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

OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

VLR 12/6/6
NRHP 5/2/7

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 Richlands Historic District

other names/site number VDHR# 148-5014

2. Location

street & number **Includes** portions of Front, Second, Third, **and** Fourth **Sts;** and Grayson **Ave.,** Lee St, Washington Square, and Suffolk Ave. not for publication N/A

city or town Richlands vicinity N/A

state Virginia code **VA** county Tazewell **code** 185 zip code 24641

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 **d o e s** 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 of certifying official Date March 19, 2007

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:**

____ entered **in** the National **Register**
___ See continuation sheet.
____ determined eligible for the National Register
___ See continuation **sheet.**
____ determined not eligible for the National **Register**
____ removed from **the** National **Register**
____ other **(explain):** _____

Signature of the **Keeper**

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

_X_ private
_X_ public-local
___ public-State
___ public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
91	15	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
91	15	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE: department store
COMMERCE: specialty store
HEALTH CARE: pharmacy
HEALTH CARE: medical business/ office
RELIGION: religious facility
GOVERNMENT: post office
TRANSPORTATION: rail-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
COMMERCE: department store
COMMERCE: specialty store
RELIGION: religious facility
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling
EDUCATION: library
VACANT / NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN
REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, Gothic Revival
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Brick
Wood: Weatherboard
Wood: German siding
Vinyl Siding
Aluminum Siding
Stone

roof Asphalt Shingles
Metal: Standing Seam
Rubber: membrane

other Wood

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.

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

Property is:

___ **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)
Community Planning & Development
Commerce
Architecture

Significant Person
(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
N/A

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Period of Significance
c. 1889 - 1956

Architect/Builder
Unknown

Significant Dates

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.)

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:
Archives, Department of Historic Resources

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 40 acres

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

1. 17	429120E	4105280N	2. 17	429000E	4105480N
3. 17	430820E	4105340N	4. 17	430800E	4105700N
5. 17	430600E	4105500N	6. 17	430500E	4105400N

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 Sherry Joines Wyatt
organization _____ date November 2006
street & number 102 Junkin Street telephone (540) 381-8268
city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

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 Timothy Taylor, Town Manager
street & number 200 Washington Square telephone (276)964-2566
city or town Richlands state VA zip code 24641

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.

Summary and Site

Developed by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company in 1888 in anticipation of the arrival of the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1889, the town of Richlands is located in the western part of Tazewell County, Virginia. The historic district encompasses approximately nineteen blocks in the center of town with ninety-six primary buildings (one previously listed in the National Register of Historic Places) and ten outbuildings. All but fifteen of these are contributing to the historic district. The district is approximately fifty-five percent residential and forty-five percent commercial, including three churches. Architectural styles include Late Victorian; Colonial and Gothic Revival; American Bungalow and craftsman; and Commercial. The Richlands Historic District is locally significance for its Architecture (Criterion C), and its Community Planning and Commerce (Criterion A) with a period of significance from circa 1889 to 1956.

Narrative Description

Tazewell County is located in southwestern Virginia, adjacent to the West Virginia state line. The Town of Richlands is in the western part of the county on the upper fork of the Clinch River. The county's major transportation route is U.S. Highway 460, which runs northeast-southwest through the middle of the county before turning north at Richlands. The topography of the county is generally rugged and mountainous though the town itself occupies a wide valley along the river.

The streets in downtown Richlands are laid out in a grid with the circa 2001 town hall located at Washington Square. The square sits on a rise above the commercial core. This site was formerly occupied by the grand Hotel Richlands and later by the Mattie Williams Hospital (VDHR #148-5016). Downtown's gridded streets are bounded by two curving railroad lines, one at the south and the other at the west. The railroad roughly follows the path of the river and Front Street parallels the southern rail line. The Richlands Historic District is an irregular crescent shape, bounded on the south by Front Street, on the east by undeveloped land, on the north by a later residential neighborhood, and on the west by Railroad Avenue and Washington Square.

The buildings within the district date primarily from circa 1890 to circa 1930. The commercial buildings, located along Front and Second streets and the 100 block of Suffolk Avenue, reflect the popular commercial architecture of the day with two-story brick buildings with minimal stylistic references. Two of the earliest surviving buildings do retain cast iron ornamentation, however. The circa 1892 W.B.F. White and Sons Hardware building (VDHR #148-5003, #148-5014-070) is the most elaborate with a Classical Revival-style cast iron upper facade. The one-over-one windows are separated by paired Corinthian columns surmounted by a large cornice with flower-motif blocks, bullseyes, consoles and modillions. At 169 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR #148-5002, #148-5014-012), built about 1910, the inset original storefront has fluted cast-iron Corinthian columns and a cast iron cornice with end blocks. A third early commercial building, the Bank of Richlands (VDHR # 148-5004, #148-5014-002), was built about 1890 and is notable for its use of coursed, rock-faced stone. The upper windows of the building are round-headed sash with keystones.

More typical of Richlands' commercial buildings is 1151 Second Street (VDHR #148-5014-054). Probably built about 1910, this two-story brick building has three bays separated by pilasters. There is corbeling and

basketweave brickwork near the cornice. The pilastered bays with corbeling are a recurring motif throughout the district's commercial area. The building at 113-117 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR #148-5014-003) is representative. This two-story brick building has corbeling, soldier course and basketweave brick work at the cornice. This building was probably built during the 1920s. The storefront has been altered. Like many commercial buildings across the state, the first floor storefronts have been altered on most of Richland's buildings. The upper stories, however, tend to retain their original features.

One of the most significant buildings in Richlands is the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company Office (VDHR #148-5018, #148-5014-001, NR 1984) on Suffolk Avenue. Built as a development office for the company that planned and founded Richlands, the building stands in the heart of Richlands surrounded by commercial structures. It is a two-story Georgian Revival building with German sheathing, symmetrical facade, hipped roof and dormers. The central dormer features a broken pediment. The building was later used as residence and hospital by Dr. W.R. Williams.

The commercial core of the district is centered at the 100 Block of Suffolk Avenue. This block of Suffolk Avenue is highly diverse, however, with the residential-like Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company office as well as the brick American Foursquare-style Fugate house, which later served as Farmer's Funeral Home. At the northwest corner of the block is the very large Farm Bureau building (VDHR #148-5014-065). Built in 1939 to serve Farm Bureau feed and seed company, this two-story brick building has a distinctly industrial aspect with pilastered bays facing both Second Street and Suffolk Avenue, cast concrete coping and caps for the pilasters, and cast concrete lintels and sills on the large, glass block window bays on the second floor at the Suffolk Avenue elevation as well as the smaller bays on the Second Street elevation.

Adjacent to the commercial core to the north is the residential section of the district. Lining parts of Suffolk Avenue, Washington Square, Lee Street, and Grayson Avenue are many modestly-scaled homes along with nine associated garages, sheds, and other outbuildings. The residential buildings in the Richlands Historic District are almost evenly divided into Late Victorian buildings built between 1890 and 1915; Bungalows and American Foursquares from the late 1910s through the early 1930s; and Period Cottage, Colonial Revival, Minimal Traditional and Cape Cod-style houses from the late 1930s through the mid-1950s.

The Late Victorian houses are varied. One of the largest and most impressive is located at 301 Washington Square (VDHR #148-5001). Built about 1890 for W. B. Spratt, the first mayor of Richlands, this two-story house has modest Queen Anne references with Colonial Revival influences. The house appears to be two phases of construction, but appears in a photo taken between 1890 and 1906 in its current form. The west elevation, now the facade of the house, has a gambrel roof. The porch roof, which is engaged, is carried unusually low and is very deep on the south elevation. The porch wraps around the gambrel end with a pointed arch arcade on the facade. The house has wood shingles on its upper story and unusual molded German siding on its lower level. Under the south porch are interesting circle motif leaded glass windows and three sets of wooden French doors with the same motif.

More modest, though still ornate, is the circa 1900 house at 216 Lee Street (VDHR #148-5014-031). This two-story Queen Anne-style house has a front-gable projection with a polygonal bay. The house is sheathed in

weatherboard siding and has decorative wood shingles and diagonally-laid beadboard panels. The two-story porch has square posts with sawn brackets. The circa 1895 house at 1111 Front Street (VDHR #148-5014-072) carries a similar level of detail with a double-front gable roof with wood shingled gables. The house's wrap-around porch is supported by Tuscan columns.

In addition to the gable ell form houses like 216 Lee Street, there are also a few I-houses and several hip-roof cottages from this period. One of the most ornate cottages is 405 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR #148-5014-019). This one-and-a-half-story house is sheathed in weatherboard siding and its wrap-around porch is supported by turned posts with sawn brackets. It has a pedimented front-gable dormer.

Representative of modest homes from this period in the district is 208 Grayson Avenue. This one-story, hip-roof cottage has a center gable and weatherboard siding. The hip-roof porch has square posts and the windows are one-over-one sash. The house located at 301 Grayson Street (VDHR #148-5014-051) is equally straightforward in its design. Thought to have been built about 1895, the two-story, front-gable house has weatherboard siding and a hip-roof porch with turned posts. Windows are two-over-two with arched heads on the second floor. The side passage entry has arched lights in the door.

There are ten examples of bungalows in the district and most have Craftsman stylistic references. The circa 1925 house at 219 Washington Square (VDHR #148-5014-022) is representative. Like most of Richland's bungalows, it is one-and-a-half-stories with a side-gabled roof. Some of the district's bungalows, like this one, have gabled dormers while others feature shed-roof dormers. This house has a shed-roof porch supported by battered posts on brick piers. Craftsman details include multi-light, Craftsman-style muntin patterns at the door and sidelights and knee braces. Somewhat smaller, but well preserved, is the bungalow at 319 Lee Street (VDHR #148-5014-043). Constructed of unusually large bricks, this one-and-a-half-story bungalow has a side gable roof and a wide shed dormer. The shed-roof porch is supported by battered posts on brick piers. Windows are paired, three-over-one sash and details include knee braces and sidelights. In contrast, the bungalow at 305 Grayson Avenue (VDHR #148-5014-052) has Colonial Revival rather than Craftsman styling. This one-story house has a side-facing clipped gable roof and brick veneer. The gabled porch has a curvilinear arched opening, a brick arch over the door, and a basketweave watertable.

There are only two examples of American Foursquare houses in the district. The example at 406 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR #148-5014-017) is the two-story brick Methodist parsonage. It has a hip-roof attic dormer. The front porch is supported by Tuscan columns. The windows have cast concrete lintels.

By the late 1930s, and especially after World War II, the houses built in the Richlands Historic District shifted to the Period Cottage, Minimal Traditional, Cape Cod, and Colonial Revival styles. The 300 Block of Lee Street has several excellent examples of these houses such as the circa 1950 Cape Cod at 301 Lee Street (VDHR #148-5014-035). The house has a steeply pitched side-gable roof with gabled dormers, and the brick veneer features solider course lintels and watertable. Nearby, at 315 Lee Street (VDHR #148-5014-041) is a good example of the Colonial Revival style. This two-story, brick house has three wall dormers on its facade and the gabled entry porch, supported by paired, Tuscan columns, has an arched opening with a keystone motif. The entry carries a fanlight and sidelights. At 311 Lee Street (VDHR #148-5014-039) is a good example of the

Period Cottage style. This one-and-a-half-story brick, side gable house has a front-gable projection and a front-gable entry pavilion with round-head door. Some houses from this period carry more than one stylistic reference. The circa 1950 house at 415 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR #148-5014-019), for example, has both Minimal Traditional and Period Cottage influences.

Though the brick railroad depot that originally existed on Front Street has been demolished, there is an important railroad building within the historic district. Built about 1889 as a Section House (VDHR #148-5007) for the Norfolk and Western Railroad, the small building at 1542 Front Street is a one-story, single-pile frame building sheathed in board and batten siding. A small front gable with decoratively sawn board sheathing extends over the later hip-roof porch, which has replacement posts. Architectural surveyor Gibson Worsham noted in 2000 that this section house is similar in design to those at Bluefield and Tiptop.

In addition to commercial, residential, and railroad-related resources, there are three churches located in the historic district. The oldest church building within the historic district is the First Christian Church (VDHR #148-5014-069) at 1502 Second Street. Built in 1908 this two-story, brick building is in the cruciform plan with a pyramidal-roof corner entry tower. The building has tripartite Gothic arch windows with stained glass. Both of the other churches date from the mid-twentieth century. The First United Methodist Church (VDHR #148-5014-015) at 402 Suffolk Avenue is a one-story brick building with modest Gothic Revival motifs such as buttresses along its sides and tripartite Gothic arch windows over the stone entryway, which is flanked by buttresses. Richlands Presbyterian Church (VDHR #148-5014-061), on Second Street, has been altered with additions over time, but the original sanctuary is intact as a one-story, front-gable brick building with an interesting belfry rising from the face of the building in low relief. The belfry is flanked by copper-capped parapet walls. The buttress-flanked entry is a Gothic arch with a transom of diamond leaded glass.

The architecture within the Richlands Historic District represents most of the popular-style architectural models that were common throughout the state during their respective time periods. Richlands was a boom town during its early history and its position on a major rail line gave the town access to up-to-date information and materials. The extensive use of brick in the district is notable and is likely due to the brick factory that operated for many years in the town as well as the prosperity that the town enjoyed. These two factors – economics and transportation – explain the prevalence of popular models in a town that was relatively far away from major city centers. Richland's founders envisioned a "Pittsburgh of the South" and they undertook to create it by utilizing stylish architecture. This is especially true of their choice of Georgian Revival for their office building, the use of stone for the bank, and the exuberant Queen Anne design of the now-demolished Hotel Richlands.

Today, the Richlands Historic District retains many of the buildings that were built during the c. 1889 to 1956 period. These buildings illustrate both the boom of the early years and explain the settling of the town into quiet and steady growth based on the economic base of manufacturing and coal.

Inventory List

The following inventory is organized by street beginning with streets running north-south followed by streets running east-west. Each property is noted as Contributing or Non-contributing to the historic district. Bibliographical references are given in [brackets].

Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Co. Office (Dr. W.R. Williams House),
102 Suffolk Ave. (VDHR # 148-5018 / 148-5014-001) c.1890 **Contributing**
Originally built as a development office for the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company, which planned and founded Richlands, the building stands in the heart of Richlands surrounded by commercial structures. It was later used as a residence and hospital by Dr. W.R. Williams. It is a two-story Georgian Revival building with German sheathing, symmetrical facade, hipped roof and dormers. The central dormer features a broken pediment. The long front porch typical of the many Georgian Revival dwellings built through the Middle Atlantic and Southern states in the early 20th century, is supported by classical columns. This building has also been listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places.

Bank of Richlands,
101-105 Suffolk Ave. (VDHR # 148-5004/148-5014-002) c.1890 **Contributing**
Two-story, hip-roof, coursed rubblestone, double commercial building has arch-headed sash windows (replaced) with arched transoms and keystones. At the first-floor are replaced storefronts flanking the center door. The two storefronts have been altered with infill and added roofs, but the overall character has been maintained. The building was originally built as a bank by the development company it later housed, Richlands National Bank, which operated until 1955 when it became the Bank of Tazewell. [Gaynelle Thompson]

Commercial Building, 113-117 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-003) 1925 **Contributing**
This two-story brick building has corbeling, soldier course and basketweave brickwork at the cornice. The storefront has been covered with vinyl siding and has a shed roof, but the overall character has been maintained. Built in 1925 as the post office, this building also housed the offices of W.B. Spratt, attorney. [Gaynelle Thompson and "George Buskill Remembers Richlands"]

Commercial Building, 125 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-004) c.1930 **Contributing**
This brick building is two stories with basketweave brick panel and dogtooth brickwork at the cornice. Upper windows are one-over-one sash. Though the storefront now has an angled wall and wood sheathing, the overall character of the building has been maintained. According to "George Buskill Remembers Richlands," this building was owned by Frank Hurt and it housed a grocery store, dry goods store, and millinery shop.

Commercial Building, 129 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-005) c.1920 **Contributing**
Two-stories in height, this brick building has paired, one-over-one windows and a basketweave brick panel in the upper story. The storefront now has a stone veneer and a new roof over the original roof, but the overall character has been maintained. This building housed a plumbing supply store in 1936. [Sanborn]

Fugate House, 1-- (west side) Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-006) c.1930 Contributing
This two-story, hip roof Foursquare-style house has a brick veneer; paired, four-over-one windows; and a multi-light door and sidelights. The hip-roof porch is supported by brick piers and has a brick balustrade. This house was built for Captain Fugate, according to "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" manuscript. By 1936 it was W.P. Farmer's Funeral Home. The Farmers lived on the second floor. [Sanborn and Gaynelle Thompson]

Commercial Building,
1-- (west side) Suffolk Ave. (VDHR # 148-5014-007) c.1955 Non-Contributing
Two-stories with a front-gable roof, this building has been altered with wood sheathing along the upper floor and an aluminum recessed storefront. It no longer retains its character along the commercial block.

Commercial Building, 141 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-008) c.1920 Contributing
This brick building is two-stories with a corbeling and soldier course at the cornice. The windows are one-over-one sash. The altered storefront is recessed and has a stone veneer exterior. The building shares the replacement roof with 129 and has retained its character. This building housed a drug store in 1936. [Sanborn]

Commercial Building, 145-149 Suffolk Ave. (VDHR # 148-5014-009) c.1920 Contributing
This two-story, brick building has one-over-one windows, corbeling and a solider course at the cornice, and two single entries for the upper story. While the storefront level has been slightly altered and the building has a replacement roof, the overall historic character has been maintained.

Commercial Building, 157 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-010) c.1920 Contributing
This brick building is two stories with corbeling at the cornice. The one-over-one windows have stone lintels and sills. The more recent aluminum storefront has soldier course banding above it as do the windows. This building retains its historic integrity along the commercial block.

Commercial Building,
16- (east side) Suffolk Ave. (VDHR # 148-5014-011) c.1920 Contributing
At two stories, this brick building is four bays wide with corbeling at the cornice and a soldier course above the one-over-one replacement windows. The storefront has been veneered with new brick and there is a deep shed roof overhang, but the overall character has been maintained.

Commercial Building,
169 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5002 / 148-5014-012) c.1910 Contributing
Two-stories with a parapet around the roof, this three-bay building has one-over-one, segmental-head sash windows and six-course American-bond brick walls. The inset original storefront has fluted cast-iron Corinthian columns and a cast iron cornice with end blocks. The parapet along the northeast side is stepped and carries a tile coping. Although the location is not entirely clear, it appears that "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" records this building, owned by Anna and Edward Davy, as the home of Darlington Grocery Store. By the 1950s, this building was home to Tanner's Drug Store. [Gaynelle Thompson]

House, 3-- Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-013) c.1925 **Contributing**
One-and-a-half-stories in height, this Craftsman-style, brick bungalow has an engaged porch with flared roofline. The porch is supported by brick piers. Above the porch is a gabled dormer with wood-shingled, shed-roof bump-out. Other details include six-over-one windows, knee braces and exposed rafter tails. The front doors have been replaced with double-leaf metal doors.

Building, 309 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-014) c.1910 **Contributing**
The narrow, front-gable facade of this building seems to indicate an original use as an office or commercial space with a centered brick chimney. The one-story building is constructed using five-to-one common bond and has tall six-over-six windows with segmental arch heads. There is a small gabled porch at the side-entry.

First United Methodist Church,
402 Suffolk Ave. (VDHR # 148-5014-015) c.1960 **Non-contributing**
This one-story brick church has Gothic Revival motifs such as buttresses along its sides and tripartite Gothic arch windows over the stone entryway, which is flanked by buttresses. The front-gable roof is surmounted by a steeple. Though the building has great integrity as built, it falls out of the period of significance and is therefore considered non-contributing.

House, 405 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-016) c.1910 **Contributing**
A one-and-a-half-story hip roof cottage, this house is sheathed in weatherboard siding. The wrap-around porch is supported by turned posts with sawn brackets. The front-gable dormer is pedimented. Windows are two-over-two double-hung sash. The property is bounded by a stone retaining wall at the sidewalk.

Methodist Parsonage, 406 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-017) c.1915 **Contributing**
An example of the American Foursquare style, this two-story brick house has a hip-roof attic dormer. The front porch is supported by Tuscan columns and the replacement windows have original concrete lintels. The property is bounded by a stone retaining wall at the sidewalk. Built about 1915 according to "George Buskill Remembers Richlands," the parsonage is thought to have first been occupied by Rev. Waterhouse.

House, 409 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-018) c.1900 **Contributing**
This two-story tri-gable I-house is sheathed in replacement aluminum siding, but has original two-over-two windows and louvered shutters. The gabled porch has paired, square posts under a slightly arched pediment. The roof retains the original pressed tin shingles.

House, 415 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-019) c.1950 **Contributing**
The brick veneered facade of this one-and-a-half-story house has both Minimal Traditional and Period Cottage influences. The house is a gable ell form and has gabled dormers. The facade chimney is accented with stone. There is a 24-light picture window and six-over-six sash windows. The raised porch has brick piers with iron balustrade and stone steps. At the sidewalk, the property is bounded by a stone retaining wall with stone steps.

House, 416 Suffolk Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-020) c.1900 **Contributing**
This one-story side-gable house is clad in replacement vinyl siding, but retains its original standing seam metal

roof. The hip-roof porch is carried by Tuscan columns. And though the windows have also been replaced, the overall "cottage" form has been maintained. The property is bounded at the sidewalk by a very nice stone wall.

Store c.1920 **Contributing**
Located beside the house is an early twentieth century front-gable store with weatherboard siding and one-over-one windows flanking the central entry.

House, 215 Washington Square (VDHR # 148-5014-021) c.1930 **Contributing**
This two-story, Colonial Revival house has a painted brick exterior, a hip roof, and corbelled end chimney. A flat-roof portico with unusual fluted square columns marks the entry. The replacement windows have original concrete lintels. The eaves carry small modillions. There is a gabled bay on the north side of the house.

Garage c.1930 **Contributing**
In rear of the house is a brick, one-story garage with flat roof. Though it has been altered with a single entrance, it still maintains its character as a contributing secondary resource to the main house.

House, 219 Washington Square (VDHR # 148-5014-022) c.1925 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story Craftsman-style bungalow is brick with a gabled dormer and flared roof extending over the porch. The raised porch is supported by battered posts on brick piers. The three-over-one, paired windows are replacements. The entry and sidelights are multi-light in a Craftsman pattern. Other details include knee braces, stone lintels, and decorative diamond brickwork along the porch.

W. B. Spratt House,
301 Washington Square (VDHR # 148-5001 / (VDHR # 148-5014-023) c.1890 **Contributing**
Built for attorney and first mayor of Richlands, W.B. Spratt, this is likely one of the earliest houses in Richlands. According to "George Buskill Remembers Richlands," Spratt was also a school teacher and his wife was postmistress. The two-story house has modest Queen Anne references with Colonial Revival influences in the c.1910 addition / remodeling on the house's west side. The house is loosely gable-ell in form with the front-gable eastern section displaying most of the early phase of the house with complex roof and polygonal bay on the east elevation. The west elevation, now the facade, is from the second phase and has a gambrel roof. The porch roof, which is engaged to this wing, is carried unusually low and is very deep on the south elevation. The porch wraps around the gambrel end with a pointed arch arcade on the facade. The house has wood shingles on its upper story and unusually molded German siding on its lower level. Under the porch are interesting circle motif leaded glass windows and three sets of wooden French doors with the same motif that give entry to the house on the south side. Other windows are nine-over-one Craftsman-style replacements. The one-and-a-half-story section also has hip-roof dormers.

House, 311 Washington Square (VDHR # 148-5014-024) c.1955 **Contributing**
Clad in brick, this two-story Colonial Revival-style house has a gabled entry porch with fluted columns. The central entry has a broken pediment. Brick work includes soldier course lintels at the paired six-over-six replacement windows and a soldier course water table. There is a one-story, gabled wing and a carport completing the symmetrical front.

Garage Apartment c.1955 **Contributing**
In rear of the house is a two-story, front-gable, brick garage/apartment.

House, 3-- Washington Square (VDHR # 148-5014-025) c.1900 **Contributing**
This, two-story, hip-roof house has weatherboard siding and one-over-one windows. The hip-roof porch is supported by Tuscan columns. There is a central gable at the second story roof line. The multi-light door has sidelights. The house is altered with storefront-type windows in bay under porch. Since this alteration is set back under the porch, it does not detract from the overall integrity of the original house character. "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" records this as the Roy White house. White was a merchant and lumber man.

House, 201 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-026) c.1925 **Contributing**
Sheathed in brown brick veneer, this one-and-a-half-story bungalow has a shingled, shed-roof dormer on its side-gable, flared roof. The porch is supported by battered posts on brick piers. The nine-over-one, Craftsman-style windows are replacements (in-kind). The entry features a multi-light door and sidelights.

House, 205 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-027) c.1940 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, brick-sheathed house has an unusual front-facing gambrel roof with vinyl-siding in the gambrel end. The six-over-one windows are replacements and the porch has been enclosed. There is a one-story, front-gable projection. Despite the alterations, the house form and character remain integral to the historic block.

Garage c.1940 **Contributing**
Located at the rear of the lot adjacent to 205 is a two-bay, shed-roof brick garage.

House, 2-- Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-028) c.1910 **Contributing**
This unusual house is two-stories in height and in the gable-ell form with a narrow facade. The house is sheathed in asbestos shingles and has a one-story, hipped wing. There is a small, shed-roof entry porch. The paired one-over-one windows have with louvered shutters. "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" records that this house was built by the development company and occupied by Henry Barrett, a miner and lumberman.

House, 212 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-029) c.1925 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story brick-veneered bungalow has a shed-roof dormer, exposed purlins, and six-over-six replacement windows (paired and single). The shed-roof porch is supported by Tuscan columns on brick piers with a turned newel balustrade. The Colonial Revival door surround may be an alteration, though the original door and sidelights remain intact.

House, 215 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-030) c.1910 **Contributing**
This two-story hip-roof house has front-gable and polygonal projections and is sheathed in vinyl siding. The windows are six-over-six replacement sash. The wrap-around porch is supported by Tuscan columns, and is partially enclosed along the side and rear portion. Despite the alterations this dwelling maintains its historic form and character, which is integral to the neighborhood.

House, 216 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-031) c.1900 **Contributing**
Two stories in height, this hip-roof Queen Anne-style house has a front-gable projection with a polygonal bay. The house is sheathed in weatherboard siding and has decorative wood shingles and diagonally-laid beadboard panels. The two-story porch has square posts with sawn brackets. Windows are two-over-two sash. The entry has an unusual multi-light door and sidelights. "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" records two houses in this vicinity: the first was built by the development company and occupied by Wimdom Kitts, a painter and policeman. The second was owned by James and Susie Kincannon. James was the first butcher in Richlands. It is unclear which of these represents this current dwelling.

House, 218 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-032) c.1950 **Contributing**
Sheathed in brick, this gable-ell form Minimal Traditional-style house is one-and-a-half-stories tall. It has three-over-one sash windows, which are tripartite in the ell, and paired elsewhere. The front gable section above the tripartite window has vertical wood siding, as do the side gable sections with the paired windows. The shed-roof, corner porch is supported by decorative iron posts.

House, 221-225 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-033) c.1910, c.2000 **Non-Contributing**
Heavily altered, this two-story hip-roof house has a very large clipped gable addition with a gabled parapet with circle cut-out. Now a multi-unit dwelling, it is sheathed in stucco and has recessed porches and fixed windows.

House, 300 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-034) c.1970 **Non-Contributing**
One-and-a-half stories in height, this side-gable brick house has a watertable and six-over-six windows with panels below them.

Garage c.1960 **Non-Contributing**
Single-bay brick garage with tile coping. The front garage bay has been altered with T-111 siding and single-entry door.

Outbuilding late 19th/early 20th century **Contributing**
This is a tiny, common bond brick building with shaped parapet.

House, 301 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-035) c.1950 **Contributing**
This Cape Cod-style house is one-and-a-half stories in height with a steeply pitched side-gable roof with gabled dormers and exterior brick chimney. The brick veneer features solider course watertable and lintels. The windows are paired, one-over-one replacements with original rowlock brick sills. The gabled porch has an arched opening and decorative iron posts. There is a single-bay attached garage which does not detract from the historic character as it is set back form the main façade.

House, 305 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-036) c.1925 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, brick bungalow has a front-gable roof and a wide gabled porch that extends into the porte-cochere. This entire expanse is supported by brick piers. The house has one-over-one windows and gabled dormers on the sides. The front entry has a single door with sidelights.

House, 308 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-037) c.1950 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, Minimal Traditional-style brick house has a front-gable projection with a picture window with four-over-four windows flanking it. Under the side entry, engaged porch is a six-over-six replacement window and a single door with multi paned sidelights. The porch has iron railings and decorative iron posts. There is a side wing, set back from the main façade, with a six-over-six replacement window.

House, 311 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-038) c.1940 **Contributing**
One-and-a-half stories in height, this brick, side gable Period Cottage house has a front-gable projection and a front-gable entry pavilion with round-head door. The windows are four-over-one replacements. There is a one-story wing with a picture window flanked by three-over-one windows, and carport with brick piers.

House, 314 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-039) c.1950 **Contributing**
One-and-a-half stories in height, this Cape Cod-style house is sheathed in brick veneer and has a side gable roof with gabled dormers. On either side of the dormers is a brick interior end chimney. The gabled entry porch has an arched opening with square posts, and there is a gabled side porch. The windows are multi-light tripartite with paneled shutters.

House, 315 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-040) c.1950 **Contributing**
This two-story, brick Colonial Revival-style house has wall dormers and nine-over-nine replacement windows with concrete sills. The gabled entry porch is supported by paired, Tuscan columns and has an arched opening with a keystone motif. The entry carries a fanlight and sidelights. The façade is symmetrical except for the exterior end chimneys, one in front and one in the rear. There is a one-story, frame side porch with windows and side gable roof.

House, 318 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-041) c.1950 **Contributing**
This brick Colonial Revival-style house is one-and-a-half stories in height. Its side-gable roof is stepped over side wings. The two central dormers are arched, while over one wing is a polygonal dormer and the other a gabled dormer. The windows are six-over-six sash. Two French doors lead to the engaged porch with turned posts. The main entry has a fanlight and shutters under an arched front gable porch supported by turned posts. Beside the main entry is a hipped roof polygonal bay with multi-light windows.

Garage c. 1950 **Contributing**
Set back along side of 318 is a one-story brick garage with siding in the front gable, and a single multi-paned and multi-light garage door facing the street.

House, 319 Lee Street (VDHR # 148-5014-042) c.1925 **Contributing**
Constructed of unusually large bricks, this one-and-a-half-story bungalow has a side-gable roof and a wide shed dormer. The shed-roof porch is supported by battered posts on brick piers. The windows are paired, three-over-one sash, and the single door has sidelights. Details include knee braces under the side eaves, and a soldier course and an open diamond pattern in the front brickwork of the raised porch. There is a one-story frame addition along the rear/side and a stone retaining wall along the sidewalk.

House, 204 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-044) c.1925 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, side-gable bungalow has a gabled dormer. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has knee braces, six-over-six replacement windows, and a partially enclosed front porch. The porch is supported by battered posts on brick piers. Despite the alterations, the main form and character defining details such as the bracketed eaves and flared roof maintain the dwelling's integrity along the block.

House, 20- (east side) Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-045) c.1915 **Contributing**
A one-story hip-roof cottage, this house has vinyl siding and one-over-one replacement windows. A center gable on the front of the main roof is steeply pitched and the hip-roof porch is carried by Tuscan columns on brick piers. Despite the alterations, the house form and character remain integral to the historic block.

House, 208 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-046) c.1915 **Contributing**
This one-story, hip-roof cottage has a large center gabled dormer and weatherboard siding. The center gable has horizontal siding and vent. The hip-roof porch has square posts with a central single door underneath and a single one-over-one window on either side.

House, 209 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-047) c.1915 **Contributing**
This two-story, gable ell form house has vinyl siding and one-over-one replacement windows. The wrap-around porch has a rounded corner is altered with a vinyl-sheathed balustrade and short columns.

Outbuilding c.1930 **Contributing**
Located behind 209 is a one-story, front-gable outbuilding with vinyl siding, knee braces under the deep eaves, and single door entry. This building remains a contributing secondary resource.

House, 212 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-048) c.1930 **Contributing**
One-and-a-half-stories in height, this front-gable house has wood shingle sheathing, eight-over-eight and six-over-six windows, and side additions. The only replacements have been the front-entry porch posts.

House, 217 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5011 / 148-5014-049) c.1900 **Contributing**
This two-story, gable ell house has vinyl siding and one-over-one replacement windows. The shed-roof porch has replacement, turned posts. The multi-light entry is flanked by sidelights.

Garage c.1930 **Contributing**
Situated behind 217 is a two-story, gable roof garage with weatherboard siding.

House, 220 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-050) c.1930 **Contributing**
One-and-a-half-stories in height, this Colonial Revival bungalow has brick veneer and a hip-roof with hip-roof dormer. The windows are one-over-one replacements. The hip-roof porch is supported by Tuscan columns and the entry has sidelights.

Garage Apartment c.1950 **Contributing**
Located behind 220 is a one-story, hip-roof, brick-veneered garage apartment.

House, 301 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5012 / 148-5014-051) c.1895 **Contributing**
This two-story, front-gable house has weatherboard siding and a hip-roof porch with turned posts. Above the two-over-two arched head windows on the second floor is an arched vent. There is patched siding and one-over-one windows under the porch. The side passage entry has two arched lights in the door. R.L. Crawford records in his History of Richlands, that he and his father brought the first piano in town to this house, then owned by Henry Shannon.

House, 305 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-052) c.1930 **Contributing**
One-story in height, this bungalow has a side-facing clipped gable roof and brick veneer. The windows are six-over-six light replacements. The front gabled porch has an unusually shaped arched opening supported by paired Tuscan columns. Details include a brick arch over the door, a basketweave watertable, and a large corbelled brick exterior end chimney.

House, 306 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-087) c.1940 **Contributing**
This two-story, three-bay, brick, Colonial Revival-style house has one-over-one replacement windows (paired on first floor), glass block window over entry on second floor, gabled entry with arch over door, and pedimented door with pilasters. A large, one-story, late-twentieth century addition with full, drive-in basement extends from the south end of the house connected by a one-story hyphen. The hyphen has a low side gable roof with deep eaves and knee braces and a single door entry. The side-gable addition at the rear corner is sheathed in board-and-batten siding, and is setback such that it does not detract from the main façade.

House, 309 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-088) c.1895 **Contributing**
This, two-story, two-bay, front-gable house has aluminum siding and original two-over-two windows. The hip-roof porch has bracketed turned posts and side passage entry. The eaves are ornamented with scalloped fascia.

House, 310 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-089) c.1930 **Non-contributing**
One-and-a-half-story in height, this side-gable bungalow with front-gable projection has been significantly altered with the application of vertical, unpainted wood siding. And while it maintains its original three-over-one and four-over-one windows, they have been covered with storm windows and framed in groups with painted wood separate from the siding. There is a small gabled dormer and a flared roof line extending over a one-bay porch.

House, 31- Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-090) c.1930 **Contributing**
Colonial Revival in style, this two-story, three-bay, brick house has a side gable roof and exterior end brick chimneys. It has six-over-six windows and pedimented entry with pilasters and fan-light door. There is a one-story wing on the south end of the house and a one-story side porch on the north end completing its symmetrical façade.

House, 314 Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-091) c.1930 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story Cape Cod-style house has a side-gable roof, one-over-one windows and gabled dormers. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has a partial-width, gabled porch with paired, square posts.

House, 31- Grayson Avenue (VDHR # 148-5014-092) c.1930 **Non-contributing**
This front-gable house was originally one-story in height, but now has an upper story, monitor-like addition with a gable roof. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one replacement windows and a front-gable porch with replacement posts.

House, 1201 Fourth Street (VDHR # 148-5014-093) c.1945 **Contributing**
This one-story, painted brick house has modest Colonial Revival styling with a side-gable roof, polygonal bay in the front-gable projection. It sits on a raised brick basement accessible from the side and rear. On the left side of the center gable is an entry accented by a blind arch. On the right, are two six-over-six windows with a cornice under the roof eave. The house sits well above the street with an impressive stone retaining wall.

House, 1202 Fourth Street (VDHR # 148-5014-094) c.1945 **Contributing**
Two stories in height, this three-bay Colonial Revival house has aluminum siding and straight-forward symmetrical façade with side gable roof. Details include the original six-over-six windows, and a central entry with dentil molding above the arched light door.

House, 1211 Fourth Street (VDHR # 148-5014-095) c.1950 **Contributing**
This modest, brick, Colonial Revival-style house is one-and-a-half-story in height with paired, eight-over-eight windows and architrave at the central entry. There is an exterior end brick chimney and rowlock brick sills. The house sits above street level with a brick retaining wall.

House, 1215 Fourth Street (VDHR # 148-5014-096) c.1950 **Contributing**
One-and-a-half-stories in height, this brick Colonial Revival house has three gabled dormers and an exterior end brick chimney. The single dormer windows and paired first floor windows all have six-over-six sashes. Centered at the front is a flat-roofed portico with paired classical columns. The portico is accessed by brick steps rising above a stone retaining wall.

House, 1201 Third Street (VDHR # 148-5014-043) c.1940 **Contributing**
This one-story, gable ell form Period Cottage has brick veneer and a front-gable entry pavilion with round-head door. There is a basketweave watertable and four-over-four replacement windows, both tripartite and paired.

I.E. Horton House, Dickenson Ave (VDHR # 148-5014-053) 1938 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story Colonial Revival-style brick house sits in relative seclusion atop a hill surrounded by woods. The house features dormers and a portico carried by classical columns. The house was built by I.E. Horton, owner of Horton's Clothing Store on Front Street. [Gaynelle Thompson]

Commercial Building, 1151 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-054) c.1910 **Contributing**
This two-story brick building is three bays with a corbeled cornice with basketweave brickwork separating each bay. The flat roof has tiled coping along the front and a stepped parapet along the sides. The entry is in the right-hand bay. There are faux keystones over the one-over-one windows and the storefronts are plate glass with bracketed cornices and awnings. This building housed an auto sales/service business in 1936. [Sanborn]

Commercial Building, 1161 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-055) c.1930 **Contributing**
This large two-story brick building is three bays with a modest corbeling at the cornice and raised brick pilasters separating the bays. The roof is flat with tile coping along the front. The storefront is plate glass and aluminum with a shed overhang. Some windows on the first floor are enclosed, while the second floor has the original pairs of single windows in each bay. This building housed the Farm Bureau store from 1936 or earlier through 1939.

House, 12-- (north side) Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-056) c.1930 **Non-Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, side-gable bungalow has been substantially altered with vertical wood replacement siding and enclosed porch. It has a front-gable dormer and knee braces.

House, 1205 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-057) c.1930 **Non-Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, front-gable bungalow has been substantially altered with vinyl siding, and large, gabled dormers on each side, creating a full second story. It has replacement windows and an asphalt roof. The house has a gabled porch with square posts and a stone retaining wall along the sidewalk.

Office, 1222 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-058) c.1960 **Non-Contributing**
Clad in vinyl, this small, one-story building has a front-gable roof and picture window.

House, 1224 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-059) c.1930 **Contributing**
Currently used as an office, this one-and-a-half-story, side-gable brick bungalow has a gabled dormer, knee braces, and battered posts on brick piers. Although the porch has been enclosed, the overall integrity of the dwelling has not been compromised.

House, 1302 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-060) c.1940 **Contributing**
This two-story, Colonial Revival-style brick house is currently used as an office. It has a side-gable roof, six-over-six windows, a pedimented and pilastered entry and a one-story wing. "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" records that G.G. Harris, editor of the Richlands Enterprise, lived at this location, but it is unclear if this is the same house.

Richlands Presbyterian Church,
13-- Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-061) 1933, 1958, 1968 **Contributing**
The original Gothic Revival sanctuary is intact as a one-story, front-gable brick building with interesting belfry rising from the face of the building in low relief. The belfry is flanked by copper-capped parapet walls. The buttress-flanked entry is a Gothic arch with a transom of diamond leaded glass. At the sanctuary's west side is a one-and-a-half-story wing with dormers. The building appears in a c.1934 photograph with the original sanctuary and this wing (which then had Tudor Revival-style half-timbering). A two-story brick education building with cast stone entry surround was added in 1958 and the wing was altered to connect the two buildings. The original sanctuary also carries a modern sanctuary built in 1968 as a rear addition. [Lucy Hunter, church member]

Office, 1310-1314 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-062) c.1940 **Contributing**
Two-stories in height, this flat-roofed brick building has three entries with flat pediments and pilasters. The windows are one-over-one, paired sash (shuttered on first floor). This building housed the Richlands Post Office from 1948 until 1963 when current post office building was constructed.

Office, 1318 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-063) c.1990 **Non-Contributing**
Set back from the street, this one-story building has a stepped parapet and stucco sheathing. There is a brick entry porch with double-arch openings.

Office, 1326 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-064) c.1980 **Non-Contributing**
This one-story building has a heavy mansard roof over the storefront, vinyl siding, one-over-one windows, and two entries.

Farm Bureau Building, 14-- Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-065) c.1940 **Contributing**
An unusually large commercial building, this two-story brick building has pilastered bays facing both Second Street and Suffolk Avenue. There is cast concrete coping and caps for the pilasters. Cast concrete lintels and sills are found on the large glass block window bays on the second floor at the Suffolk Avenue elevation as well as the smaller bays on the Second Street elevation. The first floor bays have been enclosed with stack bond brick, aluminum, and plate glass as well as glass block. The entry is on the Second Street elevation and is shielded by a aluminum canopy. A historic metal "Farm Bureau" sign is on top of the building. The Richlands branch of the Tazewell Farm Bureau opened for business in 1926, in a rental building. Construction for this building began in June 1939. R.R. Wall was president at that time, with C.C. Clark, Jr. being the current president of the co-op. [Gaynelle Thompson]

Bus Station, 1424 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-066) c.1950 **Contributing**
Currently used as office space, this two-story brick bus station has a rounded corner, plate glass windows, and three entries with transoms. Parking is currently in the bus loading area recessed under the second floor level on the side of the building.

Commercial Building, 1430 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-067) c.1950 **Contributing**
This two-story brick building has transoms over the storefront and a door to second floor. The upper floor window are replacements.

Commercial Building,
143- (south side) Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-068) c.1950 **Non-Contributing**
This small, one-story building with plate glass windows has been re-sheathed in stucco changing its original character.

First Christian Church, 1502 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-069) 1908 **Contributing**
This two-story brick church is in the cruciform plan with a pyramidal-roof corner entry tower. The building has tripartite Gothic arch windows with stained glass. There is a gabled rear wing.

W.B.F. White and Sons Hardware Co.,
1515 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5003 / 148-5014-070) c.1892 **Contributing**
This two-story, brick building has been altered with a recessed storefront sheathed in T-111 siding, but retains its wide and elaborate Classical Revival-style cast iron upper facade. The one-over-one windows are separated by paired Corinthian columns surmounted by a large cornice with flower-motif blocks, bullseyes, consoles and modillions. There is a two-story, brick addition with glass block windows on the building's west side. The addition appears in a 1930s photograph without the glass block. The building was purchased by W.B.F. White in 1907 as the location for his hardware store. The White family dwelling was in seven of the eleven upstairs rooms. ["Family business plugging along," Richlands News Press, 3 March 1999]

Commercial Building, 1516 Second Street (VDHR # 148-5014-071) c.1940 **Contributing**
This large, two-story brick building has metal, hopper-style windows and a cornice featuring corbeling and a soldier course. The flat roof is capped by a parapet with tile coping. Two of the windows have glass blocks. The double-leaf doors are aluminum as is the small canopy. This building was the home of Dixie Grocery Company Wholesalers, established in 1923 by W.B.F. White. [c.1945 booster brochure in collection of Gaynelle Thompson]

House, 1111 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5010 / 148-5014-072) c.1895 **Contributing**
This one-and-a-half-story, Late Victorian house has a double-front gable roof with weatherboard sheathing and wood shingled gables. The wrap-around porch is supported by Tuscan columns. Windows are paired one-over-one sash where the upper sash is encircled by small blocks. "George Buskill Remembers Richlands" suggests that this was the residence of Naph Whitaker, railroad engineer.

Commercial Building, 1205 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-073) c.1920 **Contributing**
Two-stories in height, this brick building has four bays divided by pilasters with corbeling and plate glass storefronts. There are replacement one-over-one windows in the upper story with original segmental arch heads. There is a one-story addition, which does not detract from the overall character.

Commercial Building, 1221 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-074) c.1955 **Contributing**
Occupied by the Richlands News Press, this three-story brick building has had its storefronts enclosed with metal doors under an awning. The building has one-over-one replacement windows on the upper floors and concrete copping along the flat roof. A one-story addition is attached to the east side with plate glass windows and tile coping. The building retains its overall simple-commercial character.

Commercial Building, 1225 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-075) c.1930 **Contributing**
Three-stories in height, this brick building is five bays with two storefronts and a single entry to the upstairs units. The building is ornamented by a soldier course over the storefronts and rowlock sills. Both storefronts have enclosed transoms and marble bulkheads. This building appears on the 1936 Sanborn map as the Dixie Hotel.

Commercial Building, 1237 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-076) c.1920 **Contributing**
A small, one-story brick building, this building has corbeling and a soldier course with plate glass storefront.

The transom is covered with vinyl. A historic photo shows this building housing Underwoods' Meat Market in the 1920s. [Gaynelle Thompson]

Commercial Building,
12-- (north side) Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-077) c.1920 **Contributing**
This two-story brick building has two asymmetrical bays with corbeling. The flat parapet roof has been covered with a shed roof, though this is only visible from the sides, and does not affect the intergity. Windows are three-over-one sash and there are two storefronts one of which is recessed. Both storefronts have transoms that are covered with vinyl siding.

Eagle Hotel,
1249 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5005 / 148-5014-078) c.1920 **Contributing**
This large, three-story brick building has a replacement shed roof covering the original flat parapet roof that is visible from the sides, and does not detract from the character of the street façade. The first floor, storefronts also have added T-111 siding. The two-bay building has one-over-one windows, two pedimented entries, and corbeled cornice with an eagle-motif cartouche. The building is occupied by the Tazewell Free Press, but was built as the Eagle Hotel (the brick railroad depot was located across the street).

House, 1413 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-079) c.1910 **Contributing**
Now used as the Chamber of Commerce office, this one-story, hip-roof cottage has a front-gable at the eave with decorative shingles. The building is sheathed in German siding and has one-over-one windows. There are two entries with transoms. This building served as the operating room for Dr. W.R. Williams before the construction of the Mattie Williams Hospital in 1914. It later was used by Dr. Adele Del Castillo's dental office. [Gaynelle Thompson]

Commercial Building, 1417-1425 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-080) c.1935 **Contributing**
The facade of this large, two-story brick building is ornamented with decorative basketweave brick panels and front-gable parapet. The paired, one-over-one windows are replacements. The storefront has added wood trim featuring pediments and dentils. The storefront has some glass block, which may be original, and overall the building retains its character with the streetscape. Built on the site of the Yost Hotel, this building was a clothing store and ABC store. ["George Buskill Remembers Richlands"]

Commercial Building, 1501 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-081) c.1960 **Non-Contributing**
This one-story brick building has a recessed, angled storefront, reflecting a modest attempt at Modernism. An aluminum canopy shields the facade.

Commercial Building,
1517-1525 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-082) c.1920, c.1945 **Contributing**
Originally two buildings that are now a single store (Cury's), the western building is two stories and two bays with plate glass storefront. It is thought to have been constructed in 1937 for Callie Fields. Parts of the eastern building appear to be older and it is three stories. Its upper windows are covered by shutters. At its cornice is basketweave and soldier course brick work. Both the two and three-story sections are unified by a brown brick

facade that appears to date from the 1930s or 1940s and hip-roof canopies.

Commercial Building, 1533 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-083) c.1960 Non-Contributing
This three-story, brick building has beige brick veneer (painted on first floor), plate glass storefront, and soldier course lintels.

Section House, 1542 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5007 / 148-5014-084) c.1889 Contributing
One story in height, this small, side-gable, single-pile house is sheathed in board-and-batten siding. A small front gable with decoratively sawn board sheathing extends over the later hip-roof porch, which has replacement posts. The windows are six-over-six and there is a one-story, shed-roof addition on the east side of the building.

Outbuilding Contributing
A small, gable-roof, frame board-and-batten outbuilding is located behind the house.

Commercial Building, 1549 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-085) c.1940 Contributing
Featuring modest Art Moderne styling in the raised brick bands with soldier courses that decorate the upper floor, this two-story brick building also has a soldier course at the cornice. There are three storefronts: two recessed with aluminum and plate glass and one with brick and Formstone. This building was occupied by Horton's Dry Goods by the 1950s; it earlier housed the Federated Store (clothing). [Historic photo and interview with Gaynelle Thompson]

Commercial Building, 1557 Front Street (VDHR # 148-5014-086) c.1920 Contributing
This two-story, brick building has two bays divided by pilasters with corbeling at the cornice. The storefront has 1950s blue porcelain panels. There are one-over-one replacement windows with original concrete sills. The addition of a replacement gable roof above the original flat roof does not detract from the overall original commercial character of the building. This building was the Richlands Pharmacy/Rexall Drug store owned by Mr. and Mrs. J.G. Repass. [Gaynelle Thompson]

Summary Paragraph

Richlands is located in the Clinch River Valley of western Tazewell County, Virginia. Developed by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company in 1888 in anticipation of the arrival of the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1889, Richlands was envisioned by its founders as the "Pittsburgh of the South," with significant iron, steel, coal, and glass manufacturing. Yet, the Panic of 1893 thwarted these plans and bankrupted the company and its many sister companies. The Richlands Brick Company survived and became the largest brick plant in southwestern Virginia, helping to fuel an economy that was based primarily on the town's function as a supply center for the sixteen coal mines that were located in the region by 1930.

The high-style Georgian Revival Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company Office (later used as the home and office of Dr. W.R. Williams) survives and was listed in the National Register in 1984. Across the street, the stone Bank of Richlands was also built by the development company about 1890. Both of these building are well-preserved examples of their architectural styles. The exuberance of their designs is illustrative of the lofty goals of the developers. A railroad section foreman's house and the c.1890 W.B.F. White & Sons Hardware store are among the other early extant buildings in the district with the latter being an unusually ornate commercial building in southwestern Virginia with an intact Classical Revival cast iron upper facade. The more modest, popular-style Late Victorian cottages and Craftsman-style bungalows, along with the standard brick commercial buildings show us the prosperity that the town achieved after its recovery from the 1893 depression. By the late 1930s and 1940s, the town was thriving and a building boom is clearly evident in the numbers of brick Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Period Cottage-style houses within the district.

The Richlands Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A for its association with the planning and development of the town and for its significance in the history of local commerce. It is also eligible under Criterion C for its architecture that is representative of the town's late-nineteenth and early-twentieth century commercial and residential development. The period of significance for the district begins c. 1889, the date of the earliest building in the district, and ends in 1956.

Historical Background, Architectural, and Community Development and Planning Context

Tazewell County was settled in the late eighteenth century and formally established in 1799. Among the early settlers was the Witten family, who settled at Crab Orchard (near Tazewell) in 1770. Richlands is located about eighteen miles west of the Witten settlement, in the Clinch River valley. This area was among Virginia's western outposts in 1775 and housed a militia station beginning in 1782. The name Richlands comes from the common reference to the fertile valley. The earliest record of this reference appears in a 1785 land grant by Governor Patrick Henry to John Fowler for acreage "in the rich lands on both sides of the Upper Fork of the Clinch River." This origin is preserved in the modern pronunciation of the town's name as "Rich-lands."[i]

By the late nineteenth century, the land where Richlands now stands was a farm and hog-feeding station owned by William M. Gillespie. The difficulty in transporting corn to markets led farmers to use corn crops to raise large herds of hogs. The hogs were driven to market at seaports such as Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah, Georgia where they were slaughtered to make salt pork that was used aboard ships. Along the route to market were hog-feeding stations, or farms where the herds were kept for several weeks to fatten the hogs.[ii]

C*hataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Business Directory* from 1889 gives a picture of contrasts in the county. Still tied to its agricultural origins, Tazewell was also facing a significant period of industrial development. The *Directory* states:

> The surface is very mountainous, and but comparatively a small portion is given to the raising of cereals . . . Like all lands in this section of the State, it is very productive in grasses, and the grazing of cattle comprises one of the principal sources of revenue to the inhabitants. Large deposits of coal, iron, manganese and other minerals are found in this county, which have long been underdeveloped on account of its remoteness from public highways. The New River division of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, which extends through the northern limits of the county, has given in recent years great impetus to the mining operations, especially of coal, in this section.[iii]

The Norfolk and Western Railroad was organized through the consolidation of several railroads in 1881. In the early 1880s, the company constructed extensive coal warehouses at Norfolk and moved the company headquarters to Roanoke in order better target the coal fields of southwestern Virginia and West Virginia. The line arrived at the newly constructed town of Pocahontas (forty-five miles northeast of Richlands) in 1883 to find 40,000 tons of coal waiting for export.[iv]

This sparked a flurry of speculation, land acquisition, and new town building throughout the county including Tiptop, Graham, Maxwell, Cedar Bluff, Richlands, and Doran.[v] Richlands was established by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company, which purchased 30,000 acres in the valley (nine-tenths of the total valley acreage) during this period including the outlying areas along Indian Creek, Middle Creek, Town Hill Creek, Swords Creek, Dumps Creek, Weaver's Creek, and Big Creek. The development of the Appalachian Coalfields was marked by the dominance of large land-holding companies like Southwest Virginia Improvement Company in Pocahontas, the Flat Top Coal Land Association in Tazewell County and West Virginia, and Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company in Richlands. These companies freely gave leases and actively encouraged the establishment of many coal mining companies.[vi]

Richlands' streets were platted in 1888 and in 1889, the Norfolk and Western line reached the new town. By April of 1890, the company had "disposed of $300,000 worth of lots in sixty days," according to the *Clinch Valley News*. An editorial in the same paper the following month described the creation of

Richlands:

> ...it is the new method of town building that will prevail here. The place will not be left to struggle alone through the years adding here a little and there a little in an uncertain helter-skelter sort of way. The management recognizes that now-a-days towns don't grow, they are made.[vii]

The investors of Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company (CVC&I Co.) had set out to create the "Pittsburgh of the South." The developers built some of the earliest buildings in town, two of which still stand: the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company Office on Suffolk Avenue (VDHR# 148-5018) and the Bank of Richlands (VDHR# 148-5004) across the street. They also built the opulent, sixty-room Hotel Richlands (demolished). Described in an 1890 advertisement, as "the finest in southwest Virginia."[viii] The high-style architecture of these buildings reflected both the urban background of the developers as well as their hopes for the town's success.

The 1890 ad, which was written by C. Graham, CVC&I Company agent, goes on to list the new buildings in Richlands at that point: two hotels (in addition to Hotel Richlands which was still under construction), the depot, a number of stores, the company office building, a bank (nearing completion), a steam brick plant, the machinery for the steel rolling mill had been delivered, and a branch railroad to the coal mines north of Richlands was complete. In sum, the ad claimed that Richlands had "greater promise than any town in Southwest Virginia."[ix]

A reprint of a Richlands Land Company promotional brochure from c.1890 lists the industry and business in the new town. The inside cover banner reads: "Cheap coal! Cheap iron! Low cost of manufacture! Pure Water! Healthy Climate!" The brochure described ten companies that were established or were forming in Richlands including the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company with two million dollars in capital, Richlands Land Company, Richlands Iron Company, Richlands Coal Company, Richlands Tube Works, Richlands Brick and Manufacturing, Richlands Water, Gas, & Electric Company, Richlands Ice and Refrigeration Company, Richlands Building Company, and Richlands Home Purchasing Investment and Insurance Company. Evans R. Dick was president or vice president of five of these companies, including Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company. Dick appears to have been the lead investor in the Richlands project. He was a banker from New York, while other company investors and officials were from Philadelphia.[x]

Richlands was a boom town with the social ills that often accompanied such places. Rowdy reputations were common among the coal field supply centers of Tazewell and neighboring counties. Some sources indicate that there were as many as nine saloons in Richlands and a total of twenty-seven in the vicinity. R.L. Crawford, who came to Richlands about 1888, wrote a history of the town in 1945. Crawford relates that the town was home to about half a dozen saloons in the early 1890s. "I can't explain to you," he writes, "how bad this country was during the 90's."[xi] Yet, in 1892 the town of incorporated with

attorney W.B. Spratt as its first mayor.

The boom period in Richlands was brief. A combination of extensive investment and a major economic downturn sealed the fate of the CVC&I and its sister companies. The description of the company's holdings in the Richlands Land Company brochure hints at the risks involved in the development. The brochure touted that the company has not waited to secure industries from other sections, but has authorized the expenditure of over $200,000 in various improvements and has pledged itself to a policy that will call for an almost immediate expenditure of $300,000 more, fully confidant that its success will shortly result in a manufacturing centre [sic] that will rival Birmingham in it population and activity.[xii]

The Panic of 1893 signaled an economic depression that was in part caused by the curtailing of railroad construction since the 1880s. The railroads had been a major buyer for rolled steel, thus the steel and iron industry suffered with the decline.[xiii] While any economic instability could have signaled disaster for a fledgling town, this particular contraction in the steel and iron businesses, which were significant coal utilizers, was a death knell for the over-stretched CVC&I. The company created to acquire the holdings of the failing Clinch Valley Coal and Iron after the Panic bought all the unsold lots in town for one dollar each. In the end, five Richlands residents bought most of the property in town. Sometimes called the “five Bills,” these men were Dr. William R. Williams; William B. F. White, owner of W.B.F. White and Sons Hardware; William B. Spratt, an attorney and first mayor; William P. Farmer, an undertaker; and William P. Boggess, a merchant.[xiv] It is telling that Crawford records in his history that these men along with a number of other local citizens were the town's builders. He writes: “to my knowledge the town was developed by this group of good citizens.”[xv]

These men and many other citizens did build Richlands, not the Richlands envisioned by the northern investors, but a solid and prosperous town nonetheless. After the economic recovery during the mid-1890s, the coal fields of Tazewell County again fueled growth for commercial centers like Richlands. By 1910, there were at least three mines operating near Richlands: Empire Coal Land Corporation, north of town; Raven Red Ash Coal Company near the brick factory, and Jewell Ridge Coal Company, which was several miles north of Richlands.[xvi]Additionally, the Richlands Brick Company survived the Panic and became the town's leading industry. A 1923 newspaper article described the brick plant as “our town's most important industry.” It was the only survivor among the iron, ice, pipe and glass factories set up by the town's early developers. In 1923, the plant was the only brick plant in Tazewell County and the largest plant in southwestern Virginia with a capacity of 50,000 bricks a day. An average of eighteen to twenty rail car loads were shipped each week in addition to the many bricks sold locally. Senator C.C. Hyatt of Richlands, was president and treasurer of the company in 1923 and had been since 1908. The company provided employee housing in the West End of Richlands. A 1930 report found that the necessary raw material was mined near the plant by a steam shovel and brought to the site via dinky train.[xvii]

By 1900, the population of Richlands had reached 475.[xviii]Among the town's citizens were many merchants and businessmen like W.B.F. White, owner of W.B.F. White and Sons Hardware, which opened in 1907. This very large store on Second Street (VDHR # 148-5003) sold a wide variety of goods including

harnesses and collars, guns, pots and pans, baby carriages, mattresses, caskets, stone ware, wagons, and mowing machines.[xix]

Richlands Water, Electric Light, Gas and Power Company was established by the developers in 1891 and by 1907 Richlands had electric lights and running water. Oral history accounts indicate that the many homes did not utilize the electricity and the water, pulled directly from the river, was of mediocre quality, even muddy, prior to a 1939 filtration plant.[xx]

The history of education in Richlands exemplifies the town's growth during the early twentieth century. The first school was taught by J.A. Leslie and Miss Lucy Stuart in 1892 and in 1894, a brick four-room school was constructed. Classes for black students were held in the Baptist church. The school was expanded several times, with a large addition coming in 1929. In 1922, there were seventeen teachers serving 600 students and by 1933, there were twenty-two teachers and 750 students.[xxi] Bob Childress, a native of the town, recalled Richlands in the 1920s. “Most of the activities,” he stated, “revolved around school functions, dances, ball games, ...”[xxii]

Dr. W.R. Williams arrived in Richlands in 1897 and established a medical practice. He purchased the former Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company office as his home and office in 1901 and practiced there until 1914, when he built the Mattie Williams Sanitarium (VDHR# 148-5016, demolished). In 1930, this was one of only two hospitals in county; the other being located at Bluefield.[xxiii]

In fact, by 1930, Richlands was one of the primary towns in Tazewell County with an estimated population of 1,800. The number businesses in Richlands was surpassed only by the combined Bluefield/West Graham area. Industries in Richlands in 1930 included Richlands Beverage Corporation, Richlands Ice Company, and Richlands Brick Corporation.[xxiv] While none of the industrial buildings were located within the district, the many commercial buildings in the district well illustrate the town's role as a commercial center. Located primarily along Second and Front streets and Suffolk Avenue, these buildings date primarily from the 1920 – 1945 period; an era of important growth and expansion throughout the county. The county's population increased by 4,456 between 1900 and 1920, but jumped by an additional 4,637 between 1920 and 1930. Commerce continued to be centered in the towns of Richlands as well as Bluefield and Tazewell.[xxv]

Coal mining was still a primary economic factor, but within Richlands the lumber and textile industries surpassed mining in terms of numbers of employees. Yet, the number of employees at the mines located in the Richlands area was a tremendous factor in the town's economy, which was based in large measure upon the merchants and other services Richlands provided for mine employees. In 1928, there were ten coal companies operating sixteen mines in the Richlands area, with 1,700 miners and nearly 400 above-ground employees. Coal production in Tazewell County had escalated from 962,269 tons in 1895,

with steady increases after 1909, to reach 2,410,491 tons by 1928.[xxvi]

The town's service to adjacent agricultural populations, like that in Belfast, southwest of Richlands,

is illustrated by the Farm Bureau feed and seed supply house, which came to Richlands in 1926. The agricultural factor was noted in a circa 1934 booster brochure which touted: "With one foot on land, and the other in industry, and with both thrilling to the promise of a great and permanent expansion, Richlands is bound to grow, thrive, and prosper."[xxvii] The prosperity was especially visible on Saturdays in Richlands during the early and mid-twentieth century as farmers and mine employees alike flocked to Richlands to shop, conduct business, and enjoy the movie theater.[xxviii]

By 1930, the town was served by two daily passenger trains between Bluefield and Norton and there were three daily buses between Bluefield and Bristol, and a small line between Tazewell and Richlands. This transportation service illustrates Richlands' importance as a commercial center in the area. In 1930, the town had two hotels: the Eagle (VDHR # 148-5005) and the Richlands.[xxix]

Just as the coal production was increasing during the 1920s, the town grew by about 300 people between 1920 and 1930. In 1920, there were 350 residences in town, but by 1930, "considerable construction" had been undertaken to build more housing. This is evidenced by the large number of bungalows extant in the historic district on Lee, Suffolk, and Grayson Streets in particular. Sixty-five percent of houses were owner-occupied in 1930.[xxx] By 1940, the town's population stood at 2,203, more than four times that of 1900.[xxxi]

George Buskill noted in his memoir that the manager of the First National Bank of Richlands and the superintendent of the Red Ash Coal Company both lived in the 400 block of Suffolk Avenue during the early twentieth century. The 1936 Sanborn Fire Insurance map illustrates the relatively sparse development of the neighborhood north of the commercial core, with only about half the now-extant houses having been built by this time. During the 1940s and early 1950s, however, there was a building boom and the neighborhood was more densely built, taking on its current aspect. Lee Street and Washington Square were noted as prominent addresses during this period, often held by doctors serving at the Mattie Williams hospital and other professionals.[xxxii] The expansion of the district's residential section was paralleled on the west side of the Clinch River as another large neighborhood was developed there as well.

R.L. Crawford, in his circa 1945 *History of Richlands*, gives us a list of the businesses and other amenities in Richlands at that time. Crawford wrote that the town had: good churches, two funeral homes, two hardware stores, two banks, one first class post office, two hospitals, two theaters, a good water and lighting system, one casket factory, one brick yard, seven dry goods stores, nine grocery stores, two printing offices, two wholesale houses, one ABC store, seven offices, three garages, two radio shops, one recapping shop, and ten doctors.[xxxiii]

The brick yard was thriving. In 1946, there were eighty employees producing 80,000 bricks a day.

During World War I, ninety percent of the production went to the Army and Navy and in 1946, fifty percent were going to federal housing projects. Of those shipped, most went to West Virginia and Washington, D.C.[xxxiv]

A circa 1945 booster brochure published by the *Clinch Valley News* found the population of Richlands to be 20,000 within a fifteen mile radius of Richlands.[xxxv] Although probably greatly exaggerated, this figure does help us to understand the importance of the outlying areas to Richlands' economy.

The slowing of Richlands' economy was gradual. The brick plant closed in the 1970s, but in 1981, Richlands was the fastest growing town in Tazewell County. But, as mining declined during the 1980s the growth in Richlands slowed considerably.[xxxvi]

Today, Richlands is a small town of just over 5,600 people. With its economy supported primarily by the Clinch Valley Medical Center, the Tazewell County school system, and the coal industry, it still serves as an important place of business in the area and the Richlands Library, in the former Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company office building is heavily utilized.

As a collection of historic architecture, the Richlands Historic District reflects the dichotomy of the town's development. The Georgian Revival Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company Office and the stone Bank of Richlands built by the development company about 1890 represent high-style architecture of the day. Another early building, the c.1890 W.B.F. White & Sons Hardware store is an unusually ornate commercial building in southwestern Virginia with an intact Classical Revival cast iron upper facade. Most of the buildings within the district, however, epitomize modest popular-style architecture from the late-nineteenth century and early-to-mid-twentieth century. The district's Late Victorian cottages and Craftsman-style bungalows, along with the standard brick commercial buildings show us the prosperity that the town achieved after its recovery from the 1893 depression. By the late 1930s and 1940s, the town was thriving and a building boom is clearly evident in the numbers of brick Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Period Cottage-style houses within the district. Finally, the three churches in the district are representative of their respective dates of construction and feature modest Gothic Revival styling that is typical among churches from the early and mid-twentieth century.

End notes

[i] Carol Wolfe and Gaynelle Thompson, "History of Richlands," accessed at www.town.richlands.va.us/index.htm

[ii] Ibid.

[iii] *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer and Business Directory, 1888-1889,* accessed at New River Notes website, www.newrivernotes.com/va/taze1888.htm

[iv] Ronald Eller, *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers* (Knoxville: UT Press, 1982), 70-71.
[v] Gibson Worsham, *Historic Architectural Survey of Tazewell County, Virginia*, 2001, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 21.
[vi] Ibid, 71-72 and Wolfe.
[vii] Gaynelle Thompson, "Railroad line spurred initial development," *Richlands News-Press,* 1 July 1992, Richlands Library vertical file.
[viii] Louise Leslie, *Tazewell County,* (Radford: Commonwealth Press, 1982), 143-144.
[ix] Ibid.
[x] *The Richlands Land Company*, reprint of c.1890 brochure, Richlands Library vertical file; Leslie, 139-140; and B.K. Howell, "A History of Richlands," Richlands News-Press, 1 July 1992, Richlands Library vertical file.
[xi] Worsham, 22 and R.L. Crawford, *The History of Richlands*, c.1945, Richlands Library vertical file.
[xii] *The Richlands Land Company.*
[xiii] David Whitten, "The Depression of 1893," accessed at www.eh.net/encyclopedia/article/whitten.panic.1893
[xiv] Gaynelle Thompson, "Panic of 1893: effects felt throughout nation," *Richlands News-Press,* 1 July 1992, Richlands Library vertical file and Leslie, 138.
[xv] Crawford, 14.
[xvi] Leslie, 142 and Sherry Wyatt, "Determination of Visual Effects for the Proposed Jewell Ridge (Amonate) Cell Tower Location, Jewell Ridge, Tazewell County, Virginia, October 2005," Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.
[xvii] R.L. Humbert, *Industrial Survey: Tazewell County, Virginia,* Vol. 2 in Dr. Julian Burress, *Industrial Survey for Southwest Virginia,* (Blacksburg, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1930), 37.
[xviii] Worsham, 22.
[xix] "Family business plugging along," *Richlands News Press,* 3 March 1999, Richlands Library vertical files.
[xx] Gaynelle Thompson, "Utilities played major role in town's growth," *Richlands News Press,* 1 July 1999 and Richlands Library vertical files; "Family business plugging along."
[xxi] Gaynelle Thompson, "Richlands schools reflect proud history," *Richlands News Press,* 1 July 1999; Leslie, 138; and Worsham, 22.
[xxii] "Man who left to see the world keeps coming home," *Richlands News Press* 17 March 1999, Richlands Library vertical file.
[xxiii] Humbert, 89.
[xxiv] Ibid., 13 and 58.
[xxv] Worsham, 28.
[xxvi] Ibid, 16-17 and 22-23.
[xxvii] *Clinch Valley News Special Edition*, c.1934, in private collection of Gaynelle Thompson.
[xxviii] Gaynelle Thompson, interview by Sherry Joines Wyatt, 29 March 2006.
[xxix] Ibid., 57 and 100.
[xxx] Ibid., 83.
[xxxi] Worsham, 22.
[xxxii] Thompson, interview and "George Buskill Remembers Richlands," manuscript in vertical files of Richlands Library.
[xxxiii] Crawford, 18.
[xxxiv] Gaynelle Thompson, "Brick plant one of the first major industries to start in Richlands," *Richlands News Press,* 1 July 1999,
Richlands Library vertical file and Thompson, interview.
[xxxv] "The Clinch Valley News presents: America's Most Beautiful Section, Tazewell County, Virginia," *Clinch Valley News,* c.1945, in private collection of Gaynelle Thompson.
[xxxvi] Leslie, 136.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Richlands Historic District is shown as a solid line on the accompanying detailed historic district map entitled, "Richlands Historic District," which shows the footprints of all the resources and their contributing or non-contributing status.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Richlands Historic District encompasses the greatest concentration of pre-1956 contributing resources within their appropriate historic settings. Most boundary lines follow roads and property lines.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

All photographs are of:

Richlands Historic District (VDHR# 148-5014) Tazewell County, Virginia
Date: March 2006 Photographer: Sherry Joines Wyatt
Location of negatives: VDHR, Richmond

1. VIEW OF: 1417-1425 & 1413 Front Street
   Neg. No. 22863, frame #5

2. VIEW OF: 100 Block of Suffolk Avenue, looking North
   Neg. No. 22863, frame #6

3. VIEW OF: 100 Block of Suffolk Avenue, East side
   Neg. No. 22863, frame #12

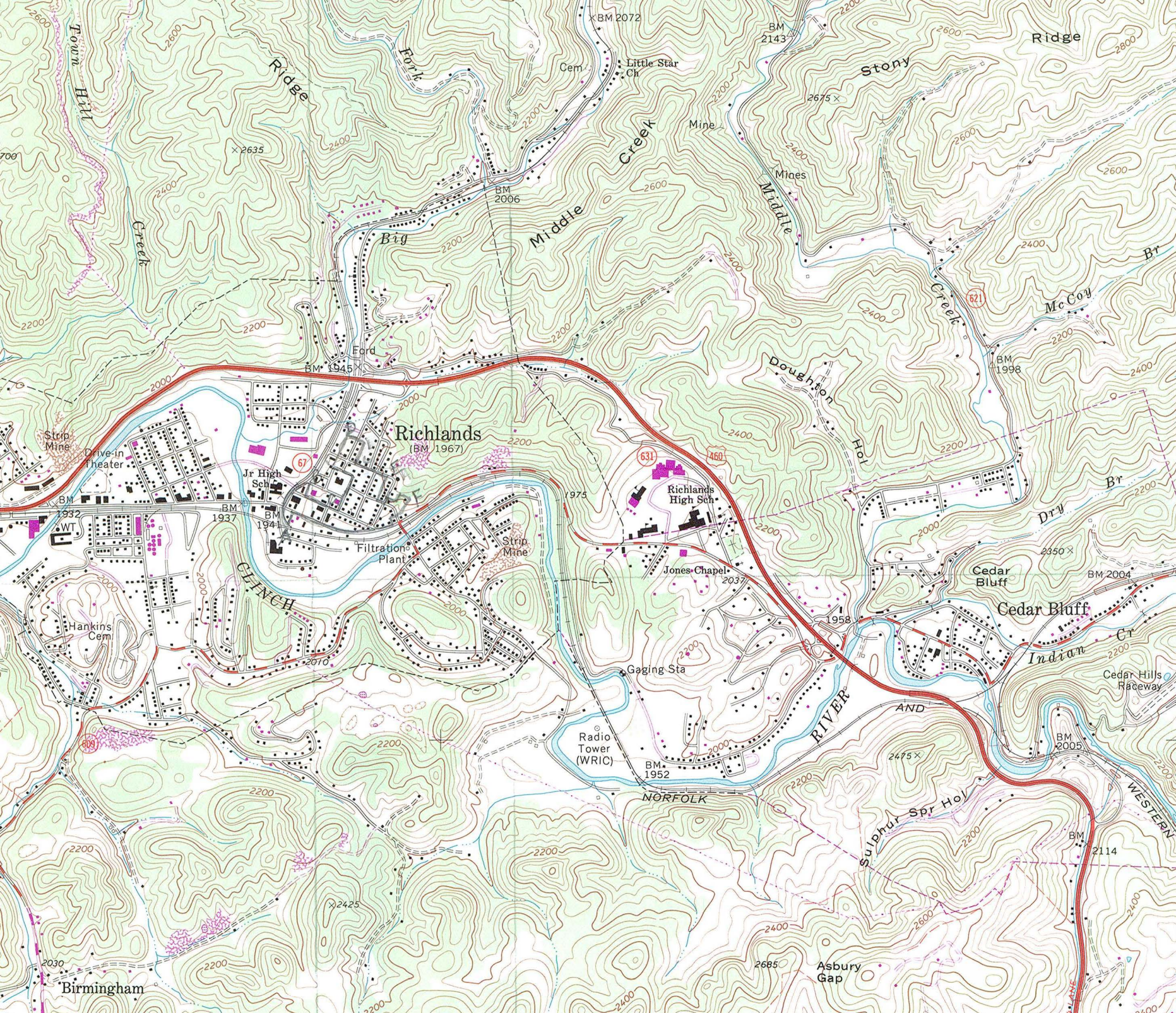
4. VIEW OF: 169 & 16- Suffolk Avenue
   Neg. No. 22863, frame #17

5. VIEW OF: 3-- & 402 Suffolk Avenue (First United Methodist Church)
   Neg. No. 22862, frame #1

6. VIEW OF: 219 & 215 Washington Square
   Neg. No. 22862, frame #6

7. VIEW OF: 301 & 305 Grayson Avenue
   Neg. No. 22862, frame #12

8. VIEW OF: 1224 & 1302 Second Street
   Neg. No. 22862, frame #22



#148-5014
TAZEWELL CO, VA
Richlands Historic Dist.
UTM 17
1. 4105280N
429120E
2. 4105080N
429000E
3. 4105340N
430820E
4. 4105700N
430800E
5. 4105500N
430600E
6. 4105430N
430500E

Richlands Historic District (VDHR# 148-5014)

Key:

- Contributing Property
- Non-Contributing Property
- Boundary
- -000 Tertiary Number for Property in District

N

Scale: 1"= apx. 200'

