

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **DEC 9 1975**
DATE ENTERED **JAN 30 1976**

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Bell Buckle Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

bounded roughly by

~~In an irregular pattern along Webb Road, Abernathy Street~~ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN Maple Street, High Street, Cumberland St. and CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Bell Buckle VICINITY OF Church StS. Fourth

STATE Tennessee CODE 47 COUNTY Bedford CODE 003

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple ownership

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds, Bedford County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Public Square

CITY, TOWN

Shelbyville

STATE

Tennessee

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Bell Buckle Historic District includes more than forty architecturally or historically significant structures which were built either in the latter half of the nineteenth century or in the first three decades of the twentieth century. This district is primarily residential in character; however, it also encompasses a significant block of commercial buildings, four churches, and one educational institution.

The main commercial block fronts on what was originally known as Railroad Square and runs parallel with a main line of the Louisville and Nashville (originally the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis) Railroad in a northwest to southeasterly direction. Railroad Square originally included two large commercial blocks; however the western most block is now almost completely gone. The existing commercial block (1) was constructed in the early 1890s following a fire which destroyed most of Bell Buckle's commercial buildings. These structures, for the most part now vacant, are one and two stories in height and are constructed of either brick or clapboard over frame. Interesting architectural features include the use of pressed metal, terra cotta and corbelled brick facades. Only one other building of significance, the Lynch Hotel (3), remains on Railroad Square. This structure was built prior to 1886 and served as a hotel well into the twentieth century. The two-story hotel, though now vacant, has more recently been used as a funeral home. Of clapboard over frame construction, this piano box style structure has a dignified two story portico, bracketed eaves, cornice returns and is complete with an independent carriage house and barn.

From Railroad Square the district follows Webb Road (originally Main Street) due east for approximately two-thirds of a mile. Eight significant structures are located on the north side of Webb Road beginning with a small block (2) of five commercial buildings. These structures are contemporary with those of the Railroad Square block and are constructed in the same style. Just beyond this block is the Davis-Johnson House (4) which was constructed near the turn of the century. Two and one-half stories in height, this clapboard/frame residence is late Victorian in style and features a diversity in window treatments, bay windows and a veranda. Across High Street from the Davis-Johnson House on the corner of Webb Road and High Street is the First Baptist Church (5). This one story brick church, which was constructed late in the nineteenth century, is predominantly Victorian-Gothic in style and has three corner towers, a pyramid roof and stained glass windows with wood tracery. Beyond the Baptist Church, and on the corner of Webb Road and Maple Street, stands the Robertson House (6). This two-story clapboard/frame residence was constructed late in the nineteenth century and is Victorian in style. Complete with a veranda, this structure features both jigsawn and turned ornaments on the porch, the vergeboards and the windowcaps. The next structure east of the Robertson House is another late nineteenth century residence known as the

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1852-1920

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Located in the heart of Tennessee, the town of Bell Buckle is, perhaps, most uniquely significant because of its name. A variety of local legends offer explanations for the town's unusual name, and while no one of these theories has been documented there is one that is widely accepted as truth. According to this tradition, the first white men to traverse the area now known as Bell Buckle discovered carving in the shape of a cow bell and buckle on a tree near a free-flowing creek. This carving was interpreted as a warning from Indians that the domesticated animals of white civilization were intruding upon their lands. Thereafter the creek was referred to as Bell Buckle Creek and, logically enough, the town which grew up on the banks of that creek adopted its name.

A settlement of small proportions thrived in the area during the early part of the nineteenth century; however, it was not until mid-century that the population increased enough to incorporate a town. Location of a main line of the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad through Bedford County in 1852 stimulated growth in many small settlements near its right of way. A. D. Fuggitt, generally credited as being the founder of Bell Buckle, donated land for construction of the railroad near the settlement in 1852 and opened the community's first general store in the same year. The importance of the railroad was emphasized during the Civil War when Bell Buckle residents were witness to many troop movements by both armies as they sought to control rail traffic into the deep South. Bell Buckle flourished with the growing popularity of rail transportation and enjoyed its greatest period of prosperity between 1870 and 1900. Soon after the turn of the century, however, the "iron horse" entered into a period of what has been a steady decline, and thus foreshadowed Bell Buckle's future. Today the freight trains of the Louisville and Nashville Railroad still rumble through Bell Buckle, but they are given only cursory acknowledgement by the town's residents.

Another institution contributing to the growth and development of Bell Buckle is the Webb School. Known nationally as the private secondary school which has had the most graduates to become Rhodes Scholars, Webb School has been a viable part of the town since 1886 when William R. "Sawney" Webb and his brother, John, moved the school from its former location in Culleoka, Tennessee. The Webb brothers came to Bell Buckle with \$12,000 to invest in education. Of their original investment, \$2,600 were expended for construction of buildings, one of which could accomodate 150 to 200 students, and \$8,000 were used to purchase books.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Goodspeed, Weston A., et al, ed. History of Tennessee. Nashville: Goodspeed Publishing Company, 1886.

McMillin, Laurence. The Schoolmaker: Sawney Webb and the Bell Buckle Story. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1971.

Shelbyville "Times-Gazette." Sesqui-centennial Historical Edition 1819-1969. Shelbyville: Shelbyville Times-Gazette, 1969.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY approx. 92

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 6	5 5 9 3 7 0	3 9 3 8 8 7 0	B	1 6	5 5 9 4 0 0	3 9 3 8 0 9 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1 6	5 5 8 3 9 0	3 9 3 8 0 7 0	D	1 6	5 5 8 3 6 0	3 9 3 8 8 6 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION—Beginning at a point approximately 100 yards southwest of and perpendicular to the commercial block, running thence southwesterly for approximately 300 yards to a point beyond the Lynch Hotel then running approximately 100 yards northeasterly to Webb Road which it then follows easterly for one third of a mile. From there it follows an abandoned road approximately 400 yards southerly to the town limits at which point it follows the town line in an easterly direction for about 450 yards. From there it runs in a northeasterly direction for approximatel

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
 R. Paul Cross/ Historical Projects Officer and Gail E. Hammerquist/ Architect-Historia

ORGANIZATION
 Tennessee Historical Commission

DATE
 December 1, 1975

STREET & NUMBER
 170 Second Avenue North

TELEPHONE
 (615) 741-2371

CITY OR TOWN
 Nashville

STATE
 Tennessee

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL STATE LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *Robert L. Hanger*

TITLE Executive Director-Tennessee Historical Commission DATE 12/2/75

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <u>1/30/76</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	
ATTEST: <i>[Signature]</i>	DATE <u>1-26-76</u>
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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White-Sain House (7). Two stories in height this clapboard/frame house is Victorian in style and has a veranda porch. Adjacent to the White-Sain House is the Adcock House (8) which is similar in style and construction. The Adcock House is somewhat more Victorianized with a two-story bay wing and jigsawed and turned ornaments on the veranda. On the corner of Abernathy Street and Webb Road is the Clary House (9), a one and a half story clapboard/frame residence. The Clary House has simple lines and features a hipped roof, bay style dormer and transom over the front door. Just beyond the Clary House on Webb Road stands the Crouch-Sain House (10). This large two and one-half story clapboard/frame residence was constructed c.1913 and is marked by the symmetry of the facade and the use of one story porticoes on the facade and left elevation. Windows feature diamond shaped lights with linear tracery in the upper sash. Another interesting feature of the house is its hipped roof covered with interlocking pressed metal shingles. Directly behind this structure is the small walking horse stable where Betty Sain raised and trained her World's Grand Champion Walking Horse "Shaker's Shocker." In 1966 Ms. Sain became the first (and to date the only) lady trainer to win the coveted World Championship.

Directly opposite the Couch-Sain House on the south side of Webb Road is the Fuggitt-Winette House (11) which was constructed in the latter half of the nineteenth century by Bell Buckle's founder and first merchant, Mr. A. D. Fuggitt. One and a half stories in height, this clapboard/frame residence is Victorian in style. Interesting architectural features include shingle cladding and stick-style vergeboard ornaments at the gable ends, a bay shaped dormer, veranda porch and a rear bay wing. Regretably, this outstanding structure is now vacant, and in a state of rapid deterioration. Due east of the Fuggitt House is a similar residence, the Ransome-Morgan House (12). Marked by five-bay symmetry with a projecting windows at the center bay on the facade, this clapboard/frame house also has carved gingerbread ornaments at each gable end. Behind this house stands an interesting log smokehouse. Running adjacent to the Ransome-Morgan property is the campus of Webb School which was established in 1886. Three significant structures are located within the confines of this campus including the Junior Room (Beale Building) (14) which was added to the National Register on April 11, 1973. The Junior Room, a one-room frame structure built in 1886, is the only remaining original Webb School building. Other significant structures on the campus include the Library which was built in 1927 (15), and the Alumni Building (13) which was constructed in 1928. The Library is a one and a half story structure which has five bay classical symmetry on the facade. Webb's Alumni Building is one story in height and features a two stage corner set tower with buttresses.

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The design of both the Library and the Alumni Building is accentuated by contrasting masonry detail achieved through the use of stone lintels, water tables and drip courses on the basic brick structure. Another distinguishing characteristic of these two buildings is the use of tile shingles on the roofs. Across the Webb Highway from these structures are Webb Dormitories and Webb's new administrative office building and chapel.

Running perpendicular to and due north from Webb Road is Maple Street which is so named for the trees which W. R. ("Sawney") Webb and his brother, John, planted. The first structure on the east side of Maple Street past the intersection at Webb Road is the Bell Buckle Methodist Church (16). This brick structure was built in 1878 and is the best example of Victorian Romanesque architecture in Bedford County. All windows, doors, and vent openings are round arched. Large round stained glass windows are located on each side elevations, and a two stage tower with a pyramid roof dominates the facade. Directly across from the Methodist Church are the Smallin-Hoover (17) and the Tucker-Trolinger (18) houses. Both of these clapboard/frame structures were constructed in the twentieth century, yet they both exhibit to some degree architectural characteristics of the late nineteenth century.

Several hundred yards north of the Methodist Church and on the same side of Maple Street stands the large two story residence which was built for Sawney Webb. Constructed of clapboard/frame in 1886, the Webb House (19) now serves as a dormitory for Webb students. Architecturally speaking it is one of the most outstanding residential structures in Bell Buckle with its veranda porch, Ionic style columns, shingle clad gables, stick style vergeboard, brackets, bay windows, drop pendants and sunburst panels.

North and to the rear of the Webb House is a smaller structure which probably served as a dependency (20). This small frame structure is interesting for its paired central windows and its shingle clad and vented gables.

From Maple Street the district follows Cumberland Street in a westerly direction until it intersects with Main Street (originally Railroad Square). On the north side of Cumberland, near the corner of Maple and Cumberland, stands Miller-Steiner House (21). This two and one half story clapboard/frame Victorian residence is distinguished by a veranda porch, shingle clad gables, and a Palladian style dormer window. To the rear of the house is an independent cellar which has a small brick entry located above ground.

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West of the Miller-Steiner House on Cumberland is the Crosslin House (22). A one story clapboard/frame structure, the Crosslin House is replete with the gingerbread ornaments of Victorianism such as a vergeboard of spindles and gouged brackets, turned columns, molded window caps and attic wheel vents. Opposite the Crosslin House is the Troxler House which is perhaps best known as the "Bach." (23) This two story frame residence received its nickname as a result of its years of services to Webb School students who roomed there and prepared their own meals. The date of construction of this house is unknown, and it was reportedly moved to its present site many years ago from another location in Bell Buckle.

Running parallel to Maple Street between Webb Road and Cumberland is High Street. On the corner of Cumberland and High is located the Cumberland Presbyterian Church (24), which was constructed in 1883. This outstanding brick church is patterned after the temple form of the Greek Revival; however, the prevailing architectural influence is Gothic. All windows and doors are crowned with Gothic arches. Other interesting features include a corbelled cornice, dripstone lintels and a two stage wooden steeple set atop the standing seam metal roof. South of the Presbyterian Church on the corner of Church and High is the Church of Christ (25). Like the previously mentioned "Bach," this wooden structure was reportedly moved to its present site. Clapboard frame in construction this structure is noted for its arched transome and sidelights around double front doors and also for its wheel window in the tower remnant. On the east side of High Street directly across from the Church of Christ is the Meek House (26). Built late in the nineteenth century, this two story clapboard/frame residence is built on a "E" plan and has a "U" shaped veranda surrounding the base of the "T". Turned and jigsaw gingerbread ornaments adorn the gable ends and uniformly connect the turned posts on the veranda. South of the Church of Christ on High is the Gill-Gilmore House (27) which is, perhaps, the most outstanding Victorian residence in the Bell Buckle District. Two and a half stories in height, this structure has a gabled entry, veranda porch complete with gazebo, and also has a small porch at the second story. Gable ends are decorated with paneling and vergeboards on the outside. Jigsaw and turned elements appear throughout the decorative trim. Adjacent to the Gill-Gilmore House is a small one story clapboard structure known as the Porter House (28). Its simple design is entirely overshadowed by its ornate porch of jigsaw and turned gingerbread.

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INVENTORY OF HISTORIC STRUCTURES LOCATED WITHIN
BELL BUCKLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

1. Railroad Square Commercial Block: Eleven commercial buildings constructed c.1892. Victorian, one and two stories, brick and clapboard/frame construction with limited use of pressed metal, flat roof type, parapet style cornices, entablatures and corbelled brick facade treatment.
2. Webb Highway Commercial Block: Five commercial buildings, same construction date and description as above.
3. Lynch-Winette Hotel-Hoover Funeral Home: Built prior to 1886, residence operated as hotel and in the twentieth century used as a funeral home. Two story, clapboard/frame construction, piano box style, two story portico, boxed cornices and returns with bracketed eaves. Outbuildings include a carriage house and barn.
4. Davis-Johnson House (Webb Highway and High Street): Late 19th-early 20th century, two and one-half story Victorian style residence, clapboard/frame construction, veranda porch entrance fronted by paired columns, facade features three distinct window treatments, bracketed first story jetty eaves are flush to second story wall thus forming a cornice above the first floor bay windows.
5. First Baptist (Formerly Presbyterian) Church (Webb Highway and High Street): late nineteenth century, one story brick structure, rectangular plan with three corner towers. Pyramid roof, front tower entrance, tower steeple octagonal shaped, stained glass windows feature Gothic Y tracery.
6. Robertson House (Webb Highway and Maple Street): Late 19th century, Victorian style clapboard/frame residence, two story, irregular plan with gable roof and veranda. Veranda enclosed by turned posts and balustrade with jigsaw ornamentation, carved vergeboards are featured at gables and window caps. Includes three outbuildings.
7. White-Sain House (Webb Highway): Late 19th century, Victorian residence, two story, clapboard/frame, galbe roof, irregular plan, veranda.
8. Adcock House (Webb Highway): Late 19th century, Victorian residence. Two story, clapboard/frame, irregular plan, hip roof, two-story bays feature corner bracketing at eaves, veranda features turned posts, balustrade and vergeboards.

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Inventory, cont.

9. Clary House (Webb Highway and Abernethy Street): one and one-half story clapboard/frame residence, hip roof, bay style dormers, stoop porch.
10. Crouch-Sain House (Webb Highway): Large two and one-half story residence, c.1913, clapboard/frame, rectangular shape, symmetrical facade, entrances at front and side elevations feature porticoes with tri-grouped Ionic columns and boxed soffits. Windows feature diamond-shaped lights with linear tracery in the upper sash; hip roof covered with interlocking pressed metal shingles, shed style dormer. Includes one prominent outbuilding.
11. Fuggitt-Winette House (Webb Highway): Late 19th century, one and one-half story clapboard/frame residence, Victorian style, hip roof, bay shape dormer, gable at central bay. Gable end features shingle cladding and stick style vergeboard ornaments. Veranda terminates at rear bay wing and features turned posts. Carved brackets at bay wing.
12. Ransom-Morgan House (Webb Highway): Late 19th century, Victorian, one and one-half story residence, clapboard/frame, five bay symmetry, projecting front-piece located between identical entrances. Roof gables with carved vergeboards are main decorative features.
13. Webb School Alumni Building (Webb Highway): 1928, one story, brick, hipped roof covered with tile shingles, rectangular plan, two stage corner set tower with buttresses and leaded windows. Horizontal unity and texture established by contrasting masonry detail, drip course, lintels, water table string course, and raised foundation walls. Diamond shaped window lights in upper sashes.
14. Beale Building-Junior Room (Webb Highway): 1886, twenty four feet by thirty-five feet, one story, one room school building, clapboard/frame, 4/4 elongated sash type windows, steep pitch gabled roof. Only remaining of the original Webb School buildings. Added to the National Register in 1973.
15. Webb School Library (Webb Highway): 1927, academic building, 1½ story, brick, raised basement, low hip, tile-clad roof. Horizontal and vertical unity established by articulation of the facade, i.e., formal raised entrance, five bay classical symmetry, stone lintels, drip course, and water table.
16. Bell Buckle Methodist Church (Maple Street): 1878, Romanesque style, brick, round-arched windows, vents, and doors, recessed facade entranceways, stained glass windows, two staged towers with pyramid roof, round brick chimney, steeply pitched roof.

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17. Smallin-Hoover House (Maple Street): 20th century, one story residence, cross plan, clapboard/frame structure, features steep pitched roof, wheel attic vents, bracketed eaves, fascia, and molded gable returns. Low shed style porch roof is feature of arcade entrance arches.

18. Tucker-Trolinger House (Maple and Abernathy Streets): 20th century, one story clapboard/frame residence, asymmetric plan, elongated windows, carved window caps and jigsawed vergeboards. Facade entrance flanked by sidelights.

19. "Sawney" Webb House (Maple Street): 1886, late Victorian, two story clapboard/frame residence. Basic rectangular plan features asymmetric wings which are fronted by a wide veranda. Veranda extends the length of the facade, turns at the side elevations and terminates at the two story bay wings. Ionic style columns, shingle clad gables, "stick style" vergeboards, carved bracketing, bay windows, drop pendants, and sunburst design panels above window enframements.

20. Webb House Dependency (Maple Street): One story, clapboard/frame structure, gable roof, central bay with shingle clad, vented gable dormers.

21. Miller-Steiner House (Cumberland Street): Large, clapboard/frame, 2½ story, Victorian residence, asymmetric plan, hip roof, L shape veranda, shingle-clad gables. Dormer features a Palladian style window. Includes an independent cellar with brick entranceway.

22. Crosslin House (Cumberland Street): One story, clapboard/frame residence, porch with vergeboard of spindles and gouged brackets and turned columns, molded window caps, wheel type attic vents, bay window and molded cornice.

23. Webb School-Troxler House ("The Bach") (Cumberland Street): Two story clapboard/frame residence with attached one story wing, veranda porch, second story balcony.

24. Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Cumberland and High Streets): 1883, brick, Greek Revival Temple form with Gothic lancet windows and doors, dripstone lintels, corbelled cornice, pedimented gable with cornice returns, brick pilaster, two stage wood steeple, standing seam metal roof.

25. Church of Christ (High Street and Church Streets): Late 19th century, clapboard/frame, rectangular plan, wheel type window in tower, sidelights and arched transome adorned double front doors.

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26. Meek House (High and Abernathy Streets): Two story clapboard/frame residence, "T" plan with "U" shaped veranda porch. Turned and jigsawed gingerbread ornaments adorn the gable ends and uniformly connect the turned posts of the veranda.

27. Gill-Gilmore House (High Street): Late 19th century, 2½ story clapboard/frame residence, late Victorian style, veranda porch with gabled entry, turned porch posts and balustrade, vergeboards.

28. Parker House (High Street): Late 19th-early 20th century, one story clapboard/frame residence, turned porch posts, jigsawed and turned ornaments.

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In addition to the buildings listed in the Inventory of Historic Structures, there are approximately twenty other buildings of lesser significance which were built prior to the 1900s. These structures reveal the influence of the Victorian era and help give unity to the district.

There are approximately forty structures in the district which intrude upon the architectural integrity of the district. These modern buildings are primarily residential in nature and include dwellings, garages, and storage houses. It should, however, be noted that the intrusions are overshadowed by the historic structures which surround them.

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Originally the school had no dormitories and students were boarded in the homes of Bell Buckle residents. Such an arrangement made for what has always been a close attachment of the school to the community. Five of the significant buildings in the Bell Buckle Historic District are associated with the Webb School, including the home of "Sawney" Webb, the school's founder and former United States Senator from Tennessee.

Bell Buckle's rise and decline as a community is visibly reflected in the architectural evidence of its past. American Victorian architecture is stylistically dominant in Bell Buckle, for it was during the height of the Victorian Age that the town grew and prospered. The lack of property development in this area during the twentieth century has insured the existence of many of those structures built during Bell Buckle's "flush times." Upon entering the town, one is immediately caught up in the aura of rural Victorian charm which pervades the area and establishes the feeling and integrity of the proposed historic district.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

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RECEIVED JAN 15 1976

DATE ENTERED JAN 30 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bell Buckle's rise and decline as a community is visibly reflected in the architectural evidence of its past. American Victorian architecture is stylistically dominant in Bell Buckle, for it was during the height of the Victorian Age that the town grew and prospered. The lack of property development in the town during the twentieth century has insured the continued existence of many of these structures built during Bell Buckle's "flush times." Upon entering the town, one is immediately caught up in the aura of rural Victorian charm which pervades the area and establishes the feeling and integrity of the proposed historic district. No other community in Bedford County can boast of such a unique and cohesive collection of buildings which so well represent the varied influences of the Victorian architectural period.

The Gothic style is, perhaps, predominant in Bell Buckle and is exhibited in both brick and wood. Two of Bedford County's most outstanding examples of this mood in building are the First Baptist and Cumberland Presbyterian Churches. Bell Buckle's Methodist Church is without doubt the finest example of Victorian Romanesque architecture in Bedford County and is, with its rural location, unique. The impending Colonial revival in architecture was heralded by the construction of Sawney Webb's House with its Ionic columned veranda and carved sunburst panels, and the Queen Anne style was and is represented by the Gill-Gilmore House.

While there are a number of structures within the bounds of the proposed district which are singly unique and important, it is the combination of structure and setting which makes the architectural environment of the Bell Buckle district distinctive and deserving of protection.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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Verbal Boundary Description-

400 yards where it intersects Webb Road. From there it runs north for about 100 yards at which point it turns due west for approximately one third of a mile until it intersects Abernathy Street. From there it runs in a northerly direction for approximately one third of a mile, and then turns due easterly for approximately 400 yards until it intersects with High Street. From there it follows High Street in a southerly direction to the intersection of Cumberland and High where it then runs west down Cumberland to the intersection of Main Street. From there the boundary follows Main Street in a southerly direction for approximately one third of a mile until it reaches the point of beginning.

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Bell Buckle Historic District

This historic property, in its present location, is on one of its former sites. At present, it is located among several other of the school's early buildings - the Senior Room, Admissions Office, etc., rather than on the modern campus to which it was moved several years ago. This present setting is much more appropriate than the immediately previous site.

Below is the chronology for the building's location:

1. The building was constructed in the 1880s after the school relocated to Bell Buckle from culleoka in Maury County.
2. The earliest photo of the building shows it at the north end of the campus, hard against the road to Beech Grove.
3. By the early part of this century, the building was moved a short distance to the southeast (a spot now occupied by a modern building).
4. The building was next moved to its present location, among the older surviving buildings, sometime before 1938. It occupied this location when listed in the National Register on 4/11/73.
5. In 1976, with permission and funding from the Tennessee Historical Commission, the building was moved across the road from its nominated site.
6. Almost two years ago, the building was returned to the immediately previous spot among the older building of the school campus. It is now located on the site, and with the same orientation, at which it was when it was nominated in 1973.

After the building was last moved in 1987, it was then removed as an individual listing. At that time, our office stated that it would reassess the status of the school as a contributing building in the Bell Buckle Historic District (NR 1/20/76).

After reviewing additional information about the building, we have determined that it is still a contributing resource in the district. The Junior Room remains the oldest building on the campus, has been carefully restored, and is open daily to the public as a school museum. It is the

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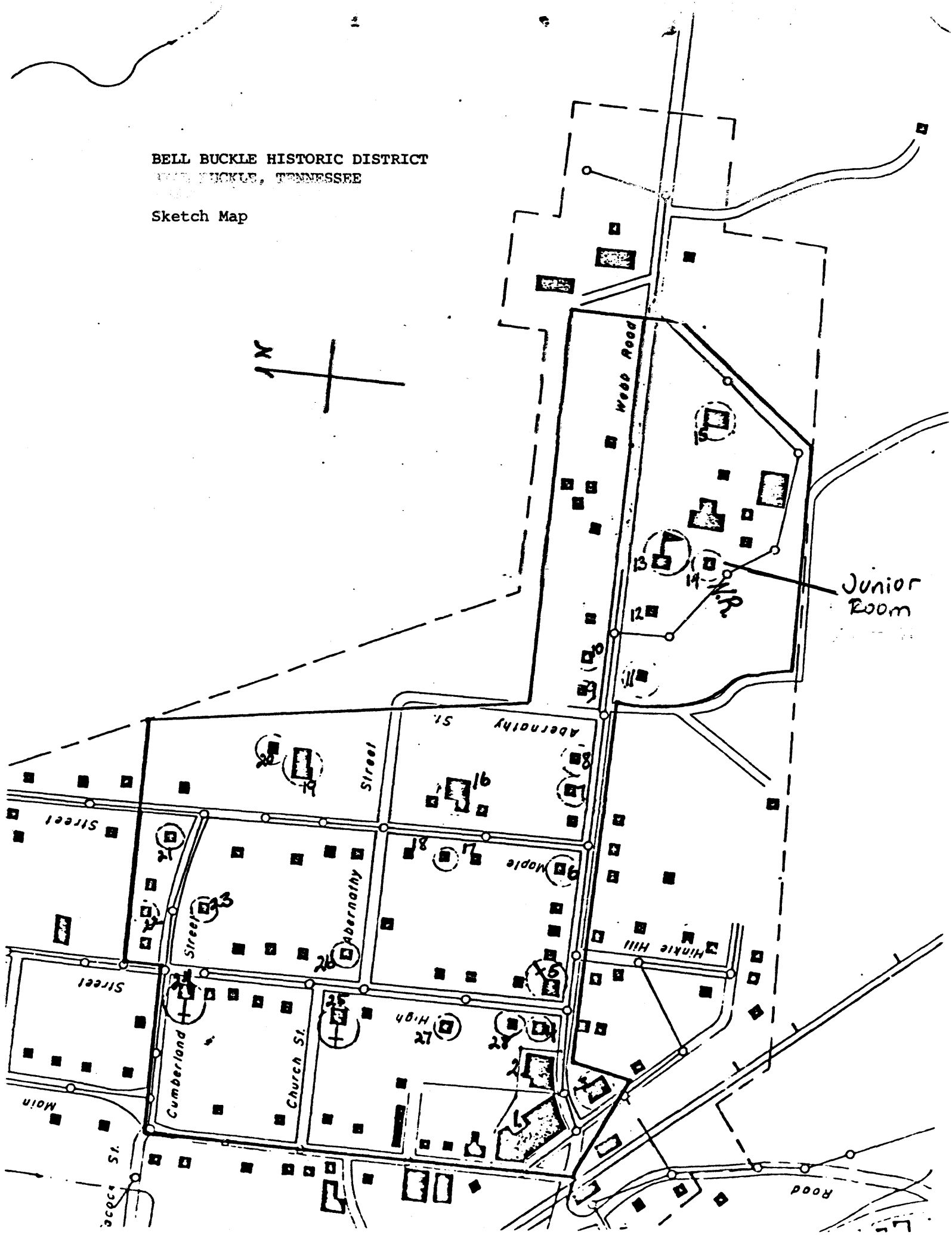
Bell Buckle Historic District

most important building of one of the most significant preparatory schools of the South. It stood in its present location when listed in the National Register.

The school is certainly cognizant of the significance of this structure, and has done much to maintain and preserve it as a local historic site. Its present location is appropriate, work done on the building meets preservation standards, and the building reflects the re-establishment and early years of this important institution.

BELL BUCKLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE

Sketch Map



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Bell Buckle Historic District
Bedford County, TENNESSEE

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL
Rec. 9/23/88

Keeper Amy Schlager 10/26/88

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION APPROVAL RECEIVED 3/22/93

For Keeper Belaree Byers 4/1/93

MAR 22 1993

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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Bell Buckle Historic District
Bedford County, TN

The current owners of the Crosslin House (inventory #22) have researched the property and "found that L. N. Marshall and his wife Virginia sold the land in August 1893 to Mary Rankin who then built the home." They would like the inventory name to reflect this chain of ownership and be called the Marshall-Rankin House.

Herbert L. Harper
Herbert L. Harper

3/15/93
Date

BELL BUCKLE HISTORIC DISTRICT
BELL BUCKLE, TENNESSEE

Sketch Map

