

VLR 9/8/4
NRHP 11/27/4

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 West End Historic District Boundary Expansion

other names/site number 133-5040

2. Location

street & number east side of Wellons Street, between Washington Street and Smith Street Not for publication N/A
city or town Suffolk vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA county Independent City code 800 zip code 23439

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 statewide X locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

10/14/04
Date

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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):

West End Boundary Expansion
Name of Property

City of Suffolk, Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Category of Property (Check only one box)

☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal
☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC
DOMESTIC
DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling
secondary structure
multiple dwelling

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: DOMESTIC
DOMESTIC
DOMESTIC
FUNERARY

Sub: residence
secondary structure
multiple dwelling
mortuary

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne
NO STYLE

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK, CONCRETE
roof ASPHALT, METAL: Tin
walls WOOD
SYNTHETIC: Vinyl
other BRICK

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)

☒ **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.

☒ **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.

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

Community Planning and Development

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

see continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☐ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☐ Other State agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2.47

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	18	358025E	4066072
2	18	357969	4065833

	Zone	Easting	Northing
3	18	358020	4065823
4	18	358020	4066072

Verbal Boundary Description

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

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

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

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ellen Turco

organization Circa, Inc. date July 26, 2004

street & number PO Box 28365 telephone 919-834-4757

city or town Raleigh state NC zip code 27611

12. 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 See attached list of property owners

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.

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West End Historic District Boundary Expansion
Suffolk, Virginia

Summary Description

The West End Historic District Boundary Expansion is adjacent to the eastern boundary of the West End Historic District (133-5040). The original district and proposed boundary expansion are located approximately four blocks from Washington Square, the heart of historic Suffolk's commercial district. The West End Historic District and Boundary Expansion depict Suffolk's late nineteenth and early twentieth century suburban development and contain representative residential architectural styles and forms from the period. The boundary expansion contains ten primary resources located along the east side of Wellons Street between West Washington and Smith Streets. Properties within the expanded boundary are similar in design, architecture and appearance to those on the west side of Wellons Street included in the West End Historic District. With the addition of the Boundary Expansion the visual continuity of the district is extended to encompass all of the buildings within the Wellons Street streetscape.

Detailed Description

The City of Suffolk is located on the banks of the Nansemond River in southeastern Virginia's Hampton Roads region. The town was platted in the mid-1700s, and its original fifty-acre core is centered on Main Street south of the river. A few buildings in this "Old Town" area survive to the present and contribute to the Suffolk Historic District (133-0072), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986. Over the years the City of Suffolk has expanded outward from its original core. These areas were included in boundary expansions to the Suffolk Historic District in 1998 and 2002. The West End Historic District (133-5040) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2003.

The West End is located approximately six blocks west of the intersection of Main and Washington Streets, the city's commercial center. Suffolk's first true suburban development, the earliest part was platted around 1898. The neighborhood is characterized by mature plantings, a street plan with both curvilinear and grid-pattern arrangements, landscaped medians, sidewalks and uniform building setbacks. The development's design is that of a typical suburban neighborhood. Suburban developments, distinctly different from the inner cities in feeling, spread nationally as the upper and middle-classes abandoned city centers for clean, park-like suburbs in the late-

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nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The West End Historic District includes 286 contributing resources dating from 1865 through 1939, the vast majority of which are single-family residences, although a few multi-family, religious and commercial structures are present. Buildings display local versions of nationally popular architectural styles such as Italianate, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, Classical Revival, Tudor Revival, Craftsman and American Foursquare.

The west side of the 100 block of Wellons Street makes up the eastern boundary of the West End Historic District. The area proposed for nomination as the West End Historic District Boundary Expansion is immediately adjacent to this eastern boundary. The Boundary Expansion contains nine primary resources on the east side of the 100 block of Wellons Street, between Washington Street to the north and Smith Street to the south, and the parcel on the southeast corner of West Washington and Wellons Streets. Nine primary resources are in the expansion area. Eight of these resources retain sufficient physical integrity to contribute to the district's historic significance.

The West End Historic District Boundary Expansion is a logical extension of the West End Historic District. The east side of Wellons Street was platted by 1898¹ and the street pattern continues that established in the West End Historic District. Although surviving records do not reveal exact construction dates for buildings in the Boundary Expansion, Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and city directories date the buildings between 1890 and 1925. These construction dates fall within the period of significance for the West End Historic District, which spans the years 1865-1939. Additionally, building forms and styles present in the West End District are also found intact in the expansion area.

The eight historic dwellings in the West End Boundary Expansion are local vernacular house types more distinguished by their massing than a definable architectural style. These simple dwellings lack stylistic references and are identified by roof shape and massing such as side-gable, multi-gabled or cube-shaped. Ornamentation is applied to these simple forms. The largest and most architecturally significant house in the expansion area is the Queen Anne style J. C. Causey, Jr. House at 447 West Washington Street.

108 and 110 Wellons Street are frame two-story, cube-shaped, hipped-roof dwellings. These houses are local interpretations of the American Foursquare, a nationally popular form that derives its name from their blocky shape and four-room-per-floor layout. 108

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and 110 Wellons are not true Foursquares in that they do not possess the typical floor plan, but they clearly reference the style. A diamond-shaped window is located on the second story of the south elevation of 108 Wellons Street. This type of decorative window appears on other hipped-roof, cube-shaped dwellings in Suffolk.

116, 122 and 124 Wellons Street embody the two-story, side-gable form. Restrained Colonial Revival details are found on 116 and 122 Wellons Street. 124 Wellons Street is a plain two-story, side-gable, side-hall plan dwelling with a one-story, full-facade porch supported by chamfered posts. The one-bay, barrel-vaulted entry portico on 116 Wellons is a hallmark of the Colonial Revival style. The building also features a fanlight over the entry and lunette windows in the gable ends. 122 Wellons Street is a two-story, side-gable duplex with a one-story full-facade porch supported by Tuscan columns.

One-and-a-half story multi-gabled dwellings stand at 118 and 120 Wellons Street. 120 Wellons Street is a side-gable dwelling with a front-facing gable and a three-bay, hipped-roof porch supported by chamfered posts. The house lacks applied ornamentation. 118 Wellons Street is the expansion area's only example of the folk Victorian style. Its paired front-facing gables and multi-gabled rear ell distinguish the side-gable house. Exuberant sawn trim decorates the soffits, window hoods and the one-bay, flat-roofed porch.

Non-contributing resources in the Boundary Expansion are limited to 128 Wellons Street, a circa 1975 brick dwelling, and the outbuildings associated with 110 and 122 Wellons Street and 447 West Washington Street which are less than fifty years of age.

The West End Boundary Expansion retains integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. While some of the dwellings have been covered with replacement siding, this is not uncommon in urban buildings over fifty years of age and does not detract from the district's significance. The Boundary Expansion area is a continuation of the historical, architectural and developmental patterns present in the West End Historic District.

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Inventory List

This list begins at the north end of Wellons Street with number 108 and continues south for two blocks along the street's east side to number 128, the parcel just north of the intersection with Smith Street. The parcel on the southeast corner of West Washington and Wellons Street is also included in the district. The information in this inventory list is based on the architectural resources survey conducted by Circa, Inc. in 2003-2004. The following sources were used in preparing the inventory list: South Carolina Historic Preservation Office architectural survey files for the City of Suffolk, Suffolk City Directories the years 1910, 1925, and 1951, City of Suffolk real estate records, and Sanborn Fire Insurance maps for the City of Suffolk. This area first appears on Sanborn Fire Insurance maps around 1908.

The Boundary Expansion area includes both contributing (C) and non-contributing (NC) resources. A resource is categorized as contributing if it was present during the Boundary Expansion's period of significance, circa 1890 through circa 1935, *and* if it possesses physical integrity that dates from the period of significance. Non-contributing resources either date from after the district's period of significance or have been altered to an extent that the building's historic appearance has been lost or significantly obscured. The district's vacant lot is classified as non-contributing because maps show a structure on it within the last fifty years.

133-5040-0259	108 Wellons Street	House	C	c. 1900
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This two-story, three-bay, side-hall plan dwelling is surmounted by a hipped-roof. A one-story porch wraps from the front to the side elevations. The porch features turned posts and pilasters. Other original decorative elements are the plain frieze, half-glazed entrance with transom, two-over-two window sash and two diamond-shaped windows on the south elevation. The house is sheathed in weatherboards. The roof is standing seam metal. A series of additions has been added to the rear (east) elevation.

133-5040-0260	110 Wellons Street	Duplex	C	c. 1900
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A Foursquare style house with a one-story, hipped-roof porch. The porch retains its original frieze details and turned posts and balusters. Six-over-six window sash survives. The house is covered with vinyl siding.

	110 Wellons Street	Shed	NC	c. unknown
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A frame shed-roofed storage building covered with vertical board siding.

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133-5040-0261 116 Wellons Street House C c. 1925

This two-story, three-bay, side-gable Colonial Revival dwelling has a one-story barrel-vaulted portico. A one-story, hipped-roof extension is on the south elevation. It is not clear if the extension is original or added later. It may be an enclosure of an original sun room. The house retains its six-over-six window sash and lunettes in the gables. The house has been covered with vinyl siding.

133-5040-0262 118 Wellons Street House C c. 1890

This house is the most distinctive in the boundary expansion. The one-and-a-half story Folk Victorian side-gable house has two distinctive front facing gables. The gables and soffits are embellished with Victorian-era sawn work. The house retains original weatherboard siding, six-over-six window sash, and a metal shingle roof pierced by a central brick chimney with a corbelled cap.

133-5040-0263 120 Wellons Street Duplex C c. 1900

This one-and-a-half story "Triple-A" form duplex displays a trabeated entry, metal shingle roof, six-over-six window sash, and a hipped-roof porch with chamfered posts. Both shed and flat-roofed additions project from the rear elevation.

133-5040-0264 122 Wellons Street House C c. 1900

This two-story, four-bay, side-gable duplex has two interior end chimneys. Tuscan columns support the one-story, full-façade porch. The first floor, front elevation windows are full-height four-over-four sashes, the remaining windows are six-over-six. A one-story ell projects from the rear (east) elevation. Weatherboard siding sheaths the house. The roof is standing seam metal.

122 Wellons Street Garage NC c. 1980
A one-story, front-gable, frame garage with two garage bays.

133-5040-0265 124 Wellons Street House C c. 1900

This two-story, side-gable, side-hall house is two bays wide and has returns in the gable ends. Four chamfered posts support the one-story, full-façade, hipped-roof porch. The dwelling retains original six-over-six window sash and a trabeated entry. Alterations include aluminum siding and a series of flat-roofed additions from the rear elevation.

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133-5040-0266	128 Wellons Street	House	NC	c. 1975
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This two-story, side-gable brick veneer house is rendered in a recent version of the Colonial Revival style. Colonial Revival features include the full-height portico and the entry surmounted by a broken pediment.

133-5040-0267	447 W. Washington Street	J. C. Causey, Jr. House	C	c.1900
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This Queen Anne-style two-and-a-half-story, frame, multi-gable building was constructed as a residence but has been used as a funeral home since around 1950. The house retains its weatherboard siding, wood shingles in the gable ends, multi-light window sashes and entry with transom and sidelights. There is an attached one-story, wrap-around Colonial Revival porch with pediment over the entry, dentiled cornice and Doric columns on brick piers. The house retains its metal shingle roof.

	447 W. Washington Street	Garage	NC	c.1960
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A one-story, three-bay, side-gable concrete block garage.

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West End Historic District Boundary Expansion
Suffolk, Virginia

Statement of Significance

The West End Boundary Expansion Historic District extends the eastern boundary of the West End Historic District (133-5040). The Boundary Expansion is part of the West End suburban community that developed in response to the growth of business and industry in Suffolk in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries prior to World War II. This economic boom spurred the growth of a large, white, middle-class that preferred to live on the urban fringe. The Boundary Expansion is characterized by typical suburban hallmarks such as sidewalks, uniform building setbacks and lot sizes, and continues the grid pattern street plan of the eastern portion of the West End Historic District. The boundary expansion area is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A, for Community Planning and Development, as an intact representation of early residential suburban city development and is logical continuation of the West End Historic District.

The West End Boundary Expansion is also eligible for the National Register under Criterion C for Architecture as a collection of well-preserved dwellings dating circa 1890 through circa 1925. The Boundary Expansion contains a well-executed Queen Anne style dwelling as well as a mix of local vernacular forms minimally decorated with elements derived from nationally-popular stylistic motifs, such as Colonial Revival columns and porches, American Foursquare massing, and Folk Victorian trim.

The period of significance extends from circa 1890 through circa 1925. These dates fall within the West End Historic District's period of significance, which is 1865-1939. A total of nine primary resources make up the district. One house is classified as non-contributing due to its circa 1975 construction date.

Historical Background

In 2003 Suffolk's population was around 72,700.² The present City of Suffolk consolidated with the towns of Holland and Whaleyville and the County of Nansemond in 1974, making the new city Virginia's largest geographically at 430 square miles.³ Although the city continues to grow, the municipal government has implemented a series of initiatives to recognize and preserve local historic resources, including the sponsoring of nominations for the National Register of Historic Places and the adoption of area plans encouraging the preservation of historic resources. The Suffolk Historic Landmarks Commission has designated a large conservation overlay district and reviews new

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construction and changes within the overlay area. In late 2003 the City contracted with Circa, Inc. of Raleigh, North Carolina to undertake the survey and evaluation of previously unsurveyed resources within the historic overlay, but outside the existing National Register of Historic Places districts. This nomination for the West End Boundary Expansion is a result of the survey and evaluation.

The Virginia General Assembly chartered the Town of Suffolk in 1742. The town was established on fifty acres along the banks of the Nansemond River on land owned by John Constant of Hampshire, England. Constant operated a tobacco warehouse and shipping wharf at the site as early as 1712. Ferries connected Suffolk to Norfolk and Southampton by 1748, by which time Suffolk had become a major trade center for the transport of goods extracted from the resources of the Great Dismal Swamp. Suffolk continued to grow and was the county seat of Nansemond County by 1755. British soldiers destroyed Suffolk's commercial center during the Revolutionary War (1775-1781). However, the town was rebuilt and a few Federal-era buildings remain in the area known as "Old Town." This area is included in the Suffolk Historic District (133-0072), which was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1986.

Over the years the City of Suffolk has expanded outward from its original core. In 1837 a fire destroyed much of Old Town. The area was rebuilt and expanded to include a new commercial area south of Old Town, known as "Up Town." Growth halted during the years of the Civil War (1861-1865) when 50,000 Union troops camped in and around Suffolk. Unlike many towns in the South, Suffolk rebounded quickly from the war due to its location on water and rail transport lines, successful regional agriculture and the emergence of diverse industries in the post-Civil War era. Suffolk experienced a third expansion wave during Reconstruction when "New Town" was platted east and west of Main Street. This area is primarily residential and contains some of the city's finest dwellings. It is included in the 1986 Suffolk Historic District.

The Nansemond River provided Suffolk and surrounding rural areas with access to larger and more distant markets. However, it was the railroads that fostered the town's continued growth from Reconstruction through the mid-twentieth century. The first railroad came to Suffolk in 1835, when the Seaboard and Roanoke Railroad (later known as the Seaboard Air Line) connected the rail hub in Weldon, North Carolina to Portsmouth, Virginia via Suffolk. By 1915, six railroad lines carrying both freight and passengers passed through Suffolk.⁴ The Norfolk and Western line was completed in

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1859.⁵ By 1930 four additional railroads were completed through Suffolk: the Atlantic Coast Line, Virginian, Southern and the Norfolk and Southern. The railroads transported local agricultural and manufactured goods to distant markets thus fueling the local economy and providing a direct impetus for the town's physical growth and development. Between 1870 and 1930 Suffolk's population grew from 300 to 10,271. The town became the City of Suffolk in 1910.

Due to the presence of the railroads, Suffolk served as a regional processing and shipping center for raw materials and agricultural products. In rural Nansemond County hay, cotton, corn, and sweet potatoes were principal crops.⁶ The production of truck crops (produce grown for shipment elsewhere) increased with the advent of refrigerated rail cars. The lumber and timber products industry persisted until the exhaustion of supply around 1900.

No crop had a bigger economic impact on Suffolk than the peanut. Around 1870 peanuts emerged as Nansemond County's principal agricultural product and many businesses were established in Suffolk to sort and process the local crop. Peanut oil, peanut butter and peanut-based animal feed were produced in large quantities. The National Machine Corporation was building a peanut harvesting machine called the Lilliston Peanut Picker around 1910. Businessman John King had been active in the local peanut industry since he formed the Suffolk Peanut Company in 1897. John King incorporated the John King Peanut Company Inc. in 1910 and constructed a large modern factory and warehouse in 1915. His company employed 150 people.⁷ By 1915 the Suffolk Peanut Company was the largest peanut processor in the world and employed two to three hundred people.⁸ Other early-twentieth century peanut dealers were Planter's, Pope and Company, the American Peanut Corporation and Martin and Sons. By 1930 Suffolk was the largest peanut trading center in the U. S. By 1940 there were 40 peanut-related businesses operating in the city.

Although the peanut was king, Suffolk enjoyed a diversified economy. A promotional brochure declared, "No other town in the South can boast greater variety of thriving industries, and but few towns ten times the size can claim as many." Fertilizer and feed mills, saw mills, meat packing plants, agricultural machinery factories, casket and furniture makers, hosiery and knitting mills, and fruit and vegetable processors are some of the business concerns listed in the 1915 City Directory. With the concomitant growth of the economy and population, many service-related businesses emerged to serve the

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local population. City directories from 1915 list clothiers, milliners, grocers, barbers, bankers, tailors, undertakers, and many other businesses serving the personal needs of the populace. As Suffolk grew so did the demand for housing for the expanding middle and working-classes.

Architectural Context

By the turn of the twentieth century the idea of the suburb was spreading nationally. Suburbs accommodated the burgeoning middle class and were made feasible by the proliferation of the automobile. Suburban living was the preference of upper and middle-class residents because of the location outside the city's urban core, which by the early twentieth century had a reputation of being dirty, congested and generally unhealthy. Suburban developments were lauded as a clean alternative to city life for people of similar racial and economic backgrounds. Suburban street patterns, lot sizes and building setbacks were distinctly different from those of the traditional, tightly-packed urban grid. Amenities such as landscaping, parks and sidewalks further distinguished suburbs from urban areas. Housing stock was new and rendered in the most up-to-date styles. Water, sewer, electrical and telephone service was available, often for the first time. Suffolk clearly prided itself on its fine suburbs and the availability of good solid housing stock. A 1915 promotional brochure claimed, "In recent years several exceedingly attractive suburbs have been laid out and new streets planned, and already these are the scene of a number of charming homes replete with every convenience the art of modern home-making has provided."

The West End developed approximately six blocks west of the city's commercial core. Sanborn maps indicate that by 1898, Linden, James and Wellons Streets had been platted running south from Kilby Street, now Washington Street. Wellons Street was named in honor of William Brock Wellons (1821-1877) an influential local preacher and Confederate chaplain whose home stood on the corner of West Washington Street and St. James Avenue, but has since been moved to a lot on Wellons Street.

Although a few buildings date from the period between 1865 and 1890, the bulk of the West End's housing stock dates from 1900 to 1939. Dwellings dating from the first wave of construction are high-style examples of late-Greek Revival and popular Victorian-era styles, such as the Queen Anne. These buildings, concentrated along West Washington Street, were built for Suffolk's white upper-class. By 1909, construction spread south

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from West Washington as new homes appeared along Wellons Street, St. James Avenue, Linden Avenue, South Broad Street and Brewer Avenue. These houses were more modest than the earlier, high-style examples along West Washington Street. Many feature Italianate, Queen Anne, Craftsman and Colonial Revival details. The buildings comprising the West End Boundary Expansion date from this second wave of construction. All were built between the years around 1890 through 1925.

The Queen Ann style J. C. Causey, Jr. House at 447 West Washington Street first appears on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps sometime after 1900. The 1889 maps show the Suffolk Collegiate Institute at this location. By 1908 the house is present. The house was constructed for local builder J. C. Causey, Jr. By 1949, the Sanborn maps indicate that an "undertaker" was using the house and the 1951 City Directory lists I. O. Hill and Company funeral directors operating at the location. The house was subsequently occupied by Hill and Underwood Funeral Home and the Hill Funeral Home.⁹ Parr Funeral Home is the current occupant of the building.

While the West End Historic District and the Boundary Expansion are linked historically and by common streetscapes, the architecture of the small expansion area resembles that of the more modest dwellings in the West End. Eight of the nine historic dwellings in the West End Boundary Expansion are simple vernacular house types more distinguished by their massing than by a definable architectural style. These simple dwellings lack stylistic references and are identified primarily by roof shape and massing such as side-gable, multi-gabled or cube-shaped. Ornamentation is applied to these simple forms. Surviving outbuildings are non-historic, although 1909 Sanborn maps show dependent outbuildings on each lot with the exception of 107 and 109. While many of the dwellings constructed in the West End Historic District retain freestanding garages, none of the primary resource dwellings present on Sanborn maps of the Boundary Expansion area appear to have had dependent garages.

108 and 110 Wellons Street are local interpretations of the American Foursquare plan, a style that derives its name from its cube-like shape and interior arrangement with four rooms on the first floor and four rooms on the second floor. The form is thought to be a simplification of Prairie style architecture that developed in the American Midwest in the early years of the twentieth century and one is of the few indigenous American architectural styles. The Foursquare was popularized nationally through pattern books advertising prefabricated kit houses. Kit houses were often shipped by rail spreading

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similar examples across the country. The Foursquares on Wellons Street do not appear to be kit houses but are a common form found in other parts of Suffolk.

The Colonial Revival was a nationally popular style characterized by exterior symmetry, classically inspired porches, and formal floor plans. The style was not intended to be historically accurate, but rather interpreted idealized classical motifs and applied them to modern homes. In the South in particular, the style came to symbolize the social order of the antebellum era and as such was a common architectural choice in racially and economically segregated early-twentieth century residential suburbs. The houses at 116 122 and 124 Wellons Street display elements of the Colonial Revival style. These frame dwellings are simple versions of the high-style brick Colonial Revival dwellings found on Bosley Street and elsewhere in the West End Historic District.

The oldest building in the Boundary Expansion area is the folk Victorian house at 118 Wellons Street. The one-and-half-story, frame dwelling with two front-facing gables is embellished with fanciful sawn trim and decorative triangular window hoods. The unique multi-gabled roof line of this house is clearly visible on Fowler's 1907 bird's eye map of Suffolk. The term folk Victorian refers to the presence of restrained detailing, often based on Italianate or Queen Anne precedents, applied to simple vernacular house forms, which lack the complexity of high-style examples. This "poor man's Victorian" was made possible by the railroads, which transported inexpensive mass-produced lumber, sash and trim.

The West End Historic District Boundary Expansion merits inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places as a representative of late-nineteenth and early twentieth century suburban growth patterns and architecture. Architectural styles in the expansion area are paired-down versions of the more elaborate examples found in the West End Historic District. The inclusion of the east side of Wellons Street in the historic district creates a clean demarcation between Suffolk's residential suburbs and commercial areas and further enhances the district with the addition of buildings that convey the history of Suffolk.

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End Notes

¹ Riggle, Jan E. and Laura V. Treischmann. "West End Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form. 2003. Page 8.89.

² Taylor, Cynthia. Email to author. April 1, 2004.

³ Riggle, page 8.39.

⁴ The City of Suffolk, Virginia: Pen and Picture Sketches, Year 1915. (Richmond: Central Publishing Company, Inc. 1915). Page 5.

⁵ Louis Berger Cultural Resources Group. "Phase I Cultural Resources Survey US 13/Route 32-Southwest Suffolk Bypass." 1992.

⁶ Berger, 10.

"Pen and Ink," 7.

⁸ "Pen and Ink," 10.

⁹ Parr, Charles. Interview with author. April 9, 2004.

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Section 10/Verbal Boundary Description

The West End Historic District Boundary Expansion contains the parcels on the east side of Wellons Avenue from West Washington Street to the north to Smith Street to the south. The parcel identified as 447 West Washington Street and located at the southeast corner of the intersection of West Washington Street and Wellons Avenue is also included in the district. The West End Historic District Boundary Expansion is marked on the attached map.

Boundary Justification

The properties on the east side of Wellons Street are similar in design, architecture and appearance to those on the west side of Wellons Street already included in the West End Historic District. With the logical addition of the eight properties on east side of Wellons Street the visual continuity of the district is extended to encompass all of the buildings within the Wellons Street streetscape. 447 West Washington Street is also included in this nomination because the large, Queen Anne style house is similar in integrity, scale and design to Queen Anne dwellings on West Washington Street and already included in the West End Historic District.

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Photographs were taken by Ellen Turco or Michelle Michael. Negatives are on file with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources:

- 1) 108 Wellons Street, Front/west and side/south elevations
NEG. NO.: 21220
DATE: 11/2003
- 2) 116 Wellons Street, Front/west elevations
NEG. NO. 21220
DATE: 11/2003
- 3) 118 Wellons Street, Front/west elevation.
NEG. NO. 21220
DATE: 11/2003
- 4) 122 Wellons Street, Front/west elevation
NEG. NO. 21220
DATE: 11/2003
- 5) 128 Wellons Street, Front/west and side/north elevations
NEG. NO. 21220
DATE: 11/2003
- 6) 447 West Washington Street, Front/north elevation
NEG. NO. 21229
DATE: 3/2004

West End Historic District Boundary Expansion





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DEPARTMENT OF METRIC

133-5040

West End Historic
District Boundary
Expansion

① 18 358025E
4066072N

② 18 357969E
4065833N

③ 18 358020E
4066023N

④ 18 358020
4066072

