

October 22, 2018

Mr. Roger Kirchen
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Division of Review and Compliance
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
Final Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) Preliminary
Information Form (PIF)
FERC Docket No. CP16-10, DHR File #2014 1194**

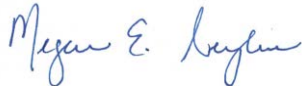
Dear Mr. Kirchen:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you will find one (1) hard copy and one (1) CD of Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, **Final Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)** dated October 22, 2018. This document replaces the draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

On September 14, 2018, Figures 2, 3, 16, 17, 18, 21, 23, and 24, within the draft, were revised and resubmitted to your office for review. Following figure revisions, the comment period was extended by two weeks to October 1, 2018. Mountain Valley received no comments on the PIF during this period, and no comments were filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The attached final PIF includes the revised figures.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Evelyn Tidlow by telephone at (612) 812-5478 or by email at E.Tidlow@gaiconsultants.com. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

Attachment: One (1) hard copy and one (1) CD of Mountain Valley Pipeline Project, **Final Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)** dated October 22, 2018

cc: Mary Krueger, NPS (without attachments)
Ann Rogers, CAPP (without attachments)
Sonja Ingram, Preservation Virginia (without attachments)

Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Richard Caywood, Roanoke County (without attachments)
Grace Terry (without attachments)
Alison Blanton, Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Ms. Alison Blanton
Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation
120 West Campbell Avenue SW
Roanoke, VA 23221

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
Final Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) Preliminary
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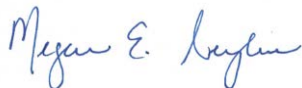
Dear Ms. Blanton:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Evelyn Tidlow by telephone at (612) 812-5478 or by email at E.Tidlow@gaiconsultants.com. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

cc: Roger Kirchen, VDHR (with attachments)
Mary Krueger, NPS (without attachments)
Ann Rogers, CAPP (without attachments)
Sonja Ingram, Preservation Virginia (without attachments)
Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Richard Caywood, Roanoke County (without attachments)
Grace Terry (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Ms. Ann Rogers
Preserve Roanoke and Committee for Appalachian and Piedmont Preservation
6347 Back Creek Road
Boones Mill, VA 24065

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
Final Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) Preliminary
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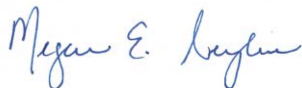
Dear Ms. Rogers:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

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Sonja Ingram, Preservation Virginia (without attachments)
Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Richard Caywood, Roanoke County (without attachments)
Grace Terry (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Ms. Ashley Webb
Historical Society of Western Virginia
101 Shenandoah Avenue NE
Roanoke, VA 24016

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
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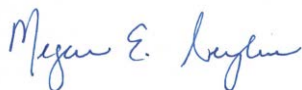
Dear Ms. Webb:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

cc: Roger Kirchen, VDHR (with attachments)
Mary Krueger, NPS (without attachments)
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Sonja Ingram, Preservation Virginia (without attachments)
Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Richard Caywood, Roanoke County (without attachments)
Grace Terry (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Ms. Grace Terry
4718 Wembley Place SW
Roanoke, VA 24018

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
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FERC Docket No. CP16-10, DHR File #2014 1194**

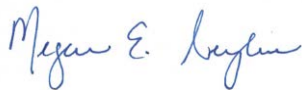
Dear Ms. Terry:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

cc: Roger Kirchen, VDHR (with attachments)
Mary Krueger, NPS (without attachments)
Ann Rogers, CAPP (without attachments)
Sonja Ingram, Preservation Virginia (without attachments)
Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Richard Caywood, Roanoke County (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)
Alison Blanton, Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Ms. Mary Krueger
National Park Service
950 Pearl Hill Road
Fitchburg, MA 01420

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
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FERC Docket No. CP16-10, DHR File #2014 1194**

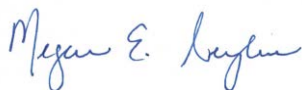
Dear Ms. Krueger:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Should you have any questions, feel free to contact Evelyn Tidlow by telephone at (612) 812-5478 or by email at E.Tidlow@gaiconsultants.com. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

cc: Roger Kirchen, VDHR (with attachments)
Alison Blanton, Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (without attachments)
Ann Rogers, CAPP (without attachments)
Sonja Ingram, Preservation Virginia (without attachments)
Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Richard Caywood, Roanoke County (without attachments)
Grace Terry (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Mr. Richard Caywood
Roanoke County Board of Supervisors
5204 Bernard Drive
Roanoke, VA 24018

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
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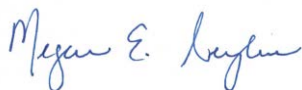
Dear Mr. Caywood:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Sincerely,



Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

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Mary Krueger, NPS (without attachments)
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Ashley Webb, Historical Society of Western Virginia (without attachments)
Alison Blanton, Roanoke Valley Preservation Foundation (without attachments)
Grace Terry (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)

October 22, 2018

Ms. Sonja Ingram
Preservation Virginia
204 West Franklin Street
Richmond, VA 23220

**Subject: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
Final Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) Preliminary
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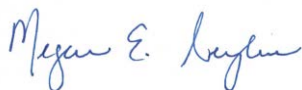
Dear Ms. Ingram:

On behalf of Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC (Mountain Valley), a joint venture between affiliates of EQT Midstream Partners, LP and affiliates of NextEra Energy, Inc., Con Edison Midstream Gas, LLC, WGL Holdings, Inc., and RGC Midstream LLC, you received a draft **Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677)**, dated August 6, 2018.

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Megan E. Neylon
Environmental Permitting Supervisor

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Grace Terry (without attachments)
Evelyn Tidlow, GAI (without attachments)



PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM

Historic District

A historic district is defined as a significant concentration of buildings, structures, or sites that are united historically and aesthetically by plan or physical development. The Preliminary Information Form (PIF) constitutes an application for preliminary consideration of a historic district for eligibility for the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The PIF is **not** the same as a nomination to the Registers, but is a means for evaluating the **eligibility** of a historic district for listing. The PIF is evaluated by Department of Historic Resources (DHR) staff and the State Review Board and their recommendations regarding the property's eligibility will be provided to the applicant in writing.

Before Preparing a PIF

Contact DHR's Archivist for assistance in obtaining any information DHR may have on file about your property, such as a previous architectural survey record or eligibility evaluation. You are welcome to use this information in preparing your PIF. Contact DHR's Archivist by phone at (804) 482-6102, or by email at Quatro.Hubbard@dhr.virginia.gov.

Staff at one of DHR's three Regional offices are available to answer questions you may have as you begin preparing your PIF. Locations and contact information for each office is at http://dhr.virginia.gov/regional_offices/regional_offices.htm. (You also are welcome to ask DHR's Archivist for the contact information.)

Preparing a PIF

A PIF consists of three equally important parts:

1. **Form:** Complete the attached form to the best of your ability, using your own research about the proposed historic district as well as any information that DHR has provided. Remember that DHR's Regional staff also are available to assist you. The form may be completed using Microsoft Word software, typed, or hand-written. If using MS Word, the PIF can be submitted via CD, email, ftp, or other file sharing means.

Your PIF will not be evaluated if it is missing any of the following information:

- Applicant/Sponsor's signature
 - Contact information for the person submitting the form (if different from the applicant/sponsor)
 - Contact information for the City Manager or County Administrator where the property is located
2. **Photos:** Provide color photographs of the proposed historic district's general streetscape and a sample of individual buildings, sites, and/or structures that are representative of the district's character. Submit photo prints on 4" x 6" glossy photo paper and digital images on CD or other file sharing means approved by DHR's Regional staff.
 3. **Maps:** A minimum of two maps must accompany your PIF:
 - **Location map:** This map shows the exact location of the proposed historic district. The map can be created using Google Maps, Google Earth, Bing, or other mapping websites. A copy of a road map also may be used as long as the district's exact location and proposed boundaries are shown on the map. DHR's Archivist can assist in providing an acceptable location map with boundaries.
 - **Sketch map:** This map shows the proposed boundaries and locations of all resources within the proposed historic district as well as major landscape features such as a stream, formal gardens, roads, and parking areas. The sketch map can be drawn by hand; or an annotated aerial view, tax parcel map or survey map may be used. For large historic districts, the local government may be able to provide a base map that includes roads, tax parcel boundaries, and other information. Contact staff at the local government's planning and permitting office for assistance.

Note: All submitted materials become the property of DHR and will be retained in our permanent Archive. In addition, the materials will be posted on DHR's public website for a period of time during the evaluation process.

Thank you for taking the time to submit this Preliminary Information Form. Your interest in Virginia's historic resources is helping to provide better stewardship of our cultural past.

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PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM (PIF) for HISTORIC DISTRICTS

Purpose of Evaluation

Situated in a rural agricultural valley in southwest Roanoke County, Virginia, the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (district) (080-5677) is potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) for its concentration of contributing resources that are united historically by geography, date of construction, construction materials, and function. Historically known for its apple orchards and other farm products, Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) is characterized by its agricultural landscape featuring late nineteenth- and twentieth-century farmsteads and homes (080-5658, 080-5662, 080-5679, 080-0490, and 080-0487), churches (080-0326 and 080-5666), the former Bent Mountain Elementary School (080-0322), cemeteries (080-5148, 080-5156, and 080-5326), and rural commercial buildings (for example, 080-0496, 080-5654, and 080-5656). Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is seeking your review of the Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for a determination of eligibility of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677).

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

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

1. General Information

District name(s): Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (DHR ID: 080-5677)

Main Streets and/or Routes: Route 221

City or Town: Bent Mountain

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

2. Physical Aspects

Acreage: Approximately 5,000

Setting (choose only one of the following):

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

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

The Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) comprises the flat, fertile valley between Bent Mountain to the east and northeast and Poor Mountain to the northwest. The rural, mostly forested district encompasses approximately 5,000 acres and measures approximately 5.4 miles by 1.5 miles. Bent Mountain is an unincorporated community set primarily in Roanoke County at an elevation of approximately 2,700 feet above sea level. Situated just west of the Blue Ridge Parkway and located approximately 16 miles by car southwest of the City of Roanoke, the district is an agricultural community made up of rural farmsteads typically composed of a primary house and outbuildings, including barns and sheds, the occasional small family cemetery, agricultural fields, orchards, and woodlands. Water elements include Mill Creek and Bottom Creek, as well as a few small ponds. Bent Mountain Road (US Route 221), the primary road, traverses the district in a north-south direction and is sprinkled with rural roadside businesses and older homes. Other roads include Tinsley Lane and Bottom Creek Road where a good number of the district's significant buildings and farms are located to the west of Bent Mountain Road.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The Bent Mountain Rural Historic District, located in southwestern Virginia, consists of a variety of resources, including historic barns, dwellings, roads, schools, churches, and general stores. This unique built environment is nestled among a historically rural and agricultural landscape consisting of apple orchards, pastures, fences, woodlands, streams, and mountain slopes (**Figure 1**). In defining the boundaries of a Rural Historic District, two sources of guidance are the National Park Service's (NPS) *Guidelines for Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes* (*Rural Historic Landscapes*) and *Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties* (*Defining Boundaries*).¹ The *Rural Historic Landscapes* guidelines define a Rural Historic Landscape as "a geographical area that historically has been used by people, or shaped or modified by human activity, occupancy, or intervention, and that possesses a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of areas of land use, vegetation, buildings and structures, roads and waterways, and natural features." The Bent Mountain area possesses these characteristics; however, extent of the area is such that the justification of a boundary is a complex matter. The *Defining Boundaries* bulletin notes that such a boundary should "consider the setting and historically important landscape features" of a proposed district and that "a combination of features," in addition to obvious boundaries such as county lines or property lines, may be appropriate. The present study takes a combination of features under consideration to justify the boundaries of the district. **Figure 2** is an illustration of the proposed boundary.

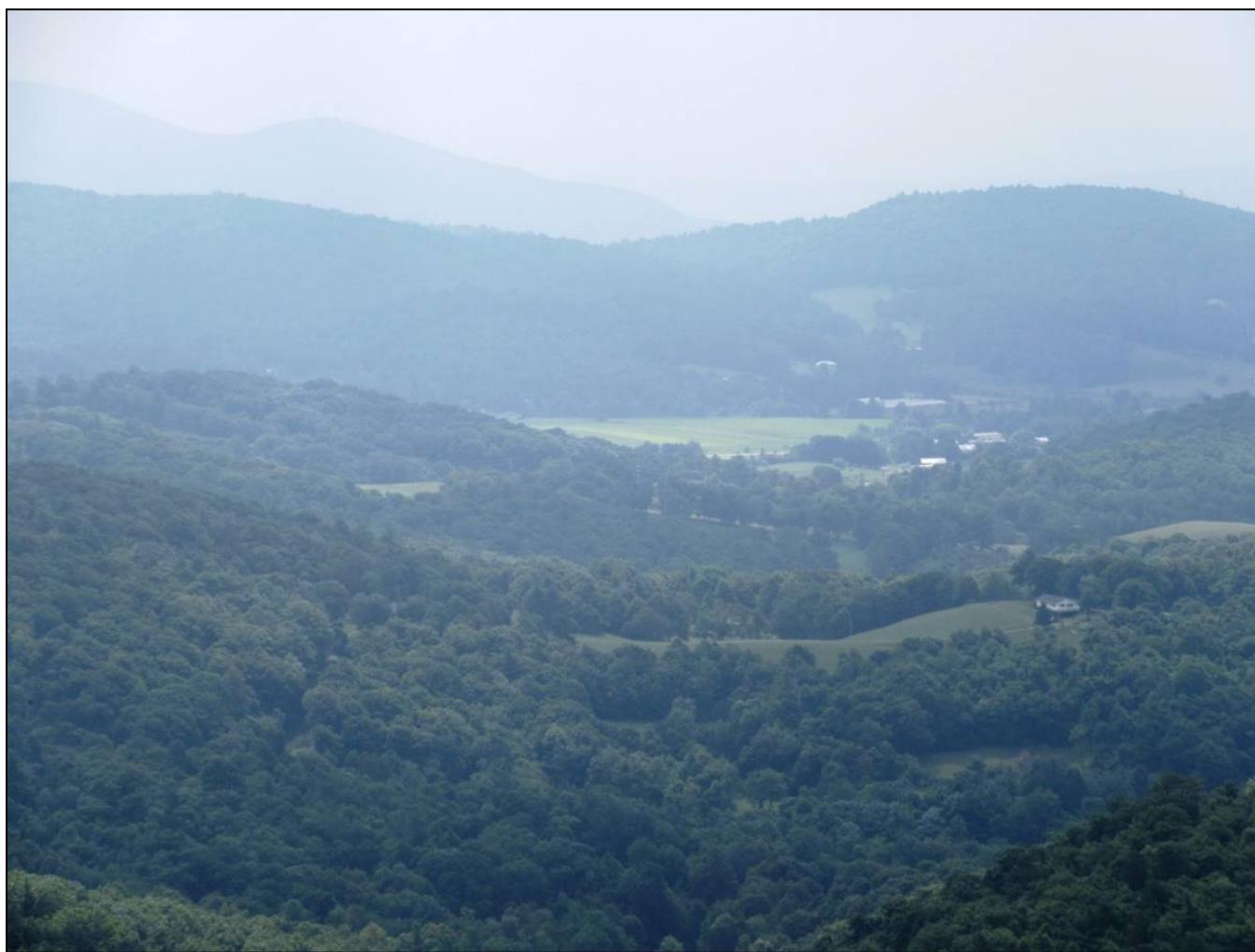
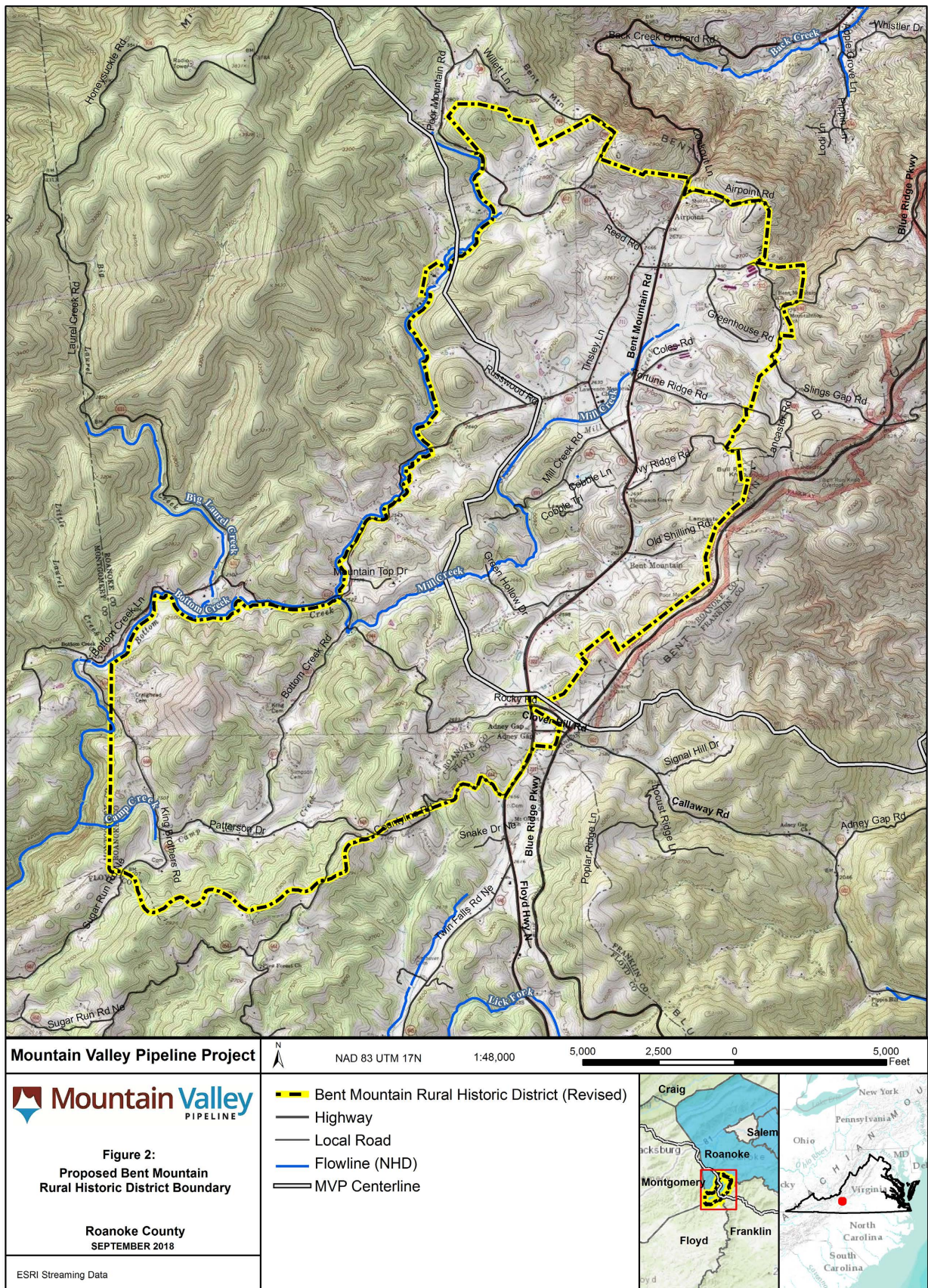


Figure 1. Aerial view of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. Photograph taken July 2018, facing south.

¹ Laura Flint McClelland, "National Register Bulletin: Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Rural Historic Landscapes" (National Park Service 1999); Donna J. Seifert, "National Register Bulletin: Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties" (National Park Service 1997).



New South Associates (2016), in *Phase I Reconnaissance Architectural Survey for the Mountain Valley Pipeline*, described their proposed boundary of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District “was drawn to encompass the flat, fertile valley between Bent Mountain to the east and northeast and Poor Mountain to the northwest, and also to include the mountain slopes that would be visible from the valley and would form the viewshed.” New South Associates also provided a map illustrating this boundary. The present study, which encompasses deeper historical research and new analysis of resources, proposes to maintain some of New South Associates’ boundary for the district and to further define other sections of the boundary. SEARCH Architectural Historians Kirsten Armstrong, MPhil; Jenna Dunham, MS; and Angelique Theriot, MA, conducted fieldwork in July 2018 to confirm the district boundaries proposed by New South Associates in 2016. Based on field observation and research, SEARCH revised the boundaries proposed by New South Associates, and the newly proposed boundaries are described below.

SEARCH concludes that the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District should lay entirely in the present-day boundaries of Roanoke County, as opposed to neighboring Floyd and Franklin Counties. The history of the Bent Mountain community is strongly associated with Roanoke County. Settlement of the Bent Mountain area, while rooted in the eighteenth century, expanded in the early nineteenth century to the extent that the evolving community, as well as other communities, sought to distinguish their growing society as a separate county from Botetourt. The new county, Roanoke, was formed in 1838, and the Bent Mountain area formed the southwestern section of the county, as is further detailed in the historic context (see below). It should be noted that the boundaries of the county in the southwest have not changed since 1838. Historical literature about Roanoke County consistently identifies Bent Mountain as a community of Roanoke County, as several examples indicate.

A prime example is the Bent Mountain post office, a central location in the community that was located in Roanoke County. Also, an 1885 guide to Virginia businesses identified Bent Mountain as one of several communities in Roanoke County. Published histories from various periods support that Bent Mountain was a Roanoke County community. In their *History of Roanoke County* (1912), George S. Jack and E. B. Jacobs devote an entire chapter to the Bent Mountain community, highlighting it as a Roanoke County community that was as distinct as the larger communities of Salem, Roanoke, and Vinton. In more recent decades, local historian Deedie Kagey, in *The Past is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, clearly considers Bent Mountain a community of Roanoke County.

Having concluded that the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District should lie exclusively within Roanoke County based upon the historic context, the boundary of the district can be further defined. The western boundary, as depicted in New South Associates’ map, is arbitrarily defined; therefore, the western boundary should be defined by a prominent and easily identifiable landscape feature: Bottom Creek. This waterway is often mentioned in primary and secondary historical sources as a prominent landscape feature of the Bent Mountain area. This western boundary distinction also is justifiable because its establishment excludes only two of New South Associates’ resources: 8741 Poor Mountain Road (Ruins; 080-5677-007; non-contributing) and 10935 Bottom Creek Road (Barn with Fences; 080-0050; contributing).

The present study also proposes to further specify the southeastern border of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District as delineated by New South Associates, particularly where the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District and the Blue Ridge Parkway Rural Historic District (080-5161) are in proximity to each other. SEARCH proposes to exclude the Blue Ridge Parkway Rural Historic District from the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District, including those portions within Roanoke County. Although the historic construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway is said to have employed residents of the Bent Mountain community, the historic context did not reveal a strong association between the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District and the Blue Ridge Parkway Rural Historic District. Because of this lack of historical association, the boundary of the Blue Ridge Parkway Rural Historic District will serve as the boundary of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District, providing a historical, physical, and visual edge to the southeastern border of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. Moreover, the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District encompasses a linear transportation

corridor of greater historical importance to the immediate area: Bent Mountain Road, a corridor established in the antebellum period as the Bent Mountain Turnpike. Therefore, the exclusion of the Blue Ridge Parkway Rural Historic District leaves intact the primary feature of Bent Mountain's transportation history.

The northern and eastern boundaries were also arbitrarily defined by New South Associates, and in many instances, cut large parcels in half. Based upon field observation, SEARCH defines the northern boundary as the northernmost parcel boundary for properties on Poor Mountain Road, Willett Lane, and Bent Mountain Road. This revised boundary still roughly follows the northern boundary line defined by New South Associates, but is more clearly defined by parcel lines. During field survey in 2018, SEARCH identified Airpoint Drive as consisting of non-historic residential buildings that are non-contributing to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. Therefore, SEARCH proposes Airpoint Drive as the northeastern most boundary, as it follows an easily recognized linear feature while still retaining the historically associated landscapes to the south. The eastern boundary consists of the easternmost parcel boundary of properties located on the east side of Slings Gap Road. The east boundary then follows along eastern parcel lines adjacent to New South Associates' eastern boundary, crossing Lancaster Road and Ivy Ridge Road. The newly proposed eastern boundary then connects with New South Associates' proposed boundary at Mountain View Road, west of the Blue Ridge Parkway. The revised proposed eastern boundary retains the historic landscape features and contributing buildings proposed by New South Associates, but follows along parcel boundaries that are easily defined.

3. Architectural/Physical Description

Architectural Style(s): Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Folk Victorian, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Minimal Traditional, Queen Anne, Tudor Revival, Rustic Revival, Ranch, and Vernacular

If any individual properties within the district were designed by an architect, landscape architect, engineer, or other professional, please list here: None identified

If any builders or developers are known, please list here:
Tazewell Price (10721 Bent Mountain Road, 080-0487)

Date(s) of construction (can be approximate): ca. 1820–1968

Are there any known threats to this district? Public Utility Expansion

Narrative Description:

Bent Mountain is a rural community formed in the early nineteenth century after the initial settlement period of Roanoke County. By the end of the nineteenth century, Bent Mountain was known for its apple orchards, tobacco plantations, and other agricultural products. Within its boundaries, the district (080-5677) includes an array of farmsteads with associated residential and agricultural buildings, as well as religious, rural commercial, and institutional (school) buildings. These buildings range in age from the late nineteenth century to the mid-twentieth century and retain varying degrees of integrity.

Farmsteads typically include a main farmhouse and outbuildings, such as secondary dwellings, barns, and sheds. These properties often include a small family cemetery, agricultural fields, orchards, and woodlands. Cemeteries associated with nineteenth-century farmsteads may also include the burials of enslaved persons. Dwellings within the district are typically Vernacular in style, with little exterior ornamentation. Dwellings that do feature ornamentation typically have minimal Folk Victorian details, including lathe-turned columns on porches. Other nineteenth-century styles represented in the district include Queen Anne elements (080-0323), Colonial Revival elements (080-0322 and 080-5677-002), Italianate elements (080-0487), Tudor Revival elements (080-5658) and Gothic Revival elements (080-5666). Twentieth-century styles represented

in the district include Rustic Revival elements (080-5677-0006), Craftsman elements (080-0528), Minimal Traditional elements (080-5677-0004), and Ranch (080-5655, 080-5659, and 080-5665). Most dwellings in the district have been altered since construction, with common alterations including the construction of side or rear ell additions; the addition of non-historic cladding; the replacement of windows, doors, and roofing; and the enclosure of porches. The historic acreage associated with many farmsteads has often been reduced through subdivision and sale. Typical building plans within the district include I-house, Central Passage, Foursquare, and Bungalow. Single dwellings are typically built with wood frame construction, although the Les Landes/Tazewell Price House (080-0487) represents a rare extant example of brick masonry construction within the district. Agricultural buildings within the district include barns related to the area's history as a center of apple and tobacco cultivation. The barns also were associated with small-scale livestock operations and household subsistence farming. These buildings were typically built using timber frame and various forms of wood cladding. Several contributing commercial buildings within the district appear vacant, indicating twentieth-century demographic trends. These buildings are vernacular in style and utilitarian in construction.

Of the district's 56 documented historic resources, the most common property type/building type recorded in Bent Mountain is the single-family rural dwelling (n=36; 64 percent of total) (**Table 1, Figure 3**). Associated with these dwellings are outbuildings such as vernacular barns, sheds, garages, and secondary dwellings. The district's architecture is predominately rural and vernacular, reflecting the region's agricultural roots. The remaining property uses are not nearly as prolific and include stores (2), cemeteries (3), churches (2), a bridge (1), and a school (1). The district's general setting today is rural and sparsely populated as it was historically. Early census data do not record the population of Bent Mountain, but by 1840, Roanoke County enumerated only 5,500 people (4,000 non-enslaved, 1,500 enslaved). Streetscapes within the district feature both paved and unpaved roads throughout dense woodlands.

The land associated with district farmsteads has historically been used for apple orchards and tobacco cultivation. John Richerson planted an apple orchard in Bent Mountain by 1832, but apple cultivation was not yet widespread in the district. Prior to the Civil War, common crops included tobacco, barley, wheat, oats, and rye. Loggers cleared areas of Bent Mountain for the timber industry, and farmers raised cattle for the beef and dairy industries. By 1860, the average farmstead in Bent Mountain was 185 acres. Following the Civil War, district residents relied on subsistence farming during Reconstruction, while sharecropping replaced the enslaved labor force. In 1874, tobacco worms and flies compromised the district's tobacco industry, allowing for the rise of apple cultivation as a replacement crop. The increased income allowed many farmers in the late nineteenth century to demolish older buildings and replace them with dwellings and barns of the period. Railroad construction in the 1890s allowed for further development of the District. Land uses currently represented in the district include rural residences, poultry farming, limited apple cultivation, and livestock operations.

Table 1. Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) Surveyed Resources.

VDHR ID	Name	Location	Year Built	Resource Category	Resource Type	Style	Form	# of Stories	Interior Plan	Secondary Resource(s)	SEARCH 2018 NRHD Contributor Status (yes/no)
080-0047	Farm	11272 Rocky Road (Route 144)	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernable style	American Four-Square	2	No data	Barn (1920)	Yes
080-0322	Bent Mountain Elementary School	10148 9370 Tinsley Lane (Rt 711)	1917-1930	Education	School	Colonial Revival	No data	1	Auditorium	Shelter (1950), Shed (1950), Shed (1950)	Yes
080-0323	Rosemont	10106 Bottom Creek Road (Rt 607)	ca. 1908	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Queen Anne	No data	2.5	No data	Smoke/Meat house, Stable, Garage, well/well house, shed (1950), shed (1950), barn (1950), shed (1996), shed (1996), shed (1996), outbuilding (2007),	Yes
080-0324	Sunnyside	9809 Tinsley Lane	ca. 1850	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No data	No data	0	No data	Kitchen, garage, I-house (1900), shed	No (demolished)
080-0325	Reed's Farm	9207 Poor Mountain Road	ca. 1890	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular house w/Victorian features	No data	2.5	No data	Apple processing bldg., garage, shed	Yes
080-0326	Thompson Grove Primitive Baptist Church	10210 Bent Mountain Road (Route 221)	ca. 1900	Religion	Church/ Chapel	Vernacular	Rectangular	1	No data	Privy (1950), Privy (1950)	Yes
080-0328	Store	9526 Tinsley Lane	ca. 1880	Commerce/ Trade	Commercial Building	No discernable style	No data	1	No data	No data	Yes
080-0487	Les Landes House (aka, Tazewell Price House)	10721 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1870	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Italianate	Rectangular	2	Central Passage, Single Pile	Barn (1900); Cemetery circa 1897	Yes
080-0490	Janet Wynot House, Terry Place, Terry-Coles Cemetery	8701 Poor Mountain Road, Terry Place, Terry-Coles Cemetery	ca. 1820	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	No data	2	No data	Animal shelter/kennel (1930), Garage (1990), Machine Shed (1930), stable (1930), shed (1930), barn (1930), domestic dwelling (1930), cemetery (1877), shelter/kennel, barn, shed	Yes
080-0493	House	10000 Tinsley Lane	1951	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	No data	1.5	Other	Shed (1950)	Yes
080-0494	King-Waldron House	10808 Bottom Creek Road	ca. 1910	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	No data	2	No data	Garage (1900), barn, barn, shed, barn (1910), domestic dwelling (1930), orchard	Yes
080-0495	Logan Place Farm	11082 Mountain Top Drive	ca. 1880	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	I-house	2	Central Passage, Single Pile	Corncrib (1880—demoed), domestic dwelling (1900), shed (1880), barn (1880), spring house (1880—demoed),	Yes*
080-0496	Service Station	11018 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1920	Commerce/ Trade	Service Station	No discernible style	No data	1	No data	No data	Yes
080-0497	House	11010 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1895	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	No data	2	Hall-Parlor	Garage ruin (1950)	Yes
080-0498	House	11005 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1890	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	No data	2	Central Passage, Single Pile	Barn (1930),	Yes
080-0527	House (demolished c2017)	10396 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Craftsman	Bungalow	2	Central Passage, Single Pile	Barn (1900), shed, shed, shed, shed	No
080-0528	Gas Station	10402 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1920	Commerce/ Trade	Service Station	Vernacular	Rectangular	1	No data	Shed (1950)	No (demolished)
080-0529	Ora Land Farm	10632 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1910	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Folk Victorian	No data	2	No data	Pump house (1950); garage (1950)	Yes
080-5004	Bridge #1093	Over Mill Creek, Bent Mountain Road	1932	Transportation	Bridge	No discernible style	No data	No data	No data	No data	Yes
080-5148	Conner Cemetery	Bent Mountain Road	No data	Funerary	Cemetery	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	Yes ^{x2}
080-5156	The Pines Cemetery	Tinsley Lane	ca. 1850	Funerary	Cemetery	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	Yes*
080-5326	Lawrence Cemetery	South side of Cobble Trail	ca. 1891	Funerary	Cemetery	No discernible style	No data	No data	No data	No data	Yes*
080-5630	Board-and-Batten Cabin	11210 Bottom Creek Road (Route 607)	ca. 1930	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	No data	1	No data	Privy (c1975),	No
080-5631	House	11410 Rocky Road (Route 144)	1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	No data	1.5	No data	Agricultural bldg. (1945), barn (1930), shed (1970),	Yes
080-5653	House	10664 Bent Mountain Road (Rt 221)	ca. 1945	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	Cape Cod	1.5	No data	Shed (1950), garage (1950)	Yes
080-5654	Service Station	10661 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1950	Commerce/ Trade	Service Station	No discernible style	Rectangular	1	No data	Store/market (1950)	Yes
080-5655	House	10710 Bent Mountain Road (Rt 221)	1963	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Ranch	Rectangular	1	No data	No data	Yes
080-5656	Store	10799 Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1930	Commerce/ Trade	Store/ Market	No discernible style	Rectangular	1	No data	Store/market (1950)	Yes
080-5657	House	10808 Bent Mountain Rd (Rt 221)	ca. 1941	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	T-Plan	1	No data	Garage (1941), barn (1940), barn (1940)	Yes
080-5658	Farmstead	10864 Bent Mountain Rd (Rt 221)	ca. 1930	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	Rectangular	1.5	No data	Barn (1950), garage (1950),	Yes

* 2018 survey access restrictions prevented photographs. SEARCH used previously-recorded survey data to determine eligibility.

Table 1. Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) Surveyed Resources.

VDHR ID	Name	Location	Year Built	Resource Category	Resource Type	Style	Form	# of Stories	Interior Plan	Secondary Resource(s)	SEARCH 2018 NRHD Contributor Status (yes/no)
080-5659	House	11041 Clover Hill Rd (Rt 602)	ca. 1955	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Ranch	U-Plan	1	No data	Garage (1955)	Yes
080-5660	House	11062 Clover Hill Rd (Rt 602)	ca. 1930	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	Rectangular	1.5	No data	Shed (2007), shed (1950), shed (2007), shed (2007), shed (2007), shed (2007), shed (1980),	Yes
080-5661	House	11028 Bent Mountain Rd (Rt 221)	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Craftsman	Bungalow	1.5	No data	No data	Yes
080-5662	Farm	11072 Rocky Rd (Rt 144)	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Vernacular	Rectangular	1.5	No data	Domestic dwelling (1920), barn (1940)	Yes
080-5663	House	11135 Rocky Rd (Rt 144)	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	L-Plan	2	No data	Shed (1950)	No
080-5664	Storage Facility	10222 Bottom Creek Rd (Rt 607)	ca. 1950	Commerce/ Trade	Office/ Office Building	No discernible style	No data	1	No data	Shed (1950), shed (1950), office bldg. (1950)	No (demolished)
080-5665	House	10146 Bottom Creek Rd (Rt 607)	ca. 1962	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Ranch	Rectangular	1	No data	Garage (2000),	Yes
080-5666	Lawrence Memorial United Methodist Church	9370 Tinsley Ln (Rt 711)	1947	Religion	Church/ Chapel	Gothic Revival	L-Plan	1	No data	No data	Yes
080-5667	Farm	9970 Tinsley Ln (Rt 711)	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	Bungalow	1.5	No data	Garage (1950), shed (1950), barn (1950)	Yes
080-5668	Barn	10146 Bottom Creek Rd (Rt 607)	ca. 1940	Agricultural/ Subsistence	Barn	Vernacular	Rectangular	2	No data	No data	Yes
080-5669	House	120 Cobble Lane	ca. 1890	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	Rectangular	2	Dog-trot	No data	Yes
080-5677-0001	Poplar Springs Farm	11070 Bottom Creek Road (Route 607)	ca. 1850	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	No data	1.5	No data	Garage (1980), pole barn (1996), shed (2002)	Yes
080-5677-0002	House	10518 Bent Mountain Road (Route 221)	ca. 1950	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Colonial Revival	Cape Cod	1.5	No data	Garage (1950), garage (1950), playhouse (2013), chicken house? (2013)	Yes
080-5677-0003	House	10388 Bent Mountain Road (Route 221)	ca. 1954	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Minimal Traditional	No data	2	No data	Carport (2002), Shed (1996)	Yes
080-5677-0004	Foundation	10932 Bent Mountain Road (Route 221)	No data	Unknown	Foundation	No discernible style	No data	No data	No data	No data	No
080-5677-0005	Barn	10383 Russwood Road	ca. 1940	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Barn	No discernible style	No data	1	No data	No data	No*
080-5677-0006	Cabin	10858 Green Hollow Drive	ca. 1940	Domestic	Single Dwelling	Rustic Revival	T-Plan	1	No data	No data	Yes
080-5677-0008	Henry-Gregory House	10568 Bottom Creek Road (Rt 607)	ca. 1900	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	No data	1.5	No data	Cemetery (1899)	Yes*
080-5677-0009	House	Bottom Creek Road (Route 607)	ca. 1930	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	No data	1.5	Hall-Parlor	Barn (1930)	No*
080-5679	Grace Terry Moncure Farm (aka, Aunt Grace Fortesque's house)	8701 Poor Mountain Rd	ca. 1890	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	No data	2	Other	Barn (1890), garage (1930), domestic dwelling (1920), domestic dwelling (Craftsman 1930)	Yes*
080-5681	House	11091 Bent Mountain Rd (Rt 221)	ca. 1920	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernible style	American Four-Square	2	No data	Shed (1920)	Yes
080-5695	Shed Ruin	10303 Russwood Road	ca. 1946	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Shed	No discernible style	No data	0	No data		No*
080-5696	Roadbed	Green Hollow Drive	ca. 1900	Transportation	Road-Related (Vehicular)	No discernible style	No data	No data	No data		No*
080-5735	Farmstead	8837 Poor Mountain Road	ca. 1900	Agriculture/ Subsistence	Barn	No discernible style	No data	1	No data	Corncrib (1900); barn (1900), Terry barn ruins built c1875 & c1880	No
N/A	Edith and Bill Hale House	Green Hollow Drive	ca. 1900	Domestic	Single Dwelling	No discernable style	No data	2	No data	Hale Cabin remnant, Hale Homestead	No
N/A	State Route 205/ Bent Mountain Road	Bent Mountain Road	ca. 1870	Transportation	Road						Yes

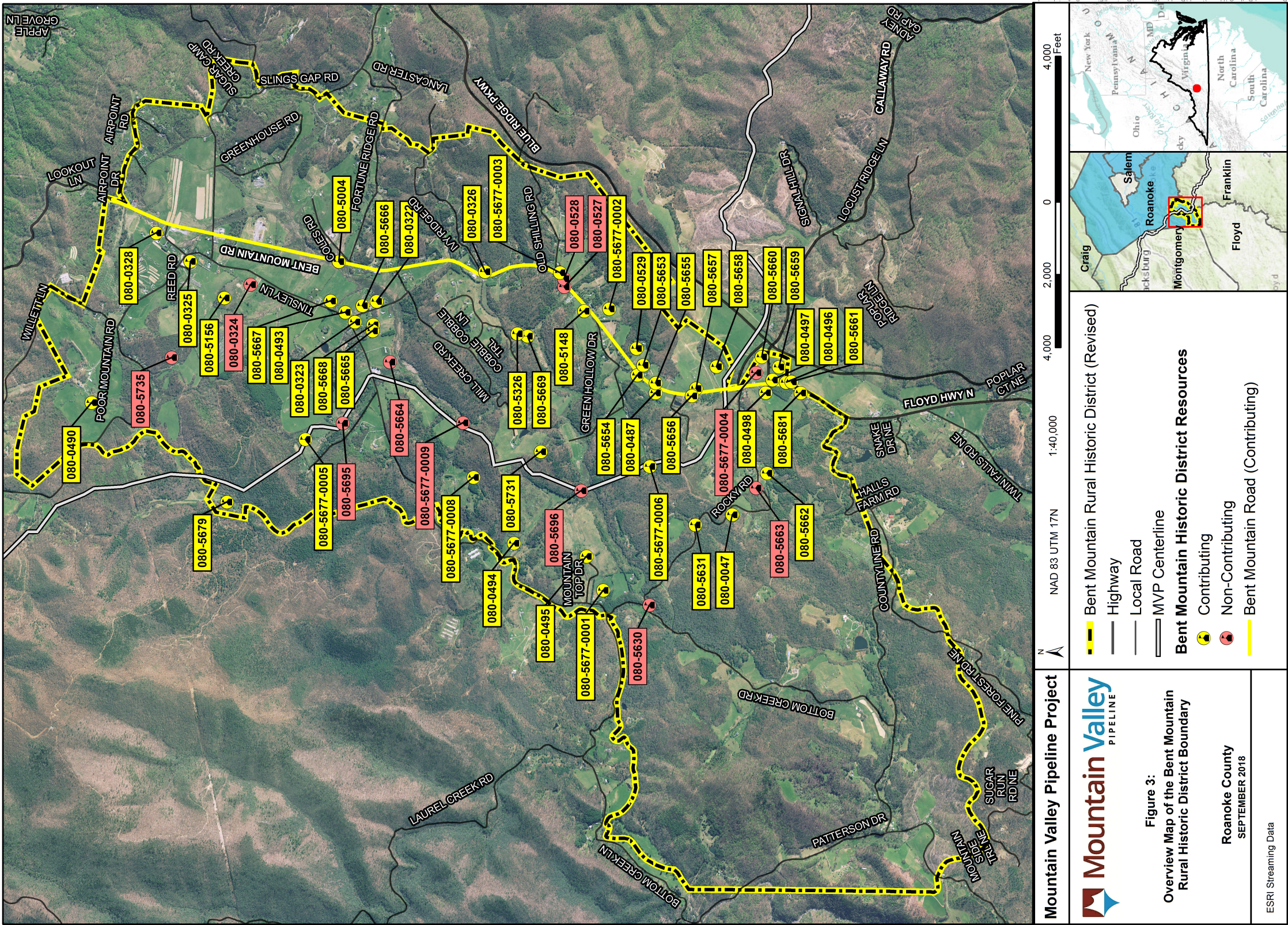


Figure 3. Overview map of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District.

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BENT MOUNTAIN RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BUILDING TYPES

Contributing resources within the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District were identified as the following building types:

Auditorium

The auditorium type is typically a multi-story building with tiered seating to facilitate visual and auditory access for a large audience. These buildings were popular in Virginia beginning in the nineteenth century through the 1940s and are typically associated with other building types, including schools, hospitals, libraries, and meeting halls. These buildings are used for large meetings, lectures, or theatrical performances. Fixed seating is often arranged into a fan shape facing a focal point or open platform stage. Main entrances are included on the building's primary façade. Large auditoriums may feature multi-level seating with separate box seating on a mezzanine level. Smaller auditoriums may serve a utilitarian purpose built for several functions. A popular 1920s Virginia school auditorium design featured a central room that doubles as both auditorium and gymnasium flanked by classroom wings. Many auditoriums have a proscenium stage with a portion of the stage concealed behind a proscenium arch and curtain to create hidden side wings. The stage of an auditorium may also be slightly sloped toward the audience for enhanced views. Many auditoriums are highly ornamented, but these details are secondary in importance to more functional design elements, such as seating plans, lighting, and acoustics. Interior walls are often clad with acoustic tiles or fabric. Exterior details often include Art Deco, Classical Revival, Exotic Revival, or Colonial Revival elements, depending on which era of stylistic popularity the auditorium was constructed. Auditoriums built in the Colonial Revival style in Virginia feature brick quoins, decorative brick cladding, keystone arches, and dentilled cornices. Contemporary auditoriums often lack exterior ornamentation in favor of deconstructivist or post-modern architectural styles.³

Characteristics of the Auditorium type include, but are not limited to:

- Multi-story height;
- Fan-shaped fixed interior seating;
- Ornate Art Deco, Classical Revival, Exotic Revival, or Colonial Revival details;
- Sloped seating and stages;
- Individual seats fixed to the floor; and
- Proscenium arches on stage.⁴

Bungalow

The Bungalow found peak American popularity between 1890 and 1930. Derived from the Bengali word *bangala*, the Bungalow is associated with one-story houses built for the heat of India. This design typically features covered porches, or "galleries," around the exterior periphery.⁵ Due to its colonial influence, English builders adapted the Bungalow for summer homes before it was popularized in the United States. The simplistic nature of the Bungalow emphasized integration with the surrounding environment⁶.

³ National Institute of Building Sciences, *Whole Building Design Guide, Auditorium*. Electronic document, <https://www.wbdg.org/space-types/auditorium>, accessed June 27, 2018; Frazier Associates, 1992. *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*.

⁴ Frazier Associates, 1992. *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*.

⁵ John Mack Faragher, "Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California," *Western Historical Quarterly*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (2001): 149-173. Electronic document, http://www.jstor.org/stable/3650771?seq=1&cid=pdf-reference#references_tab_contents, accessed January 2018.

⁶ Clay Lancaster, "The American Bungalow," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (1958): 239-253. Electronic document, http://www.jstor.org/stable/3047780?seq=1&cid=pdf-reference#references_tab_contents, accessed January 2018.

The Bungalow was imbued with economic and social meaning.⁷ Charles Sumner Greene and Henry Mather Greene are particularly known for their Bungalow designs, and they heavily advocated for craft, disparaging the use of plan books to create cookie-cutter Bungalows.⁸ The Bungalow appeared in Virginia in the 1890s and often included Queen Anne-style details.

The early twentieth-century popularity of the Bungalow in the United States broke from its original associations with India and took on the Arts and Crafts architectural style.⁹ Due to its adaptation to a warmer climate, the Bungalow gained major American popularity in California.¹⁰ The Bungalow, often called the California Bungalow, was one of the first architectural trends in the United States to spread in popularity from the West Coast to the East Coast. This popularity caused its transition from a type considered only suitable for summer homes to that of a year-round suburban residence in the 1920s and 1930s.

Characteristics of the Bungalow include, but are not limited to:

- Relatively small footprints;
- Spacious full-width and wraparound porches;
- Low-profile construction;
- Raised foundations to allow for air circulation;
- Wide, low-pitched roofs;
- Substantial eave overhangs;
- Exposed rafters;
- Open interior plan;
- Front entrances that open directly into living rooms;
- An emphasis on the house's relation to nature; and
- Typically one to one-and-one-half stories in height.¹¹

Central Passage, Single Pile

The Central Passage type appeared in Virginia in the early eighteenth century, but did not replace the Hall and Parlor type until the mid-to-late nineteenth century. A central passage within a house served to separate public entryways from private parlors and enforced social separation from landowners and their enslaved household laborers. The passage created a public space removed from private family quarters where landowners could receive visitors, meet with overseers, and conduct business. By limiting access to private family rooms, landowners asserted their social dominance through use of the central passage. The central passage also served a practical function by allowing breezes to pass through the home for ventilation during hot summer months. The benefit of this type was recorded in Williamsburg, Virginia, by 1724. Early colonists referred to these examples as “summer halls,” emphasizing the passage’s seasonal importance. During the hottest months of the year, landowners moved their beds out of private family quarters into the central passage to take advantage of the coolest room in the house. By the early nineteenth century, landowners had incorporated the central passage as a year-round living space. Later examples of the type typically included a more ornamented central passage, as its function moved from public business to daily

⁷ Bruno Gilberti, 1991. “The Chalet as Archetype: The Bungalow, the Picturesque Tradition and Vernacular Form,” *Traditional Dwellings and Settlement Review*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (1991): 55-64. International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments. Electronic document, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/41757126>, accessed January 2018.

⁸ Faragher, “Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California.”

⁹ Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR), *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*. Electronic document, https://www.dhr.virginia.gov/pdf_files/Classic_Commonwealth_Style_Guide.pdf, accessed May 2018.

¹⁰ Faragher, “Bungalow and Ranch House: The Architectural Backwash of California.”

¹¹ Antique Home, “Bungalow Architecture of the 20th Century.” Electronic document, <http://www.antiquehome.org/Architectural-Style/bungalow.htm>, accessed January 2018; VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

private life. The central passage eventually became a showcase for a landowner's high social status with expensive furniture and design on display.

Central Passage houses are typically built with wooden framing and include an "ell" addition built perpendicular to the primary façade, creating an L-shaped or T-shaped plan. Attached kitchens were often located in the ell, and the L-shaped plan allowed landowners to watch enslaved laborers from the primary wing.¹²

Characteristics of the Central Passage type include, but are not limited to:

- Symmetrical fenestration on the primary façade;
- Side gable roofs;
- Brick chimneys constructed on exterior walls;
- Symmetrical dormers on interior roof slopes; and
- Centrally-located staircases accessing second-floor living spaces.¹³

Craftsman Bungalow

The Craftsman style, popular ca. 1900 to 1940, is typically an elaborate type of bungalow distinguished by its Arts and Crafts workmanship and detail.¹⁴ The Arts and Crafts Movement began in England in the mid-to-late eighteenth century and rejected Industrial Age machine production. Early foundational architects included Julia Morgan, Augustus Pugin, John Ruskin, and William Morris. They placed emphasis on workmanship, materiality, and the custom handmade product rather than mass-produced and applied ornamentation. They also emphasized a simplicity that went against Victorian Age ornamental excess. The Craftsman name is attributed to the designs published by Gustav Stickley between 1900 and 1916 in the magazine, aptly titled *Craftsman*. Henry Mather Green and Charles Sumner Green built Craftsman-style bungalows in California that strictly adhered to the tenets of the Arts and Crafts movement. Their contributions were also inspired by the design of traditional Japanese wooden architecture.¹⁵ Later examples of Craftsman bungalows were influenced by the work of Frank Lloyd Wright and his Prairie style.

The combination Craftsman style with Bungalow type is well suited to suburban environments and is popular throughout Virginia. Its popularity was further increased by the availability of plans and mass production. Multiple companies provided mail order plans in the Craftsman style, such as Sears, Roebuck & Company.¹⁶

Characteristics of the Craftsman style include, but are not limited to:

- One or two stories in height;
- A mix of natural building materials;
- Porches with thick square, tapered, or round columns;
- Stone porch supports;
- Low-pitched roofs with wide overhanging eaves;
- Exposed beams and elongated rafter tails;
- Multi-pane windows and doors;

¹² Virginia Savage McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses, Second Edition*. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013); Mark Wenger, "The Central Passage in Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth-Century Living Space," *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture*, Vol. 2 (1986). Electronic document, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3514325>, accessed June 2018.

¹³ Wenger, "The Central Passage in Virginia: Evolution of an Eighteenth-Century Living Space."

¹⁴ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

¹⁵ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

¹⁶ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

- Single dormers; and
- Natural paint colors.¹⁷

American Foursquare

The American Foursquare type developed in the United States as a simplified response to heavy Victorian-era ornamentation. The type blended elements of the Craftsman style with Frank Lloyd Wright's low type Prairie style. The style remained popular through the 1950s and spread quickly nationwide through its inclusion in plan books and kit house catalogs. The type was implemented for housing in both rural and suburban settings throughout the twentieth century. American foursquare homes are two-and-a-half stories high, feature hipped roofs, and are built on a square or rectangular plan. The interior plan is two rooms wide by two rooms deep. A large full-width porch is commonly attached to the house's primary façade. These houses typically have minimal or no ornamentation. Pairs or groups of windows are often symmetrically included on all of the house's façades. A large central dormer is commonly incorporated on the roof above the house's central entryway.

Characteristics of the American Foursquare type often include, but are not limited to:

- Low-pitched hipped roof;
- Hipped, gabled, or pedimented dormers;
- Deep one-story full-width, or wraparound porches;
- Centered front entrance with equal groupings of windows; and
- Simplistic ornamentation or Craftsman style elements.¹⁸

Cape Cod

The Cape Cod type originated in New England in the eighteenth century as a utilitarian colonial take on traditional English hall and parlor cottages. They remained popular throughout Virginia in both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Colonial Revival-style Cape Cod houses became very popular throughout Virginia following World War II. These houses provided affordable housing for returning soldiers and the growing American middle class. Many contemporary homes continue to feature the Cape Cod type given its simplicity and flexibility. Builders adapted the type to endure harsh New England winter weather, equipping the cottages with large brick chimneys and wood shingle siding. They also used locally available materials in construction, including cedar and pine. Houses built in this type include central porches and entry plans. The Cape Cod type is often two rooms deep and one-and-one-half stories high. Roofs feature moderately to steeply-pitched slopes and side gables, with eaves beginning just above the windows. The steep pitch of the roof prevented heavy snowfall from collecting and damaging the house. Sizable dormers often provide additional space for the upper half-story. Builders valued design symmetry with the Cape Cod type and often included central doors and symmetrical fenestration. Entryways often include a small stoop and pedimented porticos. These houses feature minimal or no ornamentation. Attached porches or rear ell additions were commonly added after construction to accommodate the residents' changing needs.¹⁹

Characteristics of the Cape Cod type often include, but are not limited to:

- Rectangular plans;
- Steeply-pitched side gable roof;

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*; Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*; McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

- Minimal or no ornamentation;
- Symmetrical fenestration and central entryways; and
- Brick, clapboard, or wood shingle cladding.²⁰

Colonial Revival Cape Cod

The Cape Cod type is associated with the Colonial Revival style popular in the early twentieth century throughout Virginia. These modest homes were inspired by cottages built throughout New England in the seventeenth century. The houses are built on a small, rectangular footprint, feature three bays on their primary façades, and are one-and-one-half stories high. The houses also typically feature steeply-pitched side gable roofs with gabled dormers and a central chimney on the roof's interior slope. Columned galleries are attached to the primary façades of more elaborately ornamented examples of the type. These houses gained increased popularity in the 1920s and 1930s as the Great Depression reduced building capital. By 1935, the Sears, Roebuck & Company catalog listed a Cape Cod-style house kit available through its Modern Home series. In the 1940s and 1950s, many families were able to build additions to their small Cape Cod homes as the economy improved. The earlier examples of this type feature a plan with a two-room width. The main entrance of the house typically opens into a living or dining room attached to a kitchen. Bedrooms are typically located on the house's upper half-story. These houses allowed the growing early-to-mid twentieth-century middle class to afford homes they could easily adapt with changing family needs. Minimal ornamentation kept construction costs relatively low, and this popular house style can be seen throughout Virginia. Later examples of the house constructed in the mid-twentieth century moved brick chimneys to the exterior walls or to each end of the roof's central ridge. These also often replaced wood shingle or clapboard siding with brick cladding.²¹

Characteristics of the Colonial Revival Cape Cod type include, but are not limited to:

- Symmetrical fenestration on the primary façade;
- Wood shingle cladding or clapboard siding on exterior walls;
- Simplistic ornamentation;
- Six-over-six or six-over-one, double-hung sash windows; and
- Gabled dormers.²²

I-House

The I-House type was common in Virginia from the eighteenth through twentieth centuries. However, it was the most popular type in Virginia in the nineteenth century. Often built with stretcher bond brick masonry construction, the I-House generally consisted of a one- or two-story high, one-room deep, two-room wide rectangular building with a central passage. The house's primary façade typically featured a three-bay fenestration. However, variations in Virginia can be found with five to seven bays. The side gable roof is often steeply pitched, and large brick chimneys can generally be found on either end of the central ridge. Builders placed an emphasis on symmetry, which is thought to be an American response to the Georgian style popular in England at the time. Early I-houses were often sparsely ornamented, with later houses including characteristics of Greek Revival, Queen Anne, or Italianate styles in their designs.²³ Rear ells were often

²⁰ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

²¹ Antique Home, "Colonial Revival: The Cape Cod." Electronic document, <http://www.antiquehome.org/Architectural-Style/cape-cod.htm>, accessed June 2018; McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*; Jennifer Hallock et al. *Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. Electronic document, <https://catalog.archives.gov/search?q=%22national%20register%20of%20historic%20places%22Southern%20Albemarle%20Rural%20Historic%20District>, accessed June 2018.

²² McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

²³ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

added after initial construction to increase the house's living space or accommodate an attached kitchen. An attached front porch was often added to the house's primary façade.

Characteristics of the I-house type include, but are not limited to:

- Three bays on the primary façade;
- Rectangular massing;
- Simplistic ornamentation; and
- Rear ell additions or attached porches added after construction to increase living space.²⁴

Dog-Trot

Examples of the Dog-trot type can be found in Virginia from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Dog-trot type consists of two separate rectangular rooms or buildings, connected by a covered breezeway, allowing a dog to “trot” between them. The breezeway serves a similar purpose to a central hall, allowing additional airflow through the center of the home. This type was particularly utilized by lower income households in southern states before air conditioning. Early examples of the type are also often visible on log cabin homes. Additionally, Dog-trot houses were often raised off the ground, which provided further airflow. Houses were easy to adapt into the style, with the addition of a pen and breezeway less intrusive or costly than traditional expansions. The Dog-trot type is not associated with any particular style and was typically unornamented.

Thomas Jefferson referenced the ubiquity of the Dog-trot type in a letter to a potential overseer for his Poplar Forest Plantation in Forest, Virginia, stating that while he would be housed in an existing one room house, he could add “[a]nother room with a passage between [that] can quickly be added of hewn logs as is usual in that country, plastered, with windows, stone chimney, etc.”²⁵

Characteristics of the Dog-trot type include, but are not limited to:

- Stone foundations;
- Low ceilings and doorways;
- Minimal window openings;
- Wood or stone exterior chimneys on each end of the house; and
- Separation of use, i.e., one side used for sleeping and the other for cooking.²⁶

Hall and Parlor

The Hall and Parlor type was common in Virginia from the early seventeenth to late nineteenth centuries. This type was adapted from traditional English/Irish construction introduced to the United States by colonists. It consisted of a one- to one-and-a-half-story high, one-room deep, two-room wide rectangular building with a side gable roof. The larger room was used to entertain guests or conduct business and was called the “hall.” This hall typically featured a brick fireplace in the gable end or centrally located between the two rooms. The smaller room was used as private living space and called the “parlor.” The house's main entrance led to the hall, and an interior door in the hall opened into the parlor. The earliest examples of Hall

²⁴ Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*; McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*; VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

²⁵ Anne Carter Lee, *Buildings of Virginia: Valley, Piedmont, Southside, and Southwest*. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2015).

²⁶ Josh McCullar, “Great Compositions: The Dogtrot House.” Electronic document, <https://www.houzz.com/ideabooks/912574/list/great-compositions-the-dogtrot-house>, accessed May 2018; Lee, *Buildings of Virginia: Valley, Piedmont, Southside, and Southwest*; Frederick and Frederick, “Dog Trot.” Electronic document, <https://www.f-architects.com/posts/dog-trot>, accessed May 2018.

and Parlor houses in Virginia are log cabin construction, while later examples were constructed with wood frames. The house's interior walls were typically whitewashed. A corner staircase allowed access to additional living space in the house's smaller attic-like half-story. By 1687, Virginia landowners of all social classes preferred this type of house.²⁷ An attached porch was often added after initial construction on the house's primary façade. These houses were replaced in popularity in the nineteenth century by I-House or Central Passage houses that afforded residents more privacy.²⁸ This type is also not associated with any particular style. They are typically unornamented and vernacular in appearance.

Characteristics of the Hall and Parlor type include, but are not limited to:

- Three symmetrical bays on the primary façade;
- Log or wood frame construction;
- Simplistic ornamentation, if any; and
- Chimneys located on gable ends heating the hall, or in the central wall heating both rooms.²⁹

BENT MOUNTAIN RURAL HISTORIC DISTRICT BUILDING STYLES

Contributing resources within the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District were identified as the following building styles:

Colonial Revival Style

The Colonial Revival style became one of the most popular architectural styles in the United States in the late nineteenth to mid-twentieth centuries. In the aftermath of the Civil War, the United States sought a unified national identity. The style references buildings with patriotic early American associations, including Independence Hall, Washington's Headquarters at Newburgh, and Mount Vernon.³⁰ The American Centennial Exposition of 1876 in Philadelphia sparked interest in the nation's colonial heritage. The 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago further promoted Classical Revival and Colonial Revival styles.³¹

The style's popularity in Virginia was heavily influenced by the social ramifications of the Civil War. The years following the Civil War created a transition in Virginia's identity. Two competing movements were born from this transition: the New South and the Lost Cause. The "New South" was a term coined in 1880 by Henry Grady, editor of the *Atlanta Constitution* and advocate of a progressive strategy for rebuilding the region's economy by embracing modern industry and commerce. He posited a separation with the area's agrarian past as the best way to overcome future hardship and poor perception. New wealth resulting from the movement was evident in the construction of luxury hotels, large banks, railroad terminals, mansions, and churches.

²⁷ Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*.

²⁸ Clifton Ellis, "Early Vernacular Plan Houses," *Tennessee Encyclopedia*. Electronic document, <https://tennesseencyclopedia.net/entries/early-vernacular-plan-houses/>, accessed June 2018; Gerald Foster, *American Houses: A Field Guide to the Architecture of the Home*. (New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 2004); Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC), Traditional House Forms. Pennsylvania Architectural Field Guide. Electronic document, <http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/types/traditional-house-forms.html>, accessed June 2018.

²⁹ Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*.

³⁰ William B. Rhoads, "The Colonial Revival and American Nationalism," *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (1976). Electronic document, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/989087>, accessed June 2018.

³¹ Lydia Mattice Brandt, "Recreating Mount Vernon. The Virginia Building at the 1893 Chicago World's Columbian Exposition," *Winterthur Portfolio*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (2009). Electronic document, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/597174>, accessed June 2018.

The “Lost Cause,” a belief popular during the 1870s and the 1920s, provided a counterpoint to the New South movement.³² Proponents of the Lost Cause idealized a fabricated and romanticized version of the South preceding the Civil War, wherein a noble and genteel civilization had flourished. The culture of the South was said to be humanitarian and influenced by Christianity. Lost Cause proponents emphasized relationships with the soil and agrarian lifestyles. For Lost Cause proponents, this was in contrast to the profit-motivated society of the North, which they believed had become overreaching and unjust. Furthermore, this movement believed that the Civil War was not about slavery, but rather states’ rights and capitalism.³³

Virginia’s identity conflict, caught between self-identity and outside perception, saw out-of-state architects designing in Virginia and others borrowing from Virginia’s colonial architecture nationwide. Mead, McKim, and White became a prominent New York-based firm, known for their Virginia-influenced Colonial Revival architecture throughout the East Coast. In the late 1880s, Cynthia Beverly Tucker and Mary Jeffery Galt formed the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), concerned with the preservation of Virginia’s Colonial “relics.”³⁴

Characteristics of the Colonial Revival style include, but are not limited to:

- Strict symmetry;
- Central entry, sometimes with a pedimented frontispiece supported by pilasters or slim columns;
- Palladian windows and/or paired double-hung sash windows; and
- Classical details.³⁵

Folk Victorian Style

Folk Victorian style houses include vernacular houses to which minimal Victorian-era ornamentation has been added. Vernacular styles represent “ordinary” buildings designed on a basis of local need, material availability, and tradition. Folk Victorian houses are often wood framed by a local builder without formal architectural training. The local environment provided more influence on the end product than that of most other styles.³⁶ Folk Victorian ornamentation can include details also seen in Gothic Revival, Italianate, and Queen Anne styles. The style’s popularity can be partially attributed to nineteenth-century railroad development that allowed for easy transportation of materials, mass-produced products, and ideas. Woodworking machines became more accessible during the period and allowed for the easier production of detailed ornamentation with lace-like or “gingerbread” qualities. Unlike examples of the high styles, Folk Victorian often limited decoration to the porch and main cornice. This style was frequently applied to the I-House, in which two rooms flank a central hall on the first and second stories. This type is the most common folk housing found nationwide in agricultural areas. By the 1910s, the popularity of the Folk Victorian style had waned in favor of styles like Neoclassical Revival and Craftsman.³⁷

Characteristics of the Folk Victorian style include, but are not limited to:

- Basic house types, often I-Houses or L-shaped plans;

³² Richard Guy Wilson, *Buildings of Virginia: Tidewater and Piedmont*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002).

³³ Ibid.

³⁴ Ibid.

³⁵ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*; VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

³⁶ Henry Glassie, “Architects, Vernacular Traditions, and Society,” *Traditional Dwellings and Settlements Review*, Volume I (1990): 9-21. Electronic document, <http://iaste.berkeley.edu/pdfs/01.2b-Spr90glassie-sml.pdf>, accessed December 2017; City of Miami, *Frame Vernacular (1840s – present)*. Electronic document, <http://www.historicpreservationmiami.com/frame.html>, accessed December 2017.

³⁷ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

- Lace-like corner brackets;
- Jigsaw-cut trim;
- Simple window surrounds;
- Single story, full width porches; and
- Detail limited to the porch or cornice.³⁸

Gothic Revival

The Gothic Revival style originated in England during the eighteenth century as a derivative of the Romantic and Picturesque Movements in architecture. England experienced its own search for a unifying national identity at this time, and its Medieval and Tudor pasts provided inspiration for nostalgia, patriotism, and religious revival. It challenged the Classical tradition, which had been dominant since the Renaissance. Architect Augustus Pugin was a major influence in the Gothic Revival movement and assisted in the design of the English Houses of Parliament between 1840 and 1876.³⁹

The Gothic Revival style arrived in the United States in the 1830s. English architect Richard Upjohn became a prominent figure in the American Gothic Revival tradition after immigrating to the United States in 1829. Upjohn completed New York City's Trinity Church in 1846. He gained commissions steadily afterward, modifying the style to meet American material availability and liturgical needs. In addition to this high-profile work, Upjohn is also known for his contribution to rural America. He transitioned to using wood in his designs for rural churches to allow local carpenters to complete construction. Upjohn took into consideration funding, local materials, local labor, and vernacular design to create the Carpenter Gothic subtype of Gothic Revival.⁴⁰ In 1852, Upjohn published *Rural Architecture*, providing 22 design plates, plans for a church, chapel, rectory, and schoolhouse, to provide basic architectural instruction to local congregations.⁴¹

Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing were also influential in popularizing the Gothic Revival style in the United States. Davis published *Rural Residences* in 1837 while Downing drew from his work in the 1842 *Country Residences* and 1850 *The Architecture of Country Houses*. All three plan books promoted the Gothic Revival style to rural areas due to its suitability to the "picturesque" surroundings.⁴² The style became extremely popular for homes in Virginia following the Civil War, although it never became as popular for churches as it did elsewhere in the United States.⁴³

Four subtypes have been identified by the Virginia DHR (2015):

- Early Gothic Revival, 1835–1865;
- Castellated Gothic, 1835–1910;
- Carpenter Gothic, 1860–1940; and
- High Victorian Gothic, 1865–1895.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ Martin Bressani et al. *Gothic Revival Worldwide*. (Leuven, Belgium: Leuven University Press, 2018).

⁴⁰ Jack C. Lane, "Florida's Carpenter Gothic Churches: Artistic Gems from a Victorian Past," *The Florida Historical Quarterly*, 91(2) (2012): 248-270. Electronic document, www.jstor.org/stable/43487497, accessed October 2017.

⁴¹ Joan R. Gunderson, "Rural Gothic: Episcopal Churches on the Minnesota Frontier," *Minnesota History*. Vol. 50, No. 7 (1987): 258-269. Electronic document, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20179050>, accessed January 2018; Lane "Florida's Carpenter Gothic Churches: Artistic Gems from a Victorian Past."

⁴² VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*; Hallock et al., *Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*.

⁴³ Wilson, *Buildings of Virginia: Tidewater and Piedmont*.

Characteristics of the Early Gothic style include, but are not limited to:

- Delicate milled tracery, moldings, and vergeboards;
- “Stone” simulated in stucco over brick cladding;
- Clustered chimneys;
- Bay windows included on first stories, and oriel windows on higher stories; and
- Diamond-paned casement windows.

Characteristics of the Castellated Gothic style include, but are not limited to:

- Battlements, i.e., crenellations;
- Turrets;
- Chimneys disguised as towers;
- Narrow, slit-like “loophole” windows;
- Stone or brick masonry construction; and
- Projecting parapets at the top of masonry walls.

Characteristics of the Carpenter Gothic style include, but are not limited to:

- Wood framed construction with Gothic elements;
- Clapboard or board and batten cladding;
- Jigsaw-cut gingerbread;
- Minimal ornamentation;
- Crafted by local carpenters without formal architectural instruction; and
- Primarily applied to churches and rural houses.

Characteristics of the High Victorian Gothic style include, but are not limited to:

- Stone masonry construction;
- Half-timbering and vergeboard in front gables;
- Gothic arched windows and doors with tracery;
- Asymmetrical massing; and
- Quatrefoil windows.⁴⁴

Italianate

The Italianate style originated in England and became popular in the United States ca. 1835 to 1905. Similar to the Gothic Revival style, the Italianate style was popularized as part of the Picturesque Movement. Architects Alexander Jackson Davis and Andrew Jackson Downing, known for their plan books, also promoted the Italianate style for both urban and rural development. Detached rural houses were based on Italian villas with asymmetrical tower placement or square cupolas on roofs. Italianate urban row houses and commercial buildings were inspired by town palaces and featured rows of uniform windows. This style was also frequently applied to Central Passage houses throughout the nineteenth century. Cast iron ornamentation became popular with the Italianate style, assisted by the invention of new cast iron and pressed metal technologies, which allowed for mass production.⁴⁵

⁴⁴ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

Characteristics of the Italianate style include, but are not limited to:

- An overhanging cornice supported by decorative brackets;
- Symmetrical massing in urban forms;
- Asymmetrical massing in suburban/rural forms;
- Round arches on windows and doors;
- Quoins;
- Verandas and loggias,
- Square-shaped cupolas;
- Arcaded porches;
- Low-pitched roofs;
- Cast iron ornaments;
- Corinthian columns; and
- Paired, round arched windows with hooded lintels.⁴⁶

Queen Anne

The Queen Anne style originated in England in the late nineteenth century and was popularized by architect Richard Norman Shaw. The style is named after Queen Anne of England, who reigned from 1702 to 1714, but borrows elements of earlier Elizabethan design popular from 1558 to 1603. The style represents the culmination of the Victorian sense of ornamental excess. The first Queen Anne style house in the United States was constructed in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1874. British architects constructed several Queen Anne style model homes for the Philadelphia Centennial of 1876. The American public quickly embraced the style for detached single-family housing in both urban and rural settings. Despite its popularity, it was not largely embraced by trained architects, but rather spread as a public trend following its inclusion in pattern books, house kit catalogs, and the architectural publication *American Architect and Building News*⁴⁷. Railroad connectivity allowed for quick transportation of building materials and pre-fabricated exterior design elements. Advances in carpentry technology, such as the jigsaw and lathe, allowed for the mass production of richly-detailed brackets, spandrels, columns, balusters, and window surrounds. Lighter balloon framing replaced heavy timber framing, allowing builders to experiment with irregular floor plans. A variety of roof types were often included on a single house, including cross gables, steeply-pitched hips, conical turrets, and decorated front gables on main façades. Queen Anne style townhouses are uncommon, but typically feature a front gable above each unit in the row. Individual Queen Anne style houses are built on irregular plans that emphasize asymmetrical massing. Suburban houses followed a three-part formula of side turret, front gable, and a wraparound porch. Façades often include a variety of projecting features, including wraparound porches, turrets, bay windows, gabled dormers, oriels, multiple chimneys, and pedimented porticos. Exterior claddings include drop, Dutch lap, beaded, or board and batten sidings. Wood shingles are commonly present in a variety of shapes—diamond, sawtooth, fishscale, staggered, or coursed—in gables or covering entire façades. Windows can be either single- or double-hung sashes. Single sashes are frequently glazed with leaded or stained glass. After 1900, Queen Anne style houses began to incorporate Neoclassical style details.⁴⁸

Four Queen Anne subtypes have been identified in US architecture:

- Spindlework, 1880s;
- Free Classic, 1890 to 1900s;
- Half-timbered, 1890s; and

⁴⁶ Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*.

⁴⁷ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*; Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*; McAlester, Virginia Savage, *A Field Guide to American Houses*.

⁴⁸ Ibid.

- Patterned Masonry, 1890s.

Characteristics of the Spindlework subtype include, but are not limited to:

- Lathe-turned porch columns and balusters;
- Knob-like beading on decorative spindles; and
- Sometimes called “Eastlake” style after English furniture maker Charles Eastlake.

Characteristics of the Free Classic subtype include, but are not limited to:

- Classical columns supporting porches rather than turned spindles;
- Paired or group columns;
- Palladian windows; and
- Neoclassical-like swags and garlands on porches.

Characteristics of the Half-timbered subtype include, but are not limited to:

- Tudor Revival-inspired half timbering in gables;
- Heavy lathe-turned columns supporting porches;
- Solid milled spandrels; and
- Three or more grouped windows.

Characteristics of the Patterned Masonry subtype include, but are not limited to:

- Brick or stone decorative masonry cladding;
- Decorative terracotta or stone details replacing traditional Queen Anne millwork;
- Gable dormers;
- Most commonly constructed in dense urban areas; and
- Constructed as attached townhouses or rowhouses.⁴⁹

Tudor Revival

The Tudor Revival style draws from traditional medieval architectural elements found in England. The style originated in England in the 1850s and remained popular in both the United States and England until the 1930s. The style was the second most popular used for twentieth-century suburban residential development in the United States after Colonial Revival. In 1880 and 1911, London publisher B. T. Batsford included the style in several plan books, continuing its popularity. Wealthier Americans often associated British styles with royalty and “upper class refinement” and sought to emulate this status with their homes. These houses featured symmetrical front gable, paired front gable, or asymmetrical offset front gable roofs with a large variety of Tudor detail. Houses built in the high style feature thatched or faux-thatched roofs and half-timbered gables with stucco infill. Fenestration on all façades includes groupings of double-hung and casement windows with diamond-shaped leaded glass. Early examples of the style are constructed with brick or stone masonry. By the 1920s, masonry was often replaced with brick veneer or faux stone stucco treatments. Large patterned brick chimneys with grouped chimney pots are typically featured prominently on the main façade. Plans can vary from both the symmetrical to the irregular.⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Ibid.

⁵⁰ Ibid.

Characteristics of the Tudor Revival style include, but are not limited to:

- Flexibility of floor plans;
- Half-timber and stucco cladding in gables;
- Brick and stone masonry;
- Diamond-shaped lights in group casement windows;
- Steeply-pitched gable roofs;
- Round, arched wooden doorway with a small inset window;
- Faux thatching; and
- Prominent decorative brick chimneys with grouped chimney pots.⁵¹

Minimal Traditional

The Minimal Traditional style grew out of a need for small, simple, economical homes in the United States in the 1930s during the Great Depression. These houses were most popular in Virginia from 1935 through the 1950s. It was a product of the 1934 National Housing Act and the establishment of the Federal Housing Administration (FHA), formed to create jobs and improve housing by stimulating the construction industry. Minimal traditional style houses were often built with the assistance of FHA-insured home loans. These houses later became a staple in housing veterans returning from World War II, due to the ease and speed of their construction. Minimal Traditional style houses were generally one-story high, took on a form based on traditional cottages and bungalows, and lacked ornamentation.⁵²

Characteristics of the Minimal Traditional style include, but are not limited to:

- One-story height;
- Square or rectangle plan;
- Small rooms centered around a focal living room;
- Low-pitched side gable or hipped roofs;
- Closed shallow eaves; and
- Simplistic details.⁵³

Ranch

The Ranch style originated as an outgrowth of Frank Lloyd Wright's Prairie style, initially popularized in Chicago in the 1900s. The style was further refined in California in the early twentieth century as rapid growth demanded new vernacular residential development. These houses drew from the traditional types and styles used for cattle ranches throughout the American Southwest. Architects Cliff May, H. Roy Kelley, and William Wurster built suburban California homes in the 1930s inspired by southwestern ranches, haciendas, and Spanish Colonial Revival styles. The initial popularity of the Ranch style can be attributed to its affordability and its references to the culture of the American West. The Ranch house's ease of construction further contributed to its popularity during the post-World War II housing boom, when large numbers of families left cities in favor of new suburban development. Most Ranch houses were constructed nationwide between 1940 and 1970. Early twentieth-century Ranch houses feature natural material exterior cladding, such as adobe, board and batten siding, and brick.⁵⁴ Mid-to-late twentieth-century Ranch houses use concrete block, vinyl and aluminum siding, stucco, or other materials.

⁵¹ Ibid.

⁵² VDHR. *New Dominion Virginia, Architectural Style Guide*. Electronic document, <http://dhr.virginia.gov/NewDominion/NewDomStylGdeApril2014Version.pdf>, accessed June 2018.

⁵³ Ibid.

⁵⁴ National Park Service. *Historic Residential Suburbs*. Electronic document, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/pdfs/suburbs.pdf>, accessed July 12, 2018.

Characteristics of the Ranch style often include, but are not limited to:

- Single story height;
- Emphasis on horizontality;
- Low-pitched roofs with deep set eaves;
- Rectangular, L- or U-shaped plans oriented parallel to the street;
- Open plans;
- Attached garages;
- Sliding glass patio doors on rear entrances;
- Minimal ornamentation; and
- Large single-pane picture windows on the primary façade.

Rustic Revival

The Rustic Revival style originated in the United States in the mid-nineteenth century and became popular between 1900 and 1940. The style was created by architect Andrew Jackson Downing to incorporate buildings into their idealized natural settings. The style was influenced by early colonial log cabins and rejected Classical Revival and Victorian ornamentation. Houses built in the Rustic Revival style were intended to draw ornamentation from the inherent qualities of the natural building materials used. “Primitive” building methods replaced Neoclassical refinement. Buildings are constructed on a rectangular plan with a low horizontal profile. Steeply pitched gabled roofs are often incorporated to shed heavy snowfalls. The style was commonly used by Works Progress Administration (WPA) builders in state parks during the Great Depression, as well as for summer camps nationwide. Rustic Revival is also called Adirondack architecture, “Parkitecture,” and WPA Rustic.⁵⁵

Characteristics of the Rustic Revival style include, but are not limited to:

- Single story height;
- Log construction;
- Rough timber or logs used for columns or decorative elements;
- Local stones used as porch supports, walls, foundations, and chimneys;
- Large attached porches, often screened for sleeping; and
- Steeply pitched gable roofs.⁵⁶

REPRESENTATIVE CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES OF PRIMARY SIGNIFICANCE

The following resources provide examples of representative building types and styles found within the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District:

Bent Mountain Elementary School (080-0322)

The Bent Mountain Elementary School (080-0322) at 10148 Tinsley Road (Route 711) is a previously recorded historic resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located west of Bent Mountain Road and north of Mill Creek on Tinsley Road (Route 711), as shown on the 1996 *Bent Mountain* US Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map. The site has been the location of two historic schools that served the children of the Bent Mountain area. The first Bent Mountain School on this site was completed in 1915 at a cost of \$40,000. This three-room structure replaced an older school

⁵⁵ McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*; VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

⁵⁶ VDHR, *Classic Commonwealth: Virginia Architecture from the Colonial Era to 1940*.

approximately one mile away near 10314 Bent Mountain Road. The 1915 school expanded in size in 1930 when a brick addition consisting of seven classrooms was completed. This much larger, one-story Colonial Revival style addition encompassed the 1915 school structure, which was later razed in 1989. The school served grades from elementary through high school. In 1956, the high school curriculum ended, and students of this age were transferred to Cave Spring High School. A shelter and two sheds were constructed on the 8-acre parcel in 1950.⁵⁷ The building's plan is segmented, with a central auditorium cross gable section flanked by two parapeted classroom wings. The building's historic main entrance is located on its south-facing façade within a keystone-style archway. Grouped wood double hung, six-over-six windows flank the historic main entrance and appear throughout the building. The roof is clad with standing seam metal sheeting. Decorative masonry patterns are located on the building's south façade. An auditorium is located within the school building. The building is constructed on a continuous poured concrete slab foundation. The building underwent major renovations in the 1990s and has a large non-historic addition to its northwest façade. The school was constructed to educate children living in the rural school district, as well as to serve as a meeting place for Bent Mountain area residents. The school closed in 2010 due to reduced enrollment and increasingly limited school district resources. The nonprofit Bent Mountain Community Center and a branch of the Roanoke County Public Library began operation in the building in 2010.⁵⁸

The building's 1930 façade appears minimally altered and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Rural schools provided a central locus for sparsely populated mountain communities. The Bent Mountain Elementary School served the community in this capacity for nearly a century and continues to provide a community space through the Bent Mountain Community Center. The building is also an example of the Colonial Revival style popular throughout Virginia in the twentieth century. In the early twentieth century, schoolhouses were typically smaller in size and consisted of a single classroom. In the 1920s, the floorplan, consisting of a central multi-purpose auditorium flanked by classroom wings, gained popularity. Roanoke County constructed larger consolidated schools in the Colonial Style between 1920 and 1940.⁵⁹ The construction of the Bent Mountain Elementary School in 1917 pre-dates these trends and provides an early example of this building type. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-0322 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (Figure 4).



Figure 4. Bent Mountain Elementary School (080-0322). View of façade, facing east, July 2018.

⁵⁷ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance Architectural Survey for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, Roanoke County, Virginia (VDHR File #2014 1194)" (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2016).

⁵⁸ Roanoke Star, 2010. "Bent Mountain Elementary Rings Final Bell." Electronic document, <http://theroanokestar.com/2010/06/17/bent-mt-elementary-rings-final-bell/>, accessed July 2, 2018.

⁵⁹ Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*.

Thompson Grove Primitive Baptist Church (080-0326)

The Thompson Grove Primitive Baptist Church (080-0326) at 10210 Bent Mountain Road (Route 221) is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located south of the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Ivy Ridge Road, as shown on the 1996 *Bent Mountain* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a rectangular, one-story Vernacular wood frame church built ca. 1890 on a continuous stone foundation. Two privies were constructed on the 1.2-acre parcel ca. 1950. The primary entrance is located at the center of the building's southwest-facing façade. The front gable roof is clad with sheet metal. Wood double hung, two-over-two windows are located on the building's northwest and southeast façades. The building's façade is unornamented and has been clad with non-historic vinyl siding.

The building's façade is minimally altered, but the application of vinyl siding has diminished its design, workmanship, and materials integrity. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-0326 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (Figure 5).⁶⁰



Figure 5. Thompson Grove Primitive Baptist Church (080-0326). View of façade, facing northeast, July 2018.

⁶⁰ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance."

Les Landes House (Tazewell Price House) (080-0487)

The Les Landes House (080-0487) at 10721 Bent Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located south of the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Green Hollow Drive, as shown on the 1996 *Bent Mountain* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of an L-shaped, two-story Italianate Central Passage house on a 10.5-acre parcel. The parcel also contains an associated garage, large barn, cemetery, and agricultural field south of the house. The building was constructed ca. 1860 by enslaved laborers.⁶¹ The exterior is clad in Flemish and American bond brick masonry, and the side gable roof is clad with metal. Few examples of antebellum masonry houses remain in Roanoke County. Brick chimneys are located on the interior ends of the side gable roof. Wood double hung six-over-six windows are include on the building's east and west façades. A two-story, non-historic addition has been added to the building's rear west façade, creating the modern L-shaped plan. The attached porch features Italianate columns, and its spandrels have been removed since it was last surveyed in 1991. The associated barn was constructed ca. 1900 with a gambrel roof and shed additions to the north and south façades (**Figure 6**).



Figure 6. Les Landes House (080-0487). View of façade, facing southwest, July 2018.

⁶¹ Ernest H. Weaver, "Tazewell Price House" *Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory* (1936).

The house was constructed for Tazewell Price ca. 1860 by enslaved laborers. Tazewell Price operated the local Bent Mountain post office from the house and taught at a nearby school. The school was alternately known as School No. 7, School No. 8, and Price School. Price lived there with his wife, Elizabeth Ann Hancock Price, until 1896 when they sold the property to Cammie T. West. After their deaths in 1879, Tazewell and Elizabeth Ann Hancock Price were buried on the hill south of the house. Enslaved persons in the household were also buried on the hill at unknown dates. In 1909, West sold the property to J. L. Purdue, who owned it at the time of WPA survey in 1936.⁶² By 1951, the Zirkle family owned the property.

The building's façade appears minimally altered and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The building was constructed by enslaved labor, served as one of the first post offices in Bent Mountain, and fulfilled an agricultural purpose. The house was constructed for and inhabited by Tazewell Price, a major plantation owner in the region. Price was born in Roanoke County in 1819, married Elizabeth Ann Hancock Price in 1847, and died in Bent Mountain in 1897. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-0487 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District.⁶³

Janet Wynot House/Terry Place/Terry-Coles Cemetery (080-0490)

The Janet Wynot House (080-0490) at 8701 Poor Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the Coles-Terry Rural Historic District and the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The 111-acre property is located north of Poor Mountain Road, as shown on the 1982 *Radford* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of Terry Place, a farmstead adjacent to Bottom Creek near the Roanoke County-Montgomery County boundary. The primary resource is a ca. 1820 house, with secondary resources including a ca. 1877 cemetery with 15 graves, a ca. 1930 kennel, machine shed, stable, and shed. A ca. 1990 garage is also present on the property.

The farmhouse, currently owned by Janet E. Wynot, is a two-story, Vernacular style Central Passage house with an asphalt-clad gable roof. Two brick chimneys are located along the interior ridge. The building's primary vinyl-clad façade features an attached full-width porch. The house was built with log construction, and the rear two-story addition and four sheds were built using light timber framing. The building's foundation is continuous masonry. Fenestration includes both wood and metal frame replacement windows. The Terry-Coles Cemetery dates to the nineteenth century and is located along Poor Mountain Road in Roanoke County. The cemetery is named for the Terry and Coles families, and is alternately written Coles-Terry. In total, 11 marked burials are located within this cemetery. The oldest burial is for Catherine Coles, who lived from April 16, 1877, to August 12, 1877. Three other nineteenth-century graves—Martha Wilkinson (1879, birth unknown), farmer Joseph Motely Terry (1888, born in Pittsylvania, Virginia, in 1806), and Joseph Dandridge Terry (1897, born 1874)—are also located within this property. Twentieth-century graves include Elizabeth Beverly Terry (1911, born 1875) and Elizabeth Beverly Whittle Terry (1911, born 1848). The most recent burial is for Grace Fortescue Terry Moncure (1977, born in Bent Mountain in 1882).⁶⁴

Between 1770 and 1780, George Washington granted the territory that later included Terry Place to General Andrew Lewis. Following his death in 1781, the Lewis heirs subdivided and sold the territory. John Dabney Coles purchased 15,000 acres in 1835, and Captain Joseph Motley Terry purchased 2,000 acres in 1850. The Coles-Terry family began farming tobacco on the acreage prior to the Civil War, utilizing both sharecropping and enslaved labor. Catherine Coles, daughter of John Dabney Coles, married Captain Terry in 1845. Their

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance."

⁶⁴ Ibid.

son, John Coles Terry, inherited his parents' land tracts in the mid-nineteenth century. John Coles Terry served in the Civil War and kept the land tract undivided until the early twentieth century. From 1864 to 1879, Terry operated Terry's Sawmill nearby. In 1884, John Coles Terry and John Coles Jr. were considered the principal farmers in the Bent Mountain community. By 1897, the tract was the center of the Bent Mountain apple orchard industry. This industry dominated the region into the late twentieth century.⁶⁵

The property retains integrity of location, design, setting, workmanship, feeling, and association. The farmhouse no longer retains materials integrity due to the addition of vinyl siding to its façade. The farmstead was established on a tract of a Washington land grant, was retained by the Coles-Terry family throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and became a center of apple farming in Bent Mountain. A ca. 1820 farmhouse and its ca. 1930 associated outbuildings remain on the 111-acre agricultural parcel. John Coles Terry inherited the property from his parents, Captain Joseph Motley Terry and Elizabeth Coles Terry, and operated an apple orchard that was foundational in the area's apple farming industry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He also operated Terry's Sawmill on the property. VDHR determined this resource was potentially eligible for individual listing in the NRHP in 2008 under Criterion A for its association with local agriculture.⁶⁶ Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-0490 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (**Figure 7**).⁶⁷



Figure 7. Janet Wynot House (080-0490). View of façade and garage, facing southwest, July 2018.

⁶⁵ Ibid.

⁶⁶ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance.", Page 49.

⁶⁷ Ibid.

Service Station, 11018 Bent Mountain Road (080-0496)

The service station (080-0496) at 11018 Bent Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located south of the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Clover Hill Road, as shown on the 1982 *Check* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a ca. 1920 one-story, Vernacular commercial building. The building was formerly a gas station and roadside general store, but was vacant by 2015. The building's main west-facing façade features three bays, square wooden posts, and a front gable porte cochere to accommodate vehicular business. A shed-like addition on the building's north façade features two garage door bays. The building's unornamented façade is clad with wood shingles, and its front gable roof is clad in V-crimp metal sheeting. The foundation is constructed of continuous concrete. An associated house at 11280 Bent Mountain Road (080-5661) is located south of the service station.⁶⁸ The building appears minimally altered and retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, and feeling. The building remains vacant and no longer possesses integrity of association. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-0496 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (**Figure 8**).⁶⁹



Figure 8. Service station (080-0496). View of façade, facing northeast, July 2018.

⁶⁸ Ibid.

⁶⁹ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance."

11010 Bent Mountain Road (080-0497)

The house (080-0497) at 11010 Bent Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located south of the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Clover Hill Road, as shown on the 1982 *Check* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a ca. 1895 two-story, Vernacular style hall and parlor house. A previously recorded ca. 1950 garage has collapsed on the parcel. The building's main north-facing façade features a two-bay width and attached full-width porch. The building's west façade includes a one-story side ell addition, and the rear south-facing façade includes a two-story rear ell addition. The building's exterior is clad in clapboard siding, and its cross gable roof is clad with V-crimp metal sheeting.

The building has been altered through the addition of rear and side ells. The building's exterior cladding appears to be in poor condition. It retains integrity of location, design, setting, feeling, and association. Its integrity of materials and workmanship have been diminished. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-0497 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (**Figure 9**).⁷⁰



Figure 9. 11010 Bent Mountain Road (080-0497). View of left oblique, facing southwest, July 2018.

⁷⁰ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance."

The Pines Cemetery (080-5156)

The Pines Cemetery (080-5156) is located on Tinsley Lane in Bent Mountain on a prominent knoll (**Figure 10**). The estimated number of burials ranges from 93 to 150. The majority of these grave markers do not provide information about the deceased. Ten burials dating to the twentieth century include modern headstones. However, most graves are either marked with non-descript stones or are unmarked entirely. The cemetery is named for the trees surrounding the site. Local oral history sources mention enslaved people were interred in the cemetery in the nineteenth century, which aligns with the marginal location and lack of information associated with the individual graves.⁷¹

Modern African-American graves in the cemetery suggest the Pine Cemetery may have also historically served as a cemetery for enslaved persons. Of the modern burials listed on Find A Grave, the oldest belongs to Roy Irvin Paige (1949, born 1946), who died before his third birthday. Seven of the 10 modern burials belong to members of the Paige family (though one is spelled “Page”). Two Whorley family burials are present, and the most recent burial is Cleo Vanness Lee (1995, born 1969).⁷²



Figure 10. The Pines Cemetery (080-5156). View from right-of-way, facing southwest, July 2018.

⁷¹ Tom Klatka, “The Pines Cemetery,” Architectural Survey Form (Virginia Department of Historical Resources, submitted September 1, 1998).

⁷² “Pines Cemetery,” Find A Grave, last modified March 28, 2016, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/2517668/pines-cemetery>.

The Pines Cemetery represents a community cemetery, a type that dates to early European-American migration to the area. The establishment of a local cemetery was among the first steps in creating local community identity. Cemeteries are typically considered individually ineligible for listing in the NRHP unless they meet additional criteria considerations. The Pines Cemetery appears to be a **contributing resource** to the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The cemetery has an oral tradition of being a burial place for enslaved people in the nineteenth century. NPS Bulletin 41 explains:

West Africans carried in the slave trade to the east coast of America and their descendants adapted traditional burial rites to plantation and community life ... Cemeteries having the potential to illustrate the practice of such beliefs may be eligible under Criterion D. In cases where written documentation is not available, studies of a cemetery may reveal important information about an area.⁷³

Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-5156 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District.

Lawrence Cemetery (080-5326)

Lawrence Cemetery (080-5326) is located on the south side of Cobble Trail in Bent Mountain, Roanoke County, and dates to the late nineteenth century. As is common with many nineteenth-century cemeteries, the oldest burial present belongs to an infant, nine-month-old Elmer Coles Woods (1891, born 1890). Though the cemetery is said to be named for the Lawrence family, it contains only two marked graves belonging to Lawrences—Elnor C. Lawrence (1911, born 1838) and James H. Lawrence (1917, born 1835). The cemetery contains 28 burials that are marked with identifying information. An additional 89 graves include other markers without information. Graves marked with fieldstones may indicate its burials pre-date the late nineteenth century. Gravesites for members of the Altis family (eight burials) and Woods family (five burials) make up the largest number of marked graves from single families. The most recent burial is for Charles E. Hale (1995, born 1914).⁷⁴ Survey access restrictions prevented SEARCH from taking a photograph of the resource.

Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-5326 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District.

Service Station, 10661 Bent Mountain Road (080-5654)

The service station (080-5654) at 10661 Bent Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located north of the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Green Hollow Road, as shown on the 1982 *Radford* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a ca. 1940 rectangular service station and small detached market building. The one-story, Vernacular service station has a flat roof, stucco-clad exterior, and concrete slab foundation. Its primary east-facing façade includes two entrances and two boarded window bays. A plywood side addition has been added to its south-facing façade. Gas pumps likely present during its use as a service station have been removed. A former garage bay has been enclosed and clad with stucco. The one-story Vernacular market building has a side gable roof, stone veneer exterior cladding, and a concrete slab foundation. Its primary east-facing façade

⁷³ National Park Service, "National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places." Electronic document, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb41/>, accessed July 4, 2018.

⁷⁴ "Lawrence Cemetery," Find A Grave, last modified October 10, 2017, <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/50946/lawrence-cemetery>; Tom Klatka, "Lawrence Family Cemetery," Architectural Survey Form (Virginia Department of Historical Resources, submitted September 1, 1998).

includes a central wood panel, screen door, and two boarded storefront windows. The entrance is covered by a wide eave overhang. Both buildings appear vacant and in a state of deterioration. Accessor's records indicate Martin and Betty Levine of Roanoke, Virginia, owned the property by 1999.⁷⁵

The property has undergone alterations. The effects of these alterations have diminished its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-5654 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (Figure 11).⁷⁶



Figure 11. Service station (080-5654). View of façades, facing southwest, July 2018.

Lawrence Memorial United Methodist Church, 9370 Tinsley Lane (080-5666)

The Lawrence Memorial United Methodist Church (080-5666) at 9370 Tinsley Lane is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The building is located north of the intersection of Tinsley Road and Mill Creek Road, as shown on the 1996 *Bent Mountain* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a one-story church building with Colonial Revival and Gothic Revival style elements.

⁷⁵ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance."

⁷⁶ Ibid.

The building's front gable roof is topped with a Colonial Revival style parapet and clad with asphalt shingles. The building's exterior is clad with brick masonry and includes a central arched entryway on its primary west-facing façade. A stained glass fan light is located above the entrance, and a stained glass rose window is included near the parapet. The building's north- and south-facing façades feature stained glass lights with Colonial Revival-style arched keystone lintels. A non-historic parish hall addition was constructed on the building's east-facing façade. Brick masonry buttresses divide the building's north- and south-facing façades.

The building retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feelings, and association. The building demonstrates a mid-century interpretation of historic styles popular throughout Bent Mountain and Virginia in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-5666 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (Figure 12).⁷⁷



Figure 12. Lawrence Memorial United Methodist Church (080-5666). Oblique view, facing southeast, July 2018.

Grace Terry Moncure Farm, 8701 Poor Mountain Road (080-5679)

The Grace Terry Moncure Farm (080-5679) at 8701 Poor Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The farm is located east of Bottom Creek and comprises of a ca. 1890 farmhouse, 1890 barn, a ca. 1930 garage, a ca. 1890 main dwelling, and a ca. 1930 secondary dwelling. The ca. 1890 farmhouse began as a one-story cross gable building clad with board and batten. A porch on the east-facing façade was subsequently enclosed, and a one-story log addition was constructed on the south-facing façade. Grace Terry Moncure built a two-story addition on the north-facing façade ca. 1920, a ca. 1920 secondary Vernacular style dwelling, and a ca. 1930 secondary Craftsman style dwelling. The one-and-a-half-story ca. 1920 secondary dwelling is located south of the main farmhouse. The dwelling includes wood frame construction, non-historic vinyl cladding and a side gable metal-clad roof. The

⁷⁷ "National Register Bulletin 41: Guidelines for Evaluating and Registering Cemeteries and Burial Places." Electronic document, <https://www.nps.gov/nr/publications/bulletins/nrb41/>, accessed July 4, 2018.

one-story ca. 1930 Craftsman style secondary dwelling is located northwest of the main farmhouse. The dwelling includes wood frame construction, board and batten exterior cladding, and an asphalt shingle-clad side gable roof. Survey access restrictions prevented SEARCH from taking a photograph of the resource.

The farmstead retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that 080-5679 is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District.⁷⁸

US Highway 221/State Route 205/Bent Mountain Road

Modern US Highway 221 (US 221) has been known by several names throughout the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District period of significance, including State Route (SR) 205, the Bent Mountain Turnpike, and the Roanoke Floyd Highway. SR 205/Bent Mountain Turnpike provided the residents of Bent Mountain access to surrounding communities and neighboring agricultural markets. The road remained unpaved throughout the 1960s, and historic portions remain within the proposed district. A historic unpaved segment can be found north of the intersection of Green Hollow Drive and modern US 221. Based on the historic context and 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes that SR 205/Bent Mountain Road is a **contributing resource** to the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (**Figure 13**).



Figure 13. US Highway 221/SR 205/Bent Mountain Road view of Bent Mountain. Road segment, facing north, July 2018.

⁷⁸ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance."

Previously-Identified Non-Contributing Resources

SEARCH field survey included several resources determined to be non-contributing to the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. Conditions that would prevent a resource from qualifying as a contributor to the district include demolition, material degradation, or a construction date outside the period of significance. Based on the 2018 field survey, SEARCH concludes the following previously-identified resources are not contributors to the proposed Bent Mountain Rural Historic District:

- 080-0324 (Sunnyside, 9809 Tinsley Lane), demolished circa 2017;
- 080-0527 (10396 Bent Mountain Road), demolished circa 2017;
- 080-0528 (10402 Bent Mountain), demolished circa 2017;
- 080-5630 (11210 Bottom Creek Road), ruin recommended non-contributing by New South Associates;⁷⁹
- 080-5663 (11135 Rocky Road), recommended non-contributing by SEARCH due to significant material alteration;
- 080-5664 (10222 Bottom Creek Road), demolished circa 2017;
- 080-5677-0004 (10932 Bent Mountain Road), ruin recommended non-contributing by New South Associates;⁸⁰
- 080-5677-0005 (10383 Russwood Road), ruin recommended non-contributing by New South Associates;⁸¹
- 080-5677-0009 (Bottom Creek Road), ruin determined non-contributing by VDHR;⁸²
- 080-5695 (10303 Russwood Road), ruin recommended non-contributing by New South Associates;⁸³
- 080-5696 (Green Hollow Drive), recommended non-contributing by New South Associates;⁸⁴
- 080-5735 (8837 Poor Mountain Road), ruin determined non-contributing by VDHR;⁸⁵ and
- Edith and Bill Hale House (No number, Green Hollow Drive), ruin surveyed by SEARCH.

4. District's History and Significance

INTRODUCTION

The Bent Mountain Rural Historic District (080-5677) is eligible for listing in the NRHP at the local level of significance under Criterion A for agriculture. The following historic context outlines the development history, persons significant to local history, and selected representative resource descriptions of the district, a broad geographical area that generally consists of the high plateau bounded by Bent Mountain, Poor Mountain, and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Bent Mountain, as much of the district was known historically, is a rural, early nineteenth-century agricultural community in Roanoke County created after the initial settlement of southwestern Virginia had begun. Throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the district's landscape remained rural and agricultural, although numerous historical trends shaped the landscape. In this timeframe, one of the area's most prominent agricultural products was apples; however, numerous other agricultural pursuits, such as tobacco farming and livestock raising, have taken place. Both enslaved and free people have contributed to the history of the area. Small farms, large plantations, and apple orchards existed

⁷⁹ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance." Page 61.

⁸⁰ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance." Page 21.

⁸¹ Ibid.

⁸² Virginia Department of Historic Resources. *Architectural Survey Form, 080-5677-0009*. Accessed July 30, 2018.

⁸³ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance." Page 24.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Virginia Department of Historic Resources. *Architectural Survey Form, 080-5735*. Accessed July 30, 2018.

at various times. The rough, pioneer roads that led Euro-American settlers into the area in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries evolved into modern highways in the twentieth century. Dwellings, barns, general stores, and other structures, as well as historic churches, cemeteries, and agricultural settings are visible reminders of the past.

This historic context relies upon a variety of sources, including historic newspapers, maps, post office records, census records, historical texts, and recently published works, in addition to previous cultural resource studies. These sources have been synthesized into a chronological narrative that begins with the period of initial exploration in the seventeenth century and ends with events of the recent past. The historic maps and aerial photographs presented in this historic context have been geo-referenced in order to illustrate the district as defined in this study. It should be noted that the boundary of this district was drawn using modern-day cartography; therefore, when this boundary is overlaid on cartographically-limited historic maps, the resulting figure may be slightly inaccurate.

EARLY EURO-AMERICAN SETTLEMENT TO EARLY NATIONAL PERIOD, 1607-1789

Native Americans lived in southwestern Virginia for at least 12,000 years before Europeans arrived. Euro-Americans had sporadic contact with the Tutelo and Saponi tribes who inhabited villages in the region.⁸⁶ A network of trails connected the tribes of southwestern Virginia to the Great Lakes, Gulf coast, and Atlantic coastal regions, and Euro-Americans would later use these same trails to expand their presence into Virginia.⁸⁷ The first Euro-Americans trekked into the area in the mid-seventeenth century. The expedition of Abraham Wood explored western Virginia in 1654. John Lederer followed his lead in 1669. These men may have been the first colonists to view the Bent Mountain area. Several years after Lederer, the Batte and Hallom Expedition of 1671 crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains and passed south of present-day Roanoke City, following Native American trails with their Saponi guides. From here, they continued into West Virginia before returning to eastern Virginia.⁸⁸ In the early eighteenth century, Thomas Marlin and John Salling explored the Roanoke Valley as far south as the present-day Salem area. These early explorers were interested in developing the fur trade and determining the geography and landscape of the region. Their knowledge of the extent of this wilderness inspired future settlements.⁸⁹

As warfare, disease, and the expansion of settlement forced native groups from the region by the early eighteenth century, the colonial government of Virginia offered large land grants to prominent colonial families. As title was contingent upon establishing a permanent settlement, these land grants represent the earliest documented settlements in the region. Many of the new arrivals were of Scots-Irish origin and had journeyed to the area over an original Native American passageway out of Pennsylvania that European-American settlers called the Great Wagon Road or the Great Valley Road. While this road did not pass through the district, it was a primary route for settlers into the general area of the mountain. Virginia's toleration of Protestant Christian religions encouraged Quaker, German Baptist, and Presbyterian families to settle in western Virginia.⁹⁰

The other primary route into Roanoke County in the colonial period was known as Traders Path, a roadway that reached Bent Mountain.⁹¹ The new settlers sometimes came alone, such as Robert Poage II, who settled in 1747 in what later became Poage's Mill, a community east of the district. Newcomers also arrived in large

⁸⁶ Ralph Brown, "A Sketch of the Early History of South-Western Virginia." *The William and Mary Quarterly*, 17.4 (1937):501-513.

⁸⁷ Susan Yarnell, "The Southern Appalachians: A History of the Landscape." US Forest Service General Technical Report SRS-18 (Asheville, NC: Southern Research Station, 1998), 6.

⁸⁸ Alice Vance Briceland, "Thomas Batte," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, 2013, https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Batte_Thomas_fl_1630s-1690s#start_entry.

⁸⁹ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance Architectural Survey for the Mountain Valley Pipeline, Roanoke County, Virginia (VDHR File #2014 1194)" (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2016), 13.

⁹⁰ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance," 13-15.

⁹¹ Nelson Harris, *A History of Back Creek* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2018), 13.

companies. In the mid-eighteenth century, a company of more than 30 men, who likely had their families in tow, settled the Bent Mountain area. Some of them brought slaves as well. Many of these families remained in the area for generations to come.⁹²

The district's physical landscape in this period is not well understood. Pioneer families had reached the vicinity of the district, although the precise location of their settlements cannot be determined from available literature and maps. Local history in general seems to indicate that settlers in this period preferred, or at least had the greatest access to, the area east of Bent Mountain. A map produced in 1751 by Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, titled *A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia Containing the Province of Maryland with Part of Pensilvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina*, provides only a rudimentary understanding of the frontier where the district was located. The map is of such a large scale and indicates such geographical ignorance that few conclusions can be made from the map.⁹³

In this period, Bent Mountain lay within an expansive county called Augusta.⁹⁴ The region remained a frontier through the late eighteenth century. One of the earliest documented settlers in the Bent Mountain area was John Mills, who acquired 380 acres on Bent Mountain in the early 1750s. Another settler in the period was Alexander Ingraham, who acquired a tract of land in 1753.⁹⁵ The dangers of the frontier restricted further settlement, particularly during the French and Indian War (1754–1763) when France, with its Native American allies, contested Great Britain's claim to southwestern Virginia. The war unleashed numerous attacks on the frontier settlements of southwestern Virginia. Some settlers stood their ground, while others retreated eastward to safety. The Roanoke Valley was defended with blockhouses and forts. Fort Lewis and Fort Vause defended the present-day Salem area.⁹⁶

Following the French and Indian War in 1763, settlers returned to the frontier and new pioneers settled along the waterways of Augusta County. Some of the new settlers in the ensuing decade were the William Carvin and John Mills Jr. families.⁹⁷ The Traders Path likely continued to bring families into the Bent Mountain area; however, new local roads became necessary in this period. The consolidation of local interests in southern Augusta County, fueled in part by the need for local roadways, influenced the creation in 1770 of a new county called Botetourt. One of the early efforts of the new county government was to complete surveys for roads. One of the roads led to the Back Creek settlement area (east of Bent Mountain) through a gap in the mountain. From this gap, the road continued westward to the Little River in present-day Montgomery County. The road was completed in 1773 and likely passed through the district.⁹⁸

Roadway completion facilitated new settlements while also giving rise to commercial establishments. Ordinaries, or taverns, were the first commercial establishments in the Bent Mountain area. Two early operators were Lewis Harvey and David Willet, who were from the Back Creek area. These ordinaries are thought to have been located east of Bent Mountain; however, in later years, commercial establishments along the same lines would open in the district.⁹⁹

The new settlers left a mark on the land by tilling the soil, felling trees, and building dwellings. They also gave names to landscape features, from peaks like Twelve O'Clock Knob to waterways like Mill Creek and Bottom Creek, both of which flow through the district. The derivation of the name Bent Mountain is uncertain. In

⁹² Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 14.

⁹³ Joshua Fry and Peter Jefferson, *A Map of the Most Inhabited Part of Virginia Containing the Province of Maryland with Part of Pensilvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina* (London: Thomas Jeffrys, 1751), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3883r.cwh00056/>.

⁹⁴ Deedie Dent Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Roanoke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1988), 36.

⁹⁵ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 50.

⁹⁶ New South Associates, "Phase I Reconnaissance," 14–15.

⁹⁷ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 44–50.

⁹⁸ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 18–19.

⁹⁹ *Ibid.*, 19.

the early colonial days, surveyors from Pennsylvania named James and William Bent reportedly conducted a survey of land in the vicinity of the mountain. The name of the mountain, the first theory states, is derived from these brothers. The second theory states that the name is derived from the mountain's shape, which is naturally bent in a "U"-shaped form.¹⁰⁰ Recent history has assumed the latter explanation to be factual.¹⁰¹ Regardless of its precise derivation, the name Bent Mountain was established by the early nineteenth century.

In the late colonial period, wars continued to shape the Bent Mountain area and southwestern Virginia. Lord Dunmore's War (1774) pitted settlers against the Shawnee and affiliated Native American groups of the Ohio River Valley. John Murray, Earl of Dunmore, was the Royal Governor of Virginia from 1771–1775. As white settlers increasingly encroached on Shawnee territory in the Ohio River Valley, raids and violence escalated and spilled over into settlements in southwestern Virginia.¹⁰² In order to establish Virginia's claim to territory in the Ohio River Valley, Dunmore personally led troops from eastern Virginia against the Shawnee.¹⁰³ A militia consisting largely of colonists from southwestern Virginia, especially Botetourt County and the surrounding area, was raised by Colonel Andrew Lewis.¹⁰⁴ The Battle of Point Pleasant took place on October 10, 1774, where the Ohio and Kanawha Rivers meet in present-day Mason County, West Virginia. After the battle, the Shawnee and Dunmore signed a treaty at Camp Charlotte, which placed the boundary of white settlement at the Ohio River.¹⁰⁵

Between the time of Lord Dunmore's War and the American Revolutionary War (1775–1783), support for the British colonial government had significantly waned in southwestern Virginia. The Revolutionary War certainly stirred passions among the inhabitants of Botetourt County. The county contributed approximately 600 men to serve the cause of the Revolutionary War. Among them was General Andrew Lewis, the hero of the Battle of Point Pleasant several years earlier, who recently had been promoted to Brigadier General.¹⁰⁶

The landscape of the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District in this period apparently had not substantially changed since the earlier colonial period. While exact population figures are not available, the population had likely grown. A new road connecting the Back Creek area with the Little River (via Bent Mountain) provided a new transportation route in addition to the earlier pioneer roads. If later descriptions of the Bent Mountain area provide any context, the district in this period remained a frontier with sparse habitation.

EARLY NATIONAL TO ANTEBELLUM PERIOD, 1789–1860

This period was one of increasing settlement and agricultural and economic development. Much of the district originally fell within an extensive tract of land known as the Lewis Tract. This 20,000-acre tract belonged to the hero of Lord Dunmore's War (1774) and well-known veteran of the Revolutionary War, General Andrew Lewis. The tract reportedly included all of Bent Mountain and large sections of Roanoke and Floyd Counties. Lewis, reportedly, had received the tract for his military service. Lewis resided on a plantation called Richfield, located near the town of Salem. When Lewis died in 1781, the Lewis Tract became the property of his heirs, including his son, Andrew Lewis, Jr. (1758–1844).¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁰ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 96.

¹⁰¹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 18.

¹⁰² David E. Johnston, *A History of Middle New River Settlements and Contiguous Territory* (Huntington, West Virginia: Standard Printing & Publishing, 1906), 42.

¹⁰³ Reuben Gold Thwaites and Louise Phelps Kellogg, eds., *Documentary History of Dunmore's War, 1774* (Madison, Wisconsin: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1905), 390.

¹⁰⁴ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 59–62.

¹⁰⁵ Virgil Lewis, *History of the Battle of Point Pleasant* (Charleston, West Virginia: The Tribune Printing Company, 1908), 56.

¹⁰⁶ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 91–93.

¹⁰⁷ George S. Jack and E.B. Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone, 1912), 76.

Lewis Family

Andrew Lewis, Jr. appears to have been more closely associated with Bent Mountain than his father. Described by a contemporary as “a valiant Indian fighter” and “a man of commanding figure and appearance,” Lewis established a home atop Bent Mountain called Longwood. The date he established the home is unclear; however, his death in 1844 suggests settlement occurred in the early decades of the nineteenth century. As Lewis and his wife, Agatha Madison Lewis, had children, they built a new home called Bent House, but its loss in a fire influenced their return to Longwood.¹⁰⁸

The presence of the Lewis family on Bent Mountain likely brought wider attention to the area. The Lewises were well connected in the Virginia aristocracy. Agatha Lewis, for example, was the cousin of former President James Madison. The Lewises reportedly corresponded with such esteemed Virginians as Thomas Jefferson. Lighthorse Harry Lee and John Randolph are said to have paid visits to the Lewis family on Bent Mountain. In another long-remembered event, Andrew Lewis Jr.’s brother, Thomas, and a Mr. McHenry killed themselves in a duel on Bent Mountain. The subject of the duel was a disagreement over an election. The Lewis family had numerous descendants who remained in the Bent Mountain area and the region, including Andrew Lewis Jr.’s daughter, Catherine Lewis King, and her husband, Joseph, who inhabited Longwood into the late nineteenth century. The greater Lewis Tract became smaller as the antebellum period progressed and new settlers acquired swaths of the extensive acreage. New settlers also influenced the formation of Roanoke County in 1838. The district lay within the southwestern portion of the new county.¹⁰⁹

Coles-Terry Family

Two prominent families—the Coles and the Terrys—laid roots in the Bent Mountain area in the antebellum period and strengthened the area’s association with agriculture. John Dabney Coles (1799–1847) acquired 15,000 acres of the former Lewis Tract. The date of acquisition reportedly was 1835. Coles, whose family had been in Virginia for generations, was a member of the planter aristocracy of Pittsylvania County. Joseph Motley Terry (1810–1888), Coles’ son-in-law and an up-and-coming lawyer, also bought some of the former Lewis Tract. He acquired the approximately 5,000-acre parcel at an undetermined date in the antebellum period. Both Coles and Terry are said to have established tobacco plantations within their Bent Mountain tracts while still residents of Pittsylvania County. They sent white indentured servants and slaves to perform the manual labor of developing and maintaining the plantations while an overseer managed the operations. A descendant of Joseph Motley Terry recalled that more than 30 tobacco barns associated with the plantations remained standing in the late nineteenth century, although, by this period, little if any tobacco was grown on their land, as will be discussed later.¹¹⁰

In addition to the Coles and Terry plantations, the Bent Mountain area was the location of several other plantations in the antebellum period. One belonged to John Dabney, whose family had settled the area in the early nineteenth century.¹¹¹ In 1856, Dabney listed his 500-acre plantation for sale in the *Richmond Whig* newspaper. The advertisement provides clues as to the crops grown on his plantation, the structures upon the land, and what Dabney viewed as the assets of the location. Dabney, who called the property a “farm,” described the soil as “rich and exceedingly well adapted to the growth of Tobacco, Rye, Clover, Oats, and all kinds of grasses.” In addition to these crops, Dabney had cultivated potatoes. “In potatoes,” he boasted, “and in every description of roots, its productiveness is almost marvelous.” The land also brought 25 bushels of wheat per acre. He described the land as “on an elevated table” and of a “mostly rolling, but not steep”

¹⁰⁸ Longwood burned in the 1920s. Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 19-20; Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76-77; Delia Agnes McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” *The West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly* 4, no. 2 (1904): 81–94; J. Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia* (Staunton, Virginia: Samuel M. Yost & Son, 1882).

¹⁰⁹ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76; McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” 107.

¹¹⁰ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*; Ann M. Rogers, “Property Information Form: Coles-Terry Rural Historic District (080-5689)” (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2016); Harris, *A History of Back Creek*.

¹¹¹ John Dabney may have been a relative of John Dabney Coles. Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 300.

nature. Approximately 170 acres were cleared and planted, while 100 acres were lowlands of high quality that were covered in fine timber. Dabney emphasized his property's convenience to "an excellent Turnpike" that provided access to the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Depot only 17 miles away at Big Lick.¹¹² In terms of structures, Dabney mentioned several buildings. There was a mill on the property and a "nearly new" dwelling house. He also mentioned an overseer's house, slave cabins, and tobacco barns.¹¹³

Agricultural Development, 1830–1860

Apples were grown in the Bent Mountain area in the 1830s. About 1832, John Richerson of Amherst County, Virginia, had cultivated apples at "an orchard on the Bent Mountain, in Botetourt county," according to a period newspaper.¹¹⁴ Additional details on apple cultivation in the area at this time are not available. Apple cultivation, apparently, was not extensive in this period.

Bent Mountain society in the antebellum period consisted not only of upper class planter families such as the Dabneys. As noted, there were white indentured servants and slaves who lived in the area. In addition to these groups, there were white settlers of lesser means and, possibly, free African-American settlers in the general area. Their identities and their stories, however, are not well documented in available local histories.

Agricultural census data from the year 1860 provide a general picture of the assets of the average Roanoke County farmer. The median farm acreage was 185 acres. One hundred of these acres were cultivable. The median yield for farms was 150 bushels of corn, 10 bushels of potatoes, and 1,000 pounds of tobacco, while crops of barley, wheat, oats, and rye were of comparatively less size. The average farmer also had several horses, beef cattle, and milk cows, as well as a dozen hogs and a dozen sheep.¹¹⁵

The agrarian economy of the Bent Mountain area and Roanoke County, which had its roots in the colonial period, thrived throughout the antebellum period. Tobacco was the product of central importance in the county, according to local historian Nelson Harris, who argues that the crop, though relatively new to the county in comparison to longer-settled areas of Virginia, was the "main source of income for many farmers" up to the time of the Civil War.¹¹⁶

Slavery in Antebellum Roanoke County

In the antebellum period, the institution of slavery supported the development, operation, and profitability of plantations throughout Virginia.¹¹⁷ Slaves toiled in the fields and houses of the Dabneys, Lewises, and other families in the Bent Mountain area. The actual slave population of the district is undetermined; however, in Roanoke County as a whole, there were about 1,500 slaves by 1840 in comparison to 4,000 non-enslaved people.¹¹⁸

Transportation Development, 1830–1890

Tobacco, cattle, lumber, and other products of the Bent Mountain area were features of the market economy that had emerged in the late eighteenth century and expanded during the antebellum period. The sale of these products at Salem and other market centers contributed to the prosperity of agriculture around Bent Mountain. Without transportation corridors, the largely agriculture-based economy could not have arisen for

¹¹² The turnpike alluded to was the Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike. "Valuable Land for Sale," *Richmond Whig*, August 1, 1856.

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ "John Richerson of Amherst," *Lynchburg Virginian*, March 5, 1832.

¹¹⁵ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 21.

¹¹⁶ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 21.

¹¹⁷ Peter Kolchin, *American Slavery, 1619-1877* (New York, New York: Hill & Wang, 2003), 93–132.

¹¹⁸ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 186–87.

it was these arteries that carried products to market. The roads of the colonial period carried this traffic. New roads also emerged in Roanoke County and the Bent Mountain area in the antebellum period.

Interests in neighboring Floyd County and eastern Roanoke County organized the Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike Company in 1832. The company ventured to open a turnpike or roadway from the town of Jacksonville (later known as Floyd) to run eastward over Bent Mountain. After crossing the mountain, the new turnpike would link up with an existing turnpike that led to the growing town of Salem. The Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike (also known in the antebellum period as the Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike) took more than a decade to be completed. In 1849, enough stock in the company had been sold for work to commence. During the next 10 years, the road was gradually completed. Later maps from the Civil War period (1861–1865) indicate that the turnpike bisected the district in a roughly southwest-to-northeast fashion. The finished road borrowed heavily from the older Traders Path.¹¹⁹

Even with transportation improvements, the district was geographically distant from more populated places in the region. By the early 1850s, the closest post offices to the area were Cave Spring (10 miles east) and Simpsons (12 miles west). In 1853, a resident named John H. Walker successfully applied to operate a post office, called Bent Mountain, that would be more convenient for the community. The location was described as “on Bent Mountain” and was situated along the Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike. In his application, Walker stated that there were 20 families living within 2 miles of the proposed location. The mail was to arrive once a week.¹²⁰

The railroad, a transportation revolution, reached southwestern Virginia in the 1850s, influencing a period of agricultural expansion. The Virginia and Tennessee Railroad Company, led by interests in Lynchburg, Virginia, laid rails into Salem in 1852 and continued to build westward to Montgomery County. Although the rails did not course through the district, the proximity of the rails at Salem, the closest station, provided a new connection to markets where farm products could be sold. Farmers in the Bent Mountain area transported their farm products eastward over the mountaintop and down to Salem to ship to market.¹²¹

From the late eighteenth century until the end of the antebellum period, the landscape of the Bent Mountain area transitioned from a predominantly wilderness area that was in the hands of a few families to an expanding patchwork of small farms and tobacco plantations. Both enslaved and free people inhabited the area. The Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike, and likely some smaller local roads, provided transportation and market outlets for area inhabitants. The area was largely agricultural with tobacco being the most profitable crop. There was at least one mill in the area. Tobacco barns and dwellings for slaves, overseers, farmers, and planter families dotted the landscape.

An 1848 map of Roanoke and adjacent counties provides a large-scale depiction of the Bent Mountain area (**Figure 14**). The map is oriented with west being the top. The Bent Mountain area is roughly at the center of the map along the Roanoke County-Floyd County line. The map, which was created in tandem with a proposal to annex a portion of Montgomery County to Roanoke County, primarily indicates the courthouses, towns, and roads of the region. The turnpike from Jacksonville to Bent Mountain is illustrated, although not named. Bent Mountain itself is illustrated as a prominent landmark in southwestern Roanoke County.¹²²

¹¹⁹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 22–23.

¹²⁰ Post Office Department, “Bent Mountain (1853)” (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 1853).

¹²¹ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 172; W.W. Blackford, *Map & Profile of the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad* (Richmond, Virginia, 1856), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/resource/g3881p.rr005990/>.

¹²² Author Unknown, *Plat Showing That Part of Montgomery County Which Is Proposed to Be Annexed to Roanoke County* (Montgomery County, Virginia, 1848), Map Collection, Library of Virginia.

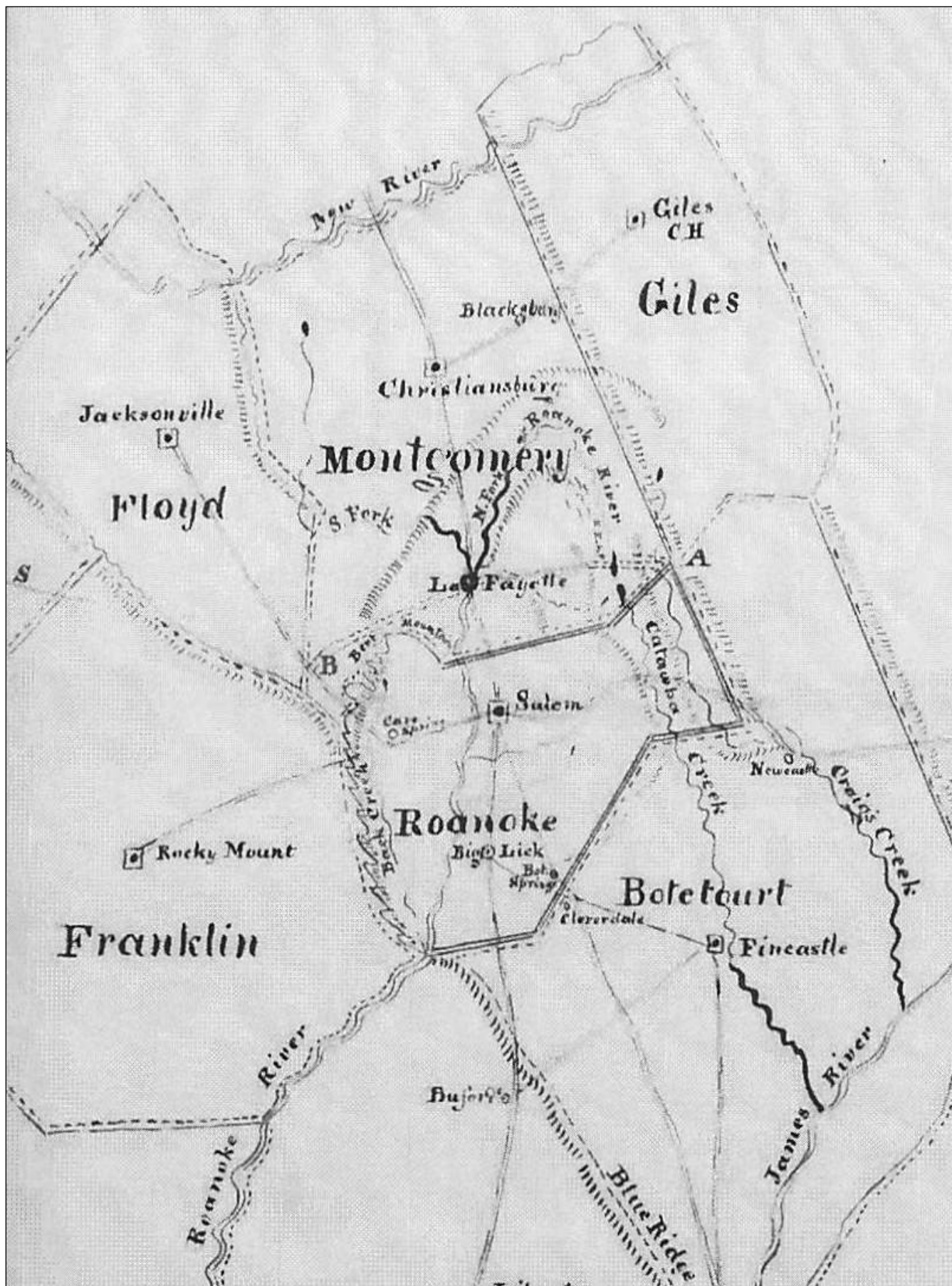


Figure 14. *Plat Showing That Part of Montgomery County Which Is Proposed to Be Annexed to Roanoke County, 1848, author unknown. Source: Library of Virginia.*

THE CIVIL WAR, 1861–1865

The Civil War brought new activity to the district. Virginia seceded from the United States in 1861. Abraham Lincoln, who had been elected President in November 1860, was widely unpopular among voters in Roanoke County and across the South. While the residents of the Bent Mountain area initially demonstrated an interest in preserving the Union, they became engrossed in the rising call for secession and war. The Civil War left a lasting mark on the district. Men from the district went off to war as soldiers and cavalrymen in the Confederate Army. Some never returned and many who did return carried wounds for the remainder of their lives. Those who stayed on the homestead during the war often lived in a state of anxiety and fear as Confederate deserters preyed upon the populace and as Federal troops reached southwestern Virginia in the later years of the war. The enslaved people of the district longed for—and ultimately attained—freedom.

Bent Mountain supplied numerous men to the Confederate Army when war clouds arose in 1861. According to historians Jack and Jacobs, the Bent Mountain section of Roanoke County “furnished their full quota of troops, and no braver or truer men went from any section of the South.”¹²³ The Willet, Ferguson, Baldwin, and King families supplied men. John Coles and J. Coles Terry, both of whom owned extensive land in the

Bent Mountain area, also joined the Confederate cause, although they served in units raised in Pittsylvania County.¹²⁴ **Figure 15** is a photograph of John Coles in his Confederate uniform.

Generations of Bent Mountain’s European-American residents recounted the valiant Confederate service of their ancestors with romantic flair. The war experience for residents of the area, however, was anything but romantic, particularly as food shortages set in, law and order declined, and Federal troops pushed through the area. Residents long remembered the food and supply shortages created by the war. Catherine “Kitty” King, a daughter of Andrew Lewis Jr., wrote in April 1864 about the difficulties of wartime at Bent Mountain. Along with her husband, Joseph, she resided at Lewis’ Longwood residence atop the mountain. “Some of the people in the neighborhood are very bad off for provisions,” she wrote in an 1864 letter to her son, adding that “corn is scarce and twenty dollars per bushel; flour three hundred dollars per barrel, and money of very little account.”¹²⁵

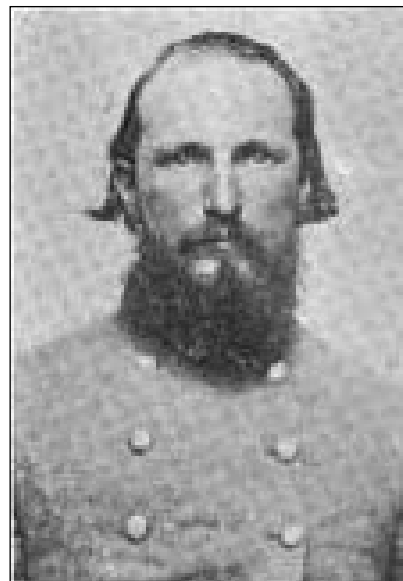


Figure 15. John Coles, undated photograph. Source: Jack and Jacobs 1912.

As the war dragged on, soldiers grew weary of their allegiance to the Confederacy, often leading to desertions. Due to its relative isolation and vastness, the Bent Mountain area was a hotbed for deserters. Their attempts to remain incognito sometimes were defended with deadly force. A band of deserters took such action on top of Bent Mountain in 1862. The deserters had suspicion that Col. John R. Peyton, a Confederate officer, was out to turn them in, and thus they laid in wait atop Bent Mountain just off the road where Peyton was expected to pass. As Peyton drew near on his horse, the men opened fire, filling Peyton with bullets. They then dragged him down the mountain where, in the words of Peyton’s coffin maker, Elijah Page, they left him “to the mercies of his friends.” One of the assassins, James Stover, later was tried and executed.¹²⁶

¹²³ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74.

¹²⁴ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78; “Confederate Pensions: Emma E. Coles” (Richmond, Virginia: Library of Virginia, 1928); “Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia: Joseph M. Terry,” Record Group 109 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

¹²⁵ Catherine King, quoted in Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 77.

¹²⁶ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 27–29.

The presence of deserters brought much alarm and fear to the lives of residents of the Bent Mountain area and even in neighboring areas, such as Floyd County. Tazewell Price, who later was a resident of the district, wrote a letter to the Governor of Virginia asking for a sufficient force to protect the citizenry, noting the recent killing of Peyton in broad daylight and revenge the deserters had taken out against supposed witnesses. Violence visited the home of John Coles, which was burned by deserters during the war. In what must have been a cruel coincidence, some of the deserters were rumored to have hid themselves along Bottom Creek gorge on the extensive lands that the Coles and their relatives, the Terrys, owned. Two crude, clay-daub and log cabins on the property in the late nineteenth century were thought to have been deserter cabins.¹²⁷

In the later years of the Civil War, Federal forces pressed upon Roanoke County. Under Major General William W. Averell, they raided around Salem in late 1863, destroying the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. Their raids spilled into the countryside, including the Bent Mountain area. One of the most significant events in the district during the war period was in April 1865, near the end of the war, when the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry traveled through the District along the Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike. En route for Salem, the soldiers made their way across the turnpike and to the top of Bent Mountain where they camped. Major William Wagner, commander of the force, described the turnpike in a later report as “a most wretched road.”¹²⁸

POST-CIVIL WAR INFLUENCES

The Civil War left many legacies in Virginia, among the greatest of which was the abolition of slavery. The Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in areas in rebellion, including Roanoke County, in 1863. In the Bent Mountain area, there were dozens—if not more—slaves in residence during the war who attained freedom. Some of the known slave owners in the area and the number of slaves they owned were John Coles (23), Joseph Terry (18), Tazewell Price (14), and Warfield Price (6).¹²⁹ Through this order, these and other slaves in the Bent Mountain area became free people. Some of these freed people may have made up the droves that fled to the Union Army when US forces marched into Roanoke County. William B. Stark of the 34th Massachusetts Volunteers, while marching from Lynchburg through Salem in 1864, wrote: “The negroes have had no chance to escape until now. We have an army of them on our hands, nearly all of them carrying great bundles of clothing hastily packed. Old men and women, children and babies all going for freedom.”¹³⁰

Another legacy of the Civil War period was the production of some of the most detailed maps of the Bent Mountain area up to that time. Three maps from the period provide significant detail for the district. They are (1) the *Map of Roanoke County, Virginia*, prepared by Confederate Engineer Walter Izard and his assistants in 1864 (**Figure 16**),¹³¹ (2) an alternative version of the Izard map that was created at some point during the war (**Figure 17**),¹³² and (3) the *Roanoke County, Virginia* map created in 1865 by an unidentified cartographer (**Figure 18**).¹³³ Landscape features and identifications presented in these maps are generally consistent from one map to the next. The maps presumably were intended to show the most important or notable landmarks.

A feature common across the three Civil War maps was the Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike, which had been opened gradually through the 1840s and 1850s as the “Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike.” All three of the Civil War maps (1864, 1865, and undated) illustrated the route. The road bisected the district in a winding, southwest-to-northeast fashion. The road followed the areas of least geographic resistance to the

¹²⁷ Ibid, 28–29.

¹²⁸ Ibid, 30.

¹²⁹ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 739–43.

¹³⁰ Stark quoted in Kagey, 204.

¹³¹ Walter Izard et al., *Map of Roanoke County, Va.* (Richmond, Virginia: Confederate Chief Engineer’s Office, 1864), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012592127/>.

¹³² Walter Izard et al., *Map of Roanoke County, Va. (Southern Section)* (Richmond, Virginia: Confederate Chief Engineer’s Office, n.d.), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2012589690/>.

¹³³ *Roanoke County, Va.* (Unknown Publisher, 1865), Library of Congress, <https://www.loc.gov/item/2002627464/>.

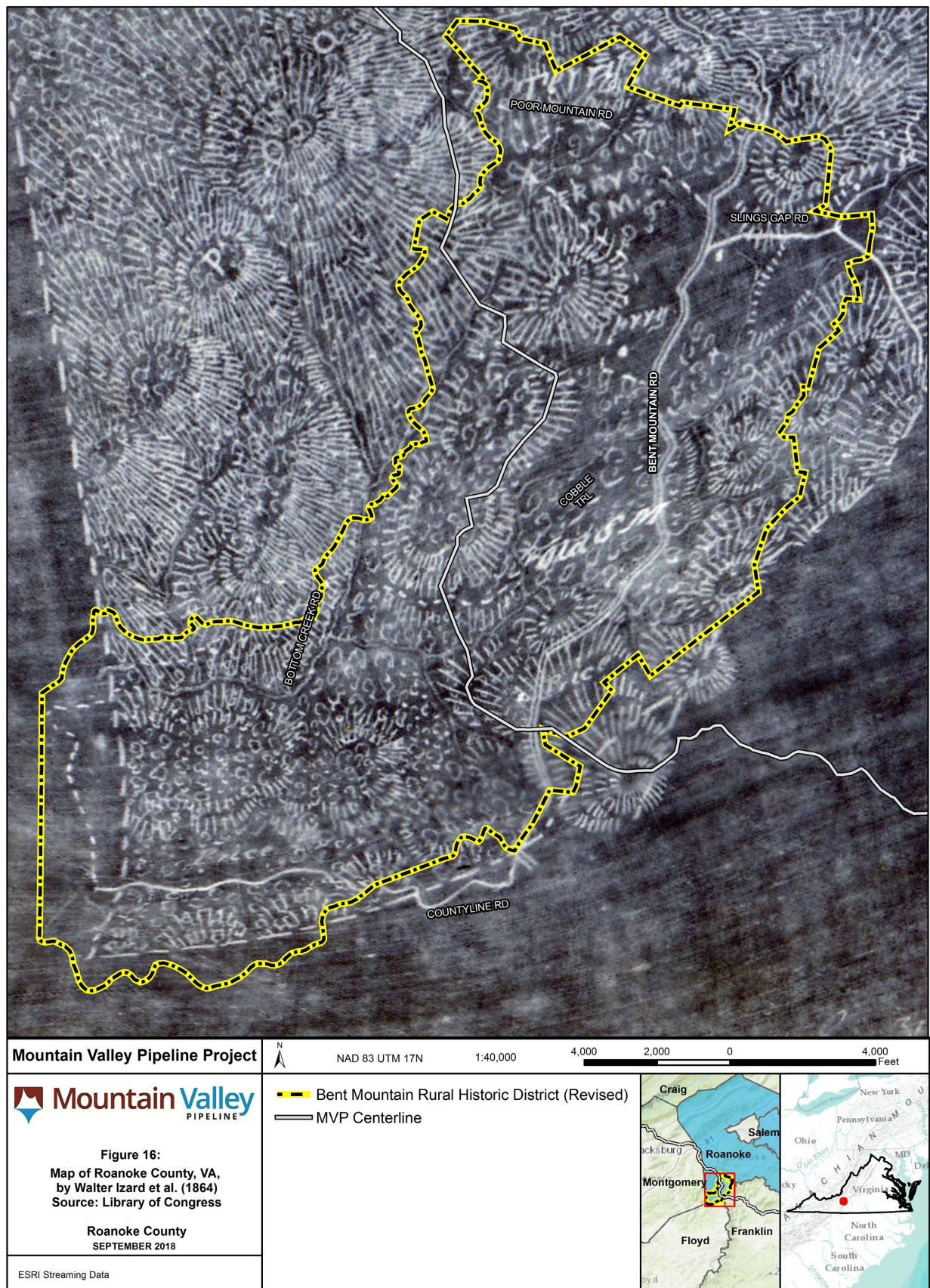


Figure 16. *Map of Roanoke County, Va., by Walter Izard et al. (1864).* Source: Library of Congress.

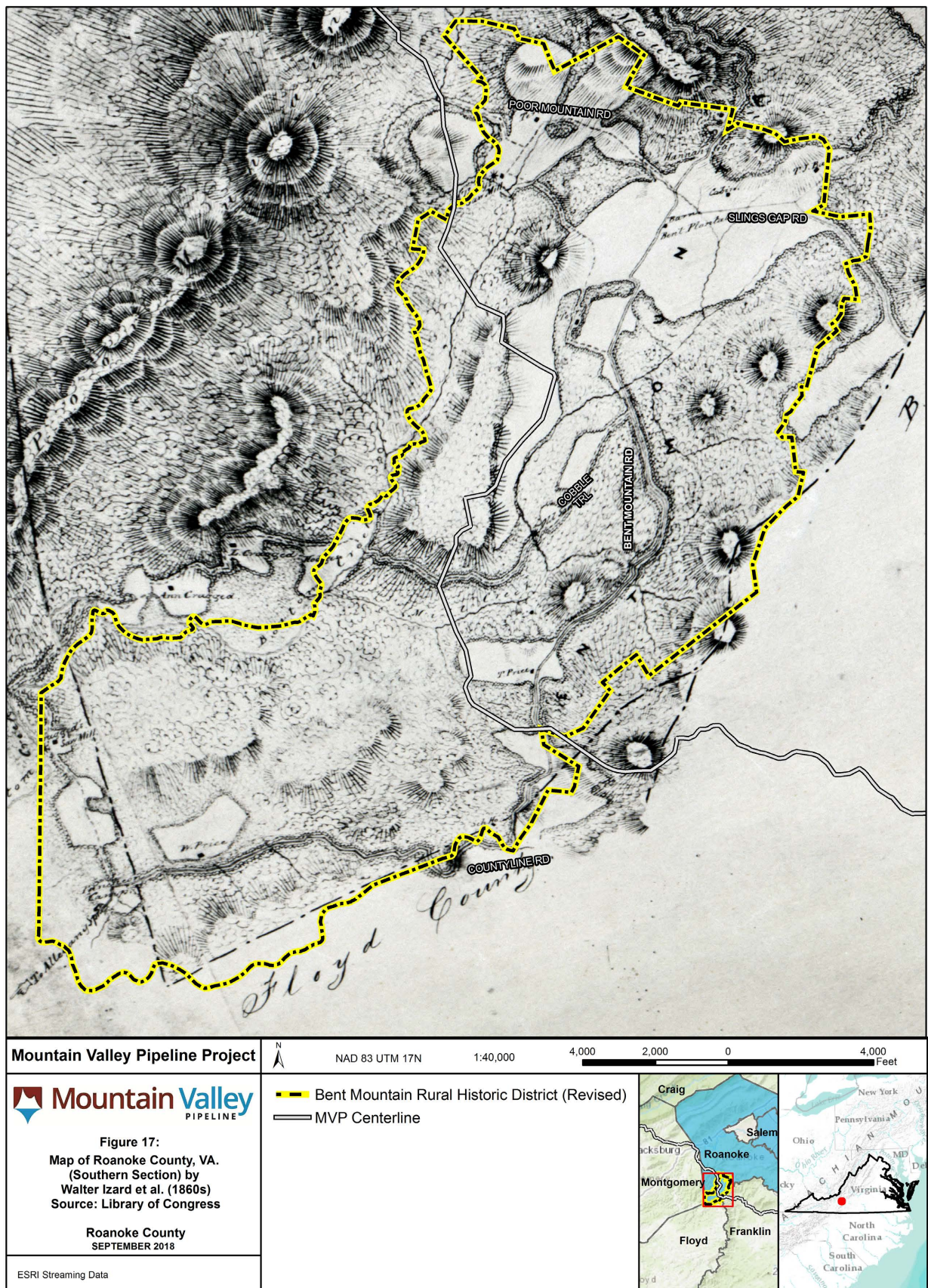


Figure 17. *Map of Roanoke County, Va. (Southern Section)*, by Walter Izard et al. (1860s). Source: Library of Congress.

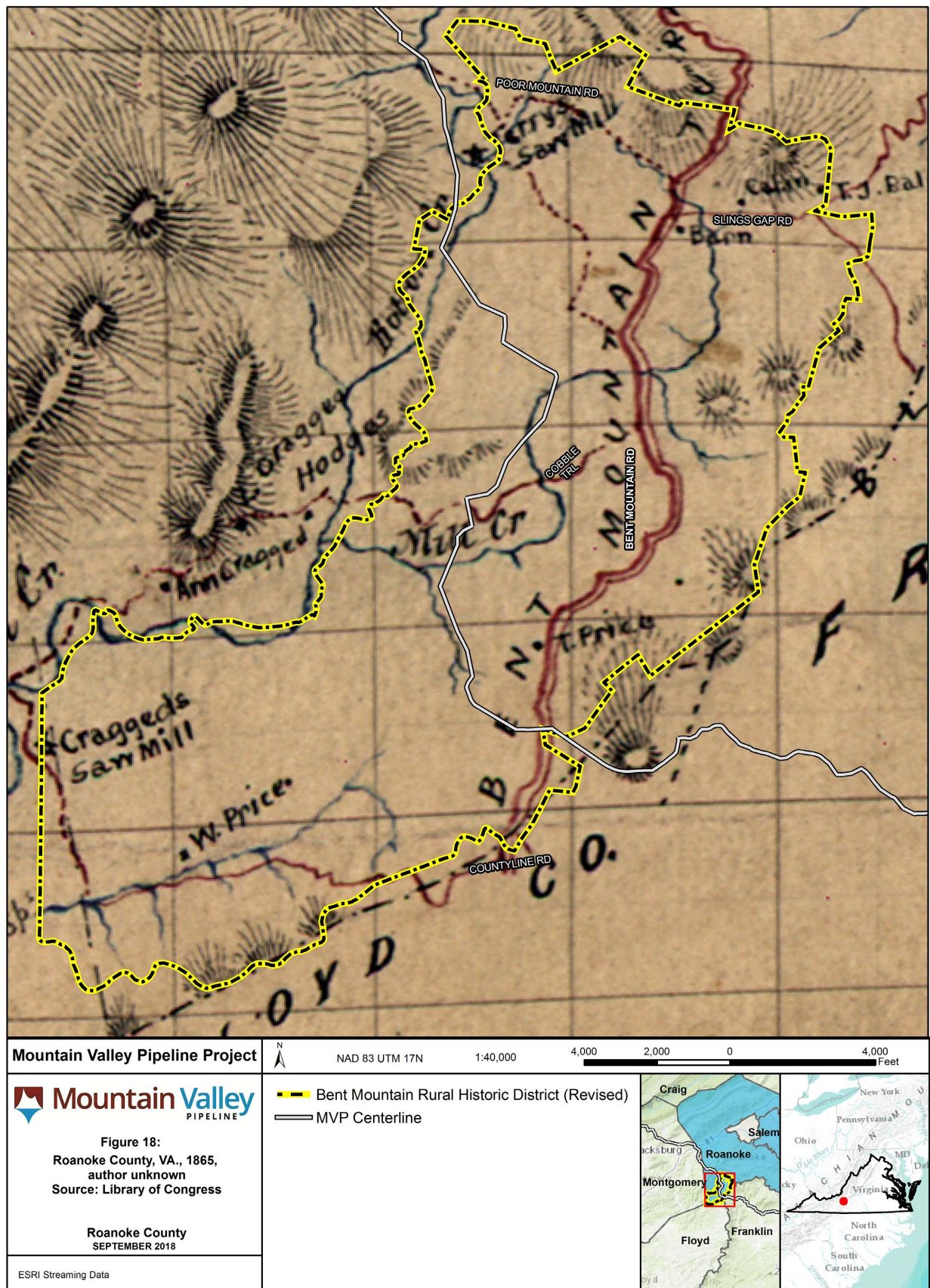


Figure 18. *Roanoke County, Va., 1865*, author unknown. Source: Library of Congress.

extent possible. Many of the named features in the maps are located along this route, indicating its importance in the local landscape and community. The 1864 *Map of Roanoke County* identifies several sites in the district boundary that represent landowners or residents and also sawmills: “Price,” “Old SM” [Sawmill], “Terry,” “Terry SM,” and “Baldwin.” The undated Civil War map identifies many of the same sites, but with more specificity. For example, the two Price sites are called “W. Price” and “T. Price,” which likely represents Warfield Price and Tazewell Price who lived in the area in the period.¹³⁴ The undated map also identifies “Bent Plantation” in the upper northwest portion of the district. A barn and cabin also are noted at this site, which represents the plantation John Coles (1837–1922) owned at the time.¹³⁵ Confederate deserters, according to local history, burned Coles’ home during the war.¹³⁶ To the northeast of the plantation and within the district was the “T. J. Baldwin” property. The 1865 *Roanoke County, Virginia* map more or less verifies some of the locations seen in the other two maps.

Reconstruction and Growth, 1865–1917

The Bent Mountain Rural Historic District was severely impacted by the Civil War. Many men from the area served in the Confederate Army. They returned to farms that were in dire need of maintenance and an unpredictable political situation as the Union Army governed the state. With the railroads of the region in tatters, many years of work would be required to regain the advancements of earlier years. Given these challenges, the period between the end of the Civil War and the start of World War I, surprisingly, was one of notable achievements in southwestern Virginia and, in particular, the Bent Mountain Rural Historic District. The economy grew as a result of railroad development in the region and new agricultural sectors, such as apple farming, opened. The population also grew as new employment opportunities emerged. A public education system also gave new incentive for the community to thrive.¹³⁷

Post-Emancipation Production

Farmers in southwestern Virginia and elsewhere in the South struggled in the immediate post-war years to re-establish their farms, many of which had lost production and fallen into disrepair during the war. For planters with large operations in the antebellum period, rebuilding was especially complicated for them due to the abolition of slavery. In Roanoke County, former planters sought to keep former slaves on their plantations by setting up tenant farming agreements that restricted their freedom to leave and their chance to prosper.

In the district, as elsewhere in the South, poverty prevailed in the 1860s and early 1870s. Tazewell Price, however, was an exception. A former slave owner who just prior to the Civil War had begun to cultivate land in the Bent Mountain area, Price completed an impressive home he called Les Landes (080-0487), which meant “The Moors” in French, in 1871. The home, which remains standing, was certainly one of the largest in the Bent Mountain area. In addition to farming, Price also taught at one of the local schools. Situated on the Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike in the eastern portion of the district, his home was undoubtedly a prominent landmark for travelers who passed through the Bent Mountain area.¹³⁸

Industrial Development, 1865–1870

The Bent Mountain area remained quite rural in the post-Civil War period. Agriculture continued to sustain the families of the area and very little industry existed in comparison to other parts of Roanoke County, the

¹³⁴ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74.

¹³⁵ “Bent Mountain Plantation” is mentioned in Pittsylvania County Circuit Court of Law and Chancery, *Wills, Inventories, and Accounts Current, 1809-1865, 1888-1906: John Coles in Account with Joseph M. Terry His Guardian* (Pittsylvania, Virginia: Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery, 1856).

¹³⁶ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78.

¹³⁷ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 233.

¹³⁸ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 301.

US Census Bureau indicated in an industrial study in 1870. The information for the Cave Springs Magisterial District, a broad jurisdictional area that included Bent Mountain, listed seven industrial establishments within the Cave Springs area. The sites and their owners were as follows: flour mill and saw mill, John Hartman; saw mill, Roland J. Ferguson; tannery, Warfield Price; grist mill and saw mill, James Grubb; and grist mill, Madison Hays. In comparison, the information for the Roanoke/Big Lick district in the same year listed 18 establishments. This larger population center, which had a railroad connection, featured more varied industries, including carriage makers, saddlers, blacksmiths, and cabinet makers, as well as tanners, saw mills, and grist mills.¹³⁹

Educational Development, 1860–1884

Educational opportunities expanded in the district in this period. For many years, there was an education system in the Bent Mountain area, but it largely was supported by residents of certain communities who would collect money amongst themselves to pay a teacher to educate the children in that community. The schools usually were hosted in the local church house. The district apparently had one school in the 1860s: a “School House” appears in the undated, Civil War-era *Map of Roanoke County*. The school was conveniently located along the Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike.¹⁴⁰ In 1870, the state of Virginia instituted a public school system. This development likely incorporated the Civil War-era school. Other schools were also founded in the area. “School No. 7, Bent Mountain, near King’s,” was a “white” school that existed as of the 1872–1873 school year under the instruction of John P. Haislep. In the same period, “School No. 8, Bent Mountain,” was under the instruction of Tazewell Price. School No. 7 had an enrollment of 39 pupils, while School No. 8 was slightly less with 27 pupils.¹⁴¹

Across Virginia and the South, education had been greatly restricted for African Americans until emancipation. Afterwards, the Freedmen’s Bureau and other organizations established schools for African Americans that made education more available than ever before. The African-American population of Bent Mountain was supporting a school by 1875 when School No. 14, also known as the African Church School, began to appear in records. The school remained in operation up to 1884. The location of the school in the Bent Mountain area is unknown. A later African-American school was known as Mountain Top School and was located on Slings Gap Road. The school, originally a one-room structure on land Dr. E. O. Tinsley had donated, existed from 1874 until 1957 when the students were transferred to Salem schools.¹⁴²

Agricultural Development, 1865–1900

After 1865 and into the early twentieth century, Bent Mountain was lauded for its agricultural advantages as well as its output. Among the advantages were its well-watered lands, which featured Mill Creek, Bottom Creek, Little Bottom Creek, and Camp Creek. The soil remained particularly fertile and, in this period, it was reported that farmers in the area did not have to use fertilizers to produce impressive results. Strawberries, tomatoes, and root crops such as potatoes produced well. One writer familiar with the area reported cucumbers of “mammoth” size, cabbages “weighing twenty pounds,” and rye that grew “to the height of eleven feet.”¹⁴³

In the early 1870s, the Bent Mountain and Back Creek areas of Roanoke County remained, in the words of the *Richmond Whig*, “very large tobacco growing sections,” as they had been in the antebellum period.¹⁴⁴

¹³⁹ “1870 Federal United States Census, Industry, Roanoke County, Virginia” (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1870), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

¹⁴⁰ Izard et al., “Map of Roanoke County, Va. (Southern Section).”

¹⁴¹ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 253–56.

¹⁴² Since its closure, the school has been a private residence (10118 Slings Gap Road). This structure was not a resource previously identified by New South Associates. Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 145.

¹⁴³ Gilberta Whittle, “Up on Bent Mountain,” *The Times*, November 21, 1892.

¹⁴⁴ “More Bad News About Tobacco,” *Richmond Whig*, May 22, 1874.

However, challenges had befallen the cultivation of the crop. The abolition of slavery had shaken the labor force and necessitated new labor arrangements. While the specifics for Bent Mountain are unknown, elsewhere in the Virginia, arrangements such as sharecropping—where families work on farms for a share of the crop's value—existed in the absence of slavery. In addition to the labor issue, pests were attacking the plants. In May 1874, flies had descended upon the tobacco fields of Back Creek and Bent Mountain and weakened the crop for the season.¹⁴⁵ There also was the perennial problem of tobacco worms. As tobacco waned, local farmers, such as the Coles and Terry families, repurposed their old barns as storage or as shelter for sheep and cattle.¹⁴⁶

The largest farms in terms of acreage in the Cave Spring Magisterial District, a broad jurisdiction that included the Bent Mountain area and several other communities, belonged to the Coles and Terry families. In 1870, John Coles, who had suffered through arson at the hands of Confederate deserters during the Civil War, had a farm of 3,950 acres. His relative, John Coles Terry, had a larger farm at 4,900 acres.¹⁴⁷ The farms of both these families encompassed the district. A decade and a half later in 1885, John Coles and John Coles Terry were counted among the primary farmers in Bent Mountain. Other prominent farmers were Tazewell Price, Joseph R. King, Thomas King, Charles W. Price, Benjamin Price, Mary Shelor, and Joseph M. Terry.¹⁴⁸ Finally, in the late nineteenth century (1897), the primary farmers in the Bent Mountain/Airpoint area were: G. W. Shelor, Jordan Woodrum, John Coles, E. D. Terry, G. W. Powell, E. J. Webster, Benjamin Henry, A. J. Mays, K. S. Moulse, J. C. Terry (John Coles Terry), W. J. Baldwin, N. C. Powell, and G. P. Metz.¹⁴⁹

Apple Farming in Bent Mountain, 1870–1910

The success of apple cultivation appears to have been the most important influence on the decline of tobacco growing in the Bent Mountain area. As a late nineteenth-century newspaper described, “no one [was] willing to sunburn his back and strain his eyes to work tobacco for the sake of the few dollars to be earned by its cultivation, when it’s so easy to raise golden apples.”¹⁵⁰ Indeed, apple cultivation became the mainstay of agriculture in the late nineteenth century and remained so into the twentieth century. Apples appear to have been grown for the first time in the area in the 1830s. A newspaper article from 1832 reported that John Richerson of Amherst County, Virginia, had cultivated them at “an orchard on the Bent Mountain, in Botetourt County.” The newspaper described that the apples “were of the mammoth species, and in color and flavor resembled the delicious New York Pippin.” Richerson called them “Richerson’s Virginia Winter Pippin.”¹⁵¹ By the end of the century, the Albemarle pippin apple was the most commonly grown in the area, having attained a status “so highly esteemed in foreign as well as domestic markets,” according to an 1892 report.¹⁵²

Although Richerson may have been the first farmer to grow apples in the Bent Mountain area, Jordan Woodrum (1822–1901) (**Figure 19**) was the farmer cited as a major influence on the success of apples for Bent Mountain. Woodrum, who was born in West Virginia, was educated at Roanoke County’s Hollins Institute. He achieved a degree in law and then became a newspaper publisher in Fincastle and, in 1854, Salem. During the Civil War, he supervised the County Almshouse. He settled in the Bent Mountain area after the war. At a location described as at “the base of Bent Mountain,” he planted what has been described as the first commercial apple orchard of the pippin variety in the area. The date of his first planting has been stated as 1870.¹⁵³ “In this mountain fastness Mr. Woodrum saw great possibilities,” according to a 1912

¹⁴⁵ “More Bad News About Tobacco.”

¹⁴⁶ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 21.

¹⁴⁷ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 226–27.

¹⁴⁸ Ibid, 232–36.

¹⁴⁹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 39.

¹⁵⁰ Ibid, 42.

¹⁵¹ “John Richerson of Amherst.”

¹⁵² Whittle, “Up on Bent Mountain.”

¹⁵³ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 35.

county history, “and under the guidance of his masterly intellect, and by the work of his hands, this wilderness in a few short years was made ‘to blossom like the rose.’” A single crop had, in one of the highest years, brought \$15,000, particularly as Woodrum and other apple farmers arranged for their apples to be sold in Europe as well as domestically. Woodrum’s success advanced fruit growing in Roanoke County. By the early twentieth century, the apple industry had brought “hundreds of thousands of dollars” into the area.¹⁵⁴

John Coles Terry, one of the largest landowners in the Bent Mountain area, also had heavily invested in apples in the post-Civil War period. It is thought that his investment began in the 1870s when he planted his first orchard. A visitor in 1897 noted that Terry had recently acquired 1,000 red apple trees. His farm had other features as well. “Here you find horses, fat cattle, and big hogs, and hospitality for man and beast,” a contemporary reported.¹⁵⁵

Apples brought attention to Bent Mountain and prosperity to orchard owners. “Anyone familiar with this section thirty years ago would be astonished at the improvement of the place and people,” read an 1897 newspaper article that praised the influence of the apple growing industry in the Bent Mountain area. The prosperity was visible across the landscape. “The old-time double log houses have been torn down,” the article continued, “and in their places have been erected substantial, neat six to eight-room cottages, tastefully designed and painted.” This description of dwellings, however, ignored the dwellings of some of the African-American families in the area, which had been described just five years earlier as being “of the most wretched character.”¹⁵⁶

Apple cultivation produced several associated industries and activities. The need to pack apples in barrels required an immediate need for these containers. A barrel factory, therefore, was established east of Bent Mountain at Poage’s Mill.¹⁵⁷ In the early twentieth century, a revolution in communication—the telephone—reached the Bent Mountain area. The establishment of telephone lines was directly related to the need for apple growers to communicate with their counterparts in the area. In 1910, the Fruit Growers Telephone Cooperative received a charter from the state to construct lines along the county roads in southwestern Roanoke County. In short time, more than 200 residents had acquired accounts with the company. Other companies arose, including the Bent Mountain Telephone Company in 1911. These companies provided the first telephone service to the Bent Mountain area.¹⁵⁸

The growing apple industry was dependent upon transportation in order for their product to reach the market. In the early years of the orchards, in the 1870s and 1880s, farmers had to haul their apples over Bent Mountain and into Roanoke, a two-day journey. Commercial interests in Roanoke County, including some farmers in the Bent Mountain area, sought to address transportation in the southwestern part of the county with the construction of a new railroad line. The Roanoke & Southern Railway construction was underway in 1890 with the intention to connect Roanoke with Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and points between the two cities. Although the roughly north-south route was due west of Bent Mountain, the proximity of this



Figure 19. Jordan Woodrum, undated photograph. Source: Jack and Jacobs 1912.

¹⁵⁴ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–79.

¹⁵⁵ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 42.

¹⁵⁶ Whittle, “Up on Bent Mountain.”

¹⁵⁷ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 35.

¹⁵⁸ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 302; Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 70–73.

transportation corridor considerably reduced the time farmers spent transporting their apples to market as the barrels could be loaded on the train at the nearest depot at Starkey. The railway opened in 1892.¹⁵⁹

Apple cultivation remained a strong feature of the economy and the local landscape of the district into the early twentieth century. In 1902, a newspaper reported that Bent Mountain was “rapidly coming to the front as one of the best apple-growing portions of the state.”¹⁶⁰ Apples grown on Bent Mountain at that time included the Albemarle pippin, Johnson’s Fine Winter, York Imperial, and Winesap. In the early twentieth century, apples here and across Virginia were primarily sold for export to international markets.¹⁶¹ The Albemarle pippin in particular was a popular export for Virginia in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.¹⁶² Albemarle pippins were first grown in the South in the early nineteenth century and were prevalent in the mountains and piedmont regions of Virginia.

Successful orchards of the 1910s in the Bent Mountain area were operated by John Coles Terry, L. C. Shockey, John S. Woodrum, Wilson Baldwin, Benjamin Bowman, and John Jackson Huff.¹⁶³ At the turn of the twentieth century, J. Coles Terry owned a 6,000-acre orchard with 20,000 Albemarle pippin trees.¹⁶⁴ The Albemarle pippin was noted for its ability to flourish on mountain slopes, but the trees were slow to bear fruit, taking about 15 years to reach maturity. The pippins grown in the Bent Mountain area came to be known as “Bent Mountain pippins” in the early twentieth century.¹⁶⁵

The Bent Mountain Apple and Cold Storage Company, a joint stock company of investors from Roanoke, began purchasing orchard land on Bent Mountain in the early years of the twentieth century. The company purchased 80 acres from J. W. Chambers and 125 acres from Jordan Woodrum in preparation for building a cold storage warehouse to take advantage of market prices for apples.¹⁶⁶ A notice in a trade publication stated that the company incorporated in 1902 with \$100,000 of capital and a plan to build in “the Back Creek district.”¹⁶⁷ John W. Woods served as the company president, Ernest B. Fishburne served as secretary and treasurer, and R. H. Woodrum, J. B. Fishburne, and James B. Woods were listed as additional investors.

The Back Creek community, located east of Bent Mountain and the district, also prospered due to apple cultivation. Prior to the success of apples, the area was one of the poorest in the county, but the orchards surpassed other types of farms in the county in terms of value per acre. The labor needs of the orchards also employed numerous inhabitants of the area. A description of apple picking time in the fall of 1895 illustrated the community involvement in the industry at Back Creek. The description, which appeared in a Salem newspaper, likely applied to the Bent Mountain area as well:

The road was lined with teams hauling empty barrels one way and barreled apples the other to the depot, thus employing the teams of the neighborhood to haul the apple crop. Boys and girls are given employment in picking, while it will take the men several months to pack and barrel the product. This gives employment to a large number of people, cultivates the money among all classes and promotes prosperity in general.¹⁶⁸

The apple production of the Bent Mountain area was supported by droves of laborers, although little has been written about their experience or their identity. The Woodrum Family’s apple packing shed employed

¹⁵⁹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 46.

¹⁶⁰ “Grows Fine Apples,” *Richmond Dispatch*, October 25, 1902.

¹⁶¹ “Fine Crop of Virginia Apples,” *Staunton Daily Leader*, August 9, 1907.

¹⁶² Creighton Lee Calhoun, *Old Southern Apples* (Vermont: Chelsea Green, 2010), 115.

¹⁶³ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 302.

¹⁶⁴ “Grows Fine Apples.”

¹⁶⁵ Virginia Writers’ Program, *Roanoke: Story of County and City* (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone, 1942), 167.

¹⁶⁶ “Grows Fine Apples.”

¹⁶⁷ “New Plants and Improvements,” *Ice and Refrigeration* 23, no. 2 (1902): 67–68.

¹⁶⁸ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 38.

30 to 40 men around the turn of the twentieth century.¹⁶⁹ Photographs of the orchards of the Bent Mountain area from a 1912 history of Roanoke County depict white laborers (**Figure 20**); however, it seems likely there also were African-American laborers as census returns from the period identify many African-American residents as “farm laborers.” In any case, sources indicate that the quality of life of many African-American laborers in the Bent Mountain area in the late nineteenth century was poor. Gilberta S. Whittle, a late nineteenth-century newspaper writer who appears to have been deeply familiar with Bent Mountain, wrote about the dwellings of African-American laborers of the area in an 1892 newspaper article. Typically, the structures were single room log cabins set on crudely-placed stone footings. The dwellings were, in her words, “of the most wretched character” and included “a door on creaking wood hinges, with a clumsy latch of the same material as its only fastening, a rude fireplace of stone, an ill-fitting shutter to a sashless window opening in the wall, called by courtesy a window.”¹⁷⁰

Industrial and business growth in the Bent Mountain area was lacking in the 1870s, but expanded in the ensuing decade, as is indicated in late nineteenth-century listings in business gazetteers. An 1885 gazetteer, for example, provided the names of several business proprietors at Bent Mountain and their line of business. Joseph Motley Terry, a prominent landowner and apple grower, continued to practice law as he had in the antebellum period. John J. Huff, a descendant of a pioneering family in the county, was a general merchant. Another general merchant was Tennelly & Brother.¹⁷¹ At the end of the nineteenth century in 1897, another gazetteer listed businessmen of the Bent Mountain and Airpoint areas. This listing makes it evident that business had expanded or, perhaps, that the 1897 listing was more thorough. The men and their occupations were E. L. Argabright, blacksmith/undertaker; Giles Tyree, blacksmith; C. C. Hensley, carpenter; P. B. Ellicot, dentist; John Huff, gold miner; D. W. Rierson, saddler/harness maker; Craighead Brothers, sawmill; J. Coles Terry, sawmill; J. W. Woodrum, sawmill; Mills & Perdue, merchants; J. Coles Terry & Company, merchants; and Bowman and Company, merchants.¹⁷²



Figure 20. Apple pickers in the Woodrum orchard, ca. 1912. Source: Jack and Jacobs 1912.

¹⁶⁹ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 305.

¹⁷⁰ Whittle, “Up on Bent Mountain.”

¹⁷¹ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 232–36.

¹⁷² Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 39.

Commercial Development, 1890–1910

While general stores existed in the Bent Mountain area in the nineteenth century, they became more prevalent here and across the region in the early twentieth century. Throughout the Appalachians, general stores provided a selection of goods that could not be produced at home, from canned goods and flour to cigarettes and toys. These stores could just as soon sell local farmers equipment as they could serve as a place for the same farmers to sell their finished crops; bartering was common. The stores, which often were centrally located in communities, often served as the local post office. Stores also were gathering places where community members shared news, played music, or passed the time.¹⁷³

Fitting the agricultural pursuits of the area, many of the early twentieth century stores in the Bent Mountain area specialized in selling apples and other farm-grown products to other locals and travelers. The proliferation of apple cultivation also necessitated a selling point for those goods. One such venue was Marshal Conner's fruit stand, also known as the Apple Shed.¹⁷⁴ The continuing expansion of apple and fruit growing in the first decades of the twentieth century also meant more fruit stands were needed to sell the goods that did not get shipped to other parts of the country or overseas.¹⁷⁵

Population Growth, 1870–1900

With the gradual expansion of business, industry, and agriculture, the population of the district grew to the extent that new public facilities, such as the post office, were required to serve local inhabitants. The original Bent Mountain post office, which John H. Walker had opened in 1853, appears to have remained in the same location in the post-Civil War period: “at a point nine miles distance from Poage's Mill” on the Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike, which was the primary road that passed through the district. The postmaster in 1870 was Charles W. Price.¹⁷⁶ John J. Huff, who was postmaster of Bent Mountain, established the post office in 1881 to a location three-quarters of a mile south of the 1870 location, on the same road.¹⁷⁷

In the late 1870s, the population of the district, though not precisely known, nevertheless had increased to the extent that an additional post office was opened. The new post office, established in 1878, was called Airpoint and existed simultaneously with the Bent Mountain post office. S. K. Ferguson submitted the application that requested the Airpoint post office be located at his store, known as Ferguson's Store. The store was situated “directly” on the turnpike between Floyd and Bent Mountain, approximately 4 miles away from the existing Bent Mountain post office. Ferguson stated that the population to be served by the Airpoint post office numbered nearly 300.¹⁷⁸ The opening of the Airpoint post office apparently influenced the closure of the Bent Mountain post office; however, the closure was short lived, for in 1888, prominent resident and apple grower John Coles Terry re-opened the Bent Mountain location.¹⁷⁹

Bent Mountain Landscape Development, 1890–1917

From the post-Civil War to World War I, the landscape of the district underwent changes. Unfortunately, one of the only detailed maps from this period is the 1890 *Christianburg* topographic map that the USGS created (**Figure 21**).¹⁸⁰ The map provides no details for the built or farmed landscape and depicts only two roadways: the Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike and an unidentified road (likely Poor Mountain Road) leading eastward from “Air Point.”

¹⁷³ Jean Haskell, “Community Gatherings,” *Encyclopedia of Appalachia* (Knoxville, Tennessee: University of Tennessee Press, 2006), 166–67.

¹⁷⁴ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 177–78.

¹⁷⁵ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–75.

¹⁷⁶ Post Office Department, “Bent Mountain (1870)” (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 1870).

¹⁷⁷ Post Office Department, “Bent Mountain (1881)” (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 1881).

¹⁷⁸ Post Office Department, “Airpoint (1878)” (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 1878).

¹⁷⁹ Post Office Department, “Bent Mountain (1888)” (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 1888).

¹⁸⁰ United States Geological Survey, *Christiansburg* (Reston, Virginia: United States Geological Survey, 1890).

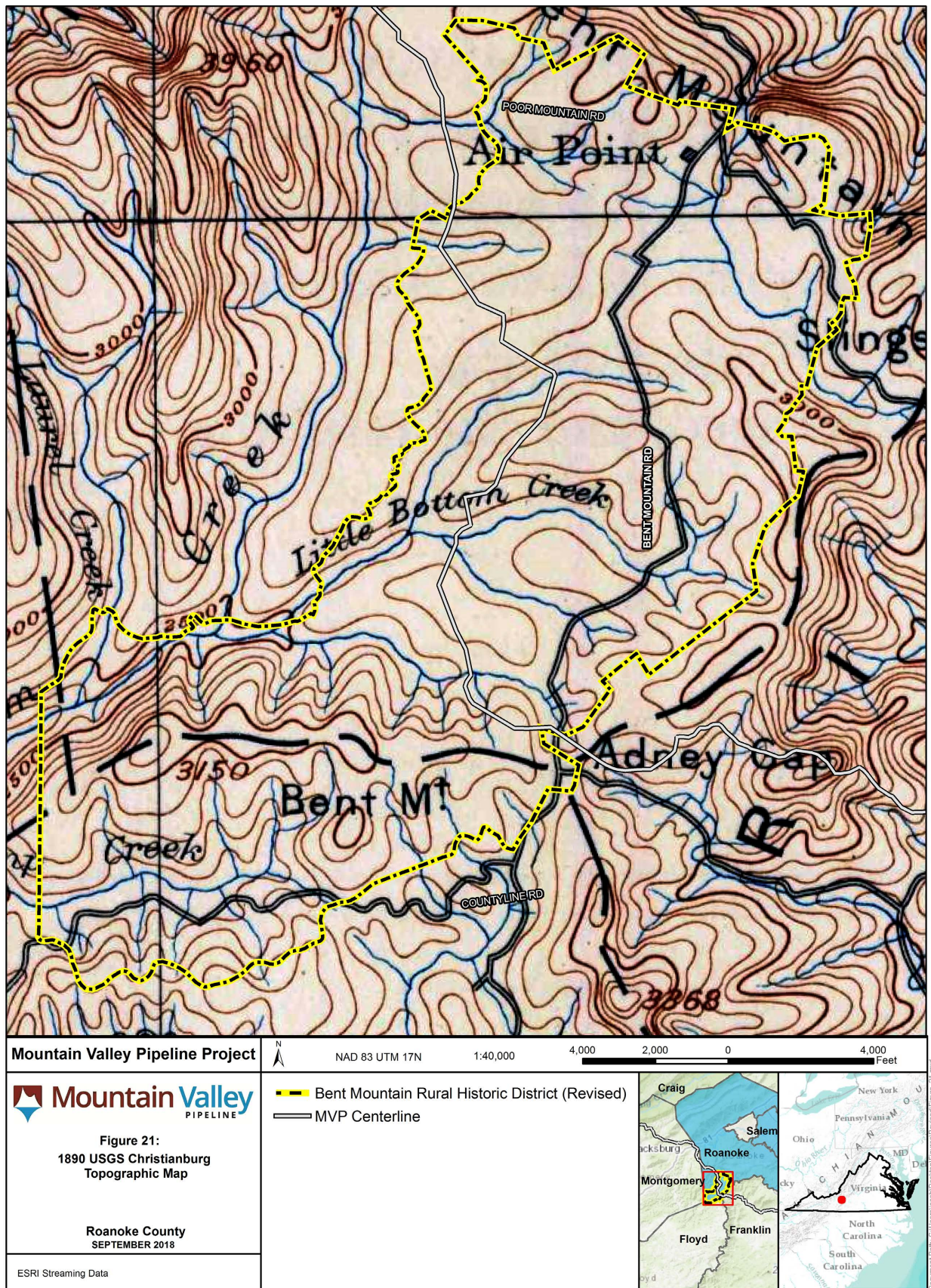


Figure 21. 1890 USGS *Christianburg* topographic map.

The most notable change in the landscape in this period was the continued shift of agriculture from tobacco to apples, a process that had begun in the 1870s. The continued decline of tobacco was evident in this period (1890-1917) as farmers continued to replace tobacco fields with apple orchards. Tobacco barns similarly disappeared or were repurposed for other agricultural uses. Many of the double-log houses of earlier times had been replaced with cottages.¹⁸¹ A new post office called “Air Point” (alternatively known as Airpoint) had opened. However, some elements of the landscape from earlier periods remained. The Bent Mountain post office continued to operate. The Floyd and Bent Mountain Turnpike, which dated to the antebellum period, still carried travelers and the market offerings of the region. Small farms continued to exist, as did a handful of small school houses and churches. Bent Mountain, Poor Mountain, and other peaks of the Blue Ridge continued to tower above the district.

WORLD WAR I TO WORLD WAR II, 1917–1945

World War I, 1917–1918

World War I, the Great Depression, and World War II connected the district with global events. While fairly isolated, Bent Mountain was not beyond the reach of the Federal government. When the United States entered World War I in April 1917, young men across the nation registered for the national draft, including at least 30 men from Bent Mountain. McH. Booth, a Bent Mountain farmer, miller, and merchant, served as registrar for the draft in the area. Nearly 800 men from Roanoke County served in World War I.¹⁸²

Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933–1942

The nationwide economic depression that began in 1929 with the stock market crash had great repercussions across the United States, including rural Bent Mountain. The federal government’s efforts to relieve unemployment through various work project organizations left a signature in the local area. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) established camps across the nation, largely to address conservation work and forestry management.¹⁸³ The men who joined had to be unmarried, unemployed, and aged 18 to 25 years. To ensure order and productivity, the War Department ran most of the CCC camps. Half a million men worked across 2,500 camps from the time the CCC began in 1933 until its end in 1942. The CCC was particularly active in Virginia. The federal government spent more than \$100 million in the state and opened at least 80 camps, figures that placed it among the top five states for CCC investment and activity in the country. More than 100,000 men, both African American and European American, were employed in Virginia.¹⁸⁴

The CCC in Virginia was largely concerned with erosion and flood control, as well as forest and wildlife conservation. They planted millions of trees, built nearly 1,000 bridges, strung telephone lines, and stocked waterways with fish. At Jamestown and other historic sites, they completed restoration work. A prominent legacy of the CCC in the state was the development of the state park system and their work on federal projects at Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The beginning of World War II created an abundance of jobs, and thus the CCC ended in 1942.¹⁸⁵

The story of the CCC camps of Roanoke County is not well known, although there were at least two based in Salem during the Great Depression: Camp S-52, established in 1933, and Camp P-52, also known as Camp Triangle, established in 1935.¹⁸⁶ Camp P-52 may have been a reactivated version of the earlier camp. One of

¹⁸¹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 42.

¹⁸² Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 79; United States, “U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918,” 1917, Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

¹⁸³ R.L. Heinemann, “Civilian Conservation Corps,” *Encyclopedia Virginia*, 2014, www.encyclopediavirginia.org/The_Civilian_Conservation_Corps.

¹⁸⁴ Ibid.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid.

¹⁸⁶ Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, “CCC Camps in Virginia,” 2018, http://www.ccclegacy.org/CCC_Camps_Virginia.html.

these camps, perhaps, was the base camp associated with the Fire Tower that was completed on the Terry property ca. 1933. The tower stood at the highest point of Poor Mountain. The tower presumably was related to the CCC's conservation and fire prevention work in the region.¹⁸⁷ Due to the incredible view the tower offered, it became a local attraction. Locals would take Sunday automobile outings to drive up the mountain and climb the tower.¹⁸⁸

The *Tirade*, a CCC newsletter published from the base camp in Roanoke, reported on the agency's activities in the area. In 1940, the newsletter noted that the Salem unit was establishing a side camp "on Bent Mountain." Thirty-five CCC men would be assigned to the side camp, which was to complete unspecified construction work. The men already had been working in the area, and the camp was to make their commute more convenient than driving to and from Salem. The camp was to consist of tents with hardwood floors.¹⁸⁹

Automobile Infrastructure Development

The construction of the Blue Ridge Parkway employed many residents of Bent Mountain and neighboring Floyd County during the Great Depression.¹⁹⁰ Construction of the parkway had begun during the Great Depression to provide work for the unemployed and enrich the American automobile landscape. The construction of this scenic highway included project areas in North Carolina and Virginia. The first project work in Virginia was completed in 1936. This stretch of the parkway ran between Pine Spur Gap and Adney Gap, zigzagging in and out of Roanoke and Franklin Counties.¹⁹¹ Work on the parkway continued in the region for decades to come until it was finally completed in 1987. The parkway remains under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.¹⁹²

The Virginia State Highway Department completed Route 221 (Bent Mountain Road) in 1932. The route essentially was an improvement project for the nineteenth-century Jacksonville (or Floyd) and Bent Mountain Turnpike, which had carried travelers through the district since the antebellum period. Route 221 was built as a two-lane road. This new roadway diverged eastward from the turnpike route near the base of Bent Mountain, but rejoined the turnpike route just south of Mill Creek. The portions not included in the new construction were maintained as a local road within the district called Route 711 (or Tinsley Lane).¹⁹³

The popularity of the automobile in the early twentieth century required gas and service stations for locals and travelers alike.¹⁹⁴ Indeed, car culture shaped the American landscape, bringing service stations, roadside attractions, travel lodges and motels, fast food restaurants, and billboard advertising; however, the Bent Mountain area appears to have had only a handful of these features. Poff's Garage and Stone's Union 76 served as the main garage and service stations for Bent Mountain in the mid-twentieth century.¹⁹⁵

Agriculture in Bent Mountain, 1910–1940

Agriculture continued to thrive in the district in the first half of the twentieth century. Apples continued to take center stage in production, and orchard owners remained the leading businessmen of the area. Apple production increased on Bent Mountain and Roanoke County in the first half of the twentieth century, and in addition to the larger orchards, most families had their own smaller ones.¹⁹⁶ Frosts damaged the regional

¹⁸⁷ Rogers, "Property Information Form: Coles-Terry Rural Historic District (080-5689)," 3.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid.

¹⁸⁹ "Camp Triangle to Open Side Camp," *Tirade*, 1940, May edition.

¹⁹⁰ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 75–77.

¹⁹¹ "Parkway Work in Blue Ridge Seen Delayed," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, August 5, 1936.

¹⁹² Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 450–52.

¹⁹³ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 56–58.

¹⁹⁴ Ronald L. Heinemann et al., *Old Dominion, New Commonwealth: A History of Virginia, 1607-2007* (Charlottesville, Virginia: University of Virginia Press, 2007), 293–94.

¹⁹⁵ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 189–200.

¹⁹⁶ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 302–5.

apple crop significantly in the late 1910s and early 1920s. Heavy frost caused the Bent Mountain area to produce only 10 percent of a full crop in 1919.¹⁹⁷ In 1922, Roanoke County produced only 30 percent of a full crop.¹⁹⁸ In the 1930s, however, Roanoke County and Bent Mountain continued to produce a significant amount of the state's apples, and many new trees were planted.¹⁹⁹ The WPA reported that, in 1940, Roanoke County had "153,113 apple trees of bearing age and 28,539 trees not of bearing age, and 739 farms reported having harvested 280,402 bushels of apples in 1939."²⁰⁰

In addition to apples, farmers in Bent Mountain grew wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat, cabbage, and potatoes. As they had for decades, many farmers raised cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs.²⁰¹ Bent Mountain cabbage, in fact, was emerging as a crop of great interest in the early twentieth century.²⁰² Cabbage likely was grown as a subsistence crop by the pioneers, but by the late nineteenth century, it had appeared as a market crop.²⁰³ In the early twentieth century, "Bent Mountain Cabbage" had risen to almost a trademark brand. The cabbage grown in the area was noted for its solid composition and large size, characteristics that were noted as early as 1892. Bent Mountain cabbage was well known in this period with advertisements appearing regularly in regional newspapers.²⁰⁴

Livestock, in particular sheep and cattle, remained prominent in the agricultural makeup of the Bent Mountain area in the first half of the twentieth century. Breeds had been consistently improved in the early years of the period with advances in husbandry and farm education programs. The general nature of livestock raising, however, had not substantially changed. Sheep and cattle grazed in the pastures around Bent Mountain. Prior to the advent of trucking, farmers herded their animals to market or to railway stations. Vester Grant, a native of the Bent Mountain area who was born in 1908, recalled that in his younger years, it was not uncommon to see farmers from Bent Mountain and neighboring Floyd County driving sheep and cattle to load them on the railroad at Starkey.²⁰⁵

Along with apples, cabbage, and livestock, there were quite a variety of farm products that were produced by Bent Mountain farmers in less substantial quantities. These products, nevertheless, helped put money in the hands of farm families. The products included chickens, butter, eggs, and chestnuts. Grant recalled seeing droves of 15 to 20 covered wagons hauling such items along the area's roads bound to market.²⁰⁶

Educational Development, 1920–1940

The days of the one-room school house or church school that prevailed across rural southwestern Virginia up to the early twentieth century had drawn to a close by the 1930s when large, consolidated schools appeared.²⁰⁷ Roanoke County had 122 "white" schools in 1920, but by 1940, there were 28.²⁰⁸ The largest school in the district in the first half of the twentieth century was known as Bent Mountain School. The location of this three-room school, which opened in 1915 to serve white children in the area, is uncertain. A 1930 map indicates that the school was on the east side of Bent Mountain Road, south of the intersection of Bottom

¹⁹⁷ "Apple Crop Report," *New York State Fruit Grower* 3, no. 7 (1919): 7.

¹⁹⁸ "Virginia Apple Crop Is Estimated at 1,066,000 Barrels," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, June 25, 1922.

¹⁹⁹ Virginia Writers' Program, *Roanoke: Story of County and City*, 167.

²⁰⁰ Virginia Writers' Program, 165.

²⁰¹ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76; McCulloch, "The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family," 75.

²⁰² *The Times Dispatch* 1913. "Good Talk By Demonstrators." Electronic document, https://www.newspapers.com/clip/18889766/the_times_dispatch/, accessed July 20, 2018

²⁰³ Whittle, "Up on Bent Mountain."

²⁰⁴ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 303.

²⁰⁵ Ibid, 305.

²⁰⁶ Ibid, 305.

²⁰⁷ Ibid, 477–78.

²⁰⁸ Ibid, 478.

Creek Road and Bent Mountain Road;²⁰⁹ however, other sources place this 1915 school at the site of the present is Bent Mountain Community Center on Tinsley Lane. In any case, the 1915 schoolhouse was replaced in the 1930s with a seven-room, brick structure that is today's Bent Mountain Community Center (080-0322) (**Figure 22**).²¹⁰ The 1930s school, one of the largest and most impressive structures in the area at the time, served grades from elementary through high school.²¹¹

African Americans living in the Bent Mountain area continued to be served in this period by the Mountain Top School on Slings Gap Road.²¹² The history of the school in this period is not well known. Consolidation, which saw the concentration of scattered white schools into larger schools, also pertained to African-American schools. In 1920, there were 22 African-American schools in Roanoke County; by 1940, there were eight.²¹³

Commercial Development, 1917–1945

During the years between 1917 and 1945, general stores remained common in the Bent Mountain area. One of the more prominent general stores at this time doubled as a filling station and post office. Holt's Store was located near the intersection of Route 221 (Bent Mountain Road) and Callaway Road. Fletcher Holt opened the store in 1922, selling the usual groceries and other products. Another general store in operation in this period was Elbe Reed's Store (080-0528) near the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Old Shilling Road. Reed acquired the store from a Mr. Jenkins in the 1920s, and it was fairly popular in the area, serving as a post office and gathering place. His daughter, Lois Overstreet, later recalled that in the 1930s area residents who did not own a radio would gather at Reed's Store to listen to the Grand Old Opry and other popular programs on his store's radio.²¹⁴



Figure 22. Bent Mountain School, 1930. Source: Library of Virginia.

²⁰⁹ William Palmer and Jonathan L. Wentworth, *Stone's Official Map of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone Printing and Manufacturing Company, 1930), Map Collection, Library of Virginia.

²¹⁰ Gene Marrano, "Bent Mt. Elementary Rings Final Bell," *The Roanoke Star*, June 17, 2010, 1; Virginia Department of Education, "Bent Mountain School Photographs" (Richmond, Virginia: Library of Virginia, 1930).

²¹¹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 148–49; Marrano, "Bent Mt. Elementary Rings Final Bell."

²¹² Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 145.

²¹³ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 478.

²¹⁴ Post Office Department, "Bent Mountain (1937)" (National Archives and Records Administration, Washington DC, 1937); Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 190–91.

Bent Mountain War Effort, 1940–1945

Nearly 5,000 men registered for the Selective Service draft in 1940, with 200 casualties by 1945. War-related projects in the county, such as the development of the Radford ammunition plant and the expansion of the airport in Roanoke for military use, provided jobs to those in need. Scrap metal drives, air raid drills, and blackouts became common. Roanoke County established a civilian defense program that included a precinct for Cave Spring, Back Creek, and Bent Mountain.²¹⁵ German prisoners of war who were held at Mason's Cove were assigned to pick apples at the orchards in Roanoke County between 1943 and 1946.²¹⁶

Bent Mountain Landscape Development, 1917–1945

The district landscape between 1917 to 1945, in many ways, was fairly similar to the preceding period. The district remained rural and agricultural with little industry or extensive transportation infrastructure. Apple orchards and fields of forage crops and cabbage were a common sight. Farmhouses, barns, livestock grazing in pastures, and other elements of agricultural activity characterized the area. Notable additions of the period were the CCC Fire Tower on the Terry property, the enlarged Bent Mountain School, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Route 221 (State Route 205/Bent Mountain Road).

In 1930, Roanoke County created a detailed map of the county titled *Stone's Official Map of Roanoke County*. The map illustrates state, federal, and county roads, as well as the location of post offices and white and black schools. Topography and waterways also are depicted. The landmarks depicted in the district include Bent Mountain Road (appearing as State Route 205), the Bent Mountain School, the Bent Mountain Post Office, and the Airpoint (or Air Point) Post Office. Mill Creek and Bottom Creek are depicted. Minor roads appearing in the map include Poor Mountain Road, which extends westward from Bent Mountain Road near Airpoint, and Bottom Creek Road, which also extends westward from Bent Mountain Road near the Bent Mountain School.²¹⁷

One of few detailed maps for this period is the 1940 Census Enumeration District map. This map primarily illustrates the location of roads and communities. Bent Mountain Road (Route 221) is illustrated. Route 607, also known as Bottom Creek Road, also is illustrated. This road apparently had been built since 1930 when it did not appear in *Stone's* map of Roanoke County. The Airpoint and Bent Mountain post office locations also are identified in the 1940 Census Enumeration District map.²¹⁸

THE NEW DOMINION, 1945–PRESENT

Bent Mountain remained rural and agricultural into the post-war decades, even as similar landscapes elsewhere in Roanoke County were redeveloped as neighborhoods and shopping plazas.²¹⁹ In earlier times, nearly every resident of Bent Mountain farmed to some degree; however, in the post-World War II period, the number of farmers declined as residents drove their automobiles to Roanoke for wage jobs or relocated nearer to cities for work.²²⁰

Apple production declined after the mid-twentieth century as farming and agricultural land decreased in Roanoke County. This was due in part to larger trends such as globalization and suburban sprawl, which made residential development more profitable than maintaining agricultural lands. In 1950, there were

²¹⁵ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 499–511.

²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 352.

²¹⁷ Palmer and Wentworth, "Stone's Official Map of Roanoke County."

²¹⁸ Bureau of the Census, *Enumeration District Maps: Roanoke County, Virginia*, 1940, National Archives and Records Administration, <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/5840421>.

²¹⁹ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 74.

²²⁰ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 305.

148,735 apple trees in the county; by 1960, the number had decreased to 66,609.²²¹ Bent Mountain orchards continued to grow apples throughout the late twentieth century. Regional papers displayed supermarket advertisements outside of Roanoke County that specified Bent Mountain apples for sale in the 1970s.²²² Cabbage and poultry farming were prominent agricultural activities.

Modern Agriculture, 1945–Present

Bent Mountain was home to a thriving poultry industry in the post-World War II period. The story of Coles Egg Farm represented a shift in agriculture from small family operations to international business. Roland H. Coles and John Coles had developed one of the largest shell egg production operations in Virginia in the post-World War II period. They supplied the grocery store chain Winn Dixie, as well as other customers throughout the region. The farm, which was located on 800 acres the Coles family owned, consisted of chicken houses and other supporting structures and employed more than 60 people. In 1988, the Coles sold the operation, which was the largest supplier of eggs in Virginia at that time, to a Japanese firm called Seaboard Foods.²²³

In the early decades of post-World War II period, the schools of the Bent Mountain area remained segregated by race. Bent Mountain School (080-0322) was restricted to whites, while Mountain Top School continued to serve African Americans. Both schools changed in this period as a result of population decline, consolidation, and desegregation. In 1956, the high school curriculum at Bent Mountain School ended and students of this age were transferred to Cave Spring High School. Afterwards, the school was known as Bent Mountain Elementary (080-0322). The school received significant renovations in 1990, but enrollment dropped until, in 2010, the school closed. In recent years, the school was converted into a community center and library.²²⁴

Mountain Top School, the African-American school in the Bent Mountain area, remained in operation through the 1940s and most of the 1950s. After the 1954 *Brown vs. Board of Education* decision established segregation in schools to be unconstitutional, the school remained opened, but finally closed in 1957.²²⁵ Roanoke County began to gradually integrate schools in the early 1960s, and by 1966, all were integrated.²²⁶

Amidst sweeping changes like school integration, some features of life in the Bent Mountain area persisted during this period. Though the popularity of general stores in the United States had mostly declined after the 1920s, a number of general stores in the Bent Mountain area remained in operation. Their persistence likely was owed to the continued rural setting of the area and the considerable distance from Roanoke and other cities with high levels of commercial establishments. Holt's Store continued to prosper. He sold it to Clyde and Almeda Bohon in 1944, who then sold it to George and Marie Powell. During the Bohon's tenure, local residents were able to come watch the television sets at one of the only places they were available in the community. Though the store burned down in 1957, it was rebuilt very near the original site and continued serving the Bent Mountain community until the 1990s.²²⁷ Other general stores in operation in this period included Howell's Store (1940s) and King's Store (1930s-1950s).

After Elbe Reed died in 1954, his daughter, Lois Overstreet, and her husband, Boyd, continued to operate his store until it closed in 1957 (080-0528). The structure continued to be used, however, as the Bent Mountain post office with Lois serving as the postmaster. Postal service at the location ended in 1969 with the opening

²²¹ Ibid, 511–12.

²²² "Sureway Advertisement," *Staunton News Leader*, October 6, 1976.

²²³ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 177; Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 303.

²²⁴ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 148–49; Marrano, "Bent Mt. Elementary Rings Final Bell."

²²⁵ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 145.

²²⁶ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 521.

²²⁷ Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 181–82.

of a new building elsewhere. Years later in 2017, the structure was razed.²²⁸ The Bent Mountain Collection of digital photographs at the Virginia Room of the Roanoke County Public Library includes a 2017 exterior photograph of Reed's Store/Bent Mountain Post Office. The collection also includes an interior photograph of the store dating to the 1950s.²²⁹

During the post-World War II period and the latter part of the twentieth century, the landscape of the district remained generally rural and agricultural, but with some transformations underway. Aerial photographs from 1947 (**Figure 23**) and 1960 (**Figure 24**) assist in illustrating the rural and agricultural setting of the district. Bent Mountain Road, which winds through the western and central portion of the Rural Historic District, remained a prominent feature of the landscape. Apple orchards are visible in 1947 and their location appears to have remained consistent up to 1960. Although the 1947 aerial image is overexposed, the location of agricultural fields can be discerned and, when compared to the 1960 image, their location appears to be relatively similar.

Historical information provides details that cannot be discerned in the historic aerials. Notably, the extent of apple orchards apparently was decreasing in this period as the industry in Roanoke County dwindled in size. As the apple industry dwindled, cabbage became more common in the landscape. Traditional vestiges of agriculture in the area remained present, including grazing pastures and old barns and farmhouses, while Coles Egg Farm represented the rise of agribusiness. Some of the old estate homes from the nineteenth century, such as Tazewell Price's Les Landes (080-0487) and the Terry estate on Poor Mountain Road, remained intact, serving as reminders of the wealth of years passed. A handful of modern ranch homes represented new additions to the district. Intermixed through the district, mainly along Bent Mountain Road, were small general stores, including Reed's Store, which also served as Bent Mountain's Post Office. Reed's Store was demolished in 2016.

²²⁸ Ibid, 190–91.

²²⁹ Roanoke County Public Library, "Bent Mountain Collection" (Roanoke, Virginia, n.d.).

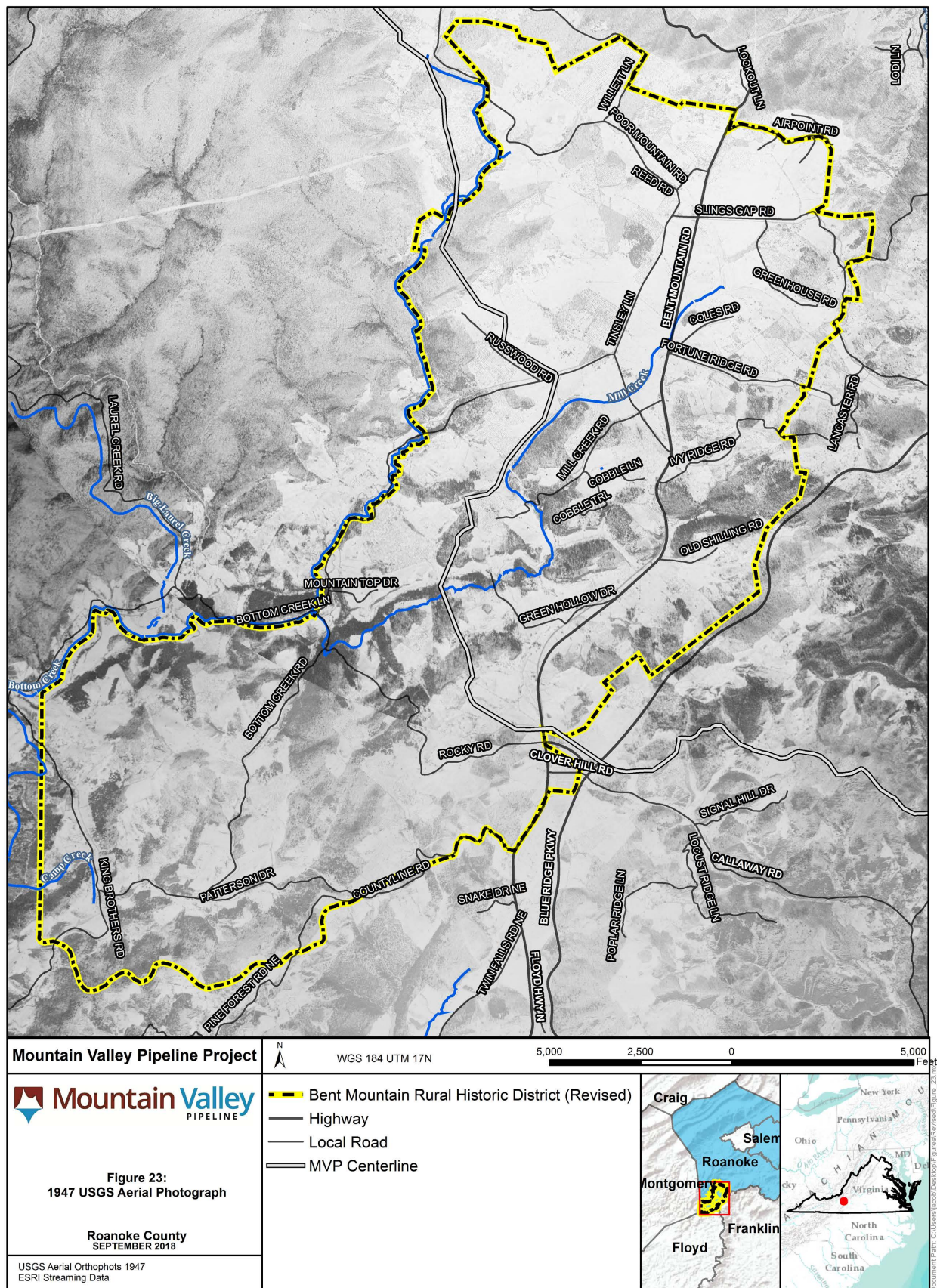


Figure 23. 1947 USGS aerial photograph.

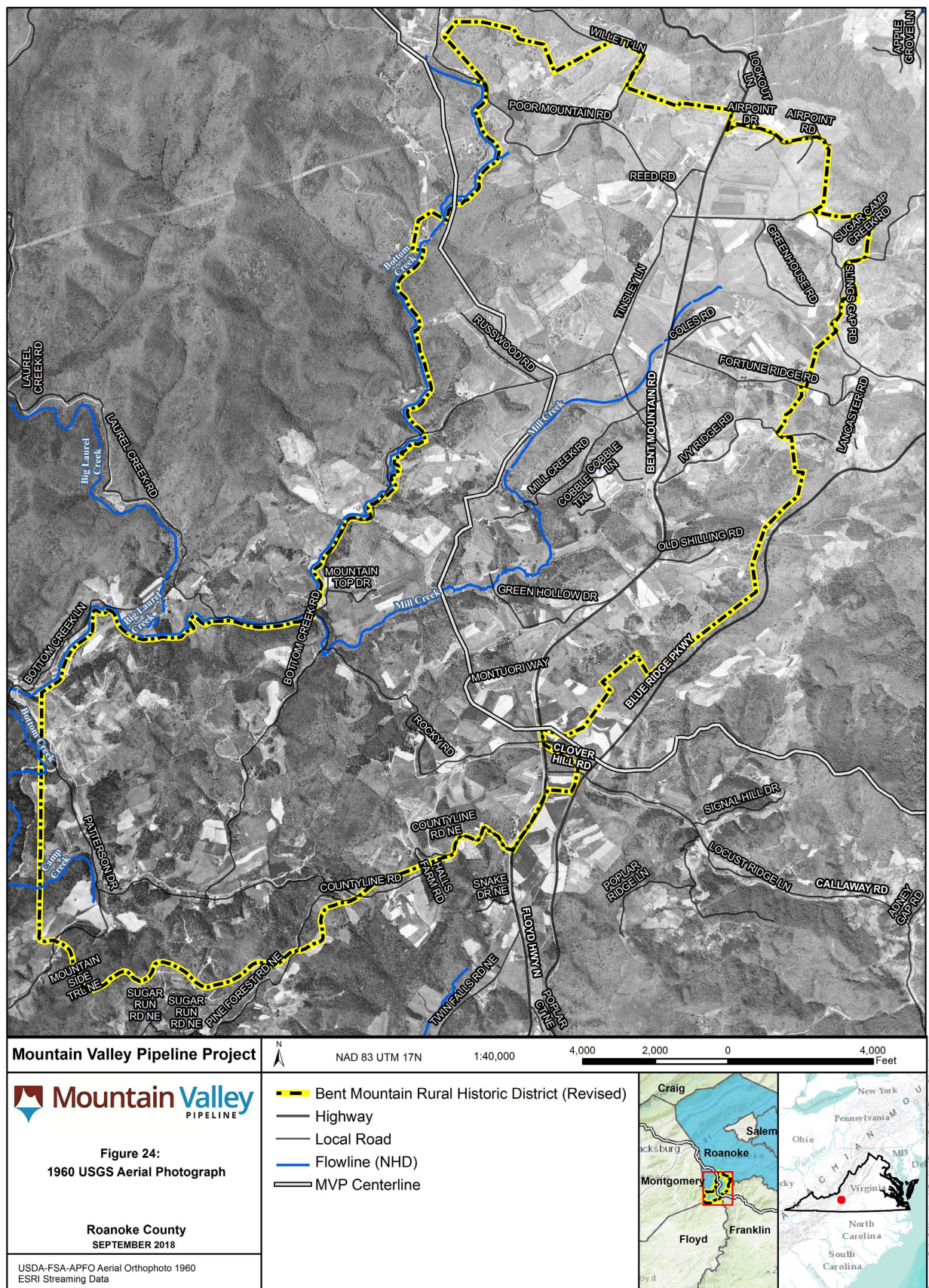


Figure 24. 1960 USGS aerial photograph.

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

Private: X Public\Local 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: Megan Landfried Neylon, Senior Environmental Coordinator

organization: Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC

street & number: 220 Rice Drive

city or town: Canonsburg state: PA zip code: 15317

e-mail: mail@mountainvalleypipeline.info telephone: 844-MVP-TALK

Applicant's Signature: _____

Date: _____

• • Signature required for processing all applications. • •

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

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: _____

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

name/title: Michael Arbuthnot

organization: SEARCH

street & number: 315 NW 138th Terrace

city or town: Newberry state: FL zip code: 32669

e-mail: search@searchinc.com telephone: 352-333-0049

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: Thomas C. Gates, County Administrator

locality: Roanoke County

street & number: 5204 Bernard Drive

city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24018

telephone: 540-772-2004