

VLR - 2/26/79 NRHP - 7/16/80

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED  
DATE ENTERED 7/16/80

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

West Washington Street Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

Folly Castle Historic District (Preferred)

2 LOCATION

Including the 300/400 block of N side of West Washington Street, the 400 block of S side of West Washington Street, and the 30 block of W side of Ferry Street.

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE

Virginia

VICINITY OF

4th (Robert W. Daniel, Jr.)

CODE

51

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

(in City)

CODE

730

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE
- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERCIAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple Ownership (See Continuation Sheet #3)

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Petersburg City Hall

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Petersburg

STATE

Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (2) (See Continuation Sheet #2)

TITLE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory

DATE

1959

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Library of Congress

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

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Folly Castle                      Historic District, Petersburg, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #3

ITEM NUMBER 4

PAGE 1

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Inventory of Property Owners - Unless otherwise noted, the completion of each address should be Petersburg, Va. 23803

Perry Street

- 18 - Robert G. Martin, Same
- 26-28 - Sallie Branch Donnan, Same
- 42 - Hibernia H. Cuthbert, 405 S. Sycamore Street

W. Washington Street

- 303 - Robert C. Swoffard & Ray H. Dillard, Same
- 309 - Robert S. & Edna C. Wells, 1815 Berkeley Ave.
- 315 - Albert H. & Christine W. Wynne, Same
- 323 - Gilbert Clements, Rt. 6, Prince George, Va. 23875
- 403 - Parking Lot
- 404 - Bessie Meade F. Drake, Same
- 410 - William McIlwaine, 434 W. Washington St.
- 416 - Frank C. Irving, Post Office Box 2025
- 419 - Second Presbyterian Church
- 422 - Raymond M. Phelps, 214 Cambridge Place, Colonial Heights, Va. 23834
- 424 - Harold R. Francis, 897 Conduit Rd., Colonial Heights, Va. 23834
- 430 - John P. Burnette, Same
- 434 - Dr. William McIlwaine, Same
- 436-38 - Joann S. Payne, 119 Central Park or Poplar Lawn

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Folly Castle Historic District, Petersburg, is a one-block residential neighborhood containing fourteen late 18th- and 19th-century houses and one 19th-century church. The district is bounded to the north by the alley north of the houses facing W. Washington Street, to the east by Perry and Davis Streets, to the south by the south property line of houses facing W. Washington Street, and to the west by Guarantee and Lafayette Streets. West Washington Street is the only major thoroughfare within the district. The remaining streets are minor residential avenues.

With the exception of the double Italianate houses at 422-424 and 436-438 W. Washington Street, all residences are detached, single-family dwellings, 2 or 2½ stories in height. Combined, they provide a unified streetscape in scale and mass. Both brick and frame materials are employed. Styles found within the district reflect a broad sampling of 19th-century architectural taste including Georgian, Federal, Italianate, Queen Anne, and Georgian Revival examples. Late 18th-century structures are found at 323 W. Washington and at 18 and 26-28 Perry Streets. Buildings of major historical and/or architectural significance include 323 W. Washington Street (Folly Castle/Peter Jones, V, residence; Italianate; 1763, altered 1865-1885), 404 W. Washington Street (McIlwaine-Friend residence; Italianate; 1856-1858), and 419 W. Washington Street (Second Presbyterian Church; attributed to the Rev. Theodorick Pryor; Gothic Revival; 1861-1862). Typical of late 19th-century neighborhoods are the ornamental cast-iron fences at 303 and 404 W. Washington Street. Well-preserved patterned tile walkways are found at 303 and 319 W. Washington Street. No formal landscape patterns occur along W. Washington Street; however, individual plantings soften the visual environment.

Though at the present time individual houses exist in varying states of disrepair, their combined scale and stature continue to impart a prodigious air. No contemporary additions break with the established 19th-century fabric, and thus, the W. Washington Street Historic District retains much of its period appearance.

BNZ

### Inventory

Below is an inventory of all the buildings comprising the Folly Castle Historic District:

#### Perry Street

Perry Street is a small residential avenue fronted by detached, single-family residences. The eight linden trees along Perry Street were brought from Germany during the mid-19th century by John Donnan.

18 (Jonathan Smith's School House): frame; 2½ stories; gable roof; 1-story, 1-bay side porch (added). Federal. 1790-1820. Original entrance to the north. Originally stood at southwest corner of Perry and W. Washington Streets; moved in mid-19th century. Mutual Assurance R/954 (1820).

26-28 (Rambaut-Donnan Residence): frame; 2 stories; low-pitch roof; 1-story, 3-bay porch (added). Georgian. 1780-1790. Side porch original. Windows on first floor altered. 1847 purchased by John Donnan, cotton broker. During Civil War basement served as bomb shelter. HABS I.

(See Continuation Sheet #1)

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Folly Castle Historic District is composed of an interesting sampling of late 18th- and 19th-century houses. Once one of Petersburg's middle to upper middle-class residential neighborhoods, this area contains several houses of architectural and historical interest. Folly Castle, erected in 1763 by Peter Jones, V, is the best known of these. Jones was the second grandson of Peter Jones, the trader and alleged source of the town's name. Folly Castle received its popular name on account "of the supposed extravagance of its childless owner in erecting so large a home."<sup>1</sup> Upon Jones's death in the mid 1770s, his town property was transferred to his niece Sarah Newsom. By 1877 the house had been sold to William E. Hinton, local banker and politician.<sup>2</sup> It was probably at this time that the house, a two-story, frame Georgian residence, underwent Victorian remodeling.

A second Georgian house is the Rambout-Donnan residence at 26 Perry Street, built ca. 1780-1790. John Donnan of Donnan and Johnston Cotton Brokers acquired it in 1847. The house has continued in the Donnan family since. During the Civil War the Donnans used the basement as a bomb shelter.<sup>3</sup> The only significant change to the exterior of the house is the removal of the original front porch.

The Federal house at 18 Perry Street once stood at the southwest corner of Perry and W. Washington Streets. Built between 1790 and 1820, this structure served as both residence and school of Jonathan Smith.<sup>4</sup> Between 1844 and 1850 it was sold to Robert Dunn McIlwaine, later a captain in the Confederate Army.<sup>5</sup> McIlwaine lived here until about 1856 at which time he moved the house to its present location,<sup>6</sup> and began construction of a new residence on the old lot. Completed in 1858,<sup>7</sup> his new house, a large, two-story, stucco-covered brick, Italianate mansion is the most imposing residence in the neighborhood. Its most significant features include the formal central porch with large central pendant, the pattern of segmented and round-arched heads over paired windows, and the cast-iron balconies and balusters. The house was General George E. Pickett's headquarters during the Civil War.<sup>8</sup>

A final building to be noted is the Second Presbyterian Church at 419 W. Washington Street. The design of this two-story, stucco-covered brick, Gothic Revival church (1861-1862), is attributed to the Rev. Theodorick Pryor. The church yard was employed as a temporary burying ground for fallen soldiers in 1864-65 as Blandford Cemetery was too near the shellings.

The grouping of relatively unaltered 18th- and 19th-century buildings in the Folly Castle Historic District constitutes a unique architectural cluster in Petersburg. The street views within the district provide a sense of architectural unity of scale, form, and mass, with the more architecturally significant structures (McIlwaine-Friend House, Second Presbyterian Church, and Folly Castle) serving as terminating points. The district exemplifies a typical middle to upper middle-class residential neighborhood of 19th-century Petersburg. (See Continuation Sheet #2)



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Folly Castle Historic District, Petersburg, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #1

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

7. DESCRIPTION

Perry Street - (Continued)

42: frame; 2 stories; low-pitch roof; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Italianate. 1840-1860. Exterior chimney to north. Cornice brackets removed.

W. Washington Street

W. Washington Street is a major traffic thoroughfare providing vehicular communication in an east-west direction to and from downtown Petersburg.

303: pressed brick; 2 stories; low-pitch hip roof; 1-story, 3-bay porch. Renaissance Revival. 1850-1877. Porch possibly added. Patterned tile front walk.

309: pressed brick; 2 stories, low-pitch hip roof, 1-story side porch. Queen Anne. 1877-1890. Slate roof, patterned tile front walk, stained-glass windows.

315: pressed brick; 2½ stories, hip roof with front side 2-story bay and central dormer window. Queen Anne/Eastlake. 1877-1890. Slate roof, tiled front walk, Eastlake interior.

323 (Folly Castle): frame; 2 stories; low-pitch hip roof; 1-story, 3-bay porch (added). Georgian. 1763, altered 1865-1885. Hip knobs, paired interior end chimneys. Central paired, round-arched windows on second floor. Peter Jones, V, residence. Called Folly Castle as the builder, though childless, constructed such a large residence. HABS.I.

403: Parking Lot.

404: (McIlwaine-Friend House): brick; 2 stories; low-pitch roof; 1-story, 1-bay central porch. Italianate. 1858. Matching cast-iron balconies and porch balusters. Paired windows within segmented and round-arched window heads. Residence of Robert Dunn McIlwaine I, captain in the Confederate Army. HABS.I.

410: frame; 2½ stories; hip roof with 2 dormers; 1-story, 1-bay porch. Georgian Revival. 1890-1915. Land originally part of garden of 404.

416: frame with brick wing; 2 stories; low-pitch hip roof; 1-story, 1-bay central porch. Italianate. 1860-1875.

419 (Second Presbyterian Church): stucco-covered brick, 2 stories with central tower, gable roof, side entrance. Gothic Revival. 1861-62. Designed by the Rev. Theodorick Pryor. Wing additions to the northeast and northwest. HABS.I.

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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Folly Castle Historic District, Petersburg, Virginia

CONTINUATION SHEET #2

ITEM NUMBER 7,6 & 8 PAGE 2

7. DESCRIPTION

W. Washington Street - (Continued)

422-424: brick with pressed-brick facade; 2 stories; low-pitch roof; 1-story, 3-bay porches. Italianate. 1850-1870. Cast-iron hood ornaments over doorway and windows. Cornice, window hood and porch bracket ornaments identical. Double residence.

430: brick; 2½ stories; hip roof with 2 pedimented dormer windows; 1-story, 1-bay pedimented side porch. Georgian Revival. 1890-1920.

434: brick; 2½ stories; hip roof with central pedimented dormer window; 1-story, 3-bay porch with upper balustered deck. Georgian Revival. 1890-1920.

436-438: pressed brick; 2 stories, low-pitch roof, 1-story porch. Italianate. Ca. 177-85. Double residence.

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey  
1974 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
221 Governor Street  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

8. SIGNIFICANCE - Footnotes

1. Edward Pollock, Historical and Industrial Guide to Petersburg, Virginia. (Petersburg, 1884), pp. 10-11.
2. Beers Topographical Map 1877, Petersburg Index and Appeal, July 2, 1874, p. 3, and James Scott and Edward Wyatt, Petersburg's Story, p. 256.
3. James H. Bailey, Old Petersburg, p. 87.
4. Mutual Assurance Policy R/954 (1820).
5. Mutual Assurance Policy R/10678 and R/13918.
6. Mutual Assurance Policy R/13918 and R/14638.
7. Petersburg Daily Express, August 19, 1858, p. 1.
8. Scott, op. cit., p. 173.

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

FOLLY CASTLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

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received

date entered

Continuation sheet #2a

Item number 7

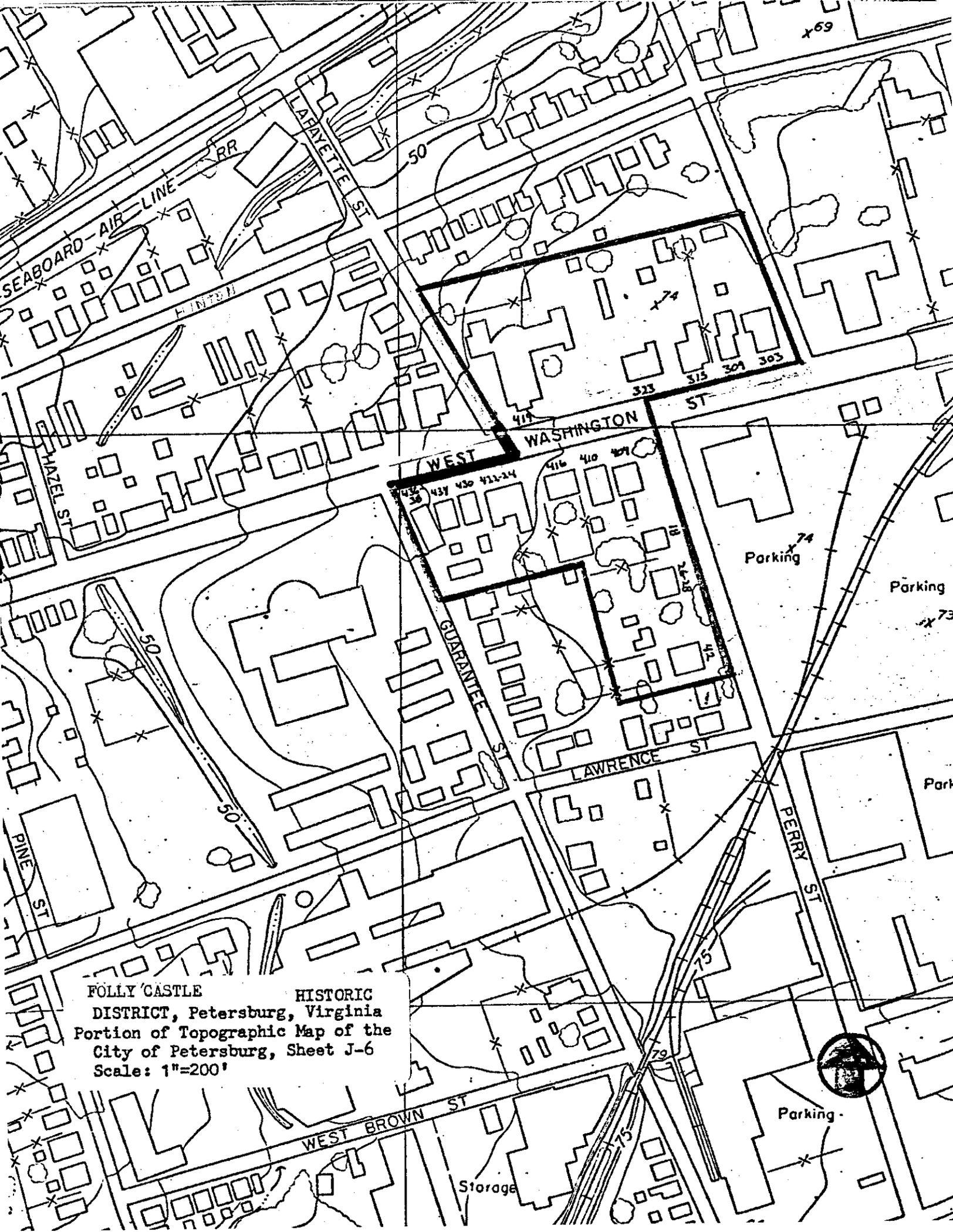
Page 3

7. DESCRIPTION (cont.)

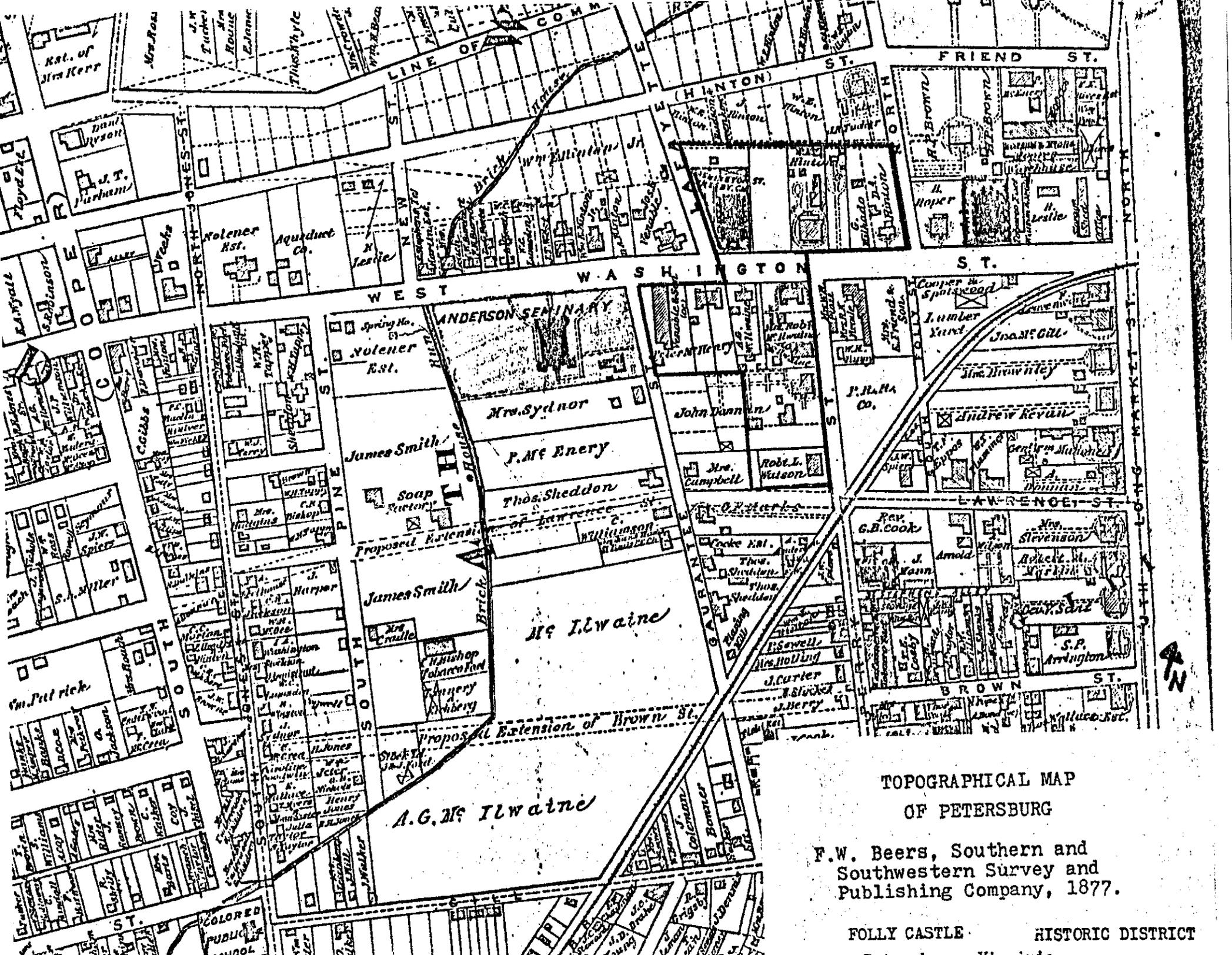
Boundary Justification

The Folly Castle Historic District is a compact block of residential buildings containing several upper middle class and middle class houses, as well as one church. The area is traditionally associated with two important Petersburg families, Peter Jones, V and Robert Dunn McIlwaine. Boundaries were determined by historical and architectural criteria as well as land use patterns. Areas to the north, east, and south of the district display vacant lands, parking lots, and commercial structures (ca. 1960). Buildings located immediately to the west of the district exhibit a change in land use (school). Demolition of houses on the north side of W. Washington Street also causes a break in architectural continuity.

Outbuildings depicted on the sketch map include sheds and garages.



FOLLY CASTLE HISTORIC DISTRICT, Petersburg, Virginia  
Portion of Topographic Map of the City of Petersburg, Sheet J-6  
Scale: 1"=200'



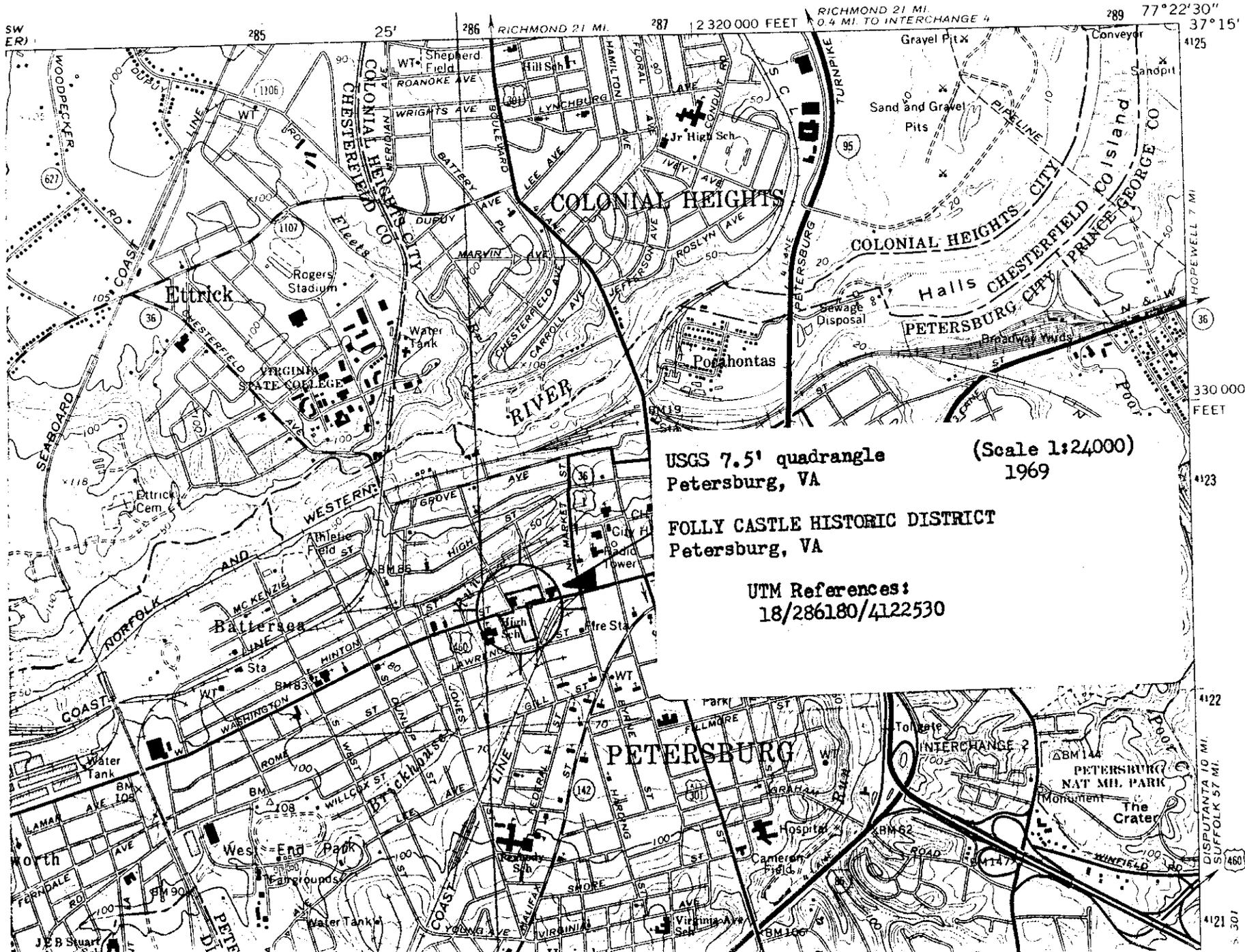
TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP  
OF PETERSBURG

F.W. Beers, Southern and  
Southwestern Survey and  
Publishing Company, 1877.

PETERSBURG QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 PETERSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE

5558 IV SE  
(HOPEWELL)



USGS 7.5' quadrangle  
Petersburg, VA  
(Scale 1:24,000)  
1969

FOLLY CASTLE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Petersburg, VA

UTM References:  
18/286180/4122530