Shockoe Valley and Tobacco Row Historic District (127-0344/127-8182) 2025 Update and Boundary Increase

Staff Contact: K. Chen

Location and Current National Register Status: The Shockoe Valley and Tobacco Row Historic District is located to the west of the central business district and is roughly bound by Interstate 95 on the west, CSX and Norfolk Southern railway on the south, and the Union Hill and St. John's Historic District to the north and east.

History and Significance: The Shockoe Valley and Tobacco Row Historic District was first nominated to the National Register in 1983. The original nomination contained over 500 buildings with a general period of significance of 1700 – 1900 (1933 would have been the 50-year threshold). National Register criteria was not included in the original nomination. The district was found eligible at the federal level in the areas of agriculture, architecture, commerce, community planning, exploration/settlement, industry, literature, military, politics/government, and transportation. The district encompasses the area of Richmond's earliest residential, commercial, and manufacturing activity.

In 2015, the nomination inventory was updated. A windshield survey was conducted of all extant resources in the district and verified against the original survey materials. This process created an assessment of contributing (224) and non-contributing (140) resources and total resource count.

Staff Recommendations and Comments: The current update and boundary decrease expands the period of significance to 1967. The updated period of significance changes the status of 21 buildings within the current district boundaries from non-contributing to contributing, and justifies the proposed boundary increase that adds 5 new contributing buildings and 4 non-contributing buildings. The National Register expansion includes buildings located in the Shockoe Valley Old and Historic District.

Staff recommends support of these modifications to the National Register nomination for the Shockoe Valley and Tobacco Row Historic District.





Figure 1: 2018 E. Broad Street



Figure 2: 2001 - 2021 E. Broad Street



Figure 3: 214 N. 21st Street



Figure 4: 200 - 202 N. 21st Street



Figure 5: 2000 E. Grace Street



Figure 6: 209-211 N. 20th Street



Figure 7: 2000 E. Grace Street