NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

Signature of commenting official:	Date			
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National I	Register criteria.			
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government				
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date			
Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C	D			
In my opinion, the property <u>meets</u> / <u>does not meet</u> the National recommend that this property be considered significant at the for significance: <u>national</u> <u>statewide</u> <u>X local</u>	Register Criteria. I llowing level(s) of			
documentation standards for registering properties in the National Regist and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CI	FR Part 60.			
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation hereby certify that thisnomination /request for determination of	eligibility meets the			
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	1.1			
Not For Publication: Vicinity: X				
City or town: State: <u>VA</u> County:	Roanoke			
Street & number: <u>Bent Mountain Rd.</u> , <u>Bottom Creek Rd.</u> , <u>Mill Creek Rd Hollow Dr.</u>	., Rocky Rd., Greer			
2. Location				
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)				
Other names/site number: Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) ID #: 080-5731				
Historic name: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District				

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Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD Roanoke, VA Name of Property County and State 4. National Park Service Certification I hereby certify that this property is: entered in the National Register determined eligible for the National Register determined not eligible for the National Register removed from the National Register other (explain): Signature of the Keeper Date of Action 5. Classification **Ownership of Property** (Check as many boxes as apply.) Private Public – Local Public – State Public – Federal **Category of Property** (Check only **one** box.) Building(s) District Site Structure Object **Number of Resources within Property** (Do not include previously listed resources in the count) Contributing Noncontributing buildings 3 _____ sites objects 7 Total 25

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Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

FUNERARY, Cemetery

TRANSPORTATION, Road

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6. Function or Use
Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC, Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE, Service Station
FUNERARY, Cemetery
TRANSPORTATION, Road
AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE, Storage, Agricultural Field
Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions.)
DOMESTIC, Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE, Service Station

AGRICULTURAL/SUBSISTENCE, Storage, Agricultural Field

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7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions.)	
LATE VICTORIAN, Italianate	
LATE 19 TH & 20 TH CENTURY REVIVALS, Colonial Revival	
MODERN MOVEMENT, Ranch	
NO STYLE	
Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)	

Narrative Description

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

Principal exterior materials of the property: Wood; Synthetics; Brick

Summary Paragraph

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (RHD) (DHR ID #: 080-5731) is a rural and agricultural district encompassing 835 acres in Bent Mountain, a historically rural community in southwestern Roanoke County, Virginia. The RHD contains a variety of historic resources, including family estates, single-family cemeteries, cabins, rural roads and paths, a service station, and a unique natural setting consisting of Bottom Creek, Mill Creek, springs, and mountain vistas. The patchwork of nineteenth- and twentieth-century historic farm houses, barns, cabins, remnant orchards, country roads, and family cemeteries within the RHD give testimony to a time period when the cultivation of apples shaped the landscape and the lives of the people who inhabited it.

Landscape and Setting

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is located in extreme southwest Roanoke County, approximately 11 miles south-southwest of the county seat of Salem. Roanoke County encompasses 251 square miles, with elevations ranging from 880-3,960 feet above mean sea level (amsl), and straddles both the Ridge & Valley and the Blue Ridge provinces of southwestern Virginia. Surrounding counties include Montgomery, Craig, Botetourt, Bedford, Franklin, and Floyd counties. Situated between the Blue Ridge Mountains to the east and south, and the Allegheny Mountains to the west, is the Roanoke River valley. This broad and rolling

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valley fans out around the headwaters of the Roanoke River, which flows southeast through the Virginia piedmont before emptying into the Albemarle Sound of North Carolina.¹

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD runs through Bent Mountain, an unincorporated community located on a broad plateau at an elevation of approximately 2,700 feet amsl. Bent Mountain is a rural agricultural community composed of farms typically consisting a main house and outbuildings, such as barns and sheds, and sometimes small family cemeteries, surrounded by agricultural fields and woodlands. Bent Mountain Road, alternatively known as US Route 221, passes in a north-south direction through the community.²

Narrative Description

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is a unique historical landscape that helps to tell the story of apple farming in rural Virginia. The earliest commercial orchard planting in the Bent Mountain area was in 1870 by farmer Jordan Woodrum. Numerous other area farmers followed Woodrum's original planting in an agricultural transition that propelled apple cultivation to the forefront of the economy of the Bent Mountain community. Into the twentieth century, apples brought wealth to orchard owners and provided income for area residents as reflected in area residences—from the impressive ca. 1870 Les Landes estate of Tazewell Price to the modest ca. 1910 King-Waldron House.

Tazewell Price (1819–1897) was one of several slave-owning tobacco planters who transitioned to growing apples in the Reconstruction period. Price built a handsome estate house called Les Landes, meaning "The Moors" in French. The precise build date of the home is disputed. A surveyor with the Works Progress Administration (WPA) in the 1930s stated Price built the home between 1860 and 1865.³ Local historian Deedie Kagey stated Price built the home in 1871.⁴ Land record research and Izard's *Map of Roanoke County (Southern Section)* indicates the 1860s timeframe is the more likely build date.⁵ In 1863, Tazewell Price and his brother, Warfield, became the owners of over 3,000 acres inclusive of the site of Les Landes.⁶ The seller, John M. Price, likely was a relative, and the tract had tobacco fields and a dwelling.⁷ Warfield became bankrupt after the Civil War and sold his portion of the tract to Joseph M. Terry in

¹ Ellen Turco, David Price, and Robbie Jones. "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.

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³ Ernest H. Weaver and Works Progress Administration, "Virginia Historical Inventory: Tazewell Price Home" (Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, July 13, 1936), Library of Virginia.

⁴ Deedie Dent Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Roanoke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1988), 299.

Walter Izard, W. Hutchinson, John M. Coyle, Jeremy Francis Gilmer, Louisa Porter Minis, and Confederate States of America, *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/.

⁶ Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from Executors of John M. Price to Warfield Price and Tazewell Price" (1863), Deed Book G, Page 57, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

⁷ Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from John M. and Eliza Price to John Coles" (1855), Deed Book E, Page 316, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

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1867. The Virginia Historical Inventory describes Les Landes as "a brick structure, large and imposing. It was built by slave labor." This suggests a date of construction earlier than 1871.

The house known as Les Landes (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0001) at 10721 Bent Mountain Road is located south of the intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Green Hollow Drive, as shown on the 1996 Bent Mountain US Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map. It stands as the only extant Reconstruction-era building in the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD and one of few examples of antebellum masonry houses remaining in Roanoke County. 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 exterior is clad in Flemish and American bond brick masonry, and the side-gabled roof is clad with metal. Brick chimneys are located on the interior ends of the side-gabled roof. Six-over-six-light double-hung wood-sash windows are included 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.

Les Landes was a prominent landmark for travelers who passed through the area. During their survey of historic sites in 1936, the WPA interviewed Joseph Leland Perdue, who owned Les Landes at the time, and P.H. Thompson, an African American who knew about the property's history. The WPA noted some of the historic owners of the property: John M. Price owned the property up to 1863; Tazewell Price owned the property from 1863 to 1896; his daughter Cammie T. West owned the property from 1896 to 1909; and Joseph Leland Perdue owned the property afterwards.

Joseph Leland Perdue (1860–1942) settled in Bent Mountain with his family in 1873. Originally a farmer, he became a merchant in the 1890s. He found success in the profession and also invested in apple orchards. Perdue and his wife Lucy then purchased the "old Tazewell Price homestead" from Price's daughter in 1909. Several years later, a county history described the homestead as "one of the oldest and most substantial residences in the whole county, together with one hundred acres of fine land containing one of the oldest and best apple orchards on Bent Mountain, including many fine Pippin trees." Perdue also had orchard tracts elsewhere in the area and was described as active in the development of the orchard business in Bent Mountain. Ida May Perdue married John R. Zirkle, a farmer and fruit grower, in 1910. The Zirkles lived at the Perdue homestead and owned the property through much of the twentieth century.

Another nineteenth-century building in the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is the ca. 1890 dwelling (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0008) located at 120 Cobble Lane, which features a two-story,

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⁸ Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from Warfield Price to Joseph M. Terry" (1867), Deed Book G, Page 307, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

⁹ Weaver and Works Progress Administration, "Virginia Historical Inventory: Tazewell Price Home."

¹⁰ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 253–301.

¹¹ George S. Jack and E.B. Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone, 1912), 84.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

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dog-trot form with a rectangular plan. The dwelling includes no exterior ornamentation and has a side-gabled, metal-clad roof and exterior fabric of wood clapboard siding.

Within the RHD, a fair amount of new construction occurred around the turn of the century, likely as a result of prosperity brought about by apple cultivation. The buildings from this period continued to follow traditional vernacular forms common to the region. For example, the ca. 1900 dwelling (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0011) located at 10568 Bottom Creek Road is a 1.5-story vernacular house with no exterior ornamentation (based on previous field survey photographs, as SEARCH was unable to access the building for photographs during the 2018 field survey). The building's side-gabled roof is clad with standing-seam metal, with its damaged northeast end exposing the building's rafters. A brick chimney is attached to the exterior end of the building's south-facing façade. A variety of window types are present on the building, including three-over-one-light sash units and two-over-two-light sliding units with vertical muntins. The building appears open to the elements via the damaged windows and missing roof sections. The building has a full-width, one-story addition on its south-facing façade; the roofline continues the pitch of the main home. There is a partial-width attached front porch, and the main entryway and doors are obscured by vegetation. The residence appears vacant. The property also includes a small graveyard.

The Hale Homestead, another ca. 1900 residence (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0013) is located on Green Hollow Drive within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. The homestead, which is located southeast of Mill Creek, as shown on 1972 *Elliston* USGS quadrangle map, is associated with the Hale family. The resource is a vernacular two-story house with a hipped roof clad in corrugated metal sheeting. No chimneys are visible. The dwelling's exterior is clad with wood clapboard siding that is missing in several locations. Visible windows appear to be two-over-two-light double-hung sash units with horizontal muntins. Many of the building's windows have been damaged. The main entrance is located on the building's primary northwest-facing façade above an attached concrete porch supported by large rocks. The front porch or gallery has collapsed. The front door appears to be wood, with at least a nine-light pane. The dwelling has no exterior ornamentation, and appears vacant and deteriorated.

The Hale-related resources (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0013) on Green Hollow Drive represent the homestead established by William H. Hale (1868–1945). The homestead thrived on apple farming. Though born in Indiana, Hale's ancestry ran deep in southwestern Virginia. His family had settled in the region in the eighteenth century. In about 1890, Hale married Vioma Conner (1870–1941), who came from a family with similarly deep roots in the area. ¹⁴ Hale built the frame house that now stands on Green Hollow Drive and farmed the property. ¹⁵ Decennial census records from 1900 through 1940 list the William & Vioma Hale household. The Hales had at least ten children.

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¹⁴ "William Hale Certificate of Death (1945)," Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

¹⁵ Ann M. Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (080-5731)" (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2017).

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Hale's tract of land around the house was some 300 acres and he was extensively involved in apple cultivation. In 1912, he acquired acreage from the former Tazewell Price property. At the time, the tract was owned by Price's daughter, Cammie T. West. The tract Hale acquired included a quarter-acre cemetery. The cemetery, according to a 1936 WPA survey of the Price tract, contained the graves of the Price family's slaves. Tazewell Price and his wife, Elizabeth, were also buried in the cemetery. When West sold the land to Hale, she retained a right-of-way so she could visit the cemetery. According to local oral history, the graves of Tazewell and Elizabeth Price were relocated from the Hale tract in 1984 to a cemetery in Henry County. The fate of the slave burials is unknown.

In addition to the farmland, the William Hale property had a grist- and sawmill frequented by area residents. Hale also was an amateur veterinarian known for his work with horses.²⁰ He gave his land to his children, including his son Sim Hale. Sim Hale (1888–1961) built a home on the property in 1919. Sim, a lifelong farmer like his father, married Crettie Manning and the couple had eight children. Sim's sister, Edith, also inherited land from her father and, with her husband Bill Hall, built a home on the property.²¹

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD includes a series of roads that served local orchards. These roads would have originally been unpaved dirt, but many have been covered with gravel in the twentieth century. These roads were recorded on USGS topographic maps and historic aerial photographs by the 1950s. A remnant of the historic road network is visible at the entrance of the Hale Homestead (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0013) on Green Hollow Road.

The King-Waldron House (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0002) at 10808 Bottom Creek Road is a 56-acre property located on Bottom Creek Road north of Bottom Creek, as shown on the 1982 *Radford* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a ca. 1910 vernacular two-story primary dwelling, a ca. 1900 garage, a ca. 1910 barn, two undated barns and a shed, and a ca. 1930 secondary dwelling. The primary dwelling's exterior is clad with wood clapboard siding, and its side-gabled roof is clad with metal. The primary façade includes a one-story wraparound porch attachment supported by unornamented box columns. The primary façade includes three-over-one-light double-hung wood-sash windows. A wood wagon barn and metal fabrication mixed-use barn are located northeast of the primary dwelling. A ca. 1930 secondary dwelling is located east of the primary dwelling on the parcel. Its exterior is clad with wood clapboard siding, and its side-gabled roof is clad with metal. The primary façade features a central entrance and gabled portico flanked by two six-over-six-light double-hung wood-sash windows. Its foundation is obscured by a concrete block enclosure. The surrounding orchard is the remaining portion of the King Waldron Orchard, formerly one of the largest in Bent Mountain.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Weaver and Works Progress Administration, "Virginia Historical Inventory: Tazewell Price Home."

¹⁸ Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form."

¹⁹ Find A Grave, "Tazewell Price Burial: Oakwood Cemetery, Henry County, Virginia," August 3, 2018, https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/113315986/tazewell-price.

²⁰ Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form."

²¹ Ibid.

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A historic road network consisting of a buggy road and circumnavigator is associated with the King-Waldron Orchard (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0002) at 10808 Bottom Creek Road. A 1972 aerial photograph depicts the unpaved buggy road connecting Bottom Creek Road to the King-Waldron Orchard to the east of the property's dwellings. The buggy road is visible on 2012 aerial photographs.

Harry King (1905–1964) started his orchard in the 1930s. King acquired a tract of land in the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD shortly before 1935. He planted 17 acres with apple trees and the orchard thrived. The Harry King household is listed in the 1940 census and included his wife, Mabel (1912–1955), and their young daughter, Lois (born 1936).²² Lois married Lindberg Waldron, a foundry worker, in 1954.²³ She and Lindberg took over the family orchard in the 1950s and operated it until 1990. Lois King Waldron remains the owner of the former orchard property.²⁴

Development slowed after the first decade of the twentieth century until the 1940s when several new buildings were constructed in the RHD, including the service station (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0006) at 10661 Bent Mountain Road. The resource consists of a ca. 1950 rectangular service station and a 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-gabled roof, stone veneer exterior cladding, and a concrete slab foundation. Its primary east-facing façade includes a three-light wood panel door, a screen door, and two boarded storefront windows. The entrance is sheltered by a wide overhanging eave. 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 1999.²⁶

The ca. 1940 Rustic Revival style dwelling (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0010) located at 10858 Green Hollow Drive is a single-story T-plan type cabin. The dwelling is built of round, saddle-notched log and mortar chinking construction. Its exterior includes little ornamentation. The crossgabled roof is clad with corrugated aluminum sheeting, and a brick chimney is on the rear façade between the main home and the rear-ell. The six-over-six-light wood-sash windows are both single and paired units. Several have been partially removed, leaving the building open to the elements. The building's primary east-facing façade includes a non-historic aluminum door. The building appears vacant.

The house (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0005) at Bent Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. The 1.9-acre property is located southeast of Green Hollow Drive, as shown on the 1972 *Elliston* USGS quadrangle map. The resource

²² "1940 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Henry C. King [Harry C. King], Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia" (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1940), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

²³ "Marriage Certificate of Lois Eva King Waldron and Charles Lindberg Waldron," Virginia Marriages (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1954), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

²⁴ Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form."

²⁶ Turco et al., "Phase I Reconnaissance."

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consists of a ca. 1945, 1.5-story dwelling with a Cape Cod building form. The dwelling's exterior is clad with non-original brick veneer, and its side-gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles. The roof features two symmetrical vinyl-clad gabled dormers, an offset brick chimney on its central slope, and an exterior brick chimney on the north end. The dwelling has a side ell addition on its north-facing façade and a rear shed addition on its east-facing façade. The windows on all façades have been replaced with non-historic, six-over-six-light vinyl-sash windows flanked by decorative storm shutters. A ca. 1945 metal siding-clad garage is located on the parcel north of the dwelling.

The ca. 1950 dwelling (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0009) located at 10518 Bent Mountain Road is a one-and-one-half-story Cape Cod-type house built with a rectangular plan. The dwelling includes minimal ornamentation, two vinyl siding-clad dormers on its shingle-clad side-gabled roof, and replacement vinyl-sash windows with decorative shutters. The building's foundation is obscured by vegetation. The building's primary, northwest-facing façade features a replacement front door with a wide decorative door frame and a partial-width attached concrete stoop. The building also includes an attached gallery and second-floor porch addition on its west-facing façade. Brick chimneys are attached to each of the exterior gabled ends. The property also includes two garage outbuildings on the parcel west of the dwelling. One outbuilding is wood construction clad with vinyl siding, and a second outbuilding is non-historic concrete block construction with a front-gabled metal-clad roof.

The house (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0007) at 10710 Bent Mountain Road is a previously recorded resource within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. The 0.76-acre property is located on Bent Mountain Road west of Mill Creek, as shown on 1972 *Elliston* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a vernacular one-story ranch house built in 1963. The dwelling's exterior is clad with brick and its low-pitched, side-gabled roof is clad with asphalt shingles. A brick chimney is offset to the left on the southern slope of the dwelling's roof. The entrance located on the building's primary west-facing façade is flanked by a single-pane sidelight. To the left of the entrance is a large central window with three grouped single-pane lights. All of the visible windows have decorative storm shutters. The dwelling has no exterior ornamentation.

Bent Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0012), alternatively known as US Route 221, has been known by several names throughout the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD's period of significance, including State Route (SR) 205, the Bent Mountain Turnpike, and the Roanoke Floyd Highway. Bent Mountain Road provides the residents of Bent Mountain access to surrounding communities and neighboring agricultural markets. The road remained unpaved throughout the 1960s. A historic unpaved segment can be found north of the present-day intersection of Bent Mountain Road and Green Hollow Drive.

The Lawrence Cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0004) is located along Cobble Trail south of Mill Creek Road, as shown on the 1972 *Elliston* USGS quadrangle map. The resource consists of a late-nineteenth-century cemetery with the oldest burial present belonging to nine-month-old Elmer Coles Woods (1891, born 1890). Though oral history informs that the cemetery is 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). At least 101 burials are within the cemetery; only 28 are marked with identifying information. Sixty-one have plain

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fieldstone makers, and an additional 12 are unmarked. The graves marked with field stones may indicate that the cemetery's burials pre-date the late nineteenth century. Eight graves for members of the Altis family and five for the Woods family make up the largest number of marked graves from single families. The most recent burial is for Charles E. Hale (1995, born 1914).²⁷ Survey access restrictions prevented SEARCH from taking a photograph of the resource.

The Conner Cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0003) is located on Bent Mountain Road north of Green Hollow Drive. The property is not depicted on any historical US Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle maps of Bent Mountain. This resource consists of an unenclosed cemetery with eight fieldstone markers and an unrecorded number of unmarked graves. The cemetery is surrounded by a cultivated field and has been used for cattle grazing, causing surface disturbance within the cemetery. The surrounding agricultural field is owned by the Conner family, but oral history informs that none of the Conner family is buried in the cemetery. Survey access restrictions prevented SEARCH from taking a photograph of the resource.

Four previously identified archaeological sites are located within the boundaries of the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. Three of the four sites date outside the period of significance of the RHD (DHR ID #s: 080-5731-0015, 080-5731-0016, and 080-5731-0017); however, one site (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0014) is an artifact scatter with a historical component dating to the period of significance for the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD and is considered a contributing resource to the RHD.

Much like nearby, adjacent, and/or overlapping RHDs such as the Bent Mountain RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5677) and the Coles-Terry RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5689), the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5731) consists of properties associated with the apple orchard industry that flourished in Bent Mountain during the second half of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth century. The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is distinct in that it is largely defined by private properties associated with the apple orchard industry that flourished in Bent Mountain during the second half of the nineteenth and the first half of the twentieth centuries.

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture as a well-preserved rural district illustrating important agricultural practices in the region, namely the cultivation of apples (discussed further in Section 8). As adapted from the National Register Bulletin *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form*, in addition to historic significance, the property must maintain its historic integrity.³⁰ Historic integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics

²⁷ "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).

²⁸ Tom Klatka, "Cultural Expressions of Nature in Sacred Contexts: Documentation of Family & Community Cemeteries in Roanoke County, Virginia (VDHR File #RN-065)," 220.

³⁰ National Park Service. Guidelines for Completing National Register of Historic Places Forms. Part A: How to Complete the National Register Registration Form. Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Cultural Resources, 1997, 4.

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that existed during the property's prehistoric or historic period. Integrity includes the seven traits of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. Additionally, to retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey its significance. The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD retains sufficient integrity to convey significance under Criterion A: Agriculture. Location, setting, feeling, and association are the primary aspects of integrity for the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, as the district is predominantly composed of vernacular buildings set upon an agricultural landscape within the Bent Mountain rural community that grew organically -- as opposed to developed from a master plan -- during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The RHD retains integrity of location as it is located on lands that were historically used for the cultivation of apples. As a whole, the RHD has been subjected to relatively little intrusion from outside of the area/period of significance and retains its overall integrity of setting and feeling. The resources of the RHD are typical of a rural area where agriculture drove settlement and influenced the built environment. The RHD retains its arrangement of houses, farm buildings, agricultural areas, and natural/wooded areas across the landscape along with the associated historic circulation/transportation patterns. Residences are mainly vernacular-style architecture with various types of secondary buildings, such as barns, sheds, and kennels; associated family cemeteries; and agricultural fields. Some buildings, as discussed individually below, have undergone alterations or have modern materials. As a whole, however, the buildings within the RHD retain integrity of design, workmanship, and materials. A number of resources within the RHD are still used for agricultural purposes; therefore, the resources retain integrity of association. As a whole, the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD continues to embody the historic agricultural development/activities of the region and visually conveys the historical development and rural lifeway of Bent Mountain.

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INVENTORY OF RESOURCES AND JUSTIFICATION

The following inventory lists the contributing and non-contributing primary resources and their associated secondary resources located in the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. The entries are organized first alphabetically by street address and numerically by address, with the associated DHR ID number. If the property has more than one DHR ID, then both are noted. The resources are keyed to **Figure 5** of the Additional Map Figures included under Additional Items. All resources have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the area of significance as listed under Criterion A: Agriculture, the period of significance from 1870 to 1969, and each resource's retention of physical integrity.

Bent Mountain Road

10518 Bent Mountain Road DHR ID#: 080-5677-0002

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0009

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca. 1950

Contributing Total: 1 **Contributing** Total: 2

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) Contributing Total: 2
Secondary Resource: Outbuilding, Domestic (Building) Non-contributing Total: 2

10661 Bent Mountain Road

DHR ID#: 080-5654

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0006

Primary Resource: Service Station (Building), Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca. 1950

Secondary Resource: Store/Market (Building)

Contributing
Total: 1

Contributing
Total: 1

10664 Bent Mountain Road

DHR ID#: 080-5653

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0005

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca. 1945

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)

Contributing

Total: 1

Contributing

Total: 1

Total: 1

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10710 Bent Mountain Road

DHR ID#: 080-5655

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0007

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Ranch, 1963

Contributing *Total:* 1

10721 Bent Mountain Road

DHR ID#: 080-0487

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0001

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Italianate, Ca. 1870

Contributing

Total: 1

Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)

Contributing

Total: 1

Bent Mountain Road DHR ID#: 080-5731-0012

Other DHR ID#: N/A

Primary Resource: Road/Road Trace (Structure), Ca. 1932

Contributing

Total: 1

Bent Mountain Road DHR ID #: 080-5148

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0003

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site)

Contributing

Total: 1

Bottom Creek Road

10568 Bottom Creek Road DHR ID#: 080-5677-0008

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0011

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: No discernible style, Ca. 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Cemetery (Site) Contributing Total: 1

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10808 Bottom Creek Road DHR ID#: 080-0494

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0002

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca. 1910

Contributing Total: 1 **Contributing** Secondary Resource: Barn (Building) Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Garage (Building) **Contributing** Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building) **Contributing** Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Barn (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1 Secondary Resource: Shed (Building) Non-contributing Total: 1

Bottom Creek Road

DHR ID#: 080-5731-0014 *Other DHR ID#: 44RN0381*

Primary Resource: Archaeological Site (Site) Contributing Total: 1

Bottom Creek Road

DHR ID#: 080-5731-0015 *Other DHR ID#: 44RN0399*

Primary Resource: Archaeological Site (Site) Non-contributing Total: 1

Bottom Creek Road

DHR ID#: 080-5731-0016 *Other DHR ID#: 44RN0400*

Primary Resource: Archaeological Site (Site) Non-contributing Total: 1

Bottom Creek Road

DHR ID#: 080-5731-0017 *Other DHR ID#: 44RN0401*

Primary Resource: Archaeological Site (Site) Non-contributing Total: 1

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Cobble Lane

120 Cobble Lane DHR ID#: 080-5669

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0008

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca. 1890

Contributing

Cobble Trail

Cobble Trail

DHR ID#: 080-5326

Other DHR ID#: 080-5731-0004

Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Ca. 1891 Contributing Total: 1

Green Hollow Drive

10812 Green Hollow Drive DHR ID#: 080-5731-0013

Other DHR ID#: N/A

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca. 1900

Contributing *Total:* 1

Secondary Resource: Road/Road Trace (Structure) Contributing Total: 1

10858 Green Hollow Drive DHR ID#: 080-5677-0006

Other DHR Id#: 080-5731-0010

Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1, Style: Rustic Revival, Ca. 1940

Contributing *Total:* 1

Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD Name of Property

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Applic	cable "x"	nent of Significance e National Register Criteria in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register
X	A.	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
	C.	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
	D.	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
		onsiderations in all the boxes that apply.)
	A.	Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
	B.	Removed from its original location
	C.	A birthplace or grave
	D.	A cemetery
	E.	A reconstructed building, object, or structure
	F.	A commemorative property
	G.	Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD Roanoke, VA Name of Property County and State **Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions.) AGRICULTURE **Period of Significance** 1870-1969 **Significant Dates** 1870-1969 **Significant Person** (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.) **Cultural Affiliation** N/A Architect/Builder Unknown

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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 Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture as a well-preserved rural district reflecting important agricultural practices in the region, namely the The period of significance begins in 1870, the date of the earliest cultivation of apples. commercial orchard planting in the Bent Mountain area by farmer Jordan Woodrum, and ends in 1969, reflecting the declining prominence of the industry locally. Although apples grew in Bent Mountain commercially as late as 1990, the industry largely declined in the 1960s. The date of 1969 was selected as the closing date for the period of significance in accordance with National Park Service (NPS) National Register Bulletin 16A, which states that 50 years ago (1969) should be used for the closing date for periods of significance where activities begun historically continued to have importance and no more specific date can be defined to end the historic period.³¹ The bulletin goes on to state that events and activities occurring within the past 50 years must be exceptionally important to be recognized as "historic" and to justify extending a period of significance beyond the limit of 50 years ago.³² The 1870-1969 period of significance reflects the RHD's full agricultural development. The resources of the RHD are typical of a rural area where agricultural activities drove settlement and development, and the RHD has been subjected to very little intrusion from outside the area/period of significance and retains its overall integrity. The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD's significance is at the local level.

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

CRITERION A: AGRICULTURE

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture. The National Register of Historic Places attributes significance via Criterion A to resources that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history. The RHD and its history clearly possess attributes that render it significant under Criterion A. Susan A. Dolan's Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States provides insight for identifying and evaluating orchards that may be eligible for the National Register. Concerning Criterion A, Dolan identifies three subcategories for significance:

- (1) The orchard or fruit trees have played an important role in prehistory, in the settlement history, or in the subsequent history of development of an area;
- (2) The orchard or fruit trees are associated with a historic horticultural innovation, practice, or event; and

³¹ National Park Service, 1997: 42.

³² Ibid.

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(3) The orchard or fruit trees are associated with a historical event not directly related to horticulture.³⁴

Subcategory 1 applies to the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. Apple orchards, from the Reconstruction period to the mid-twentieth century, were a foundation from which the local community grew and thrived. From planting to harvesting, apple cultivation set the pace of everyday life for many of the residents of the RHD. Known well beyond Roanoke County, the apples produced from the RHD's orchards made the area a renowned farming location for a century. Apple farming brought prosperity to the orchard owners of the RHD and provided steady work for laborers, helping to sustain the Bent Mountain community for generations.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Apples have been cultivated in Virginia since the first days of European settlement and reached today's Roanoke County in the mid-eighteenth century. Extensive cultivation on a commercial scale began in Bent Mountain in the Reconstruction period (1865-1877) as area farmers began to lay out orchards with the hope that apples could bring them new prosperity. The success of apple cultivation created an orchard boom at Bent Mountain and in neighboring communities by the late nineteenth century. This boom continued into the mid-twentieth century. The prosperity from apples left a mark across the landscape as pioneer cabins were replaced with handsome farmhouses. Well-groomed, beautifully aligned orchards crept across fields and up the slopes of the area. Apples provided a way of life for many residents of Bent Mountain. As the twentieth century progressed, apple growers in Bent Mountain faced challenges from external market forces to ballooning production and maintenance costs, leading to a decline in apple production in the post–World War II period that continues into the present. Only a small handful of orchards remain in the Bent Mountain area.

Predecessors to the Apple Orchards of Bent Mountain

The community that became Bent Mountain evolved from pioneer homesteads established in the mid-eighteenth century in what was then Augusta County. The area attracted new settlement in the early nineteenth century once regional conflicts with Native Americans subsided and new land became available for agricultural development. Bent Mountain became an identifiable community in the years after the creation of Roanoke County in 1838.³⁵

The patchwork of apple orchards in the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD developed after the Civil War; however, apples had been cultivated in the United States since the early colonial days. The farmers of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries primarily cultivated apples for use as livestock feed and cider. They grew their trees from seed, resulting in orchards with irregular layouts and trees with varying size and shape. American varieties of apples developed by the mid-seventeenth century in New England. One of the first American varieties to gain popularity was developed in New York and named the Newtown Pippin. Benjamin Franklin had a barrel of

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³⁴ Susan A. Dolan, Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, with Technical Information for Registering Orchards in The National Register of Historic Places (Washington DC: National Park Service, 2009), 54.

³⁵ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 96.

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Newtown Pippins shipped to him while he was living in London in 1759. Cultivation of this apple ultimately spread to Virginia, where a seedling nursery existed as early as the 1750s. Thomas Jefferson developed a 400-acre orchard that included Newtown Pippins in the 1760s and George Washington similarly planted an apple orchard in 1774. After its introduction in Albemarle County, this greenish-white, juicy, aromatic apple became known in Virginia as the Albemarle Pippin.³⁶ This American variety of Pippin apple was the first cultivated as a commercial crop, and by the American Revolution, farmers exported Albemarle Pippins to England.³⁷

In the 1760s, David Willett planted one of Roanoke County's earliest orchards in the Back Creek community, which is located eight miles east of the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. Willett was the great-grandfather of Samuel Henry Willett who later cultivated apples in the RHD.³⁸ Bent Mountain-area farmer John Richerson's fruit was described in an 1832 newspaper. Richerson's apples were "of the mammoth species, and in color and flavor resembled the delicious New York Pippin."³⁹ Richerson dubbed these apples, which likely were Albemarle Pippins, "Richerson's Virginia Winter Pippin."⁴⁰

Apple cultivation, particularly for commercial purposes, was not widespread in the Bent Mountain area prior to the Civil War because of the predominance of tobacco. By the antebellum period, tobacco had been cultivated extensively and profitably in Virginia for well over a century. As the older tobacco plantations in eastern and central Virginia had become exhausted, planters looked westward to areas like Bent Mountain to establish new plantations. The Coles family and their kin, the Terrys, who were among the earliest Euro-American landowners in the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, are examples of this trend. While residents of Pittsylvania County, they developed and operated tobacco plantations using enslaved and indentured servant labor in the Bent Mountain area in the 1840s. The continued focus on tobacco left little room for experimenting with apple orchards; however, farmers never forgot that apples could thrive in the area.⁴¹

The Bent Mountain Turnpike

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD features the remnant corridor of the so-called Bent Mountain Turnpike, a highway developed by business interests in the antebellum period to connect the growing settlements of the region. Businessmen and farmers from Bent Mountain, then part of Botetourt County, and Jacksonville, later known as Floyd and the seat of Floyd County, organized in 1832 to develop the Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike. The road extended from Floyd through the Bent Mountain area and passed over Bent Mountain to connect with roads leading to Salem. Due to physical obstacles, labor challenges, and financial

³⁶ J.C. Folger, *The Commercial Apple Industry of North America* (New York, New York: Macmillan, 1921), 22.

³⁷ Dolan, Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, 27.

³⁸ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 82.

³⁹ "John Richerson of Amherst," *Lynchburg Virginian*, March 5, 1832.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ Grace Terry Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," *Journal of the Roanoke Historical Society* Winter, no. 2 (1967): 30–37.

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problems, work on the turnpike stalled until 1849 and was completed in 1859.⁴² The Bent Mountain Turnpike remained the principal transportation route through the Bent Mountain area into the early twentieth century and formed the template for the modern Bent Mountain Road that was a vital market connection for the apple orchards of the RHD.

A Civil War–period map helps to illustrate the setting of the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD prior to the rise of extensive apple cultivation. Walter Izard's *Map of Roanoke County, Va.* (Southern Section) was created in the 1860s and probably was the most detailed map of the area up to that date (**Figure 1**).⁴³ The map shows several features that became prominent in the postwar apple industry of the area. The homestead of "T. Price" (Tazewell Price) is illustrated at the center of the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. Price developed an extensive orchard after the war, as discussed below. Also depicted is the Bent Mountain Turnpike that passes from north to south through the RHD and Price's land.

The Rise of Orchards

The Civil War disrupted the evolving plantations and smalls farms of the Bent Mountain area, leaving economic devastation for area farmers and, in turn, influencing a new agricultural focus after the war. Many male residents of the area served in the Confederate States' military. ⁴⁴ Zeal and excitement gradually deteriorated, particularly in the Confederacy, as the hardships of war became an everyday reality. Farms and plantations suffered, homesteads fell victim to raiding by Confederate and Union troops, and law and order disintegrated. In the later years of the war, the Union Army pushed through Roanoke County and the Bent Mountain area. A force of several hundred men from the Fifteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry traveled along the Bent Mountain Turnpike. Following the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, area slaves fled to Union lines and freedom. ⁴⁵

During the Reconstruction period (1865-1877), Bent Mountain planters cultivated tobacco, but challenges increased to the point that planters searched for a new central crop. In the early 1870s, the Bent Mountain area and also neighboring Back Creek remained, in the words of the *Richmond Whig*, "very large tobacco growing sections," as they had been in the antebellum period. The abolition of slavery necessitated new labor arrangements for plantation owners. While the specifics for the Bent Mountain area are unknown, elsewhere in Virginia arrangements such as sharecropping—where families worked on farms for a share of the crop's value—existed in the absence of slavery. Pests also attacked plants. In May 1874, flies descended on the tobacco fields and weakened the crop for the season. Tobacco worms also posed a perennial problem.

⁴² Nelson Harris, A History of Back Creek (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2018), 22–23.

⁴³ Izard et al., *Map of Roanoke County, Va. (Southern Section)*.

⁴⁴ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74.

⁴⁵ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 204.

⁴⁶ "More Bad News About Tobacco," Richmond Whig, May 22, 1874.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 232–36; Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 32–34.

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In the 1860s and 1870s, a handful of area farmers planted apple orchards. Apples had been cultivated with success in the past, although their cultivation was not extensive. The expansion of railroads in the Reconstruction period meant that this perishable fruit could more efficiently reach markets as far away as New York and even overseas. Thus, apples held more potential as a cash crop than they had in previous years when they primarily were used for animal feed or local consumption. Moreover, the cultivation of apples, compared to tobacco and other crops, was less intensive after an orchard was established. As a late-nineteenth-century newspaper summarized the trend from tobacco to apples, "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."

Jordan Woodrum (1822–1901) was a Bent Mountain farmer cited as a major influence on the success of apples at Bent Mountain. Woodrum, who was born in West Virginia, was educated at Roanoke County's Hollins Institute. He received a law degree and became a newspaper publisher in Fincastle and Salem. He settled in the Bent Mountain area after the Civil War. In 1870 at "the base of Bent Mountain," he planted what has been described as the first commercial Pippin apple orchard in the area. A later county history celebrated Woodrum's achievement: "In this mountain vastness Mr. Woodrum saw great possibilities...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." 151

John Coles Terry, one of the largest landowners in the Bent Mountain area, also heavily invested in apples in the post–Civil War period. His investment began in the 1870s when he planted his first 25-acre Albemarle Pippin, Winesap, and York Imperial orchard.⁵² Tazewell Price, John Coles, Joseph Motley Terry, and John Jackson Huff also planted orchards in the 1870s.

Apples in the Late Nineteenth Century

The Bent Mountain farmers who planted orchards after the Civil War began to harvest in the late 1870s. Data for several apple farmers and their production are available for the 1879 season and presented in **Table 1**.⁵³ Tazewell Price had one of the most extensive orchards in the area. His 18-acre orchard consisted of 200 bearing trees. The Coles and Terry families also had extensive acreage that included orchards. Many of the apple growers in the Bent Mountain area at this time were involved in other types of agriculture, from growing cereal crops to raising livestock, while some were involved in other occupations. Joseph Motley Terry, for example, was a lawyer and a merchant while Tazewell Price worked as a teacher in the local Bent Mountain school.

⁴⁹ Harris, A History of Back Creek, 42.

⁵⁰ Ibid, 35.

⁵¹ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–79.

⁵² "Orchard and Beautiful Peaks," *The Evening News* Roanoke October 19, 1908.

⁵³ "1880 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Cave Springs, Roanoke County, Virginia" (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1880), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

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Table 1. Bent Mountain Apple Farmers and their Orchards, 1879.

Farmer	Acres	Bearing Trees	Bushels
John Coles	8	60	500
John Jackson Huff	2	20	100
Tazewell Price	18	200	200
John Coles Terry	12	70	700
Joseph Motley Terry	16	80	350

Source: 1880 Agricultural Census, Cave Springs Magisterial District, Roanoke County, Virginia

In the late nineteenth century, Woodrum's orchard at the base of Bent Mountain was particularly successful. A single crop had, in one of the highest years, brought \$15,000, 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.⁵⁴

The emerging apple industry of the late nineteenth century was dependent upon transportation to reach the market. In the 1870s and 1880s, farmers hauled apples over Bent Mountain to Roanoke over the course of a two-day journey. Commercial interests in Roanoke County sought to improve transportation in the southwestern part of the county with the construction of a new railroad line. The Roanoke & Southern Railway construction began in 1890 to connect Roanoke with Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and points between. The railway opened in 1892. Although the roughly north-south route was ten miles west of Bent Mountain, the proximity of this transportation corridor considerably reduced the time farmers spent transporting their apples to market. After traveling down the Bent Mountain Turnpike to the depot at Starkey, they loaded barrels on the train.⁵⁵

The Back Creek community, located east of Bent Mountain and the RHD, also prospered due to apple cultivation. Prior to the success of apples, the area was one of the poorest in the county. The orchards surpassed other types of farms in the county in terms of value per acre. The orchards also employed numerous area laborers. An 1895 Salem newspaper description of fall harvest illustrated community involvement in the industry at Back Creek. The description 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.⁵⁶

Prosperity was evident in Bent Mountain by the late nineteenth century. "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 industry in the Bent Mountain area. "The old-time double log houses have been torn down," the article continued,

⁵⁴ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–79.

⁵⁵ Harris, A History of Back Creek, 36.

⁵⁶ Ibid, 38.

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"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 homes 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." **S

Apples in the Early Twentieth Century

In the early to mid-twentieth century, apples continued to take center stage in farm production, and orchard owners remained the leading businessmen of the Bent Mountain area.⁵⁹ The apple industry brought "hundreds of thousands of dollars" into the area.⁶⁰ 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."⁶¹ Apples grown on Bent Mountain at that time included the Albemarle Pippin, Johnson's Fine Winter, York Imperial, and Winesap.⁶² A 1912 history of Roanoke County listed the leading men of the Bent Mountain community and nearly all were apple growers. They included Joseph R. King, George W. Powell, McH. Booth, E.O. Tinsley, Jordan Woodrum, Benjamin Bowman, Preston Edward Simpson, Andrew Jackson Howell, and John Benjamin Willett.⁶³

Joseph Motley Terry and his son, John Coles Terry, were some of the most prominent apple growers in the Bent Mountain area in the early twentieth century, as was their relative, John Coles Jr. They credited their success in apple growing to the Albemarle Pippin. While Albemarle trees took many years to mature, the return on the investment of time brought wealth to the Terrys. John Coles Terry had some 20,000 Albemarle Pippin trees around the turn of the twentieth century. Albemarles, though not the only apple variety grown by the farmers of Bent Mountain, had gained broad favor among consumers in the United States. The Terrys, as well as another prominent apple-growing family, the Woodrums, sent their crops to New York where they brought a price of five dollars a barrel. Albemarles also were popular overseas. The Queen of England reportedly favored them. "We learn that Mr. J. Coles Terry, one of the largest growers of apples on Bent Mountain, this county, shipped his crop of Pippins this year to Liverpool, England, and that his returns from them, received a few days ago, showed these famous apples netted him \$6 per barrel," described a 1901 newspaper report. "Who wouldn't raise such apples? Hurrah for Bent Mountain!" In 1904, another newspaper reported that Terry had sold his apples at \$11 per barrel to Great Britain.

⁵⁷ Gilberta Whittle, "Up on Bent Mountain," *The Times*, November 21, 1892.

⁵⁸ Whittle, "Up on Bent Mountain."

⁵⁹ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 302–5.

⁶⁰ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–79.

⁶¹ "Grows Fine Apples," Richmond Dispatch, October 25, 1902.

^{62 &}quot;Fine Crop of Virginia Apples," Staunton Daily Leader, August 9, 1907.

⁶³ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*.

⁶⁴ Harris, A History of Back Creek, 46.

^{65 &}quot;Grows Fine Apples."

^{66 &}quot;Final Price for Apples," Salem Times-Register, January 4, 1901.

⁶⁷ "Virginia's Apple Crop," Staunton Spectator & Vindicator, July 22, 1904.

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John Coles Jr. also prospered from apple growing. Around the turn of the twentieth century, he built a dwelling described as "one of the richest" in the Bent Mountain area.⁶⁸ Coles was described in a 1912 Roanoke County history as "perhaps the best-known citizen in the Bent Mountain district.⁶⁹

Apple cultivation produced several associated industries and activities in the Bent Mountain area. 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.⁷⁰

The Bent Mountain Apple and Cold Storage Company, a joint stock company of investors from Roanoke, purchased orchard land on Bent Mountain in the early twentieth century. The company purchased 80 acres from J. W. Chambers and 125 acres from Jordan Woodrum to build a cold storage warehouse to take advantage of apple market prices. 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." 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.

Droves of laborers supported apple production of the Bent Mountain area, although little has been written about their experiences or identities. The Woodrum Family's apple packing shed employed thirty to forty men around the turn of the twentieth century. Photographs of the orchards of the Bent Mountain area from a 1912 history of Roanoke County depict white laborers; however, census returns from the period identify many African-American residents as farm laborers. Sources indicate that quality of life was poor for many late-nineteenth-century Bent Mountain African-American laborers. Gilberta S. Whittle, a late-nineteenth-century newspaper writer familiar with Bent Mountain, wrote about the dwellings of African-American laborers 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."

Frosts damaged the regional apple crop significantly in the late 1910s and early 1920s. For the orchards of Bent Mountain, the damage was so severe that, in 1919, only ten percent of a full

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⁶⁸ "Fire Destroys Nice Home," Salem Times-Register and Sentinel, April 7, 1904.

⁶⁹ Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78.

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

^{71 &}quot;Grows Fine Apples."

⁷² "New Plants and Improvements," *Ice and Refrigeration* 23, no. 2 (1902): 67–68.

⁷³ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 305.

⁷⁴ Whittle, "Up on Bent Mountain."

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crop was produced.⁷⁷ Production continued to suffer from harsh winters into the early 1920s, although by 1922, orchard owners were able to raise their production to thirty percent of a full crop.⁷⁸

The challenging period of heavy frosts did not deter orchard owners in Roanoke County. Into the 1930s, their production levels returned to normal and, despite the economic depression, they were able to plant new trees.⁷⁹ The WPA studied apples in Roanoke County in the late 1930s and early 1940s, reporting that some 28,539 immature trees existed in the county. Also, the WPA found that the county had over 153,000 trees of bearing age. The county's 739 apple farmers reported a harvest of 280,402 bushels in 1939.⁸⁰

Roanoke County apple orchard owners took advantage of a unique labor source during World War II: German prisoners of war (POWs). During the war, Mason's Cove (about 20 miles north of the RHD) was the location of a German POW camp where captured German soldiers were held. Beginning in 1943, the War Department assigned prisoners to work picking apples in the county's orchards. The work assignment continued to 1946.⁸¹ Local historian Deedie Kagey has described that during the time of their internment, some POWs developed friendships with local families. After the war, Bent Mountain locals and the former POWs maintained their friendships through correspondence. Former POWs also settled in Roanoke County following the war.⁸²

Transportation Networks

The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD features a distinct transportation network that supported apple cultivation and harvest, and connected the farms and orchards of the RHD. The Bent Mountain Turnpike, a present-day portion of which forms most of the eastern boundary of the RHD as Bent Mountain Road, had been completed just before the Civil War. The turnpike carried local and regional traffic, including nineteenth-century ox carts pulling wagons of apple barrels to twentieth-century trucks hauling the harvest.

The turnpike was established as a private enterprise, but Roanoke County took over maintenance of the road in the late nineteenth century. By the early twentieth century, the Virginia State Highway Department had acquired jurisdiction of the road. The Highway Department worked to improve the road's surface, which was unpaved. In 1932, the Highway Department redeveloped the road as a two-lane corridor and designated it SR 205.⁸³ The configuration of the updated route diverged slightly from the original turnpike in some sections in the Bent Mountain area. Tinsley Lane (also known as SR 711), located to the north of the RHD, is a portion of the original turnpike that the 1930s configuration did not incorporate. The route along the eastern border of the RHD, however, appears to follow the same configuration as the original antebellum

⁷⁷ "Apple Crop Report," New York State Fruit Grower 3, no. 7 (1919): 7.

⁷⁸ "Virginia Apple Crop Is Estimated at 1,066,000 Barrels," *Richmond Times Dispatch*, June 25, 1922.

⁷⁹ Virginia Writers' Program, Roanoke: Story of County and City (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone, 1942), 167.

⁸⁰ Virginia Writers' Program, 165.

⁸¹ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 352.

⁸² Nicholas J. Linville, Interview with Deedie Kagey of Roanoke, Virginia, August 6, 2018.

⁸³ Harris, A History of Back Creek, 56–58.

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turnpike, with the exception of the Bent Mountain Road between the two points intersecting Green Hollow Drive.

Throughout the RHD there were country roads connecting farms and orchards. These roads were largely unnamed until later in the twentieth century and all were unpaved. Some of the roads served individual orchards. For example, the mid-to-late twentieth-century orchard of Lois and Lindbergh Waldron (discussed below) had a road known as the Buggy Road. The Buggy Road supported planting, harvesting, and other orchard activities from the 1930s to 1990.⁸⁴

Apples in the Late Twentieth Century

Apple cultivation in Roanoke County, as across the state of Virginia, underwent a dramatic drop through the 1950s. In 1950, there were 148,735 apple trees in the county; by 1960, the number had decreased by more than half to 66,609. Throughout Virginia, the number of apple trees also declined in the mid-to-late twentieth century. Available figures indicate that there were four million apples trees in the state in 1937, and less than one million trees left by 1972. In the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, the extent of apple orchards is evident in USGS maps and aerial photographs from 1947 and 1960. The same number is evident in the 1960 aerial photograph (Figure 3). Cartographic and photographic evidence implies that the orchards of the RHD did not fall into decline until after 1960.

Following the general trend in agriculture across the United States, apple production declined in the Bent Mountain area and Roanoke County after the mid-twentieth century. By this time, competition and the costs of production were rising. These factors pressured commercial orchard owners. In the early years, orchard owners largely competed with their contemporaries in the region; however, the proliferation of improved highways and trucking alleviated the transportation challenges of the past to the point that orchard owners in Bent Mountain competed on a national level. Moreover, farmers who set out new orchards planned them as large-scale commercial orchards that produced one type of apple as opposed to the comparatively smaller acreages of mixed fruit varieties that had characterized Bent Mountain since Reconstruction. Postwar apple production costs increased as well. Pruning, fertilizing, spraying, and mowing became fundamental to orchard management, and the expense to perform these tasks fluctuated with wages, energy prices, and the cost of fertilizer and pesticide. By the late twentieth century, as Susan A. Dolan has written in her context of United States orchards, "a highly competitive economic environment for commercial orchards created very small profit margins for orchardists."88

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⁸⁴ Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (080-5731)."

⁸⁵ Kagey, When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County, 511–12.

⁸⁶ Creighton Lee Calhoun, Old Southern Apples (Vermont: Chelsea Green, 2010), 12.

⁸⁷ United States Geological Survey, "Aerial Photographs: Roanoke County, Virginia," 1947; United States Department of Agriculture, "Aerial Photographs: Roanoke County, Virginia," 1960.

⁸⁸ Dolan, Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States, 115.

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With apple cultivation in decline, some Bent Mountain farmers put more focus on other agriculture such as raising livestock or growing cabbage. Many others gave up farming altogether in what was a nationwide trend away from farms to wage employment. The Bent Mountain area became a bedroom community for the larger employment centers of Salem and Roanoke. Residential developers built several new communities on former agricultural land while older farmsteads and barns disappeared from the landscape. Nevertheless, much of the Bent Mountain area retained its rural and agricultural character into the late twentieth century. The Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD is a prominent landscape feature.

⁸⁹ Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (080-5731)."

⁹⁰ Linville, Interview with Deedie Kagey of Roanoke, Virginia.

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Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD Name of Property

Roanoke, VA	
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Previous documentation on file (NPS):				
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested				
previously listed in the National Register				
previously determined eligible by the National Register				
designated a National Historic Landmark				
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #				
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #				
recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #				
Primary location of additional data:				
X State Historic Preservation Office				
Other State agency				
Federal agency				
X Local government				
University				
X Other				
Name of repository: Library of Virginia; Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk; Roanoke City Library; Salem Library				
Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):				

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 835

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1.	Latitude:	37.154586	Longitude:	-80.130408
2.	Latitude:	37.150534	Longitude:	-80.125297
3.	Latitude:	37.145686	Longitude:	-80.132458
4.	Latitude:	37.144312	Longitude:	-80.131446
5.	Latitude:	37.145396	Longitude:	-80.126169
6.	Latitude:	37.136043	Longitude:	-80.122104
7.	Latitude:	37.138196	Longitude:	-80.123893
8.	Latitude:	37.133867	Longitude:	-80.127687
9.	Latitude:	37.136176	Longitude:	-80.130422
10.	Latitude:	37.133657	Longitude:	-80.130344
11.	Latitude:	37.127184	Longitude:	-80.130303
12.	Latitude:	37.125176	Longitude:	-80.141865
13.	Latitude:	37.134815	Longitude:	-80.150916
14.	Latitude:	37.151265	Longitude:	-80.143076

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

The boundary line is indicated on the accompanying USGS map (**Figure 4**).

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The NPS provides guidance in defining the boundaries of rural historic districts in two bulletins: Guidelines for Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes (Rural Historic Landscapes) and Defining Boundaries for National Register Properties (Defining Boundaries). 91 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 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. This nomination takes a combination of features into consideration, including the recommendations included in a previous PIF to justify the boundaries of the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD. Rogers preliminarily defined the boundaries of the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD in her May 2017 PIF, with a September 2017 Addendum. Generally, the previously defined boundary encompassed the various historic resources adjacent to the historic apple orchards and excludes modern construction such as the Stoneridge development. Rogers' boundaries are generally appropriate, but require a more precise definition. Rogers delineated the RHD to include "land surrounding Mill Creek and its feeder springs, headwaters and wetlands," and the 17-acre King-Waldron orchard. 93

Based on architectural field survey, SEARCH concludes that the western and southern RHD boundaries require amendment. The previously drawn western boundary extended northwest of the 10568 Bottom Creek Road/Henry-Gregory House (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0011) parcel boundary, including portions of adjacent parcels that do not include contributing resources. It does not appear to conform with any parcel boundaries, roads, or natural features. SEARCH recommends extending the western boundary to Bottom Creek, a prominent natural feature. Bottom Creek and its distributaries are depicted on the 1890 *Christiansburg, Va.* USGS quadrangle map. This waterway is often mentioned in primary and secondary historical sources as a prominent landscape feature of the Bent Mountain area. This boundary update also avoids the inclusion of partial parcels in this portion of the RHD. The previously drawn southern boundary extended north of Rocky Road, dividing parcels into partial segments. SEARCH recommends extending the southern boundary to Rocky Road, a prominent manmade feature. Rocky Road is a historic local route depicted as an unpaved road on the 1950 *Ellison, Va.* USGS

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⁹¹ 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).

⁹³ Rogers, "Preliminary Information Form: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (080-5731)."

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quadrangle map. These updated boundaries encompass all contributing resources defined by Rogers.94

SEARCH recommends retaining the eastern and northern RHD boundaries delineated by Rogers. 95 Bent Mountain Road (US Route 221), a corridor established in the antebellum period as the Bent Mountain Turnpike, forms the eastern boundary. Bent Mountain Road is the primary thoroughfare through the area and serves rural roadside businesses and older farmsteads. The eastern boundary excludes a parcel developed ca. 1992 at 10700 Green Mountain Drive. The northern boundary follows former orchard boundaries depicted on the 1950 Ellison, Va. USGS quadrangle map. The boundary excludes a ca. 2017 development at 244 Cobble Lane called Stoneridge at Bent Mountain (Figures 4 and 5).

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Nick Linville/Historian; Geoffrey Mohlman/Senior Architectural Historian; Travis Fulk/Architectural Historian; Jenna Dunham/Architectural Historian; Angelique Theriot/Architectural Historian; Ryan Shears/GIS Technician

Organization: SEARCH

Street & Number: 2800 Dorr Avenue, Suites H&I

City or Town: Fairfax State: VA Zip Code: 22031

Email: michael@searchinc.com

Telephone: 904-379-8338

Date: August 2019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- Maps: A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)
 - Additional Map Figures

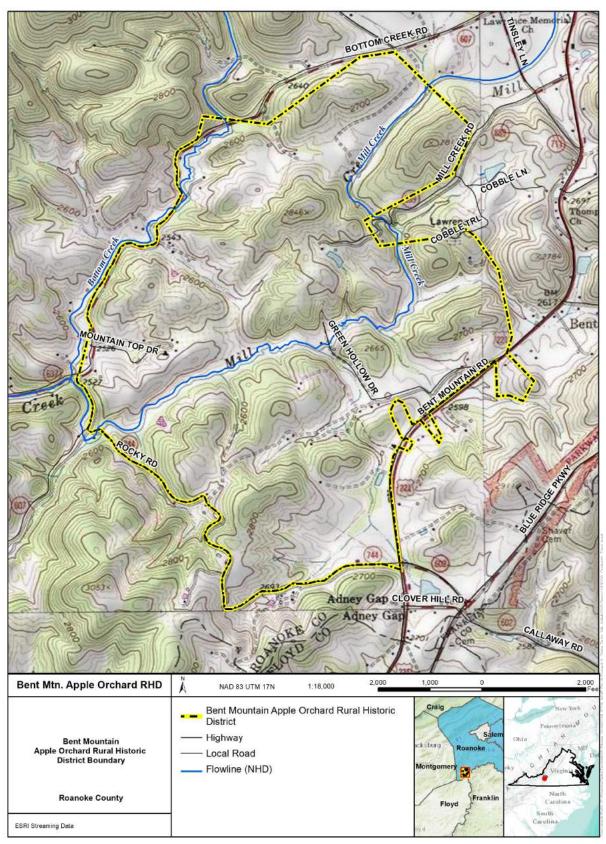
⁹⁴ Ibid.

⁹⁵ Ibid.

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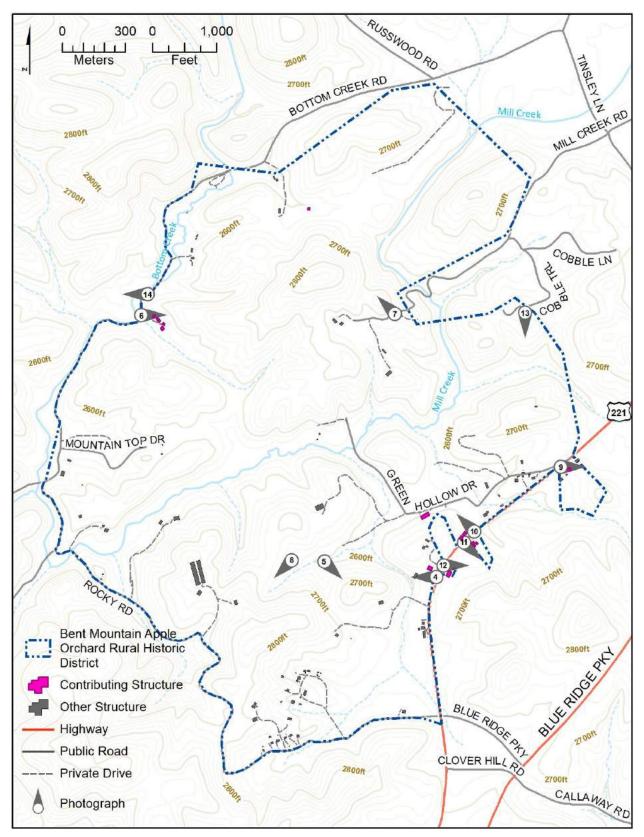


USGS Topographic Map

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Sketch Map

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service / National Register of Historic Places Registration Form NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018

Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD	Roanoke, VA
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ADDITIONAL ITEMS

ADDITIONAL MAP FIGURES

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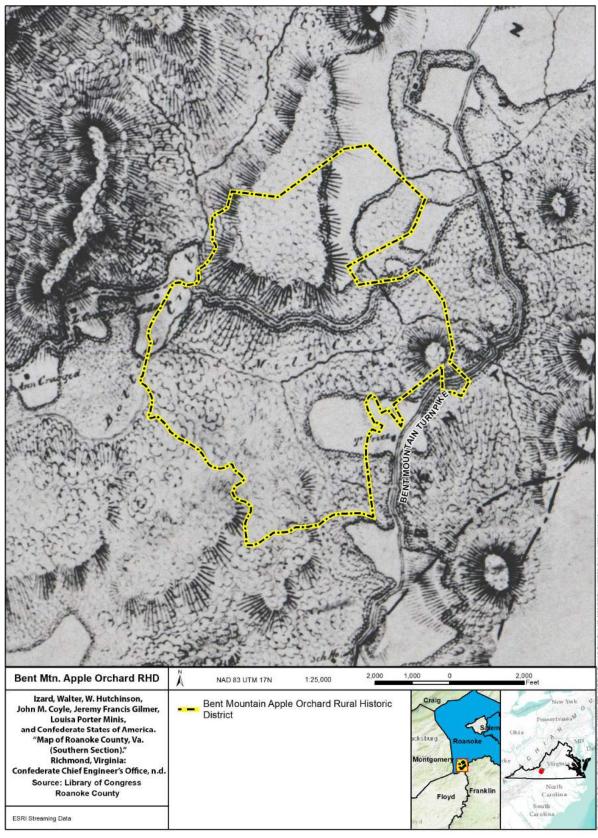


Figure 1 of 5

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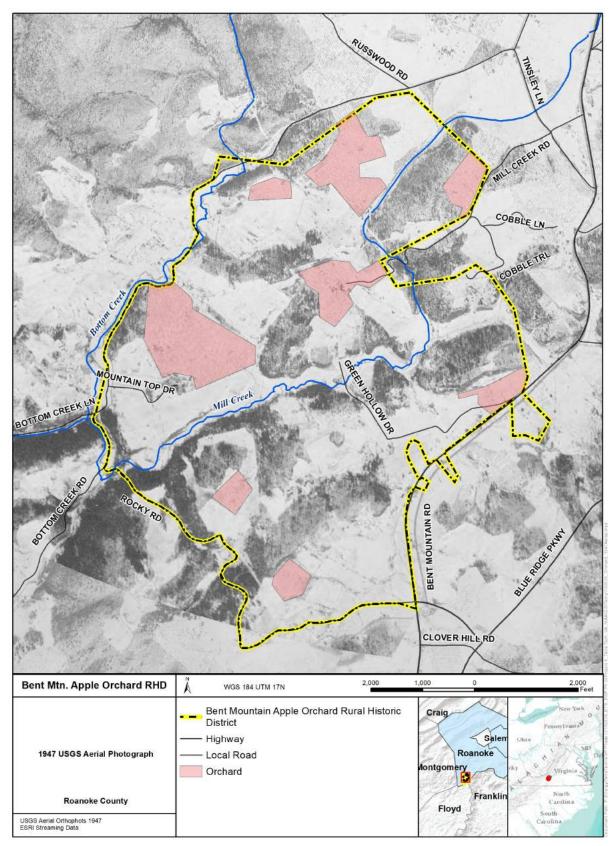


Figure 2 of 5

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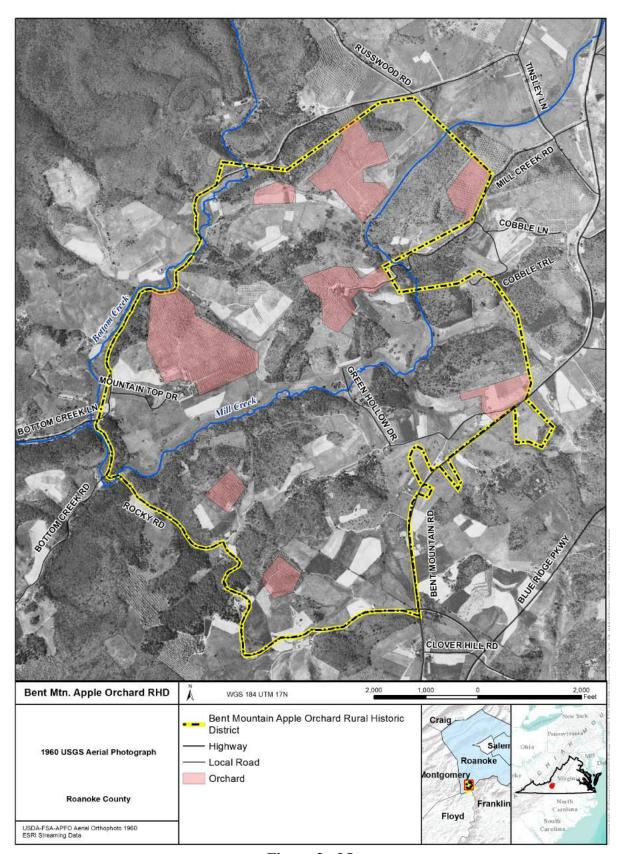


Figure 3 of 5

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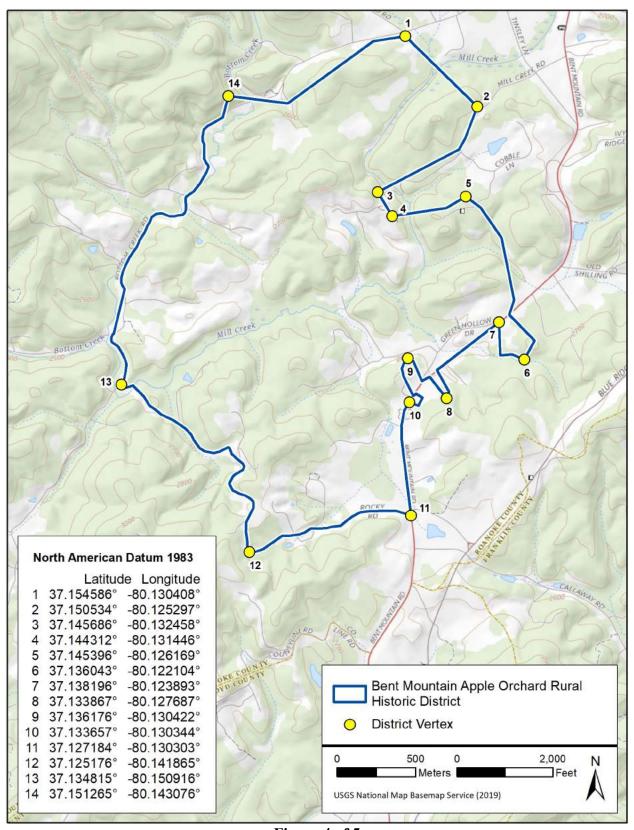


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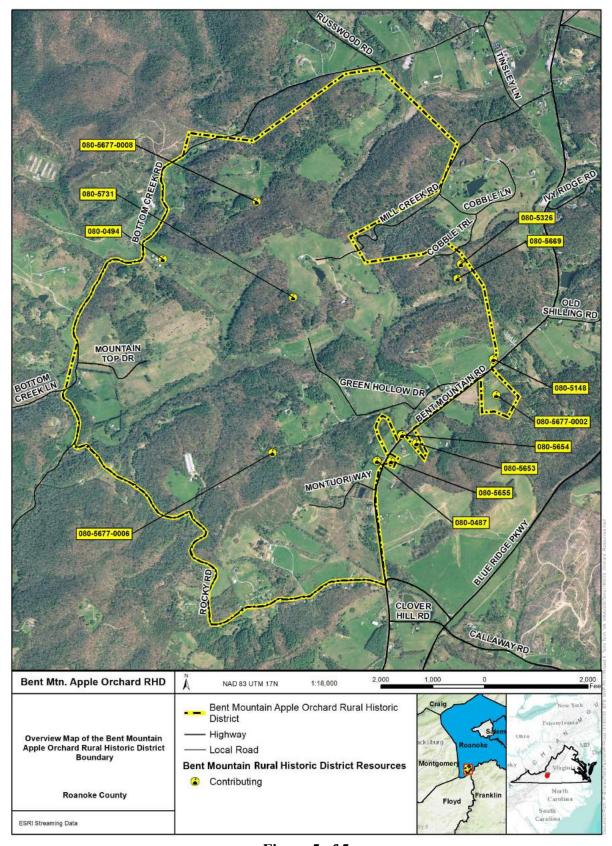


Figure 5 of 5

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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 (included previously under Additional Documentation). 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: Bent Mounta	in Apple Orchard Rural Historic District
City or Vicinity: Bent Mountain	
County: Roanoke	State: VA
Photographer: SEARCH	
Date Photographed: July 2018	

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

- 1 of 14. Apple Orchard on Willet Lane, facing southwest.
- 2 of 14. Orchard remnant within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing west.
- 3 of 14. Bent Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0012), facing north.
- 4 of 14. View of the main façade of Les Landes (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0001), facing west.
- 5 of 14. Remains of the Hale Homestead (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0013), facing southeast.
- 6 of 14. View of the King-Waldron House (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0002), facing east.
- 7 of 14. View of agricultural field (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0011) within Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing northwest.
- 8 of 14. Example of a log cabin dwelling (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0010) within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing southwest.
- 9 of 14. Example of a Colonial Revival cape dwelling (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0009) within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing east.
- 10 of 14. Example of service station buildings (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0006) within the

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Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing northwest.

- 11 of 14. Example of a mid-twentieth-century residence (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0005) within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing southeast.
- 12 of 14. Example of a ranch-style residence (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0007) within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing east.
- 13 of 14. Example of a vernacular residence (DHR ID #: 080-5731-0008) within the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD, facing south.
- 14 of 14. View of Bottom Creek, facing west.

Due to restrictions, the following Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD Resources could not be fully accessed for photography and no photos are available on V-CRIS:

DHR ID #: 080-5731-0003 Connor Cemetery, Bent Mountain Road

DHR ID #: 080-5731-0004 Lawrence Cemetery, Cobble Trail

DHR ID #: 080-5731-0011 10568 Bottom Creek Road

Roanoke, VA

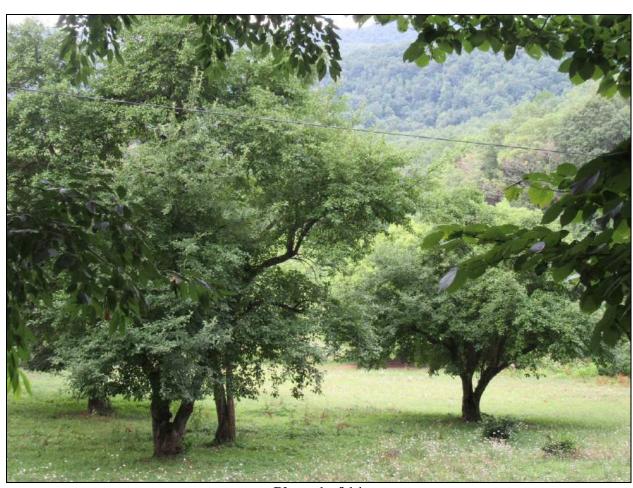


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NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.