

# Department of Historic Resources

**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: **Randy Jones**  
Department of Historic Resources  
(540) 578-3031 / [Randy.Jones@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:Randy.Jones@dhr.virginia.gov)

## **STATE ADDS BRISTOL WAREHOUSE HISTORIC DISTRICT TO THE VIRGINIA LANDMARKS REGISTER**

**—New listing opens to property owners eligibility to pursue  
historic rehabilitation tax credits for re-purposing buildings contributing to the district—**

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**—This VLR listing will be forwarded to the National Park Service  
for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places—**

RICHMOND – Representing the industrial and commercial boom that Bristol experienced two decades after the Civil War, the Bristol Warehouse Historic District has been approved for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register by the state’s Department of Historic Resources.

Although today’s warehouse historic district consists of five buildings, the area was once densely packed with warehouses and industrial and commercial buildings constructed from the 1880s through to the 1950s.

The district’s growth stemmed from the completion in the late 1880s of the South Atlantic & Ohio Railroad line. Freight arriving by rail could be stored in warehouses just north of Bristol’s historic downtown and commercial center.

“The South Atlantic & Ohio Railroad was constructed through Bristol ca.1887 and the oldest building in the district is the railroad’s passenger station and offices built the same year,” according to the nomination form that earned the district a listing in the state’s landmarks register.

The completion of the SA & O Railroad “led to the construction of several brick warehouse buildings facing the tracks in the twentieth century,” the nomination states. Today’s collection of remaining buildings in the district represents “Bristol’s significance as a warehouse and railroad center” in Virginia’s southwestern region during the latter 19<sup>th</sup> century and first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, according to the nomination.

The five historic buildings contributing to the district include--

- The Bristol Builders Supply Company building at 220 Lee Street, a two-story brick warehouse originally constructed ca. 1925 and enlarged ca. 1928 with a brick office wing. On the front of the original building is a rectangular terra cotta panel reading

“Bristol Builders Supply Co.” The business shipped out building products, lumber and other construction materials.

- The Central Warehouse building, 512 Scott Street, a one-story warehouse constructed in 1946, with a painted sign just below its roofline reading “Central Warehouse Corp.” It was a sister business of the owners of the Bristol Builders Supply Co. and was also a well-known supplier of building materials in the region.
- The Bristol Warehouse Company building, 526-528 Scott Street, a two-story warehouse constructed ca. 1910. It is the oldest warehouse building in the district, and it housed various businesses before the Bristol Warehouse Company acquired it for use during much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- The former South Atlantic & Ohio Railroad Station, 415-417 Scott Street, a three-story brick building, constructed around 1887, with a stone foundation, and a projecting two-story wing added circa 1910. After the building was sold and passed out of use as railroad depot, a two-story addition was attached to the building ca. 1905 and the complex became the Bristol Ice Cream Company. The business continued into the 1920s, advertising dairy products, ice creams, sherbets, and soda foundation supplies. During the 1940s, the building housed the Darter Creameries
- A modest-sized commercial building at 433 Scott Street, constructed about 1950 of concrete block.

In addition to these buildings, remnant portions of the original SA & O railroad visible throughout the district are considered contributing structures. The railroad originated in 1879 as the Bristol Coal and Iron Narrow Gauge Railroad and was “constructed using prison labor,” according to the nomination, which notes “a prisoner work camp was set up near the intersection of Scott Street and Piedmont Avenue.”

The Bristol Warehouse Historic District was approved by DHR’s Board of Historic Resources for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register during its quarterly meeting on March 15. During the meeting, the board also approved a “multiple property document” for “Apartment Bungalow & California-Type Houses in Arlington County.”

The Bristol Warehouse Historic District will now be forwarded by DHR to the National Park Service for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

Listing a property in the state or national register places no restrictions on what a property owner may do with his or her property.

Designating a property to the state or national register either individually or as a contributing building in a historic district does provide a property owner the opportunity to pursue tax credit rehabilitation improvements for a building or structure.

Such tax credit projects must comply with the Secretary of Interior's "Standards for Rehabilitation." An owner of a register-listed landmark may also donate a preservation easement on the property to the Commonwealth of Virginia in return for state tax credits.

Virginia is a national leader among the 50 states in registering historic sites and districts. The state is also a national leader for the number of tax credit rehabilitation projects proposed and completed each year.

Together the register and tax credit rehabilitation programs have played a significant role in promoting the conservation of the Commonwealth's historic places and in spurring economic revitalization in many Virginia towns and communities.

The nomination forms, which provide detailed information about each of the above listings, can be accessed on the DHR website at the following address:  
<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/boardPage.html>.

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