

**Main Street Banking Historic District (127-6031)  
Boundary Decrease and Update**

**Staff Contact: K. Chen**

***Location and Current National Register Status:*** The Main Street Banking Historic District is located within the central business district and extends along both sides of East Main Street from 7<sup>th</sup> Street on the west to 13<sup>th</sup> Street on the east.

***History and Significance:*** The Main Street Banking Historic District was first nominated to the National Register in 2005. *The original nomination contained 15 buildings with a period of significance of 1850-1941. The district was eligible under criteria A and C, at the local level in the areas of architecture, commerce, and economics.* The district represents the core of Richmond's historic financial district, which was established on Main Street in 1817. The 1865 Evacuation Fire destroyed much of the financial district, except the Customs House which survived the devastating fire. Immediately following the War Between the States, this five-block section of Main Street was rebuilt, and the financial district reinvigorated with Northern capital. Financial institutions continue to be the dominant business in the area today. The district contains a major collection of skillfully crafted and finely detailed brick and stone buildings representing a variety of architectural styles including Beaux Arts, Classical Revival, Renaissance Revival, Italianate, and Commercial. The five-block area contains several of the city's earliest skyscrapers.

In 2013, the boundary of the district was increased adding five additional buildings. Four of which were considered contributing and one of which was listed as non-contributing. All of which are International-style high rises constructed between 1962 to 1976. The period of significance was extended to 1965 and 828 E. Main Street was removed from the inventory because it was demolished post-2005.

***Staff Recommendations and Comments:*** The current update and boundary decrease expands the period of significance from 1941 to 1976 and removes the Virginia Employment Commission Building at 703 E. Main Street (DHR # 127-5641) because it was demolished. The current update also converts 705-711 E Main Street, a 20-story, International-style high-rise designed by Skidmore Owings and Merrill, and built in 1976 (127-6031-0024) from non-contributing to contributing.

Staff is in support of these modifications and the continuing trend to recognize significant mid-twentieth century architecture. Staff recommends support of

these modifications to the National Register nomination for the Main Street Banking Historic District.

