Form No. 10-300 REV. (9/77)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES **INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The town of Lewisburg's proposed historic district is representative of the development and evolution, over a period of more than two centuries (1763-1977), of a trans-Allegheny settlement into a very up-to-date, small city of the 1970s. Also, this section of Lewisburg shows the resultant value to the present generations of the careful preservation of old dwellings and, to a lesser degree, of commercial buildings when there is always much pressure to replace them with the new.

From its beginnings, the town has been well served, first by trails, then by roads that crossed within its bounds. The Seneca and Midland Trails of the 18th and 19th centuries became U. S. Routes 219 and 60 in the twentieth. Thus, the means of trade and travel, though often difficult, have been a great advantage to Lewisburg's development. The fact that the town has never had direct through-rail service has not been a disadvantage but, on the contrary, has helped to preserve its non-industrial aspect.

Lewisburg was created by an Act of the Virginia Assembly in October 1782, and a survey was made for the town that same year by Thomas Edgar. In the twenty years before this event it was variously called the Big Levels, Fort Savannah, and Fort Union. By the year 1810, the area was developing into a lively center for the production of farm animals and produce. The resultant prosperity was responsible for the beginning of the building of Lewisburg's brick homes, which continued to the Civil War years. Before 1800 a few noteworthy stone structures were raised and many of the early, well constructed log houses were enlarged by additions of weatherboarded framing. The period between 1820 and the Civil War was the time when most of the town's homes were built.

The Civil War brought hard times to the people of Lewisburg. There was some loss of population and almost total loss of income. Not until well into the 1870s, when the railroad was finally completed from Richmond to the Ohio River, did the people of Lewisburg enjoy good times once more. After the arrival of nearby rail transportation had revitalized the timbering of the Greenbrier region, the wellbuilt large frame houses of Lewisburg began to appear from about 1875 to 1890. Many of the ante-bellum brick homes and store/houses were enlarged by wooden additions at this period.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Railway continued to expand its services into the coal fields to haul fuel to the Atlantic ports. The laying of several short-haul branch lines into eastern West Virginia timber and coal lands brought a third boom to home builders in Lewisburg. In 1890 to about 1920, houses large and small of diverse materials and styles were built on lots which were cut out of large acreages around the older homes. Some of these new houses were one-and-a-half-story bungalows after the style of those built at the resorts of the area in the first few years of the 20th century. Many houses of this period were large, two-story buildings with finished basements and attics. A few homes were built of stone or had brick-veneered walls.

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After the Great Depression the boundaries of the town were extended by new additions on the south and southeast. These developments were quickly built up with generally attractive housing of diverse forms.

The district contains sixty-six structures which are classed as crucially important, called pivotal, and fifty-four structures of somewhat lesser importance, called secondary structures. The pivotal buildings will be presented by groups in time periods between the years of 1769 and 1977.

1755 - 1769. Log cabins of this period have been incorporated as part of the <u>Goshen-Wylie House</u> (#5) at 302 Courtney Drive, the <u>Tommie Welch House</u> (#41) at 100 Chestnut Street, the <u>Bowlin-Hock House</u> (#55) at 300 E. Washington Street and the <u>Carmin-Bell House</u> (#62) at 410 E. Washington Street. Stone chimneys and foundations were used for two of these.

1782 - 1820. This was the time during which well-shaped, large, two-storied log houses with good windows, chimneys, and foundations were built in the Greenbrier Valley. There was no longer a threat of Indian attack, and the settlers could look to a future on these "Western Waters." The <u>Foster House</u> (#14) at 208 W. Washington Street and "<u>The Barracks</u>" (#29) at 200 N. Jefferson Street are two such houses that were later weatherboarded. Recently both have been restored, including removal of weatherboards and rebuilding of the stone chimney at "The Barracks." In the Foster House, the log walls will be left uncovered in two rooms.

Along with the construction of better log houses, a few people constructed private and public buildings of native limestone. The first of these was the Old Stone Presbyterian Church (#15, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) at 200 Church Street, built in 1796. The stonemasons were Christopher Foglesong and John Brown, and they used a bond of uncoursed rubble with deep quoins for a rectangular, forty by forty-two foot, meetinghouse style building. It was lengthened by twenty-five feet on the front (east) end in 1830. A bell cupola and gallery were added soon after 1830. About 1797, Thomas Edgar had Foglesong and Brown build him a dwelling with materials and a bond like the church. The plan of the house was simple: two-stories with a central stair hall that had a room to each side on each floor. Interior woodworking is very fine but without any decoration. The Edgar Stone House (#18) at 201 N. Court Street has had several wooden additions, and many were carefully restored in recent years. The stone house which covers the Lewis Spring in the General Andrew Lewis Park (#26) at 201 N. Jefferson Street, was built before 1800 to protect the spring. At that time, it is thought, the Old Jail was also built, but it burned several years ago. Hand-shaped, rock-faced stone was used as the foundation material for all the frame and brick buildings in the region before 1880.

According to records, four of Lewisburg's brick buildings were completed by

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1820. Of these, two still stand. The <u>Withrow-Montgomery House</u> (#28, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) at 220 N. Jefferson Street, is a wide, two-story, T-shaped house. It is five bays by three bays, with a low roof and pedimented portico supported by huge plastered columns of rounded bricks. At the eaves are box cornices with dentil mouldings. The two front rooms open right and left from a square entrance-stair hall with a room to its rear; and the upper floor has the same plan. To the right and toward the rear of this house is a large twostory kitchen, the upper floor of which was used as slave quarters. John Weir was both architect and brickmason for the earliest buildings of this type in Lewisburg. He built them strong but plain and this one, constructed in 1818, is the third accredited to him.

The Old Brick Academy was completed by Mr. Weir in 1812 and was located just north of the Old Stone Church. This building, Lewisburg's first of brick, was two stories high with pairs of tall outside chimneys to serve the four first-floor rooms and the large second-floor hall. It was destroyed by fire in 1901. Immediately after the school building was completed, John Weir constructed a large dwelling for Rev. John McElhenney just south of town (Mount Esperence, #34). Completed in 1814, it was home for members of the McElhenney family until about 1920. For a long period it was unoccupied and was torn down about 1937. The bricks were saved, however, and used to construct a stately new home on the original site, 401 S. Lafayette Street.

The fourth building by John Weir still stands at 201 W. Washington Street, the <u>Williams-Henning Store/house</u> (#17). This three-story, square "store house" was built to house a store at the first level and to serve as a dwelling on the upper floors. Constructed between 1814 and 1820, it was the first of several store/houses in the business section of the town. It has been a chair factory, a drug store, a hotel and, now, a gift shop and office building.

No known frame structures built before 1830 remain today in Lewisburg; however, many small log structures used as dependencies for the stone and brick homes still stand and are still used.

1820 - 1880. John Weir and John W. Dunn came into the West Augusta region to work as stonemasons along the State Road as it was extended from Warm Springs to the Kanawha River. It is believed that they helped build the piers for bridges at the Greenbrier and Gauley Rivers. They then came to Lewisburg, about 1810, learned the trade of brickmason and brick making from slaves and became building contractors. Mr. Weir gave his attention to strong construction and good utilization of space and used skillful carpenters and choice woods to furnish buildings for people who needed to count the cost. Mr. Dunn also constructed sturdy and well-planned buildings but with a flair. He was amore sophisticated builder who liked to use regular Georgian floor plans and variations of them to build lovely homes.

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So it was that John Weir continued building staid, conservative dwellings and public buildings until about 1830. The following seem to fit his pattern of construction. The <u>Henry Erskine House</u> (#19) at 225 N. Court Street was completed for Captain Erskine in 1820. Originally it had simple, dignified lines, a whitecolumned entrance and single end chimneys, but in 1881 the rather plain house was sold to Silas B. Mason who began "enlargements, alterations, and architectural changes." Brick and frame additions were made at each end over a period of several years. Today its condition is less than fair; the only ante-bellum brick house in town that is in a deteriorated condition.

The original portion of the John Wesley Methodist Church (#36, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) which was built c. 1820, was in the style and plan of the Old Stone Church, except it was a bit smaller in length and width and was made of brick rather than stone. Like with all other such structures in town before 1880, brick were hand made and burned on the site. It was "Meeting-house" style with gallery and outside stairs. In 1835 John W. Dunn added to its length at the north (front) end just enough to enclose the stair and provide a vestibule. He placed a cupola on this addition and gave it lovely classic trim.

The <u>Welch-Bell House</u> (#37) at 202 N. Lee Street was built in 1824 by Mr. Weir. It is another of the plain, square-looking dwellings with good thick walls and trimmed in excellent woodworking both inside and out but with no attempt at embellishment. Originally it had two large rooms on each floor and a two-story detached kitchen. Frame additions were built from time to time, and these were restored recently.

It is thought that Mr. Weir built three business houses on East Washington Street: one, now the <u>Princess Shop</u> (#49), in 1822, another, <u>part of the Old Bell Tavern</u> (#52), now the Polly Craft Shop, and the third, the main section of the Old Bell Tavern, built before 1823. The latter was a very popular stop for early stages; it was torn down in the "name of progress", one of three store buildings so lost by the community.

John Weir also constructed his stout, comfortable houses out in the county, but after 1830 he built none of which there is a record or even a tradition. It is not known where he went from Greenbrier; before prosperity came to the people of Lewisburg, however, he had erected a number of lasting, though unadorned homes.

Much prosperity came to the Greenbrier Valley about 1820, and home builders throughout the region made use of good local materials as well as those that were hauled form the eastern markets over toilsome roads. To make use of these building materials, there were slaves skilled in preparing bricks and sawing and shaping wood. There were master carpenters to make built-in cabinets, to shape mouldings for all uses, and to put together support timbers of great strength. Above all, perhaps, there were John W. Dunn and company and Conrad Burgess to bring it all together to form lovely homes.

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The financial good times permitted numerous people to treat themselves to new and far better housing. Many of these families had a slave or two who could do much of the unskilled and semi-skilled labor needed for house construction, and, too, much of the lumber and clay needed was on the lot. The real need was for the services of a brickmason/maker and carpenters. John W. Dunn and company supplied all of these services plus that of architect. The "Company" was brickmasons David H. Spotts and Robert White, and carpenters were plentiful and skilled.

Though Mr. Dunn gained much of his fame for the houses he built in the surrounding county, he did construct many of the town's brick homes, too. Ordinarily he built on the Georgian floor plan---a "through-the-house" hallway with two large rooms left and right of each hall. The hall sometimes would have a divider between the entrance and the stairway, and many times an ell on the rear of one side would contain dining room backed by a detached kitchen. Two of the "front" rooms of the lower floor were the public rooms and as such were given most attention in artistry and ornamentation. But to give a new turn to his work or to satisfy an owner's desire, John Dunn would vary his plans as may be seen in many of his houses.

Among houses that followed the most used plans is the Judge Snyder House (#6) at 217 W. Randolph Street, built in 1830 with standard five-bay front and two-story portico with doors at each level. Outside Chimneys are at each end. Interior woodwork is elaborately hand-carved throughout and is credited to Conrad Burgess, whose beautiful work is a major feature in these pioneer homes. The <u>North House</u> (#3, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) at 100 Church Street, also constructed by John Dunn, was completed in 1820. In its original form it was, probably, of a similar plan to the Snyder House. In 1830 Mr. North sold the house to James Frazier who operated it as a tavern for nearly forty years. Mr. Frazier made changes and built additions to serve his patrons, and when the house became a dwelling again in 1871, more remodeling took place. None of this destroyed the loveliness of Dunn's building or the beauty of Burgess' carvings, however. It is now the home of the Greenbrier Historical Society Museum, and restoration is in progress.

A house with an irregular floor plan is the <u>"Red Sam" McClung House</u> (#24) at 105 McClung Street. This three by two bay structure of 1822 has a side hall plan with a rear wing. To the left of the stairway hall is a large parlor and back of this are two side-by-side rooms, on the right the dining room and on the left what is thought to have been a living room-family room combination. Two widely spaced chimneys are outside the left (south) gable. A steep roof and finished attic gave the house a third story and a total of ten rooms, originally. Now a wide porch extends across the front and around the end and breaks the line of the fine chimneys. Beautiful woodwork with rich carving is found throughout the house and is credited to Conrad Burgess.

Four houses of the 1830s may be grouped together, for they show the change which began when the Federal look, i.e., stripped of ornamental feature, was combined with

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the late Georgian plans and a few Greek Revival touches were added to some of them. The John Spotts House (#43) at 214 E. Randolph Street, built in 1831, is a small two-story, four-room house, with a detached kitchen. Though it is plain, it sits with great serenity on the steep slope of the street, and it at one time housed the largest theological library west of the Alleghenies. The John W. Dunn House (#31) at 200 S. Jefferson Street was constructed before 1834 on a small lot close to another building. Both were close to the street and someone at some unknown time joined them and covered them with plaster, giving them the appearance of one house. This house of John Dunn's is the most austere looking in town. It has the appearance of some of the stage stops on the pike between Lewisburg and Gauley Bridge. Two houses built in 1835, although dissimilar, are yet somewhat akin in exterior style. The John A. North Second House (#35) was erected after he sold his first home on Church Street to James Frazier. Rooms are so arranged behind two front entrances as to have the appearance of a duplex. The left (northeast) side has a rather regular plan on both floors but otherwise all is irregular. There is much of seemingly Federal lines, but trim at the eaves and bright ornamentation in all other woodwork (which was rediscovered during a recent restoration) indicates Greek Revival influences of which Mr. Dunn was beginning to make much use. The fourth of these illustrations of Dunn's use of regular and irregular plans in houses is the Johnston Reynolds House (#40) at 202 Chestnut Street. This is one of only two dwellings in Lewisburg that has a basement that is, by plan, above ground. The main floor entrance is reached by a long flight of steps to a wide veranda that has round columns and a carved cornice. The entrance hall extends across the width of the house with a stairway to the upper floor on the left and basement stairs to the right. Off this hall to the rear are three large rooms, a parlor, living room and bedroom. The basement includes the former dining room and kitchen and at the rear was a twostory brick slave quarters that probably housed the original kitchen. (This former slave house was given to the county library in 1977 and was moved to the library lawn along Courtney Drive.) A bay window is among the additions, but many partitions have been erected by the Greenbrier County Board of Education, present owners and occupants.

A group of seven structures, four dwellings and three public buildings, were constructed between 1834 and 1837. Three of the dwellings and one public building are credited to John Dunn and/or his partners, and two dwellings are much like others built by John Weir. The <u>Judge Homer A. Holt House</u> (#63) at 501 E. Washington Street is a large, thick-walled, two-story brick structure built in 1834 at the junction of the James River Pike and Edgar Mill Road (now U. S. Route 60 and Holt Lane), well outside of the boundary of Lewisburg. This house is of a most irregular plan. Originally the front entrance opened into an exceptionally large room at the rear of which a stair hall contained a narrow passage to the great old kitchen at the very rear of the diningroom ell. To the right of the entrance room is a large parlor which has the dining room just behind it. Off the narrow hall from the front room is a long, narrow room, now a bedroom (this was probably an early living room). Where this hall meets the kitchen there is a stairway to the upper floor, the

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upper hall of which leads to five bedrooms. The house has been occupied, over the years, by six of Greenbrier County's most prominent families. All of them, it seems, made numerous and conspicuous alterations, In size, the house is imposing and its workmanship inside and out is of the finest. In 1898 it was the birthplace of Judge Holt's grandson, Homer A. Holt, a man who was elected governor of West Virginia in 1936. This appears to be a house built by Mr. Weir. The <u>Lipps-Lewis</u> House (#59) at 406 E. Washington Street is one that began as a rather plain, two-story, L-shaped brick structure with a low roof and tall, conspicuous chimneys. It has a three bay by two bay dimension and is transitional in that it has vergeboards and, as additions, porches and piazzas. The "through the house" hall with one room to either side and a dining-room and kitchen ell has almost disappeared within extensive additions by the families who lived here since about 1920. The general appearance is made pleasant, however, because of the wide lawns and good trees.

The following two business buildings were erected by skilled brickmasons; the contractor could have been John Weir. The <u>Old Barber Shop</u> (#47) at 102 W. Washington street was built in 1834 on part of a lot which belonged to John Withrow, and it is believed to have been used first as Lewisburg's initial post office. For more than fifty years a barber shop has occupied the ground floor and an apartment the upper floor of the building. In 1836 John Withrow's Store/house (#53) at 123 E. Washington Street was built one block east of the post office, conveniently close to the town pump. The two large in-wall chimneys pierce the hipped roof, and the square building is two stories high. The first-floor rooms housed the store, and the rest of the building served as family living quarters. Mr. John Withrow used it as a store/house until 1865, after which time it was occupied as a residence, then a community center, and, now, an office building.

The other public buildings were constructed in the middle 1830s. The Mt. Tabor Baptist Church (#16, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) at 202 W. Foster Street is of hand-made brick and was built under the supervision of Rev. John Alderson, Jr., in 1832. This oblong building which has served the black Baptists of Lewisburg since about 1875, has a square, three-level bell tower at its front. Three large windows on either side have triangular overlights. One of the best known buildings in town now houses the Greenbrier County Library (#1, listed in the National Register of Historic Places). It was built in 1834 as a library and study for use by the judges and clerks of the Supreme Court of Virginia, a court that held its first session in Lewisburg in 1831. James Frazier had this splendid structure erected close by his Star Tavern and he received rent from the library and patronage at his ordinary from judges and lawyers. On the first floor are two rooms with twin fireplaces with carved mantels; a stairway at the west end leads to the one-room second floor where there is another pair of fireplaces. This court's sessions ended in 1864 after the establishment of the state of West Virginia, and a Masonic Lodge occupied the building until 1917. Mainly unused for years, the people of Greenbrier County bought the property and restored it for use as a library and museum.

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The 1830s produced other good houses along East Washington Street with marks of John Weir, John Dunn and Conrad Burgess. First was the <u>Dr. Hugh Wilson House</u>(#56), often called the "Mark Spotts Place" because of the prominence of the Spotts families of the town. The building is two stories high with the main floor several feet above ground. There is a porch across the three-bay, symmetrical front, and it replaced an early two-story portico. The wide, hand-carved entrance doorway with sidelights and a semi-elliptical fanlight is inviting. The house is L-shaped, and its old detached log kitchen, now weatherboarded, still stands.

Another very good house of this period was built at the eastern edge of the town boundary. The <u>Samuel Smith House</u> (#66) at 535 E. Washington Street was erected in 1836. Thick walls, lack of decorative touches to the exterior, and a very irregular plan for the interior were probably John Weir's doings. Sam Smith was a potter, and his pottery was over the crest of the hill behind the house. Originally a long flight of steps led to a high porch at the second-story level where the main entrance was. The first floor, partly under ground, has four rooms with low ceilings. The high porch and steps have been taken down, and entrance is now through a door on the first floor.

The <u>Greenbrier County Courthouse</u> (#21, listed in the National Register of Historic Places), built on the county lot #7 at 200 N. Court Street, was paid for by a county levy of ten thousand dollars and erected by John Dunn in 1837. The site for this much needed building was unfortunate in that a large sinkhole takes up most of the lot. Mr. Dunn followed a style used for many early courthouses in Virginia and gave the county a large, imposing square building with great brick columns topped, at a third-story height, with a pediment and fanlight. Except for an octagonal, open cupola, the building has little decoration. In 1937 additions were built at each end in order to provide fire-safe record rooms. The interior, except for the large lobby, has had many alterations.

In the 1840s five dwellings and a store/house, all of brick, were built in Lewisburg. The homes have features in common with many others, for instance an L-shape with a porch in the ell and well balanced fronts with one- or two-story porticoes supported by two to six columns. Any ornamentation of the exterior consisted of light classical touches. Chimneys were in each gable or in the rear walls of front rooms, and there were central halls with two rooms to either side. But each of the five houses has distinctive features of its own. The <u>"Governor"</u> <u>Samuel Price House</u> (#20, listed in the National Register of Historic Places) at 224 N. Court Street has a hipped roof and pairs of in-the-wall chimneys at each end. Of its many service buildings, two are six-sided brick structures. A small porticoed entrance at the right side leads to a flower garden. The present occupants are of the sixth and seventh generations of the family to live in the house since it was built in 1840. The <u>Floyd Estill House</u> (#27) at 100 Arbuckle Lane, also built in 1840, has chimneys in the walls between the front and back rooms, a hipped roof, and brackets at the cornice. This was the last house in town to have been undergirded

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with whole tree trunks, and it has been carefully restored by the present owners. The <u>Hunter-McClung House</u> (#32) at 204 S. Jefferson Street was built next door to John Dunn's house in 1843. It is unlikely that Dunn would not be involved in its construction, but it has had so many alterations and additions that a description of the original is difficult. It was L-shaped, did not have a stair hall, but did have a detached two-story kitchen.

Many people feel that the loveliest old house in town is the <u>James Montgomery</u> <u>House</u> (#44) at 216 E. Randolph Street. It was thought of as small until "comfort and convenience" additions were made by the present owners who also refurbished the whole house. Its symmetrical facade and clean, clear lines win unanimous approval and the plain, but attractive interior has wide-board floors and good mantels. A two-room basement has a fireplace and dirt floors, indicating a summer kitchen. The house was built in 1845 by John Dunn. <u>E.L. Bell Store/house</u> (#48) at 101 W. Washington Street, built in 1845, was like others which served as a store on the ground level and provided a dwelling for the merchant's family on the upper floor. It has been in continual use since its erection. The last of these five dwellings is the <u>James</u> <u>Nesmith House</u> (#57) at 308 E. Washington Street, built in 1849 or earlier. Its distinctive features are a multi-columned portico with gallery, stepped gable, and an elaborately carved mantel. The original brick kitchen and log slave house are at the rear. About 1936 the building was carefully restored and has recently been repaired. It is one of only two in the Greenbrier Valley with stepped gables.

The brick buildings of the 1850s follow no pattern, and there is no tradition or fact offered as to the identity of the persons who supervised the building. Some similarities in these are the use of milled lumber instead of the earlier pit-sawed type, a few coal-burning fireplaces, some windows with large 2/2 light sash, and, in three cases, unusual exterior styles. The oldest of these is the Old Methodist Church Parsonage (#42) at 206 E. Randolph Street. This small brick house was built in 1850, and has been almost surrounded with frame additions with no hint left as to what its original external appearance might have been. Gray's Map of 1880 shows it as a sightly rectangular building that might have had two rooms for each level and an outside kitchen. Its two halls and four rooms have woodwork that is substantial, but plain, and a good stairway. The "Governor" Samuel Price Law Office (#22) at 116 N. Court Street (c.1850) was built close to the courthouse and in the midst of many small law offices. This one-story, two-room brick structure is almost square with good windows and a large chimney. The Lewisburg fire of 1897 burned along Court Steet to this office and was stopped here. The building is now the field office of a United States Congressman.

Robert Dennis House (#33) at 208 S. Jefferson Street was built by Captain Dennis

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in 1852 on a very large lot bought from his father-in-law, John A. North. The house is substantial and seems to be a sort of duplex. It is L-shaped with an extension of the ell to the rear, and except for this unusual extension, is like those of the 1830s and 1840s. Before 1890 there were large lawns and gardens about the home and many dependencies. The home is now occupied by Mr. North's granddaughter, Miss Mary Caldwell, who possesses a remarkable collection of antique furnishings.

A house built in 1854 with the look of the Federal-styled cottages which were used at many of the Virginia springs, became the home of a man who was to be elected governor of West Virginia in 1876. The <u>Governor Henry Mason Mathews</u> <u>House</u> (#9) at 212 W. Randolph Street is small among the prominent homes of Lewisburg. Of brick, it is a very low-set building with a columned porch across the three-bay front. Three gabled dormers pierce the front roof, there are outside chimneys at each end, and the interior includes attractive wide floor boards, paneled doors, thick walls and wainscoting. <u>The Reynolds-Patton House</u> (#30) at 102 N. Jefferson Street was built about 1856, if Mrs. Patton built it. If her father built in before he gave her the property, the construction date could be as early as 1840. The square, two-story brick house has a low roof with a deep, bracketed, white wood cornice and a broad porch with turned posts and spindles as Victorian-era touches. A separate brick kitchen and servants' quarters are at the rear.

The Henry R. Hodson House (#38) at 208 N. Lee Street was erected late in 1880 for use as a boarding school for girls. It is a dignified square house, three stories high with gabled dormers in a mansard roof. It has tall central chimneys, roundheaded windows and shutters; a half porch gives balance to a five-bay front. Its floor plan is almost regular and very practical. Another dwelling with distinct differences is the <u>Dennis-Anschultz-Tuckwiller House</u> (#25) at 209 S. Jefferson Street. Built by Colonel T. H. Dennis in 1885, it is a wide, reverse L-shaped home of two stories with pairs of brackets at cornices. A front extension at the left has bow windows at both levels. A three-bay porch with gallery fills the angle of the ell, and three chimneys pierce the gable roof at its peak.

Only a few of the early frame houses of Lewisburg still stand and their histories are hard to reconstruct. A frame section of the <u>Old Lewisburg Hotel</u> (#18) at 203 N. Court Street could have been built before 1800 when Thomas Edgar's Stone House was built. It is a large two-story house with outside gable chimneys, and is now very striking in appearance because of recent restorative work. The house that was used as the <u>Second Manse of the Old Stone Church</u> (#7) (201 Walnut Street) in 1880 was built years before, maybe as early as 1830. It is a large, square, two-story house much like the brick houses of that time with central halls and side rooms, low roof with tall chimneys, brackets at cornices and a porch which

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replaced a one-story portico. An old building with two rental spaces that very early housed a <u>Restaurant and Barber Shop</u> (#49) at 111 E. Washington Street was built c. 1830. It is forty by seventy-five feet and of two stories. The <u>Alva Neal</u> <u>House</u> (#8) at 216 Walnut Street is a small brick and frame structure on the edge of what was once a solid Negro neighborhood. Little is known of its history, but it may have been a brick school room used by the children of the Erskie House or a home for favored slaves who had been freed. It is a small, two-room house with stone foundation and brick chimney, much enlarged by wooden additions. The house's age (it is considered to have been constructed in the early 1830s) is surmised by the condition of the stone and brick. The <u>Old Meat Market</u> (#51) at 102 E. Washington Street is a small, one-story frame store building. The heavy tin cover to the building's front indicates that it may have been constructed in the 1880s, and although its earliest use is not known, after 1900 it was a meat market and then a grocery store.

There were two periods after the Civil War when large, expensive frame dwellings were built in Lewisburg. The first was in the late 1870s through the 1880s when lumber was plentiful and cheap, carpenters were numerous and skillful, and rail transportation was available. The second period was in the first fifteen years of the twentieth century when the sale of coal lands brought money into the area. A few houses were ahead of these times, including the <u>Old Catholic Manse</u> (#54) at 225 E. Washington Street, a trim two-story, L-shaped house whose only ornamental decoration is a porch with rails and a roof gallery. Stone foundations and inside end chimneys show its interior plan to be center halls and side rooms. It was built in 1850 and is in excellent condition.

The Alexander Mathews House (#58) at 402 E. Washington Street was built in 1860 on the site where an earlier house had burned. This is a three-by-three bay, L-shaped structure with hipped roof. Its floor plan is regular Georgian with large 6/6 sashes. Special features are the very large inside chimneys with corbeled caps, the pairs of brackets all around the deep cornice, and substantial entrance porch with much decorative woodwork. To the rear of this building is a guest house only a little smaller than the main one. The "Stuart Grant" Johnson House (#64) at 3 Edgar Street is on one of the oldest grants of land in the county and began as a two-room log cabin that dates from the early 1800s. It was weatherboarded and an addition made to it in 1870; in recent years, however, the owners have joined to it a four-room, cottagetype house. The last of these sample houses is the Venable-Mathews-Moore House (#61) at 408 E. Washington Street. It is given this identifying name for the families who have lived here since the house was built in the 1780s, when it was a plain L-shaped, two-story dwelling. About 1900 it was enlarged by an extension to the front of one room on each level. A roof placed over this two-room area covered the old shingled roof, but the latter is undisturbed in the attic. A grand feature of this fine home, added at the time, is the variety of beautiful leaded and beveled window glass.

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Some of the buildings are considered pivotal because they best show the change in dwellings and public buildings as Lewisburg came into the twentieth century. The Old Lewisburg Bank-Elks Building (#23) at 128 W. Washington Street was built shortly after the fire of 1897 to replace the frame building used by the bank. It is a threestory brick structure with two side-by-side rental rooms on the ground floor, one level for the lodge hall, and rooms and offices at the other story. The exterior is very handsome, even if with a run down appearance, and iron balconies decorate the rounded corner at Court and Washington Streets. The Greenbrier Valley Bank Building (#45) at 119 W. Washington Street was built in 1897 to replace two buildings which were destroyed by fire. This two-story brick structure has a seventy-five foot front and is sixty feet deep. It was planned for use as a bank with two other uses in flanking store rooms, and rental office space on the upper floor. The exterior has a pleasing facade of clean symmetrical lines, and woodwork of the interior is a feature of 1890 carpentry.

<u>Mason Bell's Book Store</u> (#46) at 127 W. Washington Street was housed in another of the buildings in the recovered area of the 1897 fire. It is a long, narrow structure of metal-covered framing. The heavy tin has a very striking pattern both for the front and interior. <u>Carnegie Hall</u> (#10) at 101 Church Street was built in 1902 by the Presbytery of Greenbrier of the Presbyterian Church in the United States with a \$10,000 contribution from Andrew Carnegie, and it was to become part of the campus of the Lewisburg Female Institute. It is a very regal structure with three stories and a full useable basement. Its interior contains an auditorium with stage, classrooms, music practice rooms, offices, etc., and the lovely exterior has a pedimented gable housing the front entrance. The deep cornices have brackets and a frieze bordered with dentil moulding.

Three side-by-side houses on Church Street are good examples of the dwellings that were built in great numbers in Lewisburg early in the 1900s. Most have irregular floor plans, porches on at least two sides, large windows, sizable gable dormers with Palladian windows, tall chimneys with corbeled caps, and hipped roofs. The James B. Laing House (#11) at 213 Church Street, erected in 1903, is a large building of coursed, rock-faced stone with covered entrances on two sides, one-story bow windows and dormer-piercing chimneys. None of the woodwork is carved, but it is big and heavy and from first grade lumber, mostly red oak. The Sydenstrickler-McLaughlin House (#12) at 211 Church Street was built in 1904 of tan brick. It is a less expensive copy of the Laing House by outward appearances, but the inside is lighter and more pleasing. The Little Laing House (#13)at 209 Church Street, also built in 1903, is a lovely cottage-sized duplicate of the foregoing houses. Three dormers and a central chimney give it an interesting front facade. Its seven rooms are of good dimension.

The John C. Dice House (#60) at 413 E. Washington Street is a heavy, baronial-

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type frame house built about 1900 when size of dwellings sometimes indicated wealth and influence. The Dices were useful people, prominent in town. A large brick chimney at the front of the house has a window in it at the first-floor level.

The <u>Dr. Gory Hogg House</u> (#65) at 514 E. Washington Street was built in the 1930s. It is a stately, palatial house of a type often seen in exclusive residential sections of cities. A Palladian window is above the entrance, and three dormers with cathedral windows are on the steep slate roof. The five-bay facade with short wings to either side gives good balance to the house.

The sites of Lewisburg's two private boarding schools are historically important because of the great parts the schools played in the story of education in the states of Virginia and West Virginia and even wider fields. After serving since 1812 when the Lewisburg Academy was founded, both schools closed their doors and were put up for sale in 1972. <u>Greenbrier College</u> (#4) at 101 Church Street was sold to the State Department of Health and is now one of its training centers. The <u>Greenbrier Military School</u> (#39) at 400 N. Lee Street was sold to the West Virginia Society of Osteopathic Medicine. A short while later in was bought by the state and is now the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine.

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Secondary buildings contributing to the character of the district:

- 67. McElhenney Lodge (101B Church Street). Brick. Two stories with several large additions. Public rooms of college dormitory.
- 68. McMillion House (300 Courtney Drive). Frame with chimneys at gables. Twostory, early boarding house, c. 1840.
- 69. & 70. Old Stone Church's Fourth Manse (304 Courtney Drive). 1874. The 1908 Fort Spring Presbyterian Church has been joined as an addition.
- 71. Cox, J.B., House (102 Burdette Street). Frame, two stories, c. 1880. Clapboarded with a hand-cut stone foundation.
- 72. Cooper Property (215 W. Randolph Street). Frame, Greek Revival, two stories, portico, in poor condition.
- 73. Fox, J.G., House (207 W. Randolph Street). A brick house of the 1870s. Devoid of ornamental features. Two stories, L-shaped, additions.
- 74. "The Mason Barn" (235 N. Court Street). Two stories, calpboarded and brick (presently a Seventh Day Adventist Church).
- 75. The Rothwell House (101 McClung Street). Buff brick of 1900, two-and-one-half stories, with a carriage house.
- 76. Houck, A.K., House (226 S. Jefferson Street). Two-story frame house, traditional pillared porch.
- 77. Preston, Dr. D.G., House (216 S. Jefferson Street). Two-story frame house, pillared porch, steep roof.
- 78. The Fort Savannah Inn (202 N. Jefferson Street). Recent log structure (many of the logs are from old buildings) possibly built on a portion of the site of early Fort Savannah and Fort Union.
- 79. Bell, Henry, House (224 N. Jefferson Street). C. 1900, clapboarded house, Greek Revival-type touches, many recent additions, two stories.
- 80. Bell, Henry, House (300 N. Jefferson Street). C. 1895, clapboarded house, two stories, porch on two sides.
- 81. Hays, A., Property (305 N. Jefferson Street). Brick house built around a log cabin of early 1800s. One story, good site.
- Johnson, Dorothy, House (107 S. Lafayette Street). Frame and clapboarded cottage with porch. One story.
- Stratton, Marion, House (205 S. Lafayette Street). One story with full basement.
   C. 1885, some "Carpenters' Gothic" detailing.
- 84. Johnson, Maynard, House (205 S. Lafayette Street). Two-story, clapboarded house with a columned porch on two sides. 1890.
- 85. Bobbitt, Sally, House (211 S. Lafayette Street). Two-story brick house with a double porch; L-shaped (undergoing restoration).
- 86. Austin, Dr. Samuel, House (216 S. Lafayette Street). Three-story clapboarded dwelling of 1873; very large.
- McWhorter, J.M., House (207 E. Foster Street). Clapboarded 1 1/2-story house with a stone foundation from an old church. This spa-cottage type building was constructed about 1870.

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- Dayton, Ruth Woods, House (202 Van Sickler Drive). Stone, two-story house of good design with porches and patios. Built in 1930.
- 89. Van Sickler, Harry L., House (208 Van Sickler Drive). A two-story clapboarded house with steep roof, side porch, halls and side rooms.
- 90. Daywood Art Gallery (301 E. Foster Street). Two stories, clapboarded, c. 1900. Remodeled as a dwelling in 1972; very handsome.
- 91. Strealy, Ashby, House (303 E. Foster Street). Two-story, clapboarded house from about 1900. Extensive remodling was completed around 1955.
- 92. Lacy, Dr. M.L., House (302 N. Lee Street). This two-story clapboarded dwelling is square with porches at front and back. Constructed about 1900, it was part of the Greenbrier Military School complex.
- 93. Hedrick, Mrs. Alma, House (207 Chestnut Street). About 1890, two stories, clapboarded, "White Sulphur cottage" type, porch with columns.
- 94. McCorkle, Samuel, House (209 Chestnut Street). Two-story clapboarded building of a cottage style with corner porch.
- 95. Bradley, Mrs. Annie, House (205 Walnut Street). Two-story clapboarded house of 1890. Splendid site.
- 96. Snyder, C.A., Property (206 Walnut Street). A one-story clapboarded house with stone foundation and brick chimney. Former slave dwelling.
- 97. Pioneer Drug Store (129 W. Washington Street). Two-story, metal-covered frame structure erected after the great Lewisburg fire of 1897. There are large timbers in the framing.
- 98. Houck's Store (100 E. Washington Street). This clapboarded two-story building of the 1870s was used as a grocery store until about 1960. It is now a restaurant.
- 99. Elks Lodge Building (104 N. Court Street). Two-story, clapboarded 1900 building with store space on the first floor and offices on the upper floor.
- 100. Yarid's Clothing Building (124 W. Washington Street). This brick structure dates from 1899.
- 101. Carter's Barber Shop (106 N. Court Street). This is a clapboarded two-story commercial building constructed in 1900.
- 102. Old Wagon and Harness Store (106 E. Washington Street). A two-story, c. 1880, clapboarded structure with an attractive facade.
- 103. Wood, Richard E.L., House (221 E. Washington Street). This 2 1/2 story clapboarded dwelling with heavy timber construction dates from about 1900.
- 104. Withrow, John, House (301 E. Washington Street). This two-story brick structure with period outbuildings was erected in 1834. It is now a wing of the General Andrew Lewis Hotel.
- 105. The Stalnaker Place (305 E. Washington Street). It is a brick-and-frame house with imbricated shingles and irregular floor plan. Restoration of this 1835 house is under way.
- 106. Methodist District Parsonage (403 E. Washington Street). This L-shaped, brick building dates from 1830.

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- 107. Holt, J.M., House (415 E. Washington Street). "Southern Colonial Style" of brick construction.
- 108. Donnally, W., House (405 E. Washington Street). This is a two-story brick dwelling with frame additions.
- 109. Alderson, George, House (503 E. Washington Street). Very large 'Carpenters' Gothic" structure of 1890.
- 110. Bolin, Amos, House (502 E. Washington Street). Two stories, clapboarded, rectangular shape, columned porch.
- 111. Wilson, John, House (505 E. Washington Street). Two-story clapboarded house.
- 112. Pugh, Mrs. William, House (506 E. Washington Street). Two-story clapboarded structure in a reverse L-shape.
- 113. Van Buren, Julian, House (510 E. Washington Street). This 1870 clapboarded house with porches front and rear is two-stories high.
- 114. Richardson, Jack, House (513 E. Washington Street). This 2 1/2-story brick dwelling has front and side porches and fine woodwork trim. It dates from 1900.
- 115. Caldwell, Mrs. J. North, House (530 E. Washington Street). A two-story clapboarded building of about 1900.
- 116. Green, Victor, House (529 E. Washington Street). This Spanish-style dwelling is stuccoed.
- 117. Echols, John J., House (208 Echols Lane). 2 1/2 stories, clapboarded, 1890, "American Gothic".
- 118. Davis, Dabney, House (315 Oak Terrace). This very large, clapboarded dwelling of about 1900 is now used as a hotel.
- 119. Old L & R Railroad Depot (305 Echols Lane). This one-story clapboarded structure was built as a train station about 1900.
- 120. Talbott, William, House (525 E. Washington Street). 2 1/2-story stone dwelling with Colonial Revival features.

The district consists of most of the City of Lewisburg to about the extent of its developed limits in the early twentieth century. It includes both commercial and residential areas. The section along Washington, Randolph and Foster Streets between Court and Lafayette Streets represents the dense, attached-building business district, while lots are generally more open elsewhere. The predominant open space features are sinkholes in the limestone-based soil where construction is hindered by the slope.

The great majority of structures are in good to excellent condition and, as was mentioned earlier, date from distinct periods when economic development was shadowed in house and business construction. Limestone, log and brick were the common early building materials; frame dwellings predominated later with many units of various types, colors and textures of stone and brick intermixed.

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There are approximately four hundred buildings in the district of which some 20% are nonconforming intrusions. The latter consist mostly of newer commercial buildings in the central business district and modern-style houses scattered throughout (these are marked in black on the sketch map).

Most of the land surface of the town has been disturbed, and little prehistoric archeological potential remains. There may be historic archeological potential, however, for many lots have been built upon several times. The precise location of old Fort Savannah or Fort Union has been much debated, but it was almost certainly on the high ground above Lewis Spring. Since this area has had concentrated development for about two centuries, its potential appears to be rather low.

### **8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
PREHISTOHIC 	ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC AGRICULTURE X-ARCHITECTURE ART COMMERCE COMMUNICATIONS	COMMUNITY PLANNING CONSERVATION ECONOMICS EDUCATION ENGINEERING EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT INDUSTRY	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE LAW LITERATURE MILITARY MUSIC PHILOSOPHY POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<ul> <li>X_RELIGION</li> <li>SCIENCE</li> <li>SCULPTURE</li> <li>SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN</li> <li>THEATER</li> <li>TRANSPORTATION</li> <li>OTHER (SPECIFY)</li> </ul>
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BUILDER/ARCHITECT

#### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The town of Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, is today a reminder of the evolution of settlement in the Greenbrier Valley from the late eighteenth century Early explorers noted what would become quality farmlands, but it was as the staging on. area for an 1,100 man army during Dunmore's War of 1774 that the inviting springs helped open the way for a crossroads settlement. Opening of roads (especially those east and west) made the town a trading and stopping place, and the meeting of as many as four county and state courts made it the political and social center for much of western Virginia. Schools as well as coal, timber and railroads were among the activities that inspired growth in the late nineteenth century. Since the early 1900s, the community has settled, consolidated, incorporated and retained the atmosphere accumulated over about two centuries, with many of the buildings that were constructed during the period still standing.

#### PART ONE 1750 - 1769

It is felt by some that histories are only stories and that some stories are facts and some "facts" are "stories". The "stories" are usually called traditions and these we love because they give both color and flavor to history. It is hoped that in this narrative will be found facts with some color and flavor. Colonel John Stuart, First Clerk of the Court of Greenbrier County, wrote in 1798, a history both colorful and flavorful as A Memorandum from which this quotation is taken --

> The inhabitants of every County and place are desirous to inquire after the first founders, and in order to gratify the curious or such who may hereafter incline to be informed of the origin of the settlements made in Greenbrier, I leave this Memorandum for their satisfaction being the only person at this time alive acquainted with the circumstances of its discovery & manner of settling....

The breadth of the middle western frontier of Augusta County, Virginia, began in the north at about what is now Judy Gap in Pendleton County, West Virginia. It extended south along the high ridges of the Allegheny Mountains of the present border between the two Virginias and ended at the so-called Narrows which was, and is now, the gateway to the northwest for the New River.

Westward to and beyond the Ohio River a thick forest clothed the mountains and the valleys of this frontier. First the hunter-explorers and then the explorersurveyors, adventurers all, were encouraged to cross the high frontal mountains and

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Courtney, Lloyd McF. The Church on the Western Waters. Whittet and Shepperson,
Richmond, Va., 1940.

### **10**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMI	NATED PROPERTY 35	0 acres (appr	oximately)		
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to penetrate the wide forest. This was because of the report that was brought into Virginia's Shenandoah Valley in 1749 that "sometime during this year a man laboring under aberration of intellect wandered from Fredrick County into the wilderness of the Greenbrier country." Although a supposed lunatic, he was believed when he declared that he had been "where the rivers flowed away to the West."

Andrew Lewis came into the Greenbrier Valley in 1751. At the mouth of Knapp's Creek he found Jacob Marlin and Stephen Sewell. Lewis followed the river south to the "Big Levels" of Greenbrier and there found the springs (since called the Lewis Springs to honor Andrew and his family) that for centuries drew animals of the savannahs and then Indian hunters.

The first town on the "The Levels" or "Savannahs" of these western waters was called Fort Savannah (c. 1770) and then Fort Union in 1774. It was, in the next year, to be named Lewisburg to honor General Andrew Lewis, his brothers and their pioneer father, Colonel John Lewis, who came earlier into the area to explore and survey.

Events in the histories of Greenbrier County and Lewisburg, the seat of county government, are so interwoven that the story of one cannot be told without including much of the story of the other. This was particularly true in the many years that Lewisburg was the only sizable town in the large expanse of Greenbrier County, though Frankford and Union, north and south of Lewisburg, were busy communities during part of those years.

For centuries the springs of the savannahs of the Greenbrier Valley were visited by game animals in great numbers. Through much of that time this bluegrass plateau was the hunting ground of Indian tribes that had their towns beyond the Ohio River. With the coming of the white man after 1740, a struggle for the land was carried on.

Lewisburg had its beginnings in the tents, pole lean-tos, and huts of the earliest hunters, explorers and surveyors who came to the springs by about 1753. The earliest settlers in the valley of the Greenbrier retreated to the Shenandoah Valley in the face of danger of Indian attacks during the British-French War of 1755-1761. At the end of that conflict, when the next try for settlement was made, the Indians saw a renewal of the threat to their hunting grounds. They answered with devastating raids in 1763, wiping out the Muddy Creek and Clendenin settlements and all the isolated families on the western frontier of Virginia.

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A significant portion of the population of the colonies (which had reached approximately 1,800,000 by 1763) was made up of immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, Germany and Switzerland. Most of them settled in Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. "They had been in great distress in their homelands. They went across the Allegheny front where land was cheap and made the finest frontiersmen we have known." They numbered about 400,000 on the western edge of the colonies from New Hampshire to Georgia, and "great numbers of these came with hatred for England as one of their strongest passions." By 1773 this hate also had come to include the enmity held by the people of the highlands toward "the establishment people" of the coast, because the new western counties of Virginia were disfranchised and were given only limited representation by the "Lowland government."

The fact that the King's order of 1763 to stop settlement of the frontier was not obeyed is seen in the return, even as early as 1764, of former inhabitants of the middle border who brought many new settlers with them. The land was good, cheap and could be bought in any size acreage.

The first permanent settlements in the "Big Levels" (Lewisburg) region were made around 1769. John Stuart and Robert McClanahan had built cabins on their grants in the Frankford and Savannah Mills areas and in the next five years many others settled in and around Lewisburg. Four Arbuckles: Mathew, William, John, and Thomas; John Lockhart, Thomas Renick, Thomas Edgar, McClungs, Connallys, Callisons and VanBibbers were only a few of the many. Among these pioneer families who found permanent homes here were many of the people who took places of leadership during the first half century of the history of Greenbrier County and Lewisburg. And through all the years since then, descendants of the early families have been respected and useful citizens. Names such as Price, Clendenin, Mason, Bright, Caldwell, Mathews and many others are on the records of town and county.

#### PART TWO 1770-1782

The date of the building of Fort Savannah is not known, but the year 1770 is widely accepted, mainly because many other frontier forts were erected at the time. Fort Greenbrier at Marlin's Bottom, Stuart's Fort, Arbuckle's Fort, Graham's Fort, Donnally's, Jarret's, Wood's and many others formed part of a line of defensive shelters which stretched across the width of the middle border of western Augusta County. They were built about 1770-72 in what are now Pocahontas, Greenbrier, Monroe and Summers Counties, West Virginia.

When a general outbreak of Indian-settler difficulties seemed inevitable, Lord Dunmore, Governor of Virginia, decided to try to hold the natives in check. He planned a two-pronged move against Indian towns across the Ohio and ordered Colonel

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Andrew Lewis to gather the Virginia militia companies of the middle and lower borders with arms and provender. Lewis sent word to the militiamen in the seven border counties to gather not later than August 30, 1774. By early September, 1,100 men and tons of supplies were at Fort Union (the name had been changed from Fort Savannah), ready to move toward the Ohio.

Lewisburg's birth as a town-village can be credited, in large measure, to the presence of the Lewis Springs, but her growth from settlement to town resulted more from the encampment of the Virginia militia here at the beginning of Dunmore's War. The presence of this 1,100-man army, both before and after the Battle of Point Pleasant in October 1774, drew tradesmen, farmers, stockmen and camp-followers. Other circumstances which contributed to Lewisburg's growth were the defeat of the Indians, the construction of forts west of the Greenbrier, and the fact that older forts were now being manned by local militiamen. In addition, the movement of the Virginia troops broadened the old hunting trails so that they were now useful for traders. During 1775 the Camp Union-Fort Savannah site was named Lewisburg and quickly grew into the chief community of the middle and lower Virginia frontier.

In 1776 the men of the border counties marched to war for a second time, but now many were seasoned troops. During the time the men of Greenbrier were with Washington's Army, three Indian raids were made in their home area. Ten people were slain and many more were carried into captivity. This, however, was the end of the Indian threat to the middle border settlements. The Virginia Assembly, in its session beginning in October 1777, passed an act creating the County of Greenbrier, to become effective in early 1778. When the county was formed, its borders embraced the territory of what is now, in whole or in part, two counties of Virginia and seventeen of West Virginia. By another act of the Virginia Assembly, in October 1782, Lewisburg was named as the county seat of Greenbrier. The Assembly was influenced by several factors in making this designation: Lewisburg's central location (the crossing place of two old game and hunting trails), its site as a former busy fort which was General Lewis' "gathering place," and its position as a well known settlement with numerous permanent dwellings and several trading establishments. Samuel Lewis, James Reed, Samuel Brown, Andrew Donnally, John Stuart, Archer Mathews, William Ward, and Thomad Edgar, were named in the legislation as trustees. The town was to be laid out in a forty-acre square divided into half acre lots and convenient streets. The original survey that divided Lewisburg into 64 half-acre lots was made by Thomas Edgar, and he lived for a time in one of the community's earliest stone dwellings. When the survey was completed the trustees were to sell the lots at public auction. The purchasers were to hold the lots subject to the condition of building on each a dwelling at least twenty feet by sixteen with stone or brick chimney. This time limit was often extended and quite a number of lots reverted to the trustees.

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PART THREE 1783 - 1820

The State Assembly placed the government of the town of Lewisburg in the hands of its first eight trustees in 1782. Of those appointees ("Gentlemen"), it is of interest that not fewer than five built homes outside of the town and never lived within the corporate boundary.

Two lot sales were held by the trustees: the first in 1784 when 28 of the 64 lots were sold and the other in 1787 when only 8 lots were bought. There is little doubt but that there were buildings of some sort on several of these lots even before the 1782 survey, and that a few of these buildings extended into the streets. Two of the lots, numbers 7 and 8, were set aside for the Court's use. The Old Jail occupied lot 8 and the present courthouse was built on lot 7. An 1825 map shows 18 tracts of land around the town boundary, and it is believed that there were buildings on several of these tracts before 1800.

The earliest dwellings of Lewisburg (those of the 1760s and 1770s) were clustered near Lewis Springs and along the trails that spread web-like in four directions toward the other settlements of the trans-Allegheny region. The first of these early dwellings were small, one-room cabins: one fireplace for heating and cooking, no windows, and a loft for sleeping space.

Beginning in the early 1780s, the log dwellings and other log structures were much improved over those early, hastily built pole cabins. These more recent buildings were constructed of carefully hewn logs; the floors and wood trim were of pit-sawn lumber. Large stone chimneys were at each end of the two-story portions to serve two fireplaces. In some instances, two of these cabins were placed side-by-side, joined by a covered breezeway (then called a dog-trot), and called double cabins. Two splendid examples of such wilderness "mansions" are the Peyton House (on U. S. Route 60 west of Lewisburg) and the Level House (on U. S. Route 219 south of Ronceverte). Many of Lewisburg's early shops were the well built two-story cabins--the upper floor was used as a dwelling for the family. Before 1820 many of these log buildings were enlarged by frame or brick additions, and several can be seen today within the walls of the town's older homes. Col. John Stuart's one-room stone Clerk's Office, built in 1780, apparently encouraged the use of the native limestone as a building material during the last decade of the 1700s. Examples of such use in and around the County Seat are the Market Street Stone House (#18), the Old Stone Church (#15), Rev. Grigsby's Manse, and John Stuart Manor, all still in use.

The permanent settlers of this region, for the duration of the Revolutionary War, were willing to remain in isolation from the government of colonial Virginia. They had no roads; only a network of animal trails that spread out in all directions gave the people access to other settlements. These trails could be used only by oxen, pack-animals and man, no wagon or cart could travel them. Finally about 1780,

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the need to exchange goods with the people of the valleys and Tidewater region of Virignia led to agitation for a wagon road from Warm Springs to Lewisburg. An order of the Greenbrier County Court dated May 23, 1782, gave to Mr. Mathew Arbuckle and four other men "for viewing and marking out the nighest and best way from Warm Springs to this place 2400 lbs. of tobacco, at rate of one half penny per lb." This led to the building of a pike which was completed across the Allegheny Front in 1782-83, making trade possible with the people of the Shenandoah and Virginia valleys and the Tidewater region.

This road at once became a highway for "the Bearers of the Gospel." Good men with a Christian commitment so complete as to fill us common folk with awe, were trained (by the churches to the east) and sent out to "the Western Waters." John Alderson, Baptist missionary, formed his first church group across the mountains in 1787, after 13 years of work in the region that extended from the Jackson and Calf Pasture Rivers to Kentucky. For forty-six years this "Apostle to the Greenbrier" labored in his frontier pastorate. Francis Asbury, first Methodist Bishop in America, and his missionary companions traveled the hills and valleys of the county as early as the 1780s. His most loved missionary station was "the Rehoboth Church in the Sinks of Greenbrier." Following the very early missionary visits of other Presbyterians, the Rev. John McCue came to the region and organized Presbyterian churches in Lewisburg, near Union and at Spring Creek in 1783. For a decade or more, congregations formed by these three denominations worshipped in small log churches, one of which (the Methodist Old Rehoboth)still stands.

One of Lewisburg's first advantages from the exchange of goods hauled over the road from Warm Springs was arrival of materials for building dwellings and shops. At hand was very choice lumber of hard and soft wood trees, an abundance of stone, and clay for brick making. Also, at the turn of the century, the labor of slaves was available. Slaves, trained and skillful, were owned in small numbers by many inhabitants of the area. And now, by wagon, came a variety of much needed "manufactured goods," i.e., glass, metal rods, paper, tools, etc.. These items were received in trade for the products from the mountains, which, at first, came as a trickle and later, beginning in 1800, as a flood. Hemp, salt, hides, fat hogs and cattle, sheep and horses were hauled and/or driven to markets in Staunton, Richmond and Baltimore. Items for convenience and comfort were brought to the Greenbrier Valley on the return haul. Another advantage to Lewisburg from this trade with the low country was an outlet for the products of the early craftsmen. These persons began their trades in Lewisburg well before manufactured goods reached the trans-Allegheny region: James Withrow, tannery 1800-1860s; Donnallys, glove makers1790 on for four generations; Marcus Goshen, tailor 1808-1839; Tommy Henning (Sr. and Jr.), chairs and spinning wheels 1800-1860s; and Richard Tyree, boot and shoemaker, 1810-1860s, were the more prominent craftsmen.

In 1774 General Andrew Lewis' West Augusta battalions and companies used Fort Union, later Lewisburg, as the gathering place for an ordered move to the Ohio River.

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With 1,100 troops came a great number of people who were to serve as support personnel. Supplies in great quantities were brought in by the quartermaster department; food, clothing, arms and ammunition, and draft animals to be used as transport also came. Reserve troops encamped to guard the army's rear and its line of supplies and to protect the settlements. As a result of this gathering, after the Battle of Point Pleasant, many new settlers came into the Greenbrier Valley. During and after the Revolutionary War, the western settlements were extended to the Ohio and beyond to Kentucky.

With this early migration, mainly from Pennsylvania and the Shenandoah Valley, came the major portion of those families that settled in Greenbrier County and lived in or near the town of Lewisburg. They brought the trades and skills of their forefathers from homelands in France, Switzerland, Holland, England and Ireland. Others of the tradesmen and many of the slaves were trained in handcrafts before they came into the mountains, and by great good fortune there were men and women of means, learning, culture and religion in numbers fully sufficient to be leaders in the community. They were able to give a quality of life to the town which served it for several generations. It was these people of whom it was said:

> That during the darkest days of the Revolution, when the Pennsylvania and New Jersey troops had mutinied, and it seemed that all was lost, Washington was heard to exclaim, 'Leave me but a banner to place on the mountains of West Augusta and I will rally around me the men who will lift our bleeding country from the dust and set her free'.

With the building of the county's first courthouse, people judged that the settlement was now permanent and therefore could be called a town. The early courts, beginning in 1778, brought many people into Lewisburg from over the county's widespread territory. Also, beginning about 1795, many of the guests in attendance at the Virginia springs took outings to the county seat to "attend court". By 1831 four courts were holding sessions in Lewisburg. One was the County Court, which looked after the affairs of the county (the members of this court were titled "Justices"); a second, and of greater dignity, was the Circuit Court; still higher was the Superior Court of Law and Chancery, which sat in Lewisburg from the county's birth in 1778; and the Supreme Court of Appeals of Western Virginia, a court that met in Lewisburg for the first time in August 1831 (the building that now contains the county library (#1) was built in 1834 as a library and study for the judges and clerk of this Supreme Court).

Not until 1782-83 was any road built in the area wide enough for wagons and carts. The first thoroughfare was that between Warm Springs and Lewisburg, and it was soon extended to Sweet Springs and Salt Sulphur Springs. In the next year,

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by court order, George Clendenin was commissioned to "lay out and construct a road from Lewisburg to the Kanawha." Two years later, in 1786, a conveyance called the State Road was built opening the way to the Ohio and hence, by 1804, to Kentucky. Lewisburg, astride this road system from the Atlantic to the Ohio River, gained much importance by being on the border between lowland Virginia and the west. Now all manner of horse and ox-drawn vehicles such as wagons, carts, sleighs, and stages were put to use for transport of people and goods-but with great hardship. The road opened the way for the salt of the Kanawha Valley to reach the east and helped Lewisburg grow from a frontier post to what a French traveler of 1795, C. T. Bolney, called "a village of considerable pretentions, a place noted for its intelligent and refined society."

The new century's beginning in 1801 was, also, the beginning of Lewisburg's most prosperous era. More use of native limestone took place as people improved their log houses and shops; hand-shaped foundation stones were widely used to improve the older buildings and were incorporated in the frame additions of the 1860s and 1870s that enlarged most of the brick homes. In this first decade of the 1800s, log taverns were being established in and around Lewisburg to provide "board and bed" for the drovers and wagoners who were using the State Road in increasing numbers. Lewisburg's most noted man of the next five decades, John McElhenney, came to the Old Stone Church in 1808 and opened a private school in his home in 1810. Two years later near this church the first brick building in town was built by John Weir, architect and brickmason, to house McElhenney's co-educational Academy (incorporated by the General Assembly in 1812). John Weir next built a large brick home for Dr. McElhenney which was named "Mount Esperance" (#34). Then, in 1818, Mr. Weir built a stately brick house (#28) for James Withrow on North Jefferson Street which overlooks the Lewis Springs.

Along with the increase in east-west travel, there was a corresponding growth in the use of the roads leading northeast toward the Potomac River and Maryland, and southwest to the New and Holston Rivers. About 1800, caring for the needs of travelers and transporters became a very important part of Lewisburg's business. This situation led to the construction of some few but famous taverns. The first was built by Richard Tyree in 1801. It has two stories, measured 225 feet long, faced Market (Court) Street, and was named "Long Ordinary". During the next ten years other travelers were accommodated in private dwellings in and near the town.

A little before 1820, a man came to Lewisburg who was to have a lasting influence upon the people and their homes in the Greenbrier Valley. He was John W. Dunn, a stonemason employed in the construction of piers for Greenbrier and Gauley River bridges. Later he learned the brickmaking trade, joined with David Spotts, a local bricklayer and plasterer, and between 1820 and 1840 built and decorated many of the lovely homes of the Greenbrier Valley. Variations of Georgian plans, Greek Revival touches and classic features of dwellings and public buildings

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that they favored and used, are seen on all sides in this region of West Virginia. They are a much prized heritage of the State.

PART FOUR 1821 - 1880

In his <u>Memorandum</u>, written in 1798, John Stuart tells of the lack of money among the people of West Augusta who had given both their lives and goods to the war against the British:

> --- there was not a sufficient quanity of Specie in circulation to enable the people to pay the revenue tax assessed upon the Citizens of this County wherefore we fell in arrears to the public for four years --- the Assembly ---granted the sum of five thousand pounds of our said arrears to the purpose of opening a road from Lewisburg to the Kanawha River. ---thus was a communication by waggons to the navigable waters of the Kanawha first effected and which will probably be found the nighest and best conveyance from the Eastern to the Western Country that will ever be known---May I here hazerd a conjecture that has often occured to me since I inhabited this place, that nature has designed this part of the world a peaceable retreat for some of his favorite children, where pure morals will be preserved by seperateing them from other society at so respectful a distance by ridges of mountains, and I sincerely wish time may prove my conjecture rational and true--from springs of salt water discoverable along our river banks of iron ore mines pragnant with saltpetre and forrests of sugar trees so amply provided & so easily acquired I have no doubts but the future inhabitants of this County will surely avail themselves of such singular advantages greatly to their comfort and satisfaction and render them a greatful & happy people. Deed Book 1, last page)

This conjecture of Colonel Stuart, who is often called the "Father of Greenbrier County", comes into fruition in the lives of the people of the county in the years from 1820 to 1860. They availed themselves of the singular advantages for their comfort and satisfaction which rendered them a "greatful & happy people." The rich bluegrass pasture land was the foremost advantage in the Lewisburg area,

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LEWISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

### CONTINUATION SHEET ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 10

and extensive farms were used to breed and raise prime cattle, hogs, sheep, and horses. Close upon this first advantage was another, for there was an unbelievable amount of work to be done in this region that was as yet almost untouched by the growing industry to the east of the Alleghenies. The panics of the 1790s and 1840s sent a continuous stream of people across the mountains to find land and work, and so "a communication by wagons" east and west, north and south, met in the center of Lewisburg.

Not later than 1812, John Weir began to supervise the making of brick from the clay that was found in abundance in the valley. It is most probable that some of the local slaves had been trained in brickmaking back in the valleys of Virginia or in the more northern areas of the east. Before 1820 a few stone buildings and many two-story log houses were built in and close about Lewisburg, but only three, maybe four, of brick. Those brick buildings are credited to John Weir, Most of the homes built between 1820 and 1860 are, quite reasonably, thought of as "Dunn houses", though Weir was capable of such excellent workmanship if he were still in the area. During this time, thirty-seven brick structures (many of which are still standing and used) were built within the bounds of the proposed district nomination. Of these, nine were public and/or commercial. (Several brick stores and shops were destroyed by fire in 1897 on West Washington Street, and four of the buildings of the early 1800s have been torn down in recent years.) Almost without exception, the wood trim on and in the brick buildings constructed after 1820 was carved by Conrad Burgess or persons trained and supervised by him. Some of this carving was very lavish, some quite plain, but all was excellent handicraft.

The depression of the 1840s was not heavily felt in the trans-Alleghenies. The eastern cities needed food; the western counties had food for sale. The Civil War, however, was so destructive of the economy of the "border counties" and so repressive of the people that they were hard pressed to make out. Revival of life of the springs resorts soon after the war, though, and the completion of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad from Richmond to the Ohio River in 1873, gave a new and very different prosperity to Greenbrier County and Lewisburg.

Beginning in the early 1870s, the town started to attract a good number of people who had much to do with the coal, timber and railroad industries as owners, managers, attorneys, etc. Large new dwellings and office buildings of stone, brick and wood were built in and about Lewisburg. Ample supplies of manufactured goods came quickly by rail, and the railroad building had brought many skilled craftsmen to the area. Along East Washington Street mostly, but scattered on other streets as well, these fine frame houses are now standing. "Carpenters' Victorian" describes their architecture, and sturdiness explains their work even to the present time.

Looking back a bit, remember that John McElhenney was called to the Lewisburg

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LEWISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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Presbyterian Church in 1808. By 1812 (maybe as early as 1808) he began to hold school classes in his dwelling place. An act establishing an Academy in the Town of Lewisburg was passed by the General Assembly in February 1812 under the trusteeship of men of eight western counties, and the building, the first brick structure of the town, was placed just northwest of the Stone Church. At this early date there may have been a few "old field" cabin schools in the region where rudiments of the three-Rs were taught, but the Old Academy supplied the only classical education to be found for many years. In the 1840s the "payand-free" system brought other schools into being. One was in Lewisburg, and it is thought to have been under the supervision of John Spotts. While this "free school" education steadily became more popular, the Old Academy had become two very notable schools, Greenbrier College (#4) for preparatory and junior college education (female) and the Greenbrier Military School (#39) (male).

In 1778 a Mrs. Anderson's quick cure ("hopelessly and painfully crippled with rheumatism" she was) changed the history of the development and growth of the region around Lewisburg. "In all the world, no section of it has enjoyed the popularity of American Society as has the Spring country of the Virginias." Beginning with almost impassible trails and meager accommodations, their attractions were small, but after 1810 traveling became much easier. This improvement, coupled with the ravages of fevers upon the people of the southern Atlantic Coast and around the Gulf Coast, put the springs of the Allegheny Mountains in high favor. Through all the years from 1820 to 1880, save for the war years, the Sulphur Springs-Blue, Gray, Green, Red, Salt, Sweet, Sweet Chalybeate, and White--thrived; so did Lewisburg, the region's chief town. After the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad was completed to the Ohio River, most spas, out of reach of the rails, began to close as patrons sought other places. All but White Sulphur, that is, which was saved by its sale to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Company.

The 1810 census of Greenbrier County listed 5,914 inhabitants, that of 1820 indicated 7,041, and in 1830 the population was 9,006. The famous French engineer, Claude Crozet, was given a contract to build a turnpike between Staunton and Lewisburg in 1823, and the James River and Kanawha Turnpike reached the falls of Gauley to the west in 1824.

Dr. Joseph F. Caldwell came to Greenbrier in 1820 and at once, established Lewisburg's first newspaper. The first west of the Blueridge Mountains. In 1837-38 he started a stage line from New Bern, N. C. by way of Lewisburg to Guyandotte on the Ohio----the first line through the state of Virginia.

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Caldwell received a mail contract for this line in 1838. Mails prior to that date were carried on horseback. Even before 1800, "short-haul" passenger trips were being made by wagon along the early state roads by way of Staunton and Lynchburg to Lewisburg; by 1820 such hauls were made between Lewisburg and the Kanawha River. The roads were up-graded and better maintained by 1830, and stage runs were made more often. The widely separated taverns and stage stops were interspaced along stage routes that passed through Lewisburg on the pikes. The lone Lewisburg tavern, "the Long Ordinary" (built in 1801), was soon joined by others in and near the town, including Hugh McLaughlin's of about 1823, Hunter's at the Greenbrier River bridge in 1824, Dave Tuckwiller's fabulous tavern on the pike two miles west of town in 1828, and James Frazier's Star Tavern in the John North House (#3) beginning in 1830. The drovers of livestock and the freight hauling wagoners learned very early to lodge well away from town; they needed the space afforded them by farm owners.

Not long after the railroad reached White Sulphur Springs in 1866, however, the stagelines to and from the east were abandoned and many taverns closed. In like manner, the westward travel by stage ended by 1875 because the railroad had reached the Ohio. The larger towns saw the building of the first hotels to accommodate therail passengers, and Lewisburg's first was Stratton's Lewisburg Hotel on Washington Street (it was destroyed in the fire of 1897). Two of the old taverns in Lewisburg continued in business, as hotels and boarding houses, until the early 1900s. This was possible because the town was on the "Levels" four miles from the railroad.

This description of 1824 was offered by a traveler:

Lewisburg---contains---one academy for young men and one for young ladies, two taverns, four retail stores, a post office, (horse and rider delivery?), one printing office and fourty dwelling houses, chiefly of wood. In this small town four different courts hold their session---These courts and the number of travelers who pass through the place---and the vast numbers of horses, hogs, and cattle that are driven through it, give it an air of liveliness for about ten months.

About the products sent from the Greenbrier region to the eastern markets this same traveler writes:

This part of Virginia exports cattle, horses, sheep whiskey, bacon, sugar, tobacco, cheese, wool, beeswax, feathers, tallow, poultry, and hemp. Of these articles, gensang, cattle, and butter greatly exceed the others. The horses are remarkable both for beauty and size.

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LEWISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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By the time the town of Lewisburg was founded in 1782, many of the settlers were earning their living by hand crafts and common labor. Their workmanship was good, and its products were needed very much. Such art and craftsmanship of hand manufacture was passed on to each succeeding generation until long after "Mass-Manufactured" goods came on the local market. With hand tools and foot lathes, Thomas Henning, from 1801 to 1868, made spinning wheels, splint-bottom chairs, and cabinets. As early as 1812 he regularly sold his chairs to the Old White Hotel. Also, he was an excellent house painter.

In 1783 grist mills were built on the Greenbrier and its tributaries. Thomas Edgar, Lewisburg's surveyor, and Anthony Hutsonpiller were two of the early and very successful millers. Some of the first mills were built to support waterpowered saw mills that cut much of the lumber used for the houses of Lewisburg before 1880. Richard Thomas used such lumber in his furniture factory where he made bedsteads, bureaus, and such other items as coffins until 1870.

A quotation form Joseph Martin's <u>Gazetteer of Virginia</u> gives these 1835 statistics on Lewisburg's public services: "6 mercantile stores, 1 printing office issuing a weekly paper, 2 tan yards, 3 saddlers, 4 blacksmith shops, 2 coppersmiths and tin plate workers, 3 brick layers, 4 house carpenters, 4 tailor shops, 2 cabinet makers, and 3 hotels (taverns)---population about 750 persons of whom 7 are attorneys and 3 regular physicians. The town contains 101 dwelling houses, 3 houses of public worship, 1 academy, 1 common school, and 3 Sunday schools."

Because of its location, the town was occupied by troops of both the Union and Confederacy as each tried to control access roads to the Kanawha salt works. Most of the citizens of Lewisburg and Greenbrier County were southern sympathizers; however, many of the area's political leaders were against secession. Robert E. Lee brought his army into western Virginia to hold the B & O Railroad, but after the winter of 1861 set in, Lee withdrew into the Shennandoah Valley. Many of his men were ill as a result of the exposure on Sewell Mountain and were left in Lewisburg. "The town was filled with the sick and dying---Many of the men died and the graveyard filled up rapidly." In May of 1862, the Battle of Lewisburg was fought, resulting in the withdrawal of Confederate forces. The result of this engagement was that Greenbrier County and the Kanawha Valley were left in Union control, and before the year was out President Lincoln signed the bill for West Virginia statehood.

After the Civil War, because of the illness of Mrs. Lee, the general and his wife visited the Old White Hotel at White Sulphur Springs and occupied a cottage in Baltimore Row during the summers of 1867, 1868 and 1869. General Lee came on horseback to Lewisburg at times to visit friends at the James Withrow House (#28). The presence of this southerner of such high esteem helped to revive the springs.

By 1880 the county was making some recovery from the effects of the Civil War. The timber industry opened up in the late 1870s, the railroad from the Chesapeake Bay

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to the Ohio began to haul West Virginia coal to Atlantic markets and ports, and ample transportation was provided for the commodities that were sent from the Lewisburg area. The wounds from the war were being healed in West Virginia, and Greenbrier citizens began once more to take responsible and leading places in the financial and political life of the state. New wealth gave the people of Lewisburg the opportunity to refurbish old dwellings and places of business, and it also ushered in the period of those large frame houses that line many of the town's streets. The census of Greenbrier County in 1880 indicated a population of 15,060, a rank of tenth in the state.

#### PART FIVE 1881 - 1977

Many rural towns in the border states that were of regional importance before the Civil War were very slow to recover from the effects of the conflict or, in many cases, failed to make any recovery. The latter became the small wayside villages of the twentieth century. Lewisburg, however, had favorable circumstances that helped a recovery that began as early as 1873. The first of these circumstances was the fact that the town did not suffer extensive damage to its buildings, another was that since it was within the boundary of a newly formed state, the county escaped repressive effects of "carpet bagger government" and, most important of all, the region's principal economy was, largely, agriculture. All the necessary parts of this economy was present and unimpaired; the land was still there, people with know-how were still there, and many freed men who needed and wanted work were available.

The products of the Greenbrier Valley began to find a ready market by 1880 in every direction, and the newly (1873) completed C & O Railroad was, by the 1880s, a reasonably fast and dependable carrier to get them to the eastern cities. Rail travel available to this region extended the life of some of the resort hotels. In fact, the future of the White Sulphur Springs Company was assured by rail travel, and that has meant much to Lewisburg's welfare even to the present.

Through all of the story of the Greenbrier Valley, when products of the area are mentioned one thinks of prime cattle and fine horses. Before 1830 shorthorn steers were being driven from the Lewisburg area to Baltimore and Philadelphia markets and later for export to the English markets. Between 1855 and 1869, many registered herds were established in the county; three very fine herds that have been founded since 1910 are still being shown at national fairs. The raising of horses for work, saddle, and racing purposes has been another resource of this area. The fame of these horses before the Civil War is being revived in small numbers today.

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The earliest large industry, logging and timbering, came to the valley in 1882, when the St. Lawrence Boom and Manufacturing Company had the largest softwood plant in the United States. It operated until 1908. These were the days of rivermen famous for their feats of strength and daring, the days of timber drives on the Greenbrier River, and of things like dams, cribs, booms, arks and rafts. It was a period of twenty years when 800,000,000 feet of lumber were produced by one mill. Soon after the first rails crossed through the Greenbrier and New River canyons, the sale of coal-producing land began. Though much of the profit of this selling left the state, a fair share accrued to men and women in the region where coal was being found. Not everyone who held coal land was willing to sell, but some preferred to take the risks involved with mining and the risks paid handsomely to the operators.

The 1884 edition of <u>Hardesty's West</u> <u>Virginia</u> <u>Counties</u> contains this descriptive paragraph about Lewisburg:

The following will exhibit the business interests of the place at the present time: there are six mercantile establishments, one grocery store, one drug store, one restaurant, one tannery, one marble yard, two furniture factories, one hotel, two livery stables, one national bank, one jewelry store, two barber shops, two merchant taylors, four blacksmith shops, six churches (four white and two colored), two carriage factories, one female institute, one school building, one town hall, one Masonic lodge, one lodge of Odd Fellows, one court of Foresters, one chair factory, one post office (money order), one printing office, one millinery establishment, two shoe shops, three mantau (Woman's gowns) makers, two harness and saddlery houses, one resident surveyor, five resident physicians, two dentists, seven ministers and ten attorneys.

Lewisburg's growth continued into the 1890s with an increase in the number of large frame houses built on available lots within corporate limits. In August of 1897, fire struck Lewisburg's business district and completely destroyed thirteen buildings in a half block area on both sides of West Washington Street between its alleys and Court Street. A total of seventeen businesses were burned out. The fact that within two years rather impressive turn-of-the-century buildings and businesses had filled the burned area is indicative of the spirit of the community.

An extension of the rail lines in the county took place in 1902. The C & O built a railway from its main line near Ronceverte to Durban in Pocahontas County, and it branched into remote, untouched stands of timber; soon thereafter another rail line was built from the New River at Sandstone into the coal fields of western Greenbrier County. This helped in the movement of commodities of the region,

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particularly the products of the Meadow River Lumber Company at Rainelle, then the largest hardwood lumber manufacturing plant in the world. Another addition to transportation that was a positive aid was the building of a rail line between Ronceverte and Lewisburg. Since 1873 lack of direct connections with a rail line had been a hinderance and, at times, an embarrassment to the people of Lewisburg. To make use of trains on the C & O lines at Ronceverte meant a ride on horseback, by freight wagon or by hack, i. e., a horse-drawn taxi. A charter was issued in 1905 to five local men for the establishment of the Lewisburg and Ronceverte Electric Railway. Service reached Lewisburg in May 1907; the first station was at the old depot on Echols Lane (#119). In 1918 the line was extended into downtown at a station on Court Street. The line's first power units were Shay engines, but the line was electrified in 1913. The L & R (students of that time will ever remember their dear "Loose and Rickety Railway") was discontinued in 1931.

Timber, coal and transportation, these were the energizers of the house building of the first decade of the 1900s. Solid people who were, they thought, establishing empires in their county and a dynasty in their family, built houses to suit their dreams. The young people who buy and move into these houses today tell us of their dreams for the future.

After World War I, Lewisburg drifted through the 1920s into the depression. One impact of money failure was to introduce a good part of our population to fiscal responsibility and hard work. Another was to beget a political philosophy conscious of the worth of man. In other words, it was "hard times," but even this experience was not as difficult to endure in Lewisburg as it was in urban regions, for industries had no great hold on the Greenbrier Valley. The recovery was only partial, however, when rumors and noises of war gave way to fact in 1941.

The history of a small town at war is the story of a nation at war. Efforts and sacrifices were plentiful and were made with great courage and some hope that this one would surely end all wars. After it was over, the local military school was more than filled with trainees because the leaders said we must not be caught unprepared again. Lewisburg came into this new age of the last half of the twentieth century and has been affected no more and no less than any other small city of two or three thousand people. She has seen beautiful modern and conventional homes built in new housing developments, has seen part of the city's businesses move to "out-of-town" shopping centers, has witnessed the public schools consolidate and, therefore, take to buses, has seen her two private schools close (and good new ones take their places), and has felt herself almost drown in a rising flood of highway traffic. But Lewisburg will march through this year of the 200th Anniversary of Greenbrier County toward the beginning of her Third Century in 1982.

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LEWISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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LEWISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

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follows property lines from the point of leaving streets or corporate boundaries to the point of intersection with these lines elsewhere. The line from Oak Street to Walnut Street is two lots deep from W. Randolph Street, that between Walnut Street and Mason Drive is four lots deep from Green Lane, and that around secondary structure #81 follows the lines of lot index number 203A. All noted boundary exceptions are based on City of Lewisburg tax maps (Greenbrier County, West Virginia, Office of the Assessor, base maps of November 1958 as revised through June 1962). Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

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LEWISBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT, LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

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Inclusive Street Numbers:

Arbuckle Lane: 100 E. Austin Street: 100-200 Bell Drive: 301 Bittles Cove: 1 Brown Drive: 101 Burdette Street: 102 Chestnut Street: 100-213 Church Street: 100-226 N. Court Street: 101-237 S. Court Street: 103-223 Courtney Drive: 300-306 Davis Street: 301 Dennis Street: 202-208 Echols Lane: 200-326 Edgar Drive: 3 E. Foster Street: 101-419 W. Foster Street: 101-202 Green Lane: 203 Greenbrier Avenue: 101-109 Greenbrier Road: 304-305 Harris Street: 301-305

N. Jefferson Street: 101 - 305S. Jefferson Street: 100 - 226Kirkpatrick Lane: 100 N. Lafayette Street: 109-302 S. Lafayette Street: 101-401 N. Lee Street: 101-400 Lightner Avenue: 203-309 Levisay Street: 100 Mason Drive: 205-207 McClung Street: 101-108 McElhenney Road: 201-210 Oak Terrace: 315 Preston Boulevard: 200-205 E. Randolph Street: 106-216 W. Randolph Street: 127-221 E. Terrace: 325-334 W. Terrace: 327-330 Van Sickler Drive: 202-208 Walnut Street: 201-216 E. Washington Street: 100-653 W. Washington Street: 100-215

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Property Owners

Lewisburg Historic District

Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia

- Marvin R. Houck 100 Arbuckle Lane Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Bengt Franke
   Ben-Ellen Greenhouse
   100 E. Austin Street
   Lewisburg, WV 24901
- / George Lemon Holt Lane Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Mrs. Wallace Matheny 301 Bell Drive Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Walter J. Sheets 1 Bittles Cove Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Mrs. Hattie V. Booker 101 Brown Drive Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Dale L. Hinkle 211 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Helen McClung Arthur 212 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- James R. Matheny 213 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- ✓ Greenbrier County Commission Greenbrier County Courthouse 200 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901

Clarence W. Falls 102 Burdette Lane Lewisburg, WV 24901

- Carl E. Lipps 100 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Bruce C. Randels 200 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901

Greenbrier County Board of Education 202 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901

- Mrs. Alma M. Hedrick 207 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Thomas C. McGuire 209 Chestnut Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Mrs. Emma Jane Irons 203 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- J. Charles Nepper 205 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- James L. Houchins 207 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- David W. Helman 209 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901

West Virginia Department of Health Capitol Complex Charleston, WV 25305 /01d Stone Church 200 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 John E. Mitchell 201 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 Alvin Porterfield 224 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 Glendyne R. Breit 313 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 🗸 Yarid's Inc. 101 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WC 24901 √ Elks Lodge BPOE No. 1758 128 W. Washington Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 ✓ F. C. Coffman 110 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 Andrew Detch 116 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 Blue Grass Federal Savings and Loan Association 117 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 226 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 Jack Neely 103 S. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901 ✓W. R. Bowling, Jr. 63 E. Main Street White Sulphur Springs, WV 24986

Claude E. McLaughlin 211 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901

- Paul E. Wiseman
  213 Church Street
  Lewisburg, WV 24901
- St. James Episcopal Church 218 Church Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Mrs. J. M. Darnell 204 Mason Drive Lewisburg, WV 24901
- John L. Detch 201 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- Rosalie Detch 203 N. Court Street Lewisburg, WV 24901
- VW. Va. Cooperative Extension Service
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   330 West Terrace
   Lewisburg, WV 24901
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  American Legion
  116 S. Jefferson Street
  Lewisburg, WV 24901
- ✓Leggett's Department Store
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  Lewisburg, WV 24901

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- Gene Tuckwiller Lewisburg Service Station, Inc. 215 W. Washington Street Lewisburg, WV 24901

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Mason Bell's Book Store (Sweet Shop) 46. Old Barber Shop/First Post Office 47. 48. E.L. Bell Store (Ben Franklin Store) 49. Old Restaurant (Princess Shop) 50. Princess Theater (Rite Aid) Meat Market (Clingman's Store) 51. "Bell Tavern" House (Central Inn) 52. 53. John Withrow Store/house (Community House) 54. Old Catholic Manse (Brown, Gen. P.E., House) 55. Bowlin, Jessie B., House (Randolph Hock House) Wilson, Dr. Hugh, House (Sydenstricker House) 56. Nesmith, James, House (Echols House) 57. 58. Mathews, Alex, House (Thomas House) 59. Lipps, John, House (Lewis, C.W., House) Dice, John, House (McHale House) 60. Venable-Mathews House (Misses Moore House) 61. 62. Benjamin Carmin Tavern (Bell House) Holt, Judge Homer H., House (Colonial Inn) 63. "Stuart Grant" Johnson House 64. 65. Hogg, Dr. Gory, House Smith, Samuel, House (Kelley House) 66. SECONDARY BUILDINGS (GREEN, 67-120): McElhenney Lodge (J. Hoffnagle House) 67. 68. McMillion House (Henry Erskine & Company) 69. Old Stone Church Manse #4 (Montgomery, William, House) 70. Fort Spring Presbyterian Church Cox, John B., House (Clarence Falls House) 71. 72. Cooper, A., Property (Neathawk, Gladis, House) 73. Fox, J.G., House (Dahmer, Martin, House) 74. "The Mason Barn" (Seventh Day Adventist Church) 75. The Rothwell House 76. Houck, A.K., House (Smith, Raymond N., House) 77. Preston, Dr. D.G., House (Dennis, Robert, Land) 78. The Savannah Inn 79. Bell, Henry, House (Ream, Dr. Norman, House) 80. Bell, Henry, House (Funderburke, Kenney T., House) 81. Hays, A., Property (McLaughlin, Andrew, House) 82. Johnson, Mrs. Dorothy, House 83. Stratton, Marion, House (Cochran, Walter, House) 84. Johnson, Maynard, House 85. Bobbitt, Mrs. Sally, House 86. Austin, Dr. Samuel, House (Dempsey, Lib, House) 87. McWhorter, J.M., House (Wickline, Nellie, House) 88. Dayton, Ruth Woods, House ("Daywood") Van Sickler, Harry L., House (Ford, John, House) 89. Daywood Art Gallery (McThenia, Andrew, House) 90. 91. Strealy, Ashby, House (Vick, George, House) Lacy, Dr. M.L., House 92. 93. Hedrick, Mrs. Alma, House 94. McCorkle, Samuel, House (McGuire, Tom, House) Bradley, Mrs. Annie, House 95. 96. Snyder, C.A., Property (Pendleton, Phil, House) 97. Pioneer Drug Building

127 W. Washington Street 102-108 W. Washington Street 101 W. Washington Street 111 E. Washington Street 107-109 E. Washington Street 102 E. Washington Street 118 E. Washington Street 123 E. Washington Street 225 E. Washington Street 300 E. Washington Street 303 E. Washington Street 308 E. Washington Street 402 E. Washington Street 406 E. Washington Street 413 E. Washington Street 408 E. Washington Street 410 E. Washington Street 501 E. Washington Street 3 Edgar Street 514 E. Washington Street 535 E. Washington Street 101B Church Street 300 Courtney Drive 304 Courtney Drive 304 Courtney Drive 102 Burdette Lane 215 W. Randolph Street

207 W. Randolph Street

226 S. Jefferson Street

216 S. Jefferson Street

202 N. Jefferson Street

224 N. Jefferson Street

300 N. Jefferson Street

305 N. Jefferson Street

107 S. Lafayette Street

111 S. Lafayette Street

205 S. Lafayette Street

211 S. Lafayette Street

216 S. Lafayette Street

207 E. Foster Street

202 Van Sickler Drive

208 Van Sickler Drive

301 E. Foster Street

303 E. Foster Street

207 Chestnut Street

209 Chestnut Street

302 N. Lee Street

205 Walnut Street

235 N. Court Street

101 McClung Street

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120. Iaiboll, William, House

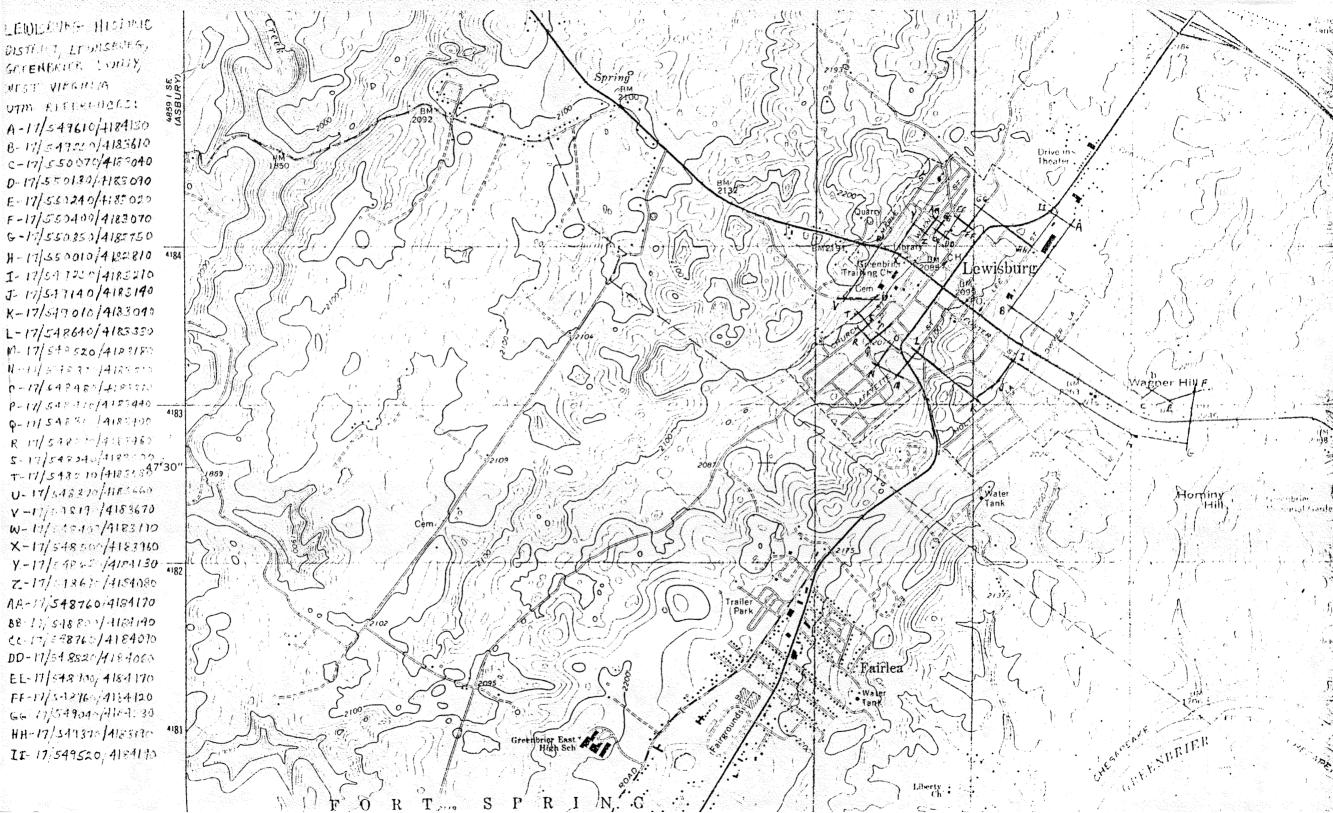
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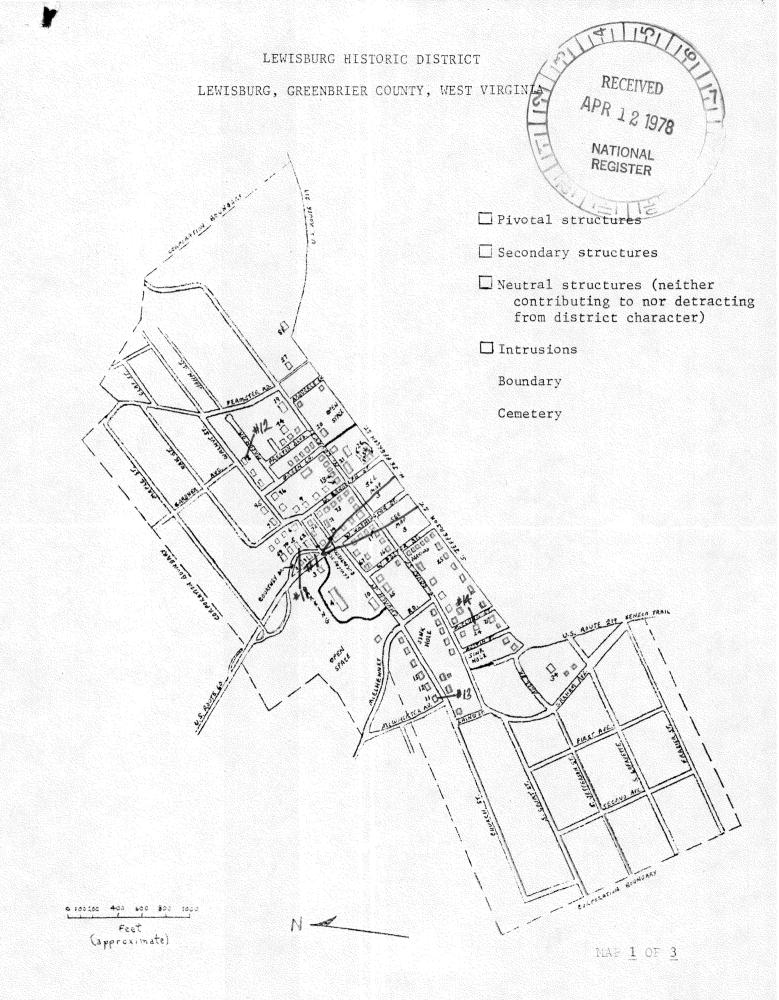
100 E. Austin Street 1. 1 Bittles Cove 2. 115 N. Court Street 3. 4. 204 N. Court Street 206 N. Court Street 5. 6. 226 N. Court Street 7. 104-112 S. Court Street 113 S. Court Street 8. 200 S. Court Street 9. 10. 201 S. Court Street 11. 212 S. Court Street 12. 304 1/2 Courtney Drive 306 Courtney Drive 13. 14. 203 E. Foster Street 15. 101 W. Foster Street 105 W. Foster Street 16. 17. 111 W. Foster Street 105 N. Jefferson Street 18. 19. 109 N. Jefferson Street 20. 111 N. Jefferson Street 221 N. Jefferson Street 21. 22. 100 S. Jefferson Street 23. 114 S. Jefferson Street 24. 118 S. Jefferson Street 25. 121 S. Jefferson Street 26. 122 S. Jefferson Street 27. 217 S. Jefferson Street 219 S. Jefferson Street 28. 29. 100 Kirkpatrick Lane

100 E. Washington Street 104 N. Court Street 124 W. Washington Street 106 N. Court Street 106 E. Washington Street 221 E. Washington Street 301 E. Washington Street 305 E. Washington Street 403 E. Washington Street 415 E. Washington Street 405 E. Washington Street 503 E. Washington Street 502 E. Washington Street 505 E. Washington Street 506 E. Washington Street 510 E. Washington Street 513 E. Washington Street 530 E. Washington Street 529 E. Washington Street 208 Echols Lane 315 Oak Terrace 305 Echols Lane

525 E. Washington Street

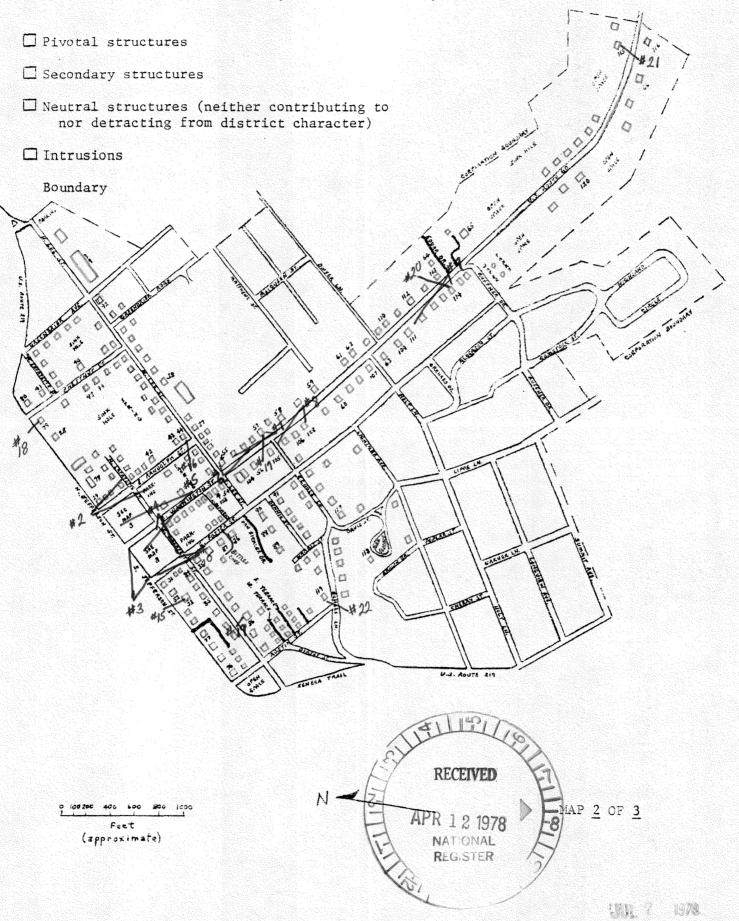
30. 107-115 N. Lafayette Street 200 N. Lafayette Street 31. 202 N. Lafayette Street 32. 33. 101 S. Lafayette Street 34. 102 S. Lafayette Street 35. 105 S. Lafayette Street 36. 213 S. Lafayette Street 37. 225 S. Lafayette Street 108 N. Lee Street 38. 39. 110 N. Lee Street 40. 207 N. Lee Street 41. 201 McElhenney Road 42. 100 E. Randolph Street 43. 104 E. Randolph Street 44. 106 E. Randolph Street 45. 111 E. Randolph Street 46. 112 E. Randolph Street 47. 200 E. Randolph Street 48. 204 E. Randolph Street 49. 127 W. Randolph Street 50. 211 W. Randolph Street 51. 101 E. Washington Street 52. 103 E. Washington Street 53. 106 E. Washington Street 54. 115 E. Washington Street 55. 119 E. Washington Street 56. 120 E. Washington Street 57. 121 E. Washington Street 58. 200 E. Washington Street 59. 201 E. Washington Street 60. 203 E. Washington Street 61. 211 E. Washington Street 62. 215 E. Washington Street 63. 400 E. Washington Street 64. 404 E. Washington Street 65. 509 E. Washington Street 66. 508 E. Washington Street 67. 507 E. Washington Street 68. 524 E. Washington Street 69. 526 E. Washington Street 70. 528 E. Washington Street 71. 532 E. Washington Street 72. 534 E. Washington Street 73. 105 W. Washington Street 74. 203 W. Washington Street 75. 213 W. Washington Street 76. 215 W. Washington Street 202 W. Washington Street 77. 78. 204 W. Washington Street





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LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



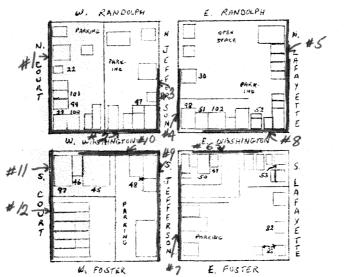
LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Pivotal structures

 $\Box$  Secondary structures

Neutral structures (neither contributing to nor detracting from district character)

Intrusions



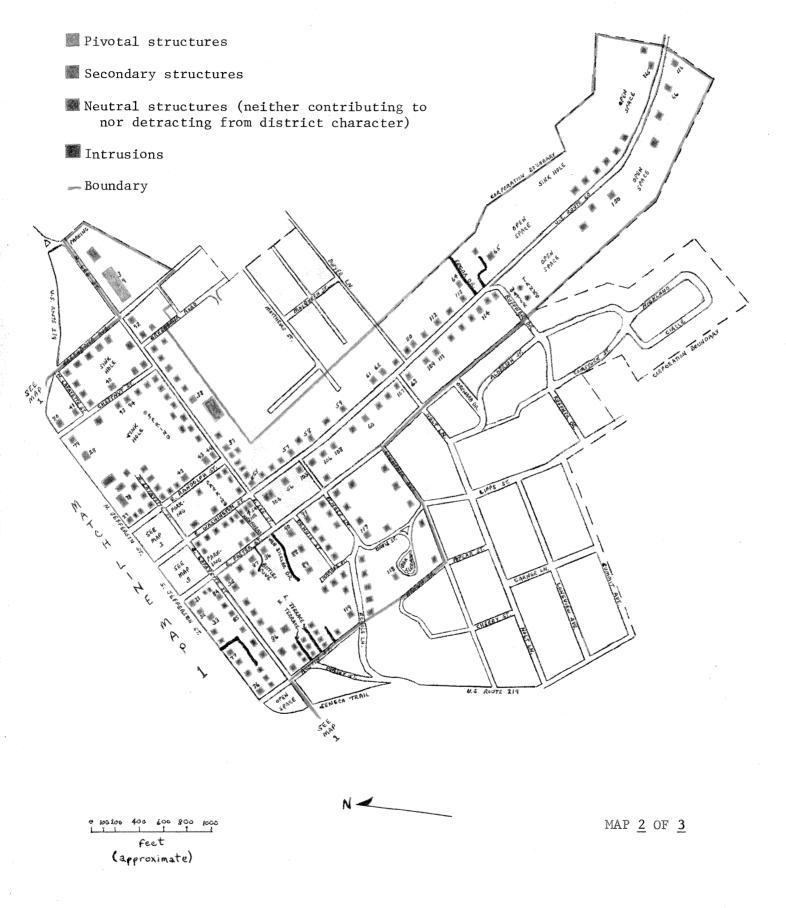




0 50 100 200 300 400 500 Feet (approximate) MAP <u>3</u> OF <u>3</u>



# LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA



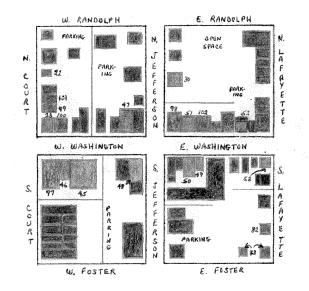
### LEWISBURG, GREENBRIER COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA

Pivotal structures

Secondary structures

Neutral structures (neither contributing to nor detracting from district character)

💹 Intrusions





MAP 3 OF 3

o 100 200 300 400 500 feet (approximate)