VLR Listed: 12/21/1971 NRHP Listed: 11/7/1972

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

STATE:	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY:	
NORFOLK (in cit.)
FOR NPS USE ONL	Y
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
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7. DESCRIPTION						
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Norfolk,'s West Freemason Street Area is a neighborhood of some fourteen blocks of eighteenth, nineteenth, and twentieth century structures, located on the western edge of the center city. The area is set off from the downtown proper by generally well-defined boundaries. To the west of the area is the Elizabeth River, and on the north is Brambleton Avenue, a wide, divided thoroughfare. Forming the area's eastern boundary is Boush Street, a busy downtown street. An area of large parking lots and warehouses acts as a ubffer zone against the commercial district to the south. The West Freemason Street Area is primarily residential, although portions of the easternmost blocks have had a number of their townhouses converted into commercial establishments. The condition of the area's structures range from excellently maintained to poorly maintained and abandoned. structures in the poorest condition generally are those facing Brambleton Avenue, and those in the block bounded by Bute, Yarmouth, Duke and West The best-preserved and most scenic part of the area Freemason Streets. lies around the block bounded by Bute, West Freemason, and Botetourt Streets. This section is almost devoid of traffic since all three streets dead end at or near the block.

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Most of the houses on the north side of Bute Street east of Dunmore Street have been destroyed for parking lots, and the demolition of most of the block between Dunmore and Yarmouth Streets on the south side of West Freemason has broken the street facade and opened up an unpleasant view of Parts of the area's streets are tree-lined but the commercial district. the planting is inconsistent and there appears to be little tree maintenance All of the area's blocks were lined in the nineteenth century with stone curbing and herringbone-pattern brick sidewalks, but many sections O of these walks have been indiscriminately replaced with concrete paving in Most of the streets are paved with asphalt but sections of recent decades. West Freemason preserve both brick and early stone paving.

The architecture in the area represents a range of townhouse styles from the Federal to the Georgian Revival. Most of the townhouses are either detached or semi-detached three and five bay dwellings set close to Significant examples of the Federal style the street on deep narrow lots. are the Whittle House at 227 West Freemason, and the Allmand-Archer House on The Greek Revival style is best represented by the William Wilson Duke Street. Lamb House, 420 Bute Street, and the Camp-Hubard House at 308 West Freemason. Among the exceptional examples of the Italianate style are 419 Duke Street and 403 Bute Street. Second Empire style dwellings include the frame house at 273 Bute Street and the John Cary Weston House at 358 West Freemason. The area's best example of the Romanesque Revival is the brownstone fronted Beaux Arts Classicism is expressed in the house at 246 West Freemason. Norfolk Theatre Centre or old Public Library, also on West Freemason. are numerous Queen Anne style houses in the area: an unusually rich example The Georgian Revival is well represented throughis at 244 West Freemason. out the neighborhood: two of the more sophisticated examples are the Red Cross Headquarters at 414 Bute Street and the porticoed George Roper House at 320 West Freemason.

continued ---

PERIOD (Check One or More as	Appropriate)		
Pre-Columbian	16th Century	X 18th Century	🕎 20th Century
☐ 15th Century	☐ 17th Century	19th Century	
SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicat	le and Known)		
REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Ch	eck One or More as Appropr	iate)	•
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The history of Norfolk's cityscape is one of continuous and some-Nearly all of the colonial city was destroyed in times sweeping change. The many Federal structures that were the cross-fire of the Revolution. built on the ruins of the colonial city were mostly replaced over the years by buildings of various periods of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. As a result of this constant rebuilding many of Norfolk's oldest neighborhoods acquired an interesting assemblage of houses, churches, civic and commercial buildings of many different styles. By the mid-twentieth century, however, most of these early neighborhoods became occupied by poorer classes and the buildings were allowed to deteriorate. By the 1960's living conditions in these old neighborhoods had decayed to such an extent that it was decided to remove most of them in one of the most massive urban renewal projects ever undertaken in an American city. Only one of Norfolk's historic residential neighborhoods, the area around West Freemason Street, escaped this levelling, and this area today maintains the only early residential streetscape in the city of Norfolk.

The West Freemason Street Area was laid out just after the Revolution, and houses were built there from the late-eighteenth century through the early-twentieth century. Thus, preserved in this compact quarter is a three-dimensional record of the city's architectural development and a fascinating chronology of American architectural styles since the colonial period. The area was especially fashionable in the first half of the nineteenth century when such impressive townhouses as the Greek Revival Camp-Hubard House and the Italianate-style Glisson House were erected. was during this period that the marshy lanes of the city were replaced with stone paving and what is perhaps the oldest example of this stone paving survives at the end of West Freemason Street. West Freemason gained additional distinction in 1850 when it became the first street in Norfolk to be equipped with gas lamps.

The neighborhood maintained its prestige after the Civil War and impressive townhouses continued to be built. The rapid changes in the era's architectural taste is reflected in the fine examples of the Italianate, Romanesque Revival, Beaux Arts Classicism, Queen Anne, and Georgian Revival displayed in the area.

Many of the area's houses possess historic significance as well as architectural quality. The Whittle House, a distinguished example of the Federal style was occupied in the nineteenth century by Captain Richard Lucien Page who was with Commodore Perry at the historic opening of Japan to western trade. The circa 1790 Allmand Archer House at 327 Duke Street served as a headquarters for American officers in the War of 1812.

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9. MAJOR	BIBLIOGRAPHICAL	REFERENCES					
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3011	Johnson, Eleanor Virginia S., <u>Norfolk: It's Historical Features</u> , The Nusbaum Book and News Company, Norfolk, Virginia about 1904.						Nusbaum
Jone	es, Cary W., No:	folk as a B	usines:	s	Center, C. H. Winds	sor Bookselle	er and
ł	Stationer, Virg	;inia Presse	s, Nor	£¢	olk, Virginia, 1881.	•	
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
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ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Continuation Sheet)

(Number all entries)

Page 1

- 2. Bounded on the north by Brambleton Avenue, bounded on the east by lines of properties on east side of Duke Street, bounded on the south by lines of properties on south side of West Freemason Street, bounded on the west by Elizabeth River.
- 6. HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY Federal Library of Congress Washington, D. C. Code: 11
- 7. In addition to the area's many townhouses there are two terrace rows of distinction: the McCullough Row (338-346 West Freemason), and a Queen Anne style row with rich brick and terra cotta decoration at 317-321 Bute Street. There are several large apartment houses on Bute Street but none has particular architectural distinction. The apartment house at 249 West Freemason, however, is a dignified example of the Jacobean Revival. The area also contains a number of good examples of nineteenth century cast iron work. iron fences in front of the Camp-Hubard house and 322-324 West Freemason are of The iron verandas on 403 Bute Street and 358 West state-wide significance. Freemason are notable examples of their type.

The following list is an inventory with short descriptions of each of the structures that are architecturally and historically significant to the West Freemason Street Area. 122-60)

Botetourt Street: Selden House, 351 Botetourt Street: Frame, two-and-onehalf stories, gable roof, five-bay front, three-part dormers, central cross gable, Georgian Revival porch. Federal modified in Victorian era; brick rear (alo 122-28)

409 Botetourt Street: Brick, one-half timber and stucco, two-and-one-half stories, gable roof, two-bay front, three-part bay. Inspired by Tudor vernacular; early-twentieth century.

Bute Street: 257 Bute Street: Brick, two stories, hipped roof, two-bay front, molded cornice, three-part bay window with a pointed roof, segmental lintels. Late-nineteenth century.

259 Bute Street: Brick, three stories, flat roof, three-bay front bracketed and modillioned cornice, segmental hood moldings. Italianate; late-nineteenth century; new front stair.

267 Bute Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, two-bay front, three-part bay window with a parapet and decorative gable, ornate door surround Queen Anne; late-nineteenth century.

273 Bute Street: Frame, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, three-bay front, decorative hood moldings, patterned tile, bracketed cornice, cast iron Second Empire; mid-nineteenth century; new front stair, back additions.

122-182)

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7. Carriage House, 313 Bute Street: Brick, two stories, shallow hipped roof, two-bay front, vented cupola, gabled cornice caps. Mid-nineteenth century; carriage house converted for commercial use.

317-319-321 Bute Street: Brick, three stories, flat roof, three-bay unit row house, pressed brick front, decorative terra cotta, front gables. late-nineteenth century. also 122 - 185)

322 Bute Street: Brick faced with coursed ashlar, mansard roof, two-bay front, curvilinear gable over three-part bay, cast iron cresting. Jacobean Revival; late-nineteenth century.

Brick, three stories, flat roof, three-bay front, Ionic 352 Bute Street: entrance porch with stone foundation. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

403 Bute Street: Brick, two stories, deck-on-hip roof, five-bay front, bracketed cornice, scroll work frieze, arched hood moldings, iron cresting, Corinthian porch, three-sided bay, double-tiered cast iron back porch, cast iron fence. (also 12-2-11) mid-nineteenth century.

-12

404 Bute Street: Stucco-over-brick, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, one-bay front, molded cornice, multi-unit windows, diamond panes, front porch, parapet gable end. Twentieth century.

-13

Richard Taylor House, 408 Bute Street: Brick, two stories, deck-on-hip roof, three-bay front, Ionic porch, paired windows, crested cornice caps. Revival; built about 1867. 122-191)

(also

414 Bute Street: Brick, three stories, shallow roof, six-bay front, doubletier porch with swan neck pediment, three-unit bow window, L-shape. Georgian Revival; early-twentieth century. 122-192)

William Wilson Lamb House, 420 Bute Street: Brick, three stories, shallow hipped roof, three-bay front, Ionic porch flanked with side stairs, molded cornice. Greek Revival; built 1845. 122-16)

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424 Bute Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, gable roof, two-bay front, five-sided bay with pentagonal roof, terra cotta plaques. Late-nineteenth century.

_\7

Bute Street: Stucco-over-brick, four stories, low roof, five-Naylor Arms, bay front, belt courses, heavy molded cornice, flat lintels, double-unit building. Late-nineteenth century.

Allmand-Archer House, 327 Duke Street: Stucco-over-brick, two stories, gable roof, three-bay front, flat lintels. Federal; late-eighteenth century; later alterations to facade.

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Page 3 (Number all entries)

7. Glisson House, 405 Duke Street: Brick, three stories, hipped roof, threebay front, bracketed cornice, square cupola, Ionic porch, turned post galleries on rear ell. Italianate, built 1840.

122-9)

409 Duke Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, gable roof, molded cornice, Mid-nineteenth century; modern facade covers the original; flat lintels. modern additions to the rear.

21

419 Duke Street: Brick, two stories, deck-on-hip roof, five-bay front, bracketed cornice, scroll work frieze, arched hood moldings. Italianate; midnineteenth century.

(also 122-180)

> Whittle House, 227 West Freemason Street: Brick, two West Freemason Street: stories, gable roof, three-bay front, pedimented gable end front, modillioned cornice, pedimented Tuscan entrance porch. Early Federal; built 1791; double-

tier_side porch addition.

(also |22-2|)

248 West Freemason Street: Brick with rusticated brownstone trim, three stories, gable roof, two-bay front, coursed ashlar round arch entranceway, oblong bay window topped with a cross gable. Romanesque Revival; late-nineteenth century. 122-181)

243 West Freemason Street: Brick, with stone trim, two stories, flat roof, three-bay front, massive buttresses flank Moorish archway. Moorish inspired; mid-twentieth century.

244 West Freemason Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, complex roof, threebay cross band oriel, ornate cross gable, pilastered chimneys. late-nineteenth century.

245 & 247 West Freemason Street: Stone in random ashlar, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, two houses of three-bay each, round corner tower with conical roof. Chateauesque; late-nineteenth century.

.27

246 West Freemason Street: Brick with coursed brownstone ashlar, two-and-onehalf stories, gable roof, two-bay front, semi-circular bay with conical roof, arcaded entranceway, double unit window, cast iron grill. Romanesque Revival late-nineteenth century.

248 & 250 West Freemason Street: Brick, three stories, flat roof, six-bay front, two unit dwelling, bracketed cornice and hood moldings, turned porch and entranceway. Italianate; mid-nineteenth century; front porch addition.

.29

249 West Freemason Street: Brick, three stories, flat roof, three-bay front, stone trim and quoins, stone oriel, stone frontispiece. Jacobean; latenineteenth century.

256 West Freemason Street: Brick, two stories, gable roof, three-bay front, paired brackets support cornice, cross gable motif, neoclassic porch, circular tower with conical roof. Italianate: mid -nineteenth century; front porch

122-208)

Form i 0-3000 (July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

STATE	
VIRGINIA	
COUNTY	
NORFOLK (in c	it.)
FOR NPS USE ON	LY
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(Number all entries)

and side tower later additions.

Petty Dickson House, 300 West Freemason Street: Brick veneer, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, three-bay front, modillion cornice, double belt course, 31 pedimented door hood, cast iron fence. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century; mansard roof added. 122-183)

301 West Freemason Street: Brick, two stories, gable roof, two-bay front, three-part bay, bracketed cornice, cast iron fence and hood molding over the Italianate; mid-nineteenth century.

303 West Freemason Street: Asphalt siding over frame, two-and-one-half stories, hipped roof, two-bay front, multiple dormers, post porch, bay window, cast iron Early-twentieth century. fence.

Camp-Hubard House, 308 West Freemason Street: Brick, two stories, gable roof, three-bay front, one-story Ionic portico and cast iron fence. Greek Revival: mid-nineteenth century. also 122-3)

313 West Freemason Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, hipped roof, four-bay front, bracketed cornice, three-sided bay with pointed roof, arched head surrounds, clipped dormer. Italianate; late-nineteenth century.

George Roper House, 320 West Freemason Street: Brick, two stories, hipped roof, three-bay front, two-story tetrastyle Ionic portico, fanlight transom. Georgian Revival; built 1893. (also 122-184)

322-324 West Freemason Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, hipped roof, four-bay two unit dwelling, two-bay pedimented porch, second entrance with gable surround, "rustic" style cast iron fence. Georgian Revival; earlytwentieth century.

Architects Office, 341 West Freemason Street: Marble and brick, one story, -38 flat roof, four-bay front, brick modular panels, metal screens, projecting slubs. Contemporary style; mid-twentieth century.

Norfolk Theatre Centre or Old Public Library, 345 West Freemason Street: Brick with stone trim, two stories, flat roof, three-bay front, central pavilion with paired Ionic columns, plaques with swags, decorative head surrounds. Beaux Arts Classicism; built 1903-1904. (also 122-187)

McCullough Row, 338-346 West Freemason Street. Brick, three stories, flat roof, two-bay unit row houses, bracketed cornice, flat stone lintels, units with bay windows. Early-twentieth century. (abo 122-186)

John Cary Weston House, 348, 350, 352 West Freemason Street. Brick, two-andone-half stories, gable roof, three-bay front, Jacobean gable, oriel. Jacobean Revival; built early 1890's.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

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(Continuation Sheet)

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7. 355 West Freemason Street: Brick, two stories, gable roof, four-bay front, pedimented Ionic porch, gauged flat arch lintels. Georgian Revival; early-twentieth century.

John Cary Weston House, 358 West Freemason Street; Brick, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, two-bay front, three-sided bay, bracketed cornice, cast iron veranda and fence, segmental lintels. Second Empire; built 1870.

401-402 West Freemason Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, mansard roof, four-bay two unit row house, gabled dormers with round arched windows, Georgian Revival porch. Late-nineteenth century; porch removed from west unit.

404 West Freemason Street: Brick, two-and-one-half stories, gable roof, two-bay first floor, cross-gable front and paired Ionic columns on first floor porch, shingles in side gable. Queen Anne; early-twentieth century.

Yarmouth Street: 409 Yarmouth Street: Brick, two stories, hipped roof, three-bay front, Flemish bond, flat lintels. Mid-nineteenth century; two-bay addition to the side; carriage house adapted to commercial use.

York Street: 337 York Street. Brick with coursed ashlar front, two-and-one-half stories, two-bay front, three-part bay window, pedimented porch. Jacobean Revival; late-nineteenth century; wooden porch addition.

339 York Street: Patterned brick, two-and-one-half stories, gable roof, two-bay front, three-part-bay window, front gable with diaper pattern brick, gauged flat arch lintels. Jacobean Revival; early-twentieth century.

8.
The 1807 Selden House was the headquarters of the occupying Federal forces in Norfolk between 1862 and 1865. A former owner of the house, Dr. William Boswell Selden was a surgeon in the Confederate Army and hosted Robert E. Lee during his 1870 visit to Norfolk. The imposing Greek Revival townhouse at 420 Bute Street was where the house's owner, William Wilson Lamb hid Norfolk's famous colonial mace when the city surrendered to the Federal forces. The Lamb family gained further distinction by supplying the city with three generations of mayors.

Although the West Freemason Street area was not included within the boundaries of the original borough of Norfolk, it now stands as the only visible consistent record of the city's growth following the devastation of the Revolution.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY MAP FORM

(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE	9
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FOR NPS USE ON	LY
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	

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1. NAME					
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AND/OR HISTORIC: West Freemason Street	Area	Preserv	ation Zone		
2. LOCATION		- 4			
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CITY OR TOWN:					
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3. MAP REFERENCE					
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4. REQUIREMENTS					
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Form 10-301 (July 1969) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

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177	NAME			
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	AND/OR HISTORIC: West Freemason Str	eet Are	a Preservation Zone	
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	CITY OR TOWN:			
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4.	REQUIREMENTS			
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