United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

LISTED	ON:	
VLR NRHP	12/16/2010 03/01/2011	į

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form.* If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property				
historic name Schoolfield Welfare Building				
other names/site number DHR ID # 108-5065-0083				
2. Location				
street & number 917 West Main Street	not for publication			
city or town Danville	vicinity			
state Virginia code VA county Danville	code 590			
3. State/Federal Agency Certification				
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:				
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.				
Signature of commenting official	Date			
Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government			

Schoolfield Welfare Building Name of Property		Danville, Virginia County and State			
4. National Park Service Certific	ation				
I, hereby, certify that this property is:					
entered in the National Register		determined eligible	e for the National Reg	ister	
determined not eligible for the Nati	onal Register	removed from the	e National Register		
other (explain:)					
Signature of the Keeper		Date of	Action		
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Ca	tegory of Property eck only one box)	Number of Res (Do not include prev	ources within Pr	coperty in the count.)	
		Contributing	Noncontributii	ng	
X private	X building(s)	2	0	buildings	
public - Local	district	0	0	district	
public - State	site	0	0	site	
public - Federal	structure	0	0	structure	
	object	0	0	object	
		2	0	Total	
Name of related multiple property (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multip	/ listing le property listing)	Number of con listed in the Na	tributing resourd tional Register	ces previously	
N/A		0			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)				
SOCIAL: meeting hall	WORK IN PRO	GRESS			
HEALTH CARE: clinic					
EDUCATION: education-related					

Schoolfield Welfare Building Name of Property	Danville, Virginia County and State		
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories from instructions)		
Mission	foundation: Concrete		
Classical Revival	walls: Brick		
Rustic			
	roof: Terra Cotta		
	other: Wood, Metal, Glass		
	<u> </u>		

Narrative Description

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

Summary Description

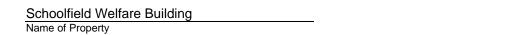
The Schoolfield Welfare Building and associated playhouse occupy about three quarters of an acre, the nominated portion of a corner lot (parcel 51586) in the Schoolfield community within the City of Danville. The nominated area is planted in grass with shrubs, shade trees, and paved parking lot area. West Main Street (Highway 293), the city's principal downtown commercial thoroughfare, bounds the lot on the north side, Baltimore Avenue defines its west side, and the tracks of the Norfolk Southern Railroad border it on the south. Across the tracks and Lanier Avenue, which parallels the rail line on the south side, are the National Registerlisted Schoolfield School Complex and Hylton Hall. To the east are two water tanks and a continuation of the parking lot area, and beyond that a modern drugstore that replaces the Schoolfield YMCA (torn down in 2007). The Schoolfield textile mill, portions of which are in the process of demolition, stands diagonally across the intersection of Main and Wood to the northwest, and a park is located across Main Street to the north.

The Schoolfield Welfare Building is a two-story brick building of eclectic design completed in 1916-17. The Lshaped building is covered by a Spanish tile hip roof with deep eaves supported by decorative brackets. The first and second stories have large transomed windows which are elliptical-arched on the first story. The interior is characterized by plaster wall and ceiling finishes (some walls with later paneling) and mostly carpeted or composition tile floors. The principal space is a large center meeting room on the first floor. To the east side of the Welfare Building stands a 1938 kindergarten playhouse, a small one-story frame building with false log siding and a stone chimney.

Narrative Description

The Welfare Building's stretcher-bond brick walls rise from a poured concrete foundation that projects a few feet above grade. The brickwork features a course of stretcher-header bricks after every fifth course of stretcher bricks. Soldier courses run at the bottom and top of the walls and a belt course consisting of a soldier course above a header course projects slightly at the second-story floor level. Projecting stretcher bricks also form surrounds for the first-story elliptical-arch entries and windows. The mortar is tinted pink. The roof tiles are red in color and they flare at the eaves. Box-like ventilation dormers are painted red to blend in with the roof tiles. The white-painted eaves brackets have elongated curved profiles.

Originally there were two elliptical-arched entries on the north (front) elevation. The east or left-hand entry survives, although its original door, transom, and sidelight panels have been replaced with aluminum and plate



Danville, Virginia
County and State

glass. The west or right-hand entry has been made into a window matching the others but it retains flanking coach lamps like ones to either side of the left-hand entry. The two other surviving first-story entries, located on the west and south sides, retain original multi-pane wood frame sidelights and transoms. A remodeled second-story entry on the west elevation is reached by a steel pedestrian bridge. The ramped bridge has wood decking and pipe railings painted black and cream. A steel fire escape and a shallowly projecting brick chimney rise on the south elevation. There are front and rear basement entries, a bricked up window on the west side, and concrete steps and pipe railings at the various entries.

The front entry opens into a remodeled vestibule with paneled walls, a payment window with a short counter, and an aluminum and glass door to the large center meeting room. The meeting room has a tall wainscot with a paneled band above beaded tongue-and-groove. The ceiling is spanned by cased beams with molded cornices and modern pendant light fixtures. Multiple doorways lead to the small offices and meeting rooms—most of them remodeled with modern paneling—around the perimeter of the building. An exception to the remodeling is the room in the northeast corner, which has a tall wainscot like the one in the meeting room and which preserves original molded stack-panel doors. A doorway at the back of the meeting room connects to a short hallway in the building's rear wing, finished with paneled walls and a drop ceiling. Another doorway leads to the stairway, which is located next to the west elevation entry. The stair features paneled square newels, turned balusters, and decorative tread brackets that mimic the form of the eaves brackets. The stair's attic runs are supported by large chamfered brackets.

The second-floor clinic contains offices and examination rooms entered through stack-panel doors with textured glass upper panels. Many of the doorways have three-pane transoms. An office and reception area occupies the middle of the clinic behind a ca. 1970s paneled and smoked glass partition. The attic was partially converted to a conference room in the 1950s or 1960s as indicated by a tray ceiling and walls sheathed with paper tiles and aluminum diffusers mounted on the ceiling. The basement contains what appear to be original maintenance rooms, defined by varnished tongue-and-groove partitions with window panes. The majority of the basement is occupied by meeting rooms and offices with beaded knotty-pine wainscots, door surrounds, and pillar casings that appear to have been added in the 1930s, perhaps as part of a New Deal-era improvement campaign. The wainscot baseboards and door surround bases are stained or painted dark brown to contrast with the light brown woodwork above. These finishes are covered by modern paneling in some spaces.

The playhouse is sided with false logs with mitered corner joints that are stained and/or painted dark brown to contrast with the white "daubing" between them. The asbestos-shingle side-gable roof has exposed rafter ends. The beaded batten/panel front door hangs on decorative strap hinges and has a small window in its upper half. Other exterior features include a foundation and gable end chimney faced with random sandstone fieldstone, a porch with log posts on a flagstone floor, and 6/6 windows. The one-room interior has knotty-pine walls, a wood floor, a water-stained gypsum board tray ceiling, and a stone fireplace and chimney breast supplied with a simple wood mantel shelf, a segmental fireplace arch, and decorative wrought iron andirons and crane.

	field Welfare Building	Danville, Virginia		
Name of	Property	County and State		
(Mark "x	rable National Register Criteria " in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property anal Register listing)			
XA	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply) Property is:		
В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	owed by a religious institution or used for religious A purposes.		
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.	B removed from its original location. C a birthplace or grave. D a cemetery.		
D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	E a reconstructed building, object, or structure. F a commemorative property.		
		G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.		
	of Significance egories from instructions)			
SOCIAL	HISTORY			
ARCHIT	TECUTRE			
		Cultural Affiliation		
		N/A		
Period (of Significance			
1917-19	960	Architect/Builder		
		Heard, J. Bryant (architect, attributed)		
Signific	cant Dates	Kimpleton, Robert (carpenter for playhouse)		
1917				
1938				
_	eant Person e only if Criterion B is marked above)			

N/A

Schoolfield Welfare Building	Danville, Virginia
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Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Schoolfield Welfare Building (completed 1917) and associated playhouse (completed in 1938) extends from the date of the welfare building's completion in 1917 through 1960, embracing forty-three years of the building's significant association with the social development and physical health of Virginia's textiles workforce as well as the date of construction for the architecturally contributing playhouse. The resources are not exceptionally significant for the period after 1960.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary): N/A

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

The Schoolfield Welfare Building and associated playhouse, located in Danville, Virginia, are eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of social history for their association with the social development and physical health of Virginia's textiles workforce, a positive manifestation of the paternalism that was a hallmark of the southern textile industry in the early twentieth century. The buildings are also eligible under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance for the quality and interest of their design, another reflection of the mill management's concern for its employees. The Schoolfield Welfare Building is eligible at the state level of significance for its association with a leading state industry's progressive employee welfare policies. The nomination was prepared with the sponsorship and assistance of Schoolfield Preservation Foundation former and present presidents James V. Hyler and Dana Reagan and includes research by Mr. Hyler and historian Gary R. Grant. Michael Pulice served as project contact at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

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

The Schoolfield Welfare Building was an important component of the vast enterprises of Dan River, Incorporated, the principal industry in Danville during the first half of the twentieth century and by 1950 the leading textile manufacturer in Virginia. Dan River began as Riverside Cotton Mills in 1882 at a location adjacent to downtown Danville on the south side of the Dan River. The company launched its first major expansion in 1887 with the construction of the building known as the Long Mill on the north side of the river. At the beginning of the twentieth century, Dan River, Inc. inaugurated a second major expansion with the opening of its Schoolfield Division on Danville's western outskirts. Production at the Schoolfield plant surpassed the older Riverside Division in 1909. Combined production at the Riverside and Schoolfield divisions surpassed 100 million linear yards of cloth in 1915, dipped below that figure at the beginning of the Depression, but climbed again to almost 200 million yards at the beginning of World War II. A nationwide survey of 972 weaving mills in 1942 counted Dan River among only eleven mills with over 3,000 looms. The company's payroll during the 1940s and 1950s (11,000 workers in 1954) was regularly exceeded by only one other industry in Virginia: the Newport News shipyards, which employed 15,000 workers in 1952.

Schoolfield's first mill building was erected in 1902 and the following year work began on the construction of a mill village to house workers and their families. The institution of the southern mill village evolved during the nineteenth century to become an important fixture in the region's textile industry. Housing was needed for the large workforces that were recruited to staff the mills, and quality houses constructed by mill management were an inducement for potential employees. By 1910 the Schoolfield Mill Village, located to the south of the Schoolfield Welfare Building, had grown to 400 houses. It eventually consisted of over 800 mill houses and in terms of extent is believed to have been the largest mill village in the state. In 1914 mill promotional materials described the village as enjoying "practically all the advantages of a modern city: the houses are new and

commodious, ranging in size from two, three, four, and six to eight rooms, and each one has a nice yard and space for a garden; there is an abundant supply of pure water and all streets are lighted with electricity." Education was one of the first community needs to be addressed by mill management. An eight-room schoolhouse was erected on Baltimore Avenue to the south of the Welfare Building by 1907, the precursor of the Schoolfield School Complex constructed between 1913 and 1940.²

Beginning at least as early as 1901, when the American Federation of Labor organized a strike at Dan River's Riverside Division, the mill management sought to counter unionization. As historians Sarah McPhail and Marcus Pollard write, one company president "did not oppose significant improvement to the lives of workers, but he wanted it done between the workers and management without the participation of outside unions." Consequently, in the 1910s management adopted a policy of social betterment for its employees that went beyond education. Efforts can be traced to 1911 when the board of directors endorsed a welfare program, followed by the establishment of the Schoolfield Savings Fund to encourage thrift by the workers and the opening of a day nursery. At first the mill's welfare program was housed in the company store on Greensboro Road, but space needs prompted management to plan for a separate facility. Construction of the Welfare Building in 1916-17 was contemporaneous with the construction of the Schoolfield YMCA (1916; also later known as the Recreation Center). The head of the mill's Welfare Department in 1917 was Miss Hattie Hylton. The Welfare and YMCA buildings demonstrated management's commitment to social progressivism, which culminated in the late 1910s with the inception of the mill's "Industrial Democracy" policy. The policy was inspired by reformer John Leitch, whose book Man to Man: The Story of Industrial Democracy (1919) proposed a system modeled on the structure of the federal government to give workers a stake in decisionmaking. According to historian Robert Smith, "Among southern textile firms . . . Dan River pioneered in introducing a plan of employee representation under which wage earners were encouraged to make their demands for improved working conditions the subject of 'legislation.'" In 1925 a University of Virginia publication noted that Dan River's "democratic organization of the mill laborers and operatives is famous throughout the South." McPhail and Pollard point out that the policy was adopted at a time when the Loom Fixers Southern Association of America was trying to establish a chapter at Dan River, and despite initial enthusiasm the program ultimately failed amid hard feelings between workers and management.³

The Welfare Building contained meeting space, child care facilities, a teller's desk for the Savings Fund, and a second-floor clinic. Afternoon and evening clubs for mothers and girls were another mill program that may have been housed in the building, and considering the fact that the building featured a large meeting room, the mill's industrial democracy program may also have operated there. "Community and welfare programs of the type employed by Riverside and Dan River Cotton Mills were not uncommon in the southern cotton textile industry," notes historian Robert Smith, but they were an important component of the overall operations, and facilities of the size and quality of the Schoolfield Welfare Building and YMCA were apparently unusual. Documentation of an analogous textile community—Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina—has identified educational and health buildings of architectural distinction that were loosely affiliated with textile corporations but no surviving welfare or community buildings on a par with Schoolfield's. A comparable building does survive in Greensboro, North Carolina. Proximity YMCA, a two-story Colonial Revival brick building with a monumental Ionic portico, was erected in 1921 to serve the mill villages of the Cone family who, according to architectural historians Catherine Bishir and Michael Southern, "strove to establish a model of progressive paternalism [by] providing social and educational facilities seen as necessities for order and productivity."

The Welfare Building's design is attributable to Danville/Lynchburg architect J. Bryant Heard (d. 1956), also the architect for the YMCA and a woman's dormitory, Hylton Hall. At the time of the building's design and construction in 1916-17, Heard was associated with architects John R. Cardwell and Samuel P. Craighill. It seems likely that welfare director Hattie Hylton was involved in the architectural planning due to her position in

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the company, her familiarity with the functional requirements of the building, and her prior involvement in the planning of her family home at 128 West End Avenue in Danville in 1912. (Torn down ca. 1974, this house is thought to have been based on a magazine plan.) Architecturally the Welfare Building was a smaller sibling of the YMCA, which stood on an adjoining site until its 2007 demolition. Like the Welfare Building the YMCA featured brick construction, Spanish-tile hip roofs, and arched first-story windows, some with transom and sidelight details almost identical to those of the Welfare Building. The Welfare Building combines influences from the Mission and Classical Revival styles popular during the era.⁵

The playhouse, constructed in 1938 as an adjunct of the kindergarten operated in the building, is a representative of the Rustic style that was frequently employed for civic and park buildings during the New Deal era. Robert Kimpleton, one of Dan River, Inc.'s lead carpenters, built the playhouse. The Welfare Building was later used for personnel and public relations offices by Dan River, Inc. In 2008 the building was purchased by the Schoolfield Preservation Foundation, which formed in 2007 to save the YMCA. The Foundation plans to rehabilitate the Welfare Building for use as a museum and rental office space. The building would thus be preserved as a defining element of the Schoolfield community, which is under threat from unsympathetic development. Through listing in the National Register of Historic Places the Welfare Building would join other recently designated important Schoolfield institutional buildings such as the Schoolfield School Complex and Hylton Hall.⁶

Endnotes

- 1. Pezzoni, "Dan River Inc. Riverside Division," 22, 24; Gottmann, Virginia at Mid-Century, 420-421.
- 2. Gary R. Grant personal communication; Lifsey and Smith, "Schoolfield School Complex," 6-8.
- 3. Lifsey and Smith, "Schoolfield School Complex," 6; Fuller and Fuller, *Pittsylvania County Geography Supplement*, 20-21; Smith, *Mill on the Dam*, 253; McPhail and Pollard, "Hylton Hall," 5.
- 4. Smith, *Mill on the Dam*, 253; Taves et al, *Historic Architecture of Halifax County, North Carolina*, 664-667; Bishir and Southern, *Guide to the Historic Architecture of Piedmont North Carolina*, 333-334.
- 5. Gary R. Grant personal communication; Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 186; McPhail and Pollard, "Hylton Hall," 4-5; "2nd Annual Walking Tour Archive;" Schoolfield Preservation Foundation brochure.
- 6. James V. Hyler and Gary R. Grant personal communication.

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): __DHR ID # 108-5065-0083

Developmental history/additional historic context information	ation (if appropriate):	
N/A		
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparir	ng this form on one or more continuation sheets)	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been	X State Historic Preservation Office	
Requested)	Other State agency	
previously listed in the National Register previously determined eliqible by the National Register	Federal agency Local government	
designated a National Historic Landmark	University	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Other	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	Name of repository: Dunbar High School	

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	17	641000	4048020	3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zc	one	Easting	Northing

Schoolfield Welfare Building Name of Property	Danville, Virginia County and State			
2 Zone Easting Northing 4 Zone	Easting Northing			
Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the proper	rty)			
The nominated area is depicted on the 1:200-scale site plan that	accompanies the nomination as Exhibit 1.			
Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)				
The boundaries are drawn to include the eligible resources, the S and to exclude adjacent resources that are not closely historically separate parcels.				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/titleJ. Daniel Pezzoni (based in part on research by Gary R.	. Grant)			
organization	date September 28, 2010			
street & number 6 Houston St.	telephone(540) 464-5315			
city or town Lexington	state VA zip code 24450			
e-mail <u>dan_pezzoni@rockbridge.net</u>				
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:				
Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the	property's location.			
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large photographs to this map.	e acreage or numerous resources. Key all			
Continuation Sheets				
Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)				
Photographs:				
Submit clear and descriptive black and white photographs. The size c (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.	of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi			
Name of Property: Schoolfield Welfare Building City or Vicinity: Danville County: Danville (Independent City) State: Virginia Photographer: Dan Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 2009 Description of Photograph(s) and number: East and north (front) sides. 1 of 6.				

Name of Property: Schoolfield V City or Vicinity: Danville County: Danville (Independent City) Photographer: Dan Pezzoni Date Photographed: October 200 Schoolfield Welfare Building

State: Virginia

October 2009

Name of Property

Danville, Virginia
County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number: West side. 2 of 6.

Name of Property: Schoolfield Welfare Building

City or Vicinity: Danville

County: Danville (Independent City) State: Virginia

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: South and east sides. 3 of 6.

Name of Property: Schoolfield Welfare Building

City or Vicinity: Danville

County: Danville (Independent City) State: Virginia

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Playhouse. 4 of 6.

Name of Property: Schoolfield Welfare Building

City or Vicinity: Danville

County: Danville (Independent City) State: Virginia

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: First-floor meeting room. 5 of 6.

Name of Property: Schoolfield Welfare Building

City or Vicinity: Danville

County: Danville (Independent City) State: Virginia

Photographer: Dan Pezzoni

Date Photographed: October 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number: Second-floor clinic. 6 of 6.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management. U.S. Dept. fo the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Schoolfield Welfare Building Danville, Va. (DHR ID# 108-5056-0083)

Exhibit 1: The nominated area is defined by the heavy line. Map scale: 1:200. Number and angle of view of nomination photos indicated by triangular markers.





