

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

LISTED ON:  
VLR 09/22/2011  
NRHP 11/22/2011

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Sutherland House

other names/site number Sutherland-Hite House; Logan House; VDHR# 123-0006

2. Location

street & number 606 Harding Street N/A not for publication

city or town Petersburg N/A vicinity

state Virginia code VA Independent City Petersburg code 730 zip code 23803

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

    national     statewide   X   local

*Mr. [Signature]*  
Signature of certifying official

*September 29, 2011*  
Date

*Deputy Director*  
Title

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register     determined eligible for the National Register
- 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)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only **one** box)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	2	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
2	2	<b>Total</b>

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

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

### 6. Function or Use

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling and secondary structure

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC / single dwelling

### 7. Description

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY / Italianate

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: BRICK  
walls: BRICK  
roof: STONE: Slate  
BRICK chimneys; WOOD: addition, porch  
other: and brackets; granite lintels and sills

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

**Summary Paragraph**

The Sutherland House is one of the most architecturally significant Civil War period houses in Petersburg, Virginia. The house's bookish Italianate architecture and well-preserved, contributing servants' dependency embody important aspects of life in Southside Virginia at a turning point in American history. George Washington Sutherland, a prosperous city grocer, and his wife, the former Prudence Archer, located their new house at what was the edge of the city between 1860 and 1862. The two-story, three-bay, double-pile, central-passage-plan dwelling was constructed of closely laid regular brickwork. The house features two unusual chimneys made up of clustered flues on a low-hipped slate roof, tripartite windows, and a Doric portico at the entry. An existing one-room brick dwelling built in 1838 was adapted to serve as an ell to the new house, and a two-story frame addition was completed by 1877. The interior features ornate plaster ceiling medallions, wide-plank heart pine floors, eight fireplaces, and twelve-foot-eight-inch ceilings. The contributing two-story, four-room brick service building to the rear, contemporary with the main house, is one of few such dependencies to survive in Petersburg. The Sutherland house sits on a one-acre lot at the corner of Harding and Porterville streets, surrounded by gardens and shaded by towering trees — including a specimen Yaupon Holly tied for the largest on record in the United States. Two noncontributing modern sheds are also located on the lot.

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**Narrative Description**

See continuation sheet.

### 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)

Property is:

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

#### Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

#### Cultural Affiliation

N/A

#### Period of Significance

1838-1877  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Architect/Builder

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### Significant Dates

1860; 1838; 1877  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance (justification)**

The main house and dependency were built ca. 1860. The main house was joined at the time of construction to a ca. 1838 single-room structure. The main house received an addition prior to 1877.

**Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)**

N/A

**Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph** (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

The Sutherland House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as locally significant under Criterion C as a well preserved example of Civil War period Italianate architecture and because it features one of a few intact antebellum dependencies remaining in the city of Petersburg. The building's historic fabric remains significantly intact, and it retains integrity of location, association, setting, feeling, design, and materials. The period of significance begins ca. 1838 when a one-room dwelling was constructed, continues through the ca. 1860 construction of the main house and dependency, and ends ca. 1877, the approximate date of completion of the two-story addition to the main house.

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance)

See continuation sheet.

**Developmental history/additional historic context information** (if appropriate)

N/A

**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: VA Department of Historic Resources

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 1

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	18	2 86 538	41 21 493	3		
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
2				4		
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description** (describe the boundaries of the property)

The property is indicated by block 31-21, parcels 1 and 2, on the tax maps of the City of Petersburg, Virginia. The property boundaries range from west side of Harding Street at the corner of Harding and Porterville streets, fronting on said Harding Street 195.50 feet, and extending back westwardly on Porterville Street on its northern line 270.14 feet to a culvert in the rear, and then along the culvert 197.66 feet to a point, thence easterly 266.5 feet to Harding Street.

**Boundary Justification** (explain why the boundaries were selected)

During most of its period of significance, the Sutherland property was one acre at 606 Harding Street, in Petersburg, VA. Approximately 1/4 of the acre was subdivided to accommodate an additional dwelling, no longer standing, the address of which was 614 Harding Street. In 2011, the owners of the Sutherland House purchased 614 Harding Street and have eliminated the fence-lines between the properties, returning it to its earlier boundaries.

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Greg Werkheiser, Member

organization Cultural Heritage Partners, LLC date May 15, 2011

street & number 9104 Old Mount Vernon Road telephone (703) 408-2002

city or town Alexandria state VA zip code 22309

e-mail greg@culturalheritagepartners.com

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**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. Key all photographs to this map.

**Continuation Sheets**

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

**Photographs:**

Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

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**Narrative Description**

Site

The Sutherland House anchors a neighborhood historically known as Ravenscroft, incorporated into the city of Petersburg in 1784. It is bounded on the west by Halifax Street, an important early transportation and commercial corridor leading from Halifax, North Carolina, to the Petersburg markets. The Sutherland House stands on the corner of Harding and Porterville streets, facing Harding Street. The house sits thirty-six feet back from the street, behind a sidewalk and picket fence. A broad brick walkway, flanked by flower beds leads to the front porch. At the foot of the porch, the walkway divides to run along either side of the main house. The front of the house is guarded by a Yaupon Holly tree, which is tied for the largest specimen of its kind on record in the United States.<sup>i</sup> Surrounded by gardens, the grounds are shaded by other towering old trees, including four pines, two pecans and two cedars. An early twentieth-century fishpond, unearthed after decades, is again in use. The rear courtyard opens to a modern fenced parking area and, beyond that, a field with a modern orchard. Beyond the orchard, the property is bounded by a culvert that guides a tributary of Lieutenant Run as it courses into the city.

Sanborn maps show that two small outbuildings of indeterminate purpose located near the dependency in 1877 were gone by 1923.<sup>ii</sup> Three buildings identified as sheds and a stable stood at the far edges of the rear garden by 1926 but were gone by mid-century.<sup>iii</sup> Two noncontributing modern sheds serve the needs of the present owners.

The Sutherland house sits four blocks south of the nearest historic district. The three other lots at the intersection of Harding and Porterville streets are vacant.

The Main House

The Sutherland House is a two-story, three-bay dwelling of salmon color pressed brick laid in stretcher bond with queen closers. It was built between 1860 and 1862 for the family of George Washington Sutherland, one of Petersburg's leading grocers. The principal facade is composed of a central entry with a tripartite window above, flanked by tripartite windows. The tripartite windows consist of a central six-over-six light sash window flanked by narrow four-light sidelights. Six-over-six sash windows, two on the first floor and two on the second, pierce the side walls. The windows have granite sills and lintels. The cornice is supported by a frieze of wide boards punctuated by sawn-work scrolled brackets alternating with sunken rectangular panels. The low-hipped slate roof is dominated by two sets of unusual corbeled interior chimneys, each with four polygonal flues separated in the middle but linked by arcades at the bottom and top. An original one-story, one-bay front porch shelters the main entry. Paired square Doric columns, each with lamb's tongue chamfers on each corner and a single flute on each face, support the low-hipped metal roof and dentil cornice of the porch. The floor is a checkerboard of gray and white granite. A transom, sidelights, and pilaster trim surround the four-panel entry door. The porch is surmounted by openwork-sawn balustrade with a pattern of vertically stacked ovals for a gingerbread effect. Deep brick-lined French drains run the length of the northwest and southeast elevations.

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The Sutherland house's telltale Italianate features include a low-pitched roof, symmetrical rectangular shape, wide, overhanging bracketed eaves, a balustrade balcony topping the porch, and tall double-hung, multi-paned windows.

The main house was constructed adjacent to an existing one-room dwelling of a single story, built around 1838.<sup>iv</sup> The earlier house, built of brick laid in seven-course American bond, was adapted to serve as a south wing to the new dwelling. Because the structure was slightly offset from the main house, the elevation facing Harding Street received a pressed-brick finish to match the main house, as well as sawn-work brackets in the same style as those on the main house. The south wing was outfitted with a standing-seam metal gable roof with a single polygonal chimney flue. Like the main house, the interior is lit by six-over-six-light, double-hung sash windows. Unlike the main house, the sills and lintels are of wood, not granite. The original exterior doorway survives, surmounted by a transom.

A two-story, weatherboard frame addition was added to the rear of the main house before 1877, as shown on an insurance map from that year.<sup>v</sup> Formerly exterior features of the main house are visible on the interior, including original exterior windows and doorways, with transoms, sidelights, and granite thresholds.

The significant interior features of the main house and wing survive intact from the nineteenth century, despite an extended period of abandonment between 1985 and 2000. The house is built using the regionally popular double-pile, central-passage plan. Wide openings provide access to the four rooms flanking the central passage on both floors. All windows and doors are trimmed with matching seven-inch-wide architrave trim. Original four-panel doors survive in most locations. Of the eight mantels in the main house, six are original, carved from wood in classical patterns. The four original matching mantels on the second floor feature simple pilasters in the style of boxed Doric columns, curved mantel shelves, and breast boards that rise in the center to mimic the roofline of Greek temples. This general pattern is repeated on the first floor, where original wood mantels feature a round-arched firebox surmounted by a stylized keystone. Two period replacement mantels in cast iron, one in the formal sitting room and one in the wing, very closely match the style of the originals. Every room has picture rail and ten-inch baseboards. All rooms retain their original wide-plank pine floorboards, except the kitchen, where water-damaged boards were replaced in kind.

The ceilings are ten feet tall on the first floor and twelve feet, eight inches high on the second floor. Walls and ceilings are plastered throughout the house. Ornate plaster medallions decorate the ceilings of the foyer and the flanking formal rooms. A stair rises along the right side of the central passage near the front door. The stair's wide molded handrail and ornate turned newel were recovered from a Lynchburg, Virginia, house slated for demolition; they replaced the originals that were removed from the Sutherland house during its period of abandonment, from 1985 to 2000. The turned balusters, two per tread, correspond to the period of the original house. The interior of the ca. 1838 south wing is two steps higher than the floor of the main house. It includes wide pine floors, a fireplace, picture molding, and an eleven-foot, eleven-inch ceiling. The pre-1877 two-story frame addition houses the modern amenities needed, including a mudroom, baths, sunroom, and a rear stair. A renovation in 2003 also added a deck with openwork balustrade off the sunroom, overlooking the rear courtyard and grounds.

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The main house underwent a historically sensitive and uncompromising restoration between 2000 and 2005 by then-owners Jeannie and Craig Tidy, whose work was featured in the March 2002 issue of *Southern Living* magazine and on the television show *Restore America* in 2003.<sup>vi</sup> Marion and Greg Werkheiser purchased the house in 2006 and continued the restoration with the help of Mr. Werkheiser's parents, Roberta and Walter Purcell, whose work was featured in the April 2010 issue of *This Old House* magazine. The restoration was completed in 2011.<sup>vii</sup>

The Dependency

The contributing dependency was constructed contemporaneously with the main house in 1862 and derives its form and details from that structure. It is a two-story, three-bay brick structure laid in red, seven-course American bond on three sides, and, on the elevation facing Harding Street, in the salmon color pressed brick in stretcher bond matching the main house. It is topped with a low hipped slate roof and two corbeled interior chimneys each with two unusual polygonal flues separated in the middle but joined with arcades at the bottom and top, reproducing the style of those on the main house. The three-bay northwest elevation, facing Porterville Street, has four six-over-six-light sash windows with granite sills and lintels, two on each floor. A simple exterior porch at the central entrance was constructed in 2008 to replace a porch lost during the period of abandonment. The southeast elevation, which faces the interior courtyard at the rear of the main house, has asymmetrical arrangement of doors and windows. This results from the early conversion of the building from a multi-function kitchen, workshop and servant rooms with three separate doorways to a primary living quarters requiring a single entrance. A recent restoration by the present owners maintained the early converted form. The elevation features a single offset doorway with a simple porch, six six-over-six light windows with double-hung sash, original granite sills and lintels and a single smaller eight-over-eight light window with double-hung sash. The Harding Street elevation features a doorway with an early porch with a standing seam roof. The southwest elevation originally boasted an attached single-story carriage house that was unfortunately destroyed by the powerful tornado that devastated downtown Petersburg in 1993.<sup>viii</sup> Like the wing on the main house, the dependency is two stair steps higher than the first floor of the main house.

A kitchen fire in the mid-1980s damaged the dependency, and then the building deteriorated during an approximately fifteen-year period of abandonment. Previous owners secured the house against further deterioration between 2000 and 2005. During their 2007-2009 restoration, the Purcells salvaged as many original interior elements as possible, including the stairs, wide-plank heart pine flooring in one upstairs room, closet doors, and an original mantel for one of the four fireplaces. Half of the original windows and sashes were saved; a local master craftsman made matching replacements. The entire exterior was repointed in 2011. The two-over-two room plan has a central stair that leads from the kitchen and living room on the first floor to a bedroom and bathroom on the second floor.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance**

Architectural Significance

The double-pile, central-passage plan reflects the evolution in the architecture of Virginia's wealthy homeowners documented in M. R. Wenger's "The Central Passage in Virginia."<sup>x</sup> First floors of the homes of Virginia gentry in earlier years frequently consisted of just two rooms, including a large room referred to as the hall in which all daily activities of the family and guests would take place. With the introduction of an entryway that led first to a central-passage and then to more bisected rooms on either side, the homeowner could more strategically divide visitors, family, and household staff to differentiate their levels of access and their activities.

The Sutherland House — as well as the Thomas Wallace House constructed at the corner of South Market and Brown Streets five years prior — may be the most similar exemplars among Petersburg residences of the Italianate style that flourished in the last decade before the Civil War. The house exhibits the transition of architectural styles from Greek revival to Italianate.

Historical Background

*Antebellum*

The Sutherland house sits at the center of land that was subdivided in 1785 to form the community of Ravenscroft.<sup>x</sup> Ironically, as the last great battle of the Civil War would be fought within a mile of its streets, Ravenscroft got its start as a racially integrated neighborhood. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Methodist Church and First Baptist Church were influential in the settlement of the first free African-Americans in Ravenscroft. In the late 1780s, the anti-slavery Methodist Church advocated for the emancipation of slaves. Two of Ravenscroft's streets — Harding, where the Sutherland house sits, and Gressett, the street running parallel to Harding behind the property — were named for Methodist slave owners who freed their slaves during this period.

The earliest reference to a structure standing at 606 Harding Street is in a deed transfer dated April 1838 in which S. P. Vial conveyed real estate to Rosa L. Crawford "for the kindness he bore toward [her]," for her use "as a home."<sup>xi</sup> The trustees of Rosa Crawford sold the property to George Washington Sutherland in 1860. An early insurance map may give a clue to the date of the Crawford House; the map includes the date 1838 connected by an arrow pointing to the one-story structure that subsequently became the wing of the main house. The assessed value of the improvements on the lot at the time of the 1860 sale amounted to \$1,800. Two years later, the value rose to \$7,300, indicating that the Crawford House was quite modest compared to the \$5,500 dwelling that was built by Sutherland between 1860 and 1862.<sup>xii</sup>

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George Washington Sutherland was born in 1823, and may have been related to a well-connected country store-owning family in the nearby town of Sutherland in Dinwiddie County.<sup>xiii</sup> Sutherland married Prudence M. A. Archer in 1850, when he was 27 years of age and she was 21.<sup>xiv</sup> Like many merchants in Virginia cities, they lived for several years above their wholesale and retail grocery store on Bank Street,<sup>xv</sup> a primary thoroughfare in “Old Towne” Petersburg. The Bank Street buildings remain intact and in commercial use. Newspaper notices reveal that two of the Sutherland children died in early childhood,<sup>xvi</sup> but grave markers in the family plot at Petersburg’s Blandford Cemetery hint that the number may have been as high as five.<sup>xvii</sup>

The Sutherlands likely began construction of their new home in 1860, months before indications of war on the horizon may have discouraged the endeavor, and they completed major construction as the first shots of the conflict were being fired.

The construction of the dependency suggests that the Sutherlands anticipated having household help. However, there is no indication in public records of George and Prudence Sutherland having owned slaves.<sup>xviii</sup> At the time, Petersburg had the largest population of free African-Americans in the South, and this, coupled with the historically racially integrated nature of the Ravenscroft neighborhood, may indicate that the Sutherlands employed members of the free black population as their household help.

*The War Years*

On March 2, 1864, as the fighting approached Petersburg, Sutherland enlisted in the Confederate Army and served as a private in Captain Edward Graham’s Company, the Virginia Horse 5 Artillery Unit.<sup>xix</sup> Three and a half months later, the first attacks on Petersburg resulted in heavy Union casualties and were followed by a nine-month Union siege of the city, the longest of any American city in history.<sup>xx</sup>

The Sutherlands’ teenage daughter Willie resided at the Sutherland home during the war, including throughout the siege. Willie compiled an autograph book in which she collected signatures, poetry, wit and well wishes from family and friends who visited her home. Numerous entries appear from Civil War soldiers, including many from the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues, a division stationed one block away.<sup>xxi</sup> In 2008, National Park Service staff from the Petersburg Battlefield researched and documented the military records of many of the contributors to the autograph book.<sup>xxii</sup>

It should be noted that the extended Sutherland and Archer clans were engaged in the war. Fletcher H. Archer, a lawyer, raised a battalion of Virginia Reserves, composed mostly of men either too young or old for regular duty.<sup>xxiii</sup> On June 9, 1864, the Reserves helped to successfully defend the city at what is commonly referred to as the Battle of Old Men and Young Boys. After the war, Archer served as president of the Petersburg City Council and later as mayor when William E. Cameron, the previous mayor, became governor.

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U.S. President Andrew Johnson pardoned Sutherland for his service as a Confederate soldier in September 1865, on the same day as Thomas Wallace, in whose parlor Lincoln had his final meeting with Grant two blocks from the Sutherland residence several months before.<sup>xxiv</sup> In 1884, Sutherland took ill with the milder form of typhus. Word from Petersburg that “George W. Sutherland, one of our oldest merchants, is ill with slow fever,” was published in media as distant as the Baltimore Sun, a testament to the prominence he had achieved in Petersburg. He died the same year at age 61. Prudence would survive him by 14 years.

*The Hites*

In 1870, Sutherland built a house for his daughter and soon-to-be son-in-law adjacent to his own home on a quarter acre he subdivided at the southeast corner of the Sutherland lot.<sup>xxv</sup> In Petersburg on June 6, 1871, Willie Sutherland, 19, married Robert Moore Hite, 29, who was a clerk and native of Mecklenburg County, Virginia.<sup>xxvi</sup> Upon Prudence’s death in 1898, the Sutherland house passed to the Hites. At Willie’s death 20 years later in 1918 — she had outlived Robert — the property passed to their daughter, Effie M. Hite. The house Sutherland built for the Hites on the adjacent lot, which became 614 Harding Street, was abandoned and much abused by intruders and the elements in recent years. Squatters stripped the house of all historic features, and neglect caused partial collapse of the structure, robbing it of its potential for meaningful restoration. In 2011 the Werkheisers purchased the property, demolished the house, and reunited the original Sutherland lots such that the property appears now much as it did during its period of historic significance.

*The Logans*

On February 13, 1926, after 66 years of ownership by the Sutherland and Hite families, Effie M. Hite sold the property to William and Effie B. Logan, whose son, Thomas P. Logan, D.D.S., M.D., became one of the first African-American dentists in Petersburg.<sup>xxvii</sup> The Logans owned the house for the subsequent 55 years. For several years in the late 1970s and into the mid-1980s, the Logans rented the home to Scarlotte Hunley. Her occupancy is noteworthy in that she raised many of her 11 natural children and estimated 40 foster children in the Sutherland house.<sup>xxviii</sup> Two of her boys, Ricky Hunley and Lamonte Hunley, went on to play in the National Football League, and Ricky eventually became executive vice president of the NFL Players Association and a defensive coach for the Cincinnati Bengals.<sup>xxix</sup>

The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission documented the Sutherland house and property in 1975.<sup>xxx</sup> In 1976, the property was described and photographically depicted in the book "Old Petersburg."<sup>xxxi</sup> A kitchen fire in the dependency made it uninhabitable after 1985.

*Abandonment and Restoration*

The property was sold to Jada Reynolds and soon thereafter was abandoned. For the subsequent 15 years, both the main house and the dependency remained vacant. At one point the City of Petersburg condemned the house and scheduled it for demolition. In 1991, the property was included in “African-Americans in Petersburg,” an inventory of architectural resources significant for their association with African-American history because of the survival of its dependency.

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In 2000, Jeannie and Craig Tidy purchased the property and began a sensitive and extensive restoration of the main house.<sup>xxxii</sup> In 2006, Marion and Greg Werkheiser purchased the property. The Werkheisers are the founders of Cultural Heritage Partners, LLC, a preservation law and consulting firm, and the directors of The Phoenix Project, a nonprofit organization with a mission of encouraging social entrepreneurship as a strategy for recovery in economically devastated communities like Petersburg.<sup>xxxiii</sup> Mr. Werkheiser's parents, Walt and Roberta Purcell, helped complete the restoration of the main house and dependency by 2011.

*Archaeological Indicators*

In June 2011 archaeologists conducted a modest Phase 1 investigation of the property, including test pits to a depth of eighteen inches on the main property near the location of a late 19<sup>th</sup> century shed as well as test pits and a surface study on the rejoined neighboring property. Glass and pottery from the early Colonial period was recovered. From the Civil War period were recovered bullets, buttons, a skeleton key and piece of a harmonica, and children's toys. Late 19<sup>th</sup> through mid 20<sup>th</sup> century items found included iron agricultural implements, medicine bottles, marbles, a pocket watch and other evidence of the property's continued domestic use.

*Contextual History of the Neighborhood*

In the immediate vicinity of the Sutherland house, there is a rich history from which one can narrate important chapters in the American story.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

One block north, soldiers from the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues were stationed throughout the Civil War. Willie, the Sutherlands' then-teenage daughter, kept an autograph book that evidences the soldiers' frequent visits to house.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Two blocks north sits the Wallace house, where President Abraham Lincoln and General Ulysses S. Grant met on April 3, 1865 to discuss the inevitable end to the Civil War in what would be their last meeting before Lincoln's assassination.

Between the Sutherland house and the Wallace house is the Halifax Triangle, or "the Avenue," which from the 1870s to the 1970s was the region's center of African-American commerce and culture.<sup>xxxvi</sup> Joseph Jenkins Roberts worked as a young man in the Halifax Triangle before emigrating to lead the newly formed nation of Liberia as its first President.<sup>xxxvii</sup> One block west of the Sutherland house is Peabody High School, chartered in 1880 as Virginia's first publicly supported high school for African-Americans.<sup>xxxviii</sup> By the early 1900s, the Ravenscroft neighborhood had transformed from racially integrated to predominately African-American, including both working-class and professional residents.

Also in the neighborhood are First Baptist Church (founded in 1774) and Gillfield Baptist Church (founded in 1797), the first and second oldest black congregations in the city and two of the oldest in the nation.<sup>xxxix</sup> These churches and others formed the moral center for the Civil Rights Movement in Petersburg, which attracted multiple visits from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker, the pastor of Gillfield Baptist Church, and King co-founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).

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Only a few doors down from the Sutherland house is the Harding Street Recreational Center, one of two venues for African-American musical talent in Petersburg during the 1950s and '60s.<sup>xi</sup> The center hosted performances by artists on their way to national acclaim, including Chubby Checker, The Temptations, Sam Cooke, Jackie Wilson, Dionne Warwick, James Brown and many more. Hermanze Fauntleroy lived in a house half a block east of the Sutherland house until his death in November 2010. Mr. Fauntleroy was elected mayor of Petersburg in 1973, becoming the first African-American mayor in the city and in Virginia.<sup>xii</sup>

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**Endnotes**

<sup>i</sup> Tree Detail for Ilex vomitoria located at N37/13.05' W77/24.298', Virginia Big Tree Database, available at [http://www.web2.cnre.vt.edu/4h/bigtree/bigtree\\_detail.cfm?AutofieldforPrimaryKey=1749](http://www.web2.cnre.vt.edu/4h/bigtree/bigtree_detail.cfm?AutofieldforPrimaryKey=1749) (detailing Yaupon Holly on Sutherland property).

<sup>ii</sup> See Insurance map of Petersburg, Va., Sanborn Map Co. (1875); Insurance Maps of Petersburg, Va. (1903); Insurance Maps of Petersburg, Va., Sanborn Map Co. (1915); Insurance Maps of Petersburg, Va., Sanborn Map Co. (1923).

<sup>iii</sup> Insurance Maps of Petersburg, Va., Sanborn Map Co. (1954) (showing modern property lines).

<sup>iv</sup> Deed from S.P. Vial to Rosa L. Crawford (1838); Information for Parcel ID # 031210001, Assessor's Office of Petersburg, Va., available at <http://www.petersburg-va.org/assessor/search2p.asp?search=031210001> (records assign the year 1840 to a building on the property); but see D.B. 25, p. 685, 686 (a deed indicates transfer of an existing dwelling in 1838).

<sup>v</sup> Insurance Maps of Petersburg, Va., Sanborn Map Co. (1954) (showing modern property lines).

<sup>vi</sup> Robert Martin, Renewed spirit in a Small town, Southern Living, Mar. 2002, at 134-139.

<sup>vii</sup> Roberta Purcell, Reader Remodel, This Old House, Apr. 2010, at 80-85, 102.

<sup>viii</sup> Barbara McNaught, 6 August 1993 Southeast Virginia Tornado Outbreak: The Petersburg, Virginia F4 Tornado, National Weather Service Forecast Office, [http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/Historic\\_Events/tornadoes/AUG6-93.htm](http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/Historic_Events/tornadoes/AUG6-93.htm) (last accessed September 27, 2011).

<sup>ix</sup> M. R. Wenger, The Central Passage in Virginia (1986).

<sup>x</sup> Suzanne Lebsack, Map of Petersburg, January 1839, The Free Women of Petersburg: Status and Culture in a Southern Town 1784-1860 (1981) (showing Ravenscroft neighborhood at approximate time of construction of one room house at 606 Harding Street); map showing subdivision of Ravenscroft Town, 1785, Library of Virginia.

<sup>xi</sup> Deed from S.P. Vial to Rosa L. Crawford (1838); Information for Parcel ID # 031210001, Assessor's Office of Petersburg, Va., available at <http://www.petersburg-va.org/assessor/search2p.asp?search=031210001> (records assign the year 1840 to a building on the property); but see D.B. 25, p. 685, 686 (a deed indicates transfer of an existing dwelling in 1838).

<sup>xii</sup> Valuations of the property (1860-1862) (records in the office of the City Planner, City of Petersburg, Va).

<sup>xiii</sup> Federal census VA45779340, Dinwiddie County, Va., p. 148 (1823-84).

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<sup>xiv</sup> Marriage license of George W. Sutherland & Prudence M.A. Archer, Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Petersburg, Va. (June 17, 1850).

<sup>xv</sup> Sutherland, George Alexander, infant of George W. and M. A. Sutherland, died, Daily Express (Petersburg, Va.), Aug. 13, 1858, at 2 (indicating that they were living at Bank Street in August 1858). See also, Purchase record Storehouse and dwelling, 5 Bank Street, Sutherland, George W., purchaser, The Petersburg Index, Sept. 11, 1872, at 3; Deed Transfer Lot Bank Street, Sutherland George W., Petersburg Index and Appeal, Sept. 1, 1873, at 3; Transfer of Deed, Sutherland George W., Lot, Bank Street, Transfer of deed of release from F. H. Archer, Petersburg Index and Appeal, Aug. 23, 1875, at 3.

<sup>xvi</sup> Linwiddie County, Va., obituaries for Irvin Sutherland (17 months and 4 days), The Petersburg Index, July 19, 1865 (referring to their Harding Street residence).

<sup>xvii</sup> Photo, tombstones in Sutherland family plot, Blandford Cemetery, Petersburg, Va., taken by Walter Purcell, 2011.

<sup>xviii</sup> U.S. slave census, City of Petersburg, Va. (1860).

<sup>xix</sup> Historical Data Systems, U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Ancestry.com, <http://www.ancestry.com> (2009).

<sup>xx</sup> James F. Epperson, The Siege of Petersburg, [www.petersburgsiege.org/](http://www.petersburgsiege.org/) (accessed May 31, 2011).

<sup>xxi</sup> John Walters, Norfolk Blues: The Civil War Diary of the Norfolk Light Artillery Blues 202 (Kenneth Wiley, ed.) (1997).

<sup>xxii</sup> Memorandum from the National Park Service, Petersburg, Va. (2009) (regarding disposition of signatories to Rose Bud Autograph Album of Willianna "Willie" Sutherland 1861-1866)(on file with Greg Werkheiser.

<sup>xxiii</sup> Muster Roll of Captain F.H. Archer, 1847, Special Collections Research Center Database (1847), available at <http://src.swem.wm.edu/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=9270>.

<sup>xxiv</sup> More Pardons by President, U.S.A., Thomas Wallace and George W. Sutherland, Petersburg, Virginia, James H. Cox, Chesterfield, etc., Daily Express (Petersburg, Va.), Sept. 9, 1865, at 3.

<sup>xxv</sup> Beers Map, F.W. Beers, 1877 (shows main house and wing connected and R. M. Hite house standing).

<sup>xxvi</sup> Hite, Robert M.; Sutherland, Willie A., married, The Petersburg Index, June 9, 1871, at 2.

<sup>xxvii</sup> Deed from Hite to Logan, 1926.

<sup>xxviii</sup> A tribute to Black mothers: these remarkable women are nurturers who possess a world of strength, Ebony, available at [http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m1077/is\\_n7\\_v45/ai\\_8935063/](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1077/is_n7_v45/ai_8935063/) (May 1990) (references to Scarlotte Huntley).

<sup>xxix</sup> See Ricky Hunley, Defensive Line Coach, Gator Zone, <http://www.gatorzone.com/football/media/2001/pdf/73-74.pdf> (accessed May 30, 2011)

<sup>xxx</sup> Architectural-Historic Inventory Card by O'Dell, Oct. 1975, Virginia Historic Landmark Commission.

<sup>xxxi</sup> Thomas Hale and James H. Bailey, Old Petersburg 121-22 (1976).

<sup>xxxii</sup> Map of 614 Harding Street, Assessor's Office of Petersburg, Va., <http://www.petersburg-va.org/assessor/vemap.asp?search=031210002>; Jeannie P. Tidy, New Orleans Downtown, <http://www.neworleansdowntown.com/site165.php> (accessed May 31, 2011).

<sup>xxxiii</sup> See Home page, Cultural Heritage Partners, LLC, <http://www.culturalheritagepartners.com/> (accessed May 31, 2011); Mason Center for Social Entrepreneurship, George Mason University, <http://masoninnovation.org/> (accessed May 31, 2011) (discussing Phoenix Project).

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<sup>xxxiv</sup> Google Earth map of July 4, 2010 showing location of Sutherland house relative to the locations of five register listed residences in Petersburg as of January 2011, produced December 2010 by Greg Werkheiser.

<sup>xxxv</sup> Rose Bud Autograph Album of Willianna "Willie" Sutherland, Petersburg, Va. (1862-1869).

<sup>xxxvi</sup> Is Historic District Best for Halifax Triangle?, The Progress-Index (Petersburg, Va.) (Jan. 18, 2010), available at <http://progress-index.com/2.420/is-historic-district-best-for-halifax-triangle-1.549317>.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> Mary Tyler-McGraw, "The Roberts Family" and "Harriet Graves: Reluctant Founding Mother", 2008, *Virginia Emigrants to Liberia*, Virginia Center for Digital History, University of Virginia, (accessed September 27, 2011).

<sup>xxxviii</sup> F.M. Wiggins, Forty Years Later, Fond Memories for Peabody High School at Event Honoring School's Past, The Progress-Index (Petersburg, Va.) (May 30, 2010).

<sup>xxxix</sup> First Baptist Church Petersburg, Virginia, <http://www.firstbaptistpetersburg.org/history.html>, (accessed September 27, 2011); Church History, Gillfield Baptist Church, <http://www.gillfieldbaptistchurchpetersburg.org/about/church-history/>. (accessed September 27, 2011).

<sup>xl</sup> Map of 614 Harding Street, Assessor's Office of Petersburg, Va., <http://www.petersburg-va.org/assessor/vemap.asp?search=031210002>.

<sup>xli</sup> Audio File: Mr. Hermanze Fauntleroy, Voices of Petersburg, <http://www.voicesofpetersburg.org/audio/audioHFauntleroy-1.html> (last visited May 30, 2011).

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Name of Property: Sutherland house  
City or Vicinity: Petersburg  
County: N/A  
State: VA  
Name of Photographer: Greg Werkheiser  
Date of Photographs: June 20, 2011  
Location of Original Digital Files: 606 Harding St., Petersburg, VA 23803

Photo #1 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0001  
Northeast façade, camera facing southwest.

Photo #2 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0002  
Portico at northeast façade, camera facing southwest.

Photo #3 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0003  
Northeast façade (left) and northwest elevation (right), camera facing south.

Photo #4 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0004  
Northwest elevation, camera facing southeast.

Photo #5 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0005  
Southwest elevation, camera facing northeast.

Photo #6 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0006  
Southeast elevation (left) and northeast elevation (right) of wing, camera facing west.

Photo #7 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0007  
Southeast elevation, camera facing northwest.

Photo #8 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0008  
One of two unusual sets of four clustered chimney flues.

Photo #9 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0009  
Southeast façade of dependency, camera facing northwest.

Photo #10 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0010  
Southeast façade of dependency, camera facing west.

Photo #11 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0011  
Northeast elevation of dependency, camera facing southwest.

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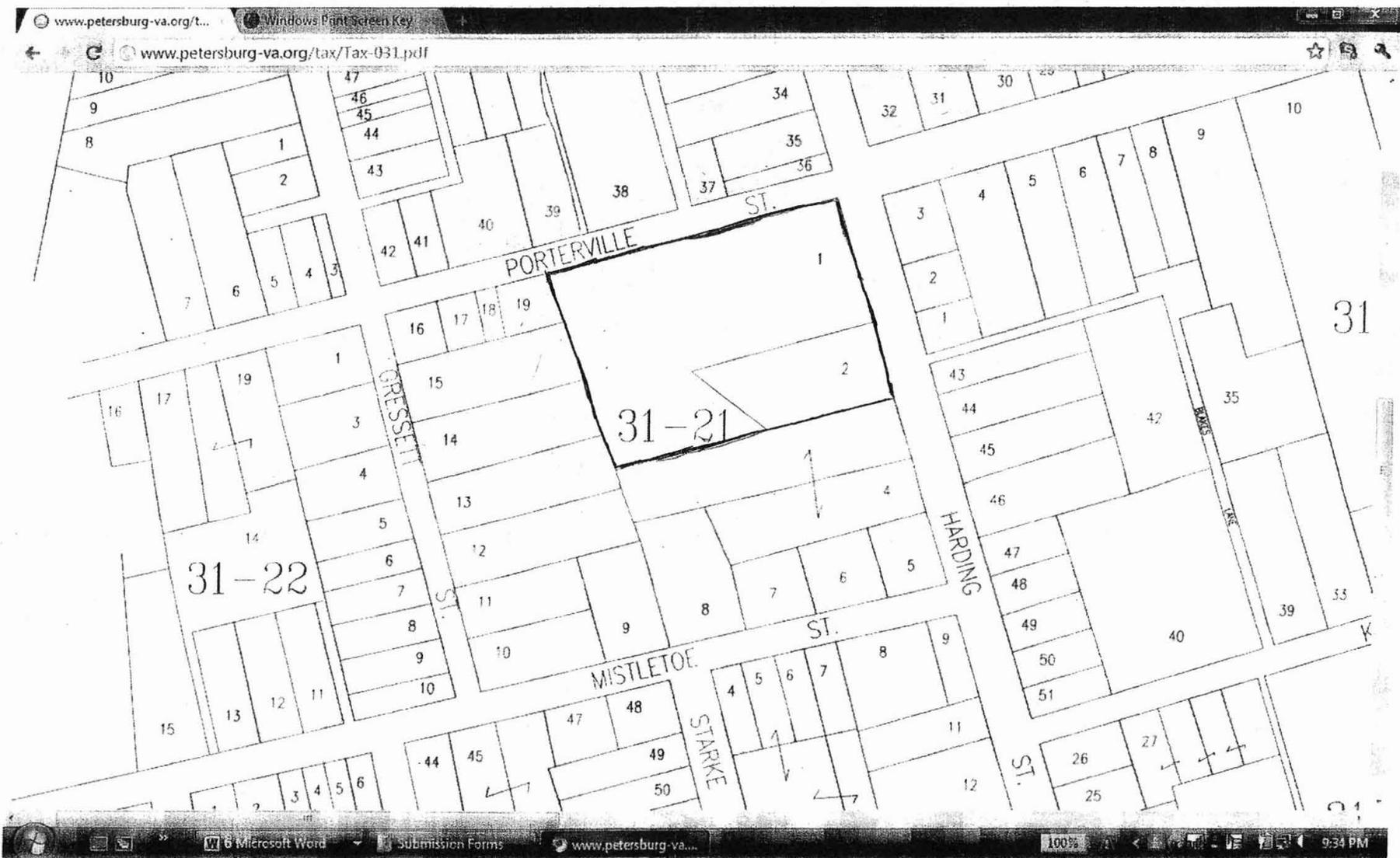
Photo #12 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0012  
Northwest façade of dependency, camera facing southeast.

Photo #13 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0013  
Southwest elevation of dependency, camera facing northeast.

Photo #14 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0014  
Rear garden, camera facing south.

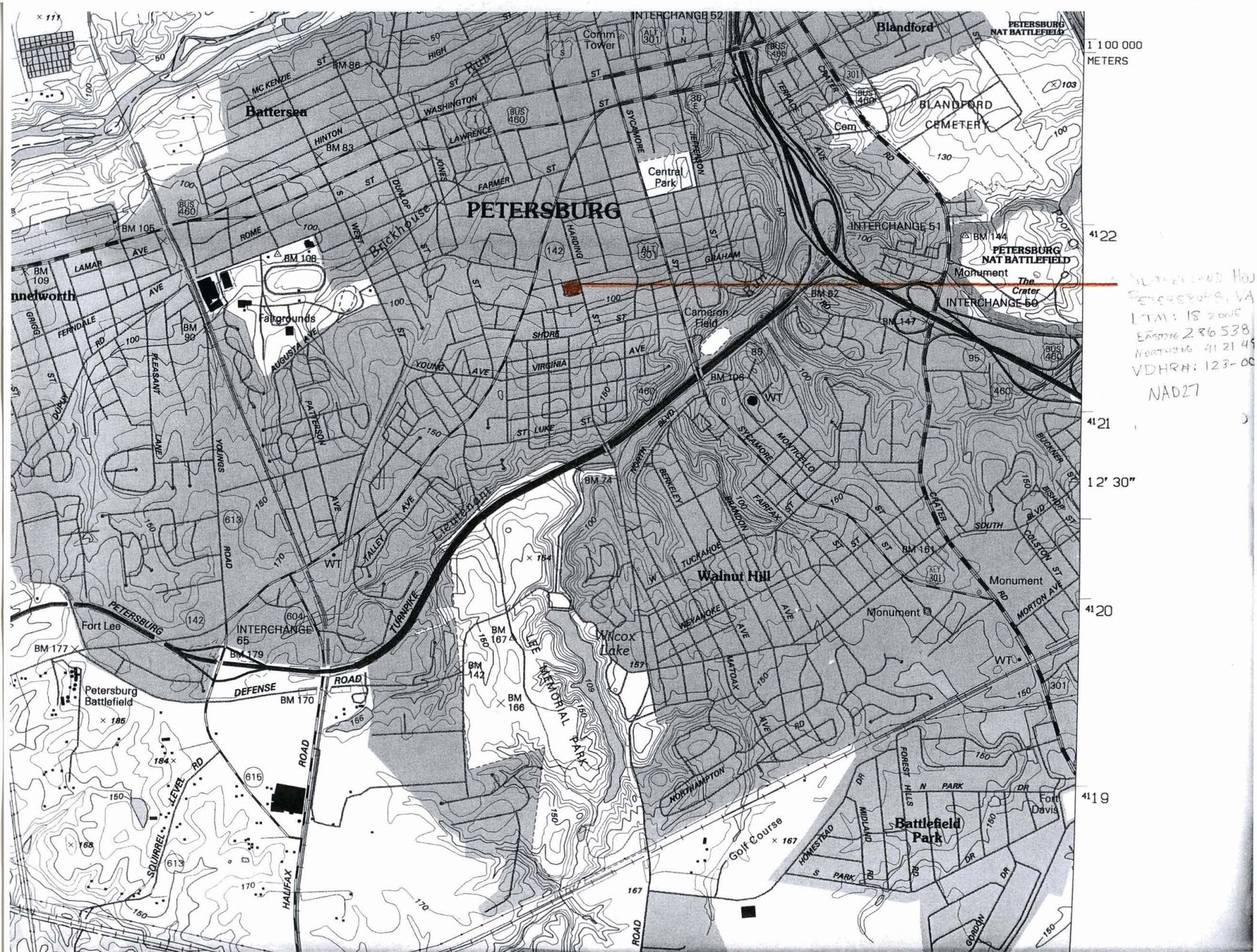
Photo #15 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0015  
Dining room, one of twelve fireplaces, one of three plaster medallions.

Photo #16 VA\_Petersburg\_Sutherlandhouse\_0016  
Central stairway.



Sutherland House Petersburg, VA DHR # 123-0006

Block 31-21, Parcels 1+2



1 100 000  
METERS

4122

4121

12' 30"

4120

4119

LTM: 18 2015  
 Easting 2 86 538  
 Northing 41 21 49  
 VDHR: 123-00  
 NAD27