

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: Browntown Historic District

Other names/site number: DHR ID# 093-5032

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Portions of Bentonville Road, Browntown Road, Fetchett Road, Gooney Manor Alley, Gooney Manor Loop, Smelser Lane, and Smith Run Road

City or town: Browntown State: Virginia County: Warren

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

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 local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

	<u>9/19/2021</u>
<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ Date</p>	
<p><u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u></p>	
<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	

<p>In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>_____ Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>_____ Date</p>
<p>_____ Title :</p>	<p>_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>80</u>	<u>35</u>	buildings
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>89</u>	<u>42</u>	Total

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store; restaurant

GOVERNMENT: post office

EDUCATION: school

RELIGION: religious facility

AGRICULTURE/ SUBSISTENCE: animal facility; storage; processing

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility

HEALTH CARE: clinic

TRANSPORTATION: road related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling; secondary structure

COMMERCE/TRADE: department store

RELIGION: religious facility

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: animal facility; storage

TRANSPORTATION: road related

GOVERNMENT: fire station

SOCIAL: civic

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne; Gothic Revival; Italianate

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/
Craftsman

OTHER: Minimal Traditional

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; STUCCO; METAL; STONE;
CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS

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.)

Summary Paragraph

The Browntown Historic District encompasses most of the village of Browntown, located in southern Warren County, Virginia. The village occupies an area of the county known since the eighteenth century as Gooney Manor, through which flows Gooney Run, a tributary of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River. The Gooney Manor valley is surrounded on the east and south by the Blue Ridge Mountains, which locally rise to over 3,000 feet in elevation, and on the west by several smaller mountains. Browntown itself lies mostly at elevations of between 900 and 1,000 feet above sea level. The village in its present form developed in the 1870s, centered on the intersection of the east-west Bentonville Road (SR 613) and the north-south Browntown Road (SR 649) and its continuation, Gooney Manor Loop (SR 631). The 75.08-acre district contains 37 primary and 94 secondary resources for a total of 131 resources. Most of the resources are houses but there are also a number of stores, barns, churches, and secondary buildings like sheds, privies, and garages. Development is densest at the aforementioned intersection at the north end of the village, with farm fields predominating at the district's midsection and a smaller concentration of houses at the south end. The south end is where a small creek known as Broad Run flows into Gooney Run. A second small creek, Morgans Spring Branch, flows through the district's eastern tip. The historic district has high integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as a linear, rural crossroads village that retains a broad array of historic buildings, sites, structures, and objects illustrative of the village's establishment during the early nineteenth century and continuing through the mid-twentieth century.

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Narrative Description

General Description and Inventory Introduction

Browntown's historic resources date largely to the 1870s to 1950s period, with a few resources dating to the first two-thirds of the nineteenth century. The majority of resources are houses of one-story, story-and-a-half, and two-story height and frame construction, with weatherboard, stucco, or synthetic exterior siding. House styles include Italianate, Craftsman, and Minimal Traditional, though many houses are devoid of pronounced stylistic character. Stone foundations and brick chimneys and flues predominate (brick and cinder block also occur as foundation materials and there are a few stone chimneys). Houses are often accompanied by secondary auxiliary resources; in fact, Browntown is especially rich in secondary domestic resources. Secondary domestic resource types include garages, carriage houses, privies, smokehouses/meat houses, springhouses/wellhouses, root cellars, a water pump/trough (along with a drinking fountain, the district's only enumerated "objects"), and miscellaneous sheds. Two of the district's springhouses date to the antebellum period and number among the few resources built of stone.

The most prominent resources in the district on account of their height, architectural presence, and main road placement, are the two nineteenth-century churches, the ca. 1882 Browntown Union Church and 1897 Browntown Baptist Church (a third church, the ca. 1950 Browntown Pentecostal Church, is a low cinder-block building on a side street). Other important resource types include stores, notably the Baublitz-Rudacille, Manuel, and Smelser stores; the 1910s Browntown Bridge; and barns. The barns include the ca. 1885 Creekside barn, which shows Italianate influence, and the 1940s Shadybrook Farm barn, a large cinder-block bank barn with cupola-form ventilators and a concrete stave silo. The district's most unusual agricultural resource is the early twentieth-century corn dryer on the Edmonds-Nossett Farm, a bolted metal structure consisting of two silo-like elements joined at the top by a domical roof.

The district possesses a high level of integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling, and association. The majority of resources date to the period of significance and possess exterior integrity of design in that they retain their historic form, structure, and style. The district possesses integrity of setting in that it retains the character that developed during the period of significance. The majority of resources possess integrity of workmanship in that the physical evidence of the crafts involved in their construction and ornamentation remains evident. This includes the refinishing of a number of resources with stucco in the 1930s and 1940s, which falls within the period of significance. A few resources have been resided in vinyl, though the number is too small to adversely affect the overall integrity of the district. In a few instances, such as the Smelser House at 73 Gooney Alley Road, vinyl siding in addition to other modernizations have rendered the resource non-contributing, but these instances are few. The majority of resources possess the materials that have characterized them since the end of the period of significance and the area as a whole conveys a sense of the particular period of time during which it was

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developed and gained its historic associations. The area possesses integrity of association in that it is directly linked to the historical and architectural developments that formed it. A few resources are known to have been moved. When this occurred during the period of significance it does not render the resource non-contributing. One prominent resource, the Charles F. Updike Doctor's Office and Browntown Post Office at 52 Browntown Road, was moved after the end of the period of significance, however the resource retains its association with its historic-period location and is classified contributing. The resources of the district are strongly contributing, with 28 of the 37 primary resources classified as contributing (76 percent). The total contributing percentage for the district is 68 percent.

The district's resources are individually enumerated in the inventory that follows. The inventory headings list property address, name, date, Virginia Department of Historic Resources file number(s), and contributing/non-contributing status and resource type. The property name is generally the historic name (for example, Shadybrook Farm) or references the early or original owners or occupants (for example, L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence). Other names are occasionally given in parentheses. Dates reflect the earliest surviving construction and are either exact or approximate. When approximate the date is sometimes preceded by the abbreviation ca., meaning *circa*, Latin for "about" (c. stands for century). Whether a property is classified as contributing to the historic character of the district or not depends on several factors. A building that dates to the period of significance (ca. 1850-ca. 1958) and retains sufficient historic character from that period is contributing. A building built after ca. 1958 or a historic building that was greatly altered after ca. 1958 is classified as non-contributing.

Secondary resources that date to the period of significance and retain sufficient integrity are classified as contributing as they are important to understanding historic spatial relationships and functions during the period of significance. Many of the properties have small agricultural outbuildings that reflect the longtime practice of raising chickens, hogs, dairy cows, and other livestock in an otherwise largely residential setting. Sites of ruinous buildings are considered contributing because their presence is part of the district's historic evolution and settlement patterns. Stores, a former school, and several churches round out the district's community-oriented resources, providing further insight into the historic activities and cultural landscape of a self-sufficient village in rural Virginia.

Historical information in the inventory is based primarily on oral interviews and secondary historical sources, supplemented by targeted primary source research. Two individuals who have lived in the community since their childhoods in the 1940s and whose recollections were particularly helpful are Sam Baggary and Win Smedley. Secondary historical sources that also proved helpful were Eugene Scheel's map of Warren County (2004), which is based on local tradition and other information; research by historian Renee O'Connell; and architectural historian Maral S. Kalbian's 1991 survey forms, which also record local tradition.

Resources are keyed to the attached Sketch Map by address. The 11-digit historic district inventory numbers are underlined in the inventory.

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Inventory

**5551 Bentonville Road. Tom Partlowe House. Ca. 1940. 093-0250 (093-5032-0001).
Contributing building.**

The two-story frame house has novelty vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. A one-story porch extends partway across the front, with a hip roof supported by replacement square posts on historic building pedestals, a Craftsman feature. Other features include a cinder-block foundation, replacement windows, a two-story rear wing with a one-story side section and a building flue, and a back deck. According to longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggary, Clarence Smith "Tom" Partlowe had the house built in the 1940s. The house later served as the parsonage of Cool Spring Church of God (093-0032), which is located near Browntown.

a. Outbuilding. Ca. 1940. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has deteriorated board-and-batten siding, a board-and-batten door, and a metal-sheathed shed roof. A movable prefab front-gambrel shed stands next to it.

b. Llama shed. Late 20th c./early 21st c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and a recently added open-sided rear shed addition.

5565 Bentonville Road. L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence. 1947. 093-5032-0002. Contributing building.

The building consists of a story-and-a-half house with Craftsman and Minimal Traditional stylistic features with a one-story store wing at the front southwest corner. Both store and residence are of common-bond brick or brick veneer construction with an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof on the house and an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof on the store. The store roof has a cantilevered hip projection that shelters a center entry flanked by pairs of windows. The house has a front porch with a shed roof supported by Craftsman tapered wood columns on brick pedestals. The pedestals are lined by a brick railing with segmental-arched scuppers at the bottom. Two gabled dormers project on the front of the roof and a shed dormer projects on the rear. On the west side of the store is a frame shed room with vinyl siding and a slightly set-back front with an entry sheltered by a roof extension. Other features include a glassed-in back porch, an exterior brick flue on the west gable end, a cinder-block foundation, six-over-six wood-sash windows, and replacement windows in the storefront.

Louis Edward (L.E.) Smelser and his wife, Elizabeth "Lizzie" G. Andrews Smelser, built their store and residence in 1947. Lizzie ran "Smelser's Grocery" from 1947 until the 1990s. According to longtime Browntown resident Win Smedley, his father Charles Lewis "Sheep" Smedley and Fred Hurt were the Smelsers' carpenters and bricklayers. The name Smelser's Grocery formerly appeared on a sign on the front of the store decorated with images of Coca Cola bottles and the round Coca Cola emblem. The replacement windows of the storefront

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replaced plate glass windows. Eugene Scheel shows G. Manuel's Distillery at the location (prior to 1947).

a. Garage. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.

The one-story cinder-block garage has a metal-sheathed front-gable roof with exposed rafter ends, slatted horizontal board siding in the gables, and a single vehicle bay with an open front. The rear gable end is sheathed with vertical-board siding. A cinder-block shed storage room projects on the side and a frame equipment storage wing with vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof projects to the rear.

5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 10). Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence. 1884-85. 093-0024 (093-5032-0003). Contributing building.

The two-story building of stuccoed frame construction consists of a ca. 1910 gable-fronted front wing with the store in the first story and residential space above, and an 1884-1885 side-gable roof house to the rear, both sections with metal roof sheathing. The store occupies the west half of the front first story; the east half is an engaged porch with classical columns, a turned balustrade, and a poured concrete floor. The main entry is inside this porch, with a frame with indented jambs, a molded cornice, a four-panel door, and a single-pane transom with translucent white painting on the inner face of the glass scored in a lattice pattern. To the left of the entry is a window which, like most of the building's other windows, has indented jambs, a molded cornice, and two-over-two wood sashes. Also inside the porch are four high, small, four-pane windows on the store wall. Similar windows, eight in number, appear on the west exterior wall where they extend to the back of the two-story house section, indicating the former extent of the store space.

The storefront consists of a center entry with double-leaf wood and glass doors and double-leaf screen doors flanked by large four-pane display windows, all under a molded cornice. Over the storefront is a ca. 1950 metal signage panel with fluted ends on which are mounted round metal Coca-Cola signs. The panel is painted with the words O. J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse. On the west side of the store is an exterior wood stair that rises to second-story entry with a landing supported by struts and covered by a shed roof. The front and side gables have cornice returns and there is a window in the front gable and paired of louvered vents in the side gables (the vents have a vertical center division which gives them the appearance of closed shutters). Two one-story wings project to the rear with a narrow covered open-air space between them. The east rear wing is gabled and has a brick flue at the gable peak. The west rear wing has a shed roof. The windows of the wings have straight (not indented) jambs. A low cinder-block wall with intermittent brick pillars encloses the east side yard.

John A. Baublitz of Carroll County, Maryland, purchased a lot "in the village of Browntown" from Amon and Louisa Updike in January 1884. Baublitz operated a store in the community in April 1884. Baublitz was appointed Browntown postmaster in 1889 and again in 1902 and presumably ran the post office from his store during his terms. The front addition was made about 1910 and the building was stuccoed about 1935 (a photo from the 1920s or 1930s shows the building with weatherboard siding and a gas pump out front). The additions correspond with

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the operation of the store by Rene (or Rennie) Cooper, which commenced about 1910 and ceased at Cooper's death about 1930. Cooper was Browntown postmaster from 1906 to 1929 and the post office was likely located in the store during the period. Oris Jackson "Buck" Rudacille (1895-1966) purchased the property about 1930 and initially leased it to Keene Updike. In 1935 Updike moved his operation to the store at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop and Buck Rudacille ran the store together with his wife, Annice V. (Manuel) Rudacille (1893-1975). After her husband's death in 1966, Annice ran the store until the early 1970s. Jean Cooper Lacombe, a relative of the Cooper and Rudacille families, acquired the property in 1978 and in 1987 she and her husband, Thomas Lacombe, reopened the store, which remains open though at reduced hours during the Covid 19 Pandemic of 2020-21. In 1980 Tom Lacombe opened a choose-and-cut Christmas tree operation on the property which operated into the 2010s. The acreage formerly occupied by the tree farm is now used for pasture.

a. Garage. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has novelty weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. Front door leaves of vertical wood material slide on a track, and there is a six-over-six window in the gable above. A shed wing extends across the back. The building was reduced in size in recent decades by the removal of the front elevation, but the character of the front was reproduced and the overall character of the building retained, hence the contributing classification.

b. Corncrib and wagon shelter. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has a center drive-through and wagon storage area flanked by narrow corncribs with vertical slatted siding. On the front of each crib is a batten door; a third batten door opens into a storage loft through the gable, which has weatherboard siding.

c. Shed. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has vertical-board siding and a shed roof.

d. Privy. First half 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has horizontal flush board siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and an extremely narrow batten door.

e. Pump and water trough. Early 20th c. Contributing object.

The cast iron hand pump, located just outside the rear entrance to the house, poured water into a small rectangular poured concrete water trough.

f. Meat house. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and a batten door.

g. Storage building. Ca. 1930. Contributing building.

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The relatively tall one-story frame building has vertical-board siding (some replacement in kind), a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a batten door. The building was used for equipment and firewood storage.

h. Brooder house. Ca. 1930. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building of linear form has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and a window on the end. The building was used for brooding chicks.

i. Animal shelter. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The long one-story frame building was built in three or more phases, either in situ, by combining elements moved to the location, or a combination. The building has vertical-board siding, shed and gable roofs, metal roofing, and exposed rafter ends. From north to south the building housed chicken roosts, a chicken feeder and laying boxes for the hens, and a livestock shelter. A section of the building was removed after 1978 owing to insect damage.

j. Abraham Brown House Ruin. Early 19th c. Contributing site.

The site consists of the ruinous stone walls of the rectangular cellar of the former Abraham Brown House, which may have been built in the early nineteenth century. The cellar was built into a bank so that there was ground-level access to the cellar and the house above. The house is believed to have burned about 1925.

k. Spring. 19th/early 20th c. Contributing site.

Spring defined by a cylindrical terra-cotta enclosure set into the ground. A road trace passes by the spring and cellar site.

5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 11A). Manuel Store. Late 19th/early 20th c. 093-0023 (093-5032-0004). Contributing building.

The one-story store has stucco over frame and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof with a false front. The storefront consists of a center entry with double-leaf wood and glass doors under a two-pane transom flanked by large four-pane display windows. On the west side is a shed room with a separate front entry with a four-panel door and a side batten door. The shed room has its own false front, which like the main false front is rectangular in form. Other features include two interior brick flues, two-over-two wood-sash windows, a poured concrete foundation with a full or partial basement, a rear entry with a stack-panel door, and a rear gable hatch. Eugene Scheel identifies the building variously as the Rudacille Store and the M. Manuel Store. An M. Manuel lived in the house behind the store at 5600 Bentonville Road.

a. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has novelty weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The front has large x-braced double-leafed freight doors. Other features include two-over-two wood-sash windows, a poured

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concrete foundation, and a rear entry. The building probably provided storage for the store. The building may have served as a garage.

b. Privy. First half 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

**5597 Bentonville Road. Jacob Masemer House. 1882. 093-0244 (093-5032-0036).
Contributing building.**

The two-story frame house has a stucco exterior and asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A one-story porch wraps around the east front, which faces Gooney Run across Gooney Manor Alley, and the south front, which faces Bentonville Road. The porch is rounded at the southeast corner and stands on heavy chamfered posts with molded caps and bases. Inside it, on the south side, is an angled bay window with a paneled apron and three two-over-two windows with indented jambs. Windows elsewhere are similar and have peaked heads, as do louvered vents in the gables. Entries on the south and east sides have two-pane transoms. A one-story wing projects on the north side, with a brick flue on the ridge and a porch on square posts on the south side (a window inside the porch has straight jambs whereas a window next to it, outside the porch, has indented jambs). A slightly lower extension on the north end of the wing has two high, small, rectangular windows in the gable end, indicative of a specialized function within (perhaps a pantry with floor-to-ceiling shelves). On the west or back side of the wing are an entry and a pair of ca. 1950 metal-framed windows; a shed wing on the back of the two-story section of the house is adjacent. A low poured concrete wall extends along Gooney Manor Alley and becomes a retaining wall where it turns and runs along Bentonville Road. A break in the wall's east side has a high concrete gate post.

According to research into nineteenth-century newspapers by Renee O'Connell, a local paper reported on March 10, 1882, that "Mr. Masemer is rapidly progressing with his new house, which he is erecting on the corner of Main street and Bentonville Ave. He expects to have it completed by the first of April. When finished it will be an ornament to our town." Mr. Masemer was local builder Jacob Masemer, and Main Street was an old (and apparently short-lived) name for Gooney Run Alley. In January 1884 John Baublitz purchased the lot for the Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence (5590 Bentonville Road), described as being "south of the dwelling house of J. Masemer." The records disagree as to the identity of the first wife of Jacob Masemer (1852-1925), his wife at the time the house was built, though later he was married to Mozelle Updike Masemer (1877-1953), later known as Mozelle Masemer Gaunt. Eugene Scheel identifies the house as G. Manuel and notes G. Manuel's Distillery behind it at the current location of the Smelser Store and Residence (5565 Bentonville Road). The March 10, 1882, newspaper article also noted: "Mr. Jacob Masemer is having his house frescoed inside. Mr. Augustus Nover has been contracted to complete the work. By March 10 it was completed and is as fine a piece of work as we have seen and reflects great credit upon the artist." George Baggarly and his wife Frances, lived in this home from the middle of the 20th century. Mr. Baggarly served as county supervisor for 28 years.

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a. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

Small one-story frame building with weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, and a four-panel door, probably reused from a house, with molded panels.

b. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building, which may once have served as a chicken house, has vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof. The building has two parts probably representing different periods of construction. The slightly higher north section has large high openings possibly once covered with chicken wire.

5600 Bentonville Road. Rudacille-Manuel House. Late 19th c. 093-0237 (093-5032-0005). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof and a mix of novelty and plain weatherboard siding. A one-story porch with a hip roof and classical columns extends most of the way across the front, sheltering the center wood and glass panel door and flanking windows of the three-bay façade. The entry and windows have frames with indented jambs and the windows have four-over-four wood sashes. Interior brick flues rise at each gable end. To the rear is a two-story wing with a one-story porch with turned posts on the north side and a two-tier porch on the south side. The two-tier porch has a partially enclosed lower tier with a cellar access and a sleeping porch with multiple windows in the second tier. Other features include a parged or poured concrete foundation, corner boards with molded caps, an interior gable-end brick flue in the rear wing, and straight (not indented) window frames in the rear wing. A long stone wall extends along Gooney Run, which passes in front of the house, and there are three or more loosely defined field clearing piles on the slope between the wall and the creek. Eugene Scheel identifies the house as M. Manuel. According to longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggarty, Frank Manuel and his wife, Laura Morrison Manuel, lived here in the mid-twentieth century. The house is also known as the Marlow-Updike House. Before Manuel the house was the home of Leonard Armond Rudacille.

a. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The front gable end is latticed with an open-air behind, entered from the side facing the house, an arrangement that suggests the space contains a well and the building served as a washhouse. Other features include an interior brick flue, a parged or poured concrete foundation, and two-over-two wood-sash windows.

b. Shed. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has novelty weatherboard siding and a front-gable roof.

c. Barn. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

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The two-level frame barn has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a replacement side door on a track, a modern shed addition, and various batten doors and hatches.

5600 block Bentonville Road. Browntown Bridge (Bridge No. 6007). 1918. 093-0236 (093-5032-0037). Contributing structure.

The single-span deck girder reinforced concrete bridge has concrete walls on each side of the roadbed, a panel treatment on the outside faces of the walls, slightly higher and thicker terminations at each corner, and slightly splayed abutments. The number 6007 is stencil-painted in black paint on the northeast and southwest corners. Several inscriptions were written into the fresh concrete on top of the south wall. One is a date, "Oct. 191-", the last numeral now illegible but appears to have been "5" in a ca. 2000 photo. Near this are what appear to be the initials O[?]P and, in a rectangular frame, AJ. The dates 1916 and 1918 have been proposed as the date of the bridge, perhaps based on attempts to read the date in the concrete. According to Virginia Department of Transportation records, the bridge was built in 1918. According to a historical note in the April 2010 *BCCA Newsletter*, state roads department employee George S. Poe may have built the bridge (he built a similar concrete bridge in the Buck Mountain area). It is conceivable the apparent O in the OP graffiti is a weathered G, in which case the initials may stand for George Poe.

2 Browntown Road. Browntown Baptist Church Fellowship Building. 2000. 093-0214 (093-5032-0006). Non-contributing building.

The large two-story frame building has vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. Double-leaf front doors with a multi-pane transom are sheltered by a gable-fronted porch on cylindrical columns. The building has multiple windows. The building is used for Sunday School, Bible study, Vacation Bible School, and fellowship meals.

a. Adam Oberdiehr Broom Factory. Late 19th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The door and window openings of the asymmetrical three-bay front elevation are covered with plywood. A wide garage-bay like door has been created on the south gable end. Other features include exposed rafter ends, a plywood-covered opening in the south gable, and a stone foundation. According to Maral Kalbian, this was the broom factory and carpenter shop of Adam Oberdiehr (also spelled Oberdier, Oberdeer, or Oberther). The name in its various spellings does not appear as a grantee for the period, suggesting Oberdiehr did not own the building that contained his shop.

4 Browntown Road. Ashby and Betty Jones House. Late 19th c. 093-5032-0007. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building, which has been used as a dwelling since at least the mid-twentieth century, has novelty and plain vinyl and/or aluminum siding and an asphalt-shingled front-gable

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roof. A porch and porch room with cinder block foundation extends across the front, with metal supports and railing. The extension continues down the north side where it incorporates a possibly original shed room. Other features include a stone foundation, a picture window under the porch, replacement windows, and a shed-roofed wing at the rear northeast corner with a cinder-block flue.

Historical and architectural evidence point to former barroom use for this building. Eugene Scheel shows two barrooms near the location, "G. Alexander's Barroom & Mill" and "Compton's Barroom." G. Alexander was George Alexander, who had a peg leg that he is said to have used in subduing inebriated and rowdy patrons. According to the Browntown Baptist Church website, a "former bar room" stood on land purchased by the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation in 1897 and was moved back. This suggests the house was Compton's Barroom, which Scheel notes was moved from its original site. The church purchased the property from Henry T. Compton and his wife, Sudie Compton. Before the Comptons the property was owned by William Robinson. Browntown's drinking population greatly increased with the establishment of the Cover Tannery in 1874, so the house, if it was indeed a barroom originally, probably dates between 1874 and 1897. The building's gable-fronted form and possibly original side shed extension are in keeping with an original commercial use such as a late nineteenth-century bar or saloon, and its stone foundation indicates the building predates its current mid-twentieth-century appearance. Ashby and Betty Jones lived here in the mid-twentieth century and are likely responsible for the domestic upgrades or conversion made at that time.

12 Browntown Road. Browntown Baptist Church (former Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church). 1897. 093-0172 (093-5032-0008). Contributing building.

The Queen Anne-influenced Gothic Revival church, built for the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church congregation in 1897, is frame with weatherboard siding and wood-shingle siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. A four-story bell tower stands at the front southwest corner, the entry at its base sheltered by a gable-fronted porch supported by clustered square posts. At the top of the posts are small curved brackets that create arched motifs, and above them is a frieze of square openings. The posts and frieze elements have reeded bands on their faces, and at the bottom of the posts are square balustrades. The entry has a transom and double-leaf doors with heavily molded panels. The tower's first story has weatherboard siding; the second and third stories are sheathed in banded courses of square-edged, scalloped, and fishscale wood shingles and have narrow lancet windows with multiple small panes; and the fourth story is an open belfry with chamfered posts and square balustrades. At the top is a steep pyramidal roof with flared eaves and a metal cross finial.

The church's façade has three lancet-arched stained-glass windows, the center one larger with wood mullions. The gable has the same decorative shingle treatment as the tower as well as a round louvered vent at the peak. The side elevations have lancet-arched stained-glass windows and friezes of decorative wood shingles separated from the siding below by a molded cornice. Brick flues rise on each side (terminated at the eaves) and a brick flue rises on the rear gable end.

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At the back extends a one-story gabled addition with vinyl siding and a cinder-block foundation. The main church foundation is stone and has a marble cornerstone with the name of the church and the date June 27, 1897.

The Browntown Baptist congregation dates its origins to either 1844 (the date on the sign in front of the church) or 1873 (the date in the history on the church website). The congregation met at first in union churches used jointly with other denominations, including the ca. 1882 Browntown Union Church at 82 Browntown Road. In 1897 the Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran congregation, one of the congregations that shared use of the Browntown Union Church with the Baptists, built this church building. Browntown contractor Jacob Massemer is said to have supervised the building's construction (churches of the era were often built by the congregation under the supervision of a knowledgeable individual/builder). A historic photo from ca. 1900 or the early twentieth century shows a polychrome paint scheme with banded light and darker paint on the wood shingles of the front gable and tower. The stained glass also appears to have been different at the time. In 1943 the Baptists bought the Lutheran church building and in 1953 added a basement with Sunday School rooms. In 1973 the rear wing was added for office space, dining, and other functions. In 1996 construction began on the fellowship and educational building at 2 Browntown Road, completed in 2000.

24 Browntown Road. Updike-Weary House. Late 19th or early 20th c. 093-0245 (093-5032-0009). Non-contributing building.

The two-story frame house, which has been substantially altered in recent decades, has vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The two-tier, shed-roofed, front porch, which appears to date to the historic period, has been enclosed as living space, with continuous rows of windows and a stone veneer wainscot-like treatment in the first story and fewer windows and a small octagonal window in the second story. Other features include a one-story rear shed wing, a north gable-end flue encased in vinyl, and a gabled rear screen porch. The 1897 deed for the Browntown Baptist Church (Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church) lot refers to the lot as "owned at present by L. [Lafayette] Updike upon which is a dwelling house now occupied by Byrd Updike [one of Lafayette Updike's sons]." Eugene Scheel labels the house G. Updike. According to longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggardy, Giles and Irene Richardson Updike lived here in the mid-twentieth century. Irene taught first grade at Browntown School. According to one account the house dates to ca. 1925.

a. Garage. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has deteriorated plywood siding, an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, and two garage bays with vinyl panel doors.

44 Browntown Road. House. Late 19th c. 093-0246 (093-5032-0023). Contributing building.

The small story-and-a-half frame house has vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The shed-roofed front porch has replacement square posts and balusters, and a faux stone foundation facing. It shelters an entry flanked by a one-over-one window on the left and a small

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picture window on the right. Other features include an original six-over-six window in the south gable, other one-over-one windows and a single modern replacement window, a rear shed wing with a cinder-block flue and glass sliding doors, and a stone foundation. According to one account the house was built ca. 1880 and is associated with Russell Deavers, though no individual by that name apparently owned property in Browntown through the mid-twentieth century. Eugene Scheel labels it M. Lettew. Jacob Masemer appears to have owned two lots at this location in 1880, and it is conceivable he built the house as his first permanent residence in Browntown. Brook and Esther Dofflemyer lived here in the 1940s.

52 Browntown Road. Charles F. Updike Doctor's Office and Browntown Post Office. Late 19th c. 093-0247 (093-5032-0011). Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has novelty weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed pyramidal roof with a ventilator at the peak. The two-bay front elevation consists of a four-panel door with a three-pane transom on the left and a four-over-four window on the right. Pairs of similar windows occur on each of the other elevations. The windows and entry have surrounds with indented jambs. The 1999 stone-veneer foundation was created when the office was moved back sixteen feet from the road. A frame wheelchair ramp leads to the front entry.

According to historian Rebecca Poe, writing in 2002, "Browntown tradition is that this building was erected as an office of Mt. Vernon Steam Tannery." Mount Vernon was one of several names used for the Cover Tannery, which operated in Browntown from 1874 to 1899. The use of cut nails in the building's construction suggests it dates to before ca. 1890. Poe adds that the office was purchased by Dr. Charles F. Updike (d. 1919), a Johns Hopkins Medical School graduate, who moved it to its current location for use as his doctor's office. Updike received his license in 1889 and bought the adjacent house (demolished) of Silas Dosh in 1891. The little building has an unusually large number of windows (seven), which suggests a special desire for light, view, and/or ventilation (see the architectural discussion in section 8 for a more detailed account of this unusual building and its possible evolution). In 1930, according to Poe, Edward W. Rudacille moved the Browntown Post Office to the building. From 1939 to its discontinuation as a separate post office in 1963 the office was run by Annice V. (Manuel) Rudacille (1893-1975). At some point, perhaps in the 1960s, postmaster Deloris Cooper temporarily used the building until a new post office opened on Smith Run Road. The building has also served as a store and bachelor apartment, and it currently houses a community museum. Contractor Jim Pitzvada renovated the building in 1999. Though the building was moved from its historic-period location in 1999, the move was short and the building retains its historic association with its site and its historic orientation to the road.

82 Browntown Road. Browntown Union Church. 1882. 093-0104 (093-5032-0012). Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The front entry and windows are segmental-arched and have segmental hoods that look like recent additions. A few windows and the two-pane entry transom have the original wood frames; the

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other windows are square-headed replacements behind the segmental-arched frames. A slightly projecting tower rises at front center, with the entry at its base, with a replacement door reached by concrete steps and a frame wheelchair ramp; a pair of narrow windows above; and a covered circular opening above the windows. The tower's steeple has an octagonal base sheathed with aluminum siding and capped by an octagonal fiberglass spire with a cross finial. Other features include a stone foundation, a small ridge ventilator with a truncated conical cap with metal "antennae" (possibly lightning arrestors), and a cinder-block flue on each side elevation.

The church originally served Methodist, Lutheran, and Old and New School Baptist congregations on a rotating basis, hence the term "union church." The site was acquired from James and Zoe Boyd in June 1882 and the building is thought to have been built soon after. Most recently the Old School Baptists and the Agape Love Baptist Church worshipped here, but currently no congregation meets in the building. The Browntown Baptist Church serves as the building's caretaker. According to Renee O'Connell, the church was built by Jacob Masemer for \$1,600 and was dedicated November 10, 1882. According to longtime Browntown resident and former church trustee Sam Baggarly, the original steeple spire was removed in 1984. The current spire was added in 1996 through the fundraising efforts of Anna Rae Rudacille White in memory of Raymond H. Rudacille.

a. Privy and Storage Building. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story linear frame building, which stands just off the southeast corner of the church and is oriented perpendicular to it, has plywood siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof with exposed rafter ends. Three entries, now covered by plywood, denote women's and men's rooms and a storage room.

96 Browntown Road. Browntown School (Browntown Community Center). Ca. 1910. 093-0248 (093-5032-0013). Contributing building.

The L-shaped one-story frame four-classroom school has a stucco exterior and a slightly flared metal-sheathed hip roof. There are multiple tall wood-sash windows with nine-over-nine or four-over-four sash arrangements (there are also a few smaller six-over-six windows). The main entry, located in the angle of the wings on the west side, has a wood panel door, a transom, and sidelights sheltered by a shed roof on a solid triangular bracket. A modern concrete wheelchair ramp leads up to the entry. A frame shed-roofed bandstand was added to the north side in recent decades. Other features include an interior brick flue, a boxlike poured concrete equipment housing (perhaps for a well pump), and a rear entry like the front entry but recessed. A pile of boulders, presumably cleared from the site, occupies the northeast corner of the lot.

According to historian Rebecca Poe, a public schoolhouse for Browntown's white children was built in 1872 in the vicinity of the surviving school. The current building was built between 1906 and 1914 (a 1906 photo of Browntown's white school shows a one-room gable-fronted building). The current building is said to have originally contained three classrooms. Initially, grades one through nine were taught, but with the opening of a high school elsewhere instruction ended at

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the seventh grade. A fourth classroom was added in 1949. The school closed in 1970 owing to decreasing enrollment and/or consolidation and was repurposed as a community center.

a. Drinking fountain. Ca. 1940. Contributing object.

The cast iron fountain, which stands on a concrete platform adjacent to the south side of the school, has a slightly tapered stem with annular decoration and a bowl with a lip. The fountain is similar to ones associated with mid-1930s to ca. 1940 New Deal public works programs.

b. South Warren Volunteer Fire Department. 1986. Non-contributing building.

The one-story building of cinder-block construction has brick veneer on the front, an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, vinyl-sided gables, two garage bay openings, and a front door for pedestrian entry. The building stands at the location of the school's former outhouses. The building was dedicated on July 4, 1986.

c. Playground. Ca. 1950. Contributing site.

The earliest features of the playground appear to be the ca. 1950s metal slide and swing set. The teetertotter support may date to the same period though the seat arms are replacements (perhaps from the same period) of wood arms. The two rocking animals may date to the 1970s and the flagpole, though it dates to the historic period, was salvaged from another location and added in recent decades.

d. Playhouse. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing building.

The small frame building has weatherboard siding, door and window openings, and an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof that engages a front porch with square posts.

e. Picnic shelter. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing structure.

The one-story open-sided structure of linear form has heavy wood posts with strut brackets, a metal-sheathed gable roof, and a poured concrete floor.

12 Fetchett Road. John D. Good House. Late 19th/early 20th c. 093-5032-0014. Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The one-story front porch has square pillars and solid railings with a stucco finish and is accessed by concrete steps. The replacement windows have ca. 1930 wood panel shutters with crescent moon cutouts. Other features include a one-story gabled rear wing with a stuccoed exterior flue, a patch at the center of the main roof ridge that suggests a former interior chimney or flue rose through, a recent bay window on the west gable end, a recent octagonal window at the center of the second-story front elevation, and original four-pane gable windows. The front and side yards are defined by walls of loosely stacked stones and boulders. In 1888 John D. Good purchased three acres "at the upper limits of Browntown" from Henry and Victoria Baggary. The deed describes the property as being "at the water waste of the Mill dam" and near a ford (Gooney Run passes in

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front of the house across Fetchett Road). John's son Clark Good and Clark's wife Julia Good owned the house in the mid-twentieth century.

a. Outbuilding. Late 19th/early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has board-and-batten siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a replacement door at a corner, a modern stucco-finish shed addition, and a stone foundation with an entry suggesting a root cellar function. The upper level may have functioned as a meat house.

b. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

48 Fetchett Road. Stanley and Mary Baggarly House. Ca. 1951. 093-5032-0038. Contributing building.

The story-and-a-half frame house has aluminum siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The hip-roofed front porch has square wood columns with small decorative sawn brackets, a rectangular balustrade, and concrete steps. Other features include a large shed dormer on the south side of the roof, six-over-one wood-sash windows, an interior brick flue, a rear shed wing, and what appears to be a poured concrete foundation. Stanley and Mary Baggarly had the house built in 1950 or 1951 (before 1952).

a. Outbuilding. Ca. 1951. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building, possibly a meat house, has weatherboard siding, a front-gable roof, and a batten door.

b. Garage. Ca. 1951. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has weatherboard siding, a front-gable roof, and an open-fronted vehicle bay.

43 Gooney Alley Road. House. 2002. 093-5032-0015. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame house of Ranch-like form, which appears to be a double-wide or modular home, has novelty vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, a cinder-block foundation, a low-pitched gable over the front entry, a rear sunroom shed wing with multiple windows, and a front deck with posts for the support of a retractable awning. The house replaces the former Charlotte and Ed Rudacille House.

a. Garage. Mid-20th c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story cinder-block garage was created out of the rear wing of the house that formerly stood in front of it. It has a single vehicle bay, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, a cinder-block flue, and novelty vinyl siding in the gables.

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73 Gooney Alley Road. Smelser House. Late 19th c. 093-0242 (093-5032-0016). Non-contributing building.

The story-and-a-half frame house has vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The hip-roofed front porch has replacement posts and balusters. A brick flue projects from the ridge, a flue on the south gable end is encased in vinyl, and the one-story rear wing has a brick flue on its ridge. Other features include one-over-one wood-sash windows, a front picture window, and a parged foundation. A farm bell sits on a post near the rear wing and a concrete picnic table and seats of Modernist design stands in the side yard. According to Maral Kalbian, this was the ca. 1880 Updike-Smelser House. A ca. 1880 date is plausible given the form of the house and the spate of tannery-related construction that occurred during the late 1870s and 1880s. Louie Smelser owned the house in the mid-twentieth century and rented it to Rudy Jones. There is a tradition that the house was built by local builder Jacob Masemer.

a. Garage. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, and a single vehicle bay with a vinyl panel door.

89 Gooney Alley Road. Worley and Violet Updike House. Late 19th c. 093-0241 (093-5032-0017). Contributing building.

The story-and-a-half frame house has a stucco finish and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The shed-roofed front porch stands on decorative metal supports on narrow Craftsman brick pedestals. A brick flue rises from the ridge and a cinder-block flue rises on the side of the one-story rear wing (the wing, which may be an addition, has an attic). Other features include Craftsman three-over-one wood-sash windows, a stone foundation, and a low cinder-block wall with low brick posts along the street. According to Maral Kalbian, this was the ca. 1880 Updike-Tharpe House (the second name may be Tharp). A ca. 1880 date is plausible given the form of the house and the spate of tannery-related construction that occurred during the late 1870s and 1880s. Worley "Worl" Benjamin Jackson Updike and his wife, Violet Lucinda Mathews Updike, lived here in the 1940s, followed by the Tharpe family. There is a tradition that the house was built by local builder Jacob Masemer.

a. Outbuilding. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story cinder-block building, possibly a meat house, has a metal-sheathed front-gable roof with exposed rafter ends.

5625 Gooney Manor Loop. Tommy and Sharon Tharpe House. 1981. 093-0209 (093-5032-0018). Non-contributing building.

The Colonial Revival-influenced one-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction has a low-pitched asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The house has a symmetrical five-bay façade with the roof over the center three bays slightly higher and extended to form a front porch on slender square posts. The center entry has sidelights and is flanked by coach lamps and paired

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windows. Other features include six-over-six wood-sash windows, false shutters, soldier window lintels, and an interior brick flue at the rear. County GIS incorrectly shows the deteriorated house next door to the north at this address. The Tharpe House, completed in 1981, replaced the earlier Marvin and Bertha Good House, which stood at the same location and burned about 1980. According to owner Sharon Tharpe the house plan was featured in a book published by the manufacturer of the house components. The outbuilding behind the current house was associated with the earlier house.

a. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The linear one-story building of frame and poured concrete construction stands directly behind the Ranch house, perpendicular to it. It has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof and has three distinct sections: a latticed east end, a concrete center section, and a vertical-board-sided west end. The latticework indicates a wellhouse function.

b. Granville and Sophia Jones House. Ca. 1900. Contributing building.

The deteriorated two-story frame house has weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. A shed extension of the roof engages a two-tier front porch that is missing several of its posts and has a sagging second-tier floor. An upper-tier pilaster at the southeast house corner has a molded cap and what may be traces of red paint (white and green paint appear on the porch and house). The house has three flues: one of indeterminate material near the center of the roof ridge, a cinder-block one on the south gable end, and a cinder-block one that rises inside a one-story shed rear wing. The rear wing has a back porch on square posts within which is stored a turned balustrade panel that may have come from the front porch. Other features include two-over-two wood-sash windows, wood panel doors, and a stone foundation. According to Maral Kalbian, this is the ca. 1890 Cooper-Jones-Tharpe House. Granville and Sophia Jones lived here in the mid-twentieth century.

5628 Gooney Manor Loop. Walter and Maggie Good House. Ca. 1900. 093-0208 (093-5032-0019). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a stucco exterior and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. The wraparound one-story porch has chamfered posts with spindle brackets, turned balusters, and a rounded northwest corner. A modern shed-roofed screen porch attaches to the porch at its northeast rear corner. Brick flues rise on the interior at each gable end. Other features include two-over-two wood-sash windows, a two-story ell with one-story sections in the angle, and what appears to be a parged stone foundation. A low cinder-block wall with slightly higher brick piers borders the front and south side yards. According to Eugene Scheel, this was the W. Good property. According to Maral Kalbian this is the ca. 1900 Smelser House. One or two cooperages may have stood just to the north. Walter and Maggie Good lived here in the 1940s and 1950s.

a. Outbuilding. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has vertical-board siding and a front-gable roof.

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b. Outbuilding. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has metal siding and a low-pitched front-gable roof. The building has two garage bays that have been infilled with wall material and double-leaf glass-panel doors.

c. Outbuilding. Early to mid-20th c. Contributing building.

The long one-story frame building has board-and-batten siding and a metal-sheathed roof.

d. Outbuilding. Early to mid-20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, and a side shed.

**5671 Gooney Manor Loop. Edmonds-Nossett Farm. 1926. 093-0210 (093-5032-0020).
Contributing building.**

The Craftsman-influenced two-story frame house has a stucco exterior and an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The hip-roofed one-story front porch shelters the middle bays and has square stuccoed columns at each corner and pipe railings that descend to either side of concrete steps. The steps, the porch, and the house have stone foundations with decorative stonework. Windows are six-over-six, and inside the porch they flank the wood and glass panel front door in pairs, creating an unusual continuous window/door arrangement. To the rear is a narrow modern two-story wing with novelty vinyl siding and a parged cinder-block foundation that is partially stone-veneered. Other features include an interior brick flue, a one-story shed wing in the angle of the house and modern wing, and a large rear deck. A decorative stone retaining wall, contemporaneous with the house, bounds the front yard and angles back along a branch of Gooney Run, ending near the north end of the outhouse and storage building. The wall has a coping of jagged stone and was partially repaired with poured concrete after a section of it was torn away by a June 27, 1995, flood. The concrete section has a jagged stone coping.

Charles T. Edmonds, associated with the property in the early twentieth century, moved with his family to Browntown from Alexandria in 1902, at first living in the house at Shadybrook Farm (5920 Gooney Manor Loop). In 1911 Edmonds advertised the sale of a “Stave, Heading and Shingle Factory” with “up to date equipment, running full time” in the trade journal *The Barrel and Box*. Edmonds gave his address at the time as Browntown, though in 1923 he lived in Maryland. That year Edmonds acquired the plant of the John J. Miller Manufacturing Company, of which he had previously been a silent partner. The house on the property is thought to date to ca. 1926, though whether Edmonds lived there is unknown. Eugene Scheel labels the house G. Jones. A newspaper social notice, possibly published in 1935, suggests Edmonds may have called the property Sunny-side. According to longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggary, the Cover Tannery (or part of it) may have stood in the rear portion of this property, next to Gooney Run.

a. Privy and storage building. Ca. 1926. Contributing building.

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The linear one-story building has a stucco exterior and a steep-pitched metal-sheathed shed roof. A narrow shed-roofed porch on slender metal poles extends across the front, sheltering three entries with wood panel doors. The entry at the north end opens into a privy; the other entries open into storage rooms.

b. Garage. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The linear one-story frame building has novelty vinyl siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, a single car bay, and a cinder-block foundation. The framing is said to incorporate chestnut timbers which were reused from a building, perhaps the stave mill that once stood nearby. The size of the building relative to the car bay suggests the majority of the building was used as a workshop or for storage. The building is believed to have been built by the Jenkins family.

c. Outbuilding. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vertical-board siding and a low-pitched side-gable roof.

d. Woodshed. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a low-pitched front-gable roof, and an opening for wood at the back. A wood-burning furnace stands nearby.

e. Barn. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The two-level frame building has slatted vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The roof peak extends at the front to form a hay bonnet supported by solid triangular brackets, however the hay mow opening has been sided over. The barn has various batten doors and hatches.

f. Corn dryer. Second quarter 20th c. Contributing structure.

The twin cylindrical bins are constructed with bolted steel panels and stand on poured concrete bases. They are joined at the top by a domical structure of similar construction. Various hatches and drops are other features. According to longtime Browntown resident Win Smedley, around 1950 the farm's then-owner Giles Nossett used the structure to dry corn. The domical roof may have contained the drying machinery.

**5725 Gooney Manor Loop. Jack Kline House. Early 20th c. 093-0211 (093-5032-0021).
Contributing building.**

The story-and-a-half frame house has a stucco exterior and metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The shed-roofed one-story porch has square posts and shelters an asymmetrical four-bay façade with two side-by-side entries at the north end. The northernmost entry, which has a four-panel door and a three-pane transom, may have opened to a stair separate from the rest of the dwelling. The majority of the windows of the main section and a one-story rear wing are six-over-six wood-sash windows. Other features include brick flues on both sections, a shed room on the side of the rear wing, and what appears to be a poured concrete foundation. Eugene Scheel labels the house J. Cline and notes that it stood near a tanyard worker's house known as The Double House.

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Maral Kalbian describes the house as the Stanley Masemer House and dates it to ca. 1880. According to longtime Browntown residents Sam Baggarly and Win Smedley, Jack Kline lived here in the mid-twentieth century. Kline worked or managed Shadybrook Farm across the road for the Masemer family who owned the Kline House.

a. Privy. Mid-20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and a batten door.

b. Outbuilding. Early to mid-20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has corrugated metal siding and a shed roof. Next to it is a pile of stones, either a field clearing pile or destruction debris from a former building.

5811 Gooney Manor Loop. William and Sylvia Manuel House. Late 19th c. 093-0212 (093-5032-0022). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a stucco exterior and metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The asymmetrical five-bay façade and traces of walled-over second-story windows indicate a complex evolution, perhaps a symmetrical three-bay window/door/window north section to which a two-bay window/door section was added on the south end. A one-story hip-roofed porch on square posts shelters the five bays. Other features include two interior brick flues, an exterior cinder-block flue on the south gable end, replacement windows, and a one-story rear shed wing with what appears to be vinyl siding. The house was heavily damaged in a June 27, 1995, flood and subsequently repaired, though it retains its basic historic appearance. Eugene Scheel labels this the H. Brown House. According to owner Win Smedley, William and Sylvia Mathews Manuel lived here in the mid-twentieth century.

a. Meat house and storage building. Mid- to late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has two sections, one of which is a meat house dating to the historic period. The building has joined shed roofs of different pitches, an opening between, and vertical-board siding.

b. Chicken house. First half 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has horizontal wood siding and a shed roof.

c. Feed room. First half 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a metal-sided rear shed wing. A hog lot once adjoined the building.

d. Secondary dwelling. 1995. Non-contributing building.

Win Smedley built this one-story frame building as a retreat or “man cave” after the flood of 1995. The building has novelty vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. Win’s late wife called it Win’s “little castle.”

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5865 Gooney Manor Loop. Updike-Deavers Farm (Gooney Creek Manor). Ca. 1859; 1876; 1940s. 093-0108 (093-5032-0010). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a stucco exterior (added in the 1940s) and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof with interior brick chimneys at the ends. The nearly full-façade one-story front porch, which also dates to the 1940s, has a hip roof, stuccoed square pillars, segmental-arched (almost basket-handle-arched) spans, and solid stucco railings. The porch shelters an entry with a transom, sidelights, and molded octagonal panels under the sidelights. A two-story ell has an interior brick flue and, on the south side, a two-story shed-roofed side wing in the angle of the house and ell (the wing is possibly an enclosed two-tier porch). On the ell's north side is a one-story porch that turns and crosses the front of a story-and-a-half dependency with a side-gable roof that is an earlier (probably ca. 1859) house. The gap between the ell and the dependency is filled by a wall with a doorway, an area known to the current owner as "the breezeway." The porch in front of the dependency has square posts on a stuccoed wall. To the rear extends a shed wing that incorporates a stone springroom. The south gable end of the dependency projects to form a covered porch-like area on the other side of the breezeway doorway. Other features of the two sections of the house include four-over-four wood-sash windows in the first story of the main house, replacement windows in the second story, and, in the dependency, six-over-six wood-sash windows, weatherboard siding under the porch, and a center chimney. In front of the house is a low stuccoed cinder-block wall with intermittent pillars, two of which frame a decorative iron gate.

According to research by owner and historian Renee O'Connell, Lafayette Updike purchased 142 acres from Rudolph and Lucinda Brown in 1856. He and his wife, Elizabeth Updike, are believed to have built the story-and-a-half rear section of the house about 1859. The July 21, 1876, issue of the *Warren Sentinel* reported that "prosperous merchant" Lafayette Updike was erecting near his store "a handsome residence 41 x 51 feet, two stories high." This was the construction of the two-story front section; the original house then became a dependency, probably a summer kitchen. Shortly after 1876 Updike was licensed to keep an ordinary in the house, which prolific Browntown builder Jacob Masemer may have built (plausible though unconfirmed). In 1882 the property included an icehouse. A photo from the late nineteenth/early twentieth century period shows the 1876 house in its original form, with a small hip-roofed entry porch with what appears to be turned posts and balusters. The breezeway connection to the earlier house existed at the time and a footbridge crossed Gooney Run in front. Lafayette's son Thomas Updike later lived here. Members of the Deavers family purchased the property in 1945 and made substantial alterations and additions. In 1987 the house was rehabilitated by then-owners Linda and Sam Carr and operated as the Gooney Creek Manor bed and breakfast. In the late 1990s then-owner Theresa Wine had the property extensively landscaped.

a. Well shelter. Ca. 1995. Non-contributing structure.

The small gabled structure covers a nineteenth-century stone-lined well. The shelter has posts with curved brackets above a solid curb sheathed with T1-11-type material. The same material sheathes the gables of the roof, which is asphalt-shingled.

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b. Swimming pool. 1990s. Non-contributing structure.
In-ground pool with concrete pavement border.

c. Chicken house. Mid-20th c. Non-contributing building.
The one-story frame building has an asphalt-shingled shed roof, T1-11-type wood siding, and multiple modern windows. The building was partially converted in the 1990s and completed as a 1950s-themed recreation room by the current owners after 2003.

d. Barn. Ca. 1958. Contributing building.
The frame barn has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed side-gambrel roof, slatted vents at the roof peaks, a cinder-block foundation, large sliding barn doors flanked by pedestrian entries on front and back, and a small decorative cupola. A barn was built at the site in the late 1950s (either 1958 or 1959) to replace an earlier barn that burned in June 1956. According to the Manuel family, longtime next-door residents, the barn replaces a barn that burned in the summer of 1957.

e. Corncrib. First half 20th c. Non-contributing structure.
The small one-story frame building has slatted wood siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof with exposed rafter ends. The corncrib has always stood on the farm but was moved to its current location in recent decades, hence the non-contributing status.

5898 Gooney Manor Loop. R. J. Cooper House. 1990. 093-5032-0024. Non-contributing building.

The one-story Ranch house of brick-veneered frame construction has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A gabled roof extension engages a front porch with slender chamfered posts with decorative brackets. Inside the porch are an entry with sidelights and a decorative door and a shallow angled bay window flanked by false slatted shutters. To the left of the porch is an engaged carport with square brick pillars. To the right is the bedroom wing with one-over-one windows with soldier lintels and false paneled shutters. Other features include vinyl siding in gables, a rear shed porch, and a mix of red, purplish, and tan brick in the veneer. The driveway entrance is flanked by angled cinder-block walls with slightly higher piers at the ends.

a. Garage. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.
The one-story frame building has novelty vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, a single vehicle bay, and a shed-roofed side carport. A brick wall with a gate links the southwest corner of the garage with the northeast corner of the house.

b. Garage. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.
The small one-story frame building has novelty vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof.

c. Swimming pool. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing structure.
The in-ground pool is situated behind the house.

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5920 Gooney Manor Loop. Shadybrook Farm (Shady Brook; Cover House). Mid-19th c. 093-0067 (093-5032-0025). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a mix of novelty weatherboard siding and modern cementitious wood weatherboard siding. Interior brick chimneys rise at both ends of the metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The house stands on a full brick basement built into a bank so that there are ground-level entries at the basement and first-story levels. The bank siting gave the house two fronts, one facing west toward Gooney Run and the second facing east into a hillside. The west front has a two-tier porch at the basement and first-story levels with square wood columns with, in the second tier, curved brackets (possibly modern) and a modern balustrade. The ends of the first porch tier are enclosed by brick walls that are extensions of the basement walls. A wood and glass panel door with a two-pane transom opens to the second tier of the porch. Other features include a modern one-story porch at the southeast corner, a two-story enclosed porch on the east side, and four-over-four wood-sash windows.

Shadybrook Farm was the name used for the property by its mid-twentieth-century owner Stanley Masemer. Stanley's grandfather Jacob Masemer (1852-1925) acquired the property, then approximately ninety acres, from Frank and Laura Cover in 1901. Frank Cover and his brothers Tobias Cover and William Cover operated all or a portion of the Cover or Mount Vernon Tannery on the property during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. Before the Covers the ownership is unclear, though architectural details suggest the farmhouse, which one account dates to ca. 1870, actually dates in large part to the antebellum period. This is suggested by the paneled treatment of the house's single mantel, suggestive of Federal and/or Greek Revival stylistic influence; the unusual sill-less molded frame treatment around certain windows; the bank siting; and the delicate pegged mortise and tenon joints that connect the up-and-down sawed joists to the cross beams in the basement. (The rafters are butted and cut-nailed at the ridge, suggesting the roof is later than the basement framing.) The stone springhouse, though conceivably postbellum, is more representative of antebellum springhouse construction. According to tradition, the springhouse doubled as a cookhouse to feed workers at the Cover Tannery, and houses for the tannery workers are said to have formerly stood on the property. The October 10, 1874, issue of the Westminster, Maryland, *Democratic Advocate* reported that the tannery was "now erecting four tenement houses on their grounds" for company employees.

In 1902 Jacob Masemer rented the house to Charles T. Edmonds and his family who moved to Browntown from Alexandria. The Edmonds family moved out two years later, prompting Masemer to advertise the property for rent (Edmonds was later associated with the house at 5671 Gooney Manor Loop). Masemer described the house at the time as "a ten-room house, with water and bath and outbuildings, known as the Cover residence." In 1958, after Irwin Masemer's death, his son Stanley Masemer offered the property for sale. The sale advertisement described the approximately ninety-acre "Shadybrook Farm" as "in excellent state of fertility, 10 room house with bath, chicken house, meat house, spring house (excellent spring), cinder block bank barn (T. shape) 72 x 68—will handle 75 cattle." The barn was also used as a dairy barn, as stanchions and other features in the lower level attest. The barn ramp or raised area leading to the

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upper-level entry is supported by a stone retaining wall inside the barn, possibly evidence that the barn occupies the site of an earlier bank barn, perhaps one of the barns mentioned in historic accounts. According to longtime Browntown resident Win Smedley, the Masemers may have built the barn themselves, serving as their own masons, though they later hired Dick Boies to build the cinder-block wall around the barnyard. The barn formerly contained electric milkers.

a. Meat house. Late 19th/early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has horizontal flush board siding, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, and a batten door at a front corner.

b. Shed. Late 19th/early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has board-and-batten siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The building is in listing and deteriorated condition.

c. Springhouse. First half 19th c. Contributing building.

The one-story stone building, which is built into a bank, has a metal-sheathed side-gable roof that overhangs at the uphill spring side. A massive stone chimney for a cooking fireplace rises on the west gable end and has a partially brick stack above the shoulders. The roof, which contains an attic for storage, has a low batten door at the east overhanging end with a threshold attached with cut nails. Other features include weatherboard siding in the east gable, two six-over-six wood-sash windows, a six-pane window, a wood barred vent, a doorway made into a window under the overhang, and a batten side door.

d. Corncrib. First half 20th c. Contributing structure.

The tall, narrow frame structure has vertically slatted siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof with exposed rafter ends, batten and slatted side doors, and hatches high in the gable ends. The corncrib stands on a poured concrete foundation which continues as a tapering platform on the south side, perhaps as driveway for a wagon or truck to back up to the structure.

e. Outbuilding. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has novelty vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof, assorted windows (some appear reused), double-leaf glass-panel entry doors, and a wood post foundation. The building may have served as a workshop.

f. Equipment shed. Late-20th c. Non-contributing building.

The linear one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and a large off-center opening on the east side.

g. Barn. 1940s. Contributing building.

The large two-story barn of cinder-block construction has a T form with a metal-sheathed clipped front-gable roof over the main axis and metal-sheathed gables over the slightly lower side wings. On the main roof are two tall louvered cupolas with pyramidal roofs. A

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concrete stave silo with a domical metal roof rises in the angle of the main section and north wing, connected to the main section and wing by low cinder-block hyphens. The barn has a poured concrete foundation, in places over stone. The barn is technically a bank barn, with upper- and lower-level ground access. Other features include window-like louvered ventilation openings in the second story, small high windows with inward-tilting hopper metal-framed sashes in the first story, large batten doors on tracks, and a lower-level frame cattle shed addition with a metal-sheathed shed roof that extends from the end of the north wing. A tall cinder-block wall mostly encloses the barnyard, separating it from Gooney Manor Loop. Longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggarly, who was born in 1942, does not remember a time when the barn did not stand.

h. Shed and privy. 1940s. Contributing building.

The building consists of two parts: a cinder-block privy with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, a poured concrete foundation, and a batten door, to which is attached a larger shed-roofed building which appears to be slightly later. The shed-roofed section has metal roofing, panel siding (apparently sheetrock or other wallboard), and a low rear extension.

5986 Gooney Manor Loop. Creekside. Ca. 1885. 093-0056 (093-5032-0026). Contributing building.

The Italianate-influenced two-story frame house has weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed hip roof. The chief Italianate influence is the bracketed cornice with intermittent larger brackets that extend down into the frieze. The one-story front porch, which shelters the center three bays of the symmetrical five-bay façade, has heavy chamfered posts with ornate sawn brackets above molded neckings. The brackets include scrolled elements that project outward and up into the frieze. The ornate porch balustrade consists of a heavy molded handrail above vertical elements that create a band of rectangular openings above pierced sawnwork. The front entry has sidelights and a transom in a heavy frame. The four-over-four wood-sash windows have molded cornices. Two brick chimneys, flanking a center passage inside, rise above the roof ridge as ornate caps with recessed sides and plain and houndstooth corbeling. One chimney cap looks more even than the other, suggesting it is a faithful reconstruction.

The two-story ell, which has an interior brick flue, has a two-tier porch on its south side. The lower porch tier has chamfered posts with sawn brackets similar to those on the front porch. The upper tier has a sleeping porch with a row of two-over-two windows. A trim-board division in the weatherboards suggest the sleeping porch is an infill of an originally open porch. In the angle of the house and ell porch is a one-story hip-roofed wing with a shallow angled bay window that may be modern. A second hip-roofed wing has a stained-glass lunette that looks modern. At the rear northeast corner extends a tall modern (or altered historic-period) one-story shed wing with plain and novelty weatherboard siding, an assortment of window types, a front pergola, and fishscale wood-shingle sheathing in the roof end.

Eugene Scheel labels this house T. D. Cover, which is a reference to Tobias Dallas Cover (1850-88). Tobias's wife was Alice Frock (or possibly Bowman) Cover (1850-1904). With his brothers

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William and Frank, Tobias owned the Cover Brothers Tannery, some of which was located on the large tract across Smith Run Road (the house stands on the northeast corner of Gooney Manor Loop and Smith Run Road). It is possible the house was built for Tobias or another member of the Cover family, though in the 1880s both Tobias and William purchased or built houses outside Browntown. In 1885 William sold his interest in the tannery to Frank and purchased the Perry Farm in Shenandoah County and in 1886 Tobias owned a large and finely appointed house known as Mountain View outside of Westminster, Maryland.

Maral Kalbian refers to this house as Creekside and associates it with Jacob Masemer. Longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggarly believes Jacob Masemer lived here as well. It is possible Masemer built this house subsequent to his house at 5597 Bentonville Road, which he built in 1882. Scheel labels the store that once stood at the north end of the lot J. Masemer's Store, another connection to Jacob Masemer. According to Renee O'Connell, in March 1882 Jacob Masemer had a new store with an "Oyster Saloon," though whether this is in reference to the store on this property is unclear since in October 1882 Masemer sold the store to an Updike. A recent real estate listing dated the house to ca. 1885.

a. Gate structure, fence, and footbridge. Early 20th c.; late 20th c. or early 21st c. Non-contributing structure.

A modern decorative picket fence with posts with finials encloses the front yard. At the front gate a short historic-period concrete footbridge spans a ditch, over which has been constructed a modern decorative gate structure of pergola-like gabled form.

b. Carriage house. Late 19th c. Contributing building.

The two-story frame building has weatherboard siding and a steep metal-sheathed cross-gable roof. A historic-period shed-roofed wing with an open-fronted carriage/car bay and a slatted opening on the west side projects on the front. A modern one-story wing with a low shed roof and a car drive-through projects on the east side. The gable eaves have raking latticed vents. Other features include sections of vertical flush board siding, an assortment of window types and pane arrangements including round-arched windows (probably modern) on the east side and a small stained-glass window (also probably modern) in the front gable, and a back porch with decorative posts.

c. Ice house. Late 19th or early 20th c. Non-contributing building.

This one-story frame building, originally an ice house that formed the rearmost section of the former Jacob Masemer Store, was greatly altered at the end of the twentieth century or beginning of the twenty-first century to resemble a nineteenth-century railroad depot, as signage reading Browntown Depot/Elevation 930FT attests. The building has a mix of plain and novelty weatherboard siding and horizontal flush board siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof with a large cantilevered front gable extension with an open gable with ornate sawn ornament. Two doors to the left of the front gable have signs reading Tickets and Waiting and a vertical matchboard door on the right has a sign reading Station Master. Other features include a stone foundation, scrolled ornament in

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other gables, and a mid-twentieth-century cinder-block extension to the rear, sheltered under a roof extension, with a small shed ventilation dormer above.

The caption of a photo of the store building in the November 2009 *BCCA Newsletter* notes that the building was once used by Jacob Masemer to dress lumber, essentially a planing mill. Sawdust from the planing operation is said to have been used to insulate the ice house walls. At some point in the late 1930s or later it was made into apartments. The store was torn down in 2009. The depot conversion was made by a former owner with an interest in railroading.

d. Barn. Late 19th c. Contributing building.

The Italianate-influenced two-story frame barn has board-and-batten siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and vertical-board siding in the gables. Most of the siding, which is unpainted, dates to the historic period, though some of it may be replacement in kind. On the front are two x-braced doors (possibly reconstruction) on tracks with z-braced panels above. In the gable ends are vents with double segmental-arched louvered openings. Other features include a rear shed wing and a poured concrete foundation.

29 Smelser Lane. Browntown Pentecostal Church. Ca. 1950. 093-5032-0027. Contributing building.

The deteriorated one-story cinder-block building has an asphalt-shingled front-gable roof. The front entry has a simple shed porch on square posts that appears to be a modern replacement of a porch of similar size and form. A deteriorated shed porch on the north side has a cinder-block half wall with wood supports and screening above. Other features include an interior brick flue, an exterior cinder-block flue on the south side, louvered gable vents, and a mix of original six-over-six wood-sash windows and late twentieth-century one-over-one windows. Eugene Scheel labels the building Pentecostal Church. The building is not shown on a 1944 USGS map. According to longtime Browntown resident Win Smedley, the church may have been built by Louis Edward Smelser, who was Pentecostal and who lived across Smelser Lane at 5565 Bentonville Road. Prior to the church being built the congregation met in a tent at the same location. Bennie Smelser later lived in the building (the church most recently served as a residence).

a. Shed. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story prefab frame shed has an asphalt-shingled front-gambrel roof, T1-11-type wood siding, and a shed-roofed open-fronted side addition for equipment storage.

54 Smelser Lane. Winnie S. Baggarly House. Late 1950s. 093-0251 (093-5032-0028). Contributing building.

The one-story house has a stucco exterior (probably on frame) and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The shed front porch has square posts. Windows have two-over-two stack-pane sashes and the front entry has a wood and glass panel door. A deteriorated modern shed rear wing, perhaps

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incorporating a historic-period porch, has T1-11-type siding and one-over-one windows. The wing attaches to a low stuccoed shed element, perhaps a privy, that appears to date to the historic period. Other features include an interior cinder-block flue and small peaked and louvered gable vents. According to longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggarly, Winnie Smelser Baggarly had the house built in 1956 or 1957 (after 1955).

a. Shed. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame shed has vinyl or other simulation siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof.

b. Garage. Late 20th c./early 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The linear one-story frame garage has wood siding (possibly plywood), a metal-sheathed shed roof with a front overhang, two garage bays with vinyl panel doors, and a storage unit entry.

63 Smith Run Road. Eldridge and Marie Cooper House. Ca. 1950. 093-0216 (093-5032-0029). Contributing building.

The story-and-a-half Minimal Traditional frame house has aluminum siding and a steep asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. On the front of the roof are two small gabled dormers; on the back is a larger shed dormer. The shed front porch is enclosed with jalousie windows above a half wall. The front entry (not the actual front entry but the porch entry) has a door and transom sheltered by a nearly flat-roofed porch on decorative metal supports. Other features include one-over-one windows, aluminum window awnings, a rear shed wing, and an interior brick flue. Eldridge Cooper and his wife, Marie Updike Cooper, had this house built around 1950.

a. Mack and Ada Updike House. Late 19th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame house has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The shed front porch stands on replacement posts. Other features include at least one six-over-six window, a rear shed wing, a cinder-block flue on the east gable end, and an attic. In the mid-twentieth century Mack and Ada Updike lived in the house, which may have been built ca. 1890. Mack and Ada, who both died in 1957, were Marie Updike Cooper's parents.

b. Outbuilding. Late 19th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building, probably a smoke or meat house, has board-and-batten siding with traces of whitewash and white paint, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof with scalloped vergeboards (a Gothic Revival influence), an unusual serrated board attached to the east eaves (a possible vergeboard), and a matchboard door painted green.

c. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The linear one-story frame building, probably a chicken house, has vertical-board siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

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77 Smith Run Road. House. 1993. 093-5032-0030. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame house has novelty vinyl siding and an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. Other features include a recessed front entry with sidelights, served by a frame deck and wheelchair ramp, one-over-one windows with false paneled shutters, a front picture window, and a rear deck that wraps around the east gable end to serve a secondary entry. A ca. 1965 trailer containing the Browntown Post Office formerly stood approximately where the current house is located. The post office was staffed by Deloris K. Cooper at the location for all or some of the period 1965 to 1985. During the period the post office was operated as a rural station of the Bentonville Post Office.

a. Carport. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing structure.

The prefabricated metal carport has an ogee-profile front-gable roof and open sides.

84 Smith Run Road. Chip Cooper House. 1994. 093-5032-0031. Non-contributing building.

The one-story modular Ranch house has novelty vinyl siding and a low asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. A front-gabled roof extension engages a deep porch with square posts and balusters. Other features include one-over-one windows with false louvered shutters, an octagonal vent in the front gable, and what appears to be a post foundation with stone-pattern skirting.

a. Garage. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.

The one-story frame building has vinyl siding, an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, two vehicle bays, and a cinder-block foundation. A missing piece of siding reveals vertical-board siding and suggests the possibility the garage incorporates an earlier building.

b. Shed. Ca. 2000. Non-contributing building.

The one-story prefab frame shed has a front-gambrel roof that overhangs on the side and wood siding (possibly plywood).

93 Smith Run Road. Ott and Shirley Baker House. Late 19th c. 093-0217 (093-5032-0032). Non-contributing building.

The story-and-a-half frame house has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. A low-pitched shed wing extends across the rear, and on the east gable end is a two-story addition from the late twentieth century with aluminum siding, a jettied (overhanging) second story, one-over-one windows with false louvered shutters, and a poured concrete foundation. Other features of the original section include an interior brick flue, replacement windows, and a replacement wood and glass front door with decorative arched panes at the top. According to one source the original section is the ca. 1830 Winnie Thomas House. Eugene Scheel identifies the house as the tenant house belonging to the M. Boyd House, his name for the house next door at 103 Smith Run Road. Osbourn Ott Baker and his wife, Shirley Virginia Atkins Baker, lived here about 1960.

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103 Smith Run Road. Merl and Naomi Boyd House. Late 19th c. 093-0218 (093-5032-0033). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has novelty vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The hip-roofed front porch has turned posts with quarter-circle spindle brackets and a replacement balustrade. Other features include an interior brick flue, replacement windows, what may be a poured concrete foundation, and a one-story rear shed wing which may be a relatively modern addition. In addition to the outbuildings listed below are one or more movable modern sheds. Maral Kalbian provides two names for the house, the Cooper-Boyd House (current name) and the King Thomas House (historic name). Eugene Scheel labels it M. Boyd. He labels the house next door at 93 Smith Run Road as M. Boyd's Tenant. Merl Boyd and his wife, Naomi Partlowe Boyd, lived here in the mid-twentieth century.

a. Garage. Late 20th/early 21st c. Non-contributing building.

The one-story prefab metal garage has a truncated bunker-like form.

b. Chicken house. Early/mid-20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame building has vertical-board siding, a batten door, and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

c. Shed. Late 20th c. Non-contributing building.

The low one-story frame building has a shed roof and what appears to be a combination of vertical-board siding and metal siding. It stands behind the prefab garage and appears to be non-historic.

142 Smith Run Road. Richard and Gertrude Marlow House. Late 19th/early 20th c. 093-0220 (093-5032-0034). Contributing building.

The deteriorated two-story frame house has weatherboard siding under stucco and vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The hip-roofed one-story front porch, which has replacement square posts and dimensional-lumber balusters, shelters an asymmetrical four-bay façade which may indicate a three-bay window/door/window original section at the east end and a one-bay addition at the west end. Other features include a mix of four-over-four wood-sash windows and replacement windows, and a tall one-story or story-with-garret rear wing with a one-story shed side wing. Eugene Scheel labels the house W. Frame. Longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggarly recalls Richard and Gertrude Marlow living here in the 1940s and 1950s. The county GIS date for the house is 1919.

a. Turner and Annie Mathews House. Ca. 1950. Contributing building.

The small one-story cinder-block house has an asphalt-shingled side-gable roof, six-over-six wood-sash windows, and a wood and glass panel door, possibly formerly with a small roof over it. This may be the K. Mathews House shown on Eugene Scheel's map.

Longtime Browntown resident Sam Baggarly recalls Turner and Annie Mathews living here.

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b. Garage. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The deteriorated one-story frame building has a stucco exterior, metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a single vehicle bay.

c. Outbuilding. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof with exposed rafter ends.

d. Shed. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building, possibly a privy, has a stucco exterior, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and a batten door.

163 Smith Run Road. Hubert and Effie Manuel House. Ca. 1920. 093-0219 (093-5032-0035). Contributing building.

The two-story frame house has a stucco exterior and a metal-sheathed side-gable roof. The Craftsman one-story front porch has a hipped roof and two-stage wood posts on masonry pedestals, and a balustrade with close-set square balusters. Other features include interior brick flues at the gable ends, a one-story gabled rear wing with an interior brick flue, and what appear to be replacement windows. Morgans Spring Branch flows between the house and the road and has a piled stone flood-diversion wall along it. Eugene Scheel labels the house H. Manuel. Maral Kalbian identifies it as the Effie Manuel House and dates it to ca. 1890. The county GIS date is 1920. According to longtime Browntown resident Win Smedley, the house was owned by his aunt and uncle, Effie Rudacille Manuel and Hubert Manuel, in the mid-twentieth century. The Manuels lived in Front Royal in 1918 and Browntown in 1924 so a ca. 1920 date of construction for the house appears likely. The Craftsman porch (assuming it is original) would also support a ca. 1920 date of construction.

a. Root cellar. Mid-20th c. Contributing structure.

The one-story cinder-block cellar is built into a bank behind the house. It has a door below a belt course and low flat parapet. On the slope above is a poured concrete boxlike structure with a rectangular opening that is probably a vent for the cellar.

b. Barn. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The one-story frame building has red-painted vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed front-gable roof, and a side shed.

c. Shed. Early 20th c. Contributing building.

The small one-story frame shed has red-painted vertical-board siding, a metal-sheathed side-gable roof, and a side shed.

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

ca. 1850-ca. 1958

Significant Dates

1874

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Masemer, Jacob (builder)

Smedley, Charles Lewis (carpenter)

Hurt, Fred (carpenter)

Boies, Dick (wall builder)

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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 Browntown Historic District includes the majority of the historic village of Browntown in Warren County, Virginia. With its church steeples set against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains; Gooney Run, a rushing mountain brook that flows through the village; and the village's historic schoolhouse, stores, barns, and Italianate and Queen Anne-influenced houses, Browntown presents a picturesque image to the visitor. Located at the intersection of two roads, Bentonville Road and Browntown Road, alongside Gooney Run with Broad Run branching off to the southeast, the village is situated within a valley that lies west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. Stream valleys provided suitable locations for nineteenth-century settlement as they provided fertile soils for agriculture, streams for water-powered industry, and resting places for travelers making their way through the mountainous terrain of western Virginia. Browntown coalesced around the water-powered Brown/Updike Mill in the early to mid-nineteenth century, but its major growth occurred with the opening of the Cover Tannery in 1874, followed in the early twentieth century by stave and tool handle factories that collectively sustained the village economy as it became an agricultural and commercial center in the valley through the mid-twentieth century and provided necessary services such as a post office, doctor's office, and general stores. A number of Browntown's historic buildings were built by or are attributed to resident contractor Jacob Masemer. For these reasons, the Browntown Historic District is eligible for the state and national registers under Criterion A in the area of Commerce. Under Criterion C in the Architecture area of significance, the district features examples of distinctive characteristics of the types, periods, and methods of construction typical of a crossroads village in rural Virginia between the mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth century. The period of significance begins ca. 1850, in reference to the earliest known resource, the Shadybrook farmhouse (093-5032-0025) as well as another house, at the Updike-Deavers Farm (093-5032-0010), with fabric that appears to date to the pre-Civil War period. The period of significance ends ca. 1958, capturing construction of the last major agricultural resources within the district, the 1940s barn with a distinctive concrete stave silo at Shadybrook and the ca. 1958 gambrel-roofed barn at the Updike-Deavers Farm, as well as residential resources associated with post-World War II design trends, including late 1940s/early 1950s Minimal Traditional and Craftsman-influenced houses and the remodeling of several houses with picture windows and other postwar architectural embellishments. The district is eligible at the local level of significance.

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

Criterion A Commerce Area of Significance

Browntown ultimately owes its existence to the presence of mills in the community. An early mill was that of Abraham Brown (ca. 1771-1848), a native of Brownsville, Maryland, whose name first appears in Warren County records in 1812, according to Browntown historian

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Rebecca Poe. Brown operated a grist mill, carding mill, and tannery at Browntown, probably beginning in the 1810s. Brown's Mill was an early name for the community, which was also known as Hambaugh, though the Hambaugh Post Office, established by 1812, was located to the north of the current village (Browntown Post Office was not established until 1873). Abraham and his wife, Mary Jennings Brown, are believed to have lived in a house at the foot of the hill at the western edge of the district. The stone ruins of the house's cellar and an adjacent spring are listed as contributing resources in the inventory. Abraham and Mary's daughter Eleanore married Israel Updike in 1824 and other daughters married Updikes in the same general period, leading to an Updike family association with the community's mills. Eugene Scheel indicates the site of a Brown/Updike mill and a millrace on the large lot at 5811 Gooney Manor Loop. Scheel also shows the John D. Good mill and millrace at the south end of the district, and though the Good association is from later in the nineteenth century, it is possible a mill operated at the same location earlier.¹

The Brown and Updike names continued to be associated with the locale into the mid-nineteenth century. In January 1854 the Virginia General Assembly passed "An act to amend the charter of the Gooney manor turnpike company," which described raising stock "for constructing a turnpike road from Brown's or Updike's mill, (the western terminus of the Gravelly spring road,) to Front Royal, or to some convenient point on the Luray and Front Royal turnpike." Construction of the turnpike was ongoing in 1856-57, according to a September 1857 report. Cartographer Jedediah Hotchkiss's 1866 "Map of Shenandoah & Page counties and part of Warren County, Virginia," shows the community (incorrectly spelled "Bowntown") at the junction of the north-south Gooney Manor Road and a Blue Ridge-crossing road coming in from the east labeled "Dade's Gap to Flint Hill." The principal landmark in the village at the time was Updike's Mill (misspelled "Undike"), near which stood a residence labeled "Und" (Updike). The lack of other buildings on the map may be an oversight—along with the community name the Hotchkiss map makes a number of topographical errors—or, more likely, the omission is an indication true village development had not yet occurred.²

¹ Thomas Lacombe personal communication; Poe, "History of the village of Browntown;" Findagrave; Scheel, "Warren County;" "Browntown Postmasters;" Lacombe, "O. J. Rudacille Gen. Mdse.;" Warren County Deed Book R, pp. 217 and 218. A number of individuals assisted the author in the preparation of the report, foremost among them Thomas Lacombe, the main point of contact for the project sponsor, the Browntown Community Center Association (BCCA). Assistance was also provided by Thomas Ball, Herb Cover, William Cover, Anne Boyd Earle, Linda Glavis, Alice Grumbly, James Keller, Noah Keller, Claude Manuel, Janet Manuel, Richard Masemer, Leslie Mathews, Gail Miller, Renee O'Connell, Winifred "Win" Smedley, Sharon Tharpe, Edwin Wright; Warren County GIS Coordinator Emma Rusnak, who prepared the maps that accompany the nomination report; Melanie Gregory and Jim Heflin at the Warren Heritage Society; and Aubrey Von Lindern and Blake McDonald with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

² *Acts of the General Assembly of Virginia, Passed in 1853-4*, 50-51; *Journal of the House of Delegates of the State of Virginia for the Adjourned Session 1852-3*, 488; *Fortieth Annual Report of the Board of Public Works*, 498-500; Hotchkiss, "Map of Shenandoah & Page counties and part of Warren County." The Gooney Manor Road shown in 1866 was today's Browntown Road (SR 649) and the "Dade's Gap to Flint Hill" road was today's Smith Run Road (SR634). Browntown is also shown, schematically, on a

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Despite its shortcomings, the Hotchkiss map corroborates the existence of a village called Browntown by the mid-1860s. Rebecca Poe notes that in 1870 landowner James W. Boyd began selling small residential lots on both sides of Gooney Run, possibly in the area to the north of Bentonville Road where smaller lots currently exist. This probably represents the birth of Browntown as a nucleated village and implies the presence of potential lot purchasers, probably workers in a tannery or other industries. Poe notes the lots were sold to both black and white purchasers, and another indication of racial diversity in the nascent community was lot sales to African Americans. John Thornton “colored” purchased a one-acre lot in 1877, and in 1878 John Thomas, David Mitchell, and Edward Curtis, “trustees for the colored population of the Methodist church of Browntown,” purchased a quarter-acre lot for a church. Eugene Scheel locates St. Paul CME (Colored Methodist Episcopal) Church on the west side of Gooney Run to the north of the district, also the location of the early twentieth-century Browntown African American public school (both buildings are now gone).³

The 1870 and later lot sales indicate incipient development, but the watershed event in the community’s growth was the establishment of the Cover Tannery in 1874. Tobias Dallas Cover (1850-88), William H. Cover (1851-86), and Franklin Pierce Cover (1854-1903) were sons of Samuel Cover, a Carroll County, Maryland, tanner whose brothers John Tobias Cover, J. Cover, and Thomas Cover operated tanneries in Elkton in Rockingham County and Star Tannery in Frederick County. The bark on the chestnut oak trees that grew in abundance on the mountains ringing Browntown and Gooney Manor was an important source of the tannins used in tanning. According to research by Renee O’Connell, Cover Brothers was formed by the three brothers in August 1873. A period newspaper article notes that William Cover moved to Warren County that month, presumably to begin operations. The brothers apparently spent the latter part of 1873 and early 1874 building and equipping their tannery, the opening of which was announced in an article in the Front Royal *Warren Sentinel* reprinted in the June 8, 1874, issue of the *Alexandria Gazette*:

BROWNTOWN STEAM TANNERY.—The Cover Brothers have their large steam tannery at Browntown, in this county, in successful operation, and are buying large quantities of bark, besides that which they had stripped on their own lands. The firm shipped from Front Royal Depot, during the month of May, twelve hundred sides of leather, the average weight of each side being twenty pounds, making twenty-four thousand pounds, worth at least thirty cents per pound, thus netting them in cash, seven thousand two hundred dollars. There is more wealth in our mountains than in the mines of California and the new Northwest. Capitalists come and develope [sic] it.

The October 10, 1874, issue of the Westminster, Maryland, *Democratic Advocate* reported: “Cover Brothers are working their steam Tannery at Browntown to its utmost capacity, and

second sketch map from the 1860s which refers to Gooney Manor Road as Gooney Manor Grade (“Sketch of parts of Warren, Rappahannock, and Culpeper counties).”

³ Poe, “History of the village of Browntown;” Scheel, “Warren County;” Warren County Deed Book M, p. 71.

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expending annually \$15,000 for bark and labor, and they are now erecting four tenement houses on their grounds which will soon be occupied by their employees.” Additional detail on the tannery’s operations is provided by an undated but early account included in Edith Jackson’s 1937 Virginia Historical Inventory report on the Abraham Brown Mill. From the account’s wording it appears to be based on an interview with a Mr. Cover, probably Frank Cover who had a longer association with the business (his brothers died in their thirties). The tannery, which was also known as the Mount Vernon Tannery, was operated by a 23-horsepower engine and featured 148 tanning vats. The tannery’s thirty-three fulltime employees swelled to over two hundred workers “at bark peeling time,” and materials were hauled by nine mule teams that provided a market for grain and hay grown on local farms. The account includes other information, though it is unclear whether the information pertains to the Browntown operation or to other tanneries established in the area by the firm. The tannery is believed to have stood on the property associated with 5671 Gooney Manor Loop (Edmonds-Nossett Farm), although tradition also indicates a link with the property at 5920 Gooney Manor Loop (Shadybrook Farm).⁴

Period accounts indicate the Cover Tannery sparked an economic boom in the community. In October 1877 Browntown was described as “quite a business center and improving rapidly.” Eleven years later a newspaper correspondent wrote “We are glad today our little town is still alive and progressive.” The opening of mercantile establishments is one indication of the village’s early prosperity. At least two stores existed by 1877: the Lafayette Updike Store, located next to Updike’s 1876 house at 5865 Gooney Manor Loop, and the J. B. Compton Store at an unknown location. Both Updike and Compton traveled to Baltimore to purchase stock for their stores. In March 1882 Jacob Masemer had a new store with an “Oyster Saloon.” Three mercantile firms were listed in April 1884: Lafayette Updike, T & B Updike (Lafayette’s sons Thomas and Byrd), and John A. Baublitz. Two surviving early stores with the same address (5590 Bentonville Road) stand side-by-side: the Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence, part of which dates to 1884-85, and the Manuel Store, a false-fronted building which may date to the late nineteenth century. Other commercial vestiges include the house at 4 Browntown Road, which is a remodeled barroom from the late nineteenth century, and the ice house at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop, which was the rear ice house wing of the Masemer Store (demolished). From a later date, but illustrative of the store/residence form, is the 1947 L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence at 5565 Bentonville Road.⁵

By the end of the nineteenth century the village supported a host of activities. The presence of a fluctuating workforce attracted distilleries and bars. As historian Tom Lacombe writes, “Amongst all of these mountain men, there were a few who imbibed.” The community leaders

⁴ Renee O’Connell collection; Findagrave; *Rockingham Register*, October 23, 1891; *Alexandria Gazette*, June 8, 1874; *Democratic Advocate*, October 10, 1874; Jackson, “Abraham Brown or John Cartwright or Cover Brother’s Mill.”

⁵ Renee O’Connell collection. Two early stores, the Jacob Masemer Store (093-0213) and the Caphart Building (Manuel Store; 093-0023), no longer exist but stood long enough to be recorded by architectural historian Maral Kalbian in the 1991 Warren County architectural survey. John Baublitz, Jacob Masemer, and the Cover brothers knew each other in Maryland before settling at Browntown (Masemer, “First Written History of the Masemer Descendants”).

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treated this aspect of the Browntown economy as a necessary evil. In March 1882 the three Cover brothers and their wives contracted with Jacob Masemer to build various buildings on a lot Masemer had purchased in 1875 (Masemer, in addition to being a merchant, was the community's leading builder) on the condition "he will not maintain or keep up a whiskey shop" within forty-eight yards of a certain dwelling and would "keep a high tight fence" between the two. The wording suggests the whiskey shop was a definite, though whether it was the same as Masemer's store and oyster saloon is unclear. In 1887 (and probably earlier) Masemer operated a distillery, which in 1895 or 1896 got him into legal difficulties. The issue was nine improper barrels of apple brandy resulting in a congressman intervening with the federal Internal Revenue Bureau to have "the prosecution of a distiller of Warren county, in his district, named Masemer, suspended, pending compromise efforts." Masemer's distillery burned in 1908; arson was suspected.⁶

In addition to Masemer's distillery were the Marlow Brothers distillery near 5597 Bentonville Road and another, G. Manuel's, on Browntown Road. Bars included Henry Compton's Saloon (shuttered in the 1890s as the result of citizen objections), Barber's Bar, Gore's Bar, "the bar room next to Mrs. Smelser's," and George Alexander's barroom. The Ashby and Betty Jones House at 4 Browntown Road is likely the converted barroom of Henry and Sudie Compton which was moved back to make way for the construction of the former Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church (now Browntown Baptist Church) in 1897. These watering holes did not all necessarily coexist, and some were perhaps the same establishment known by different names at different times, but the general picture is of a lively drinking culture which lasted until state and national prohibition came into effect in the early twentieth century. Other activities from the period include blacksmithing and wheelwrighting (in 1888 Jacob Masemer offered his blacksmith and wheelwright shops for rent to eligible tradesmen), broom making (Adam Oberdiehr's shop in a small building that stands today at 2 Browntown Road and possibly another location), Lewis's Wagon Works, Silas Dosh's shoemaking shop, and doctor's offices, including the Charles F. Updike Doctor's Office and Browntown Post Office at 52 Browntown Road. The mix of activities that characterized the village as it matured in the last decades of the nineteenth century somewhat resembled functions in another Warren County village historic district, the Riverton Historic District, which is now absorbed into Front Royal, though Riverton had more of a transportation focus, was less rural in character, and its industrial component, based on lime production, differed from Browntown's, which was based on wood products.⁷

Browntown's initial boom phase came to an end in 1899. On August 18 of that year the *Culpeper Exponent* reported: "The tannery of F. P. Cover & Sons, at Browntown, Warren county which has been in operation for the last 20 years, will close down in a few months because the bark

⁶ Warren County Deed Book N, p. 199; *Report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue*, LXXX; *Alexandria Gazette*, January 6, 1896; Lacombe, "Bar rooms along the Gooney;" *Page News & Courier*, January 10, 2008 (reprint of 1908 news item).

⁷ Thomas Lacombe personal communication; Lacombe, "Bar rooms along the Gooney;" Scheel, "Warren County;" O'Connell Collection; Kalbian, "Riverton Historic District," 25. Another rural Warren County historic district, the sixteen-square-mile Rockland Rural Historic District, is less comparable to Browntown.

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supply in that region has been practically exhausted.” However, the tannery’s closure did not end the community’s association with wood products manufacturing. John J. Miller of Rappahannock County established the John J. Miller Manufacturing Company, otherwise known as the stave mill, for making barrel staves. Charles T. Edmonds was associated with the firm (in 1923 he was described as a silent partner) and moved to Browntown from Baltimore in 1902, presumably to oversee operations. A painting in the Charles F. Updike Doctor’s Office and Browntown Post Office Museum apparently based on a historic photograph shows the stave mill as a long one-story gabled building with rows of windows, vertical-board or board-and-batten siding, and a metal smokestack. The staves were sold disassembled and also assembled into barrels at one of two cooper shops shown on Eugene Scheel’s map: the Cooper Shop of C. Cooper, also known as the Edmonds or Miller Cooper Shop, and the cooperage of N. Cooper. The shops stood near where a branch of Gooney Run passes under Gooney Manor Loop at the south end of the village. Of the barrels made from the factory’s staves, Renee O’Connell writes: “They were used to store flour, cornmeal, or kraut. Mountain orchardists shipped fruit in them and bought staves by the wagonload and hired coopers to assemble them. Even the moonshiners needed barrels for their operations.” O’Connell mentions two other wood products manufacturers active in or near the community during the early twentieth century, the Virginia Hardwood Manufacturing company and John Hodder’s factory for making tool handles and wagon wheel spokes.⁸

An interesting development at Browntown, the reverse of the typical trend in rural Virginia, is the reversion of areas of the community from industrial use to agricultural use in the twentieth century. Even during its industrial boom the village had an agricultural component, There is no evidence that the flat field between the site of the Abraham Brown House and the village center was anything but farmland, and an 1882 agreement mentions the building of a hog house and “shedding to the stable” (a description that suggests sheds on one or more sides of a barnlike building), but the current crop of farm buildings dates mostly to the twentieth century (an exception is the ca. 1885 Creekside barn at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop). Included among these twentieth-century barns are the barn at 5671 Gooney Manor Loop (early twentieth century) and the Updike-Deavers Farm (ca. 1958) and the 1940s cinder-block barn at Shadybrook Farm (5920 Gooney Manor Loop). The barn at 5671 Gooney Manor Loop stands on the property where the former stave mill stood and the Shadybrook tract may also have had industrial use.⁹

In recent decades Browntown’s residents have taken a number of actions to preserve the historic character of their community. When the Browntown School at 96 Browntown Road closed in 1970, the Browntown Community Center Association (BCCA) was formed to acquire the building and convert it to a community center. The long-running *BCCA Newsletter* contains many items of historical, commercial, and civic interest. Another successful historic building conversion is the Charles F. Updike Doctor’s Office and Browntown Post Office (Browntown Road), which now serves as a village museum. The first effort to seek historic designation for the village was in 2005. The current effort was initiated by the BCCA and property owners and was

⁸ O’Connell, “Why Browntown should become a historic district;” O’Connell Collection; Scheel, “Warren County;” Warren County Deed Book 27, p. 191; *Exponent*, August 18, 1899.

⁹ Warren County Deed Book N, p. 199.

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facilitated by a preliminary report prepared by Virginia Department of Historic Places architectural historian Aubrey Von Lindern in 2020.¹⁰

Criterion C Architecture Area of Significance

Browntown's earliest surviving architectural vestiges have a similar feature, which is bank siting. The early nineteenth-century Abraham Brown House was built into a bank, as its cellar ruins attest, as was the surviving house at Shadybrook Farm, which retains evidence of antebellum construction. Bank siting, which was relatively common among houses of northwestern Virginia, enhanced the functionality of a dwelling by providing its cellar and first-floor living and working areas ground-level access. For the same reason it was a popular configuration for barns, and bank siting reappears toward the end of Browntown's historic architectural development with the construction of the 1940s Shadybrook Farm barn. The bank access to the upper hay mow level of this barn is reinforced with coursed rubble stonework, which may be evidence the barn occupies the location of a former bank barn. The apparently antebellum stone springhouse at Shadybrook Farm is also built into a bank, though in this case the main reason was to provide an open-air stone-lined alcove for the spring. The bank siting of the springhouse did have a secondary attribute which is more in line with normative bank siting, however, and that is it allowed the storage loft over the springhouse to be accessed from the bank by a short set of wood steps or other means.

The majority of Browntown's housing stock dates or appears to date to the community's industrial boom period from 1874 to 1899. For the houses of the community's more affluent individuals, a representative and well-preserved example is Creekside at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop, built in the 1880s, possibly by Jacob Masemer as his own residence or for a member of the tannery-owning Cover family. The two-story frame house shows the influence of the Italianate style, one of the eclectic styles of the era. A standard feature of the Italianate style expressed in Virginia houses of the late antebellum period through the 1880s is a bracketed cornice, which Creekside has, in its case created by rows of small sawn brackets punctuated by larger sawn brackets. Creekside has other refinements typical of the postbellum period such as molded cornices over windows and a front porch with chamfered posts, ornate scrolling post brackets, and a sawnwork balustrade. Its chimney caps too express the late nineteenth-century taste for extravagant detail with their regular and houndstooth courses and recessed paneled sides (one of the caps appears to be a faithful reconstruction of the original design). Creekside's barn, which probably dates to the same period as the house, also shows Italianate influence in the double segmental-arched form of its louvered vents.

Browntown's boom overlapped the early popularity of the Queen Anne style, which combined decorative textural effects, machine-produced ornament, and experimentation in volume and profile. Early examples of the style date to the 1880s in Virginia, with the style's heyday in the

¹⁰ Poe, "Doctor Updike/Post Office Building;" *Northern Virginia Daily*, November 21, 2005; Von Lindern, "Browntown Historic District."

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1890s and the first decade of the twentieth century and then tapering off. Browntown's chief Queen Anne building is the 1897 Browntown Baptist Church (former Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church) at 12 Browntown Road. The building's form, with an off-center entry tower at one corner of the gable front, was developed by architects working in the Gothic Revival style earlier in the century, and the building's lancet-arched windows are also Gothic Revival, but the stylistic expression of the building envelope is Queen Anne, specifically the alternating bands of fishscale, scalloped, and square-edged wood shingles in the gable, tower, and eaves. The complex chamfering of the belfry posts and the frieze of square openings in the entry porch are also characteristic of Queen Anne ornamentation. Possible Queen Anne influence is also present in the design of the Creekside porch, which has an upper tier of rectangular openings in the balustrade reminiscent of the church porch treatment.

The Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church is said to have been built under the supervision of resident Browntown businessman and contractor Jacob Masemer (1852-1925). Masemer—whose name is also spelled Messmer and Mesemer in period accounts—was born in Centre County, Pennsylvania, but by the early 1870s he was associated with the Cover family in Carroll County, Maryland, and came with the three Cover brothers to Browntown, apparently to build the tannery and other buildings. A building arrangement between the parties is referenced in an 1882 agreement whereby Masemer was to build a “commodious smoke house” and other buildings for the Covers. Masemer is credited with the construction of the Browntown Union Church at 82 Browntown Road in 1882. Of this building and Masemer's association with it, local church historian Carlyle Crank wrote that Masemer and Frank Cover, who was involved in the project, were “inspired by a Lutheran distributor of Bibles and religious books, Mr. Wolfenberger.” It is unclear whether this means Masemer and Cover were inspired in the general sense or in the more specific sense of basing their design on illustrations or suggestions in books provided by Wolfenberger or by Wolfenberger himself. Rebecca Poe writes that Masemer “began to build houses in the new village, some at the request of land owners and some as speculation. Some were large and Victorian, others were smaller. Mr. Masemer built also the factories and stores that a growing community needed.” Masemer built his own house at 5597 Bentonville Road in 1882 and he is thought by some to have built the ca. 1885 house Creekside at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop. If the latter is true, for Masemer to have built two large and finely appointed houses for himself within such a short timeframe suggests he was building partly on a speculative basis.¹¹

To facilitate his contracting business Masemer operated, by 1882, a steam-powered planing mill. This may have been in the former Jacob Masemer property, of which the ice house at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop is a surviving element. Renee O'Connell notes that the mill was accompanied by a ninety-foot-long lumber storage shed. With a planing mill and presumably other wood-working machinery Masemer was able to undertake large projects. In November 1883 a reporter with the Warren *Sentinel* wrote:

¹¹ Sam Baggary personal communication; Findagrave; “Early Churches of Warren County,” 6; Crank, *History of the Browntown Baptist Church*, 5; Warren County Deed Book N, p. 199; Poe, “Story of historic Browntown;” O'Connell Collection.

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Upon a recent visit to Browntown we found its energetic and enterprising citizen, Jacob Mesemer [sic], busy with a large force of carpenters upon the foundation of a building 70x40 feet, which he intends for a factory for the manufacture of wagons, carts, etc., a saw mill for the grinding of corn and horse feed, all by steam. He has already erected three neat and comfortable houses for his hands and intends speedily building three more.

With such a large organization it is not surprising that Masemer worked outside the community. In May 1885 it was reported he and his team of carpenters had enlarged and remodeled the St. James Hotel in Front Royal and had added a story to the Front Royal Hotel in the same town.¹²

The three to six worker houses mentioned as having been built by Masemer in the 1883 report, added to the four “tenement houses” built on the tannery property in 1874, and the possibility of other houses not mentioned in accounts, suggests a sizable collection of worker housing during Browntown’s boom. The village has a number of small, one-story or story-and-a-half, simply detailed frame houses that are characteristic of worker housing during the period, though whether they represent any of the houses mentioned in 1874 and 1883 is unknown. Three of these stood in a row on Gooney Alley Road—addresses 43, 73, and 89—and although 43 Gooney Alley Road was torn down ca. 2002, 73 and 89 survive. Other houses of similar character include the Ott and Shirley Baker House at 93 Smith Run Road, and the Jack Kline House at 5725 Gooney Manor Loop.¹³

Browntown’s surviving commercial buildings illustrate some of the variety of commercial forms built in small-town Virginia during the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The Manuel Store at 5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 4411A) is perhaps most iconic: a long, one-story frame building, its narrow end facing the street, with a front-gable roof hidden behind a tall false front. The 1884-85 Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence at 5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 10) has a complex evolution. The building began as a setback two-story house to which a front store, porch, and second-story apartment addition was made about 1910. The unusual recessed porch is rimmed by classical columns, the main example of Classical Revival influence in Browntown. Though they differ in form, the Manuel and Baublitz-Rudacille stores have similar storefronts consisting of a double-leaf entry flanked by large four-pane display windows. A second store-and-residence, the L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence at 5565 Bentonville Road, was built in 1947, and though much later than the Baublitz-Rudacille building is somewhat similar to it in form, with an off-center store wing projecting from the front of the setback residence. The Smelser store also has a flush storefront with an entry flanked by display windows, though the windows were originally single panes of glass, made possible by advances in plate glass technology between the late nineteenth century and mid-twentieth century (the windows have since been replaced by pairs of windows).

Akin to these commercial types in function but radically different in form is the Charles F. Updike Doctor’s Office and Browntown Post Office at 52 Browntown Road, which dates to the

¹² O’Connell collection. A sawmill would not have been used for milling corn and feed so there must have been a gristmill component to the plant as well, presumably using the same power source as the sawmill.

¹³ *Democratic Advocate*, October 10, 1874.

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late nineteenth century. The small, cubical, pyramidal-roofed frame building is distinguished by seven tall windows which flood the interior with light. The early evolution of the building is uncertain, but one possible scenario is construction in the 1870s or 1880s to serve as the office of the Cover Tannery and then, perhaps when or shortly after the tannery closed in 1899, the moving of the building to its current site to serve as the office of Dr. Charles Updike. The use of cut nails in the building's construction suggests it predates ca. 1890, but the windows pose questions. Their indented frames suggest they are original to the building for they are similar to window frames on Browntown buildings from the 1870s-80s period such as the 1882 Jacob Masemer House at 5597 Bentonville Road, likely built by Jacob Masemer (window frames with indented jambs may even be a hallmark of construction by Masemer). If they are original to the building the multiple windows may have allowed the tannery manager to keep a 360-degree eye on tannery activities at the building's original location. If the windows were added by Updike in the 1890s or around 1900, they may relate to medical theory during the period which held that sunlight had germicidal properties and large window area was therefore appropriate for doctor's office design. Either possibility makes the building an architectural novelty. The building is one of two known historic locations for the village post office, the other being the Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence.

Browntown's two late nineteenth-century churches have the gable-fronted nave form that was standard for most denominations during the historic period and which in fact extends back to late Roman times. Both feature towers—another common element of churches from the late nineteenth century—though the treatment of the towers is different. The 1882 Browntown Union Church at 82 Browntown Road has the more traditional form with the tower centered on the front. The centered form is traditional in the sense that its symmetry was in keeping with classically-inspired symmetrical architectural planning precepts of the colonial period through the early nineteenth century. The off-center tower of the 1897 Browntown Baptist Church (former Ebenezer Evangelical Lutheran Church) at 12 Browntown Road, on the other hand, reflects the influence of the Gothic Revival style with its greater receptivity to picturesque asymmetries. The 1897 church is more sophisticated than the earlier building with its elaborate Queen Anne finishes, modulated window forms and sizes, and play of solid and void (the openwork structure of the gabled entry porch and pyramidal-roofed belfry which contrast with the solids of the sanctuary and tower). Jacob Masemer is thought to have played a role in the construction of both buildings, so the differences may reflect in part the evolution of his architectural sensibilities. The complex millwork of the 1897 building may also reflect the technical capabilities of Masemer's woodworking machinery during the period. A third church, the ca. 1950 Browntown Pentecostal Church at 29 Smelser Lane, is also gable-fronted.

A notable aspect of Browntown's architectural landscape is the survival of numerous and diverse secondary buildings. The community's four large hay and stock barns, which span the period ca. 1880 to the 1970s, have already been discussed, but there are also many smaller farm buildings with specialized functions. Corncribs provided well-ventilated storage for corn on the cob and could be built as small free-standing structures, like the examples at 5865 Gooney Manor Loop and 5920 Gooney Manor Loop, or could be incorporated into larger buildings such as the corncrib and wagon shelter at 5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 10). In each of these three

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examples, which date to the first half of the twentieth century, the sides of the cribs are slatted in order to maximize ventilation. Another agricultural structure of note is the corn dryer on the Edmonds-Nossett Farm at 5671 Gooney Manor Loop. The twin-cylinder bolted metal structure probably dates to the second quarter of the twentieth century. The district contains a single silo: the concrete stave silo connected to the 1940s barn at Shadybrook Farm (5920 Gooney Manor Loop) and apparently added to it, possibly in the 1950s.

Many of the community's secondary buildings are domestic in function. Smokehouses serve to cure and keep meat and typically stand in the back yard, convenient to the kitchen, as in the case of the shed-roofed frame smokehouse behind the Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence at 5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 10). One of the district's oldest outbuildings, a possible smokehouse, is the small frame building with Gothic Revival scalloped vergeboards behind the house at 63 Smith Run Road. The Gothic Revival styling indicates a late nineteenth-century date of construction, possibly as early as the late 1870s. Smoking or otherwise curing meat was common well into the twentieth century, with mid-century smokehouses built of cinder block. The small gable-fronted cinder-block building behind the late nineteenth-century house at 89 Gooney Alley Road may be an example. The stone springhouse at Shadybrook Farm (5920 Gooney Manor Loop) is an early example of the building type in the district; another is the stone springroom on the back of the Updike-Deavers Farm farmhouse at 5865 Gooney Manor Loop, the semi-detached wing of the house which is believed to be the original ca. 1859 section. Next to the springroom is a stone-lined well with a modern well shelter superstructure. The well or cistern behind the Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence is equipped with a hand pump and small concrete water trough.

Carriage houses, wagon shelters, and garages provided housing for the shifting forms of conveyance utilized by Browntown residents from the late nineteenth through the mid-twentieth centuries. A large and architecturally sophisticated carriage house, probably built during the last two decades of the nineteenth century, stands behind Creekside at 5986 Gooney Manor Loop. The two-story frame building features a cross-gable roof with raking lattice vents in the gable eaves and has a shed-roofed story-and-a-half front wing with a slatted vent on the side. The large frame garage beside the Baublitz-Rudacille Store and House may originally have housed a carriage. This building plus the frame garage adjoining the secondary dwelling at 12 Fetchett Road are gable-fronted, as are the cinder-block garages behind 5565 Bentonville Road and 43 Gooney Alley Road. Last but not least among Browntown's secondary buildings are its privies. Two of these are incorporated into long shed-roofed storage buildings, such as the examples beside the Browntown Union Church at 82 Browntown Road and in the side yard of the 1920s house on the Edmonds-Nossett Farm at 5671 Gooney Manor Loop. The Edmonds privy building has a shallow porch across the front. Other privies in the village were built as stand-alone buildings, the more common format. These include examples at 5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 10), next door at 5590 Bentonville Road (PIN 44 11A), and 5725 Gooney Manor Loop. The 1940s barn at Shadybrook Farm (5920 Gooney Manor Loop) has its own privy, a gable-fronted (as opposed to the typical shed roof) cinder-block building in the barnyard.

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House construction continued in Browntown through the end of the twentieth century, with house styles and types reflecting national trends. The Craftsman style, a house style originating in California in the early twentieth century and spreading nationwide in the 1910s and 1920s, influenced construction in the district during the 1920s to early 1950s period, as seen in the gable-fronted form of the ca. 1951 Stanley and Mary Baggary House at 12 Fetchett Road and the characteristically Craftsman style tapered square porch supports of the residence half of the 1947 L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence at 5565 Bentonville Road. The Baggary and Smelser properties are late occurrences of Craftsman influence. The ca. 1920 Hubert and Effie Manuel House at 163 Smith Run Road also shows Craftsman influence in the design of its porch posts which, though they are not tapered, stand on pedestals as Craftsman porch posts typically do (the Smelser posts stand on brick pedestals incorporated into a brick railing).

Despite its Craftsman porch, the residence portion of the L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence is a house type/style known as Minimal Traditional, a stripped-down post-World War II version of prewar Colonial Revival characterized by a boxy side-gabled form. Another example of the Minimal Traditional type is the ca. 1950 Eldridge and Marie Cooper House at 63 Smith Run Road. The story-and-a-half frame house is simplicity itself, its chief ornamental feature the black and white striped aluminum awnings over the windows in the gable ends and in two gabled dormers on the front of the roof.

The commingling of design trends evidenced at the Smelser Store and Residence and the Cooper House represent a continuum of vernacular house types that were built in Browntown starting with the late nineteenth century worker cottages at 73 and 89 Gooney Alley Road, the similarly designed, late nineteenth-century Ott and Shirley Baker House at 93 Smith Run Road, and the early twentieth century Jack Kline House at 5725 Gooney Manor Loop. The late nineteenth and early twentieth century dwellings have similarities in form, with a front, 1.5-story, side gable block usually accented with a 1-story, shed or hipped-roofed porch and a rear ell that may have been original to the house or added at a later date. In rural Virginia, dwellings of this form and date of construction often, but do not always, have a few ornamental aspects, such as sawn brackets on porches, a molded surround on windows or doors, operable shutters, and corbeled chimneys. Such ornamented examples typically are classified as "Folk Victorian" cottages. Other modest housing of this era may have references to the Colonial Revival style, which appeared in Virginia during the 1880s and remained pervasively popular throughout the twentieth century. These dwellings typically had a side-gable front section, symmetrical façade with a centered entry and flanking multiple-pane sash, an interior brick end chimney (or sometimes two), and a gabled rear ell. Due to the prolific examples of such cottages across Virginia in cities, villages, and countryside, the house type is widely recognized and usually classified as "Colonial Revival."

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89 Gooney Alley Road. Worley and Violet Updike House (093-0241; 093-5032-0017).



5725 Gooney Manor Loop. Jack Kline House (093-0211; 093-5032-0021).

During the Great Depression, modest cottages continued to be in great demand as they were affordable to a wide swath of the population. The Federal Housing Administration's (FHA) design specifications for a small house that would be eligible for newly introduced FHA home loans is widely credited with perpetuating availability and popularity of a basic housing form with minimal ornamentation but all of the modern features – indoor plumbing, electrical service, kitchens equipped with electrical or gas-powered appliances rather than wood-burning stoves – that were increasingly considered essential to American life. The house type commonly dubbed Minimal Traditional is often directly linked to the FHA guidelines, but its similarity to the late nineteenth and early twentieth century plain vernacular, Folk Victorian, and Colonial Revival cottages in Virginia is unmistakable.

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By the 1930s, the simplicity of form and minimal detailing that characterize Minimal Traditional houses also was in keeping with changing popular tastes as its minimal ornamentation, efficiency of floor plan, and inclusion of mechanical systems provided modernity at an affordable cost. The Modern architecture movement was well under way by the 1930s and Minimal Traditional houses fit into this trend while still drawing upon some traditional aspects of earlier worker housing such as modest size and simple floor plan. Within the Browntown Historic District, the ca. 1950 Eldridge and Marie Cooper House (093-5032-0029) and the aforementioned 1947 L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence (093-5032-0002) are representative of the evolving design trends that brought Minimal Traditional houses to Browntown.



5565 Bentonville Road. L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store (at left) and Residence (at right) (093-5032-0002).

The adaptability of the Minimal Traditional house type kept it popular through the 1950s, when the similarly scaled small Ranch (sometimes called “ranchette”) was introduced. The low-slung linear Ranch house form became the standard rural/small-town/suburban type, gradually increasing in size and elaborations as it prevailed in popularity into the late twentieth century. Browntown’s Ranch houses, which date to 1981, 1990, and 1994, postdate the district’s period of significance and are classified as non-contributing.

Another important theme in the architectural development of the neighborhood was the use of textured stucco as a cladding material in the second quarter of the twentieth century. Typically, stucco was applied to preexisting buildings that were previously sided with weatherboards. Two prominent examples in the center of the village are the side-by-side Manuel Store and Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence at 5590 Bentonville Road, the latter building receiving its stucco finish about 1935. Another notable example is the ca. 1859-1876 farmhouse on the Updike-Deavers Farm at 5865 Gooney Manor Loop, which was stuccoed in the 1940s. At the same time a stuccoed porch with segmental-arched openings and solid railings was added to the front of the house. The aforementioned late-nineteenth-century worker cottage at 89 Gooney Alley Road is

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another example of a dwelling that received a stucco treatment after the dwelling's construction. The postwar period also saw the introduction of new window types to the district. The ca. 1950 Eldridge and Marie Cooper House at 63 Smith Run Road has a front porch enclosed with jalousie (louvered glass pane) windows which are an original or early feature of the house. Picture windows were added to the fronts of buildings such as the Ashby and Betty Jones House at 4 Browntown Road, possibly as part of the building's conversion to a residence in the 1950s, and the late nineteenth-century house at 44 Browntown Road.

Browntown is not an incorporated community and hence has no official governmental building or center, however the Browntown School at 96 Browntown Road has had a civic aspect since its construction around 1910, an aspect it shared for a time with the African American public school located across Gooney Run. Architecturally the school has standard period features such as banks of large windows which provide natural classroom illumination. The school may have been built to standards promulgated by state school authorities of the period, though an exact plan prototype has not been identified. Browntown School transitioned to community center use after its decommissioning in 1970. It retains its historic-period playground as the focus of a community park to which a bandstand and picnic shelter have been added. Another indication of its late twentieth-century community function is the location of the ca. 1980 South Warren Volunteer Fire Department on the grounds.

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

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Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR ID# 093-5032

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 75.08 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 38.811080	Longitude: -78.237310
2. Latitude: 38.812050	Longitude: -78.236580
3. Latitude: 38.812780	Longitude: -78.235770
4. Latitude: 38.813320	Longitude: -78.232590
5. Latitude: 38.811210	Longitude: -78.231350
6. Latitude: 38.810740	Longitude: -78.230230
7. Latitude: 38.807030	Longitude: -78.232980
8. Latitude: 38.804420	Longitude: -78.232160
9. Latitude: 38.803490	Longitude: -78.232590
10. Latitude: 38.803450	Longitude: -78.233660
11. Latitude: 38.805030	Longitude: -78.235420
12. Latitude: 38.806130	Longitude: -78.235470
13. Latitude: 38.807630	Longitude: -78.237950
14. Latitude: 38.810240	Longitude: -78.237610

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

The true and correct historic boundary is portrayed on the 1:200-scale Sketch Map/ Photo Key that accompanies the nomination.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary encompasses the majority of the historic village of Browntown. A few peripheral lots have been omitted owing to the low integrity of the historic resources on them or due to modern development. The historic boundary encompasses the district's historic setting as well as all known associated historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization: Landmark Preservation Associates
street & number: 6 Houston St.
city or town: Lexington state: Virginia zip code: 24450

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e-mail gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net
telephone: (540) 464-5315
date: May 27, 2021

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.)

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Browntown Historic District
City or Vicinity: Browntown County: Warren State: Virginia
Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni (unless otherwise noted)
Date Photographed: February 2021 (unless otherwise noted)
Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photographer: Ian Fisher
Date Photographed: December 2020
Drone view of Browntown with the Blue Ridge Mountains in the distance. View facing southeast. Photo 1 of 21.

Bentonville Road with the Browntown Bridge in the foreground, the Manuel Store and Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence on the left, and the Jacob Masemer House on the right. View facing west from Browntown Road. Photo 2 of 21.

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Overview with the towers of the Browntown Baptist Church (center) and the Browntown Union Church (right). View facing north. Photo 3 of 21.

Houses on Gooney Alley Road, view facing southwest. Photo 4 of 21.

Browntown Baptist Church, view facing east. Photo 5 of 21.

Browntown Union Church, view facing east. Photo 6 of 21.

Browntown School, view facing northeast. Photo 7 of 21.

Manuel Store (left) and Baublitz-Rudacille Store and Residence (right), view facing east. Photo 8 of 21.

L.E. and Elizabeth Smelser Store and Residence, view facing northwest. Photo 9 of 21.

Charles F. Updike Doctor's Office and Browntown Post Office, view facing east. Photo 10 of 21.

Updike-Deavers Farm farmhouse, view facing southwest. Photo 11 of 21.

Shadybrook Farm farmhouse, view facing east. Photo 12 of 21.

Shadybrook Farm barn, view facing southeast. Photo 13 of 21.

Creekside farmhouse, view facing northeast. Photo 14 of 21.

Creekside barn, view facing northwest. Photo 15 of 21.

Edmonds-Nossett Farm farmhouse (left) and privy and storage building (right). View facing south. Photo 16 of 21.

Edmonds-Nossett Farm barn, view facing west. Photo 17 of 21.

J. D. Good House with the intersection of Gooney Manor Loop and Fetchett Road at south end of district. View facing southeast. Photo 18 of 21.

Hubert and Effie Manuel House, view facing northeast. Photo 19 of 21.

Adam Oberdiehr Broom Factory, view facing east. Photo 20 of 21.

R. J. Cooper House, view facing east. Photo 21 of 21.

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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.

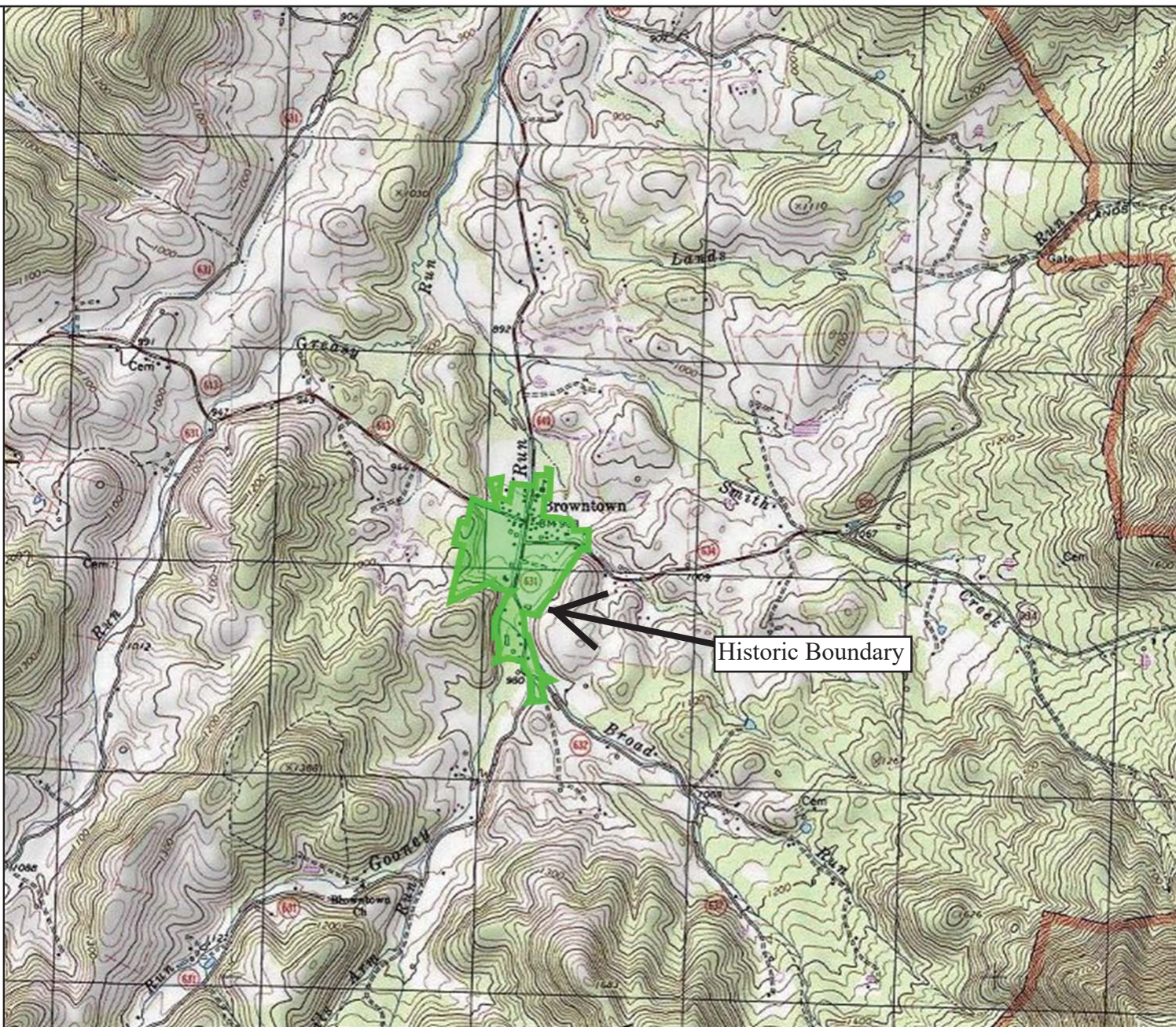


TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

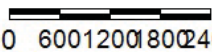
Browntown Historic District

Warren County, VA

DHR No. 093-5032



Feet



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

Title:

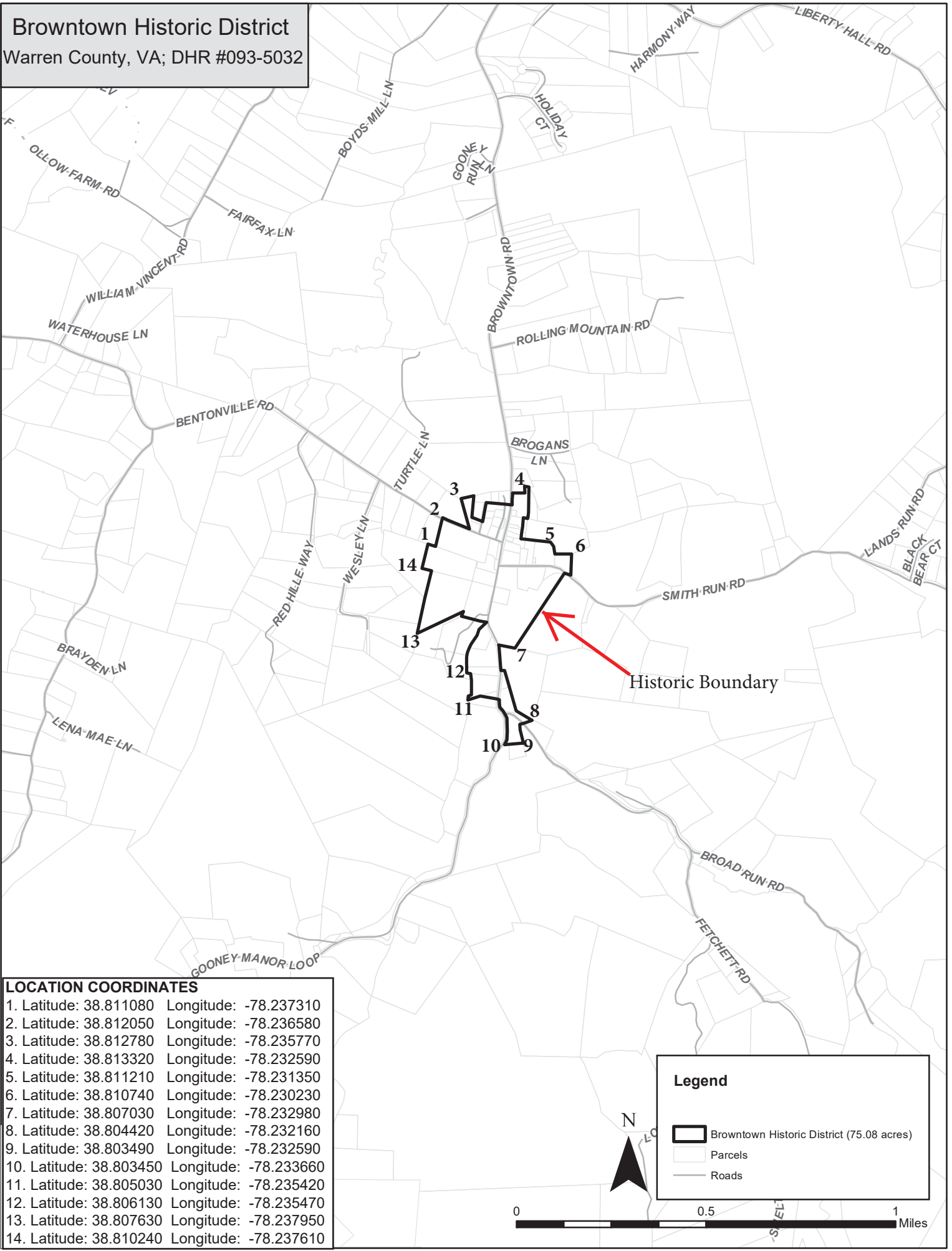
Date: 4/27/2021

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

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

LOCATION MAP

Browntown Historic District
Warren County, VA; DHR #093-5032

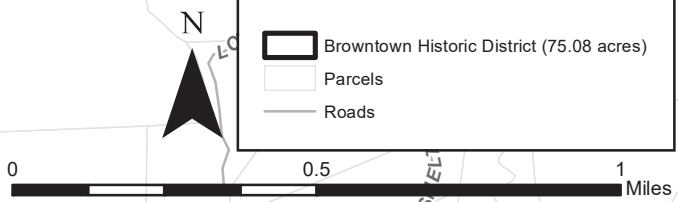


LOCATION COORDINATES

1. Latitude: 38.811080	Longitude: -78.237310
2. Latitude: 38.812050	Longitude: -78.236580
3. Latitude: 38.812780	Longitude: -78.235770
4. Latitude: 38.813320	Longitude: -78.232590
5. Latitude: 38.811210	Longitude: -78.231350
6. Latitude: 38.810740	Longitude: -78.230230
7. Latitude: 38.807030	Longitude: -78.232980
8. Latitude: 38.804420	Longitude: -78.232160
9. Latitude: 38.803490	Longitude: -78.232590
10. Latitude: 38.803450	Longitude: -78.233660
11. Latitude: 38.805030	Longitude: -78.235420
12. Latitude: 38.806130	Longitude: -78.235470
13. Latitude: 38.807630	Longitude: -78.237950
14. Latitude: 38.810240	Longitude: -78.237610

Legend

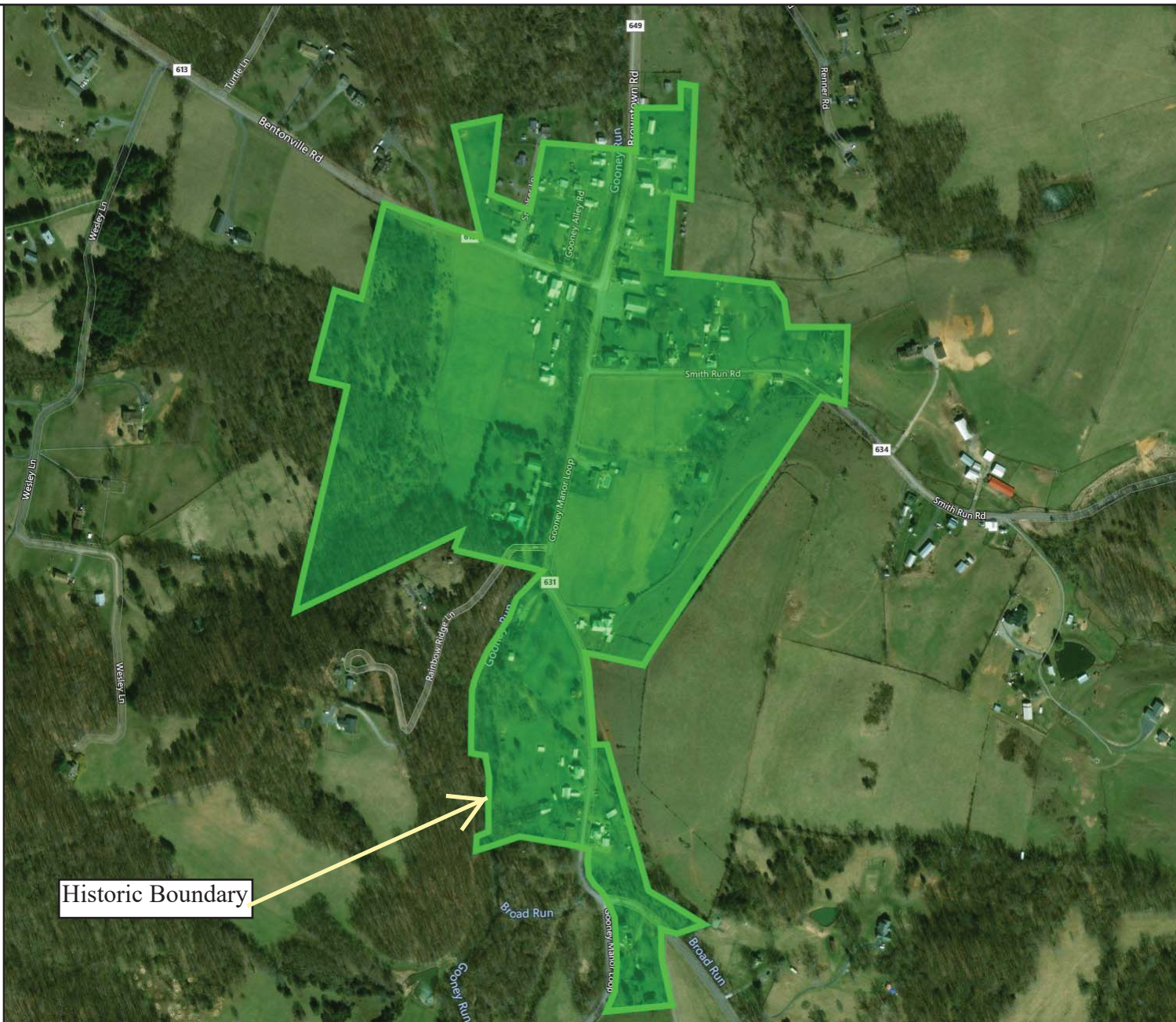
- Browntown Historic District (75.08 acres)
- Parcels
- Roads





AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Browntown Historic District
Warren County, VA
DHR No. 093-5032



Historic Boundary



Feet

0 200 400 600 800

1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

Title:

Date: 6/16/2021

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