PROJECT SITE DESCRIPTION:

The Good Will Center is a contributing building within the North Battersea-Pride's Field Historic District, located in Petersburg, VA. It is one of several outbuildings on the historic Battersea Estate, which features a prominent mid-18th century mansion.

The mansion, a Palladian-style villa, was built in 1768 for Colonel John Banister, who was the first mayor of Petersburg and a signatory of the Articles of Confederation. The building also has a modest temple and wing constructed in the Greek Revival style. You can learn more about the mansion from the National Park Service.

Standing in contrast to the grand mansion, the Good Will Center is representative of the architecture of mid-to-late nineteenth and early twentieth century middle and working class neighborhoods in Petersburg. An organization of women who provided social services to the community commissioned the Center's construction in 1925 after their organization’s operation outgrew their previous location. Led by Sarah Seward Lane, the Good Will Center’s mission was to meet the needs of many groups along non-denominational, recreational, and character-building lines – like the outreach provided today by the Goodwill Community Foundation, Salvation Army, and Boys and Girls Clubs. The Center served as a catalyst for engaging women in life skills and workforce development during the early 20th century. Volunteers worked with the HistoriCorps field staff to rehabilitate the Good Will Center for re-use as an office and caretaker’s residence. The Battersea Foundation, in partnership with HistoriCorps, aims to ensure that the structure contributes to the growth of the surrounding Petersburg community. Read more about the Battersea Foundation here.

SCOPE OF WORK: Volunteers worked with HistoriCorps to accomplish the following tasks:

- Remove and replace the structure’s metal roof
- Repoint brickwork
- Rehabilitate existing siding, replace siding to match existing siding in exposure and thickness
- Repair or replace deteriorated wall and floor framing
- Rehabilitate windows
- Repaint exterior wood structures