Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update
Name of Property
Henry County, Virginia
County and State
98001317
NR Reference Number

State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this _X__ additional documentation ___ move ___ removal
___ name change (additional documentation) ___ other
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.

___________________________________________________
Signature of Certifying Official/Title:                                                                        Date of Action

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
__ additional documentation accepted
__ other (explain:) ______________________

___________________________________________________
Signature of the Keeper                                          Date of Action
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

Name of Property
Henry County, Virginia

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98001317

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Introduction
Martinsville Historic District (DHR ID 120-5001), located in Henry County, Virginia, was originally listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1998. The original nomination form identified five areas of significance for the district including Architecture, Commerce, Industry, Politics/Government, and Transportation with a period of significance spanning from 1824 to 1948. The purpose of this Additional Documentation is to update the Martinsville Historic District nomination to provide current information about the district’s physical condition, the contributing status of individual resources, and to provide further documentation of the significance of the district that justifies extending the end date of the district’s period of significance to 1972.

Additional documentation provided below is organized on the basis of the current NRHP nomination form, and includes only those sections which have been changed, updated, or added to since the original listing. The following sections of the nomination form are included: Section 5, Classification (with an updated count of contributing and non-contributing resources); Section 7, Description (including a complete and updated inventory of all resources); Section 8, Statement of Significance; Section 9, Major Bibliographical References (based on new research); Section 10, Geographic Information; Section 11, information regarding authors; and Section 12, new Additional Documentation including an updated Sketch Map (showing contributing and noncontributing resources) and photographs of buildings throughout the district. Only updated information is provided herein. Information in the original nomination that has not been updated, such as historic functions and architectural styles, are not reproduced in this additional documentation. The historic boundaries of the district have also been reduced as part of this update due to demolition of historic resources and/or significant loss of integrity. A boundary increase is also being prepared in conjunction with this update, under DHR ID # 120-5098. The sketch and location maps show the areas increased and decreased as a result of this additional documentation.

Section 7 of this update includes a complete inventory of previously and newly surveyed resources organized by street name and number. In January 2022, a reconnaissance-level survey of properties in the Martinsville Historic District was conducted, during which surveyors verified the conditions of all previously documented resources within the district. Only those resources which had been significantly altered, demolished, or which would change in their contributing or non-contributing status were photographed and updated in the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS). All other resources were recorded as having no changes since the previous survey.

The original nomination included an inventory listing 98 contributing resources, including 94 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site and 3 contributing objects; 26 non-contributing resources were recorded, including 25 buildings, and 1 object. The 2022 survey and expansion of the period of significance resulted in the identification of 99 contributing resources, including 98 buildings and 1 object. The updated survey also identified 12 noncontributing buildings. Not included in the count of noncontributing resources are 10 resources that have been demolished since the last survey. The loss of 7 of these buildings has resulted in a large boundary reduction largely consisting of the block bound by W Fayette St, N Moss St, W Church St, and N Market St.
Section 8 of this Additional Documentation expands upon the original district’s statement of significance. The district’s original period of significance spanned the period from 1824 to 1948. This update extends the period of significance to end in 1972, capturing Martinsville’s mid-twentieth century growth and development, and including major events that contributed to the significance of the historic district. This update to the Martinsville Historic District also expands upon and provides additional justification for the areas of significance identified in the original nomination, with a focus on the mid-twentieth century period. A new area of significance, Social History, is being added as part of this nomination update to recognize the significance of the landmark Martinsville Seven trial that prompted a response by national civil rights and equitable justice activists. The update also adds Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish) as an area of significance for the district’s association with the important contributions of Jewish merchants and community members in Martinsville.

5. Classification

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>98</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>99</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total: 110

7. Description

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph
The Martinsville Historic District is located in the historic center of the City of Martinsville and Henry County. The original historic district encompassed approximately 45 acres, and 119 buildings, one site, and 4 objects. Due to the loss of historic buildings and historic integrity along the western portion of the district largely encompassing the block bound by W Fayette St, N Moss St, W Church St, and N Market St., a reduction in the original district boundary of approximately six acres was made as part of this
update. The updated district now includes 111 resources, 99 contributing and 12 noncontributing. Due to the expanded period of significance, 18 of 26 former noncontributing buildings are now contributing. Alternatively, five buildings which were previously contributing are now non-contributing due to extensive alterations.

This material is based upon work assisted by a grant from the Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior or the National Park Service.

This project was funded in part by ESHPF grant funding. Martinsville was severely impacted by both Hurricane Michael and Florence, triggering a sense of urgency to document at-risk properties. In addition to increasing flood risk, Martinsville experienced downed trees and high winds that also pose risk to historic buildings which are located in established neighborhoods, many with large, mature tree coverage. Currently, the city of Martinsville contains 595 properties with a .2% chance of some amount of water reaching their building in 2020. This number, however, is based upon current FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps, and does not represent potential flash flood due to rainfall, which can often overwhelm existing stormwater infrastructure. Martinsville’s damage related to both Hurricane Michael and Florence demonstrate the increasing risk to the area for severe weather.

Narrative Description

The Martinsville Historic District remains largely unchanged from its original listing in 1998, with the exception of redevelopment along the western edge of the district which has resulted in a boundary reduction. The district is largely composed of two- and three-story masonry commercial buildings constructed from the early to mid-twentieth century, with several larger anchor institutional building including a courthouse, churches, a post office, industrial buildings and warehouses, and bank buildings. The district is largely laid out in an irregular grid-like pattern, and is lined with concrete city sidewalks, street trees, and limited vegetation.

At the time of the original listing, several historic commercial buildings were constructed just outside the period of significance or had been altered with mid-century façade improvements. These buildings, and in many cases their alterations, have become significant in their own right. The design and materials used to construct or alter these buildings are representative of mid-twentieth century architectural trends and a movement to streamline design, incorporate clean lines and glossy textures, and move away from applied ornament. Other commercial buildings constructed after 1948 are representative of simplified design, often characterized by their simple stretcher bond masonry or masonry veneer, flat roofs, elongated storefronts, and aluminum canopies.

In addition to the classical styles that were well documented in the original nomination, the Martinsville Historic District is home to well-preserved examples of architectural styles popular to the Modern Movement of the mid-twentieth century. The International Style is well represented including such examples as the Virginia National Bank building located at 8 Lester Street, and the Setback Building.
located at 2 East Church Street. Other buildings were modified from their early twentieth century commercial style to more identifiable mid-century styles. The Lee Telephone Building at 115 East Church Street, for example, was modified ca. 1970 with a Brutalist style façade characterized by its aggregate concrete façade on the south elevation and its weighty concrete rhomboidal entry columns.

The Martinsville Historic District retains a high degree of the seven aspects of integrity. It retains its historic location at the center of the city and county, and its primarily commercial setting. As a whole, the buildings in the district retain their historic design, materials, and workmanship associated with the district’s period of significance. A few buildings have been so heavily altered in design or materials that they are now considered non-contributing resources. These examples, however, remain few. The district retains its feeling as a historic commercial corridor that was home to a variety of resource types, and retains association with its historic areas and period of significance.

Inventory

The inventory below is the result of a reconnaissance-level survey of all previously recorded properties in January 2022. Surveyors verified the conditions of all previously-documented resources within the district, with a focus on properties that were anticipated to have a contributing status change, or that had been demolished or extensively altered since the original listing. The 2022 survey and extension of the period of significance resulted in the identification of 99 contributing resources, including 98 buildings and 1 object. The updated survey also identified 12 noncontributing buildings. The survey also revealed that 10 resources had been demolished since the time of the original district listing. These resources are no longer included in the historic district inventory.

Each entry in the attached inventory identifies the primary and secondary (where applicable) resource(s), the resource type (building, site, structure, or object), number of stories, architectural style, approximate construction date, and contributing or noncontributing status. Resources within the Martinsville Historic District are considered contributing if they were constructed during the district’s period of significance (1824-1972), are associated with one or more of the district’s areas of significance, and retain architectural integrity sufficient to convey historic associations. Alterations to contributing resources were evaluated based on the overall impact to the character-defining features of the building. Resources are keyed to the revised Sketch Map by the last four digits of the resource’s 11-digit historic district identification number (e.g., -0001, -0002, etc.).

**Martinsville Historic District Inventory**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bridge Street</th>
<th>120-5001-0110</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 Bridge Street</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Primary Resource:</em> Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1900</td>
<td>Contributing Total: 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| 22 Bridge Street       | 120-5001-0112 |
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update
Name of Property
Henry County, Virginia
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Parent Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945
Contributing Total: 1
26 Bridge Street 120-5001-0113
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1920
Contributing Total: 1
28 Bridge Street 120-5001-0114
Primary Resource: Automobile Showroom (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1918
Contributing Total: 1
South Bridge Street
20 South Bridge Street 120-5001-0111
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1927
Contributing Total: 1
24 South Bridge Street 120-5001-0115
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1945
Contributing Total: 1
Broad Street
13 Broad Street 120-5001-0116
Primary Resource: Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1935
Contributing Total: 1
25 Broad Street 120-5001-0117
Primary Resource: Multiple Dwelling (Building), Stories 3, Style: Other, 1936
Contributing Total: 1
29 Broad Street 120-5001-0118
McKee Funeral Home
Primary Resource: Funeral Home/Mortuary (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1910
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)
Contributing Total: 1
East Church Street
1 East Church Street 120-5001-0030
Masonic Temple/Holt’s Department Store
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Classical Revival, 1914
Contributing Total: 1
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

Name of Property
Henry County, Virginia

County and State
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NR Reference Number

Section number ___ Page 7

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

2 East Church Street 120-5001-0004
Setback Building
Primary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: International Style, Ca 1960
Contributing Total: 1

5 East Church Street 120-5001-0029
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1920
Contributing Total: 1

9 East Church Street 120-5001-0028
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1920
Contributing Total: 1

10 East Church Street 120-0026
Other DHR Id#: 120-5001-0005
Primary Resource: Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 3, Style: Classical Revival, 1927
Contributing Total: 1

11 East Church Street 120-5001-0027
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1908
Contributing Total: 1

14 East Church Street 120-5001-0006
Piedmont Trust Bank
Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922
Contributing Total: 1

16 East Church Street 120-5001-0007
Woolworth’s
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Romanesque Revival/Richardsonian, 1922
Contributing Total: 1

17 East Church Street 120-5001-0025
Southern Jewelers
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1953
Contributing Total: 1

19 East Church Street 120-5001-0024
Leggett’s Department Store
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

**Name of Property**

**County and State**

**NR Reference Number**

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**Primary Resource:** Department Store (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1935  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**20 East Church Street** 120-5001-0008  
Montgomery Ward and Company

**Primary Resource:** Department Store (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 193  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**22 East Church Street** 120-5001-0009  
Tultex

**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1975  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**25 East Church Street** 120-5001-0023  
**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**31 East Church Street** 120-5001-0022  
**Primary Resource:** Department Store (Building), Stories 2, Style: Art Deco, Ca 1935  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**34 East Church Street** 120-5001-0010  
**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**37 East Church Street** 120-5001-0021  
**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1948  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**38 East Church Street** 120-5001-0011  
**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**46 East Church Street** 120-5001-0012  
**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925  
**Contributing Total:** 1

**50 East Church Street** 120-0027  
**Other DHR Id#:** 120-5001-0013  
**Primary Resource:** Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 4, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1921
# National Register of Historic Places
## Continuation Sheet

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Property</th>
<th>County and State</th>
<th>NR Reference Number</th>
<th>Primary Resource:</th>
<th>Contributing Total:</th>
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<tr>
<td>103 East Church Street</td>
<td>Henry County, Virginia</td>
<td>98001317</td>
<td>Commercial Building Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1930</td>
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<tr>
<td>105-115 East Church Street</td>
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<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950</td>
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<td>127 East Church Street</td>
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<td>133 East Church Street</td>
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<td>Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922</td>
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<td>219 East Church Street</td>
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<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1940</td>
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<td>12 Fayette Street</td>
<td>Henry County, Virginia</td>
<td>98001317</td>
<td>Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1930</td>
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<td>21 Fayette Street</td>
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<td>Mixed: Gym (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925</td>
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<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, 1925</td>
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<td>Building Number</td>
<td>NR Reference Number</td>
<td>Detail</td>
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<td>26 Fayette Street</td>
<td>120-5001-0083</td>
<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945 Contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>120-5001-0084</td>
<td>Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Commercial Style, Contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945 Non-contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>47 Fayette Street</td>
<td>120-5001-0077</td>
<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950 Non-contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>51 Fayette Street</td>
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<td>53 Fayette Street</td>
<td>120-5001-0075</td>
<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950 Contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>57 Fayette Street</td>
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<td>58 Fayette Street</td>
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<td>Garage (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1948 Contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>30 Franklin Street</td>
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<td>Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, 1915 Contributing Total: 1</td>
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<td>36 Franklin Street</td>
<td>120-5001-0102</td>
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**Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>County and State</th>
<th>NR Reference Number</th>
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<td>34 Franklin Street</td>
<td>Henry County, Virginia</td>
<td>98001317</td>
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<td>38 Franklin Street</td>
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<td>42 Franklin Street</td>
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<td>47-49 Ford Street</td>
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**Primary Resource:** Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1930  
**Contributing Total:** 1

- **34 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0103  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **38 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0101  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1930  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **40 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0100  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1930  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **42 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0099  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1955  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **44 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0098  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1948  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **109 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0096  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **202 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0095  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1940  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **210 Franklin Street**  
  120-5001-0094  
  Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1925  
  Contributing Total: 1

- **Ford Street**  
  120-5001-0093  
  Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960  
  Contributing Total: 1
Jones Street
23 Jones Street 120-5001-0087
*Primary Resource* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922
*Contributing Total*: 1

33 Jones Street 120-5001-0088
*Primary Resource*: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1790
*Contributing Total*: 1

41 Jones Street 120-5001-0089
*Primary Resource*: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Art Deco, Ca 1935
*Contributing Total*: 1

45 Jones Street 120-5001-0090
*Primary Resource*: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935
*Non-contributing Total*: 1

103 Jones Street 120-5001-0091
*Primary Resource*: Bowling Alley (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935
*Contributing Total*: 1

107 Jones Street 120-5001-0092
*Primary Resource*: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935
*Contributing Total*: 1

Lester Street
8 Lester Street 120-5001-0016
*Primary Resource*: Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1960
*Contributing Total*: 1

41 Lester Street 120-5001-0119
*Primary Resource*: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1907
*Contributing Total*: 1

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

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

West Main Street
29 West Main Street 120-5001-0069
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960
Contributing Total: 1

30 West Main Street 120-5001-0043
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1

32 West Main Street 120-5001-0042
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925
Contributing Total: 1

33 West Main Street 120-5001-0070
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, 1954
Contributing Total: 1

34 West Main Street 120-5001-0041
Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1940
Contributing Total: 1

35 West Main Street 120-5001-0071
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1948
Contributing Total: 1

43 West Main Street 120-5001-0072
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1948
Contributing Total: 1

46 West Main Street 120-5001-0040
Primary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1950
Contributing Total: 1

50 West Main Street 120-5001-0039
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1940
Contributing Total: 1

68 West Main Street 120-5001-0038
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935
Contributing Total: 1

East Main Street
1 East Main Street 120-5001-0121
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

Name of Property

Henry County, Virginia

County and State

98001317

NR Reference Number

Primary Resource: Monument/Marker (Object), Style: No discernible style, 1901
Contributing Total: 1

1 East Main Street 120-0001

Primary Resource: Courthouse (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, 1929
Contributing Total: 1

2 East Main Street 120-5001-0068

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Commercial Style, 1891
Contributing Total: 1

4 East Main Street 120-0034

Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1925
Contributing Total: 1

5 East Main Street 120-0001

Primary Resource: Courthouse (Building), Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, 1929
Contributing Total: 1

6 East Main Street 120-5001-0066

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1940
Non-contributing Total: 1

8 East Main Street 120-5001-0065

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1900
Non-contributing Total: 1

18 East Main Street 120-5001-0063

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1900
Contributing Total: 1

21-26 East Main Street 120-5001-0044

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1920
Contributing Total: 1

29 East Main Street 120-5001-0045

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945
Contributing Total: 1

31 East Main Street 120-5001-0046
### Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

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*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1940

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Commercial Style, 1947

**Non-contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1930

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1945

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1930

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950

**Contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960

**Non-contributing Total:** 1

*Primary Resource:* Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1940

**Contributing Total:** 1
Primary Resource: Automobile Showroom (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945
Non-contributing Total: 1

201 East Main Street 120-5001-0054
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1960
Contributing Total: 1

207 East Main Street 120-5001-0055
Sears, Roebuck and Company
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1947
Contributing Total: 1

209 East Main Street 120-5001-0056
Primary Resource: Carriage House (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1915
Contributing Total: 1

213 East Main Street 120-5001-0057
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1947
Contributing Total: 1

217 East Main Street 120-5001-0058
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1947
Contributing Total: 1

219 East Main Street 120-5001-0059
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1 Style: Commercial Style, 1947
Contributing Total: 1

North Moss Street
28 North Moss Street 120-5001-0037
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935
Contributing Total: 1

Wall Street
8 Wall Street 120-5001-0109
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925
Contributing Total: 1

Walnut Street
2 Walnut Street 120-5001-0026
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1920
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

Name of Property
Martinsville Historic District

County and State
Henry County, Virginia

NR Reference Number
98001317

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Non-contributing Total: 1

3 Walnut Street 120-5001-0108
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1915
Contributing Total: 1

5 Walnut Street 120-5001-0107
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1915
Contributing Total: 1

7 Walnut Street 120-5001-0106
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1905
Contributing Total: 1

11 Walnut Street 120-5001-0105
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1915
Non-contributing Total: 1

18 Walnut Street 120-5001-0064
Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: Romanesque Revival/Richardsonian, Ca 1894
Contributing Total: 1

Demolished Resources Inside Boundary

East 215 Church Street 120-5001-0015
Primary Resource: Theater (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1935
Non-contributing Total: 1

West 101 Church Street 120-5001-0002
Primary Resource: Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: Art Deco, Ca 1945
Non-contributing Total: 1

41 Fayette Street 120-5001-0078
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925
Non-contributing Total: 1

Demolished Removed from boundary:
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

Name of Property
Henry County, Virginia
County and State
98001317
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200 West Church Street 120-0008 Other DHR Id#: 120-5001-0032

Primary Resource: Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: Tudor Revival, Ca 1940
Non-contributing Total: 1

101 Fayette Street 120-5001-0073

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1923
Non-contributing Total: 1

West 114 Main Street 120-5001-0031

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, 1947
Non-contributing Total: 1

North 9 Moss Street 120-5001-0034

Primary Resource: Factory (Building), Stories 3, Style: Commercial Style, 1937
Non-contributing Total: 1

35 North Moss Street 120-5001-0033

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930
Non-contributing Total: 1

North 17 Moss Street 120-5001-0035

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930
Non-contributing Total: 1

North 27 Moss Street 120-5001-0036

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935
Non-contributing Total: 1

Non-contributing Resources Removed from Boundary

120 Fayette Street 120-5001-0086 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1940
Non-contributing Total: 1
8. **Statement of Significance**

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Social History

Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish)

**Period of Significance**

1824-1972

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The Martinsville Historic District (DHR #120-5001) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1998. Located in the historic civic and commercial center of Martinsville and Henry County, the district served as the political and government center for the County for almost two centuries. Martinsville has been recognized as formerly one of the southern Virginia Piedmont’s most prolific tobacco, furniture, and textile manufacturing cities, which prompted the economic prosperity of the district into the mid-twentieth century. The original district’s period of significance begins in 1824 with the completion of the existing Henry County Courthouse through 1948, which was the fifty-year minimum requirement when listed in 1998. This update to the Martinsville Historic District extends the period of significance to 1972 to include mid-twentieth century resources representative of the continued historical growth patterns associated with the original district. The district remains significant at the local level under Criterion A for Commerce, Industry, Politics/Government and Transportation, and under Criterion C for Architecture. This update also adds Social History as an area of significance for the district’s association with the Martinsville Seven case, which garnered national attention among civil rights and equitable justice advocates in the mid-twentieth century. The update also adds Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish) as an area of significance for the district’s association with the important contributions of Jewish merchants and community members in Martinsville.

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

The mid-twentieth century was an unprecedented period of growth for Martinsville. From 1940 to 1970, the city’s population increased nearly 95 percent. Martinsville became one of the “fastest growing cities in the south” during its largest single decade of growth following World War II, when the city’s population increased 71 percent from 1940 to 1950. In 1970, Martinsville was named an “All-American City” by several national publications. During this period, Martinsville was home to “the largest nylon plant in the world; three of the largest manufacturers of wood furniture in the nation, including the world’s largest manufacturer; the world’s largest manufacturer of knit outerwear; the nation’s largest manufacturer of sweatshirts; the worlds’ largest manufacturer of Grandfather and Grandmother clocks; and Virginia’s largest upholstery factory under one roof.” These accolades helped boost the city’s
economic prosperity that supported the growth of the city’s historic commercial, civic, and industrial center.

Criterion A: Social History
In 1949, the Henry County Courthouse became the scene of the infamous Martinsville Seven trial, which resulted in the controversial execution of seven African-American men for the rape of Ruby Stroud Floyd, a 32-year-old white female. Within two days of the event, which occurred on January 8, 1949, police had arrested and obtained confessions from each of the seven suspects: Frank Hairston, Jr., age 20; Booker T. Millner, age 22; Howard Lee Hairston, age 20; James Luther Hairston, age 22; John Claybon Taylor, age 23; Francis DeSales Grayson, age 38; Joe Henry Hampton, age 21. The seven men were each found guilty of the crime or abetting the crime, and were sentenced to death over the course of 11 days by six different juries. In February 1951, all seven men were executed by electrocution at the Virginia State Penitentiary. According to historian Eric Rise, “Never before had a state executed so many men for the same rape incident, nor had a lynching of that magnitude for men accused of rape ever been reported.”¹

According to historian Eric Rise, the Martinsville Seven case “differed in several aspects from classic legal lynchings because the persecutions had not resulted in the wrongful convictions of innocent blacks but rather in especially harsh penalties.”² Therefore, the conduct of the proceedings became the focus of the appeals. The focus on the trial process and sentencing served as a rallying cry for proponents of equal justice. Despite efforts by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to overturn the court’s decision, all state and Federal appeals failed. Petitions were formed on several different grounds, including complaints regarding the all-white juries, the refusal of the court to grant a change of venue, and the severity of the punishment for the crime. Civil Rights attorney Martin A. Martin of Hill, Martin, and Robinson in Richmond, Virginia, revealed through his arguments a history of unequal sentencing of black and white men for convictions of rape. Martin and his team consisting of Samuel W. Tucker, Roland D. Ealey, and Jerry Williams of Danville were able to “secure a limited stay of execution date from Governor William M. Tuck and a writ of error from the Virginia Supreme Court.”³ Ultimately, however, all attempts at decreasing the severity of the sentencing failed. The refusal of state and Federal courts to hear appeals regarding the Martinsville Seven case motivated NAACP activists to “continue its fight for equal and exact justice” throughout the 1950s.⁴

Criterion A: Commerce

² Rise, “Race, Rape, and Radicalism,” 488.
³ “Martin A. Martin,” African American Registry, https://aaregistry.org/story/martin-a-martin-attorney-born/ (accessed May 4, 2022). Martin A. Martin and the firm of Hill, Martin, and Robinson were influential in multiple Civil Rights cases in Virginia during the 1950s and 1960s, including the 1958 case that resulted in the desegregation of Richmond Schools. Martin died suddenly of a heart attack in 1963 at the age of 52.
⁴ Rise, “Race, Rape, and Radicalism,” 488.
The Martinsville Historic District served as the primary commercial center for the city through the early to mid-twentieth century. During the 1960s, at least six different major financial institutions constructed or renovated existing bank buildings in Martinsville. One article in the *Martinsville Bulletin* noted the expansion of the financial sector as a symbol of the “growth potential of the area.” Similar to other cities across the state, Martinsville’s banking industry was significantly impacted by the 1962 Buck-Holland banking bill, which allowed for the development of bank branches and the consolidation of smaller community banks into statewide institutions. By 1974, Virginia had witnessed 118 mergers, with the eight largest banks controlling 64% of all offices. One of the state’s leading institutions to emerge from this new banking system was Virginia National Bank, which formed out of 31 acquisitions.

Virginia National Bank opened a branch in Martinsville near the corner of E. Church and Lester Streets in 1963. Martinsville’s local banks also saw increased growth following the 1962 legislation. Several constructed large headquarters in Martinsville, including First National Bank of Martinsville, located in the ca. 1966 Colonial Revival building at 134 E. Church Street, and the Piedmont Bank and Trust (later BB&T), located in the ca. 1956-1973 International style building at 1 Ellsworth Street. As these local banks established smaller branch offices in the surrounding towns, Martinsville became a regional headquarters for commercial banking based in Henry County.

In addition to its robust financial sector, Martinsville’s historic commercial core expanded in the mid-twentieth century to include a collection of department stores which sprung up along E. Church Street. Beginning in the early 1950s, the long-time department store owner Abe Globman relocated his business from the Courthouse Square to the 100 Block of East Church Street. Globman’s later expanded in 1961 the Church Street store to 100,000 square-feet. In order to make the expansion possible, Globman purchased two nearby churches, one of which was demolished to make room for the 243-space parking lot. Globman’s expansion served as an “anchor [for] downtown Martinsville as the area underwent a streetscape program which involved landscaping and parking changes.”

The transition from a pedestrian focused commercial core to one reliant on automobiles was evident in the prioritization of proximity to parking for several other department stores that opened near the Church Street lot. In the mid-1960s, two additional department stores opened near Globman’s, including Leggett’s at 130 E. Church Street and Sidney’s at 132 E. Church Street. In order to keep pace with the growth of Martinsville, Leggett’s moved from its 19,500-square-foot space at 23 Church Street, to a space boasting more than 85,000 square-feet. Not only did its new location provide access directly adjacent to the Church Street parking lot, but it also offered a sizable loading area in the rear. The expansion of these department stores is representative of Martinsville’s continued commercial growth through the mid-twentieth century. Beginning in the mid-to-late twentieth century, shopping malls and centers developed outside of the city’s traditional downtown, prompting the closure of several of Martinsville’s longstanding, local department stores.

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5 “Statewide System: Virginia National Builds Bank Here,”
Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish)
Martinsville Historic District is also locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Ethnic Heritage: European for the contributions of its Jewish community. According to the Institute for Southern Jewish Life, the first Jewish immigrants moved to Martinsville as early as 1888. Martinsville’s growth as an industrial center for furniture and textiles let to a rise in available jobs and opportunities for commercial expansion. Among those who contributed to the rapid growth of the city to fill these factory jobs and commercial demand were European Jewish immigrants.¹⁰ Many members of Martinsville’s Jewish community became leaders in the commercial and industrial development in the city, and formed religious institutions like the Ohev Zion Synagogue (located in the Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase, 120-5098-0041), as well as recreational organizations like the Martinsville Little League, Martinsville Recreation Association. Jewish leaders were well-respected and revered in Martinsville, and many were also leaders in secular social and fraternal organizations.¹¹

Jewish merchants operated a number of retail shops in Martinsville Historic District beginning in the early twentieth century well into the district’s expanded period of significance. The first Jewish merchant to move to Martinsville from Russia was Samuel Heiner. Born in Odessa, Russia in 1867, Heiner immigrated to Martinsville in 1888 and established clothing stores in Martinsville as well as surrounding towns including Bassett and Rocky Mount, Virginia. Several prominent merchants, including Abraham Fusfeld, Max Berlin, and Abe Globam also immigrated from Eastern Europe in 1911. Fusfeld, Berlin, and Globman went on to establish department stores that became mainstays for Martinsville residents.¹² These and other Jewish merchants made critical contributions to the commercial development of Martinsville. The department and retail stores are physical reminders of Martinsville’s wealth during the early to mid-twentieth century.

Criterion C: Architecture
The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase is also locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture for its representative range of early-to mid-twentieth century architectural styles. In addition to those styles which are discussed in more detail in the original nomination, the historic district is also significant for its evolved resources and expressions of the Modern Movement. Historic commercial districts were often updated during the mid-twentieth century. In many large cities, this manifested in large-scale urban renewal projects, while smaller towns saw smaller-scale or parcel level new construction as well as modernization of historic commercial facades. In Martinsville, examples of small-scale International Style architecture include the Setback Building (2 E Church St, 120-5001-0004) and the Virginia National Bank Building (8 Lester St, 120-5001-0016). Both are excellent

examples of the emphasis on horizontality, the utilization of ribbon windows, and alternating planes of materials. The district also includes Brutalist influences, such as those reflected in the façade alterations made to the Lee Telephone Building (127 E Church, 120-5001-0018) in ca. 1970.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)


Previous documentation on file (NPS):

___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
___ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #
___ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #
Primary location of additional data:

_**X**__ State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

**X** Other

Name of repository: Martinsville Public Library, Bassett Historical Center, Virginia

Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 120-5001

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 38.81

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84:__________

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.694689 Longitude: -79.877141

2. Latitude: 36.694731 Longitude: -79.866216

3. Latitude: 36.684769 Longitude: -79.8662554

4. Latitude: 36.6847278 Longitude: -79.8771805

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Martinsville Historic District, as updated, is roughly bound by Depot and Green Street to the north, Clay Street to the east, E Church Street to the south, and Bridge and N Moss to the west. The boundaries follow the parcel lines of contributing resources along the boundary’s edges. The western edge of the district primarily bound by W Fayette Street to the north, N Moss to the east, W Church to the South, and N Market to the west, has been removed from the historic district boundary due to loss of historic integrity. The attached location and sketch maps identify the true and correct boundaries of the original historic district.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)
The boundaries of the updated Martinsville Historic District encompass the areas of the historic commercial and government core that retain integrity associated with the district’s areas and period of significance. The boundaries encompass all of the known historic resources and historic setting
associated with the original Martinsville Historic District (1998) and excludes areas which have lost integrity or which are part of the Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase 2022.

11. Form Prepared By
name/title: Kayla Halberg, Ethan Halberg, and Erica Howard
organization: Commonwealth Preservation Group
street & number: 536 W 35th Street
city or town: Norfolk
state: VA
zip code: 23508
e-mail: Admin@commonwealthpreservationgroup.com
telephone: 757-923-1900
date: 5.3.2022

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.

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

Photo Log
Name of Property: Martinsville Historic District Update 2022
City or Vicinity: Martinsville
County: Henry
State: Virginia
Photographer: Ethan Halberg (EH)
Date Photographed: January 2022
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update
Name of Property
Henry County, Virginia
County and State
98001317
NR Reference Number

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