



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available.

DHR No. (to be completed by DHR staff) 000-4909

1. General Information

District name(s): Hall's Hill Historic District (Renamed High View Park)

Main Streets and/or Routes: Langston Boulevard (formerly Lee Highway), George Mason Drive

City or Town: Arlington

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

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage:

.0278 square miles [17.79 acres]

Setting (choose only one of the following):

Urban ☐ Suburban ☒ Town ☐ Village ☐ Hamlet ☐ Rural ☐

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

Hall's Hill/High View Park is a historic Black neighborhood located in North Arlington. Founded in 1866, it was one of eleven Black neighborhoods originally established in the period following the US Civil War in Northern Virginia. It is comprised of a small area whose structures include single family homes, schools, a community center, places of worship, retail businesses, and a fire house. Its most notable geographic feature is that it is the highest elevation in Arlington County, and this feature led to the renaming of the neighborhood to High View Park in the 1960s as a means of separating it from its past as a plantation on which enslaved persons lived and worked. Also present are recreational spaces including a playground and two parks, one of which memorializes the historic significance of the neighborhood.

3. Architectural/Physical Description

Architectural Style(s): A variety of architectural styles exist in the Hall's Hill/High View Park neighborhood. A survey of properties completed in 2013 noted that "This neighborhood, which has experienced development in the second half of the twentieth century in areas, was expected to have 88 properties eligible for recordation. A total of 36 properties were recorded, with an additional 75 properties remaining in the neighborhood to be documented (anticipated recordation

as part of the Update IV Survey, 2013).”¹ The referenced survey noted that structures identified in the Hall’s Hill/High View Park’s neighborhood experienced significant development in the middle part of the twentieth century, specifically from the pre-World War II to the mid-century’s Modern Movement; however, there are a number of properties build in the early part of the century (1910’s) and prior still evident and in some cases still inhabited by members of the families of the original owners. These include single family Cape Cod style and one and two story simplified rectangular “Box Style” homes. (Treischmann, Survey, 2013)

If any individual properties within the district were designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here:

Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr., architect, and a resident of Hall’s Hill/High View Park, designed and oversaw the building of his family home in the 1950s.

Date(s) of construction (can be approximate): 1910-1980

The justification for using this date range is based on the current inventory of existing contributing structures as well as the redevelopment efforts that began in the early 1990s.

Are there any known threats to this district?

There are currently and have historically been significant threats to this district, making its preservation as an historic Black neighborhood critical. These threats have included but are not limited to racial segregation, lack of public services, lack of public infrastructure, taxation rates, rezoning, and the use of Eminent Domain. Examples of this include the expansion of the former Arlington Hospital, now the Virginia Hospital Center, expansion of Lee Highway, now Langston Boulevard, and the proposal to place a 15-foot wide satellite disc within the neighborhood boundaries as reported by Sandra G. Boodman in her article in the *Washington Post*.² Currently, the most ominous threat facing Hall’s Hill/High View Park is its desirable location in North Arlington which has led to the sale and destruction of a number of historic properties in order for land developers to construct new housing. Altogether, these threats have led to the displacement and relocation of many residents who have found the tax demands and cost of property maintenance untenable.

Narrative Description:

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

Hall’s Hill/High View Park’s origins as a semi-rural residential area for freed slaves in 1866 changed over time to include housing, businesses, schools, recreation sites, and places of worship. It is now one of only three remaining historic Black neighborhoods in Arlington, Virginia. Hall’s Hill, often referred to as “The Hill” by its residents, is a suburban neighborhood, desirable both for its nearness to shopping and recreation as well as its proximity to Washington, D.C. It has been subject to racial covenants, segregation, sub-division, and encroachment of both roads and structures. While there are many structures in Hall’s Hill/High View Park that are deemed contributing per the requirements to establish a historic district, many sites no longer remain. Regardless, the history of these locations can

¹ Laura V. Treischmann, Principal Investigator, AN ARCHITECTURAL SURVEY UPDATE IN ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA PHASE III Final Report Prepared by EHT Tracerics, Inc. 1121 Fifth Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20001 202/393-1199, 2013

² Sandra G. Boodman, staff writer, “Rezoning Threatens Historic Arlington Community,” *The Washington Post*, 1982.
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be preserved by including them in the district via interpretation on site or interpretation nearby as recommended by the Lee Highway Historic and Cultural Resources Report published in 2020.³

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

Hall's Hill/High View Park's residential streets reflect its rich history. For example, Culpepper Street North is flanked on both sides by residential houses constructed in the period from the 1910s to the 1980s. Divided by Langston Boulevard, it is fronted there by the Langston Brown Community Center and the historic Heidelberg Bakery on one side, and by Fire Station 8 on the other. Culpepper has one dead end, a result of racial segregation in the 1930s, and is the site of remnants of the 'segregation wall' on the other end. Most of the streets in Hall's Hill/High View Park contain a mix of houses that range in age from 100 years to new construction. Two historic churches, Calloway Methodist Church, founded in 1866 and Mt. Salvation Baptist founded in 1884, have provided places for worship and a variety of community activities for multiple generations of residents. Sadly, sites such as Mrs. Allen's Store, beauty shops and barber shops, restaurants, as well as repair shops and other small retail outlets that formerly enriched the landscape are now gone, but their stories and locations remain in the memories of residents and these sites should be included for consideration when determining the boundaries of the historic district.

4. District's History and Significance

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

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

Origins and Early History

Prior to the arrival of Europeans in the 16th century, the Commonwealth of Virginia housed tens of thousands of Algonquian, Iroquoian, and Siouan peoples. Spanish explorers, the first to record their arrival in the region, did not remain, and it would be England that established the first permanent settlement there in 1607. With the successful cultivation of tobacco as a cash crop came more European settlers as well as the first enslaved peoples from Africa, recorded by John Rolfe in his journal in 1619 as the arrival of a ship with "20 and odd" Africans on board.⁴ African Americans, then, have been a part of Virginia's history from its outset. Generations of individuals, including those enslaved to George Washington, James Madison, Thomas Jefferson, and Robert E. Lee contributed to Virginia's transformation from a stock company to a colony to one of the original United States. Virginia's economy depended on the labor of enslaved persons to farm the land, maintain buildings, create and repair infrastructure, and care for homes and children. It was only after the U.S. Civil War that, now free from enslavement, the African American population of Virginia could begin to utilize the skills formerly utilized by their owners to create families, homes and communities of their own.

One such community, established in 1865 and officially founded in 1866, took its name from the plantation owner whose land became its foundation. According to Lindsey Bestebreurtje, Arlington fared badly both during and after the U.S. Civil War. Noting the effects of occupation by Federal troops, the destruction

³ Geoffrey Henry, M.A., "Lee Highway Cultural Resources Survey," Arlington, VA, 2020.

⁴ Crystal Ponti, "America's History of Slavery Began Long Before Jamestown," History.Com, August, 2019.

<https://www.history.com/news/american-slavery-before-jamestown-1619>

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wrought by war, and post-war Reconstruction, she asserts that “Economic hardships led many white Arlingtonians to subdivide and sell their land.” Basil Hall, a plantation owner forced to flee his home when a battle erupted nearby, returned to find his home stripped of “furniture, timber, fences, crops, and farm animals.” The war and destruction of his property caused a precipitous fall in value, forcing Hall to sell his land in order to support his family. He therefore sold off his land, often at a loss, to freedmen and women, and “Since 1865 Arlington County has been home to the neighborhood of Hall’s Hill.”⁵

Despite the willingness of landowners to sell their land to African Americans, they staunchly maintained segregation and showed no support for the growing African American communities.⁶ This meant that these communities, eleven of which were founded in the years immediately following the end of the U.S. Civil War, became largely self-sufficient.⁷ The National Parks Service notes that during Reconstruction which ensued from 1865-1877, despite Federal mandates meant to ensure the equality of all citizens, individual states dictated most of the legal and cultural processes that informed the lives of Black Americans. Jim Crow laws cemented racial segregation which was supported and maintained not just through legislation, but through the menacing and violence of groups such as the Ku Klux Klan.⁸ Hall’s Hill did not avoid this fate in spite of its proximity to Washington, D.C, and from its origins in 1865 it found itself isolated from its white-inhabited surrounds as well as from other Black neighborhood settlements in east Arlington.

Many of the first residents of Hall’s Hill arrived there from rural plantations, and utilized their farming skills thereby creating what Lindsey Bestebreurtje calls a “semi-rural community.” Residents began by constructing living quarters, then planted “extensive gardens,” and kept “hogs, chickens, and turkeys” on their land both for consumption and for sale.⁹ Bernice Sherman, a lifelong resident of Hall’s Hill, recalled that in her childhood in the 1930s, many families still maintained this semi-rural lifestyle.”¹⁰ Fruit trees, food crops, and flowers grew in abundance in Hall’s Hill, ensuring its residents a reliable food source. Annual hog killings also took place, and residents gladly shared what they had with each other, knitting the community together and helping it weather its early trials.

By the turn of the century, Hall’s Hill had become a well-established working class enclave. The community included Calloway Methodist Church, founded in 1866 and the Hall’s Hill School, founded in 1868, both of which were placed in the center of the community. Lindsey Bestebreurtje claims that locating the church and school in the center of the neighborhood constituted “a physical representation of their preferences for what community life should be like.”¹¹ The residents of Hall’s Hill, then, continued to operate as a community inside a community, cut off in most directions by dirt roads that dead ended and relatively insulated from its white neighbors. Surrounded by white farming communities and nascent all-white neighborhoods and cut off from the Black neighborhoods in east Arlington, they lived somewhat insulated in their hamlet.¹²

Into the 20th Century

As the twentieth century progressed, Arlington became a place in which white, Democrat families that often included former Confederate officers and soldiers controlled politics. Still dedicated to racial segregation, its politics at all levels reflected the views of the Confederacy, starkly evident when in 1901-02 Virginia held a constitutional convention. The resulting document led to the disenfranchisement of “large numbers of blacks

⁵ Lindsey Bestebreurtje, “A View from Hall’s Hill: African American Community Development in Arlington, Virginia from the Civil War to the Turn of the Century,” *Arlington Historical Magazine*, 2015, 20,21.

⁶ Bestebreurtje, 22.

⁷ Bestebreurtje, 19.

⁸ “Jim Crow and Reconstruction,” *African American Heritage*. The National Parks Service, accessed 26 March 2024.

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/africanamericanheritage/reconstruction.htm>

⁹ Bestebreurtje, 23.

¹⁰ Oral History Interview with Bernice L. Sherman conducted by Jennifer M. Morris, Arlington, Virginia, March 8, 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

¹¹ Bestebreurtje, 25.

¹² Bestebreurtje, 25, 26.

and working-class whites.”¹³ In addition, the new constitution, which remained in place until 1971, also allowed for the “legal enforcement of Jim Crow and further solidified its social enforcement.”¹⁴ What followed were a series of legislative acts that racially segregated every facet of life. Lindsey Bestebreurtje writes that between 1910 and 1930, white Arlington residents worked to create an “all-white, exclusively suburban landscape.”¹⁵ For the residents of Hall’s Hill, this meant not just being isolated from thoroughfares and the other Black neighborhoods in east Arlington, but from being cut off from public services as well.

It was during this period that Hall’s Hill established its own volunteer fire company. Hall’s Hill residents founded Fire Station 8 in 1918 after “their community was denied service from any of the existing white stations.”¹⁶ Located at 2209 Culpepper Street, the first fire station was housed in property owned by the Hicks family who eventually deeded residential property to the fire station to establish its permanent location.¹⁷ Its original corps of firefighters worked as volunteers, serving twelve hour shifts at a time. Eden Brown noted that the force remained all volunteer until “‘Negro’ firefighters were hired by Arlington County and constituted the first and only station in Arlington with paid black firefighters.”¹⁸ Arlington County hired three black firefighters to serve Hall’s Hill in 1951, then hired two additional individuals in 1954. Hartman Reed, one of the group of three hired in 1951, recalled that “it was whispered around that we ‘colored’ men didn’t have as much courage as the white guys. We wouldn’t enter a burning building, they said.” Reed, the first Black Station Commander in Arlington, declared that “we wanted to show we were as good...or better. And I believe we did that.”¹⁹ Hartman Reed still resides in Hall’s Hill, and speaks with pride about what the residents accomplished there, particularly his long association with Fire Station 8.²⁰ The station opened its first location on what was then Lee Highway in 1927, then moved to its current location at 2209 North Culpepper Street in 1934. Though First Station 8 experienced changes such as the demolition of the first buildings and the construction of a more traditional firehouse in 1963, Fire Station 8 remains an important fixture at the corner of Culpepper Street and Langston Boulevard, where a state of the art fire station is in the final stages of completion.²¹

The scope of Hall’s Hill’s isolation from public services included most infrastructure that white neighborhoods enjoyed. For example, residents used wells and outhouses for several decades after sewer and water infrastructure had been installed in the surrounding white neighborhoods. Roads remained unpaved in Hall’s Hill, and a succession of laws passed by the Virginia legislature beginning in 1912 further reinforced segregation as well as limiting the types of housing allowed and forbidding the expansion of already existing Black neighborhoods.²² In 1930, Arlington passed a “Zoning and Planning Ordinance” that required residents to complete “expensive renovations which must be undertaken by a professional contractor.” Lindsey Bestebreurtje writes that not only were these renovations out of financial reach for the working class residents of Hall’s Hill, but that “many white contractors were unwilling to work with African American clients.” The ordinance also included a provision allowing for a “rear fence or wall” at the end of a property “to a height not exceeding seven feet.” White property

¹³ Virginia Humanities, “Encyclopedia Virginia: Constitutional Convention, Virginia (1901-02). Accessed 20 March 2024 at <https://encyclopedia.virginia.org/entries/constitutional-convention-virginia-1901-1902/>

¹⁴ Virginia Humanities, “Legacy of the 1902 Constitution.”

¹⁵ Bestebreurtje, 26.

¹⁶ Eden Brown, “Neighbors, Colleagues Honor Firefighters of Hall’s Hill,” *Arlington Connection*, June, 2016.

¹⁷ John Liebertz, “A Guide to the African American Heritage of Arlington County, Virginia, Second ed.,” Arlington County Historic Preservation Program, 2016, 26.

¹⁸ Brown, 2016.

¹⁹ Brown, 2016.

²⁰ Oral History Interview with Hartman Reed conducted by Jennifer M. Morris, March 8, 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

²¹ Liebertz.

²² Bestebreurtje, 27.

owners began erecting fences and brick or cinder block walls that, by the 1940s, had created a “physical barrier to punctuate Hall’s Hill’s segregated status,” leaving residents with only “one entrance or exit.”²³

Residents of all ages have memories of “The Wall.” Surprisingly, most recalled ignoring its existence altogether or simply finding ways through or around it, including cutting holes in fences to access a creek to climbing over it to play with the children on the other side. Indeed, at least two current Hall’s Hill residents remember the wall as a “lover’s lane.”²⁴ In Sheilah Kast’s 1975 article titled “You Just Accepted the Fence,” Sandra Green recalled “You just sort of accepted it, because your life was on the other side.”²⁵ A portion of the wall, memorialized by an historic marker, still exists at the perimeter of the neighborhood, a “constant reminder of what used to be” according to resident Paul Carpenter.²⁶

While residents found ways to live with the barrier that separated them from their white neighbors and created a tight-knit, well-functioning and self-sufficient neighborhood, they continued to face obstacles to making improvements to Hall’s Hill. The *Sun* recorded in December, 1948, that a “Playground Site for Negroes Meets With Objections.” Residents of the Woodlawn neighborhood, which abuts Hall’s Hill, amassed two hundred signatures on a petition to oppose the construction of a playground near the neighborhood boundary. One of the primary objections voiced noted that while white residents were “anxious to see the Negroes have a play facility,” they strongly objected to using county funds toward its construction. Dr. Edward Morton, “Negro,” stated that opposition to the playground and its location left Hall’s Hill residents with an unacceptable dilemma. He noted that the alternate proposals would mean “tearing down “good” Negro housing,” leaving the displaced families with “nowhere to go.”²⁷ With the coming of the next decade, the residents of Hall’s Hill and their neighbors found themselves forced to address the world outside the wall. The landmark Supreme Court case *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954 became the impetus for removing the physical and legal barriers that had kept Hall’s Hill residents isolated from their white neighbors. It would take many years for the boundary to shift, but it shifted in Arlington and in the state of Virginia because of the efforts of the residents of Hall’s Hill.

Contributions to the Civil Rights Movement

When in 1955 the US Supreme Court declared that segregated public schools violated the 14th Amendment and required states to desegregate schools “with all deliberate speed,” Hall’s Hill, which had relied on its own all Black Langston School, two junior high schools, and two senior high schools to educate its residents, began the process of supporting its children as they became the first students to integrate public schools in Virginia.²⁸

Aldon B. Morris writes that “the black church functioned as the institutional center of the modern civil rights movement.”²⁹ Hall’s Hill proved to be no exception, and it was in Calloway and Mt. Salvation that residents gathered to discuss, organize, and carry out their “significantly more powerful resources,” demonstrating “well-defined division[s] of labor, with numerous standing committees and organized groups.”³⁰ Both churches in Hall’s Hill were “highly respected” and, as Morris notes, “any program

²³ Bestebeurtje, 27.

²⁴ Oral Histories collected by Jennifer M. Morris, March 8-14, 2024 with Hall’s Hill Residents. Interviews in possession of J. Morris.

²⁵ Sheilah Kast, “You Just Accepted The Fence,” *The Star*, February 24, 1975.

²⁶ Kast, 1975.

²⁷ “Hall’s Hill Problem Returned for Study,” *The Star*, Sunday December 23, 1948.

²⁸ “Brown v. Board of Education,” “Milestone Documents,” The U.S. National Archives and Records Administration, accessed 24 March 2024 at <https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/brown-v-board-of-education>

²⁹ Aldon B. Morris, *The Origins of the Civil Rights Movement: Black Communities Organize for Change*, New York, The Free Press, 1984, 4.

³⁰ Aldon Morris, 6.

initiated and backed by them had an excellent chance to gain mass support.”³¹ This proved true regardless of age, and indeed regardless of which church a family attended. Both churches had been community gathering sites not just for worship, but also for events such as movie nights that charged twenty-five cents for a film and popcorn, game nights, and trips to the beach for the children in the congregation.³² Churches, sites for myriad activities and opportunities to participate in the community, provided a “vibrant church culture” which organizations such as the NAACP and CORE found “favorable social conditions” from which much important activism emerged.³³ In Hall’s Hill, the community churches proved to be important sites for the fight to desegregate Virginia’s schools.

Despite the directive from the Federal government to begin the process of integration, Virginia, along with many other states, put up significant resistance to allowing black and white children to attend school together. Virginia released the *Gray Commission Report* in 1955 which allowed schools to close rather than integrate.³⁴ The following year Arlington County’s school board, fearing the closure of its public schools, devised an integration plan which “favored only a small number of students desegregating the schools...it was a conservative, incremental strategy.”³⁵ In the end, after two years, Virginia as a whole and Arlington County specifically had not yet complied with the mandate to integrate. Hall’s Hill had since its inception placed significant value on education, and its residents understood the importance of the Brown decision for its children. Therefore, when in 1956 the NAACP decided to take its case to the courts, residents of Hall’s Hill supported its efforts. In 1959, after “having exhausted all legal and bureaucratic maneuvers,” Arlington County Public Schools had no choice but to begin the process of integration. On February 2, 1959, it admitted four black students to the all-white Stratford Junior High School. All four of these students, the first to integrate Virginia public schools state wide, were residents of the Hall’s Hill neighborhood.

Gloria Thompson, Ronald Deskins, Lance Newman, and Michael Jones entered Stratford Junior High School on the morning of February 2, 1959. Michael Jones remembers that his parents believed attending Stratford would be the “best thing,” and that many in the Hall’s Hill community had worked in conjunction with the NAACP during the prior months to prepare him for what he would encounter from the white students. “They taught us how to eat with a knife and fork,” Jones recalls, but he also noted that attending Stratford “disrupted [his] plans,” and that most days, he “couldn’t wait to get home.”³⁶ Lance Newman stated that his parents allowed him to choose whether or not he participated in desegregation. “I said yes, and my brother said no,” he recalled, claiming that he “hated getting up in the morning” to ride the bus to the all-black Hoffman-Boston junior high in south Arlington and thought attending Stratford would allow him to sleep later and walk to school quickly. He sat in on some of the court hearings held regarding the NAACP’s lawsuit, and also recalled being prepared for “how to act” upon entering Stratford. “The whole organization did a lot of preparation on how to act, how to dress, what might happen to you at school.” In addition, the four students were to have been rigorously tutored to ensure they were not academically behind the white students. However, Newman noted that “after about an hour, they said, “These guys are just as sharp as anybody else I guess,” and the tutoring ended there.”³⁷ Michael

³¹ Aldon Morris, 21.

³² Oral History Interview with Wilma Jones, 9 March 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

³³ Aldon Morris, 43, 44.

³⁴ “The Desegregation of Arlington County Schools,” Arlington County Library, 2018, accessed 23 March 2024 at <https://library.arlingtonva.us/2018/01/11/the-desegregation-of-arlington-public-schools/>

³⁵ “The Desegregation of Arlington County Schools,” Arlington County Library, 2018, accessed 23 March 2024 at <https://library.arlingtonva.us/2018/01/11/the-desegregation-of-arlington-public-schools/>

³⁶ Oral History Interview with Michael Jones conducted by Jennifer M. Morris, March 8, 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

³⁷ Oral History Interview with Lance Newman, The Arlington Public Library, accessed 25 March 2024 at https://projectdaps.org/exhibits/show/daps_exhibit/item/101?_ga=2.120199947.2037461700.1711740930-

Jones, whose family lived behind the Hamm family who were instrumental in desegregation efforts, remembered that when families were asked to volunteer their children for integration, his “mom and dad put my name forward,” and noted that he “didn’t really care” that he would be changing schools, and “just went along” with what the adults told him to do.³⁸

Newman noted that his mother was “a nervous wreck” as he prepared to leave for his first day at Stratford. Beset by reporters, the four students were “piled into Mr. Jones’ car” and driven to Stratford. The students were separated, with two attending in one group, the other in a different group.³⁹ Michael Jones, however, states that his memory of that day is less clear with the passage of time. “They dressed me and made my hair and all that...[we went to] Ronnie’s house...and someone drove us around-drove us to school.”⁴⁰ Both Newman and Jones had few recollections of significantly negative experiences save for “some guys used to call us names in the hall.”⁴¹ Indeed, Newman recalled making friends with a few of the white students, even though he didn’t “have any outside activities” with them and didn’t “socialize” with those friends after school ended.⁴² In addition to the contribution of these four students, many of the residents of Hall’s Hill became active in the movement to desegregate Arlington’s businesses and ensure equal voting rights for its Black residents.

Despite a 1958 ruling that Virginia’s segregation laws regarding seating in public assemblies was unconstitutional, the laws remained in practice, spurring residents of Hall’s Hill to protest their persistence. In 1960, movie theater owners were the object of a letter-writing campaign decrying the continued practice of excluding Black patrons. Then, in 1962, a group of teens from Hall’s Hill attempted to attend a film showing at the Glebe Theater. Their efforts helped in the formation of the Northern Virginia Committee to End Theater Discrimination, as well as to the picketing of segregated theaters. These pickets were organized by Hall’s Hill resident Dorothy Hamm, who worked with the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). Picketers were harassed by members of the American Nazi Party, which had been founded in Arlington in 1959 and was led by George Rockwell, and were eventually threatened with arrest if they did not desist picketing.⁴³ Mrs. Hamm’s efforts resulted in the desegregation of movie theaters in June of 1963, after which she turned her efforts to eliminating a poll tax that led to voter suppression of the Black community.

Between 1877 and 1966, Virginia required both poll taxes and dual registration in order to cast one’s ballot. Eliminated initially in 1882 then reinstated via the revised state constitution in 1902, the poll tax required voters “to pay a tax of \$1.50 six months prior to an election and for each of the three years preceding an election.” Even when the 24th Amendment to the US Constitution rendered poll taxes unconstitutional for federal elections, Virginia and several other Southern states continued to require payment to vote in state and local elections.⁴⁴ This led to the requirement for dual voter registration, since states could not impose a poll tax for federal elections and required registration for both state and federal elections be separate. These inequities led Dorothy Hamm to become a plaintiff in a 1963 civil

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³⁸ Oral History Interview with Michael Jones, The Arlington Public Library, accessed 25 March 2024 at

https://projectdaps.org/exhibits/show/daps_exhibit/item/103?_ga=2.134945906.2037461700.1711740930-1369106566.1698772260&_gl=1*1t2lusq*_ga*MTM2OTEwNjU2Ni4xNjk4NzcyMjYw*_ga_Z2ECWWH16V*MTcxMTc0MDkzMC40LjAuMTcxMTc0MDkzMC4wLjAuMA..

³⁹ Newman Interview, Arlington Public Library.

⁴⁰ Jones Interview, Arlington Public Library.

⁴¹ Jones Interview, Arlington Public Library.

⁴² Newman Interview, Arlington Public Library.

⁴³ “The Activists Who Desegregated Arlington’s Movie Theaters,” The Arlington Public Library, February 2, 2022 accessed 22 March 2024 at <https://library.arlingtonva.us/2022/02/02/the-activists-who-desegregated-arlington-movie-theaters/>

⁴⁴ “If You Don’t Vote, You Don’t Count,” The Arlington Public Library, August 15, 2019, accessed 22 March 2024 at

<https://library.arlingtonva.us/2019/08/15/if-you-dont-vote-you-dont-count/>

Department of Historic Resources

4/19/2024

Preliminary Information Form 9

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action case to eliminate the poll tax and eliminate racial designation from all public forms and voting records in Arlington County.⁴⁵ Residents of Hall's Hill received information and training from Mrs. Hamm on how to register to vote, where to vote, and how to read a ballot as part of her efforts to ensure Black Arlingtonians could exercise their rights. She would eventually serve as a delegate to the Arlington County and Virginia State conventions, and was an officer of elections in Arlington County for twenty-seven years. For her significant efforts to ensure equal civil rights for all, Stratford Junior High School, where four Hall's Hill students had, with the help of Mrs. Hamm, integrated Virginia public schools, was renamed Dorothy Hamm Middle School in 2019.⁴⁶

As school integration continued into the 1970s, residents of Hall's Hill experienced increased interaction with the white communities that surrounded them. Residents who attended integrated schools in the 1970s faced some different challenges from their counterparts who integrated schools in the 1960s, but they relied on Hall's Hill's commitment to community for comfort and sustenance. Barbara Hamlett, whose family was the first to purchase a house directly on the other side of "The Wall," recalled moving to Arlington from Fort Benning, Georgia, in 1968. The young Black women who attended Arlington's integrated schools often found it more difficult to participate in school activities than did their male counterparts, who were welcomed onto athletic teams, and Barbara's experience is a testament not just to her own perseverance, but to how much the support of a community like Hall's Hill helped students weather storms. She recalled that her initial attempts to join the cheerleading squad at the then Washington and Lee High School were met with resistance. Her persistence paid off, and Barbara was only the third black cheerleader at Washington and Lee, and eventually became the first black co-captain of the squad.⁴⁷ Others recalled similar exclusions, indicating that the rebuffs led them to other activities such as after school jobs. Only one former Hall's Hill resident recalled a thoroughly positive school experience. Archie Borgus III, whose family lived in Hall's Hill until 1967, has fond recollections of his early years there. Attending preschool at Strawberry Cottage and enjoying yard parties with homemade ice cream left him with all of the "positive effects of community," as did his memories of Miss Allen's store and attending services at Mt. Salvation Baptist Church. He attended integrated junior and senior high school in Falls Church, and noted that in the eighth grade, he "came to life." Voted class president every year from ninth to twelfth grade and awarded Fairfax County Student of the Year in 1972, Borgus's remembrances of attending integrated schools differs from those of his Hall's Hill counterparts. He still attends church in Hall's Hill though he no longer resides there, and acknowledges how much Hall's Hill continues to mean to him.⁴⁸

During the 1970s and into the 1980s, Hall's Hill faced new challenges, and its residents again banded together to preserve their neighborhood and its history. Robert E. Levy reported in *The Washington Post* in 1979 that Arlington Hospital wanted part of Hall's Hill to build a five-story office; that WETA-TV hoped to build a 20-foot transmitter within Hall's Hill's boundaries; and that, due to its location and low housing prices, middle-class whites had begun to purchase properties in the once all-Black neighborhood. This caused the younger generation to worry that "you don't know what might happen" to 'the Hill.' Levy noted that even after the neighborhood's name was changed to High View Park, Black residents continued to call it Hall's Hill, a seeming indication that residents were not ready to give up its composition or character.⁴⁹ Tia Alfred, who currently resides in Hall's Hill with her three children, has

⁴⁵ "A Fight For Educational Equality: Civil Rights Activist Dorothy Hamm," The Arlington Public Library, February 27, 202, accessed 22 March 2024 at <https://library.arlingtonva.us/2020/02/27/a-fight-for-educational-equality-civil-rights-leader-dorothy-hamm/>

⁴⁶ "Activist Dorothy Hamm," The Arlington Public Library.

⁴⁷ Oral History Interview with Barbara Hamlett conducted by Jennifer M. Morris, March 8, 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

⁴⁸ Oral History Interview with Archie Borgus III conducted by Jennifer M. Morris, March 13, 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

⁴⁹ Robert E. Levy, "Hall's Hill: Community Fights to Save Its Century-Old Heritage," *The Washington Post*, July 5, 1979.

noted significant changes in Hall's Hill since her own childhood in the 1970s and 80s. Her family has lived in Hall's Hill for four generations, and unlike most of the residents of Hall's Hill, she was born at the formerly segregated Arlington Hospital. She recalled the drug epidemics that occurred in the 1980s changed perceptions of Black communities, rendering the men in particular vulnerable to extreme suspicion and scrutiny.⁵⁰ This, combined with the continued encroachment on the community, has resulted in a significant reversal of property ownership and composition of Hall's Hill's residents in the decades since.

With the 1990s came further change as real estate developers, responding to the demand for housing near major highways and close to Washington, D.C, purchased properties and offered "townhomes in a great Arlington location."⁵¹ By the 2000s, realtors listed homes original to the neighborhood as "perfect opportunities," encouraging buyers to "redesign and expand...or bring your own plans and build the 'Home of Your Dreams.'"⁵² The aggressive destruction of Hall's Hill's original homes, as well as the creep of external forces that began to shrink the neighborhood bit by bit through eminent domain, spurred its residents to once again work to preserve its rich history. Patricia Sullivan reported in *The Washington Post* that residents had come together to preserve Calloway Cemetery, which had already been affected by eminent domain with the widening of Lee Highway. She wrote that "the oldest grave contains Margaret Hyson, who died in 1891 and was a slave on the Hall's Hill plantation before emancipation," noting that many of the graves, estimated to be at least fifty, had been lost due to the deterioration of wooden markers or lack of designation altogether.⁵³ In April of 2012, *The Washington Post* reported that this "fiercely proud community...[is] determined to maintain its legacy of close knit neighborliness in the face of accelerating physical and demographic changes."⁵⁴

Cindy Bare spoke to reporter Cheryl Kenny about the transitions occurring in Hall's Hill at the time, and noted that "There's a way to transition while honoring history, valuing the sacrifice many made so that we are 'living the dream' here, with black and white kids living next door to each other." Bare further stated that "For new people to appreciate this integrated neighborhood, we need to be sure they know the neighborhood's history so they can love and value it."⁵⁵

Bare captured the sentiment that has compelled the residents of Hall's Hill neighborhood to make an application to place it on the National Register of Historic Places. So much of what residents struggled to create over decades fell victim to forces outside their control, but they did not let that diminish their sense of community, their willingness to take risks that would lead to equality, or to adapt to the many changes that occurred both in and around the neighborhood in the almost 160 years of its existence. There are many structures still owned by third and fourth generations of families who reside in Hall's Hill, and as noted by the Lee Highway Historic and Cultural Resources survey and the Arlington County Historic Preservation organization, many sites can be interpreted either at or near the former site of an historic building or event. A listing of properties recommended by this survey is included below:

⁵⁰ Oral History Interview with Tia Alfred conducted by Jennifer M. Morris, March 19, 2024. Interview in possession of J. Morris.

⁵¹ Ryan Homes advertisement, 1995.

⁵² Keller Williams Real Estate advertisement, *Arlington Connection*, August, 2010, 10.

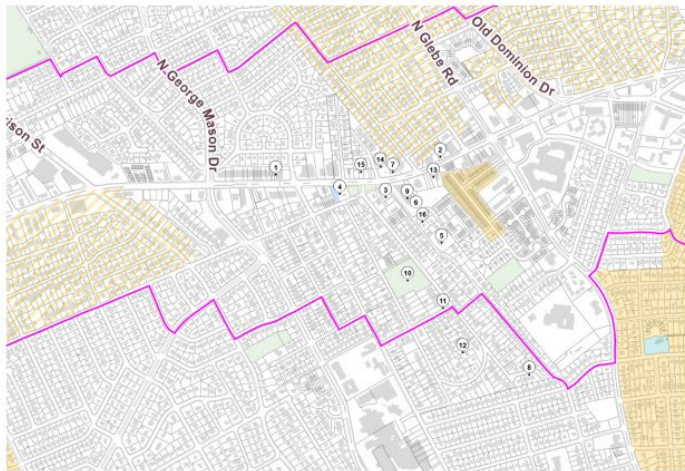
⁵³ Patricia Sullivan, "Old graves, new discoveries," *The Washington Post*, February 25, 2012, B1.

⁵⁴ Cheryl H. Kenny, "Preserving history, and harmony: Change poses challenges for Arlington neighborhood that was home to freed slaves," *The Washington Post*, April 28, 2012, E9.

⁵⁵ Kenny, 2012.

Area 2 Historic and Cultural Resources

Historic and cultural resources are clustered in the Halls Hill - High View Park neighborhood. They relate to the important African American heritage of the neighborhood, its commercial history and its significance in the Civil Rights Movement in Virginia and the country overall. For a detailed history of the neighborhood area and its significant historic and cultural resources, please refer to the *Historic and Cultural Resources Report and Langston Boulevard Zine*.



- Arlington County Local Historic Districts (Local)**
- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)/ Virginia Landmarks Register (VLR)**
- NRHP/VLR Potentially Eligible**
- Local and NRHP/VLR**
- Planning Study Area
- Open Space



Significant Cultural Resources

- 1 Garden City Shopping Center
- 2 Moore's Barber Shop
- 3 Heidelberg Bakery
- 4 Calloway United Methodist Church
- 5 Mount Salvation Baptist Church
- 6 Sumner School No. 2 (Site)
- 7 Fire Station No. 8
- 8 Hall's Hill Wall (Segregation Wall)
- 9 John M. Langston School (Site)
- 10 High View Park
- 11 E. Leslie Hamm House
- 12 Miss Allen's Store (Site)
- 13 Judge Thomas R. Monroe Law Office
- 14 Hicks' House (Site)
- 15 Hicks Market and Restaurant (Site)
- 16 Rev. James E. Browne House



Preservation Strategies

For a description of each preservation strategy, please refer to Chapter 2: Corridorwide Planning Framework for Historic and Cultural Resources.

- (FP) Full Preservation
- (PP) Partial Preservation
- (SI) Site Interpretation On site
- (NI) Interpretation Nearby



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Area 2 Recommendations for Preservation and/or Interpretation within the Core Study Area

The following chart describes the significant historic and cultural resources in Area 2 within and around the Planning Boundary and the resources in the Core Study Area identified for potential full preservation, partial preservation, and/or interpretation.

Table 3.1 Historic and Cultural Resources and recommended level of preservation

#	Name (Address)	Rec.	Significance
1	Garden City Shopping Center (5117-5183 Langston Blvd)	FP	Associated with the development of the Langston Boulevard commercial corridor during the pre/post World War II period. The shopping center retains its integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. Non-historic signage and alterations to some of the storefronts impact its integrity of materials and workmanship.
2	Moore's Barber Shop (4807 Langston Blvd)	FP	Historically, the barber shop business was one of the few businesses black men could open and operate to support their families and community. The barber shop is about personal service and relationships, and Moore's has been able to maintain those attributes over the years. Moore's has generations of clients who have been coming for service and community for decades, and many from far away. Moore's Barber Shop contributes to the African American experience in Arlington County and is one of the few remaining service businesses to the community. Full Preservation is recommended given these reasons and the current under-representation of African American historic properties.
3	Heidelberg Bakery (2150 North Culpeper Street)	SI	Associated with the development of the Langston Boulevard commercial corridor during the pre/post World War II period. The building retains its integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.
4	Calloway United Methodist Church (5000 Langston Blvd)	PP/SI	The Calloway United Methodist Church has been historically associated with the religious and social development of the predominately African American Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHVP) neighborhood since the late nineteenth century. The historic addition was designed by architect Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr. The building retains its integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.
5	Mount Salvation Baptist Church (1961 North Culpeper Street)	Not in Core Study Area	Associated with the history of religion in Arlington County and African American heritage in the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHVP) neighborhood. The building retains its integrity of location, design, materials, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association.
6	Sumner School No. 2 (Site)	SI	The Sumner and Langston school site is associated with the history of education in Arlington County, as well as African American heritage in the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHVP) neighborhood.
7	Fire Station No. 8 (4845 Langston Blvd)	SI	This site has been historically associated with location of the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department (HHVFD)(non-extant) which operated through the 1960s. Construction of Fire Station #8 is actively underway.
8	Hall's Hill Wall (Segregation Wall)	Not in Core Study Area	Racial segregation practices in Arlington County divided communities along every social stratum, and in this case, the Hall's Hill Wall (segregation wall) was a physical barrier that separated the HHVP neighborhood from the Woodlawn Villas subdivision. The feature retains its integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association.
9	John M. Langston School (2121 North Culpeper Street)	SI	The property is the site of the Sumner and Langston schools and is associated with the history of education in Arlington County, as well as African American heritage in the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHVP) neighborhood. Built as a high school for African American students and named for a prominent abolitionist, the Langston School was also a rare example of a Rosewald School in Arlington County.
10	High View Park (1345 North Dinwiddie Street)	Not in Core Study Area	The Hall's Hill / High View Park (HHVP) Gateway Park and Sculpture is associated with the development of Arlington County's public parks and its association with African American heritage in the HHVP neighborhood.
11	E. Leslie Hamm House (1900 North Cameron Street)	Not in Core Study Area	The single home dwelling is associated with the Hamm Family, who were known for their social and civil rights activism in the predominately African American HHVP community. The dwelling is a representative example of a Ranch style house and the work of Edward Leslie Hamm, Sr., who designed the house.
12	Miss Allen's Store (1821 North Columbus Street)	Not in Core Study Area	The home of Washington and Rose Allen was reportedly the first home-based general store in Hall's Hill/Highview Park. The property is the site of Miss Allen's store and is associated with African American heritage in the Hall's Hill/High View Park (HHVP) neighborhood.
13	Judge Thomas R. Monroe Law Office (4818 Langston Blvd)	PP/SI	The commercial building is associated with Judge Thomas R. Monroe, who was known for his social and civil rights activism in the Hall's Hill/Highview Park community. Judge Monroe was significant for his legal achievements as a president of the Arlington chapter of the NAACP, as the first African American Circuit Judge in Arlington County and the first to serve on all three Arlington courts.
14	Hicks' House (Site) (2211 North Culpeper Street)	SI	For several decades, Theodore and Lucy Hicks, African American leaders in the Hall's Hill neighborhood, lived at this location. According to oral history, Susana Hicks, Theodore's mother, began the Hicks Bus Line in Arlington to provide better transportation services for African Americans. In 1944 the Hicks family conveyed a parcel of land next to Theodore and Lucy's house to the Hall's Hill Volunteer Fire Department (HHVFD), which has served the historically African American neighborhood of Hall's Hill from at least 1926 through the present.
15	Hicks' market / restaurant (Site) (4903 Langston Blvd)	SI/NI	The Hicks family developed services to assist the African American community and operated a market and restaurant at 4903 Langston Boulevard for at least four decades.
16	Rev. James E. Browne House (2011 North Culpeper Street)	Not in Core Study Area	Rev. James E. Browne lived in the dwelling from 1953 through 2009, a year before his passing in 2010. A meeting took place here between then-president of the Arlington NAACP Rev. Browne and attorneys Thurgood Marshall, Spottswood W. Robinson III, and potentially Oliver White Hill or Martin A. Martin, that resulted in the Arlington NAACP shifting from pursuing further "equalizing" lawsuits that perpetuated the 1896 "separate but equal" finding of the Plessy vs. Ferguson Supreme Court case to demanding full rights under desegregation.

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Hall's Hill neighborhood should be given all consideration for designation as a historic district, not just for the structures that remain, but also to acknowledge the important traditions established there by a group of formerly enslaved persons that continues through Hall's Hill residents to the present day.

Thank you for your kind consideration of this application.

Photographs:

(Please note that the photographs are included to provide a general overview of the streetscape and are not exhaustive. A complete set of photographs with descriptions will be provided with the official survey.)

Culpepper Street:

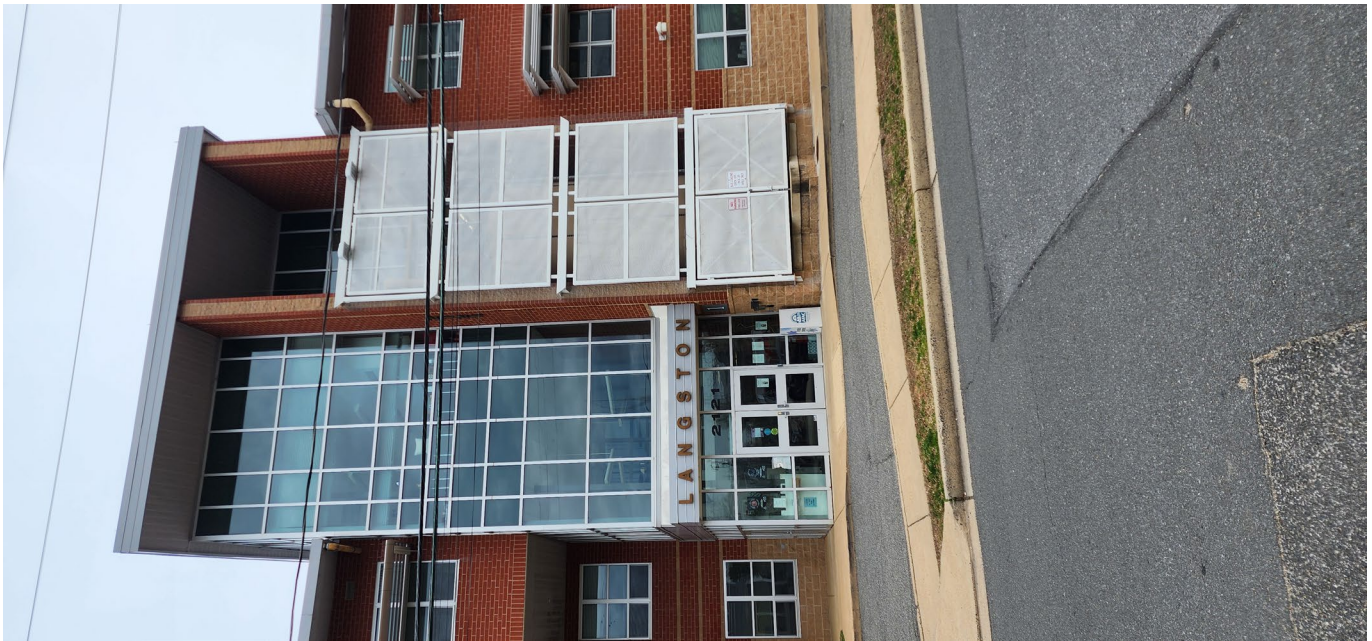


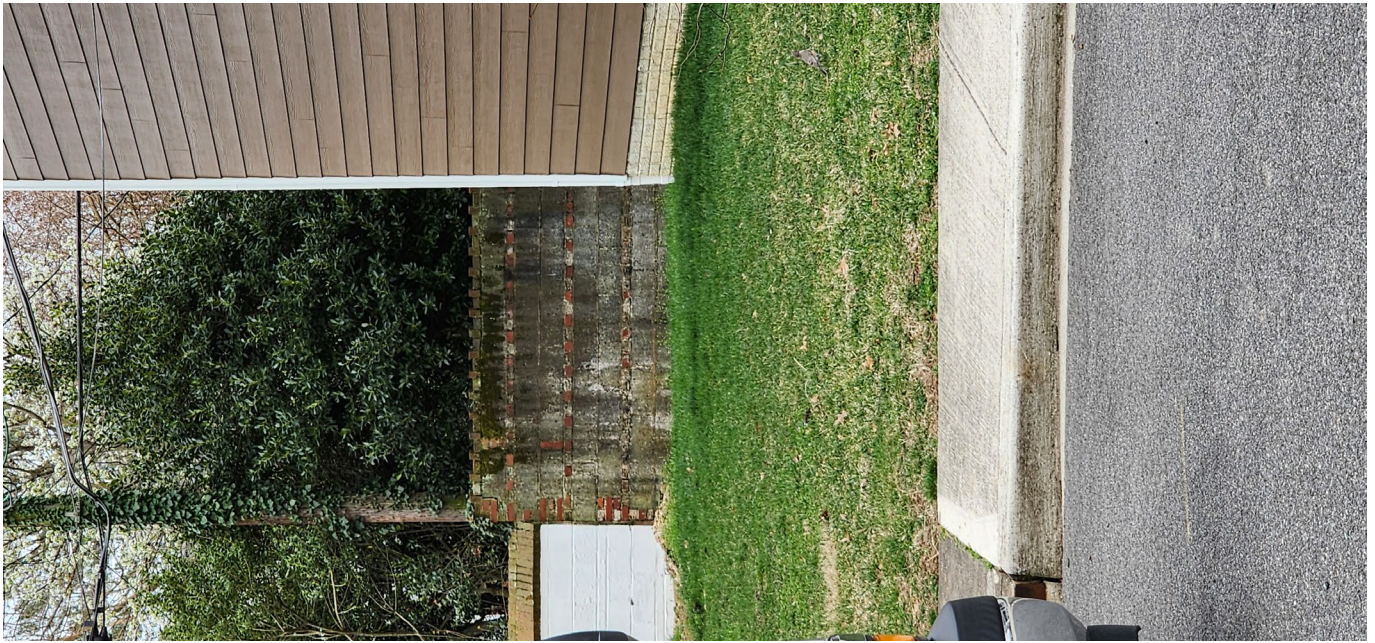












Location Map:



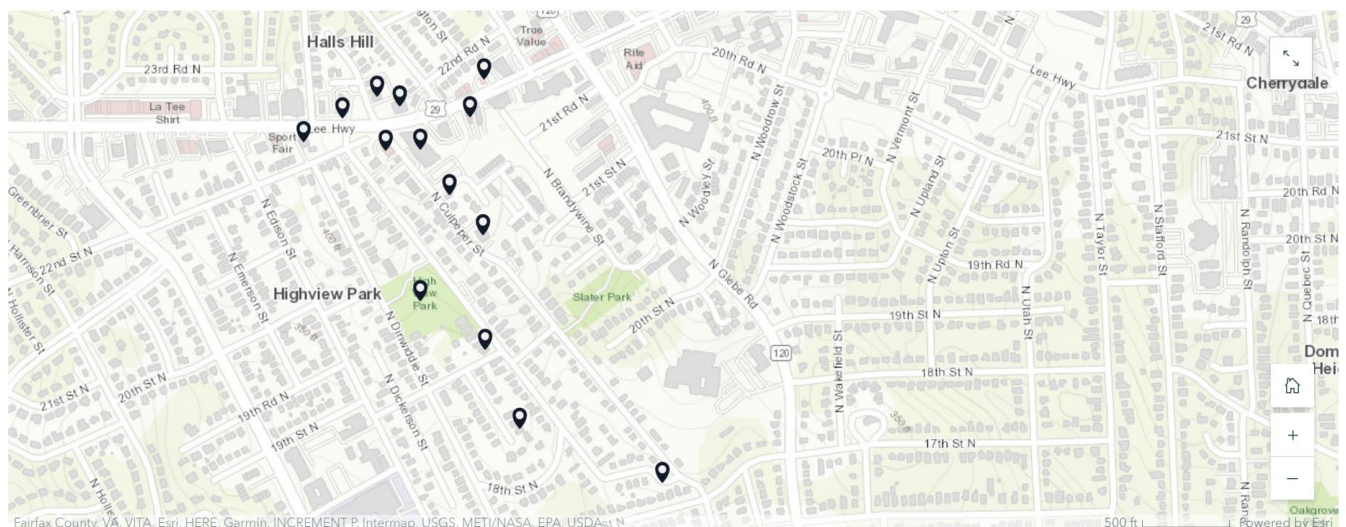
Figure 3: High View Park

Sketch Map:

Link to live map created by Emily R. Helman, Consultant:

<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/1d6cb5d542f94bc0a2cca57c95ef5c91>

Hall's Hill/High View Park Historic District



Historic locations and structures in Hall's Hill/High View Park, VA

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

Department of Historic Resources
 4/19/2024

Preliminary Information Form 20

Rev. July 2020

Note: PIFs are prepared by applicants and evaluated by DHR staff and the State Review Board based on information known at the time of preparation. Recommendations concerning PIFs are subject to change if new information becomes available

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

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

name/title: Tanya Graham, Historic Preservation Committee, Chair
organization: John M. Langston Citizens' Association
street & number: 2400 N. Greenbrier Ct
city or town: Arlington state: VA zip code: 22207
e-mail: infohighviewpark@gmail.com telephone: 571-262-1475

Applicant's Signature: Tanya Graham
Date: 4/18/2024

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

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

Contact person: Tanya Graham
Daytime Telephone: 571-262-1475

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

name/title: Jennifer M. Morris, PhD
organization: Mount St. Joseph University
street & number: 5701 Delhi Rd.
city or town: Cincinnati state: OH zip code: 45233
e-mail: jennifer.morris@msj.edu jennifermorris9003@gmail.com telephone: 513-484-5848
Date: April 15, 2024

7. Notification

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

name/title: Mark Schwarz, County Manager
locality: Arlington County
street & number: 2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 318
city or town: Arlington state: VA zip code: 22201
telephone: 703-228-3120





