NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

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.

Listed On	
VLR:	6/18/2015
NRHP:	8/24/2015

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase)
Other names/site number: VDHR# 230-0078
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing

2. Location

Street & number: Mountain Road, Academy Street, Poplar Lane

City or town: Halifax State: Virginia County: Halifax County

Not For Publication: N/A ity: N/A

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

Julie V. Langan 6-30-15

Signature of certifying official/Title: **Date**

Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property __ meets __ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: **Date**

Title : **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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

Private: [X]

Public – Local [X]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

Building(s) [ ]

District [X]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
57	21	buildings
1	0	sites
2	0	structures
0	0	objects
60	21	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding
EDUCATION: school
EDUCATION: library
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
RELIGION: church-related residence
SOCIAL: clubhouse

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary structure
VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal/Adamesque
MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival, Gothic Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Folk Victorian
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

MODERN MOVEMENT: Ranch Style, Minimal Traditional

Materials

FOUNDATION: BRICK, CONCRETE
WALLS: WOOD (weatherboard), BRICK, STUCCO
ROOF: ASPHALT, METAL (tin), STONE (slate)

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 Mountain Road Historic District, located in the Town of Halifax, was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1983. The 67-acre district consists of 30 primary resources, including residential and institutional properties that are significant in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture from the 1830s to the 1930s. The original district boundaries extended one-half mile west along Mountain Road from Academy Street to Mimosa Drive, which served as the corporate town limits at the time. The Town of Halifax Court House Historic District (VLR 2008; NRHP 2011) extends along Main Street just east of the Mountain Road Historic District.

The 2015 Boundary Increase extends the original district east to include the ca. 1900 Hankins House (79 Mountain Road); south along Academy Street to include the Halifax Academy (240 Academy Street); and approximately one mile west to include buildings that were located beyond the town limits at the time of the original nomination. These buildings continue the development patterns and architectural character of the original district. With the exception of the ca. 1843 Halifax Academy, the 1935-1939 Halifax High School, and the 1938 Halifax County Free Public Library, the remaining 35 primary resources in the expansion area are residential. Several of the houses are associated with the Cosby family, master builders of the Halifax Courthouse and other significant buildings in the town and in the original Mountain Road Historic District. Dating from the late 1830s to the mid-1960s, the majority of the contributing buildings were constructed in the 1950s, as a result of the population boom after World War II. The Colonial Revival style is the most prevalent, with 15 of the 38 primary resources built in this style. Examples of the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Folk Victorian, Tudor Revival and the Ranch styles are also represented. There are 38 primary resources in the 279-acre expansion area with 34 of these contributing to the district. In addition to the primary resources, there are 43 secondary resources, including both domestic and agricultural outbuildings, two agricultural structures, and a cemetery site, with 26 of these contributing to the district (count includes the structures and site).

Narrative Description

Similar to the original Mountain Road Historic District, many of the properties in the expansion area were subdivided in the 20th century from large tracts of land that were settled in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Early landowners in the expansion area included Thomas Ghent, who built Seven Oaks ca. 1774 (615 Mountain Road); Colonel John H. Wimbish, who owned 900 acres and the ca. 1773 house later

known as Woodbourne (1050 Mountain Road, rebuilt ca. 1925); Robert Holt Easley, who owned Banister Farm on the north side; and Dabney Cosby Jr., who built Woodside ca. 1840 (1231 Mountain Road) as well as two other houses for his daughters. In some cases, such as the cook's house for Woodbourne on Ball Park Loop, outbuildings originally associated with these early properties are now located on separate parcels. These are often too far removed from the original house to include within the district, however, their existence is important to note as they illustrate the expansiveness of these early land holdings and their operations. Another vestige of the large rural tracts of land are the stretches of wooded land located along Mountain Road. In some cases, as with the 17th-century grove of trees at Seven Oaks in the original historic district, the trees are of primary succession. Other second succession trees, planted by early landowners, may indicate earlier property or fence lines. These wooded areas along with the outbuildings and early houses represent the first wave of settlement along Mountain Road.

The earliest house in the expansion area is Woodside (1231 Mountain Road), built between 1837 and 1844 by Dabney Cosby Jr. The simple, two-story, three-bay brick dwelling is covered with stucco with recessed panels accenting the window bays between the stories. An impressive Gothic Revival style porch was added at a later date with octagonal pillars that project above the roofline, lancet arches and a stepped parapet with corbelled brickwork. The Greek Revival interior features millwork by Thomas Day and decorative plaster ceiling medallions that were often found in houses built by Cosby.[1] Boxwoods and oaks, dating to the original construction, surround the house while a frame stable and smokehouse are located at the rear.

The Halifax Academy (240 Academy Street) was built ca. 1843 just behind the courthouse at the east end of the existing district. A section of the original Greek Revival-style building is attributed to Dabney Cosby Sr. as it features the same "roughcast" stucco treatment used by Cosby at the 1839 Halifax Courthouse and the 1844 St. John's Episcopal Church.[2] The two-story brick building features a hip roof and large banks of six-over-six, double-hung sash windows. Several additions were added between 1910 and 1924 when the building served as the county high school.

Dabney Cosby Jr. also built two Gothic Revival-style cottages for his two daughters in the late 1850s. According to a Works Progress Administration report, the two cottages were located on either side of Mountain Road to the east of Woodside.[3] Today, only the Derrick-Cosby House survives on the south side of the road. This one-and-a-half story Gothic Revival cottage, built ca. 1858, features board-and-batten siding, patterned metal roof shingles, and diamond-paned windows and transoms. A collection of agricultural outbuildings once associated with the property—including a barn, granary and pump house—are located behind the adjacent houses at 1093 and 1097 Mountain Road.

Another house associated with the Cosby family is Ellerslie, built in 1888 by Howard W. Cosby at 2002 Mountain Road. This one-and-a-half story brick cottage is an example of the Folk Victorian style with decorative sawn and turned woodwork accenting the gable ends and dormers. Turned columns with scroll-sawn brackets support the full-width porch and a projecting side bay window features spindlework detailing. Howard W. Cosby, son of Dabney Cosby Jr., followed in the family tradition as a brick mason, building several houses in the area and running a brick plant along the Banister River. He was also known to make decorative tiles. The brick sidewalks, laid in a herringbone pattern by Cosby, incorporate some of these tiles. A 1970 survey reported evidence of brick and tile making on the property. In addition to the house, the property includes a carriage house, a smokehouse, a springhouse, and an unusually designed corncrib built of vertical slats that form a saw tooth pattern in the gable end.

After the turn of the century, Colonial Revival became the preferred style for new houses on Mountain Road, with nearly 50 percent of houses in the expansion area built in this style. The majority of these houses are examples of the Cape Cod form with one-and-one-half stories, a side-gable roof with dormers and exterior end chimneys, multi-paned (12/12, 8/12, 8/8 or 6/6) sash windows, and a central entry porch or stoop with a classical door surround. Examples of this popular form and style were built in the expansion area between 1900 and 1951. Black Forest, built ca. 1936 at 1224 Mountain Road, features a slate roof with modillioned cornice, a recessed entrance with paneled reveals and fluted pilasters, and slate walks and patios. Additional detailing at the ca. 1941 Strange House (1016 Mountain Road) includes a slate roof with gabled dormers, exterior-end chimneys with corbelled collars, and jack arches over the 6/6 double-hung sash windows. Other examples include the ca. 1940 Channing Harrison House (1035 Mountain Road), the ca. 1940 Robert Bagwell House at 765 Mountain Road, and the ca. 1951 Frank E. Booker, Jr. House (719 Mountain Road). A variation of this popular style and form is the Marshall Booker House (1012 Mountain Road), built ca. 1920 in the Dutch Revival style with its gambrel roof. A variation of the one-and-half story Cape Cod can be found in the Tudor Revival-style house built ca. 1951 at 11 Mountain Road. The simple side-gable roof form of the Cape Cod is expanded with an intersecting gable with exterior chimney. Stone randomly accents the brick veneer around the chimney and the round-arched entrance.

The two-story Colonial Revival-style house is also found throughout the area. Woodbourne, built ca. 1925 to replace the late 18th century house that burned at 1050 Mountain Road, is reportedly a kit house designed by Sears Roebuck for their catalogues.[4] The two-story, three-bay house has a full-width porch supported by Doric columns with a multi-light central entrance surrounded by fluted pilasters and a classical entablature. The formal gardens and a cemetery on the property date to the original Wimbish House. Another Colonial Revival form is the two-story central block flanked by one-story side wings. Examples include the ca. 1951 Don P. Bagwell, Sr. House (1027 Mountain Road) and the ca. 1958 Howard P. Anderson House at 1071 Mountain Road.

Institutional buildings in the boundary increase area were designed in the Colonial Revival style as well. The Halifax High School (722 Mountain Road) was built between 1935 and 1939 as a Works Progress Administration project. Designed by the architectural firm of Hinnant and Smith, the Colonial Revival style school is "U-shaped" in form with a side-gable roof intersected at each end with a projecting front gable section with two-story porticoes. Octagonal cupolas are located at the intersection of the two roofs. The building is clad in brick veneer laid in a six-course American bond variant with an intermediate course of Flemish bond with glazed headers. The front windows are topped by jack arches and a contrasting white keystone. The interior plan consists of two floors of classrooms surrounding a central auditorium (which was later converted to a cafeteria in the 1950s). The school property includes a historic vocational education building as well as numerous non-historic modular buildings—all connected with a covered walkway. A baseball diamond, playground, and basketball court are located at the rear of the property. The school was converted to an elementary school in 1953 before closing in 2007.

The Halifax County Free Library, located at 726 Mountain Road immediately west of the former high school, was constructed in 1938 in the Colonial Revival style according to plans prescribed by Ambassador David K.E. Bruce.[5] The second of eleven libraries funded by the Bruce family, the Halifax County Free Library was one-and-half stories with a "T" form to provide three reading rooms—one for white adults in the front, one for white children upstairs, and one for African Americans in the rear. Constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond with a water table, the library features a side-gable roof of slate shingles with gabled dormers, a boxed cornice with dentils, and exterior end chimneys. The central entrance is single-leaf with a paneled door surmounted by a four-light transom and sheltered by a five-

sided porch with hipped roof. The rear entrance was the same as the front with a pedimented gable porch. The library operated until 1978 when a larger facility was built. It currently serves as a textbook repository for the Halifax County School system.

Although Colonial Revival-style houses continued to be built along Mountain Road into the early 1950s, the new Ranch style also began to be built during this period. The Ranch house, with its low, one-story profile, elongated form and shallow-pitched side-gable roof, was a departure from the traditional revival styles that had characterized Mountain Road from its earliest development. Other modern features of the Ranch style included the asymmetrical facades, massive interior chimney, on-grade entrances with recessed doors and integral porches, picture windows and integrated garages. Examples of this new style include 1101 Mountain road (ca. 1948), 1088 Mountain Road (ca. 1951), 1096 Mountain Road (ca. 1955) and 1120 Mountain Road (ca. 1960). The Colonial Revival style, however, continues to have a presence as influences can be seen in the detailing of some Ranch houses. Examples include the Tuscan porch columns and the six-over-six double-hung sash windows at the ca. 1954 Sturgis-Payne House (1015 Mountain Road) and the eight-over-eight and eight-over-twelve light windows at 1030 Mountain Road. Another new component of the Ranch house was the garage or carport. While garages have existed in the district prior to World War II, these earlier buildings tended to be constructed of frame and sited away from the house—like an outbuilding. With the proliferation of automobiles in the second half of the 20th century, garages and carports became more closely related to the house itself, often being integrated into the main house block or attached. In spite of these radical changes in form, style and accessory buildings, the Ranch-style houses of the 1950s and 1960s are of the same substantial scale and spacious setting as the earlier properties along Mountain Road and continue the park-like ambience established in the 19th century.

Statement of Integrity

The Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase) retains a relatively high level of integrity with substantial and well-designed buildings set on large, spacious lots and surrounded by mature landscaping that continue the character of the original district. Of the 38 primary resources, 34 are contributing and 4 are non-contributing. The non-contributing statuses were based on post-1965 date of construction and in one case, extensive alterations that eroded integrity. The use of substitute materials in the district is very limited. There are 43 secondary resources, including 40 domestic and agricultural outbuildings, two structures, and one cemetery site. Twenty-six of these are contributing to the district, including the cemetery site and two structures, and 17 are non-contributing due to construction date. The Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase) as a whole retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Inventory

The following inventory lists the resources within the Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase). 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 as well as the type, number and contributing status of any significant secondary resources associated with the property. Whether a building is considered contributing or non-contributing was determined based on its integrity as it supports the historic district's significance under Criterion A (Community Development and Education) and Criterion C (Architecture) during the Period of Significance (1837 to 1965).

ACADEMY STREET

240 Academy Street 230-0033 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0042*
Halifax Academy
Primary Resource: **School (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1843**
Contributing *Total:* 1

260 Academy Street 230-0027 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0041*
Primary Resource: **Multiple Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1950**
Contributing *Total:* 1

MOUNTAIN ROAD

79 Mountain Road 230-0019 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0066*
Hankins House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1900**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

101 Mountain Road 230-0078-0067 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Apartment Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1970**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

680 Mountain Road 230-0046 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0044*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1929**
Contributing *Total:* 1

719 Mountain Road 230-5015 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0032*
Frank E. Booker, Jr. House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1951**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

722 Mountain Road 230-0035 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0043*
Halifax High School
Primary Resource: **School (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1935**

Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Classroom Building (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Classroom Building (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 6
Secondary Resource: **Restroom Facility - Press Box (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

726 Mountain Road 230-0034 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0031*
Halifax County Free Public Library
Primary Resource: **Library (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1937**
Contributing *Total:* 1

765 Mountain Road 230-5016 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0033*
Robert Bagwell House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1009 Mountain Road 230-5025 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0040*
William H. Lacy, Jr. House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1954**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1012 Mountain Road 230-5017 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0034*
Marshall Booker House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Dutch Revival, Ca 1920**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1012 Mountain Road 230-5026 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0064*
Primary Resource: **Clubhouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1918**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

1015 Mountain Road 230-5024 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0039*
Sturgis Payne House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1954**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1016 Mountain Road 230-5019 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0036*
Strange House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1941**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1027 Mountain Road 230-5023 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0038*
Don P. Bagwell, Sr. House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1950**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1030 Mountain Road 230-5018 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0035*
Sterling Edmunds House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1965**

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

1035 Mountain Road 230-5021 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0037*
Channing Harrison House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

1047 Mountain Road 230-5022 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0049*
Mistletoe Place
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, Ca 1844**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1050 Mountain Road 230-5020 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0048*
Woodbourne
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1922**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Cemetery (Site)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1071 Mountain Road 230-0078-0050 *Other DHR Id#:*
Howard P. Anderson House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1958**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1076 Mountain Road 230-0078-0051 *Other DHR Id#:*
George Chapel House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1958**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1081 Mountain Road 230-0078-0052 *Other DHR Id#:*
Roger Suddith House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1938**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Privy (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1088 Mountain Road 230-0078-0053 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1951**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

1093 Mountain Road 230-0078-0054 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1919**

Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 2

1096 Mountain Road 230-0078-0055 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1955**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

1097 Mountain Road 230-0078-0056 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1940**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1100 Mountain Road 230-0078-0057 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Tudor Revival, Ca 1951**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1101 Mountain Road 230-0078-0058 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1948**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1114 Mountain Road 230-0078-0059 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1952**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1120 Mountain Road 230-0078-0060 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1960**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1126 Mountain Road 230-0078-0065 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Neo-Eclectic, Ca 2006**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

1133 Mountain Road 230-0078-0061 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1957**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

1150 Mountain Road230-0078-0064 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Neo-Eclectic, Ca 1993**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Not Surveyed (1)**

1224 Mountain Road 230-0078-0062 *Other DHR Id#:*
Black Forest
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1936**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

1231 Mountain Road 230-0061 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0047*
Woodside
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1837**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Smoke/Meat House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Stable (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

2002 Mountain Road 230-0054 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0045*
Ellerslie
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Folk Victorian, Ca 1888**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Carriage House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Corncrib (Structure)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Smoke/Meat House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Spring/Spring House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

Mountain Road 230-0060 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0046*
Derrick-Cosby House (between 1101 and 1133 Mountain Road)
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Gothic Revival, Ca 1858**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Barn (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Granary (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Pump House (Structure)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 3

POPLAR LANE

263 Poplar Lane 230-0078-0063 *Other DHR Id#:*
Rowland House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1950**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

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.)

[X] 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.

[X] 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

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE
EDUCATION
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Period of Significance

1837 – 1965

Significant Dates

1837-1844 (Woodside)
1843 (Halifax Academy)
1858 (Derrick-Cosby House)
1888 (Ellerslie)
1938 (Halifax County Free Public Library)
1939 (Halifax High School)

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder
Cosby, Sr., Dabney
Cosby, Jr., Dabney
Cosby, Howard W.
Hinnant & Smith
J.H. Bennett, Inc.

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 Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase), stretching one mile further west along Route 360 from the original district in the Town of Halifax, Virginia, depicts the gradual evolution of this rural Southside area from large tracts of farmland owned by prominent county leaders in the early 19th century to a mid-20th century community established around the county seat that continues to serve as a premiere residential neighborhood and institutional center for the town. Comprised primarily of residential properties ranging in date from 1837 to the mid-1960s, the district expansion area is similar to the original district in that it is characterized by large lots with well-designed and constructed homes set back from the road and surrounded by mature landscaping. Educational buildings in the expansion area—including the ca. 1843 Halifax Academy (240 Academy Street), the 1935-1939 Halifax High School (722 Mountain Road) and the 1938 Halifax County Free Public Library (726 Mountain Road)—continue the institutional character of the district, as well. Whether the properties along Mountain Road have a rural 19th century character or a 20th century suburban development pattern, they are strongly connected by the road itself with its historically significant role as a main artery leading into the courthouse town and its park-like character of large, gracious lots with substantial houses and mature landscaping.

The Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Community Development and Education, as it represents the residential and institutional growth along Mountain Road in the Town of Halifax. It is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture as it is highly regarded for its distinguished mid-19th to mid-20th century collection of well-designed residential and institutional buildings with mature landscaping, which retains the park-like setting established by Dabney Cosby Jr. in his design of several of the earlier residences. The district is eligible on the local level for the period from 1837, which marks the construction of Woodside the earliest extant house in the district, through 1965, when the most recent contributing resources was built.

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

Criteria Justification

Criterion A: Community Planning and Development

The Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase is eligible under Criterion A in the area of Community Development and Planning as an example of an area in the Town of Halifax that has evolved from large, rural tracts of land in the late 18th and early 19th centuries to a mid-20th century residential and institutional neighborhood in a manner that retains the character of both eras. With the common characteristics of substantial houses on spacious lawns with mature landscaping, this distinctive mixture of 19th-century houses with their rural settings and outbuildings alongside the more suburban 20th-century residences maintains the cohesive ambience that gave it the distinction of being "one of the most beautiful streets in Virginia," according to the 1907 Halifax County Handbook. The area also served as an institutional center for the county with the construction of the Halifax County High School in 1935-1939 and the Halifax County Free Public Library in 1938. In addition to its physical development, Mountain Road continuously served as home for many of the leading citizens of the town and county during the period of significance.

Criterion A: Education

The Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase) includes three major resources related to education in Halifax County. The Halifax Academy (240 Academy Street) was established in 1830 as the Davies' Institute and incorporated in 1836 as the Halifax Academy. The current building, which served as several different schools for white children in the late 19th century, was built in 1843 and served as Halifax County High School from 1900 to 1936. The Halifax County High School was built at 722 Mountain Road in 1935-1939 as a Works Progress Administration project and served as the county high school for white students until 1953, when it became Halifax Elementary School, a function it retained until closing in 2007. Immediately adjacent to the high school, the Halifax County Free Public Library was constructed with funds donated by Ambassador David K.E. Bruce in 1938. This library was the second of eleven libraries funded by Bruce that included access to educational and cultural materials for African Americans during the Jim Crow era in rural Southside Virginia. [6]

Criterion C: Architecture

The properties in the 2015 Boundary Increase area continue the architectural character of the existing historic district with their substantial houses and spacious lawns with mature landscaping. The resources date from 1837 to the third quarter of the 20th century and include a number of architect-designed buildings that reflect the prosperity of the residents as well as the changing tastes of the times. The Colonial Revival style, however, is most prevalent, influencing residential designs through the Ranch style and reflecting the traditional aesthetic values of the area.

Historical Background

After the General Assembly established the Town of Banister (later Halifax) as the new county seat of Halifax County in 1817, Mountain Road became a stagecoach route. Thomas Ghent of Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road) owned a large tract by the mid-1770s and Colonel John H. Wimbish owned two farms totaling approximately 900 acres in the area of Woodbourne (1050 Mountain Road) by 1820.[7] The Courthouse town of Banister grew rapidly with a population of approximately 250 by 1835, including two churches, a masonic hall and several stores according to Joseph Martin in his 1835 gazetteer.

In 1830, the Davies Institute was established by Samuel Davies on the site of the present Halifax Academy (260 Academy Street) just behind the courthouse.[8] Davies, who authored the textbook *Davies' Arithmetic,* served as the first instructor. In 1836 the school was incorporated as the Halifax Academy with a board of trustees. Tuition for a nine-month session cost $300 and teachers included Merriweather Lewis, descendent of the famed explorer, and Joseph James Averett, for whose family Averett University in Danville is named.[9] A new building was constructed ca. 1843 and is attributed to master builder Dabney Cosby Sr., as the "roughcast" stucco is similar to his work on the 1839 Halifax County Courthouse. His son, Dabney Cosby Jr., attended the school in 1832. In the 1860s, the private academy was headed by John Powell, who mustered his 150 students to help defend the covered bridge over the Staunton River against Union troops in June 1864. Students during this time included sons of prominent Halifax County residents – such as Judge Barksdale, Craddock Owens, Howard Cosby and William Horton – many of whom would become leading citizens themselves. After the Civil War, the school was rented to the Presbyterian Church for use as a private school. The building was used as a residence and various schools for white students before serving as Halifax County High

School (also called Courthouse School) from 1900 to 1936; because Virginia public schools were racially segregated only white students attended the high school. Several additions were made during this period before a new high school opened at 722 Mountain Road in 1939. Since World War II, the Halifax Academy building has been used as apartments.

Dabney Cosby Jr. continued in his father's footsteps as a master builder and built several large houses along Mountain Road in the 1840s and 1850s. Houses built by Cosby that are located within the original Mountain Road Historic District boundaries include Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road; ca. 1840), Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road; ca. 1843), St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road; 1844), and St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road; 1845).[10] Cosby owned a large tract of land at the western edge of the boundary increase area, where he built Woodside (1231 Mountain Road) as his own residence between 1837 and 1843. He also built two Gothic Revival cottages for his daughters in the late 1850s. These houses (one of which is now demolished) stood on either side of Mountain Road just east of Woodside.

Cosby's son, Howard W. Cosby, who also attended Halifax Academy, continued the family legacy as a builder and owner of a brick plant on the Banister River in the late 19th and early 20th century. Howard W. Cosby built Ellerslie for his family in 1888 just north of Woodside at 2002 Mountain Road.[11] This Folk Victorian cottage combines the brickwork for which the Cosby family was known with the scroll-sawn and turned woodwork popular in the late 19th century. Howard Cosby also built several houses further east on Mountain Road in the original district, including the 1880s Edmunds House/Chastain Home (370 Mountain Road) and the 1881 Carrington House (167 Mountain Road)—both of which are in the original district's boundaries.

As a result of changes in farming practices after the Civil War, as well as a demand for more residential development, many of the large antebellum tracts of land along Mountain Road began to be subdivided in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Mountain Road continued to be a desirable route into town and was developed by many of the leading citizens of the county with well-designed and well-constructed houses situated on large, landscaped lots. *The 1907 Halifax Handbook* described Houston (now the Town of Halifax) as a town with a population of 800 and boasted that Mountain Road was "one of the most beautiful streets in Virginia."[12]

Between 1920 and the early 1940s, eleven buildings were constructed in the expansion area, including nine houses, a high school for white students, and a library that provided segregated facilities for whites and African Americans. As in the 19th century, Mountain Road continued to be home to many of Halifax's leading citizens. State Delegate and District Attorney Marshall Booker built a Dutch Revival-style house at 1012 Mountain Road in 1920 and Dr. C.B. White built his home, Black Forest, in 1936 at 1224 Mountain Road. Also during this period, the former Wimbish house, built in the late 18th century and later known as Woodbourne, burned in 1922 and was rebuilt ca. 1925 by the Edmunds family, who reportedly used a Sears Roebuck catalogue kit.[13] The formal gardens associated with the original house were retained as well as 35 acres of the original 900-acre Wimbish tract.

The construction of the Halifax High School at 722 Mountain Road between 1935 and 1939 and the 1938 Halifax County Free Public Library at 726 Mountain Road extended the institutional role of Mountain Road, already established near the courthouse by the churches and masonic hall built in the

1820s and 1840s, further west and spurred additional development in the boundary increase area. The Halifax High School, which was built as a Works Progress Administration project, opened in 1939 and students were relocated from the former Halifax Academy (240 Academy Street) to this new facility.[14] Designed by the architectural firm of Hinnant and Smith, the Colonial-Revival style building included an auditorium with a stage and gymnasium floor that was used over the years for basketball games, recitals, and dances before being converted to a cafeteria and multi-purpose room in the 1950s. The property also featured ball fields that continue to be used. In 1953, the high school was moved to a new consolidated facility for white students in South Boston and the building was converted to an elementary school. Halifax County integrated its school system, including Halifax Elementary School, in 1969.[15] The Halifax Elementary School continued to serve primary-school students in the town and surrounding area until it closed in 2007.

The Halifax County Free Public Library was constructed in 1938 at 726 Mountain Road with funds provided by Ambassador David K.E. Bruce and his wife.[16] The Bruce family donated $25,000 to $40,000 to rural, Southside communities to build libraries that would provide equal, if separate, access to whites and African Americans in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The Bruces required that the county set up a board of trustees, hire a librarian, and follow state regulations for libraries. The first of eleven libraries funded was in Charlotte County, where an existing building was renovated as a library. Beginning with the construction of the Halifax library, the second library to be funded, all libraries were required to follow architectural plans for a Colonial Revival-style building that adhered to the guidance provided by the Bruces. In 1938, the Halifax County Board of Supervisors purchased 9.2 acres from the Craddock family, hired a librarian, and created a board of trustees. Trustees included Rhoderick L. Lacy, Malcolm G. Bruce, J. S. Lawson, Dr. L. P. Bailey, and Dr. John A. Owen. The Colonial Revival style building at Halifax, with its "T"-shaped plan, provided three separate reading rooms—one for adults in the main room of the first floor, one for children on the second floor, and one for African Americans at the rear. Although separate, Bruce required equal access to the library and consequently the rear entrance door is the same as the front door. The Halifax County Free Public Library continued to operate at this location until 1978 when it moved to a larger facility. Today the former library building is used by Halifax County Schools as a textbook processing center.

As the population of Halifax continued to grow after World War II, the large rural tracts of land owned by prominent families in the 19th century were further subdivided to provide more building lots along Mountain Road as it became a premiere residential street. This new development differed from the earlier residential properties of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which were more reflective of the rural origins of the area with large houses set back from the road, sometimes with a long "approach drive," and surrounded by domestic or agricultural outbuildings. The mid-20th century residences tended to be more closely oriented to the road but still featured large, well-designed and constructed houses sited on spacious lots and surrounded by well-established landscaping. In many cases the large trees date back to a time when much of the land along Mountain Road was covered in woods.

Colonial Revival continued to be a popular style along Mountain Road in the second half of the 20th century, as evidenced by the construction of the house at 1071 Mountain Road in 1958 by State Senator Howard P. Anderson. The Ranch house, however, introduced a new residential form and architectural vocabulary to the area. Prominent citizens, such as business and civic leader Sterling Edmunds and Dr. George Chapel, embraced the new style in the construction of their homes at 1030 Mountain Road (1965) and 1076 Mountain Road (1958), respectively. Although these houses were

one-story and designed on the interior to be modern, they were substantial in size and continued the overall aesthetic character established in the 19th century of large homes set on spacious landscaped lawns along Mountain Road.

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 # _____
____ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

_X_ 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): DHR File No. 230-0078

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 279 acres (approx.)

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84:_____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Increase Area 1 – NE Corner of Original District (approximately 2.85 acres)
1. Latitude: 36.76722 Longitude: -78.930390

Increase Area 2 – SE Corner of Original District (approximately 2.96 acres)
1. Latitude: 36.73660 Longitude: -78.932540

Increase Area 3 – SW Corner of Original District (approximately 8.72 acres acres)
1. Latitude: 36.76416 Longitude: -78.93483

Increase Area 4 – West of Original District (approximately 265 acres)
1. Latitude: 36.769760 Longitude: -78.950730

2. Latitude: 36.769970 Longitude: -78941570

3. Latitude: 36.766580 Longitude: -78.940020

4. Latitude: 36.762790 Longitude: -78.939740

5. Latitude: 36.760310 Longitude: -78.945730

6. Latitude: 36.754760 Longitude: -78.951070

7. Latitude: 36.753910 Longitude: -78.952380

8. Latitude: 36.757650 Longitude: -78.957210

9. Latitude: 36.760830 Longitude: -78.958430

10. Latitude: 36.766310 Longitude: -78.950820

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:

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

The boundary includes all tax parcels indicated within the boundary line on the attached map entitled "Sketch Map/Photo Key Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase." The true and correct boundaries also are shown on the Location Map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries include properties along Mountain Road immediately east and west of the existing Mountain Road Historic District that continue the park-like setting created from the late 19th century to mid-20th century by the subdivision of large 19th-century tracts of rural land into a premiere residential neighborhood. Boundary Increase Area 1 at the east end of Mountain Road extends to include the Hankins House (79 Mountain Road), the easternmost residential property fronting Mountain Road, making the district contiguous to the Town of Halifax Court House Historic District. Boundary Increase Area 2 along Academy Street includes the property associated with the Halifax Academy, built ca. 1843 by Dabney Cosby, Sr. and the predecessor to the 1937-1939 Halifax High School at 722 Mountain Road. Boundary Increase Area 3 takes in the property at 263 Poplar Lane, a residential property similar in scale, style, and landscape with the rest of the historic district. Boundary Increase Area 4 extends approximately one mile from the original district to include property owned by Dabney Cosby Jr. and residences built by him and his son Howard W. Cosby for their families. With few exceptions, the resources in the expansion area face Mountain Road and continue the development patterns and architectural character of the original Mountain Road Historic District. The parcels beyond the boundary increase are not included due to a difference in development patterns, particularly the scale and character of the buildings and their lots, as well as their dates of construction.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Alison S. Blanton
organization: Hill Studio, PC
street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW
city or town: Roanoke state: Virginia zip code: 24011
e-mail: ablanton@hillstudio.com
telephone: 540-342-5263
date: February 2015

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mountain Road Historic District (2015 Boundary Increase)
City or Vicinity: Halifax (Town)
State: Virginia
Photographer: Alison Blanton & Katie Coffield
Date Photographed: January 2015

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

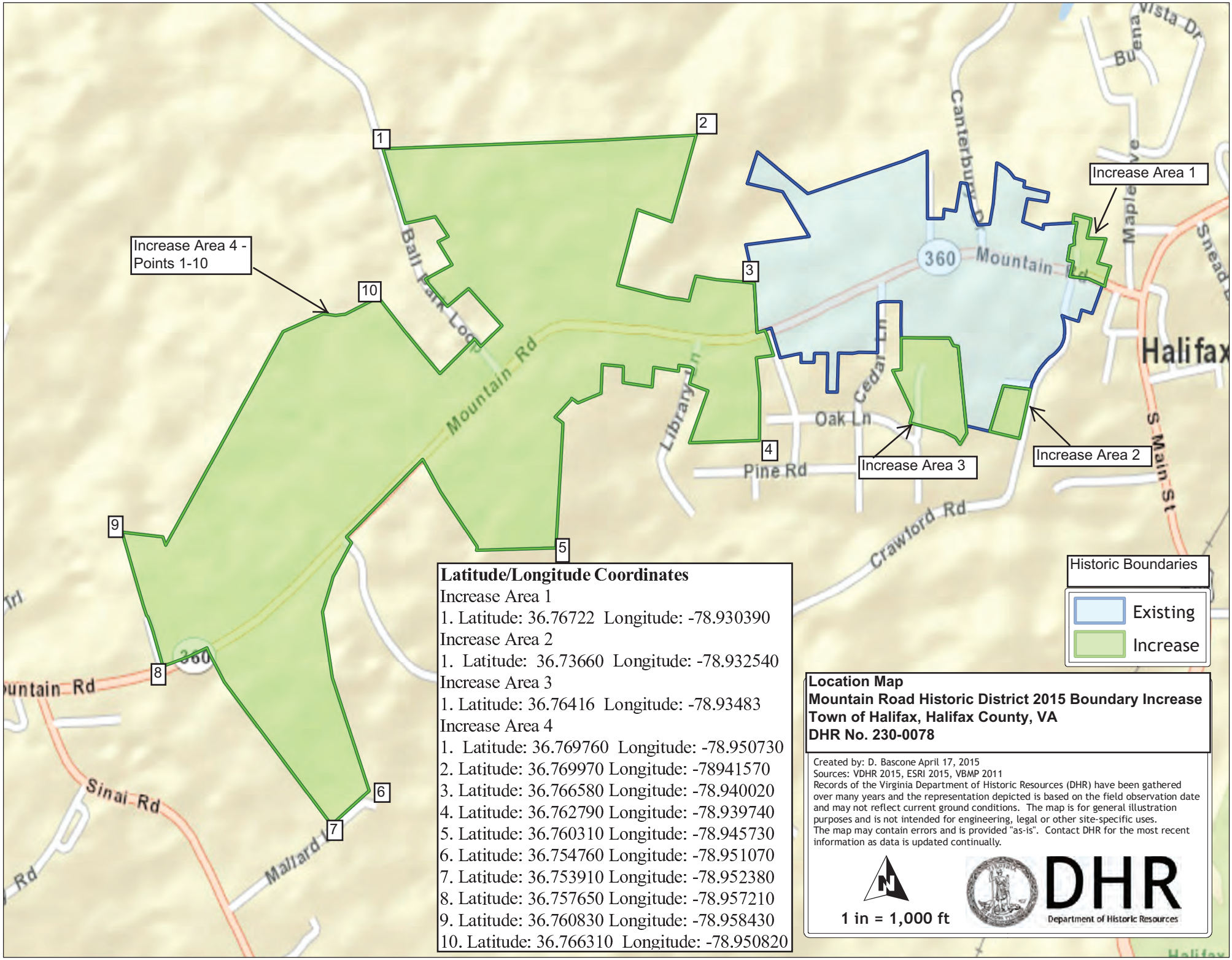
Photo 1 of 12: 1030 Mountain Road, view north
Photo 2 of 12: Woodbourne (1050 Mountain Road), view N/NE
Photo 3 of 12: Halifax High School and Library (722 & 726 Mountain Road), view SE
Photo 4 of 12: Ellerslie (2002 Mountain Road), view NE
Photo 5 of 12: 765 Mountain Road, view NW
Photo 6 of 12: 1016 & 1012 Mountain Road, view NE
Photo 7 of 12: 1047 Mountain Road, view SW
Photo 8 of 12: Halifax Academy (240 Mountain Road), view west
Photo 9 of 12: 1071 Mountain Road, view E/SE
Photo 10 of 12: Black Forest (1224 Mountain Road), view NNE
Photo 11 of 12: Woodside (1231 Mountain Road), view S
Photo 12 of 12: Derrick-Cosby House (1100 block of Mountain Road), view SE

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications 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.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

End Notes

[1] Halifax County Historical Society, 2015
[2] *Ibid*
[3] *Ibid*
[4] *Ibid*
[5] *Ibid*
[6] *Ibid*
[7] www.oldhalifax.com
[8] Halifax County Historical Society, 2015
[9] Halifax County Historical Society, 2015
[10] *Ibid*
[11] *Ibid*
[12] Morrison 1907: 22-23 12
[13] www.oldhalifax.com
[14] Halifax County Historical Society, 2015
[15] Edmunds 1979, vol.II:571
[16] Halifax County Historical Society, 2015



Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

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Increase Area 3
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6. Latitude: 36.754760 Longitude: -78.951070
7. Latitude: 36.753910 Longitude: -78.952380
8. Latitude: 36.757650 Longitude: -78.957210
9. Latitude: 36.760830 Longitude: -78.958430
10. Latitude: 36.766310 Longitude: -78.950820

Location Map
Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase
Town of Halifax, Halifax County, VA
DHR No. 230-0078

Created by: D. Bascone April 17, 2015
Sources: VDHR 2015, ESRI 2015, VBMP 2011
Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years and the representation depicted is based on the field observation date and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general illustration purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses.
The map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". Contact DHR for the most recent information as data is updated continually.

1 in = 1,000 ft

DHR
Department of Historic Resources

Sketch Map/ Photo Key
Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase
Town of Halifax, Halifax County, VA
DHR No. 230-0078
0 150 300 600 900 1,200 Feet
Legend
Mountain Road Historic District
Boundary Increase 2015
Contributing Resources
Non-Contributing Resources
Building Not Observed
Cemeteries
MOUNTAIN
CANTERBURY
WOODVIEW
HARDING
BUENA VISTA
MAPLE
CHURCH
LINEAD
EDMOND
HOUSTON
CEMETERY
ACADEMY
MAIN
CRADDOCK
MIMOSA
OAK
CEDAR
PINE
ASH
POPLAR
LIBRARY
EASLEY
CRAWFORD
MORTON
PATTERSON
SINAI
BALE PARK
E MILLS
1050
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415
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221
197
167
133
101
79
370
442
484
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Introduction

The following continuation sheets provide additional documentation for the Mountain Road Historic District [VDHR) File #230-0078], located in the town of Halifax, the courthouse seat of Halifax County, Virginia. The Mountain Road Historic District was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR) and the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1983. The 88-acre district consists of 30 primary resources, including residential and institutional properties that are significant in the areas of architecture and landscape architecture from the early 1800s to the early 1900s. The original district boundaries extended one-half mile west along Mountain Road from Academy Street to Mimosa Drive, which served as the corporate town limits at the time of the 1983 nomination. The Town of Halifax Court House Historic District (VLR 2008; NRHP 2011) extends along Main Street just east of the Mountain Road Historic District.

In May 2003, a windshield survey was conducted to investigate the potential of expanding the original district to the west and south to include buildings beyond the earlier town limits. In addition to the ca. 1843 Halifax Academy, the 1935-1939 Halifax High School, and the 1938 Halifax Library, the proposed expansion area includes several residences associated with the Cosby family, master builders of the Halifax Courthouse and other significant buildings in the town and existing Mountain Road Historic District. In 2015, a nomination was prepared for the Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase.

As part of the survey and nomination of the Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Boundary Increase, resources within the original Mountain Road Historic District were resurveyed to verify their condition and document all significant secondary resources in order to create an accurate inventory for the historic district. In addition, the period of significance was extended from 1934 to 1965 to better reflect the continued development of the area through the mid-20th century. The contributing status of resources built between 1934 and 1965 within the original district boundary have been updated to reflect the expanded period of significance to 1965.

These continuation sheets for the Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Update do not repeat information previously included in the 1983 district nomination. The additional information included in this update is limited to information that was not included in the initial nomination. All new information is organized by section headings as listed in the current NRHP nomination form with parenthetical reference to the original nomination headings where applicable.

Section 5: Classification

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
49	14	buildings
1	0	sites
0	0	buildings
0	0	objects

50 14 Total

Section 6: Function or Use

Historic Functions

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding
EDUCATION: school
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary building
RELIGION: religious facility
RELIGION: church-related residence
SOCIAL: clubhouse

Current Functions

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: agricultural outbuilding
DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: secondary building
RELIGION: religious facility
SOCIAL: clubhouse
VACANT/NOT IN USE

Section 7: Description

Architectural Classification

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal
MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne, Stick/Eastlake
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

Materials

FOUNDATION: BRICK, CONCRETE
WALLS: WOOD (weatherboard), BRICK, STUCCO
ROOF: ASPHALT, METAL (tin), STONE (slate)

Summary Description

The 1983 National Register nomination for the Mountain Road Historic District includes 30 primary resources with eight buildings listed as non-contributing due to their post 1933 date of construction, making them less than fifty years of age at the time. The nomination, however, notes that these non-contributing buildings all retained the scale of the earlier contributing buildings in the district. Three of these buildings were built within the expanded period of significance (1934-1965) and they continue the same development pattern of the earlier buildings in the district. Two of these buildings are large residences situated on spacious lawns with mature landscaping that continue the park-like ambience of Mountain Road established by Dabney Cosby Jr. in his 1840s designs for three of the earliest residences in the district. The third property is the 1962 St. John's Episcopal Church Parish House, which is located next to the church and continues the scale and siting of the other institutional buildings nearby. These three buildings are now more than 50 years old and considered to be contributing resources to the district.

It should be noted again that the remaining five non-contributing buildings, constructed between 1967 and 1981, also continue the traditional development patterns characteristic of the Mountain Road Historic District. Two of these non-contributing houses, Giant Poplars, built in 1967 at 530 Mountain Road, and Woodland, built in 1974 at 471 Mountain Road, replaced earlier buildings that burned; each property includes earlier secondary buildings and original landscaping that date to the 19th century that contribute to the district. The five non-contributing buildings that currently are not 50 years of age should be reevaluated in the future.

Architectural Analysis

The Colonial Revival style gained popularity throughout the nation with the Philadelphia Centennial in 1876, the Columbian Exposition in 1893, the Jamestown Bicentennial in 1807 and the reconstruction of Colonial Williamsburg in the 1930s. This style is the predominant style in the Mountain Road Historic District with 11 of the 30 properties built between 1822 and 1981 exhibiting elements of this style. Several of the earlier houses were remodeled in the 1960s with Colonial Revival-style porticos replacing their original porches. Examples of these "updated" houses include the ca. 1820 Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road), the 1822 Thomas Jefferson Green House (442 Mountain Road) and the 1912 Watts Leigh House (136 Mountain Road).

All three of the resources constructed between 1933 and 1965 are designed in the Colonial Revival style. The St. John's Episcopal Church Parish Office, built in 1962 at 221 Mountain Road, is a simple, one-story building on a raised basement with a side-gable roof. Designed by the architectural firm Benton & Phillips, the concrete-block building is covered with stucco to complement the 1844 design by Dabney Cosby Jr. of St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road) with its "rough-cast" stucco lined to simulate granite block. The Colonial Revival-style house at 543 Mountain Road, built in 1940 using brick salvaged from the ca. 1830 Banister Lodge, features Flemish-bond brick, a side-gable roof with dormers and a two-story, gabled entrance portico. The two-story, five-bay brick house at 630 Mountain Road, built in 1964, features a side-gable roof and a one-story, gabled entry porch. This property also includes a kitchen dependency dating to the 19th century.

In addition to the properties constructed between 1933 and 1965, a number of significant secondary

resources, dating from the 1820s to the mid-20th century, contribute to the historic district. The most complete collections of secondary buildings are found at Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) and the Robert Holt Easley property at 415 Mountain Road. Grand Oaks, built in 1843 by Dabney Cosby Jr., features two one-story, frame dwellings located behind the house that may have originally served as slave quarters and were later used by Colonel Vaughan as his office and residence for his chauffeur. The frame stable, which appears to date to the early 1900s, is notable with its stalls surrounding an open paddock and with a front gable over the open entry. The ca. 1876 Robert Holt Easley House at 415 Mountain Road retains a full complement of domestic outbuildings, including a kitchen, double smokehouse, privy and well house as well as a separate summer house and office/billiard room. Although the main house at Woodland burned in 1970, the late-19th century stable and carriage house survive and are testimony to the Victorian style of the original house. These two frame buildings feature side-gable roofs with a prominent central gable with decorative scroll-sawn vergeboards and siding in the gable ends. Woodland also includes a unique secondary building in the ca. 1930 log house that was built for Craddock Edmunds, a well-known Southern poet. Two other properties in the district include former school buildings. The school at Giant Poplars, 530 Mountain Road, is known as the "Dooryard School" as well as "Judge Barksdale's Office" and dates to ca. 1870. This one-story building features board-and-batten siding and a projecting gable roof over the entrance. A frame school is also located on the 1820 property of Seven Oaks at 615 Mountain Road.

Inventory

The inventory below is a full listing of all resources, including significant secondary resources, within the original Mountain Road Historic District (NRHP 1983). Generated using the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS), the resource information is based on the 1983 survey and a field verification of all resources conducted by Hill Studio in 2015. Information listed for each resource includes the address, DHR ID number, primary resource type, architectural style, date of construction, secondary resource type and contributing or non-contributing status. The properties are placed in sequential order.

The properties constructed between 1933 and 1965 have been updated to reflect their revised contributing status within the expanded period of significance for the district and the address line of each of these properties is underlined. For the purposes of this survey, "contributing" was defined as possessing the capacity to convey reliable historic information about the physical and cultural development of Mountain Road in the Town of Halifax. A property was considered "contributing" if the primary resource was constructed in or before 1965 and the resource retained sufficient integrity dating to the period of significance for the district. A property was determined to be "non-contributing" to the historic district if the primary resource was constructed in or after 1966 or the primary resource was altered to a level that any historic integrity it might have possessed was significantly destroyed or obscured.

Mountain Road

80 Mountain Road 230-0047 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0002*

Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1920**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

100 Mountain Road 230-0039 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0003*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne, Ca 1880**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

110 Mountain Road 230-0029 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0004*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Queen Anne, Ca 1890**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

123 Mountain Road 230-0009 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0005*
Halifax Hiram Lodge 96
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, 1828**
Contributing *Total:* 1

133 Mountain Road 230-0004 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0006*
Halifax United Methodist Church
Primary Resource: **Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, 1828**
Contributing *Total:* 1

136 Mountain Road 230-0021 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0007*
Watt Leigh House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1912**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Smoke/Meat House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

160 Mountain Road 230-0042 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0008*
Magnolia Hill
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1840**

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

167 Mountain Road 230-0031 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0009*
Carrington House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Victorian, Folk, 1881**
Contributing *Total:* 1

197 Mountain Road 230-0005 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0010*
St. John's Episcopal Church
Primary Resource: **Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1, Style: Greek Revival, 1844**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Cemetery (Site)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

221 Mountain Road 230-0020 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0011*
St. John's Episcopal Church Parish House
Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1962**
Contributing *Total:* 1

230-234 Mountain Road 230-0003 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0012*
Grand Oaks
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Greek Revival, Ca 1843**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Stable (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Pool House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

267 Mountain Road 230-0044 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0013*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Colonial Revival, 1910**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Carriage House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

295 Mountain Road 230-0014 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0014*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1970**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

309 Mountain Road 230-0017 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0015*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2.5, Style: Vernacular, 1914**
Contributing *Total:* 1

329 Mountain Road 230-0037 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0016*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Stick/Eastlake, Ca 1898**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

349 Mountain Road 230-0041 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0017*
Lovelace-Covington House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1901**
Contributing *Total:* 1

370 Mountain Road 230-0023 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0018*
Edmunds House / Chastain Home for Gentle Women
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1885**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

389 Mountain Road 230-0026 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0019*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Stick/Eastlake, Ca 1880**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

415 Mountain Road 230-0024 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0020*
Robert Holt Easley House and Office
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Stick/Eastlake, Ca 1876**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Kitchen (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Privy (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Smoke/Meat House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Well/Well House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

442 Mountain Road 230-0030 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0020*
Thomas Jefferson Green House
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1822**
Contributing *Total:* 1

471 Mountain Road 230-0025 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0022*
Woodland
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Neo-Eclectic, 1974**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Carriage House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Stable (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Secondary Dwelling (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

484 Mountain Road 230-0006 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0023*
St. John's Episcopal Church Rectory
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Greek Revival, 1844**
Contributing *Total:* 1

530 Mountain Road 230-0078-0024 *Other DHR Id#:*
Giant Poplars / Barksdale School
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Exotic Revival, Ca 1967**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Kitchen (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **School (Building)**

Contributing *Total:* 1

543 Mountain Road 230-0015 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0025*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1940**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Smoke/Meat House (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

575 Mountain Road 230-0016 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0026*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1968**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

580 Mountain Road 230-0045 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0027*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1840**
Contributing *Total:* 1

610 Mountain Road 230-0078-0001 *Other DHR Id#:*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1981**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

615 Mountain Road 230-0049 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0028*
Seven Oaks
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1820**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **School (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1

640 Mountain Road 230-0043 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0029*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1964**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Kitchen (Building)**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

655 Mountain Road 230-0001 *Other DHR Id#: 230-0078-0030*
Primary Resource: **Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1929**
Contributing *Total:* 1
Secondary Resource: **Shed (Building)**
Non-contributing *Total:* 1

Section 8
Narrative Statement of Significance

The Mountain Road Historic District, stretching along Route 360 in the Town of Halifax, Virginia, depicts the gradual evolution of this rural Southside area from large tracts of farmland owned by prominent county leaders in the 19th century to a mid-20th century community established around the county seat. The district continues to serve as a premiere residential neighborhood and institutional center for the town. Comprised primarily of residential properties ranging in date from the 1820s to the mid-1960s, the district is characterized by large lots with well-designed and constructed houses set back from the road and surrounded by mature landscaping. Institutional buildings, including the Halifax Hiram Lodge 96 (1828), Halifax United Methodist Church (1828) and St. John's Episcopal Church (1844), are concentrated at the east end of the district, just west of Main Street and the 1839 Halifax Courthouse. Whether the properties along Mountain Road have a rural 19th-century character or a 20th-century suburban development pattern, they are strongly connected by the road itself with its historically significant role as a main artery leading into the courthouse town and its park-like character of large, gracious lots with substantial houses and mature landscaping.

The Mountain Road Historic District is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Community Planning & Development as it represents the residential and institutional growth along Mountain Road in the Town of Halifax. It is also locally significant under Criterion C in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture as it is highly regarded for its distinguished mid-19th- to mid-20th-century collection of well-designed residential and institutional buildings with mature landscaping, which retains the park-like setting established by Dabney Cosby Jr. in his design of several of the earlier residences. The district is significant for the period from the 1820s, representing the construction of the earliest houses and institutional buildings, through 1965, which is the traditional cutoff for properties where significant activities continued into the more recent past.

Historical Background

Halifax County was formed from Lunenburg County in 1752 and William Ghent received a grant for a large tract of land on what is now Mountain Road in 1755.[1] Halifax County was later subdivided in 1766 to form Pittsylvania County and the county seat of Halifax moved 14 miles east from Peytonsburg to Faulkner's (or Hawkin's) Crossing. After several petitions from residents to move the court to the south side of the Banister River, the General Assembly finally ordered that the court be moved to land offered by John Boram in 1777. This land, located on the south side of the Banister River on what is now Toot's Creek, was located near the geographical center of the county with a spring of excellent water".[2] John Boram's land became known as Banister Town and later Halifax. At this time, Thomas Ghent owned a large tract of land along what is now Mountain Road. Ghent's one-story, hall-and-parlor house, built ca. 1774, survives as the rear section of Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road), built ca. 1820. By 1784, plans were approved for the construction of a new courthouse and prison. A second new courthouse was constructed in 1803 and the General Assembly established the town of Banister in 1817.

In addition to the county seat, Banister became the commercial, social and religious center of the county. By 1830, there were several taverns in operation as well as the ca. 1828 Halifax Masonic Lodge (Hiram

Lodge 96, 123 Mountain Road) and St. Mark's Episcopal Church, also built ca. 1828 at 133 Mountain Road. The land along Mountain Road continued to be settled by prominent Halifax County families, including the Barksdales, Easleys, and Ghents. Thomas Ghent's 1774 Seven Oaks was greatly enlarged ca. 1820 with the addition of a two-story, double-pile frame house with central passage. Further east, William Bailey built "Four Chimneys" (now known as the Thomas Jefferson Green House, 442 Mountain Road) in 1822. This house later served as the rectory for Reverend John Grammer of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in the early 1840s while St. John's Church and Rectory were being built.[3]

The town grew rapidly, with a population of approximately 250 by 1835, including three attorneys and three physicians, according to Joseph Martin in his 1835 gazetteer. In his description of the post village and county seat, Martin noted:

> "Besides the usual county buildings it contains 25 dwelling houses, with a number of out houses, mechanics' shops, etc, two spacious houses of public worship, one Episcopalian and the other Methodist, a large and handsome Masonic Hall, which has lately been erected of brick in an elevated and advantageous situation above the middle of the village, several handsome and commodious taverns, three general stores, and one grocery."[4]

In 1838, after numerous repair orders, the court contracted Dabney Cosby Sr. and his son, Dabney Cosby Jr. to construct a new courthouse. Dabney Cosby Sr., who had worked on the University of Virginia with Thomas Jefferson, had recently completed courthouses in Sussex and Goochland counties.[5] The Greek Revival-style Halifax County Courthouse (8 South Main Street) was completed by September 1839 and continues to operate today. The Cosbys remained in the Halifax area to construct several houses and churches, including the Greek Revival-style St. John's Episcopal Church (197 Mountain Road) in 1844 and St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road) in 1845. The Cosby family were members of St. John's and are buried in the cemetery there. With the construction of the new Episcopal Church, the former St. Mark's Episcopal Church at 133 Mountain Road was sold to the Courthouse Presbyterian Church, who worshipped there from 1845 to 1875.[6]

Dabney Cosby Jr. established the pattern of large houses set back on gracious lawns that gives Mountain Road its distinct character with his design and construction of three Greek Revival-style residences in the early 1840s. In addition to the 1845 St. John's Rectory (484 Mountain Road) Cosby Jr. designed and built Magnolia Hill (160 Mountain Road) in ca. 1840. James S. Easley, business partner to James Bruce and one of Halifax County's wealthiest land owners, and his wife Elizabeth Holt Easley purchased Magnolia Hill in 1843. [7]Located just west of Toots Creek and the courthouse, this property was originally a much larger tract of land, as evidenced by several spring stones associated with it that survive, but are not part of the property (or the district) today. Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) was built in 1843 by Cosby Jr. for William Holt, Clerk of Court in Halifax County, and his wife Phoebe Ferguson Holt – parents of Elizabeth Holt Easley of Magnolia Hill. The brick kiln used by Cosby for these buildings may have been located on the property of the 1880s Edmunds House/Chastain Home (370 Mountain Road) as county court records indicate Cosby sold a house on this property, but not the lot with the kiln, to Elisha Barksdale in 1841.[8]

Other prominent citizens of Halifax County living along Mountain Road at this time included Thomas Stanhope Flournoy, member of the United States Congress (1841 to 1857), who purchased Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road) in 1841. Thomas Jefferson Green, a prominent attorney in Halifax County and member of the building committee for the Halifax County courthouse, purchased "Four Chimneys" at 442 Mountain Road in the 1850s.[9]

By 1853, the population of Banister had grown to about 600 according to the *1855 Statistical Gazetteer of The State of Virginia*, in which Richard Edwards refers to Banister as "the capital of Halifax."[10] Edwards also notes that Banister was the terminus of three stagecoach lines, with Mountain Road providing a connection to Danville. However, the Civil War and the coming of the railroad would change the development of land in Halifax and along Mountain Road during the second half of the 19th century.

Although the end of slavery changed the way the large plantations of Halifax County were farmed after the Civil War, Banister continued to develop as the county seat. With a population of 700 in 1885, it was incorporated as a town by the General Assembly in 1887. In 1890, the Lynchburg & Durham Railroad was completed at the south end of town and new commercial and industrial growth began to develop in that area. Reflecting this shift, the name of the town was changed in 1890 from "Banister," after the river, to "Houston," named for William C. Houston Jr. of Philadelphia, the treasurer of the construction company which built the Lynchburg & Durham Railroad.[11]

Along Mountain Road, many of the large antebellum tracts of land began to be subdivided as a result of changes in farming practices after the war, as well as a demand for more residential development along this desirable route leading into town. Mountain Road continued to be developed by many of the leading citizens of the county with well-designed and well-constructed houses situated on large, landscaped lots. *The 1907 Halifax Handbook* described Houston as a town with a population of 800 and boasting that Mountain Road was "one of the most beautiful streets in Virginia."[12]

Robert Holt Easley, son of James S. Easley of Magnolia Hill, built a Victorian-era house on Banister Farm (415 Mountain Road) in 1876. Easley, an attorney, served as president of the Bank of South Boston and mayor of Halifax.[13] In addition to numerous domestic outbuildings, the property includes a one-story frame building, constructed ca. 1880, which served as his law office and billiards room.

A portion of Banister Farm was further subdivided when Robert Holt Easley sold land to Edward Shaeffer to build Woodland (371 Mountain Road) in 1901. As stipulated in the deed, when Shaeffer decided to sell Woodland in 1912, it returned to the Easley family, being purchased by Robert Holt Easley's son, James Stone Easley. Easley was Halifax County's Commonwealth Attorney, founder and president of the Patrick Henry Memorial Foundation, Halifax County Man of the Year (1955) and State of Virginia's Outstanding Citizen in 1957.[14] Unfortunately, the elaborate Queen Anne-style house burned in 1970 but the carriage house and stables, which were also designed in the Queen Anne-style, remain.

During this period of growth in Halifax and further development of Mountain Road, Howard W. Cosby, son of Dabney Cosby Jr., carried on the family tradition of designing and building substantial brick houses for Halifax's leading citizens. In the 1880s, Captain Henry Edmunds built the Edmunds House/Chastain Home at 370 Mountain Road on land that was once part of the Barksdale property. This house and the 1881 Carrington House (167 Mountain Road) are attributed to Howard W. Cosby. Watt Leigh, president of the Bank of Halifax, built the Colonial Revival-style house at 136 Mountain Road in 1912. While local tradition credits Howard W. Cosby as the builder, it is possible that the design was influenced by the architectural firm of Heard and Caldwell as they designed the Bank of Halifax on Main Street in 1911 for Watt Leigh. Three other presidents of the bank have lived in this house.[15]

Several other prominent citizens of Halifax either built or remodeled earlier houses on Mountain Road at the turn of the century. Judge John Riely purchased Seven Oaks (615 Mountain Road) in 1875 and updated it once again by adding a two-story front addition with a Victorian porch. In 1901, Dr. William Lovelace built the Colonial Revival-style house at 349 Mountain Road. Lovelace practiced as a dentist in Halifax County for 60 years and served as the town's mayor for 28 years. The Lovelace-Covington House has remained in the family for five generations and Lovelace's grandson also served as mayor for 36 years. Grand Oaks (230 Mountain Road) was purchased in 1917 by Hannah Vaughan, wife of Colonel Ira Vaughan. The Vaughans came to Halifax from Philadelphia for Colonel Vaughan to oversee the construction of the hydroelectric dam and power plant on the Banister River. Grand Oaks was remodeled in the Colonial Revival style with the addition of a two-story portico, dormers and side wings.[16]

1934 to 1965 (Expanded Period of Significance)

By the 1930s, the town's modern infrastructure was well established with electrical and telephone companies as well as the Banister River Dam in operation. A new Halifax High School for white students and the Halifax County Library were built on Mountain Road just west of the historic district in the late 1930s. It was also during this period that the Halifax Hiram Lodge 96 invited the Halifax Women's Club to share the use of their ca. 1828 meeting hall. Another significant change was the conversion of the 1880s Edmunds House at 370 Mountain Road to the Chastain Home for Gentle Women in 1949.

Industry in the Town of Halifax also diversified during this period with the introduction of the textile industry as Carter Fabrics was established in 1940, followed by the Halifax Worsted Mills (later Burlington) in 1947. The Craddock-Terry Shoe Corporation built a plant on South Main Street in 1946. These new industries brought many jobs to the area. As testament to the town's growth, a new Municipal Building/Fire Station and water tower were constructed by 1950 on North Main Street near the intersection of Mountain Road. As a result of this continued growth in the town of Halifax after World War II, the area along Mountain Road continued to develop as well.

The two churches in the district, Halifax United Methodist Church and St. John's Episcopal Church,

both experienced growth in their congregations and expanded their facilities during this period. Halifax United Methodist Church, built ca. 1928 at 133 Mountain Road, added a library, office and classrooms to the rear of the chancel in 1950. Another two-story addition with a new entrance was added in 1974. St. John's Episcopal Church built a one-story parish house on an adjacent lot at 221 Mountain Road in 1962. The new parish house, constructed of concrete block, was covered in stucco to match the original 1844 church designed by Dabney Cosby Jr.

The growing popularity of the automobile impacted the town of Halifax and Mountain Road in the mid-20th century. As both Main Street (Route 501) and Mountain Road (Route 360) began as stagecoach routes connecting Halifax to Southside Virginia and beyond in the 19th century, these roads continued to serve as major thoroughfares in the 20th century. By the 1930s, automobiles were becoming more common and the roads of Halifax and South Boston were paved. The late-19th-century Lord Halifax Hotel, located at the juncture of Main Street and Mountain Road, experienced a revival during this period of automobile travel before being demolished in the 1950s for a service station. The intersection of Main Street and Mountain Road featured two service stations by the mid-20th century—the ca. 1935 Republic Crown Station (60 Mountain Road) and a ca. 1950 Shell Service Station across the street (demolished). Another business related to these highways was the bus station (demolished), which was located at the corner of Mountain Road and Maple Avenue.[17] The impact of the automobile on residential development along Mountain Road after the 1930s is evident in a more direct relationship between the residences and the road in their siting and orientation as well as the presence of driveways leading to a garage.

As the population of Halifax continued to grow after World War II, the large rural tracts of land owned by prominent families in the 19th century were further subdivided to provide more building lots along Mountain Road as it became a premiere residential street. This new development differed from the earlier residential properties of the late 19th and early 20th centuries, which were more reflective of the rural origins of the area with large houses set back from the road, sometimes with a long "approach drive," and surrounded by domestic or agricultural outbuildings. The mid-20th century residences tended to be more closely oriented to the road but still featured large, well-designed and constructed houses sited on spacious lots and surrounded by well-established landscaping. In many cases the large trees date back to a time when much of the land along Mountain Road was covered in woods.

Colonial Revival continued to be the most popular style for houses along Mountain Road. The land associated with Seven Oaks was subdivided for the construction of three additional houses while carefully maintaining the ancient grove of oaks believed to date to the 17th century. Bonbrook (655 Mountain Road) was built in 1929 by Richard Coles and Pocahontas Edmunds using materials salvaged from Springwood, the Coles family home. To the east of Seven Oaks, the Edmunds-Cage House (543 Mountain Road) was built in 1941. Designed in the Colonial Revival style with a two-story portico, the house was constructed of bricks from Banister Lodge, the ca. 1830 plantation home of William Howson Clark.[18] Nostalgia also inspired the ca. 1930 construction of a rustic log house by James Stone Easley on the Woodland property for his relative Craddock Edmunds. Edmunds was a well-known Southern poet who achieved great acclaim in 1937 for his work.

Other residential neighborhoods that developed in Halifax after World War II tended to be less auspicious in their siting, size, and style. Most of these houses were built for the managers and workers associated with the new industries and were located in subdivisions off of the main thoroughfares. These houses are typically a smaller, simpler version of the Colonial Revival or Ranch style. While the lots were often large, they do not feature mature landscaping or retain the cohesive, park-like character that distinguishes Mountain Road Historic District.

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Section: Photographs:
Property: Mountain Road Historic District 2015 Update
Location: Town of Halifax, Halifax County, Virginia
Photographer: Katherine Coffield, Hill Studio
Date: February 2015
VDHR File #: 230-0078

Photo 1 of 6: Edmunds House/Chastain Home for Gentle Women, view SE
Photo 2 of 6: Thomas Jefferson Green House, view SW
Photo 3 of 6: Grand Oaks, view south
Photo 4 of 6: Mountain Road - 100 Block, view east
Photo 5 of 6: Halifax United Methodist Church and Halifax Hiram Lodge 96, view NE
Photo 6 of 6: St. John's Episcopal Church, view NW

Endnotes
[1] www.oldhalifax.com
[2] Cook, 1972: 9.
[3] Halifax County Historical Society, 2015
[4] Martin, 1835:184-185.
[5] Cook: 13
[6] Halifax county Historical Society
[7] *ibid*
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[10] Edwards, 1855:16
[11] *The Daily Virginian*, 1/8/1891
[12] Morrison 1907: 22-23 12
[13] www.oldhalifax.com
[14] Halifax County Historical Society
[15] *ibid*

[16] *ibid*
[17] Hill Studio, 2008: Section 8 Page 19
[18] www.oldhalifax.com