

VLR-8/21/90 NRHP-12/21/90

United States Department at the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 18). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Petersburg Courthouse Historic District, VDHR File No. 123-103

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

Central business district, including N. Sycamore, N. Union, N. Market, E. Tab

street a number W. Tabb, parts of Franklin and W. Washington streets N/A not for publication

city, town Petersburg

N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA county City of Petersburg code 730 zip code 23803

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>75</u>	<u>26</u>	buildings
		sites
	<u>1</u>	structures
		objects
<u>75</u>	<u>27</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 7

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

& the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 38 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

Steph C. Miller  
Signature of certifying official

9-19-90  
Date

Director, VA Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register,  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.

=other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade

Government

Religion / Social

Transportation

Military

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce/Trade

Government

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Federal

Greek Revival

Italianate

Renaissance Revival

Commercial Style

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Stucco

roof

other Glass

Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Petersburg Courthouse Historic District occupies an area south and uphill of Petersburg's earliest commercial center which had developed near the Appomattox River and had expanded southward. The district is located in what has been Petersburg's central business district and governmental center since the early nineteenth century. The centerpiece of the district, the Greek Revival Petersburg Hustings Courthouse, is sited imposingly on a high elevation and visually dominates the downtown skyline. The district follows a grid plan layout. It also includes densely built Federal and Italianate commercial rows, other monumental and landmark quality buildings, and a few surviving tobacco warehouses and factories and Greek Revival-style residences. The district, although not without intrusions, retains a considerable degree of integrity. Its major antebellum architectural landmarks - the Courthouse, U. S. Customs House, Tabb Street Presbyterian Church, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church - survive in their original locations and still reflect the original design intents of their architects and builders. Despite repeated commercial renovations, the majority of the district's commercial blocks also reflect their original designs, particularly above the storefront cornice. The attention to detail and skilled workmanship associated with the district's historical periods remains evident in both public and commercial buildings. Brick has been the major building material although the stone of major public buildings and the retaining walls emphasizing the area's steep topography add diversity and texture to the district. Cast iron in the form of such architectural details as perimeter fencing and manufactured cornices, cartouches, and brackets is another major architectural material as are stucco, terra cotta, glazed brick, and black Carrara glass. Most buildings in the district are built immediately adjacent to the street or sidewalk, providing an architectural definition interrupted only by the small traditional patches of green lawn adjacent to public and residential uses, or by the twentieth-century parking lots that replaced earlier historical blocks. The built environment of the district, which still retains its historic governmental and commercial setting, continues to evoke the commercial and architectural history of downtown Petersburg.

### 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Commerce  
Architecture  
Politics / Government  
Military  
Transportation

Period of Significance

1815 to 1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Pollard, Calvin (New York):

Courthouse (1838-40)

(see continuation sheet)

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Petersburg Courthouse Historic District reflects the city's commercial, religious, governmental, and light industrial activities dating from about 1815 to the World War II era. It also represents the historical importance of Petersburg locally, regionally, and statewide as one of Virginia's largest antebellum cities and a prominent Southside commercial distribution center. The district includes a collection of densely built urban architecture with outstanding individual examples of Greek, Gothic, and Renaissance Revival public and institutional architecture in addition to distinct groupings of commercial and residential buildings in the various academic, popular, and vernacular architectural styles that date from 1815 to 1940. Much of the district still evokes, through its architectural resources, the 1864 nine-month siege when Petersburg was a center of Virginia's Civil War activity. The district's streets that were shelled by Union forces and filled with wagon trains, ambulances, artillery, officers, soldiers, couriers, and wounded retain many of the same buildings that lined them in 1864 and that were used as hospitals and places of refuge from intense shelling. The Civil War remains the pivotal historical event in Petersburg's history, a war that left minimal physical impacts on the district but that altered permanently the city's role in statewide commerce and transportation. Following the war the city never returned to its earlier prosperous role as one of the state's major urban centers and instead settled into the less prominent role of population and service center for its local community and outlying rural areas. As the city's role in statewide trade and transportation declined in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the Courthouse District continued to be the center of the local economy and the everyday commercial and social life of Petersburg. The continuation of tobacco processing and storage into the early twentieth century and the proximity of Camp Lee during World War I enhanced the business climate for local merchants and contributed to the continuing vitality of the district through the early twentieth century. The district remained the area's central business district through World War II but since that time has declined in retail intensity and importance with impacts of improved automotive transportation, suburbanization, and regional shopping centers and malls.

See continuation sheet

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Campbell, Charles. Diary, May to June 1864. The Earl Gregg Swem Library, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, Va.

Claiborne, John Herbert. Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia. New York: The Neale Publishing Co., 1904.

Hartzell, Lawrence L. "The Exploration of Freedom in Black Petersburg, Virginia, 1865-1902." Master's Thesis, University of Virginia, 1990.

### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

### Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

### Specify repository:

Va. Department of Historic Resources  
221 Governor St., Richmond VA 23219

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 36.2

### UTM References

A 

1	8	2	8	6	8	7	0	4	1	2	2	8	2	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

B 

1	8	2	8	6	8	8	0	4	1	2	2	6	5	5
Zone	Easting				Northing									

C 

1	8	2	8	6	5	4	0	4	1	2	2	5	9	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

D 

1	8	2	8	6	5	3	0	4	1	2	2	6	4	0
Zone	Easting				Northing									

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Petersburg Courthouse Historic District begins at the northwest corner of the intersection of East Washington and North Adams streets and proceeds west along the north curblin of Washington Street; then proceeds north along the western

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The Courthouse District boundaries have been developed to include the city's traditional central business district and governmental center. The district has a distinct character although it shares similarities with adjacent areas at some edges. For example, it adjoins the Old Town *Historic* District on the north and is similar

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Land and Community Associates, for the City of Petersburg  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 26 July 1990  
street & number P.O. Box 92 telephone 804-295-3880  
city or town Charlottesville state Virginia zip code 22902

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

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(Present and Historical Physical Appearance)

While the district today is overwhelmingly commercial and governmental in nature, much of the original development in the district was residential and remained so until after the Civil War. In addition to the courthouse, two major antebellum churches were built in the district. A variety of small retail and trades establishments existed in mixed-use Federal-style blocks along North Sycamore Street. In the 1850s when the efficiency of rail and overland transportation decreased dependence on river access, the Courthouse area emerged as the city's primary commercial center as well as its governmental center. As a result, major businesses and other institutions located in the area and the predominant character changed from residential to commercial although wood frame and brick dwellings continued to occupy Franklin, Tabb, and Union streets throughout the war years.

The Greek Revival-style Petersburg Hustings Courthouse (123-103-1), built between 1838 and 1840 in a classical temple form from the design of New York architect Calvin Pollard, is notable for its use of the Tower of the Winds order for both its pedimented front portico and the octagonal clock tower. Stuccoed and scored to resemble ashlar masonry, the brick courthouse is one of the finest examples in Virginia of its style and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The clerk's offices (123-103-2 and 123-103-3), located in two one-story, red-brick buildings, are adjacent and situated south and west of the courthouse. These modest, vernacular buildings once formed a forecourt with a jail building (no longer extant) and today stand in marked contrast to the elegant courthouse. The court complex's handsome stone retaining wall survives and is typical of several others found in the district.

Traditionally the courthouse precinct was immediately adjacent to commercial uses. The current parking lot along North Sycamore Street (123-103-105 and 123-103-106) was occupied formerly by three-story, Federal-style, brick buildings similar in appearance to extant survivals from that era. The central lane of this parking area formerly served as a narrow street (Courthouse Avenue) between commercial buildings that provided an approach to the courthouse. The open character of the area today provides a sweeping vista of the governmental buildings from North Sycamore Street.

The United States Customs House (123-103-95) at the intersection of Tabb and Union streets was completed in 1859. Designed by nationally known architect Ammi B. Young and greatly enlarged with an addition in 1908-10, the three-story, granite, palazzo-type building is an excellent articulation of the Italian Renaissance Revival.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

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The Courthouse District also includes two of Petersburg's well-known, monumental churches, both located within sight of the Customs House. Philadelphia architect Thomas U. Walter's Tabb Street Presbyterian Church (123-103-72a) is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style. The temple form, two-story, brick church with its stuccoed, brick exterior walls above a granite base features a Doric pentastyle pedimented portico, Doric pilaster corner boards, unornamented entablature, blank pediment, raking cornice, and a monumental two-story central doorway. The iron fence and gates and granite gateposts also survive. St. Paul's Episcopal Church (123-103-91a), an 1855-57 Gothic Revival-style church designed by Baltimore architects Niernesee and Nielson, also presents a stucco-covered exterior, the result of efforts to cover brick damaged during the 1864 siege of Petersburg. The prominent three-story, tiered tower combines a stone-arched entrance vestibule with corner buttresses that span three stories, a lancet window, an oculus, window tracery, gabled dormers, and a spire crowned with a cross finial. The basement story has a raised ashlar watertable and small lancet windows while the first story features tall lancet windows with stained glass and corner buttresses. Like the nearby Presbyterian church, St. Paul's retains its nineteenth-century cast-iron fence and gates with granite gateposts. The adjacent nineteenth-century rectories for both churches are also extant. The United States Customs House, the Tabb Street Presbyterian Church and Rectory, and the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rectory, and Parish Hall are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Courthouse District has several antebellum houses that survive from a period when dwellings, commercial, and industrial buildings were more closely juxtaposed than today. Two detached, but adjacent residences — Tabb Street Presbyterian Church Rectory (123-103-72b) and the Paul-Lassiter House (presently the City Hall Annex and 123-103-73) — are two good examples of brick, Greek Revival-style, urban houses. The Rectory retains many of its original features, including its marble mantels. The Paul-Lassiter House, on the other hand, retains its essential Greek Revival character although it has been extensively remodeled in its conversion for use as the Elk's Club and City Hall Annex. The Slaughter-Tatum House, a wood frame, detached house (123-103-77) in the same style, features a Doric portico with fluted columns. The originally-detached rear kitchen at 116 West Tabb Street (123-103-86) is a rare survivor of its type in the district.

Despite several fires and military action during the Civil War, the Courthouse District retains a number of Federal-period brick buildings. Following the fire of 1815 that destroyed two-thirds of the business district, brick became the most popular construction material. Federal-period buildings that survive are generally three- or

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   3  

---

four-story, brick, gable-roofed buildings with stone window lintel and sills. It appears that these substantial brick buildings, with their basic forms adaptable to residential, commercial, and even industrial uses, successfully accommodated a variety of uses. Mixed uses occurred frequently within a single building and minor industrial uses often occupied the upper stories and rear lots of commercial establishments.

Three buildings on the 200 block of North Sycamore Street (218, 220-222 and 227-229) are good representatives of Federal-era commercial buildings. The Mark E. Holt Jewelry Store (123-103-68), for example, features brick laid in Flemish bond, six-over-six double-hung sash windows with flat lintels and sills, and a gable roof. The three buildings on the southeast corner of North Sycamore and Franklin streets (123-103-29 and 123-103-30) are particularly well-preserved examples of commercial architecture in the Courthouse District. Their handsome storefronts incorporate several of the distinctive hallmarks of mid-nineteenth-century commercial architecture in Petersburg.

As a consequence of a series of nineteenth-century fires that destroyed many Federal-style buildings on North Sycamore Street south of Tabb Street, numerous successions of structures have occupied the same sites. The district includes examples of many architectural styles and periods, including late Federal, Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Neoclassical, Georgian Revival, and Chicago School as well as non-stylistic, vernacular, and utilitarian structures.

The district represents the evolution and continuity of a commercial district from the early nineteenth century through the twentieth century. In many instances Federal-style buildings have had facade modifications that incorporate the fashionable architectural features of later periods. Such architectural modifications as the addition of cast-iron window hoods or bracketed cornices and the removal of dormer windows have occurred as architectural styles have changed. Italianate, Renaissance Revival, and more modest vernacular brick corbelled cornices have been added to formerly Federal facades.

North Sycamore Street possesses several exemplary Italianate blocks. The Augustus Wright Block (123-103-29), an antebellum, three-story row features the cast-iron facade ornamentation that often was characteristic of this commercial style in Petersburg and is an excellent and well-preserved example of an Italianate commercial block. The block retains one of its original storefront surrounds with cast-iron, engaged Corinthian columns and an ornate storefront cornice as well as segmental-arched window sash with bracketed sills, cast-iron, segmental-arched

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

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window hoods with cartouches, and a denticulated cornice with elaborate corner brackets.

Three early-twentieth-century banks, all recalling classical themes through the use of pedimented and columned facades, also remain on Sycamore Street. Both the Virginia National Bank (currently Central Fidelity Bank and 123-103-63) and the former National Bank (vacant and 123-103-16), which occupy directly opposite sides of the same block, also feature excellent and well-preserved interiors. The National Bank, notable for its finely detailed entablature, has had few alterations and remains a good example of an early-twentieth-century bank in the Neoclassical Revival style. The recessed arched opening and elaborate door cornice are notable features of the Beaux Arts Classical-style facade of the Morris Plan Saving Bank (123-103-22).

Around the turn of the twentieth century, Petersburg, like most downtowns, saw the establishment of department stores and ready-to-wear apparel stores in large downtown buildings. One of the most prominent was Saal's (123-103-11), located at the principal downtown intersection of Tabb and North Sycamore. The three-story, Romanesque Revival commercial block with its buff-colored brick facade and cast-iron storefront cornice also featured an impressive interior which remains essentially intact today with its elaborate pressed-tin ceiling and wall coverings and a cast-iron gallery supported by stylized, cast-iron Corinthian columns. Other major retail establishments included Lavenstein's and Rucker-Rosenstock's. Lavenstein's (123-103-54) was located in a mid-nineteenth-century commercial block that was renovated with a more modern Chicago School-style facade. At that time the entire upper facade was clad in white glazed terra cotta, and Chicago-style windows installed on the second and third stories. Rucker-Rosenstock's (123-103-62) also turned to a more modern facade and renovated its Renaissance Revival-style building in the Chicago School style.

The Courthouse District also developed with large tobacco warehouses and other buildings used for light industry. The design of these buildings differed little from that of most commercial buildings although they tended to be built at a larger scale and without stylistic embellishments and ornamentation. The antebellum armory, or "gun house," (123-103-70) that survives on West Tabb Street has been modified in the twentieth century but retains its first-floor granite piers as indications of the original, large, garage-like doors. The Zimmer & Company Building (123-103-84), a surviving postbellum tobacco factory located on the southeast corner of Tabb and Market streets, is a four-story brick building with segmental-arched openings and corbelled parapet. The nearby Virginia Warehouse (123-103-97), another tobacco-related structure, consists of five parallel, one-story, brick warehouses with parapet ends. The



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

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Seaboard Air Line Railway (123-103-80), located its three-story, buff-colored, pressed-brick, Georgian Revival-style station near these industrial buildings.

The revival tradition continued in Petersburg's public architecture in the twentieth century. The only major hotel in downtown Petersburg, the Petersburg Hotel (123-103-96) at 16 West Tabb Street, was built in 1915 adjacent to the Customs House. The six-story Flemish-bond brick building features a granite base, a ground-floor facade sheathed in glazed terra-cotta tiles, and elaborately detailed portals. The 1935 United States Post Office (123-103-39) is modelled after the colonial capitol in Williamsburg. Its murals designed and executed during the Depression and New Deal era by the Works Progress Administration remain intact interior features.

Changes in use have accounted for repeated first-floor changes in the appearance of almost every storefront. The period following World War I saw the renovations of many first-floor storefronts in the downtown. Although some cast-iron cornices, columns, and pilasters remained, eventually almost every owner or tenant saw fit to make some modernizations at the storefront level. In many cases, first floors were given something of an Art Deco appearance with the installation of black Carrara-glass surrounds, signbands, and bulkheads. All along North Sycamore Street evidence of the popularity of Carrara glass survives. McClellan's (123-103-48) and Mark E. Holt Jewelers (123-103-68) remain excellent examples of storefront renovations of this type. Mark E. Holt also retains significant interior features, including mahogany cases with brass fixtures and an Art Deco-style pressed-tin ceiling.

Commercial and industrial establishments built between the two world wars retained the basic storefront layout that had persisted from the nineteenth century but with fewer embellishments. The Rennie Arnold Pens Company building (123-103-93) on North Union Street has undergone some alterations but remains a typical example of a 1930s utilitarian commercial block. The former Atlantic Coast Realty Company building (123-103-88) on West Tabb Street is one of the more elaborately ornamented commercial buildings of this period. The one-story, brick building with its modified Palladian-arched motif in the pediment, concrete cornice, and Colonial Revival vase finials is an exotic interpretation of a Colonial Revival-style commercial block.

Much of Washington Street was redeveloped in the early twentieth century following the removal of tobacco factories and warehouses from the street. The ten-bay commercial block at 27-29 West Washington Street (123-103-100) is a characteristic, early-twentieth-century, two-story, brick commercial block. Decorative brick panels

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

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between the windows on the second story and a projecting cornice crowning the building are the only distinctive features.

During the early twentieth century a new type of store or market — the chain supermarket — began to replace the traditional downtown grocer. The surviving A&P Super Market (123-103-103) on West Washington Street is a typical example of the one-story, brick, twentieth-century supermarket that developed in most commercial areas during this period. The 1920s also witnessed the introduction of the apartment building to downtown Petersburg. Built on the site of the house of Charles Watson, a local tobacco industrialist, Watson Court Apartments (123-103-92) is a typical 1920s, urban apartment building with a U-shaped plan and a roughly-textured, three-story, brick exterior.

A few commercial buildings have undergone such extensive facade renovations that they no longer contribute historic architectural character to the district. Some have resulted in the irrevocable damage or loss of historic architectural fabric. Such renovations have occurred to historic buildings along North Sycamore Street at 2-4 (123-103-43), 107 (123-103-27), 109-111 (123-103-26), 119 (123-103-23), and 129 (123-103-19). Typically, these renovations have resulted in irreplaceable losses to original or significant subsequent architectural form or detail. In some instances, the original fenestration patterns have been totally reworked or removed altogether. In others, stucco and other cladding materials appear to have been applied following removal of significant architectural features or it appears that their removal would be likely to damage any remaining detail and material.

Generally post-World War II construction has had only minimal impact on the district. Several post-World War II office buildings in the district are compatible in scale and material but do not contribute to significance and have been built on sites occupied previously by historic buildings. Most new construction has taken the form of Modern-style bank and office buildings, typical of those found in most cities and none particularly dominating in appearance or scale. The C & P Telephone building (123-103-94) and adjacent tower on North Union Street, however, probably have had more impact on historic environs than any other new construction. Built on the site of one of Petersburg's two former synagogues, the pair and their parking lot visually intrude on both the Customs House and the St. Paul's complex. The tower, the tallest structure in the district, now competes with the Courthouse tower as the skyline's most visible landmark.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

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Demolition of historic buildings and paving some of the district's limited open space have had more of an impact than new construction. Some historic buildings have been removed to provide space for large paved parking lots that create gaps in the otherwise dense streetscape. In other instances former open spaces that once accommodated lawns or outdoor commercial storage or display space have been developed as parking lots.

The district's topography is responsible for its most distinctive landscape elements. The construction of retaining walls built of large coursed granite blocks are a direct result of the district's steep elevations in some areas. Granite blocks also line a portion of a small stream running near part of the northwestern edge of the district. The stream, Brick House Run, which is named for a brick kiln on its upper reaches, has been covered and built over on the western side of North Market Street in the vicinity of the present Builder's Supply Company (123-103-79a, b, c). A succession of street surfaces — from dirt to cobblestone to granite paving blocks to the current asphalt — reflect the changing technologies and modes of transportation which have occurred in the district. Similarly, sidewalks have progressed from dirt paths and board walks to brick, and finally concrete sidewalks.

The Courthouse District adjoins the Old Town Historic District on the north and is similar in character to Old Town at that edge where nineteenth-century Federal buildings remain. The areas east of the courthouse and west of Market Street differ dramatically as land use changes from commercial, light industrial, and governmental to strictly residential. Along the southern Washington Street boundary, the character changes to reflect late-twentieth-century commercial adaptations to high-speed automotive uses. More gaps exist in the streetscape in the area adjacent to the district; trademark buildings and signs associated with franchise and national chains occur; and 1970s and 1980s buildings have replaced historic buildings. The Courthouse District represents a recognizable entity unified by both land use and architectural character and periods.

There are no physical indications that the district does not possess the potential to yield archaeological information. Given the successions of buildings and structures and human occupations that have occurred on numerous sites in the district, it is likely that archaeological resources survive and will yield information about past domestic life in Petersburg, historic retail and commercial activity, and nineteenth-century light industries.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

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The Courthouse District contains a considerable number of significant buildings that retain sufficient integrity both individually and collectively to constitute a historic district. The combination of outstanding examples of public architecture with the surviving blocks of mixed-use commercial buildings and warehouses so characteristic of nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Petersburg, gives the district its own distinct character and reflects the vitality and commercial dynamism of the city's central business district prior to World War II.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

PETERSBURG COURTHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY

N. ADAMS ST.

✓ 116-124: (Also 125-133 Monroe St.) (123-103-124) Parking lot.

✓ 132: (123-103-42) Queen Anne residence. Detached. ca. 1880-1900. Brick (5-course American bond); 2 stories; 3 bays; hipped roof. One-story wood porch with Tuscan Doric columns, balustrade, entablature, cornice, and hipped roof; first story has single-door entry with transom, 1/1 sash windows; two-story bay window to one side of entry, spans full height of facade; second story has 1/1 sash, projecting cornice, gable-roofed dormers centered over front and side elevations, two central brick chimneys. Original brick retaining wall fronts street, and original brick steps lead up steep grade to front porch. One of few postbellum detached houses in downtown Petersburg. Good example of Queen Anne-style detached house. Contributing.

BARTON ALLEY

✓ 215-229: (123-103-128) Parking lot.

✓ 231: (123-103-129) Parking lot.

COURTHOUSE HILL

✓ 100: (123-103-1) ✓ Petersburg Hustings Courthouse. Greek Revival courthouse. Detached. 1838-1840. Brick (stucco cladding, scored to resemble ashlar masonry); 2 stories; 1 bay (symmetrical); gable (standing-seam metal) roof with pediment. Primary porch features a two-story projecting portico with four colossal Composite columns modeled after the Hellenistic Tower of the Winds, square corner columns, corner boards, unornamented entablature, and denticulated pediment; facade features 6-panel double doors, wood-paneled transom, second-story paneled double doors, cast-iron balcony, granite door surround, coffered ceiling; two-story octagonal tower resembling the Tower of the Winds has first story featuring a bell, Corinthian columns, round-arched arcade, and entablature; second story of tower features Ionic order, octagonal lantern, and entablature; top of tower has large clock with four faces, and large togaed sculpture personifying justice; side elevations have 6/6 sash,

(also  
123-45)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 10

corner boards, entablature, and denticulated cornice; two-story tower added in the early 1840s; rear of building extended in 1965, and matches original building fabric; interior renovated 1965-1966. First floor divided into three rooms, one on each side of a central corridor, and a third large room at the rear that is now partitioned into offices; two staircases off the first-floor entrance hall provide access to the second floor; the second-story vestibule has a coffered ceiling; the court room is off the second-story vestibule, and has a double-door entry, window trim with an entablature, and a heavy denticulated cornice molding, an elaborate ceiling with central dome, radiating coffers, and corner sculptural-relief motifs, judge's bench in semicircular domed aedicula with Doric pilasters, entablature and cornice, and transverse arch with keystone; the rails, jury box, judge's bench, aedicula pilasters and moldings, and remaining furnishings all date from 1965-1966 renovation. The courthouse is sited prominently on a hill overlooking downtown Petersburg; significant original landscape features include granite gateposts and steps, a stone retaining wall, cast-iron fences and gates, cast-iron lampposts, and a 19th-c. herringbone-pattern brick walk. The Petersburg Hustings Courthouse has served the Petersburg community continuously since 1840, and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Superb example of Greek Revival courthouse designed by New York architect Calvin Pollard. Contributing.

- ✓ 102: (123-103-2) Clerk's Office #1. Vernacular record's building. Detached. 1890s, with later additions. Brick (7-course American bond); 1 story; 4 bays (asymmetrical); gable (slate) roof with end parapets. Double-door entry with steel doors, transom, original granite steps, 2/2 sash windows with flat brick arches and masonry sills, brick entablature; gable ends have circular louvered vents; 2/2 sash replace original 6/6 sash; original building was L-shaped, subsequent additions resulted in present H-shaped plan. Clerk's office is sited just southwest of the courthouse, off the central herringbone-pattern brick walkway. Clerk's office for antebellum Courthouse Hill complex. Good example of early, fireproof, theft-resistant record's building. Contributing.
- ✓ 104: (123-103-3) Clerk's Office #2. Vernacular office building. Detached. ca. 1855-1860. Brick (facade is stretcher bond, side elevations are 5-course American bond); 1 story; 5 bays (symmetrical); gable roof with stepped parapet. Entrance has six-panel door with transom, cast-iron pediment, granite steps; 6/6 sash with pediment-shaped cast-iron window hoods; flat retaining arches frame three central

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 11

bays, entablature, stepped parapet; brickwork in parapet has been repaired; shed-roofed addition to rear with matching window hoods. Sited just south of courthouse facade, off herringbone-pattern brick walkway. Part of 19th-c. Courthouse Hill complex serving Petersburg Hustings Courthouse, it has been used continuously for governmental use, originally as the Clerk's Office, later as the Petersburg Public Schools Administration Office, and has now been returned to use as courthouse offices. Good example of mid-19th-c. vernacular office building. Contributing.

FRANKLIN ST.

- 14: (123-103-35) Vacant. Utilitarian commercial block. Detached. Mid-20th c. Brick (5-course American bond), concrete block; 1 story; 4 bays (asymmetrical); flat roof. Mid-20th-c. facade and storefront with single-door entry, plate-glass windows, one boarded window, cantilevered flat-metal canopy; upper facade has five boarded windows surrounded by decorative rectangular border. One of several mid-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of mid-20th-c. commercial block. Noncontributing.
- 15: (123-103-38) Progress-Index Building. Georgian Revival commercial block. Detached. Late 19th c.; early-20th-c. facade. Brick (stretcher bond), granite; 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. First story features granite frontispiece with classical enframing, and pediment with brackets; fixed and multi-paned bay windows with transoms; coupled, colossal, Corinthian pilasters span full height of facade and divide bays; corners of facade are marked by single, colossal, Corinthian pilasters and Doric corner boards; building is crowned by large entablature and projecting modillioned cornice; interior end chimney; segmental-arched window openings and stepped parapet on side elevations indicate late-19th-c. vintage; bay windows and multi-paned fenestration date from late 20th c. One of several late-19th- and early-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Good example of Georgian Revival commercial block. Contributing.
- 20: (123-103-36) Signet Bank. Modern bank building. Detached. ca. 1970. Stone (ashlar cladding), concrete block, steel frame; 3 stories; 4 bays (asymmetrical); flat roof. First story has recessed entry with glass double-doors, and plate-glass windows; central block on second and third story projects forward from building mass, three steel-and-concrete

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 12

columns; vertical-strip windows span height of building on one side of facade; remainder of building clad in prefabricated, concrete, terrazzo tile; stone cornice band crowns building; two-bay car port for drive-through banking extends from one side elevation. Only late-20th-c. bank building in downtown Petersburg. Representative example of Modern bank building. Noncontributing.

- ✓ 26: (123-103-125) Parking lot.
- ✓ 27-39: (123-103-39) U.S. Post Office. Georgian Revival post office building. 1935. Brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; 9 bays (symmetrical); hipped roof. Modeled after the reconstructed colonial Capitol of Virginia at Williamsburg, the facade features two, two-story, bowed sections with a three-bay arcade between them, brick quoins, and a wood tower rising above; wood door enframing with entablature, cornice, transom, and round-arched window above with a keystone; fixed, multipaned, round-arched windows with keystones flank entrance, forming the three-bay arcade; remaining first-story windows are 12/12 sash with splayed flat arches; belt course separates first and second stories; second story has 8/8 sash, denticulated cornice, and large end chimney on rear corner; bowed two-story sections on facade feature tall, round-arched windows with keystones, and white marble medallions below windows; one-story wing addition on northwest. The interior is notable for its two WPA murals in lobby depicting hunting and harvesting scenes. One of several early-20th-c. office buildings in downtown Petersburg, and main U.S. Post Office for area since 1939. Designed by architect Donald G. Anderson, excellent example of Georgian Revival-style office building modeled after the colonial Capitol at Williamsburg. Contributing.
- ✓ 30: (123-103-37) Knights of Pythias Building-Medical Arts Building. Modernistic high-rise office building. Detached. ca. 1930-1940. Brick (variegated yellow pressed brick), grey sandstone, terra-cotta tile, marble cladding; 7 stories; 7 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Altered, mid-20th-c. ground floor has plate-glass windows, reddish-purple marble cladding, and recessed entrance; upper facade has three-bay central pavilion, one-bay end pavilions, vertical brick banding, recessed transom windows, and limestone parapets with terra-cotta ornament and limestone medallions; top of building originally had one-story setback; penthouse addition sometime after 1975. Originally built for the Knights of Pythias fraternal organization, one of several fraternal organizations



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

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located in downtown Petersburg, this is the largest early-20th-c. high-rise office building in the area. Representative example of a Modernistic-style high-rise office building, and rare type in Petersburg. Contributing.

HINTON ST.

- ✓ 201-225: (123-103-97) Virginia Warehouse. Vernacular warehouse complex. Detached. 1901. Brick (5-course American bond); 1 story; 22 bays (asymmetrical); gable roofs. Complex of five parallel warehouses fronting Hinton St. and running along west side of Market St. featuring original 6/6 sash windows with brick segmental arches, flat brick retaining arches, metal garage doors in segmental-arched openings, raking cornices, and end parapets. Originally built on site of Heath residence as a tobacco warehouse and public sales room, with largest sales floor and best storage facilities in Petersburg; later converted to Syntex Knitting Mills. Excellent example of turn-of-the-century tobacco warehouse complex retaining 19th-c. architectural character of tobacco warehouses. Contributing.

N. MARKET ST.

- ✓ 111: (123-103-82) 20th-c. commercial block. Detached. ca. 1940. Brick (stucco cladding); 2 stories; 4 bays (first story), 5 bays (second story); flat roof with parapet. Single-door entry with awning, flanking display cases, garage door; second story has tripled 1/1 sash. One of few between-the-wars utilitarian commercial blocks on N. Market St. Typical early-20th-c. utilitarian commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 115: (123-103-83) Second Empire townhouse. Detached. ca. 1870. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays; mansard (slate) roof. Two-bay wood porch, square columns, wood balustrade, mansard roof crowned by iron balustrade; asymmetrical single-door entry with transom and sidelights, tripartite 1/1 sash; second story has 1/1 sash with segmental arches, awnings; 3 gabled dormers with 1/1 sash appear added to mansard roof. Set back from street, front yard with sidewalk surrounded by low brick wall. Only remaining postbellum residential townhouse in downtown Petersburg. Rare surviving residence on Market St. Contributing.

~~117-119: (123-103-97) Parking lot.~~

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

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- ✓ 121: (123-103-122) Parking lot.
- ✓ 122-134: (123-103-81) Late-19th-c. industrial warehouse. Detached. ca. 1870-1890. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 1 bay; flat roof with stepped parapet. Single-door entry and exterior stair, segmental-arched window openings, brick flue; Seaboard Salvage Co. sign painted on Market St. facade; a wood-frame Greek Revival house previously stood adjacent to the east of the warehouse, fronting on Market St. One of few surviving postbellum industrial warehouses in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of a late-19th-c. industrial warehouse. Contributing.
- ✓ 125: (123-103-84) Zimmer Tobacco Factory. Late-19th-c. industrial factory. Detached. ca. 1884. Brick (unpressed 5-course American bond); 4 stories; 7 bays; gable roof. L-shaped plan; first story on Market St. has two single-door entries with transoms, tall 6/9 sash with segmental arches, one 6/6 sash, some windows and third doorway boarded; second through fourth stories have boarded segmental-arched openings, metal fire escape; gable-ends have single segmental-arched 6/6 sash, parapets with corbel table; two-story brick rear addition; original 6/9 and 6/6 sash boarded sometime after 1975. One of few remaining postbellum tobacco factories in Petersburg; closely resembles the Dunlop Tobacco Factory. Typical example of late-19th-c. tobacco factory. Contributing.
- ✓ 201-209: (123-103-76) Utilitarian commercial block. Detached. ca. 1930. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; 3 bays; flat roof. Market St. facade has recessed, glass, double-door entry, large plate-glass windows, and glass-block windows, tubular aluminum cornice. On corner lot with parking lot at rear. One of several early-20th-c. utilitarian commercial blocks in Petersburg. Post-1960 exterior renovation has obscured most original architectural features of this early-20th-c. commercial block. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 206: (123-103-80) Seaboard Air Line Railway Station. Georgian Revival train station. Detached. 1900. Brick (facade has buff-colored pressed, stretcher bond; side elevations are 3-course American bond); 3 stories with 1 1/2-story flanking wings; 9 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. First story has asymmetrical single-door entry with semicircular transom, arched 10/8 sash windows, Doric pilasters between bays, flat cornice band; 1/2 story between first and second stories features

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

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roundels, flat cornice band, and spherical finials; asymmetrical three-bay, three-story central block has Doric pilasters spanning second and third stories, two-story retaining arches contain second- and third-story windows; second story has 2/2 sash with rough-hewn granite lintels, recessed panels between second and third stories; third story features arched 10/2 sash; parapet with date of construction "1900" at corner; three arched openings on first story blocked; cement bands replace original cornice bands; parapet altered; original corner cupola over date marker demolished; rear shed additions probably enclose original loading dock. Although used as a station only briefly, it is a tangible reminder of Petersburg's significance as a primary industrial center and transportation hub in the state. Good example of a Georgian Revival-style railroad station designed by architect D. Wiley Anderson, of Richmond. Contributing.

- ✓ 215: (123-103-77) Slaughter-Tatum house. Greek Revival residence. Detached. ca. 1820-1860. Wood frame (weatherboard siding); 2 stories; 3 bays; gable (standing-seam metal) roof. One-bay wood porch with Doric columns, Doric pilasters, entablature and cornice; first story has single-door entry with rectangular transom, 1/1 sash with shutters; second story has 1/1 sash with shutters, cornice, one interior end chimney; one-story wing addition has 6/6 sash, back porch with Doric columns and shed roof, cornice, gabled roof, one interior end chimney. One of few surviving antebellum residences in downtown Petersburg. Excellent example of restored Greek Revival-style residence. Contributing.

- ✓ 217: (123-103-123) Parking lot.

- ✓ 222: (123-103-79) Builders Supply Company. Complex of three industrial buildings. ca. 1900 to 1940. In addition, three auxiliary buildings exist on lot, including an unenclosed wood-frame shed with a gable roof.

(123-103-79a) Builders Supply Company. Late-19th-c. industrial block. Detached. ca. 1900. Brick (4/5-course American bond); 1 & 2 stories; 4 bays; flat roof with parapet. Three-part Market St. facade has a central two-story block, with a single-door entry, bricked storefront, corbelled storefront cornice, altered upper facade fenestration, corbelled cornice; flanking one-story block to the south with bricked storefront; flanking two-story block to the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 16

---

north with mid-20th-c. storefront, and paired and single sash windows on upper facade; one-story brick rear addition with attached, gabled, wood-frame storage sheds. Part of a lumber-mill complex of postbellum and early-20th-c. buildings. Rare Petersburg example of late-19th- and early-20th-c. complex of industrial buildings with later alterations. Contributing.

(123-103-79b) Builders Supply Company. Turn-of-the-century industrial/vernacular building. Detached. ca. 1900-1915. Wood frame (corrugated metal siding); 1 story; 3 bays (asymmetrical); gable roof with end parapet. Warehouse on brick foundation with single-door entries, 8/8 sash, garage doors, and corrugated-metal siding; occupies north edge of lot; rambling attached row of sheds of varying roof types to rear form edge of interior lumber yard and contribute rural vernacular feeling to otherwise industrial complex. Part of a lumber-mill complex of postbellum and early-20th-c. buildings. Rare Petersburg example of late-19th- and early-20th-c. complex of industrial buildings with later alterations. Contributing.

(123-103-79c) Builder's Supply Company. Early-20th-c. garage/warehouse. Detached. ca. 1920-1940. Brick; 1 story; 2 bays (asymmetrical); flat roof. One-story brick garage/warehouse with metal garage doors occupies rear of lot. Part of a lumber-mill complex of postbellum and early-20th-c. buildings. Typical example of late-19th- and early-20th-c. complex of industrial buildings with later alterations. Contributing.

✓ 229: (123-103-78) Mid-20th-c. commercial block. Detached. ca. 1950-1960. Brick; 1 story; 4 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Market St. facade has four plate-glass windows, and blank parapet with sign; main entry is off parking lot to south. One of few mid-20th-c. utilitarian buildings in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of mid-20th-c. commercial block. Noncontributing.

MONROE ST.

✓ 125-133: (Also 166-124 N. Adams St.) (123-103-124) Parking lot.

✓ 135: (123-103-40) American Foursquare residence. Detached. ca. 1910. Wood frame (weatherboard siding); 2 stories; 2 bays

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 17

---

(symmetrical); hipped (standing-seam metal) roof. Original porch removed; second story has original, doubled, sash windows with decorative geometric tracery and shutters; bracketed cornice, one hipped-roof dormer; coupled dormer windows have original geometric tracery; central chimney, brick flue at rear corner; one-story stucco-clad addition to rear; converted to duplex mid-to-late 20th c. One of few early-20th-c. detached houses surviving in downtown Petersburg. Representative, if altered, American Foursquare detached house with later 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.

- ✓ 139: (123-103-41) Monroe Building. Late-20th-c. office building. Detached. ca. 1950-1970. Concrete block (brick cladding); 2 stories; 5 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. First story has recessed corner entry with glass door; entire facade has brick cladding, vertical brick bands span full building height, transom windows recessed between brick bands; one interior end chimney. One of several post-WWII office buildings in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of mid-20th-c. office building. Noncontributing.

N. SYCAMORE ST.

- ✓ 2-4 (and 7-13 W. Washington St.): (123-103-43) Late-19th-c. commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1890. Brick (stucco cladding); 3 stories; 3 bays (asymmetrical); gable (composition shingle) roof. Mid-20th-c. plate-glass storefront wraps around corner at N. Sycamore and W. Washington Streets; all second- and third- story windows are bricked, except for two casement windows on the N. Sycamore St. facade, and five casement windows on the W. Washington St. facade; W. Washington St. facade has additional mid-20th-c. entry; entire exterior stuccoed; projecting cornice, pediment-shaped parapet. One of several large late-19th-c. and early-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg, this building has housed a variety of retail uses. Original appearance completely obscured by 20th-c. alterations. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 3: (123-103-34) Vacant. A&B Restaurant. Late-19th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1875-1890. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront, awning, storefront cornice; original second-story 2/2 sash with elaborate brick segmental arches, recessed panels above windows, and original cornice; mid-20th-c. plate-glass window alters E. Washington St. elevation. One of several

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18

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postbellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore, and used through most of the 20th c. as a restaurant. Good example of a late-19th-c. commercial block, and almost identical to 5-7 N. Sycamore St. except for slight differences in the bricks and brickwork; window treatment similar to 250 N. Sycamore St. in the Old Town District, bordering the northern boundary of the Courthouse District. Contributing.

- ✓ 5-7: (123-103-33) Late-19th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1870-1890. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 7 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Center double-door entrance with segmental arch and awning, flanked by two 20th-c. storefronts with awnings, and crowned by storefront cornice; second story has original 2/2 sash with elaborate brick segmental arches, awnings, recessed panels above windows, and original cornice. One of many postbellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Excellent example of a late-19th-c. commercial block, and almost identical to 3 N. Sycamore St. except for slight differences in the bricks and brickwork; window treatment similar to 250 N. Sycamore St. in the Old Town District, bordering the northern boundary of the Courthouse District. Contributing.
- ✓ 6: (123-103-44) Late-19th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1880-1890. Brick (stucco cladding); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront; late-20th-c. sign on first story; second- and third- story windows bricked except for one sash window on each story, interior end chimney. Housed a variety of retail uses, and one of many postbellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of a late-19th-c. commercial block, with 20th-c. facade alterations. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 8-10: (123-103-45) Federal/Renaissance Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront, black Carrara-glass storefront surround, separate (asymmetrical) single-door entry to upper stories; second- and third-story windows boarded, original stone lintels, elaborate Renaissance Revival-style cornice, two interior end chimneys. Long-term site of Alexander Wilson, grocer and confectioner, and one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of Federal-style commercial block, with finely detailed Renaissance Revival-style cornice. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 19

- ✓ 9: (123-103-32) Italianate commercial block. Attached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront with wood-shingle-clad storefront surround; second-story windows boarded, original Italianate round-arched window surrounds, 3-fascia wood cornice; wood-shingle cladding on storefront surround covers handsome 1930s black Carrara-glass storefront with curved display window; originally had 4/4 sash on second story; third floor once existed. Housed a variety of retail uses historically, and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Fine example of Italianate commercial block with 1930s black Carrara-glass storefront under later 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 11-13: (123-103-31) Greek Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 6 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Single commercial block divided into two sections. 11 N. Sycamore has mid-20th-c. storefront with Mansard roof; second and third stories have 2/2 sash with pediment-shaped stone lintels, original projecting cornice; 13 N. Sycamore facade remodeled with Tudor Revival-type, half-timber-and-stucco cladding. One of several antebellum commercial blocks remaining in downtown Petersburg; 13 N. Sycamore occupied by commission merchant in 19th c. Excellent example of Greek Revival-style commercial block, with mid-20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 12-14: (123-103-46) Vacant. Early-20th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1920-1940. Brick (enameled metal cladding); 2 stories; 5 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront has two storefront entries, plate-glass display windows, awnings, storefront cornice; second story covered with enameled metal siding in 1956. One of few entirely 20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical mid-20th-c. commercial block. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 15: (123-103-30) Italianate commercial block. Attached. ca. 1870. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical). Mid-20th-c. storefront, original storefront surrounds; second and third stories have original 2/2 sash with cast-iron window hoods and stone sills, modillioned cornice. One of several postbellum buildings on N. Sycamore St. This almost intact late-19th-c. commercial block is one of the best examples of its type in Petersburg. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 20

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- ✓ 16: (123-103-47) Martin & Son-Bluebird Theater. Second Renaissance Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1890-1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront with panels covering storefront surround and entire second story; third story has paired 1/1 sash in central bay, and single 1/1 sash flanking central bay, windows have brick segmental arches with keystones and are recessed within flat brick retaining arches, retaining arches have vertical brick panels and corbelled flat brick arches; ornate metal cornice and brick parapet crowning building probably date from early-20th-c. theater renovation. One of several turn-of-the-century commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Good example of a Second Renaissance Revival-style commercial block with elaborate brickwork and ornate metal cornice. Contributing.
- ✓ 17, 19-21: (123-103-29) Augustus Wright Block. Italianate commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1850-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 7 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Two 20th-c. storefronts divide one commercial block. 17 N. Sycamore has storefront entry with plate-glass display windows, awning, 20th-c. signband, and original storefront surround with cast-iron, engaged Corinthian columns and ornate storefront cornice; entire second story retains segmental-arched 6/6 and 2/2 sash with bracketed sills, and cast-iron segmental-arched window hoods with cartouches; third-story windows are 6/6 and 2/2 sash with bracketed sills, and have cast-iron flat-arched window hoods with cartouches; brick corbel band above third-story windows, denticulated cornice with elaborate corner brackets; 19-21 N. Sycamore has mid-20th-c. storefront wrapping around corner of Franklin St.; two interior end chimneys. Originally housed retail store selling shoes, hats, gloves, and umbrellas, and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Excellent well-preserved example of an Italianate commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 20: (123-103-48) McLellan's. Italianate commercial block. Attached. ca. 1850-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 6 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Typical McLellan's 20th-c. storefront with central storefront entry, plate-glass display windows, aluminum and black Carrara-glass storefront surround, awning, and storefront cornice; second and third stories have segmental-arched 6/6 sash windows with bracketed sills and cast-iron segmental-arched window hoods with cartouches; brick cornice and parapet crown building; original Italianate cornice removed; originally had gable roof. Housed hardware and



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 21

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carriage company in the late 19th c., and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of Italianate commercial block retaining characteristic McLellan's storefront. Contributing.

- ✓ 22, 100: (123-103-49) Italianate commercial block. Attached. ca. 1850-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Two mid-20th-c. storefronts divide one commercial block; 100 N. Sycamore retains original denticulated storefront cornice; entrance to upper stories at corner; second and third stories have segmental-arched windows with bracketed sills, and cast-iron segmental-arched window hoods with cartouches; brick cornice band, and denticulated Italianate wood cornice; four interior end chimneys; two second-story window-hood cartouches missing; second- and third-story windows at 22 N. Sycamore are boarded while 100 N. Sycamore retains original 6/6 sash fenestration. Housed a variety of retail uses, and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Facade almost identical to 20 N. Sycamore St., and is good example of Italianate commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 101-103: (123-103-125) Parking lot on corner of N. Sycamore and Franklin Streets, surrounded by low brick wall. Site of two late-19th-c. commercial blocks lost to an explosion and fire in the early 1980s.
- ✓ 102: (123-103-50) Utilitarian commercial block. Attached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (5-course American bond); 1 story; 3 bays (symmetrical). 1940s storefront clad in black Carrara glass; upper facade has 1980s sign and aluminium siding, flat roof with parapet; may have been two stories originally; 20th-c. facade alteration; 1980s remodeling completely covers facade above storefront. Housed a variety of retail uses, and is one of few mid-19th-c., one-story, commercial structures in Petersburg. Typical example of a 20th-c. facade alteration. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 104: (123-103-51) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (Flemish bond, stucco cladding); 3 stories, 3 bays; steeply pitched gable (standing-seam metal) roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront with awning; second- and third-story windows entirely bricked and stuccoed; two interior end chimneys; boarded windows, with original masonry lintels and sills, visible at rear above one-story 20th-c. addition. Housed a variety of retail uses, and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. A once-exemplary Federal-style commercial block

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 22

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with front facade now entirely covered by 20th-c. facade alterations, but retaining characteristic Federal form, and second- and third-story rear elevation. Contributing.

- ✓ 105: (123-103-28) Transitional Federal/Greek Revival commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront with 1940s black Carrara-glass storefront surround, awning, late-20th-c. sign covers signband and part of second story; second and third stories have original 2/2 sash with flat masonry lintels and sills, projecting wood cornice. Housed optical works in the early 20th c., and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore Street. Typical, well-preserved example of 19th-c. commercial block, with 1940s black Carrara-glass storefront. Contributing.
- ✓ 106: (123-103-52) Tony's. Late-20th-c. commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1975-1985. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; 2 bays (asymmetrical); flat roof. Late-20th-c. storefront, plate-glass transom and windows, and vinyl siding covering front facade. One of few late-20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of a modest, one-story, late-20th-c. commercial block. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 107: (123-103-27) Transitional Federal/Greek Revival commercial block, converted to late 20th-c. office building. Attached. ca. 1840-1860; alterations ca. 1960-1980. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 1 bay; flat roof. Late-20th-c. facade has asymmetrical, tinted plate-glass windows spanning first through third stories, with glass single-door entry; remainder of facade clad in a vertical brick band; original Federal/Greek Revival-style facade probably similar to other mid-19th-c., three-bay facades on N. Sycamore Street; original construction visible from rear. Housed Magnolia Manufacturing Co. that produced baking powder in the late 19th and early 20th c., and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore Street. Facade is typical example of late-20th-c. office building, and entirely replaces original facade. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 108: (123-103-109) Pedestrian mall.
- ✓ 109-111: (123-103-26) Mid-19th-c. commercial block. ca. Attached. 1840-1860 Brick (stucco cladding); 3 stories; gable roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront with asymmetrical storefront entry, wood siding covers large plate-glass display windows, fixed metal storefront canopy;

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 23

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upper facade completely bricked, and covered with stucco; original fabric underneath mid-20th-c. facade alterations may resemble group of mid-19th-c. Federal commercial blocks that include 105, 113, and 115 N. Sycamore. Housed commission merchants in late 19th and early 20th c., and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Typical example of mid-19th-c. commercial block, with 20th-c. alterations completely covering original facade. Noncontributing.

- ✓ 110: (123-103-53) Vacant. Early-to-mid-19th-c. commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1815-1840; upper facade ca. 1915. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 4 bays; gable roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront; ca. 1915 upper facade altered, boarded windows with segmental arches and brick eyebrow moldings, decorative brick panels below windows with diamond-fret pattern, cornice, two interior end chimneys; gable roof and end chimneys indicate that building dates from antebellum period; probably built as a Federal commercial block similar to 218 N. Sycamore. One of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Good example of Federal commercial block, with ca. 1915 facade, and mid-20th-c. storefront. Contributing.
- ✓ 112-114: (123-103-54) Lavenstein's. Mid-19th-c. commercial block converted to Chicago School-style department store. ca. 1850-60; facade addition 1903. Brick (glazed terra-cotta cladding); 4 stories; 2 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront with three symmetrical storefront entries flanked by bulkheads, 1940s black Carrara-glass storefront surround covered by enameled metal siding; entire upper facade clad in white glazed terra cotta, terra-cotta quoins; second and third stories feature Chicago windows, decorative terra-cotta panels between stories, terra-cotta cornice between third and fourth stories; fourth story has two sets of quadrupled 1/1 sash, engaged terra-cotta ionic colonnettes, terra-cotta cornice; 1914 front facade addition is one full story higher than original building. Original interior remains on upper stories. One of several mid-19th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Well-preserved, rare example in Petersburg of an early-20th-c. department store in the Chicago School style. Contributing.
- ✓ 113: (123-103-25) Transitional Federal/Greek Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront; upper facade has window openings with original, flat, masonry lintels and sills, shutters may be original, sashes replaced, original cornice. Housed commission

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 24

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merchant in 19th c., and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Typical example of Federal/Greek Revival-style commercial block with mid-20th-c. storefront. Contributing.

- ✓ 115: (123-103-24) Transitional Federal/Greek Revival commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (5-course American Bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront with mansard-roofed addition; upper facade completely covered by aluminum-sheet siding added sometime after 1975; mid-20th-c. storefront, altered sometime after 1975; original upper facade had altered 1/1 sash prior to 1975; original rear elevation obscured by stucco and late-20th-c. alterations; gabled roofline matches other mid-19th-c. Federal/Greek Revival commercial blocks common in downtown Petersburg. One of several antebellum commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of transitional Federal/Greek Revival-style commercial block, although mid- and late-20th-c. alterations completely obscure facade. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 116: (123-103-55) Early-20th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1910-1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront, awning; enameled sheet metal covers storefront surround, as well as entire second story; third story has 1/1 sash, flat masonry lintels and sills, recessed brick panels under windows, quoins, parapet. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of early-20th-c. commercial block, with mid-20th-c. storefront. Contributing.
- ✓ 117 1/2: (123-103-108) Pedestrian mall.
- ✓ 118: (123-103-56) Early-20th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1900-1920. Brick (stucco cladding); 3 stories, 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Characteristic mid-20th-c. storefront; upper facade bricked and stuccoed, corbelled border frames entire upper facade, mid-20th-c. sign on second story; original early-20th-c. facade may resemble 116 N. Sycamore. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Typical example of an early-20th-c. commercial block, with a mid-20th-c. facade. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 119: (123-103-23) Mid-19th-c. commercial block with 20th-c. facade. Semidetached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (stretcher bond, 5-course American bond); 3 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); gable roof with parapet.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 25

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Mid-20th-c. storefront has two storefront entries flanked by plate-glass windows; upper facade entirely clad in aluminum panels; ca. 1960-1975 facade. One of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example mid-19th-c. commercial block, with ca. 1960-1975 facade. Noncontributing.

- ✓ 120: (123-103-57) Late-19th-c. commercial block. ca. 1870-1890. Brick (stucco cladding); 3 stories; 3 bays; flat roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront; upper facade bricked and stuccoed except for one window opening on each story. One of several late-19th-c commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Typical example of turn-of-the-century commercial block with mid-20th-c. facade alterations. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 121: (123-103-22) Southern Express-Morris Plan Savings Bank. Beaux-Arts Classical commercial block. Attached. ca. 1905. Brick, marble; 2 stories; 1 bay; flat roof. Recessed two-story entrance vestibule features altered double-doors with Colonial-type wood enframement, marble frontispiece with broken pediment incorporates 20th-c. sign, secondary single-door entry on one side wall; second story has paired plate-glass windows with marble surround; rusticated corner pilasters, archway supported by engaged Corinthian columns on plinths, flat denticulated entablature, original cornice missing, parapet; original clock; mid-20th-c. facade removed sometime after 1986 revealing damage to front facade. One of several turn-of-the-century commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Good example of Beaux-Arts Classical-style commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 122: (123-103-58) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. 1930s-type black Carrara-glass storefront with awning; upper facade has flat masonry lintels and sills; original 6/6 sash replaced with glass brick; original cornice remains. Housed hardware store for many years, and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of Federal commercial block, with 1930s storefront. Contributing.
- ✓ 123: (123-103-21) Early-20th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1920-1940. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 2 bays (symmetrical); shed (standing-seam metal) roof with parapet. First story divided into two separate mid-20th-c. storefronts; unified upper facade has two flat arches, large window openings enclosed with stationary louvres, simple

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 26

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- brick cornice, parapet with two recessed panels, corbelled brick cornice. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical early-20th-c. commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 124: (123-103-59) First Renaissance Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1865-1890. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront with enameled-metal storefront surround; upper facade has window openings with brick segmental arches, cast-iron cornice, parapet with four recessed panels; second- and third-story windows open to elements. Housed 19th-c. printing and binding establishment, and is one of several postbellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of First Renaissance Revival-style commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 125: (123-103-20) T. S. Beckwith & Co. Federal commercial block, with late-19th- and early-20th-c. alterations. Attached. ca. 1815-1840; ca. 1880-1930. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. ca. 1960s Colonial-type storefront; second story has altered windows with original flat masonry lintels, and 20th-c. shutters; parapet with three recessed panels; original facade probably two stories; front parapet probably added in the early 20th c. Housed variety of commercial uses, and is one of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore, with postbellum and 20th-c. alterations. Typical example of Federal-style commercial block, with major 20th-c. alterations. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 126: (123-103-60) Second Renaissance Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1900-1914. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 2 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront; upper stories are of buff-colored brick, brick retaining arches span second and third stories, and contain paired 1/1 sash; first-story windows have flat masonry lintels, decorative brick panels between second and third stories, second-story windows have flat masonry lintels with keystones; original cast-iron cornice removed. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of Second Renaissance Revival-style commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 128-130: (123-103-61) F. W. Woolworth Co. Second Renaissance Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1900-1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 6 bays; flat roof with parapet. ca. 1970 storefront with semicircular, fan-shaped decoration above windows, original cast-iron

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 27

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storefront cornice; upper facade has segmental-arched, corbelled, brick retaining arches; inside retaining arches are segmental-arched window openings with 1/1 sash, blank roundels above windows; parapet has recessed brick panels; original 2/2 sash altered; cast-iron cornice at roofline removed sometime after 1975. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St.; built on site of antebellum Ironfronts Building. Good example of Second Renaissance Revival-style commercial block. Contributing.

- ✓ 129: (123-103-19) Late 20th-c. Colonial commercial block. Attached. 19th-c.; 20th-c. front and rear facades. Brick (stretcher bond on first story, Flemish bond on second story); 2 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Storefront has recessed, double-door entry with transom and sidelights, large, multi-paned window is recessed inside brick retaining arch, cantilevered, hipped-roofed portico, corbelled brick cornice, narrow-strip signband; second story has 8/12 sash with wood cornices and sills, shutters, parapet. Once a 19th-c. commercial block. Typical of Colonial-type renovation popular in the second half of the 20th c. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 133-139: (123-103-18) Odd Fellows Building. Georgian Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1880-1900. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 14 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Three-part central block, lateral wings and end pavilions; first story has five mid-20th-c. storefronts, and end pavilions with entrances to upper stories featuring pilasters, brackets, and projecting flat cornices; original denticulated storefront cornice runs along entire facade; second story has segmental-arched windows containing decorative panels above altered 6/6 sash; ornamentation includes terra-cotta rosettes, red sandstone relief above windows with name "Odd Fellows Building"; dark-red brick quoins, and red sandstone cornice; parapet with recessed panels and finials crowns building; third story of building destroyed by fire; rear entrance added in the 1950s. Second-story interior retains original plan with large meeting rooms on each end, and offices and conference rooms along a hall connecting them; some original woodwork remains, including original door surrounds and wainscotting. One of several fraternal and civic organizations located in the area, and is one of the largest and finest late-19th-c commercial structures in the downtown area. Rare, if altered, example of Georgian Revival-style commercial block designed for the International Order of Odd Fellows fraternal organization by local architect Harrison Waite. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 28

---

✓134-136 (115 N. Union, rear): (123-103-62) Rucker-Rosenstock. Turn-of-the-century commercial block. Attached. 1890, with 20th-c. facade renovations. Brick (stretcher bond); 4 stories (symmetrical); 4 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Major renovations to 1890 Rucker-Rosenstock building have resulted in present eclectic appearance combining Renaissance Revival, Chicago School-style, and Art Deco elements; 1930s Art Deco-style storefront; upper facade has Chicago-type windows, diamond-and-check brickwork; 1890 cast-iron cornice with parapet; retains original brickwork and cornice similar to the Jupiter at 114 N. Sycamore; Art Deco-style storefront retains the Rucker-Rosenstock-era appearance; 1940s or 1950s glass brick and transoms alter original window configuration; ca. 1950s brick addition to rear has stone veneer with strip windows fronting on Union St. Built for Rucker-Rosenstock on site of old Ironfronts Buildings, and one of several pre-WWI commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Good example of early department store with alterations that have achieved significance over time. Contributing.

✓138-144: (123-103-63) The Virginia National Bank. Neoclassical Revival bank building. Attached. 1911; ca. 1980 addition. Limestone (ashlar); 2 stories; 3-bay main block, with 5-bay addition (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Original temple-front main block, with ca. 1980 south-front wing on site of YMCA; first story of main block has central Neoclassical-style frontispiece with altered double-door entry and transom, stone door enframingent, stone entablature, semicircular broken pediment, and tympanum with sculptured relief; flanking bays have windows with plate-glass, stone enframements, stone entablature, and triangular denticulated pediments; string course between second and third stories has Greek key motif; second story has fixed windows; colossal fluted Corinthian columns on plinths span height of building, plain entablature, triangular denticulated pediment, tympanum with sculpted floral wreath containing building date "1911," acroterion at corners, parapet above; ca. 1980 wing preserves scale and cornice line of original bank building. Interior features bank vault in rear, marble gallery with clock, paneled Doric pilasters anchored by brackets, and heavy denticulated cornice. One of group of three turn-of-the-century bank buildings located near the intersection of N. Sycamore and Tabb streets, once one of the major crossroads of town. Fine example of Neoclassical Revival-style bank building, with ca. 1980 addition. Contributing.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 29

---

- ✓145: (123-103-17) The Palace-Bluebird Theater. Second Renaissance Revival theater. Attached. ca. 1905. Brick (stretcher bond), terrazzo siding; 2 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. marquee, terrazzo siding surround; upper facade has 1/1 sash with recessed brick panels above, brick quoins, vertical rusticated band divides facade into two parts, cast-iron cornice, parapet with recessed panels. The only surviving, functional, early-20th-c. cinema in downtown Petersburg. Good example of pre-WWI cinema. Contributing.
- ✓146-148: (123-103-64) Late 19th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1880-1900. Brick (stretcher bond), stucco cladding; 2 stories; 6 bays (asymmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Originally one commercial block, now divided into three parts; first story has three 1960s Colonial storefronts; first four bays of upper facade survive intact, remainder of facade bricked and stuccoed; surviving original upper facade has windows with 1/1 sash, brick arches, and curved, molded-brick window hoods; molded-brick cornice, parapet with recessed panels. One of the larger turn-of-the-century commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Good example of turn-of-the-century utilitarian commercial block, with mid-20th-c. alterations partially covering facade. Contributing.
- ✓147-149: (123-103-16) Vacant. The National Bank. Neoclassical Revival bank building. Semidetached. 1906. Brick (stretcher bond), limestone facing; 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical). Pedimented Doric portico; colossal Ionic columns on plinths span full height of facade; first-story door and windows altered; original second-story fenestration with central thermal window, and 1/1 sash; entablature with finely detailed cornice, parapet. Ornate marble banking hall with original marble banking tables and counters, vault and offices in rear, marble gallery with clock, elaborate coffered ceilings. One of group of three, postbellum, Classical-style bank buildings that occupy strategic location at corner of Tabb and N. Sycamore streets. Architecturally is finest of the three turn-of-the-century bank buildings dominating original central intersection of town, and is excellent example of pre-WWI Neoclassical Revival-style bank. Contributing.
- ✓150: (123-103-65) Petersburg Savings & Insurance Co. Neoclassical Revival bank building. Semidetached. ca. 1888. Brick (stretcher bond), limestone (ashlar, trim); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. First story is rusticated brick on an ashlar foundation; altered double-door entry, original limestone enframingent, and limestone

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 30

plaque incised "banking" above; first-story windows are fixed with vertical mullions and transom panels; first story is crowned by elaborate limestone entablature with stylized triglyphs and metopes; second story features center fixed window with limestone surround and bracketed semicircular pediment; coupled Ionic pilasters flank second-story window, limestone entablature tops pilasters with frieze incised "Petersburg Savings and Insurance Co.," and triangular denticulated pediment crowns building with a sculptured typanum; original entry altered; three-bay W. Tabb St. addition of 1903 is similar in appearance. One of group of postbellum bank buildings occupying a strategic intersection in downtown Petersburg. Excellent example of First Renaissance Revival-style bank building, and one of the finest Renaissance Revival-style buildings in downtown Petersburg. Contributing.

- ✓ 200-212: (123-103-66) Mechanics Building. Second Renaissance Revival-style high-rise. ca. 1911-1914. Brick (5-course American bond), steel frame, limestone cladding, terrazzo cladding; 7 stories; 7 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. First story has recessed entry, fixed windows, terrazzo cladding covers original brick facing, and later rusticated marble facing completely, belt course separates first and second stories; second story has 1/1 sash, limestone facing and quoins; belt course separates second and third stories; third through sixth stories are identical, except for iron balconies under third-floor windows, doubled and single 1/1 sash, flat brick arches, masonry sills, brick belt course separates sixth and seventh stories; seventh story has tall 2/4 sash with round-arched transoms, round-arched openings with keystones, decorative brickwork and terra-cotta detailing, iron balconies, decorative roundels, brick cornice, and parapet; originally had rusticated base and elaborate projecting metal cornice; this building replaced a Greek Revival commercial block. Built by the Petersburg Benevolent Mechanics Association on the site of their previous Mechanics Hall, a Greek Revival commercial block; one of a handful of turn-of-the-century high-rise elevator buildings in downtown Petersburg. Excellent example of Second Renaissance Revival-style high-rise. Contributing.
- ✓ 201-203: (123-103-11) Saal's Department Store. Romanesque Revival commercial block. Semidetached. 1901. Brick (buff-colored, stretcher bond); 3 stories; 7 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront with enameled metal siding at signband level, original cast-iron storefront cornice; upper facade has colossal pilasters spanning second

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 31

and third stories with Romanesque-style arches springing from Doric capitals; second-story windows are 1/1 sash with upper transoms, and granite lintels and sills; third-story windows are arched, fixed, and cross mullioned; brick denticulated entablature crowns building, and pilastered parapet with recessed panels rises above; originally had angled corner entrance with elaborate pediment. Interior still retains elaborate pressed-tin ceiling and wall coverings, cast-iron gallery encircles interior, and square, stylized, cast-iron Corinthian columns support gallery; original second and third stories that housed the Petersburg clerk remain essentially intact. Located at one of the major crossroads of downtown Petersburg, Saal's was a major Petersburg clothing store in the early 20th c., and is one of several late-19th-c. commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Fine example of Romanesque Revival-style commercial block. Contributing.

- ✓ 205: (123-103-106) Parking lot.
- ✓ 209-223: (123-103-105) Parking lot.
- ✓ 214: (123-103-107) Vacant lot.
- ✓ 216: (123-103-67) Federal commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (Flemish bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. ca. 1960s storefront; upper facade has altered 1/1 sash, flat masonry lintels and sills, cast-iron window hoods, cast-iron cornice, interior end chimney; cast-iron window hoods and cornice are late-19th-c. additions. Housed a variety of retail uses, and is one of a row of surviving Federal-era commercial blocks on N. Sycamore. Typical example of Federal-style commercial block with late-19th- and mid-20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 218: (123-103-68) Mark E. Holt. Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1820. Brick (Flemish bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable (standing-seam metal) roof. 1930s black Carrara-glass storefront with intact period display cases and sign; upper facade has 6/6 sash with original flat lintels and sills. 1915 interior extant, including mahogany cases with brass fixtures by American Furniture and Fixture Co. of Richmond, and Art-Deco-style pressed tin ceiling. One of a row of surviving Federal-era commercial blocks on Sycamore Street. Best preserved of the Federal-style commercial buildings on Sycamore, Tabb, and Bank streets. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 32

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- ✓ 220-222: (123-103-69) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840; late-19th-c. alterations. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); gable (standing-seam metal) roof. Present storefront installed sometime after 1986, replaced mid-20th-c. Williamsburg-style storefront; upper facade has altered 1/1 sash, altered segmental arches, cornice, and one interior end chimney; segmental arches replaced flat lintels over windows sometime in the late 19th c. Housed a variety of retail uses, and is one of a row of surviving Federal-era commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical example of Federal-style commercial block with late-19th- and 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 224: (123-103-70) Federal commercial block with Romanesque Revival facade. Attached. ca. 1815-1840; 1880-1900. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable (shingle) roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront, late-19th-c. cast-iron storefront surround; second story has 1/1 sash, dressed stone lintels; third story has round-arched 1/1 sash, round brick arches with molded-brick window hoods, textured brick panels under windows, cast-iron cornice, one interior end chimney; dark-red brick facade and cast-iron ornament are late-19th-c. alterations to early-19th-c. building. One of a row of surviving Federal-era commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Typical Federal commercial block, with good example of Romanesque Revival-style facade alteration. Contributing.
- ✓ 227-229: (123-103-10) Federal commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Reconstructed early-20th-c. storefront, cast-iron storefront cornice; upper facade has altered 1/1 sash, flat lintels, cast-iron window hoods, cast-iron cornice, interior end chimney; cast-iron ornament is late-19th-c. addition. Late-19th-c. third-floor interior extant, with original window trim, half-panel doors with transoms, and door surrounds with bull's eyes. One of row of Federal-era commercial blocks near Courthouse Hill, on Jail House alley. Typical example of Federal-style commercial block with late-19th- and 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 230: (123-103-71) Kent's Furniture. Italianate commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1840-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 4 stories; 8 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront, black Carrara-glass storefront surround, awning; upper facade has 6/6 sash with segmental arches, cast-iron window hoods and sills, cast-iron cornice; original cornice replaced with present cast-iron cornice around 1900; half of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 33

upper-facade windows are boarded. One of several antebellum commercial blocks on N. Sycamore St. Excellent example of Italianate commercial block. Contributing.

- ✓ 231: (123-103-9) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Present storefront dates from sometime after 1986; upper facade windows boarded, original flat stone lintels and sills, late-19th-c. cast-iron cornice, two interior end chimneys. Housed a variety of wholesale and retail uses, and is one of three Federal-style commercial blocks built as a single row from 227-233 N. Sycamore St. Good example of Federal-style commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 233: (123-103-8) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Storefront enclosed in brick in 1980s; second-story window openings altered, stone lintels original; third story has original 2/2 sash, flat stone lintels and sills; late-19th-c. cast-iron cornice, one interior end chimney. One of three Federal-style commercial blocks built as a single row on east side of N. Sycamore St. Typical example of Federal-style commercial block with extensive 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 235: (123-103-7) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick; 2 stories; 3 bays; flat roof with parapet. Mid-20th-c. storefront; 1980s mansard roof covers upper facade, interior end chimney; interior structural walls, end chimney, and clear markings on side of 233 N. Sycamore St. indicate earlier presence of three-story Federal-style commercial block sometime before mid-20th-c. alterations. One of row of antebellum commercial blocks on east side of N. Sycamore St. Federal-style facade totally obscured by late-20th-c. alterations. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 237: (123-103-6) Federal commercial block. Attached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (Flemish bond); 2 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Reconstructed early-20th-c. storefront, single-door secondary entrance to upper stories, cast-iron storefront cornice; upper facade has original 2/2 sash, splayed stone lintels with keystones, cast-iron cornice, one interior end chimney; originally this building was three stories; mid-20th-c. composition siding covering entire facade removed sometime after 1986; facade restored to early-20th-c. appearance. One of row of antebellum commercial blocks on east side of N. Sycamore St. Excellent example of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 34

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Federal-style commercial block with early-20th-c. alterations. Contributing.

- ✓ 239: (123-103-5) Federal commercial block with early-20th-c. facade addition. Attached. ca. 1815-1840; ca. 1915. Brick (buff-colored stretcher bond); 3 stories; 4 bays (symmetrical); gable roof. Mid-20th-c. storefront, 19th-c. storefront cornice; yellow pressed-brick upper facade with coupled, fixed, plate-glass windows and transoms, decorative brick panels between second-and-third-story windows, late-19th-c. cast-iron cornice, two interior end chimneys with end parapet; original Federal-style facade altered in early 20th-c but late-19th-c. metal cornices retained. Built as one of row of antebellum commercial blocks on east side of N. Sycamore St. Good example of Federal-style commercial block with early-20th-c. facade alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 241: (123-103-4) Vacant. Federal commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1815-1840. Brick (5-course American bond); 1 story; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. 1950s storefront with single-door entry; storefront surround stuccoed; side elevation clad in corrugated metal siding; originally was three-story Federal-style commercial block similar to its neighbors; mid-20th-c. conversion to a one-story commercial block; may have been used as ABC store. Originally built as part of row of antebellum commercial blocks on east side of N. Sycamore St. Irrevocable 20th-c. alterations of an original Federal-style commercial block. Noncontributing.

E. TABB ST.

- ✓ 12: (123-103-15) Vacant. Late-19th-c. industrial building. Semidetached. ca. 1890. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 1/2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Unusual entry adapts steep terrain by revealing basement level on street facade; central round-arched entry, brick staircase, segmental-arched basement windows flanking doorway are bricked; first story has small segmental-arched two-light window over stairs, tall 2/2 sash with segmental arches, molded brick cornice. Used historically as either a laundry or print shop, and is a rare surviving example of a postbellum industrial building on E. Tabb St. The successful adaption of the building's plan to the difficult site makes it a most unusual example of postbellum industrial architecture in downtown Petersburg. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 35

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- ✓ 14: (123-103-14) Early-20th-c. commercial block. Attached. ca. 1910-1920. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Door surround with semicircular pediment, six-panel door, sidelights, blank transom; large first-story windows with stone sills, blank transoms, brick arches with keystones, stacked header-bond brickwork at signband level; smaller second-story windows with original 3/1 sashes, stone sills, flat brick arches with keystones, denticulated brick cornice with parapet; street level windows and entry altered, and central second-story window blocked in ca. 1970 renovation. The only remaining early-20th-c. commercial block on E. Tabb, this structure adjoins two mid-20th-c. structures. Facing Courthouse Hill, and visible from the Petersburg Hustings Courthouse steps, it is the most prominent example of an early-20th-c. commercial block on E. Tabb St. Contributing.
- ✓ 15: (123-103-115) Parking lot.
- ✓ 16: (123-103-13) Modern office block. Semidetached. ca. 1950. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 2 bays; flat roof. Recessed double-door entry with transom, and adjacent tripled two-part windows; upper facade has quadrupled two-part fixed windows, and a single two-part fixed window. One of few post-war office buildings on E. Tabb St. near City Hall. Representative example of a post-war Modern-style office block. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 20. (123-103-12) Modern office building. Detached. ca. 1960. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays; flat roof. Modern glass double-door entry; windows arranged in recessed vertical strips spanning full height, with concrete panels between each story, and contrasting concrete cornice band. One of few Modern post-war office buildings in downtown area. Typical example of modest, Modern-style, post-war office building. Noncontributing.

W. TABB ST.

- ✓ 9: (123-103-104) Parking lot.
- ✓ 16-20: (123-103-96) Petersburg Hotel. Second Renaissance Revival hotel. Detached. 1915. Steel, reinforced concrete, brick (Flemish bond), granite base, glazed terra cotta; 6 stories; 5 bays (symmetrical). Rusticated white-enamel, glazed, terra-cotta first story featuring two

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 36

elaborately detailed Renaissance Revival portals, large tripartite windows with transoms, engaged Ionic columns, granite steps; terra-cotta cornice; brick-faced upper stories have doubled and tripled 1/1 sash; brick parapet; one-story penthouse; aluminum awnings replace original decorative cast-iron awnings; loss of original denticulated metal cornice. First-floor interior features marble entrance lobby, marble main staircase, marble Corinthian pilasters, wood-paneled wainscotting, entablature with beaded fascia, denticulated cornice, coffered ceiling; second floor features large office with Doric pilastered mantelpiece; upper stories contain hotel rooms; basement originally accommodated formal dining room and barber shop. Only major hotel in downtown Petersburg, occupies prominent location adjacent to the former U. S. Customs House, and was an important meeting place for local politicians during its heyday; currently used as a circuit court. Designed by prominent architect Charles M. Robinson of Richmond and Petersburg, it is one of the first cast-in-place, steel-and-reinforced-concrete structures in Petersburg, and is an excellent example of an early-20th-c. Second Renaissance Revival-style hotel. Contributing.

- ✓ 21: (123-103-72a) Tabb St. Presbyterian Church. Greek Revival church. Detached. 1843 Brick (stucco cladding), granite base; 2 stories; 1 bay; gable (standing-seam metal) roof. Doric pentastyle pedimented portico, Doric pilaster corner boards, unornamented entablature, blank pediment, raking cornice; monumental two-story central doorway with plain enframement and stone lintel; 4-panel double doors, wood transom, one-panel hinged shutters, flanking single panels; side elevations have paired 9/9 sash with shutters on first story, paired Chinese-Chippendale panels between first and second stories, paired 6/6 sash with shutters on second story; three-story 20th-c. addition at rear. Interior features nave with original pews, original fluted cast-iron columns with palm capitals, original gallery, original entablature and denticulated cornice, original coffered ceiling with a round central ceiling panel with the Star of David; chancel has a raised pulpit centered in a semicircular aedicula ringed by six Composite columns and Doric corner boards; organ with ornate organ case in gallery at rear; small doors flanking pulpit added ca. 1920. Greek Revival-era iron fence and gates front street; granite gateposts. In continuous use since 1843, this church was used as a shelter from the shelling of the city by Federal troops during the year-long siege of Petersburg. Designed by Philadelphia architect Thomas U. Walter, and built by Dabney Cosby, it is a powerful interpretation of the Greek Revival style, and one of finest examples in

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123-43)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 37

Virginia. The church and its rectory (123-103-72b) both are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Contributing.

- (also 123-29)
- ✓29: (123-103-72b) Rectory, Tabb St. Presbyterian Church. Greek Revival residence. Detached. ca. 1843. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); hipped (standing-seam metal) roof. Greek Revival wood porch has Doric columns, Doric pilaster corner boards, unornamented entablature, cornice, hipped standing-seam metal roof; single-door entry has transom and sidelights, flat cornice, flanking window bays with tall 8/16 sashes and flat cornices; second story has 8/8 sash windows with stone lintels, heavy unornamented entablature and cornice, four interior end chimneys. Interior has modified double-pile plan with two front rooms and one large rear room across back, now partitioned; first floor features Adamesque tripartite archway between hall and formal front room, with Doric columns on plinths, entablature, and denticulated cornice; two front rooms have original matching grey marble mantelpieces. Greek Revival-era iron fence and gates front street. In continuous use as a rectory for Tabb St. Presbyterian Church since its completion. One of two adjacent Greek Revival-style residences on W. Tabb St., this is an unusually well-preserved fine example. Contributing.

- (also 123-93)
- ✓103: (123-103-73) Paul-Lassiter house. Greek Revival residence. Detached. ca. 1820-1860. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); hipped roof. One-story wood porch, Corinthian columns, Corinthian pilaster corner boards, steel balustrade, entablature, cornice with paired modillions, and hipped roof; first story has single-door entry with Doric pilasters, blank transom, and pediment-shaped lintel; tall 6/6 sash with 1/1 sash sidelights, lower wood panels, and pediment-shaped windowheads flank entry; second story has 8/8 sash with pediment-shaped windowheads, entablature, three interior end chimneys; large 20th-c. annex on rear; second-story window sashes altered; wood porch balustrade replaced by steel, and handicapped access ramp added ca. 1980; interior entirely remodeled; basement remodeled by Elk's Club retains 1920s oak wainscotting with modillioned cornice molding. Prominent Petersburg citizens S. B. Paul and Dr. W. Lassiter were former residents; one of two adjacent Greek Revival-style residences on W. Tabb St. Good example of an antebellum Greek Revival-style residence. Contributing.

- ✓106: (123-103-88) Atlantic Coast Realty. Colonial Revival commercial block. Detached. ca. 1915-1930. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; 3 bays

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 38

(symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Three-part facade has central block with recessed entry, concrete pilaster piers, flat-band storefront cornice, header-brick pediment, modified Palladian-arched motif in pediment, concrete cornice, and Colonial Revival vase finials; flanking wings have large Modern-style windows with concrete surrounds and pedimented lintels; windows and doors altered. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Exotic interpretation of Colonial Revival-style commercial block. Contributing.

✓ 107-119: (123-103-116) Parking lot.

✓ 112: (123-103-87) Rahily house. Greek Revival/Italianate residence. Detached. 1850-1860. Brick (stretcher bond, heavily painted); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); hipped (standing-seam metal) roof. Wood porch on brick foundation, divided stairs, paired square columns with balustrade, low hipped roof, single door with transom, sidelights; full-story raised basement with tripartite 6/6 flanked by 1/1 sash windows; second and third stories also have tripartite 6/6 and 1/1 sash windows; cornice with brackets, two interior end chimneys; original porch removed mid-20th c.; existing porch replaced after 1975; fenestration partially restored after 1975; large brick addition to rear; basement story and entrance altered. Antebellum detached house originally built as private residence, now provides office space. Typical example of a Greek Revival/Italianate private residence, but with major alterations in the mid-20th c. Contributing.

✓ 116: (123-103-86) Childrey house. Greek Revival residence, with later Georgian Revival alterations. Detached. 1840-1850. Wood frame (aluminum siding); 2 stories; 2 bays (asymmetrical); gable (standing-seam metal) roof. Georgian Revival wood porch with colonnettes, balustrade, wide entablature, cornice, and balustrade; single-door entry with leaded-glass window to side; raised basement; 1/1 sash; two-story projecting bay, denticulated cornice, interior end chimney; kitchen wing at rear was originally detached, a rare survivor in district; porch and two-story bay added 1915; one-bay pedimented basement entrance added mid-20th c. as were aluminum siding, steps, basement sheathing. One of group of Greek Revival residences built on W. Tabb St., now converted to office space. Typical example of Greek Revival residence, with 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.

✓ 120: (123-103-130) Parking lot.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 39

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- ✓121-125: (123-103-117) Parking lot.
- ✓122: (123-103-85) Plummer Printing Co. Early 20th-c. commercial block. Detached. ca. 1915. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Storefront entirely enclosed with altered fenestration, ca. 1970 mansard roof at storefront level, original signband and storefront cornice; second-story central window bricked, corbelled brick cornice; 1970s one-story wing addition; storefront and second-story window bricked after 1986. One of several early-20th-c. commercial buildings in downtown Petersburg. Typical early-20th-c. commercial architecture with 20th-c. alterations. Noncontributing.
- ✓124: (123-103-118) Parking lot.
- ✓128: (123-103-119) Parking lot.
- ✓129-133: (123-103-74) Petersburg Armory. Greek Revival armory. Semidetached. 1843. Brick (stretcher bond), granite piers; 2 stories; 5 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. First story has granite piers and lintels, original large door openings in each bay reworked in the late 19th or early 20th c.; stone lintels, awnings, entablature, cornice, two interior end chimneys, metal flue; five sets of heavy wooden doors swung originally from granite piers. This "Gun House" was built for the Petersburg Artillery as a facility for the storage of artillery, and during the Civil War cannons were stored there; it continued to serve as an armory for sometime afterward, and later was converted to a commercial block. Surviving, although altered, example of an antebellum armory. Contributing.
- ✓135: (123-103-75) Late-19th-c. commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1850-1870. Brick (5-course American bond); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Mid-20th-c. recessed plate-glass storefront; second-story 6/6 sash, stone lintels, original wood cornice, single interior end chimney. At one time used as a firehouse, it is one of few mid-19th-c. commercial blocks on Tabb St. Typical example of mid-19th-c. commercial block. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 40

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## N. UNION ST.

- ✓ 13-15: (123-103-93) Rennie Arnold Pens Co. Early-20th-c. commercial block. Detached. ca. 1930. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Post-war storefront, original storefront cornice; second and third stories have tripled 1/1 sash, original upper-facade cornice; fenestration altered on all stories. One of two remaining 20th-c. commercial blocks on N. Union St. Typical example of 1930s utilitarian commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 17: (123-103-121) Parking lot.
- ✓ 19-25: (123-103-110) Parking lot.
- ✓ 36: (123-103-92) Watson Court Apartments. 20th-c. apartment complex. Detached. ca. 1920. Brick (roughly-textured stretcher bond); 3 stories; 8 bays; flat roof with parapet. U-shaped plan; first-story windows have 1/1 sash, flat arches, brick outlining; white enameled terra-cotta stringcourse with molded wave pattern; second- and third-story windows surrounded with brick outlining, brick panels between second- and third-story windows, 1/1 sash, flat arches, brick sills; concrete cornice band missing terra-cotta detailing; 8/8 and 6/6 sash fenestration replaced with 1/1 sash sometime after 1975. Built on site of house of Charles Watson, a local tobacco industrialist, and is only apartment complex built between the wars in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of 1920s apartment complex. Contributing.
- ✓ 39: (123-103-111) Parking lot.
- ✓ 41: (123-103-94a) C&P Telephone Co. Utilitarian office building. Detached. ca. 1940; enlarged 1960s. Brick (stretcher bond); 4 stories; 7 bays; flat roof with parapet. 4/4 sash, flat arches, brick quoins; header-course panels between first- and second-story windows; brick cornice band; third-story addition; tall signal tower. Site of former Rodof Sholom Synagogue, and one of few large 20th-c. office buildings in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of 20th-c. office building; adjacent free-standing signal tower is tallest structure in downtown area. Noncontributing.
- ✓ (123-103-94b) Signal tower, C&P Telephone Co. Noncontributing structure.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 41

✓ 102: (123-103-91a) St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Gothic Revival church. Detached. 1855-1857. Brick (stucco cladding); 2 1/2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable (slate) roof. Prominent, three-story, tiered tower has stone-arched entrance vestibule, corner buttresses spanning three stories, lancet window, oculus, corbel table, window tracery, hipped roof, gabled dormers, and spire with cross finial; basement story has raised ashlar watertable, small lancet windows; first story features tall lancet windows with stained glass, corner buttresses; pointed-arched clerestory windows, corbel table frieze; side elevations have lancet windows, pointed-arched clerestory windows, corbel table frieze, and feature first-story flying buttresses with pointed arches and pinnacles, and wall buttresses spanning two stories; stucco cladding covers damage from Civil War shelling; chancel and sanctuary addition 1902; baptistry addition 1902; side altar addition ca. 1920; two-story parish house wing addition to southwest corner 1922; Skinner organ installed 1923. Exemplary Gothic Revival interior features include original pews in nave, original gallery with cast-iron Corinthian columns, and original wood truss work; window on second north bay dedicated to General Robert E. Lee who was among the church's famous communicants. Exterior fronted by a ca. 1860 cast-iron fence and cast-iron gates with granite gateposts. In continuous use since 1857, it is one of two surviving antebellum churches in the Courthouse District. Designed by Baltimore architects Niernesee and Nielson, this church, along with its rectory and parish house, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, exemplifies antebellum, ecclesiastical, and architectural taste in Virginia in its free interpretation of the second phase of the Gothic Revival with superb exterior detailing and interior fittings. Contributing.

(also  
123-41)

✓ 102: (123-103-91b) Rectory, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Gothic Revival rectory. Semidetached. 1857. Brick (stucco cladding); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof with stepped parapet. Northernmost bay has double-door Gothic Revival-style entry; first story has 6/6 sash with flat-arched window hoods; second-story central bay has 6/6 sash with pointed-arched transom, and pointed-arched window hood; remaining second-story windows are 6/6 sash with flat-arched window hoods; window and door openings are recessed within three one-bay retaining arches; each retaining arch has a corbel-table frieze; one interior end chimney. Original rectory. Excellent example of antebellum Gothic Revival-style rectory. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 42

✓102: (123-103-91c) Parish House, St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Gothic Revival parish house. Semidetached. 1922. Brick (stucco cladding); 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof with parapet. 1 1/2-story Gothic Revival-style frontispiece on south corner of addition has recessed, pointed-arched, double-door entry, pointed-arched archivolt surrounding entry, wall buttresses flanking entry, and 1/1 sash with transom and pointed-arched tympanum above entry; first story has doubled 1/1 sash with transoms; second story has 1/1 sash; end parapet has rectangular louvered vent and cross-shaped finial. Built and still serving as parish house for St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Excellent 1920s interpretation of Gothic Revival style. Contributing.

✓107-109: (123-103-112) Parking lot.

✓114: (123-103-90) Early-20th-c. mixed-use office building/warehouse. Detached. 1910-1920. Brick (stretcher bond), stucco cladding; 3 stories over raised basement; 9 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Unusual Georgian Revival-style, tripartite, pedimented frontispiece; first story has 9/9 sash; second and third stories have 6/3 sash; decorative tile ornament between stories, corbel table frieze at cornice level; raised vertical bands separate central block from wings. The only large office building/warehouse located in the center of the downtown area; site of former Y. M. C. A. building. Representative example of an early-20th-c. office building/warehouse. Contributing.

✓115: (123-103-62) Rear elevation of 134-136 N. Sycamore St.

✓122: (123-103-114) Parking lot.

✓125: (123-103-120) Parking lot.

✓130: (123-103-113) Parking lot.

✓141: (123-103-95) U. S. Customs House-City Hall. First Renaissance Revival customs house. Detached. 1856-1859; 1908-1910 addition. Granite (ashlar); 3 stories; 8 bays (symmetrical); flat roof. Granite steps with cast-iron lampposts front two single-door entries with 12-light glass doors, round-arched transoms, arched stone enframements; first story has round-arched 9/6 sash with granite surrounds, impost blocks with recessed panels between windows; second story has 6/6 sash, pedimented windowheads, bracketed sills; third story has flat

(also  
123-35)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 43

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windowheads, bracketed sills, denticulated cornice, two interior end chimneys; building enlarged by three bays to south in 1908-1910. A section of the original granite retaining wall survives along the Tabb St. sidewalk. Originally a customs house, it became Petersburg City Hall in 1938, and is part of a nucleus of civic buildings in and around Courthouse Hill. Designed by Ammi B. Young, supervising architect of the United States Department of the Treasury, it is a superb well-preserved example of a First Renaissance Revival-style customs house similar to others designed by Young for various American cities. Contributing.

- ✓ 142: (123-103-89) Early-to-mid-20th-c. utilitarian service station. Detached. ca. 1940-1950. Brick (stucco cladding). 1 story; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Corner entry, single door flanked by plate-glass windows, metal awning; former restroom now serving as registrar's office; stucco cladding probably later addition; gas pumps removed, area fronting station paved over for parking lot. Only extant service station in the downtown area. Typical example of an early-to-mid-20th-c. service station. Noncontributing.

### E. WASHINGTON ST.

- ✓ 11-13: (123-103-127) Parking lot.
- ✓ 31: (123-103-126) Parking lot.

### W. WASHINGTON ST.

- ✓ 17-19: (123-103-98) Vacant. Harlow Hardy Furniture. Modified International-style high-rise commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1940. Brick cladding, steel frame; 6 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Altered mid-20th-c. storefront with mansard roof and gabled dormers; upper facade has vertical brick bands, contrasting horizontal enameled metal banding, vertically stacked transoms in single and coupled window openings, cornice band between fifth and sixth stories, geometric ornamental brickwork on attic-story parapet, prominent mid-20th-c. sign hangs from facade. Furniture and hardware establishments have occupied this site since the early 20th c.; this high-rise building is tallest building on block, and is one of several early-20th-c. office

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 44

buildings in downtown Petersburg. Good example of International-style high-rise commercial block executed in brick. Contributing.

- ✓ 21-25: (123-103-99) Georgian Revival commercial block. Attached. ca. 1920-1940. Brick (stretcher bond), stucco cladding; 2 stories; 3 bays (symmetrical); gable roof with pediment set into parapet. First story is divided into two altered mid-20th-c. storefronts; upper facade has large-scale windows with altered fenestration; denticulated pediment with round louvered vent in tympanum, gable-end parapet above. On site of 19th-c. tobacco warehouse, and is one of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of Georgian Revival commercial block with mid-20th-c. alterations. Contributing.
- ✓ 27-33: (123-103-100) Early-20th-c. commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1920-1940. Brick (stretcher bond); 2 stories; 10 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. First story is divided into five mid-20th-c. storefronts; upper facade divided into five sections by flat brick retaining arches, decorative brick panels between windows, first two bays have original shutters, remaining windows are boarded, projecting cornice crowns building; 27-29 formerly ABC store. Housed a variety of retail establishments including an ABC store, and is one of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Good example of early-20th-c. commercial block. Contributing.
- ✓ 101-107: (123-103-101) Late-19th-c. commercial block. Semidetached. ca. 1870; ca. 1960-1980. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; 10 bays (asymmetrical); flat roof. Commercial block divided into four altered storefronts, ca. 1960-1980, unified by false mansard roof; tenth bay has second-story addition; side elevation on N. Union St. has late-19th-c. segmental-arched windows indicating date of original building. One of several late-19th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Late-19th-c. commercial block completely altered to ca. 1960-1980 commercial strip. Noncontributing.
- ✓ 109-113: (123-103-102) Washington St. Apartments. Georgian Revival commercial block/apartment building. Attached. ca. 1920-1940. Brick (stretcher bond); 3 stories; 6 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. First story divided into four altered storefronts, ca. 1950-1980; pedimented secondary entrance to upper story apartments; upper facade has single and doubled 1/1 sash, unornamented brick corner boards,



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 45

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projecting cornice over two center bays on second story; pressed-tin cornice with pediment and parapet crowns building; pressed-tin ornament probably originally covered brick corner boards; probably featured two-story porch originally. One of several early-20th-c. commercial blocks in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of Georgian Revival-style commercial block with later 20th-c. alterations. Contributing.

- ✓ 115-125: (123-103-103) A&P Super Market. Mid-20th c. supermarket. Semidetached. ca. 1940. Brick (stretcher bond); 1 story; 3 bays (symmetrical); flat roof with parapet. Original large plate-glass windows bricked, recessed entrance on corner, stepped brick parapet with louvered vents. Built as mid-20th-c. supermarket, and one of several 20th-c. commercial buildings in downtown Petersburg. Typical example of mid-20th-c. supermarket. Contributing.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

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(Architects and Builders)

Architects:

Young, Ammi B. (Supervising Architect of the U. S. Treasury Department), and James Minetree (Petersburg, Superintendent of Construction): U. S. Customs House (1856-59)

Walter, Thomas U. (Philadelphia): Tabb Street Presbyterian Church (1843)

Niernesee and Nielson (Baltimore): St. Paul's Episcopal Church (1855-57)

Anderson, D. Wiley (Richmond/Petersburg/Charlottesville): Seaboard Air Line Railway Station (1900)

Anderson, Donald G.: U. S. Post Office (1935)

Robinson, Charles M. (Petersburg): Petersburg Hotel (1915)

Waite, Harrison (Petersburg): Odd Fellows Building; YMCA (demolished); various synagogues (demolished)

Builders/Contractors:

Lyon, Daniel, and Beverly Drinkard: Courthouse (1838-40)

Cosby, Dabney: Tabb Street Presbyterian Church (1843)

Orr & Holt: Odd Fellows Building

Brister, C. M.: YMCA (demolished); Augustus Wright Block (17, 19-21 N. Sycamore Street)

Chappell, W. J.: remodeling of Index-Appeal Building

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

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(Significance of Property)

The Petersburg Courthouse district meets the following three criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places:

Criteria A. The Courthouse District is associated with events that have made a significant contribution in our past, namely

- the commercial history of downtown Petersburg from about 1815 to World War II;
- the social history of Petersburg through churches, fraternal and civic associations, and taverns and hotels that have located in the downtown;
- early-nineteenth-century transportation in Virginia as an early railroad center;
- Petersburg local governmental and political life from 1838 to the present; and
- the 1864 siege of Petersburg.

Criteria C. The Courthouse District embodies the distinctive characteristics of several periods of construction, represents the work of master architects and builders, possesses high artistic values, and also represents significant and distinguishable entities of buildings which individually would lack distinction; more specifically, the district

- possesses an outstanding collection of antebellum public architecture,
- possesses a distinctive collection of commercial blocks that represent commercial architecture from 1815 to World War II,
- possesses several examples of vernacular architecture representative of the tobacco, building and lumber, and other light industrial activities associated with nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century Petersburg and Southside Virginia, and
- possesses several Greek Revival-style urban residences of the type that once characterized downtown Petersburg.

Petersburg's strategic location at the falls of the Appomattox River presaged its later development as the commercial, industrial, and transportation center of the region. Approximately 3,500 people lived in Petersburg circa 1800, and by 1820 it was the third largest town in Virginia.<sup>1</sup> An act of the General Assembly established Petersburg as a city in 1850, and by 1860 it was the seventh largest city in the South, and second

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<sup>1</sup> Lawrence L. Hartzell, "Glory Days: Petersburg in the Antebellum Era." (Paper delivered at the Historic Petersburg Foundation Symposium, Petersburg, Virginia, 10 March 1990), 5.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

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only to Richmond in the state. At the onset of the Civil War, it was one of the few large commercial, industrial, and transportation cities in the South, producing tobacco, cotton, flour, iron, and other goods.<sup>2</sup> However, the war's impact was devastating and the signs of prosperity and growth dissipated during the postbellum era. The war transformed Petersburg and its economy into a city struggling to recover and begin a new century. From the end of the Civil War through the World War II era, the Petersburg Courthouse District served as a commercial center for Petersburg and outlying rural areas of Southside Virginia.

Petersburg's roots lie in its colonial past when it was the site of the mid-seventeenth-century Fort Henry and the later trading post of Peter Jones, for whom Petersburg was named. The fort was built to protect the increasing number of European settlers from the indigenous Native Americans. A tobacco inspection station/warehouse was authorized by 1730 to be built on land of Colonel Robert Bolling, a major landowner in the area. Three years later, Colonel William Byrd II of Westover prophesied Petersburg's success when he wrote "the Truth of it is, these two places being the uppermost Landing of James [Richmond] and Appomattox Rivers, are naturally intended for Marts, where the Traffick of the Outher Inhabitants must enter."<sup>3</sup> In 1784, the three tobacco villages of Petersburg, Blandford and Pocahontas, along with the village of Ravenscroft, were incorporated as the Town of Petersburg.

Petersburg first developed on the relatively flat land along the banks of the Appomattox River with streets laid parallel to the river. As the town's population increased, it expanded south and uphill from the river into what today constitutes the Courthouse District. Major landholders in the vicinity of the Courthouse District included Colonel Robert Bolling, John Tabb, and Erasmus Gill. Tabb and Gill owned land west of Sycamore Street while Bolling's property lay to the east. Development of much of the area within the district was affected by Bolling's use of annual ground rents. While some complained that the control of the land by one individual hindered growth of the town, Bolling's development, which included the eastern section of the district (east of Sycamore Street), was highly successful. In 1822 when Petersburg's first water system was installed, North Sycamore Street was one of three areas included in the gravity-dependent wooden pipe system.

The Courthouse District contains the historic governmental core of the city of Petersburg. Court and assembly meetings were held in taverns until the town built a

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<sup>2</sup> Ibid, 1.

<sup>3</sup> Scott, Petersburg Story, 16.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

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frame courthouse in 1783 on a site just south of the present courthouse on land donated by Robert Bolling. When the town sold part of the parcel, Bolling sued with a complaint that these actions were a violation of his deed. Bolling lost his suit, but his position later was vindicated when Petersburg again acquired the land in the twentieth century.<sup>4</sup> The present Greek Revival courthouse (123-103-1) dominates the district. Visible from many points in the district, its tower — in the Tower of the Winds order — is an important visual landmark. The grand and imposing courthouse, designed by New York architect Calvin Pollard and built by local builders Daniel Lyon and Beverly Drinkard, was completed in 1840. While it reflects the fashionable architectural tastes of its day and the growing prosperity of the city, the more modest adjacent clerk's offices (123-103-2 and 123-103-3), built later in the century, are more representative of those in almost any small town in rural Virginia and represent the state's vernacular building tradition.

A catastrophic fire in 1815 destroyed many district buildings. Rebuilding occurred primarily in brick in an effort to reduce the likelihood of another fire spreading through the downtown area as quickly as the 1815 fire. The resulting architecture contains some of the state's finest examples of antebellum public buildings. The district is notable for its significant Federal-era rows of mixed-use commercial buildings as well as an outstanding collection of Greek Revival-style buildings. The buildings that retain their Federal-style characteristics as well as those that have been renovated in the Italianate and other late styles are architecturally representative of a prosperous nineteenth-century urban center in Virginia and, indeed, the eastern United States. The district's landmark-quality antebellum public buildings and the extent of its commercial district attest to the prominence and prosperity that distinguished Petersburg from lesser cities and towns of the nineteenth century. Their relatively-intact survival, although altered for commercial purposes over the years, makes the district a significant nineteenth-century commercial district.

Since its earliest days Petersburg's commercial and industrial buildings were juxtaposed with dwellings, churches and synagogues, and buildings used for cultural activities. The streets of the Courthouse District demonstrate this diversity of use. Sycamore Street primarily developed as a commercial artery with flanking residential areas. Three-story brick blocks in the Federal style accommodated retail, light industrial uses, and residences, sometimes within the same building. Industrialists and merchants often built their factories and warehouses close to their homes, sometimes in their own back yards. A brick warehouse (123-103-81) on Market Street

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<sup>4</sup> HABS, Hustings Courthouse, 3.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 5

is a rare survivor of that tradition, although the Greek Revival residence that stood immediately adjacent and to the front facing Market Street has been demolished. Small factories often were located on the back lots and upper floors of commercial businesses along North Sycamore Street. In some cases, the upper stories of North Sycamore Street businesses also were used for housing. Houses and churches stood on North Union and West Tabb streets, only blocks from the commercial corridor of Sycamore Street. West Hill, one of the Bolling houses, was located just east of Sycamore Street near East Tabb Street. Spring Hill, built on the land of Erasmus Gill, stood in the middle of present-day West Tabb Street until the 1850s when the street was extended through to North Market Street.

According to several accounts, organized religious groups were not as active in early Petersburg as they were in other areas of the state. Travelers noted that churches were not a conspicuous feature of early-nineteenth-century Petersburg. By 1835, however, religion flourished and seven churches stood in the town. One newcomer noted that "Presbyterians carry the day here," but there were other denominations represented as well.<sup>5</sup> Methodist, Baptist, Episcopal, Catholic, and Jewish congregations also were found in Petersburg. While only the Tabb Street Presbyterian (123-103-72a) and St. Paul's Episcopal (123-103-91a) churches remain in the district today, several other congregations initially were founded within the district boundaries or in the immediately adjacent blocks. Many of the area's churches began on North Sycamore, North Market, and North Union streets and moved several times before building at their present locations. North Union Street contained a full block of churches and synagogues as well as the homes of prominent citizens. These churches were an important aspect of the social life of nineteenth-century Petersburg.

The Courthouse District includes two of Petersburg's well-known monumental churches, both designed by northern architects who were well-acquainted with the revival styles considered appropriate for churches in the antebellum period. The Tabb Street Presbyterian Church, designed by the noted Philadelphia architect Thomas U. Walter in 1843, is an excellent example of an adaptation of the Greek temple form. Built by Dabney Cosby, it is a powerful interpretation of the Greek Revival style, and one of finest examples of its type in Virginia. Just one block away on North Union Street, St. Paul's Episcopal Church is a Gothic Revival-style church where many Confederate officers worshipped during the Civil War. St. Paul's was designed by architects Niernesee and Nielson of Baltimore and completed in 1857 at the end of the antebellum period. This church, with its superb exterior detailing and interior fittings,

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<sup>5</sup> Scott, 101.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

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exemplifies antebellum church architectural taste in Virginia in its free interpretation of the second phase of the Gothic Revival. Both churches retain their antebellum rectories (123-103-72b and 91 b) as well as the cast-iron fences that separate their church yards from the street. These two antebellum churches reflect the fashionable and up-to-date tastes of an increasingly prosperous segment of Petersburg's population.

Petersburg developed first as a commercial city and then as an industrial center.<sup>6</sup> Basic commercial buildings such as groceries, dry goods stores, shoe stores, furniture stores, jewelry stores, and drug stores and apothecaries increasingly came to populate most of North Sycamore Street, the major north-south axis of the city. By 1860 Petersburg had 237 retailers, 159 of them grocers.<sup>7</sup> The practice of trades and light industries, such as the manufacturing of shoes, hats, and saddles, also occurred in the Courthouse District. During this prosperous era many Federal blocks were remodeled in the more fashionable Italianate style, a style seen as particularly appropriate for commercial buildings, and several new blocks were built in this style.

The location of Petersburg at the falls of the Appomattox River encouraged manufacturing and industry, but the city did not emerge as a significant manufacturing and transportation center until the 1830s when a more effective transportation system fostered Petersburg's continued development. The Appomattox River — the city's earliest transportation artery — had allowed goods to be shipped directly to coastal and foreign ports but Petersburg became an early leader in railroad development, which soon eclipsed river travel as the most efficient means of transporting goods. Owing to the city's links with rich agricultural areas that directed trade into the city, Petersburg became a major transportation center in the state.

The establishment of railroad lines connecting the city to the agricultural areas of Southside Virginia and North Carolina was integral to the growth, development, and prosperity of Petersburg. The city's earliest rail connection was established with Weldon, North Carolina in 1833 and made possible the city's trade with eastern North Carolina. A charter was granted for a rail line between Richmond and Petersburg in 1836 and in 1838 a short line was built between Petersburg and City Point, an important deepwater port on the James River. Connection with the Southside Railroad made trade possible with the rural areas lying between Lynchburg and Petersburg, and an 1858 connection provided an important link between Petersburg and Norfolk.

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<sup>6</sup> William D.Henderson, "The Evolution of Petersburg's Economy 1860-1900" (Unpublished paper), 3.

<sup>7</sup> Hartzell, 9.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

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These antebellum lines did not connect with each other but did allow the transfer of both passengers and goods and agricultural products from those points to Petersburg. The lack of interconnections meant it was less expensive to transport goods to Petersburg than to continue shipping them to farther points that required another set of connections. This situation also made Petersburg a necessary stopover place, increasing the need for taverns and hotels to accommodate travelers.

Trade, fostered by the city's location and transportation facilities, created a commercial center for both agricultural and industrial products. Tobacco processing, cotton and flour milling and ironworks were the major industries in antebellum Petersburg. By 1860, Petersburg was ranked second in the state in the value of manufactured goods and was one of few such diverse centers in the south.<sup>8</sup> Cotton and flour mills, needing high energy levels to run the machines, were not located in the district but on either the Appomattox River or on the tailrace of the Upper Appomattox Canal. Cotton factories employed between eight hundred and a thousand laborers, the majority of them white. Flour milling, one of the oldest industries in the area, contributed one-fourth of the city's industrial value at the time of the Civil War.<sup>9</sup>

Tobacco processing dominated the city's industries, despite a level of diversity rarely found in southern cities. Tobacco factories did not require high levels of energy but were labor intensive, relying almost entirely on slave labor. Since they did not have to be located along the river, they were primarily built along Washington Street, the major east-west axis. No antebellum warehouses survive in the Washington Street portion of the district although Center Warehouse at the current site of 21-25 West Washington Street and Bolling's West Hill Warehouse (located east of North Sycamore Street between East Tabb and Franklin streets) were two early tobacco warehouses located within the Courthouse District boundaries.

Many of the Scottish immigrants to Petersburg became preeminent in the tobacco industry, including Robert Leslie, James Dunlop, David Tennant, the Cameron brothers, and James McCulloch. Robert Leslie opened his first tobacco factory in 1818, followed by Dunlop's in 1820, and by 1860 twelve tobacco factories operated in Petersburg, representing investments of three-quarters of a million dollars and with sales of \$2.2 million (almost sixty percent of the city's industrial wealth).

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<sup>8</sup> Hartzell, 8.

<sup>9</sup> Hartzell, Glory Days, 8.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 8

By 1860 there were sixty-seven general commission merchants and wholesalers in Petersburg.<sup>10</sup> General commission merchants and wholesalers purchased products, mainly tobacco and cotton, from agricultural areas of Virginia and North Carolina and sold them to northern or European markets. These merchants also lent money to and made purchases for their clients. The city's growth and increasing foreign trade had justified the construction of a Customs House (123-103-95) which was completed in 1859. Designed by Ammi B. Young, the supervising architect of the United States Department of the Treasury, and built between 1856 and 1859, the Customs House is an excellent example of the Italian Renaissance Revival palazzo-style and significant as one of several customs houses Young designed for other cities with significant foreign trade.

Public improvements kept pace with a growing city. The introduction of telegraphy in 1847 improved communication for business and industry. A gas system was introduced in 1851 and a new water system in 1856; these new utilities provided increased convenience and efficiency for both residential and commercial users of the district. Gas streetlights were installed on North Sycamore Street and several other district streets in 1856.

Banks were essential to the steady growth and expansion of commerce and industry in antebellum Petersburg. In fact, Petersburg was considered one of Virginia's leading banking centers. Two private banks (operating without a charter), four commercial banks (three were branches of state-wide systems), and four savings and loan banks operated in the city at this time.<sup>11</sup> Of the eight chartered banks, only the Petersburg Savings and Insurance Company survived the Civil War. D'Arcy Paul, a leading commission merchant and prominent resident and property owner in the district, organized this bank in 1860 and wisely deposited its assets in the form of gold in England for the duration of the war.<sup>12</sup>

The Civil War and the nine-month siege of Petersburg had a devastating impact on the city and brought an end to Petersburg's prosperity. Initially the Confederate government invested in Petersburg as one of the major manufacturing cities of the South. The naval blockade by Union forces, however, dealt crippling blows to the tobacco and cotton export trades and to the commission merchants who depended upon crop farmers. The pressing needs of the Confederacy also brought about the

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<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> William D. Henderson, *Gilded Age City: Politics, Life and Labor in Petersburg, Virginia 1874-1889* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1980), 407.

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

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interconnections of existing rail lines. Rail interconnection eliminated Petersburg as a central transfer point.

No longer in service as a federal customs house, the new and impressive Renaissance Revival building on Union Street became Petersburg's Confederate Army headquarters. The nearby antebellum "gun house" on Tabb Street became Petersburg's Confederate armory (123-103-70). Owing to its view of the city's eastern front where much of the fighting occurred, the Customs House was used as a signal station during the siege. Petersburg was at the center of Virginia's military activity during the last year of the Civil War. One diarist noted in June 1864 that war was at the city's door. He described the streets as filled with wagon trains, ambulances, artillery, officers, soldiers, couriers, wounded, and sick.<sup>13</sup> While most of the military activity took place on the eastern edge of Petersburg, Union forces indiscriminately shelled the city causing widespread damage.

The Courthouse District, however, did not suffer the architectural losses of major antebellum public buildings. Since the courthouse tower made an excellent siting mark for Federal troops, it managed to escape destruction during the war. The district's antebellum churches, St. Paul's Episcopal and Tabb Street Presbyterian churches, have historical links to the siege of Petersburg. Both suffered some damage from the shelling. The basement of the Tabb Street Church was used as a shelter during the shelling of the city. General Robert E. Lee worshipped at St. Paul's when in Petersburg and his son and daughter-in-law, Mary Tabb Bolling of Petersburg, were married at the church following the war in 1867.

After the war, commercial trade patterns changed as the large estates of the planters gave way to smaller but more numerous farms. With the consolidation of railroads in the late nineteenth century, trade began to bypass Petersburg and travel directly to the port of Norfolk. The need for commission merchants declined and smaller country stores siphoned business that had been handled previously by Petersburg's wholesalers and retailers. Cotton milling suffered following the war. The cost of modernization and increased competition from other areas of the country contributed to the demise of cotton merchants and cotton manufacturing in Petersburg.

The tobacco market, however, recovered after the war. The Zimmer & Company Building (123-103-84) and the Virginia Warehouse (123-103-97) are associated with tobacco processing and storage in this period. Built about 1884, the Zimmer Building

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<sup>13</sup> Campbell, 23 June 1864.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 10

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is a four-story brick building with segmental-arched openings and a corbelled parapet that closely resembles the antebellum Dunlop Tobacco Factory on Petersburg's Old Street, indicating that the design and construction of these vernacular industrial buildings remained consistent for almost a century. The tobacco industry remained strong and prosperous until the beginning of the twentieth century when a shift in market demand away from Petersburg's dark tobacco to lighter tobacco, cigars, and cigarettes sparked a decline in Petersburg's manufacturing.

During Petersburg's postbellum period of economic recovery, the portion of Market Street that is located in the district shifted to a more industrial character. In addition to the Zimmer Tobacco Factory (123-103-84), the Seaboard Air Line Railway Station (123-103-80) was built in 1901, and the lumber yard that developed into today's present Builder's Supply Company (123-103-79 a, b, and c) began development of its rambling complex of lumber processing, milling, storage, and sales buildings sometime late in the nineteenth century.

Although Petersburg's banks successfully recovered from the effects of war, the depression of 1873 precipitated several bank failures in the city. In 1884, only two banks were operating in Petersburg: Petersburg Savings and Insurance Company and the Bank of Petersburg. The city was slow to recover from this loss of financial strength that affected commercial and industrial activity as well. Petersburg Savings & Insurance Co., evidently suffered few permanent effects from the city's economic difficulties since it built a substantial new bank (123-103-65) in the Renaissance Revival style in the late 1880s.

The cleaning, hulling, and storage of peanuts in the late nineteenth century helped create a small industry, but by the early twentieth century those occupations moved closer to their agricultural sources. The manufacture of trunks and luggage expanded in the 1870s and became a major industry in twentieth-century Petersburg although not in the Courthouse District. The optical industry, originally an adjunct to the jewelry business, grew to become one of the largest employers in twentieth-century Petersburg. The manufacturing of fountain pens is another industry that also developed in the city in the early twentieth century. As evidenced by these businesses, Petersburg's economy evolved through the late nineteenth century and into the first half of the twentieth century dependent upon the area's agricultural products and local manufacturing. This base was sufficient to support the continued development of the retail establishments along North Sycamore Street.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

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Petersburg continued to be a major Southside commercial center and became increasingly retail-oriented. Grocers, dry goods, furniture, and hardware stores continued to occupy North Sycamore Street. New establishments moved into the district, including a commercial college, sign painters, photographers, and optical works. During the twentieth century financial institutions, department stores, and other major commercial enterprises located along Sycamore Street. A major apparel store originally known as "Saal's, The Leading Clothier of Petersburg," (123-103-11) occupied the prominent North Sycamore and East Tabb Street corner. Saal's three-story Romanesque Revival building and Lavenstein's (123-103-54), another major retail establishment with a four-story Chicago School-style commercial building, both reflected the substantial financial base that Petersburg had built on its own local economy in the years since the Civil War.

The substantial and architecturally sophisticated banks built in the city during the early twentieth century — the circa 1905 Southern Express-Morris Plan Savings Bank (123-103-22), the 1911 Virginia National Bank (123-103-63), and the 1906 National Bank (123-103-16) — also reflect Petersburg's economic recovery and adjustment to a more local and regional economic base. Built in classical revival styles, all present an image of permanence and financial stability surely intended to reassure investors and depositors that the city had been restored to a sound financial foundation.

A series of public improvements that began in the 1880s also transformed downtown's appearance. A horse car line entered service in the area in 1882 and was replaced with electric street cars in 1899. The dirt streets, which had annoyed residents and visitors since the eighteenth century when George Washington complained about the dust when visiting the city, and bumpy cobblestone streets were replaced with granite paving blocks in 1910. Asphalt, however, soon replaced the granite as the new motorists found a smoother road surface more suited to automotive traffic. By the early twentieth century, the early symbols of progress had come to be considered eyesores and Western Union and Virginia Railway and Power were required to remove their hanging wires which crisscrossed city streets. The city erected metal and reinforced concrete poles in replacement and added street lights to the new poles.

The district continued to be an important social and cultural center for Petersburg in the early twentieth century. Although not the transportation and trading center that it had been in the nineteenth century, Petersburg still attracted enough commercial activity to warrant construction in 1915 of the Petersburg Hotel (123-103-96) at 16 West Tabb Street on the former site of the Shirley Hotel. The hotel met a pressing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 12

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need for more hotel rooms and its location near the courthouse made it an important meeting place for local politicians. Designed by prominent Virginia architect Charles Robinson, who had offices in both Richmond and Petersburg, the six-story Second Renaissance Revival hotel featured elaborately detailed portals, tripartite windows, engaged Ionic columns, and decorative glazed terra cotta. The use of marble for the interior entrance lobby, staircase, and pilasters gave Petersburg's visitors an appropriately grand impression.

Fraternal and civic organizations also located in the area to take advantage of ready access to commercial tenants who would occupy their lower floors. Their buildings inspired much of the architecture subsequently built in the Courthouse District. The Petersburg Benevolent Mechanics Association, an early-nineteenth-century organization, built in the district. The association gave financial aid to the poor, loaned money to its members, conducted classes for children and members' apprentices, and established both a library and a museum. The Odd Fellows Building (123-103-18), built in the late nineteenth century, housed commercial enterprises on its first two stories and offices as well as a lodge room on the upper levels. Although fire destroyed the third story of the building, it remains an important part of the architectural heritage of Sycamore Street. One of the finest, late-nineteenth-century commercial buildings in the city, the lodge building featured excellent dark red brickwork with a darker textured brick, terra-cotta, and red sandstone detailing. Between 1911 and 1914 the Mechanics replaced their nineteenth-century Greek Revival-style Mechanics Hall with the present Mechanics Building (123-103-66), a Second Renaissance Revival-style high rise built on the same site at the prominent Sycamore and Tabb streets intersection. When completed in 1914 the Mechanics Building was one of the first high-rise elevator buildings in Petersburg. The Knights of Pythias also established their building (123-103-37) in the Courthouse District. The only skyscraper in downtown Petersburg, the Knights' modern building featured colored terra-cotta tiles at its cornice as well as a considerable degree of detailed brickwork.

The establishment of Camp Lee just outside the city had a major impact on the commercial district during World War I with military personnel frequenting local establishments. At one time, the camp's population was double that of Petersburg. Organizations such as the Y.M.C.A. and area churches played leading roles in providing social activities for area soldiers. The closing of Camp Lee caused a tremendous loss to the retail merchant who had increased stock to meet the needs of the military population. The deactivation of Camp Lee at the end of the war contributed to an overall downturn in the downtown's economy although the district

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 13

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continued as the city's major commercial district through the 1920s, the era of the Great Depression, and World War II.

New construction in the period between the two world wars resulted in a new look for portions of the downtown. Generally compatible in scale and materials, buildings dating from this period lacked the skilled craftsmanship and detailing of earlier construction and reflected both the aesthetic tastes of the times and the diminished economic vitality of Petersburg in comparison to earlier periods. As in most places, little new construction occurred in the 1930s. Petersburg's city offices moved into the old nineteenth-century Customs House and Federal Post Office in 1938, keeping the building in governmental use. A new post office was built on Franklin Street in the Georgian style of Colonial Williamsburg. Modeled after the colonial capitol at Williamsburg, the 1935 Petersburg U. S. Post Office was designed by architect Donald G. Anderson and is also significant for its two Works Progress Administration interior murals depicting hunting and harvesting scenes. Its design is indicative of the enormous influence of Colonial Williamsburg on American architecture and the popularity of the Georgian architecture of Virginia's colonial era.

The outbreak of World War II and reactivation of Camp Lee did not create the same type of boom for most downtown businesses since a permanent base provided on-base facilities for personnel. Since World War II strip commercial development between the military base and the city has competed with the downtown commercial district as have shopping centers and mall development in the region. The rise in automotive travel and truck transport rather than rail transportation also have contributed to the economic decline in the city and Courthouse District. The district is no longer Petersburg's major retail shopping area. Few active industrial uses remain, and most department stores and other once-thriving businesses have closed or relocated. The area remains the governmental center of the city and area churches are still strong and influential. Selected retail establishments still reflect the stability and grandeur of previous years.

Although the district contains a mix of architectural styles and periods and a variety of uses, it is a cohesive district unified primarily by its harmonious use of materials, a considerable level of workmanship still evident in its historic buildings, and its long-standing associations with the governmental and commercial life of Petersburg. Its long commercial rows of red brick buildings are punctuated now and then by more imposing buildings of granite, scored stucco, or buff-colored brick. Marble, terra cotta, cast iron, glazed tiles, and other materials have been used effectively to add a richness of detail to the district's streetscapes. The almost uniform setback of the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 14

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commercial rows at street level establishes the dominant rhythm of the district; departure from this setback almost always signifies a change to either public or residential use and gives visual emphasis to the district's most important buildings. The district incorporates the vernacular buildings of unnamed builders as well as the more skilled and notable work of accomplished builders such as Dabney Cosby whose Tabb Street Presbyterian Church is a major attribute of the district. The use of architects for major commissioned works in the city also reflects Petersburg's prosperity and status in different eras. Significant antebellum works generally are associated with non-Virginia architects, reflecting both the absence of accomplished architectural practitioners in antebellum Virginia as well as the desire to give Petersburg the appearance of a major eastern commercial center through the use of architects Thomas U. Walter from Philadelphia, Calvin Pollard from New York, and Niernesee and Nielson from Baltimore. The late-nineteenth- and twentieth-century architects associated with the district reflect Petersburg's diminished status following the Civil War and while their work is notable, none of it approaches the grandeur and monumentality of the antebellum era.

The symbolism of architecture to reflect the prominence and stability of governmental and religious institutions is especially evident in the district's government buildings and churches. This symbolism extends to the several financial institutions and other buildings in the district which also relied upon classical models to lend an air of permanence. Other commercial and mixed-use buildings followed more representative domestic and commercial styles adapting popular building types to a variety of uses and modifying them in accordance with changing architectural tastes.

Existing historical information indicates that it is likely that the Petersburg Courthouse Historic District possesses underground resources that relate to the significant themes also relevant to its surviving architectural resources. The presence of dwellings, taverns, various stores, and manufacturers in the district in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries indicates that the former sites of these property types and their environs could yield information concerning domestic life, commerce, trade and industries in Petersburg and Southside Virginia in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Historic development patterns in the district and site arrangements of dwelling places and manufacturers could be of particular use in understanding the evolution and physical development of the district.

Although the district has had numerous and sometimes major alterations to buildings in the second half of the twentieth century, it still conveys a sense of its significant historical periods and historical associations. It is a distinct entity that has served for

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 15

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more than a century as Petersburg's traditional central business district. It is unique within the city. No other area or neighborhood represents the historic commercial and economic vitality of Petersburg. The changes that have occurred are typical of those evident in any older commercial district in Virginia, or indeed, throughout the United States. In attempts to portray a more modern appearance or to conform to chain and franchise designs, both entire building fronts and storefronts have been replaced with standardized facade treatments that have no relationship to Petersburg's architectural traditions. These modernizations have a secondary impact on the appearance of the district and the overwhelming sense of a historic district of major significance is still apparent.

Minor retail and personal service establishments now characterize the area. Some front facades or, in some cases, the storefront portions of the front facade have been reconstructed according to available evidence of an original or significant subsequent appearance. Historic preservation and downtown revitalization efforts preliminary to and during the period of the city's Main Street program have been responsible for renewed interest in the area.

The succession of residential, commercial, and light industrial uses and continued human occupation that have occurred in the Courthouse District since the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries make it likely that the district will be able to yield important information concerning domestic life, architectural and landscape history, community settlement and development, and the development and practice of early commerce, trade, and industry in Petersburg and Southside Virginia.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

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(Major Bibliographical References)

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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Maps:

Maps of Petersburg, Va. Drawn by the Sanborn Map Company for the Petersburg Savings and Insurance Co., 1897 and 1915.

Survey of Petersburg, Va. Survey was drawn by Maj. J. E. Weyss, U. S. Army, under the direction of Bvt. Brig. Gen. N. Mitchler, 1867

Topographical Map of Petersburg, Dinwiddie Co., Virginia. Drawn by F. W. Beers. Southern and Southwestern Publishing Co., 1877.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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(UTM References)

E	18	286605	4122650	AA	18	286760	4122970
F	18	286600	4122700	BB	18	286780	4122970
G	18	286495	4122680	CC	18	286780	4122875
H	18	286470	4122770	DD	18	286730	4122860
I	18	286420	4122760	EE	18	286750	4122785
J	18	286420	4122725	FF	18	286790	4122800
K	18	286290	4122700	GG	18	286790	4122850
L	18	286280	4122760	HH	18	286820	4122840
M	18	286340	4122765	II	18	286820	4122825
N	18	286330	4122805				
O	18	286410	4122815				
P	18	286415	4122860				
Q	18	286380	4122865				
R	18	286390	4122910				
S	18	286210	4122820				
T	18	286190	4122880				
U	18	286330	4122945				
V	18	286640	4122995				
W	18	286635	4123060				
X	18	286695	4123060				
Y	18	286710	4122990				
Z	18	286760	4123000				

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 2

## (Verbal Boundary Description)

property line of 115-125 West Washington Street; then proceeds east along the rear property line of the 100 block of West Washington Street; then proceeds north along the west curbline of North Union Street; then proceeds west along the southern property line of 36 North Union Street; then proceeds north approximately 262 feet; then proceeds west along the southern property line of 111 North Market Street to the east curbline of North Market Street; then proceeds south along North Market Street; then proceeds west along the southern property line of 225 Hinton Street; then proceeds north along the western property line of 225 Hinton Street; then proceeds east along the northern property line of 225 Hinton Street to the western property line of 122-134 North Market Street; then proceeds north along the western property line of 122-134 North Market Street; then proceeds east along the northern property line of 122-134 North Market Street to the west curbline of North Market Street; then proceeds north along North Market Street to the southwest corner of 206 North Market Street; then proceeds west along the southern line of the 1900 section of the Seaboard Airline Railway Station; then proceeds north along the western line of the 1900 section of the Seaboard Airline Railway Station to the southern property line of 222 North Market Street; then proceeds west along the southern property line of 222 North Market Street; then proceeds north along the western property line of 222 North Market Street; then proceeds east along the northern line of 222 North Market Street; then crosses North Market Street and continues east along the northern bank of Brick House Run; then continues east along the rear property lines of 20-29 West Tabb Street to Baxter Alley; then continues east along the southern line of Baxter Alley; then proceeds north along the western curbline of North Sycamore Street; then crosses North Sycamore Street and proceeds east along the northern property line of 241 North Sycamore Street; then proceeds south along the rear property lines of 227-241 North Sycamore Street; then proceeds east approximately 150 feet along the base of Courthouse Hill; then proceeds south approximately 131 feet; then proceeds east along the northern line of the Petersburg Courthouse; then proceeds south along the rear of the Petersburg Courthouse and Clerk's Office; then crosses East Tabb Street; then proceeds east along the southern curbline of East Tabb Street to the southwest corner of East Tabb Street and Monroe Street; then proceeds south along the west curbline of Monroe Street; then proceeds west along the rear property line of the 10 block of East Tabb Street; then proceeds south along the rear property lines of the 100 block of North Sycamore Street to the rear property line of 15 East Franklin Street; then proceeds east along the rear property line of 15 East Franklin Street; then north along the western curbline of Monroe Street; then proceeds along Monroe Street approximately 300 feet; then proceeds east and crosses Monroe Street; continues east along the northern property line of 139 Monroe Street; then proceeds south along the rear property line of 135 and 139 Monroe Street; then proceeds east along the

United States Department of the Interior  
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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3

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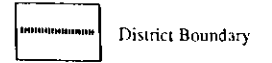
(Verbal Boundary Description)

northern property line of 132 North Adams Street; then proceeds south along the western curblineline of North Adams Street and ends at the northwest corner of North Adams Street and East Washington Street.

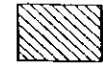
(Boundary Justification)

in character to that district at that edge where nineteenth-century Federal-style buildings remain. Boundaries have been developed to exclude noncontributing buildings at the district's edges and large concentrations of buildings that do not relate to traditional downtown uses. The areas outside the boundaries east of the courthouse and west of Market Street differ dramatically as land use changes from commercial, light industrial and governmental to strictly residential. The eastern boundary adjoins the Centre Hill Historic District except for areas of modern intrusions which have been excluded from the district. The irregularly shaped western boundary divides the industrial sections of the district from adjacent residential areas to the west in the vicinity of the Folly Castle Historic District. Along the southern Washington Street boundary, the character changes to reflect late-twentieth-century commercial adaptations to high-speed automotive uses and those areas have been excluded. More gaps exist in the streetscape in the Washington Street area adjacent to the district; trademark buildings associated with franchise and national chains occur; and 1970s and 1980s buildings have replaced historic buildings. The Courthouse District boundaries have been developed to include a recognizable entity unified by both land use and architectural character and periods.

LEGEND :



District Boundary



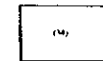
Contributing



Noncontributing



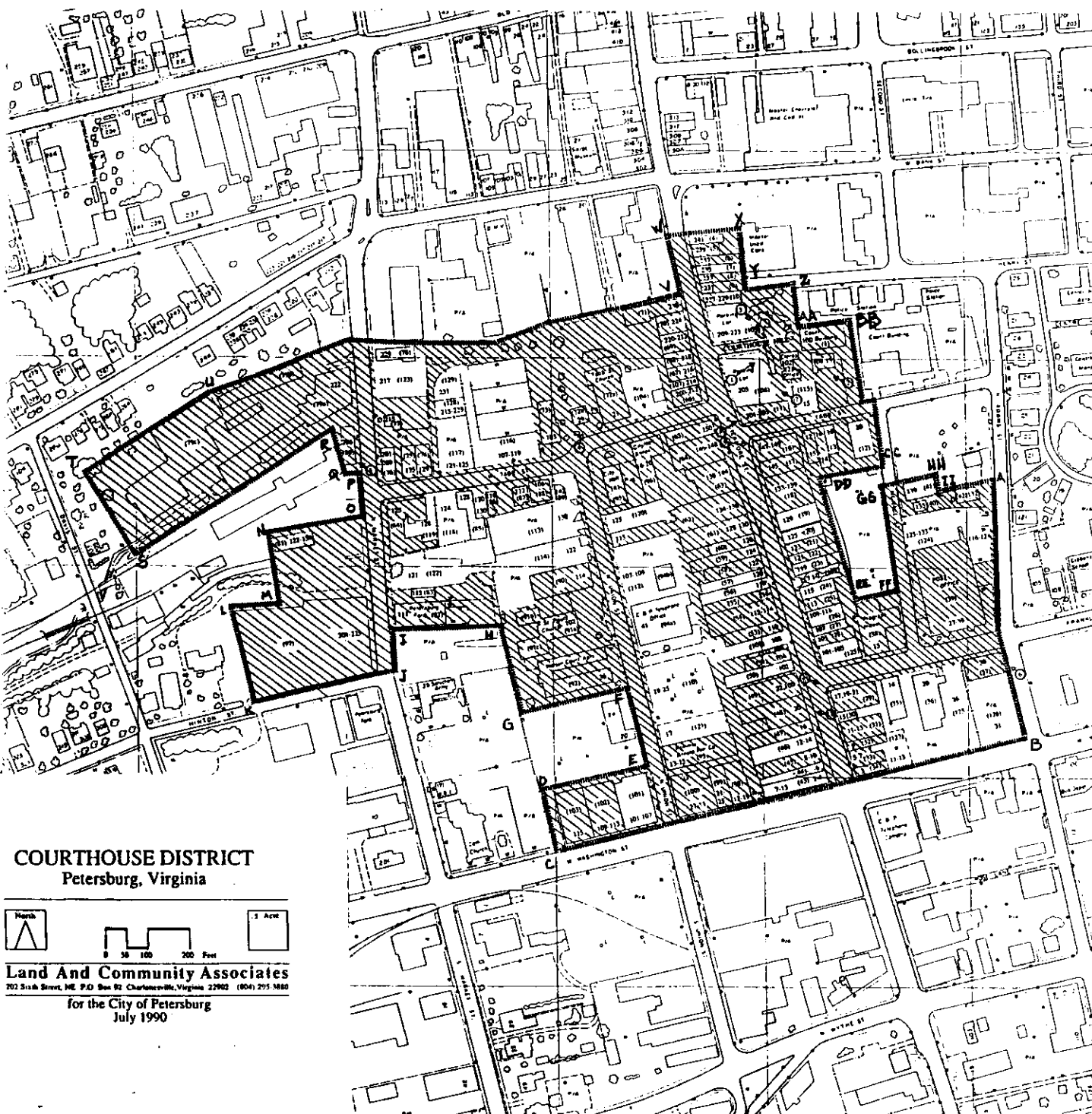
Street Number



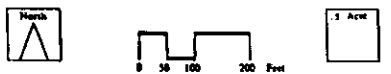
DHR Tertiary File Number



Photograph Key



**COURTHOUSE DISTRICT**  
Petersburg, Virginia



**Land And Community Associates**  
702 Sixth Street, N.E. P.O. Box 92 Charlottesville, Virginia 22902 (804) 295-5880  
for the City of Petersburg  
July 1990



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

RIVER

Potomantas

WESTERN AVE

GROVE AVE

BOLLINGBROOK

BANK

HIGH ST

City Hill  
Radio Tower

INTERCHANGE 3

Battersea

High Sch

Fire Sta

Library

Filtration Plant

Central Park

PETERSBURG