

United States Department of the Interior
 National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: William R. McKenney Memorial Building
 Other names/site number: DHR# 123-0009; Mayor John P. Dodson House; McKenney House; McKenney Library; Petersburg Public Library
 Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
 (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 137 South Sycamore Street
 City or town: Petersburg State: VA County: Independent City
 Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B X C D

<p>Signature of certifying official/Title: <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.</p>	
<p>Signature of commenting official:</p>	<p>Date</p>
<p>Title :</p>	<p>State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</p>

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

The nominated property is a contributing resource in the Poplar Lawn Historic District
(NRHP 1980)

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

EDUCATION/library

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

WORK IN PROGRESS

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STUCCO, STONE/Sandstone, BRICK, METAL

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The William R. McKenney Memorial Building is located on a .29 acre parcel at the corner of South Sycamore and Marshall streets in the Poplar Lawn Historic District in the City of Petersburg, Virginia. The two-story Italianate center-hall dwelling was constructed as a single-family residence in 1859 for John Dodson, the first mayor of Petersburg, and converted to a public library in 1924. Adding to its all-encompassing position on the lot, the McKenney Memorial Building sits atop a full-height basement. The symmetrical five-bay dwelling retains sections of its historic stucco, brownstone window surrounds and ornamentation, fenestration patterns, window sash, doors and door surrounds, as well as interior materials such as floors, doors, historic woodwork, plaster ornamentation, marble mantels, and door and window openings. To facilitate its use as a public library, a two-story brick wing was added to the north elevation of the ell and main block in 1958. The historic central block remains intact.

The brick kitchen and service quarters building associated with the single-family residence stands to the east of the building on what is now a separate tax parcel; as such, it is not included as a resource. Even with the alterations made during the change in use, the McKenney Memorial Building retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association with its historical function as an urban mid-nineteenth century dwelling.

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Narrative Description

Located at the intersection of South Sycamore and Marshall streets in the Poplar Lawn Historic District, the McKenney Memorial Building sits on an almost-square lot in what is now a mixed commercial and residential area. Most of the parcel is surrounded by a 19th century wrought iron fence and there is no driveway or vehicle access. The approach to the front entrance of the building is a walkway of brick and stone pavers, accessed directly from the sidewalk through an open section in the fence. Facing west, the house is the only building or structure remaining on the property, however, the 19th century kitchen and quarters building remains east of the building on a separate tax parcel.

The William R. McKenney Memorial Building is an imposing Italianate building in the City of Petersburg, Virginia. The building was constructed in 1859 as the personal residence of John S. Dodson, the first mayor of the City of Petersburg. The building comprises multiple phases of construction due to its change in use from dwelling to public library. The Italianate five bay symmetrical main block and ell were constructed in 1859 as a single-family residence with c. 1920s alterations and 1958 addition on the north and east elevations. When the house was constructed, there was a one-story open-air porch on the south end of the east elevation and two-story ell on the north end of the east elevation. The main block retains most of its original materials, spatial layout and circulation, and overall character. When the building transitioned into a public library in the 1920s, the open-air porch at the south end of the east elevation was enclosed but remained connected to the two-story ell on the north end of the east elevation. The outlines of historic doors and windows remain intact on what was the exterior perimeter of the building prior to the enclosure of the porch. After years of use as a library, the building closed in 2014.

Exterior

Given its considerable size and position on the lot, in addition to its towering height, the McKenney Memorial Building retains its imposing presence amongst the surrounding houses and streetscape. The five-bay house rises two full stories above the raised basement and terminates in a standing seam metal hipped roof. The exterior's symmetrical design is starkly ornamented by a wide projecting cornice with heavy brackets and enlarged cyma recta block molding, decorative brownstone window hoods atop tall, narrow windows, molded window casings, and a one-story west entrance portico. The stucco finish continues to the basement level, without any accent banding or belt course(s) interrupting the surface treatment, which adds visual height to the building. This type of decorative feature was common in Petersburg Italianate architecture, particularly in buildings that remain, thus creating further distinction between the McKenney building and those around it.

Historically, the house was covered in scored stucco, but the scoring only remains on the north and east elevations, whereas stucco repair and replacement on the other elevations is flat in texture. The north and south roof slopes contain four interior-end chimneys, two on each of the

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north and south slopes with two additional chimneys at the ell - one at the point where the ell connects to the main house and one exterior chimney at the east elevation. The chimneys are each constructed of brick, somewhat covered by stucco, and topped with a concrete crown. There are two inset segmental arched brick flues within each of the four primary chimney stacks.

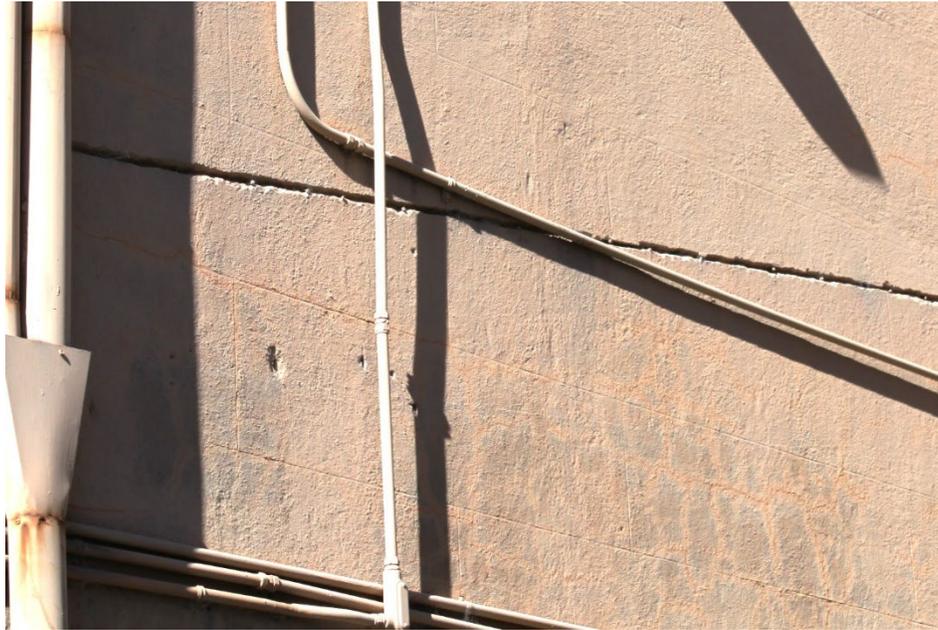


Figure 1. Ell, East Elevation. Scored stucco wall finish, 2023.

The original two-story east ell remains intact and connected to the enclosed east elevation porch.¹ A c. 1950s two story brick addition wraps around the building from the edge of the east elevation around the north, encapsulating the original exterior walls of the main block and ell.

¹ *Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Petersburg, Independent Cities, Virginia.* Sanborn Map Company, 1890. Map. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3884pm.g3884pm_g090561903.

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Figure 2. Southeast corner view showing the enlarged south porch, partial window of the main block, east ell, and brick addition, 2023.

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The focal point on the west elevation is the front entry portico with wood decking, brick steps, metal railings, decorative scroll brackets, dentil molding, and Corinthian columns. Corinthian pilasters flank the entry door, which is a double-door configuration with round-headed arch. All windows remain intact at the west and south elevations of the main block, including one-over-one segmental arched at the basement floor; four-over-four round-headed at the first floor; and four-over-four segmental arched at the second floor. Above the central entry porch on the west elevation, there is a tripartite segmental arch window with flat sidelights. Brownstone hoods top each original window at the west, east and south elevation windows.



Figure 3. West elevation entry porch, 2023.



Figure 4. Undated historic photograph from the NW corner of the parcel showing the original entry porch newel posts, balusters, and steps.

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The south elevation is highly intact with the window sash, openings, and ornamentation intact at all floors. The centrally placed windows at each story provide natural light to each of the two rooms on the south side of the house. At the basement level, below the easternmost window on the first floor, three-panel double doors provide exterior access to that floor, with a second access door further east underneath the south porch. The segmental arch door continues the style of window seen on that story on the west and south elevations and is topped by a brownstone hood. Five concrete steps lead from the street level garden bed down to the entrance door.

At the east elevation, the original four-light windows remain intact at the second story. On the first story, the only original window on the main block was removed when the porch was enclosed in the 1920s. At the enclosed porch, four casement windows remain intact on the east elevation – one fifteen-light, two pairs of fifteen-light, and one narrower fifteen-light. The narrower fifteen-light appears to have been a replacement for what could have possibly been a door previously. Molded brownstone sills sit below each of the ell windows. A concrete wheelchair ramp was added on the north elevation, leading from the sidewalk to a secondary entrance at the 20th century addition. On the south elevation, three pairs of large four-light replacement windows span the length of the wall. At the cornice and frieze, there are widely spaced brackets and flat trim, a minimized version of that on the main block and ell.



Figure 5. Detail view of east windows on the Main Block and enclosed porch; south windows on the Ell; and frieze detail, 2023.

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Figure 6. View of the south elevation of the Main Block, Ell, and enclosed porch from across Marshall Street, 2023.

The two-story east ell is finished in the same manner as the main block with scored stucco walls, a heavy bracketed and decorated frieze and cornice with closely spaced brackets, and tall and narrow windows topped by brownstone hoods. At the ell, only the south elevation contains windows, with the east side never having had windows and the north side encapsulated by the c. 1950s addition. On the south elevation, one 19th century two-over-four window remains, while it appears that a matching one was removed and infilled with stucco, as the window hood remains intact. The nine-light window closest to the main block is not topped by a hood and is at the same height as the undecorated windows along the east elevation of the main block.

Addition

The north elevation of the ell and main block comprises one end of the c. 1950s addition. The two-story brick wing was integrated into the west and north elevations of the house and east elevation of the ell, adding new materials over the existing in many places – the original roofline and end of the house are visibly demarcated from the addition. The red brick is laid in five-course common bond with scored mortar joints. Five-light steel awning windows are spread symmetrically throughout the addition's basement, first, and second stories. On each floor of the north elevation, six windows punctuate the solid brick surface; on the basement level, the windows are two-light; first floor, three-light; second floor, four-light. On the east elevation, a row of five-light windows is at the first floor and four-light at the second floor. There is no ornamentation on the building other than thick concrete windowsills. The only exterior entrance to the addition wing is accessed on the east elevation by a concrete ramp and steel entrance door.

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Figure 7. 1958 addition wing extends from the west elevation of the main block. Image shows how the addition encapsulated the original section of the building. The narrow end of the original building remains intact under a layer of brick, but the original window and hood remain visible, 2021.

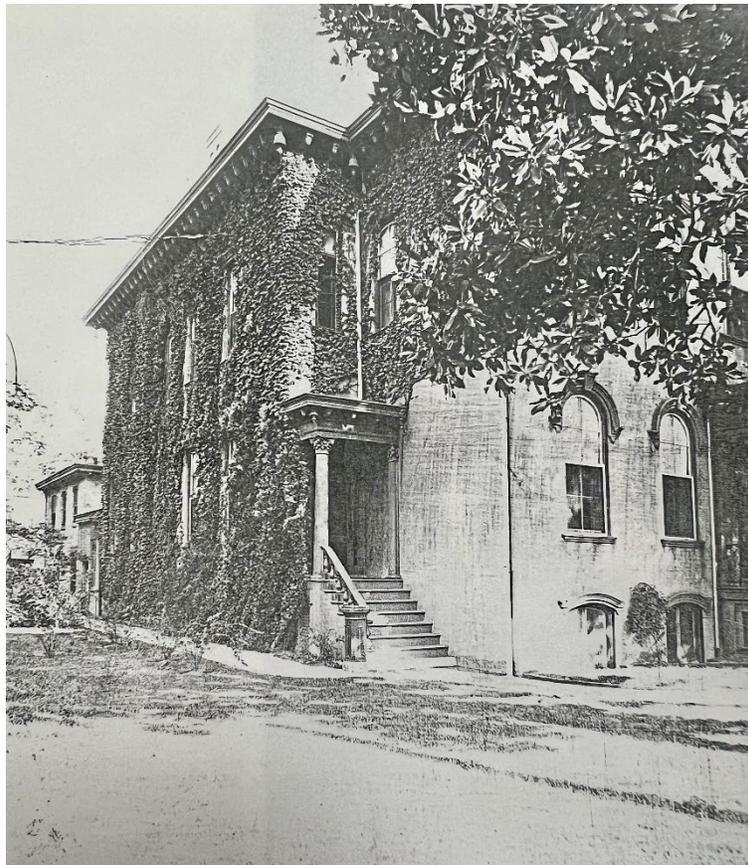


Figure 8. Image of the west and north elevations of the original main block, from where the 1958 extended. Image from Petersburg Public Library Archives, undated.

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Interior

From the front entrance portico, a vestibule with double doors and fanlight leads to the primary entrance door. The internal set of double doors is topped by a round-headed arch and flanked by sidelights that contain impressive red and blue flashed glass with a floral motif. The round arch top window above the door is a fixed transom divided into eight lights with symmetrical arched muntins between the glass.

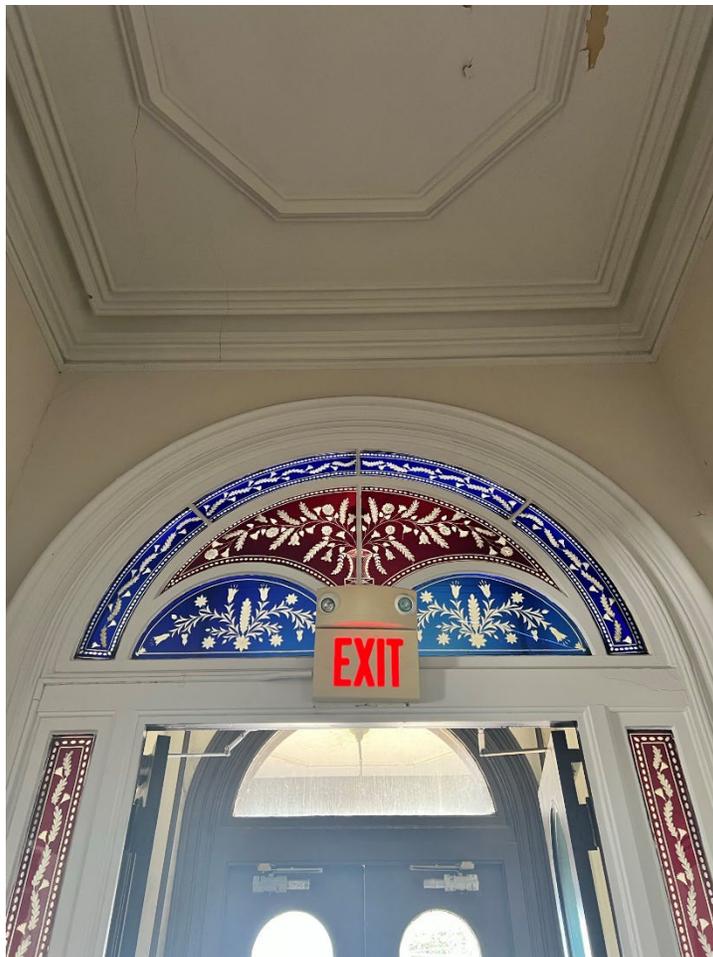


Figure 9. Entry door flashed glass, 2023.

On the first floor, the original center hall layout remains largely intact with two primary rooms on either side of the entry hall and a passage between the Northwest Parlor and Dining Room. Throughout, plaster walls and ceilings, hardwood floors under carpet, pocket and swinging doors, elaborate moldings, trim, paneling, and ceiling medallions remain, along with carved marble mantelpieces and original tile fireplace surrounds and hearths in the four primary rooms. Geometric shapes are emphasized in ceiling and wall trim and ornamentation. The wide entry hall spans the length of the main block and has tall ceilings reaching almost to the top of the staircase. The hall's plaster ceilings are ornamented with three molded octagons, with the central shape containing an elaborate plaster medallion in the center. Throughout the first floor,

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elaborate window and door casings, heavy crown molding, and tall baseboards remain intact. Historic doors include wood two and four paneled doors.



Figure 10. Entry Hall ceiling, camera pointing west, 2023.

The Southwest Parlor is accessed from the entry hall by a wide cased opening. Directly across the room, on the south wall, a fireplace with marble mantle sits in the middle of the room. The mantelpiece mirrors that in the adjoining southeast room and is light gray in color with paneling, a central cartouche, scalloped ledge, and arched opening. As in most of the other rooms, decorative trim and the central ceiling medallion are intact. The east wall is covered in trim and contains a set of wide segmental arch-shaped pocket doors that lead into the southeast room. The southeast and southwest parlors have intact hardwood floors and fireplace hearths that are covered by carpet. In both south side parlors, wainscoting decorates the wall on either side of the dividing pocket doors but extends to the ceiling in the larger southwest parlor.

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Figures 11 and 12. (L) Southwest Parlor, viewed from the Southeast Parlor entry. (R) Southwest Parlor looking into Southeast Parlor, 2023.

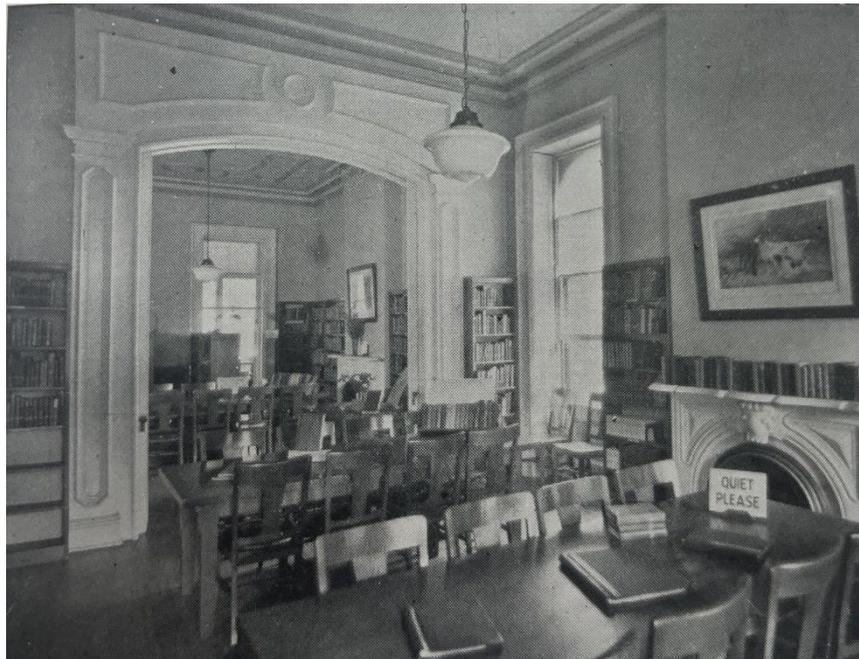


Figure 13. Southwest Parlor, looking east toward the Southeast Parlor and south porch, c. 1929.

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On the north side of the central hall, both the Northwest Parlor and Dining Room contain elaborate carved pink marble mantelpieces with curved shelf, arch opening, and large cartouche within the keystone. The northwest room at the front of the house has no trim but retains its ceiling medallion. The tile hearth remains intact.



Figure 14. Hearth tile, Northwest Parlor, 2023.

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Figure 15. Dining Room, viewed from the central hall entrance, 2023.

The Dining Room is accessed by the central hall and has a chair rail and intricately paneled wainscoting intact. The fireplace hearth is covered by carpet. Two exterior window openings and moldings remain in place but are covered on the exterior by the 1950s addition. The door opening leading to the Ell remains in form, but without the door. The shorter doorway closest to the wall with the fireplace initially led to the Butler's Pantry but has since been infilled with sheetrock and a bookcase.²

² Print out from library regarding rooms – PPL archives

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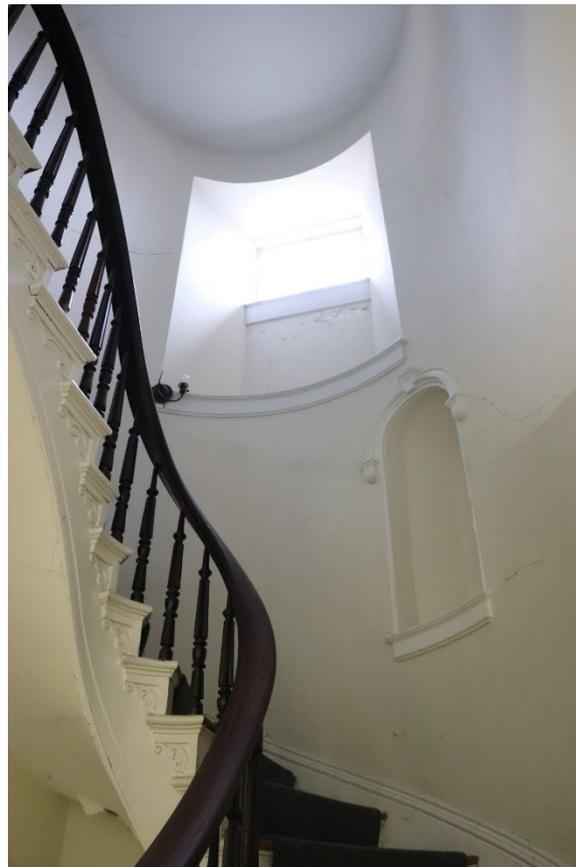
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Figure 16. Wainscoting, Dining Room, 2023.

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Figures 17 and 18. Central Hall staircase. (L): First floor staircase newel post. (R): Curved staircase and wall details leading up the main staircase from first to second floor, 2023.

The curved, U-shaped primary staircase retains original treads, stringer, and balustrade with turned balusters. The oversized octagonal newel post is embellished by carved detail on each of the eight sides. The handrail is flat and tread brackets are scroll shaped. There is an arched niche with molded hood and sill matching those on the exterior of the house. Almost at the top of the staircase, there is a small four-light window above another niche.

Upon reaching the landing at the second story, a ceiling-height partition wall made of three glass and wood doors with transoms separates the central hall into two spaces. This wall appears to have been a later addition. The central hall's layout has not changed, and two rooms flank either side. The upper story contains a scaled-back version of the first story's ornamentation and finishes, including carved marble mantelpieces, original tile hearths, ceiling medallions, and wide trim surrounding the doors and windows.

The southeast and southwest chambers are separated by a wall with an access door. The rooms are of similar size, both containing light gray marble mantelpieces that resemble those on the first floor. The main difference between the two south rooms is an additional door to the central hall in the southwest room. The door height is much shorter than the original doors and the

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molding profile on the surround is much more complex and appears to be a later addition – both contain four-panel doors with similar panel details.

The northeast and northwest chambers on the opposite side of the central hall are separated by a narrow hallway. The northwest chamber remains intact with its historic doors and windows in place and has a gray marble mantel like those on the south side of the house. When the c. 1950s addition was attached to the main block, the windows in the northeast chamber were covered, but the window openings and trim remain in place. The northeast chamber contains a mantel unlike the others in the main block – it appears to be black marble with red and white veining – and contains no additional ornamentation or complex cuts in the material.



Figure 19. Northeast Chamber, mantel detail, 2023.

At the first and second stories, the expanded porch, ell, and 1958 addition are accessed through the main block's northern rooms. When the porch was enclosed and made into a finished interior space, most of the original door and window openings on the east wall of the main block were left intact.

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Figure 20. South Porch, Interior. Looking toward the East Elevation of the Main Block and the South Elevation of the Ell, 2023.

If the window(s) and door(s) matched those on what was the exposed south wall of the ell, they would have been topped by a transom, crosshead, and surrounded with molded trim. Except for the shorter door at the center of the wall, the height and width of the openings match the remaining ell window and door openings. Corner bead trim sits on either side of the largest opening into the southeast parlor. The original exterior wall finish has been covered by what appears to be drywall, a drop ceiling has been installed, and floors have been covered with carpet.

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Figure 21. South Porch, prior East Elevation basement exterior door, 2023.

An exterior door to the basement level remains intact on the easternmost wall but is partially covered by the first story floor on the interior side – what remains visible is part of the panel door with butt hinges and what could have been a transom but is now infilled with a wood panel. The partially exposed door likely provides evidence of the basement’s original ceiling height prior to the enclosure of the porch.

The first floor of the ell has been partitioned into storage space, two restrooms, and an elevator. On the south wall of the ell, what would have originally been an exterior wall, there are three window or door openings. The easternmost six-light window remains intact with its four-light transom and crosshead. The middle door opening historically matched the window beside of it with a six-light window, four-light transom, and crosshead, but the six-light window was replaced with a glass and two-panel door to access one of the restrooms (what was originally the Butler’s Pantry connecting the Dining Room to the Ell, see Figure 23) and short hallway connecting the addition to the ell. This hallway provides access to one of the original ell rooms, what appears to be the primary first floor ell service space with its original firebox and simple wood mantelpiece and four-panel door intact. The door at the west end of the wall is much

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shorter and without a transom or crosshead and contains a four-panel door to one of the restrooms. Corner bead trim adorns several wall edges on the south wall of the ell. Within the westernmost restroom, the brick northern wall separates the elevator shaft from the restroom and the ceiling is covered in beadboard.



Figure 22. South Porch, facing the south wall of the Ell now enclosed by the porch. When the building served as a personal residence, the four-panel door directly in front opened into a Butler's Pantry that connected the Dining Room to the Ell, 2023.

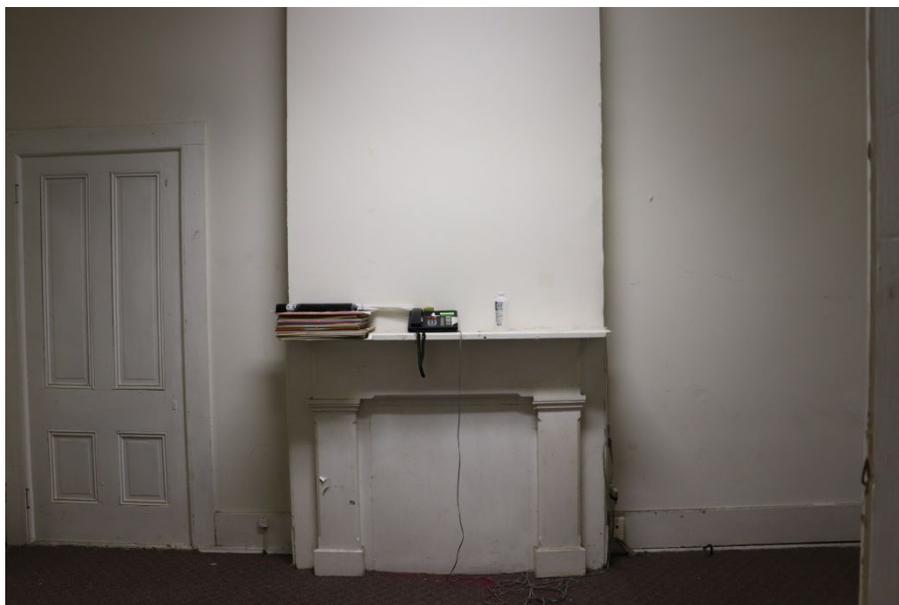


Figure 23. Ell, first floor room. The four-panel door would have previously exited toward the separate kitchen and quarters building, 2023.

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Figure 24. Ell, first floor room. Original window casing and transom remain in place. Camera pointed toward the southeast, 2023.

The second story of the ell is accessed either by elevator or the secondary staircase – one on either side of the hallway. The secondary staircase connecting the main block and ell could possibly date to the original house but may have been relocated when the ell and main block were combined with the 1958 addition. Entering the ell from the main block's northeast chamber, three steps lead up from the room into a narrow hallway. At the threshold to the hallway, a small restroom is located on the north side, directly above the restroom on the first story. At the end of the hallway, another set of three steps lead down to the single room on the second story.

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Figures 25 and 26. Ell, second story (L): Carved, geometric designs accented with gilded paint. (R): Encaustic tile hearth at the mantelpiece's base, 2023.

The ell's primary second floor room retains its black marble Eastlake mantelpiece with encaustic tile hearth. The mantelpiece diverges from the earlier Italian marble surrounds throughout most of the primary rooms with its geometric motifs, shallow carvings filled with gold paint and straight lines. Angular brackets support the mantel shelf, which also appears to be marble. An encaustic tile hearth with a square and diamond pattern section surrounded by a border of triangles, diamonds, and rectangles with imprinted geometric motifs. The material and finish match the mantelpiece in the northeast chamber, which appears to be black marble with white and rust colored veining, but the one in the ell is far more elaborate and identifiable as late 19th century. These two mantels are a departure from the Italian marble mantels located throughout the main block. The floors in the ell hallway and main room are covered in carpet but are likely hardwood underneath and match the rest of the main block. The doors in the ell are a mixture of historic four-panel and modern $\frac{3}{4}$ lite doors – the door into the ell from the main block, into the bathroom from the hallway, and into the addition from the primary room are all modern, and the door into the primary room from the hallway appears a historic four panel door with a three light transom above. The four-panel door appears to match most of the historic doors in the rest of the main block.

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The 1958 addition is attached to the ell and is accessed through its connector to the main block and the main block's northeast hallway. The addition contains a large library storage room on each level. On the first floor, carpet covers wood flooring, plaster walls remain primarily intact with deterioration due to water infiltration, and the awning windows are partially concealed by a drop ceiling. The second level of the addition can also be accessed through the main block's northeast room. As on the first level, the floors are carpeted, but there is no drop ceiling.



Figure 27. Addition, first floor east room. Camera pointed northeast, 2023.

Raised Basement

The basement retains its historic layout, like the first story, but with a small entry hall between the southeast and southwest parlors, a partition wall in the stair hall, and an additional hallway spanning the east end of the main block. The main block has been preserved with access doors on west, south, and east elevations. At the first and second stories, the ell and porch were significantly expanded; however, at the basement level, the spaces were only expanded to include another hallway, exit access door, a small restroom, and storage space. The basement staircase is located under the main staircase and has its original turned balustrade, railing, and oversized newel post. Rubber treads cover the historic wood treads and risers.

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Figures 28 and 29. Basement (L): Basement level newel post. (R): Looking east from the base of the Basement stair, 2023.

At the base of the staircase, a central hall leads to several rooms on either side, like the first and second floors with two primary rooms on the north and south sides with additional smaller rooms branching from secondary hallways. At the base of the stairs, looking west, there is a door directly in front that leads to a small hallway with access to the northwest and southwest rooms. The southwest room contains a central fireplace with black marble mantle, like that on the second floor of the main block. The historic window surrounds and sills remain, but a drop ceiling covers the top part of the windows.

Directly behind the staircase is what appears to have been the original east wall of the main block's exterior with a glass and panel door surrounded by sidelights and transom window. This section has been enclosed and is below the modern ramp that provides access to the 1958 addition. There are two exterior entrances to the basement – one on the south elevation of the main block and one underneath the enclosed porch section.

Outbuilding

The original service quarters and kitchen building for 137 S. Sycamore remains standing but has been legally separated from the original parcel. It now has the address of 7 Marshall Street. In 1877, the Dodson House parcel contained the main house and two smaller, secondary buildings,

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likely the combined kitchen and quarters building and a connected stable, as shown in later maps. By 1903, a one-story frame porch connected the main house and quarters/kitchen building remained in the same position – at this time a “hot house” stood at the northeast corner of the parcel, behind the carriage house.

Integrity Analysis

The William R. McKenney Memorial Building retains a high degree of integrity. The building retains its historic location and urban setting, but the parcel has been reduced by almost half to .29 acres over time. Historically, the lot encompassed the kitchen and service quarters building that is now 7 Marshall Street, but there is no physical demarcation of the property. In the late nineteenth century, the area surrounding the house was primarily residential, with dwellings extending several blocks north, up S. Sycamore Street to the intersection with E. Wythe Street (Hwy 301). Today, the area considered the Poplar Lawn Historic District remains primarily residential, but north and west of the McKenney Building have become more commercial in nature over the years. Still, the McKenney Building has not been moved and retains integrity of **location** and **setting**. Although its historic corresponding outbuilding is now legally separate, the McKenney Memorial Building’s location and setting contribute to its integrity of **feeling** and **association** as a mid-nineteenth century dwelling. The McKenney Memorial Building also retains integrity of **design** through the retention of its primary architectural features such as the entry portico, fenestration pattern of the main block, the two-story, center hall layout with its grand curved staircase, and applied ornament. The McKenney Building retains a high percentage of its historic materials, including doors, window sash, floors, paint, woodwork, marble mantelpieces, plaster ceiling medallions and motifs, light fixtures and hardware, and stair newel posts and balusters. The extant finishes and expansive layout exemplify the fine Italianate domestic architecture of mid-nineteenth century dwellings in Petersburg.

There has been some loss of historic materials, such as portions of the bracketed wood cornice and some window sash and glass, and the rear porch was converted into a finished interior space. The most extensive changes have occurred in the basement where lath and plaster has been removed and historic floors have been altered in some sections and at the north elevation wall on which the 1950s wing was attached. This loss of material, however, does not compromise the overall integrity of the property, and the McKenney Memorial Building retains integrity of **design, materials, and workmanship** and presents itself as primarily an Italianate building of residential scale in the City of Petersburg.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- 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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

SOCIAL HISTORY: Civil Rights

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1859 – 1960

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The McKenney Memorial Building, located at 137 S. Sycamore Street Road in the City of Petersburg's Poplar Lawn Historic District, is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in the areas of Ethnic Heritage: African American and Social History: Civil Rights and Criterion C in the area of Architecture. The two-story with English basement, Italianate style house stands on a flat parcel measuring approximately .29 acres on the corner of S. Sycamore and Marshall streets and is surrounded by what were other single-family dwellings.

The property is significant at a local level as a prominent Italianate dwelling built in 1859 for Petersburg's Mayor, John P. Dodson. In mid- to late-19th century Petersburg, the fashionable Italianate style influenced the city's built environment, whether an earlier building remodeled in the new mode with replacement bracketed cornices and whimsical millwork, or primarily residential buildings constructed wholesale under the influence of the style with individual and paired arched windows, low-slope hipped roofs with oversized, elaborate cornices under wide, overhanging eaves. In 1924, then property owner Clara P. McKenney bequeathed the house to the City of Petersburg for use as a public library. McKenney stipulated that the building must remain in use as a library with spaces designated for Black and White patrons. In 1960, the building was the site of a significant sit-in led by nationally prominent Civil Rights leader, the Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker that led to the library's temporary closure and ultimately resulted in an integrated library. There are no secondary resources on the property. The period of significance extends from 1859 to 1960, beginning with the onset of the building's construction under the ownership of Mayor John P. Dodson and ending with the library's racial integration.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

From private residence to public library

Mayor John P. Dodson commissioned 137 S. Sycamore Street, what is now known as the "McKenney Memorial Building," in 1859 and lived there until c. 1867. In 1860, around the time of the house's construction, Petersburg was the second-largest city in Virginia and fiftieth-largest city in the country.³ By that time, the city's efficient Petersburg Railroad system and direct Upper Appomattox Canal access bolstered the city's industries and businesses to thrive and prosper.⁴

At the onset of and during the Civil War, the Union Army took advantage of the infrastructure and natural resources that had allowed Petersburg to flourish in previous years, with soldiers using the railroad, river, and canal to target and access the city.⁵ In or slightly prior to 1867,

³ Scott and Wyatt, *Petersburg's Story: A History*) p.157.

⁴ Scott and Wyatt, IV, *Petersburg's Story: A History*, p. 158.

⁵ Richard Lykes, *Campaign for Petersburg* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, 1970) p. 9.

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Mayor Dodson sold the house at 137 S. Sycamore Street to Confederate General William Mahone, who also was a civil engineer, railroad executive, and Virginia state politician.⁶ The Reconstruction Era brought a slow rebuilding and regrowth of the city, with most residents unable to successfully reach pre-war economic levels, and between 1860 and 1870, the financial resources of Petersburg's businesses decreased by sixty-three percent; however, many of the city's wealthiest residents commissioned new houses in the latest modes during this period, resulting in an influx of picturesque Italianate architecture.⁷

In 1911, the property was purchased by Virginia lawyer and U.S. Representative William Robertson McKenney, and upon his death in 1916, it was left to his wife, Clara Justine McKenney (Pickrell). In 1924, Mrs. Clara J. McKenney presented the property to the city of Petersburg as a memorial to her husband, William R. McKenney.



Figure 30. Entry hall, looking east toward the south porch, c. 1929.

In her bequest, she stated that the building be used as a library, more specifically, a free library, which were seen in larger cities with well-known philanthropists, but there wasn't yet one located in Petersburg. The building came to be known as the William R. McKenney Free

⁶ "Political Life in Virginia: William Mahone," *The Library of Virginia*, accessed on August 12, 2022; Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, "Poplar Lawn Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1979), accessed through Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (V-CRIS).

⁷ William D. Henderson, *Gilded Age City: Politics, Life, and Labor in Petersburg, Virginia, 1874-1889* (Lanham, MD: University Press of America, Inc., 1980) p. 4.

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Figure 31. View of the Dining Room, used as a Reading Room, shortly after the Library's opening. Photo undated.

McKenney's deed of transfer stipulated that the library was "to be maintained for both white and colored persons: all of the building ... including the first floor and all above that [was] to be for the exclusive use of white persons; and the basement of the building [was] to be kept and maintained for the exclusive use of colored persons with separate entrance and exit thereto."⁸ The White section of the library opened in August of 1924 and the Black branch opened in April of 1925.⁹ The library entrance for Black patrons was the exterior door underneath the parlor of the Main Block.¹⁰

In Clara McKenney's will, executed in 1942, the larger parcel at 137 S. Sycamore Street containing the Main block, Ell, and Kitchen/Quarters Building had been divided into two distinct parcels – one containing the Main Block and Ell and the other with the secondary building at 7 Marshall Street – and the connector between the two buildings had been dismantled. Mrs. McKenney left the 7 Marshall Street to her granddaughter upon her death.¹¹

While the building was a large single-family residence, it soon ran out of space as the library's

⁸ Carl Tobias, *Untenable, Unchristian, and Unconstitutional*, 58 Mo. L. Rev. (1993), pg. 855.
Available at: <https://scholarship.law.missouri.edu/mlr/vol58/iss4/2>

⁹ Tobias, p. 856.

¹⁰ Wayne Crocker email.

¹¹ Clara McKenney's will; Article XVII, Deed Book 16, p. 488.

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collection and services grew. With the need to expand, the City Council authorized an addition to the library in 1957. The addition was funded by gift of Mrs. Gabriella Cameron Gilbert, in memory of her father, Mr. George Cameron. The mid-century addition left most of the main block intact, including the small setback section on the façade that has been covered in brick, simply extending the wall of the addition from the original house (see photo) and wrapping around to connect to the rear of the Ell. The 5-course common brick addition provides clear contrast to the 19th century building with its flat roof and unadorned brick veneer façade with single four- and five-light metal windows. The expanded space housed an art gallery and non-fiction book section.¹²

CRITERION A: *Ethnic Heritage: African American and Social History: Civil Rights*

The McKenney Library is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places with a statewide level of significance under **Criterion A**, with the following Areas of Significance: **Ethnic Heritage, African American and Social History: Civil Rights**. The McKenney Library is historically significant because of its direct association with pivotal events that took place during the Civil Rights Movement. The McKenney Library was the site of a sit-in at a public library. The property played a major role in the struggle to integrate public building in Petersburg.

Overview of Libraries in the City of Petersburg

As early as 1793, Petersburg had a Library Association, at that time, “the Speculative Society of the Town of Petersburg,” but due to “delinquent members”, the society disbanded sometime prior to 1830.¹³ In the 1840s, an Atheneum located inside of the Exchange Building on Bank Street served as an informal library and held books, periodicals, and lectures for residents.¹⁴

The first library in the City of Petersburg was established in 1853 with the incorporation of the Petersburg Library Association, which held the power to “collect, hold, and preserve a library.”¹⁵ A “Hall,” “Reading-Room,” and “Conversation Room” were outfitted to contain reading material and spaces to gather.¹⁶ This library was likely private, with 840 members and 3,600 volumes as of March 1854.¹⁷ The Association constructed its own building in 1859 on the NE corner of Sycamore and Bollingbrook streets, which was “a cherished institution.”¹⁸ After the Civil War and the Depression, the library shifted to more of a social space and the building was demolished in 1932.¹⁹ The Petersburg Benevolent Mechanic Association also established a technical library and museum for its members after its founding in 1826. By the 1880s, the library was well supplied with “all the leading American and English papers and magazines,” along with resources donated by the United States government, totaling 4,286 volumes at that

¹² 123-0009_Dobson_House_1983_Grant_Documents. VCRIS.(Intentionally spelled Dobson)

¹³ Petersburg’s Story, 121.

¹⁴ Petersburg’s Story, 121

¹⁵ Petersburg’s Story, 121

¹⁶ Preface, unknown source from PPL.

¹⁷ Preface, PPL

¹⁸ Frenchman note – no source, PPL; Petersburg’s Story, 122.

¹⁹ Petersburg’s Story, 122

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time.²⁰ What eventually became the 12,000 volume Benevolent Mechanics' Association Library served as the "nucleus" for imagining and establishing a new library. The Association gave their collection to the city to help establish a public library – what would become the McKenney Free Library.²¹

In November of 1924, Librarian Teresa D. Hodges penned her thoughts on the absence of a public library in Petersburg, which was read before the Virginia Library Association at their annual meeting in Richmond. She outlined the only explanation possible that "a city of 33,000 has only just now established a public library," and that the "tardy" movement to establish a library was not a new one. The reason prior attempts failed were due to "the snags (to use library terminology) of the negro question, lack of city funds, and the inability of some in authority to absorb the idea of the democratic necessity of public library service."²² According to Hodges, the transition to a "city manager form" of local government in 1920 came with an increased awareness of the local government's functions and responsibilities to its citizens.²³ It was during this period when Mrs. Clara McKenney offered to give the city her personal residential property at 137 S. Sycamore Street to house a public library. The City received the building deed on January 1, 1924, which included the following stipulations: "first, that the city should appropriate at least \$10,000 for the remodeling, equipment, and preparation of the building for library use; second, that the city appropriate not less than \$7,500 annually for maintenance of the library; third, that the first floor(or rather, basement) be equipped and used for a library branch for negroes; and fourth, that the library be known as the Wm. R. McKenney Free Library."²⁴

On August 6th, 1924, the Wm. R. McKenney Free Library opened its doors to the public with approximately 3,600 catalogued books on the shelves and around 5,000 un-catalogued but available for reference. By October of 1924, the library had recorded over 1,600 borrowers.²⁵

²⁰ Guide to Petersburg, VA, p. 87-88 – in PPL files

²¹ City Library has grown since opening in '24 - Progress-Index, Lisa Ellis - PPL

²² The Virginia Teacher, 312. PPL

²³ The Virginia Teacher 312. PPL

²⁴ The Virginia Teacher, 312

²⁵ The Virginia Teacher, 312.

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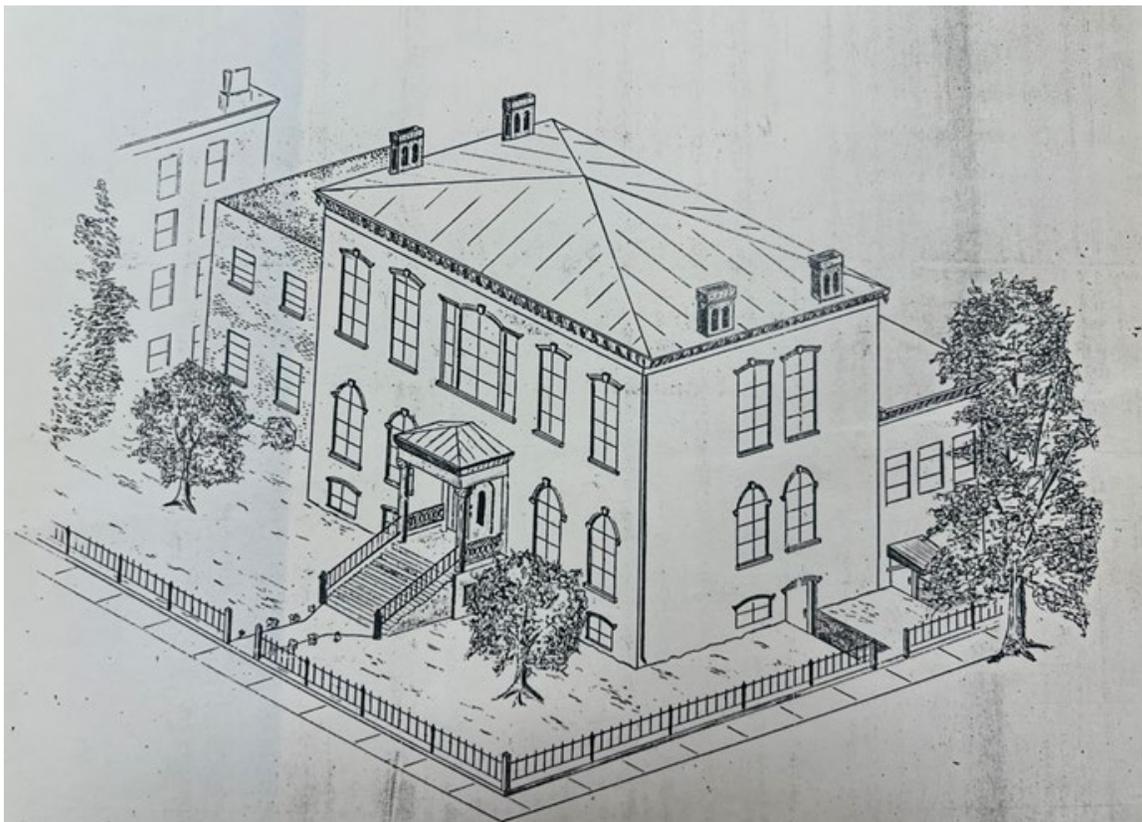


Figure 32. Sketch of the McKenney Library featuring a visualization of the basement entrance, undated.

Civil Rights Era

The sit-ins in Petersburg began in the 1960s and were carried out by mostly African American students from Virginia State College and Peabody High School. The places that the students targeted included restaurants and other public spaces. The sit-ins and protests were a part of a nationwide effort led by the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. King's assistant, the Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker, led, participated in, and served as a leader during the demonstrations in Petersburg.

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Figures 33-36. Children and students preparing for non-violent civil disobedience in Petersburg, Va., 1960. Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock <https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960>.

Reverend Wyatt Tee Walker was a pastor, civil rights leader, strategist and chief of staff for Dr. King. Walker moved to Petersburg in 1952 to become the head pastor of Gillfield Baptist Church. He described Petersburg as “the most segregated town in Virginia.” The Civil Rights movement in Petersburg began with lunch counter protests downtown Petersburg on February 23, 1960, composed of students from Peabody High School. The students sat-in at three different establishments; no one was arrested, but the stores were temporarily closed.



Figure 37. Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker observing training for sit-in harassment, Petersburg, Va., 1960. <https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960>

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Not long after the protests started, the McKenney Library became a targeted site of further sit-ins. On February 27, 1960, around 140 African Americans met with Reverends Walker and Williams at Gillfield Baptist Church. Most of the protesters were students from Peabody High School and Virginia State College. Located at 209 Perry Street, Gillfield Baptist Church is one of the oldest Black Baptist churches in Petersburg.

At the church, the protesters split into three groups and traveled in different routes at four-minute intervals to the library.²⁶ At 11:30 a.m., the protesters entered the library through its “Whites Only” entrance and entered the reading room that was reserved for only Whites. Reverend Walker approached the library’s counter to request the first volume of Douglas Southall Freeman’s *Robert E. Lee Biography*, which he was refused.²⁷ During an oral history interview in 2014, Reverend Walker stated that he selected the book because, “I always thought Lee was guilty of treason, and I just thought I’d look at this book to see what the Southern view was, why they made him such a hero.”²⁸ In the same interview, Walker commented on the irony that it was that book that resulted in his arrest.²⁹

In response to the sit-in, Petersburg’s City Council closed McKenney Library for four days. During the closure of the Library, the Council enacted a strict ordinance to stop such trespassing at a council meeting on March 1, 1960. At the same meeting, Virginia State College student C.J. Mallory read a petition calling for the complete desegregation of the library, saying that “segregation was dead and Petersburg should become a part of the American ideal.” City Council did not address the petition directly and read from a pre-prepared statement which cited that when the building was given to the city, the deed required it to be segregated.

On March 7, 1960, the protesters returned; eleven were arrested; some were released on a \$100 bond, but even with extensive protesting around the city for their release, on March 14 those in jail were tried at the Municipal Court. Reverend Walker and Reverend Robert Williams were sentenced to 30 days in jail with a \$100 fine, the rest were sentenced to 10 days in jail and a \$50 fine.

In the same year, training sessions were held in Petersburg for practice dealing with the sit-in harassment protestors would be facing. Photos from *Life Magazine*, originally posted in September 1960, show young potential protestors having cigarette smoke blown in their faces, drinks spilled on them, and other harassments they might face during non-violent civil disobedience. Protests continued through the city, although the McKenney Library was closed from July to November 1960. Finally, by the end of 1960, the McKenney Library, government offices, lunch counters, and other businesses were de-segregated. It took another four years for

²⁶ “McKenney Library Sit-In,” December 14, 2017. <http://www.historicpetersburg.org/mckenney-library-sit-in/>.

²⁷ Lawing, Charlie. “Wyatt Tee Walker (1929–2018).” *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Accessed October 18, 2023. <https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/walker-wyatt-tee-1929-2018/>.

²⁸ Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540 USA. “Wyatt Tee Walker Oral History Interview Conducted by David P. Cline in Richmond, Virginia, 2014 July 09.” *Image*. Accessed October 18, 2023. <https://www.loc.gov/item/2016655400/>.

²⁹ *Ibid.*

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Petersburg to start seeing proper representation in local government, with the election of the first Black city councilperson in 1964.

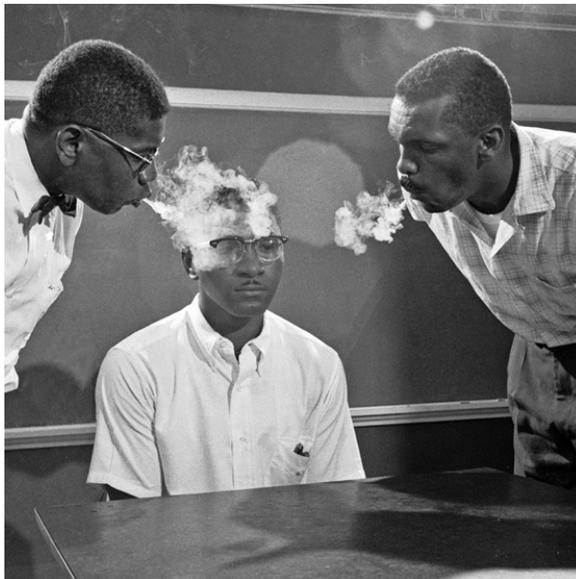


Figure 38. Virginius Bray Thornton, Founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) having smoke blown into his face as part of training for a sit-in.
https://www.cvillepedia.org/File:Virginius_Thornton_sit_down_strike.jpg

The McKenney Library was closed on April 14, 2013, with a new library having been constructed at 201 W. Washington Street.

CRITERION C: Architecture

The McKenney Memorial Building is locally significant under **Criterion C** in the area of **Architecture** as an excellent example of the fine, urban Italianate architecture constructed during Petersburg's era of industrial and financial growth. It reflects the then-popular Italianate trends sweeping the east coast of the United States, and Petersburg in particular, but on a much more imposing scale than most other residences in the city. During the Italianate's rise to great popularity in 1850's Petersburg, what was then the "town" extended from direct locations on the Appomattox River and spread further into town and wealthiest residents tended to converge on South Sycamore, Market, and Franklin Streets – comprising what were then the most fashionable areas, including the Poplar Lawn neighborhood.³⁰

³⁰ James G. Scott and Edward Wyatt, IV, *Petersburg's Story: A History* (Richmond: Whittet and Shepperson, 1960) p. 159.

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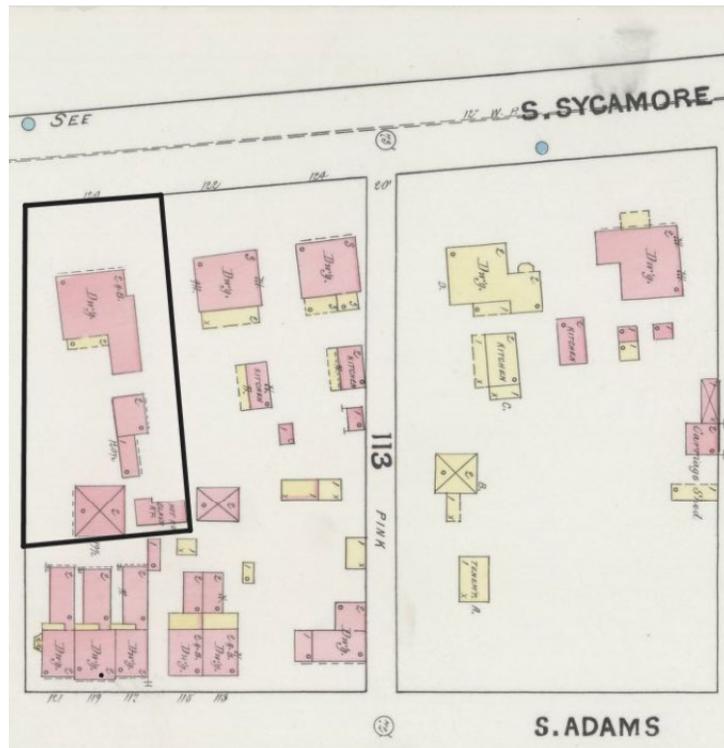


Figure 39. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Petersburg, Virginia. April 1891. The outlined section shows the 1891 configuration of the main house, attached rear ell, slim rear porch, quarters and kitchen building (numbered 120 ½) and what would have been an arrangement of additional secondary buildings that no longer stand.



Figure 40. Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Petersburg, Virginia. 1903. The outlined section shows the 1903 configuration of the connection from the main house to the quarters and kitchen building (numbered 120 ½) that was added.

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At the time of its construction, its prime location on S. Sycamore Street would have been surrounded by other well-appointed dwellings in the stylish, upscale Poplar Lawn area, many of which were large enough to have a secondary kitchen and quarters building to the rear of the primary house. The property is located within the boundary of the now Poplar Lawn Historic District and is a contributing resource.

The McKenney Memorial Building exhibits straightforward, yet prominent architectural ornamentation and craftsmanship. Additionally, the building has had limited alterations and retains a majority of its original exterior and interior architectural elements. The decorative program on the exterior of the house blends more formal, classical motifs, including an entry portico supported by Corinthian columns and pilasters, modified Ogee and bead molding below the bracket cornice, a tripartite central window, pedimented window hoods, and a boxy, symmetrical 5-bay single-window layout, with more expressive Italianate elements, such as a low pitch hipped roof with protuberant cornice with large turned wood brackets, overhanging eaves and a blend of round-headed and segmental arched windows in a four-over-four sash pattern. The result is a unique design incorporating traditional forms and formality with updated door and window shapes, bold cornice and porch detailing blending classical motifs with Italianate spindles and brackets.

The two-story with English basement Italianate dwelling exhibits the stylistic characteristics of scale, proportion, and massing with detailing popular in urban residential architecture of the period. The exterior stucco walls retain sections of its original lightly scored block finish, but where it has been repaired or the scoring has faded, the plain stucco emphasizes the exterior decorative details. Unlike many surrounding Italianate dwellings, the refined restraint of the ornamentation allows the scale of the building and prominent details along the roofline, porch, and windows, along with the individually placed windows themselves, to stand out. The absence of any delineation of the stories on the exterior marks a diversion from the details typically included in a prominent Petersburg Italianate mansion. Four interior end brick chimneys have inset flue outlines, corbelled caps, and rise from a low pitch hipped metal roof.

The interior layout and finishes of the main block demonstrate great attention to detail and upscale choices that reflect the status of the original owner, Mayor John P. Dodson, and successive owners and residents including Samuel Venable, William Mahone, Richard Davis and William R. McKenney.³¹ The tall ceiling heights of all stories; gracious room sizes; the grand central entrance hall with broad circular staircase; oversized pocket doors between most first story rooms; complex, heavy moldings in all rooms; unique wainscoting and trim with intact plaster ceiling medallions and decorative geometric millwork; and marble fireplace mantels created a setting ripe for entertaining and formality within the occupants' living spaces.

Neither the architect, builder, nor craftsmen involved in the dwelling's construction have been identified in research thus far, but there are similarities in the fusion of classical architectural

³¹ Dodson was named Petersburg's first mayor after the General Assembly passed legislation declaring Petersburg Virginia's third official city on March 16, 1850. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, "Poplar Lawn Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination.

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elements and the burgeoning Italianate style to the Ragland Mansion located across Marshall Street, whose builder by the last name of “Marshall” traveled from Baltimore to construct the house, along with two less prominent Ragland houses, in 1859.¹ It should be noted that the Ragland Mansion underwent renovations around 1890 under direction of architect Major Harrison Waite, the architect who designed William R. McKenney’s later Queen Anne/Eastlake primary residence from 1890-1892 at 250 S. Sycamore Street.³² Located down the street from the McKenney Memorial Building, the William R. McKenney House is also located in what was the very fashionable Poplar Lawn neighborhood (now encompassed by the Poplar Lawn Historic District).³³

Italianate Architecture in Petersburg

The Italianate style swept urban Petersburg, most notably in residential architecture, particularly on and around South Market Street (123-0108 South Market Street Historic District), near Poplar Lawn Park and S. Sycamore Street (123-0094 Poplar Lawn Historic District), and on or near West Washington Street (123-0096 Folly Castle Historic District) in some of the City’s most fashionable areas from the mid-19th to early 20th centuries. Many Italianate houses were built during this period, though many of the more prominent, sophisticated dwellings having been demolished by intent or neglect.

Departing from earlier rigid forms of classical architecture, the picturesque Italianate style ushered in an era of increased decorative ornamentation, particularly on the exterior of buildings, and a feeling of whimsy in the use and application of less formal motifs and patterns, and the development of urban villas inspired by the feeling of large country houses in southern Europe and published in popular pattern books by Alexander Jackson Davis (*Rural Residences*, c. 1835) and Andrew Jackson Downing (*The Architecture of Country Houses*, 1852). In 1842, Davis and Downing collaborated on the popular *Cottage Residences*, possibly the nation’s leading pattern book of residential architecture that blended romanticized architecture with the English countryside's pastoral landscape, which created a movement toward an overall more picturesque,

³² John E. Wells and Robert E. Dalton, *The Virginia Architects, 1835-1955: A Biographical Dictionary*, (Richmond, VA: New South Architectural Press, 1997) p. 457-458. While Major Harrison Waite is not attributed as the architect of the McKenney Memorial Building, he opened his architectural practice in Baltimore, where builder Marshall was based. Maj. Waite designed and remodeled multiple residential, commercial, and religious buildings in Petersburg, primarily from the mid-1870s through the early 20th century. In addition to his architectural practice, Waite was involved with local politics and was linked to Gen. William Mahone, who purchased the McKenney Memorial Building from the original owner, John Dodson.

³³ Kay Carwile, “The William McKenney House (123-0102),” National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, D.C.: The U.S. Department of the Interior, 1990). Accessed through Virginia Cultural Resources Information System (V-CRIS). It is also possible that the McKenney Memorial Building’s black marble Eastlake fireplace mantel and surround installed in the Ell’s second story room was influenced William McKenney when he moved from his Queen Anne house at 250 S. Sycamore.

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light aesthetic in both landscape and architectural design.³⁴

In Petersburg, Italianate details made their way onto single-family brick, frame, and stucco residences and frequently on double houses found interspersed throughout higher-end houses. Early phases of Italianate buildings include the late-antebellum period in which the McKenney Memorial Building was constructed – most of these houses ushered the new style in with large-scale buildings that integrated Italianate decorative motifs with the traditional, symmetrical box form as seen in Federal and Greek Revival buildings. Primarily, the larger, more prominent residences were constructed of brick or brick covered in a stucco finish and had multiple accompanying secondary structures and/or buildings. Many of the smaller brick and frame dwellings by the start of the 20th century also had secondary structures located behind the main house within the individual parcels.



Figure 41. 328 S. Sycamore Street (123-0094-0131). This is the only 3-story residence on the west side of Sycamore Street from Liberty to D'Arcy. Google Maps, 2023.

³⁴ David Schuyler, "Downing, Andrew Jackson", *American National Biography Online*, February, 2000. <http://www.anb.org/articles/17/17-00235.html>; accessed January 23, 2023.

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Figure 42. Smaller scale Italianate dwellings. Liberty Street. Google Maps, 2023.

Several houses remain from the early Italianate period, including the venerable Ragland Mansion (23-0094-0115), McIlwaine-Friend House (123-0018), Thomas Wallace House (123-0031), Sutherland-Hite House (123-0006), and the Albert L. Scott House (123-0023) along with smaller speculative houses that were typically frame with weatherboard sheathing with a variety of intricate decorative wood elements including bracketed cornices, wide, overhanging eaves below low-pitched hipped roofs, and four-over-four wood rectangular or arched windows.

Poplar Lawn Historic District

The existing Poplar Lawn Historic District, which was listed on the National Register and the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1979 and expanded in 2011, is an eleven-block urban area of mid- to late 19th century, primarily single-family dwellings located south of downtown Petersburg. The district's irregular grid layout centers on a two-block green and encompasses the north-south South Sycamore and South Jefferson thoroughfare streets that provide direct access to the downtown area.³⁵ The flat and gently sloping land of the park historically held a wide variety of trees and assorted plantings with multiple planned 19th century paths winding throughout. In addition to the picturesque paths, the park contained a late 19th century fountain and garden shed. Additionally, to the southeast lies a small ravine, used in the late 19th century as a goldfish pond. The original paths remain in place, in addition to more recent paths cutting across sections of the lawn.³⁶

Most of the district's buildings were constructed as detached, two-story, single-family residences of frame construction. While buildings in the district date from the late 18th century to the present, most were constructed during the second half of the 19th century, including the McKenney Memorial Building, what would have then been Mayor John Dodson's personal residence. The area contains primarily Greek Revival and Italianate styles, but also includes Federal, Queen-Anne, Second Empire and Colonial-Revival style buildings scattered throughout. The district's buildings typically have a consistent 25-foot front setback and often share a common fence line along the sidewalk, including the ornamental cast-iron fence along S. Sycamore Street at the McKenney Memorial Building, which remains an intact example. The area began to develop in cohesively as a residential neighborhood in the urban Petersburg,

³⁵ Alison S. Blanton, "Poplar Lawn Historic District, 2005 Boundary Increase (123-0094)," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form (Washington, D.C.: The U.S. Department of the Interior, 2006).

³⁶ "The Poplar Lawn Historic District," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.

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decades prior to the Civil War with approximately 10% of the buildings dating to this period.³⁷ The size and architectural influences and styles of the houses reflected the socio-economic makeup of these early property owners.

Although the mid- to late-19th century tended to stagnate in terms of the total population and economic growth of the City, the Poplar Lawn neighborhood continued to develop during this period. The City even invested in improvements to the Poplar Lawn green and park itself, and in 1873, set aside funds to clean up and revitalize the park land, which included the construction of a small lake that was enlarged and stocked with goldfish the next year. In 1875, the city furnished the planting of five hundred trees on Poplar Lawn, and it was likely around this time that the irregular paths were laid out in rough concentric and radiating patterns. The layout and aesthetic considerations of the park reflects the popularity of Frederick Law Olmsted's landscape theories practiced during the second half of the 19th century.³⁸

The Park provided grounds for military activities during the Civil War as the location of a temporary hospital for Federal prisoners, and following the Battle of the Crater on July 10, 1864, it was the site of a retention camp for captured black soldiers. Perhaps due to its central location, the Poplar Lawn area was selected as site for the construction of four Petersburg schools during the late 19th century. These schools included Peabody (colored) Public School (northeast corner Fillmore and Harrison Streets, established 1863); McCabe's School (northwest corner Fillmore and S. Sycamore Streets); and two women's colleges--Southern Female College (southwest corner S. Sycamore Street and Tulip Alley, chartered 1863, closed 1938) and Petersburg Female College (southwest corner College Place and S. Sycamore Street, established 1854, chartered 1856, moved from Poplar Lawn 1881, closed 1885).

Also during this time, the Halifax Street area was emerging as a commercial corridor for the African-American community during the postbellum era. In addition to commercial buildings, several Black churches were established, and houses of worship developed in this area, including First Baptist Church, the only church located in the original Poplar Lawn Historic District, and Zion Baptist Church.³⁹

Comparative Analysis

The McKenney Memorial Building is one of few Italianate dwellings that remain intact in the City of Petersburg that is either eligible for individual listing in the registers or is considered a contributing building in a historic district. There are three Italianate houses in the City of Petersburg that are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register (Albert L. Scott House (123-0023), Thomas Wallace House (123-0031), and Sutherland-Hite House (123-0006)), discussed below.

³⁷ "The Poplar Lawn Historic District, 2005 Boundary Increase," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.

³⁸ "The Poplar Lawn Historic District, 2005 Boundary Increase," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.

³⁹ "The Poplar Lawn Historic District, 2005 Boundary Increase," National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form.

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Figure 43. The Thomas Wallace House (123-0031), 204 S. Market Street. 2021. VCRIS.

On South Market Street, what was a very fashionable residential street in the mid- to late- 19th century, there are several extant Italianate dwellings. The two finest examples, the NRHP-listed Thomas Wallace House, c. 1855, at 204 S. Market Street and Albert L. Scott House, c. 1858, at 29 S. Market Street are of similar plan, form, scale and size, and finishes, and are within a five year period of the McKenney House construction. Also on S. Market Street, the unlisted c. 1879 Williams House dates to postwar Petersburg, a different period of Italianate architecture.

Both antebellum S. Market Street houses are two stories with raised basements, and of a 3-bay arrangement with a central hall layout and paired windows, but the exterior finishes greatly differ. As with most remaining fine Italianate houses in Petersburg, the two houses blend classical, formal architectural elements with Italianate motifs and ornamentation. The Wallace House retains a portion of its original Greek Revival porch, as well as its later Georgian Revival extension with pavilion, that includes its three-part entrance door and Doric pilasters and columns. Overall, the house reads as an Italianate with its double sawn-work brackets terminating in scrolled consoles; bracket tops finished with turned pendants; recessed brick panels decorating the walls between the brackets; cast iron window hoods; and segmental central arch but is dominated by classical features such as tripartite windows and doors, along with early 20th century columns, pilasters, frieze and cornice porch details that interrupt the Italianate aesthetic. The three-part windows on the front facade are original, but the sash have been replaced with the one-over-one sash in the center and multiple-pane sash in the sidelights.⁴⁰

⁴⁰ NRHP Nomination Form, Thomas Wallace House, 1975.

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Figures 44 and 45. The Albert L. Scott House (123-0023), 29 S. Market Street. (L): ca. 1950. VCRIS. (R): 2021, Google Maps.

Like the McKenney Memorial Building, the Albert L. Scott House is covered in scored stucco with heavy brownstone trim, window hoods, and molding, along with heavy bracketed and paneled entablature and raised basement with aligned windows; however, the treatment of the Scott House exterior demonstrates more predictable embellishments seen on an urban Italianate dwelling, very much over-the-top with its paneled heavily bracketed and paneled entablature, bold balusters on the balconies and entrance stairway, tall belvedere, and defined belt courses. Like the interior of the McKenney Memorial Building, and likely others that were constructed during this period, those at the Scott House include a double parlor, heavy door and window surrounds, marble mantels, turned, oversized newel and stair balusters, and heavy plaster ornamentation on the ceilings.



Figure 46. The Sutherland-Hite House (123-0006), 606 Harding Street, 2011. VCRIS.

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The Sutherland-Hite House provides another adaptation of the popular double-pile, central passage layout popular in Petersburg during the mid- to late-19th century. Built c. 1862, the pressed brick Italianate retains its granite sills and lintels, which depart from the cast iron window hoods more typically seen among the city's Italianate dwellings, original entry porch with intricate open-work balustrade, oversized scrolled cornice brackets and sunken rectangular panels, and hip roof with interior chimneys. The façade incorporates uniformly-sized six-over-six tripartite windows at each opening – creating a dominate element that distracts from the decorated cornice and porch.⁴¹ An excellent example of fine Italianate residential architecture in the city, the Sutherland-Hite House represents a more common size and scale of dwelling than that of the McKenney Building and would have been found dotting the streets of residential areas during the mid- to late-19th century.

A few of the city's larger Italianate dwellings remain standing, the most similar in scale and finish include the Ragland Mansion (123-0094-0115) and the McIlwaine-Friend House (123-0018), both contributing to NRHP-listed historic districts. Located within the Poplar Lawn Historic District, the Ragland Mansion is a towering urban Italianate villa. The house was constructed in 1859, the same year as Mayor Dodson commissioned what is now known as the McKenney Library across Marshall Street. This 3-story pressed brick Italianate style dwelling built in ca. 1853-56 (remodeled 1888-1889 by Major Harrison Waite) has a central hall layout with a prominent central cupola and one story, three-bay front porch. Like the McKenney Building, the Ragland Mansion is a blend of classical and newly fashionable Italian forms and architectural elements. The upper floors contain central windows that are taller and wider than those on the sides, and feature Venetian-inspired tracery. Cast iron hood moldings top the windows. The cornice features oversized paired scroll brackets that are repeated on the porch and additions. The cupola has a triple window bank with a larger central section.

⁴¹ VCRIS Survey form

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Figure 47. The Reuben Ragland Mansion (23-0094-0115), West Façade, 205 S. Sycamore Street, 2023.

Constructed on a grander scale than the McKenney Building, the Ragland Mansion is an excellent example of a high-style Italianate villa, resembling Villa Lante c. 1586 north of Rome, as well as many forms and ornamentation found in period pattern books. It is one of the few intact brick Italianate houses that remains in good condition in Petersburg, as well as one of the largest dwellings remaining in the city. The Ragland family commissioned multiple houses along S. Sycamore Street in the 19th century, each imposing and prominent among more average size Italianate dwellings in the Poplar Lawn Historic District.



Figure 48. The Reuben Ragland Mansion (23-0094-0115), North Elevation, 205 S. Sycamore Street, 2023.

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The McIlwaine-Friend House on W. Washington Street in the nearby Folly Castle Historic District is possibly the most similar in finishes to the McKenney Library, but the proportions of the McKenney House dwarf those of the McIlwaine-Friend House. With just over 14,000 finished square feet, the monumentality of the McKenney House becomes clear when comparing it to the still large McIlwaine-Friend House at just over 5,000 square feet. While the exterior treatments might appear similar in many ways, the McKenney Library maintains far less exterior Italianate ornamentation than its smaller counterpart.

The McIlwaine-Friend House employs the paired Venetian-inspired arched windows with tracery seen in many other Petersburg Italianate dwellings, even the Ragland Mansion, a common element missing from the McKenney Building. The façade of the building integrates an oversized bracketed cornice, elaborate cast iron window hoods topping round- and segmental-arched pairs of windows, cast iron balconies, and a well-finished one-bay double-arched entrance porch with pendant, paneled square columns, bracketed cornice and heavy iron cresting.⁴² The overall Italianate aesthetic decreases at the rear elevation, where sawn porch balusters and continuing oversized cornice brackets blend with six-over-six rectangular windows, classical columns and capitals, exposed service stair, and connected service building – all evidence of Venetian tracery and cast-iron ornamentation absent. The complex has a similar flow as the McKenney Building with its main block, connector, and service building in the rear, but on a much smaller scale.



Figures 49 and 50. The McIlwaine-Friend House (123-0018), 404 W. Washington St., 1967. (L): Facade. (R): Rear Elevation. VCRIS.

The McKenney Building relies on its imposing scale, height, and stripped-back ornamentation to showcase the decorative details it does have on the exterior. While minimal in comparison, the oversized, more formal blend of classical and Italianate elements against a fairly stripped exterior of the McKenney Building creates a distinct impression that diverges from other Petersburg Italianate dwellings. The property's architectural significance is rooted in its intact main block form, plan, materials, and finishes.

⁴² Survey notes, McIlwaine-Friend House. VCRIS.

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- Apr, 1891. Map. https://www.loc.gov/item/sanborn09056_002/.
- Apr. 1903. Map. http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3884pm.g3884pm_g090561903.

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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 # _____
 recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: Petersburg Public Library Archives

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR #123-0009

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property .29

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: 37.225310 Longitude: -77.402070

2. Latitude: Longitude:

3. Latitude: Longitude:

4. Latitude: Longitude:

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for The McKenney Memorial Building includes .29 acre of primarily cleared, urban land in the City of Petersburg that is historically associated with the building. The rectangular shape boundary follows the property's current tax parcel lines (Parcel ID 022140012) fronting S. Sycamore Street with Marshall Street to the southeast, as shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map. The nominated property is bounded on all sides by urban residential and commercial properties. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached Sketch Map, which has a scale of 1"= 94'.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The nominated boundary of the McKenney Memorial Building includes the property's current parcel lines and the boundary chosen represents the part of the property associated with the building during its period of significance. A historically associated secondary dwelling/carriage house is excluded from the nominated boundary because it is under separate ownership and the boundary division dates to the early 20th century.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: LaToya Gray-Sparks and Joanna C. McKnight
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telephone: 804-482-6446
date: 10/19/2023

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer,

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photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: The McKenney Memorial Building

City or Vicinity: Petersburg

County: Independent City

State: Virginia

Photographer: Joanna C. McKnight

Date Photographed: April 19, 2021; October 27, 2021; March 3, 2023

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

Photo Number	Description	Camera Direction	Date	Photographer
01	0001_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 West Facade	E	3/3/23	JCM
02	0002_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 West Facade	E	4/19/21	JCM
03	0003_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 Southwest Corner	NE	10/27/21	JCM
04	0004_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 South Elevation Basement Entry	NW	10/27/21	JCM
05	0005_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 Entrance Door	W	10/27/21	JCM
06	0006_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 Entry Hall	E	3/3/23	JCM
07	0007_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 Double parlor	SW	3/3/23	JCM
08	0008_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Connection_between_double_parlor_and_porch	NE	3/3/23	JCM
09	0009_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 Double parlor ceiling	NE	3/3/23	JCM
10	0010_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009 Double parlor looking into porch	E	3/3/23	JCM
11	0011_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Porch_looking_toward_the_Ell_and_rear_of_the_main_block	NW	3/3/23	JCM

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12	0012_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 NW Parlor	NW	3/3/23	JCM
13	0013_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 Dining Room	NW	3/3/23	JCM
14	0014_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 East Chamber	NW	3/3/23	JCM
15	0015_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 SE Chamber looking into Ell	E	3/3/23	JCM
16	0016_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 Basement original window	SW	3/3/23	JCM
17	0017_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 Basement SW Room	S	3/3/23	JCM
18	0018_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 Basement SE Room	E	3/3/23	JCM
19	0019_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building123-0009 Basement SW Room mantel	S	3/3/23	JCM

Embedded Images Log

Figure No.	Caption
1	<i>Ell, East Elevation. Scored stucco wall finish. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
2	<i>Southeast corner view showing the enlarged south porch, partial window of the main block, east ell, and brick addition. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
3	<i>West elevation entry porch. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
4	<i>Undated historic photograph from the NW corner of the parcel showing the original entry porch newel posts, balusters, and steps. Photograph located at the Petersburg Public Library Archives.</i>
5	<i>Detail view of east windows on the Main Block and enclosed porch; south windows on the Ell; and frieze detail. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
6	<i>View of the south elevation of the Main Block, Ell, and enclosed porch from across Marshall Street. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
7	<i>1958 addition wing extends from the west elevation of the main block. Image shows how the addition encapsulated the original section of the building. The narrow end of the original building remains intact under a layer of brick, but the original window and hood remain visible. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
8	<i>Image of the west and north elevations of the original main block, from where the 1958 extended. Image from Petersburg Public Library Archives, undated</i>
9	<i>Entry door flashed glass. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
10	<i>Entry Hall ceiling, camera pointing west. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
11	<i>(L) Southwest Parlor, viewed from the Southeast Parlor entry. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>

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12	<i>(R) Southwest Parlor looking into Southeast Parlor. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
13	<i>Southwest Parlor, looking east toward the Southeast Parlor and south porch, c. 1929. Source: Wm. R. McKenney Free Library, "Fifth Annual Report," pg. 7.</i>
14	<i>Hearth tile, Northwest Parlor. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
15	<i>Dining Room, viewed from the central hall entrance. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
16	<i>Wainscoting, Dining Room. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
17	<i>Central Hall Staircase (L): First floor staircase newel post. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
18	<i>Central Hall Staircase (R): Curved staircase and wall details leading up the main staircase from first to second floor. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
19	<i>Northeast Chamber, mantel detail Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
20	<i>South Porch, Interior. Looking toward the East Elevation of the Main Block and the South Elevation of the Ell. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
21	<i>South Porch, prior East Elevation basement exterior door. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
22	<i>South Porch, facing the south wall of the Ell now enclosed by the porch. When the building served as a personal residence, the four-panel door directly in front opened into a Butler's Pantry that connected the Dining Room to the Ell. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
23	<i>Ell, first floor room. The four-panel door would have previously exited toward the separate kitchen and quarters building. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
24	<i>Ell, first floor room. Original window casing and transom remain in place. Camera pointed toward the southeast. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
25	<i>Ell, second story (L): Carved, geometric designs accented with gilded paint. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
26	<i>Ell, second story (R): Encaustic tile hearth at the mantelpiece's base. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
27	<i>Addition, first floor east room. Camera pointed northeast. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
28	<i>Basement (L): Basement level newel post. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
29	<i>Basement (R): Looking east from the base of the Basement stair. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
30	<i>Entry hall, looking east toward the south porch, c. 1929. Source: Wm. R. McKenney Free Library, "Fifth Annual Report," pg. 7.</i>
31	<i>View of the Dining Room, used as a Reading Room, shortly after the Library's opening. Photo undated, Petersburg Public Library Archives.</i>
32	<i>Sketch of the McKenney Library featuring a visualization of the basement entrance, undated. Accessed at the Petersburg Public Library Archives. No publishing information.</i>
33	<i>Children and students preparing for non-violent civil disobedience in Petersburg, Va., 1960. Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960.</i>
34	<i>Children and students preparing for non-violent civil disobedience in Petersburg, Va., 1960. Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960.</i>
35	<i>Children and students preparing for non-violent civil disobedience in Petersburg, Va., 1960. Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960.</i>

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36	<i>Children and students preparing for non-violent civil disobedience in Petersburg, Va., 1960. Howard Sochurek/Life Pictures/Shutterstock https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960.</i>
37	<i>Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker observing training for sit-in harassment, Petersburg, Va., 1960. https://www.life.com/history/life-and-civil-rights-anatomy-of-a-protest-virginia-1960/</i>
38	<i>Virginius Bray Thornton, Founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) having smoke blown into his face a part of training for a sit-in. https://www.cvillepedia.org/File:Virginius_Thornton_sit_down_strike.jpg.</i>
39	<i>Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Petersburg, Virginia. April 1891. The outlined section shows the 1891 configuration of the main house, attached rear ell, slim rear porch, quarters and kitchen building (numbered 120 ½) and what would have been an arrangement of additional secondary buildings that no longer stand.</i>
40	<i>Sanborn Fire Insurance Map from Petersburg, Virginia. 1903. The outlined section shows the 1903 configuration of the connection from the main house to the quarters and kitchen building (numbered 120 ½) that was added.</i>
41	<i>328 S. Sycamore Street (123-0094-0131). This is the only 3-story residence on the west side of Sycamore Street from Liberty to D'Arcy. Google Maps, 2023.</i>
42	<i>Smaller scale Italianate dwellings. Liberty Street. Google Maps, 2023.</i>
43	<i>The Thomas Wallace House (123-0031), 204 S. Market Street. 2021. VCRIS.</i>
44	<i>The Albert L. Scott House (123-0023), 29 S. Market Street. (L): ca. 1950. VCRIS</i>
45	<i>The Albert L. Scott House (123-0023), 29 S. Market Street (R): 2021, Google Maps.</i>
46	<i>The Sutherland-Hite House (123-0006), 606 Harding Street, 2011. VCRIS.</i>
47	<i>The Reuben Ragland Mansion (23-0094-0115), West Façade, 205 S. Sycamore Street. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
48	<i>The Reuben Ragland Mansion (23-0094-0115), North Elevation, 205 S. Sycamore Street. Photograph by Joanna McKnight, March 23, 2023.</i>
49	<i>The McIlwaine-Friend House (123-0018), 404 W. Washington St., 1967. (L): Façade. VCRIS.</i>
50	<i>The McIlwaine-Friend House (123-0018), 404 W. Washington St., 1967. (R): Rear Elevation. VCRIS.</i>

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

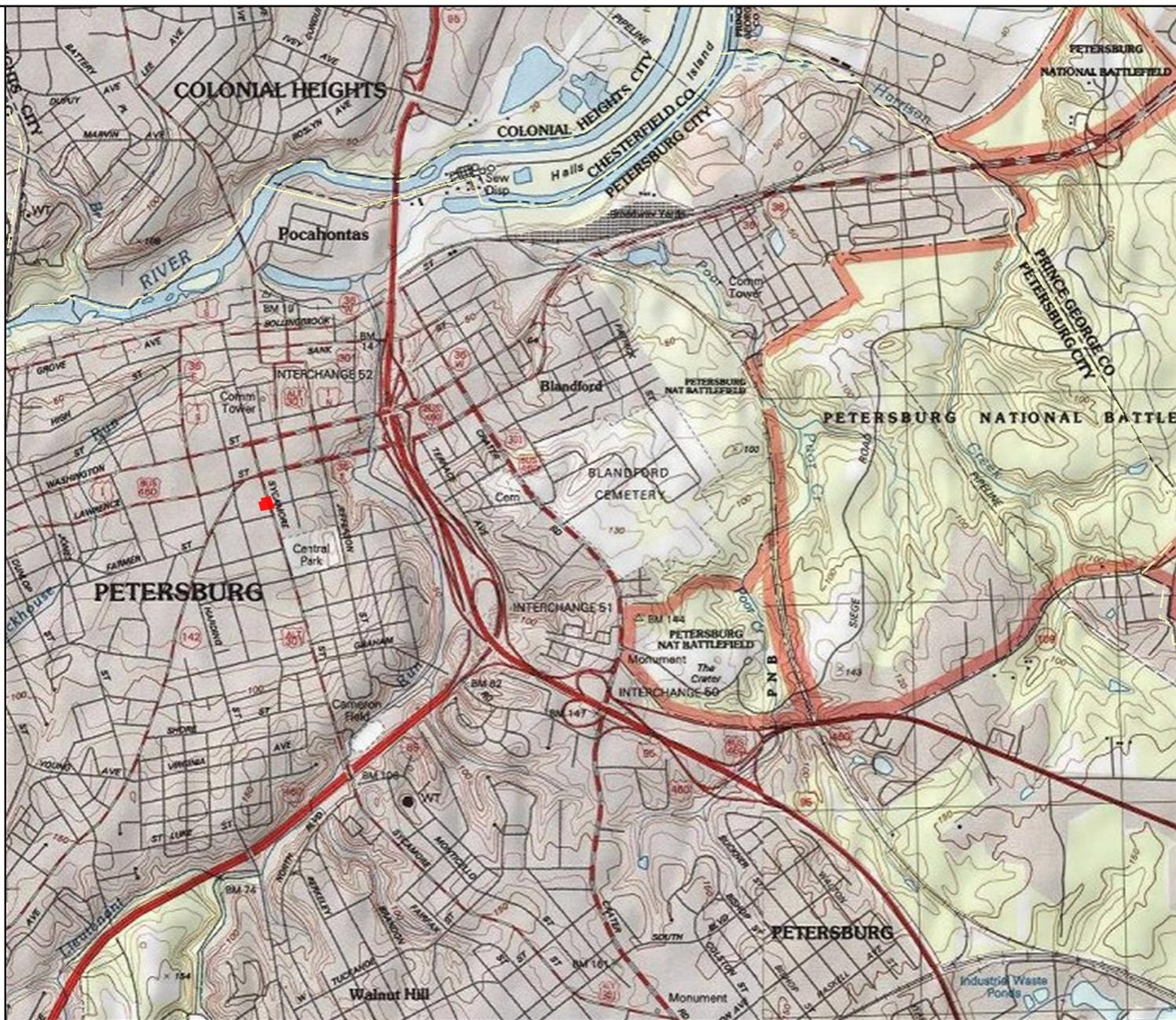
- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

The above estimates include time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and preparing and transmitting nominations. Send comments regarding these estimates or any other aspect of the requirement(s) to the Service Information Collection Clearance Officer, National Park Service, 1201 Oakridge Drive Fort Collins, CO 80525.



Legend

County Boundaries



Feet



1:36,112 / 1"=3,009 Feet

Title:

Date: 11/17/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Legend

 County Boundaries

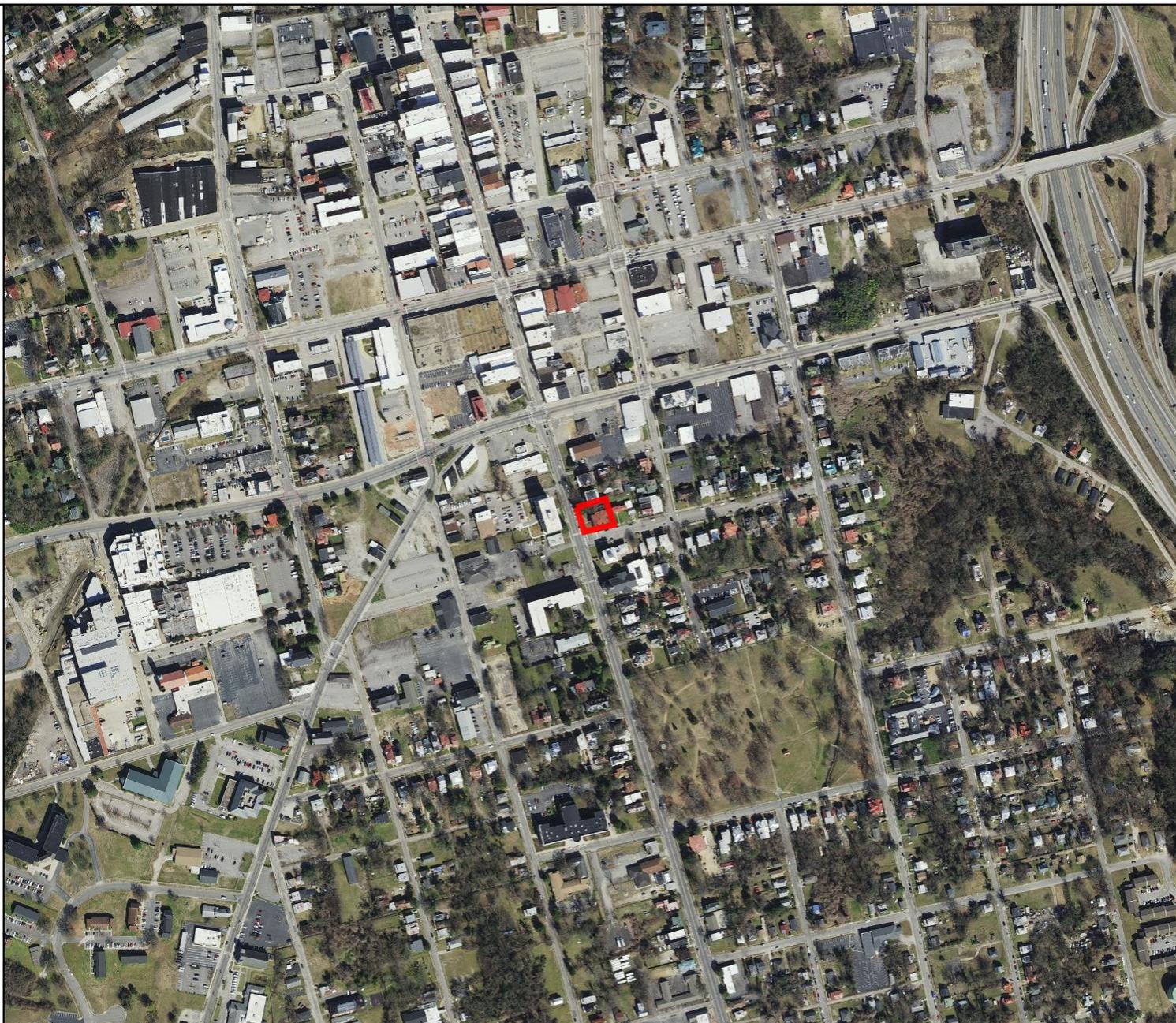
AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

William R. McKenney

Memorial Building

City of Petersburg, VA

DHR No. 123-0009



 **Nominated Boundary**



Feet

0 200 400 600 800

1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet

Title:

Date: 11/17/2023

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Legend

County Boundaries

STREET MAP

William R. McKenney Memorial Building
City of Petersburg, VA
DHR No. 123-0009

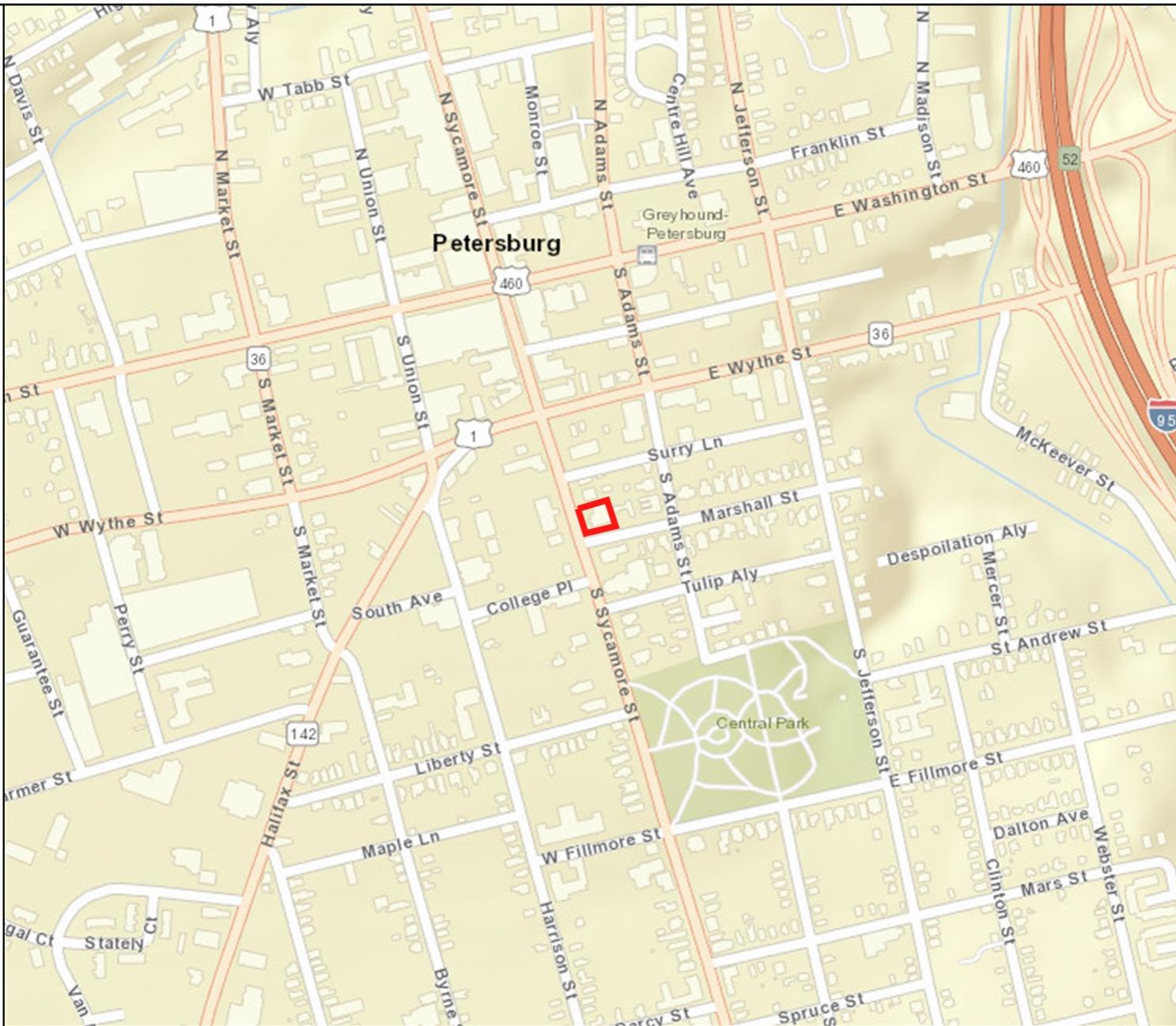
Nominated Boundary



Feet



1:9,028 / 1"=752 Feet



Title:

Date: 11/17/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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Legend

County Boundaries

LOCATION MAP

William R. McKenney Memorial Building

Building

City of Petersburg, VA

DHR No. 123-0009

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

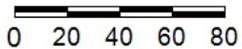
Latitude: 37.225310

Longitude: -77.442070

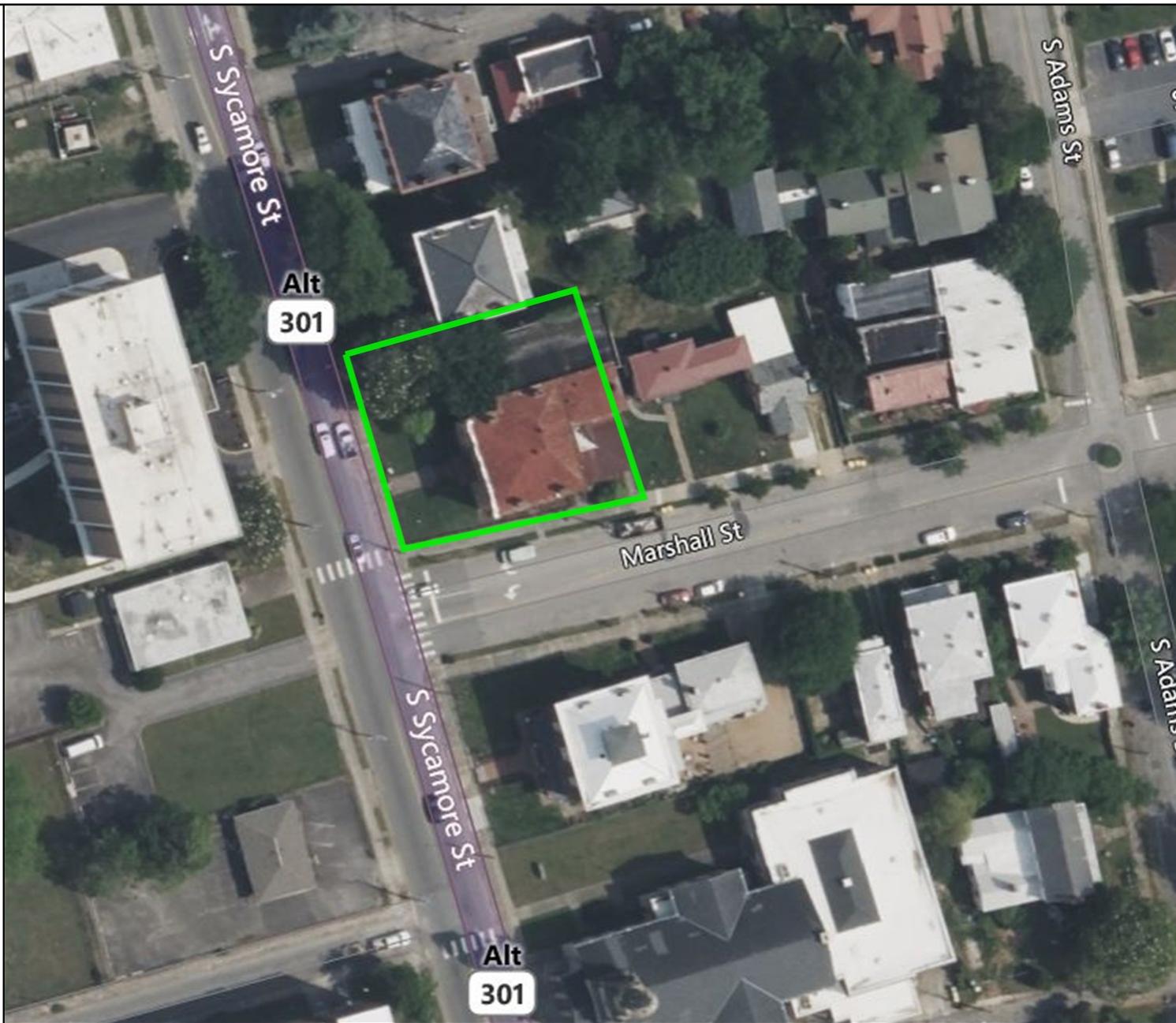
Historic Boundary



Feet



1:1,128 / 1"=94 Feet



Title:

Date: 10/20/2023

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

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Legend

 County Boundaries

SKETCH MAP

William R. McKenney Memorial Building

City of Petersburg, VA

DHR No. 123-0009

1. William R. McKenney Memorial Building (Contributing)

 **Nominated Boundary**



Feet

0 20 40 60 80
1:1,128 / 1"=94 Feet



Title:

Date: 11/17/2023

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Petersburg, Virginia

Legend

 County Boundaries

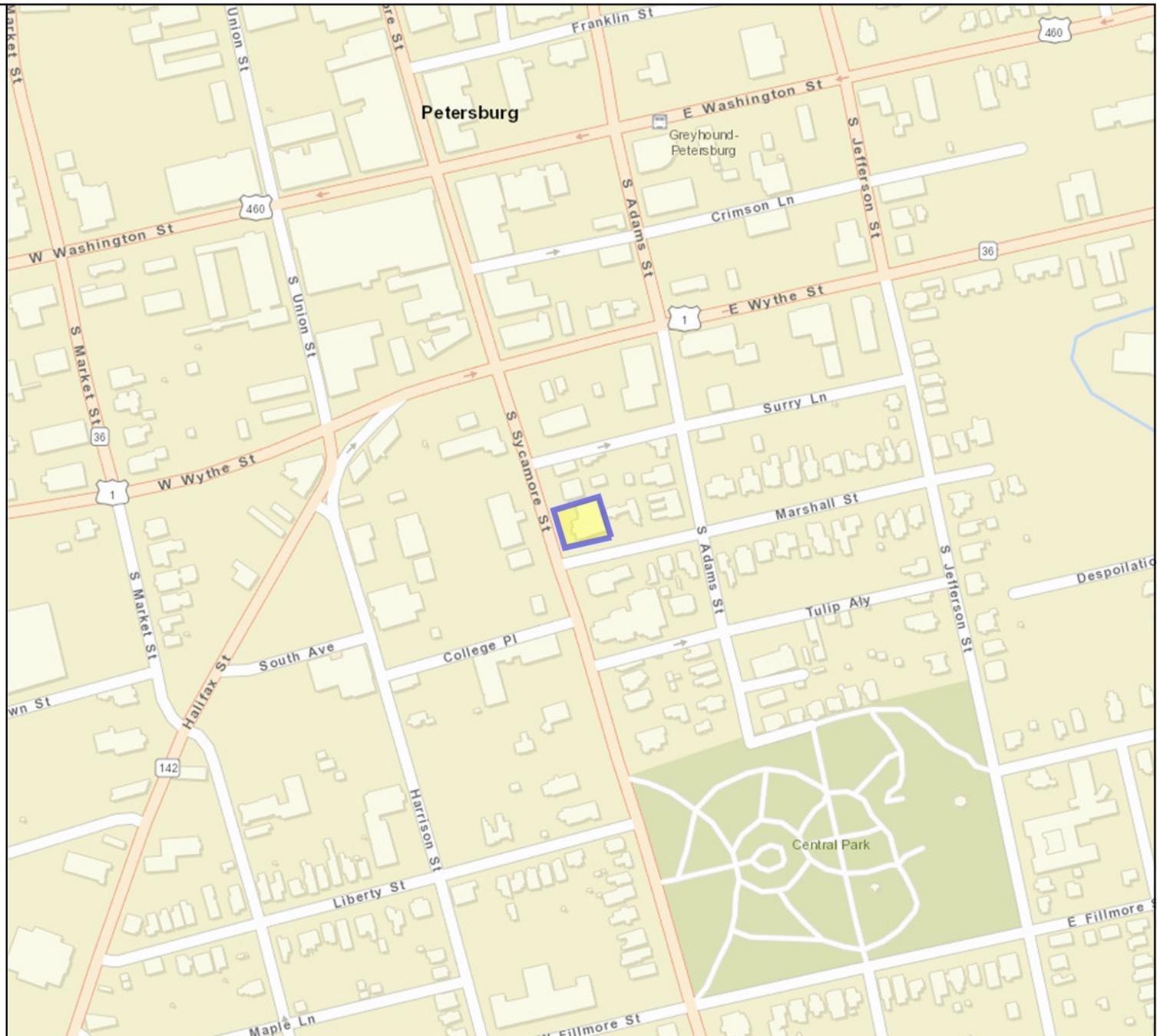
TAX PARCEL MAP
William R. McKenney Memorial Building
City of Petersburg, VA
DHR No. 123-0009

 **Nominated Boundary**



N
Feet

0 100 200 300 400
1:4,514 / 1"=376 Feet



Parcel #: 022140012

<https://parcelviewer.geodecisions.com/Petersburg/>

Date: 9/25/2023

DISCLAIMER: This drawing is neither a legally recorded map nor a survey and is not intended to be used as such. The information displayed is a compilation of records, information, and data obtained from various sources, and City of Petersburg is not responsible for its accuracy or how current it may be.





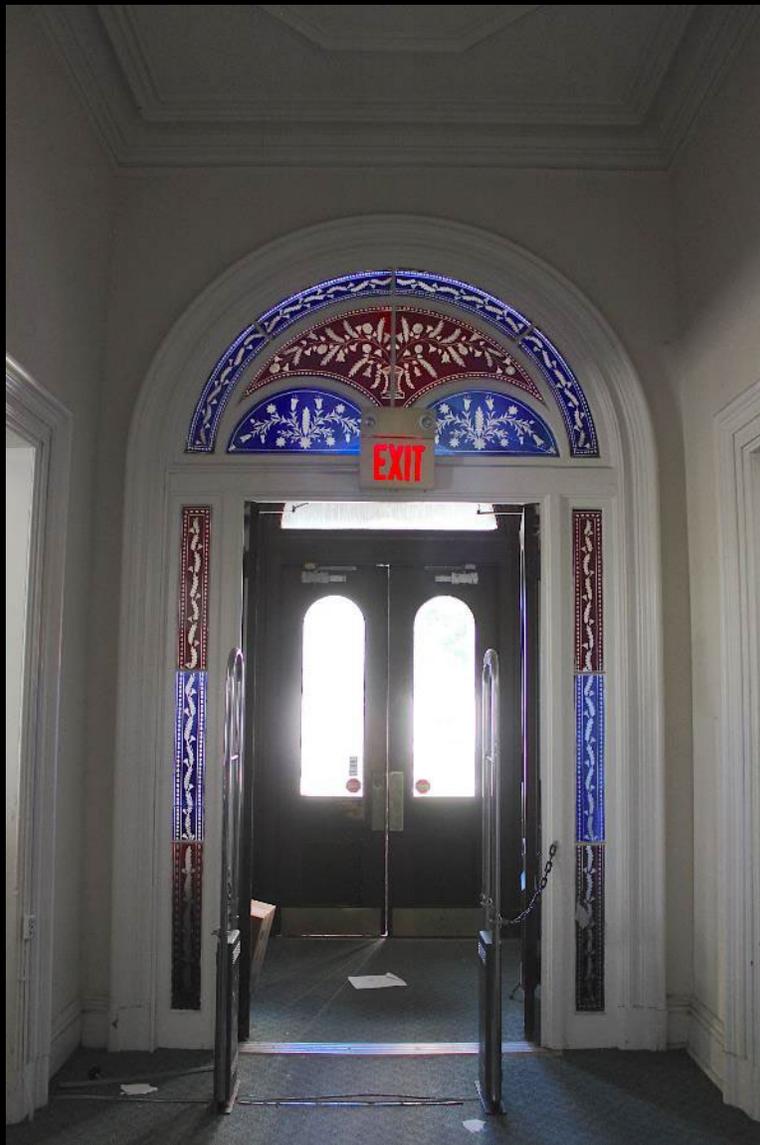
0002_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-
0009_West_Facade



0003_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Southwest_Corner



0004_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_South_Elevation_Basement_Entry



0005_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-
0009_Entrance_Door



0006_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123
-0009_Entry_Hall



0007_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Double_parlor



0008_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Connection_between_double_parlor_and_porch



0009_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Double_parlor_ceiling



0010_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Double_parlor_looking_into_porch



0011_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Porch_looking_toward_the_Ell_and_rear_of_the_main_block



0012_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_NW_Parlor



0013_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Dining_Room



0014_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_East_Chamber



0015_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_SE_Chamber_looking_into_Ell



0016_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Basement_original_window



0017_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Basement_SW_Room



0018_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Basement_SE_Room



0019_VA_Petersburg_McKenney_Memorial_Building_123-0009_Basement_SW_Room_mantel