

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetMartinsville Historic District 2022 Update
and Boundary Adjustment

Name of Property

City of Martinsville, Virginia

County and State

98001317

NR Reference Number

Section number Additional DocumentationPage 1

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X additional documentation move removal
name change (additional documentation) othermeets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
Signature of Certifying Official/Title:

Date of Action

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
determined eligible for the National Register
determined not eligible for the National Register
removed from the National Register
additional documentation accepted
other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places**
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 removed from the National Register
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Introduction

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

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

Section 7 of this update includes a complete inventory of previously and newly surveyed resources organized by street name and number. In January 2022, a reconnaissance-level survey of properties in the Martinsville Historic District was conducted, during which surveyors verified the conditions of all previously documented resources within the district. Only those resources which had been extensively altered or demolished, or which would change in their contributing or non-contributing status, were photographed and updated in the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (VCRIS). All other resources were recorded as having no changes since the district's 1998 nomination.

The 1998 nomination included an inventory listing 98 contributing resources, including 94 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site, and 3 contributing objects; 26 non-contributing resources were recorded, consisting of 25 buildings and 1 object. The 2022 survey and extension of the period of significance to end in 1972 resulted in the identification of 101 contributing resources, including 100 buildings and 1 object. The updated survey also identified 12 non-contributing buildings. Not included in the count of non-contributing resources are 10 resources that have been demolished since the district's 1998 listing. The loss of 7 of these buildings at the northwestern corner of the district has resulted in a boundary reduction largely consisting of the block bound by W Fayette St, N Moss St, W Church St, and N Market St.

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Section 8 of this Additional Documentation expands upon the original district's statement of significance. The district's original period of significance spanned the period from 1824 to 1948. This update extends the period of significance to end in 1972, capturing Martinsville's significant mid-twentieth century growth and development, and including major events that contributed to the significance of the historic district. This update to the Martinsville Historic District also expands upon and provides additional justification for the areas of significance identified in the original nomination, with a focus on the mid-twentieth century period. A new area of significance, Social History, is being added as part of this nomination update to recognize the significance of the landmark Martinsville Seven trial that prompted a response by national civil rights and equitable justice activists. The update also adds Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish) as an area of significance for the district's association with the important contributions of Jewish business owners and community members in Martinsville.

5. Classification

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Non-contributing	
<u>100</u>	<u>12</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>101</u>	<u>12</u>	Total

7. Description

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

The Martinsville Historic District is located in the historic center of the City of Martinsville. The original historic district encompassed approximately 45 acres, and 119 buildings, one site, and 4 objects. Due to the loss of historic buildings and historic integrity along the western portion of the district, largely encompassing the block bound by W Fayette St, N Moss St, W Church St, and N Market St., a reduction in the original district boundary of approximately six acres was made as part of this update.

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The updated district now includes 111 resources, of which 102 are contributing and 12 non-contributing. Due to the expanded period of significance, 18 of 26 former non-contributing buildings are now contributing. Alternatively, five buildings which were previously contributing are now non-contributing due to extensive alterations that have severely eroded their integrity.

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

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

Narrative Description

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

At the time of the original listing, several historic commercial buildings dated to just outside the original 1948 end date to the period of significance or had been altered with mid-twentieth century façade improvements that were not of historic age. These buildings, and in many cases their alterations, now possess significance in their own right. The design and materials used to construct or alter these buildings are representative of mid-twentieth century architectural trends and a movement to streamline design, incorporate clean lines and glossy textures, and eschew applied ornament. Other commercial buildings constructed after 1948 are representative of simplified design, often characterized by their simple stretcher bond masonry or masonry veneers, flat roofs, elongated storefronts, and aluminum canopies.

In addition to the classical styles that were well documented in the original nomination, the Martinsville Historic District is home to well-preserved examples of architectural styles associated with the Modern Movement of the mid-twentieth century. The International Style is well represented, including such

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examples as the Virginia National Bank building located at 8 Lester Street, and the Setback Building located at 2 East Church Street. Other buildings were modified from their early twentieth century commercial style to more identifiable mid-century styles. The Lee Telephone Building at 115 East Church Street, for example, was modified ca. 1970 with a Brutalist style façade characterized by its aggregate concrete façade on the south elevation and its weighty concrete rhomboidal entry columns.

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

Inventory

The inventory below is the result of a reconnaissance-level survey of all previously recorded properties in January 2022. Surveyors verified the conditions of all previously documented resources within the district, with a focus on properties that were anticipated to have a contributing status change, or that had been demolished or extensively altered since the original listing. The 2022 survey and extension of the period of significance resulted in the identification of 99 contributing resources, including 98 buildings and 1 object. The updated survey also identified 12 non-contributing buildings. The survey revealed that 10 resources had been demolished since the district's listing in 1998. These resources are no longer included in the historic district inventory. Sketch and Location maps show the area that has been removed from the original historic district.

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

Martinsville Historic District Inventory

Bridge Street

10 Bridge Street

120-5001-0110

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1900**

Contributing Total: 1

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22 Bridge Street **120-5001-0112**

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

26 Bridge Street **120-5001-0113**

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

28 Bridge Street **120-5001-0114**

Primary Resource: **Automobile Showroom (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1918**
Contributing Total: 1

South Bridge Street

20 South Bridge Street **120-5001-0111**

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1927**
Contributing Total: 1

24 South Bridge Street **120-5001-0115**

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

Broad Street

13 Broad Street **120-5001-0116** *Other DHR Id#: 120-5001-120*

Primary Resource: **Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1935**
Contributing Total: 1

25 Broad Street **120-5001-0117**

Primary Resource: **Multiple Dwelling (Building), Stories 3, Style: Other, 1936**
Contributing Total: 1

29 Broad Street **120-5001-0118**

McKee Funeral Home

Primary Resource: **Funeral Home/Mortuary (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1910**
Contributing Total: 1
Secondary Resource: **Garage (Building)** **Contributing Total: 1**

East Church Street

1 East Church Street **120-5001-0030**

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Masonic Temple/Holt's Department Store

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Classical Revival, 1914**

Contributing Total: 1

2 East Church Street

120-5001-0004

Setback Building

Primary Resource: **Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: International Style, Ca 1960**

Contributing Total: 1

5 East Church Street

120-5001-0029

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1920**

Contributing Total: 1

9 East Church Street

120-5001-0028

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1920**

Contributing Total: 1

10 East Church Street

120-0026

Other DHR Id#: 120-5001-0005

Primary Resource: **Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 3, Style: Classical Revival, 1927**

Contributing Total: 1

11 East Church Street

120-5001-0027

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1908**

Contributing Total: 1

14 East Church Street

120-5001-0006

Piedmont Trust Bank

Primary Resource: **Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922**

Contributing Total: 1

16 East Church Street

120-5001-0007

Woolworth's

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

Revival/Richardsonian, 1922

Contributing Total: 1

17 East Church Street

120-5001-0025

Southern Jewelers

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1953**

Contributing Total: 1

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19 East Church Street **120-5001-0024**

Leggett's Department Store

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

Contributing Total: 1

20 East Church Street **120-5001-0008**

Montgomery Ward and Company

Primary Resource: **Department Store (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930**

Contributing Total: 1

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

Tultex

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

Contributing Total: 1

25 East Church Street **120-5001-0023**

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935**

Contributing Total: 1

31 East Church Street **120-5001-0022**

Primary Resource: **Department Store (Building), Stories 2, Style: Art Deco, Ca 1935**

Contributing Total: 1

34 East Church Street **120-5001-0010**

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

Contributing Total: 1

37 East Church Street **120-5001-0021**

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1948**

Contributing Total: 1

38 East Church Street **120-5001-0011**

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

Contributing Total: 1

46 East Church Street **120-5001-0012**

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925**

Contributing Total: 1

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50 East Church Street

120-0027

Other DHR Id#: 120-5001-0013

Primary Resource: Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 4, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1921

Contributing Total: 1

103 East Church Street

120-5001-0020

Primary Resource: Commercial Building Stories 1, Style: Colonial Revival, 1930

Contributing Total: 1

105-115 East Church Street

120-5001-0019

Globman's Department Store

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950

Contributing Total: 1

127 East Church Street

120-5001-0018

Lee Telephone Exchange

Primary Resource: Office/Office Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1931

Contributing Total: 1

133 East Church Street

120-5001-0017

Martinsville Methodist Church

Primary Resource: Church/Chapel (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922

Contributing Total: 1

219 East Church Street

120-5001-0014

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

Contributing Total: 1

1 West Church Street

120-5001-0003

Primary Resource: Post Office (Building), Stories 2, Style: Colonial Revival, 1939

Contributing Total: 1

103-107 West Church Street

120-5001-0001

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

Contributing Total: 1

Fayette Street

12 Fayette Street

120-5001-0082

Primary Resource: Hotel/Inn (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1930

Contributing Total: 1

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21 Fayette Street **120-5001-0081**

Primary Resource: **Mixed: Gym (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925**

Contributing Total: 1

25 Fayette Street **120-5001-0080**

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, 1925**

Contributing Total: 1

26 Fayette Street **120-5001-0083**

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

Contributing Total: 1

30 Fayette Street **120-5001-0084**

C. Seay and Company

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1950**

Contributing Total: 1

35 Fayette Street **120-5001-0079**

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

47 Fayette Street **120-5001-0077**

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

51 Fayette Street **120-5001-0076**

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

53 Fayette Street **120-5001-0075**

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

Contributing Total: 1

57 Fayette Street **120-5001-0074**

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

Contributing Total: 1

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Contributing Total: 1

210 Franklin Street **120-5001-0094**

Primary Resource: Warehouse (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1925

Contributing Total: 1

Ford Street

47-49 Ford Street **120-5001-0093**

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

Contributing Total: 1

Jones Street

23 Jones Street **120-5001-0087**

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922

Contributing Total: 1

33 Jones Street **120-5001-0088**

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1790

Contributing Total: 1

41 Jones Street **120-5001-0089**

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

Contributing Total: 1

45 Jones Street **120-5001-0090**

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935

Non-contributing Total: 1

103 Jones Street **120-5001-0091**

Primary Resource: Bowling Alley (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935

Contributing Total: 1

107 Jones Street **120-5001-0092**

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

Contributing Total: 1

Lester Street

8 Lester Street **120-5001-0016**

Nation's Bank

Primary Resource: Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: International Style, Ca 1960

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Contributing Total: 1

21-26 East Main Street **120-5001-0044**

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

Contributing Total: 1

29 East Main Street **120-5001-0045**

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

Contributing Total: 1

31 East Main Street **120-5001-0046**

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

Contributing Total: 1

32 East Main Street **120-5001-0062**

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

33 East Main Street **120-5001-0047**

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

Contributing Total: 1

37 East Main Street **120-5001-0048**

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

Contributing Total: 1

100 East Main Street **120-5001-0061**

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

Contributing Total: 1

101 East Main Street **120-5001-0049**

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

Contributing Total: 1

106 East Main Street **120-5001-0060**

Keese Building

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

Contributing Total: 1

111 East Main Street **120-5001-0050**

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

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Contributing Total: 1

121 East Main Street **120-5001-0051**

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

Non-contributing Total: 1

133 East Main Street **120-5001-0052**

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

Contributing Total: 1

149 East Main Street **120-5001-0053**

Mitchell's Motors

Primary Resource: Automobile Showroom (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1945

Non-contributing Total: 1

201 East Main Street **120-5001-0054**

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

Contributing Total: 1

207 East Main Street **120-5001-0055**

Sears, Roebuck and Company

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1947

Contributing Total: 1

209 East Main Street **120-5001-0056**

Primary Resource: Carriage House (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Craftsman, Ca 1915

Contributing Total: 1

213 East Main Street **120-5001-0057**

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1947

Contributing Total: 1

217 East Main Street **120-5001-0058**

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1947

Contributing Total: 1

219 East Main Street **120-5001-0059**

Primary Resource Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1 Style: Commercial Style, 1947

Contributing Total: 1

North Moss Street

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Contributing Total: 1**Wall Street****8 Wall Street****120-5001-0109***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 3, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1925**
Contributing Total: 1**Walnut Street****1 Walnut Street** (See 11 East Church Street)**2 Walnut Street****120-5001-0026***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1920**
Non-contributing Total: 1**3 Walnut Street****120-5001-0108***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1915**
Contributing Total: 1**5 Walnut Street****120-5001-0107***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1915**
Contributing Total: 1**7 Walnut Street****120-5001-0106***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1905**
Contributing Total: 1**9 Walnut Street****120-5001-0121***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1905**
Contributing Total: 1**11 Walnut Street****120-5001-0105***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1915**
Non-contributing Total: 1**18 Walnut Street****120-5001-0064***Primary Resource:* **Bank (Building), Stories 2, Style: Romanesque Revival/Richardsonian, Ca 1894**
Contributing Total: 1

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Section number Additional DocumentationPage 19**17 North Moss Street****120-5001-0035***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1930**
Non-contributing Total: 1**27 North Moss Street****120-5001-0036***Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1935**
Non-contributing Total: 1**Non-contributing Resources Removed from Boundary****120 Fayette Street****120-5001-0086***Other DHR Id#:**Primary Resource:* **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 1, Style: Other, Ca 1940**
Non-contributing Total: 1**8. Statement of Significance****Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

SOCIAL HISTORYETHNIC HERITAGE: European (Jewish)**Period of Significance**1824-1972

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

The Martinsville Historic District (DHR #120-5001) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1998. Located in the historic civic and commercial center of the City of Martinsville, the district served as the political and government center for Henry County for almost two centuries. The Commonwealth of Virginia created independent cities as a new local jurisdiction and Martinsville is one such city. Martinsville has been recognized as formerly one of the southern Virginia Piedmont's most prolific tobacco, furniture, and textile manufacturing cities, which prompted the economic prosperity of the district far into the mid-twentieth century. The original district's period of significance began in 1824 with the completion of the Henry County Courthouse and ended in 1948, which was based on the 50-year guidance for districts where historic activities continued into the more recent past but did not meet Criteria Consideration G. This update to the Martinsville

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Historic District extends the period of significance to end in 1972 to include mid-twentieth century resources representative of the continued significant historical growth patterns associated with the original district. The district remains significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce, Industry, Politics/Government and Transportation, and under Criterion C for Architecture. This update also adds Social History as an area of significance for the district's association with the Martinsville Seven case, which garnered national attention among civil rights and equitable justice advocates during the mid-twentieth century. The update also adds Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish) as an area of significance for the district's association with the important contributions of Jewish business owners and community members in Martinsville.

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

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

Criterion A: Social History

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

According to historian Eric Rise, the Martinsville Seven case "differed in several aspects from classic legal lynchings because the persecutions had not resulted in the wrongful convictions of innocent blacks but rather in especially harsh penalties."² Therefore, the conduct of the proceedings became the focus of

¹ Eric W. Rise, "Race, Rape, and Radicalism: The Case of the Martinsville Seven, 1949-1951," *The Journal of Southern History*, Vol. 58, No. 3, pg. 461. See also: Eric W. Rise, *Martinsville Seven and Southern Justice: Race, Crime, and Capital Punishment in Virginia, 1949-1951*, (Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1995).

² Rise, "Race, Rape, and Radicalism," 488.

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the appeals. The emphasis on the trial process and sentencing served as a rallying cry for proponents of equal justice. Despite efforts by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) to overturn the court's decision, all state and Federal appeals failed. Petitions were formed on several different grounds, including complaints regarding the all-white juries, the refusal of the court to grant a change of venue, and the severity of the punishment for the crime. Civil rights attorney Martin A. Martin of Hill, Martin, and Robinson in Richmond, Virginia, revealed through his arguments a history of unequal sentencing of black and white men for convictions of rape. Martin and his team consisting of Samuel W. Tucker, Roland D. Ealey, and Jerry Williams of Danville were able to "secure a limited stay of execution date from Governor William M. Tuck and a writ of error from the Virginia Supreme Court."³ Ultimately, however, all attempts at decreasing the severity of the sentencing failed. The refusal of state and Federal courts to hear appeals regarding the Martinsville Seven case motivated NAACP activists to "continue its fight for equal and exact justice" throughout the 1950s.⁴

Criterion A: Commerce

The Martinsville Historic District continued to serve as the primary commercial center for the city through the mid-twentieth century. During the 1960s, at least six different major financial institutions constructed or renovated existing bank buildings in Martinsville. One article in the *Martinsville Bulletin* noted the expansion of the financial sector as a symbol of the "growth potential of the area."⁵ Similar to other cities across the state, Martinsville's banking industry was significantly impacted by the 1962 Buck-Holland banking bill, which allowed for the development of bank branches and the consolidation of smaller community banks into statewide institutions. By 1974, Virginia had witnessed 118 mergers, with the eight largest banks controlling 64% of all offices. One of the state's leading institutions to emerge from this new banking system was Virginia National Bank, which formed out of 31 acquisitions. Virginia National Bank opened a branch in Martinsville near the corner of E. Church and Lester Streets in 1963.⁶ Martinsville's local banks also saw increased growth following the 1962 legislation. Several constructed large headquarters in Martinsville, including First National Bank of Martinsville, located in the ca. 1966 Colonial Revival building at 134 E. Church Street, and the Piedmont Bank and Trust (later BB&T), located in the ca. 1956-1973 International style building at 1 Ellsworth Street. As these local banks established smaller branch offices in the surrounding towns, Martinsville became a regional headquarters for commercial banking based in Henry County.

In addition to its robust financial sector, Martinsville's historic commercial core expanded in the mid-twentieth century to include a collection of department stores that sprung up along E. Church Street.

³ "Martin A. Martin," African American Registry, <https://aaregistry.org/story/martin-a-martin-attorney-born/> (accessed May 4, 2022). Martin A. Martin and the firm of Hill, Martin, and Robinson were influential in multiple Civil Rights cases in Virginia during the 1950s and 1960s, including the 1958 case that resulted in the desegregation of Richmond Schools. Martin died suddenly of a heart attack in 1963 at the age of 52.

⁴ Rise, "Race, Rape, and Radicalism," 488.

⁵ "Statewide System: Virginia National Builds Bank Here,"

⁶ Michael J. Ileo and David C. Parcell, "Evolution of the Virginia Banking Structure 1962-1974: The Effects of the Buck-Holland Bill," *William & Mary Law Review*, vol.16, Issue 3, Article 8, 1975, p.567-97; Marcus Pollard, *National Register of Historic Place Nomination: Virginia National Bank Headquarters Historic District*, Norfolk, Virginia, 2016.

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Beginning in the early 1950s, the long-time department store owner Abe Globman relocated his business from the Courthouse Square to the 100 Block of East Church Street. In 1961, Globman expanded the Church Street store to 100,000 square-feet. In order to make the expansion possible, Globman purchased two nearby churches, one of which was demolished to make room for a 243-space parking lot.⁷ Globman's expansion served as an "anchor [for] downtown Martinsville as the area underwent a streetscape program which involved landscaping and parking changes."⁸ The transition from a pedestrian-focused commercial core to one reliant on automobiles was evident in the prioritization of proximity to parking for several other department stores that opened near the Church Street lot. In the mid-1960s, two additional department stores opened near Globman's, including Leggett's at 130 E. Church Street and Sidney's at 132 E. Church Street. In order to keep pace with the growth of Martinsville, Leggett's moved from its 19,500-square-foot space at 23 Church Street, to a space boasting more than 85,000 square-feet.⁹ Not only did its new location provide access directly adjacent to the Church Street parking lot, but it also offered a sizable loading area in the rear. The expansion of these department stores is representative of Martinsville's continued commercial growth through the mid-twentieth century. Beginning in the mid-to-late twentieth century, suburban shopping malls and centers developed outside of the city's traditional downtown, prompting the closure of several of Martinsville's longstanding, local department stores.

Criterion A: Ethnic Heritage: European (Jewish)

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

Jewish business owners operated a number of retail shops in Martinsville Historic District beginning in the early twentieth century and continuing well into the district's extended period of significance. The first Jewish merchant to move to Martinsville from Russia was Samuel Heiner. Born in Odessa, Russia, in 1867, Heiner immigrated to Martinsville in 1888 and established clothing stores in Martinsville as

⁷ "Globman's marks 75th Anniversary of Founding," *Martinsville Bulletin*, 21 October 1990.

⁸ "Globman's marks 75th Anniversary of Founding," *Martinsville Bulletin*, 21 October 1990.

⁹ Advertisement, *Martinsville Bulletin*, 4 July 1976.

¹⁰ Goldring/Woldenberg Institute for Southern Jewish Life, "Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities—Martinsville, Virginia," <https://www.isjl.org/virginia-martinsville-encyclopedia.html> (accessed May 4, 2022).

¹¹ Virginia R. King, "The Role the Jewish Community Played in Martinsville," Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society, <https://www.mhchistoricalsociety.org/the-role-the-jewish-community-played-in-martinsville/>

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well as surrounding towns including Bassett and Rocky Mount, Virginia. Several prominent merchants, including Abraham Fوسفeld, Max Berlin, and Abe Globam also immigrated from Eastern Europe in 1911. Fوسفeld, Berlin, and Globman went on to establish department stores that became mainstays for Martinsville residents.¹² These and other Jewish merchants made critical contributions to the commercial development of Martinsville. The department and retail stores are physical reminders of Martinsville's commercial significance during the early to mid-twentieth century.

Criterion C: Architecture

The Martinsville Historic District is also locally significant under Criterion C for Architecture for its significant collection of early-to mid-twentieth century architectural styles. In addition to those styles which are discussed in more detail in the original nomination, the historic district is also significant for its evolved resources and expressions of the Modern Movement. Historic commercial districts were often updated during the mid-twentieth century in an effort to showcase modernizing inventories and to compete with suburban developments. In many large cities, this manifested in large-scale urban renewal projects, while smaller towns saw smaller-scale or parcel-level new construction as well as modernization of earlier commercial facades. Newer materials, including cast stone, enameled porcelain, pressed metal, and tempered glass, conveyed a sense of modernity and currency with the times to lure customers who otherwise might be tempted to drive to new suburban developments on the city's outskirts. The streamlined character of the redesigned facades also were in step with the Modern Movement's emphasis on eschewing traditional ornamental treatments in favor of the character of the materials themselves serving as the principal adornments. Two of the most popular styles associated with the Modern Movement were International Style and Brutalism, each of which emphasized the form and framing of the building itself as a means of artistic expression. In Martinsville, important examples of small-scale International Style architecture include the Setback Building (2 E Church St, 120-5001-0004) and the Virginia National Bank Building (8 Lester St, 120-5001-0016). Both are excellent examples of the emphasis on horizontality, the utilization of ribbon windows, and alternating planes of materials. The district also includes Brutalist influences, such as those reflected in the façade alterations made to the Lee Telephone Building (127 E Church, 120-5001-0018) in ca. 1970, characterized by its aggregate concrete façade on the south elevation and its weighty concrete rhomboidal entry columns.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Blanton, Alison Stone. *National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Martinsville Historic District*. Martinsville, Virginia, 1998.

"Globman's marks 75th Anniversary of Founding," *Martinsville Bulletin*, 21 October 1990.

¹² Goldring/Woldenberg Institute for Southern Jewish Life, "Encyclopedia of Southern Jewish Communities—Martinsville, Virginia," <https://www.isjl.org/virginia-martinsville-encyclopedia.html> (accessed May 4, 2022).

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Ileo Michael J. and David C. Parcell. "Evolution of the Virginia Banking Structure 1962-1974: The Effects of the Buck-Holland Bill." *William & Mary Law Review*. Vol.16, Issue 3, Article 8, 1975.

King, Virginia R. "The Role the Jewish Community Played in Martinsville." Martinsville-Henry County Historical Society. 2018. <https://www.mhchistoricalsociety.org/the-role-the-jewish-community-played-in-martinsville/>. (Accessed 28 June 2022).

Pollard, Marcus. *National Register of Historic Place Nomination: Virginia National Bank Headquarters Historic District*, Norfolk, Virginia, 2016.

Rise, Eric W. *Martinsville Seven and Southern Justice: Race, Crime, and Capital Punishment in Virginia, 1949-1951*. Charlottesville, VA: University of Virginia Press, 1995.

--. "Race, Rape, and Radicalism: The Case of the Martinsville Seven, 1949-1951." *The Journal of Southern History*. Vol. 58, No. 3, August 1992.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

 preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

 X previously listed in the National Register

 previously determined eligible by the National Register

 designated a National Historic Landmark

 recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #

 recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #

Primary location of additional data:

 X State Historic Preservation Office

 Other State agency

 Federal agency

 Local government

 University

 X Other

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR No. 120-5001

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 36.693492 Longitude: -79.877404
2. Latitude: 36.693522 Longitude: -79.867741
3. Latitude: 36.689163 Longitude: -79.867718
4. Latitude: 36.689133 Longitude: -79.877381

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The Martinsville Historic District, as updated, is roughly bound by Depot and Green Street to the north, Clay Street to the east, E Church Street to the south, and Bridge and N Moss to the west. The boundaries follow the parcel lines of contributing resources along the boundary's edges. The western edge of the district primarily bound by W Fayette Street to the north, N Moss to the east, W Church to the South, and N Market to the west, has been removed from the historic district boundary due to demolitions and loss of historic integrity. This results in a small area that is left discontinuous to the revised district boundary; however, this area is attached to a boundary increase area that connects to the original district and discontinuous area (documentation for the increase areas that have been added to the district was submitted under separate cover). The attached Location and Sketch maps identify the true and correct boundaries of the historic district.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the updated Martinsville Historic District encompass the areas of the historic commercial and government core that retain integrity associated with the district's areas and period of significance. The boundaries encompass all of the known historic resources and historic setting associated with the original Martinsville Historic District (1998) and excludes areas which lack historic integrity or have lost since the district's listing in 1998.

11. Form Prepared Byname/title: Kayla Halberg, Ethan Halberg, and Erica Howardorganization: Commonwealth Preservation Groupstreet & number: 536 W 35th Streetcity or town: Norfolk state: VA zip code: 23508e-mail: Admin@commonwealthpreservationgroup.comtelephone: 757-923-1900

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date: September 2022

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Martinsville Historic District Update 2022

City or Vicinity: Martinsville

County: Henry

State: Virginia

Photographer: Ethan Halberg (EH)

Date Photographed: January 2022

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Number of 16	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
1	Setback Building, 2 East Church Street	SE	01/2022	EH
2	Globman's Department Store, 115 East Church Street	N	01/2022	EH
3	127 East Church Street	NE	01/2022	EH
4	Virginia National Bank, 8 Lester Street	NE	01/2022	EH
5	Kearfoot's Drug, 2 East Main Street	SE	01/2022	EH

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6	Keesee Building, 106 East Main Street	SW	01/2022	EH
7	Commercial Building, 111-119 East Main Street	NW	01/2022	EH
8	Commercial Building/Warehouse, 43-49 Ford Street	NW	01/2022	EH
9	New construction at west end of district (removed from district boundary)	SE	01/2022	EH



Legend

 County Boundaries

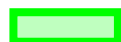
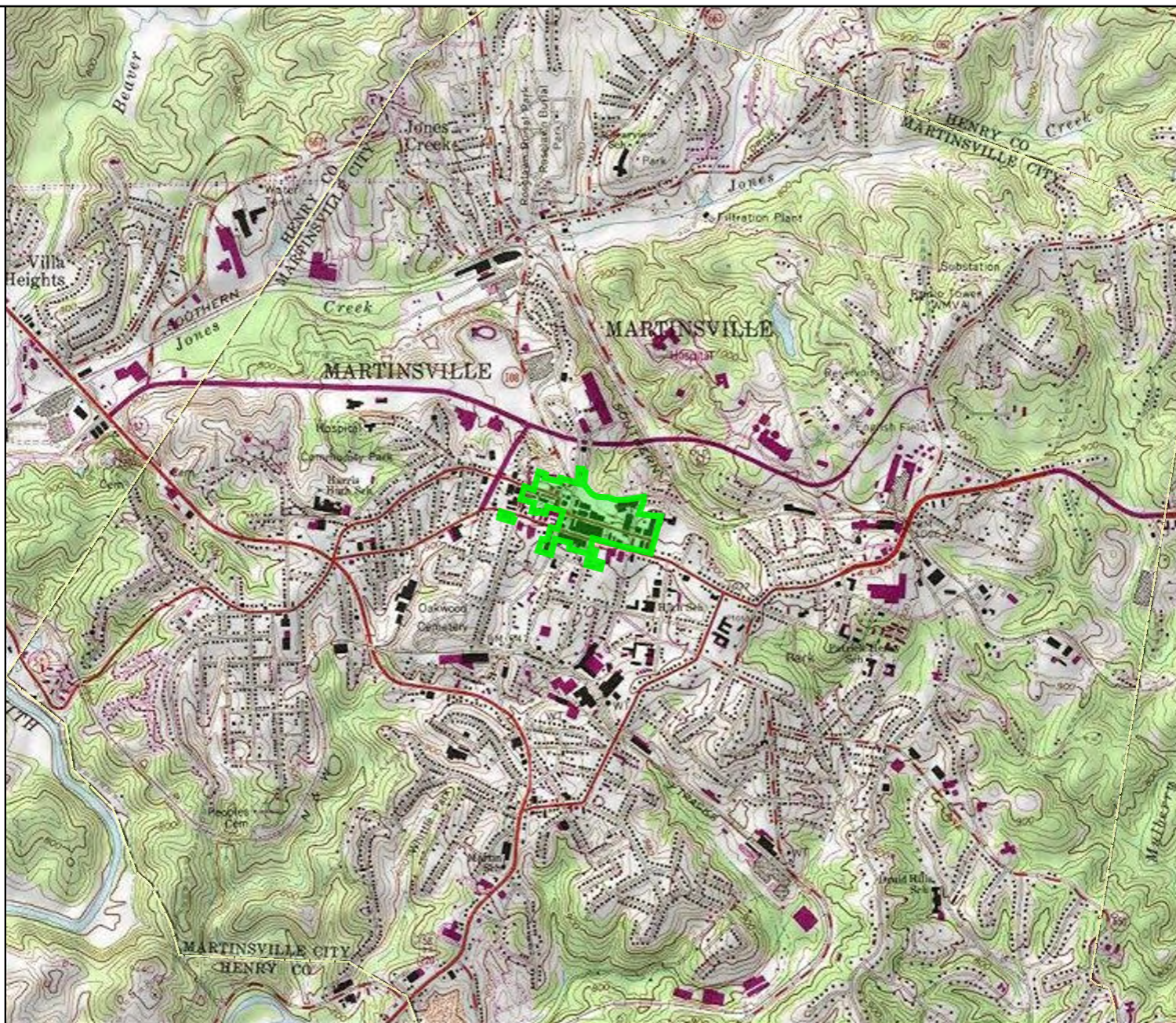
TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Martinsville Historic District

2022 Update

City of Martinsville, VA

DHR No. 120-5001



Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400
1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 11/10/2022

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

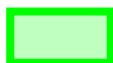
Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Legend

County Boundaries

AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update City of Martinsville, VA DHR No. 120-5001



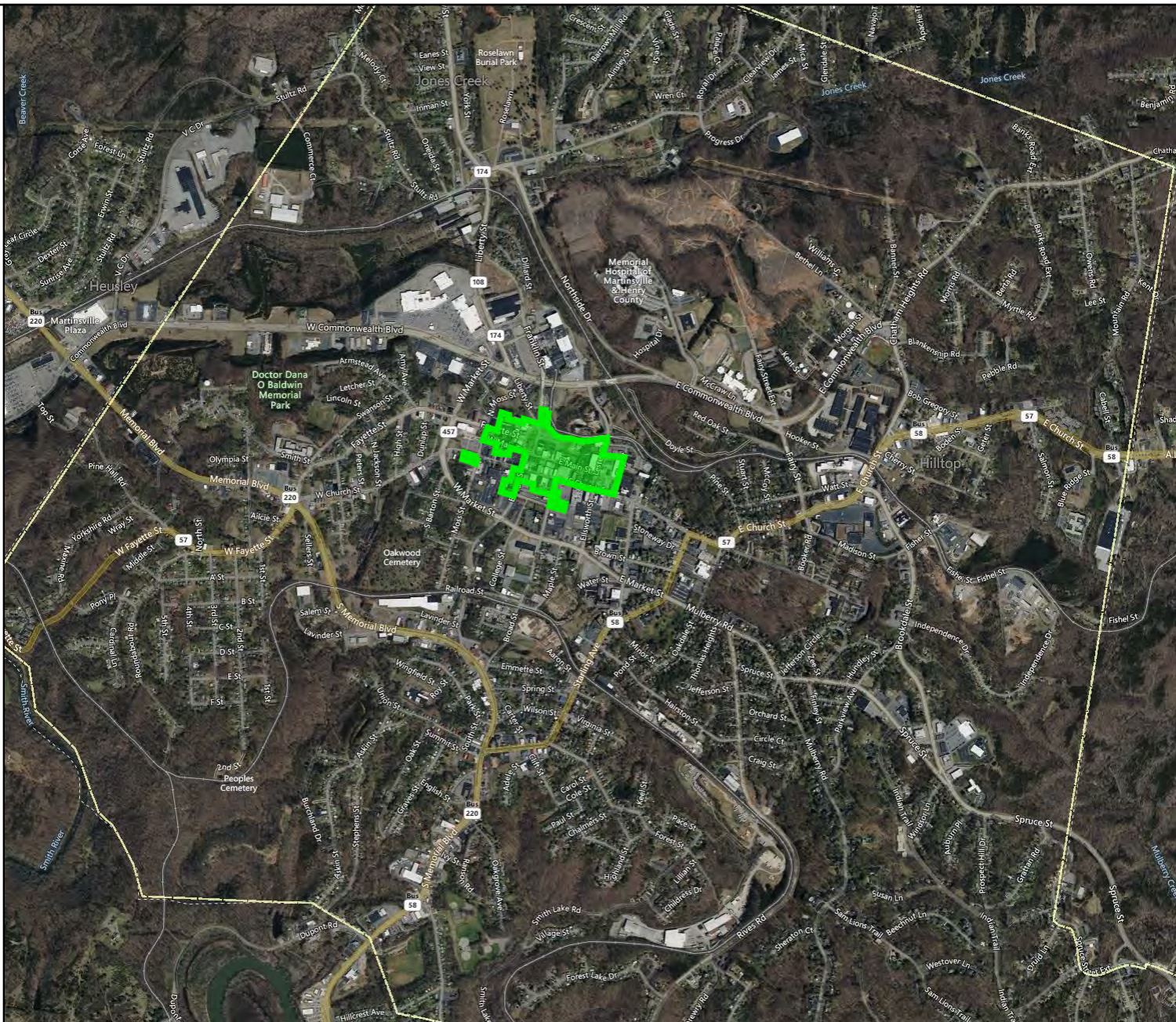
Historic Boundary



Feet

0 600 1200 1800 2400

1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

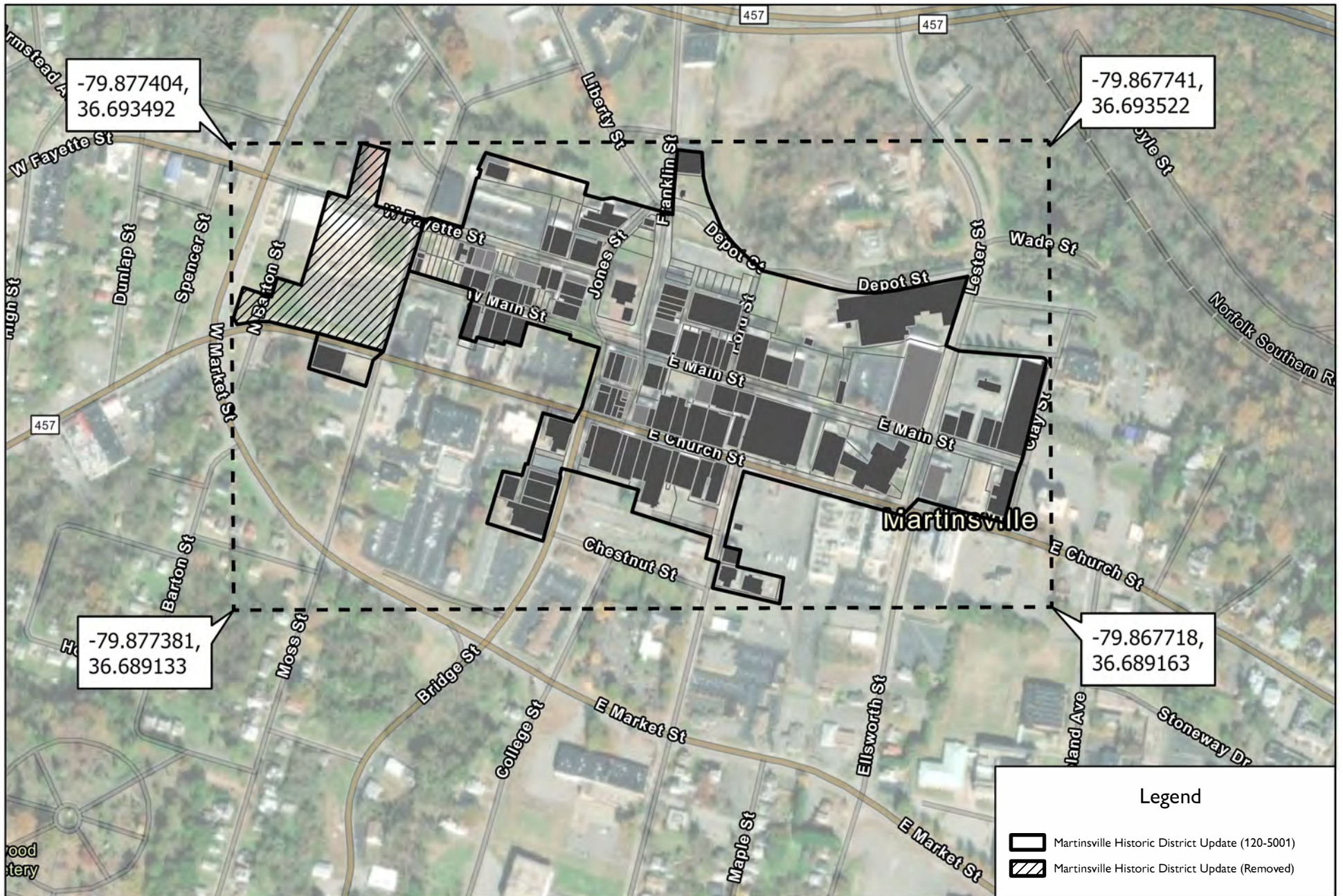


Title:

Date: 11/10/2022

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

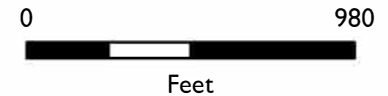
Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

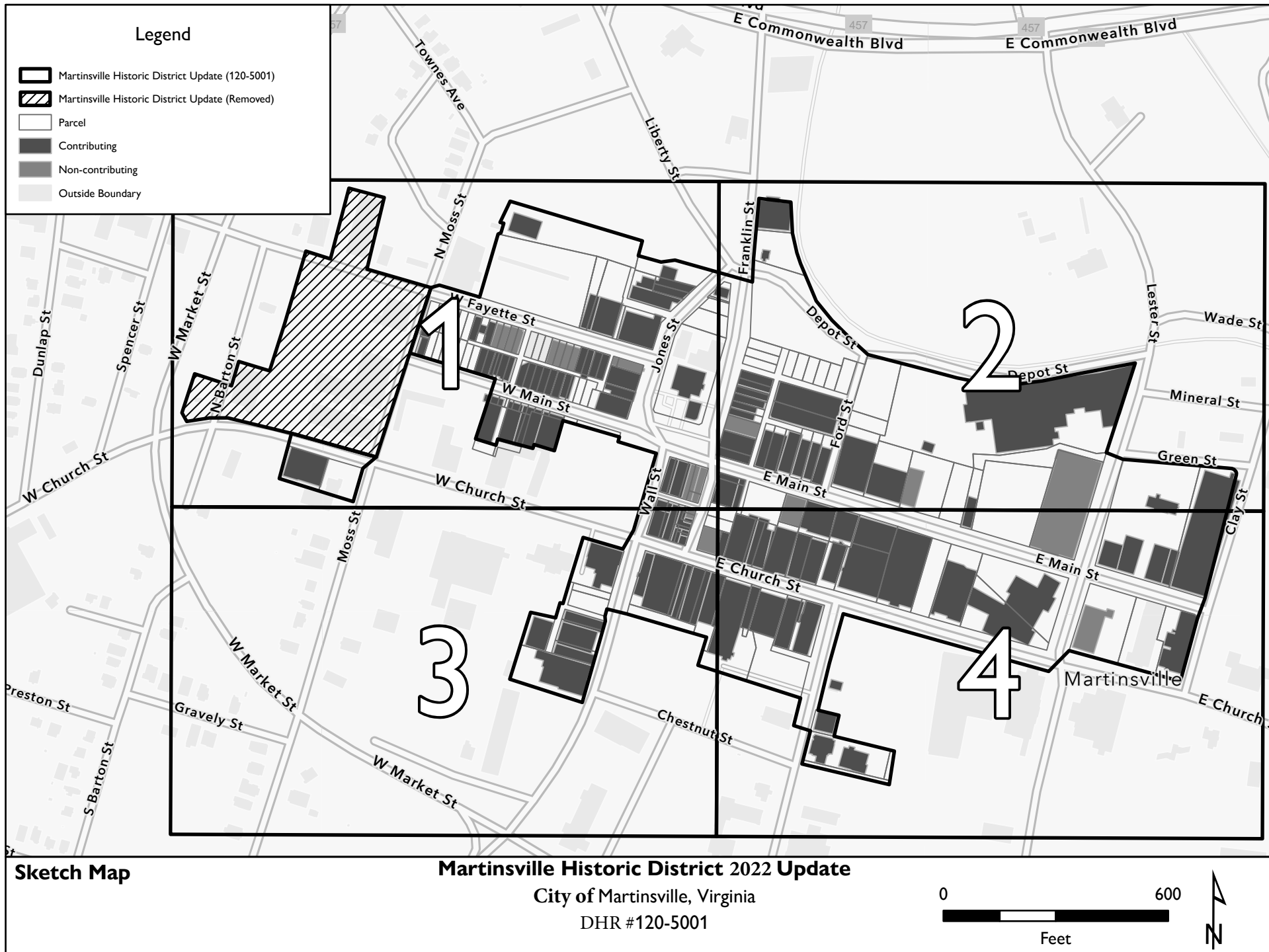


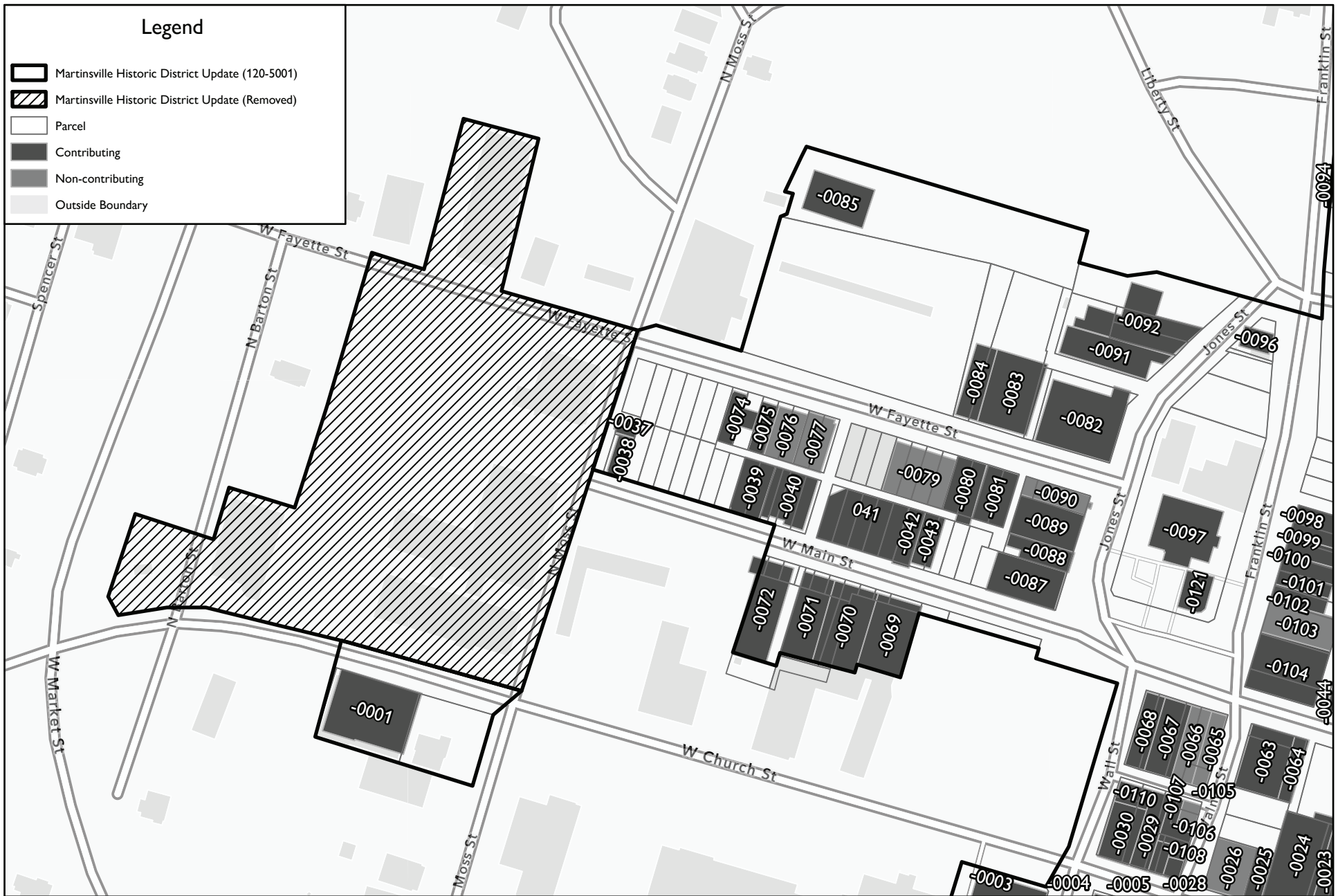
Location Map

Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

City of Martinsville, Virginia
DHR No. 120-5001







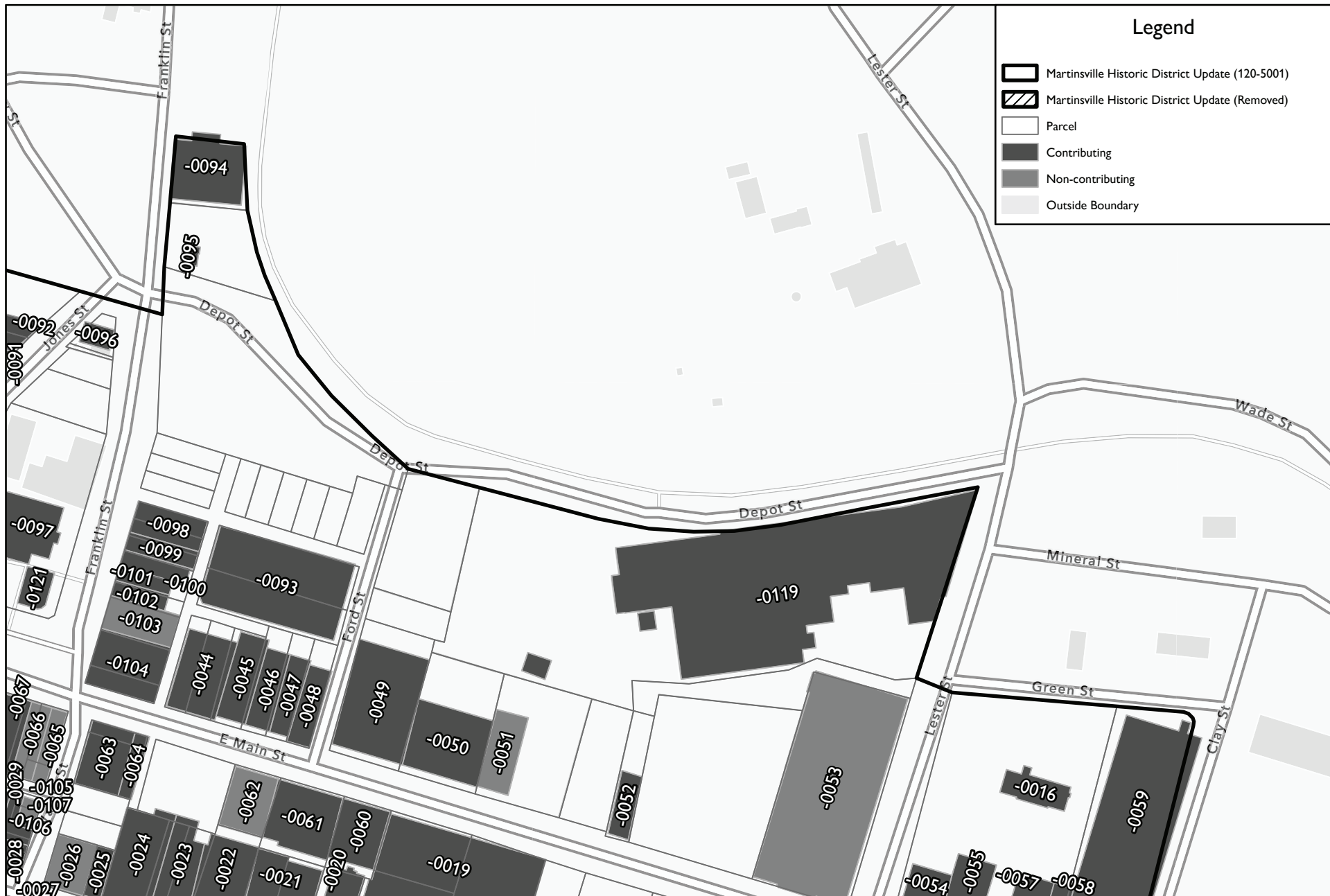
Sketch Map 1 of 4

Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

City of Martinsville, Virginia
DHR #120-5001

0 200
Feet





Sketch Map 2 of 4

Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

City of Martinsville, Virginia
DHR #120-5001

0 200
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Sketch Map 3 of 4

Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

City of Martinsville, Virginia
DHR #120-5001

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Sketch Map 4 of 4

Martinsville Historic District 2022 Update

City of Martinsville, Virginia
DHR #120-5001

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