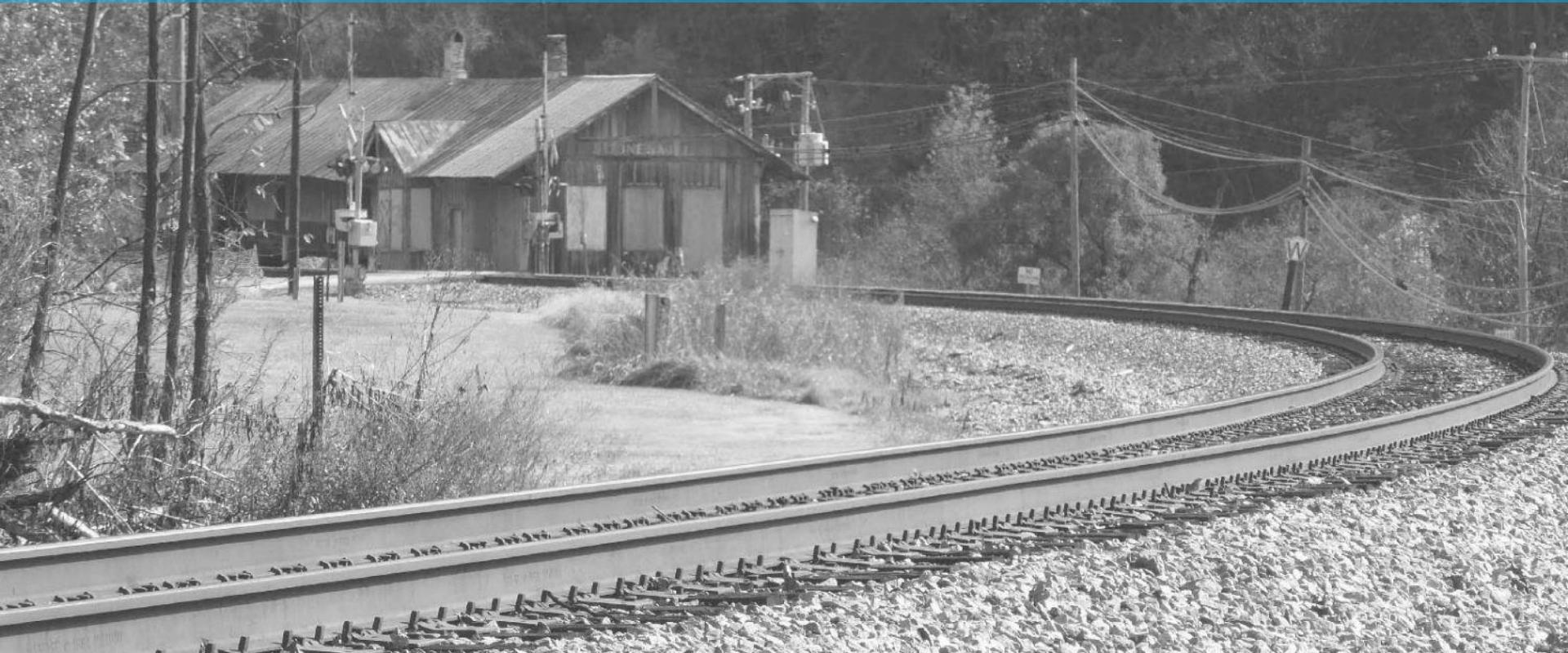


Historic Designation in Virginia



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Petersburg
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Local, State, and National Historic District Designations

Four Types of Historic Districts

- Locally Designated
- National Historic Landmarks
- National Register of Historic Places
- Virginia Landmarks Register

Why an Official Designation?

- Put up a sign or a marker....
- Let Historical Societies celebrate history....
- A citizen can put a plaque on their property....

What is a Historic Listing?

- A site, structure, building or historic district
- A place important for many reasons—Architecture, History, People, Archaeology, etc.
- A listing can capture the feel of an era or the evolution of many eras—and the social history

VDHR & City Roles

- VDHR reviews applications; works with official state boards; National Park Service; Owners and local officials
- City of Petersburg is one of our Historic Preservation Program Certified Government Programs: Priority attention from VDHR; early City Architectural Review Board of proposed nominations and access to CLG Grants

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Legal Basis for Local, State, and National Historic Designations

- Local Historic Districts/Designation
 - adopted pursuant to §15.2-2306 of the *Code of Virginia*
- Virginia Landmarks Register
 - procedure established in §10.1-2206 of the Code of Virginia
- National Historic Landmarks
 - Historic Sites Act of 1935
 - Code of Federal Regulations - 36 CFR 65.5
- National Register of Historic Places
 - National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended
 - Code of Federal Regulations - 36 CFR 60

Local Historic Designation: Authority in Code of Virginia

- In Virginia, local historic district ordinances are adopted pursuant to §15.2-2306 of the *Code of Virginia*.
- This is “enabling legislation” that provides a framework for a local government to pass an ordinance. Local governments are not required to adopt historic district ordinances if they do not wish to designate such districts.
- Ordinances should consider a community’s unique resources and character.

How to Find State and Federal Regulations

- A searchable database of the Code of Virginia is online at <http://leg1.state.va.us/000/src.htm>
- A searchable database of the Administrative Code of Virginia is online at <http://leg1.state.va.us/cgi-bin/legp504.exe?000+men+SRR>
- The full text and searchable version of federal regulations for the National Historic Landmarks and National Register programs is online at <http://www.ecfr.gov/cgi-bin/text-idx?c=ecfr&rgn=div5&view=text&node=36:1.0.1.1.26&idno=36> and at <http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/regulations.htm>



Thumbnail History of Historic Districts

Local Districts:

Charleston 1931

New Orleans French Quarter 1937

Old and Historic Alexandria 1946

St. John's Church Old and Historic District 1957

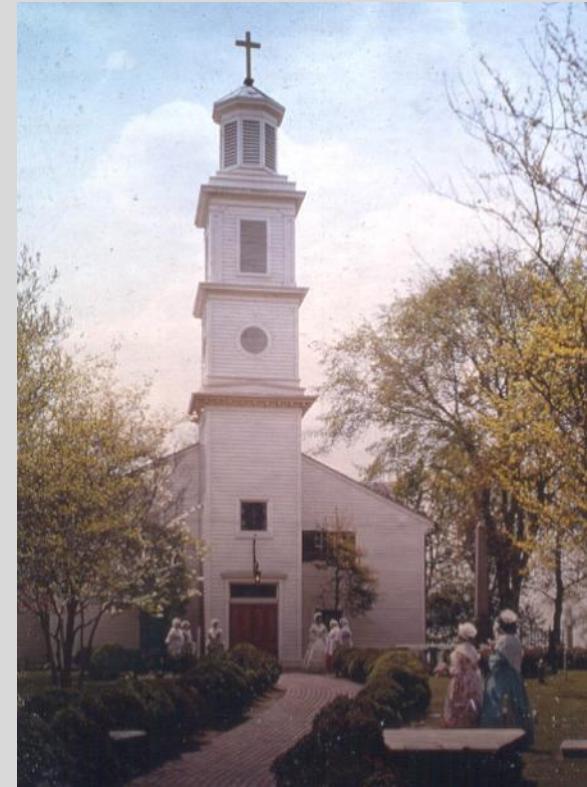
National Historic Landmark Districts:

Williamsburg Historic District 1960

National Historic Preservation Act-1966

National and State Register Districts:

More than 500 in Virginia and counting!



Petersburg State and Federal Listings

As of February 2019, Petersburg has:

State and Federal Listings-	41 Total
Individual Buildings:	26
Historic Districts:	13
(Includes Lee Park)	
Cemeteries:	2

Petersburg Local Districts

As of February 2019, Petersburg has:

11 Local Historic Districts

**Local Districts do not always follow the
boundaries of the State/Federal Districts**

National Historic Landmarks

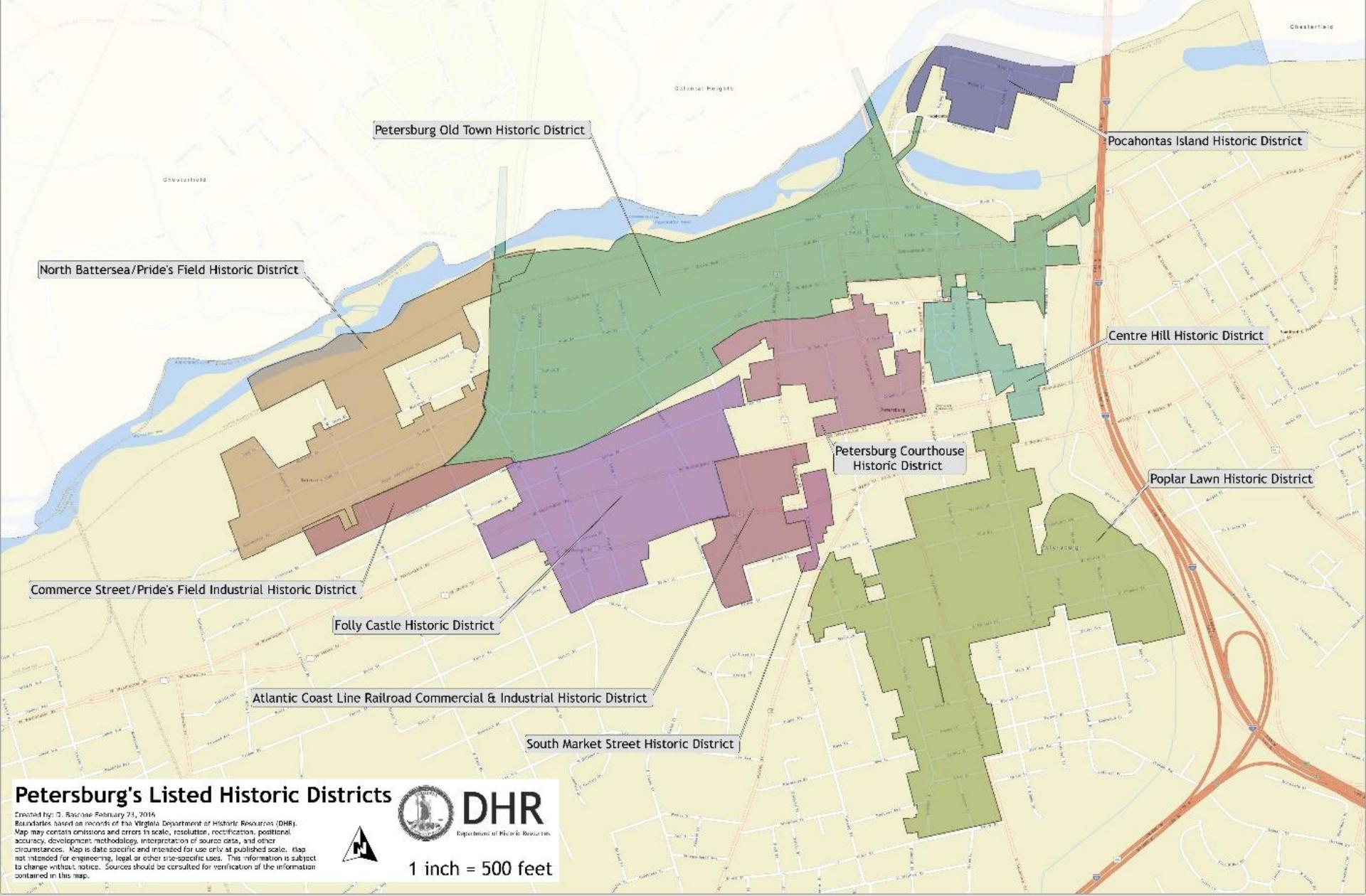
As of March 2019, Virginia has 121 NHLs, of which 13 are designated as historic districts:

In Petersburg:

The Exchange Building

Petersburg National Military Park

**(also in Prince George and Dinwiddie
Counties)**



Local District Designation

- Tool for managing change while maintaining the character of a district through use of planning, zoning, and permitting processes. ***Use of City Historic Preservation Overlay***
- Recognizes the value of existing places and helps to preserve a sense of place.
- Encourages re-investment and redevelopment of older building stock; also can help to curb sprawl development.
- Protects property owner and local government investments in property maintenance and infrastructure.
- Helps to encourage better design through design guidelines and/or architectural review.
- Connects residents and visitors to an area's history and architecture.
- Can be linked to plaques, signage and local tax abatements programs.

National Register and VLR Historic Designation

The Virginia Landmarks Register mirrors the National Register of Historic Places. Both programs use the same Criteria for evaluation, nomination form, and review and approval processes.

Both types of historic districts are strictly honorary:

- No imposition of design guidelines or architectural design review processes.
- No restrictions on use of property
- No requirements to maintain, rehabilitate, or restore a historic property to a particular standard.
- No change in property taxes or value
- No automatic protection from development, demolition or other potential threats.

What National Register and VLR Designation Does

- Officially recognizes the historic significance of a site or area
- Encourages but does not require preservation
- Requires a review process to identify historic properties that may be harmed by harmful federally funded, licensed, and permitted activities
- May qualify owners for state and federal rehabilitation tax credits and for easement donations

National Register and VLR Thresholds

1. Property typically must have achieved significance within the last 50 years, or be of exceptional importance
2. Property must meet one of the Register Criteria
3. Property must retain physical integrity

Criteria for National Register and VLR Listing

- Criterion A - Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to broad patterns of our history;
- Criterion B - Associated with the lives of persons significant in our past;
- Criterion C - Represent distinctive architectural style, period or method of construction; or the work of a master; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity with many components (historic districts); or
- Criterion D - Likely to yield information important in prehistory and history

Evaluating Integrity

Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance

- Before you can evaluate the integrity of a property you have to know why, where, and when a property is significant.
- Next, define the essential physical features that must be present for a property to represent its significance.
- Finally, determine which aspects of integrity are most essential to the property being eligible for the National Register and VLR.

Physical Integrity

Properties must retain the ability to communicate their significance through some combination of the seven aspects of integrity:

- Location
- Design
- Setting
- Materials
- Workmanship
- Feeling
- Association

Petersburg Listing Variety

...a great variety of history and architecture/landscapes can be found.



McIlwaine House

Halifax
Triangle &
Downtown
Commercial
Historic
District



Virginia Trunk
& Bag
Company



People's Memorial Cemetery

What Resources Make Up a Historic District?

Resources within historic districts may consist of buildings, sites, structures, and/or objects.

Resources are either *contributing* or *non-contributing* to the historic district.

Streets, landscaping, vegetation, paths, walkways, piers, open spaces, vacant lots, and other features are generally considered part of the district's setting.

What does “Contributing” mean?

A resource *contributes* to the historic character of the district because:

- It was present during the time when the district gained its significance (period of significance)
- It relates to the significant historic themes of the district
- It retains historic integrity from the period of significance (physically still appears as a historic building)

What does “Non-contributing” mean?

The resource does not add to the historic character of the district because:

- It was built outside the district’s period of significance (after *or* before).
- It does not relate to the historic theme(s) of the district.
- Due to alterations, changes, or additions, it no longer retains historic integrity (no longer conveys its historic associations).

How are Historic District Boundaries Chosen?

Historic district boundaries may be based on one or a combination of factors, the most typical including:

- Physical, natural boundaries: rivers, lakes, hills, valleys, etc.
- Man-made features: roads, highways, etc.
- Political boundaries: corporation lines, wards, etc.
- Age of buildings.
- Architectural style.
- Associations with historical events or persons.
- Integrity—how much has been lost to demolition or incompatible development?
- Cultural relationships (particularly archaeological districts).

What is DHR's role in Nominating National Register and VLR Historic Districts?

- Residents/locality works with DHR to achieve designation and technical assistance afterward.
- DHR reviews and processes nomination, and notifies all owners and adjacent owners of the nomination.
- Board of Historic Resources reviews nomination and places it in the VLR; State Review Board reviews nomination and recommends it to be sent to the National Park Service to inclusion in the NRHP.
- If more than half of *owners* object, nomination does not go forward.

What Can You Do with a National Register/VLR Historic District?

- Economic Opportunities: tax credits, easements
- Heritage Tourism: area pamphlet, walking tour, interpretive trails, website, business owners' associations, Main Street program, etc.
- Smart Growth/Community Identity: local incentives/assistance, local preservation districts, technical assistance available from DHR, encourages responsible growth decisions

Will National Register/VLR Listing Automatically Lead to a Local Historic District Designation?

National Register/VLR historic districts are designated under a different process for local historic districts. One does not necessarily lead to the other.

- Nearly 500 VLR/NR districts have been listed in Virginia.
- 70-80 local districts have been designated.
- Different criteria are used for designating local districts.
- Though they can coincide, there is no requirement that local and VLR/NRHP district boundaries match exactly.

Additional Sources of Information

DHR – Central and Regional Offices:

www.dhr.virginia.gov

National Park Service, National Register of Historic Places:

<http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/>