

### United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE 1849 C Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20240

August 26, 2010

#### Notice to file:

This property has been automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places. This is due to the fact that the publication of our Federal Register Notice: "National Register of Historic Places: Pending Nominations and Other Actions" was delayed beyond our control to the point where the mandated 15 day public comment period ended after our required 45 day time frame to act on the nomination. If the 45<sup>th</sup> day falls on a weekend or Federal holiday, the property will be automatically listed the next business day. The nomination is technically adequate and meets the National Register criteria for evaluation, and thus, automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

Edson Beall Historian

National Register of Historic Places

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1. Name of Property		
historic name Tucker County Bank Bu	ilding	
other names/site number Bank Buildi	ng	
2. Location		
street & number 100 Walnut Street		not for publication
city or town Parsons		☐ vicinity
state West Virginia code	WV county Tucker code	093 zip code <u>26287</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
does not meet the National Register criteria. 1 rd nationally statewide locally (See of Signature of certifying official/Title West Virginia State Historic Preserv State or Federal agency and bureau	DEPUTY SHOO (0-7-10	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
	1	
4. National Park Service Certification  I hereby certify that the property is: entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:)	Edsar Beautie	Date of Action 8 · 26 · 10

Tucker County Bank Name of Property		Tucker County, WV County and State		
5. Classification				
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources	within Property	
<ul><li>□ private</li><li>□ public-local</li><li>□ public-State</li><li>□ public-Federal</li></ul>	<ul><li>□ building(s)</li><li>□ district</li><li>□ site</li><li>□ structure</li></ul>	Contributing  I	Noncontributing  1	buildings sites
	object			structures objects
		1	1	Total
Name of related multiple pr	roperty listing	in the National Registe	ng resources previously er	listed
N/A		N/A		
6. Function or Use				
Historic Functions		Current Functions		
COMMERCE/financial instit	ution	HEALTH CARE/medic	al business/office	
SOCIAL/meeting hall		VACANT/storage		
7. Description		1 =		
Architectural Classification		Materials		
LATE VICTORIAN/Romane	esque Revival	foundation STONE walls BRICK		
		roof ASPHALT, RU	BBER, WOOD/shingle	

Narrative Description See Continuation Sheets

Tucker County Bank Building	Tucker County, WV
Name of Property	County and State

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### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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#### Location and Setting

The Tucker County Bank Building is a three-story brick commercial building in Parsons, Tucker County, West Virginia. Displaying a rusticated ashlar base and accents with red brick walls, it has been a versatile facility that utilized all its space and created an illusion of separate buildings to accommodate multiple businesses and organizations. Straddling the corner of First and Walnut Streets (with the corner facing south), the building is situated at the effective center of Parsons. This fact is reflected in its three entrances; one each on First and Walnut Streets and another angled at the corner. The building neighbors the county courthouse across Walnut Street and the McDonald Building to the west. Resisting floods and avoiding fires, the Bank Building is one of the few remaining buildings built in a bygone age of prosperity for West Virginia, the Allegheny Highlands and Parsons.

#### Description

The Tucker County Bank Building was constructed in 1901 and displays elements of the Romanesque Revival style of architecture. It is a three-story, flat-roof, brick commercial building with 6,830 square-feet.

The building features a corner turret with angled entrance (photo 5). The double, modern replacement doors are reached by three steps (photo 4) and are topped off with a single-light, arched transom. In the Romanesque tradition, the double doorway sits under a rusticated stone arch with keystone. The base of the turret has rusticated stone brackets supporting a stone cornice that boasts dentils topped by a crown. The second and third stories of the turret each have three one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. All of the building's windows feature a heavy rusticated ashlar lintel and smaller-scale sill. An attic level has three fixed-light windows. The roof line of the turret, as well as the end bays of the side elevations, once displayed a parapet with crenellations. Historic photographs suggest it was removed sometime between 1917 and 1940.

The center section of the southeast elevation, along 1<sup>st</sup> Street, has two windows on the first floor, each with a fixed window and rectangular transom (photo 2). At some point early on they replaced the original two-light, fixed windows. Two smaller, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows are centered on each the second and third stories of this bay. A decorative metal cornice with dentils tops the third story. Two fixed-light attic windows are situated above the cornice. To the right of this bay, at the east corner of the building, is a narrow bay with an entrance door. The door has a single light and a large rectangular transom above. It shares a cornice with the neighboring McDonald Building. There is one window centered above the door on each the second and third stories and a small rectangular vent at the attic level.

The center section of the southwest elevation, along Walnut Street, is similar to that on the 1<sup>st</sup> Street elevation, except that it has three windows on the first story and four on each the second and third stories (Photo 3). Its third story is also topped with a metal cornice with dentils. In years past, these first-story

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Name of Property			

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windows advertised the Bank's occupancy with a Capital Stock of \$25,000 and a surplus of \$22,500. The west end section along this elevation originally featured a storefront with a recessed entrance and cornice on the first story. The storefront has been enclosed with brick. A modern, Mansard-type, shed overhang replaced the cornice and continues down the length of a rear, single-story addition which extends the block to 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. The second and third stories each have three one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. The attic level includes two rectangular vents. The rear, brick addition has a flat roof and modern double-doors. The second and third stories of the rear elevation are unadorned and have three windows, asymmetrically placed.

The first floor interior has been changed out of necessity for the businesses occupying it. Conversely, the second and third floors have undergone relatively little interior change, almost none of which is irreversible. Where wood floors have been covered, it is very clear and the wood remains intact. The drop ceiling on the second floor only conceals the original that is largely unharmed except by subsidence and some electrical wiring. The third floor remains largely unchanged specifically in the pressed tin ceiling that still adorns the meeting room. The ceiling is one of several elements to the interior that are original and still make a fine display of period decoration. Fixtures such as original lights, light switches and door locks (both bit locks and pin tumbler assemblies) are in place and in operation. Additionally, there are several contemporary radiators in good condition that are currently out of service. Tongue in groove paneling along with frosted glass makes the partitions between the second floor office spaces. The glass of one of the partitions still reads "A Deposit is Required for All Sittings" in gold lettering. Built-in bookcases are found here.

Tucker County Bank	Tucker County, WV County and State
Name of Property	County and State
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria	Levels of Significance (local, state, national)
	Local
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance
	COMMERCE
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics	
of a type, period, or method of construction or	
represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance
	1903-1960
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates
Property is:	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Fig. 16-17-W. 100
☐ B. removed from its original location.	Significant Person
C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding	N/A
importance.  D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation
	N/A
■ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
☐ F a commemorative property	
Пет не	Architect/Builder
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	UNKNOWN
Narrative Statement of Significance See Continuation sheets	
9. Major Bibliographical References	
Bibliography	
Previous documentation on file (NPS):    preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested   previously listed in the National Register   Previously determined eligible by the National Register   designated a National Historic Landmark   recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #	Primary location of additional data:  State Historic Preservation Office Other State Agency Federal Agency Local Government University Other Name of repository:
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	

Tucker County Bank	Tucker County, WV	
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#### STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

The Tucker County Bank Building is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Commerce as the building was at the center of Parsons business enterprises from the town's earliest days to 1985 when a flood nearly destroyed the town. The building's history illustrates the development of a mountain community during the rail and lumber boom of the early twentieth century. As local fortunes increased, so too did the building's occupancy and services. The period of significance dates from 1903, the year the first tenant moved in, to 1960, the National Register's fifty-year cut-off, since it continued to have significance.

Tucker County Bank was the first bank in the area and served residents from its First and Walnut Street location until moving in 1969. During that time, the building had served as a center of local of commerce as it included a drug store, a clothing store, a Masonic lodge, the Board of Education, an insurance office, a lawyer's office and a bus depot.

#### History

The Tucker County Bank Building was constructed during a boom period in state and local history. By 1903, the year the bank commenced operations in the new building, Parsons had grown from 50 people living near the Black Fork and Shavers Fork Rivers into a county seat with 618 residents and a growing railroad. The Tucker County Bank, which had served locals from an office in the county courthouse since 4 June 1900, needed its own facility. The resulting structure would become a thriving community center for nearly a century by housing a bank, a Masonic Lodge, the Board of Education, a telephone company, doctor's offices, law firms, insurance agencies, a bus depot, a soda fountain and a drug store.

In 1901, lot nine of the city plat was an unoccupied rectangle disposed of by the Commissioner of School Lands as "waste and unappropriate [sic] and bounded and described as follows: – Beginning at a corner marked two small [illegible] and a stone pile with a stake in it..."

The Freemasons occupied the third floor of the building since the Parsons' lodge formed in 1905. Locally, it is understood that the third floor was designed specifically as a Masonic Lodge. Its convenient layout and the lack of redesign or reconstruction bear this out. Photographs show the Masonic seal painted on the glass of the center attic window. Some traces of the seal still exist. The Freemasons would continue meeting there until 2002.

A pharmacy was almost exclusively the use of the Walnut Street storefront since J.W. Kogelshatz moved his drug store there in February 1904. The only delineation from this course was a clothier who operated from there for some period of time. A program from the Victoria Theatre's December 2, 1909 production of *Our* 

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New Minister carried an advertisement for the Parsons Clothing Company, Bank Building Walnut Street. Women were encouraged to select just what he liked best from an assortment including "suits, kid gloves, bath robes, smoking jackets, umbrellas, handkerchiefs and fancy hose." Additionally, early photographs show "Parsons Clothing Co." on the storefront awning.

F.S. Johnston, who also owned pharmacies in Elkins and Davis, also operated a drug store in the Walnut Street storefront. The duration of his occupancy is uncertain as no time can be given for its start. However, photographic evidence indicates he was operating from that storefront as early as 1917, as photos of local volunteers for the Great War taken in front of the Courthouse show his sign on the glass and awning.

Interestingly, Johnston owned a Rexall franchise. "The Rexall Store" was also printed on the awning in photos of volunteers in front of the courthouse. The store remained in the possession of F.S. Johnston until July 1, 1944 when he sold the store to Rodney A. Barb for \$11,120 (this transaction only applied to the store and its inventory, not ownership of the building itself). Barb had been the store pharmacist at Johnston's Parsons location for several years at this point. Barb's son Nick and his wife Jane would eventually own the store and the building.

Regardless of who owned the drug store, one consistent feature was the soda fountain. A deed dated August 10, 1917, details A.J. Lipscomb's purchase of the soda fountain for \$200. Numerous photographs and personal anecdotes also record the soda fountain's existence. These photos document building changes over time, including an interior remodel that moved the soda fountain from an exterior wall to an interior one.

Photographic evidence of the drug store indicates that it was a community center. In addition to the successful soda shop, Greyhound Bus Lines sold tickets and picked up passengers at the drug store. Movie posters advertised what was playing every week at Parsons' Victoria Theatre just down Walnut Street. The drug store itself advertised a great deal in its windows. Rodney Barb was particularly adept at this, winning several contests for such at the state and national levels of the Pharmacy Association.

Other tenants of the building included Dr. O.A. Miller, a dentist, who practiced from a second floor office in the building during the 1930s. Some photographic evidence of his office exists, thus providing a valuable resource for the historic interior of the upstairs. His office was the same his father-in-law Dr. B.M. West, also a dentist, had occupied previously. He too advertised in the program from the Victoria, placing him in the building in 1909.

Dr. Miller was neighbored by the Duncan Telephone Company, owned by State Senator Abraham Lincoln Helmick, which moved to the bank building in 1927. Its space was that directly above the drug store. The telephone exchange originated elsewhere but was forced to move when fire destroyed the previous location. Duncan Telephone operated on the second floor until moving in 1950. Before the phone company leased

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that space, it was occupied by an insurance agent named F.C Baker. His office was a contemporary of the clothing store and Dr. West.

At least one lawyer had an office in the building. Attorney A. Jay Valentine – later Judge Valentine – was the Tucker County Bank's first cashier. He ran his legal business from an office on the second floor. A window in the turret displayed "VALENTINE LAW OFFICES" in gold lettering.

Sometime after Judge Valentine vacated the office, the Tucker County Board of Education moved into the second floor space. Precisely when is not certain, although residents recall with certainty that the board of education was there in 1939. They eventually took over additional space on the ground floor after the bank moved to a new location. Hospice Care moved into that space when the board of education vacated for their own building. Hospice Care is currently still occupying that space.

The building changed hands several times after the bank's initial purchase but not for long. In 1967, the bank sold the building to W. Del Roy and Doris E. Harner for \$1 in the run up to its move. W. Del Roy Harner was an attorney with offices located at 303 First Street. The deed noted that if the bank had not affected its move within two years, the \$75 per-month rent would be negotiable. The ribbon cutting for the new location at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Walnut Streets was held 31 May 1969.

Copies of multiple deeds note that the building was sold for one dollar. Other evidence, however, points to the contrary. Firsthand accounts note that the sales were for much greater amounts than a single dollar or even \$10. Correspondence between Rodney A. Barb, the first person of that surname to own the drugstore, and his attorney may answer why. Upon purchasing the pharmacy, Barb's attorney advised him that making certain facets of the sale public was not required by law and would perhaps harm his business by assessing it at a greater value.

In 1973, the Harners sold the building, again for a dollar, to Howard N. (Nick) and Jane H. Barb who operated the drug store on the first floor in Bay 5. In 1974, the Barbs transferred the property from Barb's Drug Store to themselves for \$10. In 2000, the building was transferred to Pythagoras Lodge #128 A.F. & A.M.for \$10. Finally, in 2006 the building made its last change to the ownership of the Parsons Revitalization Organization.

#### Summary

From its construction, even before the bank itself moved in, the Tucker County Bank Building has hosted a diverse array of tenants. It is a measure of the structure's versatility that it accommodated the divergent needs of so many different tenants. It meets Criterion A: Commerce for its important role in Parson's commercial history.

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The commercial area in Parsons does not qualify for listing in the National Register as part of a historic district since the area as a while lacks sufficient integrity. Furthermore, while the Tucker County Bank Building has had alterations, such as the removal of the crenellated parapet and the enclosed storefront, and a rear addition, it retains sufficient enough integrity to be eligible for its significant commercial history. Preservation efforts are currently underway to remove the rear addition and restore the building.

Tucker County Bank	Tucker County, WV
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# **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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### BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tucker County Court Clerk's Office, Deed Book.

Long, Cleta M., History of Tucker County, West Virginia (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing, 1996).

Fansler, Homer Floyd, History of Tucker County (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing, 1997).

Tucker County Bank	Tucker County, WV
Name of Property	County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property Less than one acre	
UTM References	
17 0614163 4328372 Northing	
Verbal Boundary Description See Continuation Sheets	
Boundary Justification See Continuation Sheets	
11. Form Prepared By	
name/title Michael J. Mills, AIA	
organization Mills Group LLC	date January 2010
	telephone 304.296.1010
street & number 206 High Street	telephone 304.296.1010
city or town Morgantown	state WV zip code 26505
city or town Morgantown	
Property Owner name	state WV zip code 26505
Property Owner	

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listing. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.)

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P. O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20303.

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### Verbal Boundary Description

National Park Service

120 feet by 40 feet fronting on 1st, Walnut and 2nd streets in Parsons, WV. Lot 9, Parcel 174 on the city plat.

### Verbal Boundary Justification

The proposed National Register boundary is consistent with the current parcel as described above and which coincides with the historic parcel during the period of significance.

I	ucker	County	Bank		

Name of Property

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Photographer: Michael Mills

Date: January 2009 and January 2010

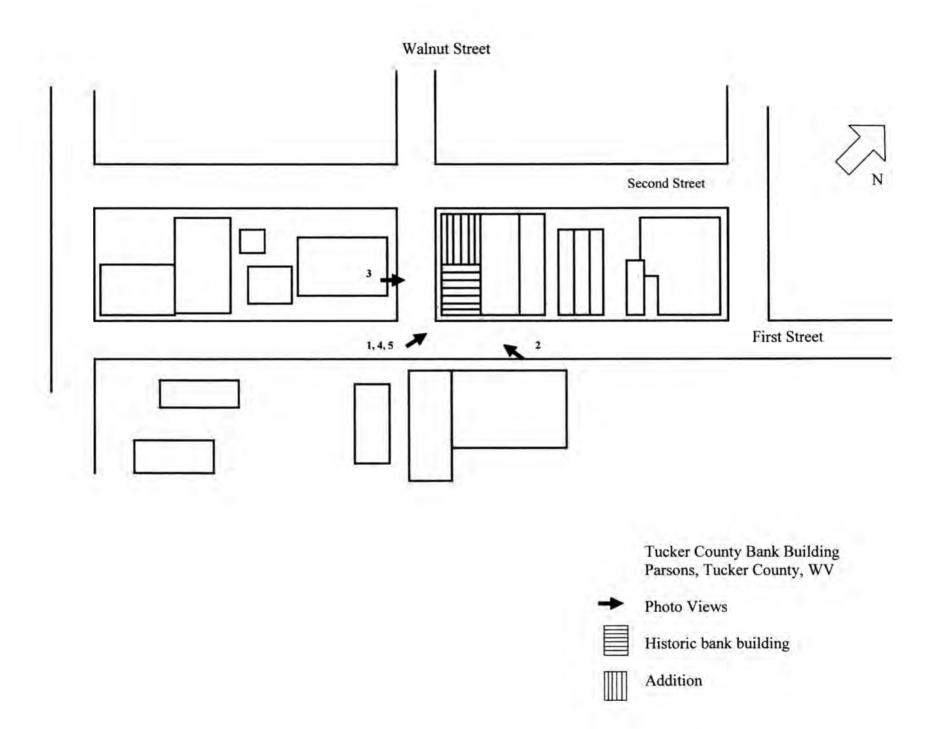
Photo 1 of 5 SW elevation and rear addition. View facing north.

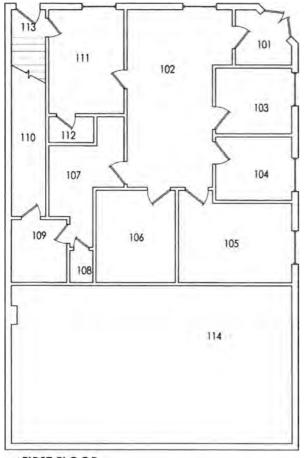
Photo 2 of 5 SE elevation. View facing west.

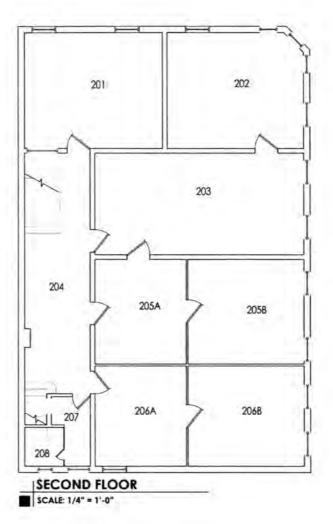
Photo 3 of 5 SW elevation. View facing east.

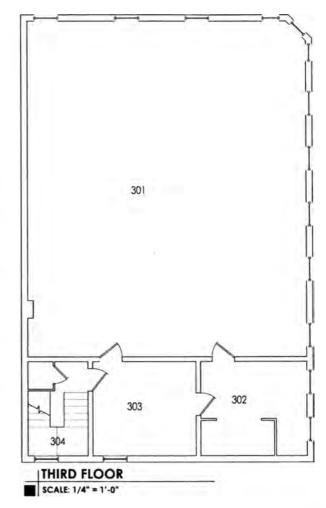
Photo 4 of 5 Front entrance detail. View facing north.

Photo 5 of 5 SE and SW elevations. View facing north









FIRST FLOOR

SCALE: 1/4" = 1'-0"

PARSONS, WV

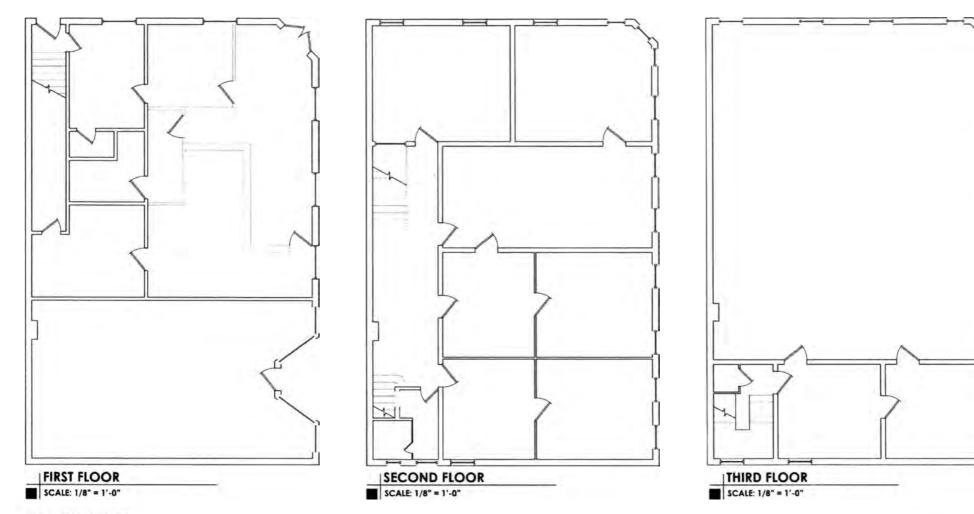
**PRO Masterplan** 

SHEET 1 APRIL 13, 2009



Tucker County Bank Building Parsons, Tucker County, WV

TUCKER COUNTY BANK BUILDING EXISTING PLANS



PARSONS, WV

PRO Masterplan



Tucker County Bank Building Parsons, Tucker County, WV SHEET 2 APRIL 13, 2009

TUCKER COUNTY BANK BUILDING HISTORIC PLANS

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTI	ON: NOMINA	TION						
PROPERTY Tuc NAME:	ker County	Bank	Building	g				
MULTIPLE NAME:								
STATE & COUNTY	: WEST VIR	GINI.	A, Tucke	r				
DATE RECEIVED: DATE OF 16TH D DATE OF WEEKLY	AY: 9/02				F PEND F 45TH	ING LIST DAY:	8/18/ 8/26/	
REFERENCE NUMB	BER: 100005	79						
REASONS FOR RE	CVIEW:							
OTHER: , N PD	TA PROBLEM: DIL: MPLE:	N	LANDSCAPI PERIOD: SLR DRAF	N	PROG	THAN 50 RAM UNAP ONAL:		N N N
COMMENT WAIVER	2: N							
ACCEPT	RETURN		REJECT A	UG 2	6 2010	DATE		
ABSTRACT/SUMMA	RY COMMENTS	The l	Entered in National Regis of listoric Places					
RECOM./CRITERI	Δ							
REVIEWER			_ DISC:	LPLI	NE			
TELEPHONE			DATE				-	
DOCUMENTATION	see attache	d co	mments Y,	/N s	ee att	ached SLI	R Y/N	
If a nominatio	n is return	ad t	o the nor	nina	ting a	uthority	the	

nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



Tucker Carry, Wr Tucker Carry, Wr 1 of 5





Tucker County, Bank Building Tucker County, ww 2 of 5





Tucker County, Bank Building Tucker County, wu 3 of 5





Tucker County Bank Building Tucker County wv 4 of 5

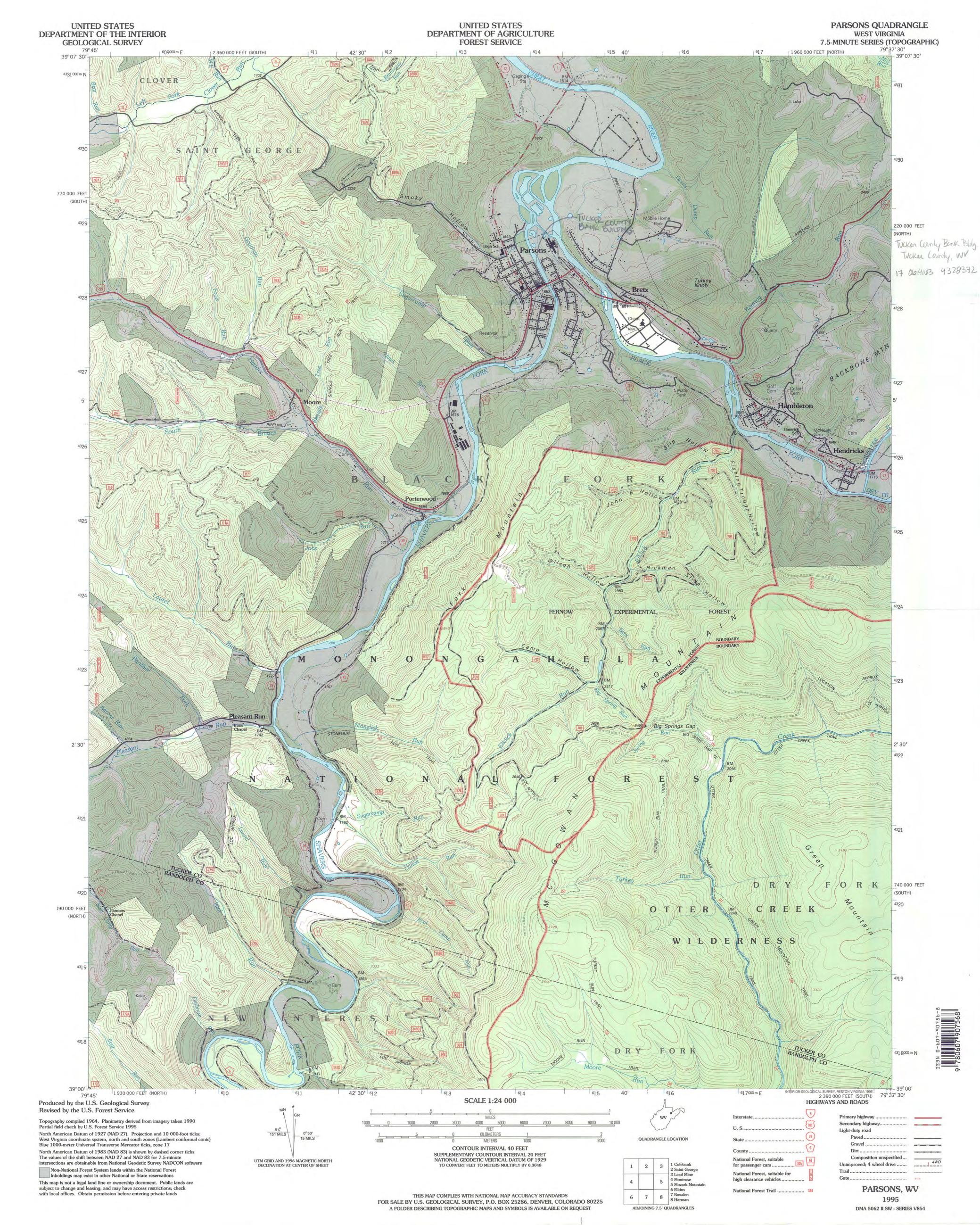






Tucker County Bank Building Tucker County, wv 5 of 5







The Culture Center 1900 Kanawha Blvd., E. Charleston, WV 25305-0300

#### Randall Reid-Smith, Commissioner

Phone 304.558.0220 • www.wvculture.org Fax 304.558.2779 • TDD 304.558.3562

June 7, 2010

Ms. Carol Shull, Keeper National Register of Historic Places National Park Service 2280 National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (eye) Street, NW Washington D.C. 20005



Dear Ms. Shull:

We are submitting for your review the following National Register registration form:

Tucker County Bank Building, Tucker County, WV

The enclosed nomination has been approved by the State Archives and History Commission and processed in accordance with 36 CFR Part 60. Please know that we have submitted supplemental photographs for review purposes only on CD separate from the electronic nomination images.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have questions. We can be reached at 304.558.0240.

Susan M. Pierce

Sincerel

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

enclosure