ell on the rear and is covered with permastone.

The <u>Second Schoolhouse</u> (Nelson Lee House), a two-story, single-pile frame building with a later lean-to, has been altered for use as a residence, as has the nearby <u>Third Schoolhouse</u> (Edwin Leigh House), a two-story, three-bay brick building with segmental-arched openings and a narrow, slightly projecting central pavilion.

Two church buildings currently stand in Singers Glen. The Singers Glen Baptist Church, built in 1888, is an L-shaped frame building in the provincial Victorian Gothic style. It is entered through a tall tower with an elaborate spire which stands at the southwest corner of the auditorium. Ornate plasterwork, a pulpit made by members of the congregation, and twentieth-century wall paintings adorn the interior.

The <u>United Methodist Church</u>, built in 1895 and enlarged in 1905, is constructed of brick in a provincial version of the Perpendicular Gothic style. The gable end of the auditorium with its elaborate window is flanked by towers of unequal height embellished with three-dimensional brickwork.

On the hill to the north of the village is the Singers Glen cemetery. The first burial here was made in 1826. The cemetery contains the grave of Joseph Funk (d. 1862), marked by a stone appropriately embellished with the sacred harp, and the grave of an infant child of hymn writer Aldine S. Kieffer, which inspired his popular hymn "The Grave on the Green Hillside."

DTU

The 125 acres being nominated, stretching along State Route 613 for a little over one mile, include most of the area which has been, and is today, known as Singers Glen.

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CONTINUATION SHEET# 3

ITEM NUMBER 8

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SIGNIFICANCE

The Funk/Ruebush-Kieffer publishing activities and the Civil War combined to bring outside influence and a consequent element of cosmopolitanism and diversity into what otherwise might have been an isolated Mennonite community. Joseph Funk's own relationship with the Mennonite community deteriorated toward the end of his life, and his son and grandsons Timothy, John, Solomon, and Benjamin were among the early pillars of the Baptist Church in Singers Glen, which was organized in 1859 and which erected its present building on Funk-donated land in 1888.

The Funks continued to be central figures in the community, just as the houses of Funk and his offspring formed the core of the village. Life in Singers Glen became more diverse, and the family's interests turned from music to artisanry, business, and politics. The T. Funk and Sons Store was a meeting hall for the village, and the rallying point of the local Acker Republican machine of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. State Senator John Acker, who married into the Funk family and lived in the Timothy Funk house, built a potent Rockingham County political organization based on Valley German discontent with Eastern Virginia "English" Democrats, who they thought were insensitive to their needs.

Other families became prominent as the Glen grew. The Swanks were perhaps the Funks' chief competitors for local influence and economic power, and the S. Hinton Swank Store stands at the eastern end of the village as a reminder of this. Nearby is the Carriage Factory which Swank took over in 1903 and operated until 1910.

By the late nineteenth century, Singers Glen had a life of its own, years after the publishing activities which had been its original reason for existence had left the town. For a brief, optimistic period beginning in 1894, Singers Glen was incorporated, with H. "Benjamin" Franklin as mayor. Some of the wealthy residents built elaborate, if provincial, versions of popular domestic architectural styles, and many other people built themselves plain but commodious frame houses at this time. Singers Glen contains a number of structures erected during the early and mid-nineteenth century. However, most of the buildings date from the period 1880-1900.

After World War I, Singers Glen's growth came to a halt, and the village changed very little until recent years. A new gasoline station and a few brick suburban-type houses give evidence of revived interest in Singers Glen as a living, if not a working, community.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1

9. BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission files.
Wayland, John W. A History of Rockingham County, Virginia. Dayton, Virginia: 1912.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Verbal Boundary Description

777; then extending 1600 feet SW; then NW approximately 1000 feet cutting across State Route 613 and running along E side of State Route 777 for last 500 feet; thence extending approximately 4300 feet NNE, NW of and roughly paralleling State Route 613 and cutting through orchard on NW side of State Route 613; then extending approximately 700 feet ENE; then 400 feet NNW; then running approximately 600 feet ENE along northern edge of cemetery to point of origin on west side of State Route 613.

Structures in the Singers Glen Historic District, Rockingham County, Virginia

- * Structures built after World War I
- + Photograph included with report

(Numbers refer to location on sketch map)

- 1. Siever, Glen, House
- + * 2. Ruddle and Swank Apple Packing Shed
 - * 3. Church of the Brethren Parsonage
 - * 4. Wren, Richard, House
- + 5. Carriage Works and Moon Garage
 - 6. Ruddle, Don S., House
 - * 7. Moyers, Garner, House
- + 8. Franklin, H. "Benjamin", House (Gorman Ridgely House)
- + 9. Baptist Church
- + 10. Funk, Timothy, House
- + 11. Funk, Joseph R., House (Alice F. Funk House)
- + 12. Funk, William C., House (William Wayland House)
 - 13. Funk, Joseph, House (Virginia Landmarks Register, National Register)
 - 14. Funk, Joseph, Bank Barn Ruins
- + 15. Moyers, Ronald, House
- + 15a. Glen Farm (John S. Funk House)
 - * 16. MacAllister, Charles, House
- + 17. Funk, Solomon, House and Bank Barn
- * 18. Rogers, Mrs. Fred, House
- t 19. Fourth Schoolhouse (Now a Community Center)
- * 20. Henkle, Roy, House
- * 21. Hollar, Forest, House
- * 22. Floyd, Millard, House

- * 23. Miller, Mabel, House
 - 24. Hollar, Leonard, House and Garage
 - 25. Mowbray, Mrs. W. D., House
 - 26. Lee, John I., House (Mrs. Rexrode House)
- + 27. Funk, Edwin W., House (Henry Gray House)
 - 28. Baer, Hannah, House (Henry Funk House)
- + 29. Funk, T. and Sons, Store (1895)
 - 30. Pattee, Donald, House
 - 31. Moyers, Fred, House
 - 32. Baer, Fred S., House (Baptist Parsonage)
- + 33 & 33a. United Methodist Church and Parish House
 - * 34. United Methodist Parsonage
 - * 35. Lee, Emmer P., House
 - + 36. Swank Store (Post Office)
 - * 37. Village Shell Service
 - * 38. Davis, Price, House
 - 39. Shank, Christian, House (Joseph Funk House)
 - + 40. First Schoolhouse (Moved from location "A" and remodeled into a residence Rev. Troy Brady House)
 - + * 41. Gray, Daniel, House
 - + 42. Jackson, Thomas J., House (Moved from Main Street)
 - + 43. Second Schoolhouse (Nelson Lee House)
 - 44. Kennon, Edwin, House (Mrs. Iva Williams House)
 - * 45. Lee, Mrs. Louis, House
 - + 46. Third Schoolhouse (Edwin Leigh House)
 - * 47. Rimbold, Mary, House
 - * 48. Funk, Henry, House
 - * 49. Burkholder, Eldon D., House

- * 50. Berry, Claud, House
 - 51. Funk, Sophie, House (John Lawson Log House)
 - A Site of First Schoolhouse
- + B Singers Glen Cemetery

Approximate number of buildings, including outbuildings, = 69 ca. 30% modern structures
One significant intrusion - Shell Station

SINGERS GLEN HISTORIC DISTRICT ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA





