

890

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

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Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

### 1. Name of Property

Historic name: Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District

Other names/site number: VDHR ID No. 136-5090

Name of related multiple property listing:

NA

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

### 2. Location

Street & number: 1010 East Main Street

City or town: Waynesboro State: Virginia County: Independent City

Not For Publication:  NA  Vicinity:  NA

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,


I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

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

national  statewide  local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A  B  C  D

 Signature of certifying official/Title:	<u>9/20/15</u> Date
<u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title : <span style="float: right;">State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government</span>	

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that this property is:

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

*Joe Edson H. Beall*      *11-16-15*  
Signature of the Keeper      Date of Action

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

**Category of Property**

(Check only **one** box.)

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

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**Number of Resources within Property**

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

manufacturing facility

COMMERCE/TRADE

warehouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Current Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## 7. Description

### Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Mid-Twentieth Century Industrial

LATE 19<sup>TH</sup> AND 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival (Vernacular)

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**Materials:** (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; CONCRETE: block; METAL; WOOD;  
SYNTHETICS: Vinyl; OTHER: Tar & Gravel

### Narrative Description

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

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### Summary Paragraph

The former Virginia Metalcrafters is located in the city of Waynesboro, Virginia in the Shenandoah Valley near the Blue Ridge Mountains. The long one-story main building is located at 1010 East Main Street and its brick façade is oriented along this eastern entry to the downtown. The southern section of the property located behind the main building consists of a typical industrial space with parking areas and a gravel road through the site. Contributing resources consist of the main building (consisting of Building A with two additions, Sections B and D), two brick outbuildings (No. 1 Liquid Flammable Storage Building and No. 2 Liquid Flammable Storage Building), and a partially collapsed brick-and-block former foundry (Building C). The main building consists of the original Building A, completed in 1925, section B completed in 1945, and section D completed circa 1963. The foundry, Building C, was constructed circa 1946. The construction dates of the two Liquid Flammable Storage buildings are unknown but likely date to the factory's mid-1940s expansion and construction of the foundry. Although it was built around circa 1890, the last building to become a part of the district was a former dwelling, purchased by VMC in 1957, that was connected via an enclosed hall to the warehouse and converted into the showroom in the early 1960s. Non-contributing resources consist of two buildings and one structure. Building E was erected circa 1963 at a location on River Road but was dismantled and reassembled as a second foundry at the Virginia Metalcrafters' complex in 1971. An open frame pavilion is a non-contributing structure.

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## Narrative Description

### Setting

The long rectangular site of the Virginia Metalcrafters' complex is located on the edge of Waynesboro on U.S. Route 250 (Main Street) as it curves down from the Blue Ridge Mountains to become the major eastern gateway into the historic downtown. This industrial site comprises 9.41 acres on the south side of East Main Street and the façade of the one-story brick structure extends over 620 feet with a minimal setback from the sidewalk along this thoroughfare.

The property slopes to the south creating a basement level of the building that opens to the rear of the site. This part of the property is typical for an industrial site and contains several smaller structures, gravel and asphalt roads, parking areas and loading docks. Many of its features are deteriorating from a lack of maintenance and weeds and miscellaneous vegetation are scattered throughout this part of the site. It is bordered by Rockfish Run Creek to the south and the site's eastern end contains an open lawn area with large evergreen trees. A chain-link fence surrounds the rear of the property and ties into the east and west ends of the building.

A vacant tiered parking lot is located beyond the chain-link fence at the western end of the site where a sidewalk connects to the northern main entrance as well as a west side entry door. The primary entrance to the property from Hunter Street on the east leads through large gates to the rear main open area of the complex. This gravel road continues through the back of the property around to the gate at the northwest corner of the property. An additional smaller parking area is located near the former showroom (a converted dwelling) of the facility at the eastern end of the front of the property.

### Building A (Main Building) - CONTRIBUTING

Building A, the former Stehli Silk Factory, was built in 1925 as the first building on the site and is the most architecturally developed. It is a one-story masonry structure with a brick foundation and a five-course common brick bond. Its basement opens to the rear of the site and its saw-tooth roof design allows ample light to enter the interior workspaces.

The main north façade contains eight bays of industrial metal pivot windows with twenty lights in each, which are grouped into sections of four. The west end entry bay of the main façade projects from the rest of the elevation and features a shallow pedimented parapet wall. The classically inspired central entrance includes double paneled doors with six light and a five-light transom. A decorative wood paneled surround with carved brackets supports a projecting cornice. Two sets of metal pivot windows flank each side of the entrance.

The west elevation features a raised side entrance with a metal door and is covered with a flat roofed canopy. The majority of windows on this elevation are the same industrial metal pivot windows with twenty lights seen on the front elevation. This elevation also features sections of twelve lights, one of which has been filled in with concrete block as well as a raised loading dock. As the west side of the building slopes to the south, the basement level is created.

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The south rear elevation mimics the façade with rows of metal windows with twenty lights along the main level. A large section of its brick wall has been replaced with newer bricks (matching the original bond) and windows because of damage from a previous fire. The window spacing mimics that of the windows above it, but the replacement windows have twelve large lights as one large window. This elevation also features a double metal door on its west end.

One of the most significant details of Building A, other than the entry, is the saw-tooth roof. Its central section features continuous long runs of clerestory windows operated by mechanical tension rod gears. Both the east and west ends of the roof are flat and composed of built-up tar and gravel.

The main floor of the interior features wide wooden flooring, steel columns, and steel I-beams. Other I-beams run perpendicular for roof support. The basement has a concrete floor and also concrete columns spaced much closer together than the steel examples of the main floor. One moderately sized metal smoke stack is located next to the southeast rear section of the building.

#### *First Addition to Building A (Section B)*

The first extension to the original building was put up in 1945 shortly after Virginia Metalcrafters took title to the property and its façade is almost identical to Building A. It contains three bays of identical metal pivot windows and its brick pattern is the same as the original building. The rear façade likewise continues the design of the original. It has a brick foundation and a flat roof of tar and gravel built-up design.

On the interior, the change between the original building and the first addition is more noticeable due primarily to the flooring and the columns. The addition has wooden joists running parallel to the I-beams of the saw-tooth roof of Building A, while featuring steel columns similar to the original. What used to be the windows of the south rear wall of this addition are now filled in with concrete block and brick.

The wood floor is like Building A, but the boards are narrow and run perpendicular to those in the original section. Interestingly, the floorboards again change direction within the addition itself where the eastern half runs perpendicular to the western section.

#### *Second Addition to Building A (Section D, Warehouse)*

This second addition, commonly known as the warehouse, was put up in circa 1963 by the architect J.C. Bowman of Harrisonburg<sup>1</sup> and extended the existing building to nearly 600 feet. Its design broke from just extending the elements of the existing complex to create a two-story addition with a mix of classical and modern features.

The north elevation with its salmon colored brick façade is divided into two parts. The tallest entry section is framed with a cast stone surround creating a picture frame effect and contains a cyma reversa molding and a flat cap along its roof. Windows are recessed within brick panels

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<sup>1</sup>“Metalcrafters’ Plans Major Expansion: Building Will Add 40,000 Square Feet.” (*The News-Virginian*, February 20, 1963.) 1.

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creating full-length pilaster-like brick divisions and the windows are a six-light, double-hung aluminum variety.

In a hint towards classical elements, the entry feature consists of a surround composed of cast stone pilasters that support an unadorned entablature. Within this framework are the double aluminum framed glass doors capped by a brick panel that separates the entrance from a pair of six-over-six windows. The second part of this addition's façade to the east is an unadorned brick wall with two windows on the first level and four at the second level next to the entry bay.

The east elevation is brick and metal with no windows and borders the tunnel connecting this addition to the showroom. The south (rear) elevation's walls are concrete block on the lower half and metal panels on the upper half. This elevation does not have any windows, but there is a small covered landing for loading purposes.

The roof of the addition is built-up tar and gravel with an extremely low-pitched side gable roof with skylights. The interior of the roof is supported by steel beams and columns. The upper halves of the interior walls, as well as the ceiling, are covered with fiberboard. The floor is poured concrete, and the interior walls are concrete block.

#### **Building C (Foundry) - CONTRIBUTING**

Building C was built in 1946 and was constructed primarily of concrete block with a brick interior taller wall. The building is one story, but has two different height levels and appears to have been built or rebuilt in different times. The windows are industrial steel casement windows with eight and ten lights. The flat tar and gravel roof is partially collapsed and is supported by a modified warren truss system. The interior flooring is poured concrete.

#### **Building F (Showroom) - CONTRIBUTING**

Building F is a dwelling that was likely built sometime in the 1890s but has been altered extensively since then. Its first major addition, a shed onto the southeast elevation, likely occurred in 1933. Virginia Metalcrafters purchased the house in 1957 and initially used the first floor as a sales room, and the upstairs rooms as stock storage. When the warehouse addition was added in 1963, they connected it to the house to create a showroom for their products and it remains in that configuration today.

The foundation of Building F is a combination of continuous stone, stone piers, and brick piers that were later filled in with concrete block. The walls are wooden clapboards that have been covered with vinyl siding. The north elevation features an added, vernacular, two-story portico with a pediment and four; missed-matched, reused, wood columns. Two resemble the Roman Doric order and two the Greek Doric order. The Roman Doric columns are shorter and thus sit on a base of both brick and rusticated cast stone, while the Greek Doric columns sit on a base of just rusticated cast stone. The portico also features an entablature with a simple architrave and cornice, all wrapped in vinyl.



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The windows are both six-over-six double-hung and eight-over-eight double-hung wood sash variety. There are also casement windows at the second level with nine lights. The windows have louvered vinyl false shutters. The doorway features a wood paneled door that is framed with sidelights and a transom and appears to be an early element of the former dwelling. Building F has a front gable standing-seam metal roof.

The interior has a wood floor; some of which is covered with carpeting. The interior walls have been replaced with knotty pine wood paneling in an interesting design. The paneling runs horizontally to create wainscoting on the lower walls and then transitions to vertical boards above.

**Building G (No. 1 Liquid Flammable Storage) - CONTRIBUTING**

Building G is a small rectangular one-story brick storage shed with a tar and gravel shed roof. The north elevation is comprised of two sets of double wooden swinging doors, each with a three-over-three glazing pattern. The west elevation contains two small fixed windows with four lights each. The west and east elevations are solid brick with a seven-course common bond. In general, the shed is in disrepair and contains rotten wood components.

**Building H (No. 2 Liquid Flammable Storage) - CONTRIBUTING**

Building H, just like Building G, is a small rectangular one-story brick storage shed with a tar and gravel shed roof. The north elevation has one set of solid wooden swinging doors. The west elevation contains a small boarded-up window in the center of the wall. The west and east elevations are solid brick with a seven-course common bond. Like Building G, the shed is in disrepair and contains rotten wood components.

**Building E (2<sup>nd</sup> Foundry) - NON-CONTRIBUTING**

This addition was reconstructed on the Virginia Metalcrafters' site in 1971. It was originally located on River Road in Waynesboro, and was dismantled and moved to its current location. There are concrete piers visible that likely supported an earlier structure at this location. Concrete block was used to fill in the moved building between those existing piers.

The primary material of this addition is concrete block in much of the foundation and in several wall bays that alternate with sets of windows. Unlike the other generally rectangular buildings previously described, this addition is irregular in shape and has an extremely low-pitched gable roof. The interior is supported primarily by steel beam columns situated on concrete piers that support a Pratt truss system. The main portion of the addition has a plan similar to an early Christian Basilica with the open nave, side aisles, and clerestory windows above the nave. Other sections branch off this main plan. This addition features a variety of industrial steel windows including pivot, casements, and rows of clerestory windows containing twelve or fifteen lights. In addition to a large number of windows, it also contains several doors and loading docks.

Beyond its rather unusual plan, this addition contains unique decorative metal panels that are coated with a silver metallic paint. They are located primarily on the east shed section of the building and are used as a wall covering material above or below the window bays on various



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elevations. It is apparent that these metal panels and the industrial windows are the primary materials salvaged from the building at the River Road location.

### **Structure I (Open Pavilion) – NON-CONTRIBUTING**

This structure is long, slender, and open-sided. It is supported with six simple wooden posts and three central king posts with diagonal struts. It has an open gable roof with a very low pitch and a corrugated metal sheathing. It contains rotten wood components.

### **Condition of Buildings**

Overall, the buildings in the Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District are in fair condition, but do show signs of deterioration due to a lack of maintenance, particularly the foundry. However, they do retain the majority of their historic and architectural integrity. Despite the minor damage that has occurred to the buildings, they still remain remarkably intact. The overall architectural assemblage of the site has been preserved. Thus, the site appears much as it did when Virginia Metalcrafters still occupied the premises.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

### Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

### Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

INDUSTRY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1925-1965

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1925

1941

1945

1946

c.1960

**Significant Person**

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

J. C. Bowman, 1963 Addition

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Virginia Metalcrafters is significant at the local level under Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Industry. Throughout the twentieth century, Virginia Metalcrafters was recognized for its level of craftsmanship, reproduction of historic objects, contribution to monumental artwork and buildings, as well as impact on the surrounding community and employment. In addition, Virginia Metalcrafters had a national impact on creating authentic reproductions for several of the nation's most important historic sites and museums that also resulted in positive economic impacts for the institutions. The property's period of significance begins in 1925 with construction of the first building within the complex and ends in 1965, using the typical 50-year cutoff for properties where significant activities have continued into the more recent past.

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

### **Historic Background**

Virginia Metalcrafters began in 1890 at the 11<sup>th</sup> Street location, then known as 1<sup>st</sup> Street, between Arch Avenue and the South River. William Jefferson Loth started his company, then known as the W.J. Loth Stove Company, by making cast iron stove and wood and coal heaters. Less than ten years later, the company expanded to include frying pans, waffle irons, teakettles, and other cookware. Unfortunately, William J. Loth died in 1904, and his son Frank Percival "Percy" Loth took over the company. By the end of World War I, Percy Loth's health was failing; and therefore he hired his cousin, Captain Richard Clemmer to help him run the company.<sup>1</sup>

In 1922 Captain Richard Clemmer hired a Canadian electrical engineer, Fred Cuffe, to help him design an electric stove. They designed what Clemmer called the Hotpoint Range, and it was a huge success for the company. In 1925, F. Percy Loth had the company incorporated with an authorized capitalization of \$400,000 required for business expansion. The company continued to grow, and in 1932 Clemmer began casting black iron souvenir items. By 1938, the company installed equipment for melting brass and other non-ferrous metals and began operating under the name Virginia Metalcrafters.<sup>2</sup> At this point, however, it was only one out of three divisions of a larger company. They were Rife Ram and Pump Works, W.J. Loth Stove Company, and Virginia Metalcrafters.<sup>3</sup> Virginia Metalcrafters would not be listed as a separate entity until 1941-1942.

During the 1940s, the company moved from its initial location on 11<sup>th</sup> Street between Arch Avenue and South River to the location of the former Stehli Silk Corporation at 1010 East Main Street, which is the current location of the Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District. The Stehli Silk Corporation had had completed the building in November 1925 as part of this Swiss company's expansion in the United States. The Stehli Silk Corporation vacated the East Main Street location in March 1941, and Virginia Metalcrafters occupied the site shortly after.<sup>4</sup>

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It is important to note the significance of the Stehli Silk Corporation and the contribution of the company to Building A at the Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District. The Stehli Silk Corporation was a Swiss company with U.S. manufacturing facilities. While the company originally began producing cotton and wool fabric, it switched to silk and became one of the country's premier manufacturers of silk dress fabric, with operations in Pennsylvania, Virginia, and North Carolina. Their primary facility, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, was at one time considered the world's second largest silk mill. The Stehli Silk Corporation produced its own American line of fabrics in 1925. Their fabric designs were considered to be well ahead of their time and major clothing manufacturers used many of their products.<sup>5</sup>

Stehli Silk Corporation came to Waynesboro on November 16, 1925, and constructed the building at the Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District (Building A). This facility was thought to have primarily produced yarns and threads for the company's Highpoint Mill. At peak production, the company employed approximately 375 people at the Waynesboro operation.<sup>6</sup> The company vacated the Waynesboro facility on March 31, 1941 after deciding to consolidate their workforce to their central plant in Pennsylvania, which is currently on the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>7</sup> (see NPS reference number 14000195) The closing of the Waynesboro facility had been anticipated by 1937 since the demand for silk declined, processing methods changed, and raw silk became more expensive and harder to obtain. The company's main mill in Pennsylvania ultimately ended up closing<sup>8</sup> in the mid-to-late 1950s due to the replacement of silks with synthetics such as rayon and nylon.

Throughout the 1930s into the mid-1960s, Virginia Metalcrafters continued to expand and acquire other companies as part of their own. In 1946, the company started their gift line and retained an artist/sculptor to produce sculpted artwork for specific monuments. The first major commission was of the famous racehorse, Citation, and that sculpture was completed shortly before Citation won the Triple Crown in 1949.<sup>9</sup> Another such commission included the massive angels featured at the Hoover Dam. Other such gift line products were continually produced, and due to its success, in 1951 the company decided to expand the gift line operation.

The expansion took the form of a license with Colonial Williamsburg to produce brass and iron reproductions of historic objects found in colonial times in Williamsburg.<sup>10</sup> The Virginia Metalcrafters' hand casting and finishing methods were the same as those used to form the original antiques, making them the ideal company for Colonial Williamsburg and other such organizations. Additional licenses were later acquired with the Smithsonian Institution, Mount Vernon, Monticello, Historic Charleston, Historic Newport, Old Salem, Old Sturbridge Village, Mystic Seaport, The National Trust for Historic Preservation, and many others. Colonial Williamsburg, however, was the first and longest reproduction license held by Virginia Metalcrafters.<sup>11</sup>

Shortly afterward the company expanded to include more trades once again. In 1953, the manufacturing of lawn mowers and tractors was added. Also in 1953, Charles Eckman purchased the company's assets and officially formed the "Virginia Metalcrafters", which up until this point

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had been a single division of the larger company.<sup>12</sup> During the same year, he also acquired the company that made Colonial Williamsburg's reproduction chandeliers. Very early in 1963, Virginia Metalcrafters purchased the Pennsylvania Lawn Mower Division of American Chain and Cable Company, Inc.<sup>13</sup> In 1966, the company yet again acquired another responsibility with the framed picture and moldings business.<sup>14</sup>

The year 1990 marked the one hundred year anniversary of the company, which was celebrated with the acquisition of a historical marker recognizing the number of years it had been in existence as well as its contribution to Waynesboro and the surrounding community.<sup>15</sup> By the time of the company's close on Friday, June 30, 2006, the company had been in existence for over one hundred years and had an enormous impact on metalworking and quality of historic object reproductions.<sup>16</sup> Prior to the company's close, Virginia Metalcrafters' biggest client, Colonial Williamsburg, reduced their orders. Due to the deterioration of the reproduction program, as well as the expansion of Colonial Williamsburg reproductive licenses to places like Lowe's, there was ultimately not enough of a demand for Virginia Metalcrafters products. The market shifted and American decorator tastes changed. In an effort to preserve the company, Virginia Metalcrafters brought in new management and tried to diversify with other product lines. Ultimately, the company was unsuccessful and was unable to stop the economic decline.<sup>17</sup> In its last years, Virginia Metalcrafters sold its foundry, equipment, and more than 9 acres of land.<sup>18</sup>

Before the company went out of business, it artistically had crafted a wide selection of gift products, decorative accessories, lamps and chandeliers, garden accessories, sculptures, kitchen accessories, and more. Products were hand cast in bronze, iron, aluminum, brass, and pewter using the same methods that had been employed since the company's beginning. The company's success was largely due to the fine, handcrafted decorative accessories in metal by sandcasting, the method used by colonial craftsman.<sup>19</sup> Virginia Metalcrafters' contribution to the manufacturing of traditional American decorative arts through authentic designs and production methods remains the strongest legacy of this institution today.

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## ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> George R. Hawke. "The W.J. Loth Stove Company and Its Descendants." In *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia to 1900*, 187-189. (Waynesboro: Waynesboro Historical Commission, 1997.) 187-188.
- <sup>2</sup> "Virginia Metalcrafters." Marker History.com. (2015. [www.markerhistory.com/virginia-metalcrafters-marker-q-2-c/](http://www.markerhistory.com/virginia-metalcrafters-marker-q-2-c/).) 1.
- <sup>3</sup> George R. Hawke. "The W.J. Loth Stove Company and Its Descendants." In *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia to 1900*, 187-189. (Waynesboro: Waynesboro Historical Commission, 1997.) 189.
- <sup>4</sup> George R. Hawke. "Stehli Silk Corporation Leaves Town." In *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia 1900-1976*, 251. (Waynesboro: Waynesboro Historical Commission, 2007.) 251.
- <sup>5</sup> "Stehli Silk Mill". National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. March 18, 2014. (NPS Reference Number 14000195) <http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/14000195.pdf>.
- <sup>6</sup> George R. Hawke. "Stehli Silk Corporation Leaves Town." In *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia 1900-1976*, 251. (Waynesboro: Waynesboro Historical Commission, 2007.) 251.
- <sup>7</sup> George R. Hawke. "Stehli Silk Corporation Leaves Town." In *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia 1900-1976*, 251. (Waynesboro: Waynesboro Historical Commission, 2007.) 251.
- <sup>8</sup> "Stehli Silk Mill". National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. (March 18, 2014. [NPS Reference Number 14000195] <http://www.nps.gov/nr/feature/places/pdfs/14000195.pdf>.) 15-16.
- <sup>9</sup> "Virginia Metalcrafters – History of an American Manufacturer." VirginiaMetalcrafters.com. July 14, 2010. Accessed September 18, 2014.
- <sup>10</sup> Americana Furniture and Interiors. "Accessories History." Americana Furniture and Interiors. (2014. Accessed May 22, 2015. <http://americanainteriors.com/history.html>.) 2.
- <sup>11</sup> "Virginia Metalcrafters – History of an American Manufacturer." VirginiaMetalcrafters.com. July 14, 2010. Accessed September 18, 2014.
- <sup>12</sup> Nancy Sorrells. "Virginia Metalcrafters a Testament to Creative Genius." (*The News-Virginian*, October 9, 2000.) 2.
- <sup>13</sup> "Metalcrafters Plans Major Expansion: Building Will Add 40,000 Square Feet." (*The News-Virginian*, February 20, 1963.) 1.
- <sup>14</sup> Charles Salembrier. "Virginia Metalcrafters." In *Augusta Historical Bulletin*, 18-23. Vol. 21. (Staunton: Augusta County Historical Society, 1985.) 22.
- <sup>15</sup> George R. Hawke. "The W.J. Loth Stove Company and Its Descendants." In *A History of Waynesboro, Virginia to 1900*, 187-189. (Waynesboro: Waynesboro Historical Commission, 1997.) 189.
- <sup>16</sup> Owens, Michael L. "Virginia Metalcrafters Closing: Showroom All That Remains Open at 115-year-old Business." (*The News-Virginian*, July 4, 2006.) A1.
- <sup>17</sup> Serogham, Phyllis. *Former executive secretary to Virginia Metalcrafters' CEO in the 1980s & 1990s*. Phone interview by Bill Frazier. Waynesboro, Virginia, September 14, 2015.
- <sup>18</sup> "New Buyers Plan for Virginia Metalcrafters." Newsleader.com. July 2, 2013. Accessed September 18, 2014. <http://archive.newsleader.com/article/20130629/NEWS01/306290024/New-buyers-plan-Virginia-Metalcrafters>.
- <sup>19</sup> Brown, Frances. "Ceremony To Mark VA. Metalcrafters Centennial." (*The News-Virginian*, September 29, 1990.) 1.



Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

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Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

Owens, Michael L. "Virginia Metalcrafters Closing: Showroom All That Remains Open at 115-year-old Business." *The News-Virginian*, July 4, 2006.

Salembrier, Charles. "Virginia Metalcrafters." In *Augusta Historical Bulletin*, 18-23. Vol. 21. Staunton: Augusta County Historical Society, 1985.

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"Virginia Metalcrafters, Inc." *The News-Virginian*, September 24, 1963.

Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository: Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia;  
Waynesboro Public Library, City of Waynesboro, VA

**Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):** VDHR No. 136-5090

---

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** 8.81

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

**Latitude/Longitude Coordinates**

Datum if other than WGS84: \_\_\_\_\_

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- |                        |                       |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 38.064120 | Longitude: -78.873990 |
| 2. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 3. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |
| 4. Latitude:           | Longitude:            |

**Or**

**UTM References**

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

NAD 1927 or  NAD 1983

- |          |          |           |
|----------|----------|-----------|
| 1. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 5. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |

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

The historic boundary is drawn to include the entirety of the Virginia Metalcrafters complex, which occupies the following tax parcels as recorded by the City of Waynesboro, Virginia: 56-2-2, 57-2-1, 56-1-69-1, 56-1-69-8, 57-1-70-1, 57-1-70-2, 57-1-70-7, 57-2-2, 57-1-71-8, 57-1-71-9, 57-1-71-10, and 47-4-71E. The true and correct historic boundary is shown on the attached map entitled "Location Map."

**Boundary Justification** (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The historic boundary is drawn to encompass all of the historic resources associated with Virginia Metalcrafters at the time of the company's close in 2006, as well as the property's industrial setting. The historic boundary conforms both to the original property lines of Virginia Metalcrafters and conforms to the current parcel boundaries as listed above. Fixed features, such as immediately adjacent roads and a creek, further justify the boundary.

---

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title: Victoria Leonard  
organization: Frazier Associates  
street & number: 213 North Augusta Street  
city or town: Staunton state: Virginia zip code: 24401  
e-mail: vleonard@frazierassociates.com  
telephone: 540-886-6230  
date: May 29, 2015

---

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

### Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

### Photo Log

Name of Property: Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
City or Vicinity: Waynesboro  
County: Augusta State: Virginia  
Photographer: Frazier Associates

Description of Photograph (s) and number, date, includes description of view:

Photo 1 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0001  
Date Photographed: 9/25/14  
View: Corner, north and west elevations, Building A

Photo 2 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0002  
Date Photographed: 9/25/14  
View: View from across the street, corner, north and west elevations, Building A with additions B and D

Photo 3 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0003  
Date Photographed: 7/28/14  
View: View southeast, north elevation, Second Addition (D)

Photo 4 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0004  
Date Photographed: 9/18/14  
View: North elevation, Building F

Photo 5 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0005  
Date Photographed: 7/28/14  
View: Corner, south and east elevations, view northwest, Building F

Photo 6 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0006  
Date Photographed: 9/25/14

Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

View: Southeast corner, view northwest, Third Addition (E)

Photo 7 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0007

Date Photographed: 9/16/14

View: West elevation, view east, Third Addition (E), with Open Pavilion (I) in foreground

Photo 8 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0008

Date Photographed: 9/25/14

View: View northwest, site entrance

Photo 9 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0009

Date Photographed: 9/25/14

View: Corner of north and east elevations, view southwest, Building C

Photo 10 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0010

Date Photographed: 1/2/15

View: North elevation, Building G

Photo 11 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0011

Date Photographed: 9/30/14

View: South elevation, view northwest, Building A and Addition B

Photo 12 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0012

Date Photographed: 9/18/14

View: Corner, west and south elevations, view east, Building A

Photo 13 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0013

Date Photographed: 9/30/14

View: Corner, north and east elevations, view southwest, Building H

Photo 14 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0014

Date Photographed: 9/25/14

View: Interior, view east, Building A

Photo 15 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0015

Date Photographed: 9/30/14

View: Interior, view north, First Addition (B)

Photo 16 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0016

Date Photographed: 9/25/14

View: Interior, view northeast, Second Addition (D)

Photo 17 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0017

Date Photographed: 10/9/14

Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

View: Interior, view south, Building F

Photo 18 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0018

Date Photographed: 10/9/14

View: Interior, view northwest, Building F

Photo 19 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0019

Date Photographed: 10/9/14

View: Interior, view north, Third Addition (E)

Photo 20 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0020

Date Photographed: 9/30/14

View: Interior, view northeast, Third Addition (E)

Photo 21 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0021

Date Photographed: 9/16/14

View: Interior, view south, Building C

Photo 22 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0022

Date Photographed: 9/30/14

View: Interior, view south, Building G

Photo 23 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0023

Date Photographed: 1/22/15

View: Interior, view south, Building H

Photo 24 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0024

Date Photographed: 1/22/15

View: View southwest, Open Pavilion (I)

Photo 25 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0025

Date Photographed: 1/2/15

View: Building E, F, and surrounding environment, view southwest

Photo 26 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0026

Date Photographed: 1/2/15

View: Site at southeast end of complex of surrounding environment, view west

Photo 27 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0027

Date Photographed: 1/2/15

View: View from south end of Building A, of surrounding environment towards the southeast

Photo 28 of 28: Virginia\_Metalcrafters\_0028



Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District  
Name of Property

Waynesboro, VA  
County and State

Date Photographed: 1/2/15

View: Surrounding environment, parking lot, view west

**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.460 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

## LOCATION MAP

Virginia Metalscrafters

City of Waynesboro, VA

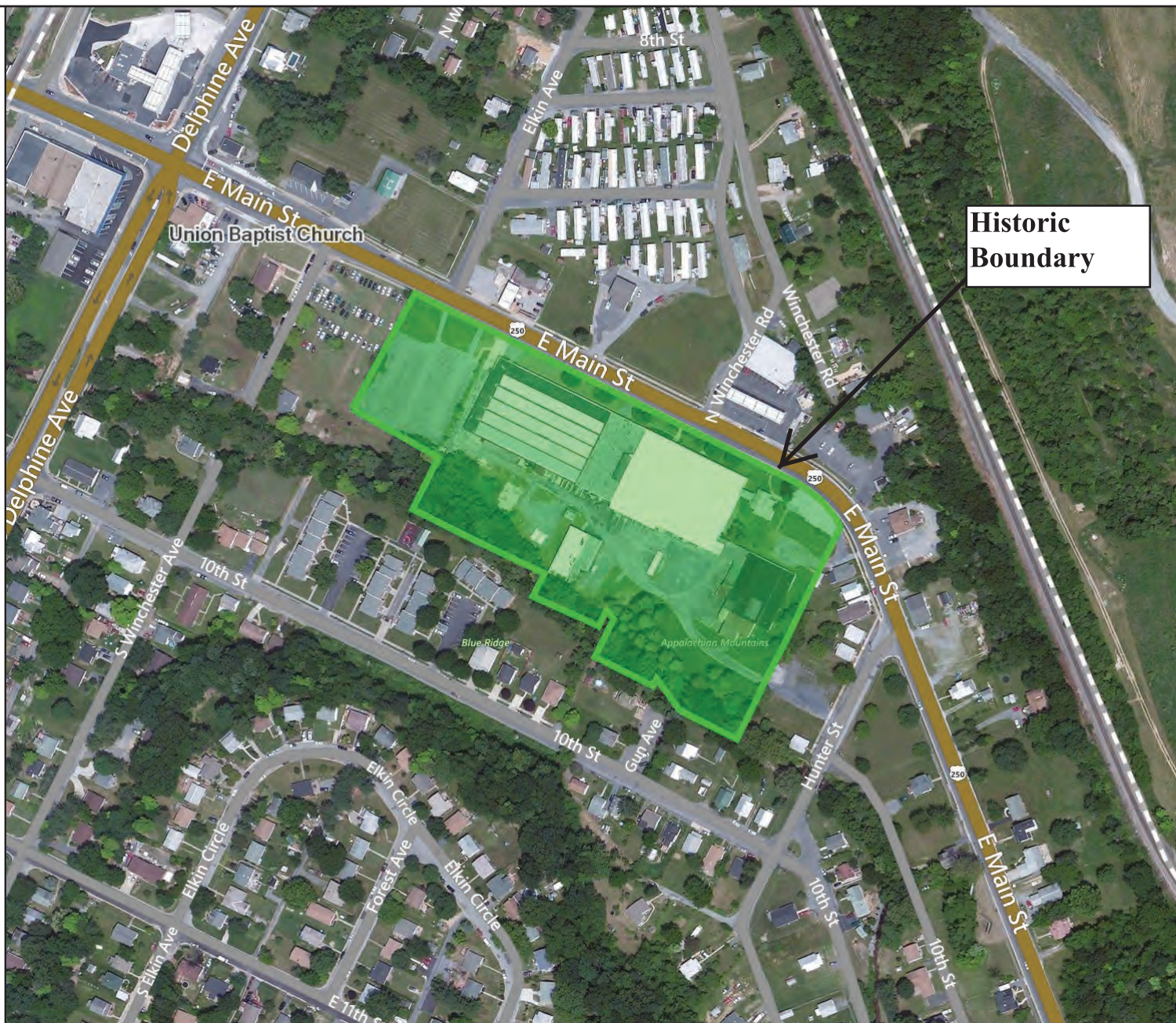
DHR No. 136-5090

Latitude/Longitude

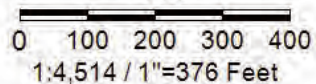
Coordinates

1. Latitude: 38.064120

Longitude: -78.873990



Feet



**Title: Virginia Metalcrafters**

**Date: 8/17/2015**

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

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



**SKETCH MAP**  
 Virginia Metalcrafters  
 City of Waynesboro, VA  
 DHR No. 136-5090

**Inventory of Resources**  
 Building A/B/D - 1925, with additions in 1945 and ca. 1963 - Contributing Building  
 Building C - 1946, Contributing Building  
 Building F (Showroom) - 1890s - Contributing Building  
 Building G (No. 1 Liquid Flammable Storage) - ca. 1946, Contributing Building  
 Building H (No. 2 Liquid Flammable Storage) - ca. 1946, Contributing Building  
 Building E - 1963, Non-Contributing Building  
 Structure I (Open Pavilion) - Non-Contributing Structure

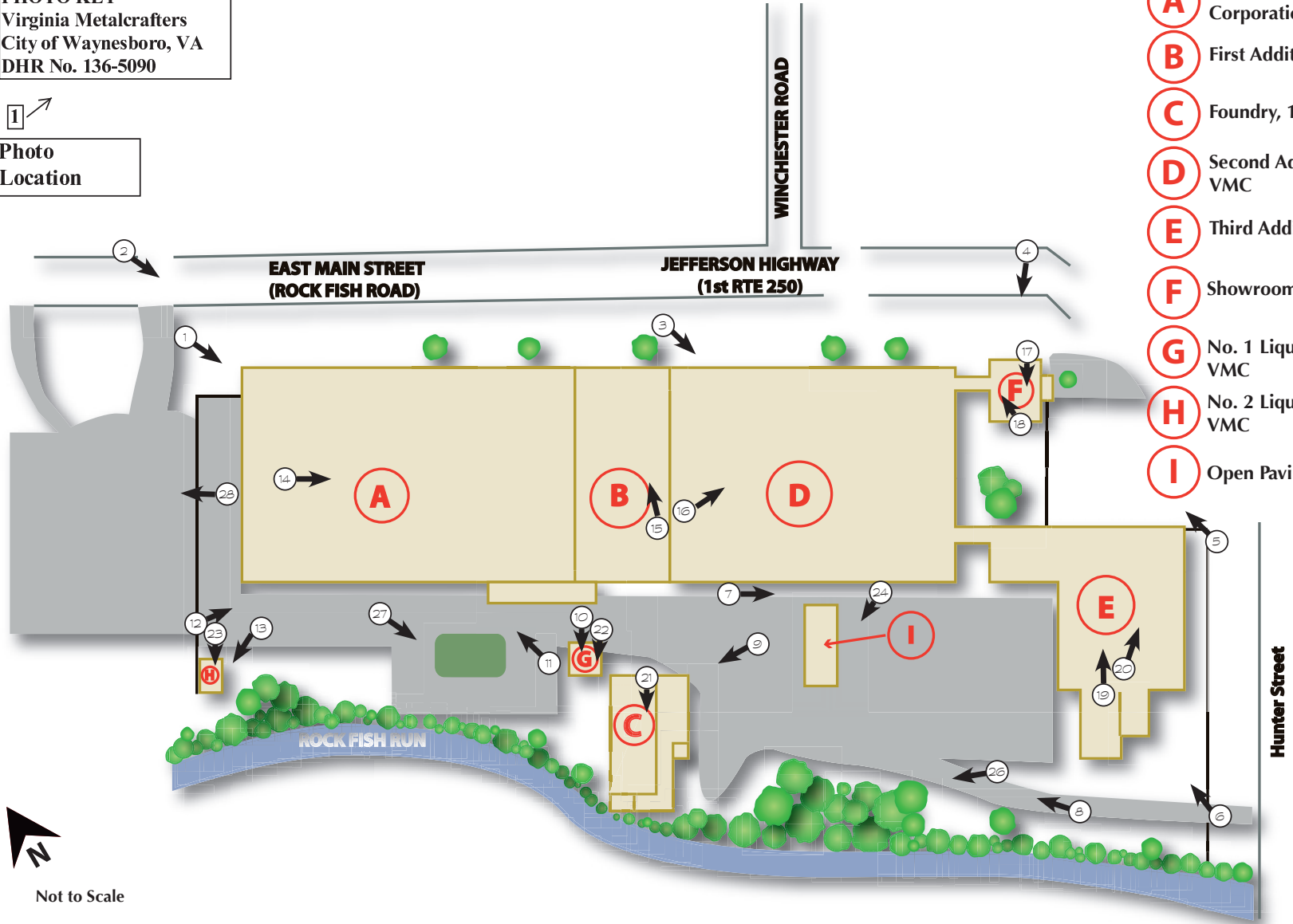


**N**  
 Not to Scale

**PHOTO KEY**  
 Virginia Metalcrafters  
 City of Waynesboro, VA  
 DHR No. 136-5090

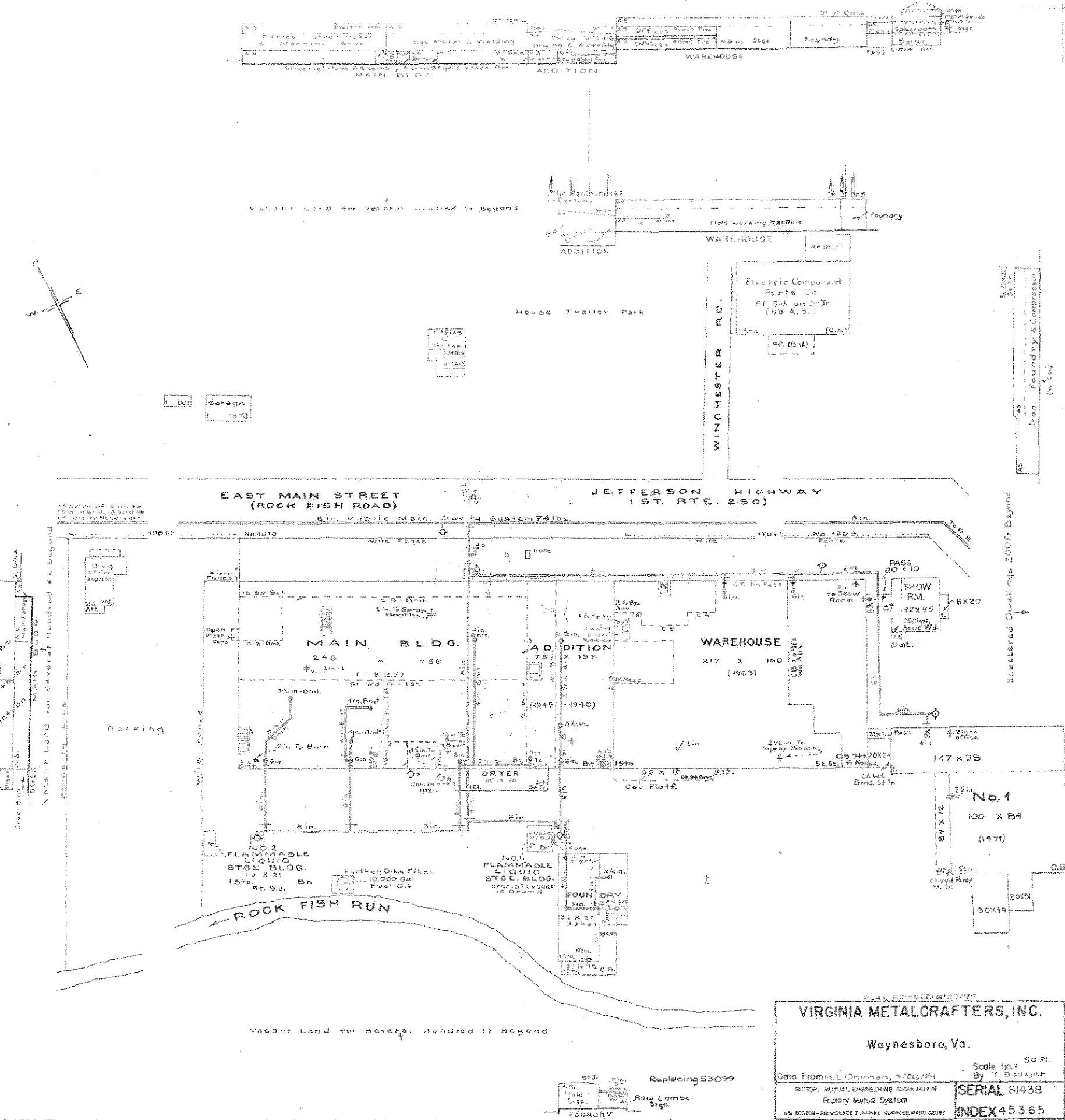
**1** ↗  
**Photo Location**

- A** Main Building , 1925, Stehli Silk Corporation
- B** First Addition , 1945, VMC
- C** Foundry, 1946, VMC
- D** Second Addition (Warehouse), 1963, VMC
- E** Third Addition (No. 1), 1971, VMC
- F** Showroom, 1890, acquired 1957
- G** No. 1 Liquid Flammable Storage, VMC
- H** No. 2 Liquid Flammable Storage, VMC
- I** Open Pavilion, VMC

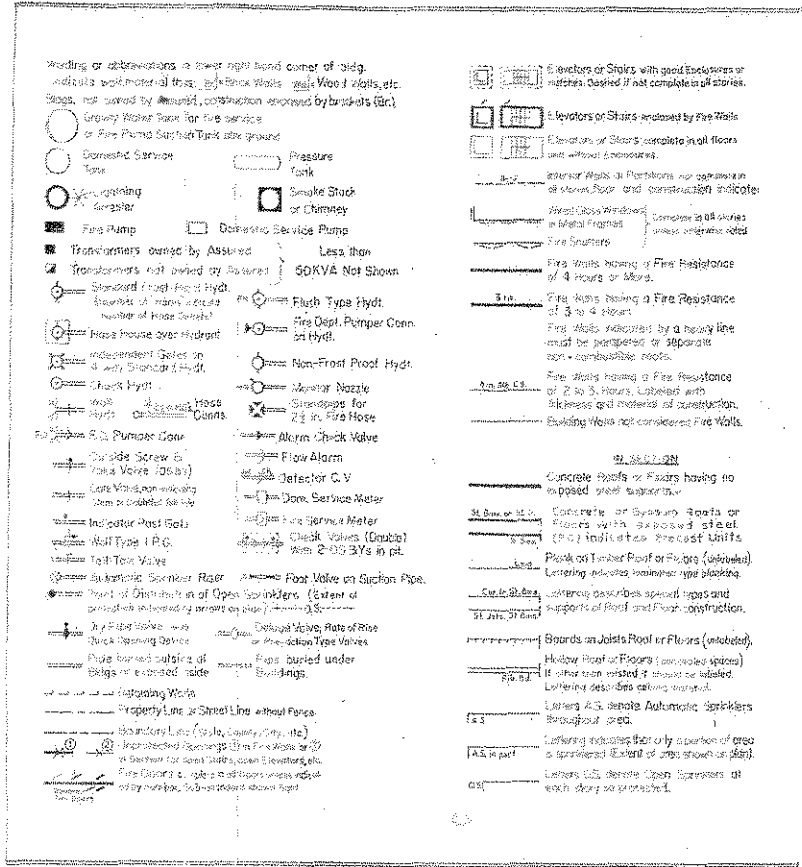


**N**  
 Not to Scale

**1961 Site Plan with Main Floor Plan of Each Building**  
**Virginia Metalcrafters**  
**City of Waynesboro, Virginia**  
**DHR No. 136-5090**



**PLAN SYMBOLS**



PLAN REVISION 6/27/77

**VIRGINIA METALCRAFTERS, INC.**  
Waynesboro, Va.

Scale 1/4" = 30 Ft.  
By Y. Badger

Data From M. L. Ohman 4/20/64

FACTORY MUTUAL ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION  
Factory Mutual System

SERIAL 81438  
INDEX 45365

REPLACING 53079  
Raw Lumber Site  
FOUNDRY







RED BRICK BUILDING  
FOR SALE  
CALL  
OR VISIT  
WWW.  
100-400-0000

STOP





























































DANGER



WORKS

























UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: VIRGINIA, Waynesboro

DATE RECEIVED: 10/02/15      DATE OF PENDING LIST: 10/28/15  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 11/12/15      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 11/17/15  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 15000810

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N    DATA PROBLEM: N    LANDSCAPE: N    LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N    PDIL: N    PERIOD: N    PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N    SAMPLE: N    SLR DRAFT: N    NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    11.16.15 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Entered in  
The National Register  
of  
Historic Places

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER \_\_\_\_\_ DISCIPLINE \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**Mcdonald, Lena (DHR)**

Virginia Metalcrafters

**From:** Hare, Jim (DHR)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 02, 2015 9:26 AM  
**To:** Bezirdjian, Melina (DHR)  
**Cc:** Mcdonald, Lena (DHR)  
**Subject:** FW: support for Va Metalcrafters nomination (DHR No. 136-5090)  
**Attachments:** Va Metalcrafters (Stehli silk manufacturing), in Curtis Bowman's Days of Yore.jpg

FYI

James Hare  
Director, Div. of Survey and Register  
Virginia Dept. of Historic Resources  
2801 Kensington Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23221  
804-482-6445

---

**From:** Charles Pool [[mailto:charles\\_pool@msn.com](mailto:charles_pool@msn.com)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 31, 2015 11:23 AM  
**To:** Hare, Jim (DHR)  
**Cc:** Langan, Julie (DHR)  
**Subject:** support for Va Metalcrafters nomination (DHR No. 136-5090)

Dear Mr. Hare,

On behalf of my mother, LaVelle P. Pool, an adjacent property owner at Main and Hunter Streets (Hunter Street Playground), I am writing in strong support for the nomination of Virginia Metalcrafters buildings in the City of Waynesboro for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and the Va. Landmarks Register.

These buildings have a very interesting history, first built as the Stehli Silk Mill and later occupied by an important metal foundry. (You have probably already included this article in your documentation, but I am attaching a copy of the interesting history of the building from *Days of Yore*, by Curtis Bowman.) Ironically, the silk business was largely displaced by the production of artificial silk products, such as rayon and nylon, that were later produced in Waynesboro at the Dupont plant.

Thank you for the wonderful work of the your department in the preservation of the state's historic treasures. The listing of the Va. Metalcrafters buildings on the historic registers will further this goal.

Sincerely,

Charles Pool





RECEIVED 2280

OCT - 2 2015

COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Nat. Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service

Molly Joseph Ward  
Secretary of Natural Resources

Julie V. Langan  
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391  
www.dhr.virginia.gov

September 29, 2015

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: Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District, City of Waynesboro, Virginia

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **Virginia Metalcrafters Historic District** to the National Register of Historic Places. Submitted for your review, the nomination has been considered, and approved, by the State Review Board and the Virginia SHPO has recommended it for listing. Any letters of comment or objection have been copied at the end of the nomination material, along with any FPO notification letters.

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

Administrative Services  
10 Courthouse Ave.  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
Tel: (804) 862-6408  
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Eastern Region Office  
2801 Kensington Avenue  
Richmond, VA 23221  
Tel: (804) 367-2323  
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Western Region Office  
962 Kime Lane  
Salem, VA 24153  
Tel: (540) 387-5443  
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office  
5357 Main Street  
PO Box 519  
Stephens City, VA 22655  
Tel: (540) 868-7029  
Fax: (540) 868-7033