

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VDHR 9/18/08  
NRHP 11/12/08

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 Galax Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase  
other names/site number VDHR # 113-5001-0067

2. Location

street & number 107 West Oldtown Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Galax vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Independent City code 640 zip code 24333

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. C. Swasey 10/1/08  
Signature of certifying official Date  
Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. (  See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official/Title 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 the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

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

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

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

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- building(s)
x district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (2, 0), sites (0, 0), structures (0, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (2, 0).

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.) N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Secondary: Garage/Multiple Dwelling

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Secondary: Garage/Multiple Dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick
roof asphalt
walls asbestos
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)

- x 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.
x 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.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce/Trade
Community Planning/Development

Period of Significance 1903-1949

Significant Dates ca. 1920

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder not known

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(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 #

**Primary Location of Additional Data**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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**10. Geographical Data**  
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**Acreage of Property** less than one acre being added

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

**For actual parcel being added - Zone 17, 506713E, 4057235N**

**For update to four point polygon surrounding entire district with boundary increase -**

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing				
A	17	506782	4057355	B	17	506893	4056931	C	17	506674	4056924	D	17	506550	4057274

\_\_\_\_\_ 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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**  
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name/title Alison S. Blanton organization Hill Studio, PC date 04/07/2008  
 street & number 120 West Campbell Avenue telephone 540-342-5263  
 city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24011

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

name Jackson L. Felts (contact: Keith Holland, Galax City Manager)  
 street & number PO Box 332 telephone 276-236-2528  
 city or town Galax state VA zip code 24333

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**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.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions,

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET**

**Galax Commercial Historic District  
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Galax, VA**

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**7. Original 2002 Summary Description**

*“The Galax Commercial Historic District was constructed upon undulating meadowlands above and west of the nearby Chestnut Creek in 1903. The town was laid out upon a gridiron plan consisting of twenty-six blocks, each block containing ten to sixteen lots and straddled the Grayson/Carroll County line. A public square was not included in the design since Galax would not function as a county seat. The historic commercial district includes five blocks along the north-to-south Main Street and adjacent blocks on the three east-to-west cross streets. There are sixty-five contributing buildings in the district and no non-contributing buildings. All buildings located within the district maintain a similar setback from the street. All of the buildings in the Galax Commercial Historic District are masonry buildings with shed roofs and commercial storefronts. A few of the buildings are one-story storefronts but a majority of the buildings are two-story commercial buildings with either apartments or offices located on the second floor. The majority of the buildings were built in the 1920's and exhibit a commercial style of simple plane façades with recessed panels in the parapets and simple corbel brick cornices. A few of the buildings were built at the turn of the century and several buildings were built in the 1930's and 1940's.”*

With a correction made in 2008, there are 65 contributing and 1 non-contributing resources existing in the current district, prior to this boundary increase.

**Current Summary Description**

With plans to review and resurvey the entire district to include the historic area of all Galax and not just the commercial area, 107 Oldtown Street is the only addition being proposed at this time, due to the city's ownership and a pending grant project. As with the majority of the buildings in the Galax Commercial Historic District, the proposed boundary increase's main resource was constructed ca. 1920, within the current period of significance. Although the resources within the boundary increase are domestic in their historic and current use, they have been surrounded by commercial use buildings since their construction. The Pearlman House at 107 West Oldtown Street relates to the commercial buildings as one of the few surviving examples of the residences that surrounded the commercial district in the early days of Galax's development, and the Pearlman's owned and operated one of the commercial businesses on South Main Street.

**Detailed Description/Site Inventory**

107 West Oldtown Street, *Galax*, VA, 24333 Louie Pearlman House (VDHR #113-5001-0067)

*Primary Resource: ca. 1920, Contributing*

The ca. 1920 Pearlman House is a one-story, four-bay, frame house clad in asbestos shingles with a solid brick foundation. The asphalt shingle roof features a steeply-pitched hip roof with intersecting gables and two interior brick chimneys. One-over-one, double-hung sash wood windows with cornice heads and aluminum shutters light the interior. The single-leaf, fifteen-light door is protected by a gable overhang supported by elbow brackets. Several additions and porch enclosures have been constructed on the rear of the house. Although the house is vernacular in style, it exhibits minor influences from the Queen-Anne style with its complex roof form, steeply-pitched gables and paired windows.

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*Secondary Resource:* **ca. 1945, Contributing**

A ca. 1945 two-story, concrete block garage apartment building is located to the rear of the house. Asphalt shingles cover the gable-front roof. The one-bay garage is accessed by a roll-up metal door. Two doors provide entry to the upper and lower apartments. One door is single leaf wood with two lights over four-panel and the other is a single-leaf wood door with a single light over a single panel door. Both doors are sheltered by gable overhangs supported by elbow brackets. A one-story addition with hip roof extends across the front of the garage with a single-leaf, four-panel door. The windows are metal casements with 8 lights.

**8. Original 2002 Summary Statement of Significance**

*“The Downtown Commercial District of Galax is significant and unique in that it was designed for and built upon the American dream of free enterprise during the early decades of the twentieth century. It was developed by a group of self-made men who recognized the importance of translating the ideals of equality through private enterprise into the built environment. The Galax Commercial Historic District qualifies for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A, for its significance in the area of Commerce. This is due to its very specific nature as a planned commercial city. It is also eligible under Criterion C, for its significance in the area of Community Planning and Development, due to its development across a rigid, gridiron plan that would insure equal competition in private enterprise and that would allow businessmen to express themselves through the architecture of their buildings. The district's period of significance ranges from 1903, when the current street gridiron was developed, to 1949, the date of the most recent significant building within the downtown area.”*

**Boundary Increase Summary**

There are plans for Galax to be reviewed and surveyed for a complete amendment to the existing historic district to include the entire town and not just the commercial resources. However, due to the city's ownership of 107 Oldtown Street and a pending grant project, this is the only addition being proposed at this time. The ca. 1920 Pearlman House at 107 West Oldtown Street contributes to the Galax Commercial Historic District as one of the few surviving examples of residential properties on West Oldtown Street adjacent to the commercial area. Built by a Jewish family that operated a clothing business on South Main Street, it is an example of a residence built by a business owner close to his commercial operation. The house is built within the period of significance for the district and relates to the “rigid, gridiron” town plan of the City of Galax as originally developed by its founders.

**Historical Background**

The Pearlman House was constructed ca. 1920 by Louie Pearlman. Pearlman was a Jewish merchant who relocated from New York to operate the L. Pearlman Fashion Shop at 112 South Main Street (no longer standing) located around the corner from his house. From the time the house was constructed until the 1930s and 1940s, the area surrounding the house at 107 West Oldtown Street was residential. During the 1930s and 1940s, the downtown commercial area expanded along the north side of the 100 block of West Oldtown Street. Although this resource is residential, it is currently surrounded by commercial buildings and the City of Galax plans to renovate the building for adaptive reuse as a visitors' center.

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**9. Bibliography**

Sanborn Map, City of Galax. 922, 1928, 1928-1948. On file at Salem Public Library, Roanoke, VA.

Holder, Myrna. Interview, April 1, 2008.

**10. Geographical Data**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary of the Galax Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase is shown as the bold dashed line on the accompanying map entitled "Boundary Increase Galax Commercial Historic District," scale 1"=200'. The area of the boundary increase consists of tax parcel reference number 000006282001 as noted on the City of Galax tax records.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundaries of the Galax Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase encompass a single residential property that is adjacent to the commercial district and now surrounded by commercial buildings. Historically, this property was closely related to the commercial district as its owner operated a clothing store nearby on South Main Street. The district with the boundary increase is a contiguous area of the historic commercial and governmental center of Galax which reflect the historic character that was established during the period of significance and that have retained their integrity of form and materials. The district includes most of the commercial area from the 1903 city gridiron, except in areas where modern alterations and intrusions have disturbed the character of the streetscape.

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All photographs are of:

Property: Galax Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase  
Location: Galax, Virginia  
VDHR File#: 113-5001-0067  
Photographer: Alison Blanton  
Date: February 5, 2008  
Digital Images stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

PHOTO 1

View: 100 block West Oldtown Street, south side, looking SE

PHOTO 2

View: 100 block of West Oldtown Street, looking west

PHOTO 3

View: 107 West Oldtown Street, front elevation, looking south

PHOTO 4

View: 107 West Oldtown Street, looking SE with garage/apartment building in rear.

PHOTO 5

View: 107 West Oldtown Street, NW corner, looking NE towards commercial buildings on north side of block.

