



# Intensive Level Documentation of the Taylor Hotel

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119-129 North Loudoun Street -- Winchester Historic District,  
Winchester, Virginia 22601

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**Abstract:** This report documents the 1847 Taylor Hotel, a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District (DHR# 138-0042-0701); its historical overview and architectural description; in view of the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's loan to the City of Winchester for its renovation that includes demolition of the middle (collapsed) section of the building, the ca. 1921 Colonial Theatre, (excluding most of its north wall), to be replaced by a public pocket park with an outdoor performance venue. The former 23,500 sq. ft. middle section of the 33,000 sq. ft. vacant building is structurally unsafe, and must be removed; the project will spur redevelopment in the area, and is approved by the Common Council of the City of Winchester. **DHR Number: 2011-3453**

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## Historical Overview

The Taylor Hotel, a three-story, solid brick building, is located in the heart of downtown Winchester, Virginia, the courthouse town of Frederick County, in the northern Shenandoah Valley. The 1847 Taylor Hotel, fronting 119-129 North Loudoun Street, is the second lodging facility on the site. The first one was the McGuire Tavern, which consisted of two log buildings (and stables across the rear alley on Braddock Street) that was owned by Major Edward McGuire, an immigrant from Ireland. This ca. 1755 log tavern and inn, which at various times was also known as The George Washington or The Coffee House, was built only three years after the City of Winchester was officially established. By 1796, Winchester had 350 houses, and in 1810, was described as a “handsome and flourishing town....” By 1836, Winchester’s population stood near 4,000 with an estimated 500 dwellings. Major Edward McGuire died in 1806, and his grandson, Edward, ran the inn until his death in 1828. In 1830, as Winchester was prospering, the heirs of Edward McGuire sold the tavern and stables to Bushrod Taylor, a farmer from Berryville, in adjacent Clark County. (Winchester Historic District nomination, 1979, p.101, and The James E. Taylor Sketchbook, copyright 1989, p.160).

Bushrod Taylor was born to Virginian parents, John Taylor and Sarah McKinnon on May 7, 1793, in Kentucky. In 1812, several years after the death of his mother, he moved to Clark County to be closer to his oldest brother William and sister Harriot Ware. Taylor rented a small farm from his brother-in-law near Snicker’s Ferry on the Shenandoah River, where he learned to be a tanner and worked in a gristmill. Five years later, on November 13, 1817, Taylor married Elizabeth (Betsey) Stribling Wright Milton, at her family home, Milton Valley, near Berryville, Clark County. (<http://www.findagrave.com>) (Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc., Spring 2011, Volume 34, No. 1).

Taylor continued to work successfully as a farmer before purchasing the tavern in in 1830. Initially, he commuted to work before moving with his wife to the tavern. Sometime later, they bought and renovated Aspen Hill, most likely a small farmstead, on Stewart Street. Although they never produced any children of their own, the 1840 census noted Taylor as employed in commerce with a household total of 29 ‘free white people’ and 28 slaves.



Figure 1. Undated photo of Bushrod Taylor (1793-1847), owner of the Taylor Hotel. (Image from [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com))

After operating the McGuire Tavern for a decade, which was strategically built on Main Street (now Loudoun Street) in downtown Winchester along the Great Wagon Road; and of course realizing the importance of transportation to the vitality of his business, Taylor successfully legislated for the Great Wagon Road to be improved. On March 3, 1843, the Valley Turnpike Company was incorporated by an act of the Virginia General Assembly, with Taylor as its first president. The Valley Turnpike Company was responsible for the improvement of the Great Road between Winchester and Harrisonburg, a total of 68 miles. According to an 1864 map of Winchester, the Valley Pike came into Winchester from the south on Staunton Street before turning and going down Loudoun Street; the Taylor Tavern is so noted on this map.

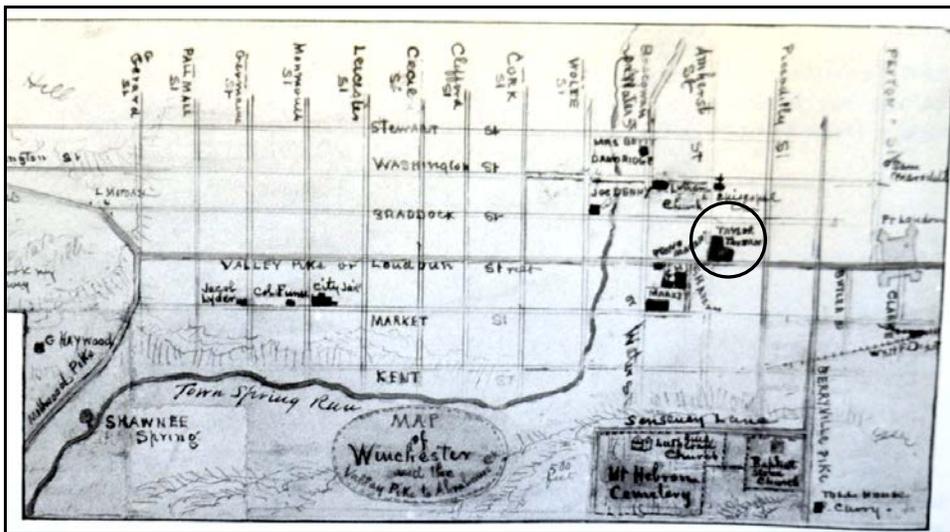


Figure 2: James E. Taylor's 1864 Map of Winchester denoting the Valley Pike going down Loudoun Street and the Taylor Tavern—shown in the added circle. (Image from The James E. Taylor Sketchbook, p. 154).

In the early 1800s, Scotsman John McAdam had developed a new road improvement method that came to be known as a macadamized road, which consisted of creating three layers of stones laid on a sloped subgrade with side ditches for drainage. The Great Road was then further improved a full 93 miles to Staunton. The road came to be known as the Valley Pike, and was vital to the economic development of the Shenandoah Valley, as well as a key transportation link during the Civil War. In 1918, it was one of the first roads to be taken over by the state, as part of State Route 3, and in 1926, it was designated as U.S. Route 11. ([www.nps.gov/cebe/historyculture/the-valley-turnpike-company.htm](http://www.nps.gov/cebe/historyculture/the-valley-turnpike-company.htm) and <http://www.enotes.com/topic/ValleyPike>)

Taylor undoubtedly benefitted from the improvement of the Valley Pike, and also from the new location of the second Frederick County Courthouse, facing his establishment one-half block to the south and east on Courthouse Square in 1840, and which may have spurred the improvement of the road. However, tragedy struck on October 21, 1846, when the McGuire Tavern burnt to the ground. Encouraged by friends, and with a good business sense, Taylor rebuilt the tavern, but this time as a solid brick building, and three stories tall with colonnaded balconies. As a slave owner, it is possible that he engaged his slaves (24 in 1840) to rebuild the Taylor Hotel, which began in late 1846, and was completed the following year.



Figure 3. Undated photo of Taylor Hotel, looking south on Loudoun Street. Image from [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com).

Noted historian Ann McCleary stated that this new building type in the Valley represented “the growing sophistication and thriving economy of these turnpike towns in the early to mid-nineteenth century....” One undated description of the hotel noted that ‘its front on Loudoun St. is 90 feet and runs its wings 130 feet back—contains 70 rooms--...and is kept in superb style.’ (The current building is 85’ x 188’). The 1885 Sanborn Insurance Map (the earliest Sanborn map of Winchester) denoted several long, three-story ‘wings’ (one with a three-story balcony) that extended all the way to the rear alley, which is known as Indian or Stable Alley. Also noted on the Sanborn Maps are the several liverys and stables on the other side of the alley that Taylor owned, which were vital to his establishment. (Preservation of Historic Winchester, Inc.).

Shortly after rebuilding his hotel, Taylor suffered an abscessed toe, described as a carbuncle. After two months of illness, and an unsuccessful surgery by his friend Dr. Hugh McGuire, Taylor succumbed to the infection on July 14, 1847. A Lutheran, Bushrod Taylor was buried in one of Winchester’s largest and most important cemeteries, the Mount Hebron Cemetery. Consisting of four different cemeteries, the complex contains the ruins of the 1764 stone Lutheran Church, and another section that contains the remains of 2,576 Confederate soldiers. Many of Winchester’s most prestige’s citizen rest in this cemetery. His widow Betsey erected an obelisk in his honor; she eventually moved to New York City, where she lived with an aunt until her death in 1883. After Taylor’s death, George W. Seevers took over the operations of the hotel. Apparently well connected, Seevers had served as Mayor of Winchester from 1843-1847, and as an officer with the Farmer’s Bank of Virginia in Winchester. (Winchester Star Newspaper clippings from the Handley Archives, Handley Regional Library, Winchester, VA, <http://www.mthebroncemetery.org/history.html>, and from [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com)).



Figure 4. Photo dated April, 1862, denoting the Taylor Hotel occupied by Union troops of Leonard's Brigade, looking north on Loudoun Street. (Image from the Handley Library. Date and description from Frederick County, Virginia: From the Frontier to the Future, p. 63.)

The City of Winchester, located at the junction of nine major roads and one secondary rail line, was an important military site during the Civil War. Notwithstanding, the Valley Pike itself was crucial to rapid movement of both men and materials and played a key role in Jackson's 1862 Valley Campaign. Many buildings in Winchester therefore, including the Taylor Hotel, were used for offices as well as hospitals for both the Union and Confederate soldiers. Specifically, the hotel served as temporary headquarters for Stonewall Jackson in 1861, as well as a number of Union generals during the war, and as a hospital for soldiers of the Third Battle of Winchester in 1864 (Handley Library Archives).

After the devastation of the war, and rebuilding commenced, Winchester began to prosper again, and the hotel, located on the Valley Pike, near the Frederick County Court House, and soon, the new Winchester City Hall one block to the east, continued to reap the benefits. The first recorded Sanborn Insurance Map of Winchester in 1885 denoted the 'Taylor Hotel' as a three-story brick building with a three-story front porch with a large rear addition, and a section that extends all the way to Indian Alley. The hotel configuration remained consistent on the Sanborn maps until 1921; and the 1912 map denoted the hotel as 'Closed.'

According to newspaper articles, the Taylor Hotel had ceased operating sometime between 1907 and 1911. In 1910, J. G. McCrory purchased it for \$25,000 for one of his five and dime chain stores, which were based in York, Pennsylvania. The stores typically sold shoes, clothing, housewares, fabrics, penny candy, toys, cosmetics, and often included a lunch counter or snack bar, which this one ultimately included. John Graham McCrory (original spelling) opened his first store in 1882, ultimately with 1,300 stores operating at its height. After its filing for bankruptcy in 1992, all stores were permanently shuttered ten years later in 2002. ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCrory\\_Stores](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/McCrory_Stores)).



Figure 5. Post 1923 photo of the Taylor Hotel, now occupied by McCrorys and the Colonial Theatre. View west--note the middle theatre section and rear fly-loft visible on the south elevation from alley as denoted in the 1921 Sanborn Map. (Image from Handley Library).

The McCrory store did not open in the former Taylor Hotel until 1918, and starting in 1921, it shared the building with the Colonial Theatre, which operated from the rear second floor. The 1921 Sanborn Map noted a 'Theatre' on the second floor, with a five-story 'stage & scenery' fly loft at the rear of the building (fronting Indian Alley). The Sanborn Map also denoted "From Plans," indicating that perhaps the theatre and fly loft were built from plans, after the rear sections of the hotel were razed. This 1921 Sanborn map building footprint, excluding the hotel, does not match previous Sanborn map building footprints.

The 'Colonial Theatre,' so named in 1923, operated on both the second and third floors (with a balcony) until it closed in 1939. Although it appears that it opened as a theatre for plays and vaudeville, it also eventually showed 'movies' as denoted on the 1927 Sanborn map. A 'moving pictures' theater was also located on this same block north of the Taylor Hotel.

When McCrorys operated from the former Taylor Hotel building from 1918 until it closed in 1993, they had used the entire first floor of the building, and eventually removed all historic fabric in the process. In the 1950s, the company remodeled the first-floor façade of the hotel to create a retail storefront and added a one-story brick addition along the length of the south elevation. (A building had been removed on the south side of the hotel for the expansion of the side alley that connected Loudoun Street to Indian Alley and to a new city parking garage--ironically the same location as the former liverys, stables, and then garages that were used by the guest of the Taylor Hotel). McCrorys again altered the first floor façade in 1981 for a more contemporary appearance.



Figure 6. Photo from a Winchester Star article (1996) denoting the ca. 1981 appearance of McCrorys after its second façade alteration. Note the removal of the porches, the addition of 6/6 wood windows, and the addition of the one-story building along the side alley. (Image from Handley Library archives).

The same month that McCrorys closed, it reopened as the Winchester 5&10, but closed two years later in 1995. The CFW Communication call center then operated on the first floor until 2002, after which the building sat vacant; at some point, even the English basement of the former Taylor Hotel had been filled in with gravel and dirt. On October 25, 2007, after a heavy rain, the large, nearly flat roof of the theatre collapsed; leaving the original ca. 1847 hotel and the rear, ca. 1921 fly loft intact. On April 13, 2010, the Common Council of the City of Winchester declared the building ‘blighted’ with possible demolition in its future. Locally, concerned town people opposed the demolition, and statewide, Preservation Virginia quickly added the Taylor Hotel to its 2010 Endangered Sites List (May 17, 2010). (Handley Library archives and [http://preservationvirginia.org/docs/endangered\\_sites\\_2010.pdf](http://preservationvirginia.org/docs/endangered_sites_2010.pdf))

The City of Winchester hired a consultant to prepare a renovation plan for the hotel, which proposes to create apartments in the former hotel building, rebuild its English basement, restore its façade to a ca. 1900 appearance, and replaced the collapsed ca. 1921 theatre section with a newly created city ‘pocket park’ (a city park less than one acre in size). Further, an independent structural engineer’s inspection of the building requires the removal of the collapsed theatre section, while still being able to retain its north wall up to a certain height. The Winchester City Council approved the consultant’s plan, and in April of this year, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a \$1 million dollar loan to the City of Winchester to complete the consultants’ recommendation of the pocket park and façade restoration.

## Site Description

The Taylor Hotel building is sited at 119-129 North Loudoun Street in downtown Winchester, Virginia as a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District (138-0042-0701). The building fronts on the west side of Loudoun Street, the former Main Street, and now a four-block long pedestrian mall from Cork to Piccadilly streets. The majority of

the buildings along N. Loudoun Street are late nineteenth-and early twentieth-century commercial buildings of brick construction, two and three stories in height. While some buildings have been altered over time, others have been left intact or restored. Strong examples of architecture near the 1847 Taylor Hotel include the 1841/1883 First Presbyterian Church, the 1902 Farmers and Merchants Bank, the 1905 Shenandoah Valley National Bank, and the Masonic Lodge. The 1840 Greek Revival Frederick County Courthouse is also nearby. The Taylor Hotel fronts Loudoun Street to its east, with a pedestrian alley along its south elevation, and a one-way vehicular alley named Indian Alley along its rear western elevation.

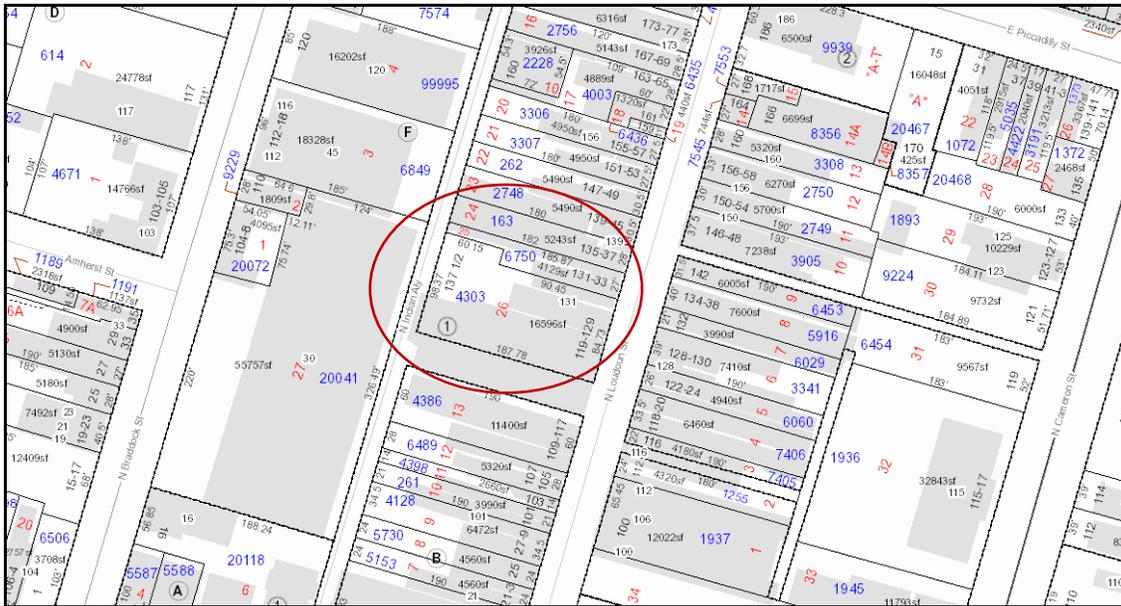




Figure 9: View north of N. Loudoun Street Mall. View from in front of hotel (to left of photograph).

## Architectural Description

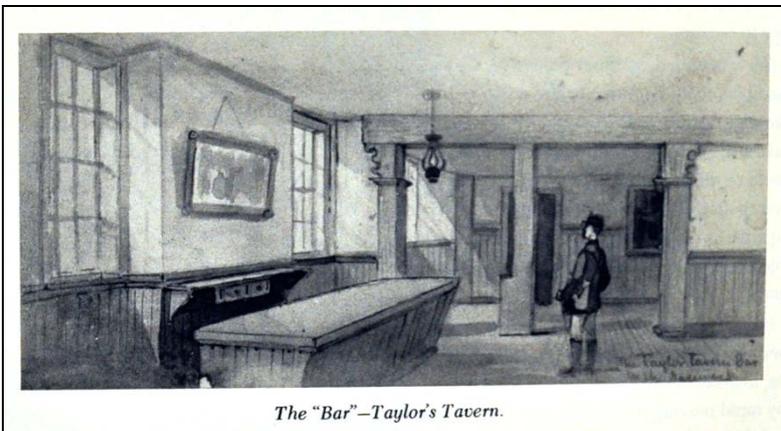
The 1847 Taylor Hotel was built three-stories tall (with an English basement and an attic) and six bays wide with solid brick walls, rectangular in shape. A three-story, colonnaded balcony accented the façade—it has been removed. The first floor columns were larger in diameter and height than the upper floors, not only for support but because the first floor also included an English basement. The second and third floor balcony columns decreased in diameter and height per floor. All columns were Roman Tuscan in the Doric order; the first floor columns were plastered brick while the upper story columns were wood. The upper story railings featured thick, turned balusters. The first floor façade also featured a raised porch entrance with a decorative wrought iron railing. Sweeping, presumably stone steps with bull-nose trim accessed the left side of the porch, while a straight run of steps accessed the right side of the porch. The English basement was accessed from the fourth bay in from the left. The roof was gabled with side elevation parapeted walls with twin chimney stacks. The original roof material is not known, but currently both asphalt shingles and rolled asphalt cover the roof (the roof is not visible from street level and was not visible in any historic photographs). Concerning fenestration, any remaining historic windows on the hotel are 2/2 wood windows, except for one 6/6. Most of the windows were replaced in the 1980s with 6/6 wood windows. As denoted in the historic photographs, the second and fourth bays in from the left side (south) are doors with perhaps a three-light (?) transom. The second bay from the left appears to be a single-leaf door, while the fourth bay appears to be a double-leaf door.



Figure 10: Undated photograph of the Taylor Hotel facade (ca. 1900) (Handley Library Archives).

Rear wings were probably added shortly after the hotel's establishment. They were three-stories tall, with one that extended to the rear alley, and that had a three-story porch. Description is gleaned from the Sanborn Insurance Maps.

The interior of the hotel has lath and plaster walls with nominal baseboard, window, and door trim. There is no crown molding. The English basement served as the bar (as denoted on the Sanborn maps and in The James E. Taylor Sketchbook). On his recorded travels throughout the Shenandoah Valley during the Civil War, artist James E. Taylor stopped at the Taylor Hotel and described both the lobby and the bar. He noted that the innkeeper was Nat Cartmell, who stood at the desk 'bigger than life,' and behind him was "the double string of room bells." Joseph Denny, a Union man, served as the barkeeper. The bar consisted of two rooms divided by a 'massive oak beam' to support the weight above, a low ceiling, dingy, and three feet below street level.



*The "Bar"—Taylor's Tavern.*

Figure 11: Drawing of the Taylor Hotel bar. View from the southeast corner of the bar. (The James E. Taylor Sketchbook, Handley Library Archives).



Figure 12: View south of the southeast corner room, 2nd floor, denoting lath and plaster walls, and trim.

### Ca. 1921 Theatre and Fly Loft Descriptions

Based on the Sanborn Insurance Maps, the rear wings of the hotel were demolished to make way for a middle, three-story theatre section and a rear, five-story fly loft (with a sixth floor added by 1927); both sections are built of solid brick. The theatre was accessed from the second floor of the hotel. The theatres' roof had a low-sloped gambrel roof (almost flat) that abutted into the gable roof of the hotel. The fly loft appears to be built as a separate but connected building to the theatre, and with a flat roof. The theatre probably remained vacant after it closed in 1939, and in 2007, after a heavy rain, its roof collapsed. The fly loft remains in good condition. A metal deck and concrete floor was installed ca. 1981 (during the hotel buildings' renovation) at the stage level, probably replacing the older wooden structure. A CMU stairwell leads up to the auditorium of the theatre.

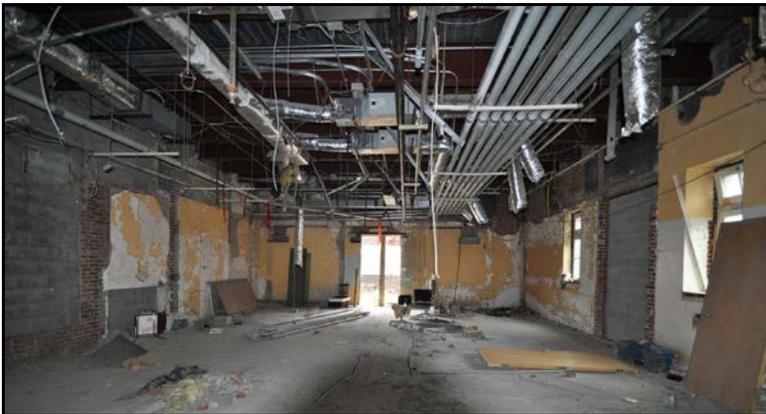


Figure 13: View south of first floor of the fly loft with added ceiling (1981)—this floor to be renovated.

### Recent History

The Taylor Hotel had ceased operating between 1907 and 1911, and J.G. McCrory bought it for one of his 5 & 10 chain stores, which operated side by side with the Colonial Theatre until the theatre closed in 1939. In ca. 1953, McCrorys converted the hotel's first floor façade into a commercial storefront. McCrorys again modified the building in 1981 by removing the porches and adding a modern storefront. The windows were replaced with 6/6 wood

windows, and a one-story, brick addition was added along the south elevation. Also, the English basement was filled-in with gravel, and the first floor of the entire building was gutted. The front (east) wall and the south wall of the first floor (excluding the fly loft) were removed, leaving the building supported by a metal post and beam substructure. In 1993, McCrorys closed, and the building operated as a telephone call center until 2002, when it was permanently vacated.



Figure 14: View northwest of the first floor of the Taylor Hotel. Looking up to the façade and where the balconies should be. Concrete floor to the left of photo and row of overhead beams are the remains of the ca. 1953 McCrorys one-story brick addition (soda fountain). The dashed black line denotes the location of the first-floor exterior wall (south) of the hotel and theatre that was removed ca. 1953 when the one-story addition was built. The CMU wall in middle of photo is supporting the upper exterior wall of the hotel. The solid red line denotes the location of the original south and east exterior walls of the hotel.



Figure 15: View west of the façade (east elevation) of the Taylor Hotel (April, 2012).



Figure 16. View north of the façade (east elevation) of the Taylor Hotel (April, 2012).

### Current Condition

The entire building was vacated in 2002; on October 25, 2007, a heavy rain led to the collapse of the theatre's roof. The hotel section and the fly loft remained intact. The building is in ruinous condition, and the Common Council of the City of Winchester had condemned the building, but is now awaiting its imminent restoration and new use as a viable mixed use space with an outdoor performance venue.



Figure 17. View northeast of the Taylor Hotel (south elevation), depicting the collapsed ca. 1921 theatre section, view into balcony level. The building in the background is the original Taylor Hotel, while the structure in the immediate foreground is the ca. 1921 fly loft. The theatre section will be removed, and the facing interior wall of the hotel will become its new exterior wall. (Photo courtesy of Mark McConnel, AIA October 6, 2011).

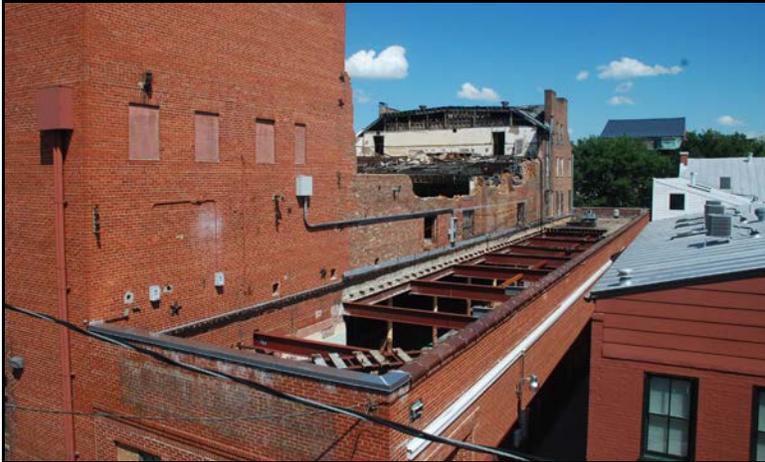


Figure 18: View northeast of the Taylor Hotel building. Foreground structure to the left is the ca. 1921 fly loft; then the ca. 1953 one-story addition along the alley (to be removed); the middle ca. 1921 theatre section, and the original Taylor Hotel in the background. (Photo courtesy of Mark McConnell, AIA, October 6, 2011).

### Proposed Use

Consultants propose to remove the collapsed theatre section (ca. 1921) and install a new city pocket park and outdoor performance venue; restore the façade of the Hotel Taylor to a ca. 1900 appearance with the colonnaded balcony; add five rental apartments to the three floors, and a commercial space in the restored English basement; remove the ca. 1953 addition; and renovate the first floor of the fly loft and mothball the rest for a future use. The Winchester Council supports this proposal, and the city recently received a \$1 million dollar grant from the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development its renovation. Two Winchester-based structural engineering companies, Structural Concepts and Painter-Lewis, P.L.C., have documented that the theatre section is unsalvageable and must be removed.



Figure 19: Aerial view of Taylor Hotel denoting collapsed theatre, view north. Loudoun Street is to the right of photo and Indian alley is to the left. The north wall, with additional support, can remain to a height of 25-ft., while the southern wall will be removed. (Image from City of Winchester, prior to September, 2011).

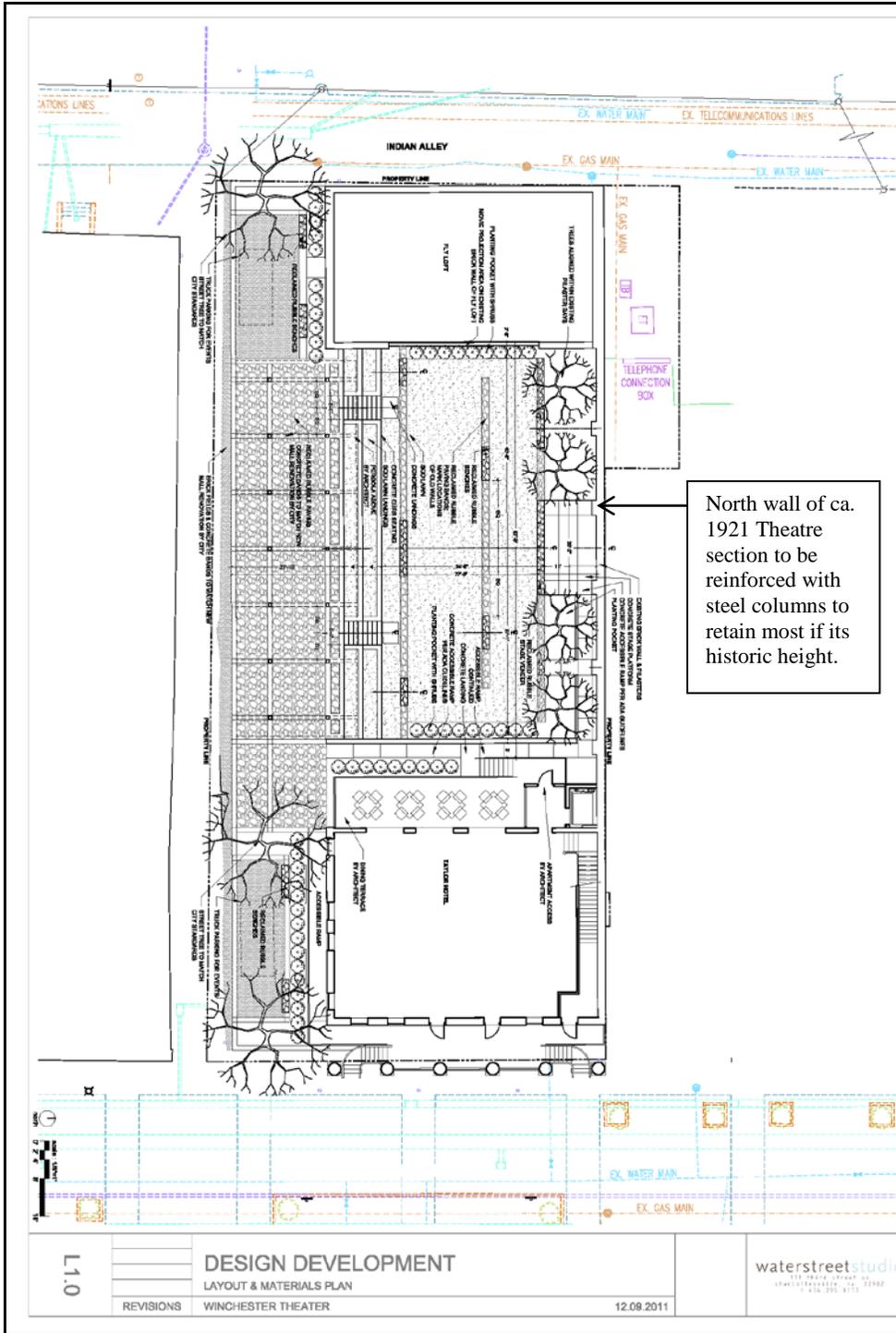


Figure 20: Proposed layout of project denoting the removal of the ca. 1953 one-story brick addition, and the removal of the ca. 1921 collapsed theatre, with the addition of the city pocket park and outdoor performance venue. (Image supplied by Mark McConnell, AIA—prepared by Water Street Studio 12.09.11).

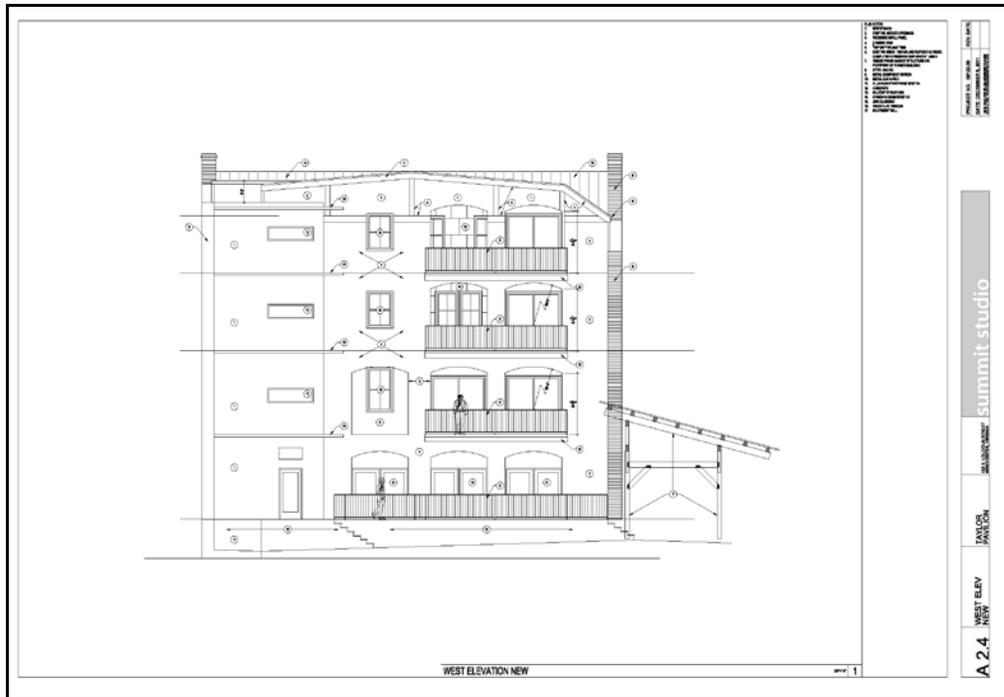


Figure 21: Proposed west elevation of the exterior rear wall of the ca. 1847 Taylor Hotel that will reflect the ca. 1921 Colonial Theatre in shape, materials, fenestration, and use.

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Research material gathered from the Stewart Bell Jr. Archives Room of the Handley Regional Library, 100 W Piccadilly Street, Winchester Virginia, on April 23, 2012. Research material gathered from various websites as so noted in the text. All on-line research conducted April 24, 2012. Images, other than those of the author, are so noted in the caption.

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## Time Line of the Taylor Hotel

**Ca. 1755:** Major Edward McGuire established the log-constructed McGuire Tavern on Loudoun Street (then Main Street) in downtown Winchester.

**1830:** Bushrod Taylor, a farmer in adjacent Clark County, Virginia, purchased the McGuire Tavern from the heirs of Edward McGuire.

**1843:** On March 3, 1843, the Valley Turnpike Company was incorporated by an act of the Virginia General Assembly, with Taylor as its first president.

**1846/47:** On October 21, 1846, the McGuire Tavern is destroyed by fire. Rebuilding commenced shortly thereafter, as an 1846 cornerstone is noted in the DSS report. Bushrod Taylor rebuilt the tavern as the Taylor Hotel, a three-story, solid brick structure with colonnaded façade balconies and rear wings.

**July 14, 1847:** Bushrod Taylor dies from a prolonged toe infection.

**1861-1864:** At various times during the Civil War, the Taylor Hotel is used as a hospital and headquarters for both the Union and the Confederate armies.

**1911:** By 1911 the Taylor Hotel has ceased operating, and is purchased by J.G. McCrory for one of his chain 5 & 10 stores, which did not open until 1918.

**1921:** By 1921, the Colonial Theatre was established in the Taylor Hotel; the hotel's rear wings were replaced by the theatre and a fly loft.

**1939:** The Colonial Theatre closed, and the building apparently remained vacant, while McCrorys is firmly established in the first floor of the hotel.

**Ca. 1953:** McCrorys conducts a major renovation of the hotel building, by adding a commercial storefront to the first floor façade, removing the south wall of the first floor of the hotel and adding a one-story brick addition to the south elevation from Loudoun Street to Indian Alley.

**1981:** McCrorys conducts another major renovation by removing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floor balconies, adding 6/6 wood windows, and creating a more contemporary first floor façade. At some point, the entire English basement is filled in, and all historic fabric of the first floor of the hotel is removed.

**1980s:** A four-block long section of Loudoun Street, where the Taylor Hotel stands, was converted into a pedestrian mall by the City of Winchester.

**1993:** McCrorys closed. The building served in a dimensioned capacity as a telephone call center until it was completely vacated in 2002.

**October 25, 2007.** A heavy rain collapses the ca. 1921 theatre's roof.

**April 13, 2010:** The Common Council of the City of Winchester declares the Taylor Hotel ‘blighted’ with possible demolition in its future. City Council then agrees to hire a consultant to study its renovation.

**April 3, 2012:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced a \$1 million dollar loan to the City of Winchester to complete the consultants’ recommendation on the renovation of the Taylor Hotel.

**April, 2012:** DHR request Intensive Level Documentation.

**June, 2012:** Consultant submits Intensive Level Documentation to DHR.

### Statement of Significance

The ca. 1847 Taylor Hotel with a ca. 1921 Theatre and Fly Loft is a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District (VDHR# 138-0042). The district was listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register in 1979 and the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. Based on the nomination, it is not clearly stated, its period of significance appears to date from the late 1700s to 1929. On the nomination, the following areas were checked as being significant to the Winchester Historic District: Agriculture, Architecture, Commerce, Government, Community Planning, Exploration/Settlement, Industry, Military, and Politics/Government. Although the building is in poor to ruinous condition, through its significant historical and architectural development, it retains all aspects of its integrity and is therefore considered a contributing resource to the historic district under Criteria A, B, and C.

Because the ca. 1921 Colonial Theatre section of the Taylor Hotel is in ruinous condition from its collapsed roof of five years ago, a structural engineer has determined it is unsafe and must be removed, (app. 15,000 sq. ft.) (only one historic floor remains—in ruinous condition) and that the consultant recommends that it be replaced with a public park and outdoor performance venue. The ca. 1847 Taylor Hotel that fronts North Loudoun Street and the five-story, brick, fly loft, along Indian Alley remains intact.

The proposed project will respect the site and its surroundings; the Taylor Hotel will be renovated for apartments with its façade restored to ca. 1900. The new exterior wall of the hotel (west elevation) will overlook the proposed courtyard, which will serve as a public park with an outdoor performance venue; this renovation will not only benefit the tenants, but the citizens of Winchester as well. The fly loft will be renovated for a future use.

The proposed project respects the historic character and materials of the ca. 1847 building as well as the surrounding historic district. Overlooking historic North Loudoun Street (the former Main Street) the Taylor Hotel retains integrity of association, location, material, design, feeling, workmanship, and setting. The Taylor Hotel is a contributing resource to the Winchester Historic District (138-0042-0701) and is significant under Criterion A for its association with the historical development of downtown Winchester; under Criterion B for its association with Bushrod Taylor; and under Criterion C as an example of the Greek Revival-style of architecture in the historic downtown; with a Period of Significance of the late 1700s-1929.

Appendices:

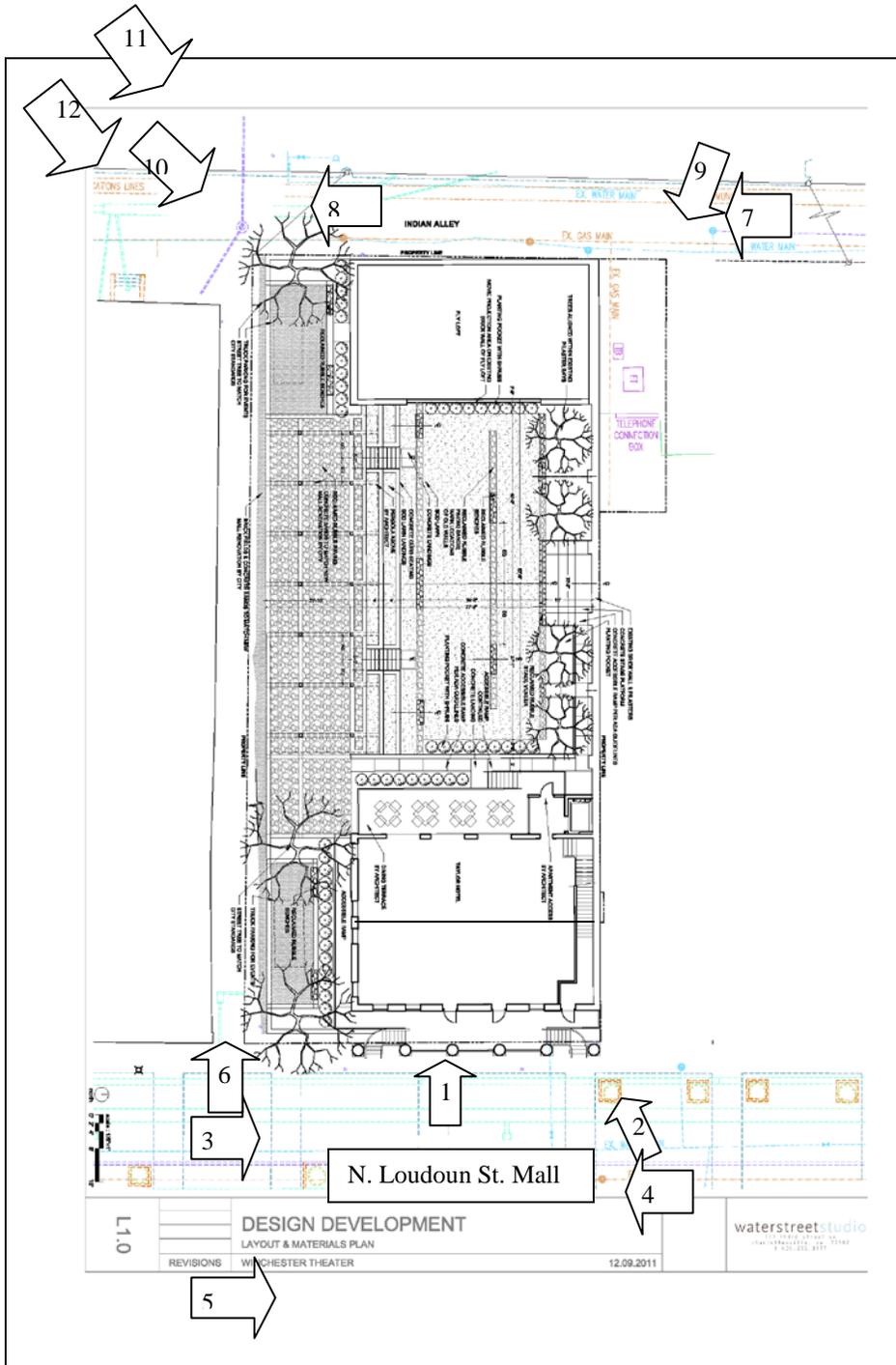


Figure 22: Site plan of Taylor Hotel denoting keyed photographs 1 -12.

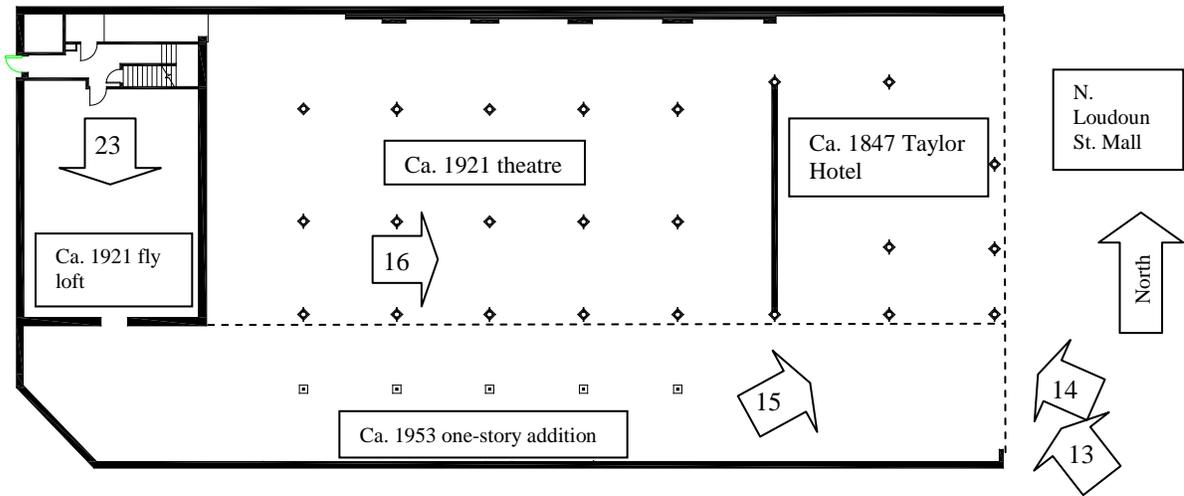


Figure 23. First floor denoting keyed photographs 13-16 and 23. Dashed line indicates open to above. NTS

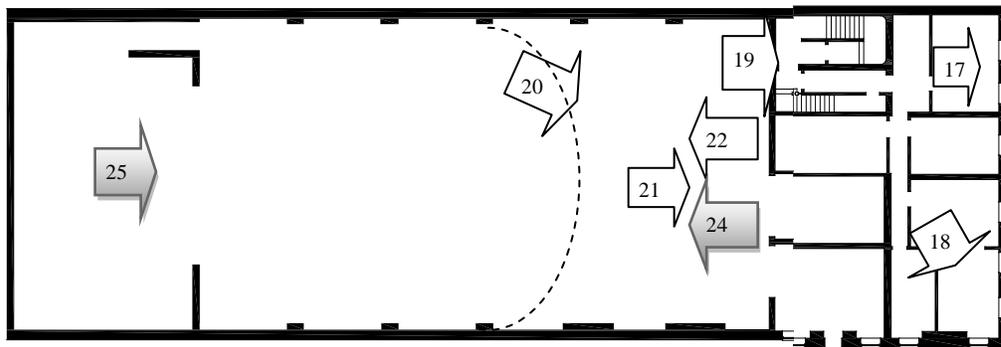


Figure 24. Second floor plan of Taylor Hotel, theatre, and fly loft with keyed photographs 17- 22 and 24-25. Photo 24 taken from balcony and photo 25 taken from roof of fly loft. Dashed line denotes balcony above.