

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Danville Historic District (108-0056) 2017 Update
Name of Property
City of Danville, VA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Summary

The Danville Historic District was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1972 and in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1973. A nomination update and a boundary expansion were completed in 2015. In the 2015 nomination update, the buildings at 254 Jefferson Avenue (108-0056-0114) and 400 Jefferson Street (108-0056-0119) were listed as noncontributing due to exterior alterations that postdated the district’s period of significance. In 2017, as part of an investigative demolition effort, non-historic exterior cladding materials were removed from the buildings, revealing character-defining brick facades with corbelled parapets and brick segmental arches above the windows. With their brick facades now exposed, these buildings have been demonstrated to possess the integrity necessary to convey their historical and architectural associations with the historic district’s Commerce and Architecture areas of significance. Each building also dates to the district’s period of significance, which ends in 1940. As such, their status is being changed from non-contributing to contributing. This additional documentation also is an opportunity to note the demolition of two non-contributing buildings within the historic district: a garage at 254 Jefferson Avenue and a ca. 1960 commercial building at 806 Pine Street.

The updated information below is keyed to the current numbered sections of the NRHP registration form. The resource counts in Section 5 have been updated to reflect the contributing status of the two buildings at 254 Jefferson Avenue and 400 Jefferson Street, as well as the aforementioned demolitions of two non-contributing resources. In Section 7, the inventory entries for all four properties have been updated accordingly, and the narrative statement of significance in Section 8 provides additional information about the two newly contributing buildings. Additionally, photographs of the buildings in question are provided with this additional documentation.

The historic district boundaries, areas of significance, and period of significance *have not changed* as a result of this update.

Section 5. Classification

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>247</u>	<u>55</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>247</u>	<u>55</u>	Total

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Section 7. Description

Narrative Description

The buildings at 254 Jefferson Avenue (108-0056-0114) and 400 Jefferson Street (108-0056-0119) are part of the Five Forks area, located at the intersections of Jefferson Street, Jefferson Avenue, Pine Street and Loyal Street along the eastern/southeastern boundary of the Danville Historic District (Photos 1-2).

254 Jefferson Avenue 108-0056-0114

This two-story commercial building is located on the west corner of Jefferson Avenue and Loyal Street. Built ca. 1890, the building historically functioned as a pharmacy (Photo 3). In the 1950s, Holsum Bakery occupied this building and several adjacent buildings in Five Forks. Around this time, a Formstone veneer was installed on the former drug store as well as two late-nineteenth century frame houses to the north of the building. A concrete block wing and garage were added ca. 1960. In 2016, the Formstone veneer was removed during an investigative demolition effort, revealing the original brick exterior of the former drug store with a corbelled parapet and brick segmental arches above the windows. The brickwork is intact and in relatively good condition overall, with the exception of a section of the parapet. The double-hung wood window sash also remain intact on the upper story. Photos 4-7 show the building as it appeared in 2015 and as it appears currently. The frame houses, which were thought to be part of the drug store building and were never issued their own resource numbers, were in deteriorated condition from sustained water infiltration due to roof modifications made when the buildings were combined for the bakery. Substantial changes were also made to their facades and interior plans, which further diminished their integrity. The frame houses, the non-historic concrete block wing, and the non-contributing garage associated with the property have been demolished.

400 Jefferson Street 108-0056-0119

This two-story commercial building is located on the west side of Jefferson Street, on the block between Jefferson Avenue and Pine Street. The central, non-historic single-leaf door is flanked by two large, plate glass windows. Non-historic T1-11 and aluminum siding above the storefront has been removed, revealing an intact brick façade with a corbelled parapet and brick segmental arches above the windows. The brickwork is in relatively good condition. Sanborn maps indicate that this building may actually date to 1899 and that it was originally a grocery store. A historic photograph (Photo 8) shows that the West Piano Company later occupied the building. Photos 9-10 show the building as it appeared in 2015 and as it appears currently.

Inventory

The following are the updated inventory entries for the resources affected by this additional documentation.

254 Jefferson Avenue 108-0056-0114 *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1890

Contributing Total: 1

400 Jefferson Street 108-0056-0119 *Other DHR Id#:*

Primary Resource: Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: No Discernible, Ca 1899

Contributing Total: 1

Demolitions

254 Jefferson Avenue 108-0056-0114 *Other DHR Id#:*

Secondary Resource: Garage (Building)

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Non-contributing Total: 1

806 Pine Street 108-0056-0252 Other DHR Id#:

Primary Resource: **Commercial Building (Building), Stories 2, Style: Commercial Style, Ca 1960**

Non-contributing Total: 1

Section 8. Statement of Significance

The Danville Historic District was listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1972 and in the National Register of Historic Places in 1973. A nomination update and boundary increase nomination were completed in 2015. The historic district is significant at the statewide level under Criteria A and C in the areas of Architecture, Commerce, Industry, Political, and Urban Planning. The period of significance begins in 1830, the construction date of the Lanier House—the oldest building in the district—and ends in 1940, when the last major wave of development ended and the district achieved its historic character.

In the 2015 nomination update, the buildings at 254 Jefferson Avenue and 400 Jefferson Street were listed as noncontributing due to substantial exterior alterations that postdate the period of significance. As part of an investigative demolition effort, non-historic exterior cladding materials were removed from the buildings, revealing character-defining brick facades with corbelled parapets and brick segmental arches above the windows. The brickwork is intact and in relatively good condition overall. In addition to the brick facades, these buildings also retain other historic features, including their flat roofs and two-part commercial block forms. With their intact brick facades exposed, these buildings now possess the historic integrity necessary to be contributing buildings to the Danville Historic District. These buildings, along with the other commercial buildings that comprise the Five Forks commercial area, serve as important neighborhood anchors in terms of their historic fabric, massing, visual prominence, and potential to contribute to the revitalization of the neighborhood.

Five Forks—located at the intersections of Jefferson Street, Jefferson Avenue, Pine Street and Loyal Street—was one of the few neighborhood commercial areas that emerged in the early twentieth century to serve the residents of Danville’s Old West End. John L. Hagan had opened “Central Pharmacy” at 254 Jefferson Street by 1902. A tailor, butcher, and two grocery stores were also established at the intersection to serve neighborhood residents. Several of the historic commercial buildings that housed these businesses and others still exist, including 254 Jefferson Avenue and 400 Jefferson Street.

Section 11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Katherine C. Gutshall & Alison Blanton

organization: Hill Studio, PC

street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW

city or town: Roanoke state: Virginia zip code: 24011

e-mail: ablanton@hillstudio.com

telephone: 540-342-5263

date: May 2017

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Photographs



Photo 1: Five Forks commercial area before non-historic cladding removed, view SW



Photo 2: Five Forks commercial area after non-historic cladding removed, view SW

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Photo 3: 254 Jefferson Avenue, Historic Photograph



Photo 4: 254 Jefferson Avenue, North Elevation (before)

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Photo 5: 254 Jefferson Avenue, North Elevation (after)



Photo 6: 254 Jefferson Avenue, East Elevation (before)

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Photo 7: 254 Jefferson Avenue, East Elevation (after)

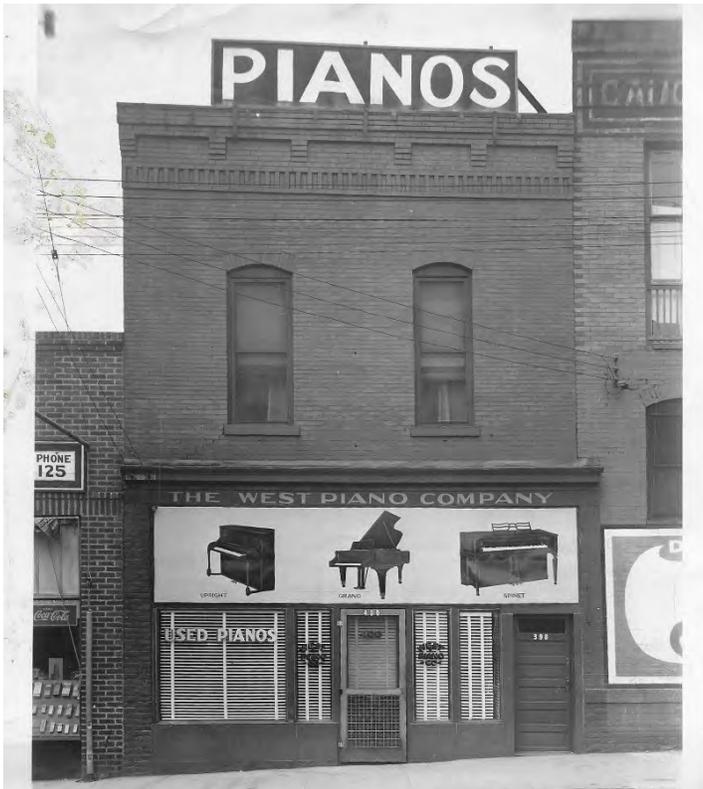


Photo 8: 400 Jefferson Street, Historic Photograph

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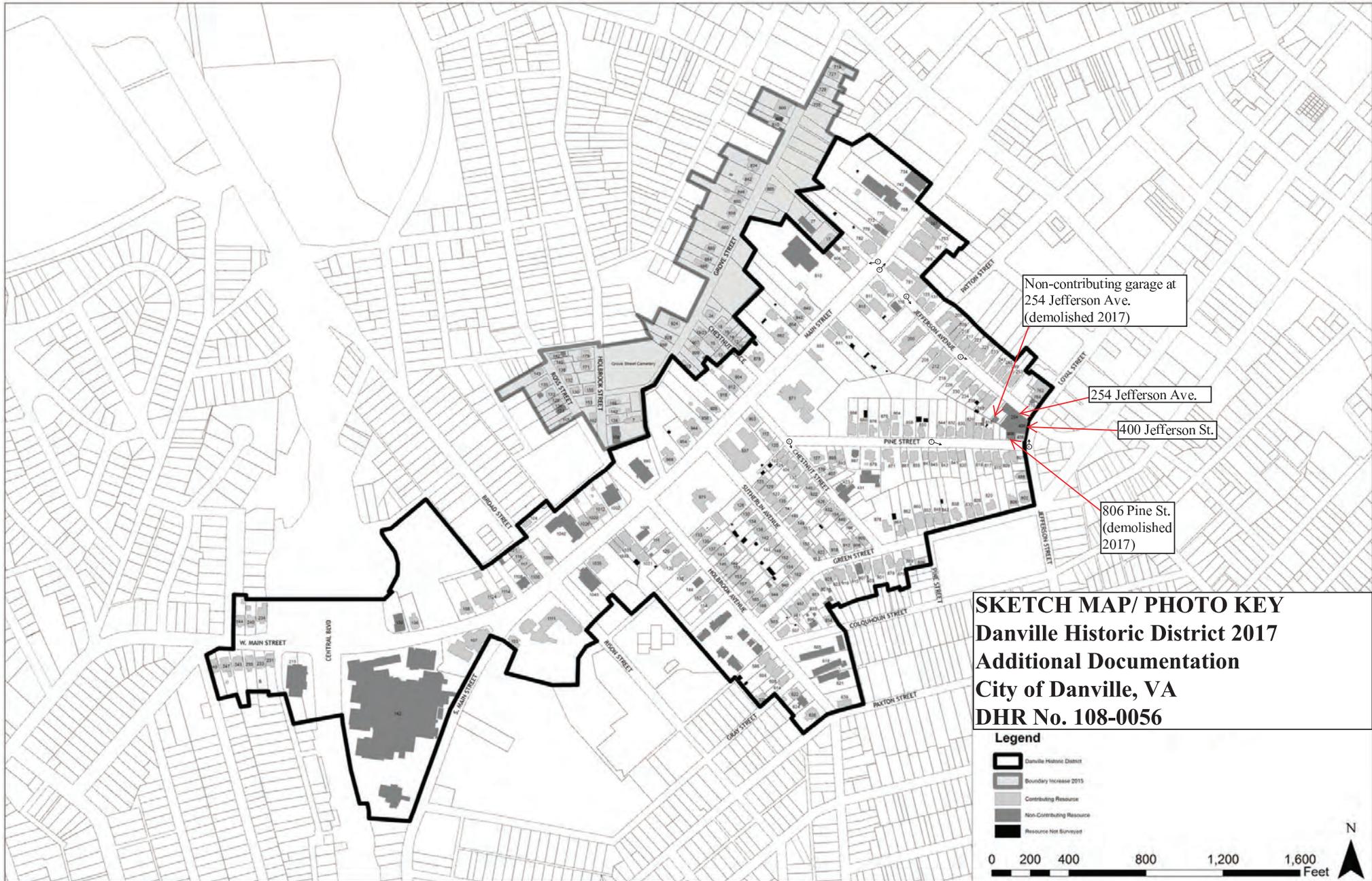
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Photo 9: 400 Jefferson Street, façade (before)



Photo 10: 400 Jefferson Street, façade (after)



Non-contributing garage at
254 Jefferson Ave.
(demolished 2017)

254 Jefferson Ave.

400 Jefferson St.

806 Pine St.
(demolished
2017)

SKETCH MAP/ PHOTO KEY
Danville Historic District 2017
Additional Documentation
City of Danville, VA
DHR No. 108-0056

Legend

-  Danville Historic District
-  Boundary Increase 2015
-  Contributing Resource
-  Non-Contributing Resource
-  Resource Not Surveyed

