#### DATA SHEET Form No. 10-300 (Rev. 10-74) UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR FOR NPS USE ONLY NATIONAL PARK SERVICE RECEIVED MAY 3 1976 NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM DATE ENTERED SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS NAME Jackson Ward HISTORIC AND/OR COMMON Jackson Ward Historic District (Preferred) LOCATION (See Continuation Sheet # 29) STREET & NUMBER 5th NOT FOR PUBLICATION CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT Third (David E. Satterfield, III) Richmond VICINITY OF CODE COUNTY CODE 51 (in City) 760 Virginia CLASSIFICATION CATEGORY OWNERSHIP STATUS PRESENT USE XDISTRICT XOCCUPIED AGRICULTURE \_\_MUSEUM \_\_PUBLIC \_BUILDING(S) PRIVATE \_UNOCCUPIED X\_COMMERCIAL \_PARK \_STRUCTURE X\_BOTH X\_EDUCATIONAL ... A PRIVATE RESIDENCE \_WORK IN PROGRESS \_\_SITE **PUBLIC ACQUISITION** ENTERTAINMENT X RELIGIOUS ACCESSIBLE OBJECT XYES: RESTRICTED IN PROCESS GOVERNMENT \_\_SCIENTIFIC \_\_BEING CONSIDERED \_\_YES: UNRESTRICTED \_INDUSTRIAL \_\_TRANSPORTATION \_NO -MILITARY \_OTHER: OWNER OF PROPERTY Multiple Ownership STREET & NUMBER CITY, TOWN VICINITY OF LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Richmond City Hall 900 East Broad Street Lawrence . CITY, TOWN STATE Richmond Virginia 23219

REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS (3) (See Continuation Sheet #1)

X FEDERAL \_STATE \_COUNTY \_LOCAL

STATE

(1) Historic American Buildings Survey

Library of Congress

Washington

1936

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN



EXCELLENT

X GOOD

\_FAIR

#### CONDITION

\_DETERIORATED

UNEXPOSED

RUINS

CHECK ONE
XUNALTERED

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XORIGINAL SITE

\_\_ALTERED

\_\_MOVED DATE\_\_\_\_

#### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Jackson Ward is a visually cohesive residential neighborhood of nineteenth-century townhouses located in the center of Richmond. Covering some forty-two city blocks, the neighborhood has well-defined boundaries. On its northern edge is the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike; its eastern limits are set by a redevelopment area centered around the Richmond Coliseum; the southern edge is defined by the wholly commercial area paralleling Broad Street; and to the west, the neighborhood dissolves into twentieth-century housing of little architectural or historical interest. The streets are laid on a grid plan with the exception of Brook Road which cuts through the district on a diagonal following an old turnpike trace antedating the other streets. The principal streets run east-west and are (from north to south) Duval, Jackson, Leigh, Clay, and Marshall. The north-south cross streets are (from east to west) 5th through 1st Streets, St. James, Adams, Madison, Monroe, Henry, and Gilmer Streets. The western edge of the neighborhood is interrupted by a major four-lane artery, Belvidere Street (U.S. Route 1-301), which, however, has always been a principal thoroughfare. Belvidere Street has been heavily planted with trees and shrubbery in recent years, lessening its impact as a visual intrusion. Trees are thinly scattered on the rest of Jackson Ward's streets with the exception of Clay Street which for most of its course is shaded by a canopy of elms, making it one of the more handsome historic thoroughfares in the city. Clay Street, like nearly all other streets in the area, is lined with brick sidewalks laid in herringbone pattern and bordered by granite curbs.

The architecture of Jackson Ward includes practically the entire range of medium-size townhouse types erected in Richmond from the early nineteenth century to the early twentieth century. Most of the dwellings are row houses with party walls, although free-standing structures are not uncommon. Nearly all are built on small, narrow lots and have front yards ten feet deep or less. Many of the yards are enclosed by ornamental iron fences. A number of houses originally had free-standing kitchens and other outbuildings in the rear, but these have either disappeared or have been incorporated into later wings. The majority of the houses are built of brick; only a few are frame. Ninety percent of the nearly six hundred houses in Jackson Ward were erected in the nineteenth century, and some one hundred of them date prior to the War between the States. One of the earliest is a 1793 gambrel-roof frame cottage, one of only two remaining examples of a once prevalent Richmond type. At least four additional houses date prior to 1820. An especially handsome Federal house is the free standing Addolph Dill House erected in 1832 at 00 Clay Street, one of few houses erected in the city during that decade. The Greek Revival style is well represented by numerous three-bay townhouses with small Doric porches. The large quantity of Italianate style post-Civil War dwellings are noted for their very handsome ironwork porches. Clay Street contains one of the finest collections of ornamental cast iron in the country. The houses of the 1880s and '90s are characterized by their elaborate Eastlake style wooden porches.

The majority of Jackson Ward's dwellings, early and late, were built as middle-class housing; many now are occupied by poorer families and have been subdivided for multifamily occupancy. There is, however, an unusually high percentage (for an inner city neighborhood) of resident ownership which contributes to many of the houses being maintained in better condition than otherwise would be expected for such an area. The more dilapidated houses are situated on the northern edge of the district, near the Turnpike. The houses in the best condition line Clay and Leigh Streets. Despite many pressures, the neighborhood remains remarkably stable. The north side of St. James Street's 600 block is all resident owned with no changes in title having taken place since 1956. (See continuation sheet # 2)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

- (2) Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory
  1957 Federal
  Library of Congress
  Washington, D. C.
- (3) Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey 1967, 1975 State Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 221 Governor Street Richmond, Virginia

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### 7. DESCRIPTION

A contributing factor to the visual cohesiveness of Jackson Ward is the maintenance of consistent scale. Few of the houses are over three stories in height; most are two stories. Many of the blocks are accented architecturally by nineteenth-century churches and other institutional buildings. The major visual intrusions are several bland low-rent apartments and warehouses along Duval Street and a modern firehouse located at the intersection of Leigh Street and Brook Road. A few service stations and small commercial structures are scattered about, but none is over two stories in height. Several block facades have voids caused by buildings lost to fire and parking lots, but the general impression is one of architectural consistency. A few larger commercial buildings are located in the eastern end of the district, but they are unobtrusive. The only fully commercial street, Second Street, has been so for many years, along with part of Third Street. The south side of the 200 and 300 blocks of West Leigh Street was demolished several years ago to create a park, however in the process, a pleasant vista of the Ebenezer Baptist Church and the Battalion Armory was opened up.

Until the past year, little effort had been spent on the preservation or restoration of Jackson Ward structures. Since then, however, the Maggie L. Walker Historical Association has sought to gain, among other things, recognition for the neighborhood. The City of Richmond is currently undertaking an analysis of the district with the goal of maintaining it as a residential area. The Community Development division of the Office of City Planning, while recognizing the impetus of downtown commercial development, has been instrumental in setting up public meetings for Jackson Ward residents for the purpose of discussing plans for the future of the area. It is hoped that the area may someday receive historic district zoning, but as yet, the area's historic structures have no specific protection.

CCL MTP

### Jackson Ward Architectural Inventory

The following is a partial inventory of the more than six hundred structures in Jackson Ward. This inventory lists examples of buildings having major architectural and/or historical significance as well as examples typical of those in an entire block. All of the various architectural types and styles found in the area are included in this list. Furthermore, at least one representative of virtually every block in the district has been inventoried.

(See continuation sheet # 3)

1.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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#### 7. DESCRIPTION

#### West Marshall Street

200 Block

200-208 (north side), Steamer Company No. 5

Firehouse: stuccoed brick, two stories, two three-sided bays flanking entrance. Pilastered bays, ornamental hoods above windows, bracketed cornice, iron balcony above entrance, bell tower removed. Italianate; built 1863. Built on a triangular lot. The site of a fire station since 1850, Steamer Company No. 5 is the oldest remaining firehouse in Richmond.

#### 300 Block

All of the houses on the north side of the block save three are antebellum, Greek Revival structures built between 1848-1855.

300-304 (north side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories, three bays each unit. Greek Revival; 1848. Built for F. T. Isbell.

306-308 (north side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays each unit. Side hall plan, 6/6 sash, stone lintels, rectangular porch, square porch columns. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

312 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  stories with raised basement, three bays. Mansard roof, dormer windows, cast-iron porch. Late nineteenth century. Possible alteration of earlier house.

313 (south side), Barham House

Townhouse: stuccoed brick,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories, three bays. Greek Revival door with side lights and transom, later Greek Revival porch with fluted Greek Doric columns, late nineteenth-century bracketed cornice, 2/2 sash. Built 1817 by William Young. One of earliest houses remaining in Ward.

316 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories with raised basement, three bays. Mansard roof and dormer windows added late nineteenth century, sash altered, first-floor windows shortened, porch columns altered, basement walls stuccoed. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

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#### West Marshall Street (Cont'd.)

400 Block

Included on this block is a collection of houses of both brick and wood construction exhibiting representative styles from the mid- to late nineteenth century.

401 (south side)

Townhouse: frame, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Modillion cornice (also used on porch--box columns with recessed panels, rectangular balusters), two-story service porch on rear wing, 6/6 sash, gable roof. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

410 (north side)

Townhouse: frame, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Coupled porch columns, iron lacework railing, first-floor windows altered, mansard roof added. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

500 Block

This block is composed of brick townhouses in both Greek Revival and Italianate styles, dating from the mid- to late nineteenth century.

503 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Rectangular Greek Revival porch with square columns, 6/6 sash, stone lintels and sills, gable roof. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

#### East Clay Street

300 Block

321 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Georgian Revival; early twentieth century.

319 (south side)

Townhouse: stuccoed brick,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories, three bays. Mansard roof, segmental-arch windows, 4/4 sash, iron cresting, cast-iron porch with grape-leaf-cluster design, one-bay service wing to west probably original. Second Empire; 1870-1880.

317 (south side)

Two-Unit Townhouse: identical to 409-417 West Clay Street, Georgian Revival porch. Late Victorian Italianate; late nineteenth century.

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#### East Clay Street (Cont'd).

315 (south side)

Two-Unit Townhouse: identical to 409-417 West Clay Street. Late Victorian Italianate: Late nineteenth century.

#### 200 Block

East end of north side of block demolished.
214-212 (north side), Southern Aid Life Insurance Company Building.
Commercial Building: brick, four stories. Stone pilasters with stylized
Corinthian capitals, stone entablature with pediments above entrances, symmetrical facade, modillion cornice. Georgian Revival; 1931. The largest commercial structure in Jackson Ward and home of the Southern Aid Life Insurance
Company, Inc.

211 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Pilastered front bays, segmental-arch windows--stone spring blocks and keystones, iron porch with coupled columns, metal box cornice. Italianate; late nineteenth century.

209-201 (south side) Five-Unit Townhouse Row:

Pressed brick, two stories, two bays each unit. No. 205 has twostory rectangular bay terminating in brick pediment; Nos. 203 and 207 flanking have three-sided bays; Nos. 201 and 209 terminate row with round towers; Nos. 207 and 209 retain original door hoods supported on scrolled brackets; No. 205 retains original Eastlake porch; Nos. 203 and 201--brick covered with imitation stone. Queen Anne; late nineteenth century.

204 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Roman Doric porch--fluted columns, box cornice, hipped roof, 6/6 sash. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

202-200 (north side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: stuccoed brick, two stories, three bays each unit.
Bracketed cornice, cast-iron porch with grape-leaf-cluster design. Italianate;
mid-nineteenth century.

#### 100 Block

113-111 (south side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays each unit. Stepped gables, center chimney, Georgian Revival porches. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

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#### East Clay Street (Cont'd).

00 Block

21 (south side)

Store: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Originally a townhouse residence. Italianate; late nineteenth century. Retains excellent set of double exterior Queen Anne style doors with incised geometric patterns in recessed panels.

9 (south side), Mosby Memorial Baptist Church Stuccoed brick, one-story on raised basement, three bays. Tetrastyle pedimented portico with square columns; center bay of portico is entrance foyer with entrances on both sides, steps altered. Greek Revival; circa 1865. Originally Society of Friends Meeting House, sold 1911 to Clay Street Baptist Church, now Mosby Memorial Baptist Church.

Along that portion of Clay Street extending west from the 00 block, beyond Belvidere, and through to the 700 block, there remains, almost completely intact, a mid-to late nineteenth-century residential street. The residences are two to three stories, primarily brick, many with cast-iron or sawn-work porches typical of the period. Iron and wood late nineteenth-century fences outline small front yards. The wide, boulevard-type street lined with elms creates a setting and foreground for these residential blocks.

00 (south side), Dill House Freestanding house: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Brick is laid in Flemish bond with narrow mortar joints; Roman Ionic porch with coupled, unfluted columns and balustrade; 6/6 sash; square corner blocks; hipped roof. Greek Revival; built 1832 for Addolph Dill. Dill was a prosperous Richmond merchant; he constructed one of the few large houses in the city between the years 1819 and 1834.

#### West Clay Street

00 Block

8-14 (north side)

Four Detached Townhouses: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays each unit. Each house nearly identical; Nos. 10-14 have typical Greek Revival porches, both square box columns and fluted columns are employed. Stepped gables; No. 8 ground floor and first floor altered for restaurant. Greek Revival; No. 14 built 1843; Nos. 8-12 built 1847.

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#### West Clay Street (Cont'd.)

15 & 21 (south side), Dill Houses

Townhouses: pressed brick,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  stories with raised basement, three bays. Identical brick houses constructed by Dill; porches with Roman Doric columns; No. 15 has sheaf-of-wheat railings, original sash replaced in No. 15; stepped gables; dormer windows; original lawn between houses has been filled in with late nineteenth-century dwellings. Greek Revival; 1847; builder Addolph Dill. No. 15 was built for Dill's mother; Rev. F. M. Whittle, Bishop of Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in mid-nineteenth century, lived at No. 21.

16 (north side), Hood Temple A.M.E. Zion Church Brick, two stories. Original building had full raised basement with sanctuary above. Side wall unaltered--five bays, brick pilasters, round-headed sanctuary windows, corbelled brick cornice, late Gothic Revival facade and bell tower added (steeple removed). Originally Italianate; 1859; architect, Albert West. Originally the Clay Street Methodist Church.

100 Block (The north side of this block contains 100-block numbered lots; the south side contains both 100-block and 200-block numbered lots.) With one exception, No. 105 recently destroyed by fire, the south side of the 100 block is a typical mid- to late nineteenth-century residential block.

107-111 (south side)

Three-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, three stories, three bays each unit. Stone segmental arches over windows of Nos. 109 and 111, cast-iron front porches, central projecting pavilion. Italianate; late nineteenth century.

123 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, three stories with raised basement, three bays. Typical of many ante-bellum Richmond townhouses remodeled and enlarged in the 1880s; bracketed cornice; cast-iron porch and window hoods, cornice, and third story were added during remodeling. Greek Revival-altered; mid-nineteenth century.

136-138 (north side), Taylor House

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories, two bays each unit. Built as single residence, enlarged 1820-1847, Flemish bond, double hung windows with sidelights-first floor, double round-headed windows--second floor, bracketed cornice. Federal with later alterations; 1820 & 1820-1847; builder Isaac Goddin. Residence from 1836-1856 of James M. Taylor, leader of Richmond Methodism.

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### West Clay Street (Cont'd.)

207-211 (south side)

Three-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories with raised basements, No. 207--two bays, Nos. 209 and 211--three bays. 6/6 sash, bracketed cornice; all three houses have been altered. Greek Revival; 1837-1839; built by James M. Taylor.

213 (south side)

Townhouse: brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Entrance altered. Greek Revival; 1839-1840.

#### 300 Block

305-311 (south side)

Three detached Townhouses: brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays each unit. Detached houses were probably identical when constructed although now are altered. Greek Revival; 1845.

313 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick 2½ stories, three bays. Segmental stone arches above windows, dormer windows. Second Empire; late nineteenth century.

#### 400 Block

An excellent mid-to late nineteenth-century residential block with typical Richmond ironwork porches in grape-leaf-cluster and rope patterns. Houses are primarily two stories. late nineteenth century; many wood and iron fences remain.

405 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Typical late nineteenthcentury Richmond townhouse, cast-iron porch with grape-leaf-cluster design, stone segmental arches above windows, bracketed cornice, iron cresting, iron fence with wreath design. Italianate; late nineteenth century.

409-417 (south side)

Five-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, two bays each unit. Each house facade formed by three-sided bay tower and entrance bay, ornamental segmental-arch stone lintels with keystones above windows, wood canopies above entrances supported by large scrolled brackets, bracketed cornices; No. 417 altered by addition of two-story Georgian Revival porch. Late Victorian Italianate; late nineteenth century.

#### 500 Block

The south side of this mid-to late nineteenth-century residential block contains seven slightly altered Greek Revival townhouses.

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#### West Clay Street (Cont'd.)

503 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Greek Revival porch with sheaf-of-wheat railing, original 6/6 sash, box cornice. Greek Revival; 1857; built for Robert Priddy.

505-507 (south side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, three bays each unit. Simple porches with narrow box columns, later bracketed cornice. Greek Revival; 1857; built for John Beridge.

509 (south side), Brick Layers Union Headquarters

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Typical porch with square box columns, first-floor window changed to door, box cornice. Greek Revival; 1858.

515 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Box cornice with dentil blocks, Georgian Revival porch added. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

517 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Stepped gable, typical porch with box columns. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century; built for John J. Davis.

#### 700 Block

706-708 (north side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, two bays each unit. Wide street elevation, No. 706--entrance altered, No 708--porch added. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

710 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Representative of smaller houses in the Greek Revival style, 6/6 sash, porch altered. Greek Revival; 1845; built for Rosetta Hall.

715-717 (south side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Typical of late nineteenth-century townhouses in the city, entrance bay projects slightly to simulate tower; turned-work porch columns and balusters; fan-shaped column brackets; spindle and sawn-work frieze; late nineteenth century.

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#### Catherine Street

500 Block

517 (south side) Everett House

Townhouse: frame, two stories, three bays. Two-story porch, brick end chimney flush with wall. 1854; built by Peter Everett.

523 (south side)

Townhouse: stucco, two stories, three bays. Brick end chimney flush with wall, one-story shed-roof structure to rear with flush brick end chimney, 6/9 sash first floor, shallow gable roof; mid-nineteenth century.

700 Block

Like the other blocks of Catherine Street, the 700 block contains small brick and frame houses from the mid-nineteenth century to the early twentieth century, typical of the laborers' houses in the area.

705 (south side)

Cottage: frame, one story. Steep gable roof facing street, lean-to wing at east side, massive brick chimney against rear gable, later porch. Early to mid-nineteenth century.

#### East Leigh Street

300 Block

The majority of the north side of this block has been demolished.

308 (north side), Ellett House

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Relatively unaltered townhouse, porch with box columns and with sheaf-of-wheat railing, entrance with narrow sidelights and transom, 6/6 sash, wood lintels, box cornice, retains rear service wing with two-story gallery with square columns and box railing, gable roof. Greek Revival; 1853; built for Charles C. Ellett.

#### 200 Block

215-211 (south side)

Three-Unit Townhouse Row: two stories, Nos. 211 and 213 have two bays each, No. 215 has three bays, sash altered--Nos. 211 & 213--square corner blocks in lintels, box cornice, Georgian Revival porches added to Nos. 211 & 213. Greek Revival; 1842.

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#### East Leigh Street (Cont'd.)

100 Block

This is an excellent example of a substantial, well-maintained late nineteenth-century residential block. All of the houses are two stories, and most are unaltered.

110 A (north side), Maggie L. Walker House Listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register (April 15, 1975), the National Register of Historic Places (May 12, 1975), and as a National Historic Landmark. See National Register of Historic Places nomination form, April 1975.

100 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories with raised basement, round tower, arched entrance bay. Brick porch chamber with dressed stone arch on first floor, balcony with small recessed porch with two round-headed-arch openings on second floor, continuous dressed stone trim on tower forms lintels and sills of windows. Romanesque Revival; late nineteenth century. Important visually as corner element.

#### 00 Block

22 (north side) Sharon Baptist Church Brick, one story with full raised basement, three-part facade. Pointed arch windows, bell tower. Twentieth century Gothic; 1904. Congregation established 1887; the bell tower is an important visual element for the corner.

21 (south side), Old Armstrong High School; Richmond Trade Training Center School: brick, 2½ stories. Brick pilasters at corners, brick belt course, mansard roof, segmental-arch windows first floor, round-headed windows second floor and dormers, four-story corner tower. Second Empire, 1871. Built as Richmond Normal School.

#### West Leigh Street

00 Block

1 (south side) All Saints Pentecostal Church Brick, one story, three-bay front. Steep gable roof with wide dormers, roundheaded, stained-glass windows, rose window over entrance. Romanesque Revival; 1870. Built originally as Saint Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church, important as an example of a small-scale neighborhood church.

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#### West Leigh Street (Cont'd.)

3 (south side)

Store: brick, two stories. Early storefront is intact although first-floor entrance doors removed, modillion cornice with dentil molding. Mid-nineteenth-century commercial.

16 (south side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories. Three-sided bay tower, Georgian Revival porch. Early twentieth century. Residence of A. W. Holmes, Grand Secretary of True Reformers, early twentieth-century founder of National Ideal Benefit Society.

100 Block

There are a number of ante-bellum brick houses on the north side of this block, but most have been significantly altered.

102 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories. Three-sided bay, scrolled-wood entrance hood covered by Georgian Revival porch. Queen Anne; late nineteenth century. Residence of P. B. Ramsey, one of two black dentists in city in 1905.

110 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Turned-work (Eastlake) porch with spindle frieze, segmental brick arches above windows, bracketed cornice. Late Victorian Italianate; late nineteenth-century residence of Miles Debbress, a black civic leader of the late nineteenth century.

112 (north side)

Townhouse: brick, two stories with full raised basement, three bays. Ornate metal window hoods, doors and windows altered. Mid-nineteenth century. 1905 real estate office of John Braxton.

122 (north side) First Battalion, Virginia Volunteers Infantry Armory Armory: pressed brick, two stories. Projecting one-bay central tower with arched opening, flanked by two-bay, two-story wings that terminate in small corner towers; stone watertable, belt course, and lintels; ornate terra cotta frieze, brick battlements. Castellated; 1899.

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#### West Leigh Street (Cont'd.)

200 Block

216 (north side), Ebenezer Baptist Church Stuccoed brick, two stories, three bays. Tetrastyle portico with Ionic capitals added during renovation, square bell tower behind portico, spire removed. Italianate with Georgian Revival alterations; 1870s. First and largest black church in Jackson Ward.

#### 300 Block

300 (north side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Altered. Late Victorian Italianate; late nineteenth century. Residence of H. L. Harris, Grand Secretary of Masons in late nineteenth century. Also one of the residences of John H. Adams, Jr., Common Council member in 1871.

312 (north side)

Townhouse: frame, two stories, three bays. Late Victorian Italianate; late nineteenth century. Residence of Henry J. Moore, contractor and Common Council member in the period 1880-1890.

#### East Jackson Street

The houses on Jackson Street are primarily of a smaller scale (mostly two stories) than those previously described.

#### 00 Block

Northwest Corner of Jackson and First Street (north side)
Three-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, two bays each unit. Entrance with narrow sidelights and transom, small Greek Revival porches, dressed stone sills and lintels, 6/6 sash, passage constructed between two westernmost houses, stepped gables, one-story masonry shed-roof service wing at rear of each house--probably original. Greek Revival; 1850.

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#### West Jackson Street

00 Block

16 (north side)

Townhouse: brick, two stories, three bays. Later porch added to front, two-story frame service wing with exterior end chimney. Greek Revival; mid-nine-teenth century.

18-22 (north side)

Townhouses: constructed originally as three identical brick, two story, two-bay houses, No. 20--stepped gables; No. 22--stepped gables, 6/6 sash; No. 18 raised to three floors late nineteenth century. Greek Revival; 1848. Example of identical row, with one house enlarged and altered in later style. No. 20 was the residence of Ellsworth Storrs, founder of Red Circle grocery chain.

19 & 21 (south side)

Townhouses: frame, two stories, three bays each house. No. 19--brick exterior end chimney; small-scale frame dwellings; mid-nineteenth century.

34-36 (north side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: Frame, two stories. Early twentieth century. Residence of John Shepherd, leading black politician at the turn of the century.

#### 100 Block

101 (south side)

Townhouse: brick, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Flemish-bond walls; two-course watertable; 9/9 sash first floor, Federal architrave; eight-panel door, raised panels with applied molding; late nineteenth-century porch; second floor added or rebuilt. Federal with later additions; 1800-1825.

105 (south side)

Townhouse: brick, two stories, three bays. Flemish-bond walls, late nineteenth-century porch, sash altered, bracketed cornice. Federal; 1800-1825. First black chartered bank housed in this building; also residence of W. W. Browne, founder (in 1881) of the United Order of True Reformers.

133 (south side), Meredith House

Townhouse: frame, two stories, four bays. Eastermost bay--later addition, sash altered 2/2, later porch. Federal; built before 1813; built for William Mann.

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East Duval Street

The north side of Duval Street, with the exception of Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church, was demolished in the 1950s for Interstate 95.

00 Block

25-23 (south side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories, No. 23 has three bays, No. 25 has two bays. Flemish-bond walls, north section probably original, south section completed shortly after, 9/9 sash first and second floors, splayed plastered jack arches, two course, molded-brick cornice, late nineteenth-century porch. Federal; c. 1817.

#### West Duval Street

00 Block

14 (north side), Sixth Mount Zion Church Brick, one story on full raised basement. Round-headed windows; altered 1917, then enlarged by C. Russell who added corner tower. Romanesque Revival later altered; 1887.

Cameo Street

Cameo Street is composed primarily of smaller-scale ante-bellum laborers' houses.

700 Block

709-711 (east side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories, two bays each unit. Center chimney, box cornice, shallow gable roof; mid-nineteenth century.

715-717 (east side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: stuccoed brick, two stories, two bays each unit, center chimney, box cornice, shallow gable roof, brick front stuccoed later. Mid-nineteenth century.

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#### North Henry Street

500 Block

507-509 (east side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, three bays each unit. Twin porches with fluted Corinthian columns, modillion cornices, balustrades; diamond-pane sash, bracketed cornice. Georgian Revival; early twentieth century.

#### North Monroe Street

500 Block

512 (west side), Lacy Raised Cottage Dwelling: brick, one story with full raised basement, two bays. Two-story gallery, 6/6 sash, hipped roof, box cornice. Greek Revival; 1852. One of last remaining raised cottage dwellings in the city.

#### Saint James Street

500 Block

520 (west side)

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three bays. Segmental brick arches above windows, bracketed cornice. Italianate; late nineteenth century. Home of Dr. J. E. Jones, professor at Virginia Union University in late nineteenth century.

600 Block

605-621 (east side)

Ten-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, three bays each unit. Modillion cornice, turned-work porches. Georgian Revival; early twentieth century. Important as an early example of block planning, end units of block project to act as terminals; double house forming middle of block also projects.

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#### North 1st Street

#### 500 Block

This is an intact block primarily of brick, two-story late nineteenth-century Italianate townhouses with wooden, Eastlake style porches.

#### 700 Block

The west side of this block consists of a late nineteenth-century residential two-story townhouse row with bracketed cornices and Eastlake style porches.

#### North 2nd Street

This street traditionally has been the major commercial street in Jackson Ward.

#### 500 Block

513 (east side), Giles Jackson's Law Office

Townhouse: pressed brick, two stories, three-sided tower and entrance bay. Entrance with double ten-panel doors, gabled door hood supported by scrolled brackets with pendants, mouse-tooth brick belt course. Queen Anne; late nineteenth century.

524 (west side), Taylor House

Townhouse: pressed brick, 2½ stories, Mansard roof, three-story tower with elongated domed roof, stone string courses. Queen Anne; late nineteenth century. Residence of W. L. Taylor, leader in the True Reformers.

#### 600 Block

603 (east side)

Commercial Building: brick, pilastered wood storefront, some original trim. Mid-to late nineteenth century. Brown's Photography Gallery, leading photographer in Jackson Ward in late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

#### 700 Block

700 (west side), (former) Richmond Beneficial Insurance Co. Commercial Building: pressed brick, three stories, three-bay front. Entrance flanked by Roman Doric pilasters--segmental arch above with urn and garland decorations, brick quoins, stone jack arches with keystones, modillion cornice. Georgian Revival. One of largest commercial buildings in ward.

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#### North 2nd Street (Cont'd.)

724 (west side)

Commercial building: pressed brick, two stories. Pilastered wood storefront, raised panels on pilasters, original windows with recessed wood panels below; front doors replaced. Italianate; mid-to late nineteenth century. Operated as Leonard's Drug Store from the 1870s through the early twentieth century.

725 (east side)

Townhouse: stucco, two stories, three bays. An early house largely altered, stucco added, diamond-pane sash, Georgian Revival porch, window arrangement altered, four-pane sash windows in gable. Built 1827-1828. Formerly C. P. Hayes Funeral Home.

#### North 3rd Street

500 Block

515-517 (east side), Mitchell House Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, three bays each unit. Bracketed cornice, cast-iron porches, Italianate. One of the residences of John Mitchell, Jr., founder (in 1883) of the <u>Planet</u>, a weekly newspaper.

600 Block

The east side of this block is an extant mid-to late nineteenth-century commercial block.

612 (west side), Tucker Cottage

Townhouse: frame, 1½ stories with raised basement. Gambrel roof with shed dormers of unequal width, two-bay narrow-gable, end facing 3rd Street, 4/4 sash window in gable, three-bay side elevation--sill of easternmost first-floor window is original, beaded siding, end chimney removed or cut down, later additions, raised-seam tin roof, basement walls stuccoed. Vernacular, circa 1792. One of two gambrel-roof cottages remaining in Richmond, moved from original site at 3rd and Leigh Streets.

616 (west side), Third Street Bethel A. M. E. Church Listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register (February 18, 1975) and the National Register of Historic Places (June 5, 1975). See National Register of Historic Places nomination form, January 1975.

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#### North 3rd Street (Cont'd.)

617 (east side)

Commercial building: pressed brick, three stories, three bays. First-floor storefront dates from late nineteenth century; 6/6 sash--second and third floors. Greek Revival; 1850-1860; built by Bernard Good.

623 (east side)

Commercial building: pressed brick, two stories. Metal modillion cornice, cream-colored brick, original storefront intact. Georgian Revival; early twentieth century.

700 Block

The east side of the 700 block was destroyed by the 3rd Street access ramp from Interstate 95, and access to the west side by automobile is difficult. Many of the houses are frame and are deteriorating rapidly.

704-706 (west side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: brick, two stories, two bays each unit. Sash altered 2/2, bracketed cornice, later porch. Greek Revival-altered; mid-nineteenth century.

722 (west side)

Townhouse: frame, two stories. Although significantly altered by the addition of a modern frame wing that obscures the original front elevation, the steep gable roof indicates a late eighteenth- or early nineteenth-century dwelling.

#### North 4th Street

600 Block

611-617 (east side)

Four-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, two bays each unit. Narrow bracketed cornice, interior alley through passage between 615 and 617. Italianate; mid-to late nineteenth century. Small-scale townhouse row.

621 (east side)

Townhouse: frame, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Two story lean-to at rear of building, two exterior end chimneys flush against east wall. Georgian Revival porch. Greek Revival; mid-nineteenth century.

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#### North 4th Street (Cont'd.)

700 Block

708-710 (west side)

Two-Unit Townhouse Row: pressed brick, two stories, three bays each unit. Entrances with narrow sidelights and transom, later porches, box cornice. Greek Revival: mid-nineteenth century.

## North 5th Street

700 Block

700 (west side)

Townhouse: frame, two stories with raised basement, three bays. Porch has coupled columns and cast iron railings, 6/6 sash, bracketed cornice, covered with asbestos siding. Residence of E. R. Carter, member of Richmond Common Council in 1880s. Italianate; mid-nineteenth century.

705 (east side), Fifth Street Baptist Church Brick, one story on raised basement, seven-bay front. Cream-colored brick, pedimented tetrastyle portico. Georgian Revival; 1926. Built to replace an earlier church of 1886; an important building historically and a local landmark.

710 (west side), Ellett House Townhouse: brick, two stories, three bays. Windows altered, Georgian Revival porch, box cornice, shallow gable roof. Greek Revival altered; 1855; built by Charles Ellett. Residence of Dr. James H. Johnston, early President of Virginia State College.

715 (east side)

Townhouse: brick, two stories, three bays. Later cornice added, 6/6 sash, Georgian Revival porch. Greek Revival; built 1853, altered 1860; built by John Reeve.

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Street Name	Inventory Continuation Sheet Number	Photographs Page Number
West Marshall Street	3	1 - 2
East Clay Street	4	3
West Clay Street	6	4 - 6
Catherine Street	10	7
East Leigh Street	10	8 - 9
West Leigh Street	11	10
East Jackson Street	13	11
West Jackson Street	14	11
West Duval Street	15	11 (back)
Cameo Street	15	12
North Henry Street	16	12
North Monroe Street	16	12
Saint James Street	16	12
North 1st Street	17	13
North 2nd Street	17	13 - 14
North 3rd Street	18	14
North 4th Street	19	15
North 5th Street	20	15

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_1400-1499	_ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	CONSERVATION	_LAW	SCIENCE
1500-1599 -	AGRICULTURE	ECONOMICS	LITERATURE	SCULPTURE
1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	X EDUCATION	_MILITARY	X_SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
1700-1799	_ART	ENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
X_1800-1899	X COMMERCE	_EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	_TRANSPORTATION
<u>X</u> 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	_INDUSTRY _INVENTION	X_POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	_OTHER (SPECIFY)

#### SPECIFIC DATES

#### BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jackson Ward is a fine nineteenth-century residential neighborhood and internally one of the least altered in Richmond. The area is broadly significant to students of black, urban, and business history and is unique for having been the center of Negro community life in Richmond during a watershed era for that race and the nation.

During the decades around the turn of the century, when Richmond had powerful credentials for being considered the foremost black business community in the nation, Jackson Ward was the hub of black professional and entrepreneurial activities in the city and the state, The fraternal organizations, cooperative banks, insurance companies, and other commercial and social institutions that figure most prominently in that saga first bore fruit here. The individuals of exceptional vision and talent who nurtured them--the Maggie Walkers, John Mitchells, W. W. Brownes, and Giles B. Jacksons--lived and worked in Jackson Ward.

While Jackson Ward existed as a political subdivision only between the years 1871 and 1905, the name "Jackson" was associated with the area from the 1820s and persists in popular usage to the present. Residents of the area could gather at James Jackson's (beer) Garden, located at Second and Leigh Streets, during the 1820s, and the area north of Broad (then "H") Street was known as "Jackson's Addition" at least as early as 1835 when it was so designated on the Bates Map of Richmond. Giles B. Jackson, the first Negro admitted to the practise of law before the Supreme Court of Virginia and a leading entrepreneur and attorney at the turn of the century, provides yet another instance of the association of the name with the neighborhood.

When in 1871 that part of Richmond bounded on the north and west by the then city corporation limits, on the south by Clay Street, and on the east by Eighteenth Street was established as a separate political subdivision, it was styled Jackson Ward. This was appropriate both for the earlier associations of the name with the area and for the fact hat several other wards bore the names of Presidents. For the remainder of the century, Eichmond had wards named after Jefferson, Monroe, Madison, and Jackson, in addition to larshall and Clay.

The historic district is visually dominated by Greek Revival and Italianate townhouses constructed during the late ante-bellum period and post-bellum houses, many of the latter having elaborate ironwork or carved wooden trim. Indeed, the area contains the largest concentration of decorative cast-iron to be found in the state. These structures are complemented by shady streets and several late nineteenth-century churches. There are also a lesser number of structures dating from the early nineteenth century and others from the twentieth. The early vernacular houses on the north edge of the district are of particular interest. Other more substantial early dwellings are scattered along Marshall and Glay Streets and on adjacent cross streets, with several others at the east-ern end of Leigh Street. Addolph Dill, a highly successful baker, built a number of houses (See continuation sheet # 21)

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES	Live of the state
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of the United Order of the True Reformers, 1881-1905	. Richmond, Va., 1909.
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<u>Directories</u> , City of Richmond, 1819, 1845-46, 1852, 186	0 1969 1970 1005
Dulaney, Paul S. The Architecture of Historic Richmond	Charlottesville Va 1069
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#### SIGNIFICANCE

in the area including his residence at 00 Clay Street (1832). This, like its contemporaries since destroyed, was among the finer homes built in Richmond during the early nineteenth century. Houses such as these stood on large lots and are shown with numerous dependencies on mid-nineteenth-century maps.

The more notable early houses include the plain two-story frame structure at \$130 \text{ W. Jackson}\$ Street built before 1813. It was the residence of a coachmaker, William Meredith, and his family from 1856 until 1897 and later of R. G. Forrester, influential member of the International Order of St. Luke (see below). Among the early examples are the simple brick row at 23-25 East Duval Street and the William Young House (Barham House) at 313 West Marshall Street (both pre-1820). 136-138 West Clay Street was built in 1820 by Isaac Goddin and was the home of James M. Taylor from 1836-1856. Taylor was a well-known auctioneer and property owner as well as being a leader of Methodism in the city.

Black association with the neighborhood dates from the ante-bellum era, when a number of free blacks had their homes in "Little Africa," around the area of West Leigh Street near where Ebenezer Church is situated and in the 200-400 blocks of Duval Street. The frame, gambrel-roof Roper Cottage, at 400 West Duval, was moved to Goochland County in the mid-1950s, when it was threatened by construction of the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike.

Ante-bellum Richmond was attractive to free Negroes who, as a perusal of the manuscript census and tax records indicates, were very resourceful in making jobs for themselves. The late nineteenth-century black commercial renaissance in Richmond was not unrelated to this and other realities of the 1840s and 1850s. One out of eight free Negroes in late ante-bellum America lived and worked in Virginia, and better than one in eight free residents of Richmond was Negro.

Nor, in the case of Richmond, are the free Negroes the whole story. A number of slaves were owned by their own kinsmen, and many more were working outside the orthodox slave regime. Richmond was the center for the hiring out—often the self-hiring out—of slaves: a modification of the system which often provided personal income and private lodging for the slave and certainly encouraged attention to craftsmanship and frugality.

Whatever their legal status, a substantial majority of blacks of working age in antebellum Richmond were acquiring skills and business experience that prepared them for the political and economic opportunities newly available following emancipation. It is perhaps not so surprising that many were able to compete successfully with their fellow craftsmen elsewhere in the country during an era when America experienced great commercial and industrial expansion.

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The Church and auxiliary beneficial societies of ante-bellum times loomed large in the life of the black community through the first World War and beyond. The latter, descended in spirit from the Burying Ground Society of the Free People of Color of the City of Richmond (circa 1815), formed the nucleus for Negro insurance companies. As social institutions, such groups functioned to assuage the pain and fear of life-destitution, illness, loneliness--and of death. They fostered black solidarity and self sufficiency; and the Church, especially, provided the organization and much of the leadership for post-Emancipation activities of Richmond's blacks.

Two daughter churches of old First African Baptist dominated Negro life in Jackson Ward during the generation following the War. Ebenezer Church was formed in 1856 and occupied a small frame church building from 1858 into the 1870s, when the present structure was completed at the corner of Leigh and Judah Streets. A Negro public school operated from the basement of the earlier structure in the late 1860s. In later years, six additional churches evolved from the membership of Ebenezer.

Sixth Mount Zion Church, formed a decade later largely from members of First African, erected their building at 14 East Duval Street in 1888. Their pastor, the Reverend John Jasper, developed a national reputation for his rhetorical skills and strict fundamentalism. He was a natural leader with an indominatable spirit as witness his extensive ministry before and during the War. Jasper preached to vast rural congregations as well as those in Richmond and Petersburg, and to congregations of blacks and whites, including Confederate soldiers—notwithstanding the laws to the contrary or his status as a slave hired out for factory work.

Much to the chagrin of his neighbor, Richard Wells, the pastor of Ebenezer, Jasper developed, as a vehicle for his teaching, a sermon purporting to prove, among other things, that the earth was flat, square, and stationary. "The Sun do move and the Earth am still" outraged Mr. Wells and others of refined and literary sensibilities, the more so for endearing Jasper to thousands both literate and unlettered.

Other notable churches in Jackson Ward include the Hood Temple (formerly Clay Street Methodist Church) Adams and Clay, designed by Albert West, noted Richmond architect of the mid-nineteenth century. The diminutive Romanesque style structure at the corner of Leigh and St. James (St. Philips P. E. Church from 1870-1959) now houses All Saints Pentecostal Church. The much-altered Mosby Memorial Church, located at 9 East Clay Street, was built as a Friends Meeting House in 1866. The church house at Fifth and Jackson Streets was built in 1926 on the original site of old Fifth Street Baptist, founded in 1888. Third Street Bethel A.M.E. Church is listed separately on both the Virginia Landmarks Register and National Register of Historic Places.

During the period which saw the formation of these churches, the small neighboring

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community of ante-bellum free black property owners, entrepreneurs, journeymen, and laborers was transformed: "Little Africa" became one of the most significant and influential black communities in America. The role of the church and the pre-emancipation beneficial societies in this process may be seen personified in the careers of the Reverend W. F. Graham, pastor of the Fifth Street Baptist Church, and the Reverend W. W. Browne, noted temperance reformer; as well as in the spirit of the Independent Order of St. Luke.

Mr. Graham was the founder and president of the American Beneficial Company, later merged into the Richmond Beneficial located at 700 North Second Street. W. W. Browne was founding president of the most famous of the Negro beneficial and self-help societies, the Grand Fountain of the United Order of True Reformers. The True Reformers were chartered in 1883 to establish a mutual benefit fund. By 1889 they had opened a bank at 105 West Jackson Street (Browne's residence), the first black-organized bank to be chartered in the United States.

Giles B. Jackson (with homes--both destroyed--at 205 East Leigh and at 818 North Fourth Streets and his attorney's office at 513 North Second Street) drafted the charter for the True Reformers Bank and assisted Browne, et al; as the Reformers established first a mercantile and industrial association, then a weekly newspaper, The Reformer; a hotel; a home for the elderly; a building and loan association; and a real estate agency. The True Reformer Bank survived the panic of 1893 to become the largest black-controlled financial institution in the country by 1907.

In 1893 B. L. and W. H. Jordan left the True Reformers Bank to organize the Southern Aid Society, which grew steadily, coming into its own with the World-War-I-induced increase of employment and payroll among Virginia blacks. The Southern Aid Society moved from 527 North Second Street to its present building at the corner of Third and Leigh Streets in 1931. The Jordans and other former officers of the True Reformers continued the work of the Order after the latter was disbanded in 1910.

True Reformers had overextended themselves and the resources of their bank in supporting myriad social and commercial activities that provided benefits for a generation of blacks all over the eastern seaboard. The bank and the Order itself collapsed in 1910. The Grand Fountain's headquarters building at 604-608 North Second Street has since been destroyed.

A second major beneficial society of the period was the Independent Order of St. Luke. The St. Luke emulated the True Reformers in founding a bank, weekly magazine, and varied commercial and retail enterprises. The Order had floundered until 1899, when it became the vehicle for one of the most successful careers in modern Richmond history. Maggie Walker (nee Mitchell) was the first woman bank president in the United

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#### SIGNIFICANCE

States. Unlike that of the True Reformers, her St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank continues to the present day in the form of its successor, the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company.

Mrs. Walker's successes--as an educator, philanthropist, and businesswoman--are well known and are fittingly commemorated in the high school which bears her name, the Consolidated Bank, and her home at 110 East Leigh Street. The latter, a National Historic Landmark, is a focal point for current preservation efforts in Jackson Ward.

The subsidiaries of the St. Luke's and True Reformers Orders may stand for many similar business organizations established in the Ward during the half-century following Appomattox. Their beneficial and charitable functions have been superceded by those of national fraternal orders and public authorities, but their contribution to the community and to the careers of many individuals ensure their place in history.

John Mitchell, Jr. and his "worthy rival and yet good friend," Giles B. Jackson, epitomize the nexus of business, fraternal, and political activity existing in Jackson Ward circa 1890-1920. Jackson cultivated the more conservative style; cooperating with the reemergent Conservatives in Virginia politics and devoting proportionately more of his time to Negro industrial growth. He was coauthor of The Industrial History of the Negro Race in America; moving force behind the Negro Exhibit at the Jamestown Tercentennial Exhibition of 1907; and ubiquitous advocate for black business interests at the seats of government in Washington and Richmond.

Jackson figured prominently in True Reformer enterprises (see above) and his personal business activities were extensive. When Jim Crow made its appearance in Virginia, Booker T. Washington turned to Giles Jackson, as to a kindred spirit, for advice on mounting a legal challenge to the new ordinances. Washington might have been less comfortable coordinating efforts with Jackson's neighbor, the flamboyant and fiery John Mitchell, Jr. However radical he sometimes appeared, Mitchell had the intelligence and business acumen to gain prominence in national banking circles. He was at one time an officer and the sole Negro member of the American Bankers Association.

As Grand Chancellor of the Colored Knights of Pythias and editor of the Richmond Planet, Mitchell became a power to be reckoned with in the city for two score years. The Knights, formed in 1880, rapidly gained preeminence among the secret societies in Richmond. These were not unlike contemporary white groups except insofar as their ritual included African elements and their purposes were shaped by the needs and condition of the Freedmen.

From their "Castle" at the corner of Third and Jackson Streets, the Pythians exercised an influence felt throughout the Ward. Whether appearing elaborately costumed and on horseback for parades or somewhat more mutedly providing music for a funeral, the

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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#### SIGNIFICANCE

Knights were an important element of any social event. They provided a color and pagentry still vividly remembered by older residents. It was under the auspices of the Pythians that John Mitchell opened his Mechanics Savings Bank. A contemporary of Maggie Walker's bank, the Mechanics was located at 511 North Third Street, next to Mitchell's Italianate style attached residence at 515-517 North Third.

Mitchell was a leader of the predominantly black Republican organization which, if weak elsewhere, totally dominated the politics of Jackson Ward from 1871 into the twentieth century. Mitchell or his allies, including the Irishman James Bahene, continually represented Jackson Ward on the Common Council of the City of Richmond during the latter part of the nineteenth century.

Among blacks serving on the Common Council in addition to Mitchell were: John H. Adams, Jr., who lived at 300 West Leigh Street, near to his father, a well-to-do contractor since ante-bellum times; Nelson P. Vandervall; and Richard G. Forrester, whose residence at 133 West Jackson was built before 1813 and remains one of the oldest in the Ward. E. R. Carter, resident at 700 North Fifth Street; Henry J. Moore of 312 West Leigh; and Alpheus Roper, 400 West Duval Street, also served on the Council. Josiah Crump served both on the Common Council and as an Alderman; his residence at 736 North Third Street is no longer standing. Councilman S. W. Robinson lived at 18 West Leigh Street, several blocks from 623 North Third Street, which later housed the law office of his distinguished grandson, S. W. Robinson, Jr., now a federal judge.

The younger Robinson served as attorney for plaintiffs in the Prince Edward County desegregation suit decided in conjunction with Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka in 1954. He was also prominent in subsequent suits brought against the Richmond public schools. A half-century earlier, James H. Hayes, an attorney with offices at 414 North Third Street, organized the Negro Educational and Industrial Association to foster a test case against the then newly enacted discriminatory legislation. Jackson Ward continued to provide political leadership even during the time when there appeared to be no black politics.

John W. Mitchell, Jr. throve on adversity. With the appearance of Virginia's Jim Crow laws (commencing circa 1899-1904) involving seating on common carriers, and in response to the disfranchisement following upon the State Constitutional provisions of 1902, he began to espouse a forceful "race rights" policy in the pages of his newspaper. It was apparently the appeal of this program which made the <u>Planet</u> a newspaper of national circulation. The paper merged in 1938 with the Baltimore <u>Afro-American</u> and is still published in Jackson Ward.

Although operating within the context of an uncertain political situation, Jackson

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#### SIGNIFICANCE

Ward retained considerable economic and social strength during the early twentieth century. If Negroes suffered from the fallout of Social Darwinism in the political sphere, they were of the age in their pursuit of wealth and happiness through selfhelp, work, education, and thrift. Whether in spite, or to a degree because, of the separatist philosophy of the day, black entrepreneurs and professional people remained active.

The first generation of the new century was politically bleak. From the time of the elimination of Jackson Ward as a political entity and the failure of the Street Car Boycott (1905-1906) through the adoption of Virginia's strong anti-lynching law in 1928, politics had little "good news" for Jackson Ward or blacks in general. By 1931, the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals began to reverse unfair and irregular application of the existing laws by election officials and registrars. In 1935, blacks began to reappear as veniremen for Richmond courts.

Throughout the intervening period, Negro barbers, continuing a tradition dating back to ante-bellum times, competed successfully for white patronage, as did black haber-dashers, livery stable owners, caterers and restauranteurs. Within the Richmond black community--increasingly synonymous with the area north of Broad from Bowe to Tenth Streets--undertaking establishments, beauty parlors, hotels, building and loan and real estate companies were also highly successful. There were in addition a large number of groceries, repair shops, drugstores, and other small commercial enterprises in and near Second Street

Educational facilities for blacks included Armstrong High School, for many years the only Negro high school in the city. Armstrong was a successor to the Negro Normal School and took over that institution's Second-Empire style building, constructed at First and Leigh Streets in 1871. Virginia Union University (chartered 1900) was developed on a campus just to the northwest of Jackson Ward. It incorporates several formerly independent schools; one, Hartshorn Memorial College (for Women), was located just to the west of the Jackson Ward Historic District from 1884 to 1932.

Many Virginia Union faculty members lived in Jackson Ward, notably Dr. Joseph E. Jones, at 520 North St. James Street, and Dr. J. J. Smallwood, whose residence was at 102 East Leigh Street. Dr. James H. Johnston, long-time educator and an early president of Virginia State College in Petersburg, lived in the Ward at 104 East Leigh Street and later at 710 North Fifth Street. Among their contemporaries, all of the practising black lawyers and the vast majority of medical personnel and other professionals lived and, for the most part, practised in the Ward.

By the middle-third of the twentieth century, the German Catholics of old St. Mary's

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#### SIGNIFICANCE

Parish and the substantial Jewish community of Jackson Ward had joined the exodus begun by earlier generations of whites. In the 1930s, Jackson Ward-as extended substantially to the north, west, and east of the present district-was home to 8,000 black families, and to these alone. It was the center of Negro religious life and education; it was, indeed, the social, economic, and political hub of central Virginia's black population.

Every city has a 'street' that serves as the social, as well as commercial, center of Negro life. Along one or more blocks of second Street in Richmond. . . , the 'crowd' may be found almost every evening. For a block or two everything is Negro; here is a little oasis-- 'our street.'

from The Negro in Virginia, 1940.

Jackson Ward has suffered considerably during the past generation. The northern part of the neighborhood was cut off, with much physical destruction, by the Turnpike developed in the 1950s. The eastern portion has been leveled in favor of the Coliseum and expanded facilities for medical education at the Health Sciences center of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU-MCV). Buffeted by every affliction visited on inner city neighborhoods elsewhere, it has also paid the price of its own success. Segregation in a sense made Jackson Ward, and the leadership nurtured in the Ward helped to unmake segregation.

Virginians have been passing one another for decades: rural people moving in to take the places of young, active city dwellers now removed to the suburbs. The automobile and affluence, compounded in the case of Jackson Ward by changed law and changing custom, have crippled many a historic neighborhood. And yet, Jackson Ward remains the place of residence, of worship, and of business for a substantial portion of Richmond's black community. John Mitchell's successors continue to edit the Richmond Afro-American here. The Vice Mayor and other prominent blacks continue to practise law from offices on or adjacent to Second Street.

Jackson Ward's pleasant residential streets are beginning to attract the attention of persons who recognize the structural and aesthetic value of the period houses to be found there. Efforts to preserve the identity and character of the area are underway.

HPP & MTP

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#### GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The 130 acres comprising Jackson Ward Historic District are bounded by a line beginning at a point in center of intersection of Duval and Belvidere Streets, thence extending approximately 300 feet SW along center of Belvidere Street to center of intersection of said street with alley between Catherine and Leigh Streets;

Thence extending approximately 500 feet NW along center of abovementioned alley to center of intersection of said alley with Gilmer Street;

Thence extending approximately 600 feet SW along center of Gilmer Street to center of intersection of said street with alley between Clay and Marshall Streets;

Thence extending approximately 500 feet SE along center of abovementioned alley to center of intersection of said alley with Belvidere Street;

Thence extending approximately 400 feet SW along center of Belvidere Street to center of intersection of said street with alley between Marshall and Broad Streets;

Thence extending approximately 1000 feet SE along center of abovementioned alley to center to intersection of said alley with Madison Street;

Thence extending approximately 200 feet NE along center of Madison Street to center of intersection of said street with Marshall Street;

Thence extending approximately 400 feet SE along center of Marshall Street to center of intersection of said street with Brook Road;

Thence extending approximately 300 feet N along center of Brook Road to center of intersection of said road with alley between Marshall and Clay Streets;

Thence extending approximately 2000 feet SE along center of abovementioned alley to center of intersection of said alley with Fourth Street;

Thence extending approximately 700 feet NE along center of Fourth Street to center of intersection of said street with Leigh Street;

Thence extending approximately 200 feet SE along center of Leigh Street to center of intersection of said street with alley between Fourth and Fifth Streets;

Thence extending approximately 400 feet NE along center of abovementioned alley to center of intersection of said alley with Jackson Street;

Thence extending approximately 400 feet SE along center of Jackson Street to center of intersection of said street with alley between Fifth and Sixth Streets;

GPO 692 455

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CONTINUATION SHEET #30

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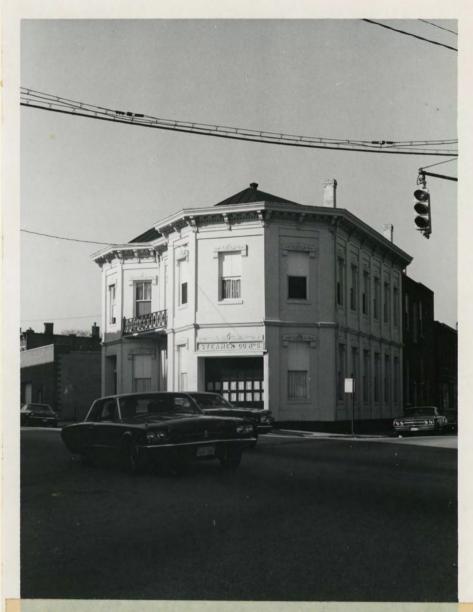
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA (Cont'd.) Verbal Boundary Description

Thence extending approximately 600 feet NE along center of abovementioned alley to beyond center of intersection of said alley with Duval Street to north side of said street;

Thence extending approximately 2000 feet NW along north side of Duval Street to intersection of said street with Cameo Street;

Thence extending approximately 100 feet NE, then approximately 100 feet NW to concrete wall; then approximately 100 feet SW to north side of Duval Street--thus encompassing Sixth Mount Zion Church;

Thence extending approximately 1800 feet WNW along north side of Duval Street to point of origin.



1 of 15 Steamer Co. No. 5, 200-208 W. Marshall, Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks
Commission 1975



2 of 15 300 Block W. Marshall (north side) Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975

Not used



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321, 319, 317 E. Clay Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975 White ....

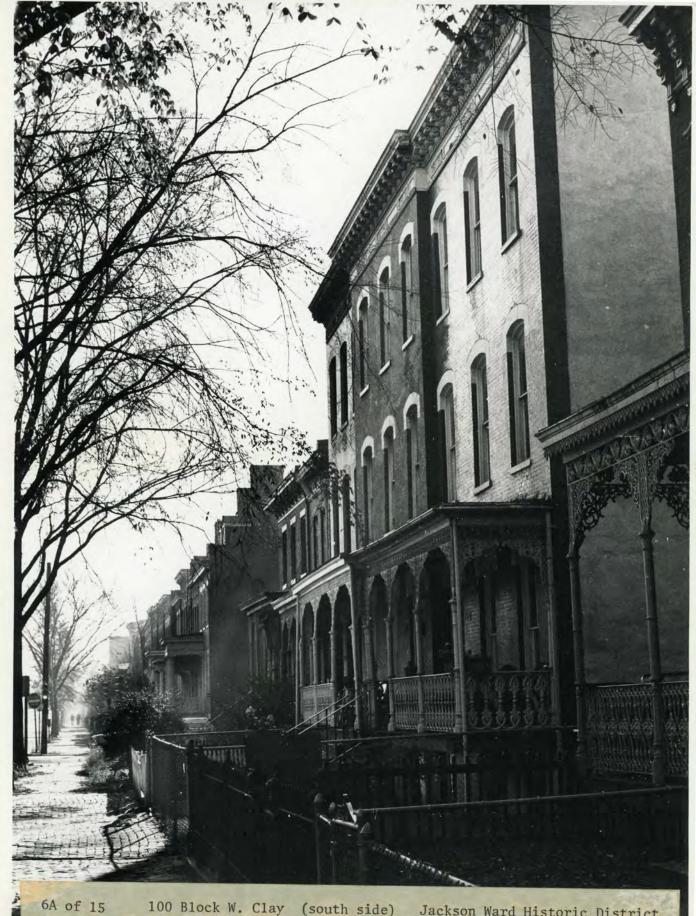


4 of 15 Addolph Dill House 00 Clay Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975



5 of 15 00 Block W. Clay (north side) Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975





100 Block W. Clay (south side) Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission
Richmond, Virginia 23219

JACKSON WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT Richmond, Va./ Credit: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission/ 1975/ Negative Filed: Virginia State Library, Richmond, Va.

MAY 3 1976

100 BLOCK W. CLAY STREET (south side)
Exterior View from NW
6A of 15

PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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James Taylor House 136-138 W. Clay 7 of 15 Jackson Ward Historic Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission District 1975



Commission

8 of 15 St. Philip's P.E. Church (All Saints Pentecostal Church) 1 W. Leigh Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks 1975



9 of 15 1st Battalion, Va. Vol. Infantry Armory, 122 W. Leigh, Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975







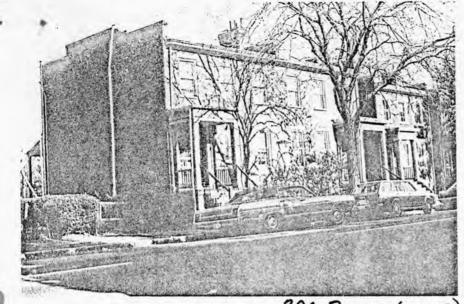




14 of 15 600 Block N. 3rd (east side) Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975

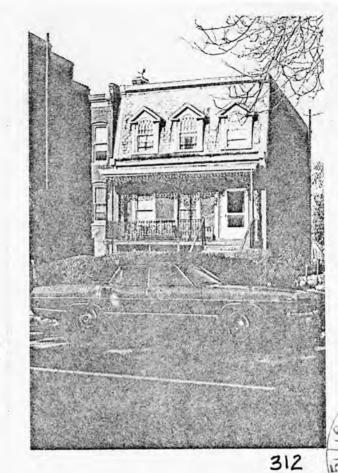


15 of 15 Tucker Cottage, 612 N. 3rd Jackson Ward Historic District Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission 1975



300 BLOCK (N. SIDE)

W. MARSHALL
ST.



JACKSON WARD HISTORIC DISTRIC RICHMOND, VA.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC DATA

ALL PHOTOS TAKEN 1975 BY VIRGINIA HISTORIC LANDMARKS COMMISSION

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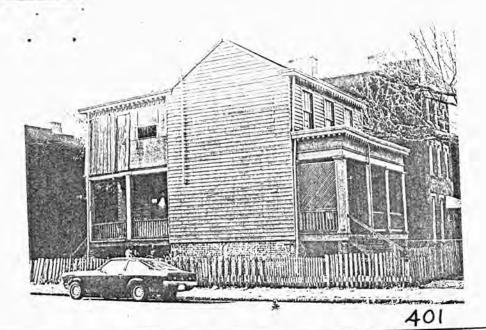
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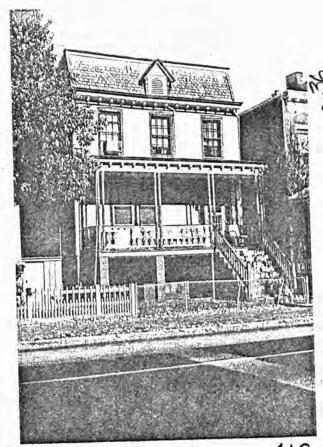
313 (DETAIL)

BARHAM HOUSE



W. MARSHALL ST. >





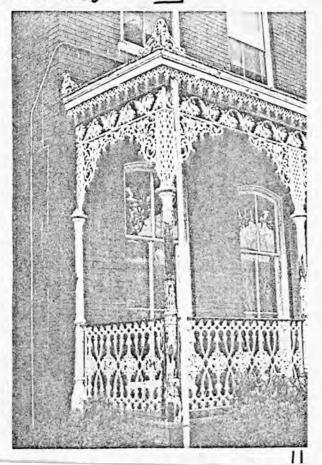


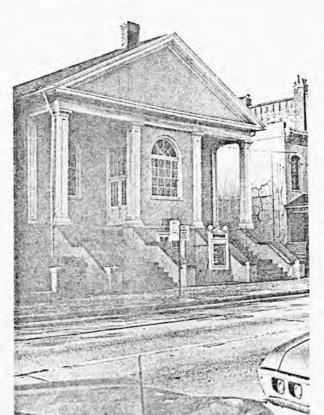


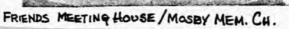
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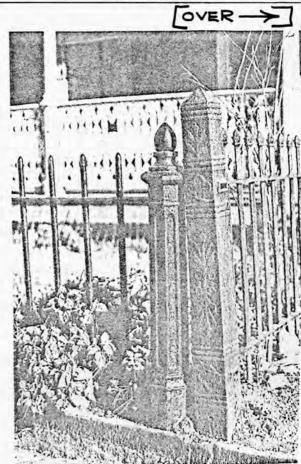
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100 BLOCK (S.SIDE)









IRON FENCE DETAIL





SOUTHERN AID BLDG

EAST CLAY STREET



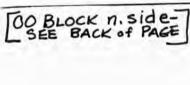


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123

W. CLAY ST.

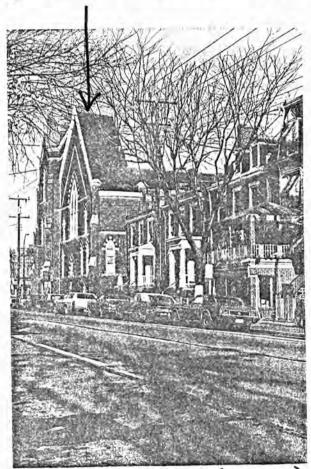
303 OVER->





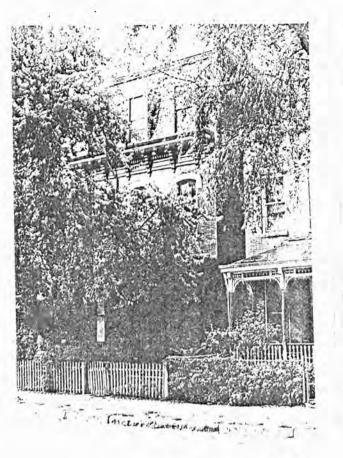
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(HOOD TEMPLE A.M.E. ZION CHURCH)



00 BLOCK (N. SIDE)

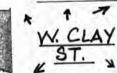
W. CLAY ST.







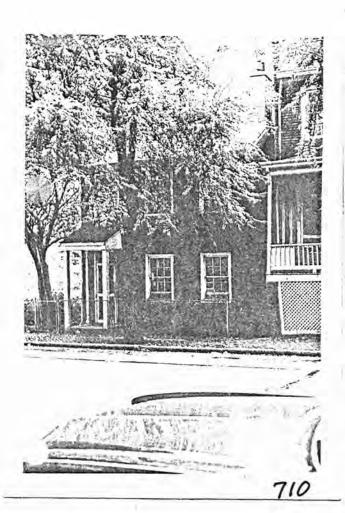
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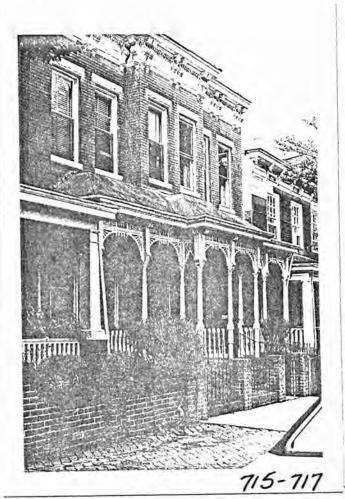


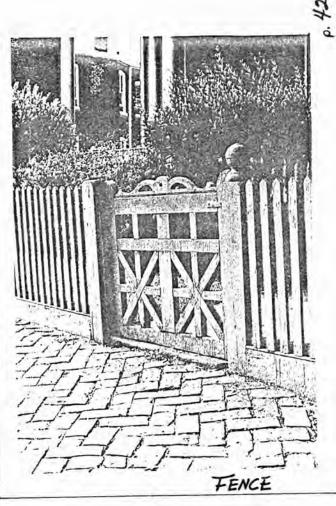


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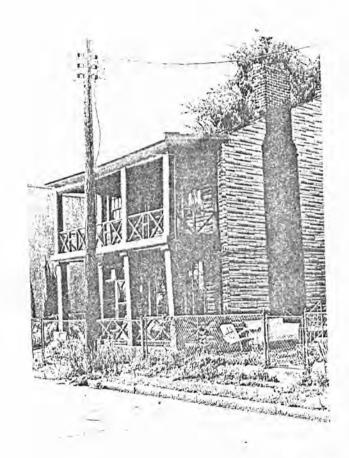
505-507







W. CLAY ST.





← <u>Catherine</u> St.

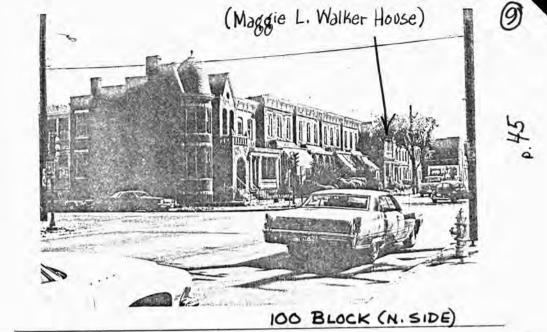


300 BLOCK (S. SIDE)



E. LEIGH ST.



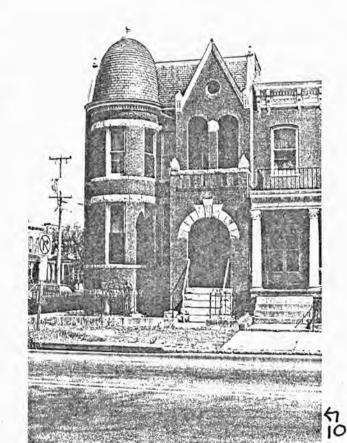


E. LEIGH ST.

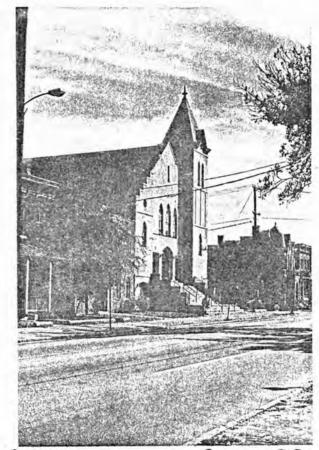
H.S. 21 [22-SEE BACK OF PAGE]



211-215



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SHARON BAPTIST CH. 22

E. LEIGH ST,







100-200 BLOCKS (N. SIDE)

3

W. LEIGH ST.

EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH 216

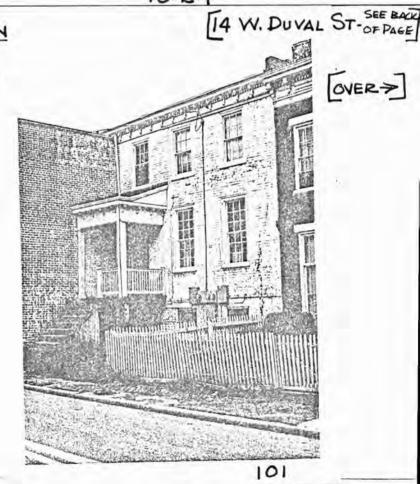




NW CORNER E. JACKSON & 151 STS.

18-24

W. JACKSON ST. (105 - FIRST BLACK BANK)

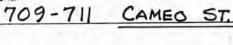


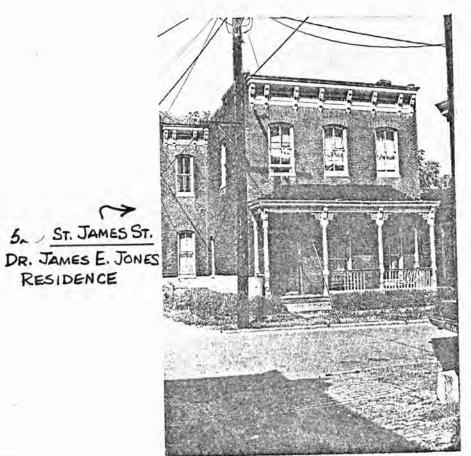
100 BLOCK (S. SIDE)



W. DUVAL ST.









N. HENRY ST. 500 BLOCK (E. SIDE)



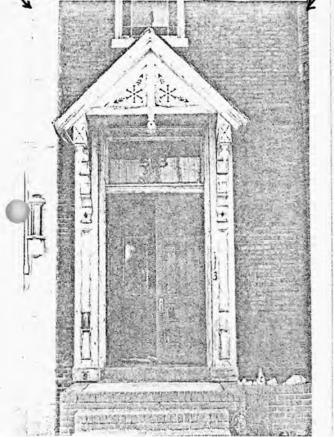
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512 N. MONROE ST.

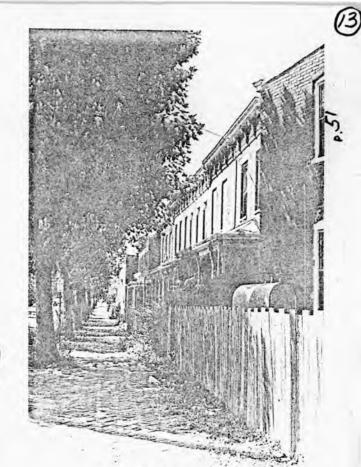


N. 131 ST. - 500 BLOCK (E. SIDE)

GILES JACKSON LAW OFFICE 5/3 N. 2NDST. TAYLOR HOUSE (W.L.) 524 N. 2ND ST.







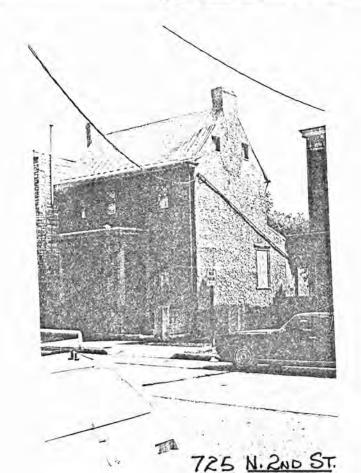
N. 15 St. - 700 BLOCK (W. SIDE)



N. 2ND ST. - 700 BLOCK (W. SIDE)

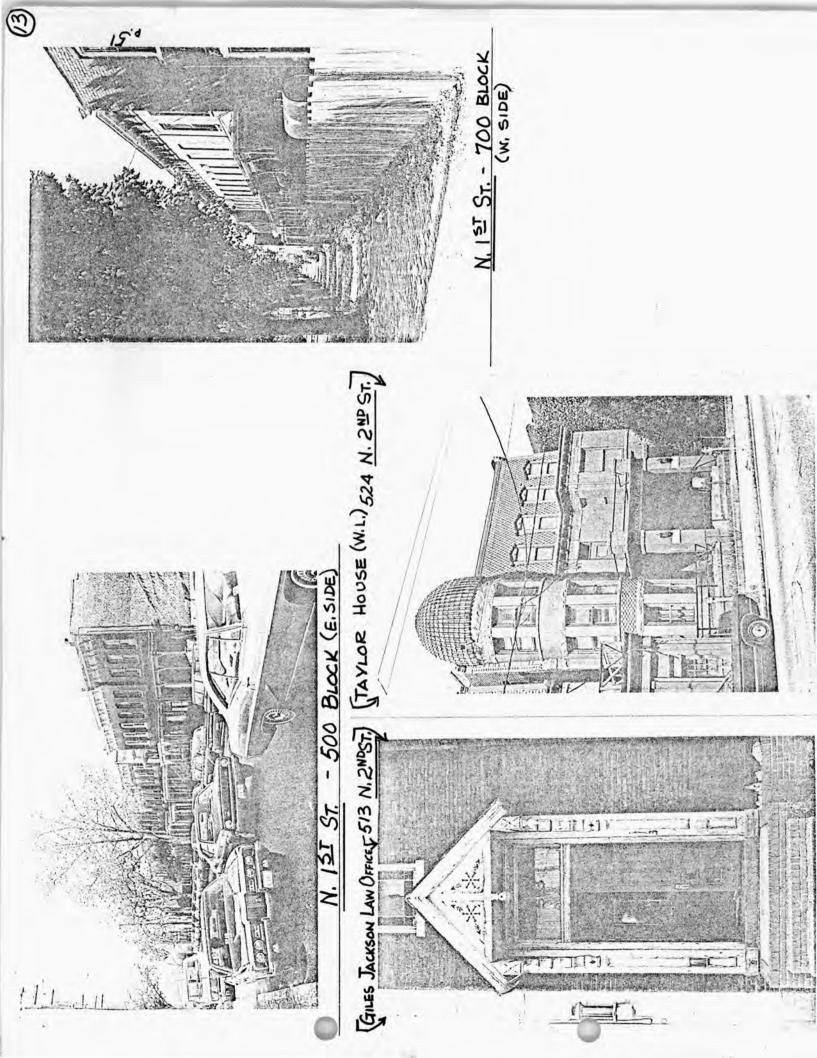


(former) RICHMOND BENEFICIAL INS. CO. 700 N. ZND ST.



(John Mitchell House)

N. 3RD ST. - 500 BLOCK (E.SIDE)

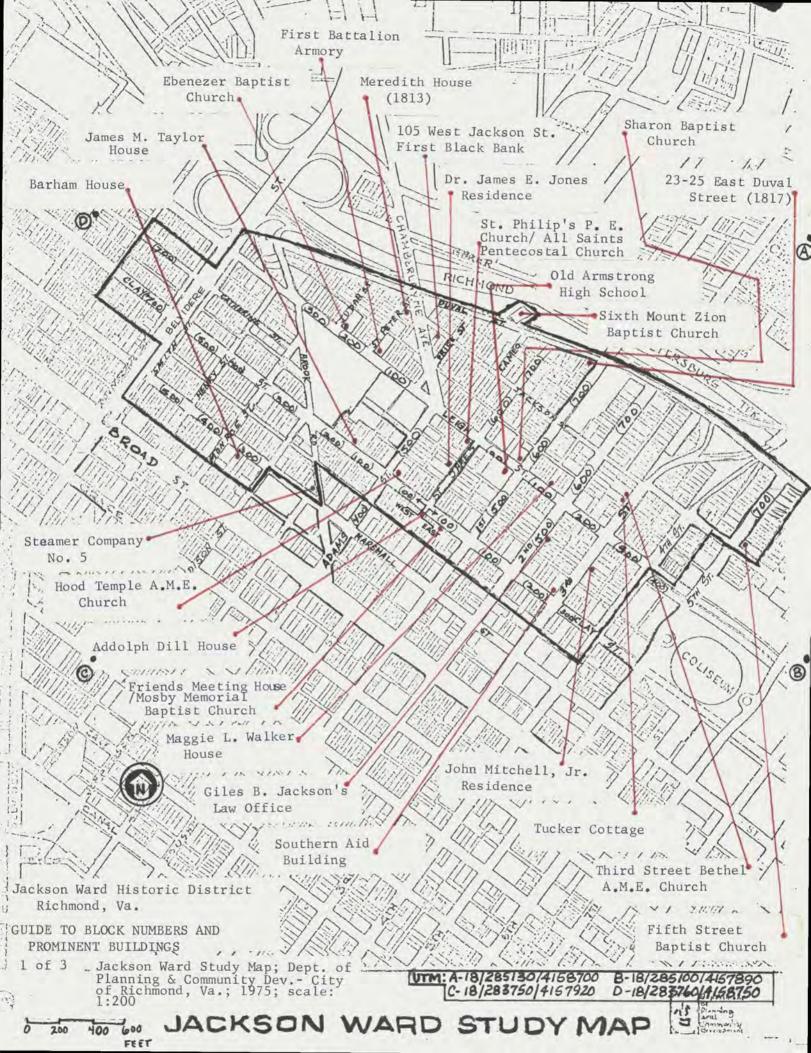




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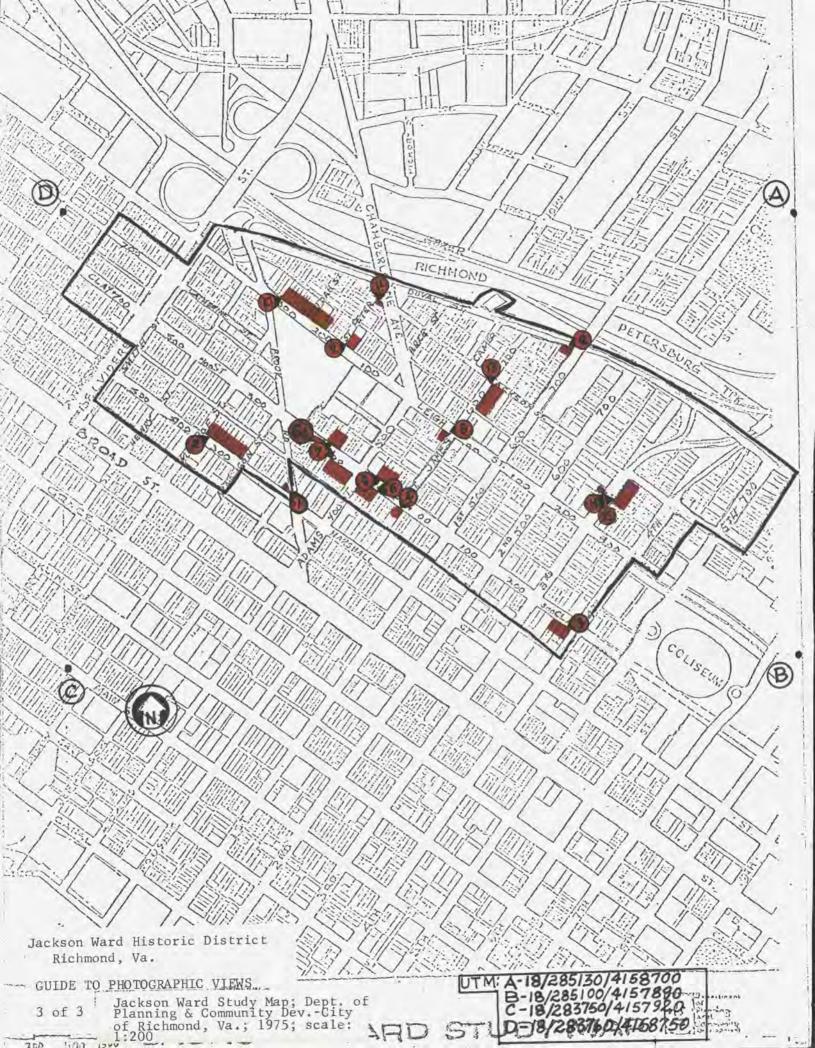
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Jackson Ward Historic District

Richmond (City) VA-3

pg 512



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VIRGINIA

RICHMOND

JACKSON WARD H.D. LEIGH ST.

( DIST SIDE 0-100 BLOCK

4/79

PHOTOGRAPH BY WALTER SMALLING, JR.
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

### National Register of Historic Places

### Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2002

76002187

19NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM



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

1. Name of Property		
Historic Name: Jackson Ward Historic District (	Additional Documentation)	
Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 127	7-237	
2. Location		
street & number <u>roughly bounded by Gilme</u>	r, Marshall, North Third and Leigh St	reets
city or town Richmond		vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA cou	inty Richmond (Independent City)	code <u>760</u> zip code <u>23220</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
? request for determination of eligibility meets the docum meets the procedural and professional requirements set meets ? does not meet the National Register Criteria. nationally ? statewide locally.?? (? See continuation.)  Signature of certifying official/Title  Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources  State or Federal agency and bureau	forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the pro recommend that this property be considered	operty
In my opinion, the property ? meets ? does not meet the	National Register criteria. ( ? See continuatio	
Signature of certifying official/Title		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby certify that this property is: ? entered in the National Register ? See continuation sheet. ? determined eligible for theNational Register ? See continuation sheet. ? determined not eligible for the National Register	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
? removed from the National Register ? other (explain) <u>accept addition a</u>	Patrick Andrews	11/4/2002

Jackson Ward historic District (Additional Documentation) Name of Property		Richmond, Virginia City and State			
5. Classification				7.576 3.003	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)  Category of Property (Check only one box)			Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)		
		Contributing	Non-o	contributing	
private	?	building(s)	3	0	buildings
? public-local		district	_ 0	0	sites
? public-State	?	site	0	0	structures
? public-Federal	?	structure	0	0	objects
	?	object	3	0	Total
Name of related multiple proper	ty listing			r of contributing reson the National Regist	
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part N/A	of a mult	ple property listing.	) <u>N/A</u>	2000	
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions Cat: COMMERCE Sub	s) : Office		(Enter cate)	t Functions gories from instructions OMMERCE	s) Sub: Office
COMMERCE Professional		Н	IEALTH CARE	Office	
HEALTH CARE Office			VACANT/NOT IN USE		
			=		
7. Description			H-K-A		
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions) MODERN MOVEMENT			gories from instructions CONCRETE	3)	
			walls	CONCRETE; BRICE	K
				STONE: SLATE	
			roof	ASPHALT	
			other		

**Narrative Description** 

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

NPS Form 10-900-a

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#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Jackson Ward Historic District is north of downtown Richmond, Virginia in an area roughly described by Duval Street on the north, Third Street on the east, Marshall and Clay Streets on the south and Gilmer Street on the west. This additional documentation is submitted in order to expand the significance of the Jackson Ward Historic District to include the Civil Rights era (1940-1970). A majority of the buildings associated with the institutions and people who contributed to the Civil Rights movement were constructed prior to 1940. Most have architectural or historical significance established in earlier survey efforts. A majority of these properties are typical of the Italianate and Greek Revival buildings found throughout the neighborhood. This amendment identifies buildings specifically associated with African Americans in Richmond who fought to win the civil rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution.

We identify thirteen properties connected with the Civil Rights movement and eight properties associated with community leaders or the business reinvestment within the Ward during this era. Three of these buildings are changed from non-contributing to contributing status. Two of them, the Virginia Mutual Beneficial Insurance Company Building and Doctors Thornton and Howlette Medical Offices are modern buildings designed by local architects. The third, The Sheffield Building, is an Italianate duplex with a prominent one-story modern addition.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

#### Inventory of Historic Buildings in Jackson Ward

The 1976 National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Jackson Ward Historic District includes a general inventory that highlights buildings with particular architectural or historical significance. In 1987 and 1992 the City of Richmond and the Department of Historic Resources coordinated a building-by-building inventory with survey forms documenting the full range of buildings and styles represented in the Ward. Styles in the historic district include mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Greek Revival houses, Italianate dwellings and commercial buildings, an Art Deco theater, and the modern office buildings we propose to add to the list of those considered significant. Since completion of the survey in 1992, dozens of historic buildings in the historic district have been lost through demolition, fire, and neglect. The historic district was placed on the National Trust's 2001 list of America's Eleven Most Endangered Places. Recent loss of the offices at 623 North Third Street, from which Oliver Hill and his law partner Spottswood Robinson prosecuted desegregation cases that were part of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decisions, makes clear the ongoing threat to the most significant landmarks of the Civil Rights era.

#### Where Did the Civil Rights Movement Take Place in Richmond

The Civil Rights movement in Richmond was marked by the intense efforts of Jackson Ward lawyers, businessmen, professionals and others to establish equitable treatment through integration, voter registration, and loyalty to the black-owned businesses. The movement's success was a result of a community of activists who organized and inspired others in meetings, sermons, and social gatherings that took place in historic

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buildings throughout Jackson Ward. The Ward had become the heart of Richmond's African American community during the century following the Civil War. As noted by the National Trust: "Founded by free blacks and immigrants, Jackson Ward became a gerrymandered voting district in the 1870s that kept those groups voting in one area. When early 20th-century Jim Crow laws separated the races, the people of Jackson Ward created a self-sustaining economy that made the area famous as the 'Black Wall Street' and alive with theaters, clubs and restaurants."

With few exceptions, the buildings cited in the following inventory predate the Civil Rights movement. Their style, scale, and material derive from their mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early-20<sup>th</sup> century origins. The three buildings selected for addition to the inventory have a modern aesthetic. In their deliberate choice of contemporary architectural idiom, businessmen Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes, Sr. at the Virginia Mutual Life Insurance Company Building; John Howlette, MD and William S. Thornton, MD at 206 – 208 East Clay Street; and James E. Sheffield, Esq. At 12 – 14 West Leigh Street; boldly asserted a commitment to the Ward's future vitality.

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#### AN INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS IN THE JACKSON WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

The three buildings whose status has changed from "non-contributing" to "contributing" are indicated with a double asterisk (\*\*)

#### First Street, North 400 Block (Even)

420

ca.1880, Italianate, 2-story, brick residence converted to commercial use, stretcher bond, 2 bays, corbelled brick and molded cornice, rock-faced stone lintels, projecting bay, 1/1 windows, central chimney. Law offices of civil rights attorneys Roland Ealey, Herman Benn, and M. Ralph Page in the 1960s. In 1963, the Richmond Branch of the NAACP was located in the building.

### Second Street, North

500 Block (Even)

516 ca. 1900, Italianate, 2-story, brick commercial building, stretcher bond, 2 bays, bracketed cornice, paired 1/1 windows, molded storefront cornice intact. Annex for the Hotel Harris, one of three African American hotels associated with North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street entertainment and nightlife during the 1940s and 1950s.

The Hippodrome Theatre, ca. 1934, Art Deco, 2-story, stucco, symmetrical façade, with paired central entry doors. This theater was a popular entertainment center from the 1930s through the 1950s. The Hippodrome attracted the "greats" of the era, including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and Louis Armstrong.

#### 500 Block (Odd)

537 ca. 1890, Italianate, 2-story, brick commercial building, stretcher bond, 4 bays, pilasters and cornice on storefront, 1/1 windows with segmental arches, bracketed cornice at roof line. Office of Benjamin A. Cephas Real Estate for over thirty years. Cephas was the first African American appointed to the Richmond Public Library Board.

Hotel Eggleston, ca. 1900, Italianate, 3-story, brick hotel, 6 bays, Permastone facing on second and third floors, metal balconies on second and third floors, 1/1 windows with segmental arches. Hotel owned by Neverett Eggleston, Sr. The Hotel Eggleston and its restaurant Neverett's Place were popular meeting spots for Richmond African Americans in the 1940s and 1950s.

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#### 600 Block (Odd)

603

ca. 1900, Vernacular, 2-story, brick commercial building, stretcher bond, 4 bays, plain cornice. This building housed Richmond's premier African American photography firm, Brown's Photography.

#### Third Street, North

600 Block (Even)

614

Third St. Bethel AME Church, ca. 1857, Italianate, 1-story, 4 bays, 1-story front porch of brick and wood with a brick balustrade and Tuscan columns, lancet arch windows with tracery, corbeling and other decorative brickwork, towers on both front corners, gabled roof. One of Jackson Ward's most active churches in the Civil Rights movement. The church was the site for numerous organizational meetings.

#### Clay Street, East 1 Block (Odd)

11

ca. 1878, Italianate, 2-story, brick residence, stretcher bond, 3 bays, 1-story porch with iron posts, brackets, frieze and balustrade, 2/2 segmental-arch windows, decorative vents. Home of Clarence W. Newsome, civil rights attorney with the firm of Hill Tucker & Marsh.

#### 100 Block (Even)

110-112\*\*

The Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company Building was designed by Tiffany Armstrong, architect with David Warren Harwicke & Partners. It was built in 1963 for community leaders and businessmen Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes, Sr. to house their insurance company business headquarters and other tenants, including the neighborhood ABC store. Until the mid-1990s when Jackson Center was built nearby on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, this was the largest office building in Jackson Ward. The Virginia Mutual Beneficial Life Insurance Company Building, at the northwest corner of Second and Clay Streets, has one of the most prominent sites in Jackson Ward. The owners and their architect consciously rejected the idea of constructing a building in a traditional idiom. Their goal was to create a modern structure that would speak to the future rather than the past.

The building has the stripped-down aesthetic of the International Style. A four story rectangular box constructed of pre-cast concrete, the building is organized by windows aligned in the open vertical strips between the shallow projections of the U-shaped wall panels. The base of the building is clad with a slate veneer, except at the south-facing entry elevation. A wall of store-front doors and windows is recessed behind an arcade created by two square columns. Most of the building's interior has been altered over time due to the changes of business and retail tenants. The elevator lobbies are distinguished by beige and blue-green mosaic wall panels and,

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#### Clay Street, East, cont.

110-112\*\* cont.

at the small entry lobby a suspended ceiling of bronze and blue-green, anodized, aluminum squares.

Virginia Mutual Benefit Life's founders were community leaders who supported the Civil Rights Movement with significant financial contributions and business expertise.

#### 200 Block (Even)

206-208\*\*

Doctors Howlette and Thornton Medical Offices. Optometrist John Howlette, MD and podiatrist William S. Thornton hired architect C. Page Highfill of Hyland and Highfill architects in 1961 to design their offices at 206-208 East Clay Street. The project pairs long, narrow one-story buildings along a canopied walk. The buildings are brick boxes, designed in the modern style with very little ornament. Corrugated panels shelter the serpentine walk leading from the property's gated entry to an outdoor fountain centered between the two offices. The narrow garden lining this path is planted with topiary and other ornamental shrubs. The site presents an unexpected oasis in the city. The entry bay in each of the buildings is delineated with a wall panel of painted diagonal siding. In the case of this unusual property, these two understated buildings become a backdrop to the property's primary feature, its garden.

John L. Howlette and William S. Thornton were both prominent doctors and community leaders. Thornton was one of the founding members of the Crusade for Voters.

212-214

Southern Aid Society of Virginia Building, ca. 1910, Renaissance Revival, office building, brick, stretcher bond, 4-story, 7 bays, first floor pediments, Corinthian pilasters, 1/1 windows with arches and keystones, rustication, comice with modillions, parapet roof. Headquarters for the Southern Aid Life Insurance Company and numerous professional offices including the law firm of civil rights attorneys Hill Tucker & Marsh.

#### Clay Street, West 400 Block (Odd)

419

ca. 1883, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2-story, 2 bay, brick stoop, pilasters and entablature around entrance, large bowed window, cornice with dentils and frieze with vents. Home of Earl W. Davis, a Field Representative for the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) who was a leader in the Crusade for Voters.

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in the Civil Rights movement.

movement.

## Clay Street, West cont. 500 Block (Odd)

300 Block (Odd

503 ca. 1850, Greek Revival residence, brick, stretcher bond, 2-story on a raised basement, 3 asymmetrical bays, sidelights and transom at front door, Greek Revival porch with square posts, plain frieze and cornice, 6/6 windows, stepped parapet roof. Home of Roy West, community leader and Richmond Public Schools administrator during desegregation West served on the Richmond City Council and was elected Mayor in 1982.

#### Leigh Street, East 100 Block (Even)

- ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2-story, 3 bays, Neo-Classical porch with Corinthian columns and turned balustrade, 1/1 segmental-arch windows, bracketed cornice with decorative vents. Home of Dr. J.J. Smallwood, professor at Virginia Union University and active
- 104 ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, porch with decorative iron posts, balustrade and brackets, cornice with modillions, shed roof. Home of James H. Johnston, President of Virginia State College, Petersburg, VA, who was active in the Civil Rights
- ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, stone stoop, 2/2 windows, full-length windows on the first floor, bracketed cornice with decorative vents. Law offices in late 1950s of civil rights attorneys Oliver Hill, Martin C. Martin, and James R. Olphin.

#### 100 Block (Odd)

ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, Victorian Vernacular porch with turned posts and balustrade and sawn brackets, double front door, 2/2 segmental-arch windows, bracketed cornice with dentils and decorative vents. First Richmond law office (1939) of prominent civil rights attorney Oliver W. Hill.

#### Leigh Street, West 1 Block (Even)

12-14 \*\* Sheffield Building, ca. 1880 with 1965 addition, Italianate, brick office building, stretcher bond, 2 story, 7 asymmetrical bays, one-story section with fixed sash windows, 2/2 windows in two story section, bracketed cornice. James E. Sheffield moved his law practice to the Sheffield Building in 1965 as part of a larger effort to revitalize Jackson Ward. In 1974, Sheffield became the first African American Virginia Circuit Court judge.

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#### Leigh Street, West, cont.

- 18 ca. 1890, Queen Anne, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, Neo Classical porch with Corinthian columns and simple turned balustrade, 1/1 windows with rock-faced stone lintels, projecting turret, false mansard slate roof. Home of S.W. Robinson successful Jackson Ward real estate attorney.
- Ebenezer Baptist Church, ca. 1858, Greek Revival, brick clad with stucco, Ionic columns form stone and brick portico, arched stained glass windows on sides, shingle roof with pediment gable, cupola with Palladian louvered vents and four spires, iron fence. The 1963 civil rights march on Richmond City Hall to draw attention to inequities in employment opportunities originated at this church.

#### St. James Street 500 Block (Even)

520 ca.1880, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2-story, 3 bays, Victorian Vernacular wood porch 3 bays wide with square posts and balustrade and sawn brackets, full length windows on first floor, 2/2 segmented-arch windows upstairs, bracketed cornice with decorative grills. Home of Dr. Joseph E. Jones, professor at Virginia Union University who was active in the Civil Rights movement.

Richmond, Virginia
City and State

8. Sta	tem	ent of SignificanceApplicable National Register Crit	eria	Areas of Significance	
(Mark	"x"	in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the		tegories from instructions)	
prope		or National Register listing)	ETH	NIC LIEDITACE, Blook	
	A	Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	EIH	NIC HERITAGE: Black	
3	В	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.	Period of Significance 1800 - 1970		
?	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.)		Significant Dates 1970			
Prope	rty i	s:			
3		owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A		
	В	removed from its original location.			
3	C	a birthplace or a grave.			
3	D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation		
3	E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A		
3	F	a commemorative property.			
	G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder		
Narra	tive	Statement of Significance	-		
(Expla	ain t	he significance of the property on one or more continual	ion sheets.)		
		Bibliographical References			
Biblio (Cite t		phy books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this	form on one	or more continuation sheets.)	
Previ	ous	documentation on file (NPS)	Primary	Location of Additional Data	
?	p	reliminary determination of individual listing (36		State Historic Preservation Office	
	C	FR 67) has been requested.	?	Other State agency	
	p	reviously listed in the National Register	?	Federal agency	
?		reviously determined eligible by the National Register	3	Local government	
		esignated a National Historic Landmark	?	University	
?		ecorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	?	Other	
	#		Name of	repository:	
?		ecorded by Historic American Engineering	-		

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#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jackson Ward, the historic heart of Richmond's African American community, was profoundly involved in and affected by the civil rights struggle. It was the locus from which dozens of desegregation cases were filed by the law firms of Hill Robinson & Martin, and later Hill Tucker & Marsh. The Ward served as an incubator for black businesses. Excluded from participation in white civic and business affairs, blacks developed interdependent relationships that gave rise to businesses whose success garnered political and economic clout to the black community. The business and political leadership nurtured in the Ward helped to unmake segregation.

Jackson Ward is significant on the national level under *National Register Criterion A* for its critical role in the Civil Rights movement. The Historic District meets *Criterion Consideration G* because of the broad significance of the Civil Rights movement in our nation's history. This extension of the district's period of significance, 1940 to 1970, begins at the time when Jackson Ward's civil rights strategy had matured among the black leaders and action resulted. The era continues through the years of the Civil Rights movement and ends in 1970, the year District Court Judge Robert R. Merhige handed down his landmark ruling that students would be bussed to achieve racial integration of public schools.

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### **Jackson Ward's Historic Designation**

The Jackson Ward Historic District was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in April 1976 and the National Register of Historic Places in June 1978 because: "The area is broadly significant to students of black, urban, and business history and is unique for having been the center of Negro community life in Richmond during a watershed era for that race and the nation." In June 1978, the exceptional significance of Jackson Ward was formally recognized when it was awarded National Historic Landmark status. The neighborhood was comprehensively surveyed by Tyler Potterfield with the City of Richmond and David Edwards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1987 and 1997. The 1976 Nomination Form authored by Margaret Peters, Calder Loth, H. Peter Pudner, and Joseph Yates, notes that the Period of Significance for the Jackson Ward Historic District extends from 1800 – 1899 and from 1900 (with no concluding year). This addendum proposes to specifically extend the period of significance to include the Civil Rights Era beginning in 1940 and to designate 1970 as the period's terminus.

#### Background

Segregation developed in Jackson Ward due to restrictive public policies and local attitudes concerning the rights of African Americans following the Civil War. By 1940, the Ward had become home to approximately 5000 African Americans. It was the heart of Richmond's black commercial, cultural, and religious life. In effect, Jackson Ward functioned politically and economically as a "separate city" within the larger metropolis. Following the example of Maggie Lena Walker and the reconstruction era organizations that grew out of the black churches and fraternal organizations, black citizens of the Civil Rights era continued to give back to

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strengthen their community. They took pride in their race, and ultimately banded together to overcome obstacles imposed by both legal segregation and the equally limiting de facto, or customary segregation.

Ironically, as monumental achievements were made by Jackson Ward attorneys litigating civil rights cases through the court system, Richmond's city planners forever altered the physical fabric of the community through an expansive urban renewal program. Residents could do little to influence the path of the proposed roads and Jackson Ward soon found itself bisected, both vertically and horizontally, by the broad concrete expanses of the I-95 expressway and the Belvidere Street extension. Though urban renewal removed some of the area's most blighted residential properties, it also demolished the physically cohesive community. By 1970, the impact of the city's urban renewal program and blacks' recently won civil rights became evident as many businesses closed or relocated. But even as the physical fabric was lost, the black community continued to identify with Jackson Ward. As a result, efforts to revitalize the neighborhood are underway so that the Ward can nurture another proud generation.

The years 1940 to 1970 represent an era of unprecedented black achievement as successful litigation brought the integration of public schools and African Americans were elected and appointed to numerous political and judicial positions for the first time in our nation's history.

#### Prominence in the fight for Civil Rights

#### Litigation

Jackson Ward was the locus from which dozens of desegregation cases were filed by the law firm of Hill Martin & Robinson, later Hill Tucker & Marsh. Senior partner Oliver W. Hill served as head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Virginia legal defense team. Over time the firm has operated out of several offices, all located within Jackson Ward. The initial thrust was to prove that the Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) decision, which had established 'separate but equal,' was unconstitutional. Hill and partner Spottswood W. Robinson III represented the plaintiff in the Prince Edward County desegregation case Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County (1951). This case became one of five that formed Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954). Hill and Robinson joined New York NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall in successfully arguing Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas before the United States Supreme Court, thus effectively ending legal school segregation.

Virginia's response to *Brown* was to create policies that collectively became known as "Massive Resistance." Hill's firm vigorously filed law suits opposing the legislature's efforts to perpetuate segregation. In a 1999 interview, Hill stated that suits were filed against Virginia school systems in sixty jurisdictions—representing more litigation than any other state in the Union. Among the acts of Virginia's General Assembly were the Gray Plan (1956) that provided tuition for private school and empowered School Boards to determine pupil school placement and the Stanley Plan (1956) composed of thirteen actions designed to prevent integration. Hill and his legal team responded by filing cases against school boards in Arlington, Norfolk, Newport News, and Charlottesville. Before these cases could be settled, the General Assembly moved to establish independent Pupil Placement Boards. Within the year, Hill successfully obtained a court order temporarily stopping this practice in Richmond. However, the test came when, as the 1958 school year began, six African American

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students were denied placement in the all white school of their choice. Attorney Martin A. Martin (partner in Hill Martin and Robinson) represented the plaintiffs in this case *Warden v. Richmond School Board* (1958). Though no settlement was reached until 1961, success was achieved in August 1960 when two African American students were admitted to all white Chandler Elementary School.

Another Richmond School Board tactic to prevent integration was to create "dual attendance zones." Eleven African American parents filed a class action suit to challenge this procedure in *Bradley v. Richmond School Board* (1961). Attorneys Samuel W. Tucker and Henry Marsh III of Hill Tucker & Marsh successfully argued this case and in 1963 the Freedom of Choice Plan was established. However, few students chose to attend a school outside of their district and due to Richmond's segregated residential patterns, schools remained segregated. Tucker and Marsh filed the pivotal case leading to Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr.'s 1970 landmark ruling in which he ordered the bussing of black and white students to schools outside of their neighborhoods in order to stimulate racial integration of public schools. The ruling would have a profound effect on Jackson Ward and on the nation at large.

Civil rights cases originating from the offices of Jackson Ward attorneys were not limited to school desegregation. Three other examples involved public school teachers' salaries, courtroom seating, and segregation of restaurants. In 1941, Hill teamed with fellow NAACP attorneys Leon Ransom, District of Columbia, and Thurgood Marshall, New York, to represent the black Richmond Teacher's Association in obtaining black teacher salaries equal to those paid white teachers. Immediately upon hearing the suit had been filed, the Richmond School Board passed a pay parity plan. In 1963, the firm of Ealey & Page successfully represented the plaintiff before the U.S. Supreme Court whereby the Court ruled that segregated seating in courtrooms was unconstitutional. The offices of attorneys Roland D. Ealey, and M Ralph Page were located at 420 N. 1st Street (JWHD, NHL)<sup>4</sup>. Also in 1963, Hill associate Clarence W. Newsome represented student demonstrators who had been arrested during a lunch counter demonstration.

#### Voter Registration

Litigation was but one tool used by Richmond's African American population to gain their civil rights; voter registration was a second method. In 1936, only 1,527 blacks were registered to vote. Increasing this number was difficult as many blacks felt their vote did not count. By 1940, through efforts of Jackson Ward dentist Jesse M. Tinsley, President of the Richmond branch NAACP, and Roscoe C. Jackson of the Democratic Voter's League, the number of blacks voting rose by 50 percent. The progressive mayoral candidate Gordon B. Ambler won, with the support of the black vote. During his administration, he began to address long-standing community problems. The power of the vote was not lost on Richmond's black citizens and in 1948 they helped elect attorney Oliver W. Hill as the first African American to serve on the City Council since Reconstruction.

In the wake of *Brown*, Virginia's legislature mounted an offense against both school integration and the organizations that fought for integration—particularly the NAACP. In 1956, the Richmond Crusade for Voters was founded to sustain the NAACP's efforts in registering voters. Founders were William S. Thornton, John Mitchell Brooks, and William Fergusen Reid. The Crusade's voter-registration campaign during 1957 was known as the "Miracle of Richmond." The drive resurrected an antebellum tradition whereby one black taught

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another to read. The motto "each one teach one" now became "each one reach one." The highly successful campaign resulted in a 30 percent increase in black voter registration by 1958. Alarmed by the success of the voter registration campaigns, the Virginia legislature introduced "blank sheet" registration under the guise of testing literacy. The Richmond Afro-American, the Richmond Planet countered from its offices at 301 E. Clay Street (now demolished) by launching a "Boomerang for Bigots" program aimed at educating blacks on how to fill in the blank form thus lessening the impact of the blank sheet registration maneuver.

The organizational minds behind the Crusade were educated black professionals who met daily in strategy sessions. Many meetings were held at Slaughters Hotel at 527-529 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (now demolished) and later at the 533 Club next door (now demolished). The commitment was substantial since the Crusade's goal was not only to register voters, but also provide voter education, endorse candidates, establish precinct clubs, and provide transportation to the polls. By the 1962 city council elections, the Crusade had become so effective that seven of the nine candidates it endorsed were elected. In 1966, African Americans represented 48 percent of Richmond's population and 34 percent of all registered voters.

Critical to the voter registration and other civil rights campaigns were the city's black churches—fifteen of which were located in Jackson Ward. These churches, particularly Fifth Street Baptist Church, 705 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (now demolished), Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, 616 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (NRHP)<sup>7</sup>, and Leigh Street African Methodist Episcopal, 500 E. Leigh Street (now demolished) were the location for mass meetings. But all churches were critical to the effort, with their pastors playing key rolls.

Non-violent protest

Both the Richmond Branch and Virginia Chapter of the NAACP had their offices in Jackson Ward. NAACP staff worked zealously with professors and students at Virginia Union University, pastors, and local businessmen in organizing civil rights protests. Individual actions also garnered attention. As early as 1939, local NAACP president Jesse Tinsley and his wife Ruth defied Richmond's social conventions by entertaining First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in their home at 531 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (now demolished). Richmond's first organized protest occurred in February 1960 when students from Virginia Union University staged the first "sit-in" at F. W. Woolworth's lunch counter. Other lunch counters targeted included G. C. Murphy, Thalhimer's, and Peoples Service Drug. Later, while picketing Thalhimer's department store, three blacks were arrested. Those arrested included Ruth Tinsley, whom though not picketing was standing near the store and refused to comply with a police officer's order to "move on." By June 1963, sixty restaurants had dropped racial barriers. Demonstrations continued through the year. In August, picketers marched from Ebenezer Baptist Church, 216 W. Leigh Street (JWHD, NHL), down Broad Street to demand increased job opportunities within city government. And later, between 300 and 400 demonstrators gathered at the black YMCA, 214 E. Leigh Street (now demolished), for a bus caravan to D.C. to join the March on Washington.

Richmond's demonstrations differed from those in other states in that they proceeded with few arrests and without violence. But Richmond had not been a passive player in the Civil Rights movement. It has been suggested that the leaders of Richmond's Civil Rights movement were primarily conservative businessmen who had learned to work within the system and who had confidence in achieving the goal through legal means. 9

What is evident is that local black leaders were effective in devising strategies that achieved the desired

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outcome without provoking violence. Their actions contributed significantly to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Important local successes resulting from their efforts are the "firsts" for African Americans who worked and lived in Jackson Ward.

- 1948 Oliver W. Hill became first African American elected to the Richmond City Council since Reconstruction
- 1953 Booker T. Bradshaw elected as first African American on the Richmond School Board
- 1964 Spottswood W. Robinson, III became first African American appointed as a judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington. In 1966, Robinson became first African American appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
- 1964 Dr. William Ferguson Reid and Dr. William M.T. Forrestor became the first African Americans admitted to the Richmond Academy of Medicine
- 1964 Benjamin A. Cephas became first African American appointed to the Board of the Richmond Public Library
- 1966 William Ferguson Reid became first African American elected to General Assembly in modern times
- 1966 Henry Marsh III elected to the City Council and in 1977 became Richmond's first African American Mayor
- 1974 James E. Sheffield appointed as first African American Virginia Circuit Court Judge

#### **Prominence of the Business Community**

The Jackson Ward business community, with Second Street as its heart, developed as a result of local African Americans' determination to preserve their access to goods and services even as the white community was busy erecting Jim Crow laws to limit such access. Early key businesses, such as Maggie Walker's St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank (NRHP, NHL), and the Southern Aid Society (JWHD, NHL), had grown out of fraternal organizations and self-help societies with ties to the black church. By example, these institutions established a precedent—that business owners would give back, reinvest in their community. This commitment is clearly noted in the financial support and organizational acumen that businessmen provided to the Civil Rights movement. It is also seen through the expansion of individual businesses that reinvested in the physical fabric of Jackson Ward by building new structures and redeveloping old.

Coupled with a business's obligation to the community was the black consumer's responsibility to support local black establishments. Local pastor Dr. Gordon Blaine Hancock, Moore Street Baptist Church, noted that because blacks "possessed little political clout, national, state, and local governments could ignore their complaints... By spending where possible in Negro enterprises, the Negro could at least provide jobs for some members of his group and, at the same time, use his leverage as a consumer to coerce white merchants to hire Negroes." Dr. Hancock coined the phrase "Double Duty Dollar" to express this concept. Similar economic solidarity campaigns of the time included the NAACP's "Buy Black", frequently advanced in the black newspaper the Afro-American and Richmond Planet, and "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work." The emphasis on taking pride in and reinvesting in one's race became for many a natural thought pattern and

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Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number 8 Page 17

ensured a vibrant, supportive community even as daily experiences resulting from Richmond's staunch segregationist policies were severely limiting.

For the black business owner, profitability remained a challenge, as black businessmen had to overcome competition from white business owners, who frequently had both the capital and credit to offer wider selection and better prices, and also an increasingly blighted streetscape created by overcrowding and poverty within the Ward. In spite of these challenges, black owned businesses in Jackson Ward, and particularly along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, thrived. Few consumer needs would have gone unfulfilled as businesses included established insurance and financial institutions, the offices of emerging young professionals, funeral parlors, real estate offices, hotels, restaurants, clubs, theaters, and service providers including barber and beauty shops, repair shops, dry cleaners and tailors. Residents remember the Jackson Ward of the 1940s and 1950s as "jumpin" and never closing.

Among Jackson Ward's established insurance companies were Richmond Beneficial Life Insurance and Southern Aid. In keeping with the self-help tradition, two insurance men Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes Sr. established the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in 1933; with headquarters in the Southern Aid Building at 214 E. Clay Street (JWHD, NHL). Over the next thirty years their business thrived and expanded to Washington D.C. and other Virginia cities. In the early 1960s plans were developed for a new headquarters building. Desirous of being a positive force within the Jackson Ward community, Bradshaw and Townes purchased property prominently located on the corner of Second and Clay Streets for their building and employed progressive Richmond architect Tiffany Armstrong. At a time when Jackson Ward's commercial center was declining, Bradshaw and Townes gave Armstrong instructions to design a building that conveyed their faith in Jackson Ward's viability as a commercial center. The Virginia Mutual Benefit Insurance Building at 110-112 E. Clay Street was dedicated in 1963 and remains a symbol of the achievements that earned Jackson Ward the reputation as "the Black Wall Street" in the 1900s. Its founders were leaders in the community serving on numerous boards. Their individual achievements include Mr. Bradshaw's election to the Richmond School Board in 1953, the first African American to serve in that capacity since Reconstruction, and Mr. Townes being cited by President Eisenhower for his service to the Department of Commerce's Advisory Committee on Minority Business Development.

Prominent financial institutions included the Consolidated Bank and Trust, successor to Maggie Walker's St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank. In 1966, Consolidated's president J. Jay Nickens, Jr. co-founded the Richmond Improvement Coordinating Council. The Council, noting that 75 percent of Richmond's black population was low income and unskilled, assisted these individuals, through education, to obtain better jobs and housing conditions. In current times, Consolidated continues to exert influence in the Jackson Ward community from its prominent building at 327-329 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (constructed in 1974, after the proposed period of significance).

During the Civil Rights era, numerous young black professionals established practices in Jackson Ward. Because Virginia colleges would not admit African Americans to their graduate programs, many students had received tuition assistance from the legislature to study out of state. They now returned and began dismantling the system that had enabled a segregated society. Most prominent among these was Oliver W. Hill who established a law practice with Spottswood W. Robinson III and Martin C. Martin in 1943. Their firm Hill Robinson & Martin was located first in the Consolidated Bank & Trust Building at 327 N. 1st Street

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

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(demolished) and later at 623 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (demolished). During the 1960s, when Samuel W. Tucker and Henry L. Marsh III joined forces with Hill, their firm Hill Tucker & Marsh was located in the Southern Aid Building at 214 E. Clay Street (JWHD, NHL). In addition to these firms' monumental success in litigating desegregation cases, the individual attorneys also achieved prominence. S. W. Robinson became the first African American to be appointed a judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington (1964). Later he was the first African American judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (1966). In 1977, Henry Marsh III was elected as Richmond's first black mayor. In 1999, Oliver Hill was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition for his role as one of the "lions" of the Civil Rights movement. In 2000, Hill received the American Bar Association's highest award in recognition for his leadership in the Civil Rights movement.

Attorney James E. Sheffield, moved to Jackson Ward in 1965 when he chose to become part of the area revitalization effort. He purchased a vacant and dilapidated building at 12 - 14 West Leigh Street to house his law practice. The redevelopment project expanded the structure toward the street to accommodate additional office space. Other professional offices relocating to the Sheffield Building following this remodeling were those of attorney Harrison Bruce, physician Charles Cummings, and dentist Anthony Malloy. In 1974, attorney Sheffield became the first African American to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in Virginia.

Among the notable doctors and dentists establishing a practice in Jackson Ward were podiatrist William S. Thornton, optometrist John L. Howlette, physician William Fergusen Reid, and dentist Jesse M. Tinsley. Dr. Thornton and Dr. Howlette established their practices at 415 North 2nd (now demolished) in the 1950s. Throughout their lifetimes they worked to create opportunities for African Americans. Dr. Thornton, cofounder of the Crusade for Voters in 1956, served as its president for many years. Dr. Howlette, the second African American to be licensed to practice optometry in Virginia, in 1968 helped co-found the predominantly black National Optometric Association. Their ongoing commitment to the community was demonstrated in 1963 when they jointly invested in the construction of a modern office building at 206 - 208 East Clay Street. The prominent Richmond architectural firm of Hyland and Hyfill designed the building—a striking one-story structure with landscaped courtyard.

Also active in civil rights activities were Doctors Reid and Tinsley. William Fergusen Reid had joined Thornton and Brooks in founding the Crusade for Voters in the 1950s. In 1967, Dr. Reid was elected as the first African American to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates. Dr. Reid's office was located at 611 Chamberlayne Ave. (demolished). Jesse M. Tinsley served as president of the Richmond branch NAACP for fifteen years and then as state NAACP president for twenty years. Dr. Tinsley's dental practice at 402½ N. 2nd Street (outside JWHD) also housed the headquarters of the Richmond NAACP.

Due to a large and concentrated black population, service businesses also thrived during this era. The 1940 Hill's *Richmond City Directory* identifies 107 black retail or service related businesses along the streets of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Clay and Leigh. This large number does not include those businesses that were operated out of an individual's home and thus were not given a listing. In some instances a business formed overnight when a local segregated practice created a need within the community. Such was the case of the Manhattan Car for Hire company, which seven men formed when white owned cab companies refused to pick-up black passengers. The business, using the owner's personal black Packards, operated out of 520 North 2nd Street

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation) City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number 8 Page 19

(demolished) from 1927 through the 1950s. Cab company executive Edward L. Slade, Jr. served as president of the Richmond Branch NAACP in the 1960s and was instrumental in organizing the bus caravan of demonstrators to the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington.

Central to the social life of Jackson Ward were the theaters, restaurants, clubs, and hotels along the three blocks of N. 2nd Street between Clay and Leigh Streets. Interviews relate that "Two Street" never closed during the World War II years, as patrons and soldiers on leave would cross back and forth going from club to club, to the Hippodrome theater, and to restaurants and hotels. The Hippodrome booked the big entertainers of the time, including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, and Louis Armstrong, who then stayed at a 2nd Street hotel. In Richmond, only hotels located in Jackson Ward were open to African Americans. Most prominent of these were Slaughters (now demolished), Eggleston (JWHD, NHL), and Harris (now demolished).

Neverett Eggleston, owner of the Eggleston Hotel at 539 - 541 North 2nd Street, began his career by first managing the hotel when it was Miller's Hotel and then purchasing it. While making his hotel and its restaurant, Neverett's Place, one of the favorite spots along 2nd Street, he continued to purchase and develop commercial property in Jackson Ward. In 1954, he extensively remodeled the Eggleston Hotel creating a new facade in keeping with the modern architecture of the time. Neverett Eggleston, Jr. continued in his father's footsteps by investing in property and in 1964 built Motel Eggleston at 604 - 606 North 2nd Street. A third major property owner of the era was James R. Stallings who developed both housing and commercial properties. Stallings purchased his first house in the 1940s. In addition to rental housing, he invested in historic commercial properties purchasing the Hippodrome, St. Luke's Building, and Slaughter's Hotel as they became available. Stallings also constructed numerous new buildings in Jackson Ward, including apartments and retail space.

As an African American community, Jackson Ward has influenced thoughts and events far beyond its borders. When the number of African Americans purchasing property and establishing businesses grew in the 1900s, Jackson Ward became known as a black financial and entertainment center. The combination of successful businesses, influential churches, and fraternal organizations created an atmosphere in which educated black professionals could challenge Jim Crow laws and change history. Jackson Ward attorneys and businessmen not only participated in the Civil Rights movement, but were leaders in the key areas of litigation and voter registration. These achievements and the ongoing commitment of Richmond's African American citizens to Jackson Ward are recognized in this National Register Historic District amendment.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation) City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number 9 Page 20

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- \_\_\_\_\_. "Rights Push Here Strong, Not Stormy." The Richmond Times Dispatch. 14 March 1999.

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Richmond, Virginia

Jackson Ward historic District (Additional Documentation)

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

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

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number Photography Page 21

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property:

Jackson Ward Historic District

Locaton:

Richmond, VA

Photographer:

Mary Harding Sadler

Date:

summer 2001

Negative no.:

19750

Negatives are stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Photo:

1 of 4

Subject:

Virginia Mutual Beneficial Life Insurance Company Building

Location:

110-112 East Clay Street

Photo:

2 of 4

Subject:

Doctors Howlette and Thornton Medical Offices

Location:

206-208 East Clay Street

Photo:

3 of 4

Subject: Location: Sheffield Office Building 12-14 West Leigh Street

Photo:

4 of 4

Subject: Location: The Hippodrome North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

#### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number <u>Endnotes</u> Page <u>22</u>

#### **ENDNOTES**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National Trust for Historic Preservation. "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2001-Historic Jackson Ward." Available from the Internet at <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/2001/jacksonwrd.htm">http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/2001/jacksonwrd.htm</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Jackson Ward Historic District, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Michael Paul Williams, "Rights Push Here Strong, Not Stormy," The Richmond Times Dispatch (March 14, 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Jackson Ward Historic District (JWHD) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July 1976. In June 1978, the exceptional significance of the JWHD was formally recognized when the neighborhood was awarded National Historic Landmark (NHL) status.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Christopher Silver and John V. Moeser, The Separate City (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995), p 74.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Silver, p. 74.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Third Street Betel African Methodist and the St. Lukes's Penny Savings Bank are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> "Remembering a Heroine: Ruth E. Nelson Tinsley," Richmond Free Press (January 17-19, 1994).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Clarence Townes, Jr., interview by Kathryn E. Colwell, 15 March 2002.

<sup>10</sup> Townes, 15 March 2002.

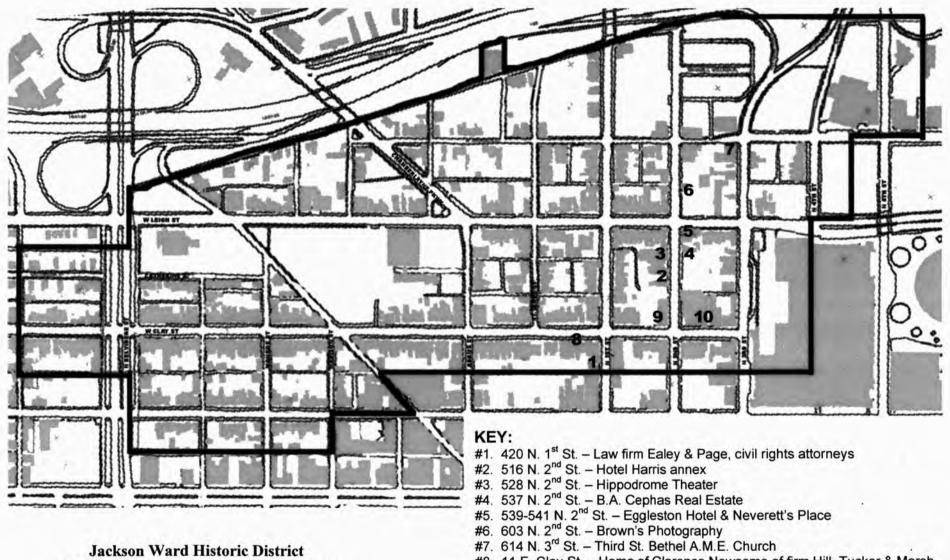
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Raymond Gavins, *The Perils and Prospects of Southern Black Leadership: Gordon Blain Hancock*, 1884-1970. (Durham: Duke University Press, 1977), p. 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Karen Holt Luetjen, "Second Street: Business and Entertainment in Jackson Ward, 1950 – 1965", Manuscript, (Valentine Richmond's History Museum, 1990), p. 4.

Overcrowded and poorly maintained housing in Jackson Ward was in part the result of segregationist public policy. Virginia's 1924 Racial Integrity Law and Richmond's 1920s zoning ordinances had prohibited persons of different races from residing on the same street. The federal government's 1933 Home Owner's Loan Corporation practiced the policy of "redlining" predominately African American neighborhoods, thus homeowners in the Ward were ineligible for homeowner loans. Compounding the problem was the movement of more affluent black homeowners to adjacent neighborhoods following the Supreme Court ruling in Shelley v. Kraemer (1948) that blacks could live in white neighborhoods.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14.</sup> Michael Paul Williams, "Rights Lion to get Medal of Freedom," *The Richmond Times Dispatch* (May 22, 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> American Bar Association, "Civil Rights Lawyer Oliver W. Hill to Receive 2000 American Bar Association Medal," News Release. Available from the Internet at <a href="http://www.abanet.org">http://www.abanet.org</a>. In 1994, Oliver Hill was also awarded the Thurgood Marshall Award by the American Bar Association's Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section for his leadership in the Civil Rights movement.



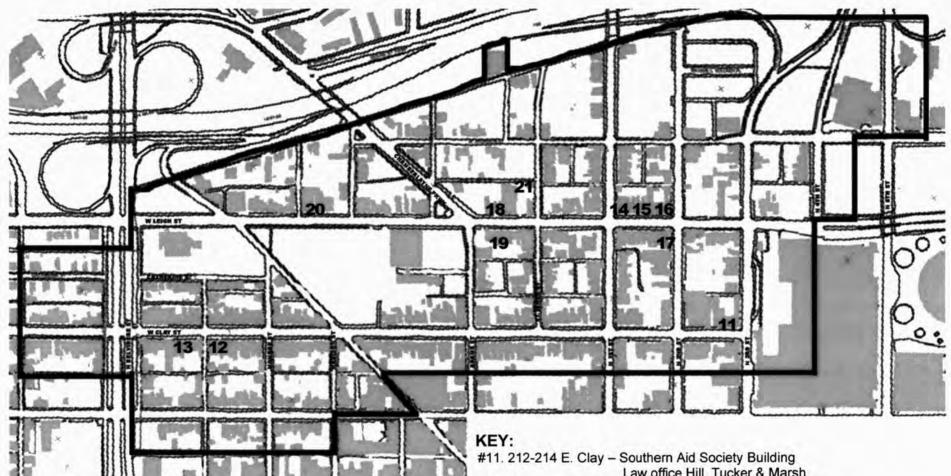
**Jackson Ward Historic District** (Additional Documentation) March 2002

> **Inventory Key** (page 1 of 2)

#8. 11 E. Clay St. - Home of Clarence Newsome of firm Hill, Tucker & Marsh

#9. 110-112 E. Clay St. - Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Co.

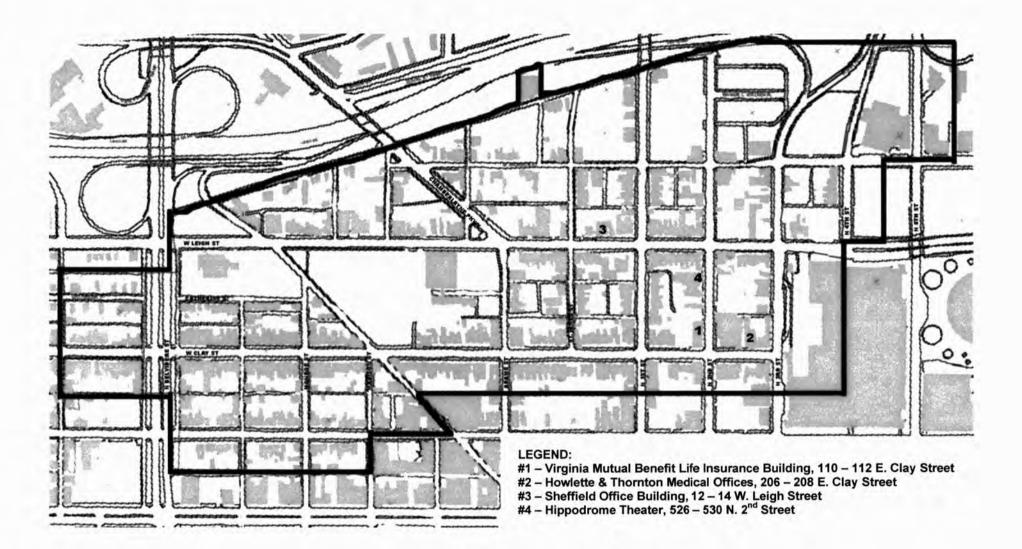
#10. 206-208 E. Clay St. - Office, Doctors John Howlette and William Thornton



Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation) March 2002

Inventory Key (page 2 of 2)

Law office Hill, Tucker & Marsh
#12. 419 W. Clay St. - Home of Earl W. Davis, labor leader
#13. 503 W. Clay St. - Home of Roy West, Mayor 1982
#14. 102 E. Leigh St. - Home of Dr. J.J. Smallwood, VUU
#15. 104 E. Leigh St. - Home of Dr. James H. Johnston, President VSC
#16. 118 E. Leigh St. - Law office attorneys Hill, Martin and Olphin
#17. 117 E. Leigh St. - First Richmond law office of Oliver W. Hill
#18. 12-14 W. Leigh St. - Sheffield Building
#19 .18 W. Leigh St. - Home of S. W. Robinson, real estate attorney
#20. 216 W. Leigh St. - Ebenezer Baptist Church
#21. 520 St. James St. - Home of Dr. Joseph E. Jones, VUU



Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation) March 2002

Map with Photograph Key



# VA MUTUAL INSURANCE

Jackson Ward Historic District #19750 Richmand, VA 1 of 4



# DR. HOWLETTE

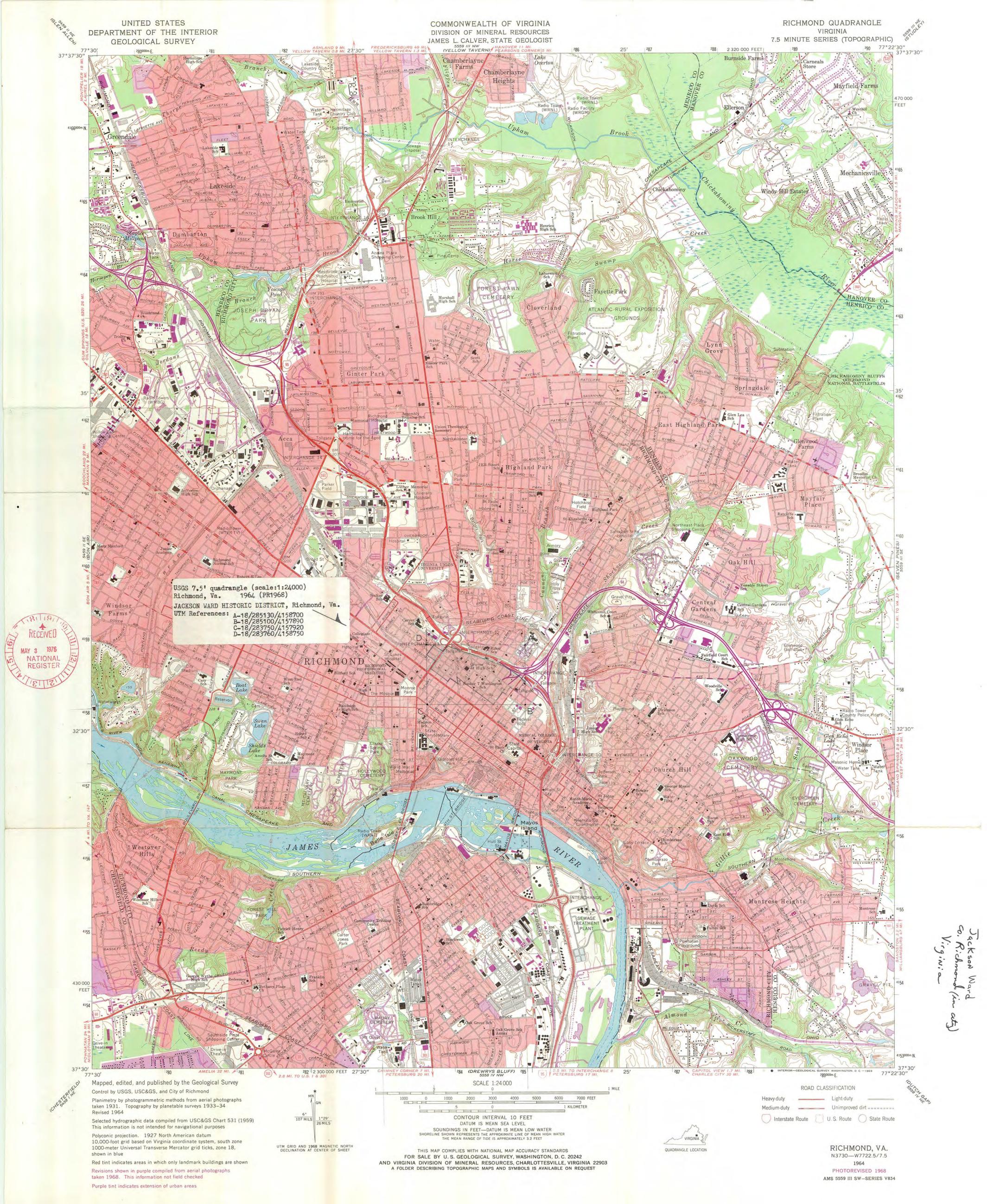
Jackson Ward Historic District # 19750 Richmond VA



Jackson Ward Historic District #19750 3 of 4



Jackson Ward Historic District # 19750 4 of 4



# National Register of Historic Places

### Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2015

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson Ward Historic District
Name of Property
Richmond, VA
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 1

Prepared by:

Lena Sweeten McDonald Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23221 804-482-6439 RECEIVED 2280

AUG 1 4 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

Additional Documentation, August 2015

The Jackson Ward Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1976 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 1978. At the time of both designations, a specific end date to a property's period of significance was not required, but rather, time spans, such as 17<sup>th</sup> century, 18<sup>th</sup> century, 19<sup>th</sup> century, and 20<sup>th</sup> century, were used. This additional documentation has been prepared to clarify the end date of the historic district's period of significance.

#### Section 8

As originally written, the National Register nomination for the Jackson Ward Historic District discussed events within the district through the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century. The statement of significance in the nomination noted that

"Jackson Ward has suffered considerably during the past generation. The northern part of the neighborhood was cut off, with much physical destruction, by the [Richmond-Petersburg] Turnpike developed in the 1950s. The eastern portion has been leveled in favor of the [Richmond] Coliseum and expanded facilities for medical education at the Health Sciences center of Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU-MCV."

Based on the information contained in the nomination, and confirmed by current research by DHR staff documenting the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike's completion on July 1, 1958, the evaluation committee recommended that the end date for the Jackson Ward Historic District's period of significance is 1958. This period of significance is applicable to the original historic district as listed in the National Register in 1976, and does not apply to the buildings included in the 2002 Additional Documentation (which have an end date of 1970) and to the 2005 and 2008 Boundary Increase areas, each of which has a specified end date of 1926.

Documentation of the completion of the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike was obtained through the online archives of the *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, which has historic photographs of the opening ceremony for the newly completed turnpike. The newspaper noted that in June 1958, about 30 of the turnpike's 35 miles, along with nearly 20 interchanges, were ready to open; this roadway is now part of Interstate 95 and still in use today (Heather Moon, "Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike 1958," March 18, 2014, published online at <a href="http://www.richmond.com/from-the-archives/article\_3421bff6-ee70-5852-beab-0199b612fd57.html">http://www.richmond.com/from-the-archives/article\_3421bff6-ee70-5852-beab-0199b612fd57.html</a>).

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson	Ward Historic District
Name of I	Property
Richmond	I, VA
County ar	nd State
N/A	
Name of	multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number Additional Documentation Page 2

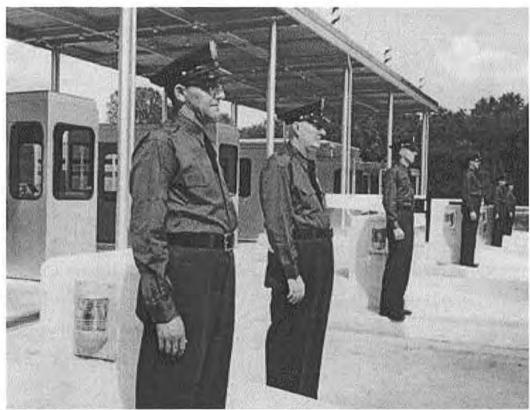


Figure 1. Toll booth operators ready for duty on the Richmond-Petersburg Turnpike, June 1958 (Richmond Times-Dispatch).

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED	ACTION:	ADDITION	AL DOCUMENT	ATIO	N	
PROPERTY NAME:	Jackson	Ward Hist	toric Distr	ict		
MULTIPLE NAME:						
STATE & CO	UNTY: V	IRGINIA, I	Richmond			
DATE RECEI DATE OF 16 DATE OF WE		8/14/15 F:		E OF		9/29/15
REFERENCE	NUMBER:	76002187				
NOMINATOR:	STATE					
REASONS FO	R REVIEW					
	PDIL:	N	LANDSCAPE PERIOD: SLR DRAFT	N	LESS THAN 50 PROGRAM UNAPPENATIONAL:	
COMMENT WA				9.	19.15	
ACCEPT	RE'	TURN	REJECT	- 10	DATE	

Additional Documentation Approved

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA		N1/
REVIEWER Calson 130all	DISCIPLINE	busarn
TELEPHONE	DATE 9-29	1.15

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

### National Register of Historic Places Memo to File

# Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

Property Jackson	Ward Historic District	76002187
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#### ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGINIA

JUL 3 U 1970

Date Entered

Name Location

Pace-King House Richmond (independent city)

Jackson Ward Historic District Richmond (independent city)

Scottaville Historic District Scottaville

Albemarlo & Fluvanna Counties

Massanutton Heights Luray vicinity

Page County

Andrews Tavern Glenora vicinity

Spotsylvania County

Preston House Smyth County

Harvey House Radford (independent city)

Carter, A. P., Homeplace Maces Spring vicinity

Scott County

Also Notified

Hon. Harry F. Byrd, Jr. State Historic Preservation Officer

Bon. William Lloyd Scott Dr. Junius R. Fishburns, Jr.

Hon. David E. Satterfield III Executive Director

Hon. J. Kenneth Robinson Virginia Historic Landmarks
Hon. William C. Wampler Commission

Regional Director, Mid Atlantic 221 Governor Street Region 23219

PR

## Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

September 9, 1980

Mr. Roland Turpin
Executive Director
Richmond Redevelopment
and Housing Authority
Richmond, Virginia 23220

Dear Mr. Turpin:

We have been informed by the Jackson Central Association that the <u>Jackson</u> Ward Historic <u>District</u>, Richmond, Virginia, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places, may be affected by the proposed rehabilitation of properties within the Historic District.

We have also been advised that the city of Richmond may be involved in this undertaking through the use of the Community Development Block Grant funds.

Please investigate this matter to determine whether your involvement requires obtaining the comments of the Council pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. Sec. 470f, as amended, 90 Stat. 1320). Section 800.4 of the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties" (36 CFR Part 800), sets forth the agency's responsibilities. We look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible. If you have further questions, please call Charlene Dwin at 202-254-3495.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum Chief, Eastern Division of Project Review

Enclosure



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

#### Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391 TDD: (804) 367-2386 www.dhr.state.va.us

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. Secretary of Natural Resources

September 16, 2002

Ms. Carol Shull National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Jackson Ward Historic District, City of Richmond -National Register of Historic Places Additional Documentation

Dear Ms. Shull:

The enclosed nomination referenced above, is submitted for National Register of Historic Places Additional Documentation review. The applicant has expanded the period of significance to 1970. The extension of period of significance allows important Civil Rights era buildings to contribute to the Ethnic Heritage: Black theme of the historic district.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-367-2323/Ext. 115.

Sincerely,

Marc Christian Wagner

Architectural Historian/National Register Manager

Enclosures

Carol Shull

To: Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS

07/16/03 05:07 PM

EDT

Subject: Jackson Ward

Patrick, It looks like we have a problem on our hands here. Please get the Jackson Ward files and let's go over this first thing in the morning. Better get both the Naitonal Register and the NHL files. What is this 1970 date?

#### Carol

Carol D. Shull
Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places
and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey
National Park Service
----- Forwarded by Carol Shull/WASO/NPS on 07/16/2003 05:06 PM -----



### **Cynthia MacLeod** 07/16/2003 03:55 PM

07/16/2003 03:55 PI EDT To: Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc: Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS

Subject: Jackson Ward

#### Cynthia MacLeod

This email correspondence began a month or so ago with an innocent request for the latest documentation for Jackson Ward HD in Richmond VA.

Some of you have heard from me on this in the past month; some I'm just bringing in now to ensure that we can all come to agreement on what should happen under the circumstances. I'm very concerned about the quality (or lack thereof) of the current documentation for the Jackson Ward Historic District, also an NHL. And, I'm concerned about the process of "updating" the documentation.

Meanwhile, I still do not have the final version that was accepted in WASO as updated documentation--the one without the question marks--

I do have enough of the information to summarize here: The new documentation brings the period of significance up to 1970 and declares that time period of less than 50 years ago to be part of the national significance. NPS accepted it--just like that 11/4/02, which I learned this summer. No advisory board, regional office, local park had seen it. Nothing about condition of buildings. Some of the buildings 1950-70 are really in terrible shape. Also, it looks like the old boundaries that include empty blocks and part of the brand new covention center are unchanged even thought the historic building stock has been levelled. This is an NHL that has been on the endangered list for years. I manage a unit of the NPSystem that is within it, and some our our recent rehabilitation projects would have been open to question under this period of significance and specific references to NPS buildings. I know that the update of the district documentation was done to allow a historic tax rehabilitation project for a 1970 building--that has driven what I think is a shoddy product in terms of National Register documentation for an important NHL.

I am asking that the review be reopened, receive more staff scrutiny, have the boundaries revised, and the process undertaken with review by the NPS/NHL Advisory Board.

Cindy

Carol Shull

07/17/03 12:45 PM EDT To: Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS,

Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Bonnie

Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Dear Cindy and All,

Here is what we have on the state's request to amend the Jackson Ward National Register district, not the NHL. We have quite a few of these overlapping districts, and many districts designated as NHLs were first listed in the National Register through state nominations. We have allowed states to amend these districts, and they often do so to allow property owners to take advantage of the federal rehabilitation tax incentives. They don't usually provide information that would justify amending the NHL designation nor do they usually provide major rewrites of the nominations. They provide justification to expand the periods and areas of significance based on the National Register criteria. We are comfortable with the state's justification of the civil rights associations for the National Register district and the buildings they have identified as important. The Jackson Ward NHL district is an old NHL with documentation and boundaries that may need updating. We can't tell from what we have here what all the issues are. The regional offices handle studies to update NHL documentation or make boundary revisions. Cindy, do you think the NHL district should be made smaller? Cindy, will you please elaborate on the issues here and what you think needs to be revised about the NHL designation?

#### Carol

Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey National Park Service Patrick Andrus

Patrick Andrus

To: Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS

07/17/2003 10:04 AM

EDT

Subject: Jackson Ward Historic District

Carol: this is in response to Cindy MacLeod's e-mail of yesterday regarding the Jackson Ward Historic District in Richmond, VA. First some background: the Jackson Ward Historic District was nominated by the State and listed in the National Register on July 30, 1976. The district contains 130 acres, it includes over 600 buildings, and as with many of the old forms it has a period of significance which simply checks 1800-1899 and 1900 -. The selected Areas of Significance for the district include Architecture, Commerce, Education, Politics/Government, Religion, and Social/Humanitarian. In 1978 a smaller Jackson Ward Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark. The NHL includes 110 acres, the same loosely defined period of significance as the National Register district, and the NHL form has Commerce, Politics/Government, and Social/Humanitarian as the selected Areas of Significance

In September 2002, the VA SHPO submitted additional documentation to amend the National Register district (not the National Historic Landmark District). In both the State's transmittal letter and in the documentation itself it is clearly stated that the documentation is amending the National Register district. The documentation extends the Period of Significance for the National Register district to include the Civil Rights era in Richmond (1940-1970). The documentation identifies thirteen buildings in the district connected to events associated with the Civil Rights movement and eight properties within the district

associated with community leaders during the period. The documentation identifies where the Civil Rights movement occurred in Richmond, and describes the litigation, voter registration, non-violent protest, and continuing business vitality within the district during the era.

I've had a discussion with both Cindy and Marc Wagner of the VA SHPO. During the State's processing of the additional documentation for the National Register district, the SHPO inadvertently failed to give Cindy the opportunity to review the documentation prior to its being submitted to the National Register. The State recognizes that this was an oversight and expressed regret. Cindy also expressed concern in her e-mail that the documentation contains question marks. On two pages of the form where you normally check the boxes, there are typed question marks. I assumed, and Marc Wagner confirmed to both me and Cindy, that these are formatting marks that occurred when they converted the form from one word processing format to another. Marc told both Cindy and me that he will run off new copies of these two pages and send them to us.

Cindy is also concerned with the boundary of the NHL. Since the State was amending the National Register district to extend the Period of Significance and add information on the history of the Civil Rights movement in Richmond, they did not address the boundary question.

I disagree with Cindy's characterization that the additional documentation is a "shoddy product." The documentation accomplishes exactly what it says its going to do; it details the events of the Civil Rights era in Richmond, identifies the participants, and locates the buildings where these important events occurred.

Patrick W. Andrus Historian National Register of Historic Places Patrick Andrus@nps.gov I would like to see all the NR documentation for this district consolidated and reanalyzed, including any additional inventory by the city and any NPS significance certifications for Part 1 of the tax act application; the descriptions updated, conflicting information resolved, new boundaries drawn, the 50-year rule test applied, etc. If there is a difference between the NR listing and the NHL listing, I'd like to see clear, definitive and separate documents that do not reference each other. Perhaps Toni Lee in her documentation projects with students could take it on--as a backstop move. I think when these revisions come bubbling in from the private sector with errors or documentation that results in confusing information, they should be sent back to the private sector. Certainly, I would expect the WASO office of the NPS to check with any NPS site located within the district before documentation is accepted as revision or amendment to the official record.

If we mean to update the NHL, we should follow the process, comparing the significance of these additional buildings with others nationwide and following through with the advisory board. If we don't mean to update the NHL, the written documentation needs to be changed and reported back to the SHPO and the black community, which may be a difficult message.

This mishmosh of documents is confusing to me and I can only guess what it would be to the layman. The words should say what they mean, not what we interpret what they mean, sometimes in contrary to the written statements that are the official records.

I look forward to hearing back from you on what you think the next step should be.

Cindy

Carol Shull

Carol Shull

07/17/2003 12:45 PM EDT To: Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS,

Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Bonnie

Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Dear Cindy and All,

Here is what we have on the state's request to amend the Jackson Ward National Register district, not the NHL. We have quite a few of these overlapping districts, and many districts designated as NHLs were first listed in the National Register through state nominations. We have allowed states to amend these districts, and they often do so to allow property owners to take advantage of the federal rehabilitation tax incentives. They don't usually provide information that would justify amending the NHL designation nor do they usually provide major rewrites of the nominations. They provide justification to expand the periods and areas of significance based on the National Register criteria. We are comfortable with the state's justification of the civil rights associations for the National Register district and the buildings they have identified as important. The Jackson Ward NHL district is an old NHL with documentation and boundaries that may need updating. We can't tell from what we have here what all the issues are. The regional offices handle studies to update NHL documentation or make boundary revisions. Cindy, do you think the NHL district should be made smaller? Cindy, will you please elaborate on the issues here and what you think needs to be revised about the NHL designation?

Carol

Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey National Park Service Clifford Tobias
Historian, Northeast Region History Program
formerly Regional Historian/106 & NRHP Coordinator, MAR

Cynthia MacLeod



Cynthia MacLeod 07/22/2003 02:31 PM EDT

To: Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc: Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitraithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle

Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Cliff

Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Heather

Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

#### Dear Carol.

I'm not trying to create an email war--but it seems efficient to have all these parties in the conversation this way. I do have genuine concerns and will do what I can to help resolve the problem. First, we have to agree that there is a problem. I think it would be good for the NPS to admit that we made a mistake made in approving the amendment as it was submitted. Then, we can find a solution.

Maybe I've never seen the NHL documentation, if it is indeed different from the NRHP documentation. What we at the Site have been given and have been relying on all these years is the Jackson Ward Historic District documentation from 1976. Please send the NHL documentation, if it is different.

In the meantime, I have highlighted the district documentation that was just sent by email from the VA SHPO (attached). The yellow highlights mark sections that give me concern. That document certainly indicates to me, and I suspect any other reader, that it is revising the NHL by referring several times to the NHL—in the check box and in the body of the amendment—to the national significance of the Civil Rights movement, to the NHL historic district and to the previously designated NHL.

I do agree that the Civil Rights movement is nationally significant, by the way. But, this documentation quickly annoints three less-than-fifty-year-old buildings as part of the NHL and is careless about the rest of the documentation and the conclusions. More demolished buildings are cited than extant ones, but no suggestion is made to revise the boundaries. One building is cited as significant but outside the boundary (why mention it and not suggest boundary change?). The document lists but omits from inclusion in the "contributing" category other 20th century buildings (Hippodrone Theater from 1934 is inexplicably not asterised as contributing, for instance; also the 1964 Eggleston Motel, and others.) (Is there another list of contributing buildings that I've not received?) There is also no mention of 20th century alterations to 19th century buildings --whether they are significant or not. It used to be that restoration of a building to its original 19th century appearance in the NHL was desirable. Now, as with one of the NPS buildings that we have restored to its 1920's appearance, should we have kept the building without its cast iron porch and with the c1950 picture window alteration, as the building was used then by Oliver Hill? The continuum of significance is clear but the value of the architecture is not.

As you can see by the yellow highlights, far more buildings are listed as demolished than are listed as contributing. Doesn't that raise any questions? It certainly indicates to me that the boundaries need to be revised, at the least. And far more buildings that have been demolished are not mentioned at all. Those losses mandate redrawing of the boundaries and perhaps redefining the district as many of the buildings where black businesses thrived are gone. The NHL has been on the endangered list for years now for the continued loss of buildings.

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property			
Historic Name: Jackson Ward Historic District	(Additional Documentation)		
Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 12	7-237		
2. Location			
street & number roughly bounded by Gilme	er, Marshall, North Third and Leigh S	treets	
city or town Richmond			vicinity N/A
state <u>Virginia</u> code <u>VA</u> co	unty Richmond (Independent City)		
3. State/Federal Agency Certification			
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documents the procedural and professional requirements set meets □ does not meet the National Register Criteria.  ■ nationally □ statewide locally □□ (□ See continuation	forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the pro- I recommend that this property be considered	operty	10/2-y/de
Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources State or Federal agency and bureau  In my opinion, the property [] meets [] does not meet the	National Register criteria. (   See continuatio	n sheet for addition	nal comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title		_	Date
State or Federal agency and bureau			
4. National Park Service Certification			
I, hereby certify that this property is:  ☐ entered in the National Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined eligible for theNational Register ☐ See continuation sheet. ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register ☐ removed from the NationalRegister ☐ other (explain)	Signature of the Keeper		Date of Action
See continuation sheet.     determined eligible for theNational Register         See continuation sheet.     determined not eligible for the National Register     removed from the NationalRegister	Signature of the Keeper		Date of Action

Jackson Ward historic District (Add Name of Property	Richmond, Virginia City and State			
5. Classification			211200	
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)		Resources within Pro ude previously listed res	
	The second second	Contributing	Non-co	ontributing
private public-local public-State public-Federal	building(s) district site structure object	3 0 0 0 0 3	0 0 0 0	buildings sites structures objects Total
Name of related multiple property listing  (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)  N/A		Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  N/A		
6. Function or Use				
	) Office	(Enter cate	t Functions gories from instructions) DMMERCE S	ub: Office
COMMERCE	Professional	H	IEALTH CARE	Office
HEALTH CARE	Office	V	'ACANT/NOT IN USE	
7. Description Architectural Classification		Materia	ule.	
(Enter categories from instructions  MODERN MOVEMENT	)	(Enter categ	gories from instructions) CONCRETE	
		walls	CONCRETE; BRICK	
			STONE: SLATE	
		roof	ASPHALT	
		other		

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

Richmond, Virginia	
City and State	

8. Sta	tem	ent of SignificanceApplicable National Register Crit	eria	Areas of Significance
		in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the	(Enter ca	ategories from instructions)
prope	-	or National Register listing) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	ETH	NIC HERITAGE: Black
0	В	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	_	
0	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.		of Significance 0 - 1970
	D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.		
		onsiderations in all the boxes that apply.)	Significa 1970	ant Dates
Prope	rtv is	s:		
		owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.		ant Person te if Criterion B is marked above)
	В	removed from its original location.	N/A	N C 3 C 3 C 3 C 3 C 3 C 3 C 3 C 3 C 3 C
0	C	a birthplace or a grave.		
0	D	a cemetery.	Cultural	Affiliation
	E	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A	ELE VALUE
0	F	a commemorative property.		
	G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Archited	t/Builder
Narra	tive	Statement of Significance	-	
Expla	ain th	ne significance of the property on one or more continuat	ion sheets.)	
		Bibliographical References		
Biblio Cite t		<b>pny</b> books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this	form on one	or more continuation sheets.)
Previo	ous	documentation on file (NPS)	Primary	Location of Additional Data
		eliminary determination of individual listing (36		State Historic Preservation Office
-	100	FR 67) has been requested.	0	Other State agency
		eviously listed in the National Register	Ū	Federal agency
ō	100	eviously determined eligible by the National Register	ñ	Local government
		esignated a National Historic Landmark	ñ	University
0		corded by Historic American Buildings Survey	ŏ	Other
	#		307 75 75	repository:
		corded by Historic American Engineering ecord#	-	3,577,7

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City of Richmond, Virginia

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strengthen their community. They took pride in their race, and ultimately banded together to overcome obstacles imposed by both legal segregation and the equally limiting *de facto*, or customary segregation.

Ironically, as monumental achievements were made by Jackson Ward attorneys litigating civil rights cases through the court system, Richmond's city planners forever altered the physical fabric of the community through an expansive urban renewal program. Residents could do little to influence the path of the proposed roads and Jackson Ward soon found itself bisected, both vertically and horizontally, by the broad concrete expanses of the I-95 expressway and the Belvidere Street extension. Though urban renewal removed some of the area's most blighted residential properties, it also demolished the physically cohesive community. By 1970, the impact of the city's urban renewal program and blacks' recently won civil rights became evident as many businesses closed or relocated. But even as the physical fabric was lost, the black community continued to identify with Jackson Ward. As a result, efforts to revitalize the neighborhood are underway so that the Ward can nurture another proud generation.

The years 1940 to 1970 represent an era of unprecedented black achievement as successful litigation brought the integration of public schools and African Americans were elected and appointed to numerous political and judicial positions for the first time in our nation's history.

### Prominence in the fight for Civil Rights

#### Litigation

Jackson Ward was the locus from which dozens of desegregation cases were filed by the law firm of Hill Martin & Robinson, later Hill Tucker & Marsh. Senior partner Oliver W. Hill served as head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Virginia legal defense team. Over time the firm has operated out of several offices, all located within Jackson Ward. The initial thrust was to prove that the Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) decision, which had established 'separate but equal,' was unconstitutional. Hill and partner Spottswood W. Robinson III represented the plaintiff in the Prince Edward County desegregation case Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County (1951). This case became one of five that formed Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954). Hill and Robinson joined New York NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall in successfully arguing Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas before the United States Supreme Court, thus effectively ending legal school segregation.

Virginia's response to *Brown* was to create policies that collectively became known as "Massive Resistance." Hill's firm vigorously filed law suits opposing the legislature's efforts to perpetuate segregation. In a 1999 interview, Hill stated that suits were filed against Virginia school systems in sixty jurisdictions—representing more litigation than any other state in the Union. Among the acts of Virginia's General Assembly were the Gray Plan (1956) that provided tuition for private school and empowered School Boards to determine pupil school placement and the Stanley Plan (1956) composed of thirteen actions designed to prevent integration. Hill and his legal team responded by filing cases against school boards in Arlington, Norfolk, Newport News, and Charlottesville. Before these cases could be settled, the General Assembly moved to establish independent Pupil Placement Boards. Within the year, Hill successfully obtained a court order temporarily stopping this practice in Richmond. However, the test came when, as the 1958 school year began, six African American

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students were denied placement in the all white school of their choice. Attorney Martin A. Martin (partner in Hill Martin and Robinson) represented the plaintiffs in this case *Warden v. Richmond School Board* (1958). Though no settlement was reached until 1961, success was achieved in August 1960 when two African American students were admitted to all white Chandler Elementary School.

Another Richmond School Board tactic to prevent integration was to create "dual attendance zones." Eleven African American parents filed a class action suit to challenge this procedure in *Bradley v. Richmond School Board* (1961). Attorneys Samuel W. Tucker and Henry Marsh III of Hill Tucker & Marsh successfully argued this case and in 1963 the Freedom of Choice Plan was established. However, few students chose to attend a school outside of their district and due to Richmond's segregated residential patterns, schools remained segregated. Tucker and Marsh filed the pivotal case leading to Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr.'s 1970 landmark ruling in which he ordered the bussing of black and white students to schools outside of their neighborhoods in order to stimulate racial integration of public schools. The ruling would have a profound effect on Jackson Ward and on the nation at large.

Civil rights cases originating from the offices of Jackson Ward attorneys were not limited to school desegregation. Three other examples involved public school teachers' salaries, courtroom seating, and segregation of restaurants. In 1941, Hill teamed with fellow NAACP attorneys Leon Ransom, District of Columbia, and Thurgood Marshall, New York, to represent the black Richmond Teacher's Association in obtaining black teacher salaries equal to those paid white teachers. Immediately upon hearing the suit had been filed, the Richmond School Board passed a pay parity plan. In 1963, the firm of Ealey & Page successfully represented the plaintiff before the U.S. Supreme Court whereby the Court ruled that segregated seating in courtrooms was unconstitutional. The offices of attorneys Roland D. Ealey, and M Ralph Page were located at 420 N. 1st Street (JWHD, NHL)4. Also in 1963, Hill associate Clarence W. Newsome represented student demonstrators who had been arrested during a lunch counter demonstration.

#### Voter Registration

Litigation was but one tool used by Richmond's African American population to gain their civil rights; voter registration was a second method. In 1936, only 1,527 blacks were registered to vote. Increasing this number was difficult as many blacks felt their vote did not count. By 1940, through efforts of Jackson Ward dentist Jesse M. Tinsley, President of the Richmond branch NAACP, and Roscoe C. Jackson of the Democratic Voter's League, the number of blacks voting rose by 50 percent. The progressive mayoral candidate Gordon B. Ambler won, with the support of the black vote. During his administration, he began to address long-standing community problems. The power of the vote was not lost on Richmond's black citizens and in 1948 they helped elect attorney Oliver W. Hill as the first African American to serve on the City Council since Reconstruction.

In the wake of *Brown*, Virginia's legislature mounted an offense against both school integration and the organizations that fought for integration—particularly the NAACP. In 1956, the Richmond Crusade for Voters was founded to sustain the NAACP's efforts in registering voters. Founders were William S. Thornton, John Mitchell Brooks, and William Fergusen Reid. The Crusade's voter-registration campaign during 1957 was known as the "Miracle of Richmond." The drive resurrected an antebellum tradition whereby one black taught

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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another to read. The motto "each one teach one" now became "each one reach one." The highly successful campaign resulted in a 30 percent increase in black voter registration by 1958. Alarmed by the success of the voter registration campaigns, the Virginia legislature introduced "blank sheet" registration under the guise of testing literacy. The Richmond Afro-American, the Richmond Planet countered from its offices at 301 E. Clay Street (now demolished) by launching a "Boomerang for Bigots" program aimed at educating blacks on how to fill in the blank form thus lessening the impact of the blank sheet registration maneuver.

The organizational minds behind the Crusade were educated black professionals who met daily in strategy sessions. Many meetings were held at Slaughters Hotel at 527-529 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (now demolished) and later at the 533 Club next door (now demolished). The commitment was substantial since the Crusade's goal was not only to register voters, but also provide voter education, endorse candidates, establish precinct clubs, and provide transportation to the polls. By the 1962 city council elections, the Crusade had become so effective that seven of the nine candidates it endorsed were elected. In 1966, African Americans represented 48 percent of Richmond's population and 34 percent of all registered voters.

Critical to the voter registration and other civil rights campaigns were the city's black churches—fifteen of which were located in Jackson Ward. These churches, particularly Fifth Street Baptist Church, 705 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (now demolished), Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, 616 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (NRHP) and Leigh Street African Methodist Episcopal, 500 E. Leigh Street (now demolished) were the location for mass meetings. But all churches were critical to the effort, with their pastors playing key rolls.

#### Non-violent protest

Both the Richmond Branch and Virginia Chapter of the NAACP had their offices in Jackson Ward. NAACP staff worked zealously with professors and students at Virginia Union University, pastors, and local businessmen in organizing civil rights protests. Individual actions also garnered attention. As early as 1939, local NAACP president Jesse Tinsley and his wife Ruth defied Richmond's social conventions by entertaining First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in their home at 531 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (now demolished). Richmond's first organized protest occurred in February 1960 when students from Virginia Union University staged the first "sit-in" at F. W. Woolworth's lunch counter. Other lunch counters targeted included G. C. Murphy, Thalhimer's, and Peoples Service Drug. Later, while picketing Thalhimer's department store, three blacks were arrested. Those arrested included Ruth Tinsley, whom though not picketing was standing near the store and refused to comply with a police officer's order to "move on." By June 1963, sixty restaurants had dropped racial barriers. Demonstrations continued through the year. In August, picketers marched from Ebenezer Baptist Church, 216 W. Leigh Street (JWHD, NHL), down Broad Street to demand increased job opportunities within city government. And later, between 300 and 400 demonstrators gathered at the black YMCA, 214 E. Leigh Street (now demolished), for a bus caravan to D.C. to join the March on Washington.

Richmond's demonstrations differed from those in other states in that they proceeded with few arrests and without violence. But Richmond had not been a passive player in the Civil Rights movement. It has been suggested that the leaders of Richmond's Civil Rights movement were primarily conservative businessmen who had learned to work within the system and who had confidence in achieving the goal through legal means. What is evident is that local black leaders were effective in devising strategies that achieved the desired

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outcome without provoking violence. Their actions contributed significantly to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Important local successes resulting from their efforts are the "firsts" for African Americans who worked and lived in Jackson Ward.

- 1948 Oliver W. Hill became first African American elected to the Richmond City Council since Reconstruction
- 1953 Booker T. Bradshaw elected as first African American on the Richmond School Board
- 1964 Spottswood W. Robinson, III became first African American appointed as a judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington. In 1966, Robinson became first African American appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
- 1964 Dr. William Ferguson Reid and Dr. William M.T. Forrestor became the first African Americans admitted to the Richmond Academy of Medicine
- 1964 Benjamin A. Cephas became first African American appointed to the Board of the Richmond Public Library
- 1966 William Ferguson Reid became first African American elected to General Assembly in modern times
- 1966 Henry Marsh III elected to the City Council and in 1977 became Richmond's first African American Mayor
- 1974 James E. Sheffield appointed as first African American Virginia Circuit Court Judge

#### **Prominence of the Business Community**

The Jackson Ward business community, with Second Street as its heart, developed as a result of local African Americans' determination to preserve their access to goods and services even as the white community was busy erecting Jim Crow laws to limit such access. Early key businesses, such as Maggie Walker's St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank (NRHP, NHL), and the Southern Aid Society (JWHD, NHL), had grown out of fraternal organizations and self-help societies with ties to the black church. By example, these institutions established a precedent—that business owners would give back, reinvest in their community. This commitment is clearly noted in the financial support and organizational acumen that businessmen provided to the Civil Rights movement. It is also seen through the expansion of individual businesses that reinvested in the physical fabric of Jackson Ward by building new structures and redeveloping old.

Coupled with a business's obligation to the community was the black consumer's responsibility to support local black establishments. Local pastor Dr. Gordon Blaine Hancock, Moore Street Baptist Church, noted that because blacks "possessed little political clout, national, state, and local governments could ignore their complaints... By spending where possible in Negro enterprises, the Negro could at least provide jobs for some members of his group and, at the same time, use his leverage as a consumer to coerce white merchants to hire Negroes." Dr. Hancock coined the phrase "Double Duty Dollar" to express this concept. Similar economic solidarity campaigns of the time included the NAACP's "Buy Black", frequently advanced in the black newspaper the Afro-American and Richmond Planet, and "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work." The emphasis on taking pride in and reinvesting in one's race became for many a natural thought pattern and

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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ensured a vibrant, supportive community even as daily experiences resulting from Richmond's staunch segregationist policies were severely limiting.

For the black business owner, profitability remained a challenge, as black businessmen had to overcome competition from white business owners, who frequently had both the capital and credit to offer wider selection and better prices, and also an increasingly blighted streetscape created by overcrowding and poverty within the Ward. In spite of these challenges, black owned businesses in Jackson Ward, and particularly along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, thrived. Few consumer needs would have gone unfulfilled as businesses included established insurance and financial institutions, the offices of emerging young professionals, funeral parlors, real estate offices, hotels, restaurants, clubs, theaters, and service providers including barber and beauty shops, repair shops, dry cleaners and tailors. Residents remember the Jackson Ward of the 1940s and 1950s as "jumpin" and never closing.

Among Jackson Ward's established insurance companies were Richmond Beneficial Life Insurance and Southern Aid. In keeping with the self-help tradition, two insurance men Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes Sr. established the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in 1933; with headquarters in the Southern Aid Building at 214 E. Clay Street (JWHD, NHL). Over the next thirty years their business thrived and expanded to Washington D.C. and other Virginia cities. In the early 1960s plans were developed for a new headquarters building. Desirous of being a positive force within the Jackson Ward community, Bradshaw and Townes purchased property prominently located on the corner of Second and Clay Streets for their building and employed progressive Richmond architect Tiffany Armstrong. At a time when Jackson Ward's commercial center was declining. Bradshaw and Townes gave Armstrong instructions to design a building that conveyed their faith in Jackson Ward's viability as a commercial center. The Virginia Mutual Benefit Insurance Building at 110-112 E. Clay Street was dedicated in 1963 and remains a symbol of the achievements that earned Jackson Ward the reputation as "the Black Wall Street" in the 1900s. Its founders were leaders in the community serving on numerous boards. Their individual achievements include Mr. Bradshaw's election to the Richmond School Board in 1953, the first African American to serve in that capacity since Reconstruction, and Mr. Townes being cited by President Eisenhower for his service to the Department of Commerce's Advisory Committee on Minority Business Development.

Prominent financial institutions included the Consolidated Bank and Trust, successor to Maggie Walker's St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank. In 1966, Consolidated's president J. Jay Nickens, Jr. co-founded the Richmond Improvement Coordinating Council. The Council, noting that 75 percent of Richmond's black population was low income and unskilled, assisted these individuals, through education, to obtain better jobs and housing conditions. In current times, Consolidated continues to exert influence in the Jackson Ward community from its prominent building at 327-329 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (constructed in 1974, after the proposed period of significance).

During the Civil Rights era, numerous young black professionals established practices in Jackson Ward. Because Virginia colleges would not admit African Americans to their graduate programs, many students had received tuition assistance from the legislature to study out of state. They now returned and began dismantling the system that had enabled a segregated society. Most prominent among these was Oliver W. Hill who established a law practice with Spottswood W. Robinson III and Martin C. Martin in 1943. Their firm Hill Robinson & Martin was located first in the Consolidated Bank & Trust Building at 327 N. 1st Street

NPS Form 10-900-a

OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

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(demolished) and later at 623 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (demolished). During the 1960s, when Samuel W. Tucker and Henry L. Marsh III joined forces with Hill, their firm Hill Tucker & Marsh was located in the Southern Aid Building at 214 E. Clay Street (JWHD, NHL). In addition to these firms' monumental success in litigating desegregation cases, the individual attorneys also achieved prominence. S. W. Robinson became the first African American to be appointed a judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington (1964). Later he was the first African American judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (1966). In 1977, Henry Marsh III was elected as Richmond's first black mayor. In 1999, Oliver Hill was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition for his role as one of the "lions" of the Civil Rights movement. In 2000, Hill received the American Bar Association's highest award in recognition for his leadership in the Civil Rights movement.

Attorney James E. Sheffield, moved to Jackson Ward in 1965 when he chose to become part of the area revitalization effort. He purchased a vacant and dilapidated building at 12 - 14 West Leigh Street to house his law practice. The redevelopment project expanded the structure toward the street to accommodate additional office space. Other professional offices relocating to the Sheffield Building following this remodeling were those of attorney Harrison Bruce, physician Charles Cummings, and dentist Anthony Malloy. In 1974, attorney Sheffield became the first African American to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in Virginia.

Among the notable doctors and dentists establishing a practice in Jackson Ward were podiatrist William S. Thornton, optometrist John L. Howlette, physician William Fergusen Reid, and dentist Jesse M. Tinsley. Dr. Thornton and Dr. Howlette established their practices at 415 North 2nd (now demolished) in the 1950s. Throughout their lifetimes they worked to create opportunities for African Americans. Dr. Thornton, cofounder of the Crusade for Voters in 1956, served as its president for many years. Dr. Howlette, the second African American to be licensed to practice optometry in Virginia, in 1968 helped co-found the predominantly black National Optometric Association. Their ongoing commitment to the community was demonstrated in 1963 when they jointly invested in the construction of a modern office building at 206 - 208 East Clay Street. The prominent Richmond architectural firm of Hyland and Hyfill designed the building—a striking one-story structure with landscaped courtyard.

Also active in civil rights activities were Doctors Reid and Tinsley. William Fergusen Reid had joined Thornton and Brooks in founding the Crusade for Voters in the 1950s. In 1967, Dr. Reid was elected as the first African American to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates. Dr. Reid's office was located at 611 Chamberlayne Ave. (demolished). Jesse M. Tinsley served as president of the Richmond branch NAACP for fifteen years and then as state NAACP president for twenty years. Dr. Tinsley's dental practice at 402½ N. 2nd Street (outside JWHD) also housed the headquarters of the Richmond NAACP.

Due to a large and concentrated black population, service businesses also thrived during this era. The 1940 Hill's *Richmond City Directory* identifies 107 black retail or service related businesses along the streets of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Clay and Leigh. This large number does not include those businesses that were operated out of an individual's home and thus were not given a listing. In some instances a business formed overnight when a local segregated practice created a need within the community. Such was the case of the Manhattan Car for Hire company, which seven men formed when white owned cab companies refused to pick-up black passengers. The business, using the owner's personal black Packards, operated out of 520 North 2nd Street

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Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation) City of Richmond, Virginia

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(demolished) from 1927 through the 1950s. Cab company executive Edward L. Slade, Jr. served as president of the Richmond Branch NAACP in the 1960s and was instrumental in organizing the bus caravan of demonstrators to the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington.

Central to the social life of Jackson Ward were the theaters, restaurants, clubs, and hotels along the three blocks of N. 2nd Street between Clay and Leigh Streets. Interviews relate that "Two Street" never closed during the World War II years, as patrons and soldiers on leave would cross back and forth going from club to club, to the Hippodrome theater, and to restaurants and hotels. The Hippodrome booked the big entertainers of the time, including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, and Louis Armstrong, who then stayed at a 2nd Street hotel. In Richmond, only hotels located in Jackson Ward were open to African Americans. Most prominent of these were Slaughters (now demolished), Eggleston (JWHD, NHL), and Harris (now demolished).

Neverett Eggleston, owner of the Eggleston Hotel at 539 - 541 North 2nd Street, began his career by first managing the hotel when it was Miller's Hotel and then purchasing it. While making his hotel and its restaurant, Neverett's Place, one of the favorite spots along 2nd Street, he continued to purchase and develop commercial property in Jackson Ward. In 1954, he extensively remodeled the Eggleston Hotel creating a new facade in keeping with the modern architecture of the time. Neverett Eggleston, Jr. continued in his father's footsteps by investing in property and in 1964 built Motel Eggleston at 604 - 606 North 2nd Street. A third major property owner of the era was James R. Stallings who developed both housing and commercial properties. Stallings purchased his first house in the 1940s. In addition to rental housing, he invested in historic commercial properties purchasing the Hippodrome, St. Luke's Building, and Slaughter's Hotel as they became available. Stallings also constructed numerous new buildings in Jackson Ward, including apartments and retail space.

As an African American community, Jackson Ward has influenced thoughts and events far beyond its borders. When the number of African Americans purchasing property and establishing businesses grew in the 1900s, Jackson Ward became known as a black financial and entertainment center. The combination of successful businesses, influential churches, and fraternal organizations created an atmosphere in which educated black professionals could challenge Jim Crow laws and change history. Jackson Ward attorneys and businessmen not only participated in the Civil Rights movement, but were leaders in the key areas of litigation and voter registration. These achievements and the ongoing commitment of Richmond's African American citizens to Jackson Ward are recognized in this National Register Historic District amendment.

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Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

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- . "Rights Push Here Strong, Not Stormy." The Richmond Times Dispatch. 14 March 1999.

10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property	
Actuage of Property	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)  Zone Easting Northing	
1	_ 3
See continuation sheet.	
Verbal Boundary Description Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet	t.)
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation she	eet.)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Kathryn Colwell, James Hill, Susan Ho	rner, Kathy Lucia, Mary Harding Sadler
organization Sadler & Whitehead Architects, PLC	date 17, June 2002
street & number 800 West 33rd Street	telephone <u>804-231-5299</u>
city or town Richmond	state <u>VA</u> zip code <u>23225-3533</u>
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indic	cating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and prope	erties having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representative black and white photograph	s of the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) name	
	telephone
street & number	
city or town	state zip code

Richmond, Virginia

City and State

Jackson Ward historic District (Additional Documentation)

Name of Property

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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

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Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation) City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number Photography Page 21

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Jackson Ward Historic District

Locaton: Richmond, VA
Photographer: Mary Harding Sadler

Date: summer 2001

Negative no.: 19750

Negatives are stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Photo: 1 of 4

Subject: Virginia Mutual Beneficial Life Insurance Company Building

Location: 110-112 East Clay Street

Photo: 2 of 4

Subject: Doctors Howlette and Thornton Medical Offices

Location: 206-208 East Clay Street

Photo: 3 of 4

Subject: Sheffield Office Building Location: 12-14 West Leigh Street

Photo: 4 of 4

Subject: The Hippodrome Location: North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

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Section number Endnotes Page 22

#### **ENDNOTES**

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> National Trust for Historic Preservation. "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places 2001-Historic Jackson Ward." Available from the Internet at <a href="http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/2001/jacksonwrd.htm">http://www.nationaltrust.org/11Most/2001/jacksonwrd.htm</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form for the Jackson Ward Historic District, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 1976.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Michael Paul Williams, "Rights Push Here Strong, Not Stormy," The Richmond Times Dispatch (March 14, 1999).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> The Jackson Ward Historic District (JWHD) was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in July 1976. In June 1978, the exceptional significance of the JWHD was formally recognized when the neighborhood was awarded National Historic Landmark (NHL) status.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Christopher Silver and John V. Moeser, *The Separate City* (Lexington: University Press of Kentucky, 1995), p 74

<sup>6</sup> Silver, p. 74.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Third Street Betel African Methodist and the St. Lukes's Penny Savings Bank are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

<sup>8 &</sup>quot;Remembering a Heroine: Ruth E. Nelson Tinsley," Richmond Free Press (January 17-19, 1994).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Clarence Townes, Jr., interview by Kathryn E. Colwell, 15 March 2002.

<sup>10</sup> Townes, 15 March 2002.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Raymond Gavins, *The Perils and Prospects of Southern Black Leadership: Gordon Blain Hancock, 1884-1970.* (Durham: Duke University Press, 1977), p. 67.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Karen Holt Luetjen, "Second Street: Business and Entertainment in Jackson Ward, 1950 – 1965", Manuscript, (Valentine Richmond's History Museum, 1990), p. 4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Overcrowded and poorly maintained housing in Jackson Ward was in part the result of segregationist public policy. Virginia's 1924 Racial Integrity Law and Richmond's 1920s zoning ordinances had prohibited persons of different races from residing on the same street. The federal government's 1933 Home Owner's Loan Corporation practiced the policy of "redlining" predominately African American neighborhoods, thus homeowners in the Ward were ineligible for homeowner loans. Compounding the problem was the movement of more affluent black homeowners to adjacent neighborhoods following the Supreme Court ruling in *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948) that blacks could live in white neighborhoods.

<sup>14.</sup> Michael Paul Williams, "Rights Lion to get Medal of Freedom," The Richmond Times Dispatch (May 22, 1999).

American Bar Association, "Civil Rights Lawyer Oliver W. Hill to Receive 2000 American Bar Association Medal," News Release. Available from the Internet at <a href="http://www.abanet.org">http://www.abanet.org</a>. In 1994, Oliver Hill was also awarded the Thurgood Marshall Award by the American Bar Association's Individual Rights & Responsibilities Section for his leadership in the Civil Rights movement.

Patrick Andrus

To: Marc Wagner < MWagner@dhr.state.va.us >

07/21/03 11:35 AM

EDT

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward National Register Amendment

Marc: yes, I would like a hard copy for the National Register file; just the pages that had the question marks. Thanks,

#### Patrick

Patrick W. Andrus
Historian
National Register of Historic Places
Patrick\_Andrus@nps.gov
Marc Wagner < MWagner@dhr.state.va.us >



Marc Wagner < MWagner@dhr.state. va.us>

07/21/03 10:48 AM AST To: "'Cynthia\_MacLeod@nps.gov'" < Cynthia\_MacLeod@nps.gov >,
"'Patrick\_Andrus@nps.gov'" < Patrick\_Andrus@nps.gov >

CC

Subject: Jackson Ward National Register Amendment

Hi Cindy and Patrick:

Sorry it took so long to get this corrected copy to you. Do you want hard copy as well? I will mail it if needed.

<<JW NR Form revised 6-17-02.doc>>

Sincerely,

Marc

Marc C. Wagner

Architectural Historian/National Register Manager

Register Program

\*\*\*\*\*\*

Virginia Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue

Richmond, VA 23221

(804) 367-2323/Ex. 115

DHR Register Web Page: www.dhr.state.va.us/registers/register.htm

Agency Website for more information:

www.dhr.state.va.us

JW NR Form revised 6-17-0



To: Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob

McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS, Cliff Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Pat

Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District



well, here's the attachment--documentation with my highlights. JW NR Form revised 6-17-02 with ye

# United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

1. Name of Property		
Historic Name: Jackson Ward Historic District	(Additional Documentation)	
Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 12	7-237	
2. Location		
street & number roughly bounded by Gilme	er, Marshall, North Third and Leigh Str	eets
city or town Richmond		vicinity N/A
state Virginia code VA could As the designated authority under the National Historic Pr request for determination of eligibility meets the documents the procedural and professional requirements set for meets □ does not meet the National Register Criteria.  ■ nationally □ statewide locally. □ (□ See continuation	entation standards for registering properties in orth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the prop I recommend that this property be considered :	certify that this I nomination the National Register of Historic Places and perty
Signature of certifying official/Title <u>Director, Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency and bureau		Date
3. State/Federal Agency Certification	National Popietos esitorio / El Son continuation	a boot for additional assessments \
In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the	National Register criteria. ( 🗆 See continuation	sneet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official/Title		Date
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby certify that this property is:  □ entered in the National Register □ See continuation sheet. □ determined eligible for theNational Register □ See continuation sheet. □ determined not eligible for the National Register □ removed from the NationalRegister □ other (explain)	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action

5. Classification						
Ownership of Property	Catego	ory of Property	Number of	Resources withi	n Property	
(Check as many boxes as apply)	(Check	only one box)	(Do not incl	ude previously list	ed resources in t	he count)
			Contributing	9 1	Non-contributing	
■ private		building(s)	3	0	Maria Santa Sa	buildings
☐ public-local		district	0	0		sites
☐ public-State		site	0	0		structure
☐ public-Federal		structure	0	0		objects
		object	3	0		Total
Name of related multiple property (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of N/A		ole property listing.)		er of contributing n the National Re		iously
6. Function or Use						
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling (WC	RK IN PI	ROGRESS)	(Enter cate	t Functions gories from instruc		
	Office			OMMERCE	Sub: Office	_
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HEALTH CARE	Office			ACANT/NOT IN U	ISE	
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Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Jackson Ward Historic District is north of downtown Richmond, Virginia in an area roughly described by Duval Street on the north, Third Street on the east, Marshall and Clay Streets on the south and Gilmer Street on the west. This additional documentation is submitted in order to expand the significance of the Jackson Ward Historic District to include the Civil Rights era (1940-1970). A majority of the buildings associated with the institutions and people who contributed to the Civil Rights movement were constructed prior to 1940. Most have architectural or historical significance established in earlier survey efforts. A majority of these properties are typical of the Italianate and Greek Revival buildings found throughout the neighborhood. This amendment identifies buildings specifically associated with African Americans in Richmond who fought to win the civil rights guaranteed to them by the Constitution.

We identify thirteen properties connected with the Civil Rights movement and eight properties associated with community leaders or the business reinvestment within the Ward during this era. Three of these buildings are changed from non-contributing to contributing status. Two of them, the Virginia Mutual Beneficial Insurance Company Building and Doctors Thornton and Howlette Medical Offices are modern buildings designed by local architects. The third, The Sheffield Building, is an Italianate duplex with a prominent one-story modern addition.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION

### Inventory of Historic Buildings in Jackson Ward

The 1976 National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Jackson Ward Historic District includes a general inventory that highlights buildings with particular architectural or historical significance. In 1987 and 1992 the City of Richmond and the Department of Historic Resources coordinated a building-by-building inventory with survey forms documenting the full range of buildings and styles represented in the Ward. Styles in the historic district include mid-19<sup>th</sup> century Greek Revival houses, Italianate dwellings and commercial buildings, an Art Deco theater, and the modern office buildings we propose to add to the list of those considered significant. Since completion of the survey in 1992, dozens of historic buildings in the historic district have been lost through demolition, fire, and neglect. The historic district was placed on the National Trust's 2001 list of America's Eleven Most Endangered Places. Recent loss of the offices at 623 North Third Street, from which Oliver Hill and his law partner Spottswood Robinson prosecuted desegregation cases that were part of the landmark Brown v. Board of Education decisions, makes clear the ongoing threat to the most significant landmarks of the Civil Rights era.

## Where Did the Civil Rights Movement Take Place in Richmond

The Civil Rights movement in Richmond was marked by the intense efforts of Jackson Ward lawyers, businessmen, professionals and others to establish equitable treatment through integration, voter registration, and loyalty to the black-owned businesses. The movement's success was a result of a community of activists who organized and inspired others in meetings, sermons, and social gatherings that took place in historic buildings throughout Jackson Ward. The Ward had becomethe heart of Richmond's African American community during the century following the Civil War. As noted by the National Trust: "Founded by free blacks and immigrants, Jackson Ward became a gerrymandered voting district in the 1870s that kept those groups voting in one area. When early 20th-century Jim Crow laws separated the races, the people of Jackson Ward created a self-sustaining economy that made the area famous as the 'Black Wall Street' and alive with theaters, clubs and restaurants."

With few exceptions, the buildings cited in the following inventory predate the Civil Rights movement. Their style, scale, and material derive from their mid-19<sup>th</sup> to early-20<sup>th</sup> century origins. The three buildings selected

for addition to the inventory have a modern aesthetic. In their deliberate choice of contemporary architectural idiom, businessmen Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes, Sr. at the Virginia Mutual Life Insurance Company Building; John Howlette, MD and William S. Thornton, MD at 206 – 208 East Clay Street; and James E. Sheffield, Esq. At 12 – 14 West Leigh Street; boldly asserted a commitment to the Ward's future vitality.

## AN INVENTORY OF BUILDINGS IN THE JACKSON WARD HISTORIC DISTRICT THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS ERA

The three buildings whose status has changed from "non-contributing" to "contributing" are indicated with a double asterisk (\*\*)

### First Street, North 400 Block (Even)

420

ca.1880, Italianate, 2-story, brick residence converted to commercial use, stretcher bond, 2 bays, corbelled brick and molded cornice, rock-faced stone lintels, projecting bay, 1/1 windows, central chimney. Law offices of civil rights attorneys Roland Ealey, Herman Benn, and M. Ralph Page in the 1960s. In 1963, the Richmond Branch of the NAACP was located in the building.

### Second Street, North

#### 500 Block (Even)

516 ca. 1900, Italianate, 2-story, brick commercial building, stretcher bond, 2 bays, bracketed cornice, paired 1/1 windows, molded storefront cornice intact. Annex for the Hotel Harris, one of three African American hotels associated with North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street entertainment and nightlife during the 1940s and 1950s.

528

The Hippodrome Theatre, ca. 1934, Art Deco, 2-story, stucco, symmetrical façade, with paired central entry doors. This theater was a popular entertainment center from the 1930s through the 1950s. The Hippodrome attracted the "greats" of the era, including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, and Louis Armstrong.

### 500 Block (Odd)

537

ca. 1890, Italianate, 2-story, brick commercial building, stretcher bond, 4 bays, pilasters and cornice on storefront, 1/1 windows with segmental arches, bracketed cornice at roof line. Office of Benjamin A. Cephas Real Estate for over thirty years. Cephas was the first African American appointed to the Richmond Public Library Board.

539-541

Hotel Eggleston, ca. 1900, Italianate, 3-story, brick hotel, 6 bays, Permastone facing on second and third floors, metal balconies on second and third floors, 1/1 windows with segmental arches. Hotel owned by Neverett Eggleston, Sr. The Hotel Eggleston and its restaurant Neverett's Place were popular meeting spots for Richmond African Americans in the 1940s and 1950s.

#### 600 Block (Odd)

603

ca. 1900, Vernacular, 2-story, brick commercial building, stretcher bond, 4 bays, plain cornice. This building housed Richmond's premier African American photography firm, Brown's Photography.

#### Third Street, North

#### 600 Block (Even)

614

Third St. Bethel AMEChurch, ca. 1857, Italianate, 1-story, 4 bays, 1-story front porch of brick and wood with a brick balustrade and Tuscan columns, lancet arch windows with tracery, corbeling and other decorative brickwork, towers on both front corners, gabled roof. One of Jackson Ward's most active churches in the Civil Rights movement. The church was the site for numerous organizational meetings.

## Clay Street, East 1 Block (Odd)

11

ca. 1878, Italianate, 2-story, brick residence, stretcher bond, 3 bays, 1-story porch with iron posts, brackets, frieze and balustrade, 2/2 segmental-arch windows, decorative vents. Home of Clarence W. Newsome, civil rights attorney with the firm of Hill Tucker & Marsh.

### 100 Block (Even)

110-112\*\*

The Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company Building was designed by Tiffany Armstrong, architect with David Warren Harwicke & Partners. It was built in 1963 for community leaders and businessmen Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes, Sr. to house their insurance company business headquarters and other tenants, including the neighborhood ABC store. Until the mid-1990s when Jackson Center was built nearby on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, this was the largest office building in Jackson Ward. The Virginia Mutual Beneficial Life Insurance Company Building, at the northwest corner of Second and Clay Streets, has one of the most prominent sites in Jackson Ward. The owners and their architect consciously rejected the idea of constructing a building in a traditional idiom. Their goal was to create a modern structure that would speak to the future rather than the past.

The building has the stripped-down aesthetic of the International Style. A four story rectangular box constructed of pre-cast concrete, the building is organized by windows aligned in the open vertical strips between the shallow projections of the U-shaped wall panels. The base of the building is clad with a slate veneer, except at the south-facing entry elevation. A wall of store-front doors and windows is recessed behind an arcade created by two square columns. Most of the building's interior has been altered over time due to the changes of business and retail tenants. The elevator lobbies are distinguished by beige and blue-green mosaic wall panels and,

## Clay Street, East, cont.

110-112\*\* cont. at the small entry lobby a suspended ceiling of bronze and blue-green, anodized, aluminum squares.

Virginia Mutual Benefit Life's founders were community leaders who supported the Civil Rights Movement with significant financial contributions and business expertise.

## 200 Block (Even)

206-208\*\*

Doctors Howlette and Thornton Medical Offices. Optometrist John Howlette, MD and podiatrist William S. Thornton hired architect C. Page Highfill of Hyland and Highfill architects in 1961 to design their offices at 206-208 East Clay Street. The project pairs long, narrow one-story buildings along a canopied walk. The buildings are brick boxes, designed in the modern style

with very little ornament. Corrugated panels shelter the serpentine walk leading from the property's gated entry to an outdoor fountain centered between the two offices. The narrow garden lining this path is planted with topiary and other ornamental shrubs. The site presents an unexpected oasis in the city. The entry bay in each of the buildings is delineated with a wall panel of painted diagonal siding. In the case of this unusual property, these two understated buildings become a backdrop to the property's primary feature, its garden.

John L. Howlette and William S. Thornton were both prominent doctors and community leaders. Thornton was one of the founding members of the Crusade for Voters.

Southern Aid Society of Virginia Building, ca. 1910, Renaissance Revival, office building, brick, stretcher bond, 4-story, 7 bays, first floor pediments, Corinthian pilasters, 1/1 windows with arches and keystones, rustication, cornice with modillions, parapet roof. Headquarters for the Southern Aid Life Insurance Company and numerous professional offices including the law firm of civil rights attorneys Hill Tucker & Marsh.

## Clay Street, West 400 Block (Odd)

419 ca. 1883, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2-story, 2 bay, brick stoop, pilasters and entablature around entrance, large bowed window, cornice with dentils and frieze with vents. Home of Earl W. Davis, a Field Representative for the CIO (Congress of Industrial Organizations) who was a leader in the Crusade for Voters.

### Clay Street, West cont.

500 Block (Odd)

503

ca. 1850, Greek Revival residence, brick, stretcher bond, 2-story on a raised basement, 3 asymmetrical bays, sidelights and transom at front door, Greek Revival porch with square posts, plain frieze and cornice, 6/6 windows, stepped parapet roof. Home of Roy West, community leader and Richmond Public Schools administrator during desegregation West served on the Richmond City Council and was elected Mayor in 1982.

# Leigh Street, East

100 Block (Even)

- 102
  - ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2-story, 3 bays, Neo-Classical porch with Corinthian columns and turned balustrade, 1/1 segmental-arch windows, bracketed cornice with decorative vents. Home of Dr. J.J. Smallwood, professor at Virginia Union University and active in the Civil Rights movement.
- 104
- ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, porch with decorative iron posts, balustrade and brackets, cornice with modillions, shed roof. Home of James H. Johnston, President of Virginia State College, Petersburg, VA, who was active in the Civil Rights movement.
- 118
- ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, stone stoop, 2/2 windows, full-length windows on the first floor, bracketed cornice with decorative vents. Law offices in late 1950s of civil rights attorneys Oliver Hill, Martin C. Martin, and James R. Olphin.

## 100 Block (Odd)

117

ca. 1880, Italianate, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, Victorian Vernacular porch with turned posts and balustrade and sawn brackets, double front door, 2/2 segmental-arch windows, bracketed cornice with dentils and decorative vents. First Richmond law office (1939) of prominent civil rights attorney Oliver W. Hill.

# Leigh Street, West

1 Block (Even)

12-14 \*\*

Sheffield Building, ca. 1880 with 1965 addition, Italianate, brick office building, stretcher bond, 2 story, 7 asymmetrical bays, one-story section with fixed sash windows, 2/2 windows in two story section, bracketed cornice. James E. Sheffield moved his law practice to the Sheffield Building in 1965 as part of a larger effort to revitalize Jackson Ward. In 1974, Sheffield became the first African American Virginia Circuit Court judge.

## Leigh Street, West, cont.

- 18
- ca. 1890, Queen Anne, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2 story, 3 bays, Neo Classical porch with Corinthian columns and simple turned balustrade, 1/1 windows with rock-faced stone lintels, projecting turret, false mansard slate roof. Home of S.W. Robinson successful Jackson Ward real estate attorney.
- 216 Ebenezer Baptist Church, ca. 1858, Greek Revival, brick clad with stucco, Ionic columns form

stone and brick portico, arched stained glass windows on sides, shingle roof with pediment gable, cupola with Palladian louvered vents and four spires, iron fence. The 1963 civil rights march on Richmond City Hall to draw attention to inequities in employment opportunities originated at this church.

# St. James Street 500 Block (Even)

520

ca.1880, brick residence, stretcher bond, 2-story, 3 bays, Victorian Vernacular wood porch 3 bays wide with square posts and balustrade and sawn brackets, full length windows on first floor, 2/2 segmented-arch windows upstairs, bracketed cornice with decorative grills. Home of Dr. Joseph E. Jones, professor at Virginia Union University who was active in the Civil Rights movement.

8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Areas of Significance
(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)	(Enter categories from instructions)
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	ETHNIC HERITAGE: Black
our history.	
☐ <b>B</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.	Period of Significance 1800 - 1970
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.)	Significant Dates 1970
Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
☐ B removed from its original location	N/A
C a birthplace or a grave.	
D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A
☐ F a commemorative property.	=
■ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	Architect/Builder
Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuate	ion sheets.)
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this	form on one or more continuation sheets.)
Previous documentation on file (NPS)	Primary Location of Additional Data
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office
CFR 67) has been requested.	☐ Other State agency
previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
previously determined eligible by the National Register	Local government
designated a National Historic Landmark	University
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Other
#	Name of repository :
recorded by Historic American Engineering  Record#	

#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jackson Ward, the historic heart of Richmond's African American community, was profoundly involved in and affected by the civil rights struggle. It was the locus from which dozens of desegregation cases were filed by the law firms of Hill Robinson & Martin, and later Hill Tucker & Marsh. The Ward served as an incubator for black businesses. Excluded from participation in white civic and business affairs, blacks developed interdependent relationships that gave rise to businesses whose success garnered political and economic clout to the black community. The business and political leadership nurtured in the Ward helped to unmake segregation.

Jackson Ward is significant on the national level under *National Register Criterion A* for its critical role in the Civil Rights movement. The Historic District meets *Criterion Consideration G* because of the broad significance of the Civil Rights movement in our nation's history. This extension of the district's period of significance, 1940 to 1970, begins at the time when Jackson Ward's civil rights strategy had matured among the black leaders and action resulted. The era continues through the years of the Civil Rights movement and ends in 1970, the year District Court Judge Robert R. Merhige handed down his landmark ruling that students would be bussed to achieve racial integration of public schools.

#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### **Jackson Ward's Historic Designation**

The Jackson Ward Historic District was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in April 1976 and the National Register of Historic Places in June 1978 because: "The area is broadly significant to students of black, urban, and business history and is unique for having been the center of Negro community life in Richmond during a watershed era for that race and the nation." In June 1978, the exceptional significance of Jackson Ward was formally recognized when it was awarded National Historic Landmark status. The neighborhood was comprehensively surveyed by Tyler Potterfield with the City of Richmond and David Edwards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1987 and 1997. The 1976 Nomination Form authored by Margaret Peters, Calder Loth, H. Peter Pudner, and Joseph Yates, notes that the Period of Significance for the Jackson Ward Historic District extends from 1800 – 1899 and from 1900 (with no concluding year). This addendum proposes to specifically extend the period of significance to include the Civil Rights Era beginning in 1940 and to designate 1970 as the period's terminus.

## Background

Segregation developed in Jackson Ward due to restrictive public policies and local attitudes concerning the rights of African Americans following the Civil War. By 1940, the Ward had become home to approximately 5000 African Americans. It was the heart of Richmond's black commercial, cultural, and religious life. In effect, Jackson Ward functioned politically and economically as a "separate city" within the larger metropolis. Following the example of Maggie Lena Walker and the reconstruction era organizations that grew out of the black churches and fraternal organizations, black citizens of the Civil Rights era continued to give back to strengthen their community. They took pride in their race, and ultimately banded together to overcome obstacles imposed by both legal segregation and the equally limiting *de facto*, or customary segregation.

Ironically, as monumental achievements were made by Jackson Ward attorneys litigating civil rights cases through the court system, Richmond's city planners forever altered the physical fabric of the community through an expansive urban renewal program. Residents could do little to influence the path of the proposed roads and Jackson Ward soon found itself bisected, both vertically and horizontally, by the broad concrete expanses of the I-95 expressway and the Belvidere Street extension. Though urban renewal removed some of the area's most blighted residential properties, it also demolished the physically cohesive community. By 1970, the impact of the city's urban renewal program and blacks' recently won civil rights became evident as many

businesses closed or relocated. But even as the physical fabric was lost, the black community continued to identify with Jackson Ward. As a result, efforts to revitalize the neighborhood are underway so that the Ward can nurture another proud generation.

The years 1940 to 1970 represent an era of unprecedented black achievement as successful litigation brought the integration of public schools and African Americans were elected and appointed to numerous political and judicial positions for the first time in our nation's history.

### Prominence in the fight for Civil Rights

### Litigation

Jackson Ward was the locus from which dozens of desegregation cases were filed by the law firm of Hill Martin & Robinson, later Hill Tucker & Marsh. Senior partner Oliver W. Hill served as head of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Virginia legal defense team. Over time the firm has operated out of several offices, all located within Jackson Ward. The initial thrust was to prove that the Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) decision, which had established 'separate but equal,' was unconstitutional. Hill and partner Spottswood W. Robinson III represented the plaintiff in the Prince Edward County desegregation case Davis v. County School Board of Prince Edward County (1951). This case became one of five that formed Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas (1954). Hill and Robinson joined New York NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall in successfully arguing Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas before the United States Supreme Court, thus effectively ending legal school segregation.

Virginia's response to *Brown* was to create policies that collectively became known as "Massive Resistance." Hill's firm vigorously filed law suits opposing the legislature's efforts to perpetuate segregation. In a 1999 interview, Hill stated that suits were filed against Virginia school systems in sixty jurisdictions—representing more litigation than any other state in the Union. Among the acts of Virginia's General Assembly were the Gray Plan (1956) that provided tuition for private school and empowered School Boards to determine pupil school placement and the Stanley Plan (1956) composed of thirteen actions designed to prevent integration. Hill and his legal team responded by filing cases against school boards in Arlington, Norfolk, Newport News, and Charlottesville. Before these cases could be settled, the General Assembly moved to establish independent Pupil Placement Boards. Within the year, Hill successfully obtained a court order temporarily stopping this practice in Richmond. However, the test came when, as the 1958 school year began, six African American students were denied placement in the all white school of their choice. Attorney Martin A. Martin (partner in Hill Martin and Robinson) represented the plaintiffs in this case *Warden v. Richmond School Board* (1958). Though no settlement was reached until 1961, success was achieved in August 1960 when two African American students were admitted to all white Chandler Elementary School.

Another Richmond School Board tactic to prevent integration was to create "dual attendance zones." Eleven African American parents filed a class action suit to challenge this procedure in *Bradley v. Richmond School Board* (1961). Attorneys Samuel W. Tucker and Henry Marsh III of Hill Tucker & Marsh successfully argued this case and in 1963 the Freedom of Choice Plan was established. However, few students chose to attend a school outside of their district and due to Richmond's segregated residential patterns, schools remained segregated. Tucker and Marsh filed the pivotal case leading to Judge Robert R. Merhige, Jr.'s 1970 landmark ruling in which he ordered the bussing of black and white students to schools outside of their neighborhoods in order to stimulate racial integration of public schools. The ruling would have a profound effect on Jackson Ward and on the nation at large.

Civil rights cases originating from the offices of Jackson Ward attorneys were not limited to school desegregation. Three other examples involved public school teachers' salaries, courtroom seating, and segregation of restaurants. In 1941, Hill teamed with fellow NAACP attorneys Leon Ransom, District of

Columbia, and Thurgood Marshall, New York, to represent the black Richmond Teacher's Association in obtaining black teacher salaries equal to those paid white teachers. Immediately upon hearing the suit had been filed, the Richmond School Board passed a pay parity plan. In 1963, the firm of Ealey & Page successfully represented the plaintiff before the U.S. Supreme Court whereby the Court ruled that segregated seating in courtrooms was unconstitutional. The offices of attorneys Roland D. Ealey, and M Ralph Page were located at 420 N. 1st Street (JWHD, NHL). Also in 1963, Hill associate Clarence W. Newsome represented student demonstrators who had been arrested during a lunch counter demonstration.

## Voter Registration

Litigation was but one tool used by Richmond's African American population to gain their civil rights; voter registration was a second method. In 1936, only 1,527 blacks were registered to vote. Increasing this number was difficult as many blacks felt their vote did not count. By 1940, through efforts of Jackson Ward dentist Jesse M. Tinsley, President of the Richmond branch NAACP, and Roscoe C. Jackson of the Democratic Voter's League, the number of blacks voting rose by 50 percent. The progressive mayoral candidate Gordon B. Ambler won, with the support of the black vote. During his administration, he began to address long-standing community problems. The power of the vote was not lost on Richmond's black citizens and in 1948 they helped elect attorney Oliver W. Hill as the first African American to serve on the City Council since Reconstruction.

In the wake of *Brown*, Virginia's legislature mounted an offense against both school integration and the organizations that fought for integration—particularly the NAACP. In 1956, the Richmond Crusade for Voters was founded to sustain the NAACP's efforts in registering voters. Founders were William S. Thornton, John Mitchell Brooks, and William Fergusen Reid. The Crusade's voter-registration campaign during 1957 was known as the "Miracle of Richmond." The drive resurrected an antebellum tradition whereby one black taught another to read. The motto "each one teach one" now became "each one reach one." The highly successful campaign resulted in a 30 percent increase in black voter registration by 1958. Alarmed by the success of the voter registration campaigns, the Virginia legislature introduced "blank sheet" registration under the guise of testing literacy. The *Richmond Afro-American*, the *Richmond Planet* countered from its offices at 301 E. Clay Street (now demolished) by launching a "Boomerang for Bigots" program aimed at educating blacks on how to fill in the blank form thus lessening the impact of the blank sheet registration maneuver.

The organizational minds behind the Crusade were educated black professionals who met daily in strategy sessions. Many meetings were held at Slaughters Hotel at 527-529 North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (now demolished) and later at the 533 Club next door (now demolished). The commitment was substantial since the Crusade's goal was not only to register voters, but also provide voter education, endorse candidates, establish precinct clubs, and provide transportation to the polls. By the 1962 city council elections, the Crusade had become so effective that seven of the nine candidates it endorsed were elected. In 1966, African Americans represented 48 percent of Richmond's population and 34 percent of all registered voters.

Critical to the voter registration and other civil rights campaigns were the city's black churches—fifteen of which were located in Jackson Ward. These churches, particularly Fifth Street Baptist Church, 705 N. 5<sup>th</sup> Street (now demolished), Third Street Bethel African Methodist Episcopal, 616 N. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street (NRHP), and Leigh Street African Methodist Episcopal, 500 E. Leigh Street (now demolished) were the location for mass meetings. But all churches were critical to the effort, with their pastors playing key rolls.

Non-violent protest

Both the Richmond Branch and Virginia Chapter of the NAACP had their offices in Jackson Ward. NAACP staff worked zealously with professors and students at Virginia Union University, pastors, and local businessmen in organizing civil rights protests. Individual actions also garnered attention. As early as 1939, local NAACP president Jesse Tinsley and his wife Ruth defied Richmond's social conventions by entertaining

First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in their home at 531 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street (now demolished). Richmond's first organized protest occurred in February 1960 when students from Virginia Union University staged the first "sit-in" at F. W. Woolworth's lunch counter. Other lunch counters targeted included G. C. Murphy, Thalhimer's, and Peoples Service Drug. Later, while picketing Thalhimer's department store, three blacks were arrested. Those arrested included Ruth Tinsley, whom though not picketing was standing near the store and refused to comply with a police officer's order to "move on." By June 1963, sixty restaurants had dropped racial barriers. Demonstrations continued through the year. In August, picketers marched from Ebenezer Baptist Church, 216 W. Leigh Street (JWHD, NHL), down Broad Street to demand increased job opportunities within city government. And later, between 300 and 400 demonstrators gathered at the black YMCA, 214 E. Leigh Street (now demolished), for a bus caravan to D.C. to join the March on Washington.

Richmond's demonstrations differed from those in other states in that they proceeded with few arrests and without violence. But Richmond had not been a passive player in the Civil Rights movement. It has been suggested that the leaders of Richmond's Civil Rights movement were primarily conservative businessmen who had learned to work within the system and who had confidence in achieving the goal through legal means. What is evident is that local black leaders were effective in devising strategies that achieved the desired outcome without provoking violence. Their actions contributed significantly to passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Important local successes resulting from their efforts are the "firsts" for African Americans who worked and lived in Jackson Ward.

- 1948 Oliver W. Hill became first African American elected to the Richmond City Council since Reconstruction
- 1953 Booker T. Bradshaw elected as first African American on the Richmond School Board
- 1964 Spottswood W. Robinson, III became first African American appointed as a judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington. In 1966, Robinson became first African American appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia.
- 1964 Dr. William Ferguson Reid and Dr. William M.T. Forrestor became the first African Americans admitted to the Richmond Academy of Medicine
- 1964 Benjamin A. Cephas became first African American appointed to the Board of the Richmond Public Library
- 1966 William Ferguson Reid became first African American elected to General Assembly in modern times
- 1966 Henry Marsh III elected to the City Council and in 1977 became Richmond's first African American Mayor
- 1974 James E. Sheffield appointed as first African American Virginia Circuit Court Judge

## **Prominence of the Business Community**

The Jackson Ward business community, with Second Street as its heart, developed as a result of local African Americans' determination to preserve their access to goods and services even as the white community was busy erecting Jim Crow laws to limit such access. Early key businesses, such as Maggie Walker's St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank (NRHP, NHL), and the Southern Aid Society (JWHD, NHL), had grown out of fraternal organizations and self-help societies with ties to the black church. By example, these institutions established a precedent—that business owners would give back, reinvest in their community. This commitment is clearly noted in the financial support and organizational acumen that businessmen provided to the Civil Rights movement. It is also seen through the expansion of individual businesses that reinvested in the physical fabric of Jackson Ward by building new structures and redeveloping old.

Coupled with a business's obligation to the community was the black consumer's responsibility to support local black establishments. Local pastor Dr. Gordon Blaine Hancock, Moore Street Baptist Church, noted that

because blacks "possessed little political clout, national, state, and local governments could ignore their complaints... By spending where possible in Negro enterprises, the Negro could at least provide jobs for some members of his group and, at the same time, use his leverage as a consumer to coerce white merchants to hire Negroes." Dr. Hancock coined the phrase "Double Duty Dollar" to express this concept. Similar economic solidarity campaigns of the time included the NAACP's "Buy Black", frequently advanced in the black newspaper the Afro-American and Richmond Planet, and "Don't Buy Where You Can't Work." The emphasis on taking pride in and reinvesting in one's race became for many a natural thought pattern and ensured a vibrant, supportive community even as daily experiences resulting from Richmond's staunch segregationist policies were severely limiting.

For the black business owner, profitability remained a challenge, as black businessmen had to overcome competition from white business owners, who frequently had both the capital and credit to offer wider selection and better prices, and also an increasingly blighted streetscape created by overcrowding and poverty within the Ward. In spite of these challenges, black owned businesses in Jackson Ward, and particularly along 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, thrived. Few consumer needs would have gone unfulfilled as businesses included established insurance and financial institutions, the offices of emerging young professionals, funeral parlors, real estate offices, hotels, restaurants, clubs, theaters, and service providers including barber and beauty shops, repair shops, dry cleaners and tailors. Residents remember the Jackson Ward of the 1940s and 1950s as "jumpin" and never closing.

Among Jackson Ward's established insurance companies were Richmond Beneficial Life Insurance and Southern Aid. In keeping with the self-help tradition, two insurance men Booker T. Bradshaw and Clarence Townes Sr. established the Virginia Mutual Benefit Life Insurance Company in 1933; with headquarters in the Southern Aid Building at 214 E. Clay Street (JWHD, NHL). Over the next thirty years their business thrived and expanded to Washington D.C. and other Virginia cities. In the early 1960s plans were developed for a new headquarters building. Desirous of being a positive force within the Jackson Ward community, Bradshaw and Townes purchased property prominently located on the corner of Second and Clay Streets for their building and employed progressive Richmond architect Tiffany Armstrong. At a time when Jackson Ward's commercial center was declining, Bradshaw and Townes gave Armstrong instructions to design a building that conveyed their faith in Jackson Ward's viability as a commercial center. The Virginia Mutual Benefit Insurance Building at 110-112 E. Clay Street was dedicated in 1963 and remains a symbol of the achievements that earned Jackson Ward the reputation as "the Black Wall Street" in the 1900s. Its founders were leaders in the community serving on numerous boards. Their individual achievements include Mr. Bradshaw's election to the Richmond School Board in 1953, the first African American to serve in that capacity since Reconstruction, and Mr. Townes being cited by President Eisenhower for his service to the Department of Commerce's Advisory Committee on Minority Business Development.

Prominent financial institutions included the Consolidated Bank and Trust, successor to Maggie Walker's St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank. In 1966, Consolidated's president J. Jay Nickens, Jr. co-founded the Richmond Improvement Coordinating Council. The Council, noting that 75 percent of Richmond's black population was low income and unskilled, assisted these individuals, through education, to obtain better jobs and housing conditions. In current times, Consolidated continues to exert influence in the Jackson Ward community from its prominent building at 327-329 N. 1st Street (constructed in 1974, after the proposed period of significance).

During the Civil Rights era, numerous young black professionals established practices in Jackson Ward. Because Virginia colleges would not admit African Americans to their graduate programs, many students had received tuition assistance from the legislature to study out of state. They now returned and began dismantling the system that had enabled a segregated society. Most prominent among these was Oliver W. Hill who established a law practice with Spottswood W. Robinson III and Martin C. Martin in 1943. Their firm Hill Robinson & Martin was located first in the Consolidated Bank & Trust Building at 327 N. 1st Street (demolished) and later at 623 N. 3rd Street (demolished). During the 1960s, when Samuel W. Tucker and

Henry L. Marsh III joined forces with Hill, their firm Hill Tucker & Marsh was located in the Southern Aid Building at 214 E. Clay Street (JWHD, NHL). In addition to these firms' monumental success in litigating desegregation cases, the individual attorneys also achieved prominence. S. W. Robinson became the first African American to be appointed a judge on the U.S. District Court in Washington (1964). Later he was the first African American judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia (1966). In 1977, Henry Marsh III was elected as Richmond's first black mayor. In 1999, Oliver Hill was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in recognition for his role as one of the "lions" of the Civil Rights movement. In 2000, Hill received the American Bar Association's highest award in recognition for his leadership in the Civil Rights movement.

Attorney James E. Sheffield, moved to Jackson Ward in 1965 when he chose to become part of the area revitalization effort. He purchased a vacant and dilapidated building at 12 - 14 West Leigh Street to house his law practice. The redevelopment project expanded the structure toward the street to accommodate additional office space. Other professional offices relocating to the Sheffield Building following this remodeling were those of attorney Harrison Bruce, physician Charles Cummings, and dentist Anthony Malloy. In 1974, attorney Sheffield became the first African American to be appointed as a Circuit Court Judge in Virginia.

Among the notable doctors and dentists establishing a practice in Jackson Ward were podiatrist William S. Thornton, optometrist John L. Howlette, physician William Fergusen Reid, and dentist Jesse M. Tinsley. Dr. Thornton and Dr. Howlette established their practices at 415 North 2nd (now demolished) in the 1950s. Throughout their lifetimes they worked to create opportunities for African Americans. Dr. Thornton, co-founder of the Crusade for Voters in 1956, served as its president for many years. Dr. Howlette, the second African American to be licensed to practice optometry in Virginia, in 1968 helped co-found the predominantly black National Optometric Association. Their ongoing commitment to the community was demonstrated in 1963 when they jointly invested in the construction of a modern office building at 206 - 208 East Clay Street. The prominent Richmond architectural firm of Hyland and Hyfill designed the building—a striking one-story structure with landscaped courtyard.

Also active in civil rights activities were Doctors Reid and Tinsley. William Fergusen Reid had joined Thornton and Brooks in founding the Crusade for Voters in the 1950s. In 1967, Dr. Reid was elected as the first African American to serve in the Virginia House of Delegates. Dr. Reid's office was located at 611 Chamberlayne Ave. (demolished). Jesse M. Tinsley served as president of the Richmond branch NAACP for fifteen years and then as state NAACP president for twenty years. Dr. Tinsley's dental practice at 402½ N. 2nd Street (outside JWHD) also housed the headquarters of the Richmond NAACP.

Due to a large and concentrated black population, service businesses also thrived during this era. The 1940 Hill's *Richmond City Directory* identifies 107 black retail or service related businesses along the streets of 1st, 2nd, 3rd, Clay and Leigh. This large number does not include those businesses that were operated out of an individual's home and thus were not given a listing. In some instances a business formed overnight when a local segregated practice created a need within the community. Such was the case of the Manhattan Car for Hire company, which seven men formed when white owned cab companies refused to pick-up black passengers. The business, using the owner's personal black Packards, operated out of 520 North 2nd Street (demolished) from 1927 through the 1950s. Cab company executive Edward L. Slade, Jr. served as president of the Richmond Branch NAACP in the 1960s and was instrumental in organizing the bus caravan of demonstrators to the 1963 Civil Rights March on Washington.

Central to the social life of Jackson Ward were the theaters, restaurants, clubs, and hotels along the three blocks of N. 2nd Street between Clay and Leigh Streets. Interviews relate that "Two Street" never closed during the World War II years, as patrons and soldiers on leave would cross back and forth going from

club to club, to the Hippodrome theater, and to restaurants and hotels. The Hippodrome booked the big entertainers of the time, including Duke Ellington, Billie Holiday, Nat King Cole, and Louis Armstrong, who then stayed at a 2nd Street hotel. In Richmond, only hotels located in Jackson Ward were open to African Americans. Most prominent of these were Slaughters (now demolished), Eggleston (JWHD, NHL), and Harris (now demolished).

Neverett Eggleston, owner of the Eggleston Hotel at 539 - 541 North 2nd Street, began his career by first managing the hotel when it was Miller's Hotel and then purchasing it. While making his hotel and its restaurant, Neverett's Place, one of the favorite spots along 2nd Street, he continued to purchase and develop commercial property in Jackson Ward. In 1954, he extensively remodeled the Eggleston Hotel creating a new facade in keeping with the modern architecture of the time. Neverett Eggleston, Jr. continued in his father's footsteps by investing in property and in 1964 built Motel Eggleston at 604 - 606 North 2nd Street. A third major property owner of the era was James R. Stallings who developed both housing and commercial properties. Stallings purchased his first house in the 1940s. In addition to rental housing, he invested in historic commercial properties purchasing the Hippodrome, St. Luke's Building, and Slaughter's Hotel as they became available. Stallings also constructed numerous new buildings in Jackson Ward, including apartments and retail space.

As an African American community, Jackson Ward has influenced thoughts and events far beyond its borders. When the number of African Americans purchasing property and establishing businesses grew in the 1900s, Jackson Ward became known as a black financial and entertainment center. The combination of successful businesses, influential churches, and fraternal organizations created an atmosphere in which educated black professionals could challenge Jim Crow laws and change history. Jackson Ward attorneys and businessmen not only participated in the Civil Rights movement, but were leaders in the key areas of litigation and voter registration. These achievements and the ongoing commitment of Richmond's African American citizens to Jackson Ward are recognized in this National Register Historic District amendment.

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"	Rights Push Here Strong,	Not Stormy."	The Richmond Times	s Dispatch.	14 March 1999.
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10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)	
Zone Easting Northing 1	3
2 See continuation sheet.	4
Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.	)
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Kathryn Colwell, James Hill, Susan Horne	er Kathy Lucia Many Harding Sadler
organization Sadler & Whitehead Architects, PLC	date _ 17, June 2002
street & number 800 West 33rd Street	telephone 804-231-5299
city or town Richmond	state <u>VA</u> zip code <u>23225-3533</u>
Additional Documentation	
Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicati	ing the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and propertie	es having large acreage or numerous resources.
Photographs	
Representativeblack and white photographs of	f the property.
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)	
Property Owner	
(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.) name	
street & number	telephone
city or town	state zip code

properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of

this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.0, Box 37127, Washington, DC 200137127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (10240018), Washington, DC 20503

#### PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Property: Jackson Ward Historic District

Locaton: Richmond, VA
Photographer: Mary Harding Sadler

Date: summer 2001

Negative no.: 19750

Negatives are stored at the Virginia Department of Historic Resources

Photo: 1 of 4

Subject: Virginia Mutual Beneficial Life Insurance Company Building

Location: 110-112 East Clay Street

Photo: 2 of 4

Subject: Doctors Howlette and Thornton Medical Offices

Location: 206-208 East Clay Street

Photo: 3 of 4

Subject: Sheffield Office Building Location: 12-14 West Leigh Street

Photo: 4 of 4

Subject: The Hippodrome Location: North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street

# **ENDNOTES**



To: Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS, Bill
Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, John
Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, Bonnie
Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS,
John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Allen
Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Diann Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS,
Reed Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS, Paul Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS

CC

Subject: RE: Jackson Ward Historic District

Cindy, thanks for copying me.

After 25 years of dealing with Maggie Walker NHS (MAWA) I share your amazement in learning that indeed there are two different Jackson Ward HD properties. I looked at the NHL file and saw that it contains the form for the 6-2-78 HD, referencing the previous 7-30-76 HD form. In our defense, I must point out that the National Register of Historic Places 1966-1988book lists on page 756 the 7-30-76 HD (76002187), as the NHL. It does not include the 1978 designation. Also, the "NPS Properties in the National Register of Historic Places" list, last issued by WASO on Mar. 31, 1994, cites that same erroneous information.

As Carol Shull states, we have to deal with numerous overlapping NRHP/NHL property designations in the Northeast Region, a difficult matter which has long concerned Paul Weinbaum in Boston and me in Philadelphia. So now we all know that there are **four** such properties of concern in this instance: Jackson Ward HD (1976), which includes Jackson Ward HD NHL (1978), which includes Maggie L Walker NHS (1978), which includes Maggie L. Walker House NHL (1975), and more private property not under NPS jurisdiction than NPS-owned property.

Not being familiar with the recent amendment initiative, I won't comment on that, other than to agree with Cindy that the park should have been offered an opportunity to comment. But I would say that VADHR should have done so early on, not necessarily the Register staff at the end of the process. Pat Andrus notes that Marc Wagner agrees that this was an oversight by the VADHR. Cindy raises a number of provocative questions, including the issue of NPS park restoration policy, as well as overall NPS preservation policy as applied to the the City of Richmond in general and the Jackson Ward HDs in particular. When the fate of a tertiary park building's so-called "laundromat" addition was being planned, Then Associate Director Jerry Rogers and Chief Historical Architect Hugh Miller was very concerned that the restoration policy at MAWA not diverge from the greater NPS goals, even though that addition post-dated Maggie Walker's death by twenty years. Ultimately Project Architect Reed Engle negotiated the scope of work with the VADHR, and the complex Sec. 106 compliance consultation was successfully concluded. And Cindy properly poses the question of integrity as applied to a district which continues to lose its buildings.

Bonnie Halda is commenting on the issue of the Regional role in revising the NHL documentation. Bonnie, Bill Bolger, and I have discussed the matter in the past in connection with our still-uncompleted Maggie Walker NHS documentation project. Now that the NRHP HD form has been amended, the NHS documentation project will have to take the additions to the HD form into consideration. In any case, our project is currently inactive and should be resumed within whatever priorities emerge from the new Northeast Region History Program.

In a not dissimilar situation, INDE recently amended its NRHP documentation to include the Underground Railroad and Anti-Slavery Context, which also extended the park's period of significance through the Civil War, and formed the basis of its listing as an Underground Railroad Network to Freedom property. Recent and future historical research and archeological findings will lead to more thorough documentation of INDE's numerous African-American themes.

Cindy McLead -804.226.1981 ex. 25 Conference call-Ciff Tobias - Bonnie Haller Bill Bolger & Bonnie

not national

Jackson Ward Historia Distuit

cent. alt. by b of w bldgs - 1940s on, parches removed Not Hist Site treats its bldgs as 1920s (height of Maggie Walker activity) NOS has le bldgs in dist -

its overding the NHL

E can give opinion or not! sig, even if its not a NHL

Cindy-change the lang. of the arrend-leturn to statedelete refer to it being nat. sig. for civil eights eramake it clear that the doc. is not amending the VHL

Caroli Why is it a prob. that they ident national infortance to

Corol: is it a prob. for the way NB restores 6/d5 in the distinct?

Circly- Moot point - 6/d9s restored before the amend.

John - are any of the 13 6/d9s owned by NBS

Circly- Yes 1/8 E. Lee - restored to 120's period with a circly of the circle of the c

language is not precise is could be misintrepted.

H32(2280)

Ms. Kathleen Kilpatrick, SHPO Department of Historic Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23221

Dear Ms. Kilpatrick:

I am writing to you concerning the Jackson Ward Historic District in Richmond.

As you are aware, the Jackson Ward Historic District was nominated by the State and listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 30, 1976. In 1978 the Secretary of the Interior designated a smaller Jackson Ward Historic District a National Historic Landmark. In instances where there are overlapping National Register and National Historic Landmark districts, the National Register policy has been to accept documentation from States amending the National Register district, while not affecting the status of the National Historic Landmark (which requires action by the Secretary of the Interior). On November 4, 2002, the National Register accepted additional documentation submitted by the Department of Historic Resources which extended the period of significance for the National Register district to include the Civil Rights era in Richmond. The language of this additional documentation, however, could be misinterpreted to indicate that the additional documentation formally amends the Jackson Ward National Historic Landmark district in addition to the National Register district. We are requesting your assistance in amending the documentation to clarify this issue.

The first sentence of the second paragraph of section 8 of the additional information, which states that the Jackson Ward historic district is significant on the national level for its role in the Civil Rights movement, could be read as amending the National Historic Landmark. The designated national significance for the Jackson Ward Historic District is an earlier era, and the additional documentation does not establish national significance of the events which occurred in Richmond between 1940 and 1970. We are therefore requesting that the first sentence of the second paragraph of section 8 be replaced with a statement that the National Register-listed Jackson Ward Historic District meets National Register Criterion A and Criteria Consideration G for its exceptional historic importance for its role in the Civil Rights movement. The second sentence of the second paragraph of section 8 should be amended to note that, "This extension of the National Register district's period of significance..." The second sentence of the third paragraph of section 8, p.12 states that "in June, 1978, the exceptional significance of Jackson Ward was formally recognized when it was awarded National Historic Landmark status" should be changed to note that the "in June 1978, the national significance..." (replacing the term

"exceptional significance" as it is now stated). We are also requesting that the third paragraph of section 8, p.12, be amended by adding a statement that clearly notes that the additional documentation amends the National Register district, and not the National Historic Landmark.

The 1976 form for the National Register district does not include a complete inventory of all buildings within the district. The recently-accepted additional documentation states the district was comprehensively surveyed in a joint project of the City of Richmond and the Department of Historic Resources in 1987 and 1997. We hope that your office can compile this information on National Register continuation sheets and submit it as additional documentation on the National Register district. We believe it would be a great public benefit to have an updated inventory of contributing and non-contributing properties in the National Register-listed Jackson Ward Historic District.

We appreciate your assistance in this matter. Please let us know if you have any questions about this request.

Sincerely,

## Carol D. Shull

Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places

bcc:

0001

2200

2250

Superintendent, Richmond National Battlefield Park NPS NE Region: attn: Bonnie Halda/Bill Bolger

Basic File Retained In 2280

FNP:PAndrus:OP:07/29/03:c:/pwa/andrus/let/jacksonward:f:/nr/jacksonward

NPS Form 10-900-a (8-86) OMB Approval No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Jackson Ward Historic District (Additional Documentation)
City of Richmond, Virginia

Section number 8 Page 12

#### 8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Jackson Ward, the historic heart of Richmond's African American community, was profoundly involved in and affected by the civil rights struggle. It was the locus from which dozens of desegregation cases were filed by the law firms of Hill Robinson & Martin, and later Hill Tucker & Marsh. The Ward served as an incubator for black businesses. Excluded from participation in white civic and business affairs, blacks developed interdependent relationships that gave rise to businesses whose success garnered political and economic clout to the black community. The business and political leadership nurtured in the Ward helped to unmake segregation.

Jackson Ward is significant on the national level under *National Register Criterion A* for its critical role in the Civil Rights movement. The Historic District meets *Criterion Consideration G* because of the broad significance of the Civil Rights movement in our nation's history. This extension of the district's period of significance, 1940 to 1970, begins at the time when Jackson Ward's civil rights strategy had matured among the black leaders and action resulted. The era continues through the years of the Civil Rights movement and ends in 1970, the year District Court Judge Robert R. Merhige handed down his landmark ruling that students would be bussed to achieve racial integration of public schools.

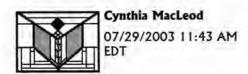
#### HISTORIC CONTEXT

#### Jackson Ward's Historic Designation

The Jackson Ward Historic District was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in April 1976 and the National Register of Historic Places in June 1978 because: "The area is broadly significant to students of black, urban, and business history and is unique for having been the center of Negro community life in Richmond during a watershed era for that race and the nation." In June 1978, the exceptional significance of Jackson Ward was formally recognized when it was awarded National Historic Landmark status. The neighborhood was comprehensively surveyed by Tyler Potterfield with the City of Richmond and David Edwards of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in 1987 and 1997. The 1976 Nomination Form authored by Margaret Peters, Calder Loth, H. Peter Pudner, and Joseph Yates, notes that the Period of Significance for the Jackson Ward Historic District extends from 1800 – 1899 and from 1900 (with no concluding year). This addendum proposes to specifically extend the period of significance to include the Civil Rights Era beginning in 1940 and to designate 1970 as the period's terminus.

### Background

Segregation developed in Jackson Ward due to restrictive public policies and local attitudes concerning the rights of African Americans following the Civil War. By 1940, the Ward had become home to approximately 5000 African Americans. It was the heart of Richmond's black commercial, cultural, and religious life. In effect, Jackson Ward functioned politically and economically as a "separate city" within the larger metropolis. Following the example of Maggie Lena Walker and the reconstruction era organizations that grew out of the black churches and fraternal organizations, black citizens of the Civil Rights era continued to give back to



To: Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill
Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Cliff
Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann
Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather
Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John
Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS,
Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul
Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed
Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Carol, I thought I'd recap the call we held last week, with a few others in WASO, where we agreed that WASO would send a letter to the VA SHPO asking that the amendment be revised to be clear that the amendment is only for the NR district, not the NHL. I am hoping that the revision will also specify the addition of the three buildings to the contributing list and not indicate that post 1935 renovations to buildings are also significant.

Carol, when we were finished with our call, you were about to have a call with the regional office--anything new from that?

When you are sending the letter to the VA SHPO, may I see a copy?

Thanks.

Cindy

Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey National Park Service Cynthia MacLeod



**Cynthia MacLeod** 07/30/2003 11:54 AM EDT To: Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill
Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Cliff
Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann
Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather
Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John
Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS,
Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul
Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed
Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Carol, sorry, I'll be in all day meetings next Wed & Thursday. The following week is better for me. Cindy

Carol Shull

#### Carol Shull

07/30/2003 10:17 AM EDT To: Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill
Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Cliff
Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann
Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather
Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John
Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS,
Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul
Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed
Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Cindy, We have already sent the letter to the state copying you in. Patrick can set up the conference call, which is to discuss developing an approach to updating the Jackson Ward NHL nomination. I feel like you, Patrick, John Sprinkle, Bonnie Halda and Bill Bolger should be on the call for sure, since the region would be responsible for the project to update the NHL. Who else would like to participate and will the rest of you please confirm which of the dates work for you? We suggest doing it at 9:00 in the morning Wednesday or Thursday of next week.

Carol

Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey National Park Service Cynthia MacLeod



Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

The issue of updating NHL nominations presents a large workload for this Region. We currently have well over 200 NHLs that were identified last year as needing updates and/or boundary studies, and the number could be well over that. At this point, we don't have the staff nor the funding to address this large backlog. We do have a small Challenge Cost Share Program project earmarked for this type of activity in FYO4, and although it's a start, the funding will not go far. In any case, we first need to develop a set of criteria on how we set priorities for updating NHL nominations, conduct an analysis of our NHLs, and create a priority list. Then, we need to seek funding, staff, and training to begin chipping away at the backlog.

We would like to participate in a conference call and provide any technical assistance that we can, but the likelihood of the Regional Office undertaking the update to the Jackson Ward Historic District is far in the future. It's unfortunate, but it's the reality of the situation of diminishing funding and increasing responsibilities.

Bonnie

Cynthia MacLeod



# Cynthia MacLeod

07/30/2003 04:29 PM

To: Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, Bonnie Haida/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Cliff Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

The 14th is better for me--but meanwhile, I don't know that this is something the regional office is prepared to take on. Before we struggle to schedule a call, I'd like to know the end game.

Carol Shull

#### Carol Shull

07/30/2003 01:05 PM EDT

To: Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Cliff Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann lacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS. Paul Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Cindy and All, How about scheduling the conference call on the Jackson Ward NHL at 9:00 on Aug. 12 or 132

#### Carol Shull

07/31/03 09:38 AM EDT To: Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill
Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Cliff
Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann
Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather
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Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS,
Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul
Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed

Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS
Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Cindy, We don't have the funding or staff to do it here. Bonnie, do you think it is worth having a conference call?

#### Carol

Carol D. Shull Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places and Chief of the National Historic Landmarks Survey National Park Service Cynthia MacLeod



# Cynthia MacLeod 07/31/2003 07:50 AM

To: Bonnie Halda/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill
Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS, Cliff Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS,
Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight
Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John
Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith
Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS,
Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS,
Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS

Subject: Re: Jackson Ward Historic District

Bonnie, I hear 'ya.

Carol, in light of the situation, do you think a conference call is productive? Do you have funding or staff who could undertake this update of Jackson Ward NHL?

Bonnie Halda



Bonnie Halda 07/30/2003 05:05 PM EDT

To: Cynthia MacLeod/RICH/NPS@NPS

cc: Allen Cooper/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bill Bolger/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Bob McIntosh/Boston/NPS@NPS, Carol Shull/WASO/NPS@NPS, Cliff Tobias/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Dave Ruth/RICH/NPS@NPS, Diann Jacox/NACE/NPS@NPS, Dwight Pitcaithley/WASO/NPS@NPS, Heather Huyck/COLO/NPS@NPS, John Maounis/Boston/NPS@NPS, John Sprinkle/WASO/NPS@NPS, Keith Everett/PHILADELPHIA/NPS@NPS, Pat Tiller/WASO/NPS@NPS, Patrick Andrus/WASO/NPS@NPS, Paul Weinbaum/Boston/NPS@NPS, Randy Biallas/WASO/NPS@NPS, Reed Engle/SHEN/NPS@NPS



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA是

Department of Historic Resources

W. Tayloe Murphy, Jr. Secretary of Natural Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221 September 9, 2003 Kathleen S. Kilpatrick

Tel: (804) 367-2323 Fax: (804) 367-2391 TDD: (804) 367-2386 www.dhr.state.va.us

Ms. Carol D. Shull Keeper, National Register of Historic Places National Part Service 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: Jackson Ward Historic District, City of Richmond

Dear Ms Shull:

I am writing in reply to your letter dated July 29, 2003, concerning the Jackson Ward Historic District. I understand that you are concerned that some of the language in the additional documentation accepted by National Register staff of Nov. 4, 2002 might be misconstrued to indicate that the additional documentation amends the Jackson Ward NHL. To that end, you have requested five changes in the language of that additional documentation, which DHR staff will make and forward to you.

In addition, you request that the survey of Jackson Ward jointly conducted by the City of Richmond and the DHR in 1987 and 1997 be compiled as National Register continuation sheets and submitted as additional documentation. Unfortunately, this survey is out of date since there have been some significant development projects that have impacted the edges of the district in recent years. We are working towards undertaking a comprehensive resurvey of the district. As we revisit the nomination, following this survey, we will most likely propose revised boundaries (for the National Register level) and explore expanding the period of significance, since buildings built after 1926 do not presently contribute to the district (except for the recently reassessed Civil Rights era buildings). It may be some time before we are able to undertake this project, so we will submit the revised amendment with your requested text revisions first. We hope to undertake the more significant reassessment later this year or early next year.

Please feel free to contact me if we need to discuss this in further detail. I can be reached at 804-367-2323, ext. 128; or kkilpatrick@dhr.state.va.us.

Sincerely,

Kathleen S. Kilpatrick,

Director and

State Historic Preservation Officer

Richmo County)	and (Independent	t City)		RGINIA te)	(Completed by)	
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(If multi-s	state/county TR, state/county	where filed and location)				
(TR or M	RA Name)					
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(If multi-s	tate/county MRA, state/count	ty where filed and location)				
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JACKSON WARD Historic District
(Resource Name)

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

# NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

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NAME:				
MULTIPLE NAME:				
STATE & COUNT	Y: VIRGINIA,	Richmond (Indep	endent City)	
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REFERENCE NUM NOMINATOR: ST				
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# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

## **Department of Historic Resources**

Molly Joseph Ward Secretary of Natural Resources 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan Director

RECEIVED 228 (04) 367-2323

Fax: (804) 367-2391 www.dhr.virginia.gov

August 4, 2015

Nat. Register of Historic Places National Park Service

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
1201 I ("Eye") Street, N.W.
Washington D.C. 20005

RE: Jackson Ward Historic District Additional Documentation, City of Richmond, Virginia

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed additional documentation, referenced above, is being submitted for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The Jackson Ward Historic District originally was listed in the National Register in 1976. The enclosed nomination update provides a justification and documentation for ending the district's period of significance in 1958. The historic district's original boundaries *have not been altered* as a result of this nomination update.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. My direct phone line is 804-482-6439.

Sincerely,

Lena Sweeten McDonald

National/State Register Historian

Enclosures