

Tazewell Avenue Historic District
Name of Property

Tazewell County, 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

| | | |
|--------------|------------------|------------|
| Contributing | Non-contributing | |
| <u>70</u> | <u>19</u> | buildings |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | sites |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | structures |
| <u>0</u> | <u>0</u> | objects |
| <u>70</u> | <u>19</u> | Total |

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

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Commerce General Store
Commerce Department Store
Religion Religious Facility

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling
Domestic Multiple Dwelling
Commerce Specialty Store
Commerce Department Store
Commerce Office
Vacant Not in Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne OTHER: Minimal Traditional
REVIVALS: Colonial Revival, 1 OTHER: Ranch
AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick
roof Asphalt Shingles
walls Brick
other Wood

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

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8. Statement of Significance
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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

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

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

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture
Commerce
Community Planning & Development (Criterion C)

Period of Significance circa 1900 – 1960

Significant Dates c.1900

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

Cultural Affiliation N/A

Architect/Builder Fields, W. W., Sr.; Brown, Joe ; Brown, Wiley; Cook, Lawrence

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

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9. Major Bibliographical References
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(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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property apx. 15 acres

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

| Zone | Easting | Northing |
|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 17 | 428100 | 2 | 17 | 428360 | 3 | 17 | 428540 | 4 | 17 | 428300 |
| | | 4105760 | | | 4105900 | | | 4105400 | | | 4105400 |

 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 Sherry Joines Wyatt
 organization Historic Preservation Consultant date May 2009
 street & number 21 E. Main St., Ste. 202 telephone 540/381-3336
 city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

- Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
 A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.
- Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.
- Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Brian Wright, Downtown Coordinator, Town of Richlands
 street & number 200 Washington Square telephone 276-964-4886
 city or town Richlands state VA zip code 24641

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 36 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 National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service, 1849 C St., NW, Washington, DC 20240.

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7. Description

Materials

foundation: Concrete, Concrete Block

roof: Metal, Rubber membrane

Walls: Vinyl Siding, Aluminum Siding, Asbestos Shingle Siding, Wood Siding

Summary Description

Located in the western part of the Town of Richlands in Tazewell County, Virginia, the Tazewell Avenue Historic District contains over eighty primary resources and several secondary resources. The buildings date from c.1900 through about 2000; all but eight were built before 1960. Most of the buildings are modestly-scaled brick or frame houses representing the side-gable, single-pile houses, bungalows, Craftsman bungalows, Minimal Traditional-style houses, Cape Cods, and Ranch houses that were typical of the early and mid-twentieth century. Additionally there is a row of two-story brick Commercial-style buildings on Front Street. Dating primarily from the 1930-1950 period, details are simple including flat roofs with parapets and corbelled cornices. Modest Classical Revival styling is found at the 1941 First Baptist Church at Fairfax Avenue and Second Street, while the small brick sanctuary that once housed the Pentecostal Holiness Church on Fourth Street is devoid of stylistic references.

Detailed Description

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

The Tazewell Avenue Historic District is located in downtown Richlands and encompasses approximately ten blocks with seventy-two primary buildings and seventeen ancillary buildings. All but nineteen are contributing to the historic district, which is largely residential.

The streets are laid out in a grid with Front Street and the numbered east-west streets being parallel to the Clinch River, which lies north of Fourth Street. Thus, the grid is situated with the streets laid out slightly askew to the northwest. The river curves around the northeast corner of the district, to flow roughly parallel with the north-south avenues. This section of the river separates the area around the district from the rest of downtown Richlands and the nearby Richlands Historic District. The southern edge of the district is bounded by the railroad parallel to Front Street.

The buildings within district represent a range of popular architecture styles from the early and mid-twentieth century. The district's Queen Anne cottages and Craftsman-style bungalows along with more modest one-story single-pile dwellings, hip-roof cottages, and unadorned bungalows illustrate the growth of Richlands in the three decades after its recovery from the 1893 depression. The standard brick commercial buildings that line Front Street illustrate the commercial prosperity achieved by the town during the same period. By the late 1930s and 1940s, the town was thriving and a building boom that lasted through the 1950s is clearly evident in the numbers of brick and frame Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch-style houses within the district. These buildings are arranged in a relatively dense manner on gridded streets. Virtually each block features houses or commercial buildings that were built over a broad span of time from c.1900 through c.1960. Finally, the former Pentecostal Holiness Church (VDHR# 148-5020-0022) and First Baptist Church (VDHR# 148-5020-0013), illustrate the institutional development that came with the residential expansion.

The former First Baptist Church at the northeast corner of Fairfax Avenue and Second Street is a modest

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Classical Revival-style building typical of its early 1940s construction date. The one-story brick church sits on a raised basement with a cast stone water table. The wood-sheathed front gable and eaves are relatively flat with only a lunette window for ornamentation. Below the gable, the entry is slightly recessed with Tuscan columns *in antis* and a simple architrave and diamond-light transom over the double-leaf door. The modest two-tier belfry is octagonal and rests on a wood-sheathed square base. Round-head windows with cast stone keystone and spring blocks flank the sides of the building and are surmounted by a solid belt course. Next door, the 1955 Barker Youth Center (former, VDHR# 148-5020-0028) is a simple brick flat-roof building with a modest pediment at its entry. At the corner of Floyd Avenue and Fourth Street is the very modest brick sanctuary that once housed the Pentecostal Holiness Church. Although somewhat altered, its simple and unadorned design is still evident.

Most of the historic commercial buildings, which are situated on Front Street, exhibit the Commercial Style executed in brick. These two-story designs are unadorned or simply ornamented with pilasters and corbelled cornices. A representative example is the Nassif Building (c.1945, VDHR# 148-5020-0008) at 2401-2403 Front Street. This two-story brick veneer building has two recessed storefronts with metal windows and stuccoed bulkheads. The most ornate commercial building in the district is the Masonic Hall and Jenkins Cleaners Building, c. 1930, at 2343 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0007). This two-story Commercial-style building is constructed of six-over-one common bond brick and has segmental arch window heads, a corbelled cornice, decorative corbelling near the cornice, pilasters, and corbelling between the floors. A one-story former Texaco service station from c.1950 is also located on Front Street and is typical of its period featuring subtle Art Moderne influences.

The residential architecture in the district is made up of modestly-scaled dwellings. These are primarily frame construction although a number have brick veneer and a few are of brick construction. Most are one or one-and-a-half stories in height. The earliest dwellings in the area appear to date from c.1900-c.1910. The one-story gable ell cottage at 226 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5009) is a well-preserved example of these with turned porch posts. This house is further ornamented by a polygonal bay on the gable end. More typical of houses from this period in the district are smaller one-story side-gable single-pile dwellings such as the Rimmer-Reed-Robinette House (VDHR# 148-5020-0018), c.1915, found at 2401 Fourth Street.

The Crabtree House (VDHR# 148-5008) located in the 100 block of Fairfax Avenue is one of the most architecturally distinct houses in the proposed district. This c.1917 common-bond brick Queen Anne cottage is one-and-a-half stories with a wrap-around porch supported by Tuscan columns on brick piers. The porch features a bracketed cornice. The pressed tin shingle roof of the house is ornamented with finials at each gable, including that of the gabled dormer. Cast stone lintels are located above each window and the entry, which features a front door with an oval light and matching sidelights. Another architecturally impressive house is the Dr. Isaac and Thelma Cunningham House. Built in 1928, one-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow is constructed of brick and features a gabled dormer with knee braces and an engaged porch supported by brick piers with curved caps and pilasters. More typical of the district's bungalows is the Hankins House at 210 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0057). Built c.1920, this bungalow has a partial-width porch supported by large square columns, a shed-roof dormer, and vinyl siding.

Modest Minimal Traditional and Cape Cod-style houses are also common. These are overwhelmingly frame with weatherboard, vinyl, or asbestos shingle siding. The Cape Cod built for Bob and Lynn Mullins House at 319 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0067) in 1951 is a representative example with brick veneer, front-gable projection, and gabled dormers. The Cury House (VDHR# 148-5020-0054) at 215 Tazewell Avenue is one of several Ranch houses from the 1950s in the proposed district. Another example is the Otis and Lucy Nash House at 121 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0025) is distinguished with elements of the Colonial Revival style in its shed-roof attic dormers and square porch columns.

The Tazewell Avenue Historic District had good integrity, retaining many buildings that were built during the 1900 to 1960 period. These buildings illustrate a period when prosperity in manufacturing and coal provided for steady growth

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in Richlands.

Inventory List

The following inventory is organized by street beginning with Front Street and the numbered east-west streets followed by the named north-south avenues. The buildings are listed in numerical order by address. Each property is noted as Contributing or Non-contributing to the historic district based on its architectural integrity and age (in relation to the period of significance). The history of each building is from an unpublished history of the Tazewell Avenue Historic District compiled by Rod Cury and Gaynelle Thompson, 2008, unless otherwise noted.

2201 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0001), Teachers' Club House, c.1917, Contributing

This two-story three-bay painted brick building has a gable-on-hip roof that was probably a later alteration of the original hip roof. The aluminum double-leaf doors in the center bay are surmounted by paired one-over-one windows. Other fenestration includes replacement picture windows in the first floor and one-over-one windows on the second floor. Known as the Teachers' Club House, the building was purchased around 1917 to accommodate teachers from the school that was located across the river. Mrs. A. B. (Rosa) Williford, taught a private kindergarten class on the second level of the Teachers' Club House. The first floor of the building served as the David P. Harris Post of the American Legion in the mid-1950s and was referred to as the Legion Hall in the 1957 deed between John Robert "Bob" Mullins purchased the building from Narcie Fletcher (1882-1979). Mullins added large sections (2205 Front Street) to the building. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

2205 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0002), Lynn's Lanes, c. 1960, Contributing

Two stories in height, this three-bay concrete block building features brick pilasters and aluminum and plate glass storefront. The barrel vault roof is hidden behind the stepped parapet. A one-story addition, built c.1970, is located at the southwest corner of the building. The addition has aluminum-framed plate glass windows over a brick skirt on its Fairfax Avenue and Front Street elevations as well as a metal mansard roof. The original section of the building was built by Bob Mullins and the second floor housed Lynn's Lanes, a bowling alley that opened December 17, 1960. The National Super Market and the National Sportsman's Shop also occupied some of the rear space of the structure in the 1960s. The addition housed Helms Boys Furniture in the early 1970s.

2309 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0003), c. 1980, Non-contributing

This two-story gable-roof apartment building has a two-bay front section and a wider three-bay rear section. Entries are on the south elevation and in the rear section. The building is sheathed in vinyl and has picture, slider, and six-over-six windows. There is a prefabricated metal outbuilding to the south of the building that is not counted in the inventory.

2317 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0004), Texaco Service Station, c. 1950, Contributing

This one-story four-bay service station is painted brick with Art Moderne banding below the cornice. The building has two garage bays with glass doors and an aluminum storefront. The building was originally a Texaco station.

2323-2331 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0005), Commercial Building, c.1945, Contributing

This two-story four-bay brick building is asymmetrical with the facade divided into two uneven sections by a brick pilaster. The eastern section (2323) is narrower with two single entries with modern glass and metal doors. The western section (2331) is wider with a recessed entry featuring modern stone veneer. The second floor of both sections has six-over-six paired replacement windows and a basket weave panel below the tile coping of the parapet. The brick

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of the first floor on both sections is different than that of the second floor and is a recent addition. The Casino Grill opened on January 9, 1948 in 2323 W. Front Street. The Leader Store, whose marquee displayed “fine clothes and shoes,” was sold to Amos Roydon on February 26, 1958. At that time, the store was located in the left unit of the building at 2331 West Front Street. This was a second business for Mr. Roydon who had opened The Family Shoppe on Suffolk Avenue on August 1, 1928. Richard Roydon, son of the building owner, took over the Casino Grill in 1958; it and the Leader Store were remodeled and renamed Roydon’s in the mid-1960s. It was a ladies specialty shop and operated there until the mid-1980s.

2335 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0006), Commercial Building, c.1955, Contributing

This two-story two-bay concrete block building has a brick facade with paired six-over-six replacement windows on the second floor and a recessed and angled storefront on the first floor. The roof has been replaced with a raised shed roof. The building formerly housed Ira's Diamond World.

2343 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0007), Masonic Hall and Jenkins Cleaners Building, c. 1910, Contributing

This two-story three-bay Commercial Style building is constructed of six-over-one common bond brick and has segmental arch window heads with six-over-six replacement windows. The aluminum entry has sidelights and transom. The painted brick facade features a corbelled cornice, decorative corbelling near the cornice, pilasters, and corbelling between the floors. Local historian George Bushkill recorded that a building at this location was known as the Soda Pop Bottling Plant. Richlands Bottling Works was in business in 1906 and Clinch Valley Bottling Company was in operation in 1910, but it is not certain that either plant was located in this building. Andy H. Jenkins opened Jenkins Cleaners in the building on February 6, 1939. The second floor was home to the Masonic Lodge until the new Lodge Hall on Veteran’s Drive was constructed in the late 1970s or early 1980s. Eastern Star members also held their meetings here until the building changed hands. The Richlands Masonic Lodge No. 318 was established in 1911 and had 140 members in 1933 [*Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Virginia, 1933*].

<http://www.newrivernotes.com/va/mason33.htm> John R. McCall purchased this building from Andy H. and Ruth Jenkins around 1970. Mr. McCall’s business was the Clinch Valley Insurance Agency and is presently called Trust point Insurance. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

2401-2403 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0008), Nassif Building, 1945, Contributing

This two-story brick veneer building is three bays on the first floor and five on the second. There are two recessed storefronts on either side of a single entry to the second floor. The storefronts have metal windows and stuccoed bulkheads. On the second floor are one-over-one replacement windows (some paired). This building was built in 1945 around the old R. H. Griffith Grocery Store. The building was built for Shukery and Evelyn Nassif by W. W. Fields, Sr. and served as both their home and place of business. This was the second location for their business, The Economy Store, which opened August 25, 1939. On August 19, 1965, their son Bob Nassif opened the Ramrod Men’s Shop adjacent to the Economy Store. Ramrod's operated until Bob Nassif’s retirement on Dec. 31, 1999.

2407-2409 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0009), Horton's Department Store Building, c. 1955, Contributing

This two-story running bond brick building is five bays wide and has metal casement windows (2nd floor), aluminum storefront with two recessed entries, original neon “Horton's” sign on the metal canopy, and tile coping at the parapet. The building was the second home of Horton's Department Store owned by I. E. Horton.

2411 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0010), Commercial Building, c. 1930 and c.1955, Contributing

This two-story building encompasses two historic commercial buildings. The western section is a two-story three-bay

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building with running bond facade, metal casement windows (2nd floor), and tile coping at the parapet. The storefront is enclosed with vinyl siding. To the east is a second two-story two-bay building with paired two-over-two windows surmounted by a soldier course and corbelling, and a plate glass and aluminum storefront (c.1955) with recessed entry. The eastern section appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

2439 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0011), Commercial Building, c.1955, Contributing

This two-story two-bay Commercial Style building has a running bond facade, paired one-over-one windows with metal awnings in the second floor and tile coping at the parapet. The storefront has vertical board sheathing and a metal canopy. This storefront is thought to have been occupied by Vernon's Grocery.

2443 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0012), Vernon's Grocery Store, c.1930, Contributing

This two-story three-bay brick Commercial Style building has a running bond facade with corbelling over the one-over-one second floor windows. The aluminum storefront windows and stone veneer bulkhead are replacements probably dating the late 1950s. The double-leaf entry is in the eastern bay. The flat roof has a parapet with tile coping. This building appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map and was occupied by Vernon's Grocery Store. J. W. Vernon and his wife, Essie, lived in an apartment over the store. The adjacent storefront at 2439 Front Street is also thought to have been occupied by Vernon's Grocery. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

2201 Second Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0013), First Baptist Church (former), 1941, contributing

Classical Revival brick veneer church sits on a raised basement with cast stone watertable. The front pediment is sheathed in vinyl siding and features a lunette window. The building is capped by a soldier course dropped cornice and a two-tier octagonal belfry on a wood-sheathed base. The central double-leaf entry has an x-muntin transom and a classical architrave with oval medallion frieze. The entry is flanked by paired Tuscan columns in antis. The round-head windows on the sides of the building have cast stone lintels, spring blocks, and keystone. The First Baptist Church (now The Cornerstone Church) began with a Missionary Baptist revival held in the Layman's Chapel building in the Brickyard Section of Richlands in late 1930. Rev. Nelson T. Barker, who began his Richlands pastorate on November 1, 1940, led the congregation of First Baptist to build a larger church building to replace the one room wooden structure completed in 1933 at the corner of Second Street and Floyd Avenue. Construction began on September 1, 1941 and the first section of the church was completed in March of 1942; the first church service was held on Easter Sunday. The second portion of the church, presumably the rear section and possibly the flat-roofed wings that are located on either side of the building, was completed in January of 1943.

2303 Second Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0014), Building, 1928 and c.1985, Non-contributing

The original section of this building is the garage that served the Cunningham House at 202 Fairfax Avenue. A portion of the garage is visible on the west side of the building. The majority of the building dates from c.1985 when an asymmetrical one-and-a-half story shed-roof building was added. The western section of the building projects to the south and is finished with a one-story projection capped by a metal pent roof. The entry is recessed and accessed via a colonnade-like breezeway. The building is sheathed in diagonal and vertical boards; the original garage bay is enclosed with vertical boards, slit windows, and a brick skirt. The garage section of this building appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

2304 Second Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0015), Tivis and Winnie Owens House, c.1950, Non-contributing

One-story hip-roof house has been significantly remodeled c.1980 with the application of stucco and the addition of diagonal board-clad entries on the front and east side. Now the New Peoples Bank, this structure was once the Tivis

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and Winnie Cordle Owens house, built by Lawrence Cook around 1950. Tivis Owens was a successful and well-known attorney.

Garage, c.1950, Contributing

There is a concrete block garage with exposed rafter tails in the rear of the property.

2341 Third Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0016), House, c.1955, Contributing

This one-story side-gable five-bay Ranch house is brick veneer with paired one-over-one replacement windows and glass-enclosed carport on east end.

2401 Third Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0017), Mullins-Sharrone House, c.1955, Contributing

This one-story side-gable Ranch house is five bays wide and has stone veneer in the two eastern bays with a projecting stone wall or pilaster separating these bays from the entry and western bays, which are sheathed in vinyl siding. The sides of the house are brick veneer. There is a carport in the western bay. The one-over-one replacement windows are small, paired, and set high; there is also a large tripartite picture window. There is a metal carport west of the house that is not included in the inventory count. The house was built by Herman Mullins and purchased by Pat and Dorothy Sharrone in 1960. Mr. Sharrone owned Pat's Ford on the western end of Front Street and later owned Pat's Pontiac in Doran, VA

Outbuilding, c.1980, Non-contributing

There is a small, gabled metal outbuilding to the west of the house.

2401 Fourth Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0018), Rimmer-Reed-Robinette House, c.1915 Contributing

This one-story hip-roof single-pile three-bay dwelling has vinyl siding, replacement metal roof, replacement one-over-one windows and turned posts supporting the hipped porch roof. Thought to be built for G. W. and Ella Rimmer, the house was purchased by Howard and Pearl Reed on December 6, 1922. By a deed dated July 9, 1940, the Reeds sold the land and house to Isaac and Marie Tompkins Robinette. Their son, Bill Robinette, who still lives in this house, thinks it was built in the 1920s, but stylistic evidence suggests an earlier date. Isaac Robinette worked for the Norfolk and Western Railroad. Mrs. Robinette played the piano for the First Baptist Church and continued to play for a new church established by a group of the First Baptist Church congregation. The new church is located on Clinch Street and is known as The Gethsemane Baptist Church. Another son, James Robinette lives in Williamsburg, VA, and has published several books one of which deals with his childhood in Richlands. This house appears on the 1936 Sanborn map.

Shed, c.1980, Non-contributing

One-story gabled outbuilding with v-groove metal roof and T-111 siding.

2409 Fourth Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0019), c.1955, Contributing

This one-story side-gable three-bay Minimal Traditional house with vinyl siding, single-bay porch with metal posts, slider and picture windows, and raised concrete block foundation.

2411 Fourth Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0020), House, c.1925, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story side-gable three-bay bungalow is clad in aluminum siding and has paired one-over-one and three-over-one windows. There is a shed-roof dormer and the partial-width shed-roof porch is supported by square

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columns.

Outbuilding, c.1980, Non-contributing

There is a frame front-gable outbuilding in the rear of the house.

2415 Fourth Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0021), House, c.1915, Contributing

This one-story hip-roof three-bay house has asbestos siding and six-over-six windows. The partial-width two-bay porch is supported by square posts. The roof is standing seam and the central chimney is corbelled.

2501 Fourth Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0022), Pentecostal Holiness Church, c.1920, Contributing

This one-story front-gable church is running bond brick with asbestos shingles in the gable. There is a single central entry on the facade with an added transom above. The windows on the sides have been infilled with concrete block. The roof is corrugated metal. The church appears as "Pentecostal Holiness Church" on the 1936 Sanborn map.

Shed, c.1950, Contributing

There is a gabled frame shed in rear of the property.

108 Fairfax Avenue, (VDHR# 148-5020-0023), c.1900, Contributing

This four-bay gable-ell house is one story with a one-and-a-half-story section on the south end of the building. The house is sheathed in aluminum siding, but the original decorative shingles are still evident in the gable ends of the north bay and on the northern end. The north bay also features a polygonal bay window and a sawnwork bargeboard. The southern two bays are part of a one-story, c.1985 addition with plate glass windows that sits in front of the one-and-a-half-story section. The recessed porch has log sheathing on the walls. Early owners of the lot were Evans and Elizabeth Dick, President of the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company, R. G. Bailey, Lilly B Davis (wife of T. H. Davis), and Mollie and Iverson Thurman Brown. The house has served as a residence and place of business including the location of the National Sportsman's Shop. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

111 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0024), J. C. and Etta Elswick House, 1954, Contributing

Built in 1954 by Wiley Brown for J. Clarence and Etta Welch Elswick and Mrs. Elswick's daughter, Trula, this one-story side-gable brick veneer Minimal Traditional house is four-bays wide with a gabled ell in the north bay. The windows are eight-over-eight replacements and a picture window flanked by six-over-six sash. There is a single-bay front-gable concrete block garage in the rear of the property. J. C. Elswick was a conductor for the Norfolk & Western Railroad. Trula Elswick was a beloved third grade school teacher who lived at this address until her death in 2006 at the age of 93.

Garage, c.1954, Contributing

There is a single-bay front-gable concrete block garage in the rear of the property.

117 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5008/148-5020-0025), James & Florence Crabtree House, 1917, Contributing

James Beauford (Buford) Crabtree and his wife, Florence Brown Crabtree built this Queen Anne Cottage in 1917. The one-and-a-half-story, common bond brick house has one-over-one windows, cast stone lintels, and a gabled dormer. The roof is sheathed in pressed tin shingles and is ornamented with finials on the gables. The impressive wrap-around porch with curved corner is supported by Tuscan columns and has a bracketed cornice. The central entry has an oval-light door and sidelights. Three connected outbuildings sit at the rear corner of the house behind a circular drive. The

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front yard of the house is bounded by a metal fence supported by brick piers. Crabtree came to Richlands around 1890 when the town was being developed by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company. He purchased some of the first lots sold by the CVC & I Co. Crabtree was in the lumbering business early on and was a merchant for thirty-five years. He served as Councilman and Mayor at various times from 1893 until about 1920 and was on the Tazewell County School Board from 1909 through 1939. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

Outbuilding, c.1917, Contributing

The southernmost outbuilding is a two-story brick building with a hip roof, six-over-six windows, and a pressed tin roof.

Shed, c.1930, Contributing

This is a one-story vinyl-clad shed with a small porch supported by square posts on brick piers.

Shed, c.1950, Contributing

The northernmost building is a vinyl-clad shed with a wide garage bay opening.

118 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0026), House, c.1915, Contributing

This unusual one-and-a-half-story bungalow with hip-roof dormers and bell cast roof sheathed in metal faux Spanish tile. The house is four bays wide and constructed of Flemish bond brick with one-over-one replacement windows. The recessed wraparound porch is supported by Tuscan columns. The facade features a polygonal bay. Early owners include W. A. and Elizabeth Story Dick. Dick was an executive of the CVC & I Company. The property was transferred to Hattie Authenreith, the Gardners, and in 1920 to the Flora Shreve family. In 1944, this house and land became the property of Mollie E. Brown who sold it to Josephine Hibbitts Tarter. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

121 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0027), Otis and Lucy Nash House, 1949, Contributing

This highly detailed five-bay Colonial Revival Ranch house has brick veneer, hip-roof copper attic dormers/vents, a bow window, eight-over-eight windows, and a boxed out multi-light picture window. The northern bay of the house is a front-gable projection with a stucco sunburst ornamenting the gable end. The partial-width front porch is carried by octagonal columns with molding at the capitals. A carport is attached at the southern end of the house. Lawrence Cook built this house in 1949 for Otis Herman and Lucy Griffith Nash. Mr. Nash was in the mining, furniture, and general mercantile businesses. Mrs. Nash was the daughter of R. H. Griffith who had a grocery store at the northwest corner of Front Street and Tazewell Avenue.

201 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0028), Barker/Baptist Youth Center, 1955, Contributing

This two-story flat-roof brick building has a running bond facade ornamented by panels outlined with soldier course/stack bond brick. The robust pediment at the entry is supported by large paired concrete columns. A stone tablet is inscribed "Holy Bible" and sits in the yellow brick infill of the pediment. The awning windows have cast stone sills. The raised basement is accented by a brick watertable. The ground breaking of the Youth Center took place on May 1, 1955 and the formal opening took place on March 31, 1956. The Youth Center was sponsored by the First Baptist Church and was built with contributions. It was designed with a large gymnasium, a full sized skating rink and two bowling alleys. The basement area included a kitchen, lounge, and snack bar. Utilization of the center for recreation by town citizens was short lived according to oral accounts. The fields behind the center and church, however, were used as baseball fields. Beyond the actual playing fields, were grassy zones all the way to the Clinch

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River. The center is now used by The Cornerstone Church for a book and gift store and other activities.

202 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0029), Dr. Isaac and Thelma Cunningham House, 1928, Contributing

This impressive one-and-a-half-story Craftsman bungalow is constructed of brick (now painted) and features a gabled dormer with knee braces and asphalt shingle sheathing. Windows in the house are paired and triple five-over-one sash. The engaged porch is supported by brick piers with curved caps and pilasters and has a brick balustrade. The central entry features a door and sidelights with Craftsman-style muntins. Joe Brown, who lived in the 100 block of Tazewell Avenue, was the contractor who built this house for Dr. Isaac Wickham Cunningham and his wife, Thelma Barrett Cunningham, in 1928. Dr. Cunningham came to Richlands in 1908 and established his residence and practice. He was also the company doctor for the Red Ash Coal Company and served as team physician for the Richlands High School athletic teams. The Cunningham's son recalls that the house was built of a special brick called engineering size. Dr. Cunningham received his MD from the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond, Virginia. Island Creek Coal Company mine superintendent, George Thornhill Harris, III, and his wife, Ginger Payne Harris purchased the house from Dover and Delores England in 1971. As well as this home being their private residence, Mrs. Harris operates G. Harris Designs, an interior decorating business in the rear of the house. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

210 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0030), Cordle House, c.1900, Contributing

This three-bay one-story single-pile side-gable house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one replacement windows. The hip-roof porch has square posts. A two-section gable-roof ell extends to the rear of the house. According to family tradition, Margaret (Maggie) Cordle bought the house after "walking through the woods from Front Street down Fairfax Avenue." The family believes it was one of only two houses in the neighborhood at that time. Deed records [Book 470, Page 197] show that Maggie Cordle bought the property from William and Nellie Lowe on August 21, 1912. The Lowe family bought the property from J. B. Nelson and his wife, Alice, on March 10, 1910 [Book 69, Page 450]. The Nelsons bought the property from J. W. McNeil and his wife by a deed dated April 8, 1909. While doing reconstruction and renovation on the house, contractors discovered the house is constructed in part of chestnut. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

212 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0031), Dye House, c.1925, Contributing

This one-story three-bay hip roof bungalow is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one windows. The hip-roof porch has battered columns and a vinyl-clad balustrade. The house was built by Hugh Dye, who was a carpenter, an electrician, and a machinist who worked at the F. H. Hill Corporation/Boyertown Burial Casket Company in Richlands. The casket factory was located near the Brickyard Section of Richlands. Hugh Dye assisted in the building of the brick house for Mayor Harry Patterson in the Sunnylea area. Dye was married to Myrtle Cordle whose parents Walter and Margaret Cordle lived next door at 210 Fairfax Avenue. The lot on which this house is located was purchased by Margaret (Maggie) Cordle purchased Lot 7, on March 31, 1920 [Deed Book 88, Page 254]. The house was owned by Myrtle Dye until 2001. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

216 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0032), Overbay House, c.1925, 1943, Contributing

This unusual house was built in the 1920s and significantly remodeled in 1943 with the addition of the second story with cross-gambrel roof. The three-bay house is running bond brick with one-over-one replacement windows (paired in second story) and aluminum siding in the gable ends. The hip-roof porch is supported by paired square columns. Walter J. and Jamie Rouse Overbay owned the house from about 1942 until 1952 and added the second floor. Current owner, Wava Testerman, rented the house from Mabel Smith beginning in 1954 and purchased it in 1963

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following the death of Mrs. Smith. Several residents lived in the upstairs of the house including Eldridge and Gertrude Brown. Mr. Overbay and Mr. Brown were co-owners in a store called Overbay & Brown Furniture, which opened on March 29, 1947. Mr. Overbay had a furniture business in the old Hankins Building prior to his business association with Mr. Brown. The first location of the Overbay and Brown business was at the corner of Fairfax Avenue and Front Street and later in Downtown Richlands. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

220 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0033), c.1940, Contributing

Originally a workshop, this building is located behind 224 Fairfax Avenue and was later converted into a garage apartment. It is a two-story front-gable outbuilding with a front-gable roof, vinyl siding, one-over-one and picture windows, and small a front porch. Early residents of the apartment included Eula Buskill, a first grade school teacher, and Malcolm VanDyke and his first wife.

221 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0034), Fairfax Court, c.1985, Non-contributing

This three-story flat-roof stuccoed apartment building is nine bays wide and has slider windows. The entry sits in a recessed bay and has a metal canopy.

224 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0035), Henry and Arcie Elkins House, c.1925, Contributing

Henry and Arcie Elkins Robinson built this one-and-a-half-story side-gable three-bay bungalow. The Flemish bond brickwork features darker decorative headers and a soldier course watertable. The shed-roof dormer is also brick. The windows are eight-over-one Craftsman style except in the porch enclosure (which appears to be historic) where the windows are one-over-one. The shed-roof porch is supported by brick piers. Chorilda Ann Whited, a niece of Mrs. Robinson, was born in 1909 and came to live with the Robinson family during her early teenage years. She recalled carrying brick to help Mr. Robinson build the house. He was a carpenter, an electrician and a mason. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

Shed, c.1980, Non-contributing

There is a c.1980 plywood gable-roof shed behind the house.

228 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0036), Ira and Maude Horton House, 1921, Contributing

Ira Edward "I. E." Horton and his wife Maude Lillian Buskill Horton built this one-story hip-roof brick cottage in 1921. The running bond brickwork features segmental arch lintels over the one-over-one windows and over the central entry, which features a decorative diamond and vertical light muntin pattern in the door. The entry bay is marked by a gable and the hip-roof porch is supported by Tuscan columns. Horton was real estate investor and merchant. His original business was the Federated Store/Horton's located in the 1500 block of Front Street (VDHR# 148-5014-085). Later, he built a large facility in the 2200 block of Front Street (VDHR#), which housed Horton's at street level and provided apartment space on the second floor. The Hortons and their four children lived here until they built a larger home at Dickenson Place (VDHR# 148-5014-053). This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

232 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0037), House, c.1910, Contributing

This one-story side-gable single-pile house is three bays wide and has a rear ell with a hip roof that rises above the side-gable front section. There is also a rear addition. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one replacement windows and three-over-one windows (on sides). The hip-roof porch is supported by square posts. The house has been in the Thomas and Mae McGlothlin family for a number of years and several members of Mae

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Cordle McGlothin lived nearby on Fairfax Avenue and Second Street. Prior to the McGlothin's ownership the house was the home Rev. Rufus Newton, Jr. who was the minister of the First Baptist Church. During Rev. Newton's pastorate, the church stood at the corner of Second Street and Floyd Avenue, a building that still exists. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

301 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0038), C. H. and Nina Mae Litton House, 1940, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story Dutch Colonial Revival-style house is three bays wide with vinyl siding and a shed-roof dormer in the gambrel roof. The six-over-six windows are paired and single and there is a bow window in the northern bay of the first floor. The gabled entry porch has replacement columns. C.H. Litton was the bookkeeper for the Town of Richlands and his daughter, Phyllis Litton Vance, followed her father in the same position and worked for the Town of Richlands for 50 years.

Mobile Home, c.1975, Non-contributing

A mobile home, c. 1975, is located in rear of the house.

Garage, c.1990, Non-contributing

A c.1990 garage/workshop with a single-bay front-gable roof and T-111 sheathing is located behind the house.

302 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0039), Lewis Horton House, c. 1920, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story hip-roof three-bay cottage has hipped dormers and a partially enclosed wraparound porch supported by Tuscan columns. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one replacement windows. Lewis Horton built this house in the early 1920s. Charlie A. and Sadie Catherine Boyd Compton purchased the house in 1933. Compton worked for the Norfolk and Western Railroad in the railroad yard. The house was sold to Harlan Walls in 1989 who later sold it to Titus Phillip Horton and his wife, Carolyn Ratliff Horton. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

306 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0040), c.2000, Louis Hunter House, Non-contributing

This recently constructed one-story five-bay modular house has an L-plan with a screen porch on the north end. Windows are nine-over-nine (triple, paired and single). The entry is flanked by sidelights and the house is sheathed in vinyl siding.

307 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0041), C. H. and Jane Kendrick, 1979, Non-contributing

This two-story five-bay house has modest Colonial Revival influences features a brick lower level and weatherboard upper level with one-over-one windows and double-height gabled portico supported by fluted columns. C. H. and Jane Kendrick built this house in 1979. Mr. Kendrick was in the mining business.

310 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0042), late 1920s, Lucian and Rosella Buskill House, Contributing

This three-bay one-and-a-half-story side-gable bungalow is constructed of brick (now painted) with roughly textured mortar joints. The engaged porch is supported by replacement columns. The windows are one-over-one replacements and the shed-roof dormer is sheathed in vinyl. There are knee braces in the gable ends. Lucian Buskill and his wife Rosella built this house in the late 1920s. Lucian Buskill, a carpenter, was a brother to Maude Buskill Horton who lived at 228 Fairfax Ave. The house was later the residence of H. Paul Buskill, his wife, Elizabeth, and their children. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

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311 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0043), Mobile Home, c.1980, Non-contributing

Single-wide mobile home. The land upon which this home sits was part of the Gardner Farm.

314 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0044), 1935, Charles and Helen Ireson House, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story brick veneer Cape Cod is three bays wide with gabled dormers, a gabled entry porch with arched opening and metal posts, and a gabled one-story porch with metal posts on the south end of the house. The windows are one-over-one replacements. The brickwork features a soldier course water table and lintels. There is an open metal two-bay carport south of the house. Charles Smith Ireson and his wife Helen Draper Ireson built this house in 1935-1936 after purchasing these four lots from C. A. and Clementine Gardner on September 2, 1935. Ireson, an electrical engineer, was a great nephew of Clementine Gardner who lived across the street at 317 Fairfax Avenue. Helen Draper Ireson was a daughter of Talbert Addington (T. A.) and Woodward Zinc Draper who lived on Lee Street in Richlands. Kemper Thomas and Nancy Smith Thomas purchased the house on May 18, 1946 and sold it to Harlan Albert and Annie Loneta Clemons Walls in 1955. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

317 Fairfax Ave. (VDHR#148-5020-0045), Adolphus & Clementine Gardner House, c.1900, Non-contributing

This two-story Queen Anne-style house has been sheathed c.1980 in brick veneer. The asymmetrical house features polygonal bays projecting to the front (west) and south. The partially-enclosed wraparound porch has a curved corner and is supported by Tuscan columns. The roof of house and porch are pressed tin shingles and the porch roof has an unusual curve down at the eave line. Windows are one-over-one and hexagonal-light upper sash. The two central chimneys are corbeled. A large, circa 1980 rear addition has a gambrel/mansard roof. The house was built for Adolphus C. ("Cap") Gardner and Clementine H. Lipford Gardner were married April 28, 1887 in Cedar Bluff, Virginia, but were in Richlands by 1894 when Clementine Gardner was named as assistant teacher to Mrs. W. B. (Mary Richardson) Spratt. The house was the seat of a farm with a barn to the rear of the property. A. C. Gardner was a carpenter/contractor and built some of the earliest houses in Richlands. He served as a Richlands town councilman for about three decades. This property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

321 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR#148-5020-0046), Bradley-Wysor House, 1960, Contributing

One-story brick veneer Ranch house with side gable roof. The central section of the house has a raised roof and projects beyond the two-bay southern section of the house and the single-bay carport on the north end of the house. The central section has vertical board sheathing over a brick skirt and includes a small recessed entry porch with a metal post and a tripartite picture window. Other windows are one-over-one. Built for Bill Bradley, Assistant Superintendent for The General Shale Corporation, in 1960, the house was purchased by Bill and Eula Wysor in 1962. Wysor was the Superintendent of General Shale's Richlands plant.

401 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0047), House, 1941, Contributing

This one-story side-gable Minimal Traditional style house is three-bays wide with a front-gable projection. It is sheathed in vinyl siding and has six-over-one paired and single replacement windows. The engaged porch is supported by turned posts. This house was one of three that were built for W. E. Mullins, owner of W. E. Mullins Lumber Company. The land on which these homes stand were part of the original Gardner farm and relate to the Gardner house at 317 Fairfax Avenue. The property extended to the edge of the Clinch River. The house was built by Charlie Boyd of Raven, Virginia for W. E. Mullins in 1941. Other early occupants included Joe and Maude McFarlane and James R. and Jean Lindsey. Mr. McFarlane was a distinguished attorney in Richlands. Mr. Lindsey is a successful

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insurance agent with the Equitable Insurance Company. W. E. Mullins gave this house to his son, Warren and wife, Louise, in 1951. Warren Mullins was the chief lumber inspector for W. E. Mullins Lumber Company and later became the Maintenance Inspector for Mullins Enterprises.

402 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0048), Barnes-Repass House, late 1930s, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story Cape Cod is three bays wide and has a side-gable roof, vinyl siding, six-over-six paired replacement windows, gabled dormers, and a gabled entry porch with replacement metal posts. The house was built in the late 1930s by Wiley Brown for William S. and Pearl Brown Barnes. Bob and Lorraine Repass owned the house for many years. They owned a distinctive apparel store in Downtown Richlands called The Towne Shop.

405 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0049), House, 1942, Contributing

This one-story three-bay front-gable house has vinyl siding, a hip-roof porch with replacement columns, and one-over-one windows. This house was one of three that were built by W. E. Mullins, owner of W. E. Mullins Lumber Company. The land on which these homes stand were part of the original Gardner farm and relate to the Gardner house at 317 Fairfax Avenue. The property extended to the edge of the Clinch River. W. E. Mullins built this house in 1942. Les and Price Nuckolls were early residents who moved to Lake Park in 1955 when Warren Mullins purchased the property from the W. E. Mullins Estate.

409 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0050), House, 1943, Contributing

Similar to 405 Fairfax Avenue, this is a one-story three-bay front-gable house with a v-groove metal roof, paired three (vertical light)-over-one windows, vinyl siding, and a hip-roof porch with turned and bracketed replacement posts. This house was one of three that were built by W. E. Mullins, owner of W. E. Mullins Lumber Company. The land on which these homes stand were part of the original Gardner farm and relate to the Gardner house at 317 Fairfax Avenue. The property extended to the edge of the Clinch River. W. E. Mullins built this house in 1943. Early residents include Lloyd and Ann Lawson, who still live in Richlands. Other occupants include the late Dolly Childress Clouser and her daughters, Gail, Peggy and Carol.

414 Fairfax Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0051), House, c.1945, Contributing

This one-story three-bay front-gable house is sheathed in vinyl siding with a standing seam metal roof and has one-over-one replacement windows. The front-gable porch has replacement posts and railing. Kenneth Skeens, and his first wife purchased the home in 1953 from a Gilley family. Skeens was in the mining business and also served as the minister of the Lake Park Freewill Baptist Church for 26 years.

Garage Apartment, c.1955, Contributing

Skeens built the garage apartment in rear of the house about 1955. It is two-story concrete block building with a front-gable roof, metal casement windows, and a standing seam metal roof.

104-106 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0052), Commercial Building, c.1950, Contributing

This two-bay brick Commercial style building is brick veneer and has paired one-over-one replacement windows in the upper story and tile coping. There is a recessed storefront and a transom over the apartment entry in the west bay. A second-story hyphen connects this building with a two-story brick rear building. Contractor Henry Luttrell built this building for Shukery and Evelyn Nassif in 1950 to provide rental income. The ground floor served as a business location while the upper floor served as apartments.

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201 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0053), John and Lula Steele House, c.1911, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story three-bay hip-roof cottage has vinyl siding, hip-roof front dormer, gables at the side eaves, a corbeled chimney, and one-over-one replacement windows. The hip-roof porch has replacement columns. On March 24, 1911, John B. Steele and his wife Lula R. Brown Steele purchased vacant land from David Blankenship and his wife and built this house. Steele worked for the railroad and his wife Lula took care of the house and her children, Eddie, Audrey, Jack and Hazel. Eddie Steele is a prize-winning journalist of WWII and a columnist for the Bluefield Daily Telegraph. The property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

Outbuilding, c.1925, Contributing

There is a hip-roof board and batten outbuilding with exposed rafter tails and six-light windows in rear of the house.

Garage, c.1925, Contributing

There is also a one-story board and batten single-bay garage with exposed rafter tails that enters off of Second Street.

210 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0054), Hankins House, c.1920, Contributing

This three-bay one-and-a-half-story bungalow has a partial-width porch supported by large square columns. The house also features a shed-roof dormer, one-over-one replacement windows, and vinyl siding. A one-story gabled wing extends to the south. Georgia Hankins and her husband purchased the house from the estate of Louemma J. Young on September 27, 1930. Mrs. Young died on January 15, 1926, intestate. One of Georgia Hankins children, Guy Hankins, became the owner of one of the town's two weekly newspapers, The News Progress. In the 1970s, Guy Hankins sold his paper to Charles Greever, the owner/publisher of the Richlands Press. The paper exists today as the Richlands News-Press. The property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

215 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0055), A. B. and Regina Cury House, 1950, Contributing

This one-story brick veneer Ranch house has a front-gable projection and a shed-roof porch with fluted square columns and dentil molding. The gable ends have painted wood shingles. Windows are wood casements and replacement Prairie-style windows. The entry features an architrave with fluted pilasters and dentil molding. An addition was added to the south end of the house in 1955-56. Lawrence Cook built this house for Abraham Boyd (Abie) and Ava Regina Matz Cury in 1950. The Cury's moved from Norton, VA to Richlands in 1949. Mr. Cury was owner of Cury's Department Store on Front Street. The store was the last established as part of a chain of clothing stores by D. Cury, Mr. Cury's father. The Richlands store opened in July of 1946 and closed with the retirement of Rod Cury in January of 2007. The land at 215 Tazewell Avenue was purchased from J. W. and Essie Vernon. It was vacant land and had been used as a garden by the Vernons. The original owner of this land was George McCall of Philadelphia, PA who, in 1890, bought the land from the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company of which he was the general manager.

Garage, c.2004, Non-contributing

This is a one-story, two-bay brick veneer garage with front gable roof.

218 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0056) Albert and Hazel Davis House, c.1930, Contributing

This one-and-a-half-story clipped gable bungalow has a gabled entry porch with square columns, aluminum siding, paired one-over-one windows, central entry with fluted pilasters and dentil molding, and a gabled dormer. In 1929,

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Hubert Peery Davis conveyed this property to his son, Albert Roy Davis, who built the house about 1930. "Ab" Davis was a mechanic who grew up at 226 Tazewell Avenue. The house was later a rental property and residents included Dr. Joe M. and Jane Adair, Dr. James M. Gleason and Jeannie Gleason, A. B. and Regina Cury (in 1949-1950), the Pendergast family, the Martin family, and Anne Gordon Greever and Liz VanTrese. The house was purchased by A. B. Cury in the early 1960s and was the home of Rod Cury from 1975 to 2005. The property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

220 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR#148-5020-0057), Chocklett-Sullivan House, 1957, Contributing

This one-story hip-roof three-bay Minimal Traditional-style house features a recessed partial-width porch with metal posts, one-over-one replacement windows and a picture window with two-over-two (horizontal light) windows. The brick veneer features stone accents around the front window. A wood carport is attached to the south side of the house. This house was built for Gene Chocklett in 1957. Chocklett worked for the Internal Revenue Service. William Harrison and Grace Dugger Sullivan purchased the house in 1960 and is still in the Sullivan family.

221 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0058), Lacy and Ruth Altizer House, 1948, Contributing

Lawrence Cook built this Minimal Traditional style house for Lacy and Ruth Altizer in 1948. The one-and-a-half-story side-gable five-bay house features a front-gable projection with the entry under a wood canopy. Beside the entry is a smaller front-gable projection that carries a multi-light picture window. The house is sheathed in asbestos shingle siding. The one-story single-bay front-gable garage is connected to the house via a gabled breezeway. The house was one of the first homes built by Lawrence Cook and, according to his wife Edith Smith Cook, the small house was one of Cook's favorites. Cook purchased the house when the Altizer family moved to Oregon in 1953. Cook's widow lived in the house until her death in 1991.

226 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5009/148-5020-0059), Davis-Patrick House, c.1910, Contributing

This one-story four-bay gable-ell house features German siding, one-over-one and two-over-two windows, a wide freize board, and turned posts supporting the recessed porch. The front gable features a polygonal bay with bracketed cornice and panels under the windows. Hubert Peery Davis purchased this property, along with several other lots on Tazewell Avenue, from the Richlands Development Company in the early 1900s. By deeds dated Sept. 7, 1946 and August 11, 1947, C. T. (Pete) and Stella Patrick purchased this house from the Estate of H. P. Davis. Pete was a bus driver for the Tazewell County Public Schools and Mrs. Patrick was a much loved first grade teacher as well as an artist and doll maker. The Patricks were members of the First United Methodist Church and were also known as avid vegetable and flower gardeners. The property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

229 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-060), William and Pearl Barnes House, 1941, Contributing

This hip-roof Minimal Traditional cottage is three bays wide and has asbestos shingle siding, one-over-one replacement windows and a picture window, as well as a metal awning over the off-center entry. A single-bay front-gable garage is attached to the rear of the house via a gabled hyphen. G. W. Hagy built this house in 1941. He intended to live here, but sold it to William S. and Pearl Brown Barnes. Mr. Barnes worked for the railroad. The builder, G. W. Hagy, has a bronze plaque with his likeness in the main corridor of the Richlands Town Hall honoring him as a charter member of the Richlands Kiwanis Club. Hagy came to Richlands as Superintendent of Jewell Ridge Coal Corporation's Electrical Generator Plant in 1933. He was elected to Town Council in 1942 and served as Town Manager in 1946-1947.

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230 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0061), House, c.1945, Contributing

This one-story brick Minimal Traditional-style house has a front-gable projection, one-over-one replacement windows, and a header course watertable. The entry is covered by a metal roof with metal posts. The property changed hands several times first going to Mabel Davis Lockhart from H. P. Davis, her father. Later it went to Albert R. Davis, Mabel's brother, then to R. E. and Ivory Serber. It is not known who built the house, but it was in place in 1951 when it was purchased by Clell G. and Margaret Bailey. It was the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bailey and their children, Larry, Carolyn, and Guy until September 12, 1956. Mr. Bailey was a very successful insurance agent for People's Life Insurance Company of Washington, D. C. This home became the property of Charles G. and Lina O. Scott. It was then transferred to Charles H. and Anita Gibson. From the Gibsons, the house became the property of Lena H. Ratliff on July 1, 1966. Mrs. Smith purchased this home on August 1, 2002 from Marcella Ruble who had received it from Lena H. Ratliff.

Garage, c.1945, Contributing

There is a single-bay front-gable garage with vinyl siding in the rear of the property.

305 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0062), House, c.1955, Contributing

This one-story hip-roof Ranch house is five bays wide with brick veneer in the two right-hand bays and vinyl sheathing elsewhere. The windows are very small high sliders and a picture window flanked by one-over-one windows. The front-gable porch has thin square posts. This house was built for Bob Mullins by W. W. Fields, Sr. The Mullins family developed this section of Tazewell Avenue during the mid-1950s.

306 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0063), Herman Mullins House, c.1940, Contributing

This front-gable one-and-a-half-story three-bay house has a gabled ell extending to the south. The ell is fronted by a shed-roof side porch and was extended over a former patio to create a carport in the late twentieth century. The house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one replacement windows and replacement posts supporting the hip-roof porch. The house was owned by Herman Mullins in the early 1950s.

307 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0064), House, c.1955, Non-contributing

This one-story three-bay gable-ell Minimal Traditional style house is sheathed in vinyl siding. It has six-over-six replacement windows and a lunette window in the front gable projection. The recessed porch is supported by fluted replacement columns. Contractor W. W. Fields, Sr. built this home for Bob Mullins. It was damaged by fire in 1982, but was reconstructed similar to its original appearance.

308 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0065), Joe Bill and Priscilla Altizer House, 1956, Contributing

This Colonial Revival-style house is three-bays wide and two-stories tall with vinyl siding and replacement, paired six-over-six windows. The central entry with single sidelight is highlighted by the double-height gabled portico supported by double-height columns. The house was built in 1956 by W. W. Fields, Sr. for Priscilla Mullen Altizer Russ and her late husband, Joe Bill Altizer. Mrs. Russ has lived on Tazewell Avenue most of her life. She and her family lived in the Lee house, which stood at the corner of Tazewell Avenue and Second Street.

309 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0066), House, c.1900, Contributing

This two-story three-bay I-house is sheathed in vinyl siding and has one-over-one replacement windows. The hip-roof porch is partially enclosed with a front-gable projection with a picture window in the left bay. The porch is supported

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by fluted replacement columns. There is a small gable at the eave in the main roof over the central bay. Insurance records date the home to 1901 and is believed to be one of the two oldest houses in the district. It is said to be of log construction. The house was purchased by John and Etta Osborne in the mid-1940s. When Mr. Osborne, a minister, died, Rev. Grant Horton of the Richlands Tabernacle preached his funeral. The property appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

310 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0067), Pete and Lou Shelton House, 1957, Contributing

This one-story side-gable Minimal Traditional-style house is four bays wide and has vinyl siding, a picture window, one-over-one windows, and replacement posts and balustrade on the gabled porch. W. W. Fields, Sr. constructed the house in 1957 for Bob Mullins. Pete and Lou Shelton were the first owners. Mr. Shelton was a claims adjuster for Nationwide Insurance Company. Sgt. Chandler of the Virginia State Police, his wife and son were the next occupants. A Brooks family followed the Chandlers. Bill and Jean Barnes Messick purchased the house in 1971. Jean Barnes Messick grew up at 229 Tazewell Ave. and has lived her entire life on Tazewell Avenue.

315 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0068), c.1950, Mullins House, Non-contributing

The original front section of this house is one-story front-gable with a partial-width gabled porch supported by replacement posts. The house has vinyl siding and one-over-one replacement windows (single and paired). In 2008, the house was connected to a c.1985 two-story hip-roof dwelling in the rear of the property. This rear section is of cream brick with projecting sections of vinyl siding on the second floor and six-over-six windows. The two buildings are now connected via a one-story gabled hyphen that is sheathed in vinyl siding. Contractor W. W. Fields, Sr built this home for W. E. Mullins in the early 1950s. Mr. Mullins had it built for one of his sons.

319 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0070), Bob and Lynn Mullins House, 1951, Contributing

This three-bay one-and-a-half-story brick-veneer Cape Cod was built in 1951 for John Robert "Bob" Mullins and Lynn Repass Mullins. The contractor was W. W. Fields, Sr., a former Mayor of Richlands who also presided as Police Justice over the lower court, which was held in the Richlands Town Hall Chambers. The house has a front-gable projection, paired and triple six-over-six replacement windows, and vinyl-clad gabled dormers and gable ends. Bob Mullins owned Mullins Ford and had many real estate investments in Richlands. The house is now owned by Cecil C. "Scotty" Lawson, Jr. and Toni Mullins Lawson. Toni has lived in this house her entire life and was baptized at the First Baptist Church.

322 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0071), Gross House, c.1925, Non-contributing

The original section of this two-story front-gable house is said to be very old with railroad ties used in its foundation. The house has been altered with a one-story bump-out on the north side and a projecting second floor on the south side and is sheathed in vinyl siding with six-over-six replacement windows and replacement columns supported the partial-width shed porch. The house has a one-story gabled rear ell with garage bay. An open wood carport with a hip roof stands beside the house. The house was built by Victor Gross' father or grandfather. Victor Gross, who was born in the house in 1930, worked for the railroad; his father was a farmer and his grandfather was a doctor. A one-story single-pile dwelling with rear ell appears on the 1936 Sanborn Map.

326 Tazewell Avenue (VDHR# 148-5020-0072), House, c.1960, Contributing

This one-story side-gable Ranch house is five-bays wide with brick veneer, glass-enclosed carport, eight-over-eight windows, and a bow window.

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Statement of Significance

Summary

The Clinch River winds through Richlands in western Tazewell County, Virginia. The original 1890 plat map shows that the town was laid out on both sides (east and west) of the river with manufacturing sites reserved on the river banks near its confluence with Big Creek. The original Front Street bridge was constructed about 1890 and gave access to the Tazewell Avenue area on the western side of the river at the outset of the town's development. The town was developed by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company in 1888 in anticipation of the arrival of the Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1889. Its developers envisioned Richlands as the "Pittsburgh of the South," with significant iron, steel, coal, and glass manufacturing. The Panic of 1893 thwarted these plans. In the early twentieth century, however, the Richlands Brickyard thrived and a burgeoning commercial district in the town served the many employees of nearby coal mines bringing a stable economy to the town.

The Tazewell Avenue Historic District area was built as a primarily residential section during the early 1900s as Richlands grew into an important trading center. Residential development was strong in the area through the 1950s reflecting the strong growth within the town. The residences within the district housed people with diverse income levels. The housing stock is largely modestly-scaled brick and frame dwellings representing a range of popular architectural styles and forms such as Queen Anne cottage, single-pile dwellings, bungalows (some with Craftsman styling), Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional, and Ranch style houses. Commercial activity in Richlands was concentrated on the eastern portion of Front Street and on Suffolk Avenue in the Richlands Historic District (2006), but a number of businesses grew up along the western portion of Front Street within the district as well. Exemplifying the district's integration with town life, parades began at the eastern end of Front Street and marched west across the river and proceeded a short distance west of the proposed Tazewell Avenue historic district.

The Tazewell Avenue Historic District is eligible for the National Register under Criterion A in the area of Commerce for its reflection of this aspect of local history. It is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of Architecture that is representative of the town's early and mid-twentieth century commercial and residential development, and in the area of Community Planning and Development for its reflection of the town's planned development by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company. The period of significance for the district begins circa 1900, the date of the earliest building in the district, and ends in 1960, as the district's significance in these areas extends past the 50-year cut-off.

Historical Background and Community Development, Commerce, and Architectural Contexts

The Tazewell Avenue Historic District shares much of its history with the Richlands Historic District, which was listed in 2006. Therefore, large sections of the historical background herein have been excerpted from the Richlands Historic District National Register Nomination.¹

Tazewell County was settled in the late eighteenth century and formally established in 1799. Among the early settlers was the Witten family, who settled at Crab Orchard (near Tazewell) in 1770. Richlands is located about eighteen miles west of the Witten settlement, in the Clinch River valley. This area was among Virginia's western outposts in 1775 and housed a militia station beginning in 1782. The name Richlands comes from the common reference to the fertile valley. The earliest record of this reference appears in a 1785 land grant by Governor Patrick Henry to John Fowler for acreage "in the rich lands on both sides of the Upper Fork of the Clinch River." This origin is preserved in the modern pronunciation of the town's name as two words "rich lands."²

By the late nineteenth century, the land where Richlands now stands was a farm and hog-feeding station owned by William M. Gillespie. The difficulty in transporting corn to markets led farmers to use corn crops to raise large herds of hogs. The hogs were driven to market at seaports such as Charleston, South Carolina, and Savannah,

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Georgia, where they were slaughtered to make salt pork that was used aboard ships. Along the route to market were hog-feeding stations, or farms where the herds were kept for several weeks to fatten the hogs.³

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

The surface is very mountainous, and but comparatively a small portion is given to the raising of cereals . . . Like all lands in this section of the State, it is very productive in grasses, and the grazing of cattle comprises one of the principal sources of revenue to the inhabitants. Large deposits of coal, iron, manganese and other minerals are found in this county, which have long been underdeveloped on account of its remoteness from public highways. The New River division of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, which extends through the northern limits of the county, has given in recent years great impetus to the mining operations, especially of coal, in this section.⁴

The Norfolk and Western Railroad was organized through the consolidation of several railroads in 1881. In the early 1880s, the company constructed extensive coal warehouses at Norfolk and moved the company headquarters to Roanoke in order better target the coal fields of southwestern Virginia and West Virginia. The line arrived at the newly constructed town of Pocahontas (forty-five miles northeast of Richlands) in 1883 to find 40,000 tons of coal waiting for export.⁵

This sparked a flurry of speculation, land acquisition, and new town building throughout the county including Tiptop, Graham, Maxwell, Cedar Bluff, Richlands, and Doran.⁶ Richlands was established by the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company, which purchased 30,000 acres in the valley (nine-tenths of the total valley acreage) during this period including the outlying areas along Indian Creek, Middle Creek, Town Hill Creek, Swords Creek, Dumps Creek, Weaver's Creek, and Big Creek. The development of the Appalachian coalfields was marked by the dominance of large land-holding companies like Southwest Virginia Improvement Company in Pocahontas, the Flat Top Coal Land Association in Tazewell County and West Virginia, and Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company in Richlands. These companies freely gave leases and actively encouraged the establishment of many coal mining companies.⁷

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

...it is the new method of town building that will prevail here. The place will not be left to struggle alone through the years adding here a little and there a little in an uncertain helter-skelter sort of way. The management recognizes that now-adays towns don't grow, they are made.⁸

The investors of Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company (CVC&I Co.) had set out to create the "Pittsburgh of the South." The developers built some of the earliest buildings in town, two of which still stand: the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company Office on Suffolk Avenue (Richlands HD, VDHR# 148-5018) and the Bank of Richlands (Richlands HD, VDHR# 148-5004) across the street. They also built the opulent, sixty-room Hotel Richlands (demolished). The hotel was described in an 1890 advertisement, as "the finest in southwest Virginia."⁹ The high-style architecture of these buildings reflected both the urban background of the developers as well as their hopes for the town's success.

The 1890 ad, which was written by C. Graham, CVC&I Company agent, goes on to list the new buildings in

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Richlands at that point: two hotels (in addition to Hotel Richlands which was still under construction), the depot, a number of stores, the company office building, a bank (nearing completion), a steam brick plant, the machinery for the steel rolling mill had been delivered, and a branch railroad to the coal mines north of Richlands was complete. In sum, the ad claimed that Richlands had “greater promise than any town in Southwest Virginia.”¹⁰

A reprint of a Richlands Land Company promotional brochure from c.1890 lists the industry and business in the new town. The inside cover banner reads: “Cheap coal! Cheap iron! Low cost of manufacture! Pure Water! Healthy Climate!” The brochure described ten companies that were established or were forming in Richlands including the Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company with two million dollars in capital, Richlands Land Company, Richlands Iron Company, Richlands Coal Company, Richlands Tube Works, Richlands Brick and Manufacturing, Richlands Water, Gas, & Electric Company, Richlands Ice and Refrigeration Company, Richlands Building Company, and Richlands Home Purchasing Investment and Insurance Company. Evans R. Dick was president or vice president of five of these companies, including Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company. Dick appears to have been the lead investor in the Richlands project. He was a banker from New York, while other company investors and officials were from Philadelphia.¹¹

Richlands was a boom town with the social ills that often accompanied such places. Rowdy reputations were common among the coal field supply centers of Tazewell and neighboring counties. Some sources indicate that there were as many as nine saloons in Richlands and a total of twenty-seven in the vicinity. R.L. Crawford, who came to Richlands about 1888, wrote a history of the town in 1945. Crawford relates that the town was home to about half a dozen saloons in the early 1890s. “I can't explain to you,” he writes, “how bad this country was during the 90's.”¹² Yet, in 1892 the town of incorporated with attorney W.B. Spratt as its first mayor.

The boom period in Richlands was brief. A combination of extensive investment and a major economic downturn sealed the fate of the CVC&I and its sister companies. The description of the company's holdings in the Richlands Land Company brochure hints at the risks involved in the development. The brochure touted that the company

has not waited to secure industries from other sections, but has authorized the expenditure of over \$200,000 in various improvements and has pledged itself to a policy that will call for an almost immediate expenditure of \$300,000 more, fully confident that its success will shortly result in a manufacturing centre [sic] that will rival Birmingham in its population and activity.¹³

The Panic of 1893 signaled an economic depression that was in part caused by the curtailing of railroad construction since the 1880s. The railroads had been a major buyer for rolled steel, thus the steel and iron industry suffered with the decline.¹⁴ While any economic instability could have signaled disaster for a fledgling town, this particular contraction in the steel and iron businesses, which were significant coal utilizers, was a death knell for the over-stretched CVC&I. The company created to acquire the holdings of the failing Clinch Valley Coal and Iron after the Panic bought all the unsold lots in town for one dollar each. In the end, five Richlands residents bought most of the property in town. Sometimes called the “five Bills,” these men were Dr. William R. Williams; William B. F. White, owner of W.B.F. White and Sons Hardware; William B. Spratt, an attorney and first mayor; William P. Farmer, an undertaker; and William P. Boggess, a merchant.¹⁵ It is telling that Crawford records in his history that these men along with a number of other local citizens were the town's builders. He writes: “to my knowledge the town was developed by this group of good citizens.”¹⁶

These men and many other citizens did build Richlands, not the Richlands envisioned by the northern investors, but a solid and prosperous town nonetheless. After the economic recovery during the mid-1890s, the coal fields of Tazewell County again fueled growth for commercial centers like Richlands. By 1910, there were at least

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three mines operating near Richlands: Empire Coal Land Corporation, north of town; Raven Red Ash Coal Company near the brick factory, and Jewell Ridge Coal Company, several miles north of Richlands.¹⁷ Additionally, the Richlands Brick Company survived the Panic and became the town's leading industry. A 1923 newspaper article described the brick plant as "our town's most important industry." It was the only survivor among the iron, ice, pipe and glass factories set up by the town's early developers. In 1923, the plant was the only brick plant in Tazewell County and the largest plant in southwestern Virginia with a capacity of 50,000 bricks a day. An average of eighteen to twenty rail car loads were shipped each week in addition to the many bricks sold locally. Senator C.C. Hyatt of Richlands, was president and treasurer of the company in 1923 and had been since 1908. The plant and employee housing were located on Kents Ridge Road, southwest of the historic district across Front Street and the railroad tracks. A 1930 report found that the necessary raw material was mined near the plant by a steam shovel and brought to the site via dinky train.¹⁸

By 1900, the population of Richlands had reached 475 and the town continued to grow reaching an estimated population of 1,800 in 1930. Richlands was one of the primary towns in Tazewell County; only the combined Bluefield/West Graham area had more businesses. Industries in Richlands in 1930 included Richlands Beverage Corporation, Richlands Ice Company, and Richlands Brick Corporation.¹⁹

Within Richlands, the lumber and textile industries surpassed mining in terms of numbers of employees. Yet, the large number of employees at the mines located in the greater Richlands area was an important part of the town's economy, which was based in large measure upon the merchants and other services. In 1928, there were ten coal companies operating sixteen mines in the Richlands area, with 1,700 miners and nearly 400 above-ground employees. Coal production in Tazewell County had escalated from 962,269 tons in 1895, with steady increases after 1909, to reach 2,410,491 tons by 1928.²⁰ In addition to mine employees, Richlands also served as a commercial center for regional farmers. A circa 1934 booster brochure proclaimed: "With one foot on land, and the other in industry, and with both thrilling to the promise of a great and permanent expansion, Richlands is bound to grow, thrive, and prosper."²¹ The prosperity was especially visible on Saturdays in Richlands during the early and mid-twentieth century as farmers and mine employees alike flocked to Richlands to shop, conduct business, and enjoy the movie theater.²² A circa 1945 booster brochure published by the *Clinch Valley News* found the population of Richlands to be 20,000 within a fifteen mile radius of Richlands.²³ Although probably greatly exaggerated, this figure does help us to understand the importance of the outlying areas to Richlands' economy.

Commercial activity in Richlands was concentrated on the eastern portion of Front Street and on Suffolk Avenue within the Richlands Historic District (2006), but a number of businesses grew up along the western portion of Front Street within the Tazewell Avenue Historic District as well. These buildings date primarily from the 1930 – 1945 period, an era of important growth and expansion throughout the county. The county's population increased by 4,637 between 1920 and 1930 and jumped an additional 9,130 between 1930 and 1940. Growth remained brisk between 1940 and 1950 as the county's population increased by 5,905 people. Commerce continued to be centered in the towns of Richlands as well as Bluefield and Tazewell. Throughout the county, new commercial buildings were built to replace aging buildings and were added on vacant lots at the edges of town centers. Both scenarios are evident in the Tazewell Avenue District.²⁴

George Buskill, who grew up in Richlands in the early 1900s, recalled that early commercial buildings on West Front Street included the Lockhart and Hankins buildings (both demolished). The latter, which was located on the corner of Front and Fairfax Avenue contained a store, apartments, and a school at various times. At the eastern corner of Front Street and Tazewell Avenue is the two-story brick building that Buskill calls "the old soda pop bottling plant." The plant produced strawberry, lemon, and ginger flavored pop that could be purchased for twenty-five cents per dozen. Still standing, this building housed Jenkins Dry Cleaners, owned by Andy and Ruth Jenkins, beginning in 1939. The Masonic Lodge was located on the second floor of the building until about 1980. Another early commercial building is 2443 Front Street, which was built about 1930 and housed Vernon's Grocery Store. J. W.

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Vernon and his wife, Essie, lived in an apartment over the store.²⁵

At 2401-2403 Front Street, is the building built for Shukery and Evelyn Nassif by W. W. Fields, Sr. about 1945. It was built around the old R. H. Griffith Grocery Store and served as both their home and place of business. This was the second location for their business, The Economy Store, which opened August 25, 1939. Another post-war building is Horton's Department Store, built for Ira (I.E.) Horton about 1955 as the new home to his retail clothing business that was originally located on the eastern portion of Front Street.²⁶

These businesses were part of the many amenities in Richlands listed by R.L. Crawford, in his circa 1945 *History of Richlands*. Crawford wrote that the town was served by:

good churches, two funeral homes, two hardware stores, two banks, one first class post office, two hospitals, two theaters, a good water and lighting system, one casket factory, one brick yard, seven dry goods stores, nine grocery stores, two printing offices, two wholesale houses, one ABC store, seven offices, three garages, two radio shops, one recapping shop, and ten doctors.²⁷

The brick plant was thriving. In 1946, there were eighty employees producing 80,000 bricks a day. During World War I, ninety percent of the production went to the Army and Navy and in 1946, fifty percent were going to federal housing projects. Of those shipped, most went to West Virginia and Washington, D.C.²⁸

The history of education in Richlands exemplifies the town's growth during the early twentieth century. The first school was taught by J.A. Leslie and Miss Lucy Stuart in 1892 and in 1894, a brick four-room school was constructed. Classes for black students were held in the Baptist church. The school was expanded several times, with a large addition coming in 1929. In 1922, there were seventeen teachers serving 600 students and by 1933, there were twenty-two teachers and 750 students.²⁹ Bob Childress, a native of the town, recalled Richlands in the 1920s. "Most of the activities," he stated, "revolved around school functions, dances, ball games, ..." The Teachers' Club House was built at 2201 Front Street (VDHR# 148-5020-0001) around 1917 to accommodate teachers working at the school located across the river. Mrs. A. B. (Rosa) Williford, taught a private kindergarten class on the second level of the Teachers' Club House. Each day, the staff at the boarding house packed lunches in baskets with handles in time for students to carry them back to the school building. The building was still being utilized as a teachers' home in the mid-1930s.³⁰

The residential development within the district reflects the significant population increases in the town between 1920 and 1950. Between 1920 and 1930, for example, the town grew by about 300 people. A county industrial survey found that there were 350 residences in town in 1920, but by 1930, "considerable construction" had been undertaken to build more housing. Sixty-five percent of houses were owner-occupied in 1930.³¹ By 1940, the town's population stood at 2,203, more than four times that of 1900.³² This growth is evidenced in the district where about forty-two percent of the buildings were constructed by 1940.

The residences within the district housed people with diverse income levels. George Buskill reports that during the early twentieth century, Fairfax Avenue was home to Billy Perry, a brickyard worker; J.B. Crabtree, a merchant; Tom Davis, an insurance agent; mill fireman Benjamin Authenreith; Beverly Shreve, merchant; Walter Cordle, a mill worker; railroad brakeman Eli Griffith; and Lewis Horton, a farmer. J.B. Crabtree, lived in a brick Queen Anne cottage in the 100 block of Fairfax Avenue. Crabtree served as Mayor of Richlands in 1895-1896 and 1908-1914. He also served on the county school board from 1909-1939. The Craftsman-style bungalow at 202 Fairfax Avenue, was built by contractor and brick mason Joe Brown for a local physician, Dr. Isaac Cunningham and his wife Thelma during the 1920s. Brown himself lived on Tazewell Avenue.³³

The unusually large original plat of Richlands and its utilization of both sides of the Clinch River, is an important reminder of the manufacturing prowess envisioned by the town's early developers. Like the Richlands

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Historic District, the Tazewell Avenue historic district was a part of the town's early development and became a notable residential and commercial neighborhood during the early twentieth century. The original Front Street bridge was constructed about 1890 and gave access to the western side of the river at the outset of the town's development. Exemplifying the proposed district's integration with town life, parades began at the eastern end of Front Street and marched west across the river and proceeded a short distance west of the proposed Tazewell Avenue historic district.³⁴

The character of the historic district during the early and mid-twentieth century was more rural than the section of town to the east. Becky Tarter Blankenship grew up at 118 Fairfax Avenue and remembers it was common to see cows and chickens across the street. Toni Mullins Lawson, who grew up at 319 Tazewell Avenue in the 1950s and 1960s, kept a pony on the front lot of her house and behind the First Baptist Church. Mrs. Lawson recalls her childhood in the district fondly:

We rode our bikes until dark and enjoyed the freedom to walk to the Baptist Church on Fairfax where we went to Mrs. Buskill's first grade and also to Sunday School. Wava Testerman, on Fairfax, was our Sunday School teacher for many years as well as the GA leader for girls in the church. It was a special place for me as a child and continued to be such for my children as they played in the same neighborhood. Birthday parties were held in the back yard of my house for my siblings and me, and also for my children. Our neighborhood was known for the children and the dogs that trailed behind [the school bus] keeping watch.

Another important aspect of the district's character were the connections between the families who lived there. The Repass, Brown, Buskill, Fletcher, Wysor, and Mullins families were related to one another and they all lived on Fairfax or Tazewell Avenues during various periods. There were also important connections with the contractors who built many of the buildings within the district. For example, Lawrence Cook built four houses in the district during the late-1940s and early 1950s. He eventually purchased one of his favorites, 221 Tazewell Avenue, and made it his own home. W. W. Fields, Sr. was perhaps the most prolific contractor in the district, building six houses on Tazewell Avenue in addition to the Nassif Building on Front Street from about 1945 through about 1957. Three of Fields' houses were for Bob Mullins, owner of Mullins Ford who lived at 319 Tazewell Avenue. Fields lived in the Big Creek section of Richlands and was a former Mayor of Richlands.

The intense residential development in Richlands during the 1920-1940 period helped prompt the First Baptist Church of Richlands, which was founded in 1930, to build their second sanctuary (and first brick building) at 201 Fairfax Avenue in 1941-1943. The church and town cooperated to construct the Barker Youth Center next door in 1955.³⁵

Residential development in the district expanded during the 1920s and again in the 1940s and 1950s. In fact, about forty-seven percent of the buildings in the district were built between 1940 and 1960. This reflects the rapid population increase in Tazewell County from 41,607 in 1940 to 47,512 in 1950 and the steady increase to 44,791 by 1960.³⁶

The slowing of Richlands's growth and economy was gradual. The brick plant closed in the 1970s, but in 1981, Richlands was the fastest growing town in Tazewell County. But, as mining declined during the 1980s the growth in Richlands slowed considerably.³⁷ Today, Richlands is a small town of just over 5,600 people. With its economy supported primarily by the Clinch Valley Medical Center, the Tazewell County school system, and the coal industry, it still serves as an important place of business in the area and the Richlands Library, in the former Clinch Valley Coal and Iron Company office building is heavily utilized.

As a collection of historic architecture, the Tazewell Avenue Historic District reflects the modest popular-style

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architecture from the early-to-mid-twentieth century. The district's simply designed single-pile cottages and bungalows as well as the more ornate Queen Anne cottages and Craftsman-style bungalows stand with standard brick commercial buildings to illustrate the prosperity that the town achieved during the first half of the twentieth century. By the late 1930s and 1940s, the town was thriving and a building boom is clearly evident in the numbers of bungalows, Cape Cod, Minimal Traditional-style houses within the district. The postwar building boom is also evident in the district, where a number of vacant lots were built with Minimal Traditional and Ranch houses. Finally, the two churches in the district represent diverse approaches to religious architecture. The Pentecostal Holiness Church is the epitome of simplicity, while the First Baptist Church is representative of the modestly-ornamented Classical Revival style.

- 1 See also Sherry Joines Wyatt, "Richlands Historic District, 2006" National Register Nomination, Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.
- 2 Carroll Wolfe and Gaynelle Thompson, "History of Richlands," accessed at www.town.richlands.va.us/index.htm
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 *Chataigne's Virginia Gazeteer and Business Directory, 1888-1889*, accessed at New River Notes website, www.newriversnotes.com/va/taze1888.htm
- 5 Ronald Eller, *Miners, Millhands, and Mountaineers* (Knoxville: UT Press, 1982), 70-71.
- 6 Gibson Worsham, *Historic Architectural Survey of Tazewell County, Virginia*, 2001, Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, 21.
- 7 Worsham, 71-72 and Wolfe.
- 8 Gaynelle Thompson, "Railroad line spurred initial development," *Richlands News-Press*, 1 July 1992, Richlands Library vertical file.
- 9 Louise Leslie, *Tazewell County*, (Radford: Commonwealth Press, 1982), 143-144.
- 10 Ibid.
- 11 *The Richlands Land Company*, reprint of c.1890 brochure, Richlands Library vertical file; Leslie, 139-140; and B.K. Howell, "A History of Richlands," *Richlands News-Press*, 1 July 1992, Richlands Library vertical file.
- 12 Worsham, 22 and R.L. Crawford, *The History of Richlands*, c.1945, photocopy available in Richlands Library vertical file, 13.
- 13 *The Richlands Land Company*.
- 14 David Whitten, "The Depression of 1893," accessed at www.eh.net/encyclopedia/article/whitten.panic.1893
- 15 Gaynelle Thompson, "Panic of 1893: effects felt throughout nation," *Richlands News-Press*, 1 July 1992, Richlands Library vertical file and Leslie, 138.
- 16 Crawford, 14.
- 17 Leslie, 142 and Sherry Wyatt, "Determination of Visual Effects for the Proposed Jewell Ridge (Amonate) Cell Tower Location, Jewell Ridge, Tazewell County, Virginia, October 2005," Department of Historic Resources, Richmond.
- 18 R.L. Humbert, *Industrial Survey: Tazewell County, Virginia*, Vol. 2 in Dr. Julian Burress, *Industrial Survey for Southwest Virginia*, (Blacksburg, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, 1930), 37.
- 19 Humbert, 13 and 58 and Worsham, 22.
- 20 Humbert, 16-17 and 22-23.
- 21 *Clinch Valley News Special Edition*, c.1934, in private collection of Gaynelle Thompson.
- 22 Thompson, interview.
- 23 "The Clinch Valley News presents: America's Most Beautiful Section, Tazewell County, Virginia," *Clinch Valley News*, c.1945, in private collection of Gaynelle Thompson.
- 24 Worsham, 28.
- 25 Rod Cury, interview by Sherry Joines Wyatt, June 2007; and "George Buskill Remembers, c.1993," manuscript in Richlands Library vertical files, 19.
- 26 Rod Cury and Gaynelle Thompson, "Tazewell Avenue Historic District," unpublished history, 2008.
- 27 Crawford, 18.
- 28 Gaynelle Thompson, "Brick plant one of the first major industries to start in Richlands," *Richlands News Press*, 1 July 1999, Richlands Library vertical file and Thompson, interview.
- 29 Gaynelle Thompson, "Richlands schools reflect proud history," *Richlands News Press*, 1 July 1999; Leslie, 138; and Worsham, 22.
- 30 Cury and Thompson; "Man who left to see the world keeps coming home," *Richlands News Press* 17 March 1999, Richlands Library vertical file.

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31 Humbert, 83.

32 Worsham, 22.

33 Buskill, 20; Cury and Thompson.

34 Gaynelle Thompson, Interview by Sherry Joines Wyatt, 29 March 2006.

35 Thomson, unpublished research and Reverend Nelson T. Barker, *Directory, First Baptist Church, Richlands, Virginia, 1945*, private collection of Gaynelle Thompson.

36 U. S. Population Census, 1940-1960, accessed at <http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/histcensus/php/county.php>

37 Leslie, 136.

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_____. "Railroad line spurred initial development." *Richlands News-Press*, 1 July 1992.
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_____. "Richlands schools reflect proud history." *Richlands News Press*, 1 July 1999. Richlands Library Vertical file

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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary of the Tazewell Avenue Historic District is shown as a solid line on the accompanying historic district 1"=200' scaled map entitled, "Tazewell Avenue Historic District."

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundary for the Tazewell Avenue Historic District PIF encompasses the greatest concentration of pre-1960 resources in the Tazewell Avenue area. These blocks encompass the historic commercial buildings on Front Street as well as the area's best-preserved residential blocks. Although the blocks to the west of the boundary were part of the original plat, more of the houses located there were built after 1960 and older houses in this section tend to have a higher incidence of alteration. These two traits have a negative impact on the character of the western blocks making the proposed boundary justifiable.

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All photographs are of:

Tazewell Avenue Historic District, Richlands, Tazewell County, Virginia

Date: 6/2008 Photographer: Sherry Joines Wyatt

Location of negatives: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

1. 2343 Front Street
2. Nassif Building, 2401-2403 Front Street and Horton's Department Store (former), 2407-2409 Front Street
3. First Baptist Church (former), 2201 Second Street
4. Mullins-Sharrone House, 2401 Third Street
5. Crabtree House, 117 Fairfax Avenue
6. Cunningham House, 202 Fairfax Avenue
7. Rimmer-Reed-Robinette House, 2401 Fourth Street
8. Horton House, 302 Fairfax Avenue and Hunter House, 306 Fairfax Avenue
9. Mullins House, 319 Tazewell Avenue
10. Davis House, 218 Tazewell Avenue



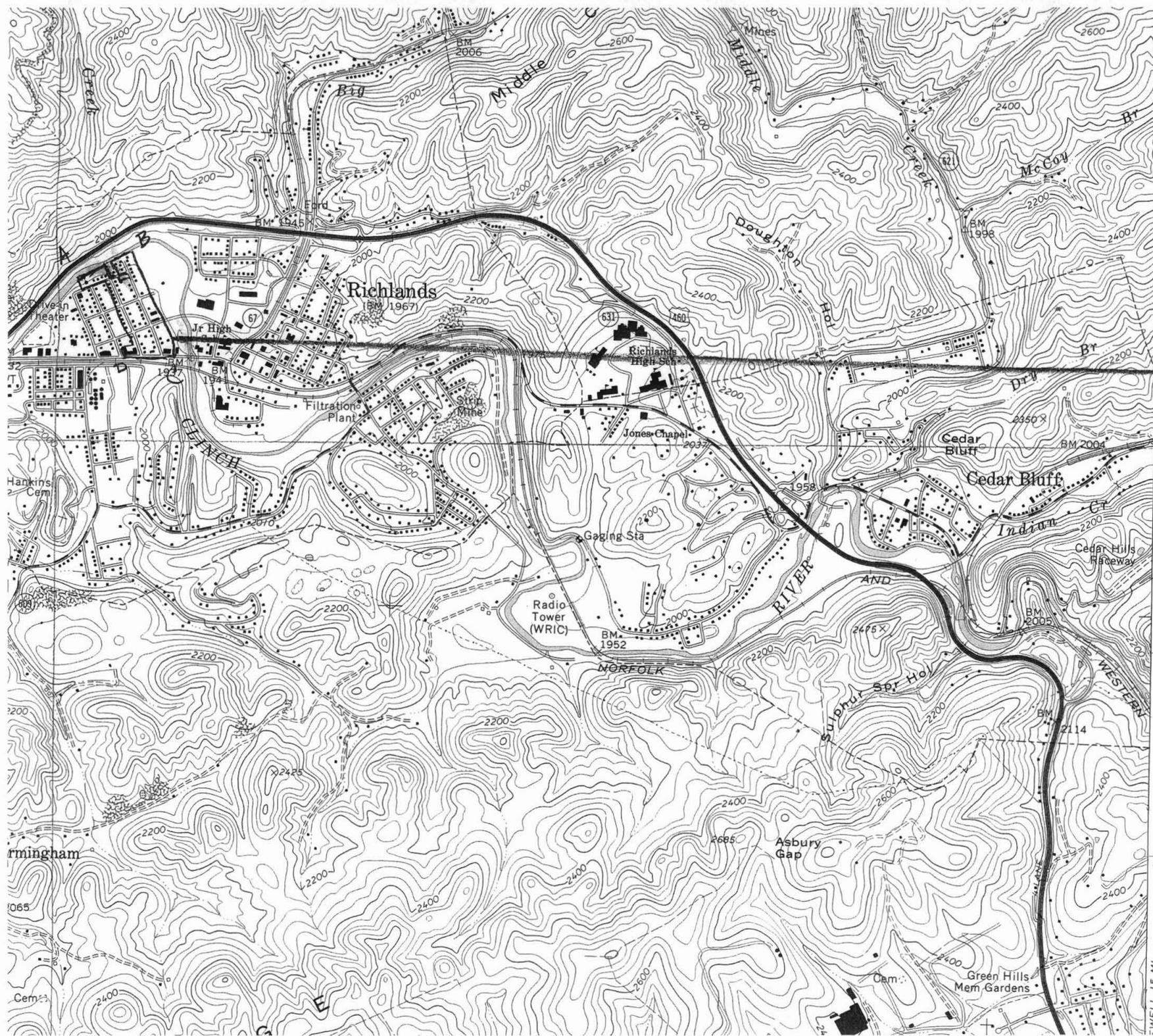
Tazewell Avenue Historic District
Richlands, Tazewell County, Virginia

DHR# 148-5020

-  = district boundary
-  = contributing property
-  = non-contributing property



scale: 1" = 200'



Tazewell Avenue
 Historic District
 A 4105 760 N
 428100 E
 B 4105900 N
 428360 E
 C 4105400 N
 428540 E
 D 4105400 N
 428300 E

4107
 14 MI.
 TAZEWELL
 4105
 5'
 4104
 4103
 15 MI.
 EWELL
 33 MI.
 W. VA.

Tazewell County Virginia

"Bound For Progress"

Bill Wimmer, Vice Chairman
Western District

Seth White, Supervisor
Northwestern District

Jim Campbell, Supervisor
Northern District

David R. Anderson, Chairman
Eastern District

D. Michael Hymes, Supervisor
Southern District

James H. Spencer, III
County Administrator

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT TAZEWELL AVENUE HISTORIC DISTRICT, RICHLANDS TOWN, TAZEWELL COUNTY, VIRGINIA

WHEREAS, located in the Western part of the Town of Richlands in Tazewell County, Virginia, the Tazewell Avenue Historic District consists of eighty-eight buildings and several ancillary buildings with the buildings dating from c. 1900 through about 2000, with all but eight built before 1960; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the buildings have a special character or special historical and artistic interest and value and represent one or more periods of styles of structural design typical of one or more eras in the history of the Town; and

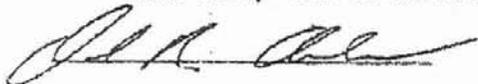
WHEREAS, the housing stock is mostly modestly-scaled brick and frame dwellings representing a range of popular architectural styles and forms such as Queen Anne, bungalows; Cape Cod, and Ranch style houses; and

WHEREAS, by saving what is worthy from the past, we fulfill our portion of the stewardship we have inherited from those who came before and for those who come after, and in the process we can make the Town of Richlands, Virginia a more interesting and enhanced place to live.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Supervisors of Tazewell County, Virginia hereby supports the Town of Richlands, Virginia proposed nomination for the Tazewell Avenue Historic District to the Virginia State Review Board and the Virginia Board of Historic Resources for recommendation to the National Register of Historic Places and for inclusion in the Virginia Landmarks Register – for the goal of seeking Historic District designation.

ADOPTED BY THE TAZEWELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

THIS THE 17TH DAY OF NOVEMBER 2009



Dave R. Anderson, Its Chairman

Spradley-Kurowski, Kelly (DHR)

From: Wagner, Marc (DHR)
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 1:44 PM
To: KarenPatton@allstate.com
Cc: Pulice, Michael (DHR); Kilpatrick, Kathleen (DHR)
Subject: Richlands Historical Contributing Homes

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Patton:

I am writing on behalf of Director Kilpatrick. Unfortunately, Kathleen fell and broke her thumb and is having difficulties with the computer keyboard. We were able to discuss this matter before preparing this explanation.

As one of DHR's senior architectural historians, I do understand the value of placing modern brick veneer as a stylistic enhancement on your home. You ask why we make a distinction between vinyl, aluminum and brick (masonry) claddings when we assess houses for historic districts. Frame houses with historic wooden weatherboards generally do not change overall appearance when aluminum or vinyl siding is applied. Very often the new siding matches the horizontal line of the weather board in exact pattern, siding panel to each board. The finish can vary and vinyl/aluminum siding often does not have a bead line (some 1950s houses have wood siding without bead line as well), but essentially a weatherboard clad house appears generally the same with artificial siding that mimics the original. We know that vinyl and aluminum cladding is quickly reversible. It can be removed from a medium sized house in matter of hours. Brick, stucco, composite resin materials ("Drivit"), and other masonry cladding, does significantly change the appearance of a weatherboarded house. The pattern and texture is different. The modern veneers are so substantial and thick that they are often not reversible. All in all, we don't recommend cladding over historic wood in any form because within 10, 20 or 50 years, the wood will deteriorate in many cases.

Regarding the cedar board house you mention, cedar over bricks, I have asked Mike Pulice to take another look at that case and review the materials. My guess is that you would have the same issue with materials and pattern. Cedar boards do not have an appearance like brick or masonry. The house on Fourth Street has a significantly altered appearance. I do trust the professionalism of our staff architectural historians and the professional consultants who have many years of experience in architectural survey. They try to be as objective as possible. They used the period of significance ending date, 1960, and they made allowances for some buildings that change over time, but following the guidance of the National Park Service, they did have to draw a judgment line for significant material changes in the post 1960 period in this district.

On boundaries: when our surveyors identify a houses with alterations that make them non-contributing we do have to leave some inside the district to avoid making doughnut holes or erratic boundaries, and, when possible, non-contributing properties at the edges are left out.

Given my explanation, and I know this is not encouraging, you are still invited to attend the

meeting tomorrow to raise this matter with our boards, and if you can't attend, we are including your comments for the Board to review. If we have made an error, we can still make some small adjustments after the Board meeting. These revisions must be based on researched fact. Let me know if you want to send us more information for post meeting review (either hard copy or by email). **It would be very helpful to us if you can send us some good photos (exteriors only)---digital images by email would be fine.** I can distribute the images to other staff architectural historians faster that way and we can give you a recommendation based on wider review.

Sincerely,
Marc C. Wagner
Architectural Historian
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
P: 804-367-2323 X-115
F:804-367-2391
Web: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>

From: Patton, Karen (Exclusive Agent- Richlands, VA), Karen [mailto:KarenPatton@allstate.com]
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2009 4:16 PM
To: Kilpatrick, Kathleen (DHR)
Subject: RE: Richlands Historical Contributing Homes

Thank you for your reply - Yes, the house was covered with modern bricks in the 1980's as we wanted to keep our home up to standards and not let our house be an eye-sore to the neighborhood. However, many of the homes you are considering in the historic district have also been covered with modern day vynal siding and completed gutted from the inside out. In fact, new modern day vynal was put on one of those houses as late as 2008. Why are those homes in the district and ours is not. Also, the 2 story house on Fairfax Ave was considered in the Historic District as a non-participater, because it also was bricked, but that house was bricked long before we moved there in 1974. Also, the Cedar Siding house on Fourth Street was denied due to the Cedar Siding, yet when that house was remodeled in the early 80's all the solid brick walls were left up - under that cedar siding is solid brick walls on the old section of that home.

Please advise.

Bill and Karen Patton

From: Kilpatrick, Kathleen (DHR) [mailto:Kathleen.Kilpatrick@dhr.virginia.gov]
Sent: Fri 12/11/2009 5:30 PM
To: Patton, Karen (Exclusive Agent- Richlands, VA), Karen
Subject: RE: Richlands Historical Contributing Homes

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Patton:

Thanks for your email and the nudge by phone recently. I am grateful for your interest in the proposed Tazewell Avenue Historic District. It is always critical to get boundaries established accurately, and I wanted to take the time to review the situation closely. I am writing to let you know about my findings following this review.

The work of consultant Sherry Wyatt was vetted very carefully and the boundaries revisited to make sure there were no errors, omissions or oversights. Although it appears from the information I have gathered that your house retains its 1950s architectural form, the original siding has been covered by modern 1980s brick. While modern brick can enhance and improve a house's appearance, the standard that we must use under the federal criteria for including buildings as "contributing" within a historic district requires the retention of a moderate to high level of historic material. Exterior materials are particularly important. Buildings that are physically located within a district that do not retain that level of historic material due to the modern enhancements or post date 1960 are termed "non-contributing." For non-contributing buildings that are at the edge of the boundary, we follow National Park Service guidelines and leave those buildings outside the

boundaries. My review leads me to believe that the consultant and staff reviewers made the proper decision about the boundary. Accordingly, the nomination will be presented to our boards as it stands.

I know this is disappointing to you both. If you wish to present information to our boards next week, I encourage you to attend the meeting next Thursday (December 17th) at the Virginia Historical Society, Halsey Lecture Hall, 428 North Boulevard, Richmond, VA 23221 (starting at 10 am). I realize that this is a long drive from Richlands, and if you would prefer, you can send some digital images of your house and a brief write up of your request and I will make sure all board members have that material in their review packets when the matter comes up for consideration and action by the board. You can email this material to me for your convenience.

I am sorry not to be able to respond more encouragingly to your request.

From: Patton, Karen (Exclusive Agent- Richlands, VA), Karen [mailto:KarenPatton@allstate.com]
Sent: Friday, November 20, 2009 2:24 PM
To: Kilpatrick, Kathleen (DHR)
Subject: Richlands Historical Contributing Homes

In regards to the Tazewell Avenue Historical District located in the town of Richlands, the home located at 2304 Fourth Street, was not included in this historical district. This house was built in the early 50's and a small addition was added on in the early 80's and was bricked with the South Hampton Antique Brick - which is the only home in the area with this type of brick. Not only do we feel this house should be included in the contributing property of the historical district, a lot of the neighbors also area this should be included in the historical homes.

Sincerely,

Bill and Karen Patton
2304 Fourth St
Richlands, VA 24641
276-963-3600 (Karen's Office)
276-964-5092

Mailing address:
P O Box 411
Richlands, VA 24641

Spradley-Kurowski, Kelly (DHR)

From: Wagner, Marc (DHR)
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 1:25 PM
To: shannon.smith@roadrunner.com
Cc: Pulice, Michael (DHR); Kilpatrick, Kathleen (DHR); Kern, John (DHR)
Subject: Tazewell Ave. HD-317 Fairfax Avenue

Dear Ms. Smith:

I am one of DHR's senior architectural historians and I oversee the Register program area. Thanks for writing to alert us about this matter. I have discussed your request with Mike Pulice. We do want to get our historic district finer details as correct as possible before our Boards consider the matter. I asked Mike to send a photo of your house at 317 Fairfax Avenue.

I do wish you could have attended the public meeting. Mike Pulice, one of our most experienced architectural historians, and professional consultant Sherry Wyatt could have explained how they assess whether a building has the degree of material authenticity to be recommended as a contributor or non-contributor in the proposed historic district. We used the period 1900-1960 to establish dates for buildings that would contribute or not to the historic character of the district. Your house certainly falls into the historic period, but the brick veneer, which most likely post dates 1960, significantly changes the appearance. Before answering your question completely, here are a few questions that Mike and I have:

- **What is under the brick? Masonry or wood?**
- **What is the date of the large rear section of the house--the nomination dates it to 1980?**
- **I see some historic windows, but there appears to be some modern replacements. Do you have metal replacement windows in the house or are all windows original wooden sash? Are there some historic sash?**
- **Are the main exterior doors original?**

Is this statement in the nomination about the owners accurate?

"Adolphus C. ("Cap") Gardner and Clementine H. Lipford Gardner were married April 28, 1887 in Cedar Bluff, Virginia, but were in Richlands by 1894 when Clementine Gardner was named as assistant teacher to Mrs. W. B. (Mary Richardson) Spratt. The house was the seat of a farm with a barn to the rear of the property. A. C. Gardner was a carpenter/contractor and built some of the earliest houses in Richlands. He served as a Richlands town councilman for about three decades."

Please respond to our answers and we will get back to you after further review. We may need to make a final call on this after the Board meeting, given the time constraints, but we

will do our best to get back to you quickly. The Board members will have copies of your comments and an image of your house for their review.

Sincerely,
Marc C. Wagner
Architectural Historian
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221
P: 804-367-2323 X-115
F: 804-367-2391
Web: <http://www.dhr.virginia.gov>

From: Shannon Smith [mailto:shannon.smith@roadrunner.com]
Sent: Wednesday, December 16, 2009 7:44 AM
To: Pulice, Michael (DHR)
Cc: Kilpatrick, Kathleen (DHR)
Subject: Tazewell Avenue Historic District, Richlands, Tazewell County, VA

I am writing in regard to the current designation of my home located at 317 Fairfax Avenue. In the map of the Tazewell Avenue Historic District included in a letter sent on October 22, 2009, the home is designated as a non-contributing property. The map labels the home with reference number 148-5020-045. I request that you change the designation of this home to be a contributing property.

This home is not only one of the oldest homes in the district, it is one of the oldest homes in the town of Richlands. It's distinctive architecture with rounded front and stairwell, along with the unique roof line distinguishes this property from any other in the district. Also, Rod Cury, who has been instrumental in establishing the historic district, has shared with me many facts about this home which are of historical significance to the town. I was unable to attend the meeting on November 12, 2009, but was told by those attending that my home was non-contributing because it had been bricked. Although the home was not originally bricked, the addition of the brick did not change the character or historical significance of the home. I would like to point out that many of the homes designated as contributing property in the district are much newer bricked ranch style homes. Based on the style of some of these newer homes, I would speculate that the brick was added to my home before (or at least around the same time period as) some of them were constructed.

It would be tragic to establish a historic district and designate one of the oldest and most historically significant properties in that district as non-contributing. Please reconsider the designation of the home located at 317 Fairfax Avenue and make it a contributing property within the Tazewell Avenue Historic District.

Sincerely,
Shannon J. Smith
317 Fairfax Avenue
Richlands, VA 24641
(276) 971-5616