



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Purpose of Evaluation

Please use the following space to explain briefly why you are seeking an evaluation of this property.

On behalf of the Town of Ashland’s Department of Planning & Community Development and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Dovetail Cultural Resource Group staff conducted an investigation of the area located in the northern section of the Town of Ashland known as Berkleytown, a historically African American community developed after the institution of the Ashland segregation ordinance in 1911. This PIF focuses on that community.

Are you interested in applying for State and/or Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes _____ No X

Are you interested in receiving more information about DHR’s easement program? Yes _____ No X

1. General Information

District name(s): Berkleytown Historic District

DHR File No.: 166-5073

Main Streets and/or Routes: Henry Street, Berkley Street, A Street, B Street, N. Center Street, N.W. Henry Lane, N. Washington Highway, Smith Street

City or Town: Ashland

Name of the Independent City or County where the property is located: Hanover County

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: 68.5 acres

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban _____ Suburban _____ Town X Village _____ Hamlet _____ Rural _____

Briefly describe the district’s overall setting, including any notable landscape features:

Located west of N. Washington Highway (Route 1) and east of the CSX railroad tracks, Berkleytown is situated 0.25 mile from the Randolph-Macon College Campus (166-5072) and approximately 0.33 mile from the Ashland Historic District (166-0001) in the Town of Ashland of Hanover County. The community was established in the early-twentieth century after the institution of the 1911 segregation ordinance in Ashland. Berkleytown encompasses approximately 68.5 acres and is concentrated on two main roads: Henry Street and Berkley Street. It also includes Smith Street, A Street, B Street, N. Center Street, N.W. Henry Lane, and a portion of N. Washington Highway (Route 1). Historically, Berkleytown had both residential and commercial development, but today it is primarily residential in character. A few extant community resources remain such as the Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home, a Masonic lodge, and the John M. Gandy School (166-5073-0024) which is now utilized as the Hanover County School Board office building.

3. Architectural/Physical Description

Architectural Style(s): Minimal Traditional, Ranch, Transitional Ranch, Craftsman, Queen Anne, vernacular

If any individual properties within the district were designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: Shelton House (203 Berkley Street); John M. Gandy School (200 Berkley Street)

If any builders or developers are known, please list here: Sears, Roebuck, and Co.; Edward F. Sinnott (Architect)

Date(s) of construction (can be approximate): 1911–1969

Are there any known threats to this district? Development

Narrative Description:

In the space below, briefly describe the general characteristics of the entire historic district, such as building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district, as well as typical updates, additions, remodelings, or other alterations that characterize the district.

The Berkleytown Historic District highlights a historically African American-populated community concentrated along Henry and Berkley streets in the Town of Ashland of Hanover County. Historically located outside of the Town of Ashland limits, the community currently comprises one- to two-story single-family dwellings, two multi-family residential complexes, a funeral home, a masonic lodge, and an educational complex all dating primarily from the early- to mid-twentieth century. The main roads through Berkleytown are Henry Street, Berkley Street, A Street, B Street, and N. Center Street. Residential buildings line all of the roads, with the oldest resources clustered around the intersection of Henry and Berkley streets. The east side of Henry Street and the north side of Berkley Street are lined with public sidewalks while the remainder are unlined and the less than 1-acre lots within the district are spotted with a mix of deciduous and coniferous trees, shrubbery, and plantings. Secondary resources, such as garages, sheds, or carports, are common as is the use of fencing.

There are two identifiable periods of residential construction within the district that reflect trends seen throughout this region of Virginia during the early- to mid-twentieth century. The first begins around 1915 and ends in 1930 with buildings concentrated along Berkley and Henry streets. These dwellings are predominantly of the two-story vernacular form or the one-and-a-half-story bungalow form, many with Craftsman style influences. An exception is the Shelton House at 203 Berkley Street (166-0034/166-5073-0035). Constructed around 1918, this Sears, Roebuck, and Co. house, in the Maytown model, exemplifies the Queen Anne style (The Ashland Museum 2016a). Generally, the resources in this area of Berkleytown maintain their original form and massing with some original materials, such as wood-framed windows or weatherboard; however, many include replacement materials like vinyl windows or vinyl siding.

A second period of residential expansion in Berkleytown occurred between 1930 and 1960. This development included the construction of additional houses on Berkley and Henry streets and the creation of A and B streets. The dwellings of this time period were mainly built in the Minimal Traditional or Transitional Ranch styles. These resources, generally, have not undergone many modifications; most maintain their original massing and original materials, such as wood-framed two-over-two, six-over-six, or bay windows and wood doors. Some modern infill has occurred in the community, but it does not strongly affect the architectural integrity of the district. These buildings are single-family and multi-family dwellings. The multi-family residences include two two-story apartment complexes located at 700–702 Henry Street and 211 Berkley Street. They were developed in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

In general, residential buildings in the district range from one to two stories in height and primarily are built upon continuous foundations. Exterior materials include weatherboard and vinyl siding as well as brick veneer. They are primarily covered in a type of gable or hipped roof with asphalt shingles. Although some fenestration has been replaced or updated, as is common in continuously occupied buildings, many still retain original or in-like windows and doors. This includes two-over-two or six-over-six, wood-framed, double-hung-sash windows. Primary elevations typically feature an entry stoop or porch.

Predominantly, commercial buildings were either constructed on the same property as the owner's residence or were attached to the owner's residence; most of these reflect the same styles and forms as the dwellings in Berkleytown. For example, Butt's Barbershop (166-5073-0032) was attached to the barber's dwelling by a hyphen; it utilized the same concrete-block foundation and structural system as the house and reflected the same Minimal Traditional style. There are a few outliers to this development; the Elks Lodge (166-0033 & 166-5073-0033) at 612 Henry Street originally functioned as a hotel. Constructed around 1925, the two-story Lodge reflects a vernacular style that blends with the residences located nearby. Though the building retains its form, few original materials remain; vinyl siding, asphalt shingles, and vinyl-framed windows are featured. Other non-residential buildings, such as the Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home or the John M. Gandy School (166-5073-0024), replaced original structures and were constructed in the late-twentieth century.

Discuss the district's general setting and/or streetscapes, including current property uses (and historic uses if different), such as industrial, residential, commercial, religious, etc. For rural historic districts, please include a description of land uses.

The district was historically a mixed-use community, with both residential and commercial buildings but is now primarily residential in nature. Many houses are currently rented to and occupied by Randolph-Macon College students (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021). Historically, Berkleytown used to include several other commercial enterprises such as a bakery (166-5073-0034), a barbershop (166-5073-0032), a hotel (166-0033/166-5073-0033), and an additional funeral home (166-5073-0010); today, all of those resources are either no longer extant or have been converted to residential use. Berkleytown currently has three buildings that continue to have commercial or community functions: a funeral home, a masonic lodge, and an educational complex. The Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home is located at 518 N. Washington Highway (Route 1). Constructed in 1987, the current funeral home replaced the original circa-1930 building which had been located closer to the road. Associated with this resource is a single-family dwelling likely constructed during the late-nineteenth century. The Pride of Hanover Lodge #264 F&AM, a chapter of Prince Hall Freemasonry, is located at 219 Berkley Street. Constructed around 1974, the two-story building features a foundation and structural system clad in brick veneer and a hipped roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. Lastly, the Hanover County School Board office (166-5073-0024), formerly known as the John M. Gandy School, is located at 200 Berkley Street. This building was constructed around 1948 after a new design replaced the frame building that had served as the school for African American students throughout the early-twentieth century. Designed by notable Richmond architect Edward F. Sinnott, the two-story building is representative of the International style.

4. District's History and Significance

In the space below, briefly describe the history of the district, such as when it was established, how it developed over time, and significant events, persons, and/or families associated with the property. Please list all sources of information used to research the history of the property. (It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or family genealogies to this form.) Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

If the district is important for its architecture, engineering, landscape architecture, or other aspects of design, please include a brief explanation of this aspect.

The Berkleytown Historic District is an African American residential community in the Town of Ashland comprising cultural resources that embody and reflect phases of local and regional development from the early- to mid-twentieth century. Berkleytown developed in response to a segregation ordinance issued by the Town of Ashland in 1911 and other forms of racial discrimination. The neighborhood was established just to the north of the downtown area of Ashland and functioned as a largely self-sufficient community as it included amenities such as funerary services, restaurants and shops, a school, and other resources. Residents felt strong communal ties to one another and to the businesses that supported the neighborhood.

In order to understand the development of Berkleytown, it is necessary to briefly discuss the history of housing discrimination in Ashland. Following the Civil War, the white residents of Ashland pursued a myriad of avenues to preserve their pre-war way of life. One way to maintain their segregation was through the use of racial covenants on land use, often written into deeds to prohibit the sale or inhabitation of certain properties by non-caucasian individuals. These covenants began to appear in Ashland shortly after the Civil War. For example, in an 1886 deed for the Hugo House (166-0037/166-001-0073) on Center Street, it was stated that “She or her heirs will cause to be erected on said land a dwelling house for the occupancy of a white family...If she or heirs breaches contract then deed will become null and void” (Hanover County Deed Book [HCDB] 21:34).

In September 1911, Ashland further institutionalized physical segregation by enacting a segregation ordinance, modeled off of a similar recently enacted ordinance in the City of Richmond. The Ashland ordinance declared it illegal for “any person to occupy as a residence or to establish and maintain as a school or place of public assembly and house upon any street or alley between two adjacent streets on which a greater number of houses are occupied [by members of another race]” (Stephenson 1914:12–13). This ordinance, unlike some others in different cities, attempted to legislate the entire town instead of dictating which blocks were illegal for African American habitation (Stephenson 1914:14–15). While the ordinance did not prevent people from purchasing property or houses in certain areas of Ashland, it did limit whether the owner could live in a building thereon (Gilmore 2019:5).

The constitutionality of the ordinance eventually went before the Hanover County Circuit Court. In 1912, an African American man named John Coleman purchased property along Henry Clay Road in Ashland. The property, located to the southwest of Berkleytown, was situated in an area that was occupied predominately by white residents. Soon after his purchase, John Coleman moved into the house and subsequently was issued a summons for violating the segregation ordinance (Gilmore 2019:12). The issue went to court in 1913 (*Town of Ashland v. Coleman*), but the segregation ordinance was upheld, with the judge stating it was “not oppressive because it applied to white people and negroes alike” (Stephenson 1914:14–15). Due to the postbellum housing discrimination African Americans were experiencing in Ashland, many began to settle right outside of the town's incorporation line. This development led to the creation of the Berkleytown community, initially a community in the County.

Berkleytown was located on land originally owned by Edward Berkeley, a large landowner in Hanover County. In 1894, Edward Berkeley's estate was subdivided into seven lots just north of Ashland along a country road which would later be renamed “Berkley Street” (Barile et al. 2018:3-85). It appears that some of

the early dwellings located on Berkley Street were originally built and inhabited by white residents, but by the 1920s, most of the houses were owned by African Americans (United States Federal Population Census 1910, 1920). It was also around this time that a school for African American children was established in the community. The schoolhouse that opened in Berkleytown had previously served as the schoolhouse for white children. When a new brick building was erected for the white children in 1915 in downtown Ashland, the old schoolhouse was relocated to Berkley Street to be utilized by Black students (Shalf 1994:146). All of these developments indicate the strong presence of an African American community within this area by the 1920s.

In 1922, the area located southwest of the intersection of Berkley and Henry streets was platted, creating A and B streets (Hanover County Plat Book 7:147). These lots appear to have initially been purchased solely by African Americans and development of this area largely took place between 1950 and 1960. These lots are smaller than the parcels along Berkley and Henry streets and the architecture reflects the Minimal Traditional and Transitional Ranch styles. After several years of segregation, in 1977, Berkleytown was formally annexed into the Town of Ashland (Barile et al. 2018:3-86).

Berkleytown, like many other African American communities in the Commonwealth, was historically self-sustaining. As cities and towns throughout the South legislated segregation ordinances and pushed African Americans to the periphery of urban centers, they could no longer utilize the businesses they had once patronized. An increase in racial tension and violence also prevented the integration of businesses (Ingham 2003:641). The establishment of new towns, neighborhoods, and communities provided African Americans with opportunities to begin and grow their own business ventures (Ingham 2003:640). These businesses and the communities they were located in had a symbiotic relationship. Historian John N. Ingham notes that the establishment of businesses “helped solidify the newly formed black neighborhoods” and helped contribute to a stronger sense of community (2003:641).

The development of Berkleytown follows this model. Several businesses and civic centers located within the community, many of which operated well into the late-twentieth and early-twenty-first centuries, helped promote a sense of connection between the residents of Berkleytown. These businesses provided essential services to Berkleytown residents as well as African Americans who lived in the surrounding regions. While the businesses themselves were varied, there were some common characteristics among them. One such characteristic was that many of the businesses were near or were physically connected to the owner’s residence. Business owners in Berkleytown often utilized additions to their houses or a separate building adjacent to their house as space for their commercial enterprises such as barbershops or bakeries. Another common characteristic was that although many of these businesses were small, they were well established and utilized heavily by residents of Berkleytown as well as the surrounding area. It was common for residents of other African American communities near Ashland, such as Jamestown and Brown Grove, or other parts of Hanover and Caroline counties to utilize and seek out the Berkleytown services (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021).

One of the earliest known businesses located in Berkleytown was the Coleman Hotel. After the segregation ordinance lawsuit was upheld against him, John Coleman moved to the Berkleytown community. In 1918, he purchased a house from the Sears, Roebuck, and Co. Catalog, the Maytown model, and had it constructed on Berkley Street (166-0034/166-5073-0035) (The Ashland Museum 2016a). A few years later, John and Mildred Coleman, his wife, purchased property at 612 Henry Street from Sarah Ferrell in 1925 and the Coleman’s established their hotel (The Ashland Museum n.d.). From 1925 to 1938, the Colemans operated the Coleman Hotel (166-0033/166-5073-0033), also called the Community Inn, which had five rooms for African American travelers (Allen 2007:208). Advertisements for the hotel were posted regularly throughout the 1920s in the *Herald-Progress*, a Hanover County paper, and the hotel likely had many guests who were traveling as part of the Great Migration, an early twentieth-century movement in which thousands of African Americans moved from areas in the South to cities in the North (Allen 2007:208; The Ashland Museum n.d.).

One of the other early Berkleytown businesses was a funeral home. African American-owned funeral homes were integral components of historic Black communities. After the Civil War, an increase in racial tension and concerns about how white undertakers would lay to rest Black bodies created a demand for African American undertakers (Micale 2016). The demand was met by predominately African American men who wanted to meet their community's needs while also earning a stable living (Micale 2016). This business model and tradition continued into the twentieth century and often, funeral directors served as prominent members of their community.

Two funeral homes existed in Berkleytown: the Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home and Floyd E. Dabney Funeral Home. Prior to their establishment, funeral needs of the African American community were met by an African American owned shop/funeral business located outside of Berkleytown. Throughout the late-nineteenth and into the early-twentieth century, Clinton Winston (1863–1924), an African American man, operated both a blacksmith shop and an undertaker facility at his office on Hanover Avenue in downtown Ashland (Talley 2005:30). After his passing in 1924, Clinton Winston passed along his blacksmith business to his son Johnnie, but it does not appear there was a continuation of the funeral home (Talley 2005:103). This left a void in funeral services for African Americans that the Dabney family filled.

Henry W. Dabney (1885–1954) lived with his family in a house along N. Washington Highway (Route 1), on the east side of Berkleytown; in 1930, he established a funeral home on the same property as his house (Sanborn Map Company 1929–1941). After Henry Dabney passed away, the funeral home was left to his daughter and son-in-law, Salada and Charlie McCarthy, to run (Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home 2019a). The business remained with the Dabney family throughout the twentieth century; according to the building cornerstone, owner Ricardo McCarthy, son of Salada and Charlie, tore down the original funeral home and built the current building in 1987 (Site Visit 2020). Today, the funeral home continues to serve the community and is under the ownership of Gregory Morris, Ricardo McCarthy's son (Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home 2019b). Floyd E. Dabney (1920–2006), one of Henry W. Dabney's sons, purchased a parcel of land at 600 B Street in Berkleytown in 1953 and constructed a Minimal Traditional-styled dwelling by 1955 (Find A Grave 2011a; HCDB 155:197). This dwelling became both his residence and his funeral home (166-5073-0010); over time, various additions, such as the chapel, were added to support the business (Richmond Times-Dispatch 2015). Today, the funeral home is no longer in operation.

Another important business to the Berkleytown neighborhood was a barbershop. Wilbur "Butt" O. Dabney (1917–2011), a son of Henry W. Dabney, owned "Butt's Barbershop" which was located in a building that was attached to his residence by a covered walkway at 218 Berkley Street (166-5073-0032). Although it is not clear when he started the business, his house was constructed around 1935 and he operated the barbershop until his passing in 2011 (Find A Grave 2011b). Today, the building functions solely as a residence, but the barber's pole is still fixed to the exterior of the shop. Barbershops were historically common in African American communities and were not only places for patrons to be groomed, but they also served as community centers where one could gather to talk politics or discuss the news of the neighborhood. Throughout the mid-to late-nineteenth century, African American-owned barbershops served white patrons, but as racial ordinances, such as the one established in Ashland, and other racial tensions mounted, these barbershops began to cater to African American patrons only (Shabazz 2016:296). It is likely that "Butt's Barbershop" was not the first barbershop to serve Berkleytown residents, but his business was one of the most enduring (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021; Ashland Sesquicentennial Committee 2009:358).

Berkleytown was also the home of a well-known bakery. Located at 604 Henry Street besides the dwelling of its owners, the Lightfoot Bakery (166-5073-0034) was owned and operated by Newton and Bessie Lightfoot. Newton Lightfoot (1916–1976) opened the bakery in the 1940s and it became well-known not only in Berkleytown, but also throughout Hanover County particularly for their donuts and wedding cakes (The Ashland Museum n.d.; Ashland Sesquicentennial Committee 2009:276). According to many, the bakery was a

space you frequented often not only to eat delicious baked goods but to also talk with your neighbors (Ashland Sesquicentennial Committee 2009:276; Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021). Although the house at 604 Henry Street is extant, the bakery has since been demolished at an unknown date (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021)

In addition to the many businesses that served the Berkleytown community, there were also spaces that provided additional social and educational opportunities. There were two African American fraternal organizations within Berkleytown: the Elks and the Masons. Due to the restrictions placed on African Americans and the lack of opportunities made available to them, fraternal organizations provided an outlet for men and women to participate in political, social, and educational activities and often they belonged to more than one (Dunbar 2012:624, 630).

In 1928, the South Anna Lodge #874, a chapter of Improved Benevolent and Protective Order Elks of the World, Inc., was founded and ten years later, the trustees of the chapter purchased the Coleman Hotel (The Ashland Museum n.d.). It was at this time that the members moved all their meetings to the hotel, and subsequently, it was renamed the Elks Lodge (Hanover County Black Heritage Society, Inc. 2000:13–14). A predominantly working class organization, the Lodge was an important social organization that featured the “Daughter Elks” organization and sponsored dances and other activities (Hanover County Black Heritage Society, Inc. 2000:16). They met in this location into the twenty-first century, but in 2006, they sold the property (The Ashland Museum n.d.). It is unclear if the fraternal order relocated to a new space or if the chapter disbanded. The Elks Lodge at 612 Henry Street also served as a meeting space for other organizations such as the Civic Association and the Masonic chapter (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021). Formed in 1929, the Pride of Hanover Lodge #264 F&AM, a chapter of the Prince Hall Masons, first met in the “Old Pythian Hall” located on Berkley Street, but eventually also utilized the Elks Lodge at 612 Henry Street (Pride of Hanover Lodge #264 F&AM 2021). The order continued to meet there throughout the late-twentieth century until they sought out a site to build their own building. In the 1970s, the group purchased property along Berkley Street and construction began on their new lodge in 1974; the new temple was completed in 1980 (Pride of Hanover Lodge #264 F&AM 2021). Today, the Pride of Hanover Lodge #264 continues to meet in this location (219 Berkley Street).

Another community center that provided social and educational opportunities for Berkleytown was a school. The first school to open, the Hanover County Training School, was located at the heart of Berkleytown on Berkley Street. Established in 1915, this school was moved from its original location in Ashland where it had formerly been used as a school for white children (Shalf 1994:236). The building was completely inadequate; there was no central heat or plumbing (Shalf 1994:235–236). Black students from across Hanover County attended this school because it was the only one in the county that served African American high school students (Ashland Sesquicentennial Committee 2009:17). Given the inadequate conditions of the school, plans for a new one were drawn by the late 1940s. The new school design, made by Richmond architect Edward F. Sinnott, was modern and provided the basic amenities that the old school building lacked. Construction began in 1948 and by 1950, the John M. Gandy School opened; it was the first modern public high school for Black students in Hanover County (The Ashland Museum 2016b). Nineteen years later, public school integration began and eventually, the school was repurposed into office space for the Hanover County School Board; they continue to use the school today. The school not only functioned in an educational capacity but it also served as a central hub for African American families throughout the county and provided a safe space where African Americans could gather and socialize freely during the era of Jim Crow. Popularly attended events were basketball games, or other sporting events, and the May Day celebration (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021).

Notably, Berkleytown did not have a church within its immediate boundaries. Instead, residents worshipped at churches located outside of Berkleytown. Community members attended, predominately, three African American churches located in Ashland: Shiloh Baptist Church, Providence Baptist Church (042-0302), and Union Baptist Church. Shiloh Baptist Church was established in 1865 and provided African Americans in

Ashland with a worship space, a school for children, and a cemetery (Shalf 1994:152). The Shiloh Baptist Church cemetery was kept segregated from the white cemetery, known as the Woodland Cemetery, which was located nearby (Carolyn Hemphill, personal communication 2021). When Shiloh Baptist Church moved to its current location at 106 South James Street, the cemetery remained at Hanover Avenue; it is still used by the church today. Shiloh Church was the foundational church for the other two congregations; in the late-nineteenth century, both Providence Baptist Church and Union Baptist Church were established by former Shiloh Baptist congregants (The Ashland Museum n.d.). All three of these churches were founded prior to the establishment of Berkleytown which likely accounts for there being no church within the immediate boundaries of the community; geographically, Berkleytown is located at the nexus of all three churches and residents utilized the religious and social services of all three.

Berkleytown was a robust and vibrant community that provided social, entrepreneurial, and educational opportunities to African Americans of Ashland and Hanover County. After the enactment of the 1911 segregation ordinance, Berkleytown became a space where Black residents of Ashland could thrive outside of the restrictions of segregation that dominated all aspects of daily life during the twentieth century. In addition to being a residential community, Berkleytown had several businesses and community centers that served African Americans living in the surrounding areas. The establishment of these businesses contributed to the self-sufficient character of Berkleytown and also cultivated strong ties amongst the residents. Berkleytown is significant at the local level for its representation of Ashland's African American community's response to the 1911 segregation ordinance and reflects important patterns of community planning and development as well as ethnic heritage in Hanover County. It is for these reasons that the Berkleytown Historic District is recommended eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.

Common in many African American communities throughout Virginia and the Mid Atlantic, physical integrity loss can be substantial and historic architecture is typically not what defines the significance of the community (Farnham et al. 2019). Many of the historic buildings in Berkleytown have undergone alterations, and although they are fairly commonplace, such as the introduction of replacement materials, they have diminished the historic integrity of several individual resources. Generally, modifications over time have not substantively changed the form or stylistic features of the individual resources, nor have they diminished the broader qualities that unite them within the district as a distinct collective. Therefore, the historic district retains a moderate level of integrity of materials, design, workmanship, feeling, association, setting, and location. It should also be noted that, a few resources, such as the Lightfoot Bakery or the original circa-1930 Henry W. Dabney Funeral Home, have been demolished and thus, there is archaeological potential within the district.

The period of significance for the Berkleytown Historic District extends from the passage of Ashland's segregation law in 1911 to 1969, the year in which the John M. Gandy School closed after integration with the Patrick Henry High School began. The proposed boundaries of the Berkleytown Historic District are primarily based on available plats, historic maps, and archival research conducted by Dovetail and other entities, such as The Ashland Museum and the Hanover County Black Heritage Society. Encompassing approximately 68.5 acres to the east of the CSX railroad tracks, the historic district is bounded by Archie Cannon Drive on the north, N. Washington Highway on the east, Smith Street on the south, and N. Center Street on the west.

As part of this effort, it was recommended that future research topics and endeavors be included in this form. Some of this extended research may be accomplished in preparation of a National Register of Historic Places nomination. Other tasks such as gathering oral histories are great opportunities for adding to the historical institutions of Ashland and should also be on file at the Library of Virginia when completed. They are listed below:

- Gather oral histories from current and former residents of Berkleytown.

- Explore the personal histories of both John Coleman and Judson Coleman. They were brothers and prominent members of the early Berkleytown community. In particular, look for more information on Judson’s barbershop business (Coleman’s Barbershop) and whether he resided at 201 or 205 Berkley Street.
- Find records from Ashland’s *Herald-Progress* – ads for various Berkleytown businesses were likely posted here. Research whether there was an African American newspaper.
- Research Dabney family history more as well as find further information about the house located along N. Washington Highway (Route 1) near the funeral home (i.e. deed records).
- Conduct research on Edward Berkeley, the original owner of the land that eventually became Berkleytown.
- Explore whether other houses in Berkleytown were Sears, Roebuck, and Co. models or if other kit house companies were utilized.
- Explore any changes that happened to the segregation ordinance (expansions, etc.) and if/when it was overturned looking particularly at the annexation of Berkleytown into the Town’s limits.
- Explore further the interrelationships of Berkleytown and other African American communities in the County.

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5. Property Ownership (Check as many categories as apply):

Private: X Public\Local X Public\State _____ Public\Federal _____

6. Applicant/Sponsor (Individual and/or organization sponsoring preparation of the PIF, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please list each below or on an additional sheet.)

name/title: Nora Amos, Director
organization: Town of Ashland, Department of Planning & Community Development
street & number: 121 Thompson Street P.O. Box 1600
city or town: Ashland state: VA zip code: 23005
e-mail: namos@ashlandva.gov telephone: (804) 798-1073

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

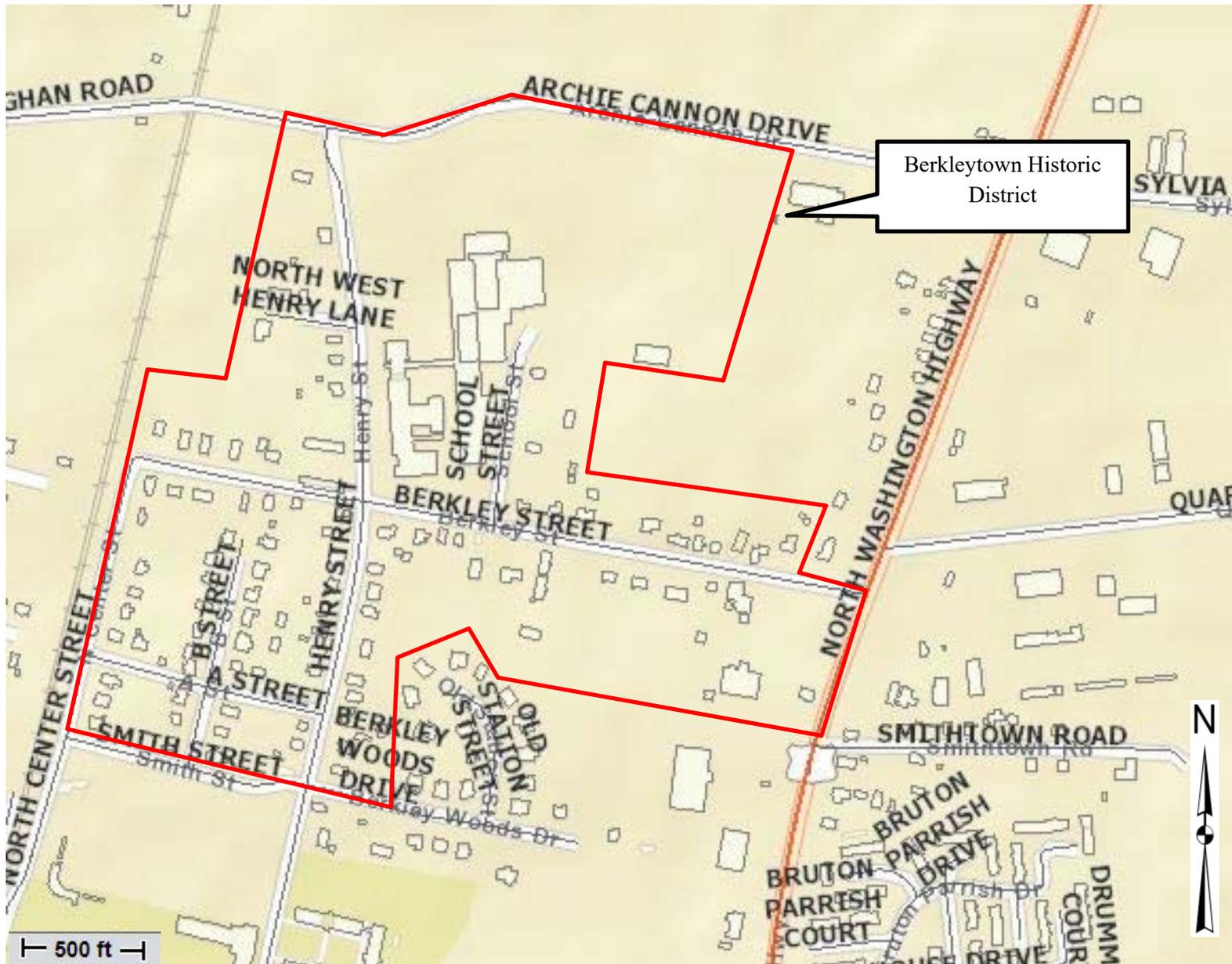
Applicant Information (Individual completing form if other than applicant/sponsor listed above)

name/title: Mical Tawney, Architectural History Field Director
organization: Dovetail Cultural Resource Group
street & number: 11905 Bowman Drive, Suite 502
city or town: Fredericksburg state: VA zip code: 22408
e-mail: mtawney@dovetailcrg.com telephone: (540) 899-9170

7. Notification

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator, City Manager, and/or Town Manager.

name/title: Joshua Farrar, Town Manager
organization: Town of Ashland
street & number: 121 Thompson Street, P.O. Box 1600
city or town: Ashland state: VA zip code: 23005
telephone: (804) 798-9219



166-5073, Berkleytown Historic District
Henry Street, Berkley Street, A Street, B Street, Smith Street, N. Center Street, N. Washington Highway, and N.W. Henry Lane
Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia
Dovetail CRG 2021
2020 Location Map (Hanover County 2020)



166-5073, Berkleytown Historic District
Henry Street, Berkley Street, A Street, B Street, Smith Street, N. Center Street, N. Washington Highway, and N.W. Henry Lane
Ashland, Hanover County, Virginia
Dovetail CRG 2021
2020 Aerial Imagery (Google Earth 2020)