

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home

Other names/site number: Pleasant Shade; VDHR #073-0030

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: 4162 Lockett Road/Route 619

City or town: Rice State: VA County: Prince Edward

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national ___ statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A X B X C ___ D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date</p>
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<p>In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ 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>7</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>7</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Hall-Chamber, with additions

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: WOOD; BRICK; STONE

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 Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home (also known as Pleasant Shade) is located in an agricultural area of Prince Edward County, north of the village of Rice and about ten miles east of the Town of Farmville, Virginia. The former farmstead encompasses 246 acres with a varied landscape that includes a yard area immediately around the buildings, open fields and dense woods. There are two primary resources: the main house and kitchen-quarter building. The c.1820-1840 kitchen-quarter is the building in which Moton lived as a boy. It stands in derelict condition facing the side of the main house 45 feet away. The main house grew in at least four stages, the third perhaps about the time the kitchen-quarter was remodeled from a pre-Revolutionary War hall-chamber house. The kitchen-quarter has been subject to dendrochronology testing that suggests at least part of it dates from 1746, which would make it among the oldest surviving buildings in the Prince Edward County area.¹ The historic outbuildings include an icehouse (c. 1890), a corn crib (c. 1900), a barn/stable (c. 1900), a poultry house (c. 1930), and a vehicle storage building (c. 1920-1950). There are two non

¹ Colonial Williamsburg Foundation employed the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory to recover and study samples from the kitchen-quarter in 2005. Surprisingly, they found that trees were felled for the original building in 1746, an extremely early date for Prince Edward County.

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historic buildings: a rendering shed (c. 2005) and a cold storage building (c. 2005). All of the historic buildings are currently not used and are in dilapidated condition.²

Narrative Description

The following architectural description was written by Edward Chappell, Architectural Historian, Colonial Williamsburg Foundation and Ann Carter Lee, Architectural Historian. Their site visits, research and documentation on the Moton Boyhood Home/Pleasant Shade dates from August 2001 to January 2012.

Main House, c. 1790-1820 core with later additions/Contributing Building

The main house, facing primarily north, is currently a generally rectangular, one-and-one-half story building with a side-gabled roof. The foundation consists primarily of coursed rubble stone. Weatherboards clad the exterior walls. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. A narrow, exterior brick flue is centered on the west gabled end wall, and a brick chimney rises from the ridge line. An engaged porch spans one-half of the south elevation, and a small shed-roofed dormer is positioned just above and to the left of the porch. A small, projecting, shed-roofed porch is right-of-center on the north wall, and a small shed-roofed dormer is positioned just above and to the left of the porch.

The dwelling began as a one- or small two-room 22' by 18' 3" house and expanded with a square right (west) room to create a 38' by 18' 3" hall-chamber house that dates to c. 1790-1820. Part of the hall was taken for a passage and the left (east) end extended 20', providing a third room to the left, probably c. 1830-1840. In the two original sections, the 7' 6" passage now separates a 15' 6" by 17' 2" room on the right from a 13' 6" by 17' 2" one on the left. The new east room is served by a chimney that also provides a fireplace for the middle room, with a closet beside it. This spatial arrangement is expressed in the front fenestration, with a simple Greek Revival doorway leading into the passage, single windows remodeled c. 1920 lighting the three rooms, and a small, four-pane window with old-style Roman trim (single architrave) lighting the closet and giving picturesque quality to the front. The rear retains much early wrought-nailed, beaded siding and some cut-nailed, beaded, third-period siding; a Roman cornice bed mold for the original house; plain diagonal bed mold for the addition; original doorway into the middle room; and mid- to late 19th-century pantry at the end of a long porch of the early 20th century.³ The

² The Moton Boyhood Home/Pleasant Shade is directly associated with the adjacent Saylor's (or Sailor's) Creek Battlefield, which was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1984 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1985. The battlefield was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1985. As currently listed, the historic boundaries of the Saylor's Creek Battlefield do not include the Moton Boyhood Home/Pleasant Shade, however, maps of the battlefield prepared by the Civil War Sites Advisory Commission include the property within the battlefield's boundaries. Additionally, Sailor's Creek Battlefield Historical State Park was established as a unit in the Virginia State Park system in 1937, with several expansions since that time, and now encompasses about 370 acres in Prince Edward, Nottoway, and Amelia counties, Virginia.

³ The pantry is framed in a traditional manner but put together with butt joints and cut nails, not joinery. The pantry, opening into the porch, suggests the present wire-nailed porch is a replacement of a predecessor of at least

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front porch is also early 20th century, though it has a bench, perhaps salvaged from a church, of the mid- to late 19th century.

A completely plain closed-string stair without a railing rises from the rear of the passage, providing a reason for placing the rear doorway in the present middle room. The upper two-thirds of the staircase is wrought nailed while the lower run is cut-nailed. A small closet below the stair provides essential clues to the earliest evolution of the house. Looking inside, one sees the exposed frame of the original right (west) wall, against which the first addition was set. Second, one sees plaster lath and a chair board on the left (east) side of the rear wall and only shelves and plaster on brick nogging to the right (west). The finish stops at a raking angle, indicating that the stair originally rose from the east before the partition was added to create the passage c. 1830-1840. Previously, then, the house had a very large 21' 5" by 17' 2" hall and a roughly square chamber on the right. This evolution is also reflected in the rubble stone foundations, more clearly in the early sills and bottom joists visible from the cellar and crawl space, and most obviously in a difference in floor level between the passage and west room.

The main stair leads to an upper lobby with a front closet between two attic rooms. An unheated upper chamber on the right is sheathed with beaded, painted planks. The lobby is similarly finished, except that only tiny shreds of whitewash remain, as though it has been left unpainted for more than a century. The middle attic room is larger because it extends over the left half of the passage. It is plastered and provided with a fireplace as well as a dormer at the front and rear, presumably added when the third room blocked its gable windows. A separate enclosed stair in the left rear (southeast) corner of the addition provides the only access to the new upper room, which was previously plastered and has a fireplace with only a board-topped masonry shelf, not a mantel. An original railing there, previously with rectangular balusters, is thin neoclassical work, unpainted like most of the finish.

There is a generous amount of surviving early woodwork downstairs too, although some of it was jumbled in the first and later remodelings. Simple neoclassical mantels survive in all three first-floor rooms. Two early first-floor doors have stiles and rails (big ovolos on the one to the far left room, cymas on the one to the right room) applied to board-and-batten doors, creating six faux panels on the outer face and leaving battens exposed on the rear.⁴ The outer layer is wider and taller, creating rebates on the edges of the leaves, as sometimes seen on doors of this construction. The two archaic faux-panel doors raise a question of whether they are remnants of original construction -- most likely -- or salvaged from an earlier structure, like the kitchen-quarter. The ovolo door, the stair, much attic finish, and a plain Greek Revival-era five-panel door to the middle room have all remained unpainted. It appears that most of the woodwork was unpainted until well after the Greek Revival-era reworking, which could date c. 1840-1850, but this right room was fully painted and the far left one partially so around the middle of the 20th century.

contemporary date. The house, vacant when visited in August 2001 and January 2002, was lightly remodeled for use by a hunt club before September 2005. This included reworking the pantry as a bathroom.

⁴ Both are a distinctive size, low and wide. That on the right is 6' 1/2" by 3' 1/2", that on the left 5' 10" by 2' 11 1/2". This, as well as the proportions of the panels and construction, makes them look archaic for a Prince Edward County house built after the Revolutionary War.

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Kitchen-Quarter/Moton House, c.1746-1760/Contributing Building

Like many slave houses and antebellum kitchens, the kitchen-quarter was modified after the Civil War to accommodate a single family, with two rooms on the main floor and another two in the dormerless attic. The Motons moved there in 1869, when Samuel Vaughn owned and lived at Pleasant Shade. In the present absence of any other 19th-century kitchen, or infill in the oversized work fireplaces, it is likely that the Moton family continued to cook and wash for the property owners' family in the main rooms of this building after the Civil War.⁵ Subsequent changes and repairs indicate that people lived and worked here well into the 20th century. (See the Chappel plan measured in 2001).

The 28' 1" by 18' 3" building is a classic example of the two-room, center-chimney kitchen-quarters built throughout much of the antebellum South. The roughly square left (north) room is larger, but two-room kitchen-quarters in Virginia often favored one of the rooms. The building now has traditional, modest fenestration, with a front doorway (6' by 2' 8") and rear window in both rooms, and an end window for the right room. The rear (east) windows face down across open fields toward Saylor's Creek battlefield.

The windows looking toward Saylor's Creek were different in 1865, however, being two of four narrow, 1' 6" by 3' 7" glazed openings, facing front and rear. Surviving tracks on the sides of studs show that these were four-over-four windows with stationary upper sash. Likewise there were two ladder stairs, one near each outer front corner, giving attic access to two different families. At this time, a vertical board partition existed between rooms on both levels. The left stair survives largely intact, with 1" board treads rabbeted into 7" by 3" stringers, beaded on the side facing the room, suggesting either that it was salvaged or the kitchen was unusually well-appointed. This stair rose directly up to a door hung on HL hinges, opening into the left room from a 6' by 4' sheathed lobby, creating separation between the upper and lower rooms. The finish was then much as it remains, with all exposed framing and unplastered brickwork. The chimney masonry and at least part of the inner face of weatherboards and frame were whitewashed in the 19th century. Post-Civil War changes included replacing the partitions, removing the right stair, and changing the openings.

A closer look reveals that even the antebellum kitchen-quarter was a modification of an earlier building, dating from the 18th century. Original posts framed front and rear doorways, centered and now opposite the c. 1830-1840 chimney, and a third door existed through the right end, causing builders to omit a corner brace. While most of the interior is roughly finished, the joists are decorated with large (5/8") beads, and the underside of the attic flooring is planed, intended to look good from below. A bead is absent from the left side of a joist to the right of the original doorways, indicating that initially a partition ran uninterrupted from front to back, separating an 18'-square hall on the left from an 11' 6" by 18' inner room on the right.

⁵ There are no fireplaces in the low cellar of the main house, so presumably cooking was done in a separate building from an early date.

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Originally a stair rose immediately to the right rear of the partition, through an opening framed with a beaded header and now partially occupied by the chimney. Presumably it rose from a doorway opening into the large outer room, about 15' 6" by roughly 18' 1". Lap joints and/or post mortises appear to indicate the width of sizable original exterior end chimneys. That on the right was about 7' 9" wide. There are sufficient nail holes in the wall framing to suggest the first floor was originally sheathed but never plastered. Many rafters lack their wrought-nailed collars, but some survive, without evidence of finish or having been disassembled. Large pegs set vertically near the ends of the upper joists originally held heavier triangular false plates in a tilted position even with the slope of the rafters. Parts of the original false plates survive, 5½" (flat on the joists) by 4¾" (upper surfaces), with a 1" fillet adjoining the attic floor. Remaining sections have been forced out and their pegs broken; some have been replaced with boards, and the roof has seen substantial rebuilding.⁶ Virtually all gable studs are 20th-century replacements, and there is no longer an upper partition. In short, the building began as a more finished hall-chamber house with emphasis on exposed overhead framing, and this building was substantially remodeled, including reworking parts of all four walls. The kitchen-quarter was further reworked after the Civil War, probably for the Moton family. A c. 1760-1776 date had seemed possible for the building until Colonial Williamsburg Foundation had the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory analyze tree-ring samples from the walls and roof. The Oxford Lab dated the cutting of the timbers to the winter of 1745-1746, surprisingly early for a substantial house in Prince Edward County, which was not separated from Amelia County until 1754.⁷

More costly investigations, including archaeology, may be necessary to determine if the original building represents the earlier landowners' hall-chamber house on this site, or if such a house was demolished elsewhere and brought in to serve a secondary function c. 1830-1840. The visible building suggests one of these two choices. Most obviously, excavation should determine if the end chimneys existed at this location or if the house was moved when first remodeled.

Dating Evidence for Moton House-Kitchen

First Period: c. 1760-1775 or 1746
Primary Hewn and pitsawn framing
Dwelling Triangular false plate used on a substantial house
Beaded upper joists
Lower surface of attic flooring planed and exposed
Wrought nails

⁶ Chesapeake builders drilled joists to secure square tilted false plates and -- in a few quite early cases -- heavy rectangular false plates, set flat. Post-Revolutionary War outbuildings with tilted false plates can be found, but most of the Virginia houses employing them predate the Revolution. These in the kitchen are essentially the upper half of a square false plate. Most have been pushed out of place and others replaced by 1" boards. The only known parallel is triangular false plates reused in the mid-18th-century roof at Sotterley in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

⁷ The analysts studied ten samples of southern yellow heart pine from ten timbers, the earliest of which began growing in 1564. Only one timber, the front left (north) brace had complete sapwood, which is necessary for a felling date, and it was read as cut in the winter of 1745-1746, presumably for construction in 1746. Such dendro dates are usually correct but not infallible. See D. W. H. Miles and M. J. Worthington, "Tree-Ring Dating of the R. R. Moton House, Rice, Prince Edward County, Virginia: Interim Report 2006/59" (Oxford Dendrochronology Lab, 2006).

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Dendrochronology

Second Period: (conversion to kitchen-quarter) c. 1830-1840

Hewn and pitsawn framing

Traditional joinery

Mature cut nails

Chimney brickwork

Third Period: (conversion to single-family residence) late 19th century

Moton Residence

Circular-sawn boards

Machined millwork

Factory-made sash

Cut nail

Outbuildings

Several outbuildings survive from different eras at Pleasant Shade. The historic outbuildings include an icehouse (c. 1890), a corn crib (c. 1900), a barn/stable (c. 1900), a poultry house (c. 1930), and a vehicle storage building (c. 1920-1950). There are two non-historic age resources: a rendering shed (c.2005) and a cold storage building (c.2005). All of the historic buildings are currently not used and are in dilapidated condition, however, they retain integrity to convey their historic association and are contributing to the property's significance. The non-historic age resources postdate the period of significance.

Ice House, c.1890/Contributing Building

Northeast of the main house and kitchen-quarter/Moton house stands a V-notched log icehouse with a standing-seam metal gable roof, probably dating from the late nineteenth century. When electricity became available around 1941, its usefulness as an icehouse ended. The building was later used as a pack house for tobacco. After curing, the farm's dark tobacco was put in the icehouse-pack house to allow it to come in order, i.e., take up moisture so it could be graded without flaking off. Because of the different soils at Pleasant Shade, three different kinds of tobacco were grown there: burley, flue (bright), and dark.

Corn Crib, c. 1900/Contributing Building

Northeast of the ice house is a ca.1900 frame corn crib that has undergone some modifications that have adapted it for later uses. The frame building is one-and-one-half stories in height. The front-gabled roof is clad in standing-seam metal and the walls are sided with vertical wood board. The gable end has an entrance door with loft opening above.

Stable/Barn, c. 1900/Contributing Building

East of the icehouse stands a large one-and-one-half story frame stable/barn. The gable roof is clad in standing-seam metal. The building appears to be contemporary to the icehouse and has

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nearly identical vertical board siding. It was used during the McNutt family's period of ownership for dairy cows. It may have also been used for housing horses or mules.

Poultry Shed, c. 1930-1950/Contributing Building

South of the kitchen-quarter/Moton house is a one-story, frame poultry shed, clad in weatherboard. It has a shed roof covered with standing seam metal. There are three rooms in the buildings, with three doors.

Vehicle Storage Building, c. 1920-1950/Contributing Building

South of the poultry building is a one-story, open front, vehicle storage building. The frame building is a combination of finished frame and wood poles. The shed roof is clad in standing-seam metal. The closed sides are covered with vertical wood board. The building is likely to have housed farm equipment and cars.

Storage Building, c. 2005/Non-Contributing Building

Southeast of the poultry shed is a small one-story, metal, gable-roofed building. The building may be prefabricated metal or wood frame clad in metal sheets. The building was added during the hunt club era of the property.

Rendering Shed, c. 2005/Non-Contributing Structure

Directly south of the poultry shed is a small one-story, corrugated-metal-clad, gable-roofed structure used for rendering deer. The building was added during the hunt club era of the property.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE/ African American

ARCHITECTURE

MILITARY

Period of Significance

Ca. 1746 – ca. 1950

Significant Dates

April 6, 1865

1869-1880

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Moton, Robert Russa

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/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 Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B at the local level of significance for its direct historical association with the formative early life of Robert Russa Moton (1867-1940), one of the most prominent African American educators in the United States in the first decades of the 20th century. Moton's boyhood years from 1869 to 1880 at the property, known at that time as Pleasant Shade, shaped his conservative vision of race relations in America and in the South. In addition to its historical importance as R. R. Moton's boyhood home, the property is locally significant under Criterion C for illustrating the evolution of traditional Virginia housing from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century. Finally, the property has local historical significance under Criterion A for its direct association with the April 6, 1865, Battle of Sailor's Creek, the last major Civil War battle in Virginia before General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The Battle of Sailor's Creek was actually three separate engagements known as the fight at Hillsman farm, Marshall's Crossroads, and the Lockett farm or Double Bridges. It is the latter engagement in which Pleasant Shade played a role, and Confederate commander John B. Gordon lost 1,700 men as prisoners, three artillery pieces, 200 wagons and 70 ambulances.

The period of significance for the Moton Boyhood Home begins c. 1746 with the construction of the dwelling that later became the kitchen-quarter and then the Moton residence. The period of significance ends in 1950, when the Pleasant Shade property ceased to be used primarily for agricultural production. . The property features integrity of association, location, setting, design and feeling to convey its architectural significance from 1750 to 1950, its military significance as an integral element of the battlefield landscape during the Battle of Sailor's Creek on April 6, 1865, and its historical significance as Moton's boyhood home from 1869 to 1880.

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

Criterion B – Robert Russa Moton (Ethnic Heritage – African American)

Robert Russa Moton (1867-1940) became one of the most prominent African American educators in the United States in the first decades of the 20th century. From 1869 to 1880 Moton's boyhood years at the rural farmstead then known as Pleasant Shade came to shape his conservative vision of race relations in the American South and throughout the United States. This early influence is particularly well documented in the second and third chapters of his 1920 autobiography, Finding A Way Out:

Here in an old house, in the rear of a Virginia mansion known as "Pleasant Shade" I spent most of the years of my early youth. My mother was for many years the cook and my father "led the hands" on the plantation. It was here that I

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caught my first glimpses of real culture and got my first inspiration as to what I would like to be and something of what I would like to do.⁸

On account of his parents' close relationship to the Vaughn family household and as the only child living near the Vaughn family's "big house" the young Moton received great attention from the Vaughns, grew to become their general house boy and waiter and learned to emulate the Vaughn family's manners and mores. With the encouragement of the Vaughns and his parents, he acquired a strong work ethic, learned to read, became a devout Christian, attended a free school for blacks in the vicinity when he was not working for the Vaughns, and received instruction both from a former white Confederate officer named John Morisette and from a white Presbyterian minister named George Denny. Moton reckoned that what he learned from contact with the Vaughns was worth as much or more than what he learned at school or Sunday school. After a two-year stint working in a lumber camp in Surry County, he returned to Prince Edward County in 1883, considered entering politics or the Presbyterian ministry but finally decided to complete his education by enrolling at Hampton Institute.⁹

Ronald L. Heinemann, in his article on Robert Russa Moton in *Encyclopedia Virginia* observing Moton's relationship with the Vaughns and his first white teachers, noted that Moton's "initial associations with white people were friendly, which probably determined his future attitude regarding the ability of the two races to get along."¹⁰ Moton in later life came to share his mentor Booker T. Washington's view that "African Americans should not openly defy segregation but instead cooperate with whites and better themselves through education."¹¹ The evidence in Moton's 1920 autobiography indicates that Moton learned this attitude as a young man in Prince Edward County. By the time he left Prince Edward County to study at Hampton Institute, Moton had already come to profess a strong Christian faith and to recognize racial cooperation and education as two important ways that the black people of his generation could transcend the severe difficulties and daunting challenges facing them in America.

R.R. Moton went on to a career filled with extraordinary accomplishments. Completing his education at Hampton Institute, he stayed on to become the Institute's commandant in charge of military discipline. In 1915, he succeeded Booker T. Washington as head of Tuskegee Institute where he led the vocational and agricultural school into a new era as a fully accredited collegiate and professional institution. He held positions in the National Negro Business League, National Urban League, Negro Rural School Fund (the so-called Jeanes Fund), Phelps-Stokes Fund, Commission on Interracial Cooperation, National Negro Publishers Association, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. He was on the boards of Tuskegee Institute Savings Bank, Dunbar National Bank of New York, Fisk University, Hampton Institute,

⁸ Moton, Robert Russa. Finding A Way Out: An Autobiography. New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1920, p. 16.

⁹ Ibid, pp. 18-49.

¹⁰ Heinemann, R. L. "Robert Russa Moton (1867-1940)." Encyclopedia Virginia. Ed Brendan Wolfe 7 Nov. 2012. Virginia Foundation for the Humanities. 7 April 2011, page 1.

http://www.EncyclopediaVirginia.org/Moton_Robert_Russa_1867-1940.

¹¹ Ibid, p. 2

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and Lincoln University. As advisor to five presidents, he consulted with American leaders from Woodrow Wilson to Franklin D. Roosevelt. At the request of President Wilson, he went to France during World War I to investigate allegations being made against black soldiers for bad conduct and refuted nearly all of them. He was the only African American to speak at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial in 1922. Among his many other activities, he helped found the Tuskegee Veterans Hospital for African Americans, supported the early Tuskegee communicable disease studies, and sponsored flight training at Tuskegee for the famous Tuskegee Airmen.¹²

While there are other historic places in Virginia associated with Moton's career as an educator and prominent leader—Hampton Institute in the City of Hampton and Moton's retirement home, Holly Knoll, in Gloucester County—Pleasant Shade, with its antebellum kitchen-quarter where Moton lived with his family is the one historic property in Prince Edward County most directly associated with Moton's life and work. (The Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, built in 1939, was named for him to commemorate his lifetime achievements as an educator and native son of Prince Edward.) Pleasant Shade preserves sufficient integrity of association, location, setting, design and feeling to convey its historical significance under criterion B as Moton's homeplace during the period from 1869 to 1880, the year Samuel W. Vaughn died and Moton and his family left Pleasant Shade.

Criterion C – Architecture

In addition to its historical importance as R. R. Moton's boyhood home, the property is architecturally significant under Criterion C for illustrating the evolution of traditional Virginia housing from the eighteenth to the nineteenth century. Like many early dwellings, the main house (or "big house" as Moton refers to it in his autobiography) began small and gradually expanded as family size and fortunes increased. By the time the toddler R. R. Moton and his family moved into the kitchen-quarter around 1869, that building had similarly undergone an interesting evolution. Begun around 1750, probably as a landowner's house, it may have been built by Robert Goode or, if by his father Samuel, perhaps moved to its current site.¹³ The small house with a hall and chamber on the first floor was later converted into a conventional center-chimney kitchen-quarter, probably c. 1830-1840 when the main house was expanded. The conversion created a traditional antebellum two-family slave house partitioned to allow each family use of one side of the building. After the Civil War, the kitchen-quarter was converted to a single-family dwelling occupied by the Motons. In the partitioned wall flanking the central chimney, a chopped-out door is a poignant symbol of the modestly improved postbellum social condition of African Americans in Virginia, as it allowed the two once-separated family units to be connected and gave the Moton family use of the entire dwelling.

Both the main house and the kitchen-quarter originally were hall-chamber dwellings. The hall-chamber was an archetype of Virginia domestic architecture during the mid-18th century and

¹² Heinemann, op cit, pp. 2-6.

¹³ Dr. D. W. H. Miles FSA and M. J. Worthington, "The Tree-Ring Dating of the R. R. Moton House, (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, Interim Report, 2006); G. . Browne Goode, Virginia Cousins, (Berryville, Virginia: Virginia Book Company, 1889), p. 40.

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remained in use as the core of dwellings that were expanded as economic and social conditions allowed. The dwellings also feature traditional building methods and materials that are illustrative of Virginia's vernacular architecture from the mid-18th through the mid-19th century. Dendrochronology analysis indicates that portions of the kitchen-quarter may date as early as 1746, making the building among the earliest document architectural resources in Prince Edward County. Furthermore, examining the two buildings together across their evolution provides a concise encapsulation of domestic architecture for two very different social groups in Virginia – the landowning white family and the enslaved African Americans who worked the property.

Criterion A – Military (Battle of Sailor's Creek)

Pleasant Shade has historical significance under Criterion A for its direct involvement in the April 6, 1865, Battle of Sailor's Creek, the last major Civil War battle in Virginia before General Robert E. Lee's surrender at Appomattox. The Battle of Sailor's Creek was actually three separate engagements known as the fight at Hillsman farm, Marshall's Crossroads, and the Lockett farm or Double Bridges. It is the latter engagement in which the property then known as Pleasant Shade played a role. On April 6, 1865, as the Confederate battle line fell back from the ridge along which the Lockett farm was located, it made a stand upon the flood plain of Sailor's Creek (at its confluence with Big and Little Sailor's Creek over the Double Bridges) in attempts to save the main wagon train in its crossing. With the Federal army pushing the Confederates across the creek and up the adjoining ridge, fighting around Pleasant Shade (then owned by Samuel Watkins Vaughan) house took place until the contest ended at nightfall. Nearby, artillery battalion commander Lieutenant Colonel Wilfred E. Cutshaw, whose men fought as infantry (their guns left behind), was severely wounded in the leg by an artillery shell. He escaped to a house a short distance in the rear (probably the Vaughan house at Pleasant Shade) where his leg was amputated. He later fell into the hands of the Federals. In the engagement at Lockett's farm, Confederate commander John B. Gordon lost 1,700 men as prisoners, three artillery pieces, 200 wagons, and 70 ambulances, and thirteen battle flags were captured. Tradition has it that Samuel Watkins Vaughan himself was with Lee's army on the retreat but was allowed to remain at his house rather than being transported to a Union prison with other Confederate soldiers who had surrendered in the nearby battles.¹⁴

Detailed Historical Background

The plantation historically known as Pleasant Shade and now as the Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home has its origins in the eighteenth century. Ownership of the land for Pleasant Shade apparently came through Robert Goode's father Samuel Goode (ca. 1700-1797), who was

¹⁴ Calkins, Christopher, M. Saylor's Creek Battlefield, Amelia County and Prince Edward County, Virginia National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form. On file at the Department of Historic Resources (DHR File 004-0019), Richmond, Virginia, 1984.

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buying land on Little Saylers Creek, possibly as early as 1748. It is certain he received a grant of 400 acres in Prince Edward County in 1760, and was living in Prince Edward by 1764.¹⁵

The original section of the main house at Pleasant Shade was probably built by Samuel Goode for his son, Robert Goode (1720/30-1804) and daughter-in-law, Sarah (Sally) Collier, whom Robert married in 1765. This one- or small two- room house was constructed in the second half of the eighteenth century. They or their son, Thomas Goode (ca. 1780-1858) and his wife Elizabeth Leveston Farly (d. ca. 1865), were responsible for the ca. 1790-1820 enlargement. Around 1835, Thomas and Elizabeth Goode again extended the house.

Pleasant Shade was operated as a plantation throughout the nineteenth century and remained in active agricultural production through at least the mid-twentieth century. Mary, a daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Goode, married Thomas Vaughn at Rice's Depot and so presumably it was through this marriage that the house was passed to Samuel W. and Lucy Lockett Vaughn, who owned the property during the Civil War.¹⁶ From them, the place passed to their son Willie's daughter, Patti Vaughn, who married Hester Walton, and their daughter, Linda, who married Sam McNutt. The latter's son, Frank W. McNutt, sold the former plantation to the current owner, Jimmy Garnett, a collateral descendant of the Vaughns.¹⁷

Robert Russa Moton, son of Booker Morton and Emily Brown Morton, was born on August 26, 1867, at the Crawder family plantation in Amelia County.¹⁸ During the tenure of Samuel and Lucy Vaughn, the Morton/Moton family moved to Pleasant Shade.¹⁹ In his autobiography, R. R. Moton recollected that as a very small child tucked away in his trundle bed, he often overheard the eager voices of the twenty-five to thirty men and women who cautiously attended the night school taught by his mother's brother in the Motons' cabin. In spite of antebellum laws forbidding teaching slaves to read and write, his uncle had nevertheless managed to learn those skills while playing and working with his young master.²⁰

A few months before R. R. Moton and his mother moved from Amelia County, his father had begun working in Prince Edward County for Samuel Watkins Vaughn as the plantation foreman, or head man as he was called. Vaughn's Pleasant Shade was a prosperous mid-size plantation.²¹

¹⁵ Virginia Land Register, Book XXIV, p. 573 as cited in G. Brown Goode, *Virginia Cousins*, (Berryville, Virginia, Virginia Book Company, 1889), p. 39.

¹⁶ *Virginia Cousins*, p. 76. Note that some historic sources spell the family name as "Vaughan," but the name is most commonly recorded as "Vaughn."

¹⁷ Mamie Lockett Garnett, the great grandmother of Jimmy Garnett, was the niece of Lucy Lockett Vaughn.

¹⁸ Historic records indicate that Robert Moton's parents' surname was Morton. Why or when Robert's name was changed from Morton to Moton is not clear.

¹⁹ Although Booker and Emily's name is listed in the 1870 and 1880 censuses as Morton, Robert Russa spelled his last name as Moton.

²⁰ *Finding A Way Out*, p. 14.

²¹ In the 1860 census, the Vaughns had 455 acres of improved land and 235 acres of unimproved land valued at \$14,000. It was worked by twenty-six slaves, twelve of whom were ten years of age or younger. All were black but one five-year-old who was listed as mulatto. The stock was listed as 3 horses, 3 asses or mules, 7 milk cows, 4 working oxen, 12 other cattle, 15 sheep, and 8 swine. On the farm, they raised wheat, corn, oats, peas, beans, Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, and grew 33,000 pounds of tobacco. The sheep provided wool and cows produced considerable butter in addition to milk. The combined value of the Vaughn personal estate, excluding real estate,

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When Robert was large enough, he carried the key basket of Samuel Vaughn's wife Lucy, "a job that was considered a great honor for a small Negro boy before the war and immediately afterward."²² Young Robert then carried the keys all day long and hung them at the head of Samuel Vaughn's bed at night. In time, he helped "Miss Lucy" and her daughters with the turkeys, geese, ducks, and chickens.²³

As R. R. Moton grew older, he "helped the cook, made all the fires, was in the 'big house' much of the time, and generally wore 'good clothes.'"²⁴ From a slightly older worker named Sam Reed, whose position he envied and whom he succeeded as general house boy and waiter when Sam graduated to work in the fields, Moton learned to sing and dance so well that the two frequently performed for the household.²⁵ Moton also "issued the corn for the stock and frequently helped in weighing the rations to the scores of men who came up Saturday afternoon for their allowances."²⁶ He accompanied Samuel Vaughn on hunting expeditions, "visited the rabbit traps in the morning, and also went fishing with him on the Appomattox River."²⁷ In addition to his household duties, Moton's mother insisted that he spend an hour each evening studying with her. According to Moton, she was one of the few African-American women in the neighborhood who could read and write. They carried out his studies with discretion because they thought the Vaughns would object to their literacy. When Lucy Vaughn accidentally discovered them studying, she astonished the Motons by being pleased with their desire to learn and soon had her youngest daughter Mollie giving them lessons for one hour each afternoon.²⁸

When the young Lucy Vaughn died, Moton noted the profound sadness of what must have been "between three and four hundred people on the Vaughn estate."²⁹ The mourners included people from the many surrounding farms of the Vaughns' relatives. A few years later, Samuel Vaughn married Pattie Perkinson who, like Lucy, encouraged the young Robert in his work and his studies with his mother. Pattie's arrival coincided with the opening of a free school for African-Americans, the only one in the area. Moton's parents and Pattie Vaughn agreed that he should attend the school while continuing to work for the Vaughns.³⁰ Moton wrote that his work for the Vaughns "before and after school was being correlated unconsciously with what I was learning in books; which was true also of my contact with the nearly four score children whom I met daily at school."³¹

was \$22,000. After the Civil War, the 1870 census demonstrates the wartime losses of the Vaughns, with their real estate value falling to \$9,144 and their personal estate to \$827. In the postbellum period, hired workers took the place of enslaved workers. In 1870, the total amount of wages paid during the year, including the value of board, was \$600. The crops raised were about the same types but production was down, especially the yield of labor-intensive tobacco, which declined from 33,000 to 8,000 pounds.

²² Finding A Way Out, p. 17, 18-20.

²³ Ibid, p. 18.

²⁴ Ibid, p. 17-18.

²⁵ Ibid, pp. 18-19.

²⁶ Ibid, p. 24.

²⁷ Ibid, p. 24.

²⁸ Ibid, p. 20-21.

²⁹ Finding A Way Out, pp. 22-23.

³⁰ Ibid, pp. 23-28.

³¹ Ibid, p. 28.

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Moton noted that the Vaughns were “people of considerable wealth and at the top of the social scale in that community; but at the same time they were of all the white people the most popular among the Negroes of the neighborhood.”³² The Vaughns worshipped at the nearby Jamestown Presbyterian Church where young Robert attended an afternoon Sunday school conducted for African-Americans by George Denny, a Presbyterian minister who stayed frequently with the Vaughns on visits from Amelia County.³³ Young Moton and Denny’s son, George Denny, Jr., became good friends, playing together, fishing together on Sailor’s Creek, solving math problems together and discussing history, over which the young Moton and the young Denny frequently differed:

One of the discussions we used to have most often was about which was the greater general, Grant or Lee. He was for Lee, I was for Grant. We often discussed the merits of the conflict between the states, which culminated in the war. I could never swerve him from his position on this question and he never swerved me from mine. We never found it profitable to discuss the issue. He would sometimes lose his temper and I frequently lost mine. There came a time when we ceased to discuss it at all and I think our relations were consequently much pleasanter.³⁴

Moton sometimes feared that the Vaughns and the Reverend Mr. Denny, George’s father were “a little annoyed that he preferred apparently to be out in the fields where I was with the cows and sheep, or even to help me with my chores, to being in the house with the guests.”³⁵

When Moton was in his teens, Samuel Vaughn died in 1880 and the farm was divided among his children. Moton’s father, like most of the other African Americans on the farm, moved away and went to the live with the Morton family, relatives of the Vaughns. It seems likely that it was about this time that the Morton/Moton family itself broke up. According to the 1880 census, his father, Booker Morton, appears to be living with his wife, Jersuha, and their one-year-old son along with Robert Moton, recorded as being age 16.³⁶ The next household listed is that of Emily Morton, divorced and living with her daughter, Christiana, and sons, Thomas and William J. Robert Russa appears to have been the only child from the union of Booker and Emily Morton. In his autobiography, Moton does not mention what must have been an extremely painful break between his parents. His mother married again, a Mr. Jeter, and Robert ultimately had three half-brothers and three half-sisters.³⁷

Moton’s autobiography illustrates the sometimes painful state of race relations that prevailed in Virginia in the post bellum era. Robert and one of the Morton sons, Ernest, became fast boyhood

³² Ibid, p. 28.

³³ Ibid, pp/ 29-30.

³⁴ Ibid, p. 31.

³⁵ Ibid, p. 32

³⁶ If Robert was born in 1867, then he would have been 13 in 1880, not 16. For R. R. Moton’s account of Vaughn’s death and its impact on his family, see Finding a Way Out, pp. 32-33.

³⁷ According to a 1920 will of R. R. Moton, his mother was then living in a house that he owned near High Bridge, not far from Pleasant Shade. It was part of a tract of 360 acres that Moton purchased on July 21, 1902, from Bernard Wolff. When Moton made another will on May 19, 1934, his mother was living at 7167 State Road, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on a property apparently owned by Moton.

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friends in their early years but when Ernest returned from his first session at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, he coldly snubbed Moton. Ernest Morton's conduct stung Moton deeply but at the same time strengthened his resolve to get his own education for his own future good.³⁸ The next day, he asked his father about the proposed school for African Americans near Petersburg – an institution now known as Virginia State University. His father had connections with many Republican friends, including General Mahone, the school's sponsor, and thought he could obtain a scholarship there for his son. He also told his son about Hampton Institute but was not enthusiastic about it because it was a "work school" and he felt he could certainly teach his son all he needed to know about work. He nevertheless eventually consented for his son to go to Hampton because he thought he would not need any money to attend.³⁹

Captain Frank Southall, whose brother later became Superintendent of Public Instruction in Virginia, was very impressed with the knowledge of the Bible that Moton demonstrated in George Denny's afternoon Sunday school at Jamestown Presbyterian Church. He offered to arrange for Moton to go to a Presbyterian school in Alabama where he could prepare for the Presbyterian ministry. Being a strong Baptist, and like his brethren, somewhat suspicious of white people's religion, the young man declared that he would prefer being "an ignorant Baptist rather than an educated Presbyterian."⁴⁰

In the spring of 1880, Moton went to work at a lumber camp in Surry County in order to earn money for his schooling. He spent two years there, working his way up to foreman. In the years spent at the camp, he earned little money but learned a good deal from the unusual group of men there. They held evening meetings – especially on Saturday – debating, discussing politics, forming a glee club, and holding prayer meetings. When an attack of malaria caused Moton to return home in 1882, he was caught up in the politics of the time and was offered a chance to run for, and probably win, the office of delegate in the Virginia General Assembly. His impressive oratory, and no doubt his general character and demeanor, impressed white and black politicians alike, but there were problems with his candidacy, He wanted to go to school – and he had not yet reached the age of twenty-one. Most important, his mother refused to falsify his age.⁴¹

Having worked for several years and attended his district school, Moton left Prince Edward for Hampton Institute in 1885 at the age of eighteen. After an initial difficulty in enrolling because of his lack of preparation, the young man continued his pattern of working while attending school. At first, he was disappointed to hear the Institute's students sing gospel music or what he called "plantation songs." Even though he appreciated their beauty, he expected to hear the music heard in white churches. He had come to Hampton to learn "to do things differently; to sing, to speak, and to use the language, and of course, the music, not of coloured people but of white people."⁴² At his boyhood home, he had been taught the customs and traditions of whites; in his early days at Hampton, however, Moton first began to appreciate the value of the African-American heritage and culture that he had learned to denigrate in his childhood.

³⁸ Finding a Way Out, pp. 33-36.

³⁹ Finding a Way Out, p. 36.

⁴⁰ Ibid, pp. 37-38.

⁴¹ Ibid, pp. 39-45.

⁴² Ibid, p 57-62.

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Toward the end of Moton's first year at Hampton, Booker T. Washington spoke eloquently to the students about what he was trying to do in Alabama at the Tuskegee Institute. Moton recalled the address vividly in his autobiography:

...He spoke clearly of the importance and value of trade education and pointed out the fact that the men who learned trades in slavery were passing and white men were taking their place. He emphasized the importance of rural life, buying farms, good homes, and the degradation of one-room-cabin-life and while he did not in any way belittle college education, he did emphasize the fundamental need of trade education, the buying of land, the building of homes, bank accounts, etc. These he declared, were essential to the highest development of any people. As I think of it now and as I thought of it then, we considered it perhaps the most remarkable address we ever heard...there was a spontaneous outburst of applause from the audience when he sat down and ...that address was the talk of the year among the students and teachers...

Thus began the long association between these two Virginians, born little more than one hundred miles apart.⁴³

Between his middle and senior years at Hampton, Moton taught at the Cottontown School in Cumberland County. He first shocked the neighborhood by taking a farm laborer's job before the opening of school. However, after two weeks, he was in charge of the twenty-man squad. When the Cottontown School year started, his class quickly grew from six to over two hundred and fifty students. The energetic and ambitious Moton also read law during this period and received his certificate to practice law in Virginia.⁴⁴

Moton expected to return to Prince Edward to practice law or to teach in Farmville upon his graduation from Hampton Institute in 1890. Instead he received appointment as assistant commandant in charge of military discipline at the Institute and the next year was made commandant of the school with its mix of African-American and Native American students, as well as a number of Chinese, Japanese, Mican, Armenian, and Hawaiian students. Working along with southern and northern white staff members, for the next twenty-five years he held a position that required great tact and skill in race relations.⁴⁵

Moton's position at Hampton Institute expanded to accommodate his prodigious gifts. Over time, he frequently traveled north to raise funds for the school. A skillful orator, the handsome and imposing Moton made many addresses to northern audiences. Among others, he often shared the podium with Booker T. Washington, who became his mentor. Washington's Tuskegee Institute was an outgrowth of Hampton and the two institutes remained closely connected.⁴⁶ Moton also helped with the administrative work at the Institute, continued his studies at Hampton, read more law, and attended several sessions of summer school at Harvard. In 1901, the leadership of Hampton arranged for Moton to travel in Europe where he saw the sad state of white peasants in

⁴³ Ibid, pp 65-66.

⁴⁴ Ibid, pp 79-93; 94-99.

⁴⁵ Ibid, pp 121-135.

⁴⁶ Ibid, pp 147-48,153-163, 179-182.

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southern Europe. He felt the contrast between their hopelessness and the optimism of African Americans. He also noted one other difference: Europeans, however poor, were not in so much danger of their lives or as unprotected by their legal system as were the black people of the United States.⁴⁷

Moton also represented Hampton in its many outreach services. He initiated summer educational conferences for distinguished black colleagues for the purpose of illustrating the benefits of Hampton's educational system and distilling their criticisms of the Institute. Eventually these conferences were extended to include whites and in time led to helpful discussions on housing, health, business, school facilities, and race relations.⁴⁸

In 1905, Moton married Elizabeth Hunt Harris of Williamsburg, Virginia. Sadly, the young bride died after little more than a year of married life. In 1908, he married Jennie Dee Booth (1880-1942) of Gloucester County, Virginia, who became his partner in both private and public life. They had five children: Catherine E., Charlotte E., Robert R., Jr., Allen W., and Jennie. Jennie Dee Booth Moton served as Director of the Department of Women's Industries at Tuskegee from 1924 to 1935.⁴⁹

Soon after Moton's marriage to Jennie Dee Booth, a movement began at Hampton Institute to reform the outreach program which had been primarily carried out by field workers for the benefit of the school's ex-students. A committee headed by Moton decided that African Americans already had enough, perhaps even too many, organizations. At that time, and for years to come, they were shut out of many aspects of civic life and so created elaborate organizations of their own that gave them training in public life. The committee decided to "organize the organizations" and created the Negro Organization Society of Virginia. They sponsored a statewide clean-up project in 1913, the next year they raised funds to establish a sanitarium for Negro consumptives, and during World War I they operated various war relief movements among the black community. In these and other endeavors, they brought together black and white leaders to work for the good of the whole community.⁵⁰

After the death of Booker T. Washington in 1915, Moton was named principal of Tuskegee Institute and emerged as the foremost southern black conservative of his generation.⁵¹ He continued to build on Washington's foundational educational beliefs. Washington had come under harsh criticism, especially in the African-American community, for the non-academic, vocational slant of his institution but he maintained that he was meeting the needs of a landless people just emerging from slavery. In the 1920s, Moton, judging that the time was right, added the college department at Tuskegee, but not without criticism from those who felt he was deviating from the aims of Washington. During his tenure, Moton more than tripled the endowment of the institute and expanded its physical plant. While he thus modified the

⁴⁷ Ibid, pp 149-152.

⁴⁸ Ibid, pp 165-168.

⁴⁹ Ibid, pp 168, 186, 229.

⁵⁰ Ibid, pp. 169-178.

⁵¹ See Peter R. Eisenstadt, "Southern Black Conservatism 1865-1945: An Introduction," in *Black Conservatism: Essays in Intellectual and Political History*, New York: Garland Publishing, 1999, pp. 64-68.

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Washington legacy in some ways, he maintained Washington's establishment as a point of interracial contact, discussion, and cooperation.⁵²

During World War I, Moton led Tuskegee's support of the war effort and training of soldiers at the Institute. When reports of serious misconduct among black soldiers in Europe circulated, Moton was sent by President Woodrow Wilson to investigate the charges. After a painstaking investigation that included an inspection trip to France, he reported that almost all rumors were unfounded. President Wilson wrote him a letter of appreciation for his service.⁵³ Moton helped form the first national Interracial Commission to lessen the serious postwar racial tensions that broke out violently in the Chicago race riots of 1919.

Moton used his position as head of Tuskegee to build bridges of support to white politicians like Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge, and Herbert Hoover and to philanthropists like Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefeller, and Julius Rosenwald, both for the Institute and for other African American institutions and organizations. In 1919, Moton was elected President of the National Business League, founded by Washington in 1900. He also supported the Urban League, the National Council of Negro Women, the National Negro Publishers Association and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. In addition to being a trustee in approximately twenty educational or social agencies, he was chairman of the United States Commission on Education in Haiti and a member of the National Advisory Commission on Education in Liberia, and he chaired the American National Red Cross's Colored Advisory Commission on the 1927 Mississippi Valley flood disaster. He received honorary degrees from Virginia Union, Oberlin, Williams, Harvard, Howard, Wilberforce, and Lincoln.⁵⁴

In 1920, Moton saw the publication of his own autobiography, Finding A Way Out, the story of his calling as a black educator, champion of racial cooperation and advocate for black institutional development. In this book, he traced the beginnings of his tribal chief ancestor in Africa, through his family's time in slavery, and then his life from its earliest days through the first five years of his tenure as head of Tuskegee. The closing passage recalled vivid memories of his childhood in Prince Edward County and the momentous changes he had seen in race relations in America over four decades:

We all realize that the patient loyalty and self-denying devotion of the blacks in America should have brought him more of the blessings and privileges of the civilization which his labor has helped to construct and his valor has helped to preserve. Nevertheless in the forty years that have passed since I envied Sam Reed his place in the "big house" at "Pleasant Shade" and was unwittingly stung into reflection by my erstwhile friend Ernest Morton, I have seen changes in the situation and condition of my own race, as well as in my own life, such as the most sanguine of that day—would hardly have predicted. Little did I then think as I played with George Denny, then son of a Presbyterian minister on the red hills

⁵² Ibid, pp. 209-234.

⁵³ Ibid, pp. 234-250, 250-264. Wilson's letter is quoted on page 265.

⁵⁴ Earl H. West, "Robert Russa Moton," in Dictionary of American Negro Biography, Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston, eds (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1982), pp. 459-461.

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of Piedmont Virginia, that forty years later I would be working in cooperation with Dr. George H. Denny, the president of the University of Alabama—he, among his people, training the youth of his race to a clearer understanding of, and broader sympathy of understanding of all humanity, and I, among my people, training, as best I may, the youth of my race, to greater fortitude and a larger faith in themselves and in other selves.⁵⁵

In 1922, at the invitation of former President and then Chief Justice of the Supreme Court William Howard Taft, Moton gave the lead address at the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial at Washington, D.C. The invitation showed his high standing as one of the nation's most powerful African American leaders and his high status among the white political and cultural elite. The draft speech he submitted two weeks before the May 30, 1922, Memorial Day event proved too outspoken for the event's organizers and he was advised to mute his criticism of the racial status quo. In the address he gave, to a segregated whites-only audience, he replaced the concluding section of the draft with passages that praised Lincoln and America's progress in achieving better racial relations. Nevertheless, the speech he delivered expressed strong reservations about the success of American democracy. The two principles of liberty and bondage had been contending for the soul of America since the arrival of the Pilgrims on the Mayflower and the landing of the first slave ship from Africa in Virginia in 1619. That contest was not over. He closed his address with a remarkable prediction: "With song, prayer, bold and truthful speech, with faith in God and country, later on let us dedicate the temple thus far only opened."⁵⁶

Moton's core values as a humanitarian, Christian, educator and advocate for the people of his race were perhaps best expressed in a creed he penned at Christmas in 1923:

I BELIEVE in my own people—in their native worth—in their attainments of character, accomplishment and service—and their ultimate high destiny in the progress of mankind.

I BELIEVE in my fellow men of all races—in their right to an equal chance to share in all the good of this world—and my obligation to respect to the full their person and their personality.

I BELIEVE in the essential goodness of human impulses—in the instinctive desire to do what is just and right—and the will to respond to the noblest appeals.

I BELIEVE in the power of good over evil—the power of love over hate—the power of truth over error—and the final and complete triumph of right over wrong.

I BELIEVE in freedom—in freedom to love's one's life to the full—to serve wherever there is need—to achieve the limit of divine endowment.

⁵⁵ Finding a Way Out, pp. 287-288.

⁵⁶ Christopher A. Thomas, The Lincoln Monument and American Life (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2002), pp. 156-158.

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I BELIEVE in patience—in the beneficent workings of time—that a Providence, wise and good, will with the years bring fruition to earnest hopes and honest strivings.

I BELIEVE in the fellowship of men of good will—in their ability to live together in peace—and to cooperate in service and in the pursuit of the truth.

I BELIEVE in my friends—who know my strength and my weakness—their confidence is my inspiration—their loyalty my comfort—and their approbation my greatest earthly satisfaction.

I BELIEVE in God—in his purposes of good toward all men—and the ultimate triumph of His justice and righteousness in all the earth.⁵⁷

Moton played an important role in the establishment of the federal Veterans Administration Hospital for Negroes near Tuskegee in the county of Macon, donating 28.3 acres of land for the facility. In spite of strong pressure from the white community and parades and protests by the Ku Klux Klan, he insisted that the hospital be staffed with African-Americans. In this campaign, Moton showed a greater willingness than Booker T. Washington to challenge white authority and confront black subordination.⁵⁸ The Veterans Hospital at Tuskegee later cooperated in the infamous Tuskegee Study of Syphilis that began in 1932 and resulted in about thirty percent of its active participants dying from untreated syphilis. Nevertheless the Tuskegee communicable disease studies under Moton's leadership ultimately lead to the passage of the Communicable Disease Act of 1938 and the founding of the National Communicable Disease centers.⁵⁹

In 1929, Moton wrote a frank appraisal of the attitudes of most white people in his second book, What the Negro Thinks. He showed in this work a greater willingness than Booker T. Washington to challenge segregation directly. He declared all forms of segregation to be “undemocratic and unchristian, as unfair in principle as in practice.” He condemned segregation on common carriers, in schools and in housing, in voting and before the courts. Like Washington, however, he continued to believe that separate black institutions required preservation and that the proper place of blacks was in the South with black institutions.⁶⁰

In his final years at Tuskegee, Moton overcame many difficulties in a successful effort to sponsor a program of flight training for African-Americans at the Institute. In 1934 he christened “The Spirit of Booker T. Washington,” the first plane piloted by black fliers to the West Indies, with Charles A. Anderson, the first black licensed pilot, at the controls.⁶¹ In 1935, because of ill

⁵⁷ “Robert Russa Moton Credo,” Brochure, Robert Russa Moton Memorial Institute, undated.

⁵⁸ Eisenstadt, op cit, p 65.

⁵⁹ Heinemann, “Robert Russa Moton,” pp. 4-5; Earl H. West, “Robert Russa Moton,” in Dictionary of American Negro Biography, Rayford W. Logan and Michael R. Winston, eds. (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1982), pp. 459-461.

⁶⁰ Eisenstadt, op cit, p. 66. Eisenstadt notes that Moton played an important role in helping to disseminate the works of Mahatma Gandhi to African Americans. See page 67.

⁶¹ West, op cit, p. 461.

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health, Moton retired from Tuskegee and moved to Capahosic in Gloucester, Virginia, where he built his retirement home. He named it Holly Knoll and lived there until his death on May 3, 1940.⁶²

Three National Historic Landmark Sites are associated with Robert Russa Moton by name: Holly Knoll, Moton's retirement home at Capahosic in Gloucester County, now the Robert Russa Moton National Historic Site; the Tuskegee Airmen Site at Moton Field, named in Moton's honor and constructed the year after his death as the main site for flight training of the Tuskegee Airmen; and the Robert Russa Moton High School in Farmville, Virginia, site of the 1951 student-led strike of African-American students to protest the school's inadequate facilities. The students' action prompted a lawsuit that helped to precipitate the famous *Brown v Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas* Supreme Court Decision of 1954 and terminate the policy and practice of segregated schools in the nation and in Virginia. The high school now houses the Robert Russa Moton Museum.⁶³

⁶² See Cecil McKithan, Holly Knoll-R.R. Moton House, Gloucester County, Virginia National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form (On file at the Department of Historic Resources [DHR File 036-0134], Richmond, Virginia, 1981). Moton's wife, Jennie Dee Booth, during these Holly Knoll years served as Field Officer of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration of the Agriculture Department from 1936 to 1942 and as President of the National Association of Colored Women from 1937 to 1941. She died at Hampton, Virginia, in 1942.

⁶³ See Jarl K. Jackson and Julie L. Vosmik, Robert Russa Moton High School, Prince Edward County, Virginia National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (On file at the Department of Historic Resources [DHR File 144-53], Richmond, Virginia, 1994).

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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1982.

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, VA

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR #073-0030

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property approximately 246 acres

Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home
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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: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 17S | Easting: 741393 | Northing: 4133871 |
| 2. Zone: 17S | Easting: 742790 | Northing: 4134591 |
| 3. Zone: 17S | Easting: 743731 | Northing: 4133627 |
| 4. Zone: 17S | Easting: 743409 | Northing: 4132574 |
| 5. Zone: 17S | Easting: 742261 | Northing: 4132966 |

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

The boundaries encompass the entire 246-acre parcel owned by the current property owners, as indicated on the Prince Edward County Tax Map as Tax Parcel 014 A 18. See attached location map and tax parcel map.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The property boundaries include the contributing main house, the kitchen-quarter in which R. R. Moton and his family lived, and all contributing secondary resources. The nominated acreage is entirely within the historic property related to the Vaughn family and R.R. Moton's family during Moton's boyhood years and encompasses landscapes and architectural resources that retain integrity of association, location, setting, design and feeling and that convey their association with the property's period and areas of significance.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Anne Carter Lee, Edward Chappell, Robert A. Carter, E. Renee Ingram, and Marc C. Wagner

organization: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

street & number: 2801 Kensington Avenue

city or town: Richmond state: Virginia zip code: 23221

e-mail: robert.carter@dhr.virginia.gov; marc.wagner@dhr.virginia.gov

telephone: 804-482-6099

date: April 2013

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: Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home

City or Vicinity: Rice

County: Prince Edward

State: Virginia

Robert Russa Moton Boyhood Home
Name of Property

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Photographer: Marc C. Wagner

Date Photographed: November 2012

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

1 of 14.

Main House, Looking Southwest.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0001.

2 of 14.

Main House, Looking West/Southwest.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0002.

3 of 14.

Main House, Looking North/Northeast.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0003.

4 of 14.

Main House, Looking Southeast.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0004.

5 of 14.

Main House, Entry Detail, Looking North.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0005.

6 of 14.

Main House, Historic Mantle.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0006.

7 of 14.

Kitchen-Quarter, Looking West/Northwest with Outbuildings to Right.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0007.

8 of 14.

Kitchen-Quarter, Looking Northeast.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0008.

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9 of 14.

Kitchen-Quarter, Looking West.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0009.

10 of 14.

Kitchen-Quarter, Interior Detail.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0010.

11 of 14.

Ice House, Looking West.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0011.

12 of 14.

Corn Crib, Looking Northwest.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0012.

13 of 14.

Stable/Barn, Looking North.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0013.

14 of 14.

Poultry Shed at Left and Kitchen-Quarter at Right, Looking North/Northwest.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0014.

15 of 15.

Vehicle Storage Building, Looking Northeast.

VA_PrinceEdwardCounty_RobertRussaMotonBoyhoodHome_0015.

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.