NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

123-108

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name

other names/site number SOUTH MARKET STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
DHR File #123-108

2. Location

street & number South Market St. from Washington St. to Halifax St. ☐ not for publication N/A

city, town Petersburg ☐ vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Petersburg (city) code 730 zip code 23803

3. Classification

Ownership of Property
- [x] private
- [ ] public-local
- [ ] public-State
- [ ] public-Federal

Category of Property
- [ ] building(s)
- [x] district
- [ ] site
- [ ] structure
- [ ] object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
16	1	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
1	0	objects
17	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Hugh C. Miller 7/4/91

Signature of certifying official Date

Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property [ ] meets [ ] does not meet the National Register criteria. [ ] See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. 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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
RELIGIOUS: church

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
RELIGIOUS: church
COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

GREEK REVIVAL
GOTHIC REVIVAL
ITALIANATE
(see continuation sheet)

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
walls BRICK, WOOD (Weatherboard)
roof METAL
other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

[X] See continuation sheet

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
Architecture	1840-1905	1865
Social History		
Military		

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Machen, R.A.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

☒ See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

[X] See continuation sheet

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:

- [X] State historic preservation office
- [ ] Other State agency
- [ ] Federal agency
- [ ] Local government
- [ ] University
- [ ] Other

Specify repository:
Virginia Department of Historic Resourc
221 Governor St., Richmond, VA 23219

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 6.5 acres

UTM References

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	18	286520	4122500
B	18	286540	4122320
C	18	286520	4121610
D	18	286460	4121500

[X] See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

[X] See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

[X] See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dianne Pierce
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*U.S.GPO:1988-0-223-918

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION

SECOND EMPIRE
QUEEN ANNE
COLONIAL REVIVAL

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The South Market Street Historic District incorporates approximately two blocks of mid- to late-nineteenth-century residences, including some of the grand houses of Petersburg's nineteenth-century elite. The district encompasses the remains of what once was a contiguous single block along South Market Street from West Washington Street south to Halifax Street, and provides a consistent, cohesive picture of this once-fashionable residential corridor. Most of the buildings in the district are large houses that are high-style examples of various nineteenth-century architectural fashions, displaying a high level of craftsmanship and detailing. Also in the district are a few vernacular interpretations. The one non-residential building in the district is the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (formerly the Market Street Methodist Episcopal Church) at 214 South Market, built in 1858. The house (now office) at 121-123 South Market Street is a noncontributing building, due to its loss of architectural integrity. Also included in the district is one object--a historic cast-iron fence that extends along the west side of the street south of 106--a reminder of the grand houses that once stood behind it.

Of the thirteen principal buildings in the district, eight are constructed of brick, one is brick with a scored stucco exterior, and four are frame. The district retains some of its period landscape features such as cast-iron fences, tiled walks, and granite curbs. Several original outbuildings survive, including carriage houses, kitchens, and small dwellings. A sense of the original settings and site plans of the houses on South Market Street is given by the historic outbuildings, landscape features, and the almost uniform setback.

South Market Street developed as a premier residential neighborhood in the period 1840-1890. Indeed, by the Civil War, most of the lots along the street had been developed, as can be seen in the Mickler Map of 1867. Of the surviving buildings in the district, only four post-date the war.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

South Market Street was generally developed beginning at Washington Street and proceeding south to Halifax Street, although a few houses, such as what is now the rear portion of 131 South Market Street (dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century), were already sprinkled along the street when it began to be more intensively developed in the 1840s and following.

Probably the earliest house in the South Market Street Historic District is 131 South Market, which, due to many alterations as well as deterioration, is virtually impossible to label stylistically. The rear section of the house probably dates from the late eighteenth century and retains intact its Federal-style interior, including several mantels. In the middle of the nineteenth century, the front section was appended; this section's Greek Revival interior is also intact. Around 1900, the polygonal bay on the northern end of the front was added, along with a wraparound porch that has been recently removed for restoration.

The house at 35 South Market Street is among the earliest remaining houses in the historic district. It appears to have been built around 1840 in the Greek Revival style, although its rear section may date from as early as 1800. With its pedimented gable end facing the street, its columned porch, and its pilastered door, the Greek Revival style of the house can still be seen, although the house was subsequently altered. Between 1867 and 1877, the Italianate wing to the north was added and brackets were placed under the eaves, giving the house a more eclectic flavor. To the rear of the house is a two-story frame dwelling with a symmetrical arrangement of six-over-six windows, two doors, and louvered shutters.

An important house that was owned by Archibald Graham McIlwaine (1801-1878) originally stood on the east side of the street where Wythe Street now crosses. (The house was moved in 1972 to Cockade Alley, across from the Market, to serve as the city's Visitor Center.) The Federal-style house, one of the oldest in this area, was built around 1815 by George H. Jones, mayor of Petersburg. McIlwaine, who bought the house in 1831, was a very important business figure (first president of the Life Insurance Company of Virginia, as well as president of the Ettrick, Matoaca, and Battersea cotton mills) and prominent landowner in Petersburg in the nineteenth century; his choice of South Market Street for his residence is significant, as it may have been his example that brought the street to prominence in the first place.

A. G. McIlwaine added further to the grandeur of South Market Street in 1850 when he built the house at 106, across the street from his own residence. This fine brick Greek Revival house with its paired end chimneys, flat window lintels, and one-bay porch with fluted wood columns and full entablature, was one of an adjacent pair of residences built for his daughters when they married. Its twin to the south was demolished in 1965. 106, built for Jane McIlwaine Stevenson, recently restored from a badly deteriorated condition, retains little of its original interior detailing. Behind the house is a historic two-story brick outbuilding, originally a kitchen with dwelling above, converted into a carriage house.

Another house dating from around 1850 is located at 109 South Market Street. This house was originally Greek Revival in style, but was altered around 1870, showing the continued prosperity of the residents of South Market Street after the Civil War, as they sought to keep their houses up to date with the latest fashions. The alterations consisted of a new mansard roof, tall paired semicircular-arched windows, and an Italianate porch; even an entirely new stretcher-bond brick veneer was added. These alterations have removed much of the exterior evidence of the once Greek Revival style of this mid-nineteenth-century house.

The house at 115 South Market Street has been much altered since it was built about 1850, but it seems to have begun as an L-shaped Greek Revival building that was given a wide applied Italianate cornice sometime during the mid-nineteenth century. The northern two bays of the house were added around 1900, which is probably the same date that the door was altered to its present Colonial Revival appearance and the porch was added.

The very interesting house at 204 South Market Street, the Wallace-Seward House (individually listed on the National Register in 1975), represents the transition in the mid-nineteenth century from the Greek Revival to the Italianate style. Built in 1855 by Thomas Wallace, a prosperous merchant and lawyer, the massing of the house is Greek Revival, while the ornament, including the wide bracketed cornice and intricate window hoods indicate the influence of the very popular Italianate style. The house obtained an unusual Colonial Revival-style porch addition, built after 1903, to the south of the existing Greek Revival/Italianate porch. Also at this time, the multi-pane sidelights on the windows were added. The house has a fine cast-iron fence with fluted posts. On the interior of this double-pile, center-hall-plan house may be found grand marble mantels in the Italianate style.

The only non-residential building in the district is the Market Street Methodist Episcopal Church at 214, now known as the Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. This Gothic Revival-style brick building features tall arched stained-glass windows, corbeled gable, tower, and entrance gables, along with trefoil openings in the tower. The church was built in 1858 at a cost of $25,000, from a design by R. A. Machen, a Petersburg architect who later moved to Raleigh, North Carolina. The building originally had a pointed steeple which was removed after 1903, but it retains its metal pinnacles. The rectilinear cast-iron fence is original.

The Scott House at 29 South Market Street exists today as a fine example of the Italianate style. The large stucco-covered brick house was built in 1858 and is one of the finest Italianate houses in Petersburg. The heavy bracketed cornice, paired round- and segmental-arched windows with their richly ornamented brownstone surrounds, paneled porch posts, and heavy stone balusters, indicate the elegance of South Market Street as a residential address by the late 1850s. The house also displays some fine ironwork in its fence, gates, gateposts, and porch balustrade. Surmounting the house is a wooden belvedere with round-arched windows. Two outbuildings remain: the two-bay stucco carriage house, and a small hip-roofed structure with a corbeled stucco cornice, which was a heated privy.

Demonstrating the enduring popularity of the Italianate style, even after the Civil War until the turn of the century, are 125-127 and 43 South Market, both Italianate houses built around 1880. The residence at 43, known as the Williams House and dating from 1879, is a grand house with a slightly projecting center bay, a heavy paneled and bracketed cornice, and arched windows with stone hoods. Fine ironwork railings adorn the first-floor windows and the roof of the porch. The house at 125-127 is a more simple adaptation of the Italianate style for a double house. The porches' bracketed corners, paneled posts, and mansard roofs with iron cresting, along with the house's two-over-two windows and bracketed cornice, demonstrate a typical Petersburg Italianate double house.

By 1895, the approximate date of construction for the house at 133, the Italianate style was waning in popularity and the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles were waxing. The change is evident in this house, with its Italianate bracketed cornice and two-over-two windows, along with the more Colonial Revival massing of the house and detailing of the porch. Small dentils appear among the brackets in the cornice as further evidence of the eclecticism of this house.

The latest house in the South Market Street Historic District is the dwelling at 49-51, a good example of the Queen Anne style that was popular in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Dating from around 1905, this house displays the typical complexity and asymmetry of massing and roofline, the variety of window types, and the polygonal turret that are hallmarks of the Queen Anne style. The porch, with its Ionic columns and turned balustrade, reflects the Colonial Revival style, often used in tandem with the Queen Anne. Further evidence of the transition from Italianate to the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival styles is the use of mass-produced millwork rather than custom work.

Although it was built in the mid-nineteenth century, the building at 121-123 South Market is considered noncontributing to the historic district, due to extensive loss of exterior historic fabric, and thus, its loss of architectural integrity.

It is unfortunate that several of the grandest houses, and those with important historical associations, have been lost. One of the most important was the home of General William Mahone, railroad magnate and Hero of the Battle of the Crater, which stood at 42 South Market Street, on the west side of the street. The two-story frame house featured an asymmetrical facade with a two-bay porch decorated with heavy brackets and balustrade, as well as a mansard roof. Three doors to the north was the John McGill House, an imposing Italianate/Second Empire house built by a partner in the prosperous tobacco manufacturing firm of Watson and McGill. Both the Mahone and the McGill houses were designed by the local architect Harrison Waite, whose commissions included many of the important commercial, civic, and residential projects of the time. Next door, at the southwest corner of Washington Street, was the Leavenworth House, later the Leavenworth Female School. Another important house on the street was the home of William Hodges Mann, governor of Virginia from 1910 to 1914. Also lost to the district, as seen in old photographs, such as those in the 1903 Art Work of Petersburg, are the many large shade trees that once lined the street, along with the ubiquitous cast-iron fences, gates, and other landscape ornaments.

The district is notable for its retention of several notable historic outbuildings. Those belonging to the Scott House at 29 have already been described. A very early two-story frame building is found along the southern property line behind the house at 35. This dwelling/kitchen appears on the 1877 Beers Map, and may well date from the early-nineteenth-century period of construction of the main house. It is significant for its symmetrical arrangement of doors, shuttered six-over-six windows, and hipped roof. Behind the Stevenson House at 106 is a two-story brick building with interior end chimneys and six-over-six windows with flat lintels. This building is probably original to the house. The house at 43 has a two-story brick outbuilding with segmental-arched windows and a shed roof with parapet. Although this building seems to date from the late nineteenth century, it does not appear on the Sanborn or Beers maps, thus indicating that it might have been moved to this site sometime after 1915.

The South Market Street Historic District presents a unified streetscape of two-story buildings (mostly houses) of brick or frame, with a consistent setback from the street. Even with the loss of some of the grandest of the houses, the buildings, outbuildings, and landscape features that have occurred along this street insure that the district retains its continuity as a once-elegant nineteenth-century neighborhood.

INVENTORY

29 South Market Street
(Scott House)

123-108-1
(also 123-237)

Italianate brick dwelling with stucco cladding, 1858. Two stories, asphalt shingle hip roof, three bays, paired interior end chimneys, one-over-one windows. One-bay Italianate porch with paneled columns on raised bases; heavy balustrade on top deck. Segmental-and round-arched windows with heavy brownstone surrounds. Bracketed cornice; wood belvedere; second-story oriel window on north facade. Raised basement with semicircular windows. Patterned marble walk; iron fence, gateposts and urns. Two story slate gable-roofed stucco carriage house with two segmentally arched doors with hood molds. Small hip-roofed stucco privy with corbeled brackets.

35 South Market Street

123-108-2

Greek Revival/Italianate frame dwelling ca. 1840. Two stories, asphalt shingle pedimented-gable roof, four bays, interior end chimneys, six-over-six windows. Three-bay Greek Revival porch with Doric columns. Bracketed eaves; northernmost bay has paired round-arched windows. Two-story, four-bay wood frame outbuilding with hip roof, bracketed cornice, louvered and paneled shutters.

43 South Market Street

123-108-3

Italianate brick dwelling, 1879. Two stories, asphalt shingle hip roof, three bays and interior end chimneys, one-over-one windows. One-bay Italianate porch with chamfered wood posts, arched opening, corner brackets, iron railing on top. Projecting center bay; arched windows with flat stoned hoods; paneled, bracketed cornice. Iron railings on first-floor windows. Raised basement. Two-story, brick, two-bay carriage house with segmentally arched windows on second floor.

49-51 South Market Street

123-108-4

Queen Anne frame dwelling ca. 1905. Two stories, slate hip roof, four bays, one-over-one windows, corbeled center chimney. Colonial Revival wraparound porch with fluted Ionic columns and turned balustrade. Octagonal turret with conical roof; decorative iron cresting; hip-roofed dormer.

106 South Market Street
(Stevenson House)

123-108-5
(also 123-327)

Greek Revival brick dwelling ca. 1850. Two stories, metal hip roof, five bays, paired end chimneys, six-over-six windows. One-bay Greek Revival porch with fluted Doric columns and wide entablature. Flat window lintels; louvered shutters; raised basement. Two-story brick carriage house with end chimneys.

103-105 South Market Street -6

Vacant lot.

109 South Market Street

123-108-7

Second Empire brick dwelling ca. 1850. Two stories, slate mansard roof, three bays, paired interior end chimneys, two-over-two windows. One-bay Italianate porch with square posts on paneled bases; arched openings; corner brackets. Bracketed cornice, paired round-arched windows on first floor. Wide wood window- and door-surrounds. Round-arched dormers.

115 South Market Street

123-108-8

Italianate brick dwelling ca. 1850. Two stories, metal hip roof, four bays, two-over-two windows, exterior end chimneys. Three-bay Colonial Revival porch with fluted Corinthian columns, denticulated cornice, wood railing. Wide cornice with applied brackets; door with elliptical fanlight; iron railing on second-story window, south wing.

121-123 South Market Street -9

(Noncontributing) Brick dwelling, ca. 1850-1870. Two stories, shed roof. Noncontributing due to severe modern alterations.

125-127 South Market Street

123-108-10

Italianate double dwelling ca. 1880. Two stories, shed roof with parapet, six bays, two-over-two windows, center chimney. One-bay Italianate double porches with chamfered square posts, brackets, mansard roof with iron cresting. Bracketed cornice; segmentally arched second-floor windows; double doors.

131 South Market Street

123-108-11

Frame dwelling, 2nd quarter of 19th century; 1850-1900. Two stories, asphalt shingle hip roof, center chimney, four bays. Porch removed. Projecting polygonal two-story bay on north end of front. Federal-style interior in rear portion largely intact.

133 South Market Street

123-108-12

Colonial Revival frame dwelling ca. 1895. Two stories, metal pyramidal hip roof, three bays, two-over-two windows. Colonial Revival wraparound porch with fluted Doric columns; hipped roof. Bracketed cornice; floor-length windows on first floor.

204 South Market Street (Wallace-Seward House) 123-108-13 (also 123-31)	Italianate brick dwelling 1855. Two stories, metal hip roof, three bays, one-over-one windows, paired paneled interior end chimneys. Italianate porch with fluted Doric columns and bracketed cornice; Colonial Revival addition on cast-iron piers with modillioned cornice and iron balustrade. Intricately detailed cast-iron window hoods; tripartite windows with multipaned sidelights; wide bracketed cornice; granite steps. Iron fence featuring fluted posts and grapevine panels. Individually listed on NR.
214 South Market Street (Mt. Olivet Baptist Church) 123-108-14 (also 123-98)	Gothic Revival brick church, 1858. One story, asphalt shingle gable roof, three front bays, six side bays. Central tower with buttresses; round-arched stained glass windows; corbeling along gable and top of tower; round-arched entry door. Steeple removed, finials remain. Cast-iron fence with fluted posts. Designed by R.A. Machen.
West side of 100 block, south of 106 123-108-15	Cast-iron fence (contributing object).

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The South Market Street Historic District is a significant assemblage of buildings primarily dating from the period 1840-1905, when this street was one of the premier residential areas of Petersburg. Several of the historic houses lining this two-block-long district represent the high-style residences of some of Petersburg's economic, social, and political elite during this period. These houses, along with the one church in the district, display a high level of craftsmanship and architectural interest indicative of the wealth and prestige of the prominent individuals who made their homes along this once solidly-built street. The district is also significant in military history in that after the capture of Petersburg near the end of the Civil War, Grant and Lincoln met at Grant's headquarters at the Wallace House in the district to discuss military strategy and the president's plans for Reconstruction after the imminent surrender of the Confederate army. The South Market Street corridor as it exists today gives a clear picture of the pre-eminence of the street as a Petersburg residential address in the mid- to late-nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The city of Petersburg developed in the seventeenth century as a market town that relied upon the Appomattox River as a transportation conduit. The town was laid out in 1733 and incorporated in 1748; by the Revolutionary War period, Petersburg was a thriving town with an economy based upon the shipping, marketing, and increasingly, the manufacturing of various products. Market Street developed in this period primarily as a route into town from the south off the Halifax Road. The land in this area was owned by Peter Jones V, whose niece Sarah Newsom inherited it upon his death. Around the time of her marriage to Erasmus Gill in 1786, the Gills began subdividing this area, known from then on as Gillsland (as distinguished from another Gill family parcel, known as Gillfield). Gillsland included only the east side of South Market Street to South Union Street; it was laid out into one-acre lots that began immediately to be sold and a few houses, including the rear section of what is now 131 South Market, the rear of 35, (both dating from the last years of the eighteenth century or the early nineteenth), along with the McIlwaine House of 1815, already existed when the street became the subject of more intensive development beginning around 1850. (1)

Around 1800, the fashionable residential streets in Petersburg were Bollingbrook and High streets, but by 1850 attention had shifted to the south, with South Sycamore Street and especially South Market Street becoming the desired residential addresses of the city's elite. Already on South Market Street by this time was the house owned by the very prosperous self-made businessman, Archibald Graham McIlwaine (1801-1878). This Federal-style house stood on the east side of the street where Wythe Street now crosses; it was moved in 1972 to its present site on the Market Square when the street was extended. Because McIlwaine owned a good portion of the land on the east side of South Market Street, it was by and large the west side that developed first, beginning at West Washington Street and heading south.

By 1850, only a small portion of South Market Street had been developed. According to one author, the only houses on the street in 1850, aside from McIlwaine's, were three located on the west side that are now lost, and two "old-style houses with their chimneys at the side walk." (2) The west side of the street from Lawrence (now Wythe) Street south was "used for circus exhibition." (3) The period 1850-1860 was one of great general prosperity for Petersburg due to booming industry and trade, and in this period most of South Market Street was built upon by those participating in that prosperity. By the time of the Civil War, the street was sufficiently elegant as to be called "the Fifth Avenue of Petersburg." (4)

Antebellum Petersburg was a bustling transportation and manufacturing center, a very rare combination in the South in that period. By 1860, it was the seventh largest city in the South, and the second largest in Virginia. (5) Manufacturing (primarily tobacco, cotton, and iron industries) and commercial activity served by the burgeoning railroad development before the Civil War made Petersburg an important urban center, attractive to entrepreneurs. The manufacturing and commercial magnates of Petersburg were, for the most part, the city's most prominent and wealthy citizens. Many of these families, such as the McIlwaines, McGills, Williams, Ropers, Kevans, and Hamiltons, built their homes on South Market Street.

Of the buildings erected at this time, several remain as components of the South Market Street Historic District. The finest Greek Revival house, located at 106, was built in 1850 by A. G. McIlwaine for his daughter Jane Stevenson. The house was one of a pair of virtually identical adjacent houses that were built across the street from his own house. In 1855 Thomas Wallace, a prosperous merchant and lawyer, built 204 South Market Street in a style that blended the massing of the Greek Revival with the detailing of the Italianate style. The grand Italianate house at 29 was built in 1858 by A. L. Scott, a clothing merchant, and was bought in 1862 by T. T. Brooks, president of the Merchants National Bank, a city councilman, and member of the first Petersburg Board of Education. (6)

Also in the decade 1850-1860, the South Market Street Methodist Church (now Mt. Olivet Baptist Church) was erected in the Gothic Revival style at a cost of $25,000. The congregation was formed as overflow from the Washington Street church, and was called the church of the Methodist aristocracy. (7) The church was distinguished in 1875 by the purchase of a $3,000 pipe organ, called the finest "in make and the fullest in volume in the state of Virginia." In order to accommodate the organ, an $1,800 addition was made to the church building at that time. (8) In 1924 the church became the First Christian Church, and in 1954 it began to serve the present black congregation.

The Civil War brought drastic consequences to Petersburg both during and after. Union blockades of major southern ports, along with the ten-month siege of Petersburg itself (during which time the many tobacco factories became used as hospitals for Confederate soldiers), combined to bring most business and manufacturing to a virtual standstill for the duration of the war. Many families left the city for safer areas in the surrounding counties; while they were gone, their houses were often conscripted for use by both the Confederate and Union armies. South Market Street was the scene of a significant event on April 3, 1865. While serving as the headquarters of General Ulysses S. Grant after the surrender of Petersburg, the Wallace House was the site of a meeting between Grant and President Lincoln, a meeting which was to be their last before the surrender at Appomattox. Here Lincoln discussed his plans for a lenient policy toward the South after the anticipated surrender.

After the war, South Market Street was affected somewhat less than the rest of the city. Little damage had been done to the buildings along the street by the relentless shelling of the city during the siege. Families who had fled to the western part of the city and surrounding counties returned. The rebuilding of many of Petersburg's businesses and manufacturing concerns began almost immediately. Although for a variety of reasons the post-war city was never to regain the full level of its antebellum prosperity, Petersburg did remain the second largest city in Virginia until 1890, and several important manufacturing and commercial concerns were founded or re-established in the Reconstruction period. South Market Street retained its prominence as an elite residential street during the post-war period; in fact several grand new houses were added to the streetscape at this time by leading industrialists. Union officer Colonel Theodore Lyman commented upon visiting Petersburg after the Civil War that the town looked like Salem, Massachusetts, "plus the southern shiftlessness and minus the Yankee thrift. Even in this we may except Market Street, where dwell the haute noblesse, and where there are just square brick houses and gardens about them . . . all very well kept and with nice trees." (9)

Several imposing houses were built on South Market Street in the post-war period. The house at 43 was built in 1879 by the prosperous businessman James Mortimer Williams, whose business interests included the wholesale grocery firm Bagwell and Williams, as well as several milling operations including peanut, sumac, and grist mills. Prior to moving his residence to South Market Street, Williams lived in close proximity to his businesses, near the river. His new house, built in the high Italianate style, was later the home of Bartlett Roper, and then of Paul Roper, both presidents of Roper & Company, a successful wholesale grocery firm. The double house at 125-127 was built around 1880; the house at 125 became the home of James T. D'Alton of D'Alton and Company, wholesale grocers. Simon Seward, founder of the mammoth luggage company bearing his name, chose South Market Street for his residence, purchasing the Wallace House, where his family lived until the 1920s. The house was visited for a second time by a U. S. president when William Howard Taft visited Petersburg in 1909. (10) Prosperous hat merchant A. A. Allen owned the Scott House at 29 from 1874 to 1893.

Also during the period from 1865 to 1900, several of the houses on South Market Street received substantial alterations or additions. The house at 35, the earliest portion of which probably dates from the late eighteenth century, and which had a Greek Revival front section built around 1840, was "modernized" in the Italianate mode and a northern wing added around 1870. The house was owned by Andrew Kevan, a prominent commission merchant, miller, and community servant. The widow of the equally prominent D'Arcy Paul lived in the house from the mid-1880s to the mid-1890s. In the early twentieth century C. O. Robertson, a furniture dealer and vice president of the Appomattox Trunk and Bag Company, owned the house.

The house at 109 South Market Street, which began as a Greek Revival house around 1850, was also "modernized" during this period, this time in the Second Empire style. The house, owned by the Hamilton family, was given a mansard roof with dormers and iron cresting around 1870. Also at this time an entirely new pressed-brick front facade was added, with arched windows and a new front porch in keeping with the house's new style.

Next door at 115, another Greek Revival house was altered, although not so thoroughly. This house had two additional bays added to the north around 1900, and was given a simple applied Italianate cornice. Alex Hamilton, a lawyer with the firm of Donnan and Hamilton, owned the house in the 1870s. An illustrious later occupant was Charles Trotter Lassiter, an attorney with Lassiter and Drewry, who became state senator in 1920. The house at 131, which began in the early nineteenth century, obtained a substantial addition to the south in the mid-nineteenth century, and another to the front around 1900.

The house at 49-51 is an example of the continuing prominence of South Market Street in the late nineteenth century and into the twentieth. It was built around 1905 as the home of G. C. Wright, president and treasurer of Augustus Wright Co. (wholesale shoes), and president of the Virginia National Bank. The dwelling at 133, built around 1895, is a relatively simple Colonial Revival house the occupant of which in 1915 was G. S. Talbott, foreman with the Export Leaf Tobacco Company. The simplicity of this house and its middle-class occupant indicate another trend occurring in the late nineteenth century. Petersburg as a whole was experiencing an economic decline from which it has never recovered; this inevitably filtered to South Market Street, putting an end to the building of the great houses of the earlier years of the century.

The advent of the streetcar suburbs beginning in the 1890s also began to bring to a close the period of South Market Street's prominence as a residential street. Increasingly, as the city's middle-class residents moved west and south to the new suburbs, wealthy and prominent Petersburgers also chose to move away from the center of the city. Especially since the post-World War II period, South Market Street has suffered both from the effects of neglect and from the actual demolition of several important buildings. The extension of Wythe Street across South Market Street in 1973 further changed the pattern of the street, since the significant McIlwaine House was relocated to the city market area, while 49-51 and 109 became corner lots.

The district, however, remains an important collection of nineteenth-century buildings which are not only visually cohesive and architecturally significant, but also represent an integral part of the history of Petersburg and its citizens.

END NOTES

1. Information about the McIlwaine House and Gillsland was taken from an unpublished paper written by Richard M.B. Rennolds for the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities titled "The McIlwaine House of Petersburg", dated February, 1973.

2. Ye Olden Tymes: History of Petersburg, VA (Petersburg, VA: 1906), pp. 88-89.

3. ibid., p. 89.

4. Edward A Wyatt, IV, Along Petersburg Streets (Richmond, VA: The Dietz Printing Co., 1943), p. 28.

5. Larry Hartzell, "Glory Days: Petersburg In the Antebellum Era" (lecture delivered at the Spring 1990 Petersburg Symposium), p. 1.

6. Thomas F. Hale and James H. Bailey, Old Petersburg (Richmond, VA: Hale Publishing Co., 1976), p. 101.

7. John Herbert Claiborne, Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia (N.Y., N.Y.: The Neale Publishing Co., 1904), pp. 72-75.

8. William D. Henderson, Gilded Age City: Politics, Life and Labor in Petersburg, Virginia, 1874-1889 (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, 1980), p. 252.

9. James G. Scott and Edward A. Wyatt, IV, Petersburg's Story: A History (Richmond, VA: Whittet & Shepperson, 1960), p. 163.

10. Hale and Bailey, p. 56.

Art Work of Petersburg, Virginia. Chicago: The Gravure Illustration Company, 1903.

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Claiborne, John Herbert. Seventy-Five Years in Old Virginia. New York: The Neale Publishing Co., 1904.

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Sanborn Maps: 1885, 1891, 1897, 1903, 1908, 1915.

Scott, James G. and Edward A. Wyatt, IV. Petersburg's Story: A History. Richmond, VA: Whittet and Shepperson, 1960.

Wyatt, Edward A., IV. Along Petersburg Streets. Richmond, VA: The Dietz Printing Co., 1943.

"Ye Olden Tymes": History of Petersburg, Virginia. Petersburg, VA: Frank A. Owen, 1906.

UTM References :

E 18/286440/4122220

F 18/286440/4122320

G 18/286430/4122360

H 18/286460/4122480

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at a point delineated by UTM reference A 18/286520/4122500, proceed south approximately 800 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference B 18/286540/4122320, then proceed west approximately 125 feet to the northeast corner of the lot at 121 S. Market Street, then proceed south approximately 170 feet to the southeast corner of the lot at 125 S. Market Street, then proceed west approximately 110 feet to the northeast corner of the lot at 131 S. Market Street, then proceed south approximately 125 feet to the southeast corner of the lot at 133 S. Market Street, then proceed west approximately 120 feet to the southwest corner of the said lot, then proceed south approximately 250 feet to a point located at the north corner of the intersection of Halifax and S. Market streets, then proceed SSW 140 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference C 18/286520/4122160 at the southwest corner of the intersection of S. Market and Halifax streets, then proceed west approximately 260 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference D 18/286460/4122150, then proceed north approximately 270 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference E 18/286440/4122220 on the south side of Brown Street, then proceed approximately 240 feet east to the southwest corner of the intersection of Brown and S. Market streets, then proceed north along the west side of S. Market Street approximately 530 feet to the southeast corner of the lot at 106 S. Market Street, then proceed west approximately 260 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference F 18/286440/4122320, then proceed north approximately 150 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference G 18/286430/4122360 on the south side of W. Wythe Street, then proceed 280 feet east along the south side of W. Wythe Street to the southwest corner of the intersection of W. Wythe and S. Market streets, then proceed north along the west side of S. Market Street approximately 510 feet to a point delineated by UTM reference H 18/286460/4122480, then proceed east approximately 455 feet to the point of origin.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the South Market Street Historic District were drawn to include the historically and architecturally significant resources along the street between West Washington and Halifax streets. The boundaries generally follow property lines and exclude parking lots to the west, north, and south, as well as a fire station and a modern commercial building on the west side of the northernmost block. The properties on Halifax and on South Union streets were excluded since they are commercial buildings.

ALL PHOTOS - SOUTH MARKET STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT **Petersburg, Virginia**
Credit: Eric P. Hepler Date: February, 1991
Negatives located at Virginia State Library, Richmond DHR File #123-108

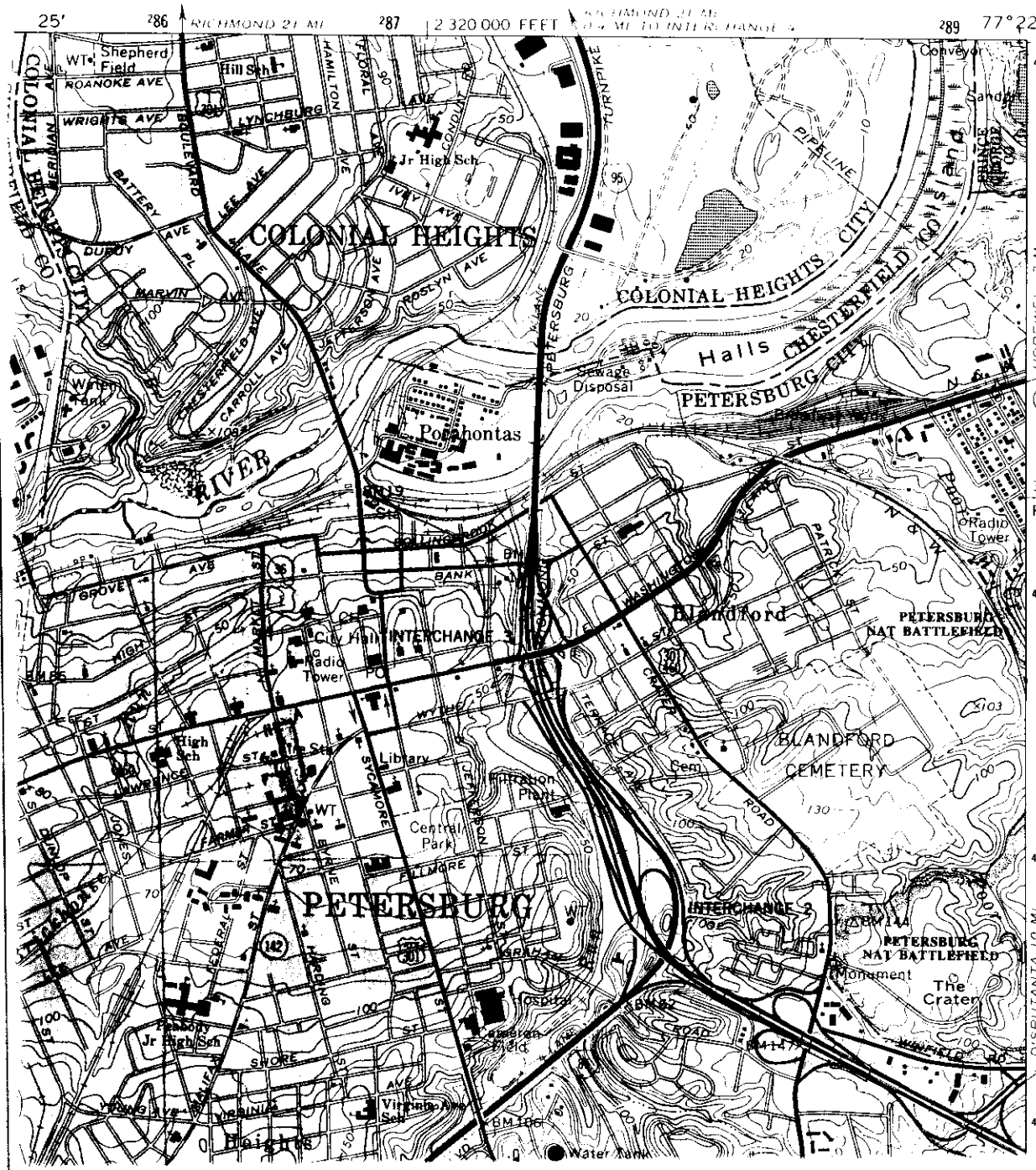
Photo #	Description
1	View of South Market Street looking south (photo taken from roof of #29 South Market Street) Negative #11146
2	View of South Market Street (east side) looking south from Wythe Street Negative #11153
3	View of South Market Street (east side) including #49, looking northeast Negative #11153
4	View of South Market Street (east side) including #43, looking southeast Negative #11153
5	View of South Market Street (east side) including #133, looking northeast Negative #11153
6	View of South Market Street looking southwest Negative #11153
7	View of Wallace-Seward House (204 South Market Street), front (east) facade, looking west Negative #11147
8	View of 109 South Market Street, front (west) facade, looking east Negative #11151
9	View of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church (214 South Market Street), front (east) facade, looking west Negative #11147
10	View of Stevenson House (106 South Market Street), front (east & north) facades, looking southwest Negative #11148

ALL PHOTOS - SOUTH MARKET STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT Petersburg, Virginia
Credit: Eric P. Hepler Date: February, 1991
Negatives located at Virginia State Library, Richmond DHR File #123-108

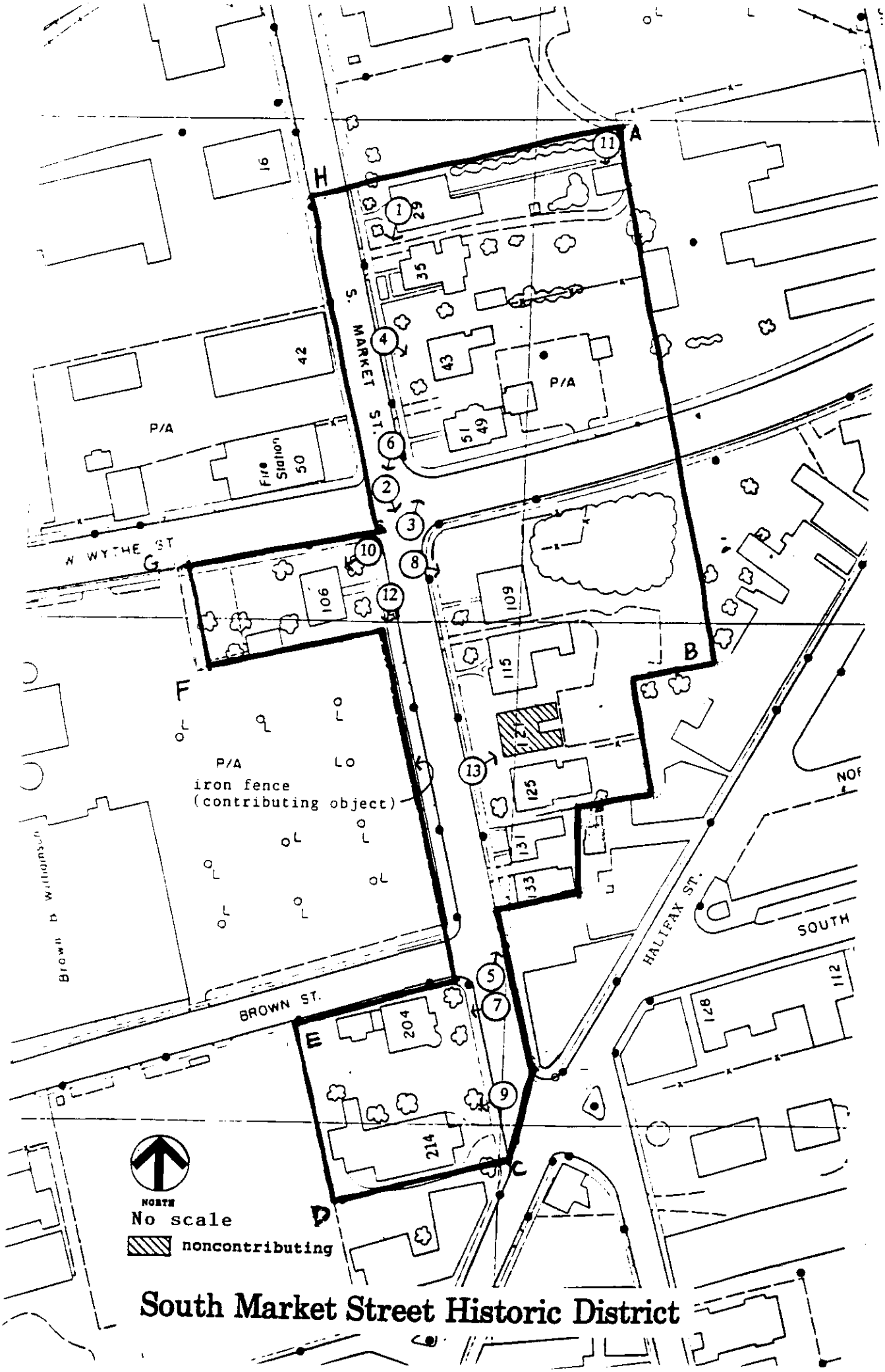
Photo #	Description
11	View of carriage house behind Scott House (29 South Market Street), north facade, looking south Negative #11146
12	View of cast-iron fence (contributing object), looking south Negative #11154
13	View of 121-123 South Market Street (noncontributing), west facade, looking east Negative #11151

PETERSBURG QUADRANGLE
VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5558 IV SE (HOPEWELL)



A	18/286520/4122500
B	18/286540/4122330
C	18/286520/4122160
D	18/286460/4122150
E	18/286440/4122220
F	18/286440/4122320
G	18/286430/4122360
H	18/286460/4122480



South Market Street Historic District