United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. **Name of Property**
   Historic name: Brown Grove Rural Historic District
   Other names/site number: VDHR Architectural Inventory Number: 042-5802
   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: Ashcake Road, Carters Heights Road, Egypt Road, Johnson-Town Road, Sliding Hill Road, Lewistown Road, Brook Spring Road, and Mount Hermon Road
   City or town: N/A
   State: VA
   County: Hanover
   Vicinity: 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 ___C _x__D

   Signature of certifying official/Title: 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: _____________________________________________________________________________

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: __

Public – Local

Public – State

Public – Federal

Category of Property

Building(s)

District __

Site

Structure

Sections 1-6 page 2
Object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Noncontributing</th>
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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register ___1______

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

- COMMERCIAL/TRADE/specialty store
- COMMERCIAL/TRADE/department store
- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- EDUCATION/school/schoolhouse
- RELIGION/religious facility
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/barn
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding

Current Functions

- DOMESTIC/single dwelling
- DOMESTIC/secondary structure
- RELIGION/religious facility
- FUNERARY/cemetery
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural field
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/barn
- AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE/agricultural outbuilding
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
- OTHER/Vernacular
- COLONIAL
- LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival
- MODERN MOVEMENT/Ranch Style
- MODERN MOVEMENT/Neo-Eclectic
- MODERN MOVEMENT/Split-Level
- OTHER/Minimal Traditional
- COLONIAL
- COLONIAL

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
Principal exterior materials of the property: ASPHALT; ASBESTOS; BRICK; CONCRETE; WOOD: weatherboard, shingle; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph
This 1,226-acre rural historic district consists of the historic African American rural community of Brown Grove, established in the 1870s by families that included formerly enslaved individuals. The boundaries encompass two discontiguous areas near the geographic center of Hanover County, separated by the Interstate 95 corridor and located about three quarters of a mile southeast of the corporate limits of the Town of Ashland. The district boundary excludes encroachments into the historic extents of the Brown Grove community, such as a county landfill, a concrete plant, a modern cul-de-sac, and the Hanover County Airport. Although industrial and commercial development has approached the southern and western portions of the boundary, the district remains rural. Contributing resources include two churches (one individually listed and the other individually eligible for the National Register) along with sixty-five single dwellings, one commercial building, ten cemeteries, and four archaeological sites. All of the dwellings date to the twentieth century except for Candlewick, a ca. 1840 building that may have begun as a hall-parlor plan. Twenty-nine of the contributing dwellings do not follow a discernible formal architectural style. Some distinctive attributes of these dwellings include unpainted cinder block construction with brick window and door trim as well as brick chimneys. Other common architectural stylistic categories among the contributing dwellings include Ranch (19), Minimal Traditional (15), Colonial Revival (3), Vernacular (6), and Split Level (1). Contributing dwellings tend to occupy large, partially wooded tracts of approximately one to ten acres or more, many with contributing domestic outbuildings. The district’s four recorded archaeological sites are the individually eligible sites of the 1927 Brown Grove School and an early nineteenth-century domestic complex associated with Merry Oaks Tavern. Two other sites contribute to the district because of their...
association with African American domestic complexes, though they lack the research potential to be individually eligible. Patterning of many smaller parcels in long, narrow strips, combined with selected land records research, indicates subdivision of many modest-sized family farms for distribution among heirs, although some families such as the Garnetts owned larger tracts such as Merry Oaks, a large farm and tavern property in the late eighteenth to nineteenth century. Since the eighteenth century, the main thoroughfare within the district has been the east-west Ashcake Road. Some secondary roads branching off this main road, such as Lewistown, Johnson Town, and Morris Town (now Egypt) Road, bear the names the earliest African American families who purchased small farms in the district in the late nineteenth/early twentieth century. The main north-south thoroughfare is Sliding Hill Road. The generally flat landscape of moderately productive agricultural soils also includes low, swampy wooded areas known as “slashes”. The lands within the district drain into creeks that feed both the Chickahominy and Pamunkey River drainages.

Narrative Description

Setting

The 1,226-acre Brown Grove Rural Historic District encompasses the historic African American community of Brown Grove. The district consists of two discontiguous parts separated by the Interstate 95 corridor and areas of industrial, transportation, and commercial development adjacent to the highway. The section of the district west of the interstate comprises 45 acres, while the major eastern portion covers 1,181 acres. Located in central Hanover County, Brown Grove is 7 miles north of the corporate limits of Virginia’s capital city, Richmond; less than a mile southeast of the corporate limits of the Town of Ashland; and 3.7 miles southwest of unincorporated Hanover, the county seat. Although the district remains rural, suburban residential development for Richmond commuters has extended from the more densely developed vicinity of Mechanicsville (along the southern edge of Hanover County) up to the southeast boundary of the district. The southwest boundary of the eastern portion of the district is adjacent to the Hanover County Municipal Airport. Between the airport and Interstate 95 are several blocks of light industry and warehouse buildings. The western portion of the district is immediately south of an area of mixed light industrial and residential development on the outskirts of Ashland. The area to the north and east of the main portion of the district remains a rural patchwork of farms and small rural neighborhoods that characterize most of Hanover County beyond the more densely developed areas around Ashland and Mechanicsville.

The district lies in the Tidewater physiographic province, less than a mile east of the Fall Line, which marks the boundary with the Piedmont physiographic province to the west. Topography within the district is generally flat, with the highest areas only about 200 feet above mean sea level. Includes areas known as “slashes,” consisting of low, flat, swampy woodlands, usually forested with pine trees. The areas are common across the eastern half of Hanover County and more generally in the Tidewater physiographic province where the district lies. Within the district, Slash Church (042-0033/042-5802-0133) highlights local use of this term. Despite poor drainage in some areas, three major streams traverse the district, flowing into the two major rivers that define the northern and southern limits of Hanover County: the Chickahominy and the Pamunkey.
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NPS Form 10-900

**Brown Grove Rural Historic District**

**Name of Property**

Lickinghole Creek flows southward cutting across the western section of the district, while Totopotomoy Creek has its source near the west limit of the eastern section of the district and then flows along this section’s southwest boundary; both of these streams empty in the Chickahominy River. Also drawing its source in the district is Kersey Creek, which flows out of the southeast corner of the eastern section as a tributary of Crump’s Creek, which, in turn, is a tributary of the Pamunkey River.

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

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

**Architectural Development**

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

Despite some recent construction, the overall impression of the district is a quiet, rural community of small housing units on large lots with significant wooded acreage providing a buffer from the interstate, a county airport, and commercial and industrial development. Most houses are set relatively close to the roads, although a network of pedestrian paths historically augmented the vehicular roadways.

The district contains two churches—Slash Church and Brown Grove Baptist Church (042-5802-0136). Though enlarged with a later education wing, the core of Slash Church is a front-gabled

frame building, rectangular in footprint, that is relatively simple and devoid of much decoration. The primary entrance is a double-leaf door, centered on the west elevation, each leaf with three raised panels. Above the door is a shield-shaped sign in a square frame reading “SLASH / CHRISTIAN / CHURCH / ERECTED / 1729.” Above the sign are two nine-over-nine, wooden sash windows. The south elevation has three nine-over-nine windows to the west of a secondary entrance, and one to the east. The entrance is sheltered by a pedimented portico with cast metal supports. Presumably the north elevation was identical to the southern, though the once exterior door now leads into the education wing. The east elevation has three cased openings, the lower two house widows, and the one centered above it a louvered vent. The church rests on a brick foundation, is clad in weatherboard, and has modillions along the eaves, partially obscured by rain gutters.

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

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

The district is notable for a number of small, private cemeteries. These appear to be either family or community cemeteries. Most are moderate-sized with 10 to 20 marked graves, though there is the possibility of unmarked graves. The varied markers include tablets, flush markers, and exposed concrete vaults. The Williams cemetery has a few graves marked by low enclosures—masonry pavers and, in one case, upright stanchions with swagged lengths of chain between them. A few contain U S Government-issued markers for veterans. Some burials are marked only with metal signs issued by funeral homes. These private cemeteries are scattered throughout the district, often close to residences and generally away from the road in wooded or semi wooded areas. They are generally not enclosed, and most have some evidence of recent maintenance or decoration with plastic flowers and other items.

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

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

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

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

The district contains a number of hipped-roofed Ranch-style houses. Neighboring houses at 10033 and 10017 Johnsontown Road are good examples. Both are of concrete block construction with limited brick trim at the windowsills, sport a Chicago-style window on the facade, and are painted in vivid colors. 10033 Johnsontown Road is more complex with a hipped portico at the main entrance and a screened, hipped-roofed, side porch wing.

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

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

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

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

Archaeological Resources and Landscape Features

Site 44HN0326  
(9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)  
Dwelling, single, ca. 1700-1890  
Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American  
(Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0406  
(Tax Parcel GPIN 7788-88-7413)  
Dwelling, single, ca. 1900-1999  
Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American [African American?]  
(Not individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0449  
9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903 and  
9382 Sliding Hill Road; GPIN 7798-32-4765  
Artifact scatter, ca. 1866-1945  
Cultural Affiliation: Indeterminate [African American]  
(Not individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0452 – Brown Grove School  
(9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)  
School, 1927–mid-20th century  
Cultural Affiliation: African American  
(Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Of the four archaeological sites recorded within the district, two have undergone evaluation-level investigations and have been determined individually eligible for the National Register. Site 44HN0326 is an eligible site, representing a late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century domestic complex with structural features and intact archaeological deposits representing domestic and possibly tavern activities. A tavern on the property known as Merry Oaks or The Oaks that contained the site was active from 1795 until the early 1840s. Documentary research on the history of the property reveals the potential for sites representing quarters for enslaved workers. Site 44HN0452, representing the Brown Grove School, is also individually eligible.

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

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

Integrity Analysis

The Brown Grove Rural Historic District retains high integrity of setting. The main thoroughfare, Ashcake Road (SR 657) follows its historic alignment evident on mid-nineteenth-century maps and possibly since early European settlement of the area in the early eighteenth century. Detailed topographic maps from the first third of twentieth century and aerial imagery from 1937 reveal footpaths and rudimentary tracks that are still evident on current LiDAR imagery of the district. Exclusion of neighboring commercial and industrial encroachments bolster the integrity of setting. The construction of Interstate 95 in the 1950s and 1960s divided the two halves of the discontiguous district; however, the highway project does fall within the district’s period of significance. The pattern of locating large infrastructure projects in minority communities could be construed as a traditional development pattern, though discriminatory. The division of Brown Grove by the interstate mirrors the devastation of Richmond's African American Jackson Ward community to the south by the same project.

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

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

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

Inventory of Resources

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

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

Information in the inventory is also accessible through DHR’s architectural survey archives in Richmond and the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) online database. Resources are keyed to the attached historic district Sketch Map by the last 4 digits of the resource’s 11-digit DHR number (e.g., -0001 for the resource assigned inventory number 042-5208-0001).
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form  
NPS Form 10-900  
OMB Control No. 1024-0018

**Brown Grove Rural Historic District**  
Name of Property  
Hanover County, VA  
County and State

### ASHCAKE ROAD

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1, Style: No discernible style, 1965  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
  - Non-contributing Total: 4

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1, Style: No discernible style, 1971  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
  - Non-contributing Total: 1

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), 1.5 St., Style: Vernacular, 1940  
  - Contributing Total: 1

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1, Style: Ranch, 1960  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
  - Non-contributing Total: 1

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

- **Primary Resource:** Church/Chapel (Building), Story 1, Style: Gothic Revival, Ca 1945  
  - [Brown Grove Baptist Church]  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
  - Non-contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Cemetery (Site) [Brown Cemetery]  
  - Contributing Total: 1

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), Story 1.5, Style: Vernacular, 1935  
  - Contributing Total: 1

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1960  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
  - Non-contributing Total: 1

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

- **Primary Resource:** Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1939  
  - Contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Carport (Structure)  
  - Non-contributing Total: 1
- **Secondary Resource:** Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Other)  
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- **Secondary Resource:** Shed (Building)  
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</table>
Brown Grove Rural Historic District

Name of Property

Hanover County, VA

County and State

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

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

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

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

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 3

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

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1999

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 2

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

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

Contributing Total: 1

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

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

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

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

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

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Cape Cod, Ca 1940

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Mobile Home/Trailer (Building)

Contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing Total: 4

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

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

Contributing Total: 1

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

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Non-contributing Total: 1
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Brown Grove Rural Historic District                  Hanover County, VA
Name of Property                                    County and State

10168 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0047 Other DHR Id#:
   Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1930
   Contributing Total: 1

10181 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0046 Other DHR Id#:
   Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Split-Level/
   Split Foyer, 1969                                         Contributing Total: 1
   Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)                   Non-contributing Total: 1
   Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)                       Non-contributing Total: 1
   Secondary Resource: Well House (Building)                 Contributing Total: 1

10184 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0126 Other DHR Id#:
   Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1949
   Contributing Total: 1

10185 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0045 Other DHR Id#:
   Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2006
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   Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)                       Non-contributing Total: 1

10197 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0044 Other DHR Id#:
   Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1950
   Contributing Total: 1

10205 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0043 Other DHR Id#:
   Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1972
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   Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)                       Non-contributing Total: 1

10207 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0042 Other DHR Id#:
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10209 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0041 Other DHR Id#:
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10213 Ashcake Road 042-5802-0040 Other DHR Id#:
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**BROOK SPRING ROAD**

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Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA

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<td>Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)</td>
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<td>Secondary Resource: Gazebo (Structure)</td>
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**CARTERS HEIGHTS ROAD**

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Brown Grove Rural Historic District

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EGYPT ROAD

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<td>Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)</td>
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Brown Grove Rural Historic District | Hanover County, VA
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11212 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0063
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, 1996
- **Secondary Resource**: Carport (Structure)
- **Secondary Resource**: Garage (Building)
- **Secondary Resource**: Gazebo (Structure)
- **Secondary Resource**: Shed (Building)

11229 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0068
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1953
- **Secondary Resource**: Carport (Structure)
- **Secondary Resource**: Secondary Dwelling (Building)
- **Secondary Resource**: Shed (Building)

11232 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0070
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1978
- **Secondary Resource**: Shed (Building)

11242 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0071
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1994
- **Secondary Resource**: Shed (Building)

11256 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0072
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1977

11277 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0067
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2012
- **Secondary Resource**: Shed (Building)

11283 Egypt Road | 042-5802-0066
**Primary Resource**: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1975
- **Secondary Resource**: Shed (Building)
Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA

11284 Egypt Road 042-5802-0073  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2012  Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)  Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  Non-contributing  Total: 4

11297 Egypt Road 042-5802-0065  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional,
1950  Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  Non-contributing  Total: 1

11332 Egypt Road 042-5802-0064  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1964
Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Landscape Feature, Man-Made (Other)  Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  Contributing  Total: 1

Egypt Road 042-5802-0001  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1919
[Coleman/Jones Cemetery]  Contributing  Total: 1

Egypt Road 042-5802-0003  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1950
[Harris Cemetery]  Contributing  Total: 1

JOHNSON TOWN ROAD

10016 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0081  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
1960  Contributing  Total: 1

10017 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0080  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, 1960
Contributing  Total: 1

10024 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0082  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
2006  Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  Non-contributing  Total: 1

10028 Johnson Town Road 042-5802-0083  Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,
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Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  Non-contributing  Total: 1
## Brown Grove Rural Historic District

**Name of Property**

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<td>10041 Johnson Town Road</td>
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<td>10051 Johnson Town Road</td>
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<td>10131 Johnson Town Road</td>
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<td>1950</td>
<td>Ranch</td>
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<tr>
<td>Johnson Town Road</td>
<td>042-5802-0132</td>
<td>Cemetery (Site), 1</td>
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<td>No discernible style, Ca 1960</td>
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**County and State**

Hanover County, VA
### Knox Drive

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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<td>11305 Knox Drive</td>
<td>042-5802-0010</td>
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<td>Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1972</td>
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<td>KNOX DRIVE</td>
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### Lewistown Road

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<td>10095 Lewistown Road</td>
<td>042-5507</td>
<td>042-5802-0129</td>
<td>Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, 1948</td>
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<td>Mobile Home/Trailer (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1973</td>
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<td>10282 Lewistown Road</td>
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<td>10290 Lewistown Road</td>
<td>042-5140</td>
<td>042-5802-0032</td>
<td>Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No Discernable Style, Ca 1952</td>
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Brown Grove Rural Historic District
Hanover County, VA

10293 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0006
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1945
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Non-contributing Total: 1

10298 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0030
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1980
Non-contributing Total: 1

10301 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0007
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2009
Non-contributing Total: 1

10306 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0029
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1965
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Contributing Total: 1
Non-contributing Total: 1

10309 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0008
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1980
Non-contributing Total: 1

10317 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0009
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1950
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Contributing Total: 1
Non-contributing Total: 1

10318 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0028
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Split-Level/Split Foyer, 1973
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1
Non-contributing Total: 1
Non-contributing Total: 1

10383 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0012
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1957
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Contributing Total: 1

10386 Lewistown Road 042-5802-0027
Other DHR Id#
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1945
Contributing Total: 1
Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA  

10399 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0021  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, Ca 1958 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing  

10400 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0026  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1995 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing  

10410 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0025  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, 1948 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing  

10411 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0022  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1969 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing  

10419 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0023  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, 1946 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Gateposts/Entry (Object) Contributing  

10420 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0024  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1945 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing  

10428 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0130  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1984 Non-contributing  
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing  
Secondary Resource: Warehouse (Building) Non-contributing  

10446 Lewistown Road  042-5802-0033  Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0033  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1910 Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) Non-contributing  
Secondary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building) Non-contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Contributing  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing
Brown Grove Rural Historic District

Hanover County, VA

10449 Lewistown Road
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1945
Contributing Total: 1

Lewistown Road
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1970
[Lewis/Coleman Cemetery]
Contributing Total: 1

MT. HERMON ROAD

11353 Mt. Hermon Road
Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial, 1729
[Slash Church]
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Cemetery (Site)
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Meeting/Fellowship Hall (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shelter (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Sign (Object)
Contributing Total: 1

Mt. Hermon Road
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories, Style: Other, Ca 1935
[Church O Field Cemetery/Price Cemetery]
Contributing Total: 1

NEW ASHCAKE ROAD

9340 New Ashcake Road
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1955
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 1

PEAR TREE DRIVE

11237 Pear Tree Drive
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1963
Contributing Total: 1

11241 Pear Tree Drive
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1974
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

11253 Pear Tree Drive
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1968
Contributing Total: 1
Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA

11258 Pear Tree Drive  042-5802-0095

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1978
Non-contributing  Total: 1

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

ROUTE 657

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

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1840
Contributing  Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 2
Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing  Total: 2

SHELLIE LEE DRIVE

10351 Shellie Lee Drive  042-5802-0011  Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0011

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1957
Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Contributing  Total: 1

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

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Minimal Traditional, 1950
Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 1

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

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 2002
Non-contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 1

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

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

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

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1957
Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing  Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing  Total: 2
Brown Grove Rural Historic District                      Hanover County, VA
Name of Property                                      County and State

10377 Shellie Lee Drive  042-5802-0017  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,  
Ca 1955                           Contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  

10383 Shellie Lee Drive  042-5802-0018  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1979  
Non-contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  

Shellie Lee Drive  042-5802-0019  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 2021  
Non-contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  
Secondary Resource: Shed - Vehicle (Building)  

SLIDING HILL ROAD

9163 Sliding Hill Road  042-5802-0097  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,  
1961                           Contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  

9177 Sliding Hill Road  042-5802-0120  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,  
1987                           Non-contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)  

9177 Sliding Hill Road  042-5802-0120  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style,  
Non-contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  
Secondary Resource: Shed - Vehicle (Building)  
Non-contributing Total: 1  

9209 Sliding Hill Road  042-5802-0121  Other DHR Id#:  
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1991  
Non-contributing Total: 1  
Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)  
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)  
Non-contributing Total: 2
Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA

9211 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0122  Other DHR Id#:
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1950
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 2
Secondary Resource: Work in Progress (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

9221 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0123  Other DHR Id#:
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1968
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure)
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Privy (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 1

9229 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0124  Other DHR Id#:
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, 1974
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

9255 Sliding Hill Road 042-5802-0125  Other DHR Id#:
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, 1986
Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

9303 Sliding Hill Road 042-5548  Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0115
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Minimal Traditional, Ca 1950
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Non-contributing Total: 1

9323 Sliding Hill Road 042-5285  Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0113
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: No Discernible Style, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)
Contributing Total: 2

Sliding Hill Road 042-5002  Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0134
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories , Style: No Discernable Style, 1899
[Archibald Williams Cemetery]
Contributing Total: 1

Sliding Hill Road 042-5549  Other DHR Id#: 042-5802-0135
Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Stories , Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930
[Garnett Family Cemetery]
Contributing Total: 1
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

Site 44HN0326  (9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)
    Dwelling, single, ca. 1700-1890  
        Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American  
        (Individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0406  (Tax Parcel GPIN 7788-88-7413)
    Dwelling, single, ca. 1900-1999  
        Cultural Affiliation: Euro-American [African American?]  
        (Not individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0449
9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903 and
9382 Sliding Hill Road; GPIN 7798-32-4765
    Artifact scatter, ca. 1866-1945  
        Cultural Affiliation: Indeterminate [African American]  
        (Not individually eligible) Contributing Total: 1

Site 44HN0452 – Brown Grove School
(9300 Sliding Hill Road; Tax Parcel GPIN 7798-54-5903)
    School, 1927–mid-20th century  
        Cultural Affiliation: African American  
        (Individually eligible) 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.
- [x] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [ ] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [x] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations
(Mark “x” in all the boxes that apply.)

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA
Name of Property  County and State

Areas of Significance

ETHNIC HERITAGE: AFRICAN AMERICAN
RELIGION
EDUCATION
AGRICULTURE
ARCHAEOLOGY

Period of Significance

1729-1971

Significant Dates

1729
1862
1927
1945

Significant Person

Morris, Carolyn

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pinchback, Thomas
Chambers, Edward, Jr.
Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph
The Brown Grove Historic District is a historically African American rural community south of Ashland in Hanover County established during the Reconstruction Era. It is an excellent example of the rural landscape of African American heritage that grew from the plantation economy to a self-sufficient agricultural community, and transitioned in the twentieth century into a middle class residential neighborhood. In the late nineteenth to early twentieth century, many white landowners within the district found farming of their large estates less profitable due to an economic decline that followed the Civil War and the transformation of Virginia from slave-based to wage labor. Formerly enslaved African American householders purchased parcels or five to twenty acres from the large estates of white landowners in this portion of the county. The community that emerged at the turn of the twentieth century featured a landscape of small subsistence farms connected by a network of paths and tracks to each other, the wider world, and community hubs such as the centrally located Baptist church and schoolhouse and a few general stores. In addition, the district contains significant resources associated with its earlier configuration as a rural community of large plantations and farms, including architectural resources (an antebellum farm complex, a colonial-era frame church) and archaeological sites (an early nineteenth-century farm and tavern property). With these earlier contributing resources included, the district has a long period of significance (1729-1971). Two additional recorded sites, though not individually eligible, contribute to the significance of the district as the remains of homesteads representative of the African American community in the late nineteenth to twentieth century. The district is also notable for the large number of small family cemeteries (10), along with a cemetery associated with Slash Church (built in 1729).

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Narrative Statement of Significance

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: African American
The district is locally significant in the area of African American Ethnic Heritage as rural historic district largely inhabited by descendants of families who established the community in the 1870s. Before the Civil War, the local landscape had consisted of large farms.

Criterion A: Religion
The district is locally significant in the area of Religion based on the significance of both Slash Church and Brown Grove Baptist Church as important hubs of the local community. Built in 1729 for the parish of St. Paul’s of the Established Church of England (Anglican), Slash Church is the oldest and best-preserved historic wood frame church in Virginia. After disestablishment of the Church of England in Virginia following the American Revolution, participation declined and the congregation of the succeeding Protestant Episcopal denomination abandoned Slash Church for a building near Hanover Court House in the 1830s. Other denominations, most prominently the Disciples of Christ and the Methodist Episcopal shared the Slash Church building for their services. In 1842, the Disciples of Christ purchased Slash Church, and the Methodist congregation erected Lebanon Church (east of the district). The original 1729 church continues in use for worship by the Disciples of Christ congregation. Brown Grove Baptist Church, like many African American churches, was established and led by African American religious leaders and their congregations.
American churches in nineteenth-century Virginia, began with open-air services held along Sliding Hill Road beginning ca. 1870. In 1883, Edwin Brown conveyed a small parcel of 0.1 acre to the church trustees. This core piece of the current property was the site of a frame building in the early twentieth century. The church was geographically and symbolically at the center of the Brown Grove Community. Church members were instrumental in supporting the Brown Grove School built opposite the church along Ashcake Road ca. 1927. The current Gothic Revival brick church (built in 1945) replaced the earlier frame building, which burned in 1941.

Criteria A: Agriculture

The district is locally significant in the area of Agriculture for its potential for information about subsistence farming of African American-owned properties in Hanover County in the late nineteenth through twentieth century. The subdivision of large properties into smaller strips for offspring attests to the importance of land ownership through multiple generations in African American communities.

Criteria B: Carolyn Morris

The Morris family was one of the earliest to settle in the area and Ms. Morris ranks high in the local history of Brown Grove. Many families in the community can trace their ancestry back to this woman, known as the “mother of the Brown Grove” both for her matriarchal role in the community and her service as a midwife to local families. Born enslaved on the plantation of the Perrin family, owners of a farm in the district before the Civil War, Carolyn (Carrie) Dobson married Jefferson Morris, also born into slavery in Hanover County, and in 1897 they purchased a 20-acre farm in the southern portion of the district.

Criteria D: Archaeology

The district is locally significant in the area of Education for the site of the two-room Brown Grove School (ca. 1927), a focal point of the historically African American community directly across Ashcake Road from the Brown Grove Baptist Church. The school site serves as a reminder of the early stages of free public education in Virginia, following ratification of the new Virginia constitution in 1870. As a major achievement of the Reconstruction period, students of all socio-economic levels and ethnicities would have at least some access to education. Although treatment was separate and unequal, the free education system was a major step following the antebellum laws that had imposed criminal penalties on individuals providing education to African Americans.

Developmental History

The area encompassed by the Brown Grove Rural Historic District remained beyond the limits of English colonial settlement along the lower James River valley until the mid-seventeenth century. Although Capt. John Smith had ventured up the Chickahominy River in 1607, he did not proceed

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farther than the vicinity of what is now Providence Forge in present New Kent County. In 1646, after decades of territorial wars between the English and the Powhatan Indians, a treaty opened up English settlement of the entire James-York Peninsula but prohibited settlers from encroaching on Powhatan territory elsewhere. Three years later, however, the Virginia Assembly modified the wording of the treaties and opened virtually all of the Coastal Plain for English settlement, including the area that is now central Hanover County.

Fertile agricultural soils and proximity to river and land transportation routes were the primary factors influencing early European settlement and development of central Hanover County. Settlement began as early as the 1660s, with intensive colonization in the 1680s to the 1690s. Expansion followed the demand for productive areas to grow tobacco and river landings for the export of that crop. Beginning in the late seventeenth century, planters depended almost exclusively on labor of enslaved people transported from Africa rather than indentured servants to produce this cash crop. By the turn of the eighteenth century or possibly earlier, some small farms may have been established within the district. In 1720, settlement of the area had increased to the point that the General Assembly of Virginia formed Hanover County from the western extent of New Kent County.

Upon the formation of Hanover County, its entire territory comprised St. Paul’s Parish of the Established (Anglican) Church. Due to the vast size of the parish, the colonial government formed St. Martin’s Parish from the western part of the first parish. The first church in St. Paul’s Parish, a log building, stood about a mile and a half north of the district boundary. In 1729, the parish vestry decided to build a new church. They purchased a 3-acre parcel from the 400-acre property William Alsop, Jr. had acquired through a land grant five years earlier. The site of the new house of worship, known as Slash Church, was on an elevated landform, near a road, with a spring, and had mature trees that would serve as building materials. According to vestry records, on August 30, 1729, the vestry entered a contract with Thomas Pinchback and Edward Chambers, Jr. to construct a frame church measuring 60 by 26 feet and 16 feet high. The builders were to complete the project within a year for the price of 60,000 pounds of tobacco (then commonly used in place of currency in Virginia). It is likely that Pinchback and Chambers had enslaved workers perform at least a portion of the clearing and construction tasks, perhaps alongside free African American and white workers and craftsmen. The term “Slash” church comes from the term used for the setting of surrounding swampy pine forests. If not the original name, it was in use at least by 1768, when a real estate advertisement in the Virginia Gazette referred to the “Slash Church” as a nearby

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5 Robert Bolling Lancaster, *A Sketch of the Early History of Hanover County, Virginia* (Hanover, Va.: Hanover Chapter, Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, 1957).
7 Diane A. Jones, “The History of Slash Church, St. Paul’s Parish, Hanover County: The Oldest Frame Colonial Church in Continuous Use in Virginia” (Ashland, Virginia: Slash Christian Church, 2010).
landmark of reference. Slash Church is the earliest building within the Brown Grove Rural Historic District.

The Rev. Patrick Henry, uncle of the Revolutionary War Patriot and Virginia governor of the same name, served as the rector of Slash Church from the 1730s to 1777. During this long tenure, many prominent figures of American history attended the church, including the reverend’s famous nephew, First Lady Dolley Madison, and statesman Henry Clay. Born less than a mile northeast of the district at Clay Spring, Henry Clay moved west after completing his law studies. During his long political career, he represented Kentucky in both houses of Congress, including a period as Speaker of the House; he also served Secretary of State during the administration of President Andrew Jackson. When Clay ran for president as the Whig candidate in 1844, he made use of his Hanover County roots to create a populist persona for himself. Just as Andrew Jackson had benefitted politically by underscoring his humble origins, Clay hoped to connect with a broader electorate through the nickname “Mill-boy of the Slashes”. One historian calls this appeal to modest, agrarian origins the Cincinnatus complex—deep ties to the land implying the “honesty, integrity, instinctive democracy” necessary for good statesmanship. Clay’s campaign literature conjured just such an agrarian image. The son of a young widow, Clay was described riding barefoot to the local mill “seated on a bag of corn thrown across his horse’s back” from the family’s home on the edge of the low, swampy pinelands, known as the “Slashes.”

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

It is likely that early African American residents of the Brown Grove community and their ancestors worshiped at the church throughout its transitions through Anglican, Episcopalian, and

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8 *Virginia Gazette*, August 18, 1768.
9 Carrol H. Quenzel, *The History and Background of St. George’s Episcopal Church, Fredericksburg, Virginia* (Richmond: Printed by Clyde W. Saunders and Sons, 1951), 8.
12 Jones, “The History of Slash Church, St. Paul’s Parish, Hanover County.”
Disciples of Christ denominations. Although the interior displays several alterations since initial construction, the gallery, which would have accommodated enslaved congregants, remains unaltered.14

The pattern of land ownership and occupation in the district from the eighteenth to the late nineteenth century appears to have consisted of large estates owned by white families, along with enslaved workers on these farms and plantations. Documentary evidence suggests at least one notable exception, however, by the late eighteenth century. A 1789 description of a boundary for a property southwest of the intersection of present Ashcake and Sliding Hill Roads mentions a “Black Tom Slash” Use of the word “Black” likely identifies Slash as being of African descent. Individual mention of Slash in the description with owners of larger tracts (some of those names such as Turner and Perrin appear on later nineteenth-century maps of the area) indicates that Tom Slash was an independent householder who owned or leased adjacent property.15

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

The Merry Oaks Tavern that once stood within or adjacent to the eastern boundary of the district should not be confused with the tavern where Patrick Henry raised Virginia’s first Revolutionary War militia. Some researchers have mistakenly assumed that the Merry Oaks Tavern was where the militia formation occurred because its owner’s last name was Smith.16 An 1892 biography by Henry’s grandson quotes a contemporary of Patrick Henry who identified the location of the militia gathering as “Mr. Smith’s Tavern in the neighborhood of Hanover Court House.” A June 1776 advertisement for the sale of Francis Smith’s tavern property placed by his son, Thomas, more precisely identifies the location of this landmark of the Revolution outside the Brown Grove Rural Historic District, “on the road from Hanover Courthouse to Hanover Town.”17

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16 J. Hope Smith, “Research Design for Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia” (Dutton + Associates, LLC, Midlothian, Virginia. Submitted to Timmons Group, Richmond, Virginia, 2021), p. 2-15. Some researchers acknowledge the lack of court records documenting any conveyances that connect Francis Smith to the owners of the Merry Oaks property in the late eighteenth century.
17 *Virginia Gazette*, 12 June 1776, quoted in Anne Geddes Cross, “Smith’s Tavern v. Merry Oaks Tavern,” *Hanover Historical Society Bulletin*, no. 105 (Spring 2022). Hanover Town is a deserted port along the Pamunkey River; thus, the tavern would have stood several miles west of the district.
In fact, the proprietor of the Merry Oaks Tavern in or near the district was Robert Smith and his family 1848 to 1874—decades after the Revolutionary War.\textsuperscript{18} Archaeological investigations and a combination of tax records, court records, and insurance policies document the ownership and use of Site 44HN0326 (southeast of the intersection of Ashcake Road and Sliding Hill Road) as part of the Merry Oaks property.\textsuperscript{19}

The name Merry Oaks originated from a farm of that name at the head of Totopotomoy Creek owned by Geddes Winston in the late eighteenth century. When John Bowe acquired the property in 1801, he purchased an insurance policy with values of $1,200 for a tavern and $100 for a tavern dependency.\textsuperscript{20} Beginning in 1820, tax records with details about total building values reveal that a substantial dwelling, valued at about $1,500 stood on the property along with the tavern complex. Archaeological investigations on the southwest corner of the crossroads area beginning in the 1990s and subsequently in 2020 have not yet revealed the archaeological remains of the tavern, which probably stood until about 1913. Archaeological investigations in compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act in advance of a commercial distribution development led to a determination of individual eligibility. A data recovery plan has outlined a research design for further excavation associated with the development project.\textsuperscript{21}

Maps of Hanover County prepared during the Civil War depict the area of the district as a rural landscape of large farms with relatively low-density settlement. A large portion of the land consisted of poorly drained woodland (sometimes identified as swampland), especially in a wide swath extending north-south through the center of the main, eastern section of the district. Predecessors of the main roads in the district (Ashcake and Sliding Hill) followed very similar alignments to their present ones.\textsuperscript{22}

\textsuperscript{18} Cross, “Smith’s Tavern v. Merry Oaks Tavern.”  
\textsuperscript{20} Robert Clarke and Ashley Neville, “Archaeological Investigations of 44HN326, Hanover County, Virginia” (Gray & Pape, Inc., Richmond. Submitted to Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 2000), 23; Mutual Assurance Society records, Policy No. 439.  
\textsuperscript{22} Anonymous, “[Map of the Northern Portion of Hanover County, Va., Showing Fortifications on the South Anna River near Taylorsville],” \url{https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883h.ewh00038/}; Edward Porter Alexander, Map of the Counties of Charles City, Goochland, Hanover, Henrico, King William, New Kent, and Part of the Counties of Caroline and Louisa, Virginia (Chief Engineer’s Office, Dept. of Northern Virginia Confederate States of America, Army, 1863), \url{https://www.loc.gov/item/gvhs01.vhs00354/}.  

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Brown Grove Rural Historic District  Hanover County, VA
Name of Property County and State

The rural historic district overlaps a portion of the battlefield study area and National Register-eligible area for the Battle of Hanover Court House (often also called the Battle of Slash Church in Confederate sources). To launch the Peninsula Campaign, Union General George B. McClellan had landed at Fort Monroe in Hampton in March 1862. His goal was to take the City of Richmond—capital of both Virginia and the Confederacy—by advancing his 100,000-man Army of the Potomac up the peninsula between the York and James Rivers. Over the course of two months, his powerful army pushed most of the opposing Confederate divisions on the Peninsula back to defend Richmond. However, a force of 4,000 men under the command of Brig. Gen. Lawrence O’B Branch had shifted eastward from Gordonsville to guard the Virginia Central Railroad at Peake’s Turnout, about a mile and a half east of the district. This railroad was a crucial transportation asset for the Confederate Army because it provided the only rail access north of the James River that connected Richmond to the combat units operating in the Shenandoah Valley and the provided a transportation link for that region’s agricultural products. The location of O’B Branch’s force, in turn, was a threat to McClellan because of its proximity to the Richmond, Fredericksburg, & Potomac Railroad, a north-south corridor that McClellan hoped would be the route for reinforcements from Maj. Gen. Irving McDowell in Fredericksburg. McClellan sent approximately 12,000 men under the command of Gen. Fitz John Porter to secure this approach.

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

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

press as an important victory, the action only added delays to McClellan’s halting attempts to take the Confederate capital.

Slash Church, along with Lebanon Church (just east of the district), probably served as a field hospital during the battle. Although the majority of combat associated with the Battle of Hanover Court House occurred to the east, near Peake’s Turnout, trees felled in the churchyard of Slash Church in the 1950s contained rifled Civil War-era bullets, indicating that some fighting also occurred within the district.29 As Branch’s brigade withdrew from the battlefield, the units headed west through the district along Ashcake Road to Ashland, taking the baggage train and any wounded who could be moved.

The rural African American neighborhood known as Brown Grove originated in the 1870s when formerly enslaved individuals began to purchase property subdivided from large white-owned agricultural and forest tracts. This trend was characteristic of the economic transformation in central Virginia that followed the Civil War. With damage to infrastructure during the war, changes in market networks, and the end of chattel slavery, many families who had operated large farms with enslaved labor sold their land and transitioned to other occupations and sectors, while newly emancipated African Americans welcomed the chance to purchase parcels for subsistence farming that were subdivided from large tracts. It is not clear to what degree locally enslaved individuals purchased parcels of the larger tracts where they had lived previously served as enslaved labor. Similarly, in studies of the African American communities of Charles Corner and Magruder in York County, which developed during the Reconstruction period, available records are inconclusive concerning the proportion of African American land owners who were had formerly served as enslaved laborers on the same land prior to the Civil War.30

Until the early twentieth century, Hanover County’s economy consisted almost exclusively of agriculture. The only manufacturing concerns were water-powered and later steam-powered mills. With heavy reliance on enslaved labor, African Americans made up more than half of the population (9,730; 56 percent in 1860), declining gradually to 42 percent (7,898) in 1900. Like most of the residents of the county, most members of the Brown Grove community depended on farming for their livelihoods.

One of the early purchases of property by African Americans within the district was by the Morris family along what is now Egypt Road. Formerly, this was known as Morris Road or Morristown Road. Jefferson and Carrie (Carolyn) Morris purchased 20 acres from white landowner Patrick H. Carter in July 1897. Carter had purchased the tract at an 1888 auction following a chancery suit brought by creditors against the estate of Henry Saunders, an owner of hundreds of acres in and around the district in the late nineteenth century. Previously, the property had been part of

29 Diane A. Jones, “The History of Slash Church, St. Paul’s Parish, Hanover County: The Oldest Frame Colonial Church in Continuous Use in Virginia” (Ashland, Virginia: Slash Christian Church, 2010).
properties owned by William Huffman (1859-1866) and Macon Green (prior to 1859), all white landowners. It appears that the 20-acre tract had no improvements until its purchase by the Morris family.31

Carolyn and Jefferson Morris had married on Christmas Day 1872. Until then, the 21-year-old bride had lived with her parents, Oliver and Sophia Dobson, and six siblings at their home in the Beaverdam District of Hanover County (1870 census). Born in 1854, Carolyn had been enslaved by the Perrin family, who owned a large acreage north of the Ashcake and Sliding Hill Road intersection in the mid-nineteenth century. Likewise, Jefferson Morris (born in 1845) appears to have been formerly enslaved. By 1880, Jefferson and Carolyn Morris had their own household, living on Railroad Street in Ashland with four daughters between the ages of one and nine (Fanny 9, Victoria 7, Susan 4, and Lilly-later married a Tyler. After establishing themselves on their 20-acre tract, the Morrises became pillars of the Brown Grove Community. As a beloved midwife, Carolyn earned the nickname “Mother of Brown Grove”.32

A second family associated with African American acquisition of land in Brown Grove is the namesake of the community. Edwin Brown was apparently an alternate or misspelling of the name Edmund Brown. This early African American landowner in Brown Grove owned his own farm property immediately east of the church property. In 1870, it had consisted of 11 acres with only 5 acres under cultivation with a real estate value of $100. Livestock on the subsistence farm included one mule/donkey, one dairy cow, and six swine worth $110. The small acreage yielded a surprising amount of crops, including 20 bushels of oats, 30 bushels of barley, and 260 lb. of tobacco.33 As noted earlier, the Brown family conveyed a small parcel to the trustees of the Baptist Church for the construction of a church building.

In the southeast quadrant of the district, the African American Garnett family acquired a considerable amount of property along both sides of Sliding Hill Road in the early twentieth century, including the homeplace that still stands on the east side of Sliding Hill Road and part of the old Merry Oaks property on the west side of the road. The homeplace, built by Frank Garnett in the early twentieth century, survives as an example that may have been typical of contemporary small subsistence farms in the district.34 A one-story frame dwelling stands amid poultry shelters, a workshop, and various sheds. The family cemetery is in the wooded rear portion of the remnant 5.57-acre parcel.

While many African American families purchased land in the district in the late nineteenth century, the white Jenkins family was prominent well into the twentieth century not only for their farm but also as owners of a general store that appears on a 1938 topographic map. John Jenkins had been listed as a 26-year-old overseer locally in the 1850 census. Ten years later, John and his wife, Judith, had three young children (one, five, and seven years old) in their household. Sometime before 1864, John Jenkins acquired property along both sides of the forerunner of Egypt Road.

31 Hanover County Deed Books 23, p. 426; 35 p. 37; Chancery Records Index 085-1903-033; 085-1873-027.
32 Diane Smith Drake, Preliminary Information Form for Brown Grove Rural Historic District (2021), 17.
33 U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census Agricultural Schedule, 1870.
34 Diane Smith Drake, Preliminary Information Form, p. 32.
which formerly connected to Sliding Hill via what is now known as Garnett Road. Judith had been widowed by 1880 and was the head of household on the 130-acre property, of which 50 acres were improved for farming. By the 1904, the property was in possession of John and Judith’s eldest son Edward T. Jenkins. That year, Edward also acquired the remaining 121 acres of the neighboring Merry Oaks tract to the north (this tract remained in the Jenkins family until 1947. 35. Although the 1900 and 1910 census listed Edward Jenkins as a farmer, it is possible that his son, Lloyd later operated the store that appears on a 1938 topographic map within the Jenkins’ original home tract. The 1930 census identified Lloyd Jenkins as a wage-earning clerk living in the household of his widowed mother, Malissa.36 Ruins of the store and the Jenkins home place are still evident on the ground surface along the abandoned portion of Egypt Road.

Following the Civil War, many formerly enslaved and free African Americans in Hanover County and across Virginia who had worshipped as part of mixed congregations with white residents formed their own congregations and began to build their own churches.37 Prior to the Civil War, enslaved workers often worshiped in the same buildings as whites, but somewhat apart in galleries raised above the rearmost pews. Often though, African Americans had their own separate antebellum congregations that worshiped in informal places such as brush arbors or perhaps a carriage house, like the early African American Baptists in Williamsburg, Virginia. First Baptist Church in Williamsburg is a rare example of a congregation that had its own substantial masonry church building during the antebellum period. Following the Nat Turner Rebellion of 1831, the Virginia legislature enacted laws prohibiting African American literacy and free assembly. African American congregations persisted, but the law required a white clergy member to be present and oversee church services.38

Based on oral history, the Brown Grove Baptist Church originated ca. 1870 with six local men joining for outdoor services in a brush arbor located along Sliding Hill Road.39 In 1883, Edwin Brown conveyed a small parcel of 0.1 acre to church trustees Emmett Kinney, Botts Morris, and Walter Williams. Brown stipulated that the land should only serve as the site of a church and that the property would revert to him if the trustees did not follow through with a church building.40 This conveyance was the core of the property; the church later acquired additional land to form the current property of more than 2 acres. The congregants built the first church, a frame building, in 1920 or possibly earlier. Aerial photography from 1936 indicates that this building stood on the

36 U.S. Census, 1850-1930, population and agricultural schedules as mentioned;
40 Hanover County, Deed Book16, p. 67.
same spot as the present church. This first building burned in 1941. Construction of the current Gothic Revival brick church in 1945 may have made use of the foundation of the original church, given the similarity of location and size of their respective footprints. Later, a parish hall expanded the footprint to the rear.  

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

Records of the Hanover County school superintendent indicate that he hoped to open a school at Brown Grove for the 1925-1926 school year. It was one of eight schools for the 795 African American students in the Ashland District (one of the three districts in the county). Although there were only five schools for the 969 white students in the district, a major disparity was the length of the school year (nine months for white students versus only five months for African American students). Brown Grove School opened in 1927, two years later than planned, as a two-room facility. Information on the typical sizes of schools in Hanover County collected eight years earlier indicates that there were 65 school buildings in the county in 1919. Forty-one were one-room buildings and 12 were two-room. Of these, twenty-seven were one-room and four two-room schools for African Americans. Records for the 1941-1942 school year identify the Brown Grove principal as Theresa Callenden. In addition, the school’s faculty included two teachers. The 1940 census had identified Callenden as a 24-year-old single African American woman lodging in the household of the African American Heiskill family in the Henry District of the county. Five years earlier Ms. Callenden had lived in Westmoreland County, Virginia. The Heiskills also had a 20-year-old African American teacher, Helen James, lodging with them.

Recollections of Benjamin Jackson, Jr., whose family settled in the district in 1908, provide a portrait of early twentieth-century Brown Grove, a community anchored by its church and school with a web of tracks and paths connecting them to the families’ small farms and isolated dwellings. Jackson’s father acquired a small farm of 20 acres in the district in 1908, and Benjamin attended Brown Grove School in the 1930s and early 1940s to the eighth grade. Two teachers taught grades 1-3 and 4-8, respectively, in the school’s two classrooms. In addition to proving academic subjects, the school also incorporated Christian religion through prayers and religious poetry. Though small, the schoolhouse was the center of extracurricular activities for the students, with Junior League meetings that offered drama, poetry recitals, a May Day celebration, as well as athletic games. Although Jackson and his fellow students walked from their homes to school, and to church across

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41 Drake, Preliminary Information Form, pp. 6-7.
43 (Mackosky et al. 2001:22)
44 Rebecca Bray and Lloyd Jones, A History of Education in Hanover County, Virginia 1778-2008, 2010, 57,58, 70, 74; USBC, Population census, 1940.
the road, by the 1940s buses provided transportation to Ashland where African American students could attend upper grades at the Training School.45

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

organizations in the black community, including public schools, were faith-based. For example, each of the black schools was associated with a community league, and quite often these community leagues were led by men and women who were devout church members. As a result, hymns and prayers were a standard part of the meetings as they were of the public school day.46

Community leagues focused much of their efforts on improvements in educational opportunities, the key to improving the lives of African Americans in Hanover County and across the United States. During the years of segregation before the late 1960s, county school boards led by white residents allocated a disproportionate amount of funding to the education of white students. As a result, the quality of education at African American schools suffered from shorter school years (often as little as five months), lower pay for teachers and principals, inferior books and supplies, small, crowded buildings, lack of school transportation, and initially no opportunities for education beyond the eighth grade. The persistence of community leagues advocating for equitable treatment led to the addition of buses, larger new schools, and the establishment of a “training school” in Ashland for the upper grades.47

Archaeology and Landscape

Of the four archaeological sites recorded within the district, two have undergone evaluation-level investigations and have been determined individually eligible for the National Register. Site 44HN0326 is an eligible site representing the remains of a late eighteenth/early nineteenth-century domestic complex with structural features and intact archaeological deposits representing domestic and possibly tavern activities. A tavern on the property known as Merry Oaks or The Oaks that contained the site was active from 1795 until the early 1840s. Documentary research on the history of the property reveals the potential for sites representing quarters for enslaved workers as well as

45 Allen, “Roses in December,” 261-263; In 1950, the John M. Gandy School, with modern features such as central heating and indoor plumbing, replaced the antiquated training school on the same site—an early step toward improving conditions for African American students in Hanover County before the Brown vs. the Board of Education Supreme Court decision of 1954 and eventual full integration of the county’s schools in the 1969-1970 school year; https://ashlandmuseum.org/tour/berkleytown/john-m-gandy-school
46 Ibid, 265.
47 Ibid., 265-266.
outbuildings and the main dwelling.⁴⁸ The second individually eligible site, the Brown Grove School (Site 44HN0452) includes above-ground architectural elements such as concrete stairs and piers, privy pits, and the potential for subsurface archaeological deposits with research potential. Two other sites, a domestic complex (Site 44HN0406) and a trash scatter (Site 44HN0449), lack sufficient integrity and research potential but contribute under Criterion A due to their association with the early African American settlement of Brown Grove.

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

Environmental Justice

Like other historic African American communities across Virginia (e.g., Union Hill in Buckingham County), Brown Grove has been the target of intrusive industrial, transportation, and extraction development of the course of several decades. This has called into action the concept of environmental justice, which seeks to distribute an equitable burden from these projects, to diverge from a history of disproportionate burden of these development projects on minority communities and avoid the ensuing disruption to historic settings, economics, and quality of life in these communities.

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

⁴⁸ Smith and Friedberg, “Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of the ±87.9-Hectare (±217.4-Acre) Wegmans Distribution Center Project Area”; Smith, “Research Design for Phase III Data Recovery of Site 44HN0326, Hanover County, Virginia.”
9. Major Bibliographical References


Brown Grove Rural Historic District
Hanover County, VA

Name of Property

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form
NPS Form 10-900

Sections 9-end page 47
Brown Grove Rural Historic District
Hanover County, VA


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:

___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
___ Local government
___ University
___ Other

Name of repository: _____________________________________

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): ____________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property __1,226 acres_________

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates.
Brown Grove Rural Historic District

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The district boundary follows the boundary lines of parcels contained within the historic
community of Brown Grove while excluding areas of the community that have undergone
extensive character-altering commercial, industrial, and transportation development since the mid-
twentieth century. The most significant influence of these later developments on the shape of the
boundary is the Interstate 95 corridor and associated development. This necessitated the division
of the district into two separate parts, with the major part extending from the east side of the
interstate for approximately a mile to the east and southeast and a small remnant cluster of the
historic community along Lewistown Road approximately a thousand feet west of the interstate.
The northwest extent of the larger, eastern section of the district begins at the northern corner of
the northwesternmost rural property containing a building along Ashcake Road. The boundary
crosses the road and continues east-southeast, taking in the distinctive long, narrow parcels
adjacent to the north side of the road, while excluding a more recent, high-density residential lane.
The boundary extends east, then northeast to a point along the east side of Mt. Hermon Road about
0.47 miles north of its intersection with Ashcake Road. It continues along the east side of this road
for 0.15 miles before cutting eastward to include a secluded wooded cemetery in the midst of a
large forested area. The boundary zig-zags along the south edges of some more recent residential
properties until reaching Giant Drive. From there, the boundary runs southeast along this road and
past its terminus, continuing along a parcel line through the forest, then turning southwest to a
point on Peaks Road that is 0.2 miles northeast of its intersection with Mt. Hermon Road. After
ranging southwest along Peaks Road for nearly 400 feet, the boundary cuts southwest through
forest for half a mile before an abrupt turn westward along the south parcel line of a property that
follows the north banks of the upper reaches of Kersey Creek for 0.2 miles. After crossing to the
south side of the creek, the boundary zig-zags westward along the north side of a recent residential
development until it reaches Sliding Hill Road. The boundary hugs the west side of the road for a
tenth of a mile southward, then opens up to include historic parcels along the west side of Sliding
Hill Road and along both sides of Brook Spring Road. Crossing New Ashcake Road, the boundary
turns west, following the south side of that road for about 270 feet, turns south-southwest, and
extends down the east side of Sliding Hill Road for an additional 900 feet. From here, the boundary
trends northwest for 1.7 miles until it reaches the south side of Ashcake Road. This portion of the
boundary zig-zags along the southern parcel lines of historic rural properties, running along the
upper reaches of Totopotomoy Creek. The boundary line in this area separates the district from the
county airport and some industrial properties developed since the 1990s. The boundary runs along the south side of Ashcake Road for 650 feet to Virginia Crane Drive. Running southwest along the west edge of the drive nearly to its terminus, the boundary then zig-zags west, north, east, then north again to encompass a roughly rectangular area of small historic properties between Virginia Crane Drive and a cloverleaf of exit/entrance ramps for Interstate 95. Reaching Lewistown Road, the boundary then runs east along the south side of the road for 1,120 feet to the intersection with Ashcake Road. The boundary then hugs the south side of Ashcake Road as it runs northwest for 1,900 feet. At this point, the boundary opens to the west to include the long, narrow historic properties along the west side of the road for the remaining 2,300-foot stretch until returning to the beginning point of the boundary.

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

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

The district boundary reflects the extent of the Brown Grove community that retains its rural character as well as buildings and sites dating to period of significance (1729-1971).

11. **Form Prepared By**

name/title: David Lewes, Historian; Mary Ruffin Hanbury, Architectural Historian
organizations: Hanbury Preservation Consulting; William and Mary Center for Archaeological Research
street & number: ________________________________________________
city or town: Raleigh______ state: NC_____ zip code: ____________
e-mail: dwlewe@wm.edu; maryruffin@hanburypreservation.com
telephone: (757) 221-2579; (919) 828-1905__________________________
date: August 5, 2021_______________________________

**Additional Documentation**
Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
• **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

• **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

**Photo Log**

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

Name of Property: Brown Grove Rural Historic District

City or Vicinity: N/A

County: Hanover    State: VA

Photographer: Mary Ruffin Hanbury

View: Characteristic rural neighborhood scene at 10134 Ashcake Road, view to northeast
Date Photographed: February 2022
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0001.jpg

View: Professional Shoe Shine Mens and Ladies, originally Jackson Grocery, at 10076 Ashcake Road (042-5504/042-5802-0059), south corner
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0002.jpg

View: House at 10084 Ashcake Road (042-5502/042-5802-0057), south corner
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0003.jpg

View: Brown Grove Baptist Church, 9328 Ashcake Road (042-5799/042-5802-0136), southwest corner
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0004.jpg

View: Slash Church, 11353 Mt. Hermon Road (042-0033/042-5802-0133), southwest corner
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0005.jpg

View: Candlewick, Route 657 (042-0253/042-5802-0110), southeast corner
Date Photographed: December 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0006.jpg

View: House at 10446 Lewistown Road (042-5223/042-5802-0033), facade
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0007.jpg
View: Lewis/Coleman Cemetery, Lewistown Road (042-5802-0116), view to northwest
Date Photographed: February 2022
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0008.jpg

View: Jones/Lewis Cemetery, Ashcake Road (042-5802-0137), view to west
Date Photographed: February 2022
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0009.jpg

View: Birdbath at house at 9392 Ashcake Road (042-5802-01032021)
Date Photographed: December 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0010.jpg

View: House at 9357 Ashcake Road (042-5802-0105), east corner
Date Photographed: December 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0011.jpg

View: House at 9393 Ashcake Road (042-5802-0102), northeast corner
Date Photographed: December 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0012.jpg

View: House at 11237 Pear Tree Drive (042-5802-0093), facade
Date Photographed: December 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0013.jpg

View: House at 10033 Johnson Town Road (042-5802-0079), northwest corner
Date Photographed: November 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0014.jpg

View: House at 11229 Egypt Road (042-5802-0068), facade
Date Photographed: November 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0015.jpg

View: House at 10306 Lewistown Road (042-5802-0029), facade
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0016.jpg

View: House at 10373 Shellie Lee Drive (042-5802-0016), facade
Date Photographed: October 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0017.jpg

View: House 9340 New Ashcake Road (042-5476), southwest corner
Date Photographed: December 2021
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0018.jpg
Brown Grove Rural Historic District   Hanover County, VA
Name of Property                  County and State

View: Garnett Family Cemetery (042-5549/042-5802-0135), Sliding Hill Road, view to east
Date Photographed: January 2022
Image: VA_HanoverCounty_BrownGroveRuralHistoricDistrict_0019.jpg
Brown Grove Rural Historic District
Hanover County, VA

Name of Property
County and State

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

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

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

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.
Brown Grove Rural Historic District
Hanover County
DHR ID: 042-5802

Sources: VHR, NPS, GIS, 2023. This map is not definitive over the years and the information depicted is based on the field overview and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general planning purposes and should not be used for engineering, legal or other site-specific development.
Site Plan - Brown Grove Rural Historic District
Hanover County, Virginia
DHR# 042 - 5802
1 inch = 200 feet

- Property with Contributing Primary Resource
- Property with Non-Contributing Primary Resource
- Building Footprints
- Photo Location/Direction