

## Virginia Department of Historic Resources PIF Resource Information Sheet

This information sheet is designed to provide the Virginia Department of Historic Resources with the necessary data to be able to evaluate the significance of the property for possible listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. This is not a formal nomination, but a necessary step in determining whether or not the property could be considered eligible for listing. Please take the time to fill in as many fields as possible. A greater number of completed fields will result in a more timely and accurate assessment. Staff assistance is available to answer any questions you have in regards to this form.

<b>General Property Information</b>	For Staff Use Only DHR ID #: 130-0006-0226
Property Name(s): <u>Walters-Moshier House</u>	
Property Date(s): <u>Ca. 1912</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Circa <input type="checkbox"/> Pre <input type="checkbox"/> Post                      Open to Public? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	
Property Address: <u>1421 North Main Street</u> City: <u>South Boston</u> Zip: <u>24558</u>	
County or Ind. City: <u>Halifax County</u> USGS Quad(s): <u>South Boston, VA</u>	

<b>Physical Character of General Surroundings</b>	
Acreage: <u>Approximately 1/4 to 1/2 acre</u>	Setting (choose one): <input type="checkbox"/> Urban <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Town <input type="checkbox"/> Village <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban Rural <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Corridor
Site Description Notes/Notable Landscape Features: <u>The house occupies a well-maintained town lot with deciduous and evergreen shade trees and a low concrete retaining wall along Main Street.</u>	
Secondary Resource Description (Briefly describe any other structures (or archaeological sites) that may contribute to the significance of the property: <u>described under Architectural Description below</u>	
Ownership Category: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Local <input type="checkbox"/> Public-State <input type="checkbox"/> Public-Federal	

<b>Individual Resource Information</b>	
What was the historical use of this resource? Examples include: Dwelling, Grist Mill, Bridge, Store, Tobacco Barn, etc...	
<u>Dwelling</u>	
What is the current use? (if other than the historical use) <u>Dwelling</u>	
Architectural style or elements of styles: <u>Classical Revival</u>	
Architect, builder, or original owner: <u>John Hamilton (contractor)</u>	
# of stories <u>2</u> Condition: <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good <input type="checkbox"/> Fair <input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> Ruins <input type="checkbox"/> Rebuilt <input type="checkbox"/> Renovated	
Are there any known threats to this property? <u>None known</u>	

### Resource Component Information

Please answer the following questions regarding the individual components of the resource. If the component does not exist, answer "n/a." If you feel uncomfortable in answering the question, please leave the space blank. Photographs of the features can also help our staff identify specific feature components. Usually, priority is given to describing features on the primary (front) facade of the structure.

**Foundation:** Describe the foundation that supports the structure. Examples include piers, continuous brick, poured concrete. Continuous masonry (parged).

**Structure:** Describe the primary structural component of the resource. Include primary material used. Examples include log, frame (sawn lumber), and brick. Also include the treatment, such as a particular brick bond or type of framing, if known. Light nailed frame construction.

**Walls:** Describe the exterior wall covering such as beaded weatherboard or asbestos shingles. Plain weatherboards with a narrow reveal (weather surface).

**Windows:** Describe the number, material, and form of the primary windows. This includes the number of panes per sash, what the sashes are made of, and how the sashes operate (are they hinged or do they slide vertically) Have the windows been replaced? Mostly 1/1 wood sash.

**Porch:** Briefly describe the primary (front) porch. List the primary material, shape of the porch roof, and other defining details. Two-story portico and one-story porch (see detailed description below).

**Roof:** Describe the roof, listing the shape and the covering material. Hip-and-gable roof with slate shingle roofing.

**Chimney(s):** List the number of chimneys and the materials used. Include the brick bond pattern if possible. Interior chimneys constructed of buff-colored stretcher-bond brick with corbeled caps.

**Architectural Description of Individual Resource:** *(Please describe architectural patterns, types, features, additions, remodelings, or other alterations. A sketch of the current floor plan would be appreciated.)*

The Walters-Moshier House at 1421 North Main Street in South Boston, Virginia, is a Classical Revival residence built ca. 1912. The two-story frame house has narrow-reveal weatherboard siding, a hip-and-gable roof covered in slate shingles, and a portico with monumental fluted Ionic columns. A one-story porch, also with fluted Ionic columns, crosses the façade behind the portico. Under the porch is a front entry with a beveled glass transom and sidelights and a fluted Ionic surround. Above, a second-story entry opens onto a balcony inside the portico. The porch and balcony have vasiform balusters; the second-story entry has sidelights and a transom with plain glass. A bowed bay window projects under the porch and a two-story bowed window projects on the north side of the house. Other exterior features include brick chimneys, corner pilasters, a dentil cornice, and a one-story rear kitchen wing.

The interior is also Classical Revival in character. The stair in the wide center hallway rises behind a colonnade featuring Ionic fluted pilasters and a freestanding column on tall paneled wainscoting. Fireplaces are ornamented with classically-inspired mantels that combine fluting, molded panels, dentils, pilasters, and/or engaged columns in different combinations. The fireplace surrounds and hearths are tiled with cream, honey-colored, light blue, green, and mottled tan and green tiles, and there are several richly ornamented cast iron coal grates including one with a design of cavorting putti in an Ionic frame. The bathrooms have white tile floors and wainscots. Paneled wainscots, dentil crown molds, chair rails, and stack-panel doors appear throughout the interior. In the yard behind the house are a one-story secondary dwelling of accretive form and a smokehouse. Both outbuildings are frame with weatherboard siding and gable roofs. Recumbent concrete lions (shown in a 1937 photo) flank the front walk.

**Significance Statement:** Briefly note any significant events, personages, and/or families associated with the property. (Detailed family genealogies are not necessary.) Please list all sources of information. It is not necessary to attach lengthy articles or genealogies to this form. Normally, only information contained on this form will be posted for consideration by the State Review Board.

*Draft Statement of Significance Summary*

The ca. 1912 Walters-Moshier House is a prominent and intact example of the gracious in-town houses built for South Boston's tobacco barons during the heyday of the bright leaf tobacco economy. The Classical Revival residence is distinguished by a monumental Ionic portico, bow windows, a stair hall colonnade, and mantels in a variety of classically-inspired forms. The house was for many years the home of Charles W. Walters, the founder of the important regional tobacco firm Charles W. Walters Tobacco Company. The Walters-Moshier House, which is a contributing building in the South Boston Historic District, is potentially individually eligible for the National Register under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance as a premier example of the Classical Revival style in South Boston, and under Criterion B in the agriculture, commerce, or industry areas of significance for its association with prominent tobacconist Charles W. Walters. The house is potentially eligible at the local level of significance.

*Historic Context*

According to a 1937 WPA report, the Walters-Moshier House stands on the site of a log house built before the Civil War for the Cabaness family. Two frame outbuildings—the smokehouse and what may be a part of the secondary dwelling—were photographed for the WPA in 1937 on the premise that they dated to before 1855, although this assertion has not been tested through an examination of architectural fabric. Most accounts claim that Charles W. Walters had the current house built in 1912. According to tradition the porch columns were shipped to town by train and delivered to the construction site with Walters walking beside the wagon. Prior to Walters the lot was owned by T. E. Hodges who in the 1920s and 1930s was a partner in the operation of Planters Tobacco Warehouse in South Boston.

A recently published county architectural history states that the house was built for Walters by the “John Hamilton family.” This is in reference to local contractor John H. Hamilton and his sons William and John A. Hamilton. The Walters House shares similarities with another house built by the Hamilton firm, the Bessie and R. S. Barbour House (1906) at 1302 North Main Street, which has bowed windows and a stair hall colonnade with columns on a paneled base. The brightly colored tiles in the fireplace surrounds and hearths may have been produced by Halifax brickmason and tile manufacturer Howard Welton Cosby (d. 1922), the grandson of famed builder Dabney Cosby Sr., although it is also possible they were imported from outside the area.

Halifax County historian Pocahontas Edmunds described Charles W. Walters as one of the “pioneers in the tobacco redrying industry in South Boston” when that industry developed around 1904. In 1907 Walters owned and operated one of four tobacco stemmeries<sup>†</sup> in town, although he and his wife, Emma Staton Walters, lived at the time in Danville where Walters maintained his headquarters as late as 1911, moving to South Boston soon after. In 1930 Walters' redrying plant was one of seven in South Boston. The plant employed 50 workers out of a total of 825 individuals employed at the seven plants. Of the town's tobacco redrying establishments a 1930 study noted: “The tobacco is redried and sometimes stemming operations are performed at these plants. The crop is packed in hogsheads and shipped to warehouses for storage until ready for manufacture.”

<sup>†</sup> A stemmery is a facility for removing the stems from cured tobacco leaves prior to further processing and shipping.

In 1922 Walters served on the board of governors of the Tobacco Association of the United States, a nationwide tobacco trade organization. Local historian Wirt Carrington wrote in 1924 that Walters' company was a branch of the John E. Hughes Tobacco Company of Danville, though the anonymous author of a history of the Danville-based international tobacco firm Dibrell Brothers states, "In 1911 the C. W. Walters Company was added to the Dibrell empire to do business in South Boston, Virginia, and later Mullins, South Carolina." Dibrell Brothers had fifteen such subsidiaries, affiliates, and branches in 1935. The Walters company maintained a quasi-separate subsidiary status as late as 1969 when Dibrell Brothers merged it with other tobacco companies. The Walters House was converted to apartments in the mid-twentieth century, possibly before 1950, but has since been restored as a single-family dwelling by current owners Reed and Nikki Moshier.

### *Sources*

Bass, Barbara Day. *The Golden Leaf: A Brief History of Tobacco in Halifax County, Virginia, and the National Tobacco Festivals, 1935-1941*. Lynchburg, Va.: Warwick House Publishers, 2008.

Carrington, Wirt Johnson. *A History of Halifax County, Virginia*. Richmond, Va.: Appeals Press, 1924.

Edmunds, Pocahontas Wight. *A History of Halifax*. Reprint (volumes 1 and 2) by Halifax County Historical Society, 2008.

Edwards, David A. "South Boston Historic District." National Register of Historic Places Inventory-Nomination Form, 1986.

Halifax County Historical Society Architectural Committee. *An Architectural History of Halifax County, Virginia*. South Boston, Va.: Halifax County Historical Society, 2016.

"A History of Dibrell Brothers: 1873-1970." Online at the Danville Museum website.

Humbert, R. L., and C. C. Taylor. *Industrial and Agricultural Survey, Halifax County, Virginia*. Blacksburg, Va.: Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1930.

Morrison, Alfred J. *Halifax County, Virginia: A Handbook*. Richmond, Va.: Everett Waddey, 1907.

Pezzoni, J. Daniel. "An Architectural History of Halifax County, Virginia." Manuscript prepared for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and the Halifax County Historical Society, 2008.

Rice, May S. "Present home of C. W. Walters, South Boston, Va." Photograph (August 5, 1937), online in the Virginia Historical Inventory Collection, Library of Virginia website.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Servants' quarters, home of C. W. Walters, South Boston, Va." Photograph (August 5, 1937), online in the Virginia Historical Inventory Collection, Library of Virginia website.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Smoke house, home of C. W. Walters, South Boston, Va." Photograph (August 5, 1937), online in the Virginia Historical Inventory Collection, Library of Virginia website.

\_\_\_\_\_. "Walter's [*sic*] Home." Report (August 5, 1937), online in the Virginia Historical

Inventory Collection, Library of Virginia website.

*Richmond Times-Dispatch*, February 17, 1903.

*Tobacco, A Weekly Trade Review*, June 22, 1922.

*The Tradesman*, July 27, 1911.

<b>Legal Owner(s) of the Property</b> (For more than one owner, please use a separate sheet.)			
Mr. <input type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
_____		_____	
(Name)		(Firm)	
_____		_____	_____
(Address)		(City)	(State) (Zip Code)
_____		_____	
(Email Address)		(Daytime telephone including area code)	
Owner's Signature: _____		Date: _____	
<b>•• Signature required for processing all applications. ••</b>			
In the event of corporate ownership you must provide the name and title of the appropriate contact person.			
Contact person: _____			
Daytime Telephone: (      )			

<b>Applicant Information</b> (Individual completing form if other than legal owner of property)			
Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
J. Daniel Pezzoni		Landmark Preservation Associates	
_____		_____	
(Name)		(Firm)	
6 Houston St.	Lexington	VA	24450
(Address)	(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)
gilespezzoni@rockbridge.net		(540) 464-5315	
(Email Address)		(Daytime telephone including area code)	
Applicant's Signature: _____		Date: _____	

<b>Notification</b>			
In some circumstances, it may be necessary for DHR to confer with or notify local officials of proposed listings of properties within their jurisdiction. In the following space, please provide the contact information for the local County Administrator or City Manager.			
Mr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/>	Dr. <input type="checkbox"/>	
Miss <input type="checkbox"/>	Ms. <input type="checkbox"/>	Hon. <input type="checkbox"/>	
James M. Halasz		County Administrator	
_____		_____	
(Name)		(Position)	
Halifax County	PO Box 699		
(Locality)	(Address)		
Halifax	VA	24558	(434) 476-3300
(City)	(State)	(Zip Code)	(Daytime telephone including area code)

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

We are seeking an evaluation of our property because we are interested in preserving Virginia's history. Our home was built by a tobacco merchant during tobacco's heyday in this region. The home reflects that history as well as its southern roots. For example, our home's 4 soaring columns are an iconic element of Southern plantations. The home is also situated on the town's main street, alongside other fine examples of tobacco's influence in this county. We feel the historical designation will be an example to others that remembering and honoring our past helps us build a better future.

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

Would you be interested in the easement program? Yes  No

Walters-Moshier House

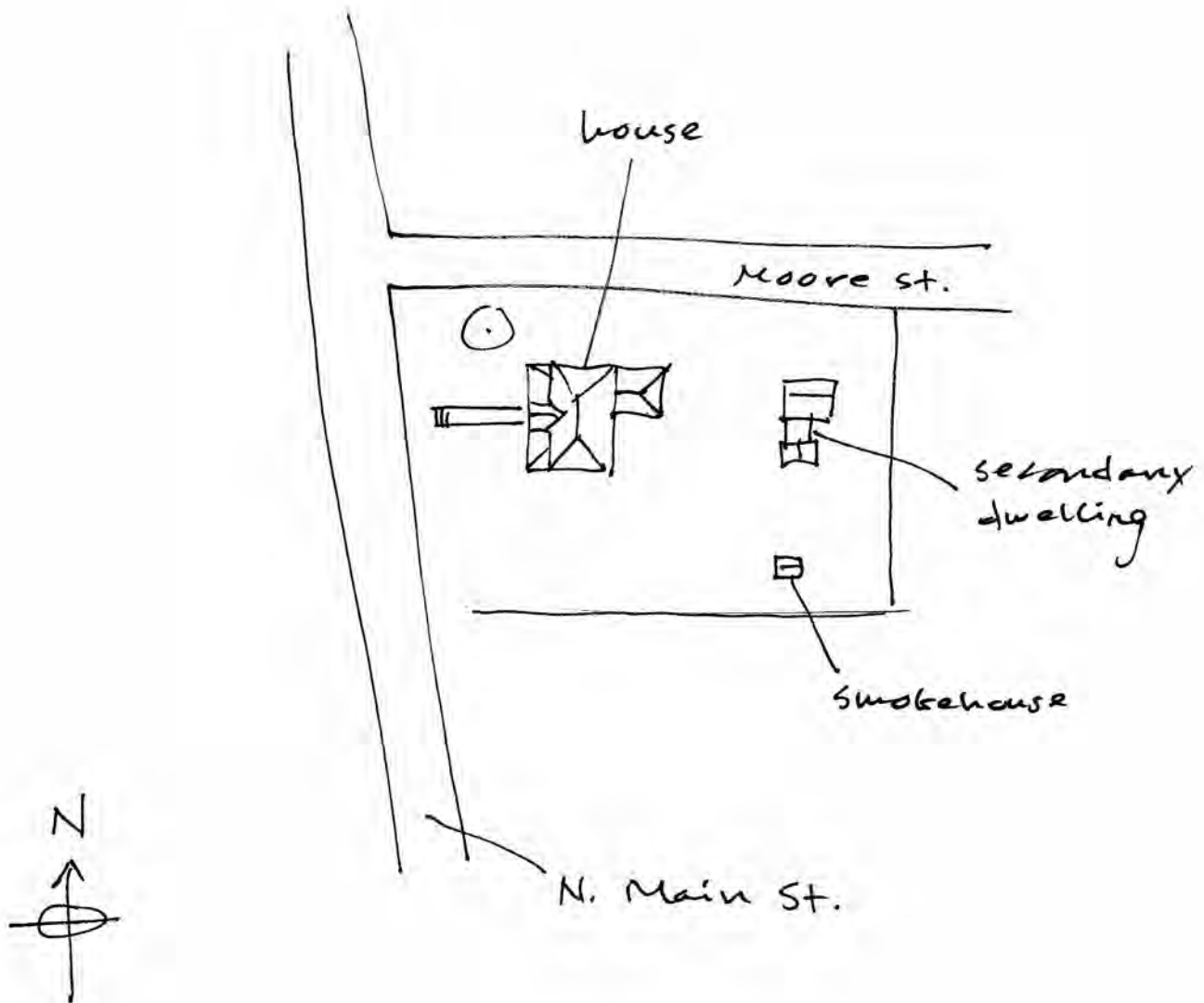
1421 N. Main St., South Boston

130-0006-0226

Halifax County

January 2017

NTS



# Walters-Moshier House

130-0006-0226

Halifax County, Virginia

South Boston quad and detail from South Boston Historic District map

January 2017

