**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: _Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase 2022___
   - Other names/site number: _120-5098_____________________________________
   - 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: _Fayette, Church, Market, Moss, Bridge, Broad, and Ellsworth Streets, Cleveland Ave____________________________________________
   - City or town: _Martinsville (Independent City)___ State: _Virginia___ County: _Henry___
   - Not For Publication:  
   - Vicinity:  

3. **State/Federal Agency Certification**
   - As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 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 ___ local
   ___A___B___C___D
   applicable National Register Criteria:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of certifying official/Title:</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

   | State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government |

<p>| In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of commenting official:</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Title: State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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:) _______________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signature of the Keeper</th>
<th>Date of Action</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Private: [X]

Public – Local [X]

Public – State [ ]

Public – Federal [ ]

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

Building(s) [ ]

District [X]

Site [ ]

Structure [ ]

Object [ ]
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>31 buildings</td>
<td>7 sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 structures</td>
<td>1 objects</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total 33

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1 (Martinsville High School, 30 Cleveland Avenue, 120-5002-0076)

6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>COMMERCE/TRADE: Office building, Financial institution, Department store, Specialty store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT: City hall, Fire station, Government office, Courthouse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDUCATION: School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELIGION: Religious facility, church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>INDUSTRY: Mill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)

| COMMERCE/TRADE: Office building, Financial institution, Department store, Specialty store |
| GOVERNMENT: City hall, Fire station, Government office, Courthouse |
| EDUCATION: School |
| RELIGION: Religious facility, church |
| VACANT/NOT IN USE |
7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions.)
  - LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Late Gothic Revival, Classical Revival
  - LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style
  - MODERN MOVEMENT: New Formalism, Brutalism, International Style, Streamlined Moderne, Other

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)
  Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK, STONE, METAL, CONCRETE, GLASS

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 Boundary Increase expands the existing historic district, which was originally listed in 1998. The district includes properties that represent an extension of the historical growth and development patterns of the Martinsville Historic District into the early 1970s and which retain a high degree of integrity. The expansion areas are primarily located to the south of the original district, and cross over New Market Street to the former Norfolk & Western Railroad. On the north side of the district are three small expansion areas that encompass peripheral mid-twentieth century development and were just outside the original district’s period of significance. The original district, which is being updated simultaneously with this boundary increase, is a collection of commercial, institutional, and light-industrial buildings representative of the full-breadth of early-to-mid-twentieth century architecture. Styles which characterize the original district include Greek, Romanesque, Classical, and Colonial Revival styles, as well as a sampling of commercial, International, and Art Deco styles, representing Martinsville’s period of economic and civic growth and development to the mid-twentieth century. The Boundary Increase area is generally characterized by one- and two-story masonry buildings fronting along streets laid primarily along a grid-like pattern, with a few taller commercial buildings reaching as many as five stories. Prominent, mid-twentieth-century architectural styles represented include the International Style, New Formalism, Brutalism, and modern commercial vernacular. The district also includes early twentieth century examples of Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival and Industrial Commercial style buildings,
which were not within the contiguous boundaries of the original historic district. The district consists of 41 resources, including 33 contributing, and 8 noncontributing.

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**

**Setting:** The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase is located in central Martinsville, in Henry County, Virginia. The expansion includes the historic main street commercial corridor, with buildings primarily fronting along east-west and north-south streets developed along a grid-like pattern. The Boundary Increase also incorporates mid-twentieth century growth and redevelopment areas in and around Martinsville’s historic core. The historic uses of the contributing resources include municipal government, commercial, educational, and religious, as well as industrial, which were generally larger in size and located on larger parcels. Additionally, mid-twentieth century development patterns often resulted in buildings set back from the lot line and oriented toward vehicular rather than pedestrian traffic. With the exception of a few notable designed landscapes and street trees, there is minimal vegetation throughout the district. There are sidewalks along most streets, and several large parking lots are interspersed throughout the district. The district is comprised of a combination of early twentieth-century development patterns that primarily include commercial buildings constructed to the lot lines, with mid-twentieth century site plans that set buildings back at a much greater distance from the street.

**Narrative:**
The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase includes additional areas and properties that represent an extension of the historical growth and development patterns of the Martinsville Historic District, originally listed in 1998. The original district is a representative collection of commercial, institutional, and light-industrial buildings primarily constructed from 1920 to 1948. There are also a few representative late-nineteenth and early-twentieth-century buildings, as well as the ca. 1824 Henry County Courthouse. Styles which characterize the original district include
Greek, Romanesque, Classical, and Colonial revival styles, as well as a sampling of Commercial, International, and Art Deco styles, representing Martinsville’s period of economic and civic growth and development to the mid-twentieth century.

The Boundary Increase includes additional properties fronting along Church Street just south of the original historic district, as well as those along the major north-south arteries of the district including Moss, Broad, Ellsworth Streets, and Cleveland Avenue. The area also extends south beyond Market Street to include the Pannill Knitting Company industrial complex between Cleveland Avenue and Ellsworth Street. Although the expansion primarily includes properties that demonstrate the district’s mid-twentieth growth south of the original historic district, the boundary increase also includes three small areas north of the existing district. The boundary increase includes properties constructed outside the original district’s period of significance, with a high concentration of buildings dating to the 1950s through the early 1970s.

The boundary increase includes 41 additional resources which represent the district’s continued civic, commercial, and industrial development patterns into the early 1970s. Institutional and civic properties within the boundary increase include the Municipal Building located at 55 W. Church Street (120-5098-0010), a fire station located at 65 W Church (120-5098-0007) and Martinsville Junior High School (120-5098-0039) located at 30 Cleveland Avenue. Two religious institutions are also within the Boundary Increase area: the ca. 1928 Broad Street Christian Church (120-5098-0040) and the ca. 1928 Ohev Zion Synagogue, now the Martinsville Senior Center (120-5098-0041). The boundary increase includes several commercial bank buildings from the First Federal Loan and Savings Bank (120-5098-0012) near the west end of the district to the First National Bank of Martinsville (120-5098-0038) and the Piedmont Bank and Trust (120-5098-0037) buildings both located at the intersection of E. Church and Ellsworth Streets. Additionally, the boundary increase captures a number of mid-twentieth century department stores, furniture outlets, and commercial buildings, as well as several office buildings.

The Boundary Increase area is generally characterized by one- and two-story masonry buildings fronting along streets laid primarily along a grid-like pattern, with a few taller commercial buildings reaching as many as five stories. Prominent, mid-twentieth-century architectural styles represented include the International style, New Formalism, Brutalism, and modern commercial vernacular. The district also includes early-twentieth century examples of Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival, Greek Revival and Industrial Commercial style buildings, which were not within the contiguous boundaries of the original historic district. Many of the properties within the Boundary Increase include large parking lots associated with the main building resource, accommodating the increased reliance on the automobile into the mid-twentieth century.

The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase retains a high degree of the seven aspects of integrity associated with its historical growth and development patterns. The boundary increase area represents the physical expansion and redevelopment of Martinsville’s commercial center, and retains integrity of location. Buildings throughout the Boundary Increase retain
integrity of design, demonstrating the original elements that reflect the properties’ architectural styles, site plan arrangements, and landscape features. Similarly, many of the buildings retain integrity of materials and workmanship associated with their original design and construction, conveying the characteristics of their style, function, and use. As a whole, the district retains integrity of setting as a concentrated commercial center for the city of Martinsville and Henry County. Lastly, the district retains integrity of feeling and association with its historic institutional, commercial, and industrial history.

Inventory
The inventory below is the result of reconnaissance-level survey of 41 properties conducted in January 2022. Surveyors verified the conditions of all previously-described resources within the district, as well as documented resources not previously surveyed and all significant secondary resources. The 2022 survey resulted in the identification of 40 new contributing resources, including 38 buildings and 2 structures. The updated survey also identified nine new noncontributing resources, including eight buildings and one structure. The district survey also included one previously listed building.

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 Boundary Increase are considered contributing if they were constructed during the district’s period of significance (1925-1972), 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. A detailed architectural description and surveyor assessment for each resource has also been prepared in conjunction with this nomination update, and can be accessed via the Virginia Department of Historic Resources architectural survey archives and/or the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS). Resources are keyed to the 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 Boundary Increase 2022 Inventory

Broad Street

26 Broad Street 120-5098-0034
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960 Contributing Total: 1

105 Broad Street 120-5098-0032
Primary Resource: Store (Building), Stories 1, Style: Contemporary, Ca 1966
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Property</th>
<th>County and State</th>
<th>City of Martinsville, VA</th>
<th>Name of Property</th>
<th>County and State</th>
<th>City of Martinsville, VA</th>
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<tr>
<td>106 Broad Street</td>
<td>120-5005</td>
<td>other DHR Id#: 120-5098-0040</td>
<td>106 Broad Street</td>
<td>120-5005</td>
<td>other DHR Id#: 120-5098-0040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Broad Street Christian Church</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Martinsville High School Gymnasium (later Martinsville Junior High)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brown Street</td>
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<tr>
<td>208 Brown Street</td>
<td>120-5098-0020</td>
<td></td>
<td>Martinsville High School Gymnasium (later Martinsville Junior High)</td>
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<td>Church Street</td>
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<td>East 128 Church Street</td>
<td>120-5098-0014</td>
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<tr>
<td>Leggett’s Department Store</td>
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<td>East 132 Church Street</td>
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<td>First National Bank of Martinsville</td>
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<td>East 238 Church Street</td>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>West 24-26 Church Street</td>
<td>120-5098-0011</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Contributing Total: 1
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Boundary Increase
City of Martinsville, VA

Name of Property

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1970 Contributing Total: 1

West 25 Church Street 120-5098-0012
First Federal Savings and Loan
Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1975 Contributing Total: 1

West 54 Church Street 120-5098-0033
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1965 Contributing Total: 1

West 55 Church Street 120-5098-0010
Martinsville Municipal Center
Primary Resource: Government Office (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1967 Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Jail (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

West 58 Church Street 120-5098-0009
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1970 Contributing Total: 1

West 60 Church Street 120-5098-0008
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, Ca 1965 Contributing Total: 1

West 65 Church Street 120-5098-0007
Martinsville Fire Department
Primary Resource: Fire Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, 1967 Contributing Total: 1

West 115 Church Street 120-5098-0005
Primary Resource: Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960 Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Carport (Structure) Non-contributing Total: 1

Clay Street
Clay Street 120-5098-0004
Primary Resource: Water Tank/Tower (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1955 Contributing Total: 1
Cleveland Avenue
15 Cleveland Avenue 120-5098-0017
Professional Arts Center
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1965 Contributing Total: 1

17 Cleveland Avenue 120-5098-0018
Primary Resource: Doctors Office/Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1979 Non-contributing Total: 1

25 Cleveland Avenue 120-5098-0019
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Contemporary, Ca 1978 Non-contributing Total: 1

30 Cleveland Avenue 120-5002-0076 Other DHR Id#: 120-5098-0039
Martinsville High School (historic); Martinsville Middle School (current)
Primary Resource: School (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1939 Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Classroom Building (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Gymnasium (Building) Contributing Total: 1

201 Cleveland Avenue 120-5098-0022
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1957 Contributing Total: 1

202 Cleveland Avenue 120-5098-0023
Pannill Knitting Company
Primary Resource: Industrial Complex (Building), Stories 2-3, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930 Contributing Total: 1

209 Cleveland Avenue 120-5098-0024
Cleveland Professional Building
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1953 Contributing Total: 1

Ellsworth Street
1 Ellsworth Street 120-5098-0037
Piedmont Trust Bank
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Boundary
Increase
Name of Property
County and State

Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 5, Style: International Style, Ca 1956
Contributing Total: 1

20 Ellsworth Street 120-5098-0036
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1971
Contributing Total: 1

Fayette Street
West 62 Fayette Street 120-5098-0001
High Point Furniture Outlet (historic); Winn Dixie (alleged/former)
Primary Resource: Store (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1954
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Workshop (Building)
Contributing Total: 1

Franklin Street
242 Franklin Street 120-5098-0003
Lester Lumber Company
Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960
Contributing Total: 1

Green Street
27 Green Street 120-5098-0002
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1958
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: Warehouse (Building)
Contributing Total: 1

Maple Street
130 Maple Street 120-5098-0025
American of Martinsville Water Tower
Primary Resource: Water Tank/Tower (Structure), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1922
Contributing Total: 1

Market Street
East 240 Market Street 120-5098-0021
Armory; Pannill Knitting Company
Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1930
Contributing Total: 1

Moss Street
6 Moss Street 120-5098-0006
Phoeni Commercial Building
Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1973
Contributing Total: 1

13 Moss Street 120-5098-0013
Martinsville Sheriff Department
Primary Resource: Police Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: International Style, 1978
Non-contributing Total: 1

19 Moss Street 120-5007 Other DHR Id#: 120-5098-0041
Ohev Zion Synagogue
Primary Resource: Synagogue (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1928
Contributing Total: 1
8. Statement of Significance

**Applicable National Register Criteria**
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- [X] A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- [ ] B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- [X] C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- [ ] D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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

- [ ] A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- [ ] B. Removed from its original location
- [ ] C. A birthplace or grave
- [ ] D. A cemetery
- [ ] E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- [ ] F. A commemorative property
- [ ] G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Boundary Increase

Name of Property

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions.)

GOVERNMENT
COMMERC E
INDUSTRY
EDUCATION
ARCHITECTURE
ETHNIC HERITAGE: European (Jewish)

Period of Significance

1925-1973

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person
(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder
Carter, J. Coates (architect)
Smithey & Boynton (architect)
Stanley Bowles Corporation (builder)
Long, Raymond (architect)
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Boundary Increase  

City of Martinsville, VA  

Name of Property  

County and State  

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (Provide a summary paragraph that includes the 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 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 captures the establishment of the city as the county seat for Henry County in 1791, through 1948, which was the fifty-year minimum requirement when listed in 1998. The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase 2022 proposes to extend the period of significance to 1973 to include mid-twentieth century resources representative of the continued historical trends and growth patterns associated with the original district. The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase is significant at the local level under Criterion A for Government, Industry, Commerce, Education, and Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish) history. The Boundary Increase is also locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture, as an intact collection of civic, institutional, commercial, and industrial buildings representing a range of architectural styles popular during the early to mid-twentieth century. Several notable examples of mid-twentieth century International and Brutalist Style architecture exist in the district, in addition to a number of expressions of modern commercial vernacular. Several buildings in the Boundary Increase are also associated with prominent local architect J. Coates Carter and the Roanoke, Virginia-based firm of Smithey & Boynton.

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

Martinsville, the county seat of Henry County, was established in 1791. During the early to mid-nineteenth century, the county was supported primarily by tobacco. By 1824, an elaborate, classically designed brick courthouse was constructed in Martinsville, and in 1851 a railroad passed through the town laying the groundwork for future growth. It wasn’t until after the Civil War, however, that Martinsville saw significant economic growth and development. During periods of decreased prosperity for the tobacco industry in the early twentieth century, furniture manufacturers and associated lumber companies began to settle in and around Martinsville. Additionally, textile mills such as Pannill Knitting and Sale Knitting also established themselves in Martinsville in the early 1900s. The expansion of Martinsville’s economy sparked population growth and made possible public improvements such as paved streets, public utilities, and telephone systems.

Following World War II, Martinsville experienced its largest single decade of growth. From 1940 to 1950 the city’s population increased 71 percent. By 1970, the city’s population

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1 Martinsville Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination.  
2 Martinsville Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination.
increased nearly 95 percent.\(^3\) Martinsville became one of the “fastest growing cities in the south” and was named an “All-American City” by several national publications.\(^4\) 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.”\(^5\) 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**

**Government**

The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Government for its association with local municipal government entities and activities. The exponential growth of the city of Martinsville during the mid-twentieth century required increased services and staff to support its municipal government. As personnel were added to the City’s payroll, it became evident that the “aging mid-Victorian” municipal building on E. Main Street near the county courthouse was no longer adequate to house the departments of city government.\(^6\) Planning for new municipal facilities began in 1955, when acquisition of property along W. Church Street commenced. In 1966, the Fire Department was the first to relocate to its “new and modern facilities” at the corner of W. Church and Moss Streets.\(^7\) During that same year, plans were drawn for a new, two-story municipal building located at 55 W. Church Street, adjacent to the new fire station. The International Style building was designed by prominent local architect J. Coates Carter, and constructed by Stanley Bowles Corporation.\(^8\) Numerous local vendors provided finishes and furnishing for the building, including the Elkins Furniture and Rug Corporation, which provided carpeting for the building, and the Martinsville Office Supply, Inc., which provided office furniture and decoration. The new municipal building, completed in 1968, housed all of the city offices, three courts, and the police headquarters and jail. At a cost of approximately $1.4 million, the Martinsville municipal building served as a “monument” for the “progressive community.”\(^9\)

**Industry**


\(^4\) Preston, *Yesterday & Today*, 87; Martinsville Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination

\(^5\) Martinsville Historic District National Register of Historic Places Nomination


\(^7\) “They’re Rubbing Their Eyes in Disbelief at the Change,” *Martinsville Bulletin*, 10 May 1968

\(^8\) J. Coates Carter, *Martinsville Municipal Building*, 1966; Architectural Drawings held by City of Martinsville.

The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase is also locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry for its association with the city’s tobacco, furniture, and textile manufacturing history. Similar to the original district, which included manufacturing facilities along its edges, the expansion includes industrial sites along its southern boundary, adjacent to the railroad tracks. Most notable among these industrial sites is the Pannill Knitting Company (120-5098-0023), located at 202 Cleveland Avenue. Founded by William Letcher Pannill in 1925, the factory was “the first in the South to knit textiles, rather than spin yard or weave cloth.”

The company manufactured undergarments until 1930, when they shifted their focus to making sweatshirts. Pannill also helped form Sale Knitting Company with his son-in-law Mike Sale. Sale Knitting Company (now demolished), located within the boundaries of the original Martinsville Historic District, also produced fleece goods. In the mid-twentieth century, an increase in the popularity of sweatshirts and fleece wear prompted tremendous growth for Pannill Knitting Company and other textile manufacturers in Martinsville. Between the 1920s and 1947, the company expanded its single warehouse along the south side of Water Street to a multi-building complex. By 1960, Martinsville and Henry County manufactured 60 percent of all sweatshirts in the world, and became commonly known as the “Sweatshirt Capital of the World.”

Pannill Knitting Company operated until 1989 when it was purchased by Sara Lee Corporation.

Also, near the railroad tracks (although beyond the district boundaries) is the last remaining resource associated with the former American of Martinsville Plant along Maple Street. The 70-foot-tall metal water tank was constructed by 1922, and stored approximately 130,000 gallons of water that could be transported via pipelines connecting the tower to the furniture plant’s sprinkler system. American of Martinsville was the city’s largest industrial employer by the mid-1970s, and one of the country’s most prominent manufacturers of home furniture. In ca. 2002, the plant suffered a major fire that destroyed or irreparably compromised the plant buildings located north of the railroad. The southern half of the plant was severely damaged by fire in ca. 2013, and entirely demolished by 2021. A smaller former plant of American of Martinsville is still extant in the original historic district, located at 41 Lester Street (120-5001-0119). Other industrial resources located along the railroad tracks included businesses that served employees of the industrial plants and travelers including dry cleaning services, several stores, auto-related businesses, and wholesale grocery concerns. The Virginia Mirror Company, companion to the local furniture manufacturers, was established in 1971, and was also at 25 Railroad Street. Unfortunately, the former N&W passenger station no longer stands at the intersection of Railroad and Broad Street.

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This nomination also includes the addition of the **Lester Lumber Company (120-5098-0003)**, located at 242 Franklin Street. As southern furniture companies excelled during the early twentieth century, local lumber became a hot commodity, and Henry County had a wealth of the resource. G. T. Lester first established the Lester Lumber Company in 1896, but moved operations to Martinsville in 1914. During the post-World War II housing boom, the demand for lumber increased exponentially bringing additional success to Lester Lumber Co. In 1948, Lester Lumber Company joined national competitors in the manufacturing of pre-fabricated housing, forming a sister company called Lesco Homes.

**Commerce**

The Martinsville Historic District served as the primary commercial center for the city through the early to mid-twentieth century. Similar to the original district, the Boundary Increase includes properties representative of the city’s robust commercial banking industry. 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 (120-5001-0016) 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 (120-5098-0038), and the **Piedmont Bank and Trust (later BB&T)**, located in the ca. 1956-1973 International style building at 1 Ellsworth Street (120-5098-0037). 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. 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 (a contributing resource to

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13 “Statewide System: Virginia National Builds Bank Here,”
the original historic district, 120-5001-0019). 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 across the street from the department store (within the boundaries of the expansion). 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.

On the heels of Globman’s expansion along Church Street, two additional department stores opened nearby including Leggett’s at 128-130 E. Church Street (120-5098-0014) and Sidney’s at 132 E. Church Street (120-5098-0015). 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 developed by Globman, 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.

**Ethnic Heritage: Euro-American (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 led to a rise in available jobs and opportunities for commercial expansion. Many members of Martinsville’s Jewish community became leaders in the commercial and industrial development in the city. The influence of Jewish merchants and their families on the community was well-established by the 1920s. In 1925, the Henry Bulletin published an article detailing the significance of Rosh Hashanah, titled “Jewish New Year Will be Observed,” and identified those stores that would be closed for the holiday. In 1927, prominent members Martinsville’s Jewish community including the Fusfeld, Heiner, Berlin, Kolodny, and Globman families founded the Ohev Zion (Lovers of Zion) congregation and raised funds to construct a synagogue. In addition to funding provided by the city’s Jewish community, approximately $15,000 of the funds were donated by non-Jewish residents of Martinsville. The **Ohev Zion Synagogue (120-5098-0041)** located at 19

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19 See Martinsville Historic District Update 2022 for additional information on Jewish merchants.
Moss Street was completed by 1928. By 1960, the congregation had grown to 50 families, and in 1961 constructed a new synagogue outside the Martinsville Historic District.21

Education

The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase is also locally significant in the area of Education. In 1905, the Martinsville School, later known as the Central Grammar School, was constructed at the corner of Cleveland and Brown Streets. As the city continued to grow, its educational needs expanded prompting the construction of a new high school across from the Central Grammar School. Located southwest of the Cleveland Ave. and Brown Street intersection, the first Martinsville High School was completed by 1922. Within a few years, the school expanded adding a Gymnasium Annex at 208 Brown Street (120-5098-0020), designed by Raymond W. Long. The Gymnasium Annex was completed in 1928, at a cost of approximately $32,000. By 1940, the city expanded its educational facilities again with the construction of a larger Martinsville High School just one block north of the existing school. The former high school was then converted into Martinsville Junior High School. The ca. 1940 Martinsville High School (now Martinsville Junior High, 120-5098-0039) located at 30 Cleveland Avenue has also seen several additions including two rear wings in 1947, a ca. 1950 shop, the ca. 1960 gymnasium, and a ca. 2003 L-shaped building to serve the middle school.22

Like most school districts throughout Virginia, Martinsville schools remained racially segregated until 1968. Although the Supreme Court decision of Brown v. Board of Education found racial segregation of schools unconstitutional in 1954, states found various methods to delay integration based upon the vague clause requiring “all deliberate speed.” In 1956, Virginia passed a series of legislative acts designed to resist integration, which became known as Massive Resistance. Then-Governor Thomas B. Stanley, a Martinsville resident and founder of the Henry County furniture empire, Stanley Furniture, supported Massive Resistance. A committee formed by Stanley and chaired by Garland Gray of Sussex County developed legislation that allowed for local governments to integrate public schools; however, it also provided alternative solutions that supported segregation, including tuition grants for students to attend private schools rather than integrated public schools. The “Gray Plan,” was replaced by what became known as the “Stanley Plan” in 1956. The “Stanley Plan” gave the governor authority to close schools that localities planned to integrate. Stanley’s successor, Governor James Lindsay Almond Jr., used this enabling legislation in 1958 to shut down schools in Charlottesville, Norfolk, and Front Royal.23 In February 1959, Almond reversed the closures when the “Stanley Plan” and other Massive Resistance laws were found unconstitutional in Federal court. Virginia’s General Assembly continued to use alternative methods to derail Federal desegregation orders until 1968, when the

22 Alison Blanton, National Register of Historic Places: East Church Street/Starling Avenue Historic District, Martinsville, Virginia, 2006.
Supreme Court Decision of *Green v. County School Board of New Kent County* required school placement based on geographic zoning. Martinsville’s first racially integrated high school opened in the fall of 1968. The brand-new building was located on Commonwealth Boulevard, outside the historic district.

**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. While the district boasts a few rare examples of Gothic, Classical, and Colonial revival styles, among the most prominent architectural styles throughout the district include modern commercial vernacular and International. Additionally, a few examples of Brutalism and New Formalism in the boundary increase provide an exceptional breadth of mid-twentieth century architecture for the relatively small district.

Among the most notable examples of early twentieth-century Colonial Revival style architecture in the district are the ca. 1940 Martinsville High School (now Martinsville Junior High, 120-5098-0039) and the ca. 1927 Martinsville High School Gymnasium Annex (120-5098-0020). The Gymnasium Annex, which has an exterior appearance that resembles a temple-form church, has a pedimented gable portico supported by Tuscan columns. Additionally, the gymnasium’s walls consist of modified Flemish brick bond that reflects the lasting influence of colonial architecture. The former Martinsville High School building at 30 Cleveland Ave is an excellent example of Colonial Revival. It displays many of the defining characteristics of the style including its red brick exterior and white trim, a balanced façade with a central core with flanking wings, and classical details such as its dentilled cornice, central entrance with pilasters supporting a broken pediment, and a central cupula extending from the side-gable roof. Other examples of Colonial Revival in the district include the Ohev Zion Synagogue, now the Martinsville Senior Center (120-5098-0041), the First National Bank of Martinsville (120-5098-0038), and several smaller commercial buildings with simplified Colonial Revival details.

In addition to the district’s examples of Colonial Revival, the district also includes one example of Gothic Revival church architecture. The Broad Street Christian Church (120-5098-0040), constructed ca. 1928, has an English bond brick exterior with stone detailing and trim. The asymmetrical façade has a central entrance flanked by two corner towers, one slightly taller than the other. The building has arched openings, stained glass windows, crenelated parapets, exterior buttresses, large wood plank doors with strap hinges, all defining features of the Gothic Revival style.

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While the mid-twentieth century masters typically worked in larger cities in the United States, small towns like Martinsville saw a proliferation of building construction inspired by the larger Modern Movement of the period. The historic district is home to several examples of buildings that convey the key characteristics, albeit on a smaller scale, of International Style and Brutalism. These buildings typically place emphasis on volume and weightlessness, like the five-story addition to the **Piedmont Bank and Trust** (120-5098-0037), while others place emphasis on regularity of materials, flat roofs, and smooth textures such as the **Martinsville Municipal Building** (120-5098-0010). Other buildings reflect influences of Brutalism such as the First **Federal Loan and Savings Bank** (120-5098-0012), as well as contemporary style such as the service station located at **242 E Church St** (120-5098-0016).

**Architects**

A number of prominent buildings within the Boundary Increase area were designed by local architect J. (Joseph) Coates Carter. Carter was born in Danville, Virginia in 1904, and studied architecture at University of Virginia and Carnegie Tech. Carter worked for Danville architect J. Bryant Heard, as well as Shreve, Lamb & Harmon before establishing his own practice in 1935 in Martinsville. In 1936, Carter married Adele Pannill Carter, daughter of William Letchner Pannill, the founder of Pannill Knitting Company and other textile manufacturing companies in Martinsville.26 From 1943 to 1945, Carter worked for the Pannill Knitting Company, after which he reestablished his private architectural firm. Among Carter’s early works was the Hotel Henry on Church Street in Martinsville.27 During the mid-twentieth century, Carter’s works included the Commercial Style Globman’s department store (ca. 1950), the International Style Piedmont Bank and Trust building (ca. 1956), and the International Style Municipal Building (ca. 1966).28

The firm of Smithey & Boynton, another prominent regional firm, assisted J. Coates Carter in the design of the Piedmont Bank and Trust building, and also designed its 1973 alterations and addition. Louis Phillippe Smithey and Henry Boynton formed their partnership in 1935 in Roanoke, Virginia, but paused operations during World War II to serve in the U.S. Army. Smithey, born in 1890 in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, studied at Randolph-Macon College, and worked for Virginia Bridge & Iron Company before and after World War I. Boynton was raised in Amelia County, Virginia, and studied at Virginia Polytechnical Institute and University of Illinois. The firm was recognized for their public-school buildings, designing more than 150 schools from 1945 to 1953 for as many as 19 counties and 10 cities in Virginia.29 The firm’s

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portfolio earned them the “arguable” reputation as “the most important architects of their era in Virginia west of Richmond.”


9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Newspapers

*Henry County Journal*
*Martinsville Bulletin*
*Richmond Times-Dispatch*

Other Primary Resources


*Piedmont Bank and Trust*. 1956. Architectural Drawings held by City of Martinsville

Harris, J. T. “American Furniture Co. Inc.: Plants Nos 1,2,3,4 and 5, Martinsville, VA.” Site Plan. 6 June 1950.


Secondary Sources:


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**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

X ___ State Historic Preservation Office
___ Other State agency
___ Federal agency
Martinsville Historic District 2022 Boundary Increase
Name of Property: ____________________________
City of Martinsville, VA
County and State: ____________________________

____ Local government
____ University
_X_ Other

Name of repository: Bassett Historical Center, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): 120-5098

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 73.25

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates
Datum if other than WGS84: __________
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)
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2. Latitude: 36.694731 Longitude: -79.866216
3. Latitude: 36.684769 Longitude: -79.8662554
4. Latitude: 36.6847278 Longitude: -79.8771805

Or

UTM References
Datum (indicated on USGS map):

☐ NAD 1927 or ☐ NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:
2. Zone: Easting: Northing:
3. Zone: Easting: Northing:
4. Zone: Easting: Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)
The Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase 2022 includes several branches that extend in all directions from the original Martinsville Historic District. To the north, the
boundary encompasses three small areas: the parcel encompassing 62 Fayette St (22 (01)00 /71R), 242 Franklin St (22 (01)00 /86 86A), 27 Green St (33(03)F/01), and a portion of tax parcel 33(03)G/01B to include the historic tower as shown on the accompanying sketch map. On the southwest side of the district an area bound by 60 W Church St (32(01)E/30) and 115 W Church St (32(01)R/01) on the west, 4 Moss St (32 (01)R/06), W Market St and the Municipal Complex (32(01)Q/01-04 06-08 +) on the South. The south and southeastern expansion area includes two large southward extensions. The western extension is bound by College St on the west, Railroad St to the south, and Broad St and part of Maple St on the west. The southern expansion boundary cuts across the block between Broad St, E Church St, Ellsworth St, and N Market St to include 105 Broad Street (33(03)N/31) and 20 Ellsworth St (33(03)N/08R). The eastern leg of the southern expansion includes E Church St to the north, Cleveland Ave to the east, the Pannill Knitting Company property to the south (43(02)A/01), and Ellsworth Street to the west. 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 Boundary Increase 2022 encompass the areas of the historic commercial, industrial, 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 Boundary Increase, and excludes areas which have lost integrity or which are part of the Martinsville Historic District Boundary Increase 2022.

### 11. Form Prepared By

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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: _June 28, 2022_

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

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

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