

VLR 6/8/06  
NRHP 8/30/06

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District  
other names/site number VDHR #127-6071

**2. Location**

street & number 400-500 Blocks East Franklin Street, 400-600 Blocks East Main Street, 00 Blocks North 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>  
Streets, 00 Block South 5<sup>th</sup> Street not for publication N/A  
city or town Richmond vicinity N/A  
state Virginia code VA county Richmond (Ind City) code 760 zip code 23219

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this  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  meets  does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

  
Signature of certifying official/Title

7/18/06  
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)

Name of Property

Richmond City, Virginia

County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing		Non-contributing	
30	4		buildings
0	0		sites
0	0		structures
1	0		objects
31	4		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**

7 (includes two secondary resources)

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

Commerce/Trade: business, specialty store

Religion: religious facility

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling, hotel

Commerce/Trade: business, professional, specialty store

Religion: religious facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal

MID-19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:

Classical Revival, Colonial Revival,

Italian Renaissance, Tudor Revival

**Materials**

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation: brick, masonry

other: N/A

walls: brick

roof: slate shingle, asphalt shingle, metal standing seam

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)

Name of Property

Richmond City, Virginia

County and State

**8. Statement of Significance Applicable National Register Criteria**

**Areas of Significance**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

(Enter categories from instructions)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Architecture

Community Planning

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**  
1800-1949

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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.

**Significant Dates**

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Minard Lafever, Thomas U. Walter, Starrett & Van Vleck, Carneal & Johnson, Charles M. Robinson, Noland & Baskervill, Carl Lindner

**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**

- State Historic Preservation Office
  - Other State agency
  - Federal agency
  - Local government
  - University
  - Other
- Name of repository:

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)

Name of Property

Richmond City, Virginia

County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** 11.5 acres

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>284569</u>	<u>4157652</u>	3	<u>18</u>	<u>284340</u>	<u>4157531</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>18</u>	<u>284569</u>	<u>4157495</u>	4	<u>18</u>	<u>284345</u>	<u>4157699</u>

X See continuation sheet.

**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 Kimberly M. Chen

organization Johannas Design Group date 10 March 2006

street & number 1901 W. Cary Street telephone 804.358.4993

city or town Richmond state VA zip code 23220

**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 properties.

**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 Multiple (See Attached List)

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 200137127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (10240018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   7   **Page**   1  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**Summary Description:**

The Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District, located in the central business district of the City of Richmond, encompasses the core of the city's early twentieth century retail development and the remnants of a nineteenth century residential neighborhood. This area became part of the city in 1769 and, like the rest of the early city, was laid out in a regular grid of square blocks. The east-west streets were 65 feet in width while the north-south streets were 55 feet wide. Franklin, Main and Cary streets run east to west along the down hill edge of a plateau. The land to the north and west is relatively flat, but to the south it slopes steeply towards the James River. From 1800 to 1920, Franklin and Fifth Streets were the heart of one of Richmond's most fashionable neighborhoods and home to some of Richmond's wealthiest and most influential citizens. The streets were lined with large homes (some could even be called mansions) and row houses set within narrow front yards often enclosed by fences constructed of wood or iron. In the second two decades of the twentieth century, much of the early residential neighborhood was demolished and replaced by small shops and tall office buildings built in the latest architectural styles. Primarily built in the revival styles inspired by the early architecture of Italy, Spain and the United States, the buildings exhibit a wide variety of materials and decorative elements that blend into a rich palette of textures and details. The majority of the buildings are three stories or less in height, with some of the corner lots punctuated by office buildings rising as high as eleven stories. The buildings are situated close to each other and separated from the street by generous sidewalks and trees. The regularity of the blocks, the scale of the buildings, and street trees lend an intimate quality to the district. The district still retains much of its early twentieth century integrity, with a few remnants surviving from the antebellum and late nineteenth century residential neighborhoods. There are forty primary and two secondary resources in the district. Thirty-eight of these resources contribute to the integrity of the district. Five of the contributing resources are individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places, as well as two secondary resources associated with the Barret House. There are two noncontributing parking garages/decks and two noncontributing buildings in the district.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   2  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**Detailed Description:**

When Richmond became Virginia's capital in 1780, the village consisted of a cluster of houses near what is now the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Market, one at 22<sup>nd</sup> Street, and St. John's Church, which sat by itself on top of Church Hill. Construction on the Capitol began in 1785 and a string of inns and taverns in the area followed soon after. The Court End area of Richmond, just north of Capitol Square, became home to many prominent Richmond residents. A wave of prosperity in the 1840s was the impetus for a rash of new construction, and because Court End was largely built out, Grace, Franklin, and the side streets of the Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District, offered ample room for new residential construction, becoming a fashionable area for the city's elite to reside. Franklin and Fifth streets, and to a lesser extent Grace Street, became one of the most fashionable residential areas in the city. Few public buildings except churches interrupted the residential character of the neighborhood until the closing decades of the nineteenth century. The eighteenth century dwellings that stood in the neighborhood were all frame and unfortunately few visual records survive of these early dwellings. Two early frame houses that once stood in the neighborhood were the Barret-Brown House (1789-1878) at the southwest corner of Franklin and Fifth streets and the Anthony Singleton House (1788-1847) at the southwest corner of Main and Fifth streets.<sup>1</sup>

The oldest surviving building in the district is the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House at 2 North Fifth Street. The Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It was built in 1808 for Michael Hancock and later sold to William Wirt, Attorney General for Virginia and later the United States. The house remained in the Caskie family from 1854 until the 1940s. The Federal period house is constructed of brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern with English bond below the water table. Three bays on either side of the entrance are formed into octagonal ended bays flanking a central two-story wooden loggia. The Adamesque loggia has elongated Tuscan and Doric orders on the first and second stories respectively. The octagonal rooms and neoclassical styling show the influence of Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Henry Latrobe.<sup>2</sup> Benjamin Henry Latrobe, an English trained architect, is considered the founder of the profession in America. Latrobe practiced his trade in Virginia from 1796 to 1798 and had a profound influence on Thomas Jefferson while designing the United States Capitol. The Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House was once part of a series of twenty-five octagonal bay houses located in the City of Richmond, but today is the only

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   7   **Page**   3  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

survivor. One other house in the Commonwealth of Virginia, Point of Honor in Lynchburg, possesses this detail.<sup>3</sup> Moldavia, built in 1800 by Molly and David Meade Randolph, stood diagonally across Main Street from the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House until 1890 when it was demolished. The house, garden and eight outbuildings occupied nearly the entire block bounded by Main, Fifth, Cary and Sixth streets. The house was enlarged between 1804 and 1836 by its second owner, Joseph Gallego, to include an octagonal bay like the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House, a two story portico overlooking the James River and a wing to the north with triple windows.<sup>4</sup> The Gibbon House built in 1809 on the northeast corner of Main and Fifth streets was a precursor to the later Greek Revival-style houses. It was a three-story, stuccoed brick house with a small entrance porch, a two-story portico on the rear and a shallow hip roof. The Gibbon House was demolished in 1902 and replaced with the Virginia Building.<sup>5</sup>

The years 1819 to 1835 saw little construction in the City. The flush times of 1816 to 1818 witnessed a fever of real estate speculation, which would result in a nationwide depression in 1819. Richmond was not immune to its effects. The tax value of buildings was cut in half in 1819 and again in 1820, thus ruining the fortunes of many of the city's wealthiest citizens. The few houses constructed during this period had no remarkable characteristics and ornamentation was considered non-essential.<sup>6</sup> One house built in the district during this period was the Rootes-Enders House, which stood at 6 North Fifth Street from 1824 to 1914. Photographs of the house depict a two-story, three-bay, center hall dwelling. The house was heavily altered in 1853 and Italianate decorative elements, including pedimented lintels, an arched portico, and a bracketed cornice, were applied.<sup>7</sup> The Rootes-Enders House was demolished in 1914 to make way for the YWCA building.<sup>8</sup>

The apex of residential development in the district occurred during the 1840s and 1850s. Two surviving houses from this period, the Scott-Clarke House and the Barret House were built on lots carved out of Moldavia's garden. James Scott, a successful tobacconist, built his home at 9 South Fifth Street in 1841. The Greek Revival-style house was constructed of painted brick instead of the stucco finish that was common at the time. William Barret, also a prominent tobacco merchant, constructed his house on an adjacent lot in 1844. The Barret House is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Predating the Scott-Clarke and Barret houses, the Bransford House stood at 13 North Fifth Street from 1840 to 1954 when it was moved to 1005 East Clay Street. These Greek Revival-style houses share many design elements, most notably the three-bay facades, central front porches with Doric columns, and monumental

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   7   Page   4  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

porticoes on the rear elevations. The Boyd and Fry houses were built on lots just north of the Bransford House in 1840. The Boyd House was three-stories in height with an offset entrance with a square portico. The Fry House resembled the more traditional center hall, two story Greek Revival-style dwellings. The Fry House received a mansard roof and Queen Anne porch before being demolished in 1911 for the construction of the Professional Building. The Boyd House was demolished shortly thereafter for a parking lot.<sup>9</sup> Two exceptional Greek Revival-style mansions were constructed in the district in 1847 – the Strother-Gray and the Hobson-Nolting houses. The Strother-Gray House, 8 South Fifth Street, was a handsome two-story brick dwelling set on a raised foundation with a balustrade at the roofline. A single bay portico with Ionic columns punctuated the entrance to the four-bay wide dwelling. The Strother-Gray House was demolished in 1924.<sup>10</sup> The Hobson-Nolting mansion occupied the quarter block on the southwest corner of Main and Fifth streets – the site of the 1788 Anthony Singleton House. The Hobson-Nolting House was three-bays wide and three stories in height set on a raised foundation. There were triple windows in each story with the third story windows being truncated. A Doric order portico announced the central entrance. Two-story Doric columns graced the rear portico, replacing the more popular piers seen in other dwellings of this period. In addition to his own home, John Hobson built several other dwellings in and around the historic district, notably three small houses on the southwest corner of Main and Fourth streets and two dwellings at 3 and 5 South Third Street. The Hobson-Nolting House was demolished in 1950 for the Equitable Life Insurance Building. Immediately south of the Hobson-Nolting mansion stood three small frame Greek Revival-style dwellings that were demolished in the 1920s.<sup>11</sup>

Two churches were constructed within the boundaries of the historic district in the 1840s. Second Baptist Church was completed in 1841 on the southwest corner of Main and Sixth streets. The Greek Revival-style church was designed by the noted Philadelphia architect, Thomas U. Walter. Massive Doric columns supported a pediment with a plain frieze and unadorned tympanum. The Classical building was surmounted by a steeple, which blew down in 1896. The building was demolished in 1906.<sup>12</sup> The only surviving church in the district is Second Presbyterian, designed in the Gothic style by renowned New York architect and author, Minard Lafever. This building represents Lafever's only building in Virginia. Completed in 1848, the mediaeval inspired church was a radical departure for a city obsessed with Classical models. A pinnacled tower dominates the symmetrical facade.<sup>13</sup> Second Presbyterian Church is individually listed

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   5  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

on the National Register of Historic Places. After the Civil War, residential development continued to push west.

While the Civil War and the April fire of 1865 destroyed the core of Richmond's commercial and industrial districts, the residential areas remained largely untouched. Because the industries upon which Richmond had laid its foundation were still viable, the city's merchants were able to quickly attract capital for redevelopment. Richmond's economy remained strong and its population doubled between 1890 and 1920. At the turn of the century most of the gracious homes in the district still stood. The advent of streetcars as well as other transportation improvements made the new suburbs very popular among the city's middle class. The reduction in the number of household servants and smaller family sizes made many of the large homes in the district impractical. Some were converted into boarding houses, private clubs, and offices but the majority were eventually demolished and replaced with commercial buildings. The 1895 Sanborn map shows that the neighborhood's residential character was still largely intact. Except, Moldavia is noticeable absent and the area to the southeast – half way between Main and Cary streets and Fifth and Sixth streets had been given over to industry. Valentine's Meat Juice Company had erected a factory on the southeast corner of Cary and Sixth streets in 1872 and the Allen and Ginter Branch of the American Tobacco Company had built a vast complex of buildings on the remaining three corners of the intersection that extended south to Canal Street and east to Seventh Street.<sup>14</sup> The Y.M.C.A. building was built on the northwest corner of Main and Sixth streets in 1885. The Philadelphia firm of Cope & Stewardson designed the Romanesque Revival-style building. The eclectic building had a rusticated stone base with large arched openings, polychrome bands and a five-story tower on the corner with a soaring conical roof.<sup>15</sup> The building displays the influences of Stewardson's mentor, Frank Furness.<sup>16</sup> Furness's buildings were often dramatically over-scaled and boldly articulated with a variety of sculptural forms and materials. The Y.M.C.A. stood at this location until 1913 when it was demolished to make way for the Atlantic Life Insurance Company Building. A small row of four shops had also been constructed on the north side of Main Street in the middle of the 500-block.<sup>17</sup>

The Italianate style was used to construct most new buildings during the era of Reconstruction, although it is hard to recognize in some cases due to the penchant for decoration and innovation that many architects of the time displayed. Cast-iron was also used extensively for both decorative elements and as facing for wood and brick buildings. It was mistakenly believed to impart fireproof qualities to the areas of the

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   6  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

buildings that it covered. The style of commercial architecture that became popular during this period was centered around the two-dimensional arrangement of elements on a facade. Because of the proximity of neighboring structures and narrow lots, the sides and rear of buildings were often given an entirely different treatment from the facade. As the Italianate style matured and Victorian sensibilities dominated architectural trends, the use of existing buildings as templates for new construction fell out of favor. The style that was born out of this evolution was the Italian Renaissance that is observable in a majority of the buildings in the Fifth and Main Street Downtown Historic District. "Victorian architects were all agreed that the copying of older styles was undesirable; they might provide motifs or themes which may be used, but such elements should be transformed or improved. Emphasis was placed on originality and variety."<sup>18</sup>

The row, 501-519 East Main Street, constructed as a group in 1903, is representative of the early two-story Italianate commercial buildings erected in the district. The original facade of the shop at 519 East Main has been covered with a moderne treatment giving it an entirely different appearance from the surrounding buildings. Modifications to the other buildings have given each a unique appearance today but all were originally constructed with cast iron storefronts with recessed entrances. A cornice that separates the first and second stories remains intact on some of the buildings. The buildings originally housed a variety of merchants, including tailors, a furniture repair shop and other specialty retail shops. Second Presbyterian Church expanded its facilities in 1902 with the construction of the building at 512 East Main Street. The building originally functioned as office and education space that shared a rear property line with the sanctuary. The building has a unique architectural character and draws from a variety of early-twentieth century revival styles. The rusticated stone base, decorative gothic-influenced brickwork above the first floor windows and the Palladian window on the upper story join to create a building that has a distinctive identity in the district yet meshes with the architectural character of its neighbors. By 1905, the Gibbon House had been replaced by the Virginia Building and a row of shops and flats (501-519 East Main Street) and four dwellings (1-7 South Fifth Street) occupied the former site of Moldavia.<sup>19</sup> The Virginia Building at 1 North Fifth Street was built in 1905 as the Richmond headquarters of the Virginia State Insurance Company and was the first building in the district to exceed three stories in height. The building was divided into two parts with flats occupying all of the northern half of the building and floors 3 to 5 on the south side, reflecting the rapidly changing residential patterns of the area. Designed by the Richmond firm of Noland and Baskervill, it is a fine example of early-twentieth

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   7   **Page**   7  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

century commercial classicism with its rusticated base, curved corner, columned entrances and ornate cornice and balustrade. The Virginia Building is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>20</sup>

As commercial development stretched westward, the 400 block of East Main Street was developed. The four originally identical buildings at 412 – 418 East Main Street were constructed in 1910. The brick buildings have undergone modifications to the facades that had wooden storefronts with recessed entrances. The upper floors retain their original appearance with a three-part central window. Designed by the Richmond architectural firm of Carneal and Johnson, this series of buildings is representative of the simplified classical style of the other newly constructed buildings in the district. Also designed by Carneal and Johnson, the 10-story Classical Revival office building at 530 E. Main Street was constructed in 1913 for the Richmond Chamber of Commerce and later occupied by the Atlantic Life Insurance Company and the Eskimo Pie Company. Typical of early skyscrapers, the Eskimo Pie Building has a classical base with monumental columns announcing the entrances on Main and Sixth streets; the middle five stories are relatively plain and the upper most floors are highly ornamented with multi-colored terra cotta decorations. Like many downtown buildings a projecting cornice has been removed.

Commercial development on the side streets of the district followed this initial wave of construction along Franklin and Main streets. The YWCA Building at 6 North Fifth Street replaced the Rootes-Ender House that was built on the same spot in 1824. The Ionic portico and five bay arrangement of the facade, along with decorative medallions ties it to the earlier residential architecture. The flat roof and masonry quoins, along with the cornice with modillion blocks place it within the newly emerging twentieth-century Revival styles. The Richmond firm of Noland and Baskervill designed the four-story Renaissance-style building. The YWCA Building is individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places. North Fourth Street gave way to commercial development soon after, with the Classical Revival Massad Building constructed in 1914 and the Massad House built in 1921 as the Washington Apartments. The Massad House is constructed in the Tudor Revival style, but the verticality and abstractness of its facade links it to the Art Deco movement. The one-story Commercial-style building to the south was constructed in 1921. The two Greek Revival-style houses at 12-14 North Fourth Street were left standing, but were significantly altered from their original appearance and were eventually demolished in the late-twentieth century, removing the last traces of the residential history of this block.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   7   **Page**   8  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

The Professional Building at 501 East Franklin, an 8-story Chicago style office building constructed in 1916, was the first commercial structure built on East Franklin Street. It replaced the Fry and Boyd Houses, both built in 1840 at the apex of the district's popularity as a residential neighborhood. Other commercially oriented construction followed later, including 421 East Franklin Street, constructed in 1927. The building was originally built in the Art Deco style but was completely refaced in 1972, giving it its current Renaissance Revival appearance. The transformation of the 500 block of East Franklin Street continued in 1927 with the demolition of the remaining residential buildings and the construction of 507 East Franklin Street. This building is a two-story Commercial style office building with some Classical Revival decorative elements. The first story facade has been modernized but the original masonry enframement remains. The three-story yellow brick building at 519 East Franklin Street was constructed in 1949 and served as a garage.

The Colonial Revival building at 2 South Fifth Street was built in 1936 and is similar to those on the 500 block of East Main Street. The adjacent building at 6 South Fifth Street was also constructed in 1936. It has Colonial Revival elements but is one story and is unique in architectural style in the district. The nine-over-nine windows with louvered shutters and fish scale-pattern slate roof set it apart from the other commercial structures in the district. A projecting bay was added in the 1970s. The newest additions to the district are two modern parking garages, built in 1986 and 1987.

The district reflects the area's evolution from an upper class residential neighborhood to a thriving commercial district in the early-twentieth century. With the exception of the Scott-Clarke and Barret houses on South Fifth Street and the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House and Second Presbyterian Church on North Fifth Street, the mid-nineteenth century residential character of this area has disappeared. The district possesses a high level of integrity and has withstood the pressures to demolish buildings for parking lots and new construction, which has been the fate of several surrounding blocks. The Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District is one of the few portions of Richmond's central business district that is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   9  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

END NOTES SECTION 7

- 
- <sup>1</sup> Mary Wingfield Scott, Old Richmond Neighborhoods, p. 179
  - <sup>2</sup> Calder Loth, ed. The Virginia Landmarks Register (Fourth Edition), p. 429; Robert P. Winthrop, Architecture in Downtown Richmond, p.223; Bryan Clark Green, William Wirt House National Historic Landmark Nomination (127-0042)
  - <sup>3</sup> Bryan Clark Green, William Wirt House National Historic Landmark Nomination (127-0042)
  - <sup>4</sup> Scott, Neighborhoods, p. 179
  - <sup>5</sup> Ibid. 1905 Sanborn Map
  - <sup>6</sup> Mary Wingfield Scott, Houses of Old Richmond, p. 163-164
  - <sup>7</sup> Scott, Neighborhoods, p. 181-182
  - <sup>8</sup> 1924 Sanborn Map
  - <sup>9</sup> Scott, Neighborhoods, p. 178, 183; 1924 and 1952 Sanborn Maps
  - <sup>10</sup> Ibid, p. 181; 1924 and 1952 Sanborn Maps
  - <sup>11</sup> Scott, Houses, p. 249-253; 1924 and 1952 Sanborn Maps
  - <sup>12</sup> Scott, Neighborhoods, 139, 141; 1895, 1905 and 1924 Sanborn Maps
  - <sup>13</sup> Ibid, 183-184; Loth, Landmarks, p. 441
  - <sup>14</sup> Andrew Morrison, ed., The City on the James: Richmond, Virginia, p. 118, 132, 182
  - <sup>15</sup> Ibid, p. 8, 44
  - <sup>16</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The Virginia Architects 1835-1955, p. 97
  - <sup>17</sup> 1895 Sanborn Map
  - <sup>18</sup> Winthrop, Downtown, p. 8
  - <sup>19</sup> 1905 Sanborn Map
  - <sup>20</sup> Loth, Landmarks, p. 445

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  10 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**INVENTORY**

**10 North Fourth Street 127-6071-0001**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office/Office Building**, Stories **3.00**, Style: **Colonial Revival, ca 1914**

This three-story, three-bay, Colonial Revival-style brick office building has quoins at the edges and a flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office/Office Building Contributing**

**9 North Fourth Street 127-6071-0002**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Restaurant**, Stories **1.00**, Style: **Commercial, ca 1919**

This one-story, Commercial-style brick building has a recessed entrance and fixed storefront windows covered by awnings. The roof is flat with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Restaurant Contributing**

**11 North Fourth Street 127-6071-0003**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Hotel**, Stories **4.00**, Style: **Tudor Revival, ca 1921**

This four-story, three-bay, Tudor Revival-style hotel has a false mansard roof and a hip slate shingle roof across the façade on the first floor. The first floor is faced in stone veneer and has a modern aluminum storefront and a single leaf board and batten wood entrance door. Decorative brick panels separate three bays of windows on the upper floors.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Hotel Contributing**

**2 North Fifth Street 127-6071-0004 (127-0042) Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House**  
*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling**, Stories **2.00**, Style: **Federal, 1802**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  11 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

This two-story, three-bay, Federal-style brick building has a hipped roof and octagonal end projections. The brickwork is laid in English and Flemish bond patterns. The two-story porch has three bays and the steps and floor are marble.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling** **Contributing**  
(Individually Listed)

**6 North Fifth Street 127-6071-0005 (127-0300) YWCA**  
*Primary Resource Information:* **Mixed Use: Other**, Stories **3.00**, Style:  
**Renaissance, 1913**

This three-story, three-bay Renaissance-style building has an ionic portico with curving stairs on each side. The first floor windows are arched with decorative medallions. The upper windows have stone sills and lintels and are arranged in three bays. The brick is laid in a Flemish bond pattern and has tan masonry quoins in a toothed pattern at the edges. The roof is flat with a parapet and has a cornice with modillion blocks.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Mixed Use: Other** **Contributing**  
(Individually Listed)

**1 North Fifth Street 127-6071-0006 (127-0215)**  
*Primary Resource Information:* **Office/Office Building**, Stories **5.00**, Style:  
**Renaissance, ca 1906**

This five-story, Renaissance-style office building is constructed of brick laid in bands on the first floor and at the curved corner on the upper floors. Engaged banded columns flank the entrances. The sills and lintels of the 1/1 sash-windows are masonry and the lintels have a central keystone. The elaborate cornice has one course each of a Greek key and dentils under modillion blocks. The roof is flat with a parapet and has molded coping above.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office/Office Building** **Contributing**  
(Individually Listed)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  12 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**9 North Fifth Street 127-6071-0007 (127-0016)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Church, Stories 1.00, Style: Gothic Revival, ca 1848**

This Gothic Revival-style church was constructed in 1848 and has an interior nave plan. A square tower with louvered lancet windows and pinnacles on each corner rises from the gable roof. A tall stained glass lancet window sits above the central entrance. Brick courtyards flank the building on the north and south ends.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Church**  
(Individually Listed)

**Contributing**

**13 North Fifth Street 127-6071-0008 (127-5477)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Parking Garage, Stories 6.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1987**

This six-story parking garage has brick veneer and stair and elevator shafts at each corner.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Parking Garage**

**Non-contributing**

**2 South Fifth Street 127-6071-0009**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office, Stories 2.00, Style: Colonial Revival, ca 1936**

This two-story, three-bay, Colonial Revival-style masonry building is constructed of brick laid in an indeterminate pattern. The center bay of the first floor has a paired picture window. The upper story sash windows are arranged into three bays. The roof is flat with a parapet and has a minimal cornice across the façade.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office**

**Contributing**

**9 South Fifth Street 127-6071-0010 (127-0093)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Greek Revival, ca 1841**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  13 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

This two-story, three-bay, Greek Revival-style masonry dwelling has a hipped roof. Two triple windows flank a Doric portico on the first floor. The upper floor has three 6/6-sash windows with louvered shutters. The lintels and sills are marble. A large interior end chimney rises from the north side of the building.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling** **Contributing**

**15 South Fifth Street 127-6071-0011 (127-0029) Barret House**  
*Primary Resource Information:* **Single Dwelling, Stories 2.00, Style: Greek Revival, 1844**

This two-story, three-bay, Greek Revival-style masonry building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. Two triple windows flank a Doric portico on the first floor. The upper floor has three 6/6-sash windows with louvered shutters. The roof of the house is flat and there are four interior end chimneys. A cast iron fence surrounds the house. A building with flat roof sits behind the main house and was once used as servant quarters. An addition has been added to the building. The lintels and sills of the windows are made of the same granite as the front steps and the upper belt course.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Single Dwelling** **Contributing**  
*Individual Resource Status:* **Servant Quarters** **Contributing**  
*Individual Resource Status:* **Fence** **Contributing Object**  
(Individually Listed)

**6 North 6th Street 127-6071-0012 (127-5481)**  
*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 5.00, Style: Late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals, ca 1914**

This five-story, five-bay, twentieth century revival-style brick building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. The first floor is masonry and has four storefront windows covered by awnings. Engaged pilasters articulate the division into bays and stress the building's verticality. Consoles support decorative balconies on the fifth floor. The roof is flat with a decorative date-stone at the parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building** **Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  14 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**6 South Fifth Street 247-0001-0013**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office, Stories 1.00, Style: Colonial Revival, ca 1936**

This one-story, brick building has a side gable roof and a projecting bay to the north. The brick is laid in a Flemish bond pattern and the roof has slate shingles laid in a fish-scale pattern with four rows of snowbirds above the eaves. The windows have louvered shutters and the entrance is recessed with paneled jambs and a five light transom.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office**

**Contributing**

**421 East Franklin Street 247-0001-0014**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Restaurant, Stories 3.00, Style: Renaissance, ca 1927**

This three-story, stucco building has three arched openings on the first floor and decorative cast iron balconies on the upper floors. The building was originally constructed in the Art Deco style but was remodeled to its current appearance in 1972. A cornice with dentils sits below the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Restaurant**

**Contributing**

**501 East Franklin Street 127-6071-0015 (127-5560)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office/ Office Building, Stories 8.00, Style: Chicago, 1916**

This eight-story, seven-bay, Chicago-style office building has a white brick rusticated base and dark red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern on the upper floors. White brick quoins line the edges from the second story to the roof. The aluminum windows with fixed tinted glass are arranged in to bays. A cornice separates the sixth and seventh floors. A cornice with dentils sits below the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office/ Office Building**

**Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  15 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**507 East Franklin Street 127-6071-0016**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style:  
Commercial Style, ca 1927**

This two-story, Commercial Style building has some Classical Revival elements and is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. The three-bay glass storefront is canted inwards and is surrounded by a masonry enframement. The second floor has a wide window with four fixed panes of glass. A cornice with a row of dentils sits beneath the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**519 East Franklin Street 127-6071-0017 (127-5561)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 3.00, Style:  
Commercial, ca 1949**

This three-story, four-bay, Commercial-style yellow brick building has an aluminum storefront at the east corner and a large garage entrance at the west corner with three rows of brick stepped back to the entrance. The second and third floors have seven bays with one steel awning window with six lights in each bay. The roof is flat and there is a moulded concrete double bull nose coping at the parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**406 East Main Street 127-6071-0018 (127-5611)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style:  
Commercial, ca 1909**

This two-bay, two-story Commercial-style building is constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern with an altered storefront on the first floor. The second story is organized into two bays by brick piers and corbelled bands at the top. Each bay has two five-light windows with stone sills and lintels. The original cornice has been pared and the roof is flat with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  16 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**408 East Main Street 127-6071-0019 (127-5612)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style:  
Italian Revival, ca 1909**

This two-story, four-bay building is constructed of brick and the first floor has a three-bay aluminum storefront above a blue stone paneled base. The second story has four 1/1 windows set in arched panels with piers at the edges and between the windows. The three course arches over the windows have keystones with a moulded impost. The original cornice has been covered with three bands of aluminum and the roofline is flat with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**412 East Main Street 127-6071-0020 (127-5614)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style:  
Italian Revival, ca 1910**

This two-story Italian Renaissance building has an enclosed storefront on the first floor faced in masonry veneer and an upper story constructed of brick. Narrow pilasters frame the storefront on the first story and brick pilasters on the second floor continue the line to the moulded cornice with modillion blocks at the roof. A moulded cornice with dentils separates the first and second stories. Two 1/1 double hung sash windows flank a larger central window with a shared masonry sill and lintel with a false keystone above the central window. A paneled brick parapet rises above the cornice with brick piers at the corners and a shed roof behind.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**414 East Main Street 127-6071-0021 (127-5614)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style:  
Italian Revival, ca 1910**

This two-story Italian Renaissance building has a storefront on the first floor with a recessed entrance and stacked stretcher panels below the eight-light window and an upper story constructed of brick. Narrow pilasters frame the storefront on the first story and brick pilasters on the second floor continue the line to the moulded

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  17 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

cornice with modillion blocks at the roof. A moulded cornice with dentils separates the first and second stories. Two 1/1 double hung sash windows flank a larger central window with a shared masonry sill and lintel with a false keystone above the central window. A paneled brick parapet rises above the cornice with brick piers at the corners and a shed roof behind.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**416 East Main Street 127-6071-0022 (127-5614)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Revival, ca 1910**

This two-story Italian Renaissance building has a wood storefront with a recessed entrance in the west bay and a single leaf wood door with one large light a single light transom Narrow pilasters frame the storefront on the first story and brick pilasters on the second floor continue the line to the moulded cornice with modillion blocks at the roof. A moulded cornice with dentils separates the first and second stories. Two 1/1 double hung sash windows flank a larger central window with a shared masonry sill and lintel with a false keystone above the central window. A paneled brick parapet rises above the cornice with brick piers at the corners and a shed roof behind.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**418 East Main Street 127-6071-0023 (127-5614)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Revival, ca 1910**

This two-story Italian Renaissance building has a wood storefront and an upper story constructed of brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. The first story storefront has a recessed entrance with a granite curb and a double leaf wood entrance door with one light on each leaf and a single light transom above each leaf. Narrow pilasters frame the storefront on the first story and brick pilasters on the second floor continue the line to the moulded cornice with modillion blocks at the roof. A moulded cornice with dentils separates the first and second stories. Two 1/1 double hung sash windows flank a larger central window with a shared masonry sill and lintel with a false keystone above the central window. A paneled brick

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   7   **Page**  18 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

parapet rises above the cornice with brick piers at the corners and a shed roof behind.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**512 East Main Street 127-6071-0024 (127-5617)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals, 1902**

This three story, three-bay Revival-style building has a rusticated stone base and is constructed of gray brick laid in a stretcher bond pattern. A limestone belt course forms the sills on the first floor. The arched entrance in the middle bay frames a four-light paneled door. Windows with arches formed by a decorative pattern of bricks with exaggerated keystones, giving them the appearance of a Gothic-style arch, flank the entrance. A limestone cornice separates the first and second floors and forms the sills for three 1/1 windows with art glass transoms and gauged brick lintels with a keystone. Quoins edge the buildings on the second and third stories. The third story has a centered Palladian window with corbelled brick decorative panels and a metal cornice. The roof is flat with a parapet that has a center pediment and cast stone coping.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**501 East Main Street 127-6071-0025 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. Portions of the original cast iron storefront remain, while some have been replaced with modern elements. The east portion of the storefront has two fixed windows with wood panels below and the entrance door to the west is slightly recessed with projecting pilasters flanking the door. A small fixed window to the west mirrors the design of others. A cornice with decorative brackets separates the first and second stories and continues around the corner of the building. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are set below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  19 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**503 East Main Street 127-6071-0026 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first-story storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The original storefront has been replaced with a modern storefront flush with the façade. A cornice and simple pilasters have been added to the first floor. The original cast iron cornice separates the first and second stories. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are set below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**505 East Main Street 127-6071-0027 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The original storefront panels have been replaced with a modern storefront that is flush with the façade. The top portion of the cornice separating the first and second floors remains, but a slightly projecting decorative roof with shake shingles obscures the bottom portion. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are set below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building**      **Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  20 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**507 East Main Street 127-6071-0028 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The original storefront panels have been replaced with modern glass and aluminum supports. The floor of the recessed storefront is concrete with stone in a random pattern and is sloped to be flush with the sidewalk. A band of corrugated metal separates two doors to the right of the storefront windows and the jambs of the recessed entrance are covered with the same material. The original cornice between the first and second stories has been replaced with gray metal paneling with a ribbed design. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are sit below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**509 East Main Street 127-6071-0029 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The modern aluminum storefront is set back slightly from the upper façade. The floor of the recessed area is concrete with stone set in a random pattern. The original cornice between the first and second stories has been replaced with a band of corrugated metal. Pilasters separate the building from the abutting one to the east and west. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are sit below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  21 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**511 East Main Street 127-6071-0030 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first-story cast iron storefront resting and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The upper and lower panels of the storefront have been replaced with paneled wood. Pilasters separate the building from the abutting ones to the east and west. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are sit below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**513 East Main Street 127-6071-0031 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story cast iron storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The upper panels of the storefront retain the original decorative elements. Pilasters separate the building from the one that abutting ones it to the east and west. The slightly recessed entrance has a patterned tile floor and has been partially enclosed to fit a standard size door. A cornice with volutes at each end separates the first and second stories. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are sit below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**515 East Main Street 127-6071-0032 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number   7   Page  22 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story modern storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. Pilasters separate the building from the abutting ones to the east and west. The original decorative elements below the storefront windows have been replaced with plain wood panels. The original cornice above the first floor has been removed. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are sit below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building** **Contributing**

**517 East Main Street 127-6071-0033 (127-5620)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1903**

This two-story Italian Renaissance-style building has a first story cast iron storefront and a second story constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The upper panels of the storefront retain the original decorative elements. A pilaster separates the building from the one that abuts it to the west. A cornice with volutes at each end separates the first and second stories. Two windows with masonry sills and rough stone lintels are sit below recessed brick panel on the second floor. The second floor has a shallow brick enframement and a cast iron cornice with dentils supported by decorative brackets at each end. There is moulded coping at the flat roof with a parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building** **Contributing**

**519 East Main Street**

127-6071-0034

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 3.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1906 with modern facade**

This three-story, one-bay brick was built at the same time as the row of stores to the west but a new facade was constructed in the 1960s.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building** **Non-contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  23 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**521-527 East Main Street 127-6071-0035 (127-5622)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Commercial Building, Stories 3.00, Style: Italian Renaissance, ca 1906**

This three-story, four-bay buff brick Italian Renaissance building has a first story storefront with spandrel glass panels framed with vertical metal strips. A cast iron column sits at the corner and four cast iron pilasters separate the bays at the west end of the building. Two story brick pilasters organize the bays on the second and third floors with corbelled bases joined by arches at the third story. Limestone blocks mark the spring line of the arches on the Second Street facade. The parapet roof above the cornice is divided into four bays by projecting brick piers. The roof is peaked at the center and slopes to the piers and coping.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Commercial Building      Contributing**

**530 East Main Street 127-6071-0036**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office/Office Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Classical Revival, ca. 1912**

This is a ten-story, three bay brick and cast stone office building with a two-story entrance in the center of the façade that is framed by a two-story arch with a semicircular transom and a pedimented Doric architrave. The 1/1-double-hung windows are divided into banks of three by a raised brick frame extending from the fourth to the eighth floor. The third-story mezzanine level windows are separated by colonettes with steel panels. Raised brick panels of a similar design rest above each bank of windows on the upper floors and a limestone belt course runs above the third story. A decorative cornice with a leaf and chevron patterns separates the eighth and ninth floors. Floors nine and ten have a basket weave terra cotta finish with colonettes between the windows. Paneled piers sit at the bases of the columns between these upper floors. A red Greek key is superimposed on the basket weave pattern above the ninth floor windows. The original projecting cornice has been removed and the roof is flat with four arched terra cotta panels at the parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office/Office Building      Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  24 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**615 East Main Street 127-6071-0037 (127-5624)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Garage, Stories 2.00, Style: No Style Listed, ca 1986**

This seven-story parking garage with brick veneer and concrete structural elements does not contribute to the significance of the district.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Garage** **Non-contributing**

**619 East Main Street 127-6071-0038 (127-5636)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office/Office Building, Stories 2.00, Style: Moderne, ca 1980**

This two-story three-bay Moderne-style building has a steel storefront and a double leaf metal door in the west bay has a transom above. Two rows of six square granite panels separate the storefront and the second story. The second floor has three steel windows with nine lights each in ribbons of three with operable hoppers. The storefront and the windows are surrounded by a flat pre-cast architrave with a beveled edge. The roof is flat with concrete coping at the parapet.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office/Office Building** **Non-contributing**

**623-625 East Main Street 127-6071-0039 (127-5637)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Restaurant, Stories 3.00, Style: Commercial, ca 1920**

This three-story, two-bay gray brick Commercial-style building has a modern storefront on the first floor and is constructed with brick in a stretcher bond pattern. The first floor storefront sits on a granite base with beaded board below the glass. The entire storefront has a spandrel glass enframement with an awning above. A granite belt course runs between the first and second floors and forms the sills for three 1/1 double hung wood sash windows united by a corbelled brick frame with a granite cornice. A moulded granite belt course between the second and third floors forms the windowsills for the 1/1 double hung sash wood windows. The area above the third floor windows has been altered and now has flat panels that extend to the roofline. The false mansard roof has slate shingles.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page  25 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

*Individual Resource Status:* **Restaurant**

**Contributing**

**627 East Main Street 127-6071-0040 (127-5638)**

*Primary Resource Information:* **Office/Office Building, Stories 10.00, Style:  
Classical Revival, ca 1940**

This three bay, ten-story building with a mezzanine is constructed in the Classical Revival style. A classical Doric colonnade organizes the granite-clad first and mezzanine stories. Four columns stretch two stories to a cornice that separates the second and third floors. Above the second floor, each story has eight windows arranged in three bays with regular single windows at the ends flank three pairs of windows. The upper floors are constructed of brick in a stretcher bond pattern. A belt course separates the fourth and fifth and the sixth and seventh stories, and a decorative terra cotta band separates the eighth and ninth stories. The ninth and tenth floors have paired windows organized by two-story terra cotta pilasters. The roof is flat with a modillioned cornice below the parapet and terra cotta coping.

*Individual Resource Status:* **Office/Office Building**

**Contributing**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**  26 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**Statement of Significance**

The Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District is significant as a collection of early twentieth century retail buildings that were built in a nineteenth century residential neighborhood, remnants of which are also significant. The buildings represent over one hundred years of continuous development and a variety of nineteenth and twentieth-century architectural styles, which give the district a quality, found in few other areas of the City of Richmond. The buildings represent a collective body of work by some of the leading mid-nineteenth and early-twentieth century architects in the United States and Richmond. The district reflects the economic development of the city and serves as a visual record of the evolution of architectural styles from residential in the nineteenth century to commercially architecture in the first part of the twentieth century. Not only did the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries see the academic revivals of many architectural styles, including Gothic, Tudor, Georgian, Spanish Colonial, and Italian Renaissance, the era also saw the introduction of new styles that were less based on the past, like the Chicago School, Art Deco and Moderne.

The Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. The district is eligible under criterion A because it illustrates the pattern of urban development experienced in the City of Richmond in the early-twentieth century when mid-nineteenth century residential neighborhoods were given over to commercial uses and the growth of the central business district. The district is eligible under criterion C because it embodies representative architectural styles from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century and contains the work of a number of leading local and nationally recognized architects.

**Historic Background**

When Richmond was incorporated as a town in 1742, it had a population of 250 and covered approximately two-tenths of a mile from 17th to 25th Streets and from the James River to Broad Street. Retail and commercial development was concentrated in Shockoe Valley on the west and residences sprang up on Church Hill and Main Street to the east. Between 1790 and 1819, Richmond grew from a town to a city. It was the seat of the legislature and related courts of law. Long a center of trade Richmond was becoming a manufacturing center with mills for the processing of wheat, corn, cotton

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**  27 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

and tobacco. The city was also a major producer of coaches, soap and candles. Spurred by expanding industry and trade, the first banks were founded in Richmond during this period thus making Richmond a financial center as well. By 1817, the city's population had swelled to 14,328 inhabitants. Court End, the area north of Broad Street between 9th and 13th Streets, was the new, desirable residential area and in response retail and commercial development began to appear along Broad Street. As Court End became built up in the 1830s and 1840s, dwellings for some of Richmond's most prominent citizens were built along Grace, Franklin and South Fifth Streets.

The district became a popular residential area beginning in the 1840s. Homes for many of the city's leaders in business and government were constructed mainly in Greek Revival and Classical Revival styles on spacious lots. Among the prominent residents of the area was William Wirt, who resided in the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House that still stands at 2 North Fifth Street. James Scott and William Barret, both successful tobacco merchants, built homes in 1841 on adjacent lots carved out of the side yards of the former Moldavia, built in 1800 by David Meade Randolph and later associated with Edgar Allen Poe. The area was entirely residential until the turn of the century with the exception of two churches. Second Baptist Church was built in 1841 at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Main Streets. Thomas U. Walter, the prominent New York architect, designed the Greek Revival-style building. The church was demolished in 1906. Second Presbyterian Church, on North Fifth Street, is the only surviving church. This building was the first Gothic Revival church to be constructed in Richmond and marked a departure from the widely used Greek Revival-style previously favored. The church is architect, Minard Lafever's only Virginia Building.

On the eve of the Civil War, Richmond had a population of 37,910 and had "become the third most affluent city in the nation, with a per capita wealth of \$1,593.42. Ninety-one manufacturing establishments (52 of which were tobacco plants) employed more than 11,000 workers. Tobacco, flour, and iron were indeed the capital industries."<sup>21</sup> On 3 April 1865 retreating Confederate troops set fire to the munitions depots; the fire spread and engulfed the area from Main Street to the River and from 8th to 18th Streets. Even though the evacuation fire destroyed much of Richmond's business and manufacturing district the industries that had attributed to the city's prosperity in the proceeding years were still viable and attracted capital investments. Recovery was phoenix-like. As the *Dispatch* reported in its issue of 9 December 1865, Virginia's capital displayed "an instance of enterprise almost miraculous...Richmond has sprung up to a new life, and

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**  28 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

renewed her energies with all the vigor of youth.”<sup>22</sup> Richmond then would enter upon a vast economic expansion reasserting itself as the premiere city of the South.

The turning of the twentieth century brought with it changes that would forever alter downtown Richmond, especially Grace and Franklin streets. Richmond exemplified the new south with its diverse economic base and rapidly expanding population. In 1890, the city had a population of 81,388, which more than doubled to 171,667 by 1920. The Richmond Traction Company, later known as the Virginia Passenger and Power Company, was organized in 1895 and operated electric streetcars on Broad Street from Chimborazo Hill to Reservoir Park. By 1928, just less than 86 miles of streetcar tracks were completed. The expansion of the city’s trolley system brought with it the development of the suburbs. Monument Avenue was laid out in 1890, as were Ginter Park, Barton Heights and Bon Air. The suburbs offered relief from the congestion of the urban areas. “Unlike the rigid town house, which was restrained by the straitjacket of small city lots, the suburban house could be free and informal, with sun porches and verandas opening into gardens on all sides.”<sup>23</sup> Windsor Farms was laid out in the 1920s. Improvements in transportation and suburban growth ended Grace and Franklin Streets’ era of residential prominence. Changes in family structure and reduced use of household servants made the large homes of the area somewhat impractical and expensive to maintain. Many of the large houses were converted to private clubs and schools and were later demolished to make way for new retail and commercial development. Economically the city thrived during the first decades of the twentieth century and with this prosperity came disposable income and a need for places to spend it. As was typical in many cities during this era fashionable department stores grew in popularity, as did small specialty shops. With dwindling downtown residential growth, Franklin, Main and Cary streets were ripe for redevelopment as a commercial/retail center.

Beginning early in the twentieth century the district began to make way for business with the demolition of many residential properties. The most notable loss was the demolition of Moldavia in 1890. By 1924, dwellings in the 00 block of North Fourth Street, the 400 block of Main Street, the Gibbon, Rootes-Enders and Fry houses and Second Baptist church had been replaced by shops and apartments. The first commercial buildings in the area were the row of shops and flats constructed in the 1890s at 506-512 East Main Street. Another similar group of buildings was built across Main Street in 1903 on the former site of Moldavia, which was demolished in 1890. The tenants in the buildings included a number of tailors, specialty merchants, antiques dealers, a furniture repair

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**  29 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

shop and medical offices, reflecting the fondness for department stores and specialty retailers at the time. Office buildings were also constructed in the area as well as multi-story buildings housing flats and apartments. Many of the smaller commercial buildings had apartments on the upper stories, reflecting the changing residential patterns of the neighborhood. The majority of buildings constructed in the district adhered to the revival styles that were popular at the time. Classical and Colonial Revival are present throughout the district, but the majority of new construction was Italian Renaissance. Italianate design was widely used to rebuild the commercial areas of Richmond destroyed during the Civil War. The Italian Renaissance style is related to this movement, but instead of copying the design of existing buildings, certain elements are borrowed to create an original design.

The commercial character of the Fifth and Main Historic District has remained. The gracious homes that once served as anchors of the residential community have been well preserved. The Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House has been meticulously maintained and remains an outstanding example of Federal architecture. The Scott-Clarke and Barret Houses have also been well maintained. These three buildings are currently used as offices. The Second Presbyterian Church has an active congregation and the church building is in excellent condition. The building at 512 East Main Street, originally built to accommodate administrative functions for the Second Presbyterian Church, now houses an independent congregation known as the Apostolic Church. The YWCA building has continued its original function and still houses educational programs. The majority of buildings in the district currently house small local retailers and offices. The storefronts of many of the buildings have been altered to suit the changing needs of the business owners and to accommodate functions different from those originally intended. The large office buildings in the district house a variety of businesses today.

While the district is still a viable commercial area, a portion of it is threatened with demolition for a large-scale mixed use development. A high-rise building has been proposed for the south side of the 500 and 600 blocks of East Main Street. The project, named Centennial Towers, would include first floor retail space, offices, hotel rooms and 150-200 condo units. The developer has purchased a number of properties on the 500 block of East Main Street and plans to begin construction in 2007. The Scott-Clarke and Barret Houses would be directly affected due to the proximity and scale of the planned development.<sup>24</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page  30 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

The district as it stands today reflects the diverse past of the area. The buildings are a visual reflection of the area's transformation from an upper middle class neighborhood with stylish residences to a thriving commercial area in the twentieth century. The economic fortunes as well as the evolution of architectural styles can be clearly read across the facades of the district's buildings.

**Architects**

Richmond long held a view of itself as a cosmopolitan city – one of the premiere cities of the South. A direct product of this view was a strong inclination for hiring architects from New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Washington. While this pattern became particularly evident in the twentieth century it was also true in the early nineteenth century. In fact the earliest surviving building in the district, the Hancock-Wirt-Caskie House built in 1808, was directly influenced by the work of Benjamin Henry Latrobe. Benjamin Henry Latrobe (1764-1820) was born in Yorkshire England and received his training in architecture and engineering in England and Germany. He came to the United States in 1796 and divided his practice between London and Richmond until 1799 when he relocated to Philadelphia. The majority of his buildings are in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington where he designed the south wing of the United States Capitol and began a life long relationship with Thomas Jefferson.

One of his (Latrobe's) earliest Richmond projects was the Harvie-Gamble House, the house in which Elizabeth Gamble, the second wife of William Wirt, was raised. For the first owners, the Harvies, Latrobe attempted to create the latest and best in cosmopolitan neoclassical design. Latrobe took a nascent tradition of bow windows in Richmond and took the English idea of a projecting central bow on the garden side and maximized it to take advantage of the striking views of the James. Latrobe expanded the motif of the single bow into a double bow with his design for Clifton, built 1808-9 in Richmond. Latrobe considered the design a critique of his Harvie-Gambel house, and utilized a pair of projecting bows (which he had earlier employed in his Virginia State Penitentiary, Richmond, 1797-1806) to capture commanding views of the city and the James. One innovation at Clifton was to bear architectural fruit in Richmond was the development of the twin bows framing a porch.<sup>25</sup>

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**  31 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

The Hancock-Wirt-Caskie house was once part of a series of twenty-five other bowed houses in Richmond, and is the only one that remains. These Federal-era bowed houses became popular in Richmond for reasons of both fashion and function -- the bows allowed multiple windows to capture light and views of gardens, streets, and in some cases, the James River. Other similar dwellings in Richmond include the Wickham-Valentine House (NHL), designed in 1811-13 by Alexander Parris, Latrobe's informal apprentice. Other examples that have been demolished include Moldavia, the childhood home of Edgar Allen Poe, located diagonally across the intersection from the Wirt House, and the Alexander McRae House, which featured the same twin bows framing a porch as Clifton.

The next architecturally designed building in the district, Second Baptist Church, was demolished in 1906. Thomas U. Walter (1804-1887) was a native of Philadelphia, trained in the offices of William Strickland and John Haviland, and perhaps best known for his design of the wings and dome of the United States Capitol, which were begun in 1851. Walter was also instrumental in the founding of the American Institute of Architects. For most of his career, Walter's office was in Philadelphia but he designed a number of buildings in Richmond and other Virginia cities. His Richmond buildings included First and Second Baptist churches, Odd Fellows Hall, and the John Freeman Building.

Minard Lafever (1798-1854) is perhaps best known for his five builders' guides that spread the Greek Revival style nationwide. However, many of his New York churches popularized the Gothic and other revival styles. The Rev. Moses Drury Hoge, the first pastor of Second Presbyterian Church was determined to build the first Gothic church in Richmond, as he had grown tired of Grecian temples with spires on them. The building committee persuaded Minard Lafever to design the building. Second Presbyterian Church is the only Lafever commission to be built in the South.

The trend to hire noted architects from major cities continued into the twentieth century. Cope & Stewardson, the architects for the Y.M.C.A. which was built in 1885 and demolished in 1913, were from Philadelphia. The partners Walter Cope (1860-1902) and John Stewardson (1858-1896) "had a versatile practice encompassing collegiate, medical, and residential projects."<sup>26</sup> Much of their work was in the Collegiate Gothic style, which was extremely popular for academic and religious buildings in the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. The Y.M.C.A. building however is more reflective of the Romanesque Revival style, which Stewardson likely learned while

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   8   **Page**   32  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

employed in the office of Frank Furness. Starrett & Van Vleck, the architects for the Richmond Trust Company Building (1922) “were noted as the designers of stylish department store buildings in New York.”<sup>27</sup> They were first brought to Richmond in 1915 “to bring New York chic to the design of the stylish Mosby Store at the corner of Jefferson and Broad streets. Five years later they were to design Miller & Rhoads’ Grace Street frontage.”<sup>28</sup> The simplified classical and Renaissance elements they combined to create the dignified appearance desired by the major stores at this time are reflected in the design of the Richmond Trust Company Building at 627 East Main Street.

By the early twentieth century Richmond had also begun to produce a group of local architects who contributed many noteworthy buildings to the district. The firm of Carneal & Johnston contributed the Richmond Chamber of Commerce Building (Eskimo Pie), and the storefronts at 412-418 East Main Street and 507 East Franklin Street. The storefronts reflect the firm’s typical approach to small commercial buildings – simplified classical ornament and large window areas. The Chamber of Commerce Building is a well-composed example of a Renaissance Revival skyscraper. William Carneal (1881-1958), a native Richmonder, was educated at the Virginia Military Institute and began his architectural practice in 1906 in the office of Claude K. Howell. In 1908, Carneal formed a partnership with James Johnston (1885-1955) that lasted for the rest of their lives. Johnston was born in Rockbridge County and received engineering degrees from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and Cornell. He arrived in Richmond in 1906.<sup>29</sup> “A 1957 newspaper article estimated that Carneal & Johnston had designed 1,334 commercial and public structures.”<sup>30</sup> The firm remained active in the city under the name Carneal & Johnston until the 1990s.

The firm of Noland & Baskervill was responsible for the design of the YWCA and the Virginia Building. Henry Eugene Baskervill (1867-1949), a native of Richmond, studied engineering at Cornell University and was for a brief period engineer for the City of Richmond. In 1897, he formed a partnership with William C. Noland. William Churchill Noland (1865-1951) was a native of Hanover County and after studying abroad he worked in the Philadelphia office of Cope & Stewardson. Noland practiced for a short time in Roanoke and came to Richmond in 1893. He was a partner in Noland & Baskervill until 1917 and practiced independently until 1940. “William Noland was regarded as an architect of great talent and played a major design role in the Baskervill firm while he was a partner. His style was sophisticated and literate; his buildings were

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number   8   Page  33 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

both well designed and detailed.”<sup>31</sup> This sophistication of detail is evident in both buildings in the district attributed to the firm.

Charles M. Robinson (1867-1932) was a prolific architect, perhaps best known for his designs for schools statewide between 1910 and 1929. Robinson, the son of an architect, was a native of Loudon County and received his training in the office of D. S. Hopkins and John K. Peebles. He practiced for a short time in Pennsylvania and relocated to Richmond in 1906. Robinson designed the Professional Building at 501 East Franklin Street in 1916, which has been considered by some to be “a bland, uninteresting work by a Richmond architect who usually showed much more imagination and flair.”<sup>32</sup>

END NOTES SECTION 8

---

<sup>21</sup> Harry M. Ward, Richmond: An Illustrated History, p. 81

<sup>22</sup> Ibid, p. 148

<sup>23</sup> Robert P. Winthrop, Richmond's Architecture, p. 13

<sup>24</sup> Gregory J. Gilligan, “Richmond skyline to get a new skyscraper?” **Richmond Times-Dispatch**

<sup>25</sup> Bryan Clark Green, William Wirt House National Historic Landmark Nomination (127-0042)

<sup>26</sup> John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, The Virginia Architects 1835-1955, p. 97

<sup>27</sup> Ibid. 430

<sup>28</sup> Winthrop, Richmond's Architecture, p. 21

<sup>29</sup> Wells and Dalton, Virginia Architects, p.67, 231; Winthrop, Downtown Richmond, p. 239-240

<sup>30</sup> Wells and Dalton, Virginia Architects, p.67

<sup>31</sup> Winthrop, Downtown Richmond, p. 241

<sup>32</sup> Winthrop, Downtown Richmond, p. 134

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   9   Page  34 

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**Bibliography**

1895, 1905, 1924 Sanborn Map

Green, Bryan Clark, William Wirt House National Historic Landmark Nomination (127-0042), (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, 18 September 2002)

Loth, Calder, ed. The Virginia Landmarks Register (Fourth Edition), (Charlottesville and London: the University Press of Virginia, 1999)

Morrison, Andrew, ed., The City on the James: Richmond, Virginia, (Richmond: George W. Englehardt, 1893)

Scott, Mary Wingfield, Houses of Old Richmond, (New York: Bonanza Books, 1941)

Scott, Mary Wingfield Old Richmond Neighborhoods, (Richmond: William Byrd Press, Inc., 1984)

Ward, Harry M. Richmond: An Illustrated History, (Northridge: Windsor Publications, Inc., 1985)

Wells, John E. and Robert E. Dalton, The Virginia Architects 1835-1955, (Richmond: New South Architectural Press, 1997)

Winthrop, Robert P., Architecture in Downtown Richmond, (Richmond: Whittet & Shepperson Printers, 1982)

Winthrop, Robert P., Richmond's Architecture, (Reprinted from The Richmond Times-Dispatch Sunday Real Estate Section, August 9 through October 11, 1981)

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   10   Page   35  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

**Geographical Data**

UTM References, continued

5      18       284396      4157791   
Zone    Easting    Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

Starting at the southwest corner of East Franklin and North Sixth streets then south to the southwest corner of East Main and North sixth streets; then east to the southwest corner of East Main and North Seventh streets; then south to the alley between East Main and East Cary streets; then west along said alley to the west side of South Sixth Street; then north to the rear property line of parcel W0000013011; then west along said property line to the western corner; then north along the western property line of said parcel to the south side of the alley between East Main and East Cary streets; then west along the alley to the west side of the alley between South Fifth and South Sixth streets; then south along said alley to the north side of East Cary Street; then west along the north side of East Cary Street to the east side of South Fifth Street; then north along the east side of South Fifth Street to a point of intersection with the extension of the south property line of parcel W0000022012; then west along said southern property line to the western property line of said parcel; then north along said western property line to the north property line of parcel W0000022010; then east along said northern property line to the west side of South Fifth Street; then north along the west side of South Fifth Street to the northwest corner of North Fifth and East Main streets; then west along the north side of East Main Street to the western property line of parcel W0000023017; then north along said property line to the southern property line of parcel W0000023021; then west along said property line to the west side of North Fourth Street; then north along the west side of North Fourth Street to the south property line of parcel W0000034014; then west along the said southern property line to the western property line of said parcel; then north along said property line to the northern property line of said parcel; then east along said northern property line to the east side of North Fourth Street; then north along the east side of North Fourth Street to the north side of the alley between East Franklin and East Main streets; then east along said alley to the west property line of parcel W0000023009; then north along said property line to the south side of East Franklin Street; then east along the south side of East Franklin Street to the beginning at the southeast corner of East Franklin and North Sixth streets.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section number**   10   **Page**   36  

---

Fifth and Main Downtown Historic District (127-6071)  
Richmond, VA

Boundary Justification

The Fifth and Main Street Downtown Historic District lies in the central business district of the City of Richmond and is bounded by three established historic districts – Main Street Banking on the east, Grace Street Commercial on the north, and Monroe Ward on the west. The boundaries were established through the analysis of the area between these three existing districts and the removal of all vacant land, parking lots and noncontributing buildings. This process resulted in the boundaries contained in this proposed district, which encompasses a concentration of mid-nineteenth and mid-twentieth century buildings.



Mammoth  
Historic B  
458 (127-6077)  
Zone 18:  
(1) 284569 E  
4157652 N  
52'30"  
(2) 284569 E  
4157495 N  
(3) 284340 E  
4157531 N  
(4) 284345 E  
4157699 N  
(5) 284396 E  
4157791 N  
11.5  
acres

PLAT 18 AND 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 32, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, 43, 44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97, 98, 99, 100