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NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

OMB No. 1024-0018

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 for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Danville Historic District

other names/site number VDHR File No. 108-111

2. Location

street & number Downtown area: Main Street and intersecting streets. Roughly bounded by Memorial Drive and High, Patton, and Ridge streets. not for publication N/A

city or town Danville vicinity N/A

state Virginia code VA county Danville (City) code 590

zip code 24541

Downtown Danville Historic District

Danville (City), Va.
County and State

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally X statewide ___ locally. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Hugh C. Miller July 6 1993
Signature of certifying official Date

Director
Va Dept 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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined not eligible for the National Register
____ removed from the National Register

____ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival
Late Gothic Revival
(see continuation sheet)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK
roof METAL
walls BRICK
STONE
other TERRA COTTA
CONCRETE

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

____ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

X C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

____ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

X private
X public-local
___ public-State
X public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

___ building(s)
X district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
48	26	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
48	26	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 2

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	financial institution
GOVERNMENT	office
GOVERNMENT	post office
INDUSTRY	manufacturing facility
SOCIAL	meeting hall
DOMESTIC	hotel

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:	Sub:
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	financial institution
GOVERNMENT	government office
GOVERNMENT	post office
SOCIAL	meeting hall
DOMESTIC	multiple dwelling
LANDSCAPE	parking lot

Downtown Danville Historic District

Danville (City), Va.
County and State

Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

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

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE
COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT
ETHNIC HERITAGE: BLACK
SOCIAL HISTORY
INDUSTRY

Period of Significance 1875-1943

Significant Dates _____

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation _____

Architect/Builder (see continuation sheet)

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)
___ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
___ previously listed in the National Register
___ previously determined eligible by the National Register
___ designated a National Historic Landmark
___ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
___ 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
Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 25 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	643650	4050340	4	17	643510	4049870
2	17	643980	4050200	5	17	643420	4050110
3	17	643880	4049910	6	17	643490	4050250

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. **Form Prepared By**

name/title J. Daniel Pezzoni
organization Preservation Technologies, Inc. date April 12, 1993
street & number PO Box 7825 telephone (703) 366-7657
city or town Roanoke state VA zip code 24019

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets
Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

7. Description

Architectural Classification (continued)

Tudor Revival
Neoclassical
Colonial Revival
Georgian Revival
Craftsman
Mission
Art Deco
Moderne
Modern
No Style

8. Statement of Significance

Architect/Builder (continued)

Anderson, K.
Anderson, P. L.
Angle-Blackford & Co.
Blauvelt, Henry J.
Carolina Steel & Iron Co.
Carter, J. Coates
Clarson, R. E.
Deitrick & Pearson
Erwin & West
Evans, Alfred F.
Farris, Fred F.
Fitzgerald, Thomas B.
Fuqua Construction Co.
Garric Construction Co.
Heard, J. Bryant
Howell, Claude K.
James, E. Robert.
Orchard, Charles.
Osborne, H. A. & Co.
Pettit, Charles G., Jr.
Poindexter, William M.
Pritchett, Albert G.
Underwood, H. A. & Co.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary Description and Integrity Statement

The Downtown Danville Historic District includes a wide range of commercial, industrial, and institutional building types dating from the 1870s to the present.[1] Most buildings in the district rise to two or more stories in height and are of load-bearing masonry construction. Although many buildings are astylistic or utilitarian in design, others show the influence of popular nineteenth- and twentieth-century styles including the Romanesque Revival, Late Gothic Revival, Tudor Revival, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, Georgian Revival, Craftsman, Mission, Art Deco, Moderne, and various post-World War II modern styles. Some buildings combine several styles or borrow from exotic traditions such as Egyptian architecture. A variety of materials and decorative finishes are found in the district: red, buff, pressed, molded, and corbeled brick; indigenous rough-hewn stone, marble, and sculpted white limestone; glazed and matte, polychrome and granitic, plain and richly ornamental terra-cotta; pressed and cast metal ornament, and corrugated metal siding and roofing; plate, prism, and architectural glass; concrete, stucco, and tile. Still to be seen on some streets are vitrified brick pavers, cobblestones, and granite curbing.

Many buildings in the district retain historic facade elements such as cornices and upper-story windows, piers, and decorative finishes. Some buildings also have early or original street-level display windows and entries. These buildings are generally classified as contributing to the historic character of the district. Other historic buildings have lost important character-defining facade features, or have had their upper stories concealed under modern alterations. These greatly altered historic buildings and non-historic (post-1943) buildings are classified as noncontributing to the historic character of the district. The modernization of a building's street-level shop front, in and of itself, is not always considered so compromising as to render a building noncontributing. Based on these criteria, the district contains a total of forty-eight contributing buildings and twenty-six non-contributing buildings for a total of seventy-four resources. In addition to the seventy-four previously unlisted resources, the district includes two resources already listed in the National Register: the Hotel Danville at 600 Main Street and the Danville Municipal Building at 418 Patton Street.

Architectural Analysis

The historic architectural character of Danville's downtown is entirely the product of the city's tobacco- and textile-based prosperity during the seventy-five years following the Civil War.

What little is known about the architecture of antebellum Danville is gleaned from historic illustrations, maps, and several period accounts. The most detailed account is Thompson Coleman's description of Danville in 1829. Coleman described a community of small-scale log and frame buildings clustered almost exclusively along Main Street from the river to about Ridge Street.[2] As depicted on an 1827 sketch map of the town, these buildings had the typical domestic form of the period, with their long elevations parallel to Main Street and their gable ends perpendicular.[3] More substantial construction may have been discouraged by the tenuous fortunes of the relatively young town. Coleman recalled only a handful of brick structures. One, a partially-occupied three-story brick building, was nicknamed Pannill's Folly, presumably in reference to the judgment of a developer who would invest in a town that might lose out to its regional competitors.

With the coming of the railroad in the mid-1850s and the doubling of the town's population in the span of a few years, Danville was transformed into an important regional center. The tobacco warehouse and factory districts on the north and south sides of Main Street began to take shape. Considerable information survives on the appearance of one antebellum tobacco factory, that of J. W. & C. G. Holland, which was used during the Civil War as a prison for Federal officers. Located on the northeast corner of Union and Spring streets, the Holland Factory was a three-story brick building with attic and basement stories and stepped parapets on the front and rear gables.[4] The Holland Factory and its contemporaries established the multi-storied, parapeted form that was to characterize Danville's industrial architecture through the remainder of the nineteenth century.

Danville's commercial district also experienced growth during the late antebellum period. A photograph believed to have been taken in the 1850s shows two commercial buildings on lower Main Street. These small frame buildings differ from the buildings shown on the 1827 map in that their gable ends face the street, allowing for a more intensive use of expensive street frontage.[5] Congestion near the river and canal had become so acute by the early 1850s (even before the coming of the railroad), that the town's businessmen urged the Masonic Lodge to construct its new quarters at the corner of Main and Union streets in order to draw development up Main Street Hill. The construction of the Masonic Temple illustrates the increasing architectural sophistication of Danville's antebellum civic leaders. Rather than entrusting the design of the important building to a local builder, the Masons advertised in Virginia and North Carolina papers and received proposals from several architects. They chose a design by John W. Cosby of Raleigh, the son and business associate of one of North Carolina's leading antebellum builders, Dabney Cosby. Cosby designed a cubic brick building with a double bracketed cornice, a rooftop monitor, and a curious double-arch motif on the Main Street facade.[6]

The pace of development set in the 1850s resumed in the 1870s after the decade-long interruption of the Civil War and its immediate aftermath. The Beers Map of 1877 and historic photographs indicate that the commercial form introduced during the late antebellum period, with long, narrow-fronted buildings extending back into long, narrow commercial lots, became even more established after the war. Main Street took on its present appearance, with buildings of varying heights, styles, and materials standing side by side creating continuous streetscapes. The resulting visual confusion engendered a competition among merchants to catch the eye of the customer, leading to a profusion of brightly-colored signage and heavily ornamented facades and parapets. The first to claim the field in the architectural sweepstakes was the Pace Building at 322-332 Main. Erected in 1875, the three-story brick building featured an ornate, five-bay cast-iron facade with an arched signage panel in the parapet of the center bay. A "rusticated" pier at the west corner and a single fluted iron column are the only original decorative features now visible on what is probably downtown Danville's oldest commercial building.

By the early twentieth century, the Pace Building was joined by other equally ostentatious architectural confections. Many of these relied on Italianate-inspired arched parapets for their visual effect. A surviving example is the livery stable and mixed retail block built at 118-130 South Union between 1904 and 1910. In addition to the perky arched parapet over the entrance to the former stable are a set of other parapets, one with an almost Baroque pedimented appearance. Other retail, hotel, and government buildings built along Main Street employed an array of turrets and cupolas for visual affect. An observer standing at the corner of Main and Floyd in 1910 could look up at the corbelled corner turret of the Romanesque Revival-style Municipal Building and down Main Street to the bristling gables, chimney stacks, and octagonal clock tower of the Romanesque Revival-style United States Court House and Post Office, the corbeled cornices and turret of the three-story Morgan Hotel, the seven-story domed corner tower of the Burton Hotel, and the Chateauesque turret of the Dudley Building, with corner elements inspired by the chimney stacks of Chambord. (Only the Dudley Building at 434-442 Main survives today, minus its turret.)[7] Perhaps the most outlandish bid for the pedestrian's attention was perpetrated by W. P. Hodnett, who sometime in the early twentieth century added onion domes to the parapet of his department store on lower Main Street.[8]

Gradually through the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Danville's business community replaced older frame buildings with fireproof masonry construction, motivated by the perennial threat of fire. Most fireproof construction was brick. In the twentieth century, steel and reinforced concrete frames came into use in buildings such as the 1921 James A. Rorer Memorial Building at 125 South Union, the 1917 Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company at 560 Patton, and the city's two 1920s skyscrapers, the Masonic Building at 105 South Union and the Hotel Danville at 600 Main. Concrete block was advertised as a building material as early as 1908 in city directories, but its first significant use in the downtown appears to be the

white limestone-faced 1937 Woolworth's Building at 501 Main.[9] Brick tile block was used in the construction of the 1923 F. W. Townes & Son Funeral Parlor at 635 Main and is exposed at the rear of 627 Main, a 1920s automobile dealership and repair shop.

A variety of materials were used to clad downtown Danville's masonry buildings. Typically, commercial buildings employ standard brickwork in a decorative fashion in parapets, facade piers, and around window openings. Some of the most creative brickwork can be observed in the parapet of the *ca.* 1880 building at 533-535 Main, which combines corbelling, hound's tooth soldier courses, tumbled courses, and dentil-like courses. The finer retail establishments of the late nineteenth century and the first decade of the twentieth were faced in smooth pressed brick with decorative courses of molded brick and terra cotta. The 1892 Kingoff Building at 310 Main and the 1901 Dudley Building at 434-442 Main are prime examples of this treatment. One of the earliest and most notable surviving uses of decorative terra-cotta is the beautifully crafted bull's head that peers out from a circular recess on the North Floyd elevation of the 1890 City Market (now a wing of the Hotel Danville at 600 Main), a symbol of the building's original function as a meat market.[10]

Several buildings of the 1920s make extensive use of terra cotta as exterior cladding and ornament. The ten-story 1927 Hotel Danville at 600 Main has a 2-1/2-story base faced in speckled gray terra cotta that simulates granite blocks, and it features granitic terra-cotta quoins, cornices with molded lion heads, and free-standing parapet urns. The 1921 James A. Rorer Memorial Building at 123 South Union (the offices of the *Danville Register and Bee*) is entirely clad in granitic terra cotta that is also used to form fluted pilasters on the side elevation, fluted columns *in antis* on the front, enriched window surrounds, molded lion heads in the cornice, and the figure of a newsboy in place of a keystone over the front entrance. Polychrome brown, red, orange, cream, and blue terra cotta is used to form display cases and a front portico ceiling. The ten-story 1922 Masonic Building on the corner of Main and South Union is faced in glazed white terra-cotta panels and has stylized terra-cotta pilaster capitals and a large sculpted spread eagle over the main building entry (symbolic of the Roman Eagle Lodge of Masons). Another terra cotta-faced building of note is the 1922 Southern Amusement Building at 549 Main. The two-story building has an elegant Neoclassical facade of glazed cream-colored terra cotta that rises to a frieze of purple and cream swags and a row of free-standing urns.

Downtown Danville's historic commercial buildings often retain original interior features. Finishes and decorative treatments varied according to the type of business. The two-story commercial block at 200-208 North Union, constructed in 1903, originally housed two hardware stores, a grocery, and a clothing store. The clothing store retains a pressed metal ceiling and a mezzanine stair with turned balusters and decorative newel posts; the other stores are more utilitarian, with beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings and (in historic views) plain board shelving

lining the walls.[11] A notable feature of 200-208 North Union is a hand-operated hoist or freight elevator activated by a system of pulleys, gears, and drive shafts. The upper stories of commercial buildings were used as office space and lodgings or, as in the case of the second story of 214 North Union, they were left unfinished and used for storage.

The brick tobacco and textile factories on High, Floyd, and Spring streets also generally have unfinished interiors with large work floors supported by wooden posts. The large tobacco factory of Conrad & Covington, constructed at 552 Spring in 1884, features a partially enclosed corner stair with simple wood rails (evocative of the plainest vernacular domestic construction of the period) and remnants of a first-story office with a beaded board wainscot, calcimined plaster walls, and a fireplace. The interiors of the 1907 Morotock Manufacturing Company on North Floyd are somewhat finer than other industrial buildings in the district, with planed, chamfered posts in the work spaces, and decorative beaded tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings, milled door and window surrounds, and a fireplace with a colonnetted mantel in the office wing.

Architecturally significant interiors are found in downtown Danville's fraternal and government buildings. The interiors of the first two buildings of the Roman Eagle Lodge of Masons featured resplendent wood carving and wall and ceiling painting. In the early 1920s, the lodge built its third and present building and once again spared no expense in the furbishing of its public and private spaces. The building is entered through a marble lobby lined with shops and display cases. A pair of elevators rise to a tenth-floor vestibule at one end of which is a ballroom with classical detailing and an orchestra gallery. At the vestibule's other end is the lodge meeting room, an amphitheater-like space facing a stage. Flanking the stage are pillars with lotus capitals, brightly painted sphinxes, and closets capped with pyramids; overhead is a gilded sun disk with outspread wings.

More prosaic, but equally refined, are the interiors of the 1927 Municipal Building and the 1932 Post Office, both designed by Danville architect J. Bryant Heard. The Municipal Building is entered through a lobby with rusticated plaster walls and Doric columns and pilasters. Broad staircases rise to the fourth floor council chambers, lined with arcades and formerly illuminated by a large skylight (now concealed by a dropped ceiling). The Post Office lobby features marble floors and pilasters, a frieze with paterae and triglyph-like elements, and Art Deco bronze grilles above the rows of lock boxes. The more utilitarian spaces of the Post Office are detailed in standard early-twentieth-century Treasury Department manner with high tongue-and-groove wainscots and two-level vaults.

Numerous architects and builders participated in the development of Danville's downtown during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Foremost among the city's builders in the years immediately following the Civil War was Thomas Benton Fitzgerald, a native of Halifax County,

Va., who established a brickyard in North Danville in the late 1860s. Over the following decades, Fitzgerald and his successors, N. A. and T. J. Fitzgerald, built many of the finer residences on upper Main Street, as well as churches, tobacco and textile factories, and commercial buildings. The Romanesque Revival 1890 City Market on North Floyd Street was built by Fitzgerald (although it was designed by Washington architect William M. Poindexter). It is likely that several of the tobacco factories on High and North Floyd streets were built by Fitzgerald, and it is probable that some of the older commercial buildings on Main Street can be ascribed to the Fitzgeralds' thriving construction business.[12] Other important builders and architects of the period included Charles A. Ballou, Danville's City Engineer, and the firms of Graham Brothers and Deitrick & Pearson. A contractor of note was English-born Charles Orchard, "Dealer in Mantels, Tiles, Grates, Interior Marble Work, and Contractor for Plastering, Concrete Floors, Walks, Etc." Probably many decorative finishes in the downtown were the work of Orchard and his thirty to sixty employees. The textured stucco facade of the Pythian Building at 119-121 South Union Street may be attributed to Orchard, since it was added in the 1910s when the building contained Orchard's showrooms.[13] Orchard also worked on the 1912 Elks Home at 560 Main Street.

Beginning in the 1910s, two architects--Charles G. Pettit, Jr. and J. Bryant Heard--made notable contributions to Danville's downtown. Pettit came to Danville in 1909 to open an office for the Lynchburg firm of McLaughlin, Petitt, and Johnson, and from 1909 to 1913 he was involved in the design and construction of at least six buildings in the downtown. Two of these buildings--the 1909-1910 Herman Building at 515-517 Main and the 1912-1913 Elks Home at 560 Main--survive in their more or less original form, and one other--the 1912 Virginia Hardware Company at 426 Main--survives in an altered condition.

Foremost among Pettit's downtown projects is the spectacular Elks Home. The exterior of the four-story building consists of a bundle of columnar elements visually linked together at the top by channeled brickwork and a wide chevron band of green and yellow tiles. The columnar massing carries through to the lobby, lined with two-story piers connected by a geometric slatted mezzanine railing. These features, and also the planar quality of the front porch and apron, punctuated by concrete and tile bollards, suggest Pettit was familiar with certain buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright such as the Larkin Building and Unity Temple. In contrast to the modernism of the Elks Home exterior and lobby is the eclectic design of other interior spaces. The lavish plaster ornament of the ballroom--cherubs, reclining nudes, cartouches, garlands, and musical instruments--the encrusted proscenium opening, and the eared surrounds of the French doors lining the ballroom walls are classical in derivation. Dark roof beams, stained glass windows, and high-backed thrones give the fourth-floor lodge room a solemn medieval aspect.

Pettit's Herman Building facade exhibits some of the geometric experimentation that characterizes

the Elks Home, with repetitive brick and stucco panels, broad expanses of prism glass (now removed), and architrave-like elements formed by projecting brick courses that frame the upper-story windows. Before it was covered over, the narrow four-story street front of the Virginia Hardware Company featured large industrial metal windows separated by brick spandrels with diamond-shaped accent blocks. The building was described in 1913 as being "of mill construction . . . practically glass fronted."[14] Tragically missing from the Pettit legacy is the demolished 1912 Arcade Building at 520-522 Main Street, which featured a 175'-long, column-lined, skylit concourse, and a stuccoed columnar facade with Mission-style accents.[15]

Whereas Charles Pettit's prolific period of activity apparently spanned a mere half-decade, J. Bryant Heard practiced from the mid-1910s through the 1930s. Heard established a Danville office of his Lynchburg architectural firm in 1916. A year or two earlier, Heard co-designed with local architect Albert G. Pritchett the Hotel Leeland at 621 Main, a four-story brick building with classical detailing. Heard designed other classical buildings in the downtown such as the Colonial Revival 1923 F. W. Townes & Son Funeral Parlor at 635 Main and the three-story 1920 Miller Building at 423-425 Main. His most important work in the idiom is the "opulent-looking" 1927 Danville Municipal Building at 418 Patton.[16] Colossal engaged Ionic columns march across the white limestone facade of the Municipal Building, and broad steps sweep down from burnished entry doors to the intersection of Patton and South Union streets.

In the early 1930s, Heard began to design in a somber monumental version of the Art Deco style. The Danville Post Office at 700 Main was the principal product of Heard's new approach. The 1930s American National Bank at 336 Main and the 1937 Woolworth's Building at 501 Main are other Heard designs that feature white limestone facing and discrete Art Deco ornament. At least ten extant downtown buildings in Danville were designed by Heard during the period 1915 to 1940 or are attributable to him on stylistic grounds. Of all Danville's architects and builders, Heard made the greatest contribution to the built environment of the downtown.

Development slowed in Danville's downtown after the early 1930s, part of a nation-wide stagnation in private construction brought on by the Depression. After World War II, development shifted to Danville's suburbs, and downtown retailers sought to lure their former customers back by modernizing building facades. Often this tactic led to the concealment or destruction of original architectural features. Two early face-lifts were carried out at 334 Main and 115 South Union, where streamlined concrete facades with metal and glass-block windows were adhered to earlier buildings. The modernizations continue to the present, and with the pressure for automobile parking, they represent the main threats to the architectural character of downtown Danville.

Inventory

Properties in the inventory are organized alphabetically by street (disregarding prefixes such as "North," "South," etc.) and numerically by address. The heading for each entry lists the historic or common name of the property, the date or date range of construction, the VDHR file number for the property, and the designation "CB" or "NB," for the status of each building as either a "contributing building" or a "noncontributing building." The body of the entry describes the architectural features of the property (story height, construction material, style or form, exterior finish, interior features when examined, etc.) and provides pertinent historical data. Some date ranges are based on an examination of the Sanborn Map Company maps for Danville. These maps were issued in 1886, 1890, 1894, 1899, 1904, 1910, 1915, 1920, and after 1929. Other dates are derived from primary or secondary sources that appear in the bibliography of this report and are noted in the site files.

1. **125 N. Floyd St.** Danville City Auditorium. 1932. 108-0111-001. CB.

The Danville City Auditorium is a four-story stretcher-bond brick and concrete building. The Art Deco styling of the building is most apparent in the detailing of the concrete facade piers, the spandrels between windows, and the parapet on the front (Floyd Street elevation), which have fluting, chevrons, and plant-like motifs. At the rear of the building is a large arched opening onto Spring Street providing access to an arcaded parking garage. Other exterior features of the building include large metal windows with central awning sections, and Art Deco light fixtures at the front entries.

The principal interior space is the auditorium itself, which is lined with pilasters with fluted capitals and has original seating and a rear balcony. Over the auditorium is a gymnasium with an open steel roof truss and an overhead running track. The building also contains offices with the original translucent glass doors, rest rooms with early tile floors and fittings, and basement-level workshops.

The Danville City Auditorium is the principal public auditorium in the downtown area of Danville, Virginia.

Designed by Danville architect J. Bryant Heard, the building has provided the city space for public entertainments, conventions, and sporting events since its construction in 1932. The building is also notable for its Art Deco design and integral parking garage. The building was built by the construction firm of P. J. Anderson and also originally contained an armory.

2. **100 Block N. Floyd St.** Morotock Manufacturing Company. 1907. 108-0111-002. CB.

The Morotock Manufacturing Company is a four-story brick building with a gable roof, brick and stone foundations, and segmental-head 6/6 sash windows. The front (Floyd Street) elevation of the building is defined by a three-story office wing with a five-story stair and elevator tower that formerly supported a water tank. The entrance to the office wing is set back into an archway. The main building block--the factory itself--has two entrances that are sheltered under wooden porches. A small brick boiler room extends from the main block at its northeast corner.

The interior of the main block is characterized by large work spaces interspersed with chamfered wood posts. The offices in the front wing have decorative beaded tongue-and-groove walls and ceilings, interior windows, and one surviving colonnetted mantel. Other features of the interior include heat-activated metal fire doors, early signage, and early elevator machinery.

The 1907 Morotock Manufacturing Company is a notable textile factory that retains many early features including a water tower/elevator tower, offices, and work spaces. The building was originally used for the manufacture of overalls; later it contained a grocery and bowling alley. In addition to its significance as a building type, the factory is architecturally significant for the quality of its brick construction and detailing. Organized in 1899, the company produced Bandana [*sic*], New South, Chief, Southern,

Elk High Back, and National brand overalls. The factory was constructed by the Danville firm of Deitrick & Pearson.

3. **123 S. Floyd St.** 1920s-1930s. 108-0111-003. CB.

The automobile repair shop is a one-story stretcher-bond brick building with a gable roof with parapets and skylights, and segmental-head 6/6 sash windows. Along the north side of the building is an early one-bay brick garage. In the front parapet is a segmental-head opening. The interior contains a large open work area under an exposed wood and steel truss roof. In the north corner of the interior is a two-level office and storage unit with a beaded tongue-and-groove wainscot.

Probably built in the 1920s or 1930s, this building has served continuously for the repair and servicing of automobiles and buses.

4. **539 High St.** Weldon E. Williamson Tobacco Factory. 1876. 108-0111-004. CB.

This three-story brick building has a gable roof with front and rear parapets (the front parapet has a corbeled cornice and recessed signage panel) and segmental-head 6/6 sash windows with decorative arches over the front windows. The side elevations are characterized by rows of numerous windows. Off the rear is an early two-story brick addition. The partly partitioned interior is interspersed with wood posts.

Danville tobacconist Weldon E. Williamson built this tobacco factory in 1876. On the 1886 Sanborn Map of Danville the building appears as the J. C. Green's Estate Dry Prizery, a factory for the pressurizing of tobacco. The map indicates that the building originally had iron-clad shutters and an office cubicle in the northeast corner of the interior. The two-story rear addition was made in the early 1890s. The

building served as a tobacco factory until the second quarter of the twentieth century when it was converted to commercial storage. In more recent years the building served as a furniture warehouse for Schewel Furniture.

5. **543-547 High St.** J. T. Stovall Tobacco Factory. 1876. 108-0111-005. CB.

This three-story, five-course American-bond brick building has a gable roof with stepped parapets on the front and back and gabled dormers, segmental-head 2/2 and 6/6 windows, and a later brick flue on the south gable end. A three-story brick addition was made to the northeast corner of the original building around 1915, giving the overall building its present L-shaped footprint (the addition may incorporate part of a ca. 1880 tobacco factory that stood on the same site). The addition has 6/6 sash windows and brick of varying shades. Other exterior features of the building include barred basement windows, a possible roof-top housing for an elevator mechanism, and signage for the Schewel Furniture Company.

This tobacco factory was built in 1876 by tobacconist J. T. Stovall. In 1886 it was owned by the Kinney Tobacco Company, a New York-based company that owned five tobacco factories in Danville at the end of the nineteenth century. The Kinney Tobacco Company, described as the world's largest cigarette manufacturer of its time, joined several other tobacco companies to form the American Tobacco Company in 1890. This factory was devoted to stemming tobacco, or removing the leaf from the stem prior to further processing. Between 1904 and 1910, the building was converted to the manufacture of overalls. A wing was added onto the east side that apparently incorporated a portion of the tobacco factory of T. J. Corbin, built between 1877 and 1886. In the mid-twentieth century the building was used as a warehouse by the Schewel Furniture Company.

6. **606 High St.** E. 20th c. 108-0111-006. CB.

This one-story, five-course American-bond brick building has a shed roof, segmental-head door and window openings on the front (south) elevation, 6/6 and modern 2/2 sash windows, and a small concrete block addition on the west side.

This building is typical of the small-scale commercial architecture built in Danville's downtown during the early twentieth century.

7. **608 High St.** Thomas & McAdams Tobacco Factory. 1880. 108-0111-007. CB.

This three-story five-course American-bond brick building has a gable roof with decorative parapets and segmental-head 6/6 sash windows. The front of the building was stuccoed at some point during the first half of the twentieth century. The front parapet has a stuccoed-over round vent; the rear parapet is stepped. The lower windows on the west side are barred. Off the rear of the building is a one-story brick wing. Over the two front entries are transoms. Over the center entry is a cast iron elk head with light bulbs at the tips of its antlers, a false clock set at 11 o'clock, and a sign reading "Morning Star Elk." Other features of the exterior include round and star-shaped tie rod ends and a Coca Cola sign painted on the bricks at the top of the east elevation.

The lot on which this tobacco factory was built in 1880 was purchased by W. P. Thomas and J. C. McAdams in 1879. During the 1880s the building functioned as the Thomas & McAdams Dry Prizery, an establishment for the pressing of tobacco. An office was located in the southeast corner of the ground floor. The rear addition was made between 1886 and 1890 and served for drying tobacco. By 1890 Thomas & McAdams were making cigars in the building; by 1904 the building had been converted back into a prizery. By 1910 the first floor of

the building had been made into a grocery, and the second floor was used as a church (probably for an African-American congregation). In the mid-twentieth century the building became home to the Morning Star Lodge of Elks, a black lodge. The iron elk head over the front entry may have formerly adorned Danville's white Elks Lodge.

8. **310 Main St.** Kingoff Building. 1892. 108-0111-008. CB.

This three-story stretcher-bond brick building has a shed roof, a slate mansard parapet with a decorative pressed metal crest bearing the words "Kingoff Building," and a metal modillion cornice. The front window openings include a segmental-head window under the signage crest with an arch formed by molded bricks, and round-head second-story windows. The street-level shop front is modern and side and rear segmental-head openings have been bricked up.

310 Main Street features one of the most elaborate and least altered turn-of-the-twentieth-century commercial facades in downtown Danville. The building was constructed in 1892 by W. H. Rice for use as his confectionery and bakery. In 1900 Rice sold the property to E. C. Moorefield, who with L. D. Moorefield operated the building as a wholesale and retail bakery and confectionery. Around 1920 the building briefly housed W. P. Hodnett's clothing store, and in 1922 it was sold to Sol, Benjamin, and Adolph Kingoff, who operated the Kingoff Brothers jewelry store. A two-story bakery building formerly stood to the rear.

9. **312 Main St.** J. A. Davis Building. 1892. 108-0111-009. NB.

This three-story brick building has a shed roof, a shed-roofed one-story rear wing with segmental-head windows, a wood stair rising on the rear elevation, and a modern metal facade with a metal awning and display windows. The interior of the third floor retains some integrity, with

original four-panel doors, milled door and window trim, and transoms over doors.

J. A. Davis built this altered building and its unaltered rear wing in 1892. In its early years the building housed the Virginia Cafe and a clothing store and, around 1910, one of Danville's first movie theaters. In 1927 the building was known as the A & B clothing store. Historic photographs indicate that the building formerly had a decorative street front similar in design, material use, and degree of workmanship to its next door neighbor and contemporary, 310 Main Street.

10. **316 Main St.** 1905-1910? 108-0111-010. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a front elevation with a metal modillion cornice (formerly with a metal balustrade), two large second-story round-head windows with 1/1 sash, facade piers with decorative brickwork, and modern ground-level display windows and transom that are similar to the original in character.

According to Sanborn maps, this building appears to have been built between 1905 and 1910, or it may be a remodeling of a late-nineteenth-century building. Originally the building housed a restaurant on its ground floor. By 1927 the restaurant had been replaced by the Fair Clothing Company clothing store.

11. **318 Main St.** Diana Shops Building. *Ca.* 1950. 108-0111-011. NB.

This one- and two-story concrete block building has a plain brick facade and early aluminum display windows and inset entry. The entry is paved with terrazzo panels of several colors with one panel bearing the logo "Diana."

This building was probably built shortly after World War II for Diana Shops, a women's clothing store.

12. **322-326 Main St.** Pace Building. 1875. 108-0111-012. NB.

This three-story brick building has a modern metal facade that obscures most of an original cast iron facade, modern tile and aluminum display windows and inset entries, and one-story brick and concrete rear wings. An original cast-iron detail that is still visible is a combination fluted square pilaster and smooth round pilaster located between two shop fronts. One of the rear brick wings has square-head 6/6 sash windows with bars and an entry with a transom and a four-panel door with vertical beaded tongue-and-groove panels.

This building was constructed in 1875 and was known either as the Pace Building or the Boswell Building. At the time it was built, the building was one of the largest commercial blocks in Danville. Before it was covered by a modern facade in the 1970s, the building featured an outstanding late-nineteenth-century cast-iron facade with decorative quoining, window hoods, cornices, and a central arched signage panel above the parapet that read "Boswell Building / Erected 1875." On the 1877 Beers map the building is identified as belonging to C. T. Pace, a Danville tobacconist. On the 1886 Sanborn map the building is labeled "Pace's Building" and is shown containing shoe, furniture, grocery, clothing, and millinery stores. The building described in this entry comprises four of the original five bays of the building; the fifth bay is described in the entry for 332 Main Street.

13. **332 Main St.** Sater's. 1875. 108-0111-013. NB.

This three-story brick building has a ca. 1945 Art Deco concrete facade with glass block windows and scored vertical

strips, a vestige of stylized cast iron-quoining left over from the original facade, a modern display window and inset entry, and a two-story rear elevation with segmental-head door and window openings.

This building represents the westernmost bay of the 1875 Pace Building (also known as the Boswell Building), described more fully in the entry for 322-326 Main Street. In 1886 this building contained a shoe store. In 1913 it contained the Clarke & Seegar hardware and sporting goods store, a wholesale/retail establishment begun by L. C. Clarke in the 1890s. By 1927 the building had become Sater's Ready To Wear clothing store. Sater's replaced the original cast iron facade of the building with a simplified Art Deco concrete facade probably shortly after World War II.

14. **336 Main St.** American National Bank & Trust Co. *Ca.* 1934. 108-0111-014. CB.

This two-story limestone-faced masonry building is detailed in a classicized modern idiom with fluted colossal piers flanking the main entrance (evocative of columns in antis), a dentil cornice with geometric moldings, scalloped parapet trim, an aluminum flag standard with ornamental base projecting from the parapet, and a green stone base and spandrels between the first- and second-story windows on the Main and Market street elevations. Extending from the rear of the building is a two-story brick addition dating to ca. 1937. The building has modern tinted glass windows and a modern Colonial Revival lobby.

This building was apparently built around 1934 when the American National Bank & Trust Company acquired a two-story Neoclassical bank building on the site. The company seems to have demolished the earlier building or possibly to have incorporated it into the present building. Danville architect J. Bryant Heard was the likely architect for the present building, which is similar to his other

works of the period. Heard also designed the 1937 addition to the rear of the bank that was built by the construction firm of K. Anderson. The American National Bank and Trust Company was established in 1909. The building is now owned by the Virginia Bank and Trust Company.

15. **401-407 Main St.** *Ca.* 1929. 108-0111-015. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a one-story rear wing, limestone or cast-stone quoins, cornice, facing, and molded window trim, two aluminum shop fronts (one of which--Allen's Jewelers--features sophisticated ca. 1960 design). The windows have modern sash; several windows on the Market Street elevation have been bricked up.

This building represents an interesting mix of classical and modern design. The stone quoins and molded trim evoke Neoclassical styling, whereas the flat parapet and streamlining of features seems more modern in inspiration. The building was apparently designed by New York architect Alfred F. Evans for the W. T. Grant Co., and contracted for in 1929.

16. **406 Main St.** Berman Building. 1944. 108-0111-016. NB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building is plainly detailed with a slightly corbeled cornice incorporating a basketweave band, a shop front with display windows and a recessed entry, glass block windows on both stories of the side (Market Street) elevation, and barred 1/1 sash windows on the rear elevation.

Danville clothier Isaac Berman built this store building in 1944 on the site of a two-story building that was last used as a candy store. Prior to 1944, Berman operated out of a building on the 300 block of Main Street. The Bermans'

business was begun in 1894 by Polish-born Jacob David Berman, the grandfather of the present owner, Jay D. Berman. The building replaced by the Berman Building was occupied by the Nicholas & Hessberg saloon and restaurant in the 1880s, and later by the restaurant of Green & Company.

17. **409 Main St.** Broadway Theater. 1920. 108-0111-017. NB.

This two-story masonry (probably brick) building has a modern concrete facade above modern aluminum display windows.

Constructed shortly after the Masonic Temple Fire of January 3, 1920, this building served as a "moving picture theater." The Southern Amusement Co., Inc., managed it as the Broadway Theater in 1927 (a theater on the site prior to 1920 had the same name). Around 1940 the theater was known as the Lea. After World War II, the building was converted into retail space. The present facade and shop front date to the 1950s or 1960s and replace a stuccoed or stone-faced facade that may have been Neoclassical in inspiration.

18. **410 Main St.** 1899-1904? 108-0111-018. NB.

This three-story brick building has a modern stretcher-bond brick facade with bay windows on the second story and a shop front with modern display windows and mansard-like metal awning. The original brick facade had windows with decorative (metal?) hoods and a metal cornice with finials and a cresting.

410 Main Street was probably built between 1899 and 1904, as indicated by Sanborn maps, although it is possible the building incorporates a much older structure. During the first two decades of the twentieth century the building housed a drug store, office space, and the Jefferson Clothing Store (established in 1912). In 1927 it was

occupied by the Quality Bakery and H. M. Lindhorst. The building is now used as offices by the Danville Telephone Service, Inc. and was given its present appearance in 1959.

19. **411 Main St.** Efird & Company. 1920. 108-0111-019. NB.

This two-story masonry building has a decorative pressed metal cornice with brackets, recessed panels between the brackets, and an embossed molding above the brackets. Below the level of the cornice the facade has been modernized, with a sheathing of blue and white tiles and modern display windows and inset entry.

411 Main Street was constructed shortly after the Masonic Temple Fire of January 3, 1920. The building was designed by J. Bryant Heard of the Danville office of Heard & Chesterman and was built for the Efird & Company department store.

20. **415 Main St.** 1920? 108-0111-020. NB.

This three-story building has a facade composed of alternating bands of limestone or cast stone and stretcher-bond brickwork interspersed with metal 2/2 sash windows. At street level are modern aluminum display windows and an inset entry.

The modern styling of this building suggests it was built shortly after World War II. It replaces or incorporates the Z. V. Johnson Department Store, built in 1920 and designed by the firm of Heard & Chesterman.

21. **416-430 Main St.** Belk-Leggett Building. 1901; 1912; 1920s. 108-0111-021. NB.

This building is actually a composite of at least three

separate buildings or portions of buildings joined behind a modern metal panel facade and granite-faced modern shop fronts. Historic fabric is only visible on the east side and rear elevations, which feature broad expanses of stretcher- and six-course American-bond brickwork and faded painted signage reading "Belk Leggett."

The large building with the blank modern facade known to Danville's citizens as Belk-Leggett's is actually a composite of at least three earlier buildings. The earliest of these is the westernmost quarter of the present building, constructed in 1901 as the easternmost section of the Dudley Building (see 108-111-23). This section formerly had a decorative brick and terra cotta Romanesque Revival facade identical in styling to the surviving facade of the remainder of the Dudley Building. The next oldest unit is the Virginia Hardware Company, designed by Danville architect Charles Pettit and built in 1912. Pettit's building originally had a utilitarian brick, steel, and glass facade that was described in 1913 as "mill construction . . . practically glass fronted." The eastern half of the Belk-Leggett building was apparently constructed for the department store in the 1920s, possibly after fire damage of an earlier building on the site. Its facade featured vertical ribbons of brickwork separated by banks of windows and stuccoed spandrels with diamond-shaped accent blocks.

22. **423-427 Main St.** Miller Building. 1920. 108-0111-022. CB.

This three-story stretcher-bond brick building is graced by a classical facade with second- and third-story brick piers supporting an entablature-like metal cornice and brick parapet. The piers have simple caps and are separated by large square- and round-head windows with 1/1 and 6/6 sash and three-pane transoms. The cornice has modillions and triglyph-like panels in the frieze, and the parapet has linear stuccoed panels. At street level are mid-twentieth-century aluminum display windows. On the

interior are wall and ceiling treatments dating to the building's use as a Kresge department store.

423-427 Main Street was built shortly after the Masonic Temple Fire of January 3, 1920. The building was designed by J. Bryant Heard of the Danville office of Heard & Chesterman and was built for E. H. Miller. In 1927 the building contained the 5 & 10 Cent Store of the S. S. Kresge Company chain. The building presently houses Dollar General Stores.

23. **434-442 Main St.** Dudley Building. 1901. 108-0111-023. CB.

This large three-story stretcher-bond brick commercial block retains five of its original six facade sections on Main Street (the sixth, 430 Main Street, is concealed behind the huge metal facade of 108-111-21). In its original form, the building had elements of the Chateauesque style such as a corner tower with a steep pyramidal roof, chimney-like elements with geometric ornament (derived from Chateau Chambord), and arched corbeling. At the base of the corner tower was the heavily rusticated arched entry to a bank. The original cornice extending along Main Street carried on the decorative motifs of the tower. Although all these features have been lost, the building retains richly molded terra-cotta roundels, panels, keystones, impost blocks, and a date block bearing the inscription "1901," as well as windows with flat, jack-arched, segmental, and round heads formed of smooth and textured brick. The building now has a simple corbeled parapet dating to the mid-twentieth century and modern shop fronts and shop interiors.

434-442 Main Street--the Dudley Building--was built in 1901 at Danville's busiest intersection, Main and Union. A bank occupied the corner of the building through 1920, and stores selling dry goods, boots and shoes, cigars, and jewelry occupied the other shop fronts during the early years. In 1904 an Elks lodge occupied the third story of the building;

in 1915 a commercial school had taken the Elks' place. During the mid-twentieth century the building gradually lost elements of its facade, beginning with the corner tower roof and arched entry and ending with the arch-corbeled cornice. The building was designed by Winston-Salem, N.C. architect Henry J. Blauvelt.

24. 501 **Main St.** Woolworth's Building. 1937. 108-0111-024. CB.

This two-story limestone-faced concrete-block building has a severe facade with a second story formed by alternating pier-like elements and metal windows and aluminum display windows and inset entries with plain surrounds. In the parapet is ornamentation such as fluting and faceted bosses. At the second-story window-sill level is a scalloped band. The rear of the building, extending along Union Street, is one story in height and has a plain limestone facing. The eastern section of the building was apparently built in 1941 as a separate establishment, and acquired and remodeled by Woolworth's in the late 1940s or early 1950s.

501 Main Street--Woolworth's--was designed by Danville architect J. Bryant Heard in 1937 and built by R. E. Clarson. The building is characteristic of Heard's commercial work of the 1930s, with simplified Art Deco massing and decorative motifs. Before the Civil Rights movement, Woolworth's had separate lunch counters for white and black patrons, and the store was the scene of sit-ins. Woolworth's closed in 1992 and vacated the building. The eastern section of the building was apparently built in 1941 as Diana Shops, a women's clothing store, and was based on a design by the Garric Construction Company of Chicago. The section originally featured a stuccoed facade with an arched parapet and large letters spelling "DIANA SHOPS."

25. **515-517 Main St.** Herman Building. 1909-1910. 108-0111-025. CB.

This four-story buff-colored brick building has a modern metal cornice with modillions and dentils that replaces a similar original cornice, a frieze of stuccoed panels under the cornice, and an upper-story facade with three "frames" containing banks of windows. The frames have projecting brick borders and attenuated granite keystones. Between the keystones is the inscription "Herman Building." The second- and third-story windows are separated by brick spandrels with projecting panels; over the second-story windows are prism glass transoms. The modern street-level shop front with inset display windows and entries replaces original display windows and wide prism glass transoms. Extending from the rear of the building is a utilitarian three-story brick and steel addition made in 1939.

The building interior has been altered considerably over the years but retains some historic fabric. Just inside the east front entry is a white marble panel with an old building directory painted on it in gilt lettering. At the rear of the building are ca. 1940 elevators with cherokee red doors with black stripes.

The L. Herman Department Store, the original occupant of the Herman Building, was established by Louis Herman, who moved to Danville from Baltimore in 1886. Louis Herman was one of Danville's foremost civic leaders, the founder and president of the Danville Knitting Mills and chief developer of the Forest Hills suburb. From 1886 to 1910, the L. Herman store moved from location to location in the downtown before settling on the 500 block of Main Street, which Louis Herman felt would eventually become the principal commercial block in the city. Herman hired Danville architect Charles Pettit to design his new lodgings, and in the early 1910s Pettit occupied an office on the fourth floor of the building. In 1939 Herman chose Martinsville architect J. Coates Carter to add the rear wing. Mid-twentieth-century alterations to the

exterior of the building were corrected during an early-1990s restoration.

26. **519 Main St.** 1899-1904. 108-0111-026. NB.

This two-story brick building has a metal cornice above a modern metal facade and modern display windows and inset entry.

519 Main Street was built between 1899 and 1904, according to the Sanborn maps. It may have been built in conjunction with 523 Main, a building of similar form that shared a cornice with 519 Main. At first the building contained a wallpaper shop. In 1915 a clothing store occupied the building--possibly A. A. Turner's men's haberdashery, located at 519 Main in 1927.

27. **523 Main St.** M. Arenson & Sons. 1899-1904. 108-0111-027. NB.

This two-story brick building has a modern facade with a concrete panel second story and modern display windows and an inset entry with a brick surround at street level. To the rear extends a one-story concrete-block addition.

523 Main Street was built between 1899 and 1904, possibly in conjunction with 519 Main Street. In 1904 the building housed a tailor shop; in 1927 this shop was that of M. Arenson & Sons.

28. **525 Main St.** 1894-1899. 108-0111-028. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a bracketed metal cornice, narrow second-story 1/1 sash windows with jack arches, and a modern shop front with transoms, display windows, and inset entry that are similar in character to the original. The building has 2/2 sash

windows on the rear elevations of both the two-story section and a one-story rear wing.

525 Main Street was apparently built between 1894 and 1899, according to Sanborn maps, although the present building may represent an early-twentieth-century replacement. In 1898 the merchant tailor shop of D. Jones & Company was located at the address, and a tailor continued at the location into the 1910s. In 1927 the Bohn Millinery Company occupied the building. A historic photograph dating to the first decade of the twentieth century shows the building with an ornamental metal cornice with an arched crest that was replaced at an early date by the present cornice.

29. **527 Main St.** 1894-1898. 108-0111-029. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has an intricately corbelled brick cornice, facade piers with recessed strips, second-story square-head 1/1 sash windows, and a shop front with an original stained glass transom and inset entry. The rear of the building has boarded-up segmental-head windows and a one-story concrete-block addition.

527 Main Street was built between 1894 and 1898. From 1898 through 1927 it served as an outlet for Singer sewing machines. A historic photograph from the 1900s shows the building with an ornamental metal cornice that must have been replaced by the present brick cornice at an early date, and a sign bearing a large letter "S" containing the words "Singer Sewing Machines."

30. **531 Main St.** 1894-1899. 108-0111-030. NB.

This two-story building has a mid-twentieth-century metal facade above a modernistic glass, aluminum, and stone shop front with display cases and an inset entry. To the

rear is a one-story concrete-block addition.

531 Main Street was built between 1894 and 1898 for funeral director F. W. Townes. The Townes Funeral Parlor continues to operate in Danville. In 1927 the building contained Barker's Shoe Store.

31. **533-535 Main St.** *Ca.* 1885. 108-0111-031. CB.

This large three-story stretcher-bond brick building has an intricate brick cornice with corbeling, hound's tooth courses, soldier courses, and tumbled brickwork, as well as soldier-course belt courses lower down on the facade. The segmental-head windows on the front have been bricked up, but on the side and rear elevations they are less altered, and some retain 2/2 sash and protective bars. Rising from the street on the west side of the building is an exterior wooden stair with chamfered posts and square-section balusters that provides access to the upper stories (this stair formerly provided access to the upper stories of the Danville Opera House, now gone). The present metal store fronts and awnings date to the mid-twentieth century and replace twentieth-century architectural glass fronts. To the rear extends a one-story brick wing with a concrete-block basement. The upper stories of the building retain early milled door and window surrounds.

533-535 Main Street was built between 1877 and 1886 by tobacconist S. H. Holland. During its early years the building housed many businesses including a general merchandise store, a metal shop, a cabinet shop, a billiard parlor, a cinema, and a women's clothing store. The John W. Ferrell Furniture Company occupied the ground floor for many years, selling furniture, carpets, and other household items from its "warerooms" in the building, and also providing undertaking services. A commercial school operated out of the upper stories of the building during the first two decades of the twentieth century. The Empire Cafe was

located in the building in the 1920s, followed by the Tuxedo Restaurant in the 1960s. In the early 1940s, former WPA-artist Carson Davenport maintained a studio in the building.

32. **539-547 Main St.** Danville Academy of Music. 1886-1890. 108-0111-032. NB.

This one-story brick building has a modern metal facade with glass, aluminum, and wood shop fronts. The building is a remnant of a larger three-story building; original features such as decorative cast-iron foundation vents and bricked-up segmental-head windows survive on the west side elevation. The Main Street elevation preserves the spatial rhythm of the original street-level facade, with the narrow store front at 543 Main (now a barber shop) representing a former theater lobby.

539-547 Main Street is a much-altered remnant of an important Danville building, the former Opera House. Built between 1886 and 1890, the Danville Academy of Music was a three-story building with a cornice and arched cresting and a grand theater to the rear with tiers of horseshoe-shaped balconies. In the 1910s the opera house became the Majestic Theater, superceded by the Virginia Theater by 1936. From the beginning the upper stories of the building were rented out as sleeping rooms; later these became guest rooms for the Hotel Normandie, the Colonial Hotel, and the Virginia Hotel. The three store spaces in the remaining section of the building have always contained commercial establishments. The upper stories of the building and the rear theater section were demolished in the 1960s.

33. **549 Main St.** Southern Amusement Building. 1922. 108-0111-033. CB.

This three-story brick building consists of a front section built in 1922 as the facade of a theater that was never built, and a larger rear section built about 1936 as sales space for Sears, Roebuck & Company. The front section

belongs to a group of 1920s terra-cotta-faced buildings in downtown Danville. Glazed cream-color terra-cotta is used to form pilasters, capitals, cartouches, a dentil cornice, and free-standing urns that rise above the cornice. Cream-color swags on a purple ground create a frieze below the cornice, and the pilaster capitals incorporate representations of lyres. The colossal-order pilasters on their high pedestals divide the facade into a center bay and narrower flanking bays, and give the building its distinctive Neoclassical appearance. The second story is provided with large plate-glass windows; the street-level store fronts are modern but recreate the character of the original. The utilitarian red brick extension to the rear has 6/6 sash windows and is supported by steel posts and beams on the interior. The interior of the front section features a two-story lobby that has recently been remodelled in the Colonial Revival style.

The Southern Amusement Company built the front section of 549 Main Street in 1922 and planned to add a 2,000-seat theater behind it to accommodate movies, vaudeville, and Chautauquas. Although the theater was never built, the front section was put to use as retail and office space. In 1936 the building was sold to Sears, Roebuck & Company. Sears hired Danville architect J. Bryant Heard to design a large rear addition that was built by the construction firm of Erwin & West. Through the years the front elevation was altered, but it was returned to its original appearance during a 1987 restoration. The building was designed by Claude K. Howell, a Richmond architect who specialized in theaters.

34. **559 Main St.** Rippe's. 1947. 108-0111-034. NB.

This one-story masonry building has a decorative brick and concrete facade over modern display windows and inset entry.

559 Main Street was built in 1947 to house Murray Rippe's women's clothing store, a business that was established in 1907. The store was expanded and remodeled in 1967.

35. **560 Main St.** Elks Home. 1912. 108-0111-035. CB.

This four-story brick building features an unusual and highly decorative front facade. The facade is divided into vertical sections by Flemish-bond piers with window and door openings between. The first story features two central doors with transoms flanked by French doors. The second story features French doors with metal railings forming false balconies. Between the doors of the second story and the windows of the third are basketweave brick spandrels and concrete panels bearing inscriptions derived from Elks mottos. Mounted on the piers to each side of the inscriptions are concrete clock dials bordered with light bulbs and with hands set at 11 o'clock, an Elks tradition. Between the third- and fourth-story windows runs a band of glazed yellow and green ceramic tiles set in chevron patterns. Above this band the piers are given a rusticated effect. In front of the building, sheltered by a modern metal awning that replaces an earlier suspended awning, is a porch with brick and concrete tiers decorated with red and green tiles. Between the porch and Main Street are original raised brick planting beds and a metal statue of an elk.

The west side elevation facing Floyd Street carries over some of the decoration of the front elevation, with the exception of decorative brickwork at the fourth-story level with regularly protruding bricks. The building narrows to the rear (forming the stem of the T-shaped building footprint) and has ranks of French doors on both the east and west sides. To the rear is a small concrete-block kitchen wing at basement level. The building originally featured bollard-like elements that projected above the parapet and additional decorative tile work above the fourth-story windows.

The front entries open into a two-story lobby with a mezzanine supported by colossal square pillars. The lobby floor is covered in decorative green linoleum tiles with a linoleum elk head design in the center. At the east and west ends of the lobby are Craftsman-style fireplaces with heavy wooden mantel shelves and decorative brickwork in the overmantels. The piers have decorative motifs formed of gold tiles at their tops and are connected by geometric (possibly Wrightian) wood mezzanine balustrades. The mezzanine has fireplaces similar to the ones on the first floor and an enclosed end now used for meetings by a women's auxiliary.

The central axis of the building leads from the lobby past a registration counter and the principal stair into a two-story ballroom. The focal point of the room is a stage enframed by a proscenium opening richly ornamented with classical plaster motifs. Molded plasterwork also decorates the side walls over ranks of French doors. Other features of the room include two-panel doors with eared surrounds, gas light fixtures and early suspended electric lights, and a band gallery.

The third and fourth floors are largely taken up by apartments arranged along radiating hallways. The fourth-floor lodge room has a cove ceiling supported by exposed timber members, stained glass windows that have been bricked-up on the exterior and fitted with artificial lighting, and original furnishings including thrones on each of the four walls of the room and a blue milk glass Star of Fidelity light fixture suspended over a decorative wood lectern in the center of the room. In the basement of the building is a modernized restaurant/club room.

560 Main Street, the Elks Home, is an architecturally sophisticated building that has played an important role in the civic history of downtown Danville. The Elks Home was built in 1912 as a lodge and apartment building for Danville's B.P.O. Elks Lodge No. 227, established in 1892.

Danville architect Charles G. Pettit, Jr. designed the building, adapting the typically domestic Craftsman style to the needs of a multi-story urban building. Certain aspects of the design such as the verticality of the facade, the use of colossal pillars in the lobby, and details such as the geometric wood railing of the lobby mezzanine may derive from the works of Frank Lloyd Wright or other early modernists. In contrast, the heavy plaster ornamentation and the eared door surrounds in the ballroom are derived from classical precedents, and the exposed ceiling timbers and arched throne backs in the lodge room appear medieval in inspiration. English-born Danville contractor Charles Orchard, whose specialties included wood, tile, and concrete work, was involved in the construction of the building.

An important function of the Elks Home was to provide lodging for members. Fifteen apartments in the upper story of the building were used on short- or long-term bases. The front porch was furnished with rockers and the lobby had Mission-style armchairs for the relaxation of lodgers, and a restaurant in the basement (remodelled in 1990) provided meals. Dances and other recreations were held in the ballroom, which is served by dumbwaiters from the basement restaurant. Although the last permanent residents moved out of the building in the early 1960s, the Elks Home continues to provide meeting and entertainment space for the organization.

36. **563 Main St.** *Ca.* 1950. 108-0111-036. NB.

This one-story masonry building has a limestone front facade with a green stone base, plate-glass display windows, and an inset entry framed by curving glass block walls. The side elevation (on Floyd Street) is faced in stretcher-bond brick. The building may be constructed of concrete block.

563 Main Street appears to have been constructed around 1950, based on the design and materials of its facade;

however, the facade may have been added to a 1930s building. The building is identified as an ABC store in a 1950 city directory, and the detailing of the facade is typical of ABC stores of the period.

37. **600 Main St.** Hotel Danville. 1926-1928. 108-0111-074; 108-27. CB.

This nine-story steel and concrete building has a V-shaped plan, a facade with a two-story granitic terra-cotta base and terra-cotta trimmed brick above. Off the north end of the building extends an altered Romanesque Revival brick wing dating to ca. 1890 that is the former Danville City Market. The building features Neoclassical or Neo-Adamesque styling with rustication, quoining, cartouches, and parapet balustrades and free-standing urns.

The Hotel Danville was erected in 1926-1928 as downtown Danville's premier hotel. The building is one of two highrises built in the downtown during the 1920s (the other being the 1922 Masonic Building) and as such it plays an important role in defining the city's skyline. The building was individually listed in the National Register in 1983; a fuller description of the building's history and its historic and architectural significance is contained in the nomination report.

38. **601-623 Main St.** Hotel Leeland. 1917-1918. 108-0111-037. CB.

This large four-story stretcher-bond brick building has a decorative front facade and utilitarian side and rear elevations. The front is faced in dark brick and is capped by a metal modillion cornice with a brick parapet above. The upper three stories feature square- and round-head 1/1 sash windows with a range of decorative treatments in white concrete such as keystones, impost blocks, and trim blocks. The third story also features blank concrete panels and friezes with diamond-shaped accent blocks. The street-level

facade consists of seven shop fronts. The westernmost of these opens into the hotel office; next to it is the lobby entrance, formed by four round fluted Doric pilasters and sheltered by a metal and glass awning. The other shop fronts have been modernized to varying degrees; one, Nick & Nita's Royal Palms Restaurant (621 Main) has a permastone facade with octagonal windows. The east corner of the facade has rustication at street level. The irregular rear elevation features lighter five-course American-bond brickwork, decorative steel fire escapes, square-head 1/1 and 6/1 sash windows, and a polygonal wing that originally contained an auditorium/theater. Most of the street-level interiors have been modernized and the auditorium has been subdivided. 607 Main, which served as a theater lobby, retains pressed metal or plaster wall ornament, a paneled wainscot, marble baseboards, and a tile floor with a Greek key border that provides evidence of a former octagonal ticket booth.

601-623 Main Street, the Hotel Leeland, was built in 1917-1918 by E. C. and K. C. Arey. J. Bryant Heard prepared the plans for the building in collaboration with Danville architect Albert G. Pritchett, and H. A. Osborne & Company served as the general contractor. Originally, the hotel had an auditorium that was operated by the Southern Amusement Company as the Strand Theater. Later the auditorium was converted into a ballroom and finally it was subdivided into a kitchen and retail space. The hotel also had a dining room, a mezzanine level to the present lobby, a gas pump out front, and maples planted along the sidewalk. The Leeland Hotel continues to operate, letting out rooms on short- and long-term bases, and it and the Hotel Danville across the street are the last grand hotels in the Danville downtown.

39. **627 Main St.** Wilson Motor Company. 1925. 108-0111-038. NB.

This two-story concrete frame building has a stretcher-bond brick street facade with decorative

brickwork and diamond-shaped accent blocks in the parapet. Originally, the front of the building featured an angled shop front that was recently replaced with Colonial Revival beaded weatherboard offices and a garage door. The building's concrete frame is exposed on the rear elevations with brick tile and five-course American-bond brick enclosure and large metal windows.

627 Main Street was built in 1925, according to Sanborn maps. In 1927 the building contained the Wilson Motor Company; Frank Poindexter may have served as the dealer. Later the Wyatt Buick dealership occupied the building. Originally the front featured an angled display window and a drive-through for automobiles to access the garage in the rear of the building.

40. **628 Main St.** American National Bank & Trust Company. 1973. 108-0111-039. NB.

This large two-story Flemish-bond brick building has a slate and metal-sheathed mansard roof with gabled dormers, a wood cupola, false chimneys, a Main Street entry with a Palladian window above an eared entryway, a side parking lot entry with a segmental-pedimented window and balustrade over an entryway flanked by fluted Ionic pilasters, segmental-head 6/6 sash windows, and quoining. On the east side of the building is a drive-through lane with a hipped-roof brick service booth. On the west side of the building is a landscaped parking lot enclosed by a Flemish-bond brick wall. At the southwest corner of the parking lot (the corner of Main and Ridge) is an early-twentieth-century clock suspended from a modern post.

628 Main Street, the American National Bank & Trust Company, is a sophisticated example of the Georgian Revival style. The bank was established in 1909 and formerly occupied a building at 336 Main Street (108-111-14). The present building was completed in 1973.

41. **631 Main St.** T. A. Fox & Company Funeral Parlor. *Ca.* 1925. 108-0111-040. CB.

631 Main Street is a two-story masonry building with a stuccoed exterior, a gable roof with Spanish tiles and decorative belfry-like elements, a side porch supported by stuccoed brick arches, an original one-story front wing with small decorative Moorish windows and an entry with a decorative transom, square-head 6/6 sash windows, a utilitarian rear wing with a basement garage (probably originally for a hearse), and a utilitarian mid-twentieth-century concrete block two-story front addition with metal fenestration. The Sanborn maps indicate that the building is constructed of brick, but examination of the apparently original one-story front wing suggests some concrete block was also used.

The first-floor interior retains original room layouts but the finishes are modern. The second floor retains more original fabric such as a barrel-vaulted ceiling and office doors with textured glass panels.

631 Main Street appears to have been built in 1925 as a funeral home for T. A. Fox & Company, undertakers. The architect for the building was E. Robert James of Danville. The original one-story entrance wing formed one side of a sidewalk garden with a fountain. The building is a sophisticated and rare example of Mission styling in downtown Danville.

42. **635 Main St.** F. W. Townes & Son Funeral Parlor. 1923-1924. 108-0111-041. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick-faced brick tile building has a poured concrete foundation, a parapet gable roof with chimney stacks rising from the parapets, a wood modillion cornice, jack-arched 8/1 sash windows on the second story of the front facade and unusual complex windows with decorative concrete lintels on the first story, a front entry with an round-arched fanlight sheltered by a stoop

with a belled roof supported by slender Doric columns, an original utilitarian one-story rear wing, a rear three-story housing for a Westbrook freight elevator, and a 1946 utilitarian one-story rear wing constructed of concrete block with a stretcher-bond brick facing and having a three-bay garage underneath (for parking hearses).

The interior is detailed in the Colonial Revival style with a center-passage stair with turned balusters and tread brackets, a front parlor with a Federal-style mantel with sunbursts in the frieze, and molded chair rails in many rooms.

635 Main Street was built as a funeral home in 1923-1924 by F. W. Townes & Son. The building was designed by J. Bryant Heard of the Danville office of Heard & Chesterman and it was built by the firm of Calvert & Brightwell for $40,000. The original function of the building is reflected in its domestic form and styling. A rear addition was made in 1946. The Danville Area Chamber of Commerce has occupied the building since 1967.

43. **700 Main St.** Danville Post Office. 1932. 108-0111-042. CB.

This large three-story limestone-faced building has a simple rectangular form. In the composition of its elevations and the repetition of facade elements the building derives from the classical tradition of design for large government and institutional buildings. At the level of individual exterior and interior details the building is Art Deco in styling.

The flat built-up roof is concealed behind a parapet with a cornice with modillion-like elements and sculpted animal heads. The second and third stories of the building are composed of flat fluted piers separated by metal windows and bronze spandrels with chevron decoration. At the base of the second story above the front entry is the inscription

"United States Post Office and Courthouse." The rusticated first story has three central entries on the front (Main Street) elevation with bronze doors surmounted by transoms with bronze grilles. Flanking the entries are windows behind chain-mail-like bronze grilles with carved eagle medallions above. In front of the entries are granite steps flanked by fluted limestone lamp standards. The basement level is faced in granite and has a cornerstone inscription at the southeast corner. The second and third stories do not extend fully across the rear elevation of the building (giving the upper stories a U-shaped plan); the left-over space is faced in blond stretcher-bond brick. A long metal awning is suspended from the rear first story to shelter basement-level freight doors. Behind the building is a raised parking lot with battered concrete walls.

The front entry leads through a vestibule into the lobby, a rectangular space occupying the center of the first story. The lobby has beige marble floors and smooth flat pilasters with acanthus-leaf capitals, a plaster ceiling with a cove and a frieze bearing triglyph-like elements and paterae, banks of metal lock boxes below bronze grilles, oak door trim, at least one early writing table, and a service area partitioned off from the rest of the lobby by a glass wall. The office and work spaces surrounding the lobby have conventional period post office finishes and features such as high bevelled tongue-and-groove wainscots and two-level vaults with decorative painting.

700 Main Street, Danville's federal post office and courthouse, was built in 1932 to replace an antiquated 1882 building on the 500 block of Main Street. The construction of the 1932 building was conceived in part as a public works project intended to provide work for the unemployed. The acting supervising architect for the building was Treasury Department official James A. Wetmore. The actual work of design was carried out by Danville architect J. Bryant Heard. Heard apparently worked closely with Treasury Department architects (as illustrated by the stock design of

secondary spaces on the interior of the building), and decisions such as the use of "white limestone" as an exterior facing may have been made by Washington. Otherwise the building exhibits the hybrid classical/Art Deco styling that characterized most of the commercial buildings Heard designed for Danville's downtown in the 1930s. Since its construction, the Danville post office has played an important role in the civic life of the city and it has stood as one of the downtown's principal architectural landmarks.

44. 109 N. **Market St.** *Ca.* 1935. 108-0111-043. NB.

This altered two-story brick building appears to consist of a one-story five-course American-bond brick original section (probably dating to the 1930s) with a post-World War II five-course American-bond brick second-story addition and a stretcher-bond brick infill of an original street-level shop front.

The original section of 109 North Market Street appears to have been built shortly after North Market Street was shifted and widened in 1934. In 1920, the site was occupied by an ice cream factory. This building may represent a successor to the factory, or it may have been built as extra sales or storage space for Belk-Leggett at 416-430 Main Street (108-111-21), which it adjoins.

45. 111 N. **Market St.** *Ca.* 1935. 108-0111-044. CB.

This one-story brick building has a plain parapet with unusual five-course mixed garden wall-bond brickwork with dark headers, a scalloped metal shop front cornice, and a shop front with display windows and an inset entry with original or early glass door. The front is sheltered under a shed metal awning.

111 North Market Street appears to have been built shortly after North Market Street was shifted and widened in 1934, and probably functioned as a small retail or repair shop. It is presently occupied by a shoe shop.

46. 113 N. **Market St.** *Ca.* 1935. 108-0111-045. CB.

This one-story brick building has a parapet with decorative brickwork including projecting belt courses, a soldier- and stack-bond frame around the shop front, a canvas awning, and modern aluminum display windows with permastone bases.

113 North Market Street appears to have been built shortly after North Market Street was shifted and widened in 1934. The building probably functioned originally as a small retail or service shop. A barber shop presently occupies the building.

47. 115 N. **Market St.** *Ca.* 1935. 108-0111-046. CB.

This one-story stretcher-bond brick building has decorative side and end parapets with blank spaces for signage, glass doors with transoms, and windows with later plate glass and louvered panes.

115 North Market Street appears to have been built shortly after North Market Street was shifted and widened in 1934. The building may originally have served as a bus station.

48. 110 S. **Market St.** C. W. & M. West Grocery. 1894-1899. 108-0111-047. NB.

This altered two-story building has a modern vinyl-sided facade with false louvered shutters on the second story and a bay window on the first story. The rear elevation is sheathed in plywood.

110 South Market Street may have been built between 1894 and 1899; the 1899 Sanborn map shows a two-story building occupying the site. In that year a grocery occupied the first floor and the second floor contained boarding rooms. The grocery was apparently operated by C. W. and M. West, who were black. The building was occupied by a grocery for much of the early twentieth century. During the second quarter of the century the building was used as a sign painting shop.

49. 116-120 **S. Market St.** A. W. Canter & Company. 1894-1899. 108-0111-048. CB.

This two-story brick double-store building has a cornice with unusual brickwork that looks like overlapping shingles, second-story segmental-head 1/1 sash windows, and a hound's tooth course running above the altered shop fronts. To the rear is a two-story brick wing with bricked-up segmental-head windows.

116-120 South Market Street was built between 1894 and 1899, according to Sanborn maps. The building occupies the site of the late-nineteenth-century Market Square, vacated around 1890 with the construction of the new municipal building and market house on Main and Floyd streets. The first floor of the building was originally occupied by a grocery and the second story contained sleeping rooms. A. W. Canter & Company was the principal occupant of the building in 1898. By 1920 a sign painting establishment had moved into the building.

50. 122-124 **S. Market St.** 1894-1899. 108-0111-049. NB.

This two-story brick building has a modern facade with corrugated metal sheathing over a brick and glass shop front with a canvas awning.

122-124 South Market Street was built between 1894 and 1898. 122 South Market was occupied by a black barber named S. R.

Williams in 1898, and 124 was occupied by the C. E. Hughes & Company grocery. In 1904 the building contained a furniture store, described as a second-hand furniture shop in 1910. By 1915 the building had been converted into a wholesale grocery.

51. **126 S. Market St.** *Ca.* 1950. 108-0111-050. NB.

This three-story stretcher-bond brick building has simple modern styling such as 1/1 sash strip windows and a plain parapet. The modern 2/2 sash windows and entries on the first story are shaded by canvas awnings.

126 South Market Street appears to have been built shortly after World War II, based on its modern styling, although it is possible that it represents a complete remodelling of an earlier building. The insurance firm of Cox & Goodridge, Inc., established in 1934, currently occupies the building.

52. **402-408 Patton St.** 1886. 108-0111-051. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a bracketed wood cornice with pierced vents and turned bosses between the brackets, boarded- and bricked-up segmental-head second-story windows, original shop fronts with chamfered wood posts and large 2/2 sash windows, metal awnings that replaced earlier (canvas?) awnings, and signage associated with the building's most recent use as a fish restaurant. The rear of the building has segmental-head door and window openings, back-wall flues (associated with former second-story apartments), and a one-story concrete block kitchen wing. The first-story interior has been altered.

402-408 was built in 1886 immediately adjacent to the city market, a long shed-like building that fronted on Market Street. Groceries occupied the three shops on the first story of the building with the second story used as

apartments. Although a grocery was located in the building as late as the 1910s, other establishments shared the building from the late 1890s on such as a plumbing shop, a wholesale tobacconist, and an office. Tenants in 1898 included grocers C. L. Martin and J. H. Phelps, and merchant C. C. Smithson. In 1899 an organization known as the Twin City Club occupied the second story. Tenants in 1927 included Dodd & Lovell, grocers, the Royal Coffee Company, and Virginia Clark, who ran a boarding house in the second story.

53. **410 Patton St.** *Ca.* 1930. 108-0111-052. NB.

This altered two-story brick building has a modern Flemish-bond brick front facade below an asphalt-shingle mansard with gabled dormers. The only readily apparent original exterior feature is the five-course American-bond brick east elevation.

410 Patton Street appears to have been built around 1930 as a rear addition to the Johnson Department Store at 415 Main Street. As originally constructed the building had a modernistic stuccoed facade. The exterior was remodeled in the 1970s.

54. **418 Patton St.** Danville Municipal Building. 1926-1927. 108-0111-071; 108-58. CB.

This three-story limestone-faced building has a main section aligned with Patton Street and a rear wing giving the building an overall T-shaped plan. The front facade is formed by a row of smooth round Ionic pilasters with window and door openings in the intercolumniations. Running at the top of the facade below a plain parapet is a dentil cornice and a frieze bearing the inscription "Municipal Building." Between the first- and second-story windows are decorative metal spandrels (most of the building's windows have modern tinted panes). The front entry has three bronze doors, the central door with a segmental pediment and the others with

peaked pediments. The front facade wraps around to the sides of the building with smooth flat Doric pilasters taking the place of the Ionic pilasters. The rear elevation and the elevations of the rear wing are constructed of blond stretcher-bond brick with brick spandrels between the windows. In front of the building is a broad flight of steps flanked by plinths with cast-iron lamp posts. Near the base of the steps is a marble statue of Mayor Harry Wooding. On each side of the steps are lawns planted with Lebanon cedars and bordered by stone balustrades.

The building has a single-loaded corridor plan. The front entries open into a lobby with free-standing and engaged round and square Doric columns. Two flights of stairs rise to the third-story council chamber, which has arcaded walls. Other interior features include large skylights, marble and dark-stained wood trim, and terrazzo floors.

418 Patton Street, the Danville Municipal Building, was built in 1926-1927 to provide a home for the Danville city offices and courts. The building replaced a ca. 1890 municipal building located on the northwest corner of Main and North Floyd streets, and is built on the site of an 1873 city courthouse. The cornerstone was laid on July 7, 1926 and the building was occupied on September 21, 1927. The architect for the building was the firm of Heard & Chesterman, with J. Bryant Heard of the firm's Danville office probably most responsible for the design. The Lynchburg-based Fuqua Construction Company built the building. In 1975 a Courts and Jail Building was built adjacent to the 1927 building. The Danville Municipal Building plays an important role in the civic life of Danville and stands as one of the city's principal architectural landmarks. The building is listed as a contributing building in the Danville Tobacco Warehouse and Residential District, which overlaps the Downtown Danville Historic District.

55. **560 Patton St.** Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. 1917. 108-0111-072. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a domestic form with a parapeted gable roof with gable-end chimneys, a machicolated wood cornice, a limestone belt course at the level of the second-story window sills, 9/9 sash windows in jack-arched recesses, a front entry in a basket-handle-arched embrasure with paneled lining, and a three-story rear extension of slightly lighter brick dating to 1947. The first-floor interior has been modernized.

560 Patton Street was built in 1917 for the Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. The rear addition was made in 1947. The building is an early example of the Colonial or Georgian Revival style in downtown Danville.

56. **212-216 N. Ridge St.** Southern Aid Building. 1916. 108-0111-073. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a metal dentil cornice with the inscription "Southern Aid Building" in the frieze, jack-arched-head 1/1 sash windows, permastone shop fronts with original transoms and metal shop cornices, the date "1916" over a front entry, and a circular window on the north side elevation.

214-216 North Ridge Street was constructed in 1916 for the Southern Aid Society of Virginia, Inc. The society was an insurance company owned by and operated for African-Americans, with headquarters in Richmond. The Society began operations in the Danville area in 1904 with the goal of "fostering self-help and thrift among its policy holders [in order to prevent] distress even in the humblest home during periods of disability and death."

57. **552 Spring St.** Conrad & Covington Tobacco Factory. 1884. 108-0111-053. CB.

This large four-story five-course American-bond brick

building is characterized by a standing-seam metal-sheathed gable roof, a decorative brick cornice, rows of segmental-head 6/6 sash windows, and a two-story wing. The cornice features corbeling, corner flues, and a gable on the south side with a circular vent and a recess for signage. The smaller wing is apparently an early (1884-1886) addition. Painted signage for Goodman's Furniture Company and the Old Dutch Super Market appear on the south and west walls, which are also painted white up to the sills of the second-story windows. The building has several freight doors, one with an early beaded tongue-and-groove door, and there are numerous eight-pointed star-shaped iron tie rod ends.

The interior of the building retains many early historic features. The four floors of the main section are supported by stout wooden posts and beams, some with chamfering. Alternating posts on the second floor have been taken down in order to adapt the space for dances. At the east end of the building are an early freight elevator and an enclosed stair with plain hand rails. At the east end of the first floor are remnants of an original office with a beaded vertical board wainscot, milled door surrounds, and evidence of a former fireplace. On the second floor is a back door with a paneled embrasure and a six-panel (three-and-three) door. In the one-story wing are counters that were used in the mid-twentieth century for a concession stand but which served another purpose in the late nineteenth century.

552 Spring Street is the largest industrial building in the Downtown Danville Historic District, and its historic function and connections with major tobacco manufacturing firms makes it one of the most significant buildings associated with Danville's tobacco trade. The building was constructed in 1884 as the tobacco factory of Charles H. Conrad & Company. In 1881 Conrad was manufacturing smoking tobacco on Spring Street; in 1886 Conrad & Covington operated a dry prizery at 552 Spring. By 1890 the $8,000 factory had been transferred to Dibrell Brothers, which

continued to use it as a dry prizery. Dibrell Brothers was one of Danville's larger tobacco concerns during the period, and the company made 552 Spring "Building No. 1" of a complex that included a two-story dry stem factory on the lot adjoining 552 Spring to the east (since demolished). By the mid-twentieth century, Dibrell Brothers had become "one of the nation's major tobacco dealers and exporters." In the early twentieth century the factory passed from Dibrell Brothers to a number of other firms, all of which used it for prizing and storing tobacco. Some firms used every floor for prizing, others used only the basement. Around 1930 the building was converted to automobile repair and refinishing. In the mid-twentieth century the building was occupied by a furniture store and a grocery. During this period the second floor was used for Moose Lodge dances and the upper floors were used as storage. Old counters in the one-story wing were used as part of a concession stand that catered to the dances.

58. **600 Block Spring St.** Danville City Market. Mid-1930s. 108-0111-054. CB.

This two-story building has a gabled center section with side sheds, corrugated metal siding and roofing, multi-pane metal industrial windows on the sides and clerestory, freight doors, and a concrete foundation. On the interior the building has exposed steel posts and roof trusses, a concrete floor, concrete-block restrooms, storage rooms, an office, wood-burning stoves with concrete-block flues, and wooden produce bins.

Danville has had a public market in its downtown since the early nineteenth century. In the 1820s the market was located near the intersection of Main and Craghead streets. After the Civil War a Market Square was developed--what is now South Market Street. When a new municipal building was constructed at the corner of Main and North Floyd streets around 1890, the market moved to the ground floor of the building's rear wing. Another market structure was provided

on the southwest corner of North Floyd and Spring streets at about the same time, and cattle pens were built on the northwest corner of the intersection. With the conversion of the 1890 market building to private commercial use in the 1920s, and the construction of the city auditorium in 1932 at the southwest corner of North Floyd and Spring, the market moved to temporary lodgings in several downtown tobacco warehouses. The present market building was constructed on the site of the cattle pens in 1935 or shortly after. Saturday is the traditional market day at the market.

59. **108-110 N. Union St.** *Ca.* 1885. 108-0111-055. CB.

This two-story brick building has a stretcher-bond front facade, five-course American-bond side elevations, a metal cornice above corbeled brickwork, segmental-head second-story 2/2 sash windows with scrolled ornament in the arches, two modern shop fronts (one with a mid-twentieth-century cream, green, and red terrazzo entry floor), and a decorative celotex ceiling in one interior.

108-110 North Union Street was apparently built before 1886, probably during the early 1880s. In 1886, 108 contained a saloon and 110 a billiard parlor, functions that probably reflect the building's location across from Danville's foremost hotel of the period (the Arlington Hotel) on North Union Street, a street lined with tobacco warehouses and factories and thronged with workers and farmers. A saloon operated in the building until after 1900; in 1898 John L. Cruse was proprietor of a saloon located in 108. Other businesses housed in the building through the early twentieth century include an upholstery and cabinet shop, a plumber, a clothes and shoes store, groceries, a bowling alley, a drugstore, and a hardware and tin shop.

60. **114 N. Union St.** Booth Brothers General Store. 1894-1899. 108-0111-076. NB.

This two-story brick building has a modern metal facade with earlier (but not original) display windows and an inset entry with glass doors and transom.

114 North Union Street was built between 1894 and 1899, according to Sanborn maps. In 1898 it was occupied by Booth Brothers general store. By 1904 a hardware store had taken up quarters in the building. In the 1910s and 1920s the Danville Hardware Company occupied the building and the upper part of an adjoining building. The company sold agricultural implements and stoves as well as other stock.

Next to 114 North Union Street on its north side is a modern parking lot that replaces the Central Warehouse, a tobacco warehouse that had retail space at street level.
Later the warehouse was used as a parking garage by the nearby Belk-Leggett's Department Store.

61. **200-208 N. Union St.** Fuller Hardware Building. 1903. 108-0111-056. CB.

This two-story brick building features a complex curved street facade enlivened by decorative fenestration and brickwork and a parapet bristling with gables, piers, and other projections. The building steps down North Floyd Street, following the natural slope of the site. At the highest point, the corner of Floyd and Spring streets, is a turret-like element above an inset corner entry to 200. The turret and other facade elements combine different forms of corbeling with projecting belt courses and recessed signage panels. The second-story windows are mostly round-arched 1/1 sash of varying widths and heights, with several square-head and segmental-head windows also. The building has several early shop fronts such as 206, which has curved display windows with copper stanchions, and 208, which has a diminutive inset corrugated metal lining. The rear elevation is more utilitarian, with barred and bricked-up

window openings and one-story wings. Along the base of the south elevation are decorative iron foundation vents.

The building's interior spaces vary in refinement according to the historic uses of the store spaces. 200 and 202, which were originally a grocery and a hardware store respectively, have conventional beaded tongue-and-groove ceilings. 204 originally contained a clothing store, and its ceiling is sheathed in decorative pressed metal with ornate bosses for suspended light fixtures. 204 also has a mezzanine accessed by a stair with turned balusters and decorative newel posts. 206 features a hand-operated hoist that uses a system of pulleys, shafts, and gears to lift freight. The second story of 208 (a large wedge-shaped early addition to the building) is supported by round log posts.

The commercial block at 200-208 North Union Street was largely constructed in 1903. The building occupies the site of J. W. & C. G. Holland's antebellum tobacco factory, which served as a prison for Federal officers during the Civil War. The building's earliest occupants were a grocery, a clothing store, and two hardware stores. An early and long-term occupant was the hardware store of Archer and Oscar Fuller, located at 202 and continued by the family until 1973. In addition to the Fullers, occupants of the building in 1927 included the Booth Brothers grocery (200), The Globe clothing store (204), and the New York Billiard Parlor (206). 208 was built shortly after the rest of the building using the same styling and materials. In 1915 the Auto Tire Repair Company was located on the ground floor of 208; later the unit was used as a hardware warehouse. 200-208 North Union Street remains to this day a little-altered architectural landmark in Danville's downtown.

62. **201 N. Union St.** First State Bank. 1915-1920. 108-0111-057. NB.

This two-story brick, concrete, and steel building has a pebble-dash exterior with metal and glass panels, and vertical metal siding and a drive-through canopy on the north elevation. On the north side of the building is a parking lot.

First State Bank originated from the Savings Bank of Danville, established in 1919 to serve Danville's African-American community. In 1924 the bank purchased 201-203 North Union, a two-story brick building that was probably built between 1915 and 1920. Renamed the Danville Savings Bank & Trust Company in 1925, the bank was one of only three black-owned banks in Virginia to weather the Depression. The bank building was given its present modern appearance in the 1960s according to a design by Martinsville architect James R. Eggleston. First State Bank continues in its role as the principal financial institution serving Danville's African-American community, and as one of the Commonwealth's most historic black-owned banks.

63. **210 N. Union St.** Krogers. *Ca.* 1930. 108-0111-058. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a plain facade with a recessed signage panel in the parapet, second-story square-head 1/1 sash windows, original wood and glass display windows and inset entry, and a ground floor interior with a pressed metal ceiling and wood shelving and counters from a former grocery store.

210 North Union Street was probably built around 1930. The original occupant of the building may have been a Krogers grocery store. The building may also have contained a furniture store. Since 1952 Beanie's Army and Navy Store has occupied the building.

64. **212 N. Union St.** 1920-1927. 108-0111-059. CB.

This two-story stretcher-bond brick building has a plain facade with a signage panel in the parapet, second-story square-head 1/1 sash windows, and a shop front with a transom, decorative display windows with a deep inset entry, and an Art Deco "S" decal in one window. The interior has a pressed metal ceiling. In front of the building is a decorative cast-iron sign post with a sign reading "North Union Place Parking." The sign points to a drive-through leading to a parking lot behind the building. This drive-through formerly served as the entrance to the Exchange Warehouse, a tobacco warehouse that occupied the parking lots behind. Over the drive-through is a room that is linked (spatially and architecturally) to the second story of 212.

212 North Union Street was built between 1920 and 1927. In 1927 the building was occupied by the furniture store of John W. Graves. Later it was probably occupied by the Sutherlin furniture store (hence the "S" decal in the front display window). 210 North Union, which is similar architecturally to 212, may be an original part of 212, or it may be an early addition.

65. **214-222 N. Union St.** Koplen's. 1915-1920? 108-0111-060. CB.

This three-story stretcher-bond brick building has a main block with an early addition on the north side. Both sections have corbeled cornices, square-head windows with false louvered wood shutters, and altered shop fronts. The shop front for 222 has replica late-nineteenth-century display windows, chamfered posts, and a stained glass door with a stained glass transom overhead reading "Abe Koplen Clothing Circa 1885." To the rear is a one-story brick wing. The ground-level interior has been modernized; the second story was never finished.

214-222 North Union Street appears to date to the late 1910s, or the building represents a substantial remodelling of a pre-1886 building located on the same site. The 1886 Sanborn map shows a three-story building on the site that historic photographs show to have been similar, but not identical to the present building. In 1886 a saloon, a cigar or cigarette wholesaler, and a fertilizer outlet were located at the address. In 1898 saloons run by Charles D. Cox and James M. Eller were located at the address, as was the Samuels & Abbott ten-pin alley. Other businesses of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included a grocery, a restaurant, a pool hall, and a furniture store. From 1886 until the early twentieth century, the upper floors were used as lodge halls, initially by the Odd Fellows (possibly the Lebanon Encampment No. 21). (The fact that the upper stories of the present building were never finished suggests that they were not used as meeting rooms, and therefore the present building antedates the first decade of the twentieth century.) In 1930 clothier Abe Koplen acquired part of the building, and over the years the Koplen store expanded into the rest of the building. The Koplen business was begun in 1884 by Russian-born Max Koplen. The Koplens remodeled the shop front of 222 North Union in 1986.

66. 215 N. **Union St.** Hippodrome Theatre. 1915-1920. 108-0111-061. CB.

This one-story brick building has been altered from its original two-story height. The building has a stretcher-bond front facade with modern display windows and mansard, five-course American-bond brick side elevations with bricked-up segmental-head window and door openings, and a rear brick addition.

215 North Union Street was built between 1915 and 1920. In 1920 its two occupants were the Hippodrome Theatre and the Hippodrome Barber Shop, both black-operated businesses. By the 1930s the building had been made into a furniture store.

67. **217 N. Union St.** 1915-1920. 108-0111-062. CB.

This one-story stretcher-bond brick building has a parapeted gable roof. The front parapet has a decorative peaked profile, soldier-course bands, and a signage panel flanked by circular recesses. The rear parapet is stepped. Other features of the building include a double shop front with early wood stanchions, transoms, and inset entries, and segmental-head door and window openings on the sides and rear.

217 North Union Street was built between 1915 and 1920. In 1920 the building contained a garage with a capacity of twenty cars. In 1927 this garage was known as the Truck & Tire Company, Inc. By the 1930s the building had been converted to retail use.

68. **224-226 N. Union St.** Merritt Building. *Ca.* 1880. 108-0111-063. CB.

This three-story brick building has a stuccoed upper facade with segmental-head 2/2 and 6/6 sash windows bordered with permastone, two star-shaped tie rod ends, and letters spelling "Merritt Building." At street level are modern glass and permastone shop fronts with inset entries. More original fabric survives on the rear elevation, which has segmental-head doors and 6/6 sash windows, and an early one-story brick wing (a boiler room?) with a decorative beaded tongue-and-groove freight door.

224-226 North Union Street was probably built between 1875 and 1886, although it is possible that it is slightly earlier. In 1886 the building contained the Lipscomb & Brook Dry Prizery. By 1890 the building had been converted into a furniture store, identified as the Union Furniture Company in 1898. The building remained a furniture store for many years, but by 1927 its ground floor was occupied by

a pool room and cafe and its upper floors were used as meeting rooms by a black Masonic lodge.

69. **230-234 N. Union St.** 1930s. 108-0111-075. CB.

230-234 North Union appears to have been built around 1930 or during the 1930s as a commercial building. Either the present building or an earlier one-story building on the same site contained in 1927 Gregory's Cut Rate Grocery and two black-operated businesses, the Progressive Shoe Repair Shop and the restaurant of B. W. Mason. The rear wing may be a slightly earlier building (late 1910s) that functioned as a blacksmith shop in 1920 and as a bottle storage building later.

70. **231-233 N. Union St.** *Ca.* 1885. 108-0111-064. CB.

This three-story stretcher-bond brick building has a facade with two corner piers and two close-set middle piers. Between the two middle piers in the parapet is a round-head recess. The upper-story front windows are square-head 1/1 and are grouped in banks of three. The segmental-head side and rear door and window openings have been bricked or boarded up. The shop fronts are modern. Behind the building is a stuccoed two-story brick wing that was originally three stories in height.

231-233 North Union Street was probably built between 1875 and 1886, probably nearer to the latter date. In 1886 the building contained a grocery and a furniture and glassware store on the first story and a saloon in the rear wing. Other establishments in the building during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included a bakery, an undertaker, a drugstore, a pool hall, and a commercial laundry. In 1927 the Union Drug Company, a black-operated business, and Duke's Market were located in the building.

71. **105 S. Union St.** Masonic Building. 1921-1922. 108-0111-065. CB.

This concrete and steel high-rise building has two ten-story blocks linked together in a U-shaped plan and faced in glazed white architectural terra-cotta. The two-story base of the building has Tudor-arched bays containing shop fronts, windows, and metal spandrels featuring tracery-like ornament. A metal awnings with Gothic ornament shelters the the principal entry; modern metal awnings shelter the shop fronts. The principal entry on South Union, located at the base of the ten-story shaft at the center of the "U," has an enriched Tudor-arched screen surmounted by a large spread eagle and the inscription "Masonic Temple"--all formed from white terra-cotta. Stories three through eight are utilitarian in styling, with square-head 3/3 sash windows set into shallow vertical recesses. The two stories at the top of the building are taller than the other stories and are separated from them by a double cove cornice. The ninth story has tall square-head 6/6 sash windows. The tenth story has Tudor-arched windows between richly ornamented capitals. The parapet is composed of several cornices. The rear (east) elevation is faced in stretcher-bond brick painted a buff color.

The principal spaces on the building's interior are as richly and imaginatively ornamented as the exterior. The South Union entry opens into a lobby with walls and floors of white marble and a frieze formed by cast rosettes. Shop windows and display cases line the two sides of the lobby; at the rear are two elevators. On the tenth floor are the Masonic meeting rooms. In the south arm of the "U" is the ballroom, lined with pilasters supporting gilded capitals and provided with a band balcony. At the north end of the floor is the lodge room itself, which features Egyptian decoration. Rows of seats on a ramped floor face a stage that is flanked by squat round pillars with lotus capitals, brightly painted plaster sphinxes, and pyramids. Over the stage is a gold sun disk with vulture wings and asps. The lotus capitals are repeated on the pilasters that line the

room and support a deeply coffered ceiling.

Danville's Roman Eagle Lodge No. 122 of Masons was established in 1820. The lodge first occupied the southeast corner of Main and South Union streets in the early 1850s when it built an imposing brick temple and commercial building. The antebellum building was replaced in 1901 by a sophisticated Chateauesque building that burned in the destructive Masonic Temple Fire of January 3, 1920. On December 10, 1921, the cornerstone was laid for the Masons' third temple on the site, a ten-story fire-proof building that was Danville's first skyscraper. The building was designed by West Virginia architect Fred F. Farris and cost $550,000 to build.

In addition to proclaiming the wealth and influence of the Roman Eagle Lodge, the Masonic Building was intended to relieve a shortage of modern office space in the downtown. Attorneys, insurance agents, utility officers, and a host of other professionals rented space in the building, and in 1928 a number of city employees including Mayor Harry Wooding had their offices there. The Masonic Building remains the downtown's principal office building, and it is one of only two skyscrapers (the other being the nine-story 1927 Hotel Danville). The eclectic styling, glistening terra-cotta facades, and imaginative interiors contribute to the building's status as an architectural landmark.

72. 115-117 S. **Union St.** Register and Bee Building. 1899-1904. 108-0111-066. NB.

This two-story brick building is actually two buildings joined under a single concrete facade. The facade has vertical and horizontal scorings and square-head metal windows and probably dates to the period just after World War II. Original stretcher-bond brickwork and segmental-head door and window openings (most bricked up) are apparent on the north side elevation. Other features of the building include an angled corner entry to 115, modern

brick and glass shop fronts under a wood-shingled mansard, and a later rear addition.

115-117 South Union Street incorporates two altered buildings of approximately the same age. 115 South Union was built between 1899 and 1904 for the Register Publishing Company and was known as the Register and Bee Building. Danville's principal historic (and present) newspaper was published in the building. The press was located in the basement, offices occupied the ground floor, and the second story was used for composing. Damage sustained from the Masonic Temple Fire of January 3, 1920 combined with a desire for more sumptuous quarters prompted a move down the street to the Rorer A. James Memorial Building (108-111-70). The Register and Bee Building formerly had a Neoclassical facade with a parapet balustrade and cornice, round- and jack-arched-head windows on the front, and a pedimented surround for the angled corner entry.

Boatwright Brothers Company was the early and probable original occupant of 117 South Union. The building was built between 1899 and 1904, possibly after 115 South Union. Boatwright was a printing and stationery plant. In 1910 the building was occupied by a bookstore. Later a furniture store was located in the building, and in 1920 an automobile showroom occupied the address.

73. **118 S. Union St.** 1904-1910. 108-0111-067. CB.

This narrow two-story building has a facade with pressed stretcher-bond brickwork. The peaked parapet has corbeling, and a single large second-story window is contained under a round arch bordered by projecting brick. The window has three 1/1 sash windows under transoms with Roman-inspired reticulated muntins. The first story of the facade has a metal shop front cornice and a modern shop front.

118 South Union Street was built between 1904 and 1910. The

building is similar in styling to its neighbor and near contemporary, 120-126 South Union, although it has a red brick facade whereas 120-126 uses buff brick. 118 South Union housed a tailor shop in 1910.

74. **119-121 S. Union St.** Pythian Building. 1877-1885. 108-0111-068. CB.

This four-story brick building has five-course American-bond brickwork at the top of the side elevations, a standing-seam metal-sheathed gable roof with a front overhang supported by decorative wood brackets, a textural stuccoed front facade with soldier belt courses running at the base of the fourth-story windows and forming a pediment-like motif in the gable, mid-twentieth-century metal windows (smaller on the fourth story than the second and third), a brick-lined circular recess containing the letters "KP" in the gable, a front fire escape, and modern metal and white brick shop fronts.

The core of 119-121 South Union Street, also known as the Pythian Building, was apparently built between 1877 and 1885 as a carriage store for the firm of New & Miller. A depiction of the building in Edward Pollock's "Illustrated Sketch Book of Danville, Virginia" shows a three-story structure with a decorative brick parapet, a row of six segmental-head windows across the front upper stories, and considerable painted signage including a possible 1885 date in the parapet. New & Miller advertised itself as a wholesaler and retailer in carriages, wagons, and harnesses, one of two in the city in 1885. In 1886 the harnesses were sold out of the 119 half of the building, a "carriage repository" was located in 121, and a stable occupied the basement. By 1890 a bridge had been constructed between the third story of the building and the carriage factory of W. P. Horner & Company, located to the rear on Patton Street. The building was used to sell carriages into the first decade of the twentieth century. By 1899 the Knights of Pythias Phoenix Lodge No. 62 had moved into the third story

of the building. English-born contractor Charles Orchard moved into 121 by 1913, and proceeded to sell mantels, tiles, grates, and interior marble work for commercial and residential buildings. In 1913 Orchard employed thirty to sixty tradesmen in plastering, marble, and concrete work. Shortly after Orchard moved into 119-121 South Union, the building was raised to four stories and the present stuccoed facade was created. It seems likely that this work was done by Orchard.

75. **120-126 S. Union St.** 1904-1910. 108-0111-069. CB.

This two-story buff stretcher-bond brick building has four discrete facades facing South Union with imaginative parapets. 120 has a Baroque pedimented parapet with a round-head recess. 126 has a round-arched parapet crest with a keystone-like motif formed out of bricks. The other parapets feature a variety of corbeling, recesses, and projecting piers. The second-story facades have round-head windows linked by projecting belt courses that are interrupted by vertical piers. The side elevation on Patton Street features round- and segmental-head 1/1 and 2/2 sash windows and a large segmental-head entry that formerly provided ingress to a livery stable. Most street-level shop fronts have been altered, although two retain early metal cornices. The rear elevation is constructed of five-course American-bond red brick and has square-head 6/6 sash windows.

120-126 South Union Street was built as a multi-tenant commercial block between 1904 and 1910. The building may be the same as the C. C. Dula Block. A large portion of the building was originally occupied by the J. A. Lawson & Company livery stable, established in 1889. Other early tenants included a tailor, a tin shop, a furniture store, a restaurant, and a printing establishment. A plaque in the parking lot behind the building commemorates the True Friends of Charity, an African-American organization that

maintained a meeting hall on Patton Street during the late nineteenth century.

76. 125 S. **Union St.** James A. Rorer Memorial Building. 1922. 108-0111-070. CB.

This two-story concrete-frame building has an exterior facing of matte grayish granitic terra-cotta "blocks." The terra-cotta is formed into a number of sophisticated features such as a cornice with dentils, moldings, and fleurs-de-lis and lion head ornament; a plain parapet bearing the inscription "Rorer A. James" on the front (South Union Street) facade and "The Register/Associated Press Papers/The Bee" on the south (Patton Street) elevation; a frieze with cartouches and arabesques; a front facade with fluted columns in antis and an entry surround with the figure of a newsboy in place of a keystone; a south elevation with smooth flat pilasters (both the columns in antis and the pilasters have similar capitals); front and side windows with enriched surrounds with molded keystones and paterae between the first- and second-story windows; and an enriched watertable course. The front facade also has polychrome terra-cotta used to form the portico ceiling and two display cases with scrolled pediments. Extending to the rear is a one-story 1940s addition with a basement that has a granitic terra-cotta facing similar to that of the original building and garage doors.

The interior was greatly altered in the early 1940s and again in the early 1960s. The lobby has remnants of polychrome plaster ornament above a drop ceiling. Other features include a stair with metal rails and balusters, floors formed of concrete poured onto a structure of corrugated metal pipe halves, a wood-paneled editor's office, and massive concrete foundations in the basement of the 1940s addition that formerly supported the presses. Due to a faulty roof, the interior of the building is in a seriously deteriorated state, although the building exterior is in mint condition.

125 South Union Street, known as the Rorer A. James Memorial Building, was built in 1921 for the Danville Register and Bee newspaper. Prior to the construction of the building the newspaper maintained offices in the Register and Bee Building (108-111-66) nearby at 115-117 South Union. The building was structured so that it could support an eleven-story high-rise to complement the ten-story Masonic Building on the corner of Main and South Union. The interior of the building was remodeled in the early 1940s and again in the early 1960s, and the spectacular Neo-Adamesque lobby was concealed beneath drop ceilings. The styling of the building suggests it may have been designed by the Raleigh, N. C. architectural firm of H. A. Underwood & Company, architect of the 1927 Hotel Danville, another Neoclassical building that uses granitic terra-cotta. 125 South Union Street is the principal historic building associated with Danville's premier newspaper and is an important architectural landmark in the city's downtown.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Downtown Danville Historic District is located at the historic center of Danville, a tobacco and textile manufacturing city of the southern Virginia Piedmont. The district has served as the civic and commercial heart of the city from the 1790s to the present. Danville's principal historic retail establishments, banks, hotels, theaters, and lodges are clustered in the 25-acre district, as are its Municipal Building and Post Office and several tobacco factories. The importance of these buildings to the life of the city is reflected in their architectural sophistication and often monumental size. Even today, 1920s high-rise buildings such as the Masonic Building and the Hotel Danville dominate the Danville skyline, and structures in a wide range of popular late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century styles contribute to the visual interest and variety of the city's streetscapes.

Justification of Criteria

The Downtown Danville Historic District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under a number of criteria and areas of significance. The district is significant under Criterion A as the principal historic commercial center for the City of Danville. The district is also eligible in the areas of government and social history, as the governmental heart of Danville and as the locus of its principal fraternal and civic organizations. The district includes two commercial districts and individually notable buildings associated with Danville's African-American community, making it important in the area of black ethnic heritage. In addition, the district embraces one of Danville's several historic industrial complexes--a group of four or five nineteenth-century tobacco factories and a twentieth-century clothing factory--rendering it significant in the industrial history of the city. The architectural character of the fifty contributing buildings within the district (two previously listed buildings and forty-eight previously unlisted buildings out of a total of seventy-six previously listed and unlisted resources) renders it eligible under Criterion C. The district includes a range of building types from modest one-story store buildings to lavishly ornamented skyscrapers, as well as representatives of most late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century styles and building materials. The period of significance for the district extends from 1875, the construction date of the earliest known surviving building in the district, until 1943, the eve of the post-war shift in commercial development to suburban Danville. The district is of statewide significance to the history and architecture of Virginia.

Historical Background

Danville, Virginia, is located at the southern end of Pittsylvania County in the southern Virginia Piedmont. The original town--roughly corresponding to the central spine of the Downtown Danville Historic District--was laid out on the south side of the Dan River at Wynne's Falls, an important regional crossing. The rich bottom lands of the Dan River and its tributaries in Virginia and North Carolina constituted an important agricultural resource, and the river itself served to transport agricultural produce to market. As in other sections of the Virginia Piedmont, tobacco developed as the principal cash crop of the Dan River valley. For much of the late eighteenth century, the valley's farmers hauled their tobacco overland to inspection points in Lynchburg or distant Petersburg, but in 1793 a group of tobacco planters petitioned the Virginia legislature for the establishment of an inspection warehouse at Wynne's Falls and a town to serve as a support community for the warehouse.[17] From 1793 through the nineteenth century, the regional expansion of tobacco production and innovations in its cultivation and manufacture stimulated the development of Danville.

During the 1790s, Danville was "little more than a transshipment point with a store, tavern, and tobacco warehouse [and] few permanent residents."[18] Development began to pick up after 1800, with the establishment of a post office, an academy, and a toll bridge across the Dan.[19] More important were the activities of the Roanoke Navigation Company, which constructed a canal around Wynne's Falls by 1818 and undertook improvements up and down the Dan River that greatly facilitated the transportation of tobacco to market.[20] Population estimates for the town during the 1830s vary from about 500 to 1,000 inhabitants.[21] At the time, Danville was locked in competition for the local tobacco trade with the town of Milton, N.C., located ten miles downstream on the Dan. Danville entrepreneurs first agitated for a rail connection to Richmond in 1837, and their dream was finally realized in 1856 with the completion of the Richmond and Danville Railroad.[22] Danville's population increased from 1,500 in 1850 to 3,700 in 1860, a consequence of the rail connection to outside markets, the rise in tobacco prices during the late 1840s and 1850s, and the emergence of Danville as an important tobacco manufacturing center.[23] The town of Milton, bypassed by the railroads, became an economic backwater, and consequently it preserves to this day the scale and atmosphere that characterized Danville until the 1850s.

Tobacco manufacturing in antebellum Virginia responded to the nation-wide rise in the popularity of chewing tobacco. Consumers preferred bright leaf tobacco, a variety that was well adapted to the soils of Pittsylvania and adjoining counties. Unlike heavier and darker varieties, bright leaf was not conducive to prizing, or compression in wooden hogsheads for shipment to market. The fragility of the bright leaf contributed to what became known as the Danville System of tobacco trading, where the tobacco leaves were taken to the warehouse unprized and auctioned

in loose piles that enabled the buyer to more accurately determine the quality of his purchase.[24] The rise of the new system and other developments contributed to Danville's growth as a tobacco market, and consequently to the rise of its tobacco manufacturing sector. In 1836, Danville supported two tobacco factories; by 1860 the number had grown to ten.[25]

During this period, Danville's commercial district continued to develop along the town's principal thoroughfare, Main Street. An early Danville resident, Thompson Coleman, has left a detailed description of the town as it was when he first settled there in 1829. "The trade of the place was in general merchandise, like that of the country stores of the present period [Coleman was writing in 1885], and was mostly carried on by barter for country produce, including whiskey and bacon, which were staples of this section of country at that time." Thompson described a diversified Main Street with the shops of tradesmen such as tailors, hatters, shoemakers, and tin- and silversmiths mixed in among commercial establishments. Thompson listed about five stores total, of which only two were "regular," and he noted that the market-house, an open post-supported structure, stood in the center of Craghead Street (near the eastern tip of the Downtown Danville Historic District).[26] A slightly later account of the town (1836) lists nine miscellaneous stores, three groceries, and two banks, in addition to the usual complement of tradesmen.[27] Danville was served by two taverns in 1836. One of these was the house of entertainment kept by James M. Williams, Sr., located at the foot of Main Street adjacent to the bridge over the Dan and the canal of the Roanoke Navigation Company. The other was the three-story brick building known as the Red Castle, located on the northwest corner of Main and Union streets.[28] The Red Castle was probably the first of a long line of hotels built on this site.

Union Street marked the western limit of Danville's antebellum commercial district. By the 1850s, congestion on the lower reaches of Main Street had become a concern. When the Roman Eagle Lodge of Masons proposed to construct a large brick temple on Craghead Street in the heart of the commercial district, the business community urged the lodge to build instead on the southeast corner of Main and Union, fearing that otherwise "the town would not spread and the houses for business be crowded."[29] The concern about crowding was largely a concern about fire. Indeed, fire proved to be the bane of Danville's business district into the twentieth century.

Danville is known as the "Last Capital of the Confederacy" owing to the brief sojourn of the Confederate government after the evacuation of Richmond. Despite Danville's role during the Confederacy's troubled last days, the Civil War left the city virtually unscathed. Danville entered Reconstruction with a competitive advantage over the devastated tobacco centers of Richmond and Petersburg. Warehouse sales of tobacco in Danville rose from 10.6 million pounds in 1870 to 30.5 million pounds in 1880, and Danville emerged as the dominant tobacco market in the bright leaf belt of Virginia and North Carolina.[30] Tobacco manufacturing

continued its antebellum growth. In 1878, Danville boasted twenty factories for the manufacture of plug and twist tobacco, two for smoking tobacco, one stripping and stemming establishment, and seventy-three "houses concerned in reprizing, buying on order, etc."[31] One observer commented, "The manufacture of tobacco would seem to be the most lucrative business in this section."[32]

The magnitude of tobacco manufacture was reflected in the number and size of the city's tobacco factories. "Danville presents a spectacle almost as anomalous as if a square mile of New York or Chicago were to be suddenly translated to a picturesque valley," wrote one of the city's boosters in describing the "magnificent, substantial brick factories" that crowded the downtown.[33] Multi-story factories for the prizing of tobacco after sale and prior to shipment were built in the area to the south of Main Street (many are included in the Danville Tobacco Warehouse and Residential District) and to the north along High Street. Four (and possibly remnants of a fifth) of these "dry prizeries" dating to the late 1870s and early 1880s are located in the Downtown Danville Historic District near the intersection of High and Floyd streets.[34] After the Civil War, as before, the labor force employed in the tobacco factories was primarily African-American.[35]

In the early 1880s, Danville's tobacconists began to channel some of their profits into textile manufacturing. They formed Gerst Brothers & Company, the Morotock Manufacturing Company, and Riverside Cotton Mills and erected large brick factories along the river. By 1900, textiles had become a major component of the Danville economy. In 1907, the Morotock Manufacturing Company constructed a four-story factory at the southeast corner of Floyd and Spring streets. The company produced work clothing including the Bandana, New South, Chief, Southern, Elk High Back, and National overall lines, and employed 125 persons in 1913, "the pick of [Danville's] textile workers."[36]

The economic stimulus of the expanding tobacco and textile industries spurred the growth of the city's population after the Civil War. Danville's population increased from around 5,000 after the war to over 10,000 in 1890, 16,000 in 1900, and 19,000 in 1910. After 1910 the population rose more gradually, with the exception of the decade of the 1930s, when despite the Depression the population jumped from about 22,000 in 1930 to nearly 33,000 in 1940.[37]

Danville's commercial district mirrored the city's economic good fortunes. The first Sanborn map of Danville, dating to 1886, shows solid construction on both sides of Main Street from Bridge Street near the river to just above Union Street, a distance of nearly a quarter mile. The more sparsely developed block between Union and Floyd streets was occupied by the city's leading hotels--the five-story Arlington Hotel and the three-story Hotel Normandie (then under construction)--and the impressive United States Court House and Post Office. Over the

following decades, this block too became built-up, and commercial development spread into the next block west, between Floyd and Ridge streets. Commercial buildings also sprang up along the cross streets that connected Main Street to the tobacco warehouse and factory districts to the north and south. By 1877, the public market had moved from Craghead Street to Market Square on a newly-opened cross street, South Market Street.[38] In 1890, the market moved again to the rear wing of the new Municipal Building on the northwest corner of Main and Floyd streets. The market moved one last time in the mid-1930s to its present quarters, a large metal-sided building on Spring Street.[39]

Banking became an increasingly important function of the downtown. By 1913, five banks had located in Danville with total deposits exceeding $4 million.[40] Most banks occupied prime street frontage in the more fashionable Main Street commercial blocks. The intersection of Main and Market streets developed into a popular banking corner. In 1933, the American National Bank constructed a conservative modernistic building on the corner at 336 Main facing the First National Bank of Danville across the street at 337-341 Main.[41] Another important downtown activity was newspaper publishing. *The Danville Register*, published under that name since 1851, gravitated towards South Union Street, where it shared office space with *The Bee* after 1900.[42]

Vaudeville houses and theaters sprang up in the downtown during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Principal among these was the Danville Academy of Music, also known as the Opera House. This substantial brick building of the late 1880s featured an auditorium with multiple balconies. Later occupied by a number of cinemas, the Academy of Music survives in truncated form as 539-547 Main Street. Movie theaters were housed in the Hotel Leeland at 601-623 Main Street, the Hotel Danville at 600 Main Street, the Hippodrome Theatre at 215 North Union, and the Broadway Theatre at 409 Main Street. During the 1920s, several of these theaters were operated by the Southern Amusement Company. In 1922 the company built a sumptuous, terra-cotta-faced Neoclassical building at 549 Main Street to serve as a lobby and office block associated with a theater that it turns out was never built.[43]

Danville's merchants and their employees were a diverse group during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The downtown clerical force was largely female; the fire of January 3, 1920, that destroyed an entire block of businesses along Main Street, left as many as 175 young female clerks and office workers temporarily unemployed.[44] Probably the majority of the leading merchants were long-term citizens of the city. Others came from the surrounding countryside or from other Virginia cities. A number of the city's clothiers were Jewish. Jacob Berman, born in Poland, settled in Danville somewhat by accident, having set out from New York to start a business in Milton, N.C., after the Civil War. Stopping in Danville for lunch, Berman was befriended by Danville's future mayor, Harry Wooding, who rented Berman retail

space and established him in business.[45] Another Jewish clothier, Russian native Max Koplen, first came to Danville in the early 1880s as a peddler employed by a Baltimore firm. Liking what he saw, he purchased a small stock of dry goods and kitchen ware and returned to Danville to open a store. The Koplen clothing store continues to flourish at 214 North Union, and Berman's does a brisk trade from its location at 406 Main.[46]

Danville's African-American community became active in the commercial life of the downtown at an early date. In fact, the earliest known photograph of a commercial building in Danville, believed to have been taken in the 1850s, may show the Main Street barber shop of George Davis, a free black.[47] In the early 1880s, during a period of African-American participation in the governing of the city, black merchants rented twenty of the twenty-four stalls in the city market on South Market Street.[48] Small black commercial enclaves developed along South Market Street, where two black-owned restaurants, a grocery, and a barbershop were located in 1898, and in the 200 block of North Union Street.[49] Black-owned businesses along North Union in 1927 included three restaurants, two tailors, two drugstores, a barber shop, a shoe repair shop, two pool rooms, a theater, and a bank.[50] The theater was the Hippodrome Theatre at 215 North Union, which survives in greatly altered form. The bank was the Danville Savings Bank and Trust Company, established in 1919 and located at 201 North Union since 1924. Now known as the First State Bank, the Danville Savings Bank and Trust Company was one of only three black-owned Virginia banks to weather the depression of the 1930s, and today it is one of the oldest continuously operated black banks in the commonwealth.[51]

Another important institution in Danville's African-American community was the Southern Aid Society of Virginia, an insurance company based in Richmond. In 1916 the company built the Southern Aid Building at 212-216 North Ridge, a classical two-story brick building. The Southern Aid Society claimed that "by fostering self-help and thrift among its policyholders, this Company prevents distress even in the humblest home during periods of disability and death."[52] Another insurance agency that catered to Danville's African-American community was the Richmond Beneficial Insurance Company. In the 1930s, this firm occupied a two-story brick building at 518 Spring Street that stands today just outside the historic district.

The growth of Danville in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries also led to a proliferation of fraternal and civic organizations. Many of these established their meeting halls in the downtown area. In 1885, there were ten "secret and benevolent orders" in Danville. The oldest brotherhood is the Roman Eagle Lodge of Masons, founded in 1820. Since the 1850s, the Roman Eagle Lodge has occupied three buildings at the southeast corner of Main and Union streets; all three buildings incorporated commercial rental space on the ground floor. The present Masonic Building, Danville's first skyscraper, was constructed in 1921-1922 to alleviate a shortage of office space in the downtown.[53]

The Downtown Danville Historic District features other buildings associated with fraternal and civic organizations. These include the 1912 Elks Home at 560 Main; the 1880 Morning Star Elks Lodge at 608 High Street (originally built as a tobacco factory but used since the middle of the twentieth century by Danville's black Elks); and the *ca.* 1885 Pythian Building at 119-121 South Union (remodelled in the early 1910s). The Sanborn maps reveal that the upper floors of many extant commercial buildings were occupied by lesser, often unnamed organizations.

Downtown Danville naturally developed as the governmental center of the city. As originally established in 1793, Danville was governed by a group of twelve trustees. The trustees were superceded by an elected council in 1833, with James Lanier as the town's first mayor. A notable chapter in the history of Danville's municipal government was a period in the early 1880s when the city's black majority elected a majority of the town council and secured other important posts.[54] Black governance, brought to an end by the notorious Danville Riot of 1883, was followed by over a half-century of dominance by the white business community.[55]

Danville's city government gained luxurious quarters in 1873 with the construction of a Renaissance Revival-style City Court House on Patton Street. Some of the government functions were moved in 1890 to a new Romanesque Revival-style Municipal Building on the northwest corner of Main and Floyd streets. In the 1920s, both the 1873 and 1890 buildings were torn down and the government was consolidated in the stately Neoclassical-style Municipal Building of 1926-1927, constructed on the site of the 1873 building at 418 Patton Street. A modern concrete Courts and Jail Building was constructed next door in 1975.[56] The federal government has maintained a presence in Danville's downtown since the completion in 1883 of a monumental Romanesque Revival-style Court House and Post Office on the 500 block of Main Street. In 1932, the post office moved to its present quarters, a modernistic limestone-faced building at 700 Main Street.

As Danville passed into the second quarter of the twentieth century, the steady growth of the downtown commercial district began to decelerate. The flush decade of the 1920s contributed two skyscrapers to the downtown, the ten-story 1921-1922 Masonic Building and the ten-story 1926-1928 Hotel Danville, and in 1925 Danville ranked first among Virginia's major cities in the number of building permits issued, but the depression of the 1930s had a drastic effect on the city's retail trade and consequently on downtown construction.[57] Total retail sales in the city dropped from $29.7 million in 1929 to $15.8 million in 1933. The apparel trade, concentrated in the downtown, suffered the most.[58] Economic prosperity returned after World War II, but suburban commercial strips such as Highway 58 in North Danville siphoned off development from the center city. Despite the suburban growth of the city, the downtown remains to the present day the principal commercial and civic center of Danville.

Two hundred years of development in Danville has resulted in an architecture that reflects the commercial, industrial, and social life of the city. The buildings of Danville's downtown are the product of accomplished local architects as well as designers from elsewhere in Virginia and the Eastern United States. Other buildings, more utilitarian in character, are the work of practical-minded local builders who employed stock forms and details. The buildings of the downtown display a range of styles, construction techniques, and materials that is notable in the state. Together these buildings form historic streetscapes of a distinctive character that arises from the accretionary growth of the downtown over an undulating terrain. Curving and sloping streets, axial realignments, and closed perspectives create a spatial complexity reminiscent of a European city.

Endnotes

1. The project leading to this National Register nomination was initiated by the City of Danville and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR). A number of individuals in these two agencies assisted the project. Gerald L. Fischer of the Danville Community Development and Engineering Department provided guidance throughout the project, as did David Edwards of the VDHR. Julie Vosmik and Joseph White of the VDHR helped with the particulars of project logistics and in the computerization of data. Others who assisted the project included Danville historian Gary Grant, the Danville Public Library, the Danville Area Chamber of Commerce, the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, the Virginia-North Carolina Piedmont Genealogical Society, and the Virginia State Library.

2. Pollock, *Illustrated Sketch Book of Danville, Virginia*, pp. 20-27.

3. Virginia State Library, Board of Public Works Papers. Danville and Wytheville Turnpike, Field Notes (1827).

4. Pollock, pp. 134-135; Brubaker, *The Last Capital*, p. 15.

5. Fountain, *Danville, A Pictorial History*, pp. 18-19.

6. *Roman Eagle Lodge*, pp. 43-45; Bishir et al, *Architects and Builders in North Carolina*, pp. 150, 161.

7. All of these buildings are pictured in Fountain.

8. Fountain, pp. 58, 107; Sanborn maps.

9. Sanborn maps.

10. Closs, "Hotel Danville," p. 7.3.

11. Fountain, p. 73.

12. Wells, *The Virginia Architects*; Pollock, pp. 181-182; Isaacs, *The City of Danville, Virginia*, p. 54.

13. Isaacs, p. 50.

14. Ibid., p. 61.

15. Chambers, *Lynchburg, An Architectural History*, p. 359; Wells.

16. WPA, *Virginia, A Guide to the Old Dominion*, p. 597.

17. Siegel, *The Roots of Southern Distinctiveness*, pp. 27-28.

18. Ibid., p. 29.

19. Ibid., pp. 69-30.

20. Ibid., p. 30; Grant et al, *Danville Tobacco Warehouse and Residential District*, p. 7.3.

21. Fountain, p. 21; Martin, *A new and comprehensive gazetteer of Virginia*, p. 261.

22. Siegel, pp. 55, 56, and 108.

23. Ibid., p. 105.

24. Ibid., pp. 122-125; Mainwaring, *Community in Danville, Virginia, 1880-1963*, pp. 57-58.

25. Martin, p. 261; Arnold, *History of the Tobacco Industry in Virginia from 1860 to 1894*, p. 59.

26. Pollock, pp. 20-27.

27. Martin, p. 261.

28. Pollock, pp. 20-27.

29. *Roman Eagle Lodge*, p. 43.

30. Smith, *Mill on the Dan*, p. 8.

31. *Danville as a Tobacco Center*, p. 2.

32. Ibid.

33. Pollock, p. 181.

34. 1886 Sanborn map of Danville. These factories are located at 539 High Street, 543-547 High Street, 608 High Street, and 552 Spring Street. A fifth tobacco factory stands at 224-226 North Union Street.

35. Siegel, pp. 129-131.

36. Isaacs, p. 62; Harvey, *Historical and Commercial History of the State of Virginia*, pp. 236-237. The Riverside Overall Company, another clothing manufacturer located in the district, acquired and expanded an 1870s tobacco factory at 543-547 High Street during the early twentieth century.

37. Bureau of Population, *Economic Survey of Danville, Virginia*, p. 5. Growth in the city's population during the 1930s may be due to an influx of farm laborers displaced by the Depression.

38. Beers, *Topographical Map of Danville, Virginia*; Pollock, p. 136.

39. Closs, p. 8.1.

40. Isaacs, p. 16.

41. *The Danville Register*, February 19, 1934.

42. Pollock, pp. 105-106; Isaacs, p. 32.

43. Danville Historical Society. *Eighteenth Annual Walking Tour*, p. 12.

44. *The Danville Register*, January 9, 1920.

45. Fountain, p. 78.

46. Interview with Albert Koplen, grandson of Max Koplen, Danville, Va., January 30, 1993. Jacob Berman and Max Koplen joined a Jewish community that had been established in Danville during the antebellum period.

47. Fountain, pp. 18-19.

48. Pollock, p. 86.

49. *Danville City Directory, 1898-1899*, p. 16.

50. Miller, *Danville, Virginia City Directory, 1927*, p. 533.

51. WPA, p. 83.

52. *The Danville Register*, Rotogravure Section (*ca.* 1930).

53. *Roman Eagle Lodge*, p. 45; *The Danville Register*, January 9, 1920.

54. Dabney, *Virginia, The New Dominion*, p. 391.

55. Mainwaring, pp. 122, 207.

56. Cahill and Grant, *Victorian Danville*, pp. 93-94.

57. Closs, p. 8.1.

58. Virginia State Planning Board, *Notes on Danville, Virginia*, pp. 27-29.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries of the Downtown Danville Historic District are portrayed on the accompanying 1:200-scale map entitled "Downtown Danville Historic District," based on City of Danville tax maps. Essentially, the boundaries follow property lines and streets to enclose an area of roughly 25 acres.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The main criterion for the inclusion of historic (pre-1944) resources in the Downtown Danville Historic District is the role those resources played in the commercial and civic life of Danville's downtown. A secondary qualifying concern is the architectural character and integrity of those resources and their immediate surroundings. Consequently, an effort has been made to include blocks of contiguous commercial and civic buildings that are clustered along Main Street (the principal commercial corridor) and intersecting streets, and also more isolated, outlying buildings of outstanding architectural quality or historic importance. The outcome is a four-armed form with Main Street as the spine and arms extending along North Union Street to include the notable group of early commercial buildings on the 200 block of that street; along South Union Street to include the 1927 Municipal Building at 418 Patton Street; along North Floyd Street to include a complex of nineteenth-century tobacco factories, the 1916 Southern Aid Building, and the 1935 City Market; and along South Floyd Street to include the 1917 Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Company. The 300 block (north side) of Main Street--the last block of contiguous historic buildings as one heads downhill towards the Dan River--anchors the east end of the district. The west end of the district is anchored by the 1932 Danville Post Office. The 300 (south side) and 500 (north side) blocks of Main Street have been omitted from the district owing to the presence of large modern buildings and extensive parking lots.

Several buildings that are adjacent to the district but have been excluded deserve comment. On the 100 block (west side) of South Ridge Street is the historic Odd Fellows Building. This building would have been included in the district with other buildings associated with prominent civic organizations, but as an altered single building surrounded by parking lots and a busy thoroughfare, it was felt that inclusion could not be justified. On the 600 block (north side) of High Street are High Street Baptist Church and a row of worker housing that have been excluded. Although these buildings are of sufficient architectural interest and integrity, their exclusion is justified by their historic functions, which do not fit the commercial, civic, and industrial themes of the district. These buildings may constitute part of another, principally residential, historic district extending to the north of the Downtown Danville Historic District.

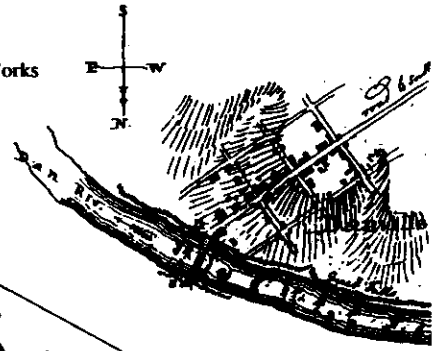
DOWNTOWN DANVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

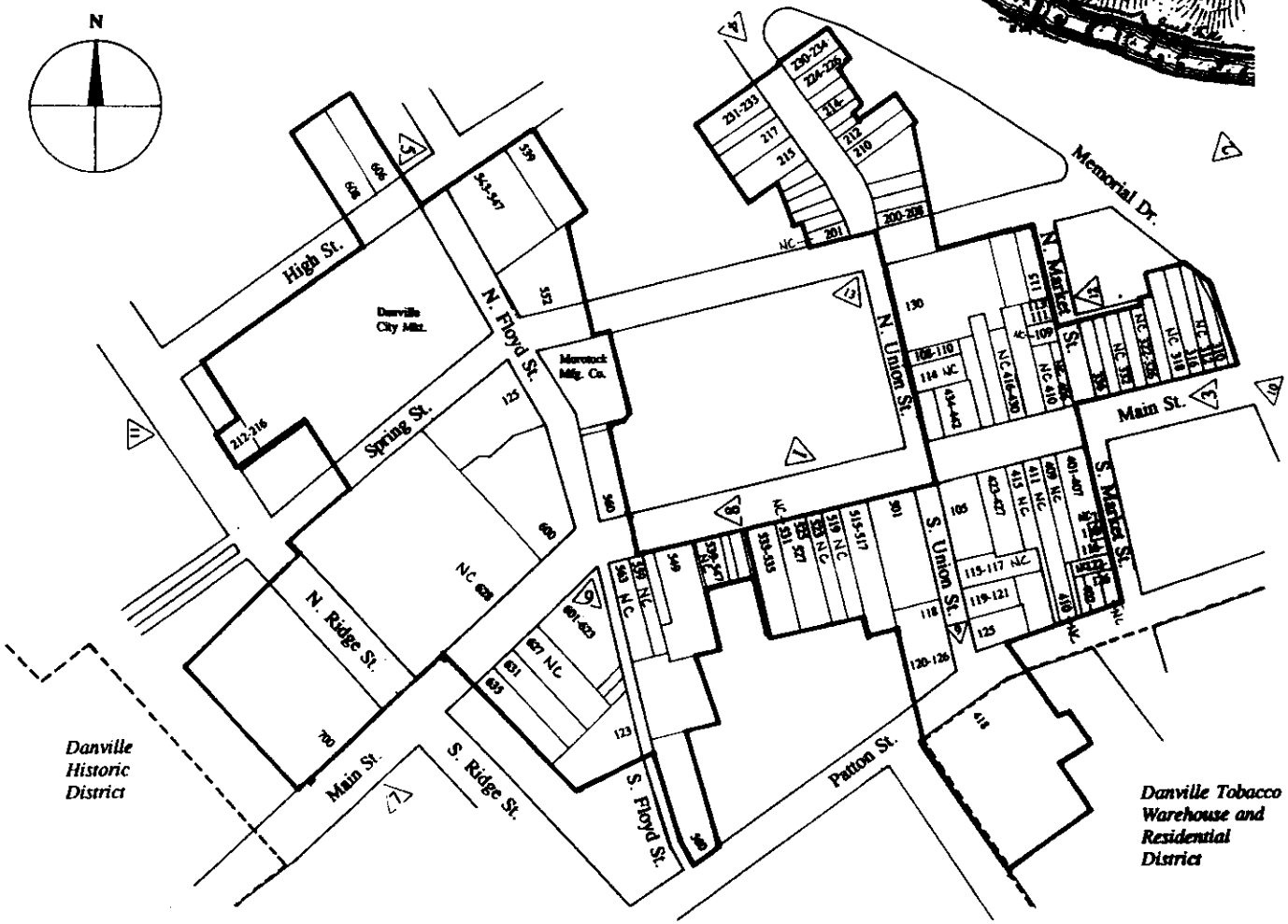
Danville, Virginia.

Scale: 1" = 200'

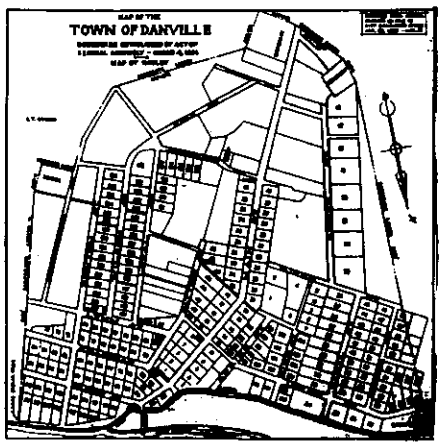
The heavy line indicates the district boundaries.
The dashed lines indicate the boundaries of previously existing National Register districts.
The number and direction of photographs accompanying the district report are indicated by triangles.

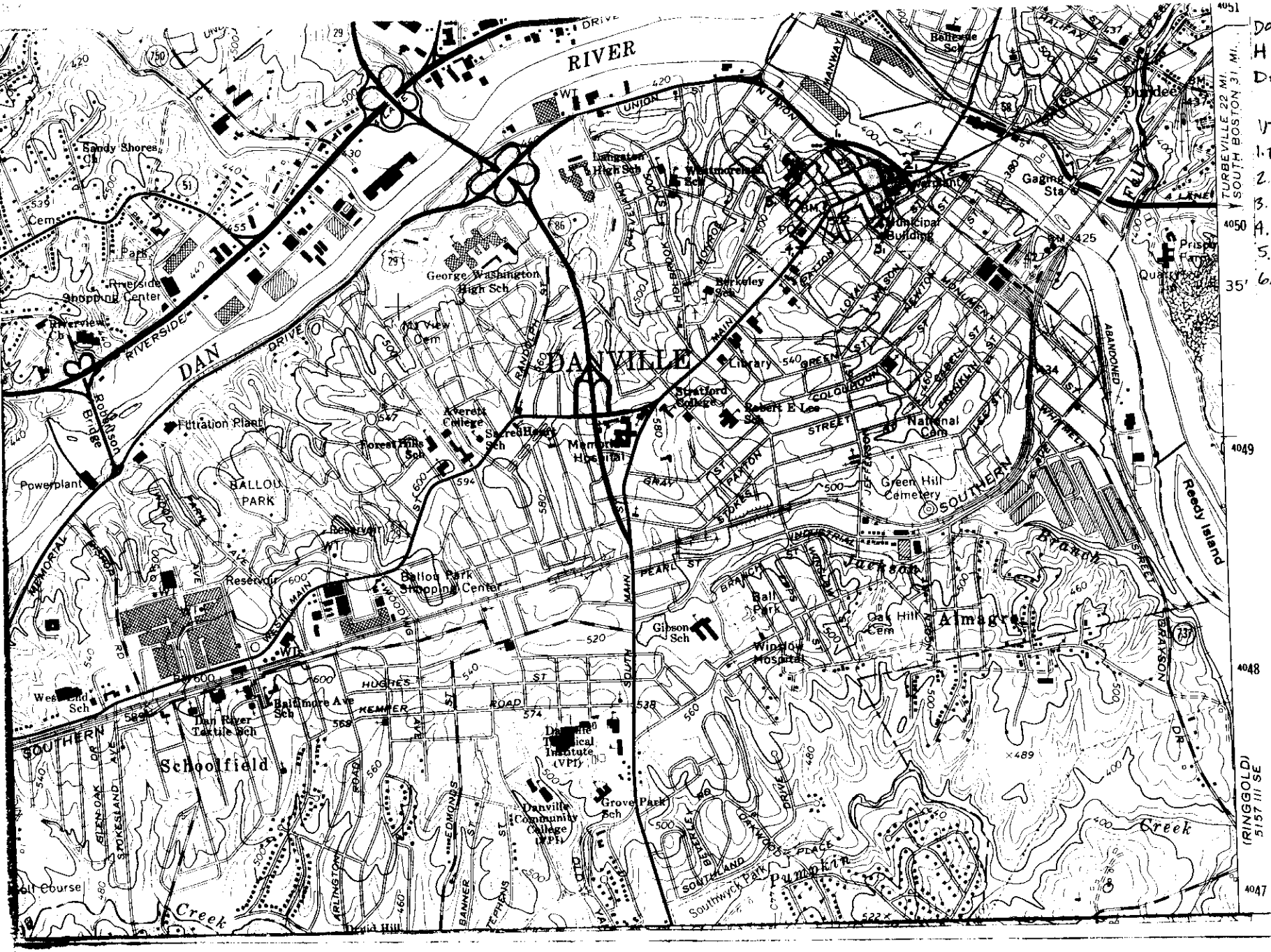
1827 Virginia Board of Public Works Map of Danville. No scale.





1854 Hadley Map of Danville. No scale.





DOWNTOWN DANVILLE
HISTORIC DISTRICT
DANVILLE, VA.

UTM reference zone 17

1. E/643650 N/4050340
2. E/643980 N/4050200
3. E/643880 N/4049910
4. E/643510 N/4049870
5. E/643420 N/4050110
6. E/643490 N/4050250

PHOTOGRAPHS

1. 1. Downtown Danville Historic District (same for all photographs).
   2. City of Danville, Virginia (same for all photographs).
   3. Photographer: J. Daniel Pezzoni; Print maker: Eugene B. Barfield
   4. Date of photograph: February, 1993.
   5. Location of negative: Virginia State Library, Richmond (same for all photographs).
   6. The Masonic Building, 105 S. Union St., at the heart of the district. Direction of view: eastward.
   7. The number of the photograph appears at the top of each heading and is keyed to the district map (same for all photographs).

2. 4. February, 1993.
   6. The downtown area of Danville as viewed from the north side of the Dan River. Direction of view: southward.

3. 4. February, 1993.
   6. Main Street; contributing and noncontributing buildings. Direction of view: westward.

4. 4. January, 1993.
   6. North Union Street. Direction of view: southward.

5. 4. February, 1993.
   6. 539 High St., Weldon E. Williamson Tobacco Factory (on left); and 543-547 High St., J. T. Stovall Tobacco Factory (center and right). Direction of view: eastward.

6. 4. January, 1993.
   6. 125 S. Union St., Rorer A. James Memorial Building (on left); 418 Patton St., Danville Municipal Building (in center); and 120-126 S. Union St. (on right). Direction of view: southward.

7. 4. January, 1993.
   6. 700 Main St., Danville Post Office. Direction of view: northward.

8. 4. January, 1993.
   6. 549 Main St., Southern Amusement Building (on left); 600 Main St., Hotel Danville (in center); and 560 Main St., Elks Home (on right). Direction of view: westward.

9. 4. January, 1993.
6. 560 Main St., Elks Home. Direction of view: northeastward.

10. 4. January, 1993.
6. 312 Main Street, J. A. Davis Building (noncontributing, on left); and 310 Main St., Kingoff Building (contributing, on right). Direction of view: northwestward.

11. 4. February, 1993.
6. 212-216 N. Ridge St., Southern Aid Building. Direction of view: southeastward.

12. 4. January, 1993.
6. 113 N. Market St. Direction of view: westward.

13. 4. January, 1993.
6. 200-208 N. Union St. Direction of view: northeastward.

14. 4. February, 1993.
6. 200-208 N. Union St., hand-operated hoist mechanism on second floor of 206.