# EXAMPLE



# FAIRFAX COUNTY INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

# DISTRICT NOMINATION FORM

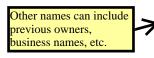
# <u>PART 1</u>

To be considered for listing in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites by the Fairfax County History Commission, a property must *meet one or more* of the following criteria (check all that apply):

- □ Exemplify the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the county, state or nation;
- □ Be the site of a significant historical event or pattern of events;
- □ Be identified with a person or group of persons who influenced society;
- □ Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of design or construction;
- □ Represent the work of a master craftsman, architect, designer, or builder;
- □ Possess high artistic value;
- □ Represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components are significant as a group;
- □ Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, archaeological information important in history or prehistory;
- □ Represent an established and familiar visual feature of a neighborhood, community, or the county that serves as a focus of community identity and pride; or
- □ Represent an aspect of heritage considered important by a discrete population, ethnic group, or community.

## <u>PART 2</u>

- 1. NAME OF THE DISTRICT:
  - A. Historic or traditional name:
  - B. Other name(s)/site number(s) (if applicable):



Each criteria marked must be addressed in the

omination

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites – District Nomination Form

#### 2. LOCATION:

Provide a description of the boundaries of the district. Also attach a numbered list of all properties in the district. (*This list should include the street address and Fairfax County Tax Map reference numbers for all properties with names of owners of record. This information is necessary for staff to properly map and record the district and to identify and locate properties during the planning and development review process. This information is available from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration's Web site at http://icare.fairfaxcounty.gov/Main/Home.aspx.)* 

## 3. FAIRFAX COUNTY SUPERVISOR DISTRICT(S):

4. NAME(S) OF HOMEOWNER, NEIGHBORHOOD, OR COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION(S) IN THE PROPOSED DISTRICT (if applicable. If there are none, please indicate it below):

Provide name(s) and address(es) of contact person(s).

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites – District Nomination Form

#### 5. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF PROPERTY OWNERS:

Property owners within the district must be informed that this application has been prepared and submitted for consideration. Refer to the lists in numbers 2 and 4 and indicate when and how owners and associations were contacted.

o YES o NO

#### 6. GENERAL DATA FOR THE DISTRICT:

A. Types of properties located within the district (buildings, structures, objects and/or sites):

- B. Date range of district and sources:
- C. Approximate area or acreage:
- D. Architects or Builders (if known):
- E. Original or historical use(s) of properties:
- F. Present use(s) of properties:
- G. Date range of significance:

Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites - District Nomination Form

#### 7. GENERAL DESCRIPTION:

Attach a narrative description of building patterns and types, general architectural quality, building materials and prominent details. The description should also address the general setting and any landscape features. Provide a list of properties in alphabetical order by street name. For each property provide a brief description, date of construction, and indicate if it contributes to the character of the district. Information should be submitted on typed, consecutively numbered 8  $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" sheets, as necessary.

#### 8. SIGNIFICANCE AND HISTORY:

Choose the criteria of significance from the list in Part 1 and explain why the district meets the chosen criteria. More than one criterion may be chosen, however each must then be explained. Describe the history of the district and why the district is important in the history of Fairfax County, the state, and/or the nation. Note any significant features, events, personages and/or families associated with the district. Include the time periods or dates associated with the significance of the district. Please cite all sources of information. Information should be submitted on typed, consecutively numbered  $8 \frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" sheets, as necessary.

#### 9. SOURCES:

Provide a list of all sources consulted to gather information on the district (a bibliography). Information should be submitted on typed, consecutively numbered  $8 \frac{1}{2}$ " x 11" sheets, as necessary.

#### 10. MAPS:

A County Parcel Identification Map showing the precise location of the boundaries of the district must be provided. A map showing the locations of individual properties within the district must also be provided. Specific locations of archaeological sites should not be shown.

#### 11. PHOTOGRAPHS:

Provide black and white or color photographs of the exterior of each contributing property located within the district as well as general views and streetscapes.

Identification should describe the property view in the photograph (i.e. north side of 123 Main Street) and the date of the image. 35mm photographs should be identified on the reverse *in pencil* and should *not be mounted or affixed* in any way. Digital photos should be printed and identified and a CD submitted with the photo files in TIFF or JPEG format. A numbered photo log (list) may be submitted with photos in place of individual identification; however each photo should then be numbered.

12. APPLICANT (the person or persons who prepared this form)

By submitting this nomination, I hereby state that all original information and images produced for this nomination and submitted herewith may be used and/or republished by Fairfax County and its agencies for informational, educational or any other County-related purposes.

Name:

Address:

City / State/ Zip Code:

Daytime Telephone and E-Mail:

APPLICANT'S SIGNATURE:\_\_\_\_\_\_DATE:\_\_\_\_\_

Please submit this application with accompanying materials and documentation to:

Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning Planning Division Heritage Resource staff 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 730 Fairfax, VA 22035

Staff will review the application for completeness. Adequate nominations will be submitted to the History Commission for consideration to add the district to the Inventory of Historic Sites.



To request reasonable ADA accommodations, call the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning, 703-324-1380, TTY 711 (Virginia Relay).

Describe the location. the site and the setting.

detail.

section

buildings

This

the

in the

district

# 7. GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Tinner Hill residential neighborhood is located partly in Fairfax County and partly in the City of Falls Church. Tinner Hill is west of VA Route 649/Annandale Road and south of VA Route 29/Lee Highway (Washington Street in the City of Falls Church), where Tinner Hill Road extends south from Lee Highway into the county for about one block. The road slopes downhill to end in a cul-de-sac. The neighborhood does not front on Lee Highway, but is surrounded on the north, west and east by commercial properties, and at the south by Tripps Run. The entire neighborhood covers approximately 2.5 acres; the section in the county includes approximately 2.235 acres, excluding public easements.

Tinner Hill includes a total of seven houses on Tinner Hill Road. The northernmost two houses Start with on the east side of the street (107 and 109) are in the City of Falls Church and not detailed in this a summary description / homination. Many of the homes sit above street level. Houses line both sides of the street, while of the the properties on the cul-de-sac are vacant land with a wooded area to the south. Also on the culentire de-sac is the driveway for a house that sits west of the district (120). The vegetation in the resource neighborhood is generally limited to smaller ornamental plantings at individual houses. A heritage resource park is being developed on the land at 106-108 Tinner Hill Road where two houses previously stood. Continue with more

The existing houses exhibit a mix of vernacular American architecture styles from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. They are generally one-and-a-half or two-story frame houses with additions. Any outbuildings have not been documented. Construction dates of the houses listed highlights in the resource inventory below are estimated from dates in the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration database, real estate tax records and deeds, and may require further research for accuracy. Property lines and addresses have changed over the years; the list below reflects current addresses as of August 2015. = Contributing

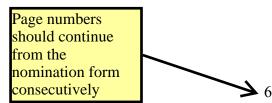
being nominated	RESOURCE INVENTORY Address	Name of r
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106(part)--108 Tinner Hill Rd

NC = Non-contributingproperty is Date Significance esource structure Tinner Hill Historic Site: -106 picnic shelter 2014 NC NC -106 zig zag sculpture 2014 -108 potential archaeological site ca. 1901 C

These two parcels are currently being developed together into a heritage park. Part of 106 is located in the City of Falls Church, including the site of the former Melvin Tinner house. It has not been evaluated for archaeological potential. 108 is the site of the former Joseph Tinner house with a moderate potential for archaeological findings.

110 Tinner Hill Rd С house ca. 1901 Two-story, three-bay, wood frame I-house with vertical wood siding, large addition at rear, and enclosed front porch.



any building, object, or which adds to the historical integrity or architectural qualities that make the district significant. A Non-contribu ting property is one that does not, but still falls within district boundaries.

contributing

111 Tinner Hill Rdhouseca. 1936NCOne-and-a-half story gable-front wood frame bungalow with asbestos shingle siding, enclosedfront porch with four tapered piers supporting porch roof, and sizable addition at rear.NC

113 Tinner Hill Rdhouseca. 1911CSmall two-story, two-bay I-house with enclosed porch and addition at rear. First floor is brick atsides, with frame second floor.

114 Tinner Hill Rdhouseca. 1911CTwo-story, gable-front, wood frame house with vertical wood siding, large additions extending<br/>at rear and one side, and enclosed front porch.C

115 Tinner Hill Rd Vacant lot. Site of forme	vacant lot r Tinner family house.	N/A	NC <sup>1</sup>
117 Tinner Hill Rd	vacant lot	N/A	$NC^2$

Vacant lot.

118 Tinner Hill Rdhouseca. 1911CTwo-story, gable-front, wood frame house with vertical wood siding, small saltbox-roofedaddition extending at one side, and enclosed front porch.C

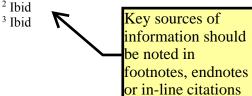
119 Tinner Hill Rd	vacant lot	N/A	$NC^3$
Vacant lot.			

This address is comprised of two lots: the first lot is inside the district and contains an entrance drive to a second lot, which is outside the district and contains a 1998 house (not original Tinner land). The lot inside the district is the site of a former Tinner family house.

As well as the land in Fairfax County that is covered by this nomination, there are additional resources in the City of Falls Church that are also commonly associated with the neighborhood: the houses at 107 and 109 Tinner Hill Road; the Tinner Hill Arch monument at the northwest corner of Lee Highway and Tinner Hill Street; and the Henderson House at 307 S. Maple Street.

In this example, the district was nominated for its association with the heritage of a group of people and not necessarily the architecture, so it was not necessary to describe each building. If you are nominating a district for its architecture, please describe each building, site, or structure. Note changes from original appearance.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Archaeological sites are not considered contributing to a district until there has been a formal study and artifacts found. Since this site has not been studied, it is not contributing.



Inventory of Historic Sites Nomination - Tinner Hill District

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE AND HISTORY

Tinner Hill is being nominated under four criteria:

- State the importance of the resource based on the criterion chosen in Part 1.
- As an African-American community that developed after the Civil War and remains today, the district exemplifies the cultural, economic, social, political, or historic heritage of the county;
- It represents an aspect of heritage considered important by a discrete population, ethnic group, or community;
- Although the house at 108 Tinner Hill Road is now gone, it was the site of a significant historical event or pattern of events as the location of the founding of the Colored Persons Protection League (CCPL), which later became the first rural chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in the United States. This group fought for African-American property rights in the area; and
- Joseph Tinner, one of the CCPL's leaders, owned the house at 108 Tinner Hill Road. He played a central role in the group and became its first president. As such, he is a person who influenced society.

The period of significance for the district is from 1890 to 1928, beginning at the date Charles Tinner first purchased the property and ending at the date of Joseph Tinner's death.

## Background

Describe the history leading up to the construction or use of the resource. The name of the area called Tinner Hill was derived from the ownership of land by the Tinner family, and the rise on which it sits. Charles Harrison Tinner purchased two-and-a-half acres of land in 1890 that includes the Tinner Hill Inventory District. Tinner and his sons were stone masons known locally for their work with pink granite. His son Joseph Tinner became a well-known local civil rights leader and helped organize the first rural branch of the NAACP at his house at Tinner Hill. Much of the Tinner Hill Inventory District is in the ownership of Charles H. Tinner's descendants today.

## The Civil War and African Americans in the Falls Church Area

Falls Church was a small unincorporated village in Fairfax and Alexandria counties (now Arlington) at the time of the Civil War. While area residents voted for secession from the Union, written accounts indicate that white and black residents lived side by side as "friends and neighbors," and that race relations were better than average.<sup>4,5</sup> During the war, an interracial town guard, also known as a home guard, assembled to help protect village residents and their property from being destroyed by soldiers.

Even with the local home guards in place, the war brought about destruction of land and property throughout Virginia, resulting in depreciated land values. Land became inexpensive to acquire, and whites generally were not opposed to freed African Americans legally purchasing it if they

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Steadman, 206.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Gernand, A Virginia Village Goes to War, 234.

could afford it.<sup>6</sup> Because of the economic hardships that faced many freedmen after emancipation, they viewed land ownership as an "ultimate symbol of undeniable freedom."<sup>7</sup>

An influx of Northerners also took advantage of these low land prices and purchased large areas of cheap land. Many of them subdivided and resold their land at reasonable prices to freedmen, which helped freedmen to acquire land and establish communities.<sup>8</sup> Even before the war, some Northerners were relocating south for the better weather and lower land prices.

John S. Crocker was one of these Northerners. Crocker was a Union general from New York who had roots in Fairfax County, having lived here for several years early in his life.<sup>9</sup> By 1859, Crocker had acquired over 100 acres south of the village of Falls Church.<sup>10</sup> His wife spent part of the war in Falls Church, as evidenced by letters postmarked to her there. Crocker had purportedly begun acquiring depleted land during and after the war in several areas of Fairfax County with the intention of reselling the land to African Americans.<sup>11</sup> During the period in which he sold his land south of Falls Church after the war, the area developed into a freedmen's community with several churches and a school being established. This area today includes Tinner Hill, the Southgate Subdivision, James Lee Elementary School, Galloway Methodist Church, Second Baptist Church, and Third Baptist Church.<sup>12</sup>

By 1904, the "colored settlement" had developed into a community, as described by Charles Stewart in his book *A Virginia Village: Historical Sketch of Falls Church and the Old Colonial Church*:

The colored people have a settlement a short distance south of the town limits, consisting of probably a hundred cottages with a population of between four and five hundred. They have a school building and three churches and many of the little cottages and surroundings indicate industry and thrift in the occupants.<sup>13</sup>

No specific neighborhood names were given in this account. However, other sources name three distinct neighborhoods: The Hill (sometimes called Baptist Hill), Southgate Subdivision, and Gravel Bank.<sup>14</sup> These neighborhoods did not physically include Tinner Hill. While it was not mentioned in any of these accounts, it is feasible that Tinner Hill was known by name shortly after the Tinners moved there.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Wolf, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Wolf, 17.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Wolf, 20-21.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Virginia Heritage.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Fairfax County Deed Book C-4, 9.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Netherton, et al. Fairfax County, Virginia: A History, p. 449

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> James Lee Elementary School and Second Baptist Church are individually listed in the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Stewart, 21-22.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Wolf, 39-40. Gravel Bank was at West Falls Church.

## **Reconstruction and Civil Rights**

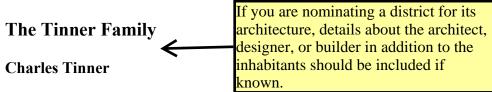
In 1875, Falls Church became an incorporated town. The boundaries included areas of land taken from both Fairfax and Alexandria counties.<sup>15</sup> At this time, more than one third of the town's voters were African American, and more than half of those voters lived at the southern end of Falls Church.<sup>16</sup>

In 1887, the town changed its boundaries to cut out areas of the town with a high number of Republican voters. At this time most African Americans were Republicans (the party of Abraham Lincoln). As a result, a large area at the south end of the town was rescinded to Fairfax County, including most of the colored settlement. While it is clear that African Americans were targeted and pushed out as voters, it is unclear if Republicans as a whole were also targeted in an attempt by Democrats to control town politics.<sup>17</sup>

In 1912, a Virginia state act allowed localities to establish segregated residential districts for white and colored people. Falls Church adopted the legislation in 1914 and was met with protests. Edwin B. Henderson called a meeting of leading black citizens of Falls Church to oppose the ordinance, and the Colored Citizens Protective League (CCPL) was organized. Joseph B. Tinner was elected as the organization's first president. The meeting where the group was formed took place at Tinner's residence at 108 Tinner Hill Road.

The CCPL wrote letters, hired lawyers, and spoke at town council meetings opposing the segregation district legislation. Although the districts remained in place, they were never enforced due to the opposition led by this group.

The organization of the CCPL by engaged, professional African-American citizens was a notable achievement in a time when blacks were facing segregation laws nationwide. That they were able to intimidate town officials into not enforcing the enacted legislation is impressive. The group often met at the home of Joseph Tinner.<sup>18</sup> By 1918, this group became the first rural branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP).<sup>19</sup>



Charles Harrison Tinner was born in the late 1840s in Middleburg, Virginia. It is unclear exactly when Tinner came to the Falls Church area. An interview in 1975 with one of his granddaughters

<sup>18</sup> "Tinner Hill Historic Site," 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Falls Church did not become an independent city until 1948.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Buczkowska, 8.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The most referenced source for this information is an interview with civil rights activist Edwin B. Henderson in 1962 where he referred to the boundary change as "just a simple case of gerrymandering." Wrenn, 30. From TheFreeDictionary.com, the definition of gerrymandering is "to divide (a geographic area) into voting districts in a way that gives one party an unfair advantage in elections." However, some sources describe the boundary change action as an attempt to specifically push out African Americans (Buczkowska, 8).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Netherton, Falls Church: A Virginia Village Revisited, 85.

indicates he was an emancipated slave.<sup>20</sup> During the Civil War, he served in the Virginia Home Guard, though it's unclear where.<sup>21</sup>

Tinner was married in about 1868 to Elizabeth Hyson from Falls Church, who is also noted in records as both Mary E. and Eliza. They had eleven children together between 1869 and 1890 (Caroline, John, Charles, Joseph, Harriet, Melvin, Harrison, Luberta, Frances, Emma, and Winston).<sup>22</sup>

By 1871, the Tinners must have lived in or near Falls Church in order to attend Watkins Chapel (now Galloway Methodist Church), which Charles Tinner had joined that year. The Tinners were active members of the church. By 1880, census records show the Tinners living in Arlington.<sup>23 24</sup>

In 1890, Tinner purchased two-and-a-half acres of property in the Falls Church area.<sup>25</sup> The boundary between the town of Falls Church and Fairfax County sliced through the northern part of his property. Real estate tax records show no buildings taxed on Tinner's property until 1896, so it is likely he built his house about 1895 (it still exists today at 107 Tinner Hill Road, City of Falls Church).<sup>26</sup>

Tinner was a skilled stone mason, builder and well digger, occupations that were passed down to his sons. The Tinners quarried stone from a quarry just west of Charles Tinner's property that was owned by the Tripp family. The quarry became known locally for its veins of pink granite.

The Tinners are credited for using the pink stone in buildings in the Falls Church area. Although none of those buildings remain standing today, some building foundations and fireplaces are attributed to the Tinners. Oral tradition indicates their building specialty was the Gothic arch. It is speculated that Charles Tinner may have had a crew of men working for him as stone masons and well diggers.<sup>27</sup>

## Joseph B. Tinner

Joseph Burnett Tinner, a son of Charles H. Tinner, was born about 1873. He was also a stone mason, builder, and well digger. According to local tradition, Joseph was a prominent and influential individual, and a powerful orator. In 1900, he was elected as sergeant-at-arms of the newly formed interracial Falls



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Wolf, 41.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> United States General Index to Pension files, 1861-1934.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Census records.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> 1880 United States Federal Census.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Charles Tinner's granddaughter Elmira Lee Brent indicated in 1979 that the family had lived at Hyson, which was located just east of the current East Falls Church Metro Station. Brent, Interview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Deed book K-5, 33. The previous owners of the land were also African Americans who had previously acquired the property from John Crocker. Deed book B-5, 500 and 523; I-5, 124.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Stories indicate Tinner built himself a large brick house since he was a stone mason, but his house at Tinner Hill is not brick.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Wolf, 41.

Church Republican Committee.<sup>28</sup> Along with Edwin B. Henderson and other black activists, Joseph formed the Colored Persons Protection League at a meeting in his house at 108 Tinner Hill Road in 1914 and served as the group's first president. This organization became the first rural branch of the NAACP by 1918.

## Harrison R. Tinner

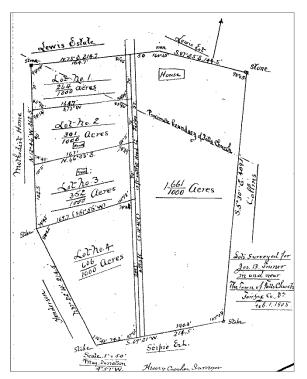
Also a son of Charles H. Tinner, Harrison R. Tinner was born about 1876. He was also a stone mason, and was involved in the NAACP branch with his brother Joseph. Harrison was elected a member of the branch's executive committee in 1921. After moving to the Merrifield area, he became involved in local politics and was elected treasurer of Fairfax County's Lee District Road Board in 1927.<sup>29</sup>

# **Tinner Hill**

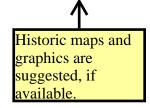
Seven houses exist at Tinner Hill today, five of which are in Fairfax County (110, 111, 113, 114, and 118 Tinner Hill Road). At one point there were eleven houses in the neighborhood (1946). However, several houses fell into disrepair over the years and were demolished.

Charles Tinner purchased his land in 1890, and his house at 107 Tinner Hill Road was likely built about 1895. According to oral tradition, Tinner allowed his children to build houses on his twoand-a-half acre property even before lots were formally granted to each of them. Therefore, it is difficult to estimate the progression of exactly when each house was built based on deeds or tax records, as Tinner was taxed in one lump sum for the buildings on his entire property until at least 1915. Additionally, some of those houses are no longer in existence and property lines were reconfigured after 1935.

In 1905, Charles's son Joseph purchased a small lot from him. At this time a plat was drawn up and the west side of Charles's property was divided into four lots. Joseph bought Lot 2, where there was already a house standing at the time (formerly 108 Tinner Hill Road). The plat also shows a house on Lot 3, now 110 Tinner Hill Road. Building taxes increased in 1902 and then



Plat from 1905 deed of lot from Charles H. Tinner and wife to Joseph B. Tinner. Deed Book K-7, 79.



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> "Falls Church", *Fairfax Herald*, Sept 28, 1900, 3.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> "Gallows Road," Fairfax Herald, September 9, 1927, 5.

remained the same, so it is likely these two houses were built by 1902.<sup>30</sup>

In 1911, Charles Tinner's building taxes rose dramatically, indicating a number of houses must have been built, but it is unclear how many since several are now gone. It can be speculated that the following houses may have been built between 1911 and 1915: 106 (was in the town and is now gone), 109 (currently in the city and is still standing) 111 (demolished by 1935), 113, 114, 115 (now gone) and 118.

It wasn't until after Charles Tinner died in 1917 that his property was formally divided into eleven lots and ownership transferred to his children and grandchildren (except Joseph, who already owned Lot 2).<sup>31</sup> His will was not recorded until 1924 and did not include a plat.

Joseph Tinner died in 1928. For many years after his death, his property at 108 was noted as being held by his estate.

In 1935, a deed was drawn up to clarify the distribution of property in Charles Tinner's will. This deed clarified the heirs of his Tinner Hill land and included a plat of the east side of his property. The deed indicates that the heirs, his children and grandchildren, already held the lots. The street depicted on the plat was also formally established as a right-of-way. Property tax records from that year show all of the heirs paying taxes individually, assumedly on the Tinner Hill lots. At that time, all of the eleven lots were taxed for buildings except 111 and 119. Two years later, a 1937 aerial photograph shows a house at 111.

A Sanborn Fire Insurance map from January 1946 shows the lots drawn differently than the previous deeds, and depicts eleven houses in the neighborhood. A 1960 county property map shows the lots retaining these boundaries.

By the 1960s, Joseph Tinner's house at 108 had fallen into disrepair and was demolished. The houses at 106 and 120 were also gone by 1968. Photos show that the neighborhood had many trees through the 1960s up until the early 1980s. After this time, much of the large vegetation west of the street seems to have been cleared.

The current cul-de-sac was not present on county property maps until 1983. Aerial photos show that this may have just been a dirt turnaround or parking area, possibly created by the residents. By 1990, it had been greatly enlarged and paved into the cul-de-sac seen today. While this clearly changed the character of the neighborhood by paving over once open space, no houses existed on the surrounding properties by this time.

In 1997, the Tinner Hill Heritage Foundation was formed to preserve the early civil rights history of Falls Church and vicinity. In the early 2000s, the foundation negotiated with Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church to purchase the properties at 106 and 108 Tinner Hill Road and develop them into a heritage park recognizing the history of the civil rights movement in the area. By this time the two properties had been sold out of the Tinner family. The park was

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> The City of Falls Church database shows 1896 as the date built of the house at 109 Tinner Hill Road, but it does not appear on the plat.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Will Book 10, 378, with 1935 clarification of division of property at Deed Book V-11, 383.

approved in 2014 and is being developed and operated by NOVA Parks (formerly Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority) in conjunction with the foundation. The zig zag sculpture located at the site, installed in 2014, was built with pink granite and signifies the boundary between Fairfax County and the City of Falls Church.

A timeline is not necessary in this section, but it is a good way to organize a history of events. Today five houses remain in the Fairfax County portion of the neighborhood (107 and 109 are in the City of Falls Church). Driving down Tinner Hill Road reveals a glimpse into the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in a rapidly developing area. Large mixed-use developments are underway in the City of Falls Church adjacent to Tinner Hill, and there is increasing pressure for development. Tinner Hill remains as an example of a middle class African-American neighborhood that developed after the Civil War, and continues to honor its connection to civil rights activism in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century.

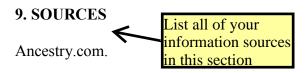
# Archaeological potential

Point out areas where there may be potential for new research.

To date, the proposed Tinner Hill Inventory District has not been comprehensively surveyed for archaeological resources. Broadly speaking, the proposed Tinner Hill Historic District possesses a low to moderate potential for archaeological deposits. However, one previously recorded archaeological site occurs within the district boundaries. Additionally, the proposed district boundaries encompass relatively undeveloped areas considered to possess greater archaeological potential.

106-108 Tinner Hill Road (VDHR #44FX2415). The house where Joseph Tinner lived has been demolished and partly developed as a commemorative park. Nonetheless, the site retains a moderate archaeological potential for intact structural features associated with the original building. Because of the limited occupation of the property, even if disturbance has eliminated archaeological features and vertical integrity, artifacts within the site can be directly attributed to the Tinner period. Accordingly, it is considered very possible that the site could yield information important to understanding a middle-class, African-American community during the late-nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Should any archaeological features such as trash dumps and/or privies remain extant, the site could prove highly illustrative of a historically under-documented class of individuals.<sup>32</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> Sperling, Archaeological Assessment.



Bachtel, Susan. "Turner/ Lee/ Rees/ House," Falls Church Historical News and Notes. (Falls Church, VA: The Falls Church Village Preservation and Improvement Society, 1993). Originally published in *Falls Church, Virginia Historical News & Notes*, Vol. I, No. 6 and Vol. II, No. 1. (Falls Church, VA: The Falls Church History Committee of the Pioneer America Society, Inc., Nov 1971 and Jan 1972).

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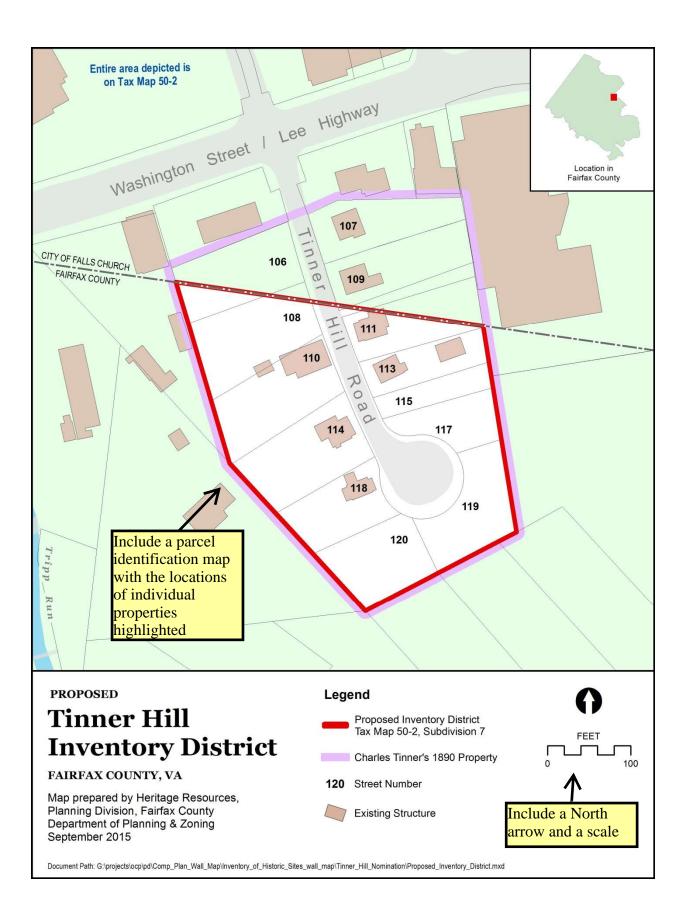
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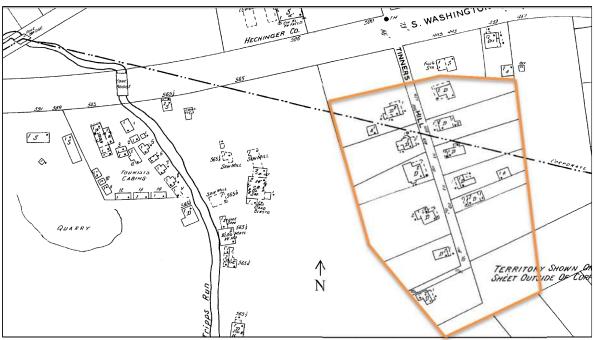
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Tinner Hill (outlined in orange) on a January 1946 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map. Tripps quarry can be seen to the left (the tourist cabins were built by the 1930s). Courtesy Library of Congress.



1937 aerial photograph of Tinner Hill with current county parcel lines overlaid. Fairfax County GIS.

# 11. PHOTOGRAPHS

Be as thorough as you can with maps and graphics. You will also provide copies of photos to staff for our records.

All photographs were taken in December 2014 by the author unless otherwise indicated



Tinner Hill neighborhood general view, looking southeast on Tinner Hill Road toward cul-de-sac.



Charles Tinner's house at 107 Tinner Hill Road, City of Falls Church. West elevation.

> Provide the building name or location, view and date the photo was taken. For historical photographs, please provide the source of the image.



111 Tinner Hill Road, west elevation.



113 Tinner Hill Road, northwest corner.



110 Tinner Hill Road, southeast corner.



114 Tinner Hill Road, southeast corner.



118 Tinner Hill Road, southeast corner.



Cul-de-sac looking southeast.



Signs at 106-108 Tinner Hill Road marking commemorative park.