

VLR 6/10/02
NRHP 9/14/02

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Hopewell Historic District

other names/site number DHR File No. 116-5031

2. Location

street & number Boundary includes the west side of Main St., the north side of Appomattox St., the east side of Hopewell St., and both sides of East Broadway not for

publication NA

city or town Hopewell vicinity _____

state Virginia code VA county Independent City _____ code 670 Zip 23860

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature] Date 7/24/02

Signature of certifying official
Virginia 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 Keeper

Date of Action

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**Downtown Hopewell Historic District
Hopewell, VA**

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival, Classical Revival

Modern Movement: Art Deco _____

Other _____

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick _____

roof _____

walls Brick _____

Sandstone _____

other _____

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

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Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce, Government _____

Architecture _____

Period of Significance 1915-1951 _____

Significant Dates 1915 _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation N/A _____

Architect/Builder Fred A. Bishop _____
Osbert L. Edwards _____

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 8 1/2 Acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

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Zone Easting Northing	Zone Easting Northing
1 18 297300 4131100	2 18 297360 4131040
3 18 297300 4131000	4 18 297370 4130900

 x See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Jean McRae, Sarah Meacham & Ashley Neville

Organization: Gray & Pape, Inc. date 12/17/01

street & number: 1705 E. Main Street telephone 804-644-0656

city or town Richmond, state VA zip code 23223

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

=====
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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7. Summary Description:

The Downtown Hopewell Historic District is located at the core of the City of Hopewell, Virginia. Hopewell is situated at fifty feet above sea level just south of the Appomattox River. The district contains 52 properties (twelve of which are noncontributing) encompassing the majority of the earliest surviving commercial and governmental buildings. The district includes two buildings listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places: the Hopewell Municipal Building and the Beacon Theatre. The overwhelming majority of the buildings in the district are of masonry construction, largely due to a devastating fire in 1915, and the scale is low with most buildings only two stories in height. Buildings outside the main commercial block are more massive in scale and style. Decorative brick cornices, keystones over openings, and elements such as columns, brackets, and decorative Art Deco features are found in the district. Despite commercial renovations to the storefronts, the majority of the buildings reflect their original designs particularly above the storefront cornice. Most commercial buildings are built immediately adjacent to the sidewalk. Only the governmental buildings, the school, the post office, and the Municipal Building, are pulled back with small lawns in front. The built environment of the district that still retains its historic commercial and governmental setting continues to evoke the commercial and architectural history of downtown Hopewell.

Detailed Description

The downtown area of Hopewell was rebuilt after a disastrous 1915 fire burned the earlier frame structures that comprised the commercial area. This resulted in a commercial area largely built during the period 1916 to 1930 with a heavy emphasis on the use of masonry construction. The historic district as a whole features typical twentieth-century commercial buildings. The buildings range from one to four stories high, two being the most common. Beyond the historic district boundaries, vacant lots and modern buildings outside the district's period of significance dominate the area.

The 200 block of East Broadway retains the largest concentration of commercial buildings built between 1916 and 1930, with few modern exceptions. The Wells Building (116-5031-0042) at 236 East Broadway may have survived the 1915 fire and is a typical example of Hopewell commercial architecture. It is a two-story brick building with roof parapet. The storefront has been modernized. A good collection of two-story masonry commercial buildings stands on the east side of Hopewell Street at the intersection of East Broadway. The largest building (116-5031-0050) anchors the corner

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with a diagonal entry at the corner. Although the storefronts have been reworked, the upper floor exhibits the original brick façade with soldier-course details and a heavy modillioned cornice. The adjacent building (116-5031-0051) has a more fanciful façade with two round-headed arched window openings on the second floor that echo the storefront entry. Each window opening has two sets of paired two-over-one light windows and false, wrought-iron balconies. The building facade is topped with a corrugated metal shed roof supported by five decorative brackets. Two other commercial buildings (116-5031-0023 and 116-5031-0046) at 207 and 256 East Broadway echo this treatment. The building at 207 East Broadway (116-5031-0023) is more decorative in the use of brick. Brick laid in a herringbone pattern fills the tympanum above the windows that are further delineated by concrete quoins on the sides. The façade of the commercial building at 256 East Broadway is covered with stucco scored to resemble blocks of stone especially around the single door entry that is topped with a fanlight. Other decorative features of this building include an arcade of window openings on the second floor topped with stone voussiors and separated by spiral Ionic columns. A decorative wrought-iron balcony compliments this arcade.

The three-story Larkin Hotel (116-5031-0030) stands out among its two-story counterparts. Built in 1916 shortly after the fire, this handsome five-bay, brick building features raised brick details that include pilasters, keystones, beltcourses, and a corbelled cornice. On the interior, the original iron-gate elevator is still in use, and the ceilings have their original pressed metal coverings. The individual rooms also survive on the upper floors and were most recently used as separate bedroom displays for a furniture company. The adjacent building, 116-5031-0031, was built in 1930, fifteen years after the hotel, and presents a striking skyline with its Art Deco-influenced cornice. It is one of the most ornate buildings in the district. Another large building in the commercial area is the former National Bank of Hopewell (116-5031-0047), also built in 1916. It is three stories tall with a rusticated first floor and stone sills and keystones.

The individually listed Beacon Theatre (116-5031-0015 and 116-0010) was built in 1928 as the Broadway Theatre and Pythian Lodge Building. Osbert L. Edwards and Fred A. Bishop, who also was the architect for the Municipal Building, designed the Art Deco-style Beacon Theatre as a three-story vaudeville and movie theatre with first-floor commercial space, second-floor apartments, and a third-floor meeting space. It is currently undergoing restoration.

Most of the governmental buildings are located along the Main Street corridor of the historic district. Occupying an entire city block, the Classical Revival-style Hopewell Municipal Building (116-5031-

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11 and 116-5001) was designed by architect Fred A. Bishop and was built in 1925. An annex was added in 1957. The distyle-in-antis portico with its tall Ionic columns dominates the sandstone-colored brick facade creating an imposing building that befits a governmental use. As a contrast, the U.S. Post Office with red brick with white trim was created in the Colonial Revival style. It has a pedimented central pavilion with pilasters and fanlight-topped windows, flanked by flat-roofed wings. Notable features of both the Municipal Building and the Post Office are the murals on the interior of both buildings. The wall-sized mural in the Municipal Building highlights scenes from Hopewell's history. The much smaller painting in the post office illustrates the meeting of Englishmen and Native Americans.

Several banks and another hotel also are located on Main Street and represent the continued expansion of the downtown area in Hopewell during the late 1920s. The Randolph Hotel (116-5031-0010) occupies the corner across West Broadway Street from the Municipal Building. Built in 1927 shortly after the Municipal Building was completed, the Randolph Hotel is a three-story brick building. A Doric colonnade featuring engaged fluted columns and full entablature set between rusticated piers ornaments the first floor façade.

The D. L. Elder Bank (116-5031-0008), located on the northwest corner of Main and West Poythress streets, was erected in 1929. Although built the year of the stock market crash, the design of this two-story, sandstone building imparts the sense of stability normally associated with a bank. Fred A. Bishop, who designed the Municipal Building, and Osbert L. Edwards, who along with Bishop was the architect for the Beacon Theatre, designed the bank. The First Federal Savings and Loan building (116-5031-0006) occupies the corner across West Poythress Street. Although not built until 1951, this Art Moderne-influenced building blends well with the downtown Hopewell streetscape. The major features of this brick building are the tall windows and large corrugated stone panel that enframes the entrance.

The Patrick Copeland Elementary School stands at the upper end of the historic district just a block north of the main commercial area. This Art Deco-style school was built in 1939. The two-story brick building features a center entry flanked by large, two-story piers and triple windows in each classroom.

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The Downtown Hopewell Historic District features a commercial core along East Broadway Street that replaced the frame buildings destroyed in the 1915 fire. The buildings constructed during the late 1920s and early 1930s along North Main Street represent the expansion of the downtown area from its historic beginnings. Many of the storefronts along East Broadway Street have sustained alterations typical of the late twentieth century and other buildings between Randolph Road and Main Street were demolished during the urban renewal period. The majority of non-contributing resources in the district were built after the period of significance. With all these changes, the downtown area of the Hopewell retains the ability to impart its importance as a one-time boomtown that became a solid city.

Downtown Hopewell Historic District Inventory

Appomattox Street

205 Appomattox Street: Patrick Copeland (Elementary) School, 1939. (116-5031-0013)

This Art Deco, two-story brick school is divided into three main sections with a stone band running along the roofline as well as the base line. The stretcher-bond center section is seven bays wide with a projecting middle bay within which the three-door entrance and transoms are recessed. The recession is framed with a soldier brick course. This bay also has a stone entablature, stone dentil bands, and an octagonal clock insert. Separating each bay are decorative vertical soldier brick bands. The double-hung 3/3 windows are in groups of threes across the façade. These window sets have rowlock brick lintels and stone sills. The projecting western section has two large bays made up of 5-course American-bond brickwork and two rows of louvered windows. The projecting eastern section has stretcher-bond brickwork, only three double-hung 3/3 windows, two fixed 3-light windows, and a double door with transom. There are small stone panels between the first- and second-floor window sets spaced across the central and western sections of the building. A projecting one-story, one-bay brick unit with a single window covers the connection of the eastern and central sections

206 Appomattox Street: Bakery, Encore Studio, 1925 (116-5031-0014)

This one-story stretcher-bond brick building has a flat roof with a rowlock course, a raised band, and a double rowlock course along the roofline. Under these is an elongated recessed brick panel across the façade. The asymmetrical façade has a recessed entrance with four window panels on each side of a single metal door and transom. This entry sits off center with a recessed brick panel to the east side of the façade.

East Broadway Street

201 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1955 (116-5031-0021) Non-Contributing

This one-story, American-bond brick building has wood paneling across the storefront with the original brick exposed above. The façade has fixed glass storefront windows with a recessed entry with double doors. There are two plywood signs, one along the brick area, and one along the wood siding above the windows.

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205 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1928 (116-5031-0022)

This is a two-story, American-bond brick building. The first floor consists of large glass storefront windows with a center glass door. A second door on the first floor is topped with a decorative stone label mold. Wood paneling has been applied to the façade between the floors and false half-timbering has been added to the second floor. A slate-shingle shed roof tops the building on the façade.

207 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1927 (116-5031-0023)

This is two-story, American-bond brick building has a flat roof with front parapet. Below the stone capped articulated parapet are three stone bands set in the brick façade. The second floor has two pairs of double-hung 1/1 windows with stone centers, sills, and quoins. Above the windows are two recessed brick arches with rowlock edges, soldier bases, and herringbone fill. Between the first and second floors is a wide band of stucco on which a wood sign hangs. The first floor has a recessed single door to the west and fixed storefront windows on either side of a single door with transom and sidelights. The first floor is framed by brick pillars and topped with a piece of plywood.

209 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1925 (116-5031-0024)

This two-story brick building, sheathed in permastone, has a flat roof with front stepped parapet. The entrance is recessed with showcase windows on either side of the single door with transom.

213-217 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1916 (116-5031-0025)

This one-story, three-bay, American-bond brick building has a flat roof with stepped parapet front. The three bays are divided by brick piers and are slightly recessed creating a corbelling effect above each section. The original transom windows have been covered by pieces of plywood above the storefront level. Along the first floor are three storefronts each with fixed windows on either side of a single metal door with transom. The farthest west and the center bay doors also have one sidelight each.

219 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1918 (116-5031-0026)

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick building has a flat roof with front parapet. It has been faced with vertical and horizontal wood siding except for the recessed brick panels along the top. The entrance is centered and recessed with three fixed windows on either side of a single metal door with air conditioning unit above.

221-225 East Broadway Street: Investment Mortgage Company, Commercial Building, 1916 (116-5031-0027)

This one-story, three-bay, stretcher-bond brick building has a flat roof with front parapet. There is a wood cornice between the wood siding covering the original transom windows for the storefronts and the three recessed brick panels below the roofline. The east and west stores have fixed windows on either side of a recessed single metal-framed glass door; the west door also has a transom and sidelight. The center store has raised showcase windows on either side of a recessed single metal and glass door.

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- 227 East Broadway Street:** Synthetic Federal Credit Union, 1987, **Non-Contributing** (116-5031-0028)
This one-story, stretcher-bond brick, modern commercial bank building has a concrete foundation and hipped wood shingle roof. There are single-pane, fixed metal windows and two single-leaf metal doors.
- 235-239 East Broadway Street:** Commercial Building, 1922 (116-5031-0029)
This two-story, three-bay, American-bond brick building has a flat roof with front stepped parapet. The roofline has rowlock brick trim with six brick caps marking the bay corners, below which are three recessed brick panels. Below these panels is a wood cornice under which is either wood siding or stucco infill covering the original transom windows above the storefronts. Each storefront entrance is recessed having a single door with transom, two of these door transoms being solid.
- 245-251 East Broadway Street:** Larkin's Hotel, Butterworth's Furniture Store, 1916 (116-5031-0030)
This is a three-story, five-bay, American-bond brick building with symmetrical but heavily articulated façade. Pilasters, paneled on the upper two floors, separate the façade into bays with paired 1/1-light double-hung sash on the upper stories. Decorative raised brickwork defines the building with slightly arched lines running above the windows on the upper floors, raised brick keystones, and a corbelled cornice. The center tripartite window on the third floors is accented by stone voussiors that create an arch around the window. The first-floor façade consists of tall storefront windows and a central recessed entry. Wood paneling has been applied to the façade above the storefront windows.
- 257-263 East Broadway Street:** Commercial Building, 1930 (116-5031-0031)
This Art Deco, two-story, Flemish-bond brick building has an eight-bay second-floor with a parapet roofline. The stone trimmed parapet has seventeen stone relief faceted wedges typical of Art Deco design. Raised brick pilasters with recessed vertical panels divide the bays. The second-floor bays have identical paired double-hung 1/1 windows with soldier lintels, rowlock sills, decorative stone wedges, and diamond medallions above. The first-floor is made up of five storefronts with a similar bay division as the second-floor. The central double door bay with transom and sidelights also has a pair of brick piers on either side. The façade is balanced with double door entries, transoms, and six fixed windows each. The original five storefront transoms have been covered with stucco.
- 265 East Broadway Street:** Commercial Building, 1960, (116-5031-0032, 116-5009) **Non-Contributing.**
This one-story, stretcher-bond brick modern commercial building has a concrete foundation and a flat asphalt roof with parapet. There are single-pane fixed metal windows and a double-leaf metal door.
- 200 East Broadway Street:** Office Building, 1984, (116-5031-0034) **Non-Contributing.**
This two-story, stretcher-bond brick, modern office building has a concrete foundation and flat asphalt roof. There are single-pane fixed metal windows and a single-leaf metal door.

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206 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1918 (116-5031-0035)

This two-story, irregular Flemish-bond brick building has a first-floor store front and second-floor living quarters. The second floor has two pairs of double-hung 1/1 windows with stone lintels and is framed by two raised brick piers. The roofline has corbelled brickwork and there is a cornice between the second and first floors. The first floor has a raised glass-block base and a display window on either side of a single door. There is another door for the upstairs to the west. Above the storefront is a framed wood panel claiming this store as "Classic Tees."

212 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1950 (116-5031-0036)

This one-story, brick building has a stucco façade and a flat roof with front parapet. Between two raised belt courses along the top is a sign reading "Hopewell Food Pantry." There are showcase windows on either side of the recessed entry with a double-leaf metal door and transom.

216 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1950 (116-5031-0037)

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick building has a flat roof with ceramic-edged front parapet. There is a recessed entry with raised display windows on either side of a single metal door with transom.

218-220 East Broadway Street: Walkers Gym, 1950 (116-5031-0038)

This one-story, American-bond brick building has eight fixed windows on either side of a recessed entry with three metal double doors and transoms. The entire glass front is framed with stone edges and a thin raised band across the top.

222 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1920 (116-5031-0039)

This one-story brick building has a permastone façade and a flat roof with front parapet. Along the top is smooth stucco with a raised pier to the west corner. There is a single wood door with sidelights and transom to the west and three fixed windows to the east of the façade.

226 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1919 (116-5031-0040)

This is a two-story American-bond brick building with a flat roof. The second-floor is divided into two bays with two 1/1, double-hung sash flanked by shutters in each bay. Between the second and first floors are a belt course and a visor roof with wood shingles. The first floor has four fixed windows on either side of a double-door entrance with transom.

232 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1918 (116-5031-0041)

This one-story, three-bay, irregular Flemish-bond brick building has a flat roof with stepped parapet. Along the roofline, the brick is corbelled with modillions and there are three brick panels below. The center and east bays have aluminum siding along the lower façade, while the west bay has vertical wood siding. The center bay projects slightly from the façade with a single wood door and sidelights located between two double-hung 1/1 windows. The east bay has a single fixed window with shutters, while the west bay has a double-hung 6/6 window on either side of a single wood door.

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236 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1915 (116-5031-0042)

This two-story, stretcher-bond brick building has a first-floor storefront and second-floor living quarters. The roof is flat with a stepped parapet with raised brick edge. Below the roofline are a recessed brick panel, two horizontal raised rowlock bands, and two small raised brick frames. Centered at the top, is a recessed panel with raised letters spelling "WELLS." The second -floor has four double-hung 1/1 windows, paired within the two upper bays. Framing these windows are corbelled lintels and rowlock sills infilled with stucco. The first floor has vertical wood siding and five fixed windows centered between two single door entries. The west side storefront door is metal with a transom, while the upstairs door is a wood paneled door to the east.

238 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1919 (116-5031-0043)

This brick building is two stories at the front with a pitched metal roof followed by a flat-roofed one-story rear. The brick façade has been covered entirely by corrugated metal vertical siding. From west to east along the first floor are three fixed windows, a double metal door with transom, another fixed window, and a single metal door. On the metal siding above, in lighted metal letters, are the words, "Hopewell Furniture Co."

244 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1916 (116-5031-0044)

This two-story, brick commercial building has a metal shed roof. On the second floor two raised stucco piers flank double-hung 2/2 windows on either side of paired 2/2 windows. The first floor has a fixed window on either side of a recessed single metal door with transom. This entire glass front is framed in corrugated metal sheathing and wood siding. There is a side door that has been boarded over.

246-250 East Broadway Street Commercial Building, 1918 (116-5031-0045)

This one-story, three-bay brick building has been resurfaced with permastone. The roof is flat metal with a curved parapet front. The first floor is made up of three storefronts with raised fixed windows. The west bay has two windows on either side of a single door with transom. The center bay has a single door with transom and two windows to its left. The east bay has a single door with transom and four windows to its right.

256 East Broadway Street: Store, Commercial Building, 1917 (116-5031-0046)

This Italianate, two-story brick building has been resurfaced with stucco. The storefront has been covered with board. The single, visible first-floor door is topped with a fanlight. The stucco around this door has been scored to simulate stone blocks and there is a raised stone label mold and stone shield above the door. The second floor features an arcade of four windows topped with stone voussiors that form arches. Spiral Ionic columns separate each window. A decorative iron balcony is positioned in front of the window. The second floor also has quoins. A stone urn sits on each corner of the roof.

264 East Broadway Street: National Bank of Hopewell/Chesterfield Hotel 1917 (116-5031-0047)

Prominently sited on the corner of East Broadway and Hopewell streets, this is a three- by five-bay, three-story building constructed of brick laid in irregular Flemish bond. First-floor windows are large plate-glass windows framed by a rowlock course with concrete keystone. Upper-floor windows are paired 1/1sash topped by jack arches with keystones. A recessed panel is located between the third and second floors. Pilasters separate each bay of the upper floors and the first-floor façade is rusticated. There is a stone cornice.

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264 East Broadway Street (222-224 Hopewell Street): Pearl River Restaurant, 1917 (116-5031-0048)

This one-story, three-bay, brick building has a flat roof and irregular American-bond brickwork. There is a boarded window opening on either side of the centered boarded door.

300 East Broadway Street: Commercial Building, 1918 (116-5031-0050)

This Classical Revival, two-story, American-bond brick building has a flat roof and a heavy wooden modillioned cornice. Below the roofline cornice are four rowlock-framed brick panels, a raised rowlock belt course, and a soldier course. The second floor on the Broadway Street side has four single double-hung 1/1 windows, while the Hopewell Street side has four paired double-hung 1/1 windows, all framed in soldier courses. The first floor has two plate-glass windows on the Broadway Street side, with a single wood door with transom and single multi-paneled door. There are two plate-glass windows on the Hopewell Street side with raised sills. There is also a single metal-framed glass door under the recessed clipped corner facing the street intersection. The first floor of the building has been covered with stucco with a heavy cornice above.

East Cawson Street

207 East Cawson Street: Office Building, 1957 (116-5031-0016) **Non-Contributing**

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick office building has four 3-light fixed windows on either side of a slightly recessed doorway. The windows have rowlock sills and there is a soldier brick course running above all the windows and doors. Recessed horizontal brick lines punctuate the front corners of the building while the roofline has a seamed ceramic trim.

204 East Cawson Street: River City Pub, 1928 (116-5031-0018)

This one-story, L-shaped concrete block building contains two different facilities. The northeast section has a roughed ashlar façade with three fixed-glass windows, a single metal door, and a louvered transom window. The southern ell is solid concrete block with four air conditioning units set in the façade. The centered entry is projecting with a single oval-windowed door. Signage includes a lighted "River City Pub" unit above the door of the ell, and vinyl letters above the storefront entrance reading "Appomattox Cleaners."

208 East Cawson Street: Commercial Building, 1920 (116-5031-0017)

This two-story, stretcher-bond brick, commercial building has a first-floor store front and second-floor living quarters with a visor roof in between. The stucco-covered second floor has four double-hung 6/6 windows and a sign reading "Chipz Place." The first floor has a nine-paned fixed window on either side of the recessed entrance. The single metal door with transom has a 3-light fixed window on either side as well.

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Hopewell Street

221 Hopewell Street: Commercial Building 1916 (116-5031-0053)

This two-story, stucco-covered concrete building has a first-floor storefront and second-floor living quarters. The second floor has three double-hung 1/1 windows and a raised stucco cornice. Between the second and first floors is a thin corrugated metal visor roof. The first floor has two fixed windows on either side of a recessed single wood door with solid transom. To the south is another single door leading to the second floor with two stucco-filled transoms.

223-225 Hopewell Street: Commercial Building, 1916 (116-5031-0052)

This two-story, stucco-covered concrete building has a first-floor storefront and second-floor living quarters. The second floor has three wood framed double-hung 1/1 windows and a raised stucco cornice. The first floor has three fixed windows to the south of a recessed single wood door. A second door, providing access to the second floor, is located just north of the first-floor entry. The transom area above the windows has been paneled. There is a projecting cornice above the paneling.

227 Hopewell Street: Commercial Building, 1916. (116-5031-0051)

This Beaux Arts, two-story, stretcher-bond brick building has a flat roof with a corrugated metal visor supported by five wood brackets. Trimming the two outer edges of the building are raised brick pilasters with corbelled caps above the roofline. At the second floor are four pairs of 3-light windows with soldier course arches, solid fan transoms, and two decorative iron balconies. The first floor has fixed windows on either side of a recessed single wood door. Above this are decorative wood panels with an arched entry

220 Hopewell Street: Sanitary Barber Shop, Commercial Building, 1916 (116-5031-0049)

This two-story, irregular Flemish-bond brick building has a flat metal roof with stepped parapet. Along the second floor are three double-hung 1/1 windows topped with faded letters reading, "SANITARY BARBER SHOP." Between the second and first floors is a heavy wood cornice with end brackets. The first floor has a multi-paned fixed window to the left of two single wood doors. Each of the doors has transoms, one with metal louvers and the other with a fixed window.

South Main Street

101 South Main Street: Sowers Hardware Store, 1916 (116-5031-0001)

This two-story, commercial building has an American-bond brick upper section with raised brick panels and a lower wood siding section. The façade is divided into three sections by way of raised brick brackets between the brick panels. The northern section has four second-floor windows and two first-floor storefront windows flanking a door. The center section has three upper window spaces and one storefront with a door to the right. The southern section, the widest of the three, has four window spaces at the second floor flanking a brick infilled center arch, and two storefront windows and a door on the first floor. All the windows have arched rowlock lintels and share a rowlock sill/band across the entire front of the building. There are three wood door entrances along the façade, all with solid transoms and one with a sidelight. Above the first-floor multi-paned storefront windows, there is a raised brick band with wood panels for signage.

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North Main Street

100-104 North Main Street (101 City Point Road): Main Street Plaza, First Merchants National Bank, 1998, Non-Contributing

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick commercial bank building has a concrete foundation and side-gable slate shingle roof. There are single-pane and 3/3 fixed metal windows along the main street façade. No door is visible on the elevation.

106 North Main Street: Office Building, 1949 (116-5031-003)

This two-story, three-bay, stretcher-bond brick office building has a raised brick band below the roofline and above the three single-pane fixed windows. The front entrance is recessed with a transom above the double doors flanked by single-pane storefront windows.

108 North Main Street: Office Building, 1954 (116-5031-0004) Non-Contributing

This two-story, single-bay stretcher-bond brick office building has a raised brick panel along the second floor, while the first floor has a center single door with transom and sidelights. The entrance is recessed with fixed single-pane showcase windows, each of these having metal muntin inserts to mimic multi-paned windows.

110 North Main Street: Office Building, 1954 (116-5031-005) Non-Contributing

This two-story, American-bond brick office building has one double door with transom to the far right of the façade.

112 North Main Street: Commercial Building, 1951 (116-5031-006)

This Art Deco-style, two-story, three-bay by six-bay American-bond brick bank building has a vertical fluted stone center panel with a smooth inset pane with the name of the bank, "The First Federal Savings and Loan Association." A flat canopy protects the recessed double entrance doors. There is a smooth stone watertable. The tall, multi-paned windows run the height of the building. There is a stone cornice with dentil molding along the flat roofline.

200-208 North Main Street: D. L. Elder Building, 1929 (116-5031-1008)

This is a two-story, four-bay sandstone and brick commercial building. The main section of the building is sandstone with the remainder of the building brick with sandstone above the second-floor windows and decorative brick and sandstone panels between the windows. The main entry is metal with decorative panels between the first and second floors. A large single transom tops the double entry doors with a decorative panel between the transom and doors. The remainder of the Main Street first floor on the brick section has large storefront windows and a second entry. The first-floor windows on the side of the building are large with transoms and sidelights. Other windows are 1/1- double-hung sash and are paired on the second floor. There is a projecting stone cornice. The roof parapet mimics the building with a sandstone parapet wall above the sandstone section and a brick parapet with stone panels above the brick section.

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210 North Main Street: ABC Store, 1954 (116-5031-0009) Non-Contributing

This is a one-story brick building with large "VA ABC" store sign centered above the entry. The large plate-glass center window with curved ends of glass blocks is flanked by an entry on each side.

224 North Main Street (318 West Broadway St.): Randolph Hotel and Office Building, Hotel, 1927 (116-5031-0010)

This is a three-story, four-bay building of brick laid in irregular Flemish bond. The first-floor facade is faced with cast stone and has five engaged Doric columns that flank recessed multi-paned windows or double doors. The columns support a frieze and projecting cornice. Both entrances have sidelights and the northern doors also have a fanlight transom. The doors and multi-paned windows are framed in wood and have wood cornices. It appears that windows along the side have been infilled with brick and only the concrete keystones survive. There are two additional frame storefronts on the side of the building at the rear. Upper-story windows are paired, 1/1 double-hung sash. There is a concrete beltcourse above the third-floor windows. The building has a flat roof and parapet.

300 North Main Street: Hopewell Municipal Building, 1925, 1957 (116-5031-0011, 116-5001)

The Hopewell Municipal Building is constructed of buff-colored brick laid in stretcher bond. Two stories on a raised basement, the original section is a symmetrical eight bays wide by five bays deep. An impressive portico with Ionic columns supporting an entablature frames the center entry. The windows are 8/8 on the main floor and 12/8 on the second floor. Stone jack arches top all windows. There are recessed panels between the first and second floors. The building has a denticulated cornice and a flat roof with parapet. The 1957 addition is constructed of the same color brick but is three stories in height. Windows are 8/8 topped with jack arches. A monument to Peter Francisco stands in the southeast corner of the Municipal Building grounds. It consists of a granite bust atop a granite base. The building is individually listed in the National Register.

401 North Main Street: Broadway Theatre/ Pythian Lodge Building, Beacon Theatre, 1928 (116-5031-0015)

This Art Deco, three-story, theatre building has a significant amount of decorative brickwork. The main entrance is located on the clipped corner of the building facing the intersection of Main, Randolph, and Cawson streets. Triple windows surmounted with solid fanlights are located above the marquee. Paired 4/2 windows with 2-pane transoms are located on the third floor above the entrance. Decorative brickwork consisting of soldier courses and concrete corner blocks is prominent on the entrance section and also surround each of the second-floor windows. The main section of the theatre has an articulated parapet wall with stone cap and decorative brickwork with additional decoration on the angled entrance section. The adjacent wings of the building have a lower parapet but continue with the decorative brickwork. Windows on the main block are paired 2/2 on the second floor and paired 4/2 with 2-light transoms on the second floor. It appears that several windows and doors have been infilled with brick on the Cawson Street side. The building is individually listed in the National Register.

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West Poythress Street

117 West Poythress Street: United States Post Office, 1935 (116-5031-0007, 116-0011)

This Colonial Revival-style, red brick post office is a one-story building with a central projecting pedimented pavilion flanked by flat-roofed wings. Pilasters separate the central entry and flanking windows, which are topped by fanlights. The remaining windows in the post office are 6/6. There is a limestone watertable around the base and granite steps with an iron railing leading to the main double doors.

Randolph Road

101 Randolph Road: Office Building, 1993, (116-5031-0019) **Non-Contributing**

This is a modern one-story stretcher-bond brick building with a brick foundation and a flat asphalt-shingle roof. There are single-pane fixed metal windows and two single-leaf metal doors.

115 Randolph Road: Commercial Building, 1955, (116-5031-0020) **Non-Contributing**

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick commercial building has a concrete foundation and flat roof. There are single-pane fixed metal windows and a double-leaf metal door.

201 Randolph Road: CFC Randolph Square, Office Building, 1984, (116-5031-0033) **Non-Contributing**

This one-story, stretcher-bond brick modern office building has a concrete foundation and flat asphalt roof. There are single-pane fixed metal windows, a double-leaf metal door, and a single-leaf metal door.

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Statement of Significance

The Downtown Hopewell Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with historic events and trends in the areas of commerce and government, and under Criterion C for architecture. The City of Hopewell grew out of the massive industrial development by the Du Pont Corporation prior to and during World War I. This development in Hopewell, appearing almost overnight, was reminiscent of the boomtowns of the old west. As Hopewell grew into a viable city, the downtown area became the center of local government. With the construction of new brick buildings after a 1915 fire, Hopewell sent a message that it was here to stay. The historic district also contains a collection of modest but solid commercial buildings that date primarily from 1915 to 1930. Its governmental buildings, from its Classical Revival-style Municipal Building to its Colonial Revival-style post office, reflect the solid foundation of the city. The period of significance for the Downtown Hopewell Historic District is 1915-1951. A majority of the architecture in the proposed Hopewell Historic District is representative of this time period, a period of great prosperity and economic growth for the city of Hopewell.

Historical Background

The City of Hopewell sprung up almost overnight in an area that was largely rural and agricultural. Prince George County was primarily an agricultural community since its beginnings in the country's colonial period and tobacco was the county's major crop. The heavy reliance on agriculture continued in the county into the nineteenth and twentieth centuries with the cultivation of soybeans, corn and peanuts.¹ However, "the ten years between 1910 and 1920 witnessed a revolutionary change in the economic and social life of the Prince George area, in whose sparsely settled fields and forests there magically sprung a major city and a vast military reservation."² The quiet world of Prince George County changed forever in 1911 when the E.I. Du Pont de Nemours Company purchased 1800 acres of land in the County.

The Du Pont Corporation considered the site to be ideal for the location of a new dynamite plant because it offered convenient water transportation and isolation. The new dynamite plant was named Hopewell, to commemorate the name of a ship that brought settlers to the Virginia colony. When war erupted in Europe the focus and size of the Du Pont plant in Hopewell changed considerably. The manufacturing focus changed from dynamite to gun cotton and the need for labor increased

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dramatically. In April of 1914, Hopewell consisted of 800 citizens, but by December of that same year the number had increased to approximately 44,000 individuals. Du Pont was in no way prepared for this onslaught of people and Hopewell lacked adequate housing to deal with the new arrivals.³ In order to provide facilities for the workers of the Du Pont plant “a raucous frontier town” sprung up on the edge of the company’s property almost overnight.⁴ The newcomers were in such a hurry to build that the streets in the area of the Downtown Hopewell Historic District consisted of a hodgepodge of buildings constructed of wood, tin, tarpaper, and canvas.⁵

Businesses blossomed all over the city including restaurants, motor companies, and realty companies. The citizens of Hopewell also established new schools, churches, and Prince George’s first newspaper, the *Hopewell Daily News*. However, Hopewell’s world changed dramatically on December 9, 1915 when a fire broke out in the business section of Hopewell. A brisk wind quickly swept the fire through the ramshackle frame buildings and almost every structure in the business area was decimated. The residential areas and Du Pont were not in the path of the flames and were not destroyed. The fire burned almost 300 buildings and left hundreds of people homeless. Hopewell began the process of rebuilding immediately by replacing the frame structures with concrete and brick buildings, thus giving an air of permanence to the town.⁶ Examples of some of the new brick buildings that appeared during the post-fire construction period include the 1916 Sower’s Hardware Store, 101 South Main Street (116-5031-0001), Larkin’s Hotel built in 1916, 245 East Broadway Street (116-5031-0030), and the 1917 National Bank of Hopewell, 264 East Broadway Street (116-5031-0047). Other structures were erected to meet the immediate needs of the public such as the 1918 Rafey’s Billiards, 206 East Broadway Street (116-5031-0035) and the 1916 Sanitary Barber Shop, 220 Hopewell Street (116-5031-0049).

The growth of the city continued unabated after the fire of December 1915, leading to the incorporation of the city in 1916. The entry of the United States into World War I in 1917 was a catalyst for both industrial and population growth. One reason for the increase in population in Prince George and Hopewell was the construction that same year of Camp Lee, a large military base near Hopewell. In the last year of World War I, the Du Pont gun-cotton plant in Hopewell employed 30,000 individuals, and the infrastructure of the city operated at full capacity.⁷ This caused an increase in the need for services and facilities in the City of Hopewell and more buildings were erected during this period in the historic district such as the commercial building at 256 East Broadway Street (116-5031-0046) and the Pearl River Restaurant building, 264 East Broadway Street (116-5031-0048).

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The signing of the Armistice in Europe in 1918 was the start of a new chapter in Hopewell. The need for munitions declined and the future of Hopewell was tenuous at best. Du Pont Corporation reassured the population of Hopewell that prosperity would continue by promising not to dismantle the munitions plants. Instead, the Du Pont Corporation opted to sell the plants to other businesses. The sale of the facilities was advertised nationwide, with ads appearing in the newspapers of New York, Philadelphia and Chicago. A result of Du Pont's advertising campaign was the influx of new and varied industries into Prince George County. The Mayhew Corporation, a tool manufacturing company and the Stamscott Company, a producer of cellulose goods are two examples of the new industries introduced into the area.⁸ Another new industry was the Tubize Chatillon Corporation, manufacturers of synthetic silk.⁹ Hopewell demonstrated its continued growth by annexing the areas of nearby City Point and the old Du Pont plant site in 1923. The city had indeed survived a complete transition of its industry and economy and continued to prosper.¹⁰

The city demonstrated its success through the construction of new business and commercial buildings. The Broadway Theater and Pythian Lodge Building (individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places), 401 North Main Street (116-0010, 116-5031-0015), was erected in 1928 and the 1929 D.L. Elder building, 200-8 North Main Street (116-5031-0008) was designed to house a bank, offices, and retail shops. Hopewell also addressed the need for local government buildings with the construction of the 1925 Hopewell Municipal Buildings, 300 North Main Street (116-5001, 116-5031-0011). Architect and contractor Frederick A. Bishop designed the Hopewell Municipal Building. Frederick A. Bishop was an architect in Petersburg until 1924, he then moved to Richmond where he continued his work until 1931. Frederick A. Bishop designed schools, theaters, and banks throughout central, southside, and tidewater Virginia. The D.L. Elder Building and the Broadway/Beacon Theater was the work of both Frederick A. Bishop and Osbert L. Edwards, an architect who worked with Bishop on several projects in Hopewell.¹¹

The future looked bright for the City of Hopewell, and it appeared that the city was on the verge of its "greatest period of expansion in . . . history."¹² However, the 1930s brought economic hardship in the form of depression and drought. The drought in Virginia brought the James River to two feet below its normal height and caused wells and streams to dry up throughout Prince George County. The economic depression forced many banks and businesses to close their doors. Among these was the Tubize Chatillon Corporation that employed 4200 people. However, the city continued to grow and new public projects were completed including the construction of a municipal airport, a public library, the Appomattox River Bridge, and new highways all located outside of the historic district.¹³

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The start of World War II brought new life to Hopewell with the reconstruction and expansion of Camp Lee in 1940 at the site of the World War I military base on the outskirts of Hopewell. The original World War I camp was closed in 1921 and all buildings associated with the camp were razed.¹⁴ By 1945, there were 35,000 individuals living at Camp Lee, and the military facility had 3,500 civilians on the payroll.¹⁵

The economy of Hopewell continued to expand after World War II. In 1950, Camp Lee became Fort Lee, a permanent military installation and the center for the Quartermaster Training Command.¹⁶ The stability of the city was also evident in its banks. State Planters Bank and Trust Company saw deposits rise from \$1,500,000 in 1938 to \$3,881,889 in 1950.¹⁷ Allied Chemical and Hercules Powder are examples of companies in Hopewell that continued to prosper after World War II, as Hopewell became a leader in the chemical industry in the central Virginia area.¹⁸

The city of Hopewell rose out of the farmland of Prince George County to become an important industrial city in Virginia. Hopewell faced many challenges: fire, plant closings, unemployment, drought, and depression. The resources present in the Downtown Hopewell Historic District are evidence of these struggles and the tenacity of the city to rebuild and persevere in the face of adversity. These buildings represent the evolution of Hopewell from an early twentieth-century boomtown to a modern city with structures that serve the social, civic, and governmental needs of the populace.

ENDNOTES

¹ Lutz, Francis, Earl. The Prince George-Hopewell Story. Richmond, VA: The William Byrd Press, Inc., 1957, p. 51.

² Lutz, p 224.

³ Ibid, p 224-226.

⁴ Ibid, p 227.

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Endnotes, continued

⁵ The Chamber of Commerce, Hopewell, Virginia. Facts You Should Know About Hopewell: "The Inland Port of Virginia." Hopewell, Virginia: The Chamber of Commerce, Hopewell, Virginia, 1931, p.4.

⁶ Lutz, p. 231-232.

⁷ Ibid, p. 233-241.

⁸ Calos, Mary Mitchell, Charlotte Easterling, and Ella Sue Rayburn. Old City Point and Hopewell. Norfolk, Virginia: The Doning Company Publishers, 1983, p. 93-94.

⁹ Lutz, p. 256.

¹⁰ Calos, p. 93-94.

¹² Lutz, p. 254.

¹³ Ibid, p. 254-261.

¹⁴ Robert Clarke, Leo Hirrel Ph.D., and Debra McClane. Phase II Archaeological Investigations of the World War I Defensive Earthworks at the Fort Lee Military Reservation and Petersburg National Battlefield, Prince George County, Virginia, 1997. Report on file Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Richmond, Virginia, p. 33.

¹⁵ Lutz, p. 265-272.

¹⁶ Clarke, et al, p. 34.

¹⁷ Calos, p. 160.

¹⁸ Clarke, et al, p. 34.

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UTM References (Continued)

Zone Easting		Northing		Zone Easting		Northing	
5	18	297480	4130960	6	18	297540	4130940
7	18	297550	4130940	8	18	297560	4130900
9	18	297360	4130780	10	18	297320	4130800
11	18	297260	4130760	12	18	297240	4130540
13	18	297180	4130530	14	18	297170	4130660
15	18	297130	4130680	16	18	297130	4130700
17	18	297160	4130700	18	18	297170	4130940
19	18	297200	4130940	20	18	297200	4130970
21	18	297160	4130980	22	18	297160	4131020

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary encompasses eight and a half (8 ½) acres. See the attached map for the boundaries.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundary includes all resources that are part of the historic core of the City of Hopewell that have maintained historic and architectural integrity. These buildings display the architectural styles of the time and symbolize the commercial and governmental development of Hopewell.

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Photograph List

Downtown Hopewell Historic District, Hopewell, Virginia.

These photographs were taken by Ashley Neville, February 2001. The negatives are on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia.

- 1 of 12 East Broadway Street, view to the southwest. Neg. #19157.
- 2 of 12 Hopewell Street, view to the southeast. Neg. #19156.
- 3 of 12 Larkin Hotel, view to the northeast. Neg. #19156.
- 4 of 12 Detail of commercial building, view to the northwest. Neg. #19156.
- 5 of 12 Sowers Hardware Building, view to the northeast. Neg. #19157.
- 6 of 12 Randolph Hotel and Office Building, view to the southwest. Neg. #19157.
- 7 of 12 First Federal Savings and Loan Building, view to the southwest. Neg. #19157.
- 8 of 12 Hopewell Municipal Building, view to the west. Neg. #19157.
- 9 of 12 Detail of Mural in Hopewell Municipal Building. Neg. #19157.
- 10 of 12 U.S. Post Office, view to the north. Neg. #19157.
- 11 of 12 Detail of Mural in Post Office. Neg. #19157.
- 12 of 12 Patrick Copeland School, view to the northwest. Neg. #19157.



HOPEWELL HISTORIC DISTRICT

CITY OF HOPEWELL, VIRGINIA

- UTM REFERENCES
- 1) 18/297300/4131100
 - 2) 18/297360/4131040
 - 3) 18/297300/4131000
 - 4) 18/297370/4130900
 - 5) 18/297480/4130960
 - 6) 18/297540/4130940
 - 7) 18/297550/4130940
 - 8) 18/297560/4130900
 - 9) 18/297360/4130760
 - 10) 18/297320/4130820
 - 11) 18/297260/4130760
 - 12) 18/297240/4130540
 - 13) 18/297180/4130530
 - 14) 18/297170/4130660
 - 15) 18/297130/4130680
 - 16) 18/297130/4130700
 - 17) 18/297160/4130700
 - 18) 18/297170/4130940
 - 19) 18/297200/4130940
 - 20) 18/297200/4130970
 - 21) 18/297160/4130980
 - 22) 18/297160/4131020

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