

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 87002528

Date Listed: 2/2/88

South Church Street Historic District
Property Name

Greenbrier
County

WV
State

Multiple Name _____

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

for Patrick W. Andrus
Signature of the Keeper

2/2/88
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Criterion B has been selected for the district's association with John B. Laing, a noted coal mine operator. Economics has been selected as the area of significance to represent his importance. A check with Rodney Collins of the WV SHPO on 2/2/88 confirms that industry is a more appropriate area of significance and should be substituted for economics.

DISTRIBUTION:

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received
date entered DEC 23 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

FEB - 2 1988

1. Name

historic South Church Street Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number South Church Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lewisburg N/A vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Greenbrier code 025

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"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<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. Greenbrier County Courthouse

street & number 200 N. Court Street

city, town Lewisburg state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Reconnaissance Architectural Survey
title of Lewisburg, Pauley & Gioulis has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1986 federal state county local

depository for survey records Dept. of Culture & History, Historic Preservation Unit

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u> N/A </u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The South Church Street Historic District is located in Lewisburg, the county seat of Greenbrier County, West Virginia. It is located on South Church Street, to the south of the main commercial and governmental center of the city. The Historic District consists of three large residential structures on sprawling green lawns that are raised four feet above the street level with a concrete retaining wall running along the sidewalk. The Historic District is surrounded by a residential district of one story ca. 1950 single family houses. To the rear, or west, of the Historic District are wooded areas. There are some ornamental trees and shrubs on the lawns of the structures in the Historic District.

There are three structures in the district, all residential in nature. Two story frame houses from the 1900-1910 period, all of the structures contribute to the significance of the Historic District. The buildings represent two popular architectural styles of the period; Bungalow and Queen Anne. The residences are very good intact examples of these styles and contain characteristics of each. Two of the buildings are almost identical excepting for some minor fabric changes. These have identical massing, details, window appointments, and so forth. The Lewisburg Historic District lies to the north of this district.

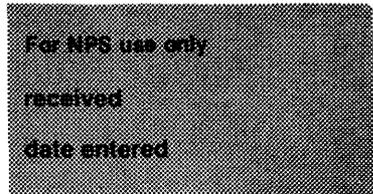
There follows a description of the sites within the Historic District:

1. 319 Church Street (Smith-Stuart-Echols House); this is a two story frame residence with a large broad gable roof and a front shallow gabled projection. There is a large shed dormer on the front elevation and a shallow pitched gable entrance portico/porch. The roof has large overhangs with exposed rafter ends. The siding of the structure is clapboard and windows are one over one with simple surrounds. The porch is raised with a battered square post at either end and a long span header over the entrance with a drop finial. The pediment consists of three panels with stucco finish. The rake boards of all gables have an interesting curvilinear cut-in at the edge. The porch posts are short and squat and rest on brick piers. There is a gabled garage with board siding that contributes to the historic nature of the district. This residence is an excellent example of Bungalow style architecture.

2. 317 Church Street (McGuire House), 1910; this is one of the two identical buildings within the Historic District. It is a two story frame house with a side gable roof and clapboard siding. There is an intersecting large front gable over a recessed porch in the north corner, a hip roof dormer on the south bay and a gable roofed projecting half hexagon bay on the south elevation. The gable ends of the main roofs have spoked radiating ornamentation. The front gable has triple windows, double hung, with multiple diamond shaped panes in the upper sash. The dormer has wood shingle siding. The three windows in the dormer have multiple diamond sash. There is a port-hole window in the pediment of

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet South Church St. Historic District Item number 7 Page 2

the side bay. The south end of the front elevation has a large window with multiple vertical panes in the upper sash. The porch has paired square posts with plinths and brackets supporting East Lake style spandrel turnings. There is lattice underpinning beneath the porch. There is an overhanging cornice. There is a raised stucco basement. There is a gabled garage that contributes. This is a good example of Queen Anne spindlework style architecture.

3. 313 Church Street (John B. Laing House), 1908; the design and elements of this house are nearly identical to 317 Church Street. They were both built, in fact, by the same man, John B. Laing, although 317 Church Street (No. 2) was immediately acquired by Morris McGuire. The main difference in the two structures is that the facade of this residence is blond brick instead of clapboard. There are simple stone lintels over the fenestration. The raised basement is also stucco. Porch columns are single brick piers. The East Lake style spandrels in the porch are evident and the gable end siding is clapboard. The East Lake style spoke decoration on the gable ends is also there. Windows are one over one. The large front window has multiple vertical upper sash. The staircase to the porch is a T-shaped affair with two flanking risers meeting an intermediate level. The stairs are enclosed in a stucco balustrade with a stove cap. There is a gable contributing garage. This residence is, like No. 2, Queen Anne in style.

Number of Contributing Structures: 6 Buildings
Number of Non-Contributing Structures: 0
Total Number of Structures: 6 Buildings

The above figures reflect the fact that the South Church Street Historic District is made up of three principal structures, all three of which have an ancillary structure (a garage) which are each architecturally compatible with the principal building.

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		
				Local History		

Specific dates ca.1908-1918 Builder/Architect Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph) Meets Criteria B and C

The South Church Street Historic District, on the west side of Church Street in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, is significant as an architectural enclave representative of the coal and land boom that took place in this region in the early part of the 20th century and the stylistic reflection of that era.¹ It is also significant for its close association with individuals important to that economic period.²

Explanatory Notes

1. The three residences in the South Church Street Historic District enclave, and the three supporting structures, were constructed between 1908 and 1918, a period in which land, coal, and timber experienced an unprecedented economic boom in southeastern West Virginia. This was a time when fortunes were being made and growth on a hitherto unseen scale was taking place, even in such comparatively stable communities such as Lewisburg. While the actual economic activities, such as mining and timbering, did not take place in the immediate environs of Lewisburg, the city acted as the primary market, administrative and residential center for the area. As noted in the Lewisburg Historic District Nomination Form, this was a period in which "people who were...establishing empires in their county and a dynasty in their family, built houses to suit their dreams."¹ Two of the houses in the Lewisburg Historic District, further north on Church Street, relate, in fact, to the properties in this district, being Laing family residences.

The residences in the South Church Street Historic District are architecturally reflective two of the more popular architectural styles of the turn-of-the-century period and slightly later; the Queen Anne and the Bungalow. These three buildings, with their architecturally distinct styles, have an ambiance that clearly sets them apart from their environmental surroundings; the district is flanked by higher styled and somewhat older structures to the north, open space and woods to the south, and modern residential structures to the east. The Historic District has a cohesiveness that is significantly distinct, having the ambiance of an "enclave" and is clearly set apart from its environmental surroundings. For a more detailed discussion of the architectural particulars of the individual residences, see Part 7.

1. Turley, C.E., Lewisburg Historic District

9. Major Bibliographical References

Cole, J.R., History of Greenbrier County, Lewisburg, W.Va., n.p., 1916
Greenbrier County Deed Books
"Oral Interview with Glendyne Breit" by Michael Gioulis, Lewisburg, W.Va.,
September 10, 1987

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3.1 acres

Quadrangle name Lewisburg, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1":24,000'

UTM References

A

1	7	5	4	8	18	10	4	1	8	3	4	9	0
Zone	Easting		Northing										

B

1	7	5	4	8	2	20	4	1	8	3	4	0	10
Zone	Easting		Northing										

C

1	7	5	4	8	1	10	4	1	8	3	3	20
Zone	Easting		Northing									

D

1	7	5	4	8	0	8	10	4	1	8	3	4	20
Zone	Easting		Northing										

E

Zone	Easting		Northing										

F

Zone	Easting		Northing										

G

Zone	Easting		Northing										

H

Zone	Easting		Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at a point on the west side of South Church Street where the south lot line of Lewisburg City Lot 19 meets Church Street; thence in a line west 235 feet to the rear lot line of Lot 19; thence in a line north 120 feet to the south lot line of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian and Michael Gioulis, Preservation Planner

organization Pauley and Gioulis date September 15, 1987

street & number 4651 Victoria Road telephone (304) 744-9342

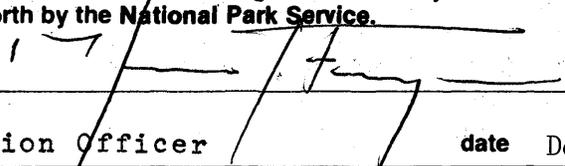
city or town Charleston state West Virginia

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 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 11, 1987

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

Pattish Andrus date 2/2/88

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet So. Church St. Historic District Item number 8 Page 2

2. The first of three principal properties, the Smith-Stuart-Echols House, built c.1918, is associated with prominent businessman Clarence J. Smith, whose family was involved in local political affairs as well as newspaper publishing. It has also been home to the L.L. Stuart family (one of the area's oldest families), and the Echols family, who produced one of the area's few Confederate generals. The other properties, however, were constructed for John B. Laing, a brother of James M. Laing. James M. Laing was one of West Virginia's most prominent coal operators, who was involved in the Wyatt Coal Company, MacAlpin Coal Company, the McKay Coal Company, Virginia Electrical Company, and the Kanawha Mine Car Company, among other enterprises.

John B. Laing, who purchased the property from the adjacent James Withrow Farm, built residence No. 2 and No. 3 between 1908 and 1911. He was also a prominent coal operator, owner of the Laing Mining Company and the Laing Development Company. He also served as Chief of the Department of Mines of West Virginia from 1908 until 1913, and was regarded by the state's coal operators as a "friend" with whom they were "very much pleased."² That Laing was also prominent in state political affairs is attested by his acting as the "shepherd" or "guard" for the Republican state senators who "fled" to Cincinnati in 1911 in an attempt to avoid the election of a Democratic U.S. Senator.

Another member of the Laing family, Dr. James T. Laing, became a leading educator and sociologist who authored Sociological Foundations of Education (1942) and The Negro Miner in West Virginia (1936).

The South Church Street Historic District is then, significant as a distinct architectural entity to the south and west of Lewisburg's Historic District that is also identified with individuals significant to the history of Greenbrier County and of the region.

2. Williams, J.A., West Virginia and the Captains of Industry

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received
date entered

Continuation sheet So.Church St. Historic District 9 Page 2
Item number

Item 9...Major Bibliographical Resources...2

Rice, Otis K., A History of Greenbrier County, Parsons, W.Va., McClain Printing Co., (Greenbrier Historical Society), 1986

Social Forces Magazine, New York, Vol. 14, 1936

Turley, C. E., Lewisburg Historic District, National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form, Charleston, W.Va., Dept. of Culture & History, 1978

West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Richwood, W.Va., Comstock Pub., 1973

Williams, John A., West Virginia and the Captains of Industry, Morgantown, W.Va., West Virginia University Library, 1976

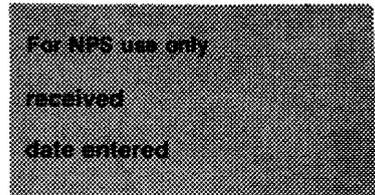
Item 10 ...Verbal Boundary Description...2

Lot 20; thence west in a line 60 feet with the lot line to the rear lot line of Lot 20; thence in a line north 320 feet to the north line of Lot No. 21; thence east with the lot line 310 feet to its intersection with the west side of Church Street; thence south 445 feet to the point of beginning.

Justification: See Item number 8, p. 1, paragraph 3.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



South Church Street Historic District, Greenbrier Co.

Continuation sheet

Item number 4

Page 2

South Church Street Historic District

Property Owners List

1. (319 Church) Mrs. Janet Echols Hefferman
6725 East Gail Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254

2. (317 Church) Mr. and Mrs. Geoffrey Simons
317 Church Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901

3. (313 Church) Mrs. Ed Breit
313 Church Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901