

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places Registration Form**

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

**1. Name of Property**Historic name: Coles-Terry Rural Historic DistrictOther names/site number: Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) ID #: 080-5689Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

**2. Location**Street & number: Poor Mountain Road, Honeysuckle RoadCity or town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: VA County: RoanokeNot For Publication: ☐ Vicinity: ☒**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination / request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets / does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance: national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria: X A B C D\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of certifying official/Title:**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Signature of commenting official:**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**\_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** **State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government**

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#### 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): \_\_\_\_\_

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Signature of the Keeper

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Date of Action

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#### 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

☐

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>23</u>	<u>6</u>	buildings
<u>1</u>	<u>3</u>	sites
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u></u>	<u></u>	objects
<u>26</u>	<u>10</u>	Total

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

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE, Agricultural Field, Storage, Agricultural Outbuilding  
FUNERARY, Cemetery  
GOVERNMENT, Fire Tower

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC, Single Dwelling, Secondary Structure  
AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE, Agricultural Field, Storage, Agricultural Outbuilding  
FUNERARY, Cemetery  
GOVERNMENT, Fire Tower

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> & 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS, Bungalow/Craftsman

NO STYLE

OTHER: Log Cabin

OTHER: Fire Tower

**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

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

### 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.)

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### Summary Paragraph

The Coles-Terry Rural Historic District (RHD) (DHR ID #: 080-5689) is a 2,560-acre rural and agricultural landscape at the slope of Poor Mountain in Bent Mountain, Roanoke County, Virginia. Its boundaries largely encompass the ancestral and present-day lands of the Terry family, as well as old apple orchards. The mostly forested RHD starts approximately 0.4 miles east of the intersection of Poor Mountain Road and Honeysuckle Road in Bent Mountain, Roanoke County, Virginia, extending 3.25 miles southwest along the crest of Poor Mountain to the Montgomery County line. It includes the headwaters of Laurel Creek and Bottom Creek, where they emerge at the foot of Poor Mountain. The Coles-Terry RHD contains a collection of nineteenth- and twentieth-century farm houses and associated buildings, agricultural fields/apple orchards, rural cemeteries, and a fire tower, all of which were built or established in response to the growth of agriculture in the region. The most common building types are vernacular-style farm houses and associated farm-related outbuildings such as barns, stables, kennels, sheds, and secondary residences. The historic integrity and physical character of the Coles-Terry RHD remains largely intact. The Coles-Terry RHD has been subjected to very little intrusion from outside of the area/period of significance and retains its overall integrity of setting and feeling. As some resources are still associated with the agricultural industry, they retain integrity of association. While individual resources have undergone changes, as a whole, the Coles-Terry RHD still conveys its nineteenth- and twentieth-century agricultural roots.

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## **Landscape and Setting**

The Coles-Terry RHD is located in extreme southwest Roanoke County, which straddles both the Ridge & Valley and the Blue Ridge provinces of southwestern Virginia. Roanoke County encompasses 251 square miles, with elevations ranging from 880-3,960 feet above mean sea level (amsl). 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 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. The valley is located at the southern end of the Shenandoah River valley, also known as the Great Valley of Virginia, which runs roughly north-south through the western part of the state.

The Coles-Terry RHD is located in the vicinity of Bent Mountain, an unincorporated community located on a broad plateau southwest of the City of Roanoke, at an elevation of approximately 2,700 feet amsl. Bent Mountain is a rural agricultural community composed of farms that typically consist of a main house and outbuildings, such as barns and sheds, and sometimes small family cemeteries, surrounded by agricultural fields and woodlands. Bent Mountain Road (US Route 221) passes in a north-south direction through the community and is lined with many older homes and roadside businesses.<sup>1</sup>

## **Narrative Description**

The Coles-Terry RHD is a 2,560-acre rural and agricultural landscape at the foot of the slope of Poor Mountain in Bent Mountain that encompasses the ancestral and present-day lands of the Terry family, including old apple orchards. Dominated by forested lands, the RHD starts approximately 0.4 miles east of the intersection of Poor Mountain Road and Honeysuckle Road, extending 3.25 miles southwest along the crest of Poor Mountain to the Montgomery County line. It includes the headwaters of Laurel Creek and Bottom Creek, where they emerge at the foot of Poor Mountain. Settlement intensified in the early decades of the nineteenth century as the area's advantageous setting for agriculture became widely recognized. Indeed, agricultural opportunities afforded by the fertile and relatively level ground of the area were the foundation for pioneer settlements and, until the late 1960s, continued to greatly influence the lifeways of the RHD residents. The resources of the RHD are typical of a rural area where agriculture drove settlement and influenced the built environment: mainly vernacular-style architecture with various types of secondary buildings, such as barns, sheds, and kennels; associated family cemeteries; and agricultural fields. The Coles-Terry RHD has been subjected to very little intrusion from outside of the area/period of significance and retains its overall integrity.

The architectural resources of the Coles-Terry RHD display the early settlement and agricultural growth of the region, with one resource from ca. 1820 dating to the very early European-American settlement of the area. The majority of the contributing resources are clustered into family farms along Poor Mountain Road, while the fire tower is accessed by Honeysuckle Road.

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<sup>1</sup> 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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The most common building types are vernacular-style farm houses and associated farm-related outbuildings. Four of the six primary residences were constructed during the nineteenth century from the earliest in ca. 1820 to the latest in ca. 1890. The two twentieth-century primary houses were constructed in ca. 1900 and ca. 1910. A secondary residence was built in ca. 1930. Like the primary residences, the outbuildings/secondary buildings are from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the earliest outbuilding dating to ca. 1875 and the most recent contributing resource dating to ca. 1930. Similar to the houses, the two cemeteries were also established in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, with the first in ca. 1877 and the second in ca. 1901. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) constructed the lone fire tower in ca. 1933.

The Coles-Terry RHD includes a dwelling dating to very early European-American settlement of the area. The ca. 1820 Janet Wynot House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002) at 8701 Poor Mountain Road was built on a tract of a George Washington land grant and is presently owned by a Terry descendant. Its builder and original inhabitants are unknown. The Terry family arrived in Bent Mountain ca. 1835 and acquired the house in the nineteenth century. The Janet Wynot House is set on a 111-acre property that is located north of Poor Mountain Road, as shown on the 1982 *Radford* US Geological Survey (USGS) quadrangle map. The farmstead is adjacent to Bottom Creek near the Roanoke County-Montgomery County boundary and consists of the 1820 private residence primary resource, with approximately 10 secondary resources that include a ca. 1877 cemetery with 15 graves, a ca. 1930 kennel, machine shed, stable, and shed. A ca. 1990 garage is also present on the property.

The farmhouse, currently owned by Terry family descendant Janet E. Wynot, is a two-story, vernacular style central passage house with an asphalt-clad gabled roof.<sup>2</sup> The rear (northwest) of the residence includes a two-story gabled roof addition and multiple one-story shed roof additions. According to DHR, the house was constructed with heavy timber frame, and the rear two-story addition and four sheds were built using light timber framing. The exterior of the building is clad with vinyl siding, and the building sits on a continuous masonry foundation. Two brick chimneys are located along the interior ridge of the roofline of the residence. The primary (southeast) façade features a centered two-story projecting bay window with a cross-gabled roof, with the main entrance located on the first story of the projecting bay. A one-story shed roof porch spans the width of the façade, is supported by square wood columns, and features a balustrade. Fenestration includes both wood- and metal-sash replacement one-over-one-light windows, both paired and independent, with decorative shutters. The northwest façade features the two-story gabled addition, with a one-story shed roof addition to the south, and two one-story shed roof additions to the north. The north façade of the two-story addition also features a pyramidal addition on the upper story, connecting to the shed roof additions below.

The secondary resources that comprise Terry Place include agricultural and livestock buildings, a shed, and a non-historic garage. The agricultural and livestock buildings include a pole barn and wood frame buildings that were constructed ca. 1930. They feature vertical wood siding and metal-clad gabled roof. A shed on the property has a shed roof and vertical wood siding. The non-historic garage was constructed ca. 1990 and is located to the west of the Janet Wynot

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<sup>2</sup> The property, particularly the secondary resources, were not accessible during the architectural survey conducted by SEARCH in July 2018. The description of the Janet E. Wynot farmhouse and Terry-Coles Cemetery rely on previous survey descriptions available on DHR Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) and corroborated with the limited observation from the July 2018 field survey.

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house. The side-gabled roof garage features vinyl siding, two garage bays, and a one-over-one-light vinyl-sash window in the gable peak.

The farmstead (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002) was established on a tract of a Washington land grant, was retained by the Coles-Terry family throughout the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, and became a center of apple farming in Bent Mountain. The ca. 1820 farmhouse and its ca. 1930 associated outbuildings remain on the 111-acre agricultural parcel. John Coles Terry inherited the property from his parents, Captain Joseph Motley Terry and Elizabeth Coles Terry, and operated an apple orchard that was foundational in the area's apple farming industry in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. He also operated Terry's Sawmill (not extant) on the property.<sup>3</sup>

Another farmstead from the first half of the nineteenth century is the Elijah Henry House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009). The original builder and inhabitants are unknown, but the home's namesake, Elijah Henry, is a late nineteenth-century occupant. Elijah's parents moved into the area by 1887 and became one of the principal farmers of the Bent Mountain area, along with the Coles, Terry, and Woodrum families. Elijah, born in 1877, remained in the area into the 1940s. Set on a 3-acre parcel located along Poor Mountain Road north of Bottom Creek, the Elijah Henry House is a ca. 1840 two-story vernacular side-gabled I-house.<sup>4</sup> The building consists of V-notched log construction with exterior wood clapboard siding, a metal clad roof, and is on a continuous stone foundation. Exterior brick chimneys are located on both gable ends of the dwelling. The primary southeast-facing façade has three bays with six-over-six-light double-hung windows and features a full-width, one-story shed roof porch. Along with the house are several outbuildings. Located immediately northwest of the residence is a one-story outbuilding with gabled roof and constructed of saddle-notched round logs. In addition, there are two one-story shed buildings on the property. Each building has a shed roof and vertical wood board siding, while one shed features two open bays and flanking shed-roof additions.

Settlement in the Coles-Terry RHD continued after the Civil War with the Baker House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0006) constructed in ca. 1875. The house is associated with the farmstead and is located at 8873 Poor Mountain Road. The residence features a side-gabled roof with asphalt shingles and wood clapboard siding.<sup>5</sup> An incised, open porch with vertical wood board siding is visible on the east façade and is supported by wood piers. The Baker House is surrounded by the remainder of an apple orchard and appears in good condition.

Secondary resources associated with the Baker House include two ca. 1875 vernacular barns and a corncrib, which are considered non-contributing due to loss of integrity. One barn is partially collapsed, and the other barn is in a state of ruin. The partially collapsed barn has a metal-clad side-gabled roof and vertical wood board siding. Metal sheeting also is used as exterior siding on the gable end. The side façade consists of a sliding barn door centered on the façade. The ruin remains of the other barn indicate it also had a metal-clad side-gabled roof and wood board siding.

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<sup>3</sup> Turco et al., "Phase I Reconnaissance."

<sup>4</sup> The resource was not visible or accessible by SEARCH from the public right-of-way during the July 2018 architectural survey. The following description is based upon information and photographs available on the V-CRIS and Turco et al., "Phase I Reconnaissance."

<sup>5</sup> During the 2018 survey, the residential building was obscured by heavy vegetation and was only partially visible.

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Families continued to build residences and associated secondary buildings in the Coles-Terry RHD throughout the remainder of the nineteenth century in response to the agricultural growth of the region. John Coles Terry and family may have resided in the dwelling at what is now known as the Grace Terry Moncure Farm (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0004) at 8701 Poor Mountain Road. The dwelling was built ca. 1890, a period when the Terry family prospered.<sup>6</sup> The later owner, Terry's daughter Grace Terry Moncure, also came to be the owner of much of his acreage. The farmhouse has undergone numerous alterations and additions since its original construction in ca. 1890, reflecting the growing domestic needs of the residents throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The building was originally a one-story cross-gabled residence clad with board-and-batten siding. A six-over-six-light single-hung wood-sash window with functioning shutters is located in the cross-gable dormer. The gabled roof has fish-scale asbestos shingles, and a one-story porch on the east façade has a metal-clad shed roof. The porch was subsequently enclosed and features board-and-batten siding and a ribbon of six-light paired windows that are located on either side of the centered entrance. The entry consists of a metal and screen door beneath a metal awning. The cross gable extends to the northwest (rear) of the farmhouse, with shed roof appendages on the north and south façades.

A one-story gabled addition was constructed of round logs on the south-facing façade of the farmhouse. This addition features board-and-batten siding in the gable peaks and a six-over-six-light single-hung wood-sash window. Other fenestration on the addition consists of replacement one-over-one-light vinyl-sash windows.

Around 1920, Grace Terry Moncure built a two-story addition on the north-facing façade of the farmhouse. This vernacular-style dwelling addition features a cross-gabled roof that mirrors the farmhouse. The building has a fish-scale asbestos shingle-covered roof, an exterior brick chimney on the east gable end, vinyl siding, and is on a continuous stone foundation. Windows on this building consist of one-over-one-light vinyl-sash, both paired and independent, and fixed single-light vinyl-sash windows. The northeast façade features a two-story porch with a gabled roof supported by square columns. The second story of the porch features a wood balustrade.

Extending southeast from the ca. 1920 addition is a ca. 1945 addition. This addition is two stories with a side-gabled metal roof. Exposed rafter tails are visible along the side eaves. Vinyl siding covers the exterior of the wood frame construction. The southwest façade of this addition features a large exterior brick chimney, while the northeast façade features a projecting one-and-one-half-story addition. This addition appears to have originally been a one-story shed roof enclosed porch, but has a subsequent enclosed shed roof addition. Fenestration on the addition includes one-over-one-light vinyl-sash windows.

A separate building is located northwest of the main farmhouse and served as a secondary dwelling. This dwelling is a one-story ca. 1930 Craftsman style building. It features wood frame construction, board-and-batten siding, an asphalt shingle-clad side-gabled roof, and a continuous brick foundation. Other buildings and structures also exist on the Grace Terry Moncure Farm, including a log barn that was constructed ca. 1875 which predates the primary

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<sup>6</sup> Turco et al., "Phase I Reconnaissance."



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house along with a stone wall that was built in ca. 1900.<sup>7</sup> Two non-contributing resources on the property include the ruins of a ca. 1900 dwelling and an associated shed (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0003). The log construction dwelling had collapsed by 2015, and the associated shed was partially collapsed by 2017. The shed building had a metal covered shed roof.

The house at 8566 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0001) is a one-and-one-half-story vernacular residential building constructed in ca. 1900 on a 3-acre parcel. The side-gabled roof and the roof of the additions are covered with standing seam metal. There is a shed roof addition on the primary (south) façade, and a gabled roof ell extends to the north of the building. The original portion of the building is constructed of square-notched logs with exposed plaster infill between the logs. The foundation of the original portion of the building is obscured by vegetation. A brick chimney is located in the center of the roofline of the original portion of the house. The east and west façades are identical with wood clapboard above the exposed log construction in the gables, and a replacement six-over-six-light single-hung vinyl-sash window centered on the first story and eave. The replacement windows appear to be within their original wood surrounds.

The south façade consists of a shed-roof addition that spans nearly the full width of the façade. The addition has board-and-batten siding and a one-over-one-light single-hung vinyl-sash window on the east and west façades. The south façade of the addition features a single entrance and a fixed 16-light vinyl-sash window to the south of the entrance. The entry consists of a wood panel door with a screen and wood exterior door.

Extending to the north of the original building is a one-story ell with gabled-roof and shed-roof covered porches on the east and west façades. The addition has wood weatherboard siding. The foundation is not visible. The west façade of the addition features a centered entry consisting of a wood panel door and six-light vinyl-sash windows. The east façade of the ell is only partially visible through the vegetation and a wood fence. The shed-roof exposed porch on the east façade is supported by square posts. An entrance and replacement vinyl-sash windows with six-over-six inserts are partially visible on this façade.

In addition to homes, the dawn of the twentieth century also witnessed the establishment of the Henry-Waldron Cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0005) near 8443 Poor Mountain Road west of Bottom Creek. The family cemetery dates to the early to mid-twentieth century. This small family cemetery contains graves of families associated with agricultural activities within the RHD. There are at least nine graves visible within the unenclosed cemetery.<sup>8</sup> Three graves have granite markers, three are marked by unadorned fieldstone headstones and footstones, two are shallow depressions in the ground without a marker, and one grave is marked with a marble headstone. The oldest observable marked grave dates to 1901, with others dating to 1930 through 1975.<sup>9</sup> The visible graves include:

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<sup>7</sup> Neither the barn nor the wall was accessible during the 2018 survey, and their existence is based upon the DHR database and previous surveys.

<sup>8</sup> The following description is based upon information and photographs available on V-CRIS and previous surveys.

<sup>9</sup> Previous surveys did not determine the number of burials contained within the cemetery, as it can be presumed there are unmarked graves in addition to the nine visible graves.

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- A marble headstone inscribed: *Arenah/Wife of/B.R. Henry/April 2, 1851/Died/Mar. 17, 1901*. This grave also includes a fieldstone marker and marble footstone.
- An unmarked grave, visible by a depression in the ground surface.
- A double granite gravestone inscribed: *Issac M. Waldron/Aug. 10, 1856/Mar. 19, 1930/Lucy A. Waldron/Dec. 26, 1857/July 31, 1954*. At the bottom of each grave are fieldstone markers, and one granite footstone is inscribed *Father*.
- A small granite headstone inscribed: *Zeke/5-23-74/2/27/75*. This grave also features three rectangular rock slabs arranged in a row.
- Another unmarked grave, visible as a depression in the ground surface.
- An uninscribed headstone.
- Two graves with fieldstones at the head and foot of each grave.

The newest primary house in the Coles-Terry RHD was established by the Coles-Terry family in ca. 1910 at 8741 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0008). The Coles-Terry family purchased the property following their relocation to the area after 1865. The family originally farmed tobacco on the land and moved to apple orchard cultivation in the late nineteenth century. A remnant of this orchard remains on the property near the dwelling. The one-and-one-half-story ca. 1910 Folk Victorian-style dwelling features a cross-gabled roof and wood weatherboard siding. The primary façade features a partial-width open porch with a shed roof supported by Doric columns. Decorative vergeboard is visible in the gabled dormers. Fenestration on the residence includes paired four-over-four-light double-hung windows with louvered storm shutters. A large brick chimney is located on the roof ridge line.

The last of the primary contributing resources to the Coles-Terry RHD is the fire tower (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0007) at 8744 Honeysuckle Road. The tower is located at the highest point of Bent Mountain at 3,926 feet along Honeysuckle Road. The tower site was within a 160-acre tract originally owned by John Coles Terry Sr.<sup>10</sup> The ca. 1933 fire tower is accessed by a cobblestone road and a network of CCC jeep roads and foot trails. The tower consists of a small platform constructed atop a skeletal metal frame. A one-story concrete block building is located at the foot of the tower on the parcel. Because of its views of the surrounding area, locals would take Sunday drives up the mountain to climb the tower and enjoy the scenery.

Two small-scale landscape features are also present within the RHD: a USGS Survey Benchmark and a steel road sign. The USGS benchmark, dated 1962, is located on Honeysuckle Road at latitude 37.1869, longitude -80.1607, at an elevation of 3784 feet amsl. The steel road sign is deteriorated and no longer displays markings. It is mounted to a tree located at the bottom of the access road leading to the fire tower from Honeysuckle Road.<sup>11</sup>

Two previously identified archaeological sites (DHR ID #s: 080-5689-0010 and 080-5689-0011) are located within the boundaries of the Coles-Terry RHD. Both sites date to outside the period of significance and are considered non-contributing resources to the RHD.

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<sup>10</sup> It is assumed that the War Department leased the fire tower site. Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from Grace Moncure Terry to Frank H. Terry Sr. (Trustee for Grace Minor Terry)" (November 29, 1963), Deed Book 730, Page 113, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

<sup>11</sup> Comments provided by Ann Rogers, Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, in a letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission dated October 1, 2019.

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Much like nearby, adjacent, and/or overlapping RHDs such as the Bent Mountain RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5677) and the Bent Mountain Apple Orchard RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5731), the Coles-Terry RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5689) 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. What distinguishes the Coles-Terry RHD is that it is largely defined by the buildings and/or ancestral or present-day lands owned by the Terry family.

The Coles-Terry RHD is significant under Criterion A for Agriculture as a well-preserved rural district reflecting 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.<sup>12</sup> Historic integrity is the authenticity of a property's historic identity, evidenced by the survival of physical characteristics 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 Coles-Terry RHD retains sufficient integrity to convey significance under Criterion A: Agriculture.

Location, setting, feeling, and association are the primary aspects of integrity for the Coles-Terry 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 Coles-Terry RHD continues to embody the historic agricultural development/activities of the region and visually conveys the historical development and rural lifeway of Bent Mountain.

## INVENTORY OF RESOURCES AND JUSTIFICATION

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<sup>12</sup> 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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The following inventory lists contributing and non-contributing primary resources and their associated secondary resources located in the Coles-Terry RHD. The entries are organized first alphabetically by street name and numerically by address number, 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, based upon the period of significance from 1840 to 1969, and based upon their retention of each resource's physical integrity.

**Honeysuckle Road**

**8744 Honeysuckle Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5689-0007**

*Other DHR ID#: N/A*

*Primary Resource: Fire Tower (Building), Stories 8, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1933*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

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

**Honeysuckle Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5689-0010**

*Other DHR ID#: 44RN0391*

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

**Poor Mountain Road**

**8443 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5297**

*Other DHR ID#: 080-5689-0009*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1840*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)* **Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)* **Contributing** *Total: 2*

**8443 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5690**

*Other DHR ID#: 080-5689-0005*

*Primary Resource: Cemetery (Site), Style: No discernible style, 1901*  
**Contributing** *Total: 1*

**8566 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-0488**

*Other DHR ID#: 080-5689-0001*

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*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1900*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Pump House (Structure)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

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**8701 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5679**

*Other DHR ID#: 080-5689-0004*

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

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 2*

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**8701 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-0490**

*Other DHR ID#: 080-5689-0002*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1820*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed, Machine (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Stable (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Cemetery (Site)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Animal Shelter/Kennel (Building)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

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**8741 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5689-0008**

*Other DHR ID#: N/A*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 1.5, Style: Folk Victorian, Ca 1910*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

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**8741 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5677-0007**

*Other DHR ID#: 080-5689-0003*

Coles-Terry Rural Historic District  
Name of Property

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*Primary Resource: Agricultural Bldg. (Building), Style: No discernible style, Ca 1900*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Shed (Building)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

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**8873 Poor Mountain Road**

**DHR ID#: 080-5735**

*Other DHR Id#: 080-5689-0006*

*Primary Resource: Single Dwelling (Building), Stories 2, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1875*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Barn (Building)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

*Secondary Resource: Corncrib (Structure)*

**Contributing** *Total: 1*

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**West of Bottom Creek**

**West of Bottom Creek**

**DHR ID#: 080-5689-0011**

*Other DHR Id#: 44RN0408*

*Primary Resource: Archaeological Site (Site)*

**Non-contributing** *Total: 1*

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Name of Property

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Agriculture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1840–1969  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1840, 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 Coles-Terry RHD is significant under Criterion A in the area of Agriculture. Criterion A of the National Register establishes significance for resources “associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.” In the case of the Coles-Terry RHD, the history of agriculture in the RHD ties in with the broader pattern of agricultural development in Virginia, where, until the early twentieth century, the majority of inhabitants were involved in agriculture. More particularly, the history of apple cultivation in the RHD is significant under Criterion A. Along with tobacco, residents of the RHD undertook a multitude of agricultural pursuits that broadened the agricultural picture, from raising swine and livestock to cultivating cabbage and other vegetables. None of these pursuits, however, had the impact on local history that apples did.

The period of significance begins in 1840 with the construction of the Elijah Henry House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009), and ends in 1969 with the cessation of the 100-year boom in apple orchards on Bent Mountain that began during the Reconstruction period. 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 fifty 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.<sup>13</sup> 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.<sup>14</sup> The 1840-1969 period of significance reflects the RHD’s full agricultural development. The Coles-Terry RHD’s significance is at the local level.

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

**CRITERION A: AGRICULTURE**

In *Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States*, Susan A. Dolan provides a nationwide context for identifying and evaluating orchard landscapes that may be eligible under Criteria A through D of the National Register. Concerning Criterion A, Dolan identifies three sub-categories 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

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<sup>13</sup> National Park Service, 1997: 42.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

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- (3) The orchard or fruit trees are associated with a historical event not directly related to horticulture.<sup>15</sup>

For the Coles-Terry RHD, Dolan's first sub-category is appropriate. Apple cultivation, as the historic context will illustrate, spread across the RHD landscape in the decades after the Civil War and prospered around the turn of the twentieth century. The cultivation of apples brought the Bent Mountain area renown well beyond Virginia. Apple cultivation was the most prevalent feature of the local economy for decades. The resources of the RHD are representative of a rural area where settlement was driven by agricultural activities, particularly apple cultivation: mainly vernacular-style architecture with various types of secondary buildings, such as barns, sheds, and kennels; family cemeteries; and orchards/agricultural fields. The RHD has been subjected to very little intrusion from outside of the area/period of significance and retains its overall integrity. The historic dwellings, family cemeteries, barns, apple orchards, roads, and pastures are physical reminders of the agricultural history of southwestern Virginia.

## **HISTORIC CONTEXT**

The Coles-Terry RHD, located in the Roanoke County community of Bent Mountain, is associated with the lives and activities of the Coles and Terry families, as well as with other historical RHD residents. This historic context discusses the people, places, and events associated with the history of the RHD and its surroundings. While the RHD was home to numerous small-scale farmers throughout history, much of the land tenure history was dominated by the Coles and Terry families who held extensive tracts of land that encompass much of the present RHD. As antebellum tobacco planters, the Coles and Terry families, and also the enslaved persons who labored for them, shaped the evolution of agriculture in the Bent Mountain area. Following the Civil War, tobacco suffered a decline, and the Coles and Terry families were among several Bent Mountain farmers who transitioned to a new staple crop that would ultimately flourish across the RHD: apples. Apple cultivation, which had an ideal setting in the Bent Mountain area, strongly influenced local history in that it provided a livelihood for inhabitants of the area and, for orchardists like the Coles and the Terrys, it brought wealth.

### ***Early Inhabitants of the Bent Mountain Area***

Until the early nineteenth century, the Coles-Terry RHD was a frontier area with agricultural possibilities unknown to European Americans. Native American habitation of the present-day RHD dates to approximately 9900 Before Current Era (BCE). Archaeologists have traced more recent occupations through ceramics and linguistic traditions.<sup>16</sup> During the Late Woodland period (AD 1200-1550), as Robert F Maslowski posited, the Siouan-speaking Tutelo and the

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<sup>15</sup> 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.

<sup>16</sup> Robert F. Maslowski, "Cultural Affiliation Statement: New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area" (Boston, Massachusetts: Northeast Region NAGPRA Program, National Park Service, 2011); Stuart J. Fiedel, "Are Ancestors of Contact Period Ethnic Groups Recognizable in the Archaeological Record of the Early Late Woodland?" *Archaeology of Eastern North America* 41 (2013): 221–29.

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Saponi inhabited southwestern Virginia.<sup>17</sup> The Tutelo and Saponi hunted deer, bear, and turkey, and also small game such as beaver, raccoon, opossum, rabbit, squirrel, grouse, and waterfowl. The forest provided nuts, berries, grapes, plums, and various tubers. They also cultivated gardens of squash, corn, and beans.<sup>18</sup> The presence of the Tutelo, with whom the Saponi likely merged, persisted into the Early Contact period (1550-1671) when European goods entered into the extensive trade networks of eastern North America. Gorgets, glass beads, and other artifacts, including some derived from the early European settlements of the Gulf of Mexico and the Atlantic coast, have featured in the archaeological record of southwestern Virginia.<sup>19</sup> The main village of the Tutelo is thought to have been located at contemporary Roanoke. In Salem, the present-day county seat of Roanoke County, a small Tutelo village known as the Sawyer Site (DHR ID #: 44RN39) was excavated in recent years. Archaeologists determined that the site dated to the 1621-1635 timeframe and had been continuously occupied during that time.<sup>20</sup>

When the first European expeditions journeyed through southwestern Virginia, they encountered the Tutelo. The Batte and Fallam expedition, which reached the region in 1671, conferred with them regarding the geography of the Blue Ridge Mountains along the headwaters of the Roanoke River.<sup>21</sup> Over the next half century, the Tutelo drifted northward from Virginia, likely as a result of repeated invasions by the Iroquois. By 1744, the Iroquois claimed to have conquered many tribes in Virginia, including the Tutelo. Ten years later, the Tutelo joined the Cayuga in New York.<sup>22</sup> While the Iroquois, Cherokee, Shawnee, and Delaware claimed current-day southwestern Virginia in the mid-eighteenth century, archaeological evidence for their presence has not been discovered.<sup>23</sup>

As the eighteenth century progressed, Shawnee based in the Ohio River valley raided the initial white settlements of southwestern Virginia during Lord Dunmore's War (1774) and the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783). These wars, as well as the later Treaty of Greenville (1795) that pushed the Shawnee into northwestern Ohio, signaled the end of their presence in southwestern Virginia and further opened the region to new settlers.<sup>24</sup>

Down former Native American pathways such as the Great Wagon Road and the Traders Path, new settlers came into southwestern Virginia. The pioneers often ventured from the course of these roadways to settle upon former Native American fields or undeveloped land along creeks

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<sup>17</sup> Maslowski, "Cultural Affiliation Statement: New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area," 42.

<sup>18</sup> Jay Hansford C. Vest, "An Odyssey Among the Iroquois: A History of Tutelo Relations in New York," *American Indian Quarterly* 29, no. 1/2 (2005): 124-25; Michael B. Barber and Michael F. Barber, "Emergency Excavations at the Sawyer Site (44RN39), Area B: A Protohistoric Site in Roanoke County, Virginia" (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2004), 48.

<sup>19</sup> Maslowski, "Cultural Affiliation Statement: New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area," 57-64.

<sup>20</sup> Barber and Barber, "Emergency Excavations at the Sawyer Site (44RN39), Area B: A Protohistoric Site in Roanoke County, Virginia."

<sup>21</sup> Maslowski, "Cultural Affiliation Statement: New River Gorge National River and Gauley River National Recreation Area," 45.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid*, 36.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid*, 65-75.

<sup>24</sup> *Ibid*, 65-75.

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and rivers. Newcomers were predominantly Scots-Irish and Germans of Quaker, German Baptist, and Presbyterian faiths.<sup>25</sup>

Bent Mountain, east of the Coles-Terry RHD, was the most prominent landmark in the vicinity of the RHD for mid-eighteenth-century European-American settlers and would be the namesake of the community to come. The RHD lay within an extensive county called Augusta. Alexander Ingraham and John Mills were early Bent Mountain settlers who acquired tracts ca. 1753. The French and Indian War (1754–1763) disrupted new and existing settlements in southwestern Virginia.<sup>26</sup> Afterwards, the flow of newcomers in southern Augusta County influenced the formation of a new county called Botetourt. With the frontier in relatively stable condition, the isolated settlements of earlier years evolved into family farms. Commercial establishments such as taverns and inns appeared.<sup>27</sup> Place names for streams, peaks, mountains, and other natural features became established, including Bent Mountain, which may have been named for early land surveyors James and William Bent, and Poore Mountain (later known as Poor Mountain), which was named for Major Poore.<sup>28</sup>

***The Lewis Tract***

Lord Dunmore's War (1774) and the Revolutionary War (1775–1783) took place far from the RHD, yet influenced future events. The peace that came after these wars ushered a new period of settlement in Botetourt County where abundant land, including the RHD itself, remained available. The land encompassing the RHD became part of the so-called Lewis Tract in this period. The Lewis Tract was a 20,000-acre parcel of land that belonged to General Andrew Lewis (1716–1781), a veteran of Lord Dunmore's War (1774) and the Revolutionary War (1775–1783). According to local lore, George Washington granted Lewis the tract in return for military service.<sup>29</sup> The tract included much of present-day Roanoke and Floyd counties. Lewis resided at Richfield Plantation, his "home place" near the emerging town of Salem.<sup>30</sup>

After Lewis's death in 1781, his grant passed to his heirs, including his fourth son, Andrew, Jr. The younger Lewis (1758–1844) had come of age during times of frontier warfare. Remembered as "a valiant Indian fighter," he rose to the rank of colonel. A resident of Salem acquainted with Col. Lewis described him as:

A man of commanding figure and appearance ... He was upwards of six feet high, of uncommon strength and agility, and his form of the most exact symmetry. He

<sup>25</sup> Turco et al., "Phase I Reconnaissance," 13–15.

<sup>26</sup> Deedie Dent Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Roanoke County Sesquicentennial Committee, 1988), 36.

<sup>27</sup> Nelson Harris, *A History of Back Creek* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia, 2018), 18–19.

<sup>28</sup> Grace Terry Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," *Journal of the Roanoke Historical Society* Winter, no. 2 (1967): 30–31.

<sup>29</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 30.

<sup>30</sup> George S. Jack and E.B. Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County* (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone, 1912), 76.

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had a stern countenance, and was of a reserved and distant deportment, which rendered his presence more awful than engaging.<sup>31</sup>

Col. Lewis, who developed a “primitive” log home called Longwood atop Bent Mountain in the early nineteenth century, was a prominent early settler of the area. The mountain in this period was a wilderness, described in a later biography of Lewis as “the home of the panther, the wolf, and the bear.”<sup>32</sup> As his family expanded, Lewis and his wife Agatha Madison, a cousin of James Madison, moved into a new home on the mountain called Bent House. The Lewises resettled at Longwood after Bent House was lost in a fire.<sup>33</sup>

The Lewis family was widely known in Virginia, and interest in the Bent Mountain area of then-Botetourt County spread. A number of well-known Virginians reportedly visited Col. Lewis and his family when they lived at Bent House, such as Light Horse Harry Lee and John Randolph.<sup>34</sup> Along with these genteel exchanges, there were more vicious encounters for the Lewises of Bent Mountain. The mountain was the setting of a duel between Col. Lewis’s brother, Thomas, and a Mr. McHenry. The two apparently disagreed over an election. Both were killed in the duel that involved rifles at 30 paces.<sup>35</sup>

After Col. Lewis’s death in 1844, Longwood passed to his heirs, Joseph R. and Catherine King. The Kings remained at Longwood until the late nineteenth century.<sup>36</sup> Longwood was uninhabited by 1910 and later burned in the 1920s.<sup>37</sup> New settlers purchased swaths of the extensive Lewis Tract acreage throughout the antebellum period. In 1838, new settlers also influenced the formation of Roanoke County from Botetourt County. The RHD lies within the southwestern portion of the new county.<sup>38</sup>

The RHD includes a dwelling dating to this early period. The ca. 1820 Janet Wynot House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002) is presently owned by a Terry descendant. Its builder and original inhabitants are unknown, but the longevity of the structure testifies to the opportunity Bent Mountain afforded in this period.<sup>39</sup> The Terry family arrived in Bent Mountain ca. 1835 and acquired the house in the nineteenth century.

***The Price Lands***

By the 1840s, the majority of the RHD and many thousands of adjoining acres became the property of John M. Price, his wife Eliza, Alexander Eskridge, and Joseph R. Glasgow. The

<sup>31</sup> Frederick Peyton quoted in J. Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia* (Staunton, Virginia: Samuel M. Yost & Son, 1882), 334–35.

<sup>32</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76; Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 19-20; Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76-77; Delia Agnes McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” *The West Virginia Historical Magazine Quarterly* 4, no. 2 (1904): 85.

<sup>33</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*; Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*; Delia Agnes McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” 81–94; J. Lewis Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia* (Staunton, Virginia: Samuel M. Yost & Son, 1882)..

<sup>34</sup> McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” 85.

<sup>35</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76.

<sup>36</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76; Peyton, *History of Augusta County, Virginia*, 335.

<sup>37</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*; Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76.

<sup>38</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76; McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” 107.

<sup>39</sup> Turco et al., “Phase I Reconnaissance.”

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12,800-acre tract was the bulk of the so-called Bent Mountain Estate, and this acreage later became the property of the Coles family.<sup>40</sup> Glasgow's background is unknown; however, the Prices were residents of Fincastle in neighboring Botetourt County, and Eskridge was a Roanoke County lawyer. Their use of the land is unknown.<sup>41</sup> In the same period, Price retained a 3,460-acre segment of the Bent Mountain Estate, a tract later belonging to the Terry family.<sup>42</sup>

***The Elijah Henry House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009)***

The first half of the nineteenth century in southwestern Roanoke County was a time of change as the rustic, subsistence farms carved from the wilderness became established operations passed down for generations. Settlers of considerable means also invested in the area by developing plantations reliant on indentured and enslaved labor. The Elijah Henry House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009), a modest dwelling built ca. 1840, is a remnant of this early period that represents an early homestead in the Bent Mountain agricultural community.<sup>43</sup> The original builder and inhabitants are unknown. Its namesake, Elijah Henry, is a late nineteenth-century occupant discussed below.

***The Coles and Terry Families Establish Roots***

The Coles and Terry families, the most prominent historical figures in the RHD, became associated with the land in the antebellum period. Previous studies have poorly documented their story, which is central to the evolution of the RHD. A precise chain-of-title connecting their antebellum land acquisitions with present-day tracts is difficult to establish for a number of reasons. Historical deed, tax, and estate records from Roanoke County often described tracts of land in vague terms and assigned landmarks that are impossible to presently identify, such as specific trees, fences, poles, and adjoining tracts of land. Similarly, historic plat maps, at least for the Coles and Terry lands, are few and, when available, merely illustrate ephemeral features. Nevertheless, the various land records indicate the RHD, more or less, began as the extensive Lewis Tract (20,000 or more acres) and afterwards became the Price Family's Bent Mountain Estate (more than 15,000 acres). The land then became the property of the Coles and Terry families. Through the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the Coles and Terry land was whittled down into successively smaller tracts, via estate inheritances, sales, or other transactions, leaving remnants owned by descendants as well as unrelated parties.

The long history of the Coles and Terry families within the RHD begins in 1846 when John Dabney Coles (1799–1847) of Pittsylvania County acquired 12,800 acres of the Bent Mountain Estate from John M. Price.<sup>44</sup> Coles, described as 6 feet, 7 inches tall and “a man of energy and ability,”<sup>45</sup> was the son of Col. Isaac Coles, a Pittsylvania County planter and Revolutionary War veteran, and Catharine Thompson Coles. In 1825, John Dabney Coles married Louisa Payne

<sup>40</sup> 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.

<sup>41</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 106.

<sup>42</sup> 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.

<sup>43</sup> Turco et al., “Phase I Reconnaissance.”

<sup>44</sup> The 1846 transaction is recorded within a deed dated 1855. Roanoke County Circuit Court, “Deed from John M. and Eliza Price to John Coles.”

<sup>45</sup> Moncure, “Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia,” 36.

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(1807–1852), a native of Campbell County, and they lived on a plantation in Pittsylvania County.<sup>46</sup> By the time Coles purchased the land at Bent Mountain, he and Louisa had four children: Catherine (1826–1844), Elizabeth (1828–1884), Louisa (1831–1906), and Mary (1835–1860). A son, John, Jr., was born in 1837. John, Jr. and Elizabeth would have a close association with the Bent Mountain tract in the years to come.<sup>47</sup>

The Coles and Terry families united through marriage in the antebellum period when a young lawyer named Joseph Motley Terry (1810–1888) of Pittsylvania County married John Dabney Coles' eldest daughter, Catherine, in 1844.<sup>48</sup> The Terrys, like the Coles, were an old Virginia family of the planter class. Terry was a well-known leader. When the United States went to war with Mexico in 1846, Terry spoke strongly in favor of sending men to fight.<sup>49</sup> At least once, he ran for office as a Democrat.<sup>50</sup> He also partnered a law firm with Jubal Early who later became a celebrated Confederate General.<sup>51</sup> Soon, Terry assumed a paternal position within the John Dabney Coles family.

***The Coles' Bent Mountain Plantation***

The Coles family remained in residence in Pittsylvania County while John Dabney Coles developed some of the extensive Bent Mountain land as a tobacco plantation. The exact location of the plantation within his large tract is undetermined, but a Civil War-era map suggests the plantation may have been located near the present-day intersection of Poor Mountain Road (Route 612) and Tinsley Lane (Route 711). The plantation tract likely extended into the RHD.<sup>52</sup> Family lore tells that Coles developed and operated his plantation with a combination of slaves and white tenant farmers from Pittsylvania County.<sup>53</sup> An overseer managed this biracial, working settlement at Bent Mountain.<sup>54</sup> The names of the tenant farmers and slaves have largely been lost to history. Local historian Nelson Harris speculated that one tenant farmer who came to Bent Mountain from Pittsylvania County to work the Coles plantation was named Vincent Simpson.<sup>55</sup> Similarly, a post-Civil War Roanoke County court document mentions Nimrod, a slave who worked on the Coles plantation at Bent Mountain in the antebellum period.<sup>56</sup>

Joseph Motley Terry became deeply involved in Coles family affairs, including the Bent Mountain tobacco plantation, after the sudden death of his father-in-law, John Dabney Coles, in

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<sup>46</sup> William Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia: Its Numerous Connections, from the Emigration to America to the Year 1915* (New York, New York, 1931).

<sup>47</sup> "1850 Federal United States Census Slave Schedules: Louisa Coles, Northern District, Pittsylvania County, Virginia" (Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1850), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*.

<sup>48</sup> Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*.

<sup>49</sup> "The Virginia Volunteers," *Richmond Enquirer*, December 29, 1846.

<sup>50</sup> "Candidates at the Spring Election," *Richmond Enquirer*, February 28, 1839.

<sup>51</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia."

<sup>52</sup> 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/>.

<sup>53</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia."

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*, 32–33.

<sup>55</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 21.

<sup>56</sup> Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from Joseph M. Terry to John Coles" (1869), Deed Book G, Page 593, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

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1847. While visiting the Bent Mountain tobacco operation in 1847, Coles fell ill with typhoid fever.<sup>57</sup> He remained in recovery at Bent Mountain for a week until he decided to journey back to his home in Pittsylvania County to see his doctor. When he reached home, his condition deteriorated further, and he died.<sup>58</sup>

Historical documents indicate Joseph Motley Terry took over management of Coles' extensive estate, which included plantations in Pittsylvania County and Bent Mountain. Terry auctioned more than 2,000 acres of Pittsylvania County landholdings.<sup>59</sup> However, he maintained the family's Bent Mountain plantation. Terry stated years later that he became familiar with the Bent Mountain area in 1848, the year after his father-in-law's death. Terry remained involved in managing the Coles plantation into the Civil War period.<sup>60</sup>

Along with his occupation as a planter, Terry was a merchant throughout the nineteenth century. Several ledgers beginning in 1848 in Bent Mountain, or in his original home in Pittsylvania County, document some of his day-to-day merchant activities. Prior to the war, he sold rye, corn, and general merchandise.<sup>61</sup>

Terry also was invested in the general development of the Bent Mountain area. Since 1832, the Bent Mountain Turnpike Company had been venturing to develop a road from Jacksonville (the seat of neighboring Floyd County) through the Bent Mountain area and to points beyond. The transportation corridor promised to create a new market connection for the region's agricultural products. Work on the road finally began in 1849. During the next 10 years, the road was gradually completed. Later maps from the Civil War period (1861–1865) indicate that the turnpike bisected the Bent Mountain area in a roughly southwest-to-northeast fashion and certainly touched the Coles and Terry lands.<sup>62</sup> Terry was the largest Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike Company stockholder in the Bent Mountain area through the 1840s and 1850s.<sup>63</sup>

Another death shaped the future of the Coles' emerging agricultural estate at Bent Mountain. In 1852, Louisa Coles, the widow of John Dabney Coles, passed away.<sup>64</sup> Her death placed her minor children, including her 15-year-old son John Jr. (b. 1837<sup>65</sup>), under the legal guardianship of her son-in-law, Joseph Motley Terry.<sup>66</sup> John Jr., as historical records suggest, inherited his father's Bent Mountain plantation; however, as a minor, the management of the plantation, as well as other elements of the estate, was in the hands of his older brother-in-law, Joseph Motley

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<sup>57</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*.

<sup>58</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 36.

<sup>59</sup> "Large Sale of Valuable Real Estate," *Richmond Enquirer*, November 22, 1853.

<sup>60</sup> Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Tazewell Price vs. Warfield Price and Others (No. 743)" (1875), Chancery Records, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

<sup>61</sup> Joseph Motley Terry, "Ledgers, 1848-1894" (n.d.), Library of Virginia.

<sup>62</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 22–23.

<sup>63</sup> Virginia Board of Public Works, "Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike Company Records, 1849-1858" (n.d.), Record Group 57, Library of Virginia.

<sup>64</sup> Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*.

<sup>65</sup> "1850 Federal United States Census Slave Schedules: Louisa Coles, Northern District, Pittsylvania County, Virginia"; Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*; Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*.

<sup>66</sup> Pittsylvania County Circuit Court of Law and Chancery, *Wills, Inventories, and Accounts Current, 1809-1865, 1888-1906: John Coles in Account with Joseph M. Terry His Guardian* (Pittsylvania, Virginia: Circuit Superior Court of Law and Chancery, 1856).



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Terry. According to family lore, Terry's wife, Catherine Coles—who was John Dabney Coles' daughter—also received some of the Bent Mountain land upon her father's death.<sup>67</sup>

A Pittsylvania County chancery court record contains an expense account that Joseph Motley Terry managed in the mid-1850s on behalf of John Jr. Expenses included clothing, cash, and tuition for the University of Virginia, which John attended in 1856. In 1858, the account paid \$300 to a person named Baldwin “for building a house on Bent Mountain Plantation.” In the same year, John Coles Jr. turned 21 years old and began to manage his estate.<sup>68</sup>

***John Coles Terry***

John Coles Terry (1844–1926), one of the most well-known RHD residents, was the son of Joseph Motley Terry and wife Catherine Terry. Though only seven years apart in age, he was the nephew of John Coles Jr. Aside from sharing namesakes, the two also lost their mothers as children. Catherine died when John Coles Terry was born, leaving him the estate she received from John Dabney Coles.<sup>69</sup> While he spent most of his life at Bent Mountain, John Coles Terry was born in Pittsylvania County at the home of his grandfather, John Dabney Coles.<sup>70</sup> The 1850 population census indicates that Joseph Motley Terry and his son, John Coles Terry, lived in Pittsylvania County.<sup>71</sup> Joseph remarried to Elizabeth Payne in 1851 and had a son, James Whittle Terry (1852–1866).<sup>72</sup>

John Coles Jr. was the first of the Coles and Terry families to permanently settle in Roanoke County. He appears in the 1860 census as a resident of the Miles and Catherine Gibson household in Salem. His real estate, the census noted, had an estimated value of \$20,000, a fortune at the time.<sup>73</sup> John also appears on the historic county tax rolls in 1860, 1861, and 1862 as the taxpayer on the 12,800-acre Bent Mountain property.<sup>74</sup> Whereas John had settled in Roanoke County by the end of the antebellum period, Joseph Motley Terry remained a resident of Pittsylvania County as late as 1860.<sup>75</sup>

***Antebellum Landscape***

The built environment of the RHD in the antebellum period is evident in Coles and Terry family lore as well as an exceptionally detailed historic map of southern Roanoke County. Family lore

<sup>67</sup> Moncure, “Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia,” 36.

<sup>68</sup> Pittsylvania County Circuit Court of Law and Chancery, *Wills, Inventories, and Accounts Current, 1809-1865, 1888-1906: John Coles in Account with Joseph M. Terry His Guardian*.

<sup>69</sup> Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*.

<sup>70</sup> “1850 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Louisa Coles, Northern District, Pittsylvania County, Virginia” (Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1850), 1860, Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com; “1860 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Joseph M. Terry” (Pittsylvania County, Virginia, 1860), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com; “John Coles Terry,” *Richmond Times Dispatch*, February 28, 1926.

<sup>71</sup> “1850 Federal United States Census Slave Schedules: Louisa Coles, Northern District, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.”

<sup>72</sup> Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*.

<sup>73</sup> “1860 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Miles Gibson” (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1860), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

<sup>74</sup> Roanoke County Tax Collector, “Roanoke County Tax Rolls, 1860-1899” (n.d.), Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

<sup>75</sup> “1860 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Joseph M. Terry.”

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tells that the Coles plantation included an overseer cabin where John Dabney Coles stayed during trips from his home in Pittsylvania County and tobacco barns.<sup>76</sup> Slave or tenant quarters must have been present, as the Terry and Coles families were recorded among Roanoke County slave owners in this period. John Coles owned 23 slaves, and Joseph Motley Terry owned 18 slaves.<sup>77</sup>

An undated, Civil War-era map of southern Roanoke County illustrates what can be interpreted as the late antebellum-period setting of the Coles-Terry RHD and the surrounding area (**Figure 1**). The map identifies “Bent Plantation.” A barn and cabin also are noted at this site, which represents the plantation that John Dabney Coles owned beginning in 1846 and the same one that John Coles Jr. inherited after his father’s death.<sup>78</sup> The location of the plantation corresponds with the present-day vicinity of Poor Mountain Road (Route 612) and Tinsley Lane (Route 711). Although the exact boundaries of the plantation are undetermined, it is plausible that it extended into the RHD. The map indicates buildings and/or structures in the RHD: toward Poor Mountain, the map identifies a building as “Terry” and another building as “Terry’s Saw Mill.”<sup>79</sup> The Terry-related locations in the map appear to correspond with the present-day 8701 Poor Mountain Road parcel. Specifically, the structure depicted as “Terry” is likely the Janet Wynot House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002) built ca. 1820.

### ***The Civil War***

Similar to Lord Dunmore’s War and the Revolutionary War, the Civil War (1861–1865) influenced RHD history. In particular, the Terry family had war experiences that became legendary to their descendants. Another consequence of the war—the dismantling of slavery—was a watershed event that impacted agriculture and the lives of the enslaved and their former masters. Both the Federal and Confederate armies passed near the RHD as they waged war. Confederate deserters used the mountainous terrain to conceal themselves and to prey upon area farms and plantations, including the Coles’ home.

The calls for secession in Virginia and the South escalated after the 1860 election of Abraham Lincoln to the presidency. Many in the South viewed Lincoln’s ascendancy with great anxiety as they believed him to be an abolitionist. The Bent Mountain area, according to local history, avidly supported the Confederate cause and “furnished their full quota of troops.”<sup>80</sup> Several members of the Coles and Terry families joined the Confederate Army.

John Coles, Jr. was in his early 20s when the Civil War erupted. He joined Company H of the 38<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry Regiment, a unit raised in Pittsylvania County, as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.<sup>81</sup> He briefly stayed at Bent Mountain before joining a cavalry unit that fought its way across western Virginia in the later years of the war.<sup>82</sup>

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<sup>76</sup> Moncure, “Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia,” 34.

<sup>77</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 739–43.

<sup>78</sup> “Bent Mountain Plantation” is mentioned in Pittsylvania County Circuit Court of Law and Chancery, *Wills, Inventories, and Accounts Current, 1809-1865, 1888-1906: John Coles in Account with Joseph M. Terry His Guardian*.

<sup>79</sup> Izard et al., “Map of Roanoke County, Va. (Southern Section).”

<sup>80</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74.

<sup>81</sup> “Confederate Pensions: Emma E. Coles” (Richmond, Virginia: Library of Virginia, 1928).

<sup>82</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78.

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Joseph Motley Terry was in his early 50s when the war began. He served as a Captain in Company H of the same infantry regiment his brother-in-law, John Coles, served—the 38<sup>th</sup> Virginia Infantry Regiment.<sup>83</sup> Joseph served as late as 1864 and received a severe wound to the hip. While recovering, he settled at Bent Mountain, but did not immediately bring his wife and son, James, to the property.<sup>84</sup> A letter written on January 3, 1864, by Joseph's wife, Elizabeth, gives a brief glimpse of their war experience and also indicates Terry's presence in the Bent Mountain area. The letter was addressed to "J. M. Terry Esq., Bent Mountain." She wrote the letter from Chatham, Pittsylvania County, Virginia. She described that she was ill with a sore eye and was concerned as she had not heard from Joseph. "I hope you will get home this week and if you cannot please write to me and let me know what is the matter," she wrote, "and if I get well I can go up to the Bent [,] that is if the roads get better."<sup>85</sup>

John Coles Terry, the son of Joseph Motley Terry, also fought in the Confederacy during the Civil War. He had attended Virginia Military Institute just prior to the Civil War. In 1862, he enlisted in the Confederate Army at the age of 17. He joined Company E of the 17<sup>th</sup> Virginia Cavalry, formed at Bent Mountain. As his granddaughter, Grace Terry Moncure, recalled a century later, he served under General Stonewall Jackson and then under General Jubal Early. As a cavalryman, Terry rode in campaigns from Maryland to Gettysburg on horses named Mary and Raleigh.<sup>86</sup> His wartime records are the first to refer to him as "J. Coles Terry," a name he was known by throughout the remainder of his life. The styling likely helped differentiate him from his similarly-named relatives.<sup>87</sup>

When the Civil War began, many observers believed the conflict would be quickly resolved. As months became years, the once-high passion for the war deteriorated into exhaustion, particularly in the Confederacy. The Confederate Army suffered high desertion rates in the later years of the war. Many deserters simply wanted to return to their pre-war lives, but some aggressively evaded their captors or raided farms and plantations to survive. John Coles, Jr. became a victim of the deserters. They are said to have burned his home during the war.<sup>88</sup> This may have been the house that Baldwin had built at "Bent Mountain Plantation" in 1858.<sup>89</sup> The presence of deserters was evident upon the Coles and Terry lands. Writing in the 1960s, Moncure described:

On the Coles-Terry lands, near Street's Entry [i.e. the highest point of Poor Mountain], were two squatters' cabins, rumored to have been built by deserters from the Confederate Army—"conscientious objectors"—who had no sympathy for those who fought through to Appomattox. They were unoccupied when I remember them, but most interesting as samples of the crudest of abodes. In their structure was neither an inch of metal, nor a piece of glass, nor any sawed timber. They were rock underpinned, clay daubed, with log pens, log sills and joists,

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<sup>83</sup> "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia:

Joseph M. Terry," Record Group 109 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>84</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 36.

<sup>85</sup> The letter is enclosed in the nineteenth century ledgers kept by Joseph Motley Terry. Elizabeth D. Terry, "Letter from Bettie D. Terry to J.M. Terry Esq." (January 3, 1864), Joseph Motley Terry Ledgers, Library of Virginia.

<sup>86</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 36–37.

<sup>87</sup> "Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations from the State of Virginia:

John C. Terry," Record Group 109 (Washington, DC: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.).

<sup>88</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78.

<sup>89</sup> Pittsylvania County Circuit Court of Law and Chancery, *Wills, Inventories, and Accounts Current, 1809-1865, 1888-1906: John Coles in Account with Joseph M. Terry His Guardian*.

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supporting floors of split logs with the flat side up and the underneath notched to fit the sills.<sup>90</sup>

In the latter years of the Civil War, Federal forces pressed upon Roanoke County. Under Major General William W. Averell, they raided around Salem in late 1863, destroying the Tennessee and Virginia Railroad. Their raids spilled into the countryside, including the Bent Mountain area. One of the most significant events near the RHD during the war period was in April 1865 when the 15<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Cavalry traveled along the Jacksonville and Bent Mountain Turnpike en route for Salem. The soldiers made their way across the turnpike and over Bent Mountain.<sup>91</sup>

In 1863, the Emancipation Proclamation freed slaves in areas in rebellion, including Roanoke County. There were more than 50 slaves in Bent Mountain during the war who attained freedom in 1863. Among them were the men, women, and children who lived on the Coles plantation. Some of these newly freed people likely made up the droves that fled to the Union Army when it marched into Roanoke County. While marching from Lynchburg through Salem in 1864, William B. Stark of the 34<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts Volunteers wrote: “The negroes have had no chance to escape until now. We have an army of them on our hands, nearly all of them carrying great bundles of clothing hastily packed. Old men and women, children and babies all going for freedom.”<sup>92</sup>

### ***Reconstruction***

During Reconstruction (1865–1877), the RHD remained agricultural and rural although remarkable changes were underway. The abolition of slavery changed the status of the vast majority of African Americans in Roanoke County, including those who once were the property of the Coles and Terry families. Tobacco remained a dominant agricultural product, but by the end of the period, the crop had lost its dominance as farmers transitioned to apples. Both small- and large-scale farmers continued to grow traditional crops such as rye and oats and raised livestock. The once expansive Coles and Terry lands began to be divided as new settlers came to the area in search of farm tracts and new homestead sites. Meanwhile, the Coles and Terry clans grew in size as new generations came of age and started their own families.

The largest farms in terms of acreage in the Cave Spring Magisterial District, a broad jurisdiction that included the Bent Mountain area and several other communities, belonged to the Coles and Terry families. In 1870, John Coles, Jr. whose home was torched by Confederate deserters during the Civil War, had a farm of 3,950 acres, indicating that much of his once extensive property (12,800 acres) had been transferred to other owners. His nephew, John Coles Terry, had a larger farm at 4,900 acres, a tract that may have been an inheritance from his mother, Catherine Coles Terry, and his grandfather, John Dabney Coles.<sup>93</sup>

### ***Joseph Motley Terry Acquires Land***

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<sup>90</sup> Moncure, “Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia,” 34–35.

<sup>91</sup> Ibid, 30.

<sup>92</sup> Stark quoted in Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 204.

<sup>93</sup> Kagey, 226–27.

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Joseph Motley Terry, who had managed the Coles' Bent Mountain plantation and land since 1848 and often stayed in the Bent Mountain area, settled himself and his family permanently on the Bent Mountain land soon after the Civil War. An indication of their residence is a notation in the 1866 death register for Roanoke County. It noted the passing of his and Elizabeth's son, James Whittle Terry, who died at the age of 13 after accidentally shooting himself. The record noted the boy lived at Bent Mountain.<sup>94</sup> The Terry's immediate postwar residence is further evidenced by a marriage announcement in the *Bristol News*, which reported Robert McClelland of Chattanooga and Mollie C. Payne of Roanoke County, a relative of Elizabeth Terry, were married "at the residence of Jos. M. Terry Esq., in Roanoke County" on October 22, 1868.<sup>95</sup>

The late 1860s were significant to the Terry family, as Joseph Motley Terry purchased a very large tract of land in the Bent Mountain area. During the Civil War, the executors of John M. Price sold their 3,460-acre portion of Price's Bent Mountain Estate to brothers Tazewell Price and Warfield Price. The tract was described in a period document as having a dwelling, a barn, "a tobacco farm," and cleared land. There also was a site on the tract known as Puncheon Camp that had a "log hut" in poor repair and overgrown fields.<sup>96</sup> By the end of the Civil War, Warfield Price had fallen into debt to the extent that he sought to sell his share of the tract. The 1867 sale was to Joseph Motley Terry, who had for many years managed Coles plantations in the Bent Mountain area, but apparently did not own any land. The plantation described in historical documents included not only the acreage, but sheep, hogs, mules, and cattle; "plantation utensils"; household furniture; and a standing crop of wheat and rye.<sup>97</sup>

***The John Coles Jr. Family in Reconstruction***

In 1868, John Coles, Jr. married Emma Shelor, a native of Floyd County.<sup>98</sup> Together they had three sons, John Calhoun (1869–1951), William (born and died 1869), and Douglass (1871–1938). William, a twin of John, died as an infant in 1869.<sup>99</sup> The Coles household appears in the 1870 population census for Roanoke County. The 33-year-old farmer's estate was valued at \$8,000, making him one of the wealthiest in the county. Along with his wife Emma, the household included his infant son, John. Maria Jones, an African-American domestic servant, and her four children, Charles, Dennis, Lorenzo, and Malissa, were also included in the household.<sup>100</sup>

***John Coles Terry in Reconstruction***

John Coles Terry, a young Confederate veteran with extensive acreage in Roanoke County, permanently settled in the Bent Mountain area sometime just after the war. He had likely been familiar with the area for many years, as his father managed the Coles plantation since the

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<sup>94</sup> Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Death Register, 1853-1881" (n.d.), 32, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

<sup>95</sup> "McClelland-Payne Married," *Bristol News*, October 30, 1868.

<sup>96</sup> Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from Executors of John M. Price to Warfield Price and Tazewell Price."

<sup>97</sup> 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.

<sup>98</sup> "Confederate Pensions: Emma E. Coles"; "1870 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: John Coles, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia" (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1870), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>99</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78.

<sup>100</sup> "1870 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: John Coles, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia."

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1840s.<sup>101</sup> John Coles Terry's household appears in the 1870 census for Roanoke County. He was a 25-year-old bachelor. The value of his estate (\$7,000) was one of the highest in the area. His household listed two African-American individuals: Spotswood Scott (12 years old) and Ann Scott (10 years old). Their significance to the Terry household is unclear. The John Scott household, an African-American family that may have been related to the Scotts of the Terry household, was also listed in the area.<sup>102</sup>

John Coles Terry married Elizabeth Whittle in 1873.<sup>103</sup> She came from a very well-known Norfolk, Virginia, family. Her father was Commodore William Conway Whittle (1805–1878). Commodore Whittle was a veteran ship commander who served in antebellum conflicts such as the Second Seminole War in Florida and the Mexican War. He commanded the sloops *Decatur* and *Dale* in the decade prior to the Civil War. As a Confederate naval commander, he oversaw naval defenses of the York River and fought the Union on the upper Mississippi River and New Orleans.<sup>104</sup> Several years after his daughter's marriage to John, Commodore Whittle died. As noted in an 1878 newspaper article, he died "at the residence of his son-in-law, Mr. Coles Terry, in Roanoke county."<sup>105</sup>

John Coles Terry and Elizabeth had several children: Joseph Dandridge (1874–1897), who was born "on his father's estate" on Bent Mountain;<sup>106</sup> Elizabeth Beverley (1876–1911); John Coles Jr. (1879–1927); and Grace Fortescue (1882–1977), who also was born on Bent Mountain.<sup>107</sup> His children came of age listening to tales of their father's wartime experiences as a cavalryman.<sup>108</sup>

### ***The Decline of Tobacco***

In the early 1870s, the Bent Mountain area and neighboring Back Creek remained, in the words of the *Richmond Whig*, "very large tobacco growing sections," as they had been in the antebellum period.<sup>109</sup> However, challenges befell cultivation of the crop. 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. In addition to the labor issue, pests attacked plants. In May 1874, flies descended on tobacco fields and weakened the crop for the season.<sup>110</sup> Tobacco worms also posed a perennial

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<sup>101</sup> "John Coles Terry."

<sup>102</sup> "1870 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: J Coles Terry, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia" (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1870), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>103</sup> Historical Records Survey of Virginia, *Index to Marriage Notices in the Southern Churchman, 1835-1941* (Richmond, Virginia: Historical Records Survey of Virginia, 1942), 269; "1900 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: J. Coles Terry, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia" (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1900), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>104</sup> Lyon Gardiner Tyler, ed., *Encyclopedia of Virginia Biography*, vol. 3 (New York, New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1915), 93–94.

<sup>105</sup> "Death of Commodore Wm. C. Whittle," *Staunton Spectator*, March 12, 1878.

<sup>106</sup> "Joseph Dandridge Terry," *The Roanoke Times*, March 17, 1897.

<sup>107</sup> Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 30.

<sup>108</sup> *Ibid.*, 36–37.

<sup>109</sup> "More Bad News About Tobacco," *Richmond Whig*, May 22, 1874.

<sup>110</sup> *Ibid.*

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problem. As tobacco waned, local farmers, such as the Coles and Terry families, repurposed their old barns as storage or as shelter for sheep and cattle.<sup>111</sup>

***The Rise of Apple Cultivation***

With tobacco in decline, farmers developed apple orchards beginning in the decade after the Civil War. Apples had been cultivated in Virginia since the early days of the colony. John Richerson developed one of the first orchards in the Bent Mountain area. Richerson's apples, a newspaper reported in 1832, were "of the mammoth species, and in color and flavor resembled the delicious New York Pippin." Richerson dubbed them "Richerson's Virginia Winter Pippin."<sup>112</sup> Local farmers and planters in the antebellum period did not follow Richerson's lead and instead cultivated tobacco as a cash crop. The decline of tobacco in the postwar era, however, revived interest in apple cultivation. One of the pioneers of apple cultivation was Jordan Woodrum, who settled in the Bent Mountain area after the Civil War. Woodrum, a newspaper publisher and lawyer, set out a Pippin orchard in 1870.<sup>113</sup> The Coles and Terry families also set out orchards in the post-Civil War period. As the century progressed, apples proved to be an incredibly profitable farm product, and orchard owners became the most prominent farmers in the area.<sup>114</sup>

***Late Nineteenth Century***

In the late nineteenth and into the early twentieth century, the Bent Mountain area was lauded for its agricultural advantages as well as its output. Among the advantages were its well-watered lands, which featured Mill Creek, Bottom Creek, Little Bottom Creek, and Camp Creek. The soil remained particularly fertile. It was reported farmers in the area did not have to use fertilizers to produce impressive results. Strawberries, tomatoes, and root crops such as potatoes produced well. One writer familiar with the area reported cucumbers of "mammoth" size, cabbages "weighing twenty pounds," and rye that grew "to the height of eleven feet."<sup>115</sup>

In 1885, John Coles, Joseph Motley Terry, and John Coles Terry were counted among the primary farmers in Bent Mountain. Other prominent farmers were Tazewell Price, Joseph R. King, Thomas King, Charles W. Price, Benjamin Price, and Mary Shelor.<sup>116</sup> An 1897 tally that listed John Coles, John Coles Terry, and E. D. Terry (Elizabeth Dandridge Terry), widow of Joseph Motley Terry, as among the primary farmers in Bent Mountain.<sup>117</sup>

***The Elijah Henry House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009) at the Turn of the Twentieth Century***

Aside from the Coles and Terry families, others feature in RHD history, such as Elijah Poage Henry. Henry, local lore tells, inhabited the ca. 1840 dwelling presently known as the Elijah

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<sup>111</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 232–36; Moncure, "Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia," 32–34.

<sup>112</sup> "John Richerson of Amherst," *Lynchburg Virginian*, March 5, 1832.

<sup>113</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 35.

<sup>114</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–79.

<sup>115</sup> Gilberta Whittle, "Up on Bent Mountain," *The Times*, November 21, 1892.

<sup>116</sup> *Ibid*, 232–36.

<sup>117</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 39.

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Henry House (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009).<sup>118</sup> Elijah Poage Henry (1877–1959) was the son of Benjamin Miles Henry (1848–1916) and Rena Flora Henry (1861–1901). Benjamin was born in Franklin County. The date of his settlement in Roanoke County and the Bent Mountain area is unknown.<sup>119</sup> He was in residence in the area by 1887 when a Virginia State directory listed him as one of the principal farmers of the Bent Mountain area, along with John Coles, Jordan Woodrum, John Coles Terry, and Elizabeth Terry.<sup>120</sup> Benjamin and his wife had at least three children (Elijah, born in 1877; Ellen, born in 1881; and Emma, born in 1883), and this family likely was the first to occupy the dwelling. The Benjamin Henry household appears in the 1900 federal census as residents of the Cave Springs Magisterial District, a district that encompassed the RHD. Benjamin is listed as a farmer.<sup>121</sup> Benjamin died in the Cave Springs Magisterial District in 1916.

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<sup>118</sup> This information was provided by a local informant who contributed to Turco et al., “Phase I Reconnaissance.”

<sup>119</sup> “Benjamin Henry Certificate of Death (1916),” Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>120</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 402.

<sup>121</sup> “1900 Federal United States Census Population Schedule: Benjamin Henry, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia” (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1900), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).



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Elijah Poage Henry remained a resident of the Bent Mountain area into the 1940s.<sup>122</sup> He appears as a resident of the Cave Spring Magisterial District in the 1910, 1920, 1930, and 1940 censuses as a “farmer.” In World War I and World War II draft registration records, his permanent address is listed as “Air Point,” a community that encompassed the RHD.<sup>123</sup> Elijah married Nellie Gray Waldron (1879–1971) and had 15 children between 1900 and 1918. Henry retired to Floyd County by the time of his death in 1959. Nellie Waldron Henry died in Salem in 1971.<sup>124</sup>

The Henrys had kinship ties with other area families. Elijah Henry married Nellie, who was from the Waldron family of the area. One of Elijah Henry’s sons, Patrick Miles Henry (1902–1985), married Katherine Lee Coles (1902–1993), a granddaughter of John Coles.<sup>125</sup> Arenah (Rena) Henry, the wife of Benjamin Henry, and several Waldron family members are buried in the RHD’s Henry-Waldron Cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5690) on Poor Mountain Road.<sup>126</sup>

***The Coles Family in the Late Nineteenth Century***

In the late nineteenth century, the Coles family continued to have extensive land holdings in the Bent Mountain area and remained prominent farmers. John Coles’ sister, Elizabeth Coles (1828–1884), an unmarried woman, resided in Salem, but owned a vast acreage in the Bent Mountain area near the tracts of her brother and the Terrys. She wrote her will in 1884, stating that her real estate included 4,500 acres on Bent Mountain that formerly belonged to her brother, John Coles, but had been sold to Joseph Motley Terry; however, Terry had not yet paid for said land.<sup>127</sup> She ordered that, upon her death, her executor should sell her land at auction. Elizabeth died in 1884.<sup>128</sup> In 1887, the *Salem Times Register* advertised the land for sale. The land, which “adjoined the lands of Messrs. J.C. Terry, T.M. Price and others,” was to be offered in separate tracts. The advertisement noted that about 750 acres were “open and partly under cultivation” while the remaining acreage was “in original growth.” The tract as a whole contained “about 33 Cabins and a large number of tobacco barns.” The advertisement further described “the lands under cultivation produce Blue Grass spontaneously, and are naturally adapted to grazing and the production of the usual crops in this part of the State, besides their superior location for health and abundance of pure water, giving purchasers an unusual opportunity to raise cattle, horses or sheep and the usual crops; or to capitalists seeking investments in mineral lands.”<sup>129</sup>

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<sup>122</sup> United States, “U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards (1942): Elijah Poage Henry,” 1942, FamilySearch, [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org).

<sup>123</sup> United States, “U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918: Elijah Poage Henry,” 1917, Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>124</sup> “Elijah Poage Henry Certificate of Death (1959),” Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); “Nellie Gray Henry Certificate of Death (1971),” Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>125</sup> “Patrick Miles Henry Certificate of Death (1985),” Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>126</sup> Tom Klatka, “Architectural Survey Form: Henry-Waldron Cemetery” (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2016).

<sup>127</sup> Roanoke County Circuit Court, “Will of Elizabeth D. Coles” (1884), Will Book 1, Page 310, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Salem, Virginia.

<sup>128</sup> Coles, *The Coles Family of Virginia*.

<sup>129</sup> “Executor’s Sale of 4,552 3/4 Acres of Valuable Land!,” *Salem Times-Register and Sentinel*, September 2, 1887.

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John Coles continued to be a prosperous farmer in the late nineteenth century. His household, consisting of himself, his wife Emma, and his sons John and Douglass, appeared in the 1880 census for Roanoke County in the Cave Spring Magisterial District.<sup>130</sup> Information on his farm appears in the 1880 agricultural census for Roanoke County. Coles had 190 acres “tilled, including fallow and grass in rotation”; eight acres of “permanent meadows, permanent pastures, orchards or vineyards”; and 2,000 acres of unimproved “woodland or forest.” The agricultural census also provided valuations of the farm. The land, fences, and buildings of the Coles farm were valued at \$4,500. In terms of farm value, this figure placed the Coles’ farm in the upper half of farms in the Cave Spring Magisterial District.<sup>131</sup>

***Joseph Motley Terry in the Late Nineteenth Century***

Joseph Motley Terry’s business activities in the late nineteenth century are detailed in his postwar ledgers and provide a glimpse into the thriving Bent Mountain community. His sales of merchandise and farm products appear to have been steady and his inventory diverse. For example, in the late 1870s, he sold coffee, corn, seed, bacon, butter, meal, and salt to his customers, including William Shaver, John Lumpkin, and R. W. Reid. “Dried apples” appeared for sale in 1880. His products diversified through the 1880s. Following his death in 1888, his son, John Coles Terry, took over the store, selling items such as eggs, envelopes, wood screws, brown sugar, shoes, turpentine, black pepper, and silverware in the 1890s.<sup>132</sup> The Terry store suffered a major fire in 1889 after manager N. C. Powell left a lit stove unattended, but the store reopened.<sup>133</sup>

In October 1888, Terry unexpectedly died. Salem’s *Times-Register* newspaper reported on the event. “Col. Joseph M. Terry, one of the oldest and most widely known citizens of this county, died suddenly at his home on Bent Mountain last Tuesday morning, aged about 80 years.”<sup>134</sup> In his will, written several years prior, he had left his residence to his wife, Elizabeth, as well as any crops on his farm, his carriage, horses, and harnesses, and also all hogs and sheep, and also “the plantation tools and utensils,” wagon, yoke, oxen, kitchen, and furniture.<sup>135</sup>

***John Coles Terry in the Late Nineteenth Century***

John Coles Terry had one of the largest farms in Roanoke County, extensive real estate, and a prominent position in the Bent Mountain community in the late nineteenth century. Terry had one of the largest acreages in the Cave Spring Magisterial District, if not the entire county of Roanoke, by 1880. Through the 1880s and 1890s, he oversaw the development of this acreage into an agricultural empire where apple cultivation played a central role. At the end of the nineteenth century, newspaper writer John Francis described the prosperity Terry had attained. Terry’s orchard, planted ca. 1870, grew from 70 trees in 1880 to 1,000 at the time of Francis’s

<sup>130</sup> “1880 Federal United States Census Non-Population Schedule: John Coles, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia” (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1880), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

<sup>131</sup> “1880 Federal United States Census Non-Population Schedule: John Coles, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia.”

<sup>132</sup> Terry, “Joseph Motley Terry Ledgers, 1848-1894.”

<sup>133</sup> “Store House and Contents Destroyed by Fire,” *Salem Times-Register*, January 11, 1889.

<sup>134</sup> “Death of a Well-Known Citizen (Col. Joseph M. Terry),” *Salem Times-Register*, October 5, 1888.

<sup>135</sup> Roanoke County Circuit Court, “Will of Joseph M. Terry” (October 29, 1885), Will Book 1, Page 351, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk’s Office, Salem, Virginia.

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writing in 1897. At Terry's farm, Francis described, "you find horses, fat cattle and big hogs, and hospitality for man and beast."<sup>136</sup>

The 1880 Agricultural Census provides specific details of Terry's usage of the land at this date. Some 3,800 acres was unimproved woodland. His improved acreage was 1,200 acres, including 800 acres of tilled land. The value of his farm was \$15,000, a number that far surpassed his neighbors in the Bent Mountain area. Terry had fields of hay, clover, corn, wheat, oats, and grass; ten horses; four mules; two oxen; ten milk cows; and 130 other livestock. His farm had produced 400 pounds of butter in 1879. Terry still cultivated tobacco; in fact, he had 13 acres of the crop and had harvested 13,000 pounds in 1879. The shift toward apples can be noted in that Terry's 400 acres of "permanent meadows, pastures, orchards, and vineyards" included 12 acres of apple orchards and about 70 bearing trees. Another resident of the RHD—John Cunningham—actually had an orchard double the size of Terry's; however, Terry's 1879 harvest had brought an equal value. In all, the estimated value of Terry's farm products for 1879 was \$6,495.<sup>137</sup>

Terry's large agricultural operation required an unknown, but certainly large, number of laborers. Indeed, census records from the late nineteenth century list many "farm laborers" residing in the Cave Spring Magisterial District. The 1880 Agricultural Census notes that Terry's labor expenses for 1879 were \$1,200. Terry's laborers were both African American and white in the late nineteenth century. An 1889 newspaper article, which reported on a stabbing incident involving two laborers on Terry's farm, indicates as much. The young white man named Terry and an African-American man named Coles had quarreled over a mechanical thresher, leading to a knife fight. Terry "completely disemboweled" his opponent.<sup>138</sup>

Newspapers, deed records, and other sources from the late nineteenth century demonstrate that Terry was extensively involved in buying and selling real estate in Roanoke County. Newspapers indicate he was a frequent visitor to the county seat of Salem where he attended to property matters. He sold tracts of varying sizes. One of the purchasers was McH. Booth, a merchant from Vinton. Booth bought "an excellent valley farm" on Mill Creek from Terry in the late 1890s and settled there. The farm was considered one of the more valuable in Roanoke County. Booth farmed and raised stock on the tract, as Terry had before him.<sup>139</sup>

The extent of the Terry lands and also the Coles lands attracted mineral interests in this period. In 1889, a mineral speculator from Chicago, C. S. Cleaver, secured an option to purchase land owned by John Coles Terry and John Coles in the Bent Mountain area, which Cleaver believed was rich in iron and lead ore deposits. Cleaver envisioned building a railroad into the ore mines.<sup>140</sup> Cleaver's plans never came to fruition.

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<sup>136</sup> John Francis, cited in Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 41–45.

<sup>137</sup> "1880 Federal United States Census Non-Population Schedule: John Coles Terry, Cave Spring, Roanoke County, Virginia" (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1880), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>138</sup> "Stabbed to Death," *Salem Times-Register*, March 29, 1889.

<sup>139</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 79.

<sup>140</sup> "Options Taken on Valuable Mineral Properties in This County," *Salem Times-Register*, October 25, 1889.

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Along with farming and real estate, Terry also owned a sawmill. This sawmill may have been the same one that his father apparently operated by the time of the Civil War. Also like his father, Terry had a store. Known as “J.C. Terry & Company,” the store served the Airpoint and Bent Mountain communities. His competitors were Mills & Perdue and Bowman & Company.<sup>141</sup>

Terry’s wealth allowed him to send his children to prominent schools. John Coles Terry Jr. attended Hampden-Sydney College in central Virginia in the late 1880s. His youngest sister, Grace, attended a private school in the vicinity.<sup>142</sup> Joseph Dandridge Terry was a student at the US Naval Academy at Annapolis in the 1890s; his life, however, was cut short. While traveling in El Paso, Texas, in February 1897, he died at the age of 23. His mother, Elizabeth, retrieved his body and returned to Bent Mountain where Joseph was buried in the Terry-Coles Cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002).<sup>143</sup>

A businessman and a farmer, John Coles Terry also held an important role in the community as postmaster and also donated property for a church. Terry was appointed postmaster of the Bent Mountain post office in 1881 and served in this capacity for many years.<sup>144</sup> This appointment reflected his status for, in this period, postmasters were politically-appointed and represented a position of trust in the local community.<sup>145</sup>

In September 1896, the Salem newspaper reported that “the largest crowd ever assembled on Bent Mountain” recently had met for the dedication of the Bent Mountain Methodist Church, located on a one-acre parcel near Terry’s store. Terry donated the land for the church. Area residents contributed funds and work to raise the chapel, “a neat frame building, ample for the accommodation of the neighborhood.” The new chapel replaced a small, older structure that had served multiple purposes in the community’s history.<sup>146</sup>

John Coles Terry and family may have resided in the dwelling at what is now known as the Grace Terry Moncure Farm (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0004). The dwelling was built about 1890, a period when the Terry family prospered.<sup>147</sup> The later owner, Terry’s daughter Grace Terry Moncure, also came to be the owner of much of his acreage.

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<sup>141</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 39.

<sup>142</sup> “Master Joseph Terry and Miss Terry,” *Roanoke Daily Times*, December 25, 1889.

<sup>143</sup> “Joseph Dandridge Terry.”

<sup>144</sup> Post Office Department, “Bent Mountain (1881)” (Reports of Site Locations, 1837-1950. Record Group 28: Records of the Post Office Department, 1773-1971, 1881).

<sup>145</sup> Claire Prechtel-Kluskens, “The Nineteenth-Century Postmaster and His Duties,” *National Genealogical Society Magazine*, 2007, 33–37.

<sup>146</sup> “Will Worship in a New Church,” *Salem Times-Register*, October 2, 1896.

<sup>147</sup> Turco et al., “Phase I Reconnaissance.”

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***Prosperity from Apples***

In the late nineteenth century, the cultivation of apples is said to have brought hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Bent Mountain area.<sup>148</sup> Prosperity was visible across the landscape. “Anyone familiar with this section thirty years ago would be astonished at the improvement of the place and people,” read an 1897 account by writer Gilberta Whittle that praised the influence of the apple growing industry in the Bent Mountain area.<sup>149</sup> “The old-time double log houses have been torn down,” the article continued, “and in their places have been erected substantial, neat six to eight-room cottages, tastefully designed and painted.”<sup>150</sup> Prosperity, however, did not reach every sector of local society. African Americans, in particular, suffered from poverty despite their contribution to the area’s agricultural bounty as laborers. Their homes in the area were described by Whittle as being “of the most wretched character.”<sup>151</sup>

***Agriculture in the Early Twentieth Century***

Agriculture continued to thrive in the RHD in the first half of the twentieth century, and apples took center stage in production. While specific data for the RHD have not been found, the general agricultural trends in the Bent Mountain community likely applied to the RHD. Orchard owners remained the leading businessmen of the area. Fertilization and pest control became important aspects of cultivating marketable apples. Production increased on Bent Mountain and Roanoke County in this timeframe, and in addition to the larger orchards, most families had their own smaller ones.<sup>152</sup> Frosts damaged the regional apple crop significantly in the late 1910s and early 1920s. Heavy frost caused the Bent Mountain area to produce only 10 percent of a full crop in 1919.<sup>153</sup> In 1922, Roanoke County produced only 30 percent of a full crop.<sup>154</sup> In the 1930s, however, Roanoke County and Bent Mountain continued to produce a significant amount of the state’s apples, and many new trees were planted.<sup>155</sup> The Works Progress Administration (WPA) reported that in 1940, Roanoke County had 153,113 apple trees of bearing age and 28,539 immature trees. Also, 739 farms reported having harvested 280,402 bushels of apples in 1939.<sup>156</sup> In addition to apples, farmers in Bent Mountain grew wheat, rye, corn, buckwheat, cabbage, and potatoes. As they had for decades, many farmers raised cattle, sheep, horses, and hogs.<sup>157</sup>

Although apples remained the primary crop of Bent Mountain, cabbage emerged as a crop of commercial interest in the early twentieth century.<sup>158</sup> Cabbage had been grown by Bent Mountain farmers for decades, although not on a commercial level until the early twentieth century. George W. Shelor, a Bent Mountain farmer who was known primarily as a stock raiser,

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<sup>148</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 74–79.

<sup>149</sup> Whittle, “Up on Bent Mountain.”

<sup>150</sup> Ibid.

<sup>151</sup> Ibid.

<sup>152</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 302–5.

<sup>153</sup> “Apple Crop Report,” *New York State Fruit Grower* 3, no. 7 (1919): 7.

<sup>154</sup> “Virginia Apple Crop Is Estimated at 1,066,000 Barrels,” *Richmond Times Dispatch*, June 25, 1922.

<sup>155</sup> Virginia Writers’ Program, *Roanoke: Story of County and City* (Roanoke, Virginia: Stone, 1942), 167.

<sup>156</sup> Ibid., 165.

<sup>157</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 76; McCulloch, “The Pioneer John Lewis and His Illustrious Family,” 75.

<sup>158</sup> “Good Talks By Demonstrators,” *The Times Dispatch*, July 6, 1913.

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grew vegetables on the side, including cabbage, as was reported in an 1893 article in *The Roanoke Times*. In September 1893, he yielded an impressive cabbage crop with some specimens weighing as much as 12 pounds.<sup>159</sup> Shelor's success may have inspired commercial efforts that arose in the early twentieth century.

By the early 1910s, the cabbage crop of Roanoke County, specifically Bent Mountain, was celebrated by local boosters. They pointed to the great size and sweetness of Bent Mountain cabbage. Some observers believed that it was "doubtful if any section of the United States grows larger or sweeter cabbage."<sup>160</sup> While the cabbage of Bent Mountain may have had exceptional size and taste, other states and regions of Virginia led in production. In the 1920s, the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) determined that Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Virginia, California, New York, and Wisconsin were the major commercial producers. Virginia was the smallest producer of the southern states. Within Virginia, the leading regions for commercial cabbage production were Norfolk, Nansemond Princess Anne, Northampton, Smyth, Washington, and Wythe counties. Much of this crop was marketed in the urban areas of the northeastern United States.<sup>161</sup> Absent from this list was Roanoke County, and thus it appears that commercial cabbage production, while notable, did not hold a central place in the agriculture of the Bent Mountain area. Indeed, Bent Mountain cabbage seems to have had a fairly regional reputation in the twentieth century. Advertisements frequently appeared in Virginia newspapers. In 1922, an advertisement in a Charlotte, North Carolina, newspaper sought a buyer for a railroad car of cabbage and apples.<sup>162</sup>

Similar to apple production, cabbage production required physical labor from the preparation of fields to the final shipment of product. In the South, laborers cut cabbage from the field, placed them in crates or hampers at harvest time, and immediately sorted them by federally standardized criteria. In some cases, cabbage was briefly stored in barns or cellars at the farms before being shipped to market in refrigerated railroad cars. Motor truck transport was increasing in the 1930s.<sup>163</sup>

Cabbage, like other crops produced in Virginia, was susceptible to pest and diseases. In the early twentieth century, cabbage farmers in Virginia were battling a disease that caused their plants to wilt and inadequately form. The roots of the plants were noted to be swollen and contorted. Researchers from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University determined the cause to be a fungus known as Cabbage Club Root. The fungus was spread through the introduction of infected soil to new cabbage fields. Farmers were advised to apply lime to their field before planting and to avoid the introduction of infected soil that might be carried in on equipment, horse hooves, and other farming implements.<sup>164</sup>

In the 1930s, cabbage was grown in 30 states. Cabbages were marketed under various names—Danish, Domestic, Painted, Red, and Savoy. The specific variety in Bent Mountain is unclear,

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<sup>159</sup> "A Fine Sample from His Farm," *The Roanoke Times*, September 30, 1893.

<sup>160</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 75.

<sup>161</sup> Alexander E. Cance and George B. Fiske, *Marketing Cabbage* (Washington, DC: US Department of Agriculture, 1924), 7.

<sup>162</sup> "Apples and Cabbage," *The Charlotte Observer*, November 9, 1922.

<sup>163</sup> Raymond L. Spangler, "Preparation of Cabbage for Market," *Farmers Bulletin*, Vol. 1423 (1938), pp.1-12.

<sup>164</sup> Howard S. Reed, *Cabbage Club Root in Virginia* (Blacksburg, Virginia: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1911), 11.

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but may have been known simply as “Bent Mountain.” Cabbages were marketed fresh and for sauerkraut production. One-eighth of the national crop was grown to supply companies that made sauerkraut.<sup>165</sup>

In the post-World War II period, cabbage production in the United States declined along with demand. The decline was evident in Virginia. Some 3,400 acres of cabbage had been planted in 1960. By 1970, the extent of acreage declined to 2,550 and continued to do so. In the 1990s, the acreage was approximately 1,800.<sup>166</sup>

***The Last Years of John Coles Jr.***

John Coles Jr. continued to hold a large estate and be involved in apple cultivation into the early twentieth century. By this point, he could look back on half a century as a farmer in the Bent Mountain area. Some of the most lucrative days of his life were in his later years. Coles stated in 1901 that the apple crop on Bent Mountain that season was exceptionally good for all farmers.<sup>167</sup> His economic success through real estate and agriculture had allowed him to build, at an undetermined date, a dwelling described as “one of the richest” in the Bent Mountain area. A fire engulfed their home in April 1904, completely destroying the structure and most of its contents.<sup>168</sup>

In his later years, Coles struggled with arthritis, and his sons, John Calhoun Coles (1869–1951) and Douglas Coles (1871–1938), managed the family’s agricultural and real estate interests.<sup>169</sup> Coles died in March 1922 at the age of 84.<sup>170</sup> He was, in the words of a contemporary history of Roanoke County, “perhaps the best known citizen of the Bent Mountain district.”<sup>171</sup> His wife, Emma, lived with her sons in the Bent Mountain area and collected her deceased husband’s Civil War pension until her death in 1931.<sup>172</sup> Both John and Emma Coles were buried in Terry-Coles Cemetery.<sup>173</sup>

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<sup>165</sup> Spangler, “Preparation of Cabbage for Market,” 13.

<sup>166</sup> Charles S. Plummer and Wynnice P. Napper, U.S. Cabbage Statistics, 1960-1994” (Washington, DC: US Department of Agriculture, 1995), 38.

<sup>167</sup> “Fine Apples on Bent Mountain,” *Salem Times-Register*, September 13, 1901.

<sup>168</sup> “Fire Destroys Nice Home,” *Salem Times-Register and Sentinel*, April 7, 1904.

<sup>169</sup> “Large Deals in Timber,” *Salem Times-Register and Sentinel*, March 29, 1906.

<sup>170</sup> “Confederate Pensions: Emma E. Coles.”

<sup>171</sup> Jack and Jacobs, *History of Roanoke County*, 78.

<sup>172</sup> “Confederate Pensions: Emma E. Coles”; “Emma E Coles Certificate of Death (1931),” Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>173</sup> “John Coles Certificate of Death (1922),” Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com); Thomas S. Klatka, “Cultural Expressions of Nature in Sacred Contexts: Documentation of Family & Community Cemeteries in Roanoke County, Virginia” (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2000), 216–17.

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***John Coles Terry in the Early Twentieth Century***

Terry's prominence in agriculture, particularly apple cultivation, continued into the early decades of the twentieth century. His success with apples was attributable to the broad popularity of the Albemarle Pippin. Terry and his father, Joseph Motley Terry, planted some of the first Albemarle Pippins in the Bent Mountain area. Albemarle trees took up to 15 years to mature, but the profitability of their fruit justified the investment.<sup>174</sup> The Albemarle was popular among consumers to the extent that even the Queen of England favored them.<sup>175</sup> Most of the Terry's crop, in fact, was sent to foreign markets.<sup>176</sup> "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!"<sup>177</sup> Terry also sold his apple harvest to brokers in New York. In 1902, for example, he sold his entire apple crop for \$5 per barrel to the New York firm of Austin, Kimball and Company, which also purchased apples from Bent Mountain's Woodrum orchard.<sup>178</sup> The Terrys also grew other varieties of apples, including the Winesap and York Imperial.<sup>179</sup> Aside from his orchard and other crops, Terry continued to operate "a busy saw and gristmill" on his property in 1908.<sup>180</sup> Into the 1910s, he also raised sheep.<sup>181</sup>

In November 1911, Terry's wife, Elizabeth, died from complications of a stroke.<sup>182</sup> Their daughter, also named Elizabeth, died several months earlier.<sup>183</sup> Several years later in 1913, John Coles Terry Sr. remarried in Washington DC to Adelaide Coleman Duerson of Roanoke.<sup>184</sup> He died of pneumonia in 1926 at the age of 82 while visiting Norfolk. His body was returned to Bent Mountain and buried in the Coles-Terry family cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002).<sup>185</sup> Almost a year later, Terry's son, John Jr., died of pneumonia as well.<sup>186</sup>

***The Terry-Coles Cemetery (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002)***

The Terry-Coles Cemetery is a family plot containing the burials of members of the namesake families.<sup>187</sup> The cemetery contains about 15 graves, including some that are not marked. The earliest known burial is that of Catherine Coles (born and died 1877), a daughter of John Coles Terry Sr. and Elizabeth Terry. Some of the other burials include Joseph Motley Terry and his son, John Coles Terry Sr. The latter's sons, John Jr. and Joseph Dandridge, also are buried in the

<sup>174</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 46.

<sup>175</sup> Gilberta S. Whittle, "Orchard Amid Beautiful Peaks," *Evening News*, October 19, 1908.

<sup>176</sup> Ibid.

<sup>177</sup> "Final Price for Apples," *Salem Times-Register*, January 4, 1901.

<sup>178</sup> "Bent Mountain Orchard Company," *Times*, November 8, 1902.

<sup>179</sup> Whittle, "Orchard Amid Beautiful Peaks."

<sup>180</sup> Ibid.

<sup>181</sup> "Ewes for Sale," *World News*, September 13, 1913.

<sup>182</sup> "Death of Mrs. J. Coles Terry," *Salem Times-Register and Sentinel*, November 23, 1911.

<sup>183</sup> "Death of Miss Terry (Elizabeth Beverly Terry)," *Evening News*, February 3, 1911.

<sup>184</sup> "J. Coles Terry Weds Mrs. Adelaide Duerson," *World News*, October 2, 1913.

<sup>185</sup> "John Coles Terry."

<sup>186</sup> "J. Coles Terry Certificate of Death (1927)," Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com).

<sup>187</sup> Roanoke County Historical Society, *Roanoke County Graveyards Through 1920* (Roanoke County, Virginia, 1988), 228-29.



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cemetery, as is his wife, Elizabeth. Grace Terry Moncure, another daughter of John Coles Terry Sr., died in 1977 and is buried in Terry-Coles Cemetery.<sup>188</sup>

***The Civilian Conservation Corps on Poor Mountain***

The RHD abuts Poor Mountain, one of the highest points in Roanoke County. The larger early land tracts from which the Coles-Terry RHD originates included Poor Mountain. The mountain remained wilderness until the first half of the twentieth century, when the unrivaled view from its heights attracted a CCC site. This outpost supported CCC efforts to conserve area forests.

The 1929 stock market crash and Great Depression had repercussions across the United States, including rural Bent Mountain. The federal government's efforts to relieve unemployment through various work project organizations left a signature in the local area. The CCC established camps across the nation, largely to address conservation work and forestry management.<sup>189</sup> The men who joined had to be unmarried, unemployed, and aged 18 to 25. To ensure order and productivity, the War Department ran most of the CCC camps. Half a million men worked across 2,500 camps from the time the CCC began in 1933 until its end in 1942. The CCC was particularly active in Virginia. The federal government spent more than \$100 million in the state and opened at least 80 camps, figures that placed it among the top five states for CCC investment and activity in the country. More than 100,000 men, both African-American and European-American, were employed in Virginia.<sup>190</sup>

The CCC in Virginia was largely concerned with erosion and flood control, as well as forest and wildlife conservation. They planted millions of trees, built nearly 1,000 bridges, strung telephone lines, and stocked waterways with fish. At Jamestown and other historic sites, they completed restoration work. A prominent legacy of the CCC in the state was the development of the state park system and federal projects such as Shenandoah National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway. The beginning of World War II created an abundance of jobs, and thus the CCC ended in 1942.<sup>191</sup> The story of the CCC camps of Roanoke County is not well known, although there were at least two based in Salem during the Great Depression: Camp S-52, established in 1933, and Camp P-52, also known as Camp Triangle, established in 1935.<sup>192</sup> Camp P-52 may have been a reactivated version of the earlier camp.

One of the Roanoke County CCC camps, perhaps, was the base camp associated with the fire tower site that was completed in the RHD ca. 1933. The tower site was within a 160-acre tract originally owned by John Coles Terry Sr.<sup>193</sup> The tower (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0007) stood at the

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<sup>188</sup> Moncure's death has been erroneously documented as 1955 as opposed to 1977. Klatka, "Cultural Expressions of Nature in Sacred Contexts: Documentation of Family & Community Cemeteries in Roanoke County, Virginia," 554-55.

<sup>189</sup> R.L. Heinemann, "Civilian Conservation Corps," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, 2014, [www.encyclopediavirginia.org/The\\_Civilian\\_Conservation\\_Corps](http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/The_Civilian_Conservation_Corps).

<sup>190</sup> Ibid.

<sup>191</sup> Ibid.

<sup>192</sup> Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy, "CCC Camps in Virginia," 2018, [http://www.ccclegacy.org/CCC\\_Camps\\_Virginia.html](http://www.ccclegacy.org/CCC_Camps_Virginia.html).

<sup>193</sup> It is assumed that the War Department leased the fire tower site. Roanoke County Circuit Court, "Deed from Grace Moncure Terry to Frank H. Terry Sr. (Trustee for Grace Minor Terry)" (November 29, 1963), Deed Book 730, Page 113, Roanoke County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Salem, Virginia.

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highest point of Poor Mountain.<sup>194</sup> Due to the incredible view the tower offered, it became a local attraction during the CCC period and afterwards. Locals would take Sunday automobile outings to drive up the mountain and climb the tower.<sup>195</sup> The site was so ideal for towers that, after the war, numerous communication companies constructed towers nearby on the Terry's land.

***Grace Terry Moncure Inherits the Terry Estate***

Grace Fortescue Terry, who future generations would remember as Aunt Grace, was the daughter of John Coles Terry Sr. and Elizabeth Terry. Born in 1882 at the Terry estate, Grace came of age in the period when apple orchards were booming and her father's farm was one of the largest in Roanoke County.<sup>196</sup> As a child, her family sent her to study in a private school in Hampden-Sydney, Virginia.<sup>197</sup> In 1915, she married Philip St. Leger Moncure (1867–1955), an established physician in Norfolk who studied at the Medical College of Virginia and served as the Head Surgeon at the city's St. Vincent's Hospital.<sup>198</sup> Grace was interested in history. In the 1920s in Norfolk, she was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the Colonial Dames, and the Association for the Preservation of Virginian Antiquities.<sup>199</sup>

Grace Terry Moncure inherited her father's large estate in the late 1920s as her mother, two brothers, and two sisters had all died.<sup>200</sup> On the estate was a dwelling (ca. 1890), known today as the Grace Terry Moncure Farm (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0004), thought to have belonged to her parents. In the following decades, she remained connected to Bent Mountain, particularly in the later years of her life. While she and her husband appear often in the census and city directories in Norfolk up to the 1940s, they kept the home at Bent Mountain. In the 1920s and 1940s, Grace altered and expanded the dwelling.<sup>201</sup>

***The Coles-Terry RHD in the Late Twentieth Century***

Bent Mountain remained rural and agricultural into the post-war decades, even as similar landscapes elsewhere in Roanoke County were redeveloped as neighborhoods and shopping plazas.<sup>202</sup> In earlier times, nearly every resident of Bent Mountain farmed to some degree; however, in the post-World War II period, the number of farmers declined as residents drove their automobiles to Roanoke for wage jobs or relocated nearer to cities for work.<sup>203</sup> Farm land in Bent Mountain and other areas became more valuable to sell than to farm. Cabbage, a commercial crop that emerged earlier in the century, continued to be produced on some farm

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<sup>194</sup> Ann M. Rogers, "Property Information Form: Coles-Terry Rural Historic District (VDHR 080-5689)" (Richmond, Virginia: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 2016), 3.

<sup>195</sup> Ibid., 3.

<sup>196</sup> "Grace Fortescue Moncure Certificate of Death (1977)," Virginia Death Records, 1912-2014, Virginia Department of Health (Richmond, Virginia, n.d.), Ancestry.com, www.ancestry.com.

<sup>197</sup> "Master Joseph Terry and Miss Terry."

<sup>198</sup> American Historical Society, *History of Virginia: Virginia Biography* (Chicago: American Historical Society, 1924), 584–85.

<sup>199</sup> American Historical Society, 585.

<sup>200</sup> John Coles Terry's second wife, Adelaide Duerson, does not appear to have received any of his estate.

<sup>201</sup> Turco et al., "Phase I Reconnaissance."

<sup>202</sup> Harris, *A History of Back Creek*, 74.

<sup>203</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 305.

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parcels in this period, but its success was not comparable to that of apples in previous generations.<sup>204</sup> In recent years, cabbage has not been extensively cultivated in Virginia as a whole. In 2002, about 1,700 acres in Virginia were dedicated to cabbage. Of 15 states producing cabbage, Virginia came in twelfth in terms of production or 2.18 percent of the national crop. The principal centers of production in Virginia were Accomack, Carroll, Hanover, Northampton, and Patrick counties.<sup>205</sup>

Following the general trend in agriculture, apple production declined in the Bent Mountain area and Roanoke County after the mid-twentieth century. By this time, competition and the production costs rose. These factors put pressure on 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 commercial orchards as opposed to the small acreages of mixed fruit varieties that characterized Bent Mountain since the Reconstruction period. Costs associated with apple production increased in the postwar period as well. Pruning, fertilizing, spraying, and mowing had become 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 wrote in her context of US orchards, “a highly competitive economic environment for commercial orchards created very small profits margins for orchardists.”<sup>206</sup>

Apple cultivation in Roanoke County 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.<sup>207</sup> In the RHD, the extent of apple orchards is evident in aerial photographs from 1947 and 1960 (**Figures 2 and 3**).<sup>208</sup> The same number is evident in the 1960 aerial photograph (see **Figure 3**). This photographic evidence implies that the orchards of the RHD were not declining as quickly as they were in other parts of the county.

Grace Terry Moncure had inherited her father’s large, agricultural estate, which included the Coles-Terry RHD, in the 1920s. The once thriving farm, which produced livestock, oats, rye, corn, butter, and apples into the mid-twentieth century, had dwindled in farming activity after World War II. If historic aerials are an indication, she owned several orchard parcels within the RHD. Roanoke County land and estate records demonstrate that Moncure sold some of her land in small tracts as the years passed. In the late 1950s and through the 1960s, she transferred other acreage, usually in tracts of several hundred acres, to her nieces and nephews.

Prior to her death in 1977, Moncure reflected on the story of her family’s land and the area’s history in a brief memoir titled “Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia.”<sup>209</sup> Her vivid prose

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<sup>204</sup> Nicholas J. Linville, Interview with Deedie Kagey of Roanoke, Virginia, August 6, 2018.

<sup>205</sup> Therese N. Schooley, *Crop Profile for Cabbage in Virginia* (Blacksburg, Virginia: Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, 2005).

<sup>206</sup> Dolan, *Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States*, 115.

<sup>207</sup> Kagey, *When Past Is Prologue: A History of Roanoke County*, 511–12.

<sup>208</sup> United States Geological Survey, “Aerial Photographs: Roanoke County, Virginia,” 1947; United States Department of Agriculture, “Aerial Photographs: Roanoke County, Virginia,” 1960.

<sup>209</sup> Grace was buried in the Terry-Coles Family Cemetery. “Grace Fortescue Moncure Certificate of Death (1977).”

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illustrated her deep knowledge and pride in the people and places of the Coles-Terry RHD. “Bent Mountain curves in the shape of an amphitheater where the encircling ranges might have been seats for an audience of mythical Titans, who viewed the ceaseless colorama of storms that moved the great oaks and pines and poplars in their ballet measures,” she wrote. She told of the Lewis Tract, the story of Bent Mountain’s name, the rivers and creeks of the area, and how her Coles and Terry ancestors, their slaves, and other residents built an agricultural community that thrived for nearly 150 years.<sup>210</sup>

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<sup>210</sup> Moncure, “Recollections of Bent Mountain, Virginia,” 30–32.

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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	_____ #
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\_\_\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey	#
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**Primary location of additional data:**

X State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_\_\_ Other State agency

Federal agency

X	Local government
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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:** 2.560

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Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

### Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: NAD83

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(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1.	Latitude:	37.199492	Longitude:	-80.147358
2.	Latitude:	37.198740	Longitude:	-80.141691
3.	Latitude:	37.184244	Longitude:	-80.140061
4.	Latitude:	37.179555	Longitude:	-80.120342
5.	Latitude:	37.164757	Longitude:	-80.123796
6.	Latitude:	37.159556	Longitude:	-80.139374
7.	Latitude:	37.167124	Longitude:	-80.170738
8.	Latitude:	37.165332	Longitude:	-80.182170
9.	Latitude:	37.175998	Longitude:	-80.183333
10.	Latitude:	37.187546	Longitude:	-80.174114
11.	Latitude:	37.184079	Longitude:	-80.160947

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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)*.<sup>211</sup> 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 of Turco et al. and Ann Rogers, to justify the boundaries of the Coles-Terry RHD.<sup>212</sup>

The Coles-Terry RHD is an approximately 2,560-acre rural and agricultural landscape at the slope of Poor Mountain in Bent Mountain, Roanoke County, Virginia. Its boundaries largely encompass the ancestral and present-day lands of the Terry family. The RHD boundaries, as defined by the previous Property Information Form (PIF), encompass the various historic resources within the Coles-Terry familial agricultural tract.<sup>213</sup> Based on the 2018 architectural field survey, SEARCH recommends retaining the general RHD boundaries delineated by Rogers.<sup>214</sup> Honeysuckle Road and Poor Mountain Road form the northern boundary. The western boundary is formed by the Montgomery/Roanoke County line. The eastern boundary follows property parcel lines and avoids non-historic development in the area located in the vicinity of the intersection of Poor Mountain Road with Tinsley Lane and Willet Lane. The southern boundary approximates the historic extent of Coles-Terry familial land holdings south of the Grace Terry Moncure Farm (DHR ID #: 080-5679). These boundaries encompass all contributing resources defined by Rogers (**Figures 4 and 5**).<sup>215</sup>

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<sup>211</sup> 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).

<sup>212</sup> Turco et al., “Phase I Reconnaissance”; Rogers, “Preliminary Information Form: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (080-5731).”

<sup>213</sup> Rogers, “Preliminary Information Form: Bent Mountain Apple Orchard Rural Historic District (080-5731).”

<sup>214</sup> Ibid.

<sup>215</sup> Ibid.

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### 11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Nick Linville/Historian; Geoffrey Mohlman/Senior Architectural Historian;  
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State: VA

Zip Code: 22031

Email: [michael@searchinc.com](mailto:michael@searchinc.com)

Telephone: 904-379-8338

Date: August 2019

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### Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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



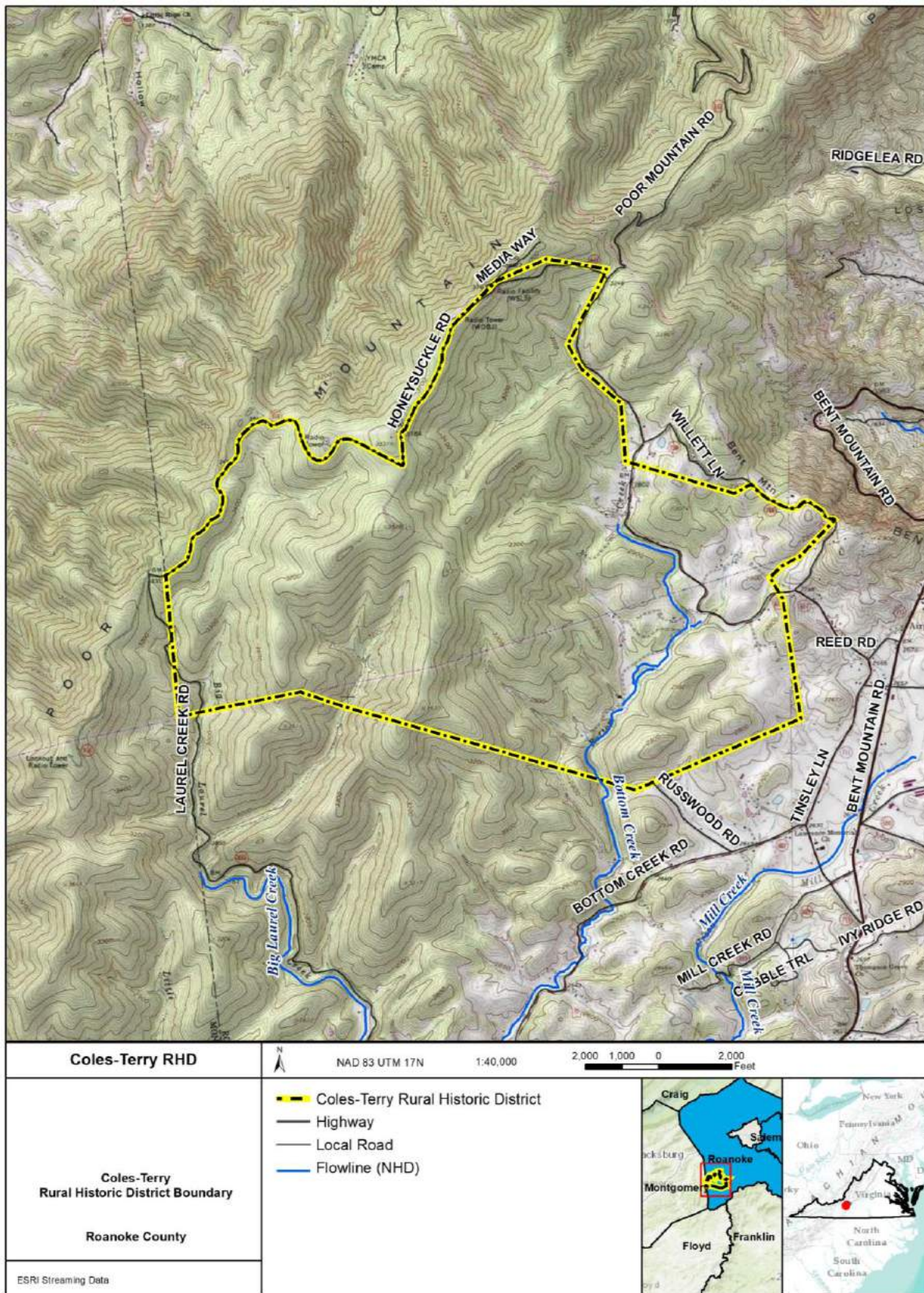
**Coles-Terry Rural Historic District**

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**USGS Topographic Map**



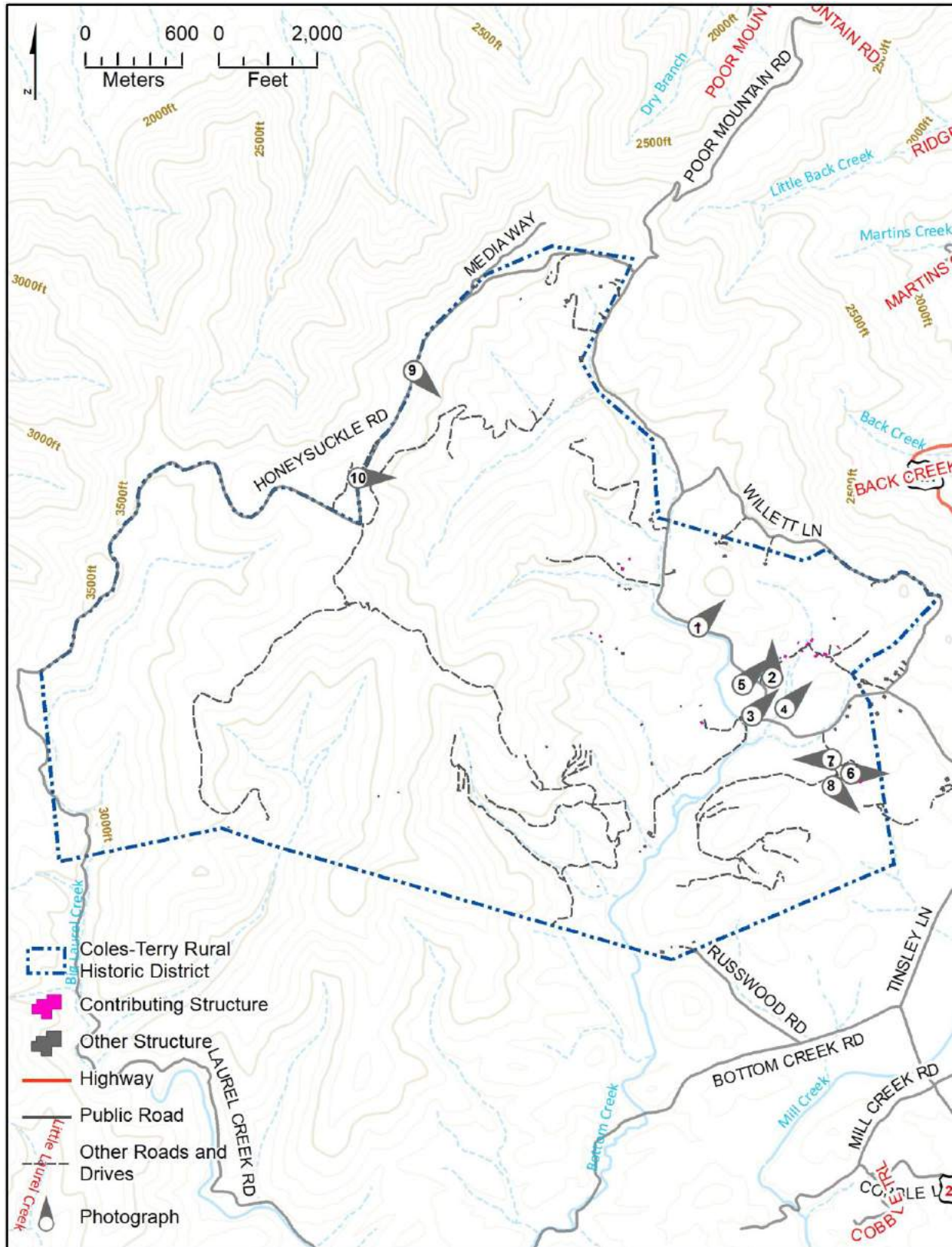


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Sketch Map

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**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**ADDITIONAL MAP FIGURES**



**Coles-Terry Rural Historic District**

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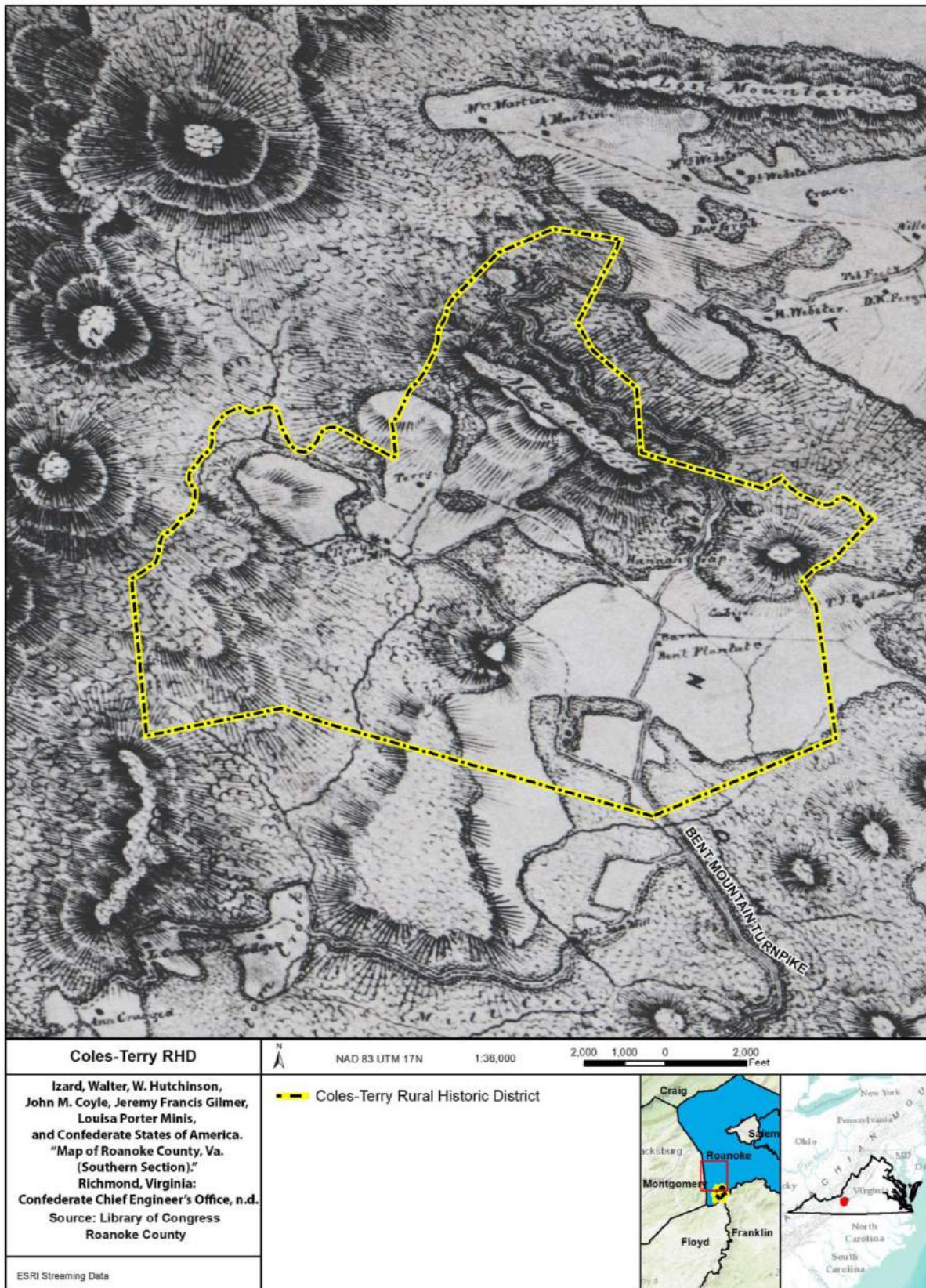


Figure 1 of 5



**Coles-Terry Rural Historic District**

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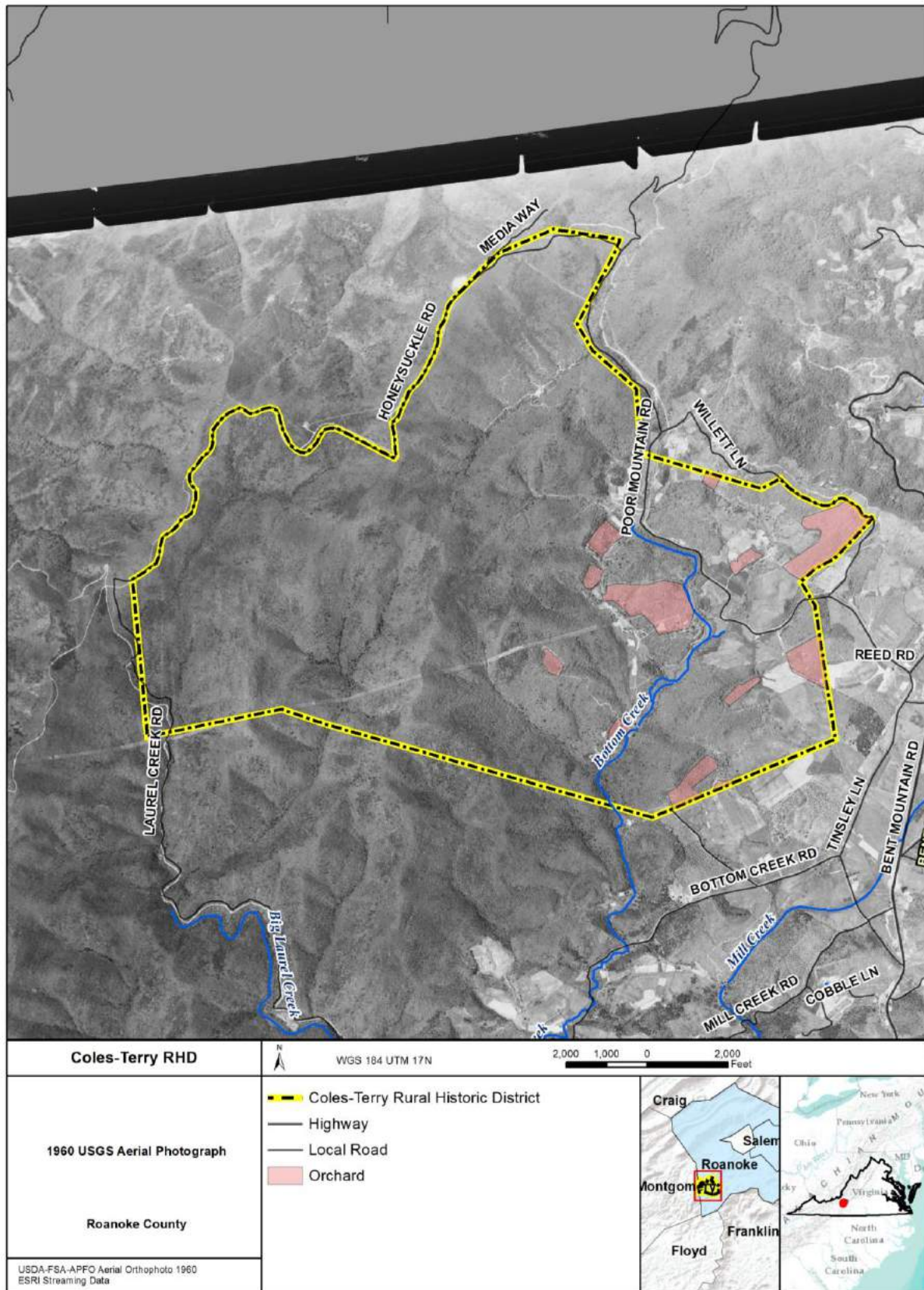


Figure 2 of 5  
Figure 3 of 5



**Coles-Terry Rural Historic District**

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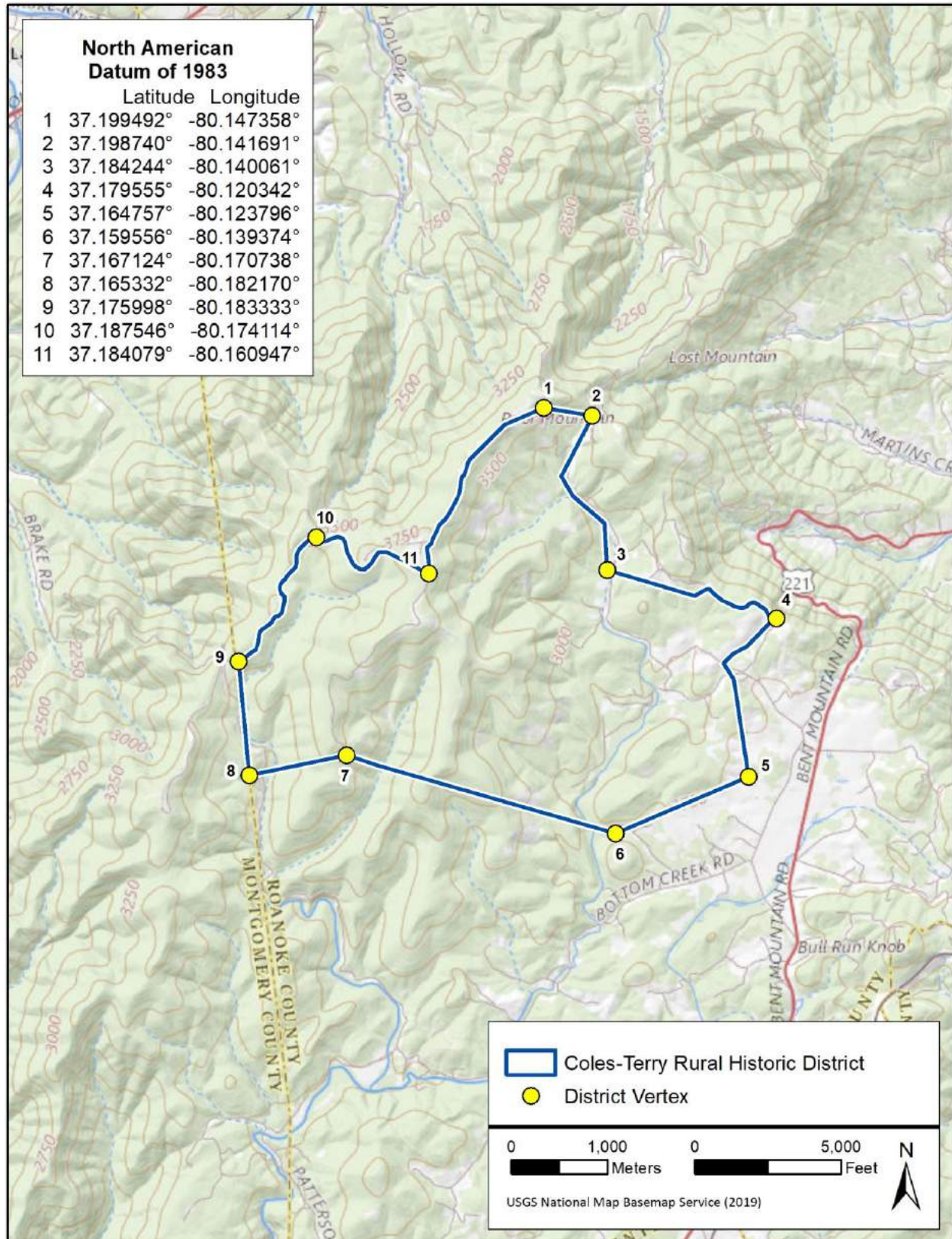


Figure 4 of 5

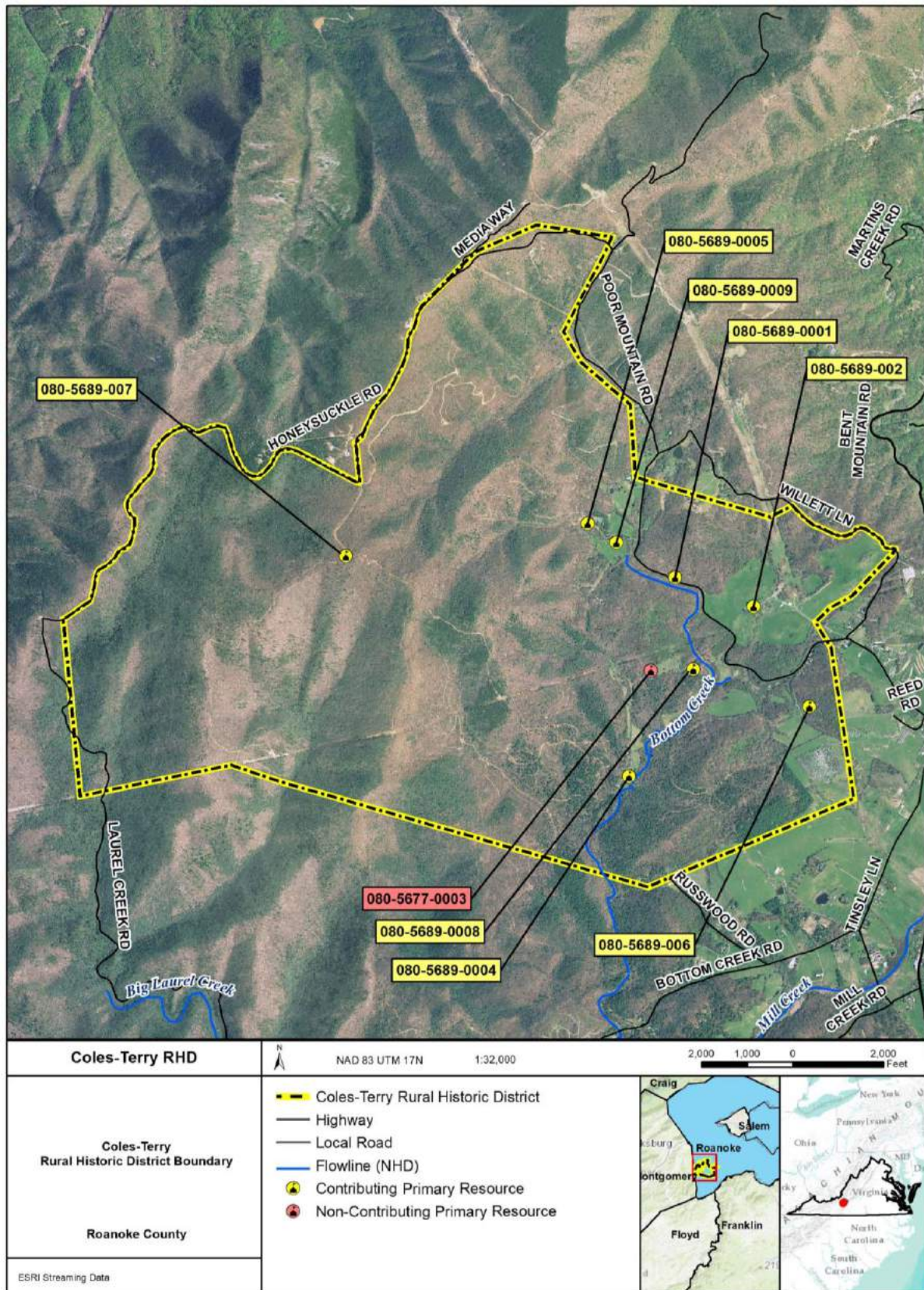


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**Figure 5 of 5**

**Photographs**

Sections 9—end

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Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 pixels preferred, at 300 pixels per inch (ppi) 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 does not need to be labeled on every photograph.

**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Coles-Terry 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 11. Cabin at 8566 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0001), facing northeast.
- 2 of 11. Janet Wynot House at 8701 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002), facing north.
- 3 of 11. Terry Place barns at 8701 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002), facing northeast.
- 4 of 11. Terry Place shed at 8701 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002), facing northeast.
- 5 of 11. Overview of Janet Wynot House/Terry Place/Terry-Coles Cemetery at 8701 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002), facing northeast.
- 6 of 11. Baker House at 8873 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0006), facing east.
- 7 of 11. Terry Barn at 8873 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0006), facing west.
- 8 of 11. Terry Barn ruins at 8873 Poor Mountain Road (DHR ID #: 080-5689-0006), facing southeast.
- 9 of 11. Overview of Poor Mountain Road in Coles-Terry RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5689), facing south.

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10 of 11. Overview of Coles-Terry RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5689), facing east.

11 of 11. View of the southern boundary of the Coles-Terry RHD (DHR ID #: 080-5689), facing northwest.

Due to restrictions, certain Coles-Terry RHD resources could not be fully accessed for photography. Per DHR instruction, photographs of the following resources, as available, were provided by Michael Pulice, Architectural Historian, Western Regional Office, DHR, or collected from the Virginia Cultural Resource Information System (V-CRIS) and have been included as supplemental photographs:

DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002	Janet Wynot House/Terry Place/Terry-Coles Cemetery (8701 Poor Mountain Road). Minimal views of Janet Wynot House, Garage, and barns
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0003	Ruins (8741 Poor Mountain Road)
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0004	Grace Terry Moncure Farm (8701 Poor Mountain Road)
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0005	Henry-Waldron Cemetery (8443 Poor Mountain Road)
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0006	Baker House (8873 Poor Mountain Road)
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0008	Coles-Terry House/Orchard and Barn (8741 Poor Mountain Road)
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009	Elijah Henry House (8443 Poor Mountain Road)

The following resources could not be accessed for photography and no photos are available on V-CRIS:

DHR ID #: 080-5689-0007	Fire Tower (8744 Honeysuckle Road)
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**Photo 1 of 11**

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**Photo 4 of 11**

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**Photo 6 of 11**

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**Photo 7 of 11**



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**Photo 8 of 11**



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**Photo 9 of 11**

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**Photo 10 of 11**

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**Photo 11 of 11**

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**ADDITIONAL ITEMS**

**SUPPLEMENTAL PHOTOGRAPHS**



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DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002. Source: DHR.



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DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002. Source: V-CRIS.





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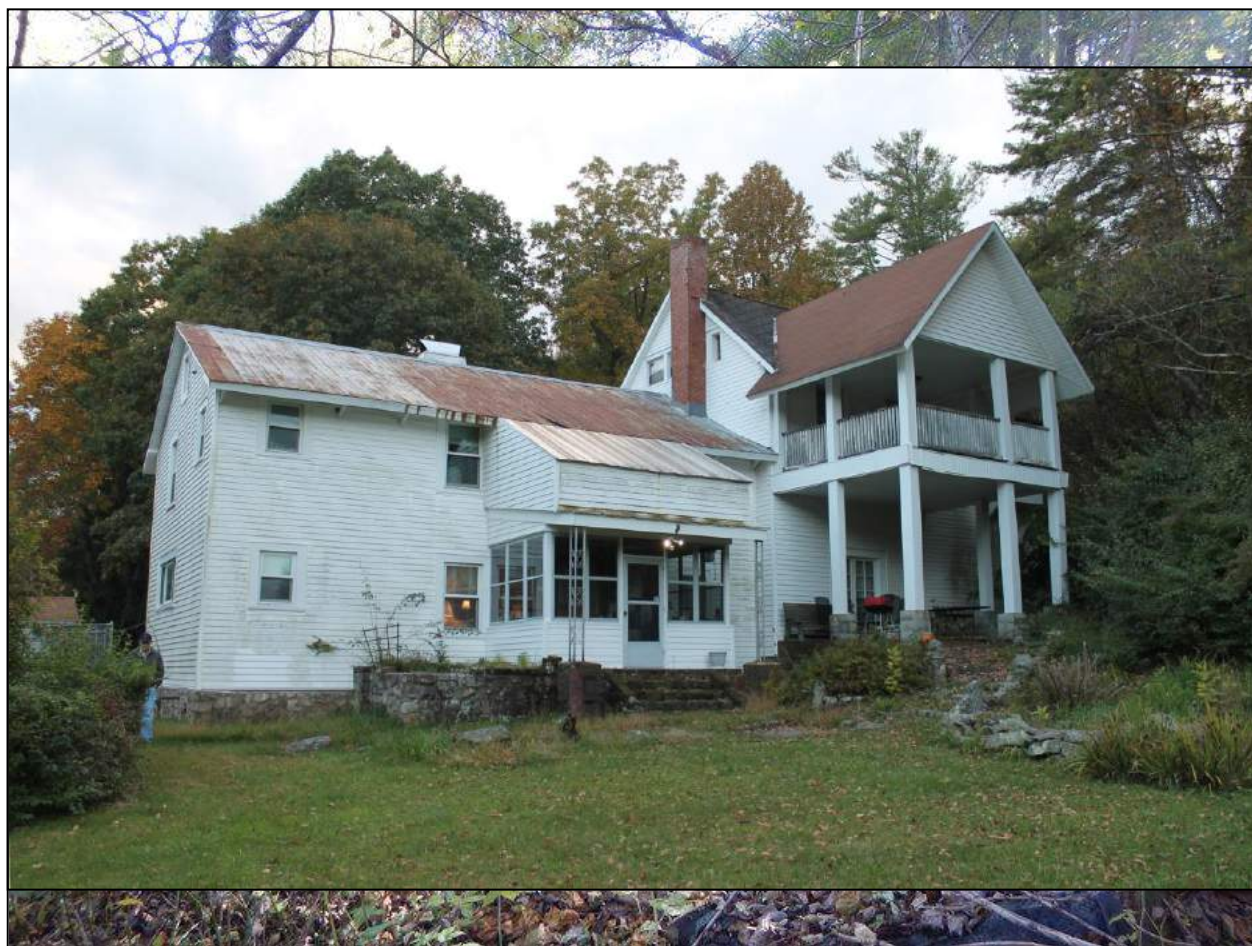
DHR ID #: 080-5689-0002. Source: DHR.



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DHR ID #: 080-5689-0003. Source: V-CRIS.





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DHR ID #: 080-5689-0004. Source: DHR.

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DHR ID #: 080-5689-0008. Source: DHR.





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DHR ID #: 080-5689-0009. Source: V-CRIS.



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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.