



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

Historic name: West Main Street Historic District
Other names/site number: VDHR File No. 104-0083
Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: Parts of West Main Street; 6th, 4th and 8th streets NW; and Ridge Street.
City or town: Charlottesville State: VA County: Independent City
Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,
I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets
the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic
Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria.
I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following
level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 X A B X C D

Julie O. Sangan 7-20-17
Signature of certifying official/Title: Date
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official: Date

Title : State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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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:)

Patrick Andrews

9/18/2017

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>39</u>	<u>7</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>41</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 8

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling; Hotel

COMMERECE/TRADE: Business; Organizational; Specialty Store; Department Store;
Restaurant; Warehouse

SOCIAL: Meeting Hall

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Mortuary

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Work of Art

TRANSPORTATION: Rail-Related

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Multiple Dwelling

COMMERECE/TRADE: Business; Specialty Store; Department Store;
Restaurant; Warehouse

RELIGION: Religious Facility

FUNERARY: Mortuary

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Work of Art

TRANSPORTATION: Rail-Related

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Classical Revival, Late Gothic Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style

MODERN MOVEMENT: Moderne

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: BRICK; WOOD; STUCCO; METAL: Tin, Aluminum; ASPHALT; CONCRETE; SYNTHETICS: Vinyl

Narrative Description

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

Summary Paragraph

Located in the central part of the City of Charlottesville, Virginia, the West Main Street Historic District contains primarily commercial buildings along both sides of West Main Street between the Drewary J. Brown Memorial Bridge east to a monumental sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Shoshone tribal member Sacagawea at the junction of Ridge and West Main streets. The 16.8-acre linear district encompasses the central portion of West Main Street that links downtown Charlottesville with the University of Virginia, and is a significant 18th-century transportation route known as Three Notch'd or Three Chopt Road and is also U.S. Route 250 Business. The West Main Street Historic District is made up of a well-preserved collection of commercial, institutional, and transportation-related resources that tell the story of the growth and development of this early transportation corridor. The earliest resources are a handful of 19th-century residences that were constructed before the area was annexed as part of Charlottesville. Other properties, some of which are located just off West Main Street, include a few residences and significant buildings relating to the African-American history of the City, including three churches. The majority of buildings within the West Main Street Historic District were constructed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, as a response to the economic stimulation brought about by the arrival of railroad and streetcar transportation. As new modes of transportation such as the automobile were introduced, the commercial buildings evolved to better serve customers' needs in those areas. Unlike other parts of West Main Street that have been extensively redeveloped, this roughly six-block area of historic commercial buildings is relatively intact and demonstrates great physical integrity. Eight of the resources within the

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district were listed in the NRHP as part of the 1982 Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area nomination (MRA). These include Inge's Store and associated smokehouse (104-0035, 104-0075, 104-0083-0044); Mount Zion Baptist Church (104-0181; 104-0083-0002); a sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark and Sacagawea (104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001); the Albemarle Hotel (104-0374; 104-0083-0030); the Peyton-Ellington Commercial Building at 711 West Main Street (104-0375; 104-0075; 104-0083-0024); Delevan Baptist Church (104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015); and Paxton Place (104-0385; 104-0075; 104-0083-0038).

Narrative Description

SETTING/LANDSCAPE

The West Main Street Historic District is a generally flat, linear district that runs from the east side of the Drewary J. Brown Memorial Bridge on West Main Street, east to the junction with Ridge Street, and from the railroad tracks south of West Main Street, north to the south side of Commerce Street. Several parcels that front onto 6th and 4th streets, NW, one that fronts onto 8th Street NW, and one along Ridge Street, are also included within the district boundary. Lots tend to be deep and narrow and fairly regular in size. Some properties, including the train station and some of the early-to-mid-20th-century buildings, are located on larger parcels. The majority of the buildings in the district have little or no setback from the sidewalks that line both sides of West Main Street and some of the cross streets. As a rule, the half-dozen or so properties that are set back from the sidewalk are those that were originally constructed as garages or auto dealerships. Most have been repurposed for other commercial uses, with the exception of the building at 602-616 W. Main Street (104-0300; 104-0083-0013), which continues to function as a garage and tire center. All of the parcels on the south side of West Main Street extend southward to the railroad tracks. The lots along the north side vary in depth, but nearly all retain their original configuration and have not been subdivided. According to historic maps, some late-19th-century dwellings within the district were demolished and replaced with commercial buildings during the early to mid-20th century. Landscaping within the district is limited to Zelkova trees, which were planted in the 1990s at the outer edge of the sidewalks adjacent to the street. A historic iron fence runs along the edge of the sidewalk in front of the parking area for Union Station. A Virginia Historic Highway Marker (va-Q16) is located at the front of Delevan Baptist Church (104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015) on the south side of West Main Street and provides much of the history of the building. Located in the center of West Main Street at its junction with Ridge Street, the former Midway Park contains the monumental 1919 sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea, historically named "Their First View of the Pacific" (VLR, NRHP; 104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001). The visually prominent object marks the eastern terminus of the historic district.

ARCHITECTURAL CHARACTER

The built environment of the West Main Street Historic District represents a wide variety of building types, most of which are related to the National Register areas of significance of Architecture, Commerce, Transportation, and Ethnic Heritage: African American. The eight non-

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contributing resources include four commercial buildings, three small undistinguished sheds, and one modern sculpture. Eight resources in the district are listed in the National Register of Historic Places as part of the 1982 Charlottesville Multiple Resource Area nomination (MRA). These include Inge's Store and associated smokehouse (104-0035, 104-0075, 104-0083-0044); Mount Zion Baptist Church (104-0181; 104-0083-0002); the sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea (104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001); the Albemarle Hotel (104-0374; 104-0083-0030); the Peyton-Ellington Commercial Building at 711 West Main Street (104-0375; 104-0075; 104-0083-0024); Delevan Baptist Church (104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015); and Paxton Place (104-0385; 104-0075; 104-0083-0038).

Brick is the primary construction material used for well over half of the buildings within the district, including the three churches, the 1885 Union Station, most of the commercial buildings, and the earliest surviving dwellings. The most common brick-laying pattern in most of the historic buildings is a Flemish-bond variant, often with common bond on the side and rear elevations. The four non-contributing commercial buildings are brick veneered, allowing them to blend into the streetscape. Most buildings within the district are two stories in height, presenting a consistent scale and proportion to the streetscape; only about a third of the buildings are one story. Three of the buildings are three stories while two of the resources, the 1890s Albemarle Hotel (104-0374; 104-0083-0030) and the former 1949 and 1970 Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Building (104-0083-0041) are four stories.

The historic district displays a wide range of architectural styles and forms spanning the period 1820-1970. Several examples of the Federal style, the Classical Revival style, and the Colonial Revival style are used, and a few buildings display the Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Folk Victorian, and Modernist styles. However, the majority of the buildings are vernacular in nature. The earliest commercial buildings, dating from the late 19th century, are Victorian-era Commercial in style and feature intact storefronts on the first floor with living quarters above. Several buildings within the district are affiliated with architects or builders of the period. John Anderson Lankford, one of Virginia's first African-American professional architects, worked on the reconstruction of Ebenezer Baptist Church (104-301; 104-0083-0032) in 1907. Frank Davis Chase, based in Chicago, Illinois, designed the alterations and additions to the former Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company Building at 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003) in 1930. Others include George W. Spooner, architect and builder of Mount Zion Baptist Church (104-0181; 104-0083-0002) on Ridge Street (1883); Charles Coles, builder of the J. F. Bell Funeral Home (104-0083-0034) on 6th Street (1923); James B. Hawkins, builder of the Hawkins-Perry House (104-0299; 104-0083-0012) at 600 W. Main Street (1873); Charles Keck, sculptor of the Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea sculpture historically named "Their First View of the Pacific" (104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001) (1919); E. H. Chapman engineer for additions to Union Station (104-0231; 104-0083-0016) (ca.1913); and architect Stainback and Scribner for additions to the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Building (104-0083-0041) (1970).

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The earliest resources in the historic district date to the 1820s and are two brick dwellings that are listed as part of the Charlottesville MRA. No resources date to the 1850s or 1860s, three are from the 1870s, and five were constructed each in the 1880s and 1890s. Only two properties date to the first decade of the 20th century. The largest group (21 percent) of contributing resources date to the 1910s and 1920s, making these two decades the period of greatest expansion within the district. Only three buildings were constructed during the Great Depression years of the 1930s, while twice as many date to the 1940s. Resources from the 1950s and 1960s make up 10 percent of the properties within the district.

The area along West Main Street from the junction with Ridge Street to just west of 5th Street was annexed as part of the City of Charlottesville in 1860, while the area from 5th Street west to the Drewary J. Brown Memorial Bridge was not annexed until 1888. The district contains nine resources that were originally constructed as dwellings; most have been converted into commercial use. The ca. 1820 Inge's Store (MRA; 104-0035; 104-0075; 104-0083-0044) and the ca. 1824 Paxton Place (MRA; 104-0385; 104-0075; 104-0083-0038) represent residential construction of the area before it developed as a major commercial and transportation corridor that coincided with the coming of the railroad in the mid-19th century. Both resources are two-story, Flemish-bond-brick, Federal-style buildings that retain their architectural integrity, despite being added to and converted into commercial uses. Inge's Store also contains a small, brick period outbuilding in the rear yard that was probably originally a smokehouse. Paxton Place is a two-story, four-bay brick Federal-style dwelling with the front walls laid in Flemish-bond brick, and the sides and rear in an irregular common bond with Flemish variant. A brick mousetooth cornice crowns the front wall. Two interior-end brick chimneys on the parapeted west gable end are connected, with a multi-light lunette attic window beneath. A two-story, hip-roofed rear brick wing was constructed ca. 1910. According to Sanborn maps, the house was a dwelling until 1920 when it was used as a funeral home, and later a Moose Lodge.

The vernacular house at 600 West Main Street (104-0299; 104-0083-0012) was constructed in 1873 by local builder James B. Hawkins who used it as a rental unit. The first floor was converted into a commercial use as a grocery in 1931 when the front one-story addition was made. Similarly, the 1884 vernacular brick house next door at 512-514 West Main Street (104-0298; 104-0083-0011), was enlarged in 1949 with the addition of a front-one story wing (added to in 1961-1962) and modified as a restaurant (Blue Moon Diner). In both cases, the original late-19th-century vernacular brick dwellings at the core of these properties are still clearly visible.

Both the house at 501 West Main Street (104-0083-0039) and the one at 320 West Main Street (104-0083-0005) date from the 1890s and have been converted for commercial use. The one at 320 West Main Street is historically known as the Sparks-Garrett House (104-0083-0005) and was constructed ca. 1900. The stuccoed frame dwelling is T-shaped with Victorian detailing in its wide frieze, cross-gabled roof with overhanging eaves, and now enclosed porch with turned posts and bracket detailing. The Wheeler-Dyer House at 501 W. Main (104-0083-0039) was built in 1893 as a side-passage-plan vernacular brick dwelling and was used as rental property. The side one-story brick wing was built in 1924 for use as a doctor's office, using brick from the

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City's "old Catholic church."¹ The house is of further interest because it is similar in architectural form to seventeen dwellings that were identified in the Fifeville-Tonsler Neighborhood Historic District as "Type 2," and were probably all constructed by the same builder.²

The early-20th-century dwellings at 125 and 123 4th Street, NW (104-5152; 104-0083-0043 and 104-0083-0042) are significant as surviving residences in the African-American neighborhood of Vinegar Hill that was essentially leveled by a 1960s urban renewal campaign. In addition to serving as residences, they also housed African-American businesses. The two-story, three-bay, T-shaped house at 123 4th Street, NW (104-0083-0042), currently used as an office, is a vernacular Classical-Revival-style brick dwelling constructed ca. 1920 and was the home of African-American physician George F. Johnson. The painted brick walls are laid in a six-course-with Flemish-bond pattern. A narrow brick belt course above the second-story windows creates a plain brick frieze beneath the overhanging eaves. The well-preserved house has an asphalt-shingled, hipped roof, with an interior brick chimney, and a central-front cross gable that is pedimented and contains square wooden shingle, and an attic window. The three-bay, hipped-roofed front porch has Ionic columns resting on brick piers and the house retains its original two-over-two-sash double-hung wood windows. Next door at 125 4th Street, NW (104-05152; 104-0083-0043) is a two-story, three-bay, vernacular brick (front and north elevations have been stuccoed) dwelling constructed ca. 1910, which was the home and office of African-American dentist Dr. John A. Jackson, starting in the 1920s. The building also has a large rear wing that was constructed in several phases with storefronts along Commerce Street. According to the 1942 Charlottesville City Directory, the building also housed the office of the Bankers Fire Insurance Company and the Grand Chapter of the Virginia Order of the Eastern Star, both of which were African-American organizations. The Joker's Barbershop, which is still in operation, has been at this location for years. Another residence associated with African Americans in the district is the vernacular house at 201 6th Street, NW (104-0083-0033), constructed ca. 1900 and currently used by the adjacent Ebenezer Baptist Church (104-0301; 104-0083-0032). At one time the district contained additional residences from this period, but they were torn down during the early to mid-20th century to make way for commercial buildings.

The West Main Street Historic District contains three highly visible churches with African American congregations, two of which are already listed as part of the Charlottesville MRA nomination. These buildings illustrate how this area was not only oriented towards residential, commercial, and transportation-related activities, but also included important institutional buildings convenient to the African-American communities in the adjacent Vinegar Hill, Starr Hill, and Fifeville and Tonsler neighborhoods. The oldest of the churches is the Delevan Baptist Church, also known as First Baptist Church (MRA; 104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015), built between 1877 and 1883. The front of this Romanesque Revival-style brick church features a projecting brick square entrance tower supporting a square wooden base on which rests a wooden octagonal lantern with corner pilasters and round-arched louvers. Another octagonal wooden stage above the lantern supports a domed roof. The main entry is at the base of the tower through paneled double-leaf doors with a segmentally-arched lintel. The ends of the façade are

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flanked by matching projecting brick towers that rise slightly above the roof eaves with a pyramidal roof. Mount Zion Baptist Church at 105 Ridge Street (MRA; 104-0181; 104-0083-0002), constructed in 1883-1884, and although no longer used as a church, retains its historic and architectural integrity. Now known as the Charlottesville Music Resource Center, this building replaced the original 1875 building and was designed and constructed by George W. Spooner, whose father worked on the construction of the University of Virginia. The steeple was not completed until the 1890s, at which time the stained glass windows and pipe organ were installed. Architecturally distinctive and well constructed, this intact church, similar in style and date to Delevan Baptist Church, is a significant historic and architectural landmark in Charlottesville. Ebenezer Baptist Church at 113 6th Street, NW (104-0301; 104-0083-0032) was constructed in 1894 and rebuilt after a 1907 fire. The Gothic Revival church, with its three-bay, gable-end rectangular brick form features a detached and set-back tower on the south side and rear chancel wing. Visually prominent at the junction of Commerce and 6th streets NW, the building was designed by John A Lankford, the first professionally licensed African-American architect in Virginia.

The predominant building type within the West Main Street Historic District is the commercial building, with resources dates ranging from the 1880s to the mid-20th century. These buildings illustrate the evolution in specific commercial uses. The earliest commercial buildings, primarily located in the 800 through 600 blocks across from Union Train Station, were constructed as blocks of buildings with no setback and had commercial functions on the first floor and living quarters on the second. These early mixed-use commercial buildings display the same basic pattern of two-story, shed-roofed brick buildings with parapets, and relatively intact traditional Victorian embellished storefronts. Although no two are identical, these brick commercial buildings are fairly typical of other such buildings of this type in the region.

The Balz Building I (104-0314; 104-0083-0017) was constructed in 1882 and is one of the oldest commercial buildings in the district. Sited on an irregular-shaped lot along the north side of West Main Street at its junction with the Drewary J. Brown Memorial Bridge, this painted brick, vernacular commercial building laid in six-course American-bond is in the shape of a right angle trapezoid. The first floor has a three-part storefront with a single-light entry door with transom at the east end. The second-floor windows have corbelled segmental brick arches. The two-story commercial building at 811-813 West Main Street (104-0313; 104-0083-0018) features two first-floor storefronts and a single door that provides access to the second floor. The painted brick walls are laid in six-course Flemish-bond variant brick. The first and second floors are divided by a metal frieze and a metal cornice with decorative cornice stops. The second-floor windows are topped by three-part corbelled segmental arches and the front parapet has a boxed wooden cornice and a brick frieze with corbelled dropped brackets. This 800 block of West Main Street also includes a 1984 brick-veneered, two-story commercial building known as the Starr Hill Building (104-0083-0312; 104-0083-0019) that is distinguished by a curved/chamfered corner at West Main and 8th streets. Designed by Charlottesville architect John Farmer this prominent site was the location of the Hotel Clermont, which was demolished in the late 1930s.

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The set of commercial buildings located between 711 and 701 on the north side of West Main Street are some of the most decorative and well preserved in the district. The most highly-ornamented commercial building in the district is located at 711 West Main Street (MRA; 104-0375; 104-0083-0024). Built in 1893, and known as the Peyton-Ellington Building, this brick building is notable for its Classical Revival-inspired cast-iron work on the façade made by Mesker Brothers Company. These mass-produced iron fronts were likely transported to Charlottesville by rail and this is one of the few surviving such cast-iron fronts in the city. The three-part storefront has prismatic glass in the transoms above the large storefront and a single door that provides access to the stairs to the second floor. The second-story facade contains four bays of paired engaged, cast-iron, Corinthian columns on bases with two inset paterae. Between the bays are windows and above is an entablature with rosettes that supports the front parapet with its highly decorated modillioned frieze with paired brackets and end blocks. The sides of the building are of exposed brick. The commercial building at 731 West Main Street (104-0310; 104-0083-0021) was constructed in 1896. Despite a 1975 fire that gutted the interior, the exterior of the building retains much of its historical character including its brick walls, fluted cast-iron pilasters on the first floor, and stone sills and rubbed brick jack arches around the second-floor windows.

The commercial building at 707-709 West Main Street (104-0307; 104-0083-0025) was constructed ca. 1925 for A. G. Carter who had also constructed 701-705 West Main Street (104-0306; 104-0083-0026) in 1922. These two-story, well-preserved Classical-Revival-style brick buildings feature Flemish- and Common-bond brick work, original storefronts with prismatic glass transoms, and decorative tall metal cornices at the top of the front parapet walls. The second floor at 707-709 has tall round-arched windows composed of steel casement eight-light sash with a four-light fixed transom topped by a fanlight. The windows have concrete sills and brick arches with a concrete keystone. A rectangular concrete panel above each of the second-floor windows alludes to an attic story. The tall metal cornice with decorative end blocks caps the building's façade. The second floor of 701-705 West Main has eight one-over-one-sash wood windows with rusticated stone sills and lintels. Above each is a stone sill topped by a blind, rounded brick arch with a stone keystone, suggesting an attic story. The front parapet has a boxed metal cornice with modillions, large corner brackets, and a narrow denticulated frieze.

Another well-preserved commercial building from the early 20th century is located at 635 West Main Street (104-0346; 104-0083-0027). The two-story vernacular commercial brick building (ca. 1913) is unusual in that it retains a second-story frame porch, once a common feature for the upper-story living quarters of many of the commercial buildings on this corridor. Next door at 633 West Main Street (104-0305; 104-0083-0028) is another two-story, brick commercial building constructed in 1918. The front is stucco-covered and has three-round-arched second-story window and a modern three-part metal storefront. The two-story brick commercial building at 515 West Main Street (104-0083-0045) has a modern storefront but retains its historic two-over-two-sash wood windows on the second floor. The upper parts of the façade are divided into two bays by pilasters.

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The two-and-one-half-story, ca. 1915, brick commercial building at 620-624 West Main Street (104-0303; 104-0083-0014) was constructed as a warehouse by famed photographer Rufus Holsinger, whose office was located across West Main Street. Constructed of brick laid in six-course Common bond and resting on a brick foundation, the facade of the building has storefront windows on the first floor paired windows with segmental double brick arches on the second floor. The upper floor is the same pattern but the windows have been boarded up with plywood. The east and west sides of the building have stepped parapeted walls, which conceal the material of the shed roof. Former occupants of the vernacular Commercial-style brick building were Standard Produce Company, two auto dealers, and Norcross Transfer & Storage. The building is currently owned by the First Baptist Church next door.

The J. F. Bell Funeral Home at 108 6th Street, NW (104-0083-0034) is one of the oldest functioning African-American businesses in the area. Constructed in 1923, this two-story, three-bay, hip-roofed vernacular building with a main façade on 6th Street NW, and a major entry facing the Commerce Street parking lot was built and is continues to be used as a funeral home. Set into a banked site that slopes down to the north and east, the foundation is brick and the walls are of stuccoed structural tile. The hipped roofs are clad in standing-seam metal and have overhanging eaves and multiple interior brick chimneys along the south side. The first floor of the main façade facing 6th Street, NW, is an enclosed porch of stretcher bond-brick with corner brick pilasters and a band of diamond-glazed frieze windows topped by a narrow rolled metal awning. An oversized pedimented and bracketed entry on the northern bay is topped by a four-light transom. The second-floor façade features a three-bay integral porch with square posts and plain picket railing. Nine-over-nine-sash double-hung wood windows flank the central door on that level. A three-bay, attached, garage is accessible by Commerce Street and has a side retaining wall with metal railing to negotiate the transition from the level parking lot above and the garage's lower grade entrance. The family-owned funeral business was located in Vinegar Hill before moving to this site, at the heart of a commercial district and adjacent to several traditionally African-American neighborhoods. According to a walking tour brochure of Starr Hill, the building was constructed by African-American contractor Charles Coles with the funeral parlor on the first floor and a residence on the second floor.

Unlike the earlier commercial buildings, the ones from the mid-20th-century tend to vary more greatly in design. One of the most unusual is Mel's Café (104-0309; 104-0083-0022), originally constructed as a 1-Hour "Martinizing" Dry Cleaning store. Built on the site of a row of two-story brick store buildings, which included the studio of noted photographer Rufus Holsinger, and which burned in 1960, this one-story three-bay, glass-fronted, concrete block, vernacular commercial building was constructed in 1962/63 as a dry cleaning plant and now serves as a restaurant. It has a Modernistic design due to its low-pitched, gable-end, fiberglass folded plate roof with ends that rise at the same angle, giving it the form of a "W," and creating large side overhangs. Constructed as a 1-Hour "Martinizing" dry cleaning store, it is one of several in the Virginia that were built at the time in this expressive Modernistic design. The original freestanding sign for the dry-cleaning establishment is still located in front of the building and is used by Mel's Cafe. Six other Martinizing Dry Cleaners are still operational in Virginia

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(Richmond, Danville, Martinsville, and Collinsville), some of which are this same architectural design.

Next door at 713 West Main Street is a small one-story 1962 building set back from the street, (104-0308; 104-0083-0023) and is also on the same property as Mel's Cafe. It has been used for various types of automobile service and sales. The eastern end of the West Main Street Historic District contains two commercial buildings from the mid-20th century, both of which are much less ornate than their earlier 19th-century counterparts. The one at 325 West Main Street (104-0083-0045) was constructed in 1956 and is a brick-veneered, concrete block, vernacular commercial building with a parapeted wall with terracotta coping. Two metal and plate glass entry doors flank a central projecting glass storefront on the first floor; the one to the west leads to the stair to the second floor. The second floor contains two sets of paired one-over-one light aluminum-sash windows. The sides and rear of the building are not veneered. The rear of the building takes advantage of the slope to have a full walk-out basement level with a storefront with small concrete patio enclosed by a modern metal post railing. Next door at 323 West Main Street (104-0083-0046) is a one-story vernacular commercial building that was constructed ca.1940. The façade is faced in cobalt blue rectangular tile. The intact streamlined aluminum storefront has curved plate glass windows framing the off-center recessed entrance door. The storefront is topped by a streamlined aluminum cornice and the bulkhead is of tile. The east side of the building has been partially wrapped in blue tile with a large plate glass window that matches those on the front. Above it are the white painted remnants of the old "GE" emblem that once adorned the building, which was first used as an appliance store. Beyond the line of the tile, there is a large modern mural on the concrete block with the caption, "The image in this mural was taken from a 1927 photograph entitled 'Old Cheyenne.'"

A variety of commercial uses still flourish along West Main Street, with the majority of the buildings repurposed from their original use. A few retain their original functions. The Union Train Station, so named because it served multiple rail lines in Charlottesville, at 810 West Main Street (104-0231; 104-0083-0016) is a Classical Revival-style brick building constructed in 1885 at the junction of the C&O Railroad with two other rail lines. The station was enlarged and remodeled in 1913-1918 and has a commercial use. The large, two-story, three-bay, gable end Union Station features a one-bay paired Doric column porch with an entablature, classical cornice, and flat roof. This building was originally one-and-one-half-stories in height, and was raised to two during the 1913-1918 remodeling. Plans were drawn by the in-house chief engineer of the railroad at that time, E. H. Chapman, and the contract let out to George Leigh & Bro. for \$16,561. The two attached, one-story, almost identical brick buildings were originally the baggage depots, but currently are used as the main Amtrak station in Charlottesville. Constructed ca. 1895, the one-story Victorian Commercial buildings features cross-gabled with jerkin-head roofs (asphalt shingled) with overhanging eaves supported by wooden triangular brackets, and decorative rafter-ends.

Only one of the four hotels that were built during the late 1800s in close proximity to the rail station survives, although it is now office and commercial space. Constructed in several phases

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between 1889 and 1914, the Hotel Gleason, later known as the Albemarle Hotel (MRA; 104-0374; 104-0083-0030) stands at 611-617 West Main Street. The four-story brick building with Classical detailing has a recessed street-level loggia with Corinthian columns, a pressed tin ceiling, and a decorative black and white tile floor. Ornatly decorated in-antis recessed balconies with two square inset columns that support and elaborate entablature with pressed tin swags and wreaths and round and square-arched brick window surrounds are found on the second floor. The fourth-floor windows match those of the second, with the central bays being paired and slightly narrower. The third floor single and paired one-over-one-sash windows are round arched. The fairly plain side elevations of the building feature segmentally-arched windows. Flat full-height brick pilasters divide the façade into four asymmetrical bays. The original heavily bracketed cornice has been replaced by a simple overhanging one. The material of the shed roof is not visible and is fronted by a metal capped parapet wall.

The Charlottesville Bus Station (104-0083-0004) at 310 West Main Street, constructed ca. 1964, is still in use. Originally operated by the Trailways bus company, it is now serviced by Greyhound. The façade of the two-story, Moderne-style bus station features four bays with aluminum tripartite windows and an aluminum double-door entry with an aluminum streamlined cornice dividing the first and second floors. There are 27 panels of exposed aggregate on the second floor, with the western-most bay entirely in Flemish-bond brick with an exterior clock, flag pole, pay telephone, and modern back-lit Greyhound sign. Five period canister down-lights decorate the side elevation. The front of the building has a polished marble-veneered concrete foundation and a flat roof of unknown material. The large L-shaped, one-story, flat-roofed rear brick wing has a large overhang supported by metal posts that wraps along the west and south sides and partially covers the bus parking in that area. The edge of the overhang is faced with stepped aluminum trim. A small one-story concrete block rooftop wing is located near the junction with the front of the building. The rear wing is three bays deep with three sets of plate glass doors surrounded by large plate glass windows and a band of five single-light transoms. Between the openings, rectangular panels of tile decorate the Flemish-bond walls. The south elevation of the rear wing is three bays wide with cantilevered aluminum overhang with paired doors and semicircular hand plates.

A component in the evolution of transportation in the district was the arrival of the electric streetcar tracks that were laid in the center of West Main Street in the mid-1890s. The T-shaped brick building at the 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003), across from Midway Park, was constructed ca. 1914 as the headquarters of the Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company, which operated the streetcar line. The property included a powerhouse in the rear, since the rail company also functioned as the local electric company. The Colonial Revival-style building was sold in the early 1920s and remodeled in several stages. Alterations included the addition of a third story and a highly decorated front entrance with Corinthian pilasters supporting a segmental modillioned pediment that surrounds a molded frieze. The powerhouse was incorporated into the same roofline. Frank Davis Chase, an architect based in Chicago worked on the expansion and remodeling of this building in 1930 when it was known as the Virginia Public Service Company Building.

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The electric streetcar system along West Main Street was abandoned as the use of automobiles increased in the mid-1930s. New business, such as auto dealerships, gas stations, and garages sprang up along West Main Street to cater to this emerging mode of personal transportation. In most cases older buildings were torn down to accommodate the new enterprises. A number of the former automotive-related resources have now been converted to house restaurants or stores, including the filling station at 420 West Main Street (104-0083-0008). This ca. 1930, one-story, four-bay, concrete block former gas station is clad in aluminum panels and is currently used as a restaurant. The vernacular, flat-roofed building has some streamlined detailing and features a large cantilevered aluminum and steel overhang on the northeast corner. The roof cladding is not visible but the front parapet has "Whiting Oil Company" painted on it. The three original service bays have been enclosed with nine-light, three-panel garage doors. The covered drive beneath the cantilever has been enclosed with modern plate-glass windows and the current entrance is flanked by blue-tile clad walls enclosing two modern entrance doors. To the east is a former car dealership now known as Main Street Market (104-0083-0007). This rambling, vernacular commercial building from the 1940s is composed of a two-story, brick veneered front section with a large one-story, concrete-block, section behind it that features a rounded roof similar in form to a Quonset hut. Further to the rear butting up to the railroad tracks is another one-story concrete block section with a second story, round-arched-roofed addition. Extending to the east from this section is a two-story modern wing. The large building now houses several commercial enterprises.

Other 20th-century, vernacular, auto-related commercial enterprises within the district include the large, one-story, brick and terra cotta former auto dealership at 324-326 West Main Street (104-0083-0006), constructed ca. 1925; the one-story, the ca. 1925 former gas station at 513 West Main Street (104-0083-0036), now used as a restaurant; and the ca. 1925 former auto dealership at 505 West Main Street (104-0083-0037), with its distinctive angled storefront. The former C&R Auto Service is a two-story, brick and concrete building at 107 6th Street, NW (104-0302; 104-0083-0031) and was constructed ca. 1945 on the site of the Jefferson Opera House which burned in 1906. The earliest section of 602-616 West Main Street (104-0300; 104-0083-0013) was built in 1959 and has been added to. Since the 1960s, the property has functioned as an automotive garage and tire center.

The largest building in the district is the former Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Building at 401-419 West Main Street (104-0083-0041). The two-story, six-bay, Flemish-bond brick-veneered, flat-roofed, steel and concrete, Classical Revival-style, western-most section of the building dates to 1949. Topped by a wide cast stone cornice and frieze, this section has a water table and foundation that are covered in granite panels. The façade is divided into five bays articulated by full-height, rectangular cast stone frames that hold horizontal three-over-three-light, fixed steel windows in each level. Between each set of windows are two marble panels with a Greek-key engraving near the top. The double-leaf, steel, main entrance doors are in the western-most bay. Each has four square lights with geometric tracery, a pattern repeated in the two-light transom above. The entry is fronted by a one-bay, flat-roofed portico with a classical

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entablature, denticulated frieze, and Doric-inspired marble-clad posts. A side entrance along the west side is located where the granite water table and panels terminate. A two-story flat-roofed rear (north) brick wing was added in 1959/1960 and is similar in that it has a partial cast-stone frieze and Flemish-bond brick veneered walls. The window openings along the north side of this wing have been infilled with brick and there is an exterior metal fire-escape and ladder roof access. The large four-story, six-bay addition that extended the building to the east along West Main Street was constructed in 1970 and was designed by Charlottesville architects Stainback & Scribner and built by Doyle & Russell Inc. of Richmond. The four-story addition generally repeats the same fenestration pattern as the original but in a more simplified version in the two upper stories that features a cast stone belt course and frieze. A one-bay portico covers two double-leaf entrances that are separated by a large marble panel. The portico has marble clad Doric-inspired posts, a denticulated frieze, and stepped cornice. The upper two stories are divided from the lower two stories by a wide cast stone frieze and metal cornice that ties into the one on the original portion of the building. The two upper stories are four bays wide with simplified window bay articulation. The Flemish-bond brick veneer on this addition is carried around the side of the building on the first two floors, but the upper levels are of cast stone. A vertical pair of windows inset in cast stone surrounds with a cornice above and marble Greek-key panel between along with a basement entry are found along the east side. A one-story, six-bay brick-veneered, masonry garage follows the curve of Commerce Street behind the main building. Constructed in 1949, as part of the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company, the building has a concrete foundation and a flat roof with rooftop parking accessible from West Main Street. It was used as office and utility storage. The east three bays of the two-part building has a recessed central portion that contains a garage door with curved walls (with square brick) flanking it, giving it a Moderne feel. Currently used by CenturyLink, a telecommunications company, this large building illustrates the continued dominance of this area as a commercial and communications center of the City during the 20th century.

In 1919, the monumental figurative sculpture of Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea, historically, if rarely, known as “Their First View of the Pacific” (VLR, NRHP; 104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001), was erected at the junction of West Main Street, Ridge Street, and McIntire Road. The bronze sculpture, which rests on a carved granite pedestal, was made by nationally-known sculptor Charles Keck. The monument stands on the remnant of what was once Midway Park. It is one of four outdoor sculptures donated to the City by Paul Goodloe McIntire between 1919 and 1924. The west face of the base includes the text “Meriwether Lewis 1774-1809 William Clark 1770-1838 Bold and Farseeing Pathfinders Who Carried the Flag of the Young Republic to the Western Ocean and Revealed an Unknown Empire to the Uses of Mankind.” In 2009 the City of Charlottesville added a plaque honoring Sacagawea, who was featured in the sculpture’s triangular composition from the beginning but otherwise little acknowledged.

Although many of the West Main Street Historic District buildings have evolved from their original use, the district retains a high degree of architectural integrity, function, and character. The limited new construction within the district is essentially respectful of the surrounding

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buildings with retention of setbacks and scale. Although somewhat altered in function, the district continues as a vibrant commercial corridor linking the University of Virginia with downtown while featuring an extraordinary range of buildings types that convey the story of Charlottesville's growth and development.

Inventory of West Main Street Historic District

NOTES ON FORMAT, ORGANIZATION, AND JUSTIFICATION OF INVENTORY:

In the following inventory, which is listed numerically by street address, all resources, both primary and secondary, have been considered either contributing or non-contributing based upon the district's areas of significance under Criterion A for Ethnic Heritage: African American, Transportation, and Commerce and under Criterion C for Architecture and based upon the period of significance of ca. 1820, the date of the earliest surviving resource within the historic district, to 1970, when a large addition was completed on a visually prominent building within the district. Therefore, all non-contributing resources have been so noted for being either constructed after 1970 or as having little to no material integrity left to represent the period and areas of significance. The resources are keyed to the accompanying sketch map using the tertiary number of the DHR-assigned inventory. For example, the location for 501 West Main Street (DHR # 104-0083-0039) is marked as 39 on the sketch map. This inventory was generated using the Virginia Department of Historic Resources V-CRIS database. The dates listed are those for the primary resource. Previously-listed resources are denoted by an asterisk (*).

HISTORIC DISTRICT INVENTORY:

Main Street, West

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Sculpture at intersection of West Main Street and McIntire Road | 104-0273 |
| <i>Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0001, 104-5091</i> | |
| <i>*Primary Resource: Sculpture/Statue (Object), Stories, Style: No Discernible Style, 1919</i> | |
| | Contributing Object |
| 300 West Main Street | 104-0083-0003 |
| <i>Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 3, Style: Colonial Revival, Ca 1914</i> | |
| | Contributing Building |
| 310 West Main Street | 104-0083-0004 |
| <i>Primary Resource: Bus Station, Stories 2, Style: Moderne, Ca 1964</i> | |
| | Contributing Building |
| 320 West Main Street | 104-0083-0005 |
| <i>Primary Resource: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Folk Victorian, Ca 1900</i> | |
| | Contributing Building |
| <i>Secondary Resource: Shed</i> | Non-contributing Building |

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- 323 West Main Street** **104-0083-0046**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1940
Contributing Building
- 324-326 West Main Street** **104-0083-0006**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1925
Contributing Building
- 325 West Main Street** **104-0083-0045**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1956
Contributing Building
- 331-333 West Main Street** **104-0035** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0075,104-0083-0044*
**Primary Resource:* Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, Ca 1820
Contributing Building
**Secondary Resource:* Smoke/Meat House
Contributing Building
- 401-419 West Main Street** **104-0083-0041**
Primary Resource: Office Building, Stories 4, Style: Neo-Classical Revival, 1949
Contributing Building
Secondary Resource: Garage
Contributing Building
- 406-418 West Main Street** **104-0083-0007**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1945
Contributing Building
- 420 West Main Street** **104-0083-0008**
Primary Resource: Service Station, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1930
Contributing Building
- 421 West Main Street** **104-0083-0040**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: No discernible style, Ca 1935
Contributing Building
- 425 West Main Street** **104-0083-0047**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1945
Contributing Building
- 500 West Main Street** **104-0083-0009**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 3, Style: Post Modern, Ca 2005
Non-contributing Building

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501 West Main Street **104-0083-0039**
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1893
Contributing Building

502 West Main Street **104-0297** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0010*
Primary Resource: Store/Market, Stories 1, Style: Post Modern, 1989
Non-contributing Building

503 West Main Street **104-0385** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0075, 104-0083-0038*
**Primary Resource:* Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Federal/Adamesque, Ca 1824
Contributing Building

505 West Main Street **104-0083-0037**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1925
Contributing Building

512-514 West Main Street **104-0298** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0011*
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1884
Contributing Building
Secondary Resource: Garage
Contributing Building

513 West Main Street **104-0083-0036**
Primary Resource: Service Station, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1925
Contributing Building

515 West Main Street **104-0083-0035**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1919
Contributing Building

600 West Main Street **104-0299** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0012*
Primary Resource: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1873
Contributing Building

602-616 West Main Street **104-0300** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0013*
Primary Resource: Service Station, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, 1959
Contributing Building

617 West Main Street **104-0374** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0075, 104-0083-0030*
**Primary Resource:* Hotel/Inn, Stories 4, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1912
Contributing Building

620-624 West Main Street **104-0303** *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0014*
Primary Resource: Warehouse, Stories 2.5, Style: Commercial Style, 1915

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Contributing Building

621-627 West Main Street **104-0304** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0029**
Primary Resource: Service Station, Stories 2, Style: Other, Ca 1935

Non-contributing Building

633 West Main Street **104-0305** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0028**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1918

Contributing Building

632 West Main Street **104-0376** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0015, 104-0213-0085**
**Primary Resource:* Church/Chapel, Stories 1, Style: Romanesque Revival, 1877

Contributing Building

635 West Main Street **104-0346** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0027**
Primary Resource: Store/Market, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1913

Contributing Building

701-705 West Main Street **104-0306** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0026**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1922

Contributing Building

707-709 West Main Street **104-0307** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0025**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1925

Contributing Building

711 West Main Street **104-0375** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0075, 104-0083-0024**
**Primary Resource:* Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Classical Revival, 1893

Contributing Building

713 West Main Street **104-0308** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0023**
Primary Resource: Service Station, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1962

Contributing Building

715 West Main Street **104-0309** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0022**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Modernist, Ca 1962

Contributing Building

731 West Main Street **104-0310** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0021**
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, 1896

Contributing Building

801 West Main Street **104-0312** **Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0019**

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Primary Resource: Single Dwelling, Stories 2, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1876
Contributing Building
Secondary Resource: Secondary Dwelling
Contributing Building

8th Street, NW

103 8th Street, NW 104-0311 *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0020*
Primary Resource: Commercial Building, Stories 1, Style: Vernacular, Ca 1945
Contributing Building

Ridge Street

105 Ridge Street 104-0181 *Other DHR Id#: 104-0083-0002*
**Primary Resource:* Church/Chapel, Stories 1, Style: Classical Revival, Ca 1883
Contributing Building
Secondary Resource: Sign
Contributing Object
Secondary Resource: Work of Art
Non-contributing Object

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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.)

ARCHITECTURE

ETHNIC HERITAGE: African American

TRANSPORTATION

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

Ca. 1820–1970

Significant Dates

Ca. 1820

1855

1885

1970

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Lankford, John Anderson (architect)

Chase, Frank Davis (architect)

Spooner, George W. (architect)

Coles, Charles (builder)

Hawkins, James B. (builder)

Keck, Charles (sculptor)

Chapman, E. H. (engineer)

Stainback and Scribner (architects)

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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.)

Charlottesville's West Main Street Historic District is the core part of an essentially linear district straddling West Main Street that links the downtown area of the city with the University of Virginia. It is locally significant under Criterion A in the areas of Transportation, Commerce, and Ethnic Heritage: African American. The West Main Street Historic District is also locally significant under Criterion C in the area of Architecture for its well-preserved collection of commercial, residential, and institutional buildings representing a variety of architectural styles. The period of significance stretches from ca. 1820, the documented date for the earliest contributing resource, Inge's Store at 331-333 West Main Street (MRA; 104-0035; 104-0075; 104-0083-0044) to 1970, when the addition to the 1949 Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Company Building (104-0083-0041) at 401-419 West Main Street was completed.

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

Summary of Areas of Significance

Transportation

The district is dominated by the main thoroughfare that stretches east-west through Charlottesville between downtown and the University and served as the corridor for the 18th-century Three Notch'd Road (also known as Three Chopt Road) that linked the Tidewater region and the state capital at Richmond with the western regions of the state on present-day U. S. Route 250. Beyond its historic role as a portion of a primary state east-west transportation corridor, Charlottesville's West Main Street was the route for the Charlottesville trolley line that remained in operation until the mid-1930s. The district also contains the Union Station (104-0231; 104-0083-0016) and its ancillary buildings as well as the Greyhound Bus Station (104-0083-0004) and the former Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company building at 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003), confirming the concentration of transportation-related buildings within the district. Other transportation-related buildings include a number of automobile service stations and several hotels, notably Gleason's (Albemarle) Hotel (MRA; 104-0374; 104-0083-0030) to accommodate both the traveling public and local residents in the 20th century. There also have historically been a number of automobile-related resources like repair shops and parts stores.

Commerce

West Main Street retains a number of buildings associated with small business activity including grocery stores, automobile service, and other commercial related enterprises. The West Main Street Historic District illustrates the evolution of commercial, residential, and travel-related resources like boarding houses and hotels, accompanied by mixed-use commercial and retail activities that benefited from the various historical modes of transportation. West Main Street was the location of Charlottesville's carriage, railroad line, and trolley system, and provided a

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primary automobile route for the westward expanding populace to get downtown. At the same time, the corridor offered small-scale retail services with activity dating to the 19th century.

Ethnic Heritage: African American

The district's central location in the city also places it adjacent to several historic African American neighborhoods. In the area of African-American history, the district was home to three large African-American churches that drew much of their membership from the surrounding neighborhoods, such as Fifeville and Tonsler to the south (VLR, NRHP; 104-0213) and Starr Hill and Vinegar Hill to the north; these are Mount Zion Baptist Church at 105 Ridge Street (MRA; 104-0181; 104-0083-0002); First Baptist (Delevan) Church at 632 Main Street (MRA; 104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015); and Ebenezer Baptist Church at 113 6th Street, NW (104-0301; 104-0083-0032). The J. F. Bell Funeral Home at 108 6th Street, NW, (104-0083-0034) is the longest operating funeral home serving the African American community in the Charlottesville area. Over the decades, commercial and social activities related to Charlottesville's African-American community have ebbed and flowed along the West Main Street corridor, but have managed to sustain a steady and ongoing presence during the historic district's period of significance.

Architecture

Under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, the district is locally significant for its well-preserved collection of commercial, residential, and institutional buildings representing a variety of architectural styles from the period of 1820-1970. The district is further enhanced by the 1919 sculpture historically, if rarely, known as "Their First View of the Pacific," which shows explorers Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Shoshone tribal member Sacagawea (VLR, NRHP; 104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001). The sculpture is located in a greatly reduced Midway Park at the eastern terminus of the District. In addition to providing an important focal point for the West Main Street corridor, it represents an element of the City Beautiful movement in the City of Charlottesville.

Historical Background

Charlottesville's West Main Street and its immediate environs have played a pivotal role in the economic and social life of the city since the early 19th century when the corridor became the principal connection between the town center and the recently constructed academic complex of the University of Virginia. Even earlier, the corridor was a segment of the historic Three Notch'd Road (known also as Three Chopt Road in Richmond) that linked Virginia's Tidewater with the Shenandoah Valley and following what is now known as U.S. Route 250.

Only two buildings survive from the very early years, both of which began as private residences that subsequently were converted to commercial use. The Johnson W. Pitts House, ca. 1820 at 331-333 West Main Street (104-0035; 104-0075; 104-0083-0044) was built as a residence that by 1891 had become Inge's Store owned and operated by George P. Inge, an African-American entrepreneur. As Jim Crow segregation took hold across Virginia during the 1890s, this area of

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Main Street became the locus of several African American-owned enterprises and professional offices. The other extant building from the antebellum period is the property known as Paxton Place at 503 West Main Street, ca. 1824, (104-0385; 104-0075; 104-0083-0038). It served as a private residence until the 1920s when the 1929 Sanborn maps indicate it housed a funeral home. By 1950, Paxton Place was identified as a “Lodge Hall.”³

West Main Street became a destination in its own right with the coming of the Virginia Central Railroad (later the Chesapeake & Ohio) in the early 1850s. It was natural that residential and both retail and commercial construction would line this corridor. Only a handful of extant buildings constructed initially for residential use stands within the district from the early post-bellum period, several of which were converted to commercial use in the 20th century. The Hawkins-Perry House at 600 West Main Street (104-0299; 104-0083-0012) was built in 1873 as a residential rental unit, and the first floor was converted into a grocery store in 1931.⁴ According to the 1877 Gray Map of Charlottesville, the 1876 dwelling (104-0083-0033) at 201 6th Street, NW, just off Main Street, was purchased by the Trustees of four organizations: the Mentor Lodge No. 1453 of the United Order of Odd Fellows; The Grand Union Belles; Tabernacle No. 43, and Jefferson Lodge No. 20 of the Ancient Free and Accepted Masons. Although this would suggest that the building was used for organizational gatherings of one kind or another, the records show it continued to function as a residence. It was acquired by an individual, Mary F. Alexander, in 1885, presumably for residential use. It was later sold to the Rev. R. C. Wuarles, pastor of the nearby First Baptist Church, now Delevan Baptist Church (104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015) at 632 West Main Street. A later owner divided the building into two apartments in 1957;⁵ currently the building houses offices for Ebenezer Baptist Church (104-0301; 104-0083-0032) at 113 Sixth Street, NW.

During this second phase of development along West Main Street the Virginia Central Railroad laid its tracks parallel and a block south of West Main. By 1855 the line had begun construction near the end of the 800 block of West Main Street (the western boundary for the district) of a branch running south to Lynchburg, better known by the close of the century as the “Southern Railway.” A third rail line, the Rapidan Railway laid in 1881, extended northward from the earlier juncture to Gordonsville and Orange. All of the railroad construction culminated in the building of the Union Depot at 810 West Main Street, (104-0231; 104-0083-0016) completed in 1885 by the C&O Railroad (successor to the Virginia Central), designed to serve both of the major rail lines. The presence of the train bed corridors that survive to the present day, both crossing and parallel to Main Street, coupled with the passenger traffic that resulted, would have hastened the ultimate change of the primary buildings along Main Street from private residences to commercial and retail use.⁶ Other dwellings that survive from this period have since been converted to commercial and retail use and include the commercial operations at 512-514 West Main Street (1884) “The Blue Moon Diner,” (104-0298; 104-0083-0011); and the Wheeler-Dyer House at 501 West Main Street (1893) (104-0083-0039).

During the four decades following the Civil War, West Main became the focus of expanding industrial and commercial and service-related activity. A concurrent statewide surge in

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development added momentum to the local boom, and by the 1890s, the corridor was lined with agricultural machinery works, machine shops associated with the operation of the railroads, barber shops, boarding houses, hotels, coal and lumber yards, clothing and dry goods stores, pharmacies, a leading photography studio, restaurants and cafes, saloons, sawmills, and warehouses. The large proportion of these enterprises and activities were concentrated east of the Union Depot (constructed in 1885) within the district.

At the same time, adjacent African American neighborhoods such as Fifeville and Tonsler to the south and Starr Hill and Vinegar Hill to the north were home to much of the labor force necessary to this industrial and commercial activity. Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, local directories, and census records offer ample detailed documentation for both the physical and human resources concentrated in this area of Charlottesville.

With its proximity to the 1885 Union Station, the West Main corridor grew to become Charlottesville's principal hotel district. The antebellum Delevan Hotel was followed by the Gleason Hotel, established in 1889 and later renamed the Albemarle Hotel at 611-619 West Main Street (MRA; 104-0374; 104-0083-0030) and is the only surviving hotel building in the district from the period. Others hostleries, which do not survive, included the Clermont Hotel, which formerly stood at 801 West Main Street; and the 1910s Queen Charlotte Hotel, which formerly stood on the 900 block of West Main Street. By the early 20th century, West Main had established itself as an important commercial corridor rivaling Charlottesville's downtown business district, nurtured by traffic to and from the railroad station, the University, and downtown. The laying of streetcar tracks in 1887 facilitated this traffic, accommodating more than 1,500 streetcar passengers and shoppers annually by the early years of the 20th century. These passengers would patronize the various businesses located along and close to Main Street. As a measure of the importance of the Main Street transportation corridor, in 1914, the Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company, owner of the streetcar system, built an office building and powerhouse at 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003) that stands today in modified form at the east end of the district.

The late 19th century also saw the twin prongs of autonomous African American organizations and businesses being established at the same time that whites were putting in place the increasingly strict laws and judicial rulings that created the legal framework known as Jim Crow segregation. Thus the district's transportation-driven commercial growth was accompanied by part of West Main and its immediate surroundings developing as the institutional core of Charlottesville's African-American community. At the close of the Civil War, African American churchgoers withdrew from the town's whites-dominated First Baptist Church and formed two new Baptist congregations, the First Baptist (later known as Delevan Baptist) Church and Mount Zion. Delevan Baptist Church completed its present church sanctuary in 1883 at 632 West Main Street (MRA; 104-0376; 104-0213-0085; 104-0083-0015). The Mount Zion congregation constructed a brick church at 105 Ridge Street in 1883-84 (MRA; 104-0181; 104-0083-0002). The architect and builder was George W. Spooner, whose grandfather was John M. Perry, one of Jefferson's master builders. The congregation was established in the 1860s by freedmen and –

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women and served as an important gathering place and institutional center for Charlottesville's African-American community.⁷ These two churches were later joined by Ebenezer Baptist Church at 113 6th Street, NW (104-0301, 104-0083-0032), built in 1894 and remodeled after a 1907 fire. The architect for the current sanctuary for Ebenezer Church was John Anderson, who in 1920 became the first African-American architect licensed in the Commonwealth of Virginia.⁸ All three of these churches served their congregations who largely resided in the adjacent African-American neighborhoods of Fifeville and Tonsler (104-0213; VLR 2008; NRHP 2009), which abut the district on the south, and Starr Hill and Vinegar Hill that lie adjacent to the northern boundary of the district. Most of the Vinegar Hill neighborhood's buildings were destroyed in urban renewal projects of the early 1960s. The construction and survival of three such iconic architectural landmarks in the City of Charlottesville is a measure of the importance of religious institutions to African Americans and confirms the significant role they played in the lives of those who resided in the Charlottesville community. Their presence in the West Main Street Historic District attests to the importance of these institutions to the social structure of the city.

The district also includes several other significant buildings associated with aspects of Charlottesville's historic African-American community from the late 19th to mid-20th century, when the Civil Rights movement began dismantling Jim Crow laws. Most notably among these are the ca. 1820 dwelling at 331 West Main Street (MRA; 104-0035; 104-0075; 104-0083-0044), which later was home to the black-owned Inge's Grocery from 1891 until 1979, and the J. F. Bell Funeral Home at 108 6th Street, NW (104-0083-0034), an institution that has long been at the heart of the African-American community in the city. African American business owners were more than just successful entrepreneurs; they and their spouses also often acted as leaders in the movement for social justice. The J. F. Bell Funeral Home was constructed in 1925 by local African-American contractor Charles Coles and is purported to be the oldest family-run funeral home in Central Virginia. Raymond Bell also was "widely admired for his work as public relations chair for the local NAACP during the Civil Rights era and was the first African American to serve on the Charlottesville School Board." Dr. John A. Jackson, an African-American dentist, both lived in and operated his office out of the building at 125 4th Street, NW (104-5152; 104-0083-0043). Dr. Jackson's wife, Otelia Love Jackson, served as president of the Charlottesville Crusade for Voters. The Jokers Barbershop has long been housed in the rear of this same building, with its storefront opening onto Commerce Street. Next door at 123 4th Street, NW (104-0083-0042), Dr. G. F. Johnson, an African-American physician, began his practice here following receipt of his medical degree from Howard University in 1911. His wife, Peachie Carr, was a teacher at nearby Jefferson School and served as president of the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs from 1954-1958.⁹

City Directories and census records for Charlottesville beginning in the early 20th century record a small but steady population of African-American residents, both workers and professionals, particularly in the east end of the district, near Mount Zion Baptist Church, and the portions of the district in and adjacent to the 600 and 700 blocks of West Main. African-American barbers like Washington Pollard at 321 West Main Street, and shoe shiners, such as Hampton Jackson at

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and later Raymond Fleming and Troy Ward at 323 West Main Street, and the Hampton Clothes Cleaners appear in the city directories in the 1920s and 1930s; some of these buildings no longer stand and were replaced with more recent ones. This suggests that the area near Mount Zion Church and Inge's Store would have been convenient for nearby Fifeville and Tonsler neighborhood residents to patronize.¹⁰ Hester Winston's Clothing store at 331 West Main Street joined George Inge in the enclave of African-American businesses on West Main Street between 3rd and 4th streets, NW. African-American residents and small commercial operations such as shoe repair and barber shops also clustered on Main Street in the vicinity of Delevan and Ebenezer churches between 6th and 7th Streets, along with a small number of professionals like African American dentist Bernard Coles, who had his offices at 629 West Main Street.¹¹ Although the West Main Street area would have had both black and white merchants and service providers (similar to West Broad Street in Richmond adjacent to the African-American neighborhood in Jackson Ward), the area was far from integrated as African American customers typically were not served on an equal basis with white customers at white-owned businesses.

In the area of transportation, the Union Station at 810-820 West Main Street (104-0231; 104-0083-0016) is the most visible resource in the West Main Street Historic District and was a primary catalyst for other commercial development in the area nearby, like Robert Kemy, a shoe shiner who, according to the 1929 Directory worked near the Albemarle Hotel and undoubtedly polished shoes for railroad travelers going to and from the station. Serving the rail lines that intersect at Charlottesville, the brick Classical Revival Union station with its freight building was significantly remodeled in 1913-1918. The presence of the rail passenger station led to several important hostelrys in the district, including the Albemarle Hotel (formerly the Hotel Gleason) at 617 West Main Street (104-0374; 104-0083-0030). According to local historian Eugenia Bibb's research, the oldest section of the building was constructed in 1890 as the Gleason Hotel and was expanded in 1896 and remodeled in 1911-1913. Until 1926 with the construction of the Monticello Hotel on Court Square, the Gleason was considered the most modern hostelry in the city. It would have been convenient and stylish accommodations for those arriving and departing from Charlottesville for nearly half a century. A photograph taken by Rufus Holsinger in 1915 shows what the fine hotel looked like at its zenith, with the accompanying text stating that "A good part of its business came from the passengers traveling on the Southern Railway." Shown next door to the hotel in the photograph is a sign that reads "*Automobiles for Hire. Page-Detroit Motor Cars.*"

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1915 photograph by Rufus Holsinger showing the Hotel Gleason/Albemarle Hotel (104-0374; 104-0083-0030). Holsinger Studio Collection, retrieval ID 1043626, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

The presence of the railroad facilities would also have been important to Charlottesville’s iconic photographer, whose photographic studio stood nearby and is visible in another of his photographs showing American troops “Marching Off to War.” In 1915, Holsinger built a two-story warehouse across the street from his studio at 620-624 West Main Street (104-0303; 104-0083-0014) that had convenient access to a railroad spur.¹²

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1917 photograph by Rufus Holsinger, showing West Main Street with Monticello Guard, looking east. Delevan Church is on the right. Holsinger Studio Collection, retrieval ID 1039388, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Also constructed during this period was the 1914 Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company Building at 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003). The large building at the eastern end of the West Main Street District served as the headquarters for the Charlottesville and Albemarle Railway Company that operated the streetcar system that ran down the center of Main Street. The building was expanded and remodeled in 1930 and became known as the Virginia Public Service Company building. As an important symbol of the earliest public transportation system, the building continues as a visually prominent commercial building in the district.

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1917 photograph by Rufus Holsinger, showing West Main Street looking east. Midway Park is in the center. The Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company Building at 300 West Main Street is on the left. Holsinger Studio Collection, retrieval ID 1045153, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

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Post-1919 photograph by Rufus Holsinger, showing “Their First View of the Pacific,” the monument to Lewis, Clark, and Sacagawea in Midway Park (along with a street sweeper machine). Holsinger Studio Collection, retrieval ID 1051689, Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.

Beginning around 1910, the growing popularity of the automobile altered West Main Street’s businesses, composition, and appearance. The number of automobile-related businesses in the corridor increased from one to twelve between 1910 and 1931. These enterprises included automobile sales and repair services as well as service stations providing gasoline and small auto parts operations. Continuing the transportation theme, a 1925 Sinclair gas and service station (104-0083-0036) first appeared on a 1929 Sanborn map at 513 West Main Street. It later served as a Transmission Parts and Service center, continuing its transportation theme. A Phillips 66 service station was constructed in 1935, appropriately on the site of the earlier A. D. Payne’s Livery Stable at 621-627 West Main Street. (104-0304; 104-0083-0029), thus continuing the historic function of the parcel for transportation services. A decade later, a commercial building was constructed at 107 6th Street and 605 W. Main Street for C&R Auto Services (104-0302; 104-0083-0031). The lot had earlier been the site of an auto repair and service station; the 1896 Jefferson Opera House stood here until 1906.¹³

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Extensive automobile use ultimately led to the abandonment of the West Main streetcar line in 1935 and contributed to a decline in passenger train ridership as well and thus deemphasizing the depot as a business attraction. These factors, coupled with the shift of population and many businesses either to suburban areas or to the east downtown, set in motion a gradual overall decline along the corridor during the third quarter of the twentieth century. A small scattering of retail service businesses continued, like barbers, shoe repair, and small cafes.

However, because of the strategic and historic link between downtown and the University, the West Main Street Historic District managed to retain its attraction as a corridor for commercial and retail activities. Following World War II, a number of buildings were constructed along Main Street that housed retail and transportation functions. Most have changed from their original function, but are still used commercially, confirming the continued vitality of the area. The most recent transportation-related structure in the district is the 1964 Charlottesville Bus Station at 310 West Main Street (104-0083-0004), a successor to an earlier Trailways bus station located farther east along Main Street. The continued presence of a bus station attests to the ongoing demand for affordable intra- and interstate highway travel between Charlottesville and other Virginia town and cities and points north and south for a broad range of travelers.

The West Main Street Historic District has historically been dominated by commercial activity, with services for the nearby African-American neighborhoods and for all those traveling between the University area and downtown beginning in the 19th century. In the closing years of the 19th century, patrons who used the streetcar line could conveniently visit small commercial operations like drug stores and grocery stores. In many cases, dwellings such as the 1873 Hawkins-Perry House at 600 West Main Street (104-0299; 104-0083-0012) began as residential rental property and later were converted to commercial/retail use, housing the Midway Cash Grocery in the 1930s. The Balz Building at 811-813 West Main Street (104-0313; 104-0083-0018) began its life as a commercial building and housed grocery stores and a butcher until the early 1920s. Subsequently, it was home to the Jefferson Confectionary and the West End Barber Shop. The 1896 commercial building at 731 West Main Street (104-0310; 104-0083-0021), despite a serious fire in 1975, retains remnants of historic painted signage and housed over its history several grocery stores, pharmacies, and a Virginia ABC store. Among the most prominent commercial buildings is the Peyton-Ellington Building at 711 West Main Street (104-0375; 104-0083-0024) and included in the 1982 Charlottesville MRA National Register nomination. It was used by a dry goods merchant, J. P. Ellington, and later housed a book store and appliance store. The A. G. Carter Building at 701-705 West Main Street (104-0306; 104-0083-0026) dates from 1922 and initially housed the Midway Market and later a series of drugstores, including Durer's Drug Store in the 1940s whose painted sign survives on the east exterior wall. Two commercial properties date from the early 1960s, including Mel's Café originally constructed to house a dry-cleaning establishment at 715 West Main Street (104-0309; 104-0083-0022) in 1962-63, and the building at 713 West Main Street (104-0308; 104-0083-0023) that stands on the site of the original Holsinger Photography Studio. In more recent years, the district has become home to various eateries like cafes and restaurants. Numerous automobile-related commercial services, as discussed above, lined the Main Street corridor for

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much of the first five decades of the 20th century, adding to the commercial activity that took place in the district.

The West Main Street Historic District is significant locally under Criterion C in the area of Architecture in its representation of a rural transportation corridor that developed during the late 19th and early 20th centuries into a hub of commercial activity, and which linked the downtown area to the University of Virginia. The primary construction material is brick and the resources include commercial, transportation-related, domestic, and religious buildings that span the ca. 1820-1970 and illustrate a variety of architectural styles and forms, with only a very few modern buildings. Examples of the Federal style, the Classical Revival style, and the Colonial Revival style are found in the district along with a few examples of the Gothic Revival, Romanesque Revival, Folk Victorian, and Modernist styles. Most of the buildings are vernacular in nature, but with architectural detailing drawn from popular forms of the era. . Several Victorian-era Commercial-style buildings survive with intact multiple storefronts on the first floor and living quarters above. Some of the buildings are affiliated with architects or builders of the period. These include

- John Anderson Lankford, one of the first African-American professional architects in the nation, who designed the reconstruction of Ebenezer Baptist Church (104-301; 104-0083-0032) in 1907;
- Frank Davis Chase, based in Chicago, Illinois, for the alterations and additions to the former Charlottesville & Albemarle Railway Company Building at 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003) in 1930;
- George W. Spooner, architect and builder of Mount Zion Baptist Church (104-0181, 104-0083-0002) on Ridge Street (1883);
- Charles Coles, builder of the J. F. Bell Funeral Home (104-0083-0034) on 6th Street (1923);
- James B. Hawkins, builder of the Hawkins-Perry House (104-0299, 104-0083-0012) at 600 W. Main Street (1873);
- Charles Keck, sculptor of the monumental “Their First View of the Pacific” sculpture, which shows Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, and Sacagawea (104-0273; 104-5091; 104-0083-0001) (1919);
- E. H. Chapman, engineer for additions to Union Station (104-0231; 104-0083-0016) (ca.1913); and
- Stainback and Scribner, architect for additions to the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Building (104-0083-0041) (1970).

The historic buildings in the West Main Street Historic District retain a high degree of architectural integrity and illustrate the era in which they were built. Some have been repurposed for other more modern commercial uses, but still retain their character-defining features. The combination of commercial buildings, restaurants, transportation-related resources, churches, and business space continue to make the West Main Street Historic District a vibrant hub of activity in the city.

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The period of significance for the district concludes in 1970 with the enlargement of the Virginia Telephone and Telegraph Building at 401 West Main Street (104-0083-0041), the earlier portions of which dates to 1949 and 1959. This particular addition represents the presence of a key communications center along the Main Street corridor and is compatible with the corridor's place in the broader areas of both transportation and communications for the entire region.

An archaeological assessment of the West Main Street was conducted in 2016 that includes the area within the West Main Street Historic District.¹⁴ Although a systematic archaeological survey has not been conducted within the boundaries of the West Main Street Historic District, there are areas that may contain potential archaeological sites. The most prominent of these is the site of the parking lot of Union Station, where historic Sanborn Maps show there were once buildings. In addition, there may be unidentified archaeological sites associated with where some of earlier 19th- and 20th-century buildings once stood and were replaced with more modern ones. The Sanborn Maps provide a critical tool in identifying where these resources would have been located.

With its well-defined boundaries, the western boundary being the Southern railroad tracks near 8th Street, NW, and the eastern boundary Midway Park and Ridge Street, and its function as the locus of continued commercial, retail, and transportation activity, accompanied by active institutional, religious and service-oriented resources, and an important African-American presence for more than a century, the Charlottesville West Main Street Historic District remains a highly visible and significant district within the Charlottesville municipal area.¹⁵

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

Albemarle County Deed Books. 84, 363 (1879); 8, 62 (1885); 10, 436 (1898).

Charlottesville City Directories for 1927, 1929, 1931, 1938 1942, 1955. (Ancestry.com, "U. S. City Directories, 1822-1995).

Charlottesville Historic Landmarks Commission, Department of Community Development. Survey forms prepared for buildings within the West Main Street Historic District area beginning in 1978. Principal survey work and research was conducted by Eugenia Bibb. Each of the properties on the survey forms includes individual sources. Available on-line and arranged by Street: <http://weblink.charlottesville.org/public/0/fol/650347/Row1.aspx>.

Charlottesville Multiple Resource Nomination (1981, 1982). A document prepared for the National Register that includes documentation and evaluation of a number of properties that lie within the West Main Street Historic District. These properties are considered as individually listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

"Charlottesville 2020."- A thirty-year vision balancing development and preservation on West Main Street and the Mall. (Spring 1988, University of Virginia Preservation Studio. Instructor: Walker C. Johnson, AIA).

Email correspondence between Jane Smith and Maral Kalbian, October 20 and 22, 2016. Local historian Jane Smith provided Ms. Kalbian with information regarding Ebenezer Baptist Church and other historic sites in the area.

Heblich, F. T. Jr. and Cecil Clover Walters. Holzinger's Charlottesville, 1890-1925. (Lynchburg, VA: Progress Printing Company Inc., 1976, 1978).

"Heritage Trails, African Americans in Albemarle (and) the Starr Hill Community." An informational brochure produced by the Jefferson School Heritage Center under the Auspices of the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation, (ca. 2015).

The Holsinger Studio Collection at the Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections Library, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
<http://small.library.virginia.edu/collections/featured/the-holsinger-studio-collection/>.

Rivanna Archaeological Services. "Historical Overview and Archaeological Assessment of Charlottesville's West Main Street Corridor." Report submitted to Rhodeside & Harwell, September 2016.

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Sanborn Map Company. (Pelham, New York). Multiple maps for the area from 1891, 1896, 1902-1907, 1913, 1929, and 1929-1950.

United States Federal Census, 1910-1940, (Ancestry.com) for Charlottesville (Independent City) Virginia. (Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012).

West Main Street Historic District, Preliminary Information forms prepared in 1980 and 1996. Comprehensive bibliographies accompanied these draft Preliminary Information Forms (PIFs) submitted to the Department of Historic Resources. The 1980 form was prepared by the Charlottesville Department of Community Development in May 1980 and is included in the files of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The 1996 submission for consideration of this district, prepared by Alice Pool with the Charlottesville City Planning Department, was considered by the Department's Evaluation Team in May, 1996 and was initially found not eligible. The two early submissions were for districts with boundaries that included a large geographic area, notably at its western boundaries.

Wilson, Dreck Spurlock, editor. "John Anderson Lankford (1874-1946)." African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945. (New York and London: Routledge, An Imprint of Taylor and Francis, Inc. 2004).

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: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): VDHR File No. 104-0083

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10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 16.8 acres

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

	Latitude:	Longitude:		Latitude:	Longitude:
A	38.031333,	-78.492837	E	38.030606,	-78.486059
B	38.031472,	-78.492824	F	38.030624,	-78.485278
C	38.032315,	-78.491033	G	38.029747,	-78.485580
D	38.031418,	-78.486312			

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

UTM Coordinates (Zone 18) as depicted on the accompanying Location USGS Map

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

The nominated boundaries of the West Main Street Historic District are shown on the accompanying 1"=200' scaled map entitled *Sketch Map of West Main Street Historic District*, which was prepared by the City of Charlottesville Planning and Community Development office using their GIS system.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundaries of the West Main Street District are drawn to include the largest concentration of historic buildings that tell the story of the growth of this area of West Main Street from the earliest development in ca. 1820 to 1970, when a large addition was made to a prominent building, and most of the developable lots had been built out. Areas with concentrations of non-contributing resources, particularly when on the edge of the district, were excluded. The West Main Street Historic District boundaries coincide with property lines and natural and man-made features whenever possible, and encompass the district's historic setting as well as all known associated historic resources.

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Maral S. Kalbian, Margaret T. Peters
organization: Maral S. Kalbian, LLC
street & number: P.O. Box 468
city or town: Berryville state: VA zip code: 22611
e-mail: maral@mkalbian.com
telephone: 540-955-1231
date: 28 March 2017

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

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

Photographs

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

Photo Log

The following information is common to all photographs:

Name of Property: West Main Street Historic District

Location: City of Charlottesville, Virginia

DHR File Number: 104-0083

Date: January 2017

Photographer: Maral S. Kalbian

Location of Digital Images: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA.

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

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PHOTO 1 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0001.
VIEW: West Main Street, view looking west.
DATE: August 2016.

PHOTO 2 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0002.
VIEW: Commercial Building, 401-419 West Main Street (104-0083-0041), southwest view.

PHOTO 3 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0003.
VIEW: 300 West Main Street (104-0083-0003), north view.

PHOTO 4 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0004.
VIEW: Charlottesville Bus Station (104-0083-0004), northeast view.

PHOTO 5 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0005.
VIEW: 323 West Main Street (104-0083-0046), south view.

PHOTO 6 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0006.
VIEW: North side of 300 block of West Main Street Block, southwest view.

PHOTO 7 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0007.
VIEW: Main Street Market (104-0083-0007), northeast view.

PHOTO 8 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0008.
VIEW: 420 West Main Street (104-0083-0008), north view.

PHOTO 9 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0009.
VIEW: 503 and 501 West Main Street 104-0075; 104-0083-0038; and 104-0083-0039), south view.

PHOTO 10 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0010.
VIEW: Albemarle Hotel (104-0374; 104-0083-0030), south view.

PHOTO 11 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0011.
VIEW: Commercial Building, 711 West Main Street (104-0375; 104-0075; 104-0083-0024), south view.

PHOTO 12 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0012.
VIEW: Mel's Café, (104-0309; 104-0083-0022), south view.

PHOTO 13 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0013.
VIEW: 512-514 and 600 West Main Street (104-0298; 104-0083-0011 and 104-0299; 104-083-0012), north view.

West Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

City of Charlottesville, VA
County and State

PHOTO 14 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0014.
VIEW: Part of 600 and 700 Block West Main Street, north side, southeast view.

PHOTO 15 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0015.
VIEW: 700 block of West Main Street, southeast view.

PHOTO 16 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0016.
VIEW: Union Station (104-0231; 104-0083-0016), northeast view

PHOTO 17 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0017.
VIEW: 800 block of West Main Street, north side, southwest view.

PHOTO 18 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0018.
VIEW: J. F. Bell Funeral Home, 108 6th Street, NW (104-0083-0034), southeast view.

PHOTO 19 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0019.
VIEW: Ebenezer Baptist Church (104-0301; 104-0083-0032) and 201 6th Street, NW (104-0083-0033), east view.

PHOTO 20 of 20: VA_City of Charlottesville _West Main Street HistoricDistrict_0020.
VIEW: 123 and 125 4th Street, NW (104-0083-0042 and 104-5152; 104-0083-0043), northeast view.

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.

ENDNOTES

¹ Bibb, Eugenia. "Architectural and Historic Survey Form, 501 West Main Street." Winter 1979. The survey form notes that Wheeler built two identical houses at 501 and 425 West Main, but 425 was demolished due to damage from an arson fire at the building to its east.

² Kalbian, Maral S. LLC. National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, "Fifeville and Tonsler Neighborhoods Historic District" DHR File 104-0213. October 2008; Section 7, pages 8 and 9.

³ Sanborn Company (Pelham, NY) 1891, 1896, 1913, 1929, 1950. See also Charlottesville Multiple Resource Nomination, 1981.

⁴ Bibb, Eugenia. "Architectural and Historic Survey Form, 600 West Main Street." Fall 1978.

⁵ Albemarle County Deed Book 84, p. 363 (1879); Deed Book 8, p. 62 (1885); Deed Book 10, 436 (1898).

⁶ The various Sanborn Maps examined clearly show the railroad tracks and the intersection of the north-south and east west lines.

⁷ Bibb, Eugenia. "Architectural and Historic Survey Form, 105 Ridge Street." 1973/1989. Charlottesville Multiple Resource Nomination (1982).

West Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

City of Charlottesville, VA
County and State

⁸ Dreck Spurlock Wilson, editor. "John Anderson Lankford, (1874-1946)." African American Architects: A Biographical Dictionary, 1865-1945. (New York and London: Routledge, An Imprint of Taylor and Francis, Inc., 2004)., 253-256. For a discussion of African American churches in Charlottesville and Albemarle County, see Rosanna Liebman and Matilda McQuay, "A Study of Ten Black Baptist churches in Albemarle County." (School of Architecture, University of Virginia, 1983).

⁹ "Heritage Trails, African Americans in Albemarle, Starr Hill Community." An informational brochure prepared by the Jefferson School Heritage Center under the auspices of that Charlottesville Area Community Foundation (ca. 2016).

¹⁰ Charlottesville City Directories for 1929, 1936 and 1937. Ancestry.com U. S. City Directories, 1822-1995.

¹¹ Ibid, Charlottesville City Directories for 1927, 1929, 1938.

¹² F. T. Heblich, Jr. and Cecil Clover Walters. Holsinger's Charlottesville, 1890-1925. (Lynchburg, VA: Progress Printing Company, Inc. 1976, 1978) 58, 65.

¹³ Bibb, Eugenia. "Architectural and Historic Survey Form, 621-627 West Main Street and 107 6th Street, NW" Spring 1995.

¹⁴ Rivanna Archaeological Services. "Historical Overview and Archaeological Assessment of Charlottesville's West Main Street Corridor." Report submitted to Rhodeside & Harwell, September 2016.

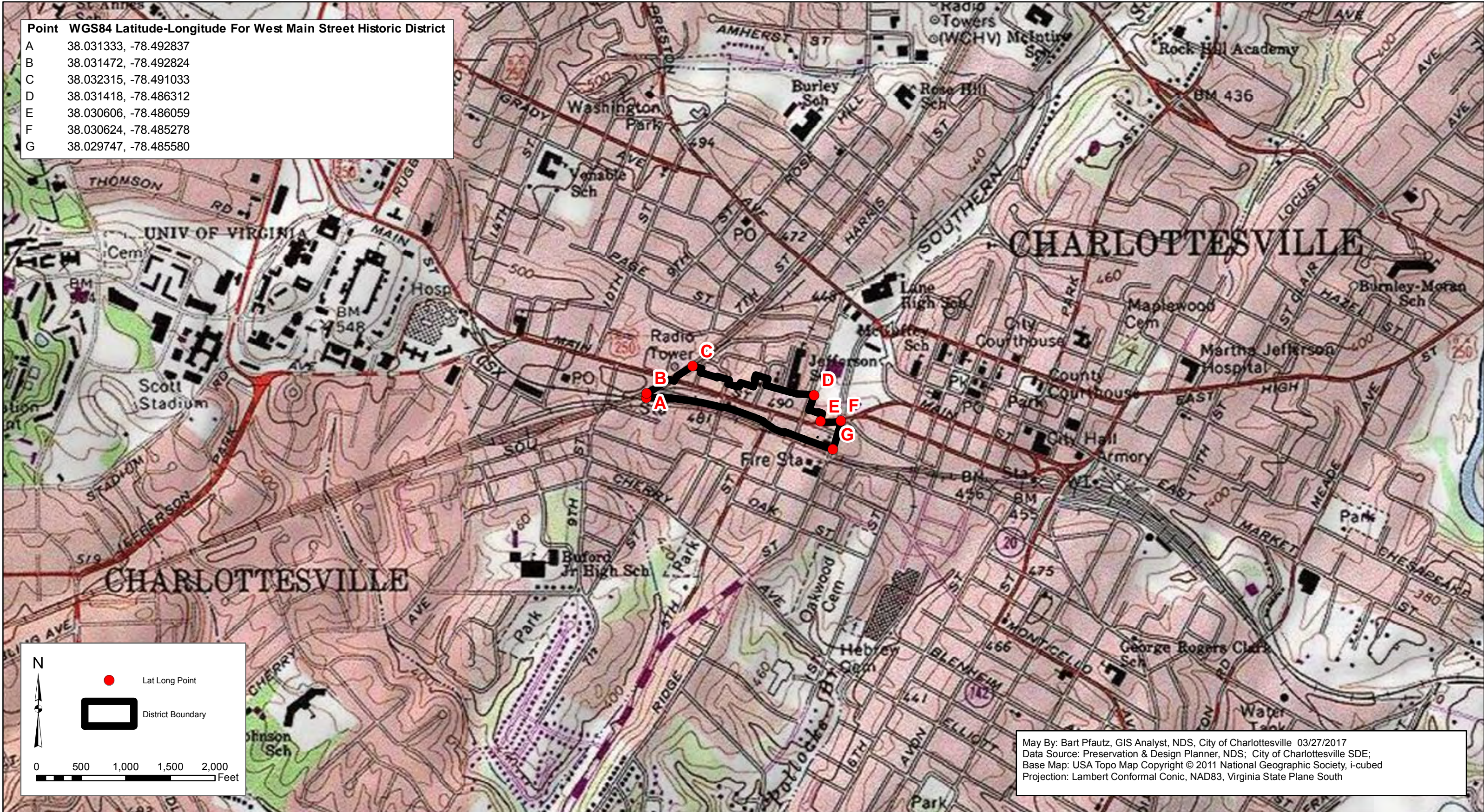
¹⁵ Note on sources: A large portion of the documentation for this nomination has come from the architectural survey files in the City of Charlottesville and the research work conducted by Eugenia Bibb in the 1980s. Much of the specific documentation for individual properties has come from the Sanborn Insurance maps, the Charlottesville City Directories, and the U. S. Census for Charlottesville from 1900-1940.

City of Charlottesville, VA

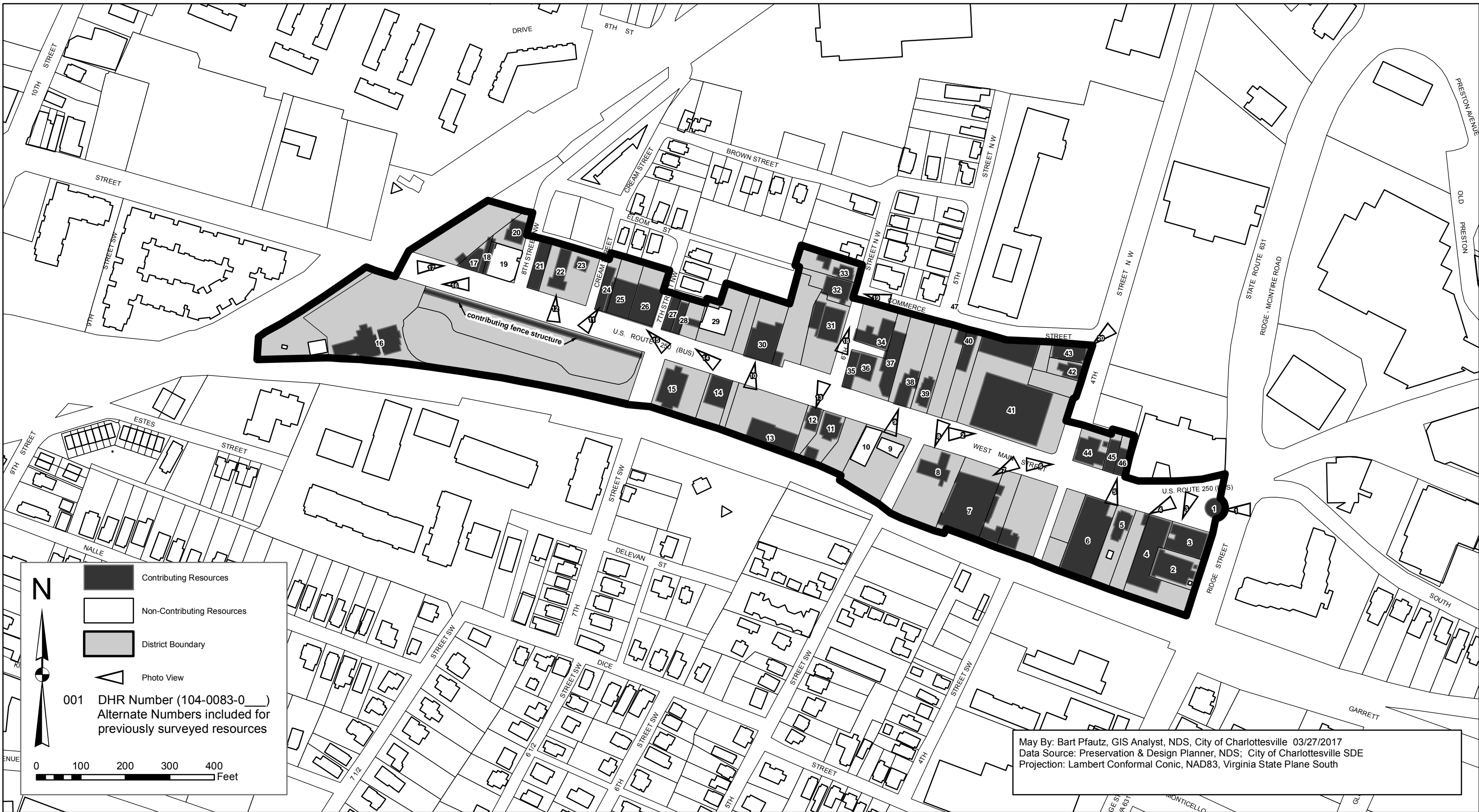
West Main Street Historic District, DHR # 104-0083

LOCATION MAP

Point	WGS84 Latitude-Longitude For West Main Street Historic District
A	38.031333, -78.492837
B	38.031472, -78.492824
C	38.032315, -78.491033
D	38.031418, -78.486312
E	38.030606, -78.486059
F	38.030624, -78.485278
G	38.029747, -78.485580



Map By: Bart Pfautz, GIS Analyst, NDS, City of Charlottesville 03/27/2017
 Data Source: Preservation & Design Planner, NDS; City of Charlottesville SDE;
 Base Map: USA Topo Map Copyright © 2011 National Geographic Society, i-cubed
 Projection: Lambert Conformal Conic, NAD83, Virginia State Plane South











Open @c Labs

Real
Estate

cvillé



GRAND MARKET
INTERNATIONAL FOODS





KEEP LEFT
YIELD
TO GREEN

BRICK
BUILDING



MAIN STREET MARKET

Orzo
KITCHEN & BAR

OC



WHITING OIL COMPANY







VIPER HOT DEALS

ROMAN SCHOOL

D





CAT

NO PARKING
ANYTIME
ON THIS SIDE

Mel's

SEEKING
RESTAURANT
MANAGER
APPLY TO

SEEKING
RESTAURANT
MANAGER
APPLY TO

PEPSI
MEL'S
BURGER
RESTAURANT

MEL'S
BURGER
RESTAURANT

MEL'S
BURGER
RESTAURANT

SEEKING
RESTAURANT
MANAGER
APPLY TO

ICE
MEL'S









7th St NW

DOMA

DOMA

BIKE LANE
ONE WAY
→



Amtrak



THE BELL
FUNERAL HOME
1912-1913







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action: Nomination

Property Name: West Main Street Historic District

Multiple Name:

State & County: VIRGINIA, Charlottesville

Date Received:
8/3/2017

Date of Pending List:
9/1/2017

Date of 16th Day:
9/18/2017

Date of 45th Day:
9/18/2017

Date of Weekly List:

Reference number: SG100001641

Nominator: State

Reason For Review:

Appeal

PDIL

Text/Data Issue

SHPO Request

Landscape

Photo

Waiver

National

Map/Boundary

Resubmission

Mobile Resource

Period

Other

TCP

Less than 50 years

CLG

Accept

Return

Reject

9/18/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary
Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria Accept, National Register Criteria A and C.

Reviewer Patrick Andrus

Patrick Andrus

Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2218

Date

9/18/2017

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.

West Main Street HD

CITY OF CHARLOTTESVILLE
"A World Class City"



Department of Neighborhood Development Services

City Hall Post Office Box 911
Charlottesville, Virginia 22902
Telephone 434-970-3182
Fax 434-970-3359
www.charlottesville.org

May 22, 2017

James Hare, Director, Survey and Register Division
Capital Region Preservation Office
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, Virginia 23221

RE: West Main Street Historic District, Charlottesville, National Register nomination

Dear Mr. Hare,

The Board of Architectural Review (BAR) of the City of Charlottesville, a Certified Local Government, discussed the above-referenced item on their regular meeting agenda on May 16, 2017. The BAR voted unanimously (9-0) to recommend approval of the West Main Street Historic District National Register nomination as proposed.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 434-970-3130 or scala@charlottesville.org.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Joy Scala, AICP
Preservation and Design Planner



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

Julie V. Langan
Director

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

August 1, 2017

Mr. Paul Loether
Chief, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmarks Programs
National Park Service 2280
National Register of Historic Places
Mail Stop 7228
1849 C St, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: West Main Street Historic District, City of Charlottesville, Virginia

Dear Mr. Loether:

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the **West Main Street 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

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

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