



**General Description of District:** (Please describe building patterns, types, features, and the general architectural quality of the proposed district. Include prominent materials and noteworthy building details within the district and a general setting and/or streetscape description.)

### **Setting**

The St. Luke Building is located on a lot in the southeast corner of a block defined by St. James Street to the east, West Baker Street to the south, St. John Street to the west, and West Charity Street to the north. The lot is grassy with concrete sidewalks located along the east and south borders of the lot. There is a chain link fence between the lot and the south sidewalk and telephone poles along St. James Street. A large tree is located at the southeast corner of the building and several mature trees are located west of the building. South of the building is the circular concrete base of a former fountain, now infilled with soil and grass. A concrete path leads from the east and south sidewalks to the south entry.

### **St. Luke's Building, 900 St. James Street (Contributing Building)**

#### **St. Luke Building Exterior**

The St. Luke Building measures 76 by 61 feet and faces St. James Street, where the primary entrance is located. The St. Luke Building is a four-story, flat-roofed building constructed of two generations of brick (in four different colors) laid in six-course common bond. The original three-story building was designed in 1902 by Charles H. White. In 1918, the fourth floor and entire southernmost bay (containing a hall, two stairs, and an elevator) were added; the addition was designed by Charles T. Russell.

The east (primary elevation) exterior walls are built of a pressed, beige brick, with the 1902 and 1918 brick being slightly different colors. On the first floor of the east (primary) elevation, the storefront consists of four wood-frame, single-fixed pane storefront windows topped by transoms. The storefront windows were modified several times, with the most recent modification in the 1970s. The south elevation is constructed of yellow brick (similar, but not identical to the beige brick on the original portion of the building). Each south elevation bay and story is defined by brick pilasters and brick string courses. The west (rear) elevation is constructed of red brick and has a stepped parapet that is higher at the south end. The north elevation is constructed of red brick. The first two stories are obscured at the east end by the adjoining building. Fenestration throughout consists of two-over-two wood sash with transoms and one-over-one wood sash of varying sizes, with one window in each bay of each story, except the easternmost bay. All windows are contained within segmental-arched openings, have stone sills, and are typically either partially or fully boarded up.

The footprint of the building measured 76 by 61 feet; each floor contains 4,650 square feet of enclosed space, for a total of 18,600 square feet of enclosed space.

A metal-wrapped wood cornice tops the elevation. Signage consisting of letters spelling "St Luke Building" is attached to the masonry walls between the second- and third-story windows of the east elevation. The building is covered by a flat membrane roof that slopes down from south to north. The north end of the roof has a stepped, red brick parapet and the south end has a flat brick parapet. Both parapets are partially coated with concrete. There are four brick interior chimneys: one at the southwest corner of the roof, and three along the north elevation. An elevator overrun is located in the southeast corner of the roof and the roof access is located just west of the overrun along the south elevation.

On the east (primary) elevation all four entries contain double wood-framed doors with transoms; in addition, the main entrance (in the southernmost bay) contains a flat, steel-framed, wood-clad, suspended entry canopy. On the south elevation, a bricked-up, canopied entry is located in the second bay from the west and appears similar to that of the front (east) elevation. The entry has a short flight of concrete steps with a metal rail. A narrow basement areaway, accessed by a flight of concrete steps with a metal rail, runs the width of the elevation. The west (rear) elevation doors, located in the second and third bays from the north, each contain a modern metal door. The southernmost door has an exterior metal vestibule accessed by a concrete ramp. Each door took the place of a window, the former openings for which are bricked up above each door. An exterior metal stair with a corrugated metal canopy leads from a second-story door to the south side of the building. The second-story door is metal, and has a boarded-up window and a large, segmental-arched, boarded-up transom. On the north elevation, metal fire escape stairs descend diagonally from approximately the center of the fourth story to the west end of the second story. The fire escape is a later addition, as evidenced by three former window openings that have been modified into door openings with transoms at each level.

Each opening contains a set of narrow wood double doors, each leaf of which contains one light over one panel. The fourth-story door has a nine-light transom, the third-story a six-light, and the second-story a twelve-light. The second-story door is blocked at the interior by a fixed wood panel, which also covers broken glass at the doors.

The St. Luke Building contains four floors. The basement is located under the 1918 addition and the southeast corner of the original building; the rest of the space consists of crawlspace only. The basement contains three rooms, including a furnace room at the west end, a hall with stair at the east end, and a vault behind the stair. An elevator is located behind the vault. Typical finishes include concrete floors, plaster or exposed brick walls, and plaster or poured-in-place concrete ceilings. Plumbing is exposed throughout much of the basement, and is mostly concentrated in the furnace room, where there is a water heater and other mechanical equipment.

### **St. Luke Building Exterior**

This floor originally housed shops that were accessed from St. James Street. The current configuration, modified most recently in the 1970s, allows the spaces to be accessed internally. The first floor consists of four rooms that are accessed by an entry hall; the entry hall is open except for two stair halls flanking the elevator shaft and a restroom at the west (rear) end. A short flight of stairs (dating to the 1970s) leads from the original section to the 1918 addition near the east end of the building. Floor finishes include small ceramic tiles, and vinyl composition tile (VCT) laid over wood strip flooring. A concrete ramp (dating to the 1970s) connects the original section to the 1918 addition. The hallway at the base of the southeast stair has a painted, coffered wood ceiling; the remaining ceilings are typically plaster covered with later gypsum board. The original large, arched opening at the south wall of the northwest room is now infilled with gypsum board with a modern door. Metal doors, dating to the 1970s, access two separate rooms along the west wall.

The second floor of the building consists of seven rooms accessed by a hallway containing two sets of stairs along the south wall flanking the elevator shaft. The two stairs are currently divided by a modern gypsum board fire wall. A restroom is located at the west (rear) end of the hallway. The original wood strip floors are covered with VCT throughout. The original section has a pressed tin ceiling that is divided at intervals by large structural beams. The tin extends to form a crown molding at both the walls and the beams. The framework for a former suspended acoustical tile ceiling is found in most rooms. The exterior walls are of plaster and all interior partition walls are of modern gypsum board, though interior walls are additionally finished with either beadboard (historic) or particle board (non-historic) wainscoting. At the west wall, some window openings were bricked in and replaced with the current, smaller windows.

The third floor of the building consists of seven rooms accessed by a hallway containing two sets of stairs along the south wall flanking the elevator shaft. The two stairs are currently divided by a modern gypsum board fire wall. A restroom is located at the west (rear) end of the hallway. The ceilings are of plaster that, in some of the rooms of the original section, has been damaged, exposing underlying wood lath. The plaster ceilings are typically covered with modern gypsum board, large sections of which are damaged or missing. The plaster walls of the original section's southeast and southwest rooms are covered with painted, faux wood paneling.

The fourth floor of the building consists of large open former insurance area accessed by a hallway containing two sets of stairs along the south wall flanking the elevator shaft. The two stairs are currently divided by a modern gypsum board fire wall. A restroom is located at the west (rear) end of the hallway. The former insurance area is a large, open space with low, modern gypsum board partition walls enclosing offices along the east and north walls. The outer walls of this section are of plaster with a beadboard wainscot. Ca.1918 paneled wood partition walls form a room at the southwest corner. Four-light, pivoted transom windows are placed continuously along these paneled partition walls. The area surrounding the teller counter at the south wall features two storefront windows with painted glazing flanking the counter, fluted pilasters, a dentil cornice, and multi-light transom windows with painted glazing. Toward the west end of the same wall is a doorway, missing its door, with a surround in the same style as the teller area. The ceilings are finished with pressed tin. As with the second-floor tin ceiling, the tin at the original section extends to form a crown molding. A central structural beam runs east-west at the ceiling of the original section and is also covered with tin. The beam is supported by five square wood columns. A paneled wood teller's cage with metal cage doors is located near the southeast corner of the original section and is original to the building. It adjoins the south wall, where a teller counter opens to the south 1918 section. Another teller counter opens to the north.

### **902-904 St. James Street (Contributing Building)**

### **902-904 St. James Street Exterior**

902-904 St. James Street faces St. James Street, where the primary entrances (two) are located. 902-904 St. James Street is a single brick row house containing a symmetrical pair of two-story residential units. On the ground floor, the two units are separated by a ground-floor passageway that extends through the building, connecting the front of the building with the site to the rear; on the second floor, a single window is located above the ground floor passageway. 902-904 was built in a vernacular Italianate style, as early as 1877. The building has been modified over time, the most significant modification is the deterioration and loss of the front porch; the design of the porch was recorded in historic photographs.

The exterior walls are brick, laid in Flemish bond on the East (primary) elevation, and common bond on the North, West (rear), and South elevations. The bay spacing on the primary elevation is idiosyncratic: on the ground floor, each unit contains three bays (two six-over-six wood windows in the outermost east and west bays, two doors on the innermost bays, with a lowered central open passage dividing the two units. Historically, a small, one-story covered Italianate wooden porch spanned the two entry doors and the lowered central passage; the porch was constructed of wood. Wooden steps ascended from the sidewalk to the porch, and descended from the porch into the open passageway. The historic porch has deteriorated and been removed from the building, but it was documented in historic photographs. On the second floor, on the outer two north and south bays, six-over-six wood windows aligned vertically with the first floor windows. There were no windows above the doors, and a single six-over-six wood window was centered over the central passage. A simple wood cornice wrapped the top of the second floor of the building, and building is covered by a standing-seam tin roof.

The footprint of the building measures 40'6" by 31'2" feet, with each unit containing approximately 1,300 square feet of enclosed space for a total of 2,600 square feet of enclosed space.

### **902-904 St. James Street Interior**

The plan of each of the two residential units was symmetrical. Each unit consisted of two rooms on each floor with a small side stair rising laterally between the two rooms (rotated 90 degrees from the side passage) to the second floor. The side passage ran parallel to the front room, and opened directly into the rear room. On the second floor, the two rooms were arranged similarly, except that the area over the open ground floor central passage was enclosed on the second, and that space added alternately to the front and rear rooms of the second floor rooms of the two residential units.

The interior walls are plaster on wood furring strips attached to the masonry, and the floors are composed of hardwood flooring placed directly upon joists. The first and second floor ceilings are plaster on wood furring strips attached to the joists. The interior spaces are badly damaged by water penetration, as the units have not been occupied for at least twenty years. All mechanical systems, kitchens, and bathrooms have been removed from the building. While the building materials on the first floor are in fair condition, much of the second floor rooms in the southern unit are badly damaged, with the joists mostly compromised. Historically, the spaces were heated by four fireplaces, one in each space; the simple Tuscan mantelpieces for each room survive.

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the proposed district. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Please list all sources of information. Normally, only information contained on this form is forwarded to the State Review Board.

### Summary Statement of Significance

The St. Luke Building Historic District is eligible for listing on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A (History) and C (Architecture) at the local level of significance, with a period of significance of 1877-1967. The St. Luke Building was previously listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (1981, #127-0352) and the National Register of Historic Places (1982) as an individual resource. This historic district nomination extends the listing to include 902-904 St. James Street, a two-unit rowhouse that was historically and functionally associated with the Order of St. Luke and its headquarters in the St. Luke Building, 900 St. James Street.

### Statement of Significance

#### Introduction

The St. Luke Building once served as the national headquarters of the Independent Order of St. Luke. The Order's mission to foster African-American economic independence was largely realized through enterprises housed in the St. Luke Building, including the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, printing facilities for the *St. Luke Herald*, and offices for the Order. Many black fraternal organizations were founded in the mid-nineteenth century and at first focused mainly on providing sick benefits, monetary support for widows and orphans, and burial funds. In the years following the Civil War, the organizations increasingly provided for members' economic and social needs in post-slavery, pre-civil rights America. Fraternal organizations acted cooperatively to provide African Americans with equal access to education, healthcare, banking, and insurance, among other services.

African-American fraternal organizations formed in both northern and southern states in the mid-nineteenth century; however, most were headquartered in the south, where discrimination was widespread.<sup>1</sup> The United Order of True Reformers was established in Kentucky in 1872 as an offshoot of the Independent Order of Good Templars, an all-white organization. The Grand United Order of Odd Fellows was established in 1842 in New York, and the first black chapter of the Knights of Pythias was formed in 1880 in Mississippi. These organizations all shared common goals of economic uplift of the black community and providing for members in times of need. They also accumulated numerous investments, including property, and typically published their own newspapers to connect members across the country. Newspapers also kept members up to date on current events, particularly the organizations' efforts to fight discriminatory Jim Crow legislation.

#### The Independent Order of St. Luke

Mary Prout founded the Baltimore-based United Order of St. Luke in 1867 as a women's mutual insurance society that provided sick and burial benefits.<sup>2</sup> The organization was initially limited to women but later opened to men. In 1869, a factional dispute caused a group of members led by William M. T. Forrester to split off and create the Independent Order of St. Luke.<sup>3</sup> The new Order took its name from Luke of the Gospels, and taught such moral values as brotherhood, thrift, and self-reliance, in addition to providing mutual aid benefits.<sup>4</sup> Forrester led the new Order until 1899, when he abandoned it, fearing its financial demise. It was at this time that Maggie Lena Walker took over the organization as Grand Secretary.

#### Maggie Lena Walker

Maggie Lena Walker (née Mitchell) was born July 15, 1864, at the Van Lew Estate in Richmond. Her mother, Elizabeth Draper, worked as an assistant cook for abolitionist and Union spy Elizabeth Van Lew, and her biological father was Eccles Cuthbert, an Irish-American abolitionist and *New York Herald* reporter.<sup>5</sup> No records exist to show that Draper

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<sup>1</sup> Wesley Borucki, "Fraternal Organizations, African American," in vol. 2 of *Encyclopedia of African American History, 1896 to the Present: from the Age of Segregation to the Twenty-First Century*, ed. Paul Finkelman (New York: Oxford University Press, 2009), 270.

<sup>2</sup> Muriel Miller Branch, "Maggie Lena Walker (1864-1934)," *Encyclopedia Virginia*, 12 July 2016, [https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Maggie\\_Lena\\_Walker\\_1864-1934](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Maggie_Lena_Walker_1864-1934) (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>3</sup> Branch.

<sup>4</sup> David Beito, "From Mutual Aid to Welfare State: How Fraternal Societies Fought Poverty and Taught Character," *The Heritage Foundation*, 27 July 2000, <http://www.heritage.org/political-process/report/mutual-aid-welfare-state-how-fraternal-societies-fought-poverty-and-taught> (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>5</sup> Branch.

and Cuthbert were ever married, and Virginia laws forbade interracial marriage.<sup>6</sup> Draper married William Mitchell, a butler for the Van Lews, soon after Walker's birth. The couple had a child, Walker's half-brother Johnnie, in 1870, and Mitchell became headwaiter at the St. Charles Hotel, providing enough income for the family to rent their own small house in College Alley, near the Medical College of Virginia.<sup>7</sup> In February 1876, Mitchell was found dead in the James River, sending the family into poverty. Draper started her own laundry business to provide for her family, and Walker assisted with delivering laundry to white patrons.<sup>8</sup> Walker attended Lancaster School and in 1883 received a teaching degree from the Richmond Colored Normal School. She returned to Lancaster School to teach for three years, then married Armstead Walker Jr., a construction worker, in December 1886.<sup>9</sup> Laws at this time prohibited married women from teaching, forcing Walker to resign from her teaching position.<sup>10</sup> Walker and her husband had two sons: Russell Eccles Talmadge Walker (born 1890) and Melvin DeWitt Walker (born 1897). A third son, Armstead Mitchell Walker, was born in 1893 and died in infancy. The couple also adopted Polly Anderson, Armstead Walker Jr.'s distant cousin, who took on child-rearing and housekeeping duties.<sup>11</sup>

### **Maggie Lena Walker and the Independent Order of St. Luke**

Maggie Walker joined the Independent Order of St. Luke in 1881, while she was still in school. After leaving her teaching position, she devoted herself to the Order and rose steadily through its ranks. She established the Juvenile Branch of the Order in 1895 while serving as grand deputy matron. This branch encouraged education, community service, and thrift in young members. Children were required to pay dues for membership and insurance, teaching fiscal responsibility.<sup>12</sup> When the organization was on the verge of bankruptcy in 1899, Walker was elected to replace William M. T. Forrester as Right Worthy Grand Secretary, a position she held until her death in 1934. As Grand Secretary, Walker guided the Order to financial success and greatly increased its membership and resources.<sup>13</sup>

The headquarters of the Independent Order of St. Luke had operated out of the former home and office of Dr. George H. Bright at 900 St. James Street since 1897.<sup>14</sup> The building was an imposing two-and-one-half-story, brick mansion constructed in 1815 by James A. Grant.<sup>15</sup> It served as Grant's home until 1851, when it became the headquarters Male Orphan Asylum. In 1870, the asylum relocated to the suburbs of Richmond and Dr. Bright purchased the building.<sup>16</sup> During the Independent Order of St. Luke's occupancy of 900 St. James Street, rooms were rented to the Grand Council and subordinate councils for office and meeting space, generating revenue for the St. Luke Association. After five years, however, the building was viewed as inadequate for the Order's needs, as reported at a September 5, 1902, council meeting.<sup>17</sup> The St. Luke Association began planning for a new building that would accommodate the Order's ambitious new ventures. A committee was appointed to report on the new building, architect John H. White was hired to draw up the plans, and a resolution was passed allowing the building committee to borrow money for construction.<sup>18</sup>

### **Construction of the St. Luke Building**

At the August 1901 Independent Order of St. Luke convention, Maggie Walker gave a momentous speech to the council in which she outlined her vision for improvements and expansion of the organization. This vision hinged on the creation of a bank, newspaper, and department store, all of which would be run by members of the Order and geared toward black patrons.<sup>19</sup> The committee passed her recommendations unanimously. The new St. Luke Building (originally known as St. Luke Hall) was constructed adjacent to the Bright house in the spring of 1903. The building served as the Order's new headquarters, with dedicated space for offices and newspaper printing operations at the first

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<sup>6</sup> Branch.

<sup>7</sup> Branch.

<sup>8</sup> Branch.

<sup>9</sup> Branch.

<sup>10</sup> *Museum Collections: Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Museum Management Program, National Park Service*, [https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Maggie\\_Walker/index.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Maggie_Walker/index.html) (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>11</sup> *Museum Collections: Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Museum Management Program, National Park Service*, [https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Maggie\\_Walker/index.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Maggie_Walker/index.html) (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>12</sup> *Museum Collections: Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, Museum Management Program, National Park Service*, [https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Maggie\\_Walker/index.html](https://www.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/Maggie_Walker/index.html) (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>13</sup> Branch.

<sup>14</sup> Mary Wingfield Scott, *Old Richmond Neighborhoods* (Richmond, VA: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1984), 299.

<sup>15</sup> Scott, 299.

<sup>16</sup> Scott, 299.

<sup>17</sup> R. W. Grand Council I. O. of St. Luke, *Fiftieth Anniversary Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917, Richmond, Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Everett Waddey Co., 1917), 72. Accessible at Maggie Walker National Historic Site (MAWA) Archives.

<sup>18</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 72.

<sup>19</sup> Branch.

floor; an assembly hall seating over 500 at the second floor; and council meeting rooms at the third floor.<sup>20</sup> The first issue of the *St. Luke Herald* was published on March 29, 1902.<sup>21</sup> Publication of the newspaper continued at the new building once it was complete in 1903. The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank opened in the new St. Luke Building in November 1903, and the St. Luke Emporium (department store) opened at 112 Broad Street in November 1905.<sup>22</sup>

According to the Order's 1917 *Fiftieth Anniversary Golden Jubilee* report, the new St. Luke Building cost \$15,000, not including the cost of steam heat and furniture, and was outfitted with "electric light and all modern improvements."<sup>23</sup> The Order's 1925 *Journal of Proceedings* notes that the building provided "comfortable, suitable office space" and five lodge rooms for the St. Luke Councils and other organizations.<sup>24</sup> The auditorium at the second floor was to be used for biennial meetings of the Order and for the public.<sup>25</sup> The new building's completion was heralded with a week-long series of dedication ceremonies beginning on July 6, 1903. The St. Luke Association raised a record-breaking \$3,678.98 in visitor donations during the dedication week.<sup>26</sup> The first convention of the Independent Order of St. Luke was held in the new building in 1903.<sup>27</sup>

### St. Luke Economic Undertakings

Publication of the *St. Luke Herald* was essential to the growth of the Independent Order of St. Luke. The St. Luke Printing Department was first established to produce ceremonial objects sold to members and the general public to generate revenue for the Order.<sup>28</sup> The department began production of the weekly *St. Luke Herald* before the new headquarters were completed, and printing operations moved to the first floor of the new building in 1903. Soon, the department was producing not only the *Herald*, but also regalia and all other print requirements for the Order.<sup>29</sup> This versatility was an indicator of self-sufficiency and thus a particular point of pride for the Order.<sup>30</sup> At the August 1901 convention, Maggie Walker stated that she intended the newspaper to "herald and proclaim the work of the Order."<sup>31</sup> The *St. Luke Herald* achieved this goal while reaching new audiences, connecting members and coordinating councils nationwide, and serving as an outlet for African-American political activism.

The *St. Luke Herald* soon became one of the leading African-American newspapers in Richmond, alongside the *Richmond Planet*, the *Reformer*, and the *Virginia Baptist Reporter*.<sup>32</sup> The *Herald* focused largely on Order-specific news: meetings and conferences, economic stability, member obituaries, and the activities of the juvenile division were frequent subjects.<sup>33</sup> Outside of Order news, however, the *Herald* kept readers informed of rampant civil rights abuse of the black community and was an active participant in protests. In 1904, the *Herald* ran an editorial campaign against segregation of the Richmond trolley car system, encouraging blacks to boycott streetcars and walk instead. The boycott was a serious financial blow to the trolley company, which was forced into receivership.<sup>34</sup> The number of subscriptions to the *Herald* grew with increasing membership in the Order, and by 1929, the *Herald* had become Richmond's leading black weekly newspaper.<sup>35</sup>

The establishment of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank in 1903 fulfilled another of Maggie Walker's main objectives for the Independent Order of St. Luke. The bank was essential to the Order's mission of uplifting the black community, as it represented financial success, fostered economic independence, and provided an escape from the racism of white-

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<sup>20</sup> Gertrude Woodruff Marlowe, *A Right Worthy Grand Mission: Maggie Lena Walker and the Quest for Black Empowerment* (Washington, DC: Howard University Press, 2003), 89.

<sup>21</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress," *Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, National Park Service* <https://www.nps.gov/mawa/learn/historyculture/st-luke-herald.htm> (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>22</sup> Marlowe, 99.

<sup>23</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 72.

<sup>24</sup> *Journal of Proceedings of the Fifty Eighth Annual and Fourth Biennial Session of the R. W. G. Council, I. O. of St. Luke and Matrons' Conference of the Juvenile Department, August 17-20, 1925*, 36. Accessible at MAWA Archives.

<sup>25</sup> 1925 *Journal of Proceedings*, 36.

<sup>26</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 73.

<sup>27</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 27.

<sup>28</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress."

<sup>29</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress."

<sup>30</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress."

<sup>31</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 23.

<sup>32</sup> Marlowe, 85.

<sup>33</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress."

<sup>34</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress."

<sup>35</sup> "The St. Luke Herald – The Trumpet of Progress."

owned banks.<sup>36</sup> The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank joined other prominent African-American banks including those of the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers and the Mechanics Savings Bank. St. Luke attorney James Hayes drew up the charter for the bank, and it was approved on July 28, 1903.<sup>37</sup> The bank opened at the new St. Luke Building on November 2, 1903, with Maggie Walker as president, R. H. Cooley as vice president, and Emmett C. Burke as cashier.<sup>38</sup> Walker was the first woman in American history, white or black, to establish and serve as president of a bank. The eagerly anticipated opening of the bank was celebrated with speeches and music, and about 300 customers including members of the Order stood in line on opening day to open bank accounts.<sup>39</sup> At the end of the day, the bank had acquired over \$8,000 in deposits and had sold \$1,247 in stock.<sup>40</sup>

### **The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank**

Maggie Walker spent much of the following year traveling to recruit new members for the Order and raise money for the new bank.<sup>41</sup> As patronage of the bank continued to grow, Walker envisioned an expansion of the Independent Order of St. Luke empire. At the August 1904 meeting of the bank board, she proposed purchasing a building at 112 Broad Street as a new location for the bank and a department store, the St. Luke Emporium.<sup>42</sup> In the fall of 1904, the bank purchased the three-story building for \$13,500, and it underwent renovations including the installation of a brick vault for the bank and an elevator for the store.<sup>43</sup> The bank moved to 112 Broad Street in October 1905 and the Emporium opened in the same building one month later.<sup>44</sup> Like the bank, the Emporium was symbolic of black economic independence. In particular, it made affordable goods more accessible to the black community and provided much-needed employment for black women, who formed almost the entirety of its workforce. Maggie Walker served as the store's president and Joseph Meyers as vice president. Unfortunately, the store struggled to make a profit for a variety of reasons, including organized opposition from white retailers and a financial panic in 1908.<sup>45</sup> Black consumers also continued to patronize white stores, possibly fearing repercussions if they did otherwise. Perhaps in response to the impending closure of the Emporium, the bank's Board of Directors voted in 1910 to construct a new bank building at the corner of First and Marshall Streets.<sup>46</sup> The new bank building was designed by Charles T. Russell and opened in November 1911.<sup>47</sup> The Emporium closed that month.

From the time of the new St. Luke Building's construction, the Right Worthy Grand Council of the Independent Order of St. Luke had paid rent to the St. Luke Association for use of the building. On January 13, 1911, the Council purchased the building and "an old building on the corner" (likely referring to the Bright house) from the Association at the suggestion of the insurance commissioner.<sup>48</sup> Maggie Walker's report to the 1915 convention of the Order declared that the property stood "on the books of the R.W.G. Council, I.O. of St. Luke, valued at \$26,500, corner of St. James and Baker Streets, free of debt, and bringing an interest yearly to the treasury of the organization from this investment."<sup>49</sup> Despite the value of the property, however, Walker had concerns as to its suitability for the expanding needs of the Order. In her 1910 convention address, she observed that the "dangerously crowded and insanitary conditions of this hall are illegal. The want of space makes our meetings uncomfortable, and actually perilous. We should not further tempt fate and impose upon that Providence which has safeguarded us so far."<sup>50</sup>

### **Expansion of the St. Luke Building**

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<sup>36</sup> "The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank," *Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, National Park Service* <https://www.nps.gov/mawa/the-st-luke-penny-savings-bank.htm> (accessed 2 June 2017).

<sup>37</sup> Marlowe, 91.

<sup>38</sup> "The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank." Marlowe, 91-92.

<sup>39</sup> "The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank."

<sup>40</sup> "The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank."

<sup>41</sup> Marlowe, 95.

<sup>42</sup> Marlowe, 95.

<sup>43</sup> Marlowe, 96.

<sup>44</sup> Marlowe, 99.

<sup>45</sup> Branch. Marlowe, 111.

<sup>46</sup> "The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank."

<sup>47</sup> "The St. Luke Penny Savings Bank."

<sup>48</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 55, 73. Marlowe, 115.

<sup>49</sup> *Golden Jubilee, August 20-24, 1917*, 55.

<sup>50</sup> *Journal of Proceedings of the 43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Session of the R. W. G. Council, Independent Order St. Luke, Convened in St. Luke Auditorium, Richmond, Virginia, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, & 18<sup>th</sup>, 1910* (Richmond, VA: St. Luke Herald Press, 1910), 38-39. Accessible at MAWA Archives.

As a solution to the inadequate conditions at the existing St. Luke Building, Maggie Walker proposed tearing down the Bright house and constructing a new building in its place.<sup>51</sup> The exact date of the Bright house's demolition is unclear, but was sometime between 1913 and 1925.<sup>52</sup> Increased inflation during World War I led the Order to abandon plans for a new building in favor of renovations and additions to the existing St. Luke Building.<sup>53</sup> Charles T. Russell, architect of the new St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, was hired to design the building and J. Henry Moore served as general contractor.<sup>54</sup> Russell was the first African-American architect in Richmond and helped to transform the Jackson Ward neighborhood, of which the St. Luke building is a part, into a successful business district. Russell's design for the St. Luke Building was implemented between 1915 and 1920, resulting in the addition of a fourth floor and expansion of the entire building by the width of one bay. This bay, located at the southern end of the building, contained a fireproof hall, two fireproof stairs, and an Otis elevator accessing each floor. The existing front-elevation parapet inscribed with "I.O. of St. Luke 1902" was removed with the addition of the fourth floor, and a heavy, dentiled cornice and a plain parapet adorned the new roofline. New lettering reading "St. Luke Building" was installed above the second-story windows at the front elevation, and canopies were installed above the front and south entries. The additions were lit by 1/1 or 2/2 hung wood windows with transoms, located in each bay and each story.

Maggie Walker delivered her address to the 1919 Independent Order of St. Luke convention from inside the new, enlarged second-floor auditorium, which was capable of seating 800 people. Walker asserted that the modifications to the building were "modern in every particular, and designed to give as much comfort possible to the occupants of the building."<sup>55</sup> She proudly described the new uses of each floor: the concrete basement contained the boiler room and storage, the first floor (formerly office space) contained the printing plant and filing room, the second floor contained the new auditorium, the third floor was enlarged and cut into five lodge rooms with anterooms, and the fourth floor contained office space.<sup>56</sup> The varied uses of the office space included Walker's private office, accounting, correspondence, printing, and stenography, among others, and a linotype machine was located in the basement.<sup>57</sup> Other updates included remodeling and increasing the capacity of the heating equipment, installation of gas outlets at each floor, updating and expanding electrical wiring, and installation of new restrooms at each floor.<sup>58</sup> The total cost of the St. Luke Building modifications was just short of \$100,000, two-thirds of the projected \$150,000 cost of a new building.<sup>59</sup> Walker noted that approximately 300 individuals worked on the building, half of whom were black, including the largest sub-contractor, Thomas R. Davis.<sup>60</sup> She also noted that the modifications were done "with the view of any additions that might be made in the future," alluding to her plans for continued expansion of the St. Luke empire.<sup>61</sup>

### **St. Luke and 902-902 St. James Street: Other Economic Programs**

Like much of north Jackson Ward, the 900 block of St. James Street was once lined with row houses and other types of dwellings that have since been demolished. Adjoining the St. Luke Building's north elevation are 902 and 904 St. James Street, two rare surviving examples of historic housing stock in this part of Jackson Ward. The two vernacular Italianate, brick, two-story residential units are symmetrical in plan and form a single brick row house. Construction date? The simple detailing, including a dentiled wood cornice and one-story, centered front porch (now missing), was typical of other row houses in the 900 block. A late-nineteenth-century photograph of the George Bright house<sup>62</sup> depicts an empty lot north of the building, and what appears to be 902-904 beyond the empty lot. A 1903 photograph

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<sup>51</sup> 1910 *Journal of Proceedings*, 38.

<sup>52</sup> An August 15, 1913, deed from the Right Worthy Grand Council (RWGC) of the Sons and Daughters of St. Luke to the RWGC Independent Order of St. Luke (IOSL) contains a sketch of the property showing the Bright house (see Maggie Lena Walker Family Papers, IOSL Records, Folder Title: Deeds 1914-1926, Box 12, Folder 3, Maggie Walker National Historic Site, National Park Service, Richmond, VA). The Bright house is missing in the 1925 Sanborn map. Mary Wingfield Scott's *Old Richmond Neighborhoods*, page 298, estimates the demolition date at 1920.

<sup>53</sup> Marlowe, 174.

<sup>54</sup> *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session of the R. W. G. Council, I. O. St. Luke, Convened in St. Luke Auditorium, Richmond, Va., August 18, 19, and 20, 1919*, 11. Accessible at MAWA Archives.

<sup>55</sup> *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session...*, 11.

<sup>56</sup> *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session...*, 11. 1925 *Journal of Proceedings*, 37.

<sup>57</sup> Selden Richardson, *Built by Blacks: African American Architecture and Neighborhoods in Richmond, Virginia* (Richmond, VA: The Dietz Press, 2007), 59.

<sup>58</sup> *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session...*, 11.

<sup>59</sup> Marlowe, 184. *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session...*, 11.

<sup>60</sup> *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session...*, 11.

<sup>61</sup> *52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary and First Biennial Session...*, 11.

<sup>62</sup> See attached historic images, Photo No. 25.

of the Bright house<sup>63</sup> shows that this building's north wall either adjoined or nearly touched the newly constructed St. Luke Building. The St. Luke Building was wedged between the Bright House and 902-904, filling the only empty lot on the west side of the block and creating a continuous row of buildings. A 1905 Sanborn map<sup>64</sup> confirms this configuration.

The Independent Order of St. Luke began acquiring additional property at the west side of St. James Street between Baker and Charity Streets beginning ca. 1921.<sup>65</sup> By 1923, the Order owned six adjacent buildings on this side of the street, from number 900 to number 910.<sup>66</sup> The Order's *Journals of Proceedings* for the biennial conventions of 1921 and 1923 detail the purchase of these properties and reveal that they were rented, providing a significant source of income for the organization. Complicating these descriptions in terms of identifying individual buildings, however, was a change in the buildings' addresses due to the 1903 construction of the St. Luke Building. Originally, the Bright house was number 900, the adjoined row houses were 902 and 904, and the numbers likely continued regularly to 916 at the end of the block. The 1905 Sanborn map<sup>67</sup> reveals that the newly-constructed St. Luke Building was assigned numbers 902 and 904, the adjoined row houses became 906 and 906 ½, and two additional buildings were assigned half numbers. These numbers appear to have continued until the circa-1920 demolition of the Bright house, when number 900 disappeared and both the St. Luke Building and the adjoined row houses were assigned numbers 902 and 904.<sup>68</sup> The St. Luke Building and adjoined row houses were assigned their current numbers – 900, 902, and 904, respectively – sometime after 1952.

Maggie Walker purchased a building in the 900 block of St. James Street in 1913 before selling it to the Independent Order of St. Luke in 1921, but exactly which building is unclear due to changes of address. Walker purchased number 906 St. James Street from P. W. Woodson and Queen E. Johnson in August 1913.<sup>69</sup> It is possible that the adjoined row houses (today numbers 902 and 904) maintained the 906 and 906 ½ addresses found in the 1905 Sanborn map until the ca. 1920 demolition of the Bright house. However, a fire insurance policy in Walker's name from the Milwaukee Mechanics' Insurance Company dated October 30, 1913, covered a two-story frame (not brick) building with a tin roof at 906 St. James Street.<sup>70</sup> The same property was transferred from Walker to the Independent Order of St. Luke on November 26, 1921; however, the 1921 *Journal of Proceedings* claims that the adjoined row houses were purchased from the St. Luke Bank.<sup>71</sup> The property in question was transferred from the St. Luke Council to Whitney Bullock, a known occupant of today's 904 St. James Street, on July 9, 1946.<sup>72</sup>

Maggie Walker's report in the 1921 *Journal of Proceedings* discusses the purchase of numbers 902 through 910 St. James Street.<sup>73</sup> Walker describes "No. 902-904" as a single property separate from the St. Luke Building, implying that by this time, the Bright house had been demolished and the adjoined row houses reassigned numbers 902 and 904. According to this report, the St. Luke Bank had recently sold 902-904 St. James Street to the Independent Order of St. Luke for \$5,000. Soon after, number 908 was purchased for \$1,850, number 910 for \$1,250, and plans were in place to purchase number 906. The properties were viewed as a wise investment for the Order. Walker notes that the Advisory Board considered the purchase of 902-904 "a most excellent speculation," and that "the Executive Board feels that the Order should purchase as much of the property surrounding [the St. Luke Building] as it can secure."<sup>74</sup> The properties also

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<sup>63</sup> See attached historic images, Photo No. 20.

<sup>64</sup> See attached historic images, Photo No. 21.

<sup>65</sup> *Journal of Proceedings of the Fifty-Fourth Anniversary and Second Biennial Session of the R. W. G. Council, I. O. St. Luke and Matrons' Conference of the Juvenile Department, Convened in St. Luke Auditorium, Richmond, Va., August 15, 16, 17, 18, 1921*, 12. Accessible at MAWA Archives.

<sup>66</sup> *Journal of Proceedings of the Fifty-sixth Anniversary and Third Biennial Session of the Right Worthy Grand Council, Independent Order Saint Luke and Matrons' Conference of the Juvenile Department, Saint Luke Auditorium, Richmond, Virginia, August 20-23, 1923*, 46. Accessible at MAWA Archives. The 1921 *Journal of Proceedings*, page 12, notes that the Order owned "from the corner of St. James and Baker Streets, to No. 912..." However, number 912 is not mentioned in the 1923 *Journal*.

<sup>67</sup> See attached historic images, Photo No. 21.

<sup>68</sup> See attached historic images: 1925, 1950, and 1952 Sanborn maps (Photo Nos. 22, 23, and 24).

<sup>69</sup> Card No. 2859 for 1925 Sanborn map, revised 1952-1956, Valentine Richmond History Center, Richmond, VA.

<sup>70</sup> Insurance policy from Milwaukee Mechanics' Insurance Company to Maggie L. Walker for 906 St. James Street, 30 October 1913, Maggie Lena Walker Family Papers, Oversize Storage, Box 37, Folder 3, Maggie L. Walker National Historic Site, National Park Service, Richmond, VA.

<sup>71</sup> Card No. 2859 for 1925 Sanborn map, revised 1952-1956, Valentine Richmond History Center, Richmond, VA. 1921 *Journal of Proceedings*, 12.

<sup>72</sup> Card No. 2859 for 1925 Sanborn map, revised 1952-1956, Valentine Richmond History Center, Richmond, VA.

<sup>73</sup> 1921 *Journal of Proceedings*, 12.

<sup>74</sup> 1921 *Journal of Proceedings*, 12.

brought in rental income for the Order. The adjoined row houses (902-904) together rented for \$30 per month, number 908 for \$20 per month, and number 910 for \$15 per month.<sup>75</sup> The Order may later have purchased additional adjacent buildings, as Walker stated that “only a few other houses on the block [were left] to purchase.”<sup>76</sup>

By 1923, the Order owned building numbers 900, 902, 904, 906, 908, and 910 St. James Street, and annual rental income from the properties equaled \$9,577.16.<sup>77</sup> The Order’s land, buildings, and improvements on St. James Street had a combined value of \$139,707.37.<sup>78</sup> The 1925 *Journal of Proceedings* breaks out this combined value by address, revealing that number 902 was the most valuable building by far at \$128,000.<sup>79</sup> This report also records the amount of rent collected from the properties for each month from August 1923 to July 1925. The detail with which such information was recorded indicates that the properties were important investments and sources of income for the Order. It appears that the Order owned 902 and 904 St. James Street from approximately 1921 to 1946, when Whitney Bullock purchased number 904 and Hattie L. Bland purchased number 902.<sup>80</sup>

### Occupants of 902-904 St. James Street

The occupants of 902 and 904 St. James Street were almost exclusively black, working-class families. The units experienced frequent turnover of tenants, consistent with rental properties. From 1924-1935, number 902 appears to have been split into two units: 902 and 902A (possibly corresponding to upstairs and downstairs).<sup>81</sup> Typically, only one tenant was listed in city directories for either 902 or 902A, while the other unit was not listed or recorded as vacant. A similar arrangement was found at number 904, which was split into 904 and 904A between at least 1925 and 1929. During the Independent Order of St. Luke’s ca. 1921-1946 period of ownership, renters at number 902 were Robert Allen from 1912-1926, Early A. Powell from 1927-1929, Ernest Gardner from 1932-1934, and John Williams from 1935-1946.<sup>82</sup> In 1934, Gardner and his family lived in 902, while Maria Jenkins lived in 902A. Renters at number 904 were Arthur W. Henley from 1920-1931, Sallie Henley (widow of Arthur) from 1932-1933, and Whitney Bullock from 1934 to at least 1956 (Bullock purchased number 904 in 1946).<sup>83</sup>

According to the 1920 United States Census, Robert Allen was a cemetery laborer and Arthur Henley a laundry laborer.<sup>84</sup> Allen shared number 902 with his wife, Charlotte, and five children, and Henley lived at 904 with his wife, Sallie, and brother, Joseph. The 1930 census lists Sallie Henley as a servant for a private family.<sup>85</sup> The 1940 census lists John Williams as a cook at a school cafeteria, living with his wife Jeannette in number 902.<sup>86</sup> City directories indicate that Williams was formerly a fireman.<sup>87</sup> Whitney Bullock is listed in the 1940 census as a restaurant chef, living with his wife Sallie, fourteen-year-old son Melvin, and twenty-five-year-old sister-in-law Lelia Saunders. Bullock worked in several different restaurants, including Mrs. Cook’s Cafeteria, Old Plantation Restaurant, Union Stockyard Restaurant, and Royall’s Restaurant.<sup>88</sup> Ernest Gardner was a waiter at the Hotel John Marshall, and his wife Martha Gardner was a maid at Long’s Beauty Shoppe.<sup>89</sup> Early Powell was a helper at American Laboratories, Inc.<sup>90</sup> Adult female occupants of 902 and 904 typically had no occupation listed or served in domestic roles, such as maids, servants, or laundresses. None of the occupants of 902-904 St. James Street during the Independent Order of St. Luke’s ownership of the buildings appears to have had any affiliation with the organization. Outside of this time period, however, several occupants were connected or possibly connected with the order. In 1908 and 1909 city directories, Edward James is listed as a janitor for St. Luke Hall living in number 906 (at this time, the adjoined row houses were assigned numbers

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<sup>75</sup> 1921 *Journal of Proceedings*, 12.

<sup>76</sup> 1921 *Journal of Proceedings*, 12.

<sup>77</sup> 1923 *Journal of Proceedings*, 46.

<sup>78</sup> 1923 *Journal of Proceedings*, 46.

<sup>79</sup> 1925 *Journal of Proceedings*, 37.

<sup>80</sup> Card Nos. 2859 and 60257 for 1925 Sanborn map, revised 1952-1956, Valentine Richmond History Center, Richmond, VA.

<sup>81</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1924-1935 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>82</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1912-1946 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>83</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1920-1956 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>84</sup> “United States Census, 1920,” *FamilySearch*, <http://FamilySearch.org>, NARA microfilm publication T625 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d.), accessed 2 June 2017.

<sup>85</sup> “United States Census, 1930,” *FamilySearch*, <http://FamilySearch.org>, NARA microfilm publication T626 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2002), accessed 2 June 2017.

<sup>86</sup> “United States Census, 1940,” *FamilySearch*, <http://FamilySearch.org>, NARA digital publication T627 (Washington, D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, 2012), accessed 2 June 2017.

<sup>87</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1936-1938 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>88</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1934-1950 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>89</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1933-1934 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>90</sup> Richmond, VA, Directory 1929 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

906 and 906 1/2).<sup>91</sup> Peter Singleton lived in the same building from 1903 to 1904.<sup>92</sup> Though not affiliated with St. Luke, Singleton was a driver for the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers, another prominent black fraternal organization. Hattie L. Bland was a teller for Consolidated Bank & Trust, which was formed by the 1930-1931 merger of St. Luke Penny Savings Bank with two other banks.<sup>93</sup> She purchased number 902 from the Independent Order of St. Luke in 1946, and lived there until ca. 1950.<sup>94</sup>

### Inventory of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Contributing or Non-contributing</b>
900 St. James Street	St. James Building	1903. 1918	Contributing
902-904 St. James Street	Rowhouse	1877	Contributing

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<sup>91</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1908-1909 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>92</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1903-1904 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>93</sup> Richmond, VA, Directories 1947-1950 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

<sup>94</sup> Card No. 60257 for 1925 Sanborn map, revised 1952-1956, Valentine Richmond History Center, Richmond, VA. Richmond, VA, Directory 1947-1950 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.). Richmond, VA, Directories 1947-1950 (Richmond: Hill Directory Co., Inc.).

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St. Luke Building Historic District  
Photographs  
Richmond, VA  
Bryan Clark Green, Photographer  
29 March 2017

- Photo 1 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0001  
View: St. Luke Building, East Elevation, camera facing southwest
- Photo 2 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0002  
View: St. Luke Building, East Elevation, camera facing northwest
- Photo 3 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0003  
View: St. Luke Building, South Elevation, camera facing northeast
- Photo 4 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0004  
View: St. Luke Building, West Elevation, camera facing southeast
- Photo 5 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0005  
View: St. Luke Building, West Elevation, camera facing northeast
- Photo 6 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0006  
View: St. Luke Building, North Elevation, camera facing south
- Photo 7 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_St.LukeBldg\_0007  
View: St. Luke Building, North Elevation, camera facing southeast
- Photo 8 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902-904StJames\_0008  
View: 902-904 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing west
- Photo 9 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902-904StJames\_0009  
View: 902-904 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing west
- Photo 10 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902StJames\_0010  
View: 902 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing southwest
- Photo 11 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902-904StJames\_0011  
View: 902-904 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing west
- Photo 12 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_904StJames\_0012  
View: 904 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing northwest
- Photo 13 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_904StJames\_0013  
View: 904 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing west
- Photo 14 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902-904StJames\_0014  
View: 902-904 St. James Street, West Elevation, camera facing east
- Photo 15 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902-904StJames\_0015  
View: 902-904 St. James Street, North Elevation, camera facing south
- Photo 16 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902-904StJames\_0016  
View: 902-904 St. James Street, North Elevation, camera facing south
- Photo 17 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_902 904StJames\_Historic\_MAWA NPS\_0017

View: 902-904 St. James Street, East Elevation, camera facing northwest (historic photograph from Maggie Walker National Historic Site)

Photo 18 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_MAWA NPS\_0018

View: St. Luke Building, East Elevation, camera facing northwest (historic photograph from Maggie Walker National Historic Site)

Photo 19 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_MAWA NPS\_0019

View: St. Luke Building, East Elevation, camera facing west (historic photograph from Maggie Walker National Historic Site)

Photo 20 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_1903\_George Bright House\_MAWA NPS\_0020

View: The George Bight House, 900 St. James Street, demolished ca. 1920, East Elevation, camera facing northwest (historic photograph from Maggie Walker National Historic Site)

Photo 21 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_1905 Sanborn\_LVA\_0021

View: 900 Block of St. James Street, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1905

Photo 22 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_1925 Sanborn\_LVA\_0022

View: 900 Block of St. James Street, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1925

Photo 23 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_1950 Sanborn\_0023

View: 900 Block of St. James Street, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1950

Photo 24 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_1952 Sanborn\_0024

View: 900 Block of St. James Street, Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, 1955

Photo 25 of 25: VA\_RichmondCity\_StLukeHD\_StLukeBldg\_Historic\_L19C\_George Bright House\_Scott p 298\_0025

View: The George Bight House, 900 St. James Street, demolished ca. 1920, East Elevation, camera facing northwest (historic photograph from Mary Wingfield Scott)

**Sponsor** (Individual and/or organization, with contact information. For more than one sponsor, please use a separate sheet.)

Mr.  Ms.

Mr. Charles Ayers, St. Luke Building LLC

(Name)

710 North Hamilton Street

Richmond

VA

23221

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

ericap@ayerslaw.com

804-358-4731

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

In the event of organization sponsorship, you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.

Contact person: Mr. Charles Ayers

Daytime Telephone: (804) 358-4731

**Applicant Information** (Individual completing form)

Mr.  Mrs.

Ms.  Miss

Bryan Clark Green, Commonwealth Architects

(Name)

(Firm)

101 Shockoe Slip, Third Floor

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VA

23219

(Address)

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

bgreen@comarchs.com

804.648.5040

(Email Address)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Applicant's Signature: B C G

Date: 18 July 2017

**Notification**

In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.

Mr.  Mrs.  Dr.

Miss  Ms.  Hon.

Levar Stoney

Mayor

(Name)

(Position)

City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street, Second Floor

(Locality)

(Address)

Richmond

VA

23219

804-646-7970

(City)

(State)

(Zip Code)

(Daytime telephone including area code)

Please use the following space to explain why you are seeking an evaluation of this district.

The owner wishes to rehabilitate both buildings and return them to service.

Would you be interested in the State and/or the Federal Rehabilitation Tax Credits? Yes  No

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes  No