Virginia Department of Historic Resources
PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the proposed district for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the district could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible.   A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

General Property Information

DHR ID #:   008-5025

District Name(s):   Warm and West Warm Springs Historic District

District or Selected Building Date(s):   ☐Circa ☐Pre ☐Post   Open to the Public?   ☐Yes ☐No

Main District Streets and/or Routes: Courthouse Hill Road; Old Mill Road; Old Germantown Road; Church Drive; Sam Snead Highway(Rt 220); Mountain Valley Road (Rt 39); West Warm Springs Drive   City: Warm Springs   Zip: 24484

County or Ind. City: Bath   USGS Quad(s):   Warm Springs

Physical Character of General Surroundings

Acreage: 722.67   Setting (choose one):   ☐City ☐Urban ☒Town ☐Suburban ☐Rural ☐Transportation Corridor

Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features/Streetscapes: The Village of Warm Springs and West Warm Springs are situated in the Warm Springs Valley in Northwest Bath County. Warm Springs is situated at the base of Warm Springs Mountain and West Warm Springs is situated at the base of Little Mountain to the west of Warm Springs.

Ownership Categories: ☒Private   ☒Public-Local   ☐Public-State   ☐Public-Federal

General District Information

What were the historical uses of the resources within the proposed district? Examples include: Dwelling, Store, Barn, etc…
Dwelling, Store, Courthouse, Post Office, Industry, Hotel, Church, Hotel, Mill

What are the current uses? (if other than the historical use)   Same

Architectural styles or elements of buildings within the proposed district: Early Republic/Federal; Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival; Late Victorian/Queen Anne; Craftsman; Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival; Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movments/Bungalow

Architects, builders, or original owners of buildings within the proposed district: T.J. Collins and Sons

Are there any known threats to this district?

General Description of District: (Please describe building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district and a general setting and/or streetscape description.)
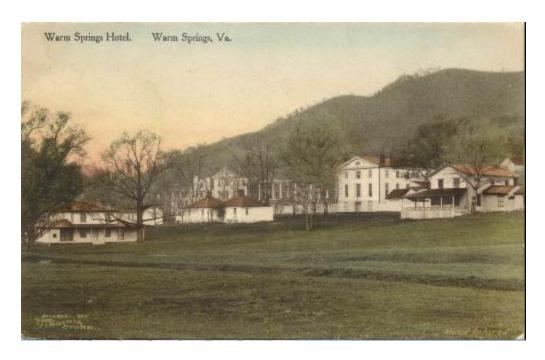
The Warm Springs and West Warm Spring HD is located in Bath County in the Warm Springs Valley of Virginia. It is sheltered by Warm Springs Mountain to the East and Little Mountain to the west. To the west of the village is West Warm Springs, a historically African American settlement. West Warm Springs is accessed via Route 39, the Mountain Valley Road and extends upward along the slopes of Little Mountain in an area known as Cowardin's Gap. Originally it contained one road that looped around the small settlement providing access at two different locations off of the Mountain Valley Road. Today the area is mostly residential. There are two churches and one cemetery located in West Warm Springs. Two commercial buildings exist down by the first entrance to the residential district along Mountain Valley Road or Route 39.

The proposed district will include the historic Warm Sulphur Springs resort area where the Warm Springs Baths and Cottages, the Warms Springs Inn and the Dairy Barn Complex are located. It will also stretch south to include buildings along Route 220, Sam Snead Highway with the boundary of the Oakley Property(DHR# 008-0040) as its southern terminus. The district will encompass all of the previously listed Oakley property and extend south to incorporate the Village of Warm Springs, historically Germantown before stretching west to include West Warm Springs.

Historically the Village centered on the Warm Sulphur Springs, a resort established in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. The resort included a large hotel, cottages and a warms spring pools. The hotel sat high on the hillside, north of the core Warms Spring Village. The main building of the hotel and most of the cottages are no longer extant. The only buildings left are the Warm Springs Pools: the Ladies and Gentleman's Baths and several of the cottages. The octagonal shaped men's and women's bathhouses portray a more rustic style with exterior board and batten siding and exposed rafter. Across Routh 39 from the baths and directly east is the Warm Springs Inn, which at one time acted as the first courthouse for Bath County. The building has been heavily altered over the years as it has been adapted for use as a small inn and restaurant. Just to the east of the old courthouse is a two-story, three-bay brick building that was used as the county jail. Just to the east of the Warm Springs Inn is the Warm Springs Cemetery.
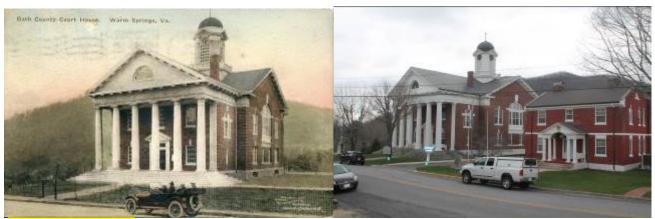

Edward Beyer Print, Warms Sulphur Springs Resort and Village, 1857

Ca. 1917 Postcard, Warm Springs Hotel

Heading south along Sam Snead Highway, just past the cemetery, is the former Homestead Dairy Barn Complex (DHR# 008-5026) and a bit further down the road is Three Hills estate (DHR#008-0050), both of these resources were previously listed in the National Register. Along the east and west side of Sam Snead Highway, heading south, is a mix of vernacular commercial and residential buildings dating from the late 19th century to mid-to-late 20th century. The small village core is accessed from Sam Snead Highway via Courthouse Hill Road. Courthouse Hill Road winds down a short distance to the "new" courthouse, constructed in 1912. The area around the courthouse is a mix of residential and commercial. The two-story, three-bay brick sheriff's residence (Currently the Sheriff's Office), ca. 1877, sits adjacent to the courthouse. Across the street from the courthouse is the former Warm Springs Bank Building (Currently the Library), constructed ca. 1913.

Ca. 1930c Post Card, Warm Springs Courthouse   March 2017 Photo, Warm Springs Courthouse

Further down the hill, Courthouse Hill Road intersects with Old Mill Road. Old Mill Road to the south follows the route of the Jackson River turnpike past Oakley. At the beginning of the Oakley property the road turns to gravel and is lined with stone walls. Along Old Mill Road heading north is again a mix of commercial and residential with the Old Webb store(DHR#008-0036)constructed in 1923, the post office building, dating to ca. 1958, Old Manse, which was constructed in the mid-to-late 19th century as the home for the pastor of Warm Springs Presbyterian Church.

March 2017, Warm Springs, Old Mill Road, Old Manse and the Post Office

Other dwellings include a few early to mid-19th century dwellings and the old mill complex. A mill is said to have occupied the site since the late 1700s. The mill on the site today is believed to have been constructed ca. 1901. Today it used as an inn and restaurant. Despite the change in use, the building maintains much of the interior mill works. Just past the Mill, Old Mill Road intersects with Old Germantown Road. At the southwest corner of Old Mill and Old Germantown road stands Hickman's Corner, a two-story, five-bay building that was constructed in ca. 1930 and originally used as Town Offices. The rest of Germantown Road which runs east to west is residential with a dwellings dating from the early 19th century to as late as the mid-20th century. One of the buildings along Germantown Road is the two-story, brick, Sheild's Tannery, which was constructed ca. 1830. Today the building has been converted for use as a residence. Other buildings along Old Germantown Road include The Chimneys, ca 1870(DHR#)and the ca. 1800 Anderson Cottage (Locustlyn, DHR# 008-0037).

The Chimneys, Early 20th-Century, Images of America,Arcadia Publishing

Warm Springs, Early 20th century, Images of America, Arcadia Publishing

Old Germantown loops north and intersects with Route 39, Mountain Valley Road. Just to the north and east of the Germantown Road's intersection with Mountain Valley Road, situated on a slight rise are Warm Springs Episcopal Church (Ca 1852)(DHR#008-009) and Warm Springs Presbyterian Church(Ca. 1855)(DHR#008-0010). Heading west from the intersection of Germantown Road, Route 39 winds through Cowardins Gap and to the small hamlet of West Warm Springs. West Warm Springs is located on the west side of Little Mountain. Formerly known as Shake Rag, it is historically an African-American community, most like established after the Civil War by emancipated slaves. Many of the African Americans that lived in West Warm Springs worked in Warm Springs, Hot Springs or for private families. There are only a few remaining historic buildings left in this area including previously listed John Wesley Church (DHR# 008-5030), Mount Pisgah Church, West Warm Springs Cemetery, and a few vernacular dwellings that likely date to the early 20th-century through the mid-to-late 20th century.

Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church, March 2016

West Warm Springs, 2016

Significance Statement: Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the proposed district. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Please list all sources of information. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

Warm Springs/West Warm Springs HD is being considered for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture with building styles that vary greatly and represent the Village's different stages of development. Styles represented in the district include Federal/Georgian transitional, Federal, Greek Revival and extend to Queen Anne, Colonial, a handful of American Foursquare and Craftsman Bungalows, portraying later eras of development.

The district is also being considered eligible under A for Social History and Ethnic History, African American for the West Warm Springs area which was first settled by newly emancipated slaves in hopes of finding work in the nearby resorts of Warm Springs, Hot Springs and Healing Springs. Also under A for: Recreation/Entertainment, for its association to the Warm Sulphur Springs resort that began in the early 19th century and continued to influence the development of the small village well into the later 19th century and early 20th century. It may also be considered eligible under A for Community Planning and Development because of the development of "Germantown", an area for more permanent residents and workers of the area.

Additional areas of significance may be determined with more research, including Transportation (Jackson River Turnpike) Education, Religion, Commerce)

The period of significance begins in ca.1800 and ends in 1967.

The area around Warm Springs was settled as early as the mid-18th-century. At the time it was located in Augusta County. The area was settled primarily by Scots-Irish and Germans from the north and by a few made their way from the Tidewater region. The first settlers of the region, ca. 1732 were John Lewis and his wife Margaret Lynn. Recognizing the commercial potential of the area, members of the Lewis family obtained land grants for this section of Augusta County. However, access to the area was limited. In order to get more visitors to the springs, a road was needed. In 1772, the Virginia legislature funded the early turnpike over the mountain to what is now Warm Springs. Development of the resort quickly followed.

Bath County formed in 1791 after many complaints from resident who would have to travel to Staunton to conduct county business. The Warm Sulphur Springs Hotel is constructed ca. 1800. Much of the early development of the first section of Warm Springs begins around the resort. The courthouse and jail is constructed nearby ca 1840. The area today that is the core village of Warm Springs was originally called Germantown. The name was given to the area when it was first settled, after the Revolutionary War, by former Hessian prisoners. Its development was precipitated by the popularity of the resort area to the north. It housed the more permanent residents of the area, many that worked at the resort. Along with residences, a mill was constructed and a tannery. The old mill was eventually replaced with the current one, ca.1908, in the same location. The tannery is still extant but has been converted into a dwelling. Other businesses began to open, lawyers established their practices there and Taverns provided lodging, food and beverages for residences and tourist alike in Germantown. It became a center for commerce and a community center for County residents.

Throughout the 19th century the Village continued to rely on tourists that frequented the resort, whether here in Warm Springs or a few miles south at the Hot Springs. Both areas continued to flourish, but for many years Warm Springs was the preeminent resort. Visitors could take the train to Millboro Depot. and take a stage the rest of the way to Warm Springs. The Colonnade Hotel was built by John and Margaret Lewis adjacent to the Warm Sulphur Springs. A larger hotel later replaced it. This resort soon became the most famous and fashionable of the many springs hotels spread across the spine of the Allegheny mountain range. It was the starting point for the summer social season at the mountain springs. The hotel grew and prospered

throughout the antebellum period with the arrival of the railroad to the Millboro Depot in the 1850s. The hotel was hosting over 6,000 visitors each year.

After the Civil War, the Warm Springs Hotel continued to attract Virginians seeking to "take the waters." However, the owners of the resort chose not to modernize the hotel. There were no electric lights, no heating (other than fireplaces), no modern plumbing and no telephones. In the early 20th century, the resort is being managed by Mrs. John L. Eubanks. An ad from the Times Dispatch in Richmond in 1910 promotes that the "White Sulphur Springs" the "famous resort with the most delightful bath in America is now open for guests." Despite promoting the resort it eventually closed in 1924 and was demolished in 1925.

Post emancipation, the small hamlet of West Warm Springs begins to develop as an African American community with individuals seeking work at the nearby resorts. Exercising their new freedoms, members of the community establish two different churches. The John Wesley Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery (DHR# 008-5030) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. The church was established in 1878 by the trustees of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Anson Perkins, Israel Fortune, William Kenny, Henry Long and Henry Pettus. The land was conveyed to the trustees for one dollar from William M. McAllister and Maggie E. McAllister. Another church, Mt. Pisgah Baptist, was established around the same time as the John Wesley Chapel. Both churches are still extant. The early homes that were constructed in this neighborhood would have been crude log dwellings until they could afford to build more substantial houses. After looking through both census records and obituaries from late 19th century through much of the 20th century, the relationship or the connection between Warm Springs and once segregated West Warm Springs becomes evident. The occupations of those living in West Warm Springs include, bellboy, golf caddy, laundress, waiter, bath attendant to name just a few.

Headstone for Charles Bolden, West Warm Springs Cemetery, Find A Grave.

Headstone For Annie Crawford, West Warm Springs, Find A Grave.

Charles Bolden was born in Albemarle Co in 1852 and came to the area to work as a carriage driver for the resort at Hot Springs. Charles married Lizzie Morris who was born in 1872. Lizzie was born on the same farm her mother, Anne Crawford Lindsay Morris had been previously enslaved. Lizzie would become well known for her sewing abilities and making fashionable clothing for the well –to-do in Bath County. She would also make clothing for her community and family. Lizzie's Great Granddaughter Perlista Henry continues to live in West Warm Springs today. Lizzies work has been highlighted in recent years because some of her textiles still exist and it is rare to find extant examples of the work of an African American artisan in Appalachia.

Also buried at West Warm Springs is Annie Lindsay Crawford Morris, born into slavery in 1831 at Fort Dinwiddie in Bath County. Members of the West Warm Springs Community were soldiers in World War I and World II. Robert Cardwell is buried in the West Warm Springs Cemetery. He was the Pastry Chef for the Homestead for 34 years.

The residents of West Warm Springs, segregated from Warm Springs, continued into the early 20th century, the era of Jim Crow, as a united community. It became a center for African Americans in this area of Appalachia. In a 1902 article, in the Highland Recorder, states that a group of African Americans from around Bath County "held a meeting in Shake Rag" to discuss the "raising of funds to fight the new Constitution." The article goes on to state "the meeting was largely attended." The 1902 Virginia Constitution significantly reduced what rights African Americans did have to participate in election process. Despite the decline of the Warm Springs Hotels, the residents of West Warm Springs persevered and took jobs in other nearby resorts, worked at local farms or worked for local residents.

As the Warm Springs Hotel declined, Germantown was emerging as an active community. In 1908, after much debate, a new courthouse was built in Germantown---effectively moving the community center to the thriving village and away from the resort area. This courthouse was destroyed by fire in 1912 and a replacement, designed by T.J. Collins and Sons, was built on it footprint. The courthouse opened in 1914 and continues as the Bath County Courthouse today. Eventually, with America's entry into World War I, Germantown was judged to no longer be a suitable name for the village. It was renamed Warm Springs, now encompassing the old resort area and what had been the village of Germantown.

Much of 1914 Warm Springs remains today. The Bath Houses at the Warm Springs Pools continue to welcome thousands of visitors each year. Gibson Cottage, the old Hotel's caretaker's cottage, stands awaiting badly needed restoration. The barns and associated buildings of the old Homestead Dairy have been beautifully rehabilitated. The old grist mill is now home to a restaurant and inn. Oakley Farm sits at the southern edge of the village on the old road to Hot Springs. Mary Johnston's home, Three Hills, although suffering from neglect, still stands above the village. The old bank building now houses the library. The Historical Society is located in a former law office building. The charming tree-lined Old Germantown Road continues to be the site of some of the village's oldest structures.

The integrity of the district is excellent, especially in the area of Warm Springs. West Warm Springs has undergone the most changes. Although some of the dwellings date from the early to mid-20th century, many of the houses were demolished in the 1990s after the county received funds from HUD. The stipulation for the grant stated that owner occupied residences could have new houses built, while those who owned and rented their property out, could only have their property rehabbed for the installation of sewer and water. Unbelievably, sewer and water were added for the first time in 1996 in the area of West Warm Springs. Although the integrity of the architecture is lacking, the cohesiveness, the layout of the streets, and the existing resources that date from the Period of Significance adequately represent the significant history of this neighborhood and allows for interpretation of its connection to Warm Springs as whole.

Sponsor (Individual and/or organization, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr. ☐ Ms. ☐ _____
(Name)

_____
(Address)   (City)   (State)   (Zip Code)

_____
(Email Address)   (Daytime telephone including area code)

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

Contact person: _____

Daytime Telephone: (   )

Applicant Information (Individual completing form)

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐
Ms. ☐ Miss ☐ _____
(Name)   (Firm)

_____
(Address)   (City)   (State)   (Zip Code)

_____
(Email Address)   (Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: _____   Date: _____

Notification
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Dr. ☐
Miss ☐ Ms. ☐ Hon. ☐ _____
(Name)   (Position)

_____
(Locality)   (Address)

_____
(City)   (State)   (Zip Code)   (Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this district.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes ☐   No ☐
Would you be interested in the easement program?   Yes ☐   No ☐