

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG 14 1985

date entered SEP 28 1985

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

1. Name

historic Weston Downtown Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

street & number Downtown commercial area, including parts of Main Avenue, ___ not for publication

Center and Court avenues, Second and Third streets (see Verbal

city, town Weston Boundary Description for more detailed description) vicinity of

state West Virginia

code 054

county Lewis

code 041

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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" 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. Lewis County Courthouse

street & number 108 Center Avenue

city, town Weston

state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Weston Downtown Commercial District Survey and Inventory has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date September 30, 1984 ___ federal ___ state ___ county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, West Virginia Department of Culture and History

city, town Charleston

state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Weston historic district extends along Main Avenue from Third Street on the north to First Street on the south, including two blocks of First from the West Fork River to Center Avenue; two blocks of Center between First and Second streets, and Second from its head at Court Avenue (and encompassing three buildings on Court) westward several blocks to the old railroad station and nearby railroad hotel, directly across the West Fork River. (The station lies immediately opposite the grounds and buildings of the Weston State Hospital - originally the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum - which is already listed in the National Register of Historic Places.) The buildings determined as pivotal help to define the boundaries of the district: i.e., the railroad tracks were built along the west bank of the river; the courthouse square has, since 1818, been situated at the base of a hill on the east; the presence of Town Run at the southern end of Weston, one block south of First Street, slowed development past the juncture of Main and First; and to the north, the natural terrain, assisted by political maneuvering, dictated the route of the old Staunton and Parkersburg Turnpike, which passed down Third Street onto Main, turning onto Second to cross the river. The actual core of the town has remained situated within the nucleus surveyed and laid out into town lots before 1820. The business district, in fact, has been concentrated in the same few blocks for most of Weston's history, and the progress of the town's development, from county seat and main stop on the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike to oil and gas boom town and railroad town, is evident in the style and pattern of its architecture.

ADDITIONAL DESCRIPTIVE INFORMATION

Most of the buildings in Weston's downtown were erected during the period of the town's greatest expansion, 1875 to 1920, although the district also includes structures as early as 1845 and as late as 1930. Several destructive fires in the 1870's and '80's led to the adoption of a fire safety and building code in Weston in 1889, which corresponded closely to that adopted by the Chicago Fire Department after the Great Fire of 1871. The Weston code required all buildings erected within a certain area to be of brick, resulting in a downtown which is visually uniform and architecturally complementary, with most of the upper stories still remarkably intact. The majority of the storefronts, although remodeled and modernized, have suffered little real alteration beneath the surface, and there is a low concentration of non-contributing and intrusive structures within the area of the district. While most of the buildings in the district are commercial, there are several civic and religious structures, as well as a small number of residences, most of which will probably become professional offices within the next decade or so. One of the oldest buildings in the district is the Italianate-style Bennett House, now a law office, earlier a residence, and before that the home of Weston's first bank. Probably the latest buildings in the district are the U. S. Post Office, constructed in 1933-34, and the Citizens Bank of Weston, one of West Virginia's finest examples of Art Deco, completed in 1930.

[cont.]

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DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

17. Kitson Apartments, 2-24 Main Avenue - Contributing

A series of two story red brick row houses with galvanized iron cornice, molded entablature, and large brackets, built sometime between 1905 and 1920.

18. A. F. Whelan Building, 114 First Street - Contributing

A two story red brick store building constructed c. 1886, with elaborate molded metal cornice and brackets. The first story is now covered with an aluminum front, although the original storefront may still be basically intact beneath it. Three of the second story windows have been replaced with smaller frames and the original openings bricked in; the fourth window has been completely bricked in.

44. B&O Railroad Depot/Weston Municipal Building, 102 Second Street, W. - Pivotal

Two story shingle-style characteristic of B&O stations; built by Jacob and Singleton Acheson and William Lockart. The second story is sided with wood shingles painted cream, first story is faced with rough stone. The hip roof with dentilled cornice was originally covered with either slate or tile, recently replaced with asphalt shingles. The west side of the building, facing the railroad tracks, features a central six-sided bay on the second story, with a conical roof extending from the main roof in dormer fashion. A one-story shed roof supported by four posts extends across this side of the building, sheltering the former passenger waiting platform, and a smaller bracket-supported shed roof projects from the Second Street (south) side. Another shed roof on the north side of the building has been removed. The windows are double sash six-light over one.

45. Hotel Monticello, 200 River Avenue - Contributing

Three story brick, now painted gray; original section built shortly before the turn of the century, enlarged on north side in the early 1900's. Low-pitch hip roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. Original molded metal cornice supported by elaborate brackets. First story has suffered some changes and small additions over the years. Arched window openings on second and third floors have been boarded up, and building has not been well maintained, but basic integrity is intact.

53. Warder-Law House, 132 First Street - Contributing

A two and a half story red brick residence, presently serving as an office, built in 1904 and incorporating some elements of the Colonial Revival style. The basic rectangular shape is enhanced with projecting two story three-sided bays on the west and east sides, and a gabled attic dormer extending downward to form a central bay on the second story front. The pediment of this bay is set with an oculus. The hip roof is covered with slate, with decorative ridge flashing at the peak. The full-front first story porch is balustraded, with triple Doric columns supporting an entablature featuring a floral motif.

54. Arnold-Edwards House, 104 Center Avenue - Contributing

Originally a relatively simple two and a half story brick residence, probably built c. 1857. Late 19th century/early 20th century remodeling changes and additions transformed it into an imposing Classical Revival building, with a prominent one-story porch across the front, several projecting bays on both stories, and a one-story wing with a segmental arch end. The porch roof, with a central round arched pediment, is supported by paired Ionic columns on raised pedestals surmounted with an elaborate entablature incorporating a frieze with a motif of alternating raised panels and applied rondels. This motif is repeated in the entablature of the second story. Large stained glass windows in the Palladian style were added to the arched gable ends of the north and south first story bays. A separate two-story garage at the rear of the property complements the main structure in the architectural detailing, and features an unusual cantilevered segmental arch canopy over the car entrance. This building is believed to have originally been the law office of the first owner, which was moved from the front of the property to its present location between 1912 and 1921. Both buildings are now stuccoed and painted cream to tie them in with the neighboring Lewis County Courthouse.

56. McGuire-Whelan House, 206 First Street - Contributing

Two story rectangular Colonial Revival frame house with clapboard siding, painted white, with hip roof. Two story, three-sided bay on west side, port cochere on east side. Imposing two-tier neo-classical portico of the Ionic order on front extending into two-tiered balustraded porch. Triple columns support a molded entablature and large pediment with elliptical lunette. Smooth pilasters surmounted with Ionic capitals frame the main entrance, which features an elliptical fanlight with narrow sidelights.

95. Malloy Building and Malloy Bros. Building 1911, 101 and 103 Main Avenue - Contributing

Three story red brick built in sections - first two floors of southern section built prior to 1900 of lighter colored brick with arched window openings and brick eyebrow heads (now rectangular plywood insets). Third story added when adjoining building on north side constructed, 1910-11. Northern section and third story of southern portion have square window openings with lintel type heads. Northern building has a smooth face, while windows of southern section are set between brick pilasters. Southern first story has a glass and metal storefront, much of which may be original, with a molded metal canopy, molded pilasters, and decorative brackets featuring a sunburst motif. The northern building has a glass and wood storefront supported by brick pilasters, topped with a galvanized iron cornice with dentils and brackets in the same sunburst motif. Although both storefronts have been modified to an extent, the original first floor front is reasonably intact, beneath the contemporary work. The only addition to these buildings appears to be a clay tile structure at the rear which fronts on Water Street.

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94 & 98. Gissey-Jakubee-Angotti Building, 109-113 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story red brick commercial building, constructed c. 1897-98. Six arched windows on second story, with brick segmental relieving arches beneath a brick belt course; corbeled brick cornice. First floor storefront of wood, glass, and brick has been remodeled.

96. J. B. Cox-Commercial Hotel Building, 115-117 Main Avenue - Contributing

Built between 1896-99 as the Commercial Hotel. Two story false front red brick with glass, wood, and masonry front on first floor. Front section of roof is gabled, covered with standing seam metal, rear portion is asphalt shingle. Five double-hung two-light windows with brick segmental relieving arches; openings are set off by one-story brick pilasters connected above the windows with a brick belt course. End parapet of false front is stepped, with corbeling along the parapet. Building was later enlarged with a one story addition to the rear. There is a small one story outbuilding at the rear which fronts on Water Street; use unknown.

97. J. B. Cox Furniture Building, 123 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story red brick false front style commercial building with hip roof covered with standing seam metal. Glass and wood storefront on first story has been altered very little since the building's construction c. 1913. Four rectangular double-sash windows on second story; corbelled brick string course. Stepped end parapet edged with corbeling beneath metal cornice with molded metal end brackets. Fine pressed metal ceiling in first floor storeroom.

100. Kane Hardware Building, 125 Main Avenue - Contributing

Simple one story red brick commercial building with glass transom across width of building above entrance which is now partially covered with store signs. Glass and wood display windows have been remodeled, but tile floor of entrance is intact, as is interior pressed metal ceiling. Probably erected several years prior to 1910. Flat asphalt roof. Two additions to rear continue building through to Water Street. Fine pressed metal ceiling. Letters of store's name set into transom in stained glass.

99 & 101. Kane-Contos Building, 129 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story red brick with contemporary metal and glass storefronts on first floor; aluminum strip probably covers original glass transom. Four rectangular double-sash windows on second story with lintel-type caps. Decorative brick corbeling edges parapet.

102. Tierney-Adler Building, 137 Main Avenue - Contributing

Built 1910-11. Three story red brick with two three-sided bays on second and third stories on Main Avenue front. Recessed corner entrance with wooden pilasters surmounted by unadorned pediment frontispiece. Entrance to upper stories at southern end of front is similar, but smaller. First story display window area has been remodeled but not drastically altered. Windows facing on Main Avenue are rectangular, capped with sandstone flat arches with pronounced keystones. Bays are wood, with recessed molded panels and three windows per bay per story. A large projecting wood or metal parapet with a molded entablature and large modillion blocks enhances the roofline. A small one story masonry outbuilding at rear of lot has no apparent historical significance.

103 & 105. Whelan-Morrison-Hale Building, 139-141 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story red brick commercial building, erected c. 1880. First floor storefront has been remodeled with plywood and southern half has a shed roof projecting above the entrance. Upper section is fairly intact, with six arched window openings set in recessed panels between brick pilasters. Windows in southern portion are double-sash one over one; those in northern section have been replaced with smaller modern windows and the openings narrowed with plywood inserts. Upper section of building above windows is decorated with rectangular recessed panels and rows of brick corbeling. Two later additions were made to the rear of the building. The southern side of the building on Bank Alley still bears two painted signs, "Drink Coca-Cola, Delicious, Refreshing, 5¢, Relieves Fatigue," and "Fairyland Pictures Changed Daily," the latter an advertisement for one of Weston's early nickelodeons, located in the same building. The Fairyland sign in particular is remarkably well-preserved.

104. The Hub Building, 151 Main Avenue - Contributing

Believed to have been built between 1885-1895. Two story red brick commercial building with smaller attic story. First floor storefront has been remodeled with lighter brick facade, large glass display windows, and plywood shingle shed roof. The second story contains six double-sash windows set in arched openings beneath a row of brick dentilling. The brick eyebrow window heads are linked by further brickwork. The attic story is set with smaller recessed brick panels which still bear the letters "T-H-E-(W)-H-U-B." Another row of brick dentils tops the panelled section, and the roofline is unadorned. The building was later enlarged by additions at the rear which give access to Water Street.

106 & 107. Woodford Block, 153-155 Main Avenue - Contributing

Upper story of this red brick commercial building is virtually identical to the Whelan-Morrison-Hale Building and was built about the same time, 1880-85. First floor storefronts have been remodeled and the arched sections of the second story windows have been filled in with plywood. There are several additions to the rear of the building, enlarging it through to Water Street. Both first floor storerooms have fine pressed metal ceilings, one in high relief and another which may have been manufactured by Geo. L. Mesker & Co. of Evansville, Indiana.

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109a. Caplan's Jewelry, 159 Main Avenue - Non-contributing

One story red brick commercial building with wood shingle shed roof which has undergone numerous alterations.

109b. Kaplan Building, 161 Main Avenue - Contributing

One story buff-colored brick commercial building erected in 1916. Although lower section of storefront has been remodeled, the original fabric may be reasonably intact beneath the wood, metal, and glass front with wood shingle shed roof. The upper section is set off with a brick belt course beneath a brick and metal cornice set with a large datestone inscribed "Kaplan."

110. Specialty Shop, 157 Main Avenue - Non-contributing

Small one story commercial building which has been remodeled to such an extent that it is impossible to determine the original fabric and appearance.

108 & 113. Ralston-Kaplan Building, 167-169 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story dark red brick commercial building erected in 1879 and originally containing two separate stores. First floor storefront has been remodeled and new, smaller windows have been installed on the second floor. Windows are arched, capped by pronounced stone keystones and set in arched recesses between brick pilasters with stone bases. Between the arched recesses and the unadorned roofline is a series of narrow, rectangular recessed brick panels. The keystone above the northernmost second-story window is carved with Masonic symbols and the date "Oct. 13 [or 15] 1879."

112. Lewis County Bank Building/Cain's Drug Store, 177 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick commercial building stuccoed, painted, and scored to simulate granite. This granitizing, or faux granite treatment, appears to be original and is in excellent condition. Round arched windows on second story with stone keystone. Elaborate metal bracketed cornice beneath slate-covered Mansard roof with dormers. Roof and cornice are continuations of those on adjoining building. Both structures apparently were remodeled at the same time by the same owner. First floor storefront has also been remodeled with wood, glass, and brick. Building originally had a gable roof with a central pedimented pavilion entrance on the Second Street (north) side and a corner entrance at the Second Street-Main Avenue intersection. The remodeling occurred sometime after 1900.

114. Ralston-Edmiston-Smith Building, 171 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story red brick commercial building erected 1878-79 and originally containing two separate stores. First floor storefront has been remodeled with rose-colored brick, second story windows have been replaced with smaller windows and the original arched openings filled in with brick to create a relieving arch effect. The building now has a Mansard roof covered with slate and set with two gabled dormers. The second story windows are set in recessed arched brick panels between brick pilasters. Above the pilasters runs a wide metal cornice supported by large decorative brackets and molded corner brackets with a sunburst motif. An iron-railed balcony has been added across the second story.

Both the Ralston-Kaplan Building and the Ralston-Edmiston-Smith Building were built by the same partnership at about the same time. These buildings originally had a colonnaded walkway with recessed entrances on the first story, part of which may still remain behind the later alterations to the storefront.

115 & 116. Citizens Bank of Weston, 201 Main Avenue - Pivotal

Five story rectangular bank building completed in 1930; one of West Virginia's most significant examples of Art Deco architecture. Designed by Tilghman Huber Moyer of Allentown, Pennsylvania, it is constructed of gray Indiana limestone on a shoulder-high foundation of gray granite, with hand-carved stone ornamentation. Colossal entrance arch, with three tall arched window openings on both north and south sides which are fitted with metal sashes and configured wrought iron grilles. Shallow relief string course encircles the building, carved with stylized floral patterns interspersed with rondelles and carved shields. Centered in the facade above the arched entrance is a sculptural representation of the American eagle resting upon the traditional Roman Lictor. The entrance arch is flanked by massive paired pilasters with square carved capitals and surmounted with decorative urns. A delicate cavetto cornice defines the building's roofline.

One of the most outstanding features of the Citizens Bank building is the wrought iron ornamentation and plaster relief in the ceiling of the lobby. The wrought iron work was created by Samuel Yellin of Philadelphia, and was Yellin's only West Virginia commission. In addition to providing all the grillework, lighting fixtures, screens, door gates, and hardware for the interior, Yellin also crafted a wrought iron gate for the main entrance in which is centered the Great Seal of West Virginia. This design is duplicated in the ceiling of the main lobby, in the form of a gold and silver plaster relief of the Great Seal set into a recessed panel.

Since 1930 two additions have been made to the original structure, both complementing the original design.

117 & 118. - Non-contributing

Now a parking lot belonging to Citizens Bank, previously the site of several Civil War era brick row buildings.

119. Traction Building, 235-237 Main Avenue - Contributing

Three story red brick, constructed in 1916 as headquarters of the Monongahela Valley Traction Company. The first floor facade, which was originally open from front to rear on the southern end, has been enclosed and the storefront remodeled with brick, glass, and aluminum. Full story arched openings on the southern side have been bricked in. Second and third stories have

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three windows per story on the Main Avenue (west) side which are double-sash three over one, with narrow sidelights. Brick and stone belt course divides the first floor from the upper stories, with narrow ornamental stone strips set with carved stone rosettes between the second and third story windows. Brick pilasters at corners of building, running from the ground to the belt course, and from the base of the second story to the third story, topped with brick corbeling and stone medallions. First story pilasters are set on granite bases with carved stone rosettes; upper story pilasters are set with narrow vertical stone strips. Pedimented brick cornice with datestone on which building's name is inscribed in relief. Two small additions at rear, one of brick and one concrete block.

120. Barnes Building, 241 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick commercial structure, built 1925. Datestone beneath brick cornice bears name and date in relief. Four two-over-two double-sash windows on second story. Narrow stone belt course above and below windows. First floor storefront remodeled for office space in early 1950's; previously remodeled 1930's for motion picture theater - metal marquee still intact, now painted white.

121. Barnes House, 245 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story red brick residence built c. 1885-90 in eclectic Victorian style. Two story three-sided bay on northern front with gable roof ornamented with bargeboard in a fan pattern. Hip roof covered with standing seam metal in rear, now replaced with asphalt shingles in front. Two-bay porch on southern side of front with narrow spindle-style lathe-turned columns. Windows are rectangular, set in segmental arch openings. Three additions to rear of building, one frame and two of clay tile; small wooden shed at rear of property has no historic significance.

122. Leonidas Smith House, 249 Main Avenue - Contributing

Main two story section believed to be of sawn log construction, probably built c. 1850. Now covered with asbestos shingle siding. Rectangular double-hung windows framed with narrow sidelights on southern side of front of both stories; identical single window on northern side of second story. Recessed entrance with glass transom above door on northern end. Roof is slate, foundation is stucco over unknown material. Several additions to rear. One outbuilding, approximately 12'x16', at rear of property, probably built as detached kitchen or office. All brick construction; walls several courses thick. Two small high-set windows, one at rear and one on the south side; small chimney which appears to be later addition. Slate roof with wooden bird house or cuopla at center, which may cover original chimney opening.

123. Lively House, 245 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story frame residence incorporating elements of Italianate and Victorian Gothic styles, built 1882-83. Four-inch clapboard siding, now painted gray. Rectangular double-sash windows flanked with wood shutters which are painted black. Hip roof now covered with asphalt shingles. Stone foundation. Three bay central pavilion with gabled roof at front; gable set with narrow gothic arch window. Decorative bargeboard edges gable and cornice of three-bay front porch. Porch roof supported by rectangular columns. Tall narrow first floor windows which are also flanked by wooden shutters. House has been remodeled to some extent over the years, and appears to have two small additions to the rear.

Two outbuildings on property, one at south front and the other north rear. Front building is one story brick, erected as law office by first owner. Slate roof, rectangular windows, wood addition to front of building. Small gothic arch window in front gable end complements larger one in pavilion of house. One story building at rear is sawn log covered with weatherboarding, believed to be original structure on property, c. 1847; central brick chimney.

124. Ashland Oil Station, corner of Main and Third - Intrusion

Former site of Thomas Edwards House, built several years prior to the Civil War.

159. Keener Apartments, 122 E. Third Street - Contributing

Three story buff-colored brick apartment building constructed late 1920's or early '30's.

160. Kunst-Cox-Haller House, 266 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick residence constructed 1883; exhibits many Italianate features. Foundation is cut stone with visible water table. Gable roof is now covered with asphalt shingles. Building is basically rectangular in shape, with a large two story ell projecting from the southern front. Tall narrow arched windows are double-sash four over four, capped with stone hood molds. Decorative bargeboard edges the projecting eaves of the ell, and the gable end is set with a louvered oculus outlined with brickwork. A large three-sided bay with bracketed cornice projects from the first story of the ell. Another semi-circular bay on the south side of the house is set with three stained glass windows and also has a bracketed cornice. A third bay on the southern side at the rear is square in shape. On the north (Third Street) side is a two story bay, three-sided, with three windows on each floor. The front porch of the building has been remodeled with brick and glass, and two porches at the rear have been enclosed, but the large one story three-bay porch on the north side has been left intact, with turned balusters, square columns, and supporting brackets.

161. Brewster-Edwards House, 260 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick residence built sometime between 1905-1925. Basically square in shape, with a two story ell projecting from the northern front. Hip roof on house, gable roof on ell; both covered with slate. Large molded cornice with return at roofline of ell. Full porch across front with sloping asphalt shingle roof. Rectangular windows, double-sash one over one, with stone lintels and sills. Small double rectangular window with decorative panes set in gable end of ell.

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162. Keener House, 258 Main Avenue - Contributing

One story Classical Revival house believed to have been built in early 1890's. Rectangular, with three-sided projecting bay on north front. Asphalt shingle roof, stone and clay tile foundation, three-inch clapboard siding. Two-bay porch on front is supported by square molded columns; narrow molded cornice. Two additions to the rear. Windows trimmed with molded wooden surrounds ornamented with dentils and bulls-eye medallions.

164. Holt House, 252 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story rectangular frame house on stone foundation built c. 1851. Four-inch clapboard siding. Gable roof covered with asphalt shingles; brick chimneys at both ends. Plain narrow entablature; plain wooden window surrounds. Tall narrow two over two windows on first floor, smaller two over two on second story. Northern portion added between 1890 and 1905; two later additions at rear. Entire building moved back approximately four feet in 1890's, possibly when street was widened. One story porch across front supported by slender Doric columns.

165. Vacant lot - Non-contributing

Now belonging to owner of Holt House; originally occupied by the McBride House.

167. Weston Democrat Building, 238 Main Avenue - Contributing

One story brown-colored brick commercial building; front section is actually a post-1900 addition to the earlier rear section, which was constructed c. 1845. Foundation of front section is masonry; rear section is cut stone. Brick front is set with two large glass windows with wood panels beneath. Doorway set in a shallow arched recess, with elliptical glass transom. Two large corbelled brick recesses set above windows; unadorned roofline. Rear (original) section appears to be sawn log covered with stucco, now painted brown. Flat roof on front addition; standing seam metal on rear. Rear section is one of oldest buildings in the district, believed to have been erected by Addison McLaughlin, one of Weston's early merchants.

168 & 169. Edmiston-Penney Buildings, 230-234 Main Avenue - Non-contributing

Series of four commercial buildings located on the site of former Judge Matthew Edmiston house. Remodeled and altered more than once; original integrity unfortunately severely damaged. Main Penney's building does have a fine, remarkably intact, high-relief metal ceiling with corresponding wall moldings on the first floor.

170. Parking Lot (part of Camden Building) - Non-contributing

and

171. Parking Lot (part of Camden Building) - Non-contributing

172. 119 Second Street East - Contributing

Two story brick commercial building with a stone foundation and molded metal cornice above a brick corbel table. Second story windows are rectangular, with a stone belt course separating the rectangular section from an arched glass transom. The first floor facade has been remodeled with glass and plywood, but the building's basic integrity has not been impaired. A small addition has been made to the rear.

174-177. G. C. Murphy's, 160 Main Avenue - Intrusion

Large one story brick building with aluminum storefront constructed in 1960's.

178. Edmiston Building, 152-158 Main Avenue - Contributing

Large three story brick commercial building erected c. 1890. occupied by three stores on ground floor, residential upper stories. First floor storefront now sided with aluminum, but there is evidence of a cast-iron front which may be intact beneath the newer work. Five large molded iron pilasters are still visible at ground level, and the aluminum cornice at the roofline may be covering an earlier metal cornice. Second and third story windows are set in round arch recesses, with arched brick hood molds. Five brick pilasters run from the top of the first story to the roofline, with a brick corbel table and narrow brick panels set with a crosswork pattern directly below the cornice.

179. Williams-Davisson Building #2, 146 Main Avenue - Contributing

Three story brick commercial building erected c. 1893. First story now entirely covered with glass and aluminum storefront. Second and third story windows are narrow rectangular one over one, with metal hood molds with bracketed stops. The metal cornice is also bracketed, with a molded frieze.

180. Williams-Davisson Building #1, 150 Main Avenue - Contributing

Impressive three story rough-faced brick commercial building with wood and cast iron trim, constructed c. 1893 by same owner as previous building. Large brick pilasters at each end extend into a round brick arch above the third story windows; the second and third story rectangular windows are set in recessed vertical board and batten style wood panels, with cast-iron columns separating the bays. The brick cornice is ornamented with an elaborate corbel table with a large central keystone. The first floor storefront has been remodeled with glass, multi-colored brick, and aluminum.

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173. Camden Building—Weston National Bank, 202-212 Main Avenue - Pivotal

Three story buff-colored ("light Milwaukee") brick building with granite facade on first story, constructed 1896-97 to house the National Exchange Bank, R. P. Camden Hotel, and Camden Opera House. Designed by Yost and Packard of Columbus, Ohio. First story facade originally set with arched entranceways and windows (later remodeled in a rectangular shape); arches were flanked with granite pilasters with terra cotta capitals carved in shallow relief, still intact. The entablature of the first story is enriched with large, high relief medallions and edged with guttae, also in sharp relief. The windows of the upper stories are surmounted with elliptical brick hood molds. The cornice is ornamented with brick dentils and an elaborate brick corbel table. The roof, originally slate and tile, is now covered with asphalt shingles. The roofline is trimmed with brick modillions and the crest is highlighted with a metal cresting. A two story tower at the southwest corner of the building is set with three recessed windows in each story, divided by stuccoed panels with applied metal ornamentation in a wreath motif. The attic story is sided with wood, set with small single-light windows, and surmounted by a conical roof with flared eaves, covered with slate. The attic story of the building itself is set with central gables on the south and west sides. The west gable has a row of six windows beneath a second row of three windows; the south gable has a single row of three windows. Both gables are flanked by rectangular brick columns, each column topped with pyramidal iron caps with iron finials. Similar columns are set at the northwest and southwest corners of the roof.

The section which once housed the theater burned in the 1960's and most of the theater is now demolished, with the front portion facing on Second Street remodeled to house a restaurant and office. The restaurant is currently unoccupied.

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Description, cont.

181. Malloy-Bennett Building, 122 Main Avenue - Contributing

Appears to be two separate buildings constructed by same mason or contractor at the same time, c. 1899. Fenestration of upper story is consistent, if asymmetrical. Two story red brick six bay commercial building with remodeled glass and aluminum storefront. Narrow rectangular windows on second story obviously replaced larger windows. Openings have been bricked in, although the segmentally arched window heads with brick returns are intact. Small recessed brick panels in attic story, unadorned roofline.

182. P. J. Dyer Phoenix Hotel 1896 and 1891, 140-144 Main Avenue - Contributing

Structure at 140 Main is a three story three-bay brick commercial building originally constructed as extension of adjoining hotel, 1896. First story now covered over with aluminum storefront. Tall narrow windows of second and third stories surmounted with metal hood molds with bracketed stops. Wide metal cornice with central pediment and molded corner brackets. Pediment is inscribed "P. J. Dyer Hotel 1896." The earlier building at 144 Main was the original hotel, constructed 1891. Also brick, three stories, with a one story square turret at the southwest corner, which has a pyramidal roof covered with slate and topped with a metal weathervane. Roofline of building is adorned with brick corbel table. Windows are rectangular, set in segmentally arched recesses. First story has a facade of Carrara glass, which appears to date from the late 1920's or '30's.

183. Old Citizens Bank Building-Frank's Bakery, 138 Main Avenue - Pivotal

Three story three-bay brick commercial building constructed in 1893 as a bank and offices. The large arched first story windows are set in recessed brick panels between brick pilasters, with smaller rectangular rough-faced brick panels beneath the sills. A wide string course carved with a medallion pattern separates the first story from the third story. Windows on the upper levels are smaller arched versions of those on the first floor, and are also set between brick pilasters, with a plain stone belt course dividing the second from the third story. Similar but smaller rough-faced brick panels are set beneath the third story windows, and the roofline is ornamented with a brick corbel table. The gable roof is now covered with asphalt shingles, and has a round datestone inscribed "1893" in the pediment face; the datestone is surrounded with brick ornamentation in a sunburst pattern. At the northwest corner of the building is a three story tower capped with a conical turret covered with slate and topped with a metal finial. The second and third stories of the tower are each set with a single arched window, with a blank recessed brick attic story. The base of the tower serves as the building's main entrance, which is recessed, and the recess lined with marble panels and marble floor. The exterior section of the entrance is framed with large smooth Doric columns of sandstone surmounted by a carved sandstone cornice and iron transom grille. This entranceway is echoed in the Bank Street (north side) entrance, a smaller entranceway with a stone pediment and an impressive three-panel stained glass window beside the door, which features the Citizens Bank logo centered in a floral motif.

The original doors and certain interior furnishings are reasonably intact, including the impressive semi-circular marble counter, marble floor and wall panels, wooden customer writing stands,

and some wooden office partitions and metal grillework. Within the marble panels lining the entranceway can be seen the holes where a metal gate was once attached.

184. Daugherty Building, 132-143 Main Avenue - Contributing

Constructed in 1895 as a hotel. Three story six-bay buff-colored brick with narrow rectangular windows on the second and third stories. First story has been remodeled to some extent with wood and glass, the southern half more so than the north portion, which appears to have spent most if not all of its existence as a saloon. Large cast-iron pilasters and narrow iron columns on first floor, all set on sandstone bases; building itself rests on a sandstone foundation. Narrow brick belt course runs above second story and third story windows, with ornamental brick courses and corbelling across the attic story. Stepped pediment set with brick panels in a crisscross pattern; small oval datestone inscribed "Daugherty Shanty 1895."

185 & 186. Vandervort Building, 126-128 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick commercial building erected sometime between 1886-98. Building is distinguished by a fine, well-preserved metal storefront on upper story, some of which may remain intact beneath later remodeling on first floor. The five rectangular windows of the second story are set between paired pilasters with Corinthian capitals and large molded bases ornamented with pairs of rosettes. The entablature is enriched with multiple moldings above a row of medallions in sharp relief. The large stepped cornice is ornamented with large paired molded brackets, with the corner brackets highlighted with a series of rosettes. The fascia is enhanced with decorative wreathing, with large scroll-like modillions beneath.

It is believed that this storefront may have been manufactured by Geo. L. Mesker & Co. of Evansville, Indiana, who supplied iron storefronts to towns across the country, and at least one Weston storefront has been positively identified as Mesker-manufactured.

187. 116 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story four-bay brick commercial building believed to have been constructed c. 1885-88, possibly at the same time and by the same owner or mason as the two adjacent buildings on the south. First story has been remodeled and now houses law offices. Upper story well-preserved, with four two over two double-sash arched windows set in segmentally arched recesses. Attic story is set with four square recessed panels; cornice is now covered with aluminum fascia.

188. Odd Fellows Building, 100 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story five bay brick commercial building constructed between 1888-99; property purchased by Odd Fellows fraternal organization 1899. First story remodeled in recent years with brick and glass. Upper story above brick belt course intact, with round arched windows below five recessed brick panels; plain cornice. Center window has been removed and bricked in. Upper facade is brick covered with stucco and painted and scored to simulate smooth ashlar.

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189. Kitson-Arnold Building, 106 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story four-bay brick commercial building constructed 1885-88. First story remodeled with glass and aluminum, now occupied by restaurant. Second story set with four tall narrow rectangular windows, one over one, with brick eyebrow window heads and stone sills. Attic story set with six square recessed brick panels beneath simple brick cornice.

190. Kitson-Reynolds Building /Colonial Restaurant, 102 Main Avenue - Contributing

Two story three-bay brick commercial building with corner entrance, constructed 1888 by W. J. Kitson. First story remodeled with brick and glass storefront; second story well-preserved brick, painted white, with stone belt course above metal cornice of first story, tall narrow rectangular windows capped with stone lintels. Elaborate metal cornice with paired brackets and large corner brackets, all ornamented with molding and a floral motif. Frieze is highlighted with a pattern of alternating panels and a corresponding floral decoration.

192. Bennett's Furniture Center, 124 Main Avenue - Intrusion

Contemporary building erected in the 1970's on the former site of the demolished Weston City Building, originally constructed 1899.

194. IGA Foodliner, First Street - Intrusion

Contemporary building erected on site of one of Weston's earliest buildings, a log structure belonging to the Dawson family.

195. Arnold-O'Hara House, 103 Center Avenue - Contributing

One of the oldest remaining buildings in Weston, this is a two story three-bay frame residence. The one story core of the house is believed to be of sawn log, constructed before 1844, with later frame additions. The house was probably "modernized" in the 1870's, with decorative trim such as the dentilled frieze added at that time. Also the two-bay front porch with slender Doric columns and flat roof above a molded entablature, and the narrow wooden hood molds set with bulls-eyes at corner. Foundation is cut stone, siding is clapboard with a six-inch exposure, painted white. Standing seam metal roof. Rectangular glass transom above front door. Several additions to the rear of the house have been made over the years, all of them two stories in height.

196. Gaston House, 109 Center Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick residence, built c. 1905-10. One over one double-sash windows in segmentally arched openings. Steep hip roof covered with slate. Two story one-bay ell on north side of front with gabled dormer roof sided with wood and set with louvered ventilator. Full porch across front supported by slender Ionic columns on large molded bases. Two later additions at rear, one of two stories and the most recent a one story vertically-sided wooden addition.

197. Garage of Gaston House - Non-contributing

Mid-20th century two-story garage now containing an apartment on second floor.

198. U. S. Post Office, Weston, 119 Center Avenue - Contributing

Two story rectangular building designed by Clarksburg architect Stephen W. Ford and erected by the U. S. Government 1933-34. It is distinguished by its style of architecture, with ornamental elements taken from various classical revival styles popular in early 20th century federal architecture. Buff-colored brick on a steel frame, with a reinforced concrete foundation. High first story, low second. Entered through a central arch flanked by matched arches fitted with metal sash windows underscored with marble insets. Entrance surmounted by projecting marble lintel which separates the doorway from the elliptical transom, and which is supported by slender unfluted Corinthian columns, also of marble, on either side of the doorway.

Second story is enriched with a wide terra cotta string course ornamented with foliated rinceau in shallow relief, with decorated terra cotta medallions highlighting the wall surface above the first floor windows. The building's entablature is ornamented with a decorative frieze consisting of metopes and triglyphs alternating with sculptured rondelles, and centered with a large sculptural representation of the American eagle in high relief.

The only major alteration to the exterior since 1934 has been the replacement of the original pitched roof with a flat elastomeric roof in 1962.

199. Bennett House, 127 Bank Street - Pivotal

Two story brick Italianate residence, one room of which served as offices for the first bank in Weston, a branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia. Core of building may have been built as early as the 1830's by Lewis Maxwell. Central square section flanked by rectangular wings, with a two story brick ell added to the rear of the building sometime in the late 1800's; ell was later extended with another brick addition. The main section of the house has a low-pitch hip roof with a central gable on the front. Both wings have gabled roofs. All roofs are asphalt shingle. Masonry foundation. Projecting cornice around entire roofline, supported by paired brackets; wide entablature enriched with simple panelled frieze. Gable section set with a single round arched window surmounted by an eyebrow hood mold. All other windows are rectangular, with wooden shutters, painted black. Roof is crowned with a square wooden cupola set with paired round arched windows on each of the four sides. Cupola topped with a hip roof with projecting eaves supported by single brackets and a dentilled cornice.

Single bay portico over front entrance features a pediment roof supported by single unfluted Corinthian columns surmounted by capitals of acanthus leaves and volutes. The pediment is ornamented with a molded entablature and dentilled cornice, and decorative scrollwork enhances the tympanum. The elliptical fanlight over the recessed door is set in a rectangular frame and ornamented with delicate tracery, as are the slender sidelights. Sometime after 1900 an elliptical porch was added, extending from the portico around the north side of the building. It has since been removed.

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200. Driveway and Extension of Lawn of Bennett House - Contributing

201. Ralston Drug Store, 122 Second Street E. - Intrusion

Late 1970's one story brick commercial building, with Colonial-style trim.

201.1. Garton Insurance Agency, 126 Second Street E. - Non-contributing

Two story brick commercial building, c. 1940's, with no known architectural or historical significance.

202.1. 128 Second Street E. - Non-contributing

Two story brick commercial building, c. 1940's, with no known architectural or historical significance. Currently vacant.

202. First Baptist Church, 140 Second street - Contributing

Brick church building primarily Gothic Revival in style, constructed 1915 on site of earlier frame church originally built by Episcopalian congregation. Basically square in shape, with large square crenellated tower at northeast corner (intersection of Second and Center). Large arched stained glass windows set in quoined stone surrounds on north and west sides. Hip roof covered with asphalt shingles, with shallow projecting pavilion with gable roof on north side. Numerous small, narrow arched windows set in quoined stone surrounds with arched hood molds; also several smaller square windows with straight hood molds. Recessed entrance is set between large square granite pillars on large square bases, with a massive stone lintel above a Gothic arch set with a scroll-like keystone. Stone cornice with crenellated trim. Building is also ornamented with decorative brickwork and stone medallions carved with Celtic crosses. In the 1960's a fellowship hall was added to the west side of the building.

203. Tracy Block, 129-135 Second Street - Contributing

Two story five-bay red brick commercial building erected c. 1891. Well-preserved example of iron storefronts and details supplied by Geo. L. Mesker & Co. of Evansville, Indiana; metal plate on lower east front identifies it as such. Large fluted cast-iron pilasters on large pedestals with capitals ornamented with a floral pattern. The original storefront has been moderately altered.

with glass window transoms covered over with aluminum, original awnings removed and aluminum awnings installed. Central doorway to second floor framed by smaller round cast-iron columns supporting large glass transom. Five long narrow rectangular windows on second story with cornice window heads ornamented by molding and carved flowers and centered with decorated keystone. Decorative metal string course stamped with a foliated pattern and edged with dentils. Large galvanized cornice with paired brackets and larger corner and center brackets. Building has a flat asphalt roof and a sandstone foundation.

204. Weston National Bank Drive-In Facility, 121-123 Second Street E. - Intrusion

Early 1970's structure with parking lot built on site of James Bennett-John McGee residence.

205. Drive-In Driveway and Parking Lot, Second Street - Intrusion

Built on the site of the late 19th-century Hayden Building.

206. Connell Building 1914, 137 Second Street, E. - Contributing

Two story three-bay brick commercial building constructed in 1914. First floor storefront remodeled to an extent, primarily with aluminum siding placed over glass transom. Two rectangular windows on second story flank a central double door opening onto a simulated balcony with iron railings. Narrow dentilled belt course above window level, with an arched pediment set with a datestone inscribed "19-Connell-14." Dentilled cornice, with stone scrollwork flanking the pediment arch.

206. Connell Building 1926, 207-209 Center Avenue - Contributing

Separate building erected by Connell family directly behind and adjoining earlier structure. Originally built to house automobile dealership, now vacant on first floor with apartments on second. Two story brick with large glass display windows on first story flanking triple wooden doors set with two over four panes. Paired rectangular windows on second story, with a narrow stone belt course above and stepped pediment with datestone inscribed "19-Connell-26."

277. Parking Lot, Second Street - Non-contributing

Appears to be site of former automobile dealership; building now demolished.

289. Davis Studio of Photography, 234 Second Street E. - Non-contributing

One story brick commercial building, post 1940's. Does not contribute to district.

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291. Fuccy-Koblegard Building, 238-242 Second Street E. - Pivotal

Three story six-bay brick commercial building constructed c. 1901-05. Excellent example of commercial architecture and metal ornamental work from turn of the century. First story has wood and glass storefront, with three recessed entrances separated by sandstone pilasters. Second and third stories each have five round arched windows with segmental relieving arches, which are flanked on either side by long narrow rectangular windows surmounted by galvanized iron pediment-style window heads with keystones. Elaborate metal cornice with wreath and swag motif topped with iron finials.

293. Danser Building, 237 Second Street E. - Contributing

Three story brick commercial building completed in 1924 on site of earlier foundry. First story somewhat modified, with large glass windows between brick pilasters with plain sandstone capitals. Narrow stone belt course between first and second floors and second and third stories. Tablet above third story windows inscribed "Danser," with smaller corresponding datestones at either side inscribed "1845" and "1924."

292. J. B. Cox Furniture Warehouse, 226 Second Street - Non-contributing

Two story brick and stucco commercial building, believed to have been built c. 1944, although first story may have been constructed earlier, with second story added in '40's.

366. Columbia Club-Old St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 164 Court Avenue - Contributing

One story brick church building constructed 1876 immediately below site of first Catholic Church in Weston. Remodeled between 1914-1929 when Catholic Church moved into new quarters. Front has been extended with brick addition, now covered with stucco, and steeple has been removed. Remainder of building reasonably intact, with arched windows on either side and circular opening at rear where a stained glass window has been removed or covered over. Entire building now painted white. Catholic population in Weston and Lewis County originally established in 1840's with the construction of the turnpike when the county saw a large influx of Irish immigrants, and enjoyed further growth in the 1860's when Italian stonemasons came in to work on the building of the Lunatic Asylum.

368. Old Catholic Rectory, 158 Court Avenue - Contributing

Two story brick residence constructed between 1890-1900 as residence for parish priest. Now privately owned. Brick has been covered with stucco and painted gray, with white bargeboard.

Masonry foundation, roof covered with asphalt shingles. Basic rectangular shape with three-sided two story bay extending from north front. Windows are rectangular, set in arched openings. Two small two over two windows are set in the gable end of the bay's attic story.

369. Louis Bennett Library, 148 Court Avenue - Pivotal

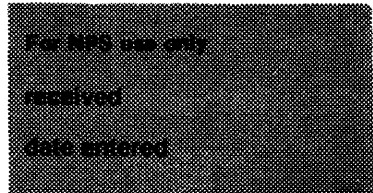
Imposing two story brick Second Empire residence with three story central pavilion. Round arched windows with hood molds set with keystones, three-bay front porch with flat roof with balustraded parapet. Oculus set in pavilion beneath paired arched windows; mansard roof on pavilion with dormers. Gable roof on main section, also with dormers and bargeboard edging cornice. One story three-sided bay with bracketed cornice on projecting ell on south front. Commissioned by Jonathan M. Bennett as his residence, designed by a Parkersburg architect, and completed in 1875. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places June 9, 1979.

Metal Truss Bridge Connecting East and West Second Street - Pivotal

Crosses the West Fork River at Second Street; present bridge on site of three earlier structures, the first completed in 1829 to carry the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike. Present metal bridge built in 1922 by The Concrete Steel Bridge Co., Designers and Builders, of Clarksburg, under the supervision of Frank Duff MacInteer.

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Explanation of Contributing-Non-Contributing Categories as Coded on Sketch Map:

All properties appearing on the sketch map for the Weston Downtown Historic District are coded to represent either a contributing or non-contributing status. The inventory of buildings in part 7, and the legend/key outlined on the sketch map, refer to the following contributing-non-contributing categories:

- Pivotal Structure = Key contributing
- Contributing Structure = Contributing
- Non-Contributing = Non-contributing
- Intrusion = Non-contributing

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1875–1920 **Builder/Architect** Multiple

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

SUMMARY STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(MEETS CRITERIA A, B & C)

Weston's downtown historic district is significant as a cohesive entity which illustrates the forces that shaped the development of the town; for its array of late 19th and early 20th century commercial and vernacular architecture, including several outstanding buildings; and for its association with certain persons whose scope of influence extended beyond the environs of the town. Weston's prosperity throughout its history has depended heavily on developments in transportation. The town owes its original designation as a county seat to an early plan to make the mouth of Stone Coal Creek the head of navigation on the Monongahela River. The first bridge over the West Fork of the Monongahela was completed at Weston in 1829 as part of the Staunton to Parkersburg Turnpike, which in turn brought increased prosperity to the town, first in the form of immigrants who came in to work road construction and later, with the road's completion, in the form of travelers and coach passengers, who made Weston the main stopover on the turnpike. The original narrow gauge railroad, authorized in 1852 and completed in 1879, continued the development begun by the turnpike, and was eventually leased by the B&O, which extended the road and upgraded it to standard gauge. Weston received its greatest impetus from the discovery, in the latter part of the 19th century, of large oil and gas fields in the area. Most of Weston's architectural character derives from the 1875-1920 period when the town enjoyed its greatest surge of growth and prosperity, and its architectural significance may be attributed primarily to its large number of late 19th century commercial buildings, most of them well preserved, as well as several fine examples of distinctive architectural styles, in particular Italianate, Second Empire, and Art Deco. Also remarkable is the Samuel Yellin ironwork on both the interior and exterior of one of the buildings in the district. Weston is also significant for its association with the Trans-Allegheny Lunatic Asylum, now the Weston State Hospital, the country's largest hand-cut stone structure, completed in 1864, and now individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, and the only public building to be authorized by the State of Virginia west of the Alleghenies.

ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Weston was founded in 1818 as the seat of the newly formed Lewis County, and was in its early years the home of Alexander Scott Withers, author of the first book published west of the Alleghenies, Chronicles of Border Warfare (1831). Although the first courthouse was completed in 1821, the town remained chiefly a small county seat revolving around the functions of the court and providing the necessary related services to resident lawyers, judges, and those who came to town for court day, until the 1840's when the Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike was completed. Weston was the main stopover for passengers traveling this route, and from 1837 to 1845 was the actual terminus of the

9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 29 acres, approximately

Quadrangle name Weston, West Virginia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>9</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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F	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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G	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u> <u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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H	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>0</u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

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

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
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state		code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ralph Pedersen A.I.A. Architect

organization (for) Weston Development Association

date November 30, 1984

street & number c/o Citizens Bank of Weston, P. O. Drawer 310

telephone 624-9298 (Pedersen)

city or town Weston

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 August 1, 1985

For NPS use only

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

date 9/28/85

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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National Park Service

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Significance, cont.

turnpike. By 1852 the first stretch of narrow gauge railroad had been authorized and the first bank in the town had opened, the latter a branch of the Exchange Bank of Virginia, and at the time of its founding the only bank between Staunton in the east and Chillicothe, Ohio, in the west, and between Wheeling in the north and Lewisburg in the south. Originally opening in one room of a residence, the bank moved to larger quarters in 1860, and this building still stands, with the original vault intact. The bank's founder, Jonathan M. Bennett, later became Auditor of Virginia. Bennett was also instrumental in bringing the railroad to Weston, as well as influencing the routing of the turnpike through the town, the location of the Lunatic Asylum there, and bringing the first printing press to Weston. He constructed one of the town's finest houses, already listed in the National Register of Historic Places. His son, Louis Bennett, was Speaker of the West Virginia House, and his grandson, Louis Jr., organized a flying school composed entirely of West Virginians for the fledgling United States Air Force during World War I. Louis Jr., killed near the end of the war, was one of the few Americans honored with a stained glass window in Westminster Abbey dedicated to his memory.

Funds for building both the railroad and the Asylum were funneled through Jonathan Bennett's bank, and their construction contributed to the town's increasing population as well as its prosperity. Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, later general with the Confederate forces, attended school at the Bailey House in downtown Weston, and two future United States Presidents were stationed there during the Civil War. Sergeant William McKinley was a patient at the army hospital located in the old Methodist Church, and Major Rutherford B. Hayes, billeted at the Bailey House, left a legacy of correspondence written from Weston.

The discovery of large oil and gas deposits brought a boom town economy to Weston late in the 1800's, clearly illustrated in the downtown historic district. The B&O leased the railroad in 1890, converting it to standard gauge and constructing the railroad depot, and in 1898 Hope Natural Gas Company was formed at Weston, with headquarters on Main Avenue. The period from 1890 to 1915 was the time of major growth in the town, and saw the establishment of various industries at Weston, including other oil and gas companies, a lumber company, brickworks, and drilling equipment manufactories. This period coincided with a similar development in natural resource exploitation in West Virginia as a whole. Thomas A. Whelan, life-long resident of Weston and president of Citizens Bank, was one of the founders of Union Carbide in the late 'teens, now one of the world's largest chemical corporations.

The widening of the railroad by the B&O paved the way for the formation of the Monongahela Valley Traction Company in the early 'teens, which constructed a trolley line from Weston to Clarksburg, paralleling the railroad tracks. The company was headquartered in the Traction Building on Main Avenue, constructed expressly for that purpose. The street car system continued to operate into the 1950's, and had the unfortunate effect of diverting some of Weston's business to Clarksburg, beginning as early as the 1920's.

Newspaper and eyewitness accounts indicate that Main and Second streets suffered several destructive fires between 1876-1889, which resulted in the town's adoption of a building code based on that of the Chicago Fire Department. The subsequent flurry of re-building, together with the requirements of the new fire code, combined to produce an architecturally consistent downtown. The commercial district also contains a large number of buildings with ornamental features and/or

full cast iron storefronts, including one building, the Tracy Block, which can be conclusively identified as bearing a storefront manufactured by the Geo. L. Mesker & Co. of Evansville, Inc., one of the country's largest producers of metal fronts and decorative elements.

While construction of course continued in Weston past 1920, the majority of the historically and architecturally significant buildings within the district were erected between 1875 and 1920 with the exception of the Post Office (1933-34) and the new Citizens Bank building (1927-30). Citizens Bank, in addition to being one of the state's foremost examples of Art Deco, is further distinguished as the only West Virginia commission of master iron craftsman Samuel Yellin of Philadelphia.

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Continuation sheet **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION AND JUSTIFICATION

The district begins at Third Street and extends south on Main Avenue to First Street, and includes the Kitson Apartments on Main just south of First. Those properties facing on First Street from Main Avenue on the west to Center Avenue one block east are included, as are all properties facing on Center from First Street to Second Street. (The primarily residential portion of Center, from Second to Third streets, is excluded). The district encompasses all of east Second Street, from its head at Court Avenue - and including the old Catholic Church, church rectory, and Louis Bennett Library, already a National Register property, all situated on Court near the head of Second - westward to the West Fork River, across the metal truss bridge, to and including the old B&O Railroad Station and railroad hotel directly across the river. (The buildings and grounds of the Weston State Hospital, located directly across west Second Street from the railroad station and also an individually listed National Register property, has not been included within the boundaries of the historic district, since it historically formed a separate although highly influential entity from the town.) Water Street, running along the east side of the river parallel to Main Avenue, is excluded, due to the low concentration of buildings on its three-block length and their non-contributing status. The commercial district of Weston both historically and currently is focused within the rather compact area described, and although portions of the district have in the past been primarily residential in nature, they are presently in the process of conversion to retail and professional office use. Included in this area as well are the important civic buildings such as the Courthouse, Post Office, and Municipal Building (former B&O Railroad Station), and three churches, all of the latter located within one block of each other on Second Street. Besides the boundaries described above, the district is further delineated by a residential area which surrounds the commercial district on three sides.

Beginning at a point in the intersection of Water Avenue and Third Street:

Thence southeast along the center line of Third Street a distance of approximately 385 feet to a point in the alley between Main Avenue and Center Avenue and running parallel to both;

Thence southwest in the alley a distance of approximately 470 feet to a point in the alley;

Thence southeast along the rear (northerly) property lines of Parcels #204, 205, 203, 206, a distance of approximately 185 feet to a point in the center of Center Avenue;

Thence southwest to a point in the center of Center Avenue, a distance of approximately 75 feet;

Thence southeast along the rear (northerly) property lines of Parcels #277 and 293 to a point in the middle of Court Street a distance of approximately 370 feet;

Thence southwest along the center of Court Street an approximate distance of 75 feet;

Thence southeast along the northerly property line of Parcel #366, an approximate distance of 130 feet to the corner of the rear property line;

Thence southwest along the rear (easterly) property line of Parcel #366 an approximate distance of 50 feet to a point adjoining Parcel #368;

Thence southeast along the northerly property line of Parcel #368 to a point in the center of High Avenue, a distance of approximately 60 feet;

Thence southwest along the center line of High Avenue, an approximate distance of 305 feet to a point;

Thence northwest along the southerly property line of Parcel #369 to a point in the center of Court Street a distance of approximately 190 feet;

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION (cont.)

Thence northeast along the center line of High Avenue an approximate distance of 220 feet to a point;

Thence northwest along the rear (southerly) property line of Parcel #291 an approximate distance of 190 feet to a point in the center of the alley between Center Avenue and Court Street running parallel to both;

Thence southwest along the center of the alley an approximate distance of 540 feet to a point in the center of First Street;

Thence northwest along the center line of First Street an approximate distance of 70 feet to a point;

Thence southwest along the easterly property line of Parcel #56 to the rear (southerly) line of said parcel a distance of approximately 135 feet;

Thence northwest along the rear (southerly) property line of Parcel #56 to a point on the center line of Center Avenue an approximate distance of 120 feet;

Thence northeast along the center line of Center Avenue a distance of approximately 25 feet to a point;

Thence northwest along the rear (southerly) property line of Parcel #53 to the southwest corner of said parcel an approximate distance of 130 feet;

Thence northeast along the westerly property line of Parcel #53 to a point on the center line of First Street an approximate distance of 100 feet;

Thence northwest along the center line of First Street an approximate distance of 110 feet to a point;

Thence southwest along the easterly property line of Parcel #18 an approximate distance of 120 feet to the corner with the rear property line;

Thence northwest along the rear (southerly) property line an approximate distance of 25 feet to the intersection with the easterly (rear) property line of Parcel #17 to the southeast corner of the property, a distance of approximately 205 feet;

Thence northwest along the southerly property line of Parcel #17 to a point on the center line of Main Avenue a distance of approximately 100 feet;

Thence northeast along the center line of Main Avenue an approximate distance of 330 feet to a point at the center of the intersection of Main Avenue and First Street;

Thence northwest along the center line of First Street to a point at the center of the intersection with Water Avenue an approximate distance of 200 feet;

Thence northeast along the center line of Water Avenue to a point in the intersection of Water Avenue and Second Street an approximate distance of 625 feet;

Thence west (actually northwest) on Second Street (U.S. 33/U. S. 119) across the metal truss bridge then continuing along Second Street a total distance of approximately 460 feet;

Thence northeast along the center line of Mound Avenue an approximate distance of 210 feet;

Thence southeast along the northerly property line of Parcel #44 to the center line of River Avenue an approximate distance of 200 feet;

Thence southwest along the center line of River Avenue an approximate distance of 95 feet to a point;

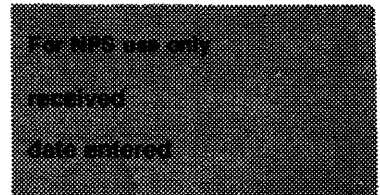
Thence southeast along the northerly property line of Parcel #45 to the riverbank of the West Fork River a distance of approximately 95 feet;

Thence southwest along the riverbank a distance of approximately 80 feet back to the bridge;

Thence southeast across the bridge to a point on the center line of Water Avenue, a distance

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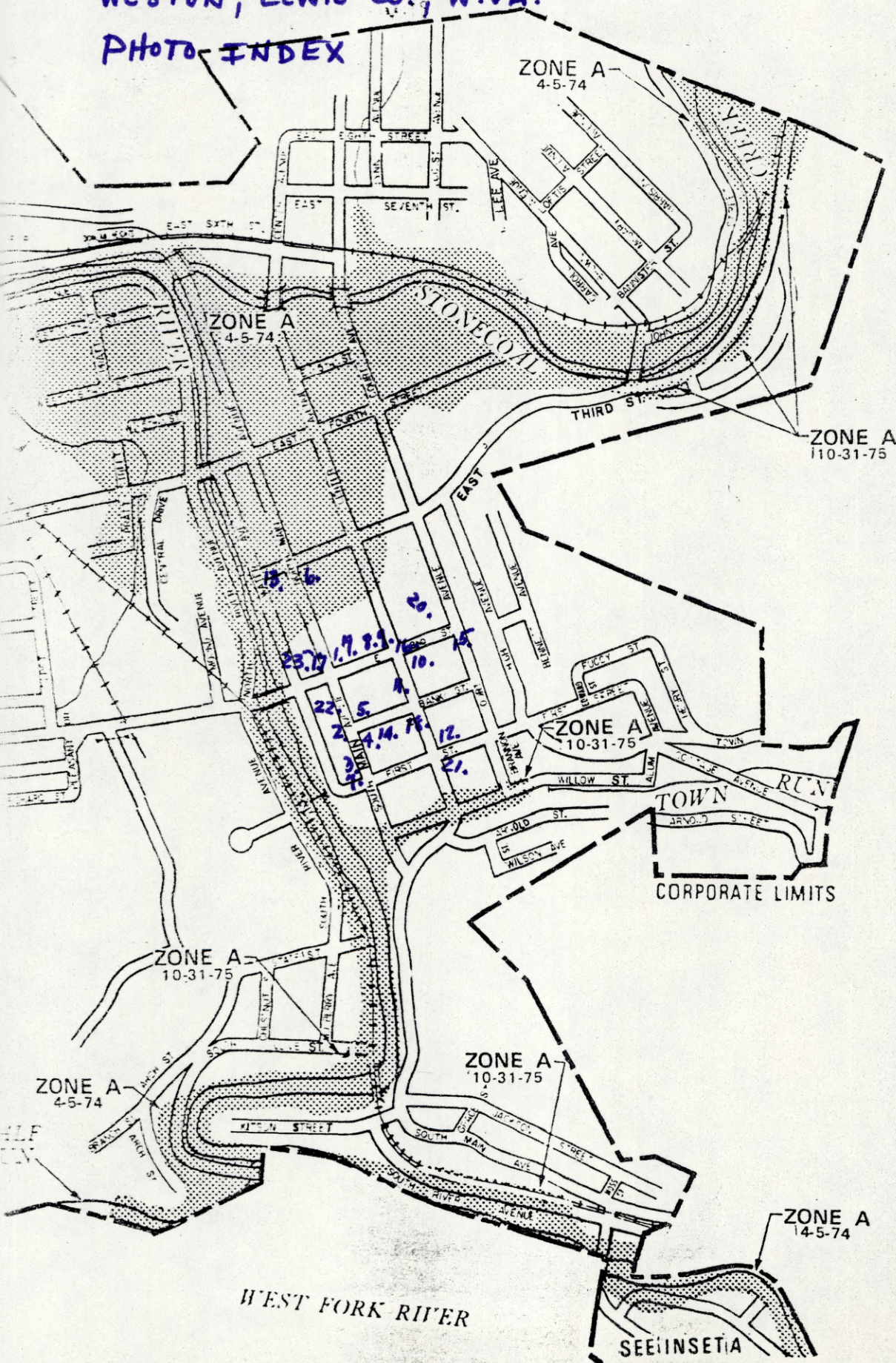
of approximately 145 feet;

Thence northeast along the center line of Water Avenue a distance of approximately 625 feet to a point in the center of the intersection with Third Street, the point of beginning.

WESTON DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT

WESTON, LEWIS CO., W.VA.

PHOTO INDEX



APPROXIMATE SCALE
500 0 1000 2000 3000 FEET

Map Revised
OCTOBER 31, 1975

FIA FLOOD HAZARD BOUNDARY MAP
No. H 01

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Federal Insurance Administration
CITY OF WESTON, WV
(LEWIS CO.)