

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 96000442 Date Listed: 05/02/96

Clendenin Historic District Kanawha WV  
Property Name County State

N/A  
Multiple Name

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

*for Betty A. Savage*  
Signature of the Keeper

5/2/96  
Date of Action

-----  
Amended Items in Nomination:

10. Geographical Data:

The appropriate UTM zone is 17, as indicated on the USGS map. The correct acreage is 20 acres.

This information has been confirmed with staff of the WVSHPO by telephone.

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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

1. Name of Property

historic name: Clendenin Historic District

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: Along Main Street, Maywood Avenue, not for publication:  
Elk Avenue, and Koontz Avenue city/town: \_\_\_\_\_

vicinity: N/A

state: WV code: WV county: Kanawha code: 039 zip code: 25045

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination \_\_\_ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide  locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.)

William G. Sancer  
Signature of Certifying Official

3.5.96  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property  meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	<u>William G. Sancer</u>	<u>5/2/96</u>
___ determined eligible for the National Register ___ See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
___ determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
___ removed from the National Register	_____	_____
___ other (explain): _____	_____	_____

Clendenin Historic District  
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV  
County and State

=====  
**5. Classification**  
=====

**Ownership of Property:**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

- building(s)       object  
 district  
 site  
 structure

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>37</u>	<u>11</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	objects
<u>38</u>	<u>12</u>	TOTAL

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register** N/A

=====  
**6. Function or Use**  
=====

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic: single dwelling; hotel  
commerce/trade: financial  
institution, business,  
professional  
Education: school  
Religion: churches

Same as opposite

=====  
**7. Description**  
=====

**Architectural Classification:**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Late 19th and 20th Century  
Revivals: Classical Revival,  
Colonial Revival, Late Gothic  
Revival; Commercial Style  
Modern Movements: Art Deco

- Foundation Brick, concrete  
Walls Brick, stone, clapboard  
Roof Slate, rolled, asphalt shingle  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
**8. Statement of Significance**  
=====

**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- 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.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

**Criteria Considerations**

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is: **N/A**

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Commerce
- Industry
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1890 - 1940  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Clendenin Historic District

Kanawha County, WV

Name of Property

County and State

Significant Dates

1920

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Knapp and Haviland; Levi J. Dean

A.G. Higgenbotham

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====  
**9. Major Bibliographical References**  
=====

**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

Clendenin Historic District  
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV  
County and State

=====  
**10. Geographical Data**  
=====

Acreage of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	_____	_____	_____	2	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

see continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====  
**11. Form Prepared By**  
=====

Name/Title: Rodney S. Collins, Karen F. Stover, WV SHPO

Organization: WV Div. of Culture & History Date: November 20, 1995

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd, East Telephone: (304)558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

=====  
**Additional Documentation**  
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional Items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Clendenin Historic District  
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV  
County and State

=====  
**Property Owner**    Multiple Ownership  
=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

City or Town: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
=====

**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 listings. 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 20503.

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National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
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Clendenin Historic District

Kanawha County, WV

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Clendenin (population 1,203), is primarily a residential and service community that occupies a level tract at the confluence of the Elk River, and Big Sandy Creek. The Elk is a major tributary of the Kanawha River that flows through the central West Virginia counties of Pocahontas, Webster, Clay, and Kanawha Counties. The community is located about 20 miles northeast of Charleston in an area that witnessed important early industrial developments. The region's deposits of brine, coal, gas, timber, oil, and water attracted industrial entrepreneurs who established facilities, one of which, Union Carbide, would become internationally famous. Clendenin's boom conditions of the late 19th and early 20th century languished, however, as the nearby Kanawha Valley attracted to its spacious topography several of the town's factories. By the second half of the 20th century, Clendenin reverted to the status of a local service center that supplied the local population with department stores, banks, retail shops, service stations and public services. Because development in the town waned to an extent, continuing use of many older building dating to the 1890s and first decades of the 20th century now provide an important physical legacy reflecting the development of a small West Virginia town.

Clendenin is a linear town that presents a development pattern along the relatively narrow benches of the Elk River Valley. At the center of this development is Main Street with its 1890s late Victorian commercial buildings. The importance of the street was enhanced by construction of the Clendenin Bridge (1923, #11) that provided a critical link with the western section of the town. Within the small commercial core are located a variety of brick buildings standing along Main Street, Maywood Avenue, Elk Avenue, and Koontz Avenue. To the northeast of Main Street Koontz Avenue provides an early adjacent residential area containing a school, a church, and older houses, one of which, the Craftsman and Colonial-style Luther Koontz house (1911, #45), was considered Clendenin's finest residence at the time of construction.

Many of Clendenin's major downtown buildings are constructed of brick and feature heavy cornices, brick corbelling, and vernacular "builders" facades. Several banks, among these the old Clendenin State Bank, a Neo-Classical Revival anchor building (1923, #12) and the Farmers and Citizens Bank (c.1925, #23) were designed by Charleston architects. Their prominent corner locations are a reflection of the prestige of these institutions. Toward the close of the town's major period of construction activity is the Roxy Theater (c. 1930-40, #21) a Maywood Avenue Art Deco-style landmark that still functions as a movie theater.

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A high percentage of resources within the Clendenin Historic District contribute to the historic qualities of the neighborhood. Both contributing (C) and noncontributing (NC) resources are identified in the inventory list that follows, in addition to the illustrations presented in color coding on the sketch map attached.

Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

1. Darveys Building, corner of Main and Maywood c.1894, C.  
The 2-story red brick commercial building features outstanding decorative brick paneling and a bracketed cornice.
2. Ore's Video Store, 19-1/2 Main Street, c.1890-94 C.  
Similar to its neighbor to the south, this 2-story brick building is crowned by a heavy period cornice.
3. Old Jackson Grocery Store, 17 Main Street, c.1894, C.  
Despite second story window alterations, this building possesses striking glass display windows and a splayed first floor entrance vestibule.
4. Lynch Floral Center/Jackson Hardware, 15 Main St., c.1892-94, C. A 3-bay, 2-story brick, the structure features decorative brick paneling at the cornice line.
5. Joe's Laundry, Main Street, c.1890 with 1930s alterations, NC.  
The 2-story building was extensively altered during the 1930-40 period with Art Deco refinements. The significant Deco redesign was later altered.
- 6-7. Robertson-Parris Company Store, 24-28 Main Street, c.1894, NC.  
The massive metal canopy and altered windows on the facade facing Main Street have created an integrity problem.
8. Parris Furniture Store/University Health Associates, #3 Main Street 1890s, C. Retaining the rhythm of the street's 2-story Late 19th century commercial buildings, this 3-bay structure was the center of the business established by John Wesley Parris.
9. O.J. Morrison (Ben Franklin, corner of Main and Elk), c. 1915, C.  
The probable design of Huntington architect, Levi J. Dean, its 2-story mullioned window is expansive and unusual.

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10. Karr Discount and Robertson-Parris Warehouse, corner of Main and Elk, c.1900, C. Located to the rear of the previously described building, this is also a 2-story period red brick commercial structure.
11. Clendenin Bridge, at Main and Elk, 1923, C. The old Clendenin Bridge is a multi-truss structure, consisting of a through truss, two poney trusses, and two 1-beam approach spans. The superstructure is carried upon high cut-stone piers that survive, probably from an earlier bridge, constructed about 1894. These masonry features are generally regarded as the finest remaining on the Elk River. The bridge was built by the Metal Products Company and fabricated by the J.E. Moss Iron Works, Wheeling, WV. The bridge is currently the subject of an intensive preservation campaign involving local groups and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.
12. Clendenin State Bank/Bank One, 2-4 Main St., 1923, C. Knapps and Haviland, architects. The commercial section's most prominent example of Neo-Classical architecture, the limestone building features a monumental recessed Ionic portico.
- 13-14. Clendenin Cards and Pharmacy, 12 Main St., c.1900, C. The 2-story structures feature cornice level brick corbelling; each is 3-bays wide.
15. Clendenin Pharmacy and Deli, 14 Main Street, c.1905, C. This structure is 7-bays wide, this major downtown brick building housing 2-stores. Its cornice is corbelled in brick.
16. Dalton Building, First National Bank, corner of Main and Maywood Avenue, c.1915, C. An unusual 3-story brick structure, its pilastered facade and extremely deep bracketed cornice provide a major architectural statement on the street.
17. Melton State Farm Insurance, 4 Maywood, c.1925, NC. Featuring many alterations and additions, the 2-story brick building is fronted with a metal canopy.
18. Brick Store and Apartment Building, Maywood Avenue, 1940s, NC. The 2-story brick building has a metal canopy and steel casement windows.

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19. Eugene's Used Furniture Store, Maywood Avenue, c.1925, NC. Brick veneer and upper floor synthetic siding have impaired the structure's integrity.
20. Liza's Food Market, Maywood Avenue, c.1925, C. A textured red brick 2-story building, it features contrasting buff brick decorative banding.
21. Roxy Theater, Maywood Avenue, c.1930-40, C. The 2-story brick theater, still in use, is the district's only unaltered Art Deco-style building.
22. H&R Block/Apartment Building, Maywood Avenue, c.1940, C. 3-story brick with metal canopy and metal casement windows.
23. Old Farmers and Citizens Bank, corner of Maywood and Cardinal, c.1920, C. This 2-story, buff brick structure is temple form; its Neo-Classical styling is complemented by hollow metal cornices.
24. U.S. Post Office, corner of Maywood and Cardinal, c.1960s, NC. The 1-story brick is of late construction, featuring a flat roof and modern windows.
25. Osborne Garage/Dollar General Store, 106 Maywood, 1920, C. The 2-story brick building originally housed Charles F. Osborne's automobile dealership. It possesses recessed panels and a frieze-line belt course.
26. Modular House, Maywood Avenue, 1980, NC. A small trailer house of recent construction.
27. Summers House, corner of Maywood and Willow Street, 1914, C. The largest brick house on the street, it combines Craftsman and Tudor design elements.
28. Parris House, 1 Willow Street, 1914, C. Knapp and Higgenbotham, architects. One of the town's largest Foursquares, the house features high brick chimneys and hipped dormers.
29. Walker House, 6 Willow Street, c.1916, C. The gambrel-roofed frame house with cross gable is located within a short distance of Elk River.

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31. Robertson, Sidney H., House, Elk Avenue, c.1900, C. The Colonial Revival frame house is the earliest example surviving in Clendenin. It has a double gambrel slate roof and dormers. Robertson was one of the town's most prominent citizens; he served in the State Senate and in a business association with Mr. Parris. The house was moved c.1923 to its present location to make way for the Clendenin State Bank.
32. Monarch Hotel, 12 Kanawha Avenue, c.1900, C. This 3-story frame building is dominated on its town-facing elevation by 3 tiers of porches, the building's distinctive feature.
33. Two-story frame apartment building, Kanawha Avenue, c.1905, NC. Adjacent to the Monarch Hotel, this building like its neighbors is believed to have served to accommodate oil and gas workers and rail passengers.
34. Three Kanawha Avenue houses, Kanawha Avenue, c.1915, C. One of these houses served as a Chinese laundry. Like their neighbors the buildings were utilized to serve passengers on the rail line, located only a few feet from their back doors.
- 35-36. Two 2-story frame houses at the eastern boundary of the district, c.1915, C. Like their neighbors, these structures are elongated and are of frame construction. Also like their counterparts they are partially embanked.
37. Clendenin City Hall, Corner of Maywood at 101 First Street, c.1918, C. A stuccoed American Foursquare, this building has long served as the center of town government.
38. Stephenson, Mayor, House, 3 First Street, 1923-25, C. The tile-roofed Foursquare is distinguished by paired windows and a large full front porch.
39. Clendenin School (Big Sandy District High School), Koontz Avenue, 1912, C. Believed to be the second high school built in Kanawha County, this 2-story building features pedimented pavilions, a center Classical portico, and a centrally placed cupola.
40. United Methodist Church, 121 Koontz Avenue, 1921-22, C. The limestone clad, Neo-Classical Revival-style church features an Ionic telrastyle portico on a high podium.

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41. Clendenin-Campbell House, 202 Koontz Avenue, 1920, C. George Cobb, builder. A 1-1/2 story brick bungalow, the hipped roof house features a full porch with arched opening.
42. Crider House, 204 Koontz Avenue, c.1920, C. A gambrel-roofed frame house, its central hipped dormer is a major feature.
43. Koontz-Holcomb House, 217 Koontz Avenue, 1905, C. This frame Foursquare was an early home to Luther V. Koontz, one of Clendenin's most prominent politicians (often elected mayor) and businessmen.
44. Simmons House, 202 Koontz Avenue, 1911, C. A frame L-shaped, 2-story house with raised seam metal roof, it retains its early massing and detail.
45. Koontz, L.V., House, 301 Koontz Avenue, 1911, C. Regarded as the finest residence in Clendenin at the time of construction, the house is a 2-1/2 story Foursquare brick with heavy Craftsman elements. Two outbuildings, a garage and carriage house, are contributing elements on the property.
46. Blonde Brick Foursquare, Koontz Avenue, c.1918, C. A dormered Foursquare, this house may contain, to the rear, an 18th century log structure.
56. Clendenin Fire Station, Maywood Avenue, 1991, NC. The building is a 1-story, 4-bay structure that is of brick construction with gabled ends.
57. Old Robertson and Parris Feed Store, Koontz Avenue, c.1925, C. The 1-story red brick features limestone banding and cornice-level ornamental brickwork.
68. Historical Marker, Route #119 (First Avenue), NC. This historic highway marker entitled "Petrochemical Plant", interprets the 1920 establishment by Union Carbide of the first plant for the production of synthetic organic chemicals from natural gas, making Clendenin the birthplace of the nation's petrochemical industry.
69. Wood Memorial Church/Clendenin Advent Christian Church, US #119, (First Avenue), north side of Elk River, 1914, C. A small, but handsome rock-faced Gothic Revival church, it is noted for its locally quarried stonework and interior woodwork.

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- 70-A **Smoke Shop, Corner of Main Street and Maywood, c.1945, NC.**  
This is a 1-story concrete block building housing pool tables and a bar. It has been a long-time tavern, somewhat legendary in Clendenin.

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The Clendenin Historic District is located in the center of the city of Clendenin, Kanawha County, West Virginia. It is being nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C. Under criterion A, the district is significant for the role it played as a result of the development of early industries, among these, timber, coal, oil, gas, and various chemical facilities. By 1920, Union Carbide established a plant that became the birthplace of the nation's petrochemical industry. The district is eligible under criterion C for its collection of commercial architecture constructed during the period of significance, 1890-1940.

Clendenin was originally a small settlement from which a village called "Chilton" was founded on the opposite side of the Elk River. This was a community of timber and coal mining, the area's first important industries. At nearby Falling Rock one of the first cannel coal viens, discovered in 1846, became a rich source in the manufacture of artificial gas. Its name is a corruption of "candle coal" because it burns with a bright flame.

There were two significant events which occurred in 1893 and around 1900; these were the coming of the railroad and the drilling of the first gas well. With the development of one of the largest oil and gas fields in the state, the town developed into a boom town almost over night. Banks were established, stores built, oil and gas offices opened and industrial plants constructed. These conditions fostered the construction of many of the town's commercial buildings.

The Coal and Coke Railroad was built up Elk River in 1890. The timberland attracted logging operations. A tram-road was built across the Elk River at Clendenin up through Cobbs Bottom and on up to Left Hand. A small engine called a "dinkey" hauled the logs down to Clendenin. A large lumber industry developed on the south side of Clendenin, as a result.

The South Penn Oil Company purchased a land lease from M.A. Cobb in 1901. A United Fuel pipeline from Left Hand to Clendenin which carried gas from the fields crossed the M.A. Cobb property in 1903. A series of four leases from M.A. Cobb brought the Virginia Gas and Oil Company to on 1916, 1917 and the remaining two leases to United Fuel Gas Company in April of 1922. The company houses for Cobb Station Compressor Plant, once labeled the world's largest compressor station, were started in 1917, and completed in 1920.

Another large industry near Clendenin was the Elk Refining Company. It was built in 1915 and as the years passed the plant increased in size. Besides gasoline, the plant produced many kinds of lubricating oil, pressure grease, Naptha, Benzine, Fuel oil, floor oil and wax.

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In 1920, Union Carbide built the nation's first plant for the production of synthetic organic chemicals from natural gas. The local historical marker states: "...from this nucleus grew the nation's giant petrochemical industry, employer of thousands."

The chemical industry in the United States was not new when Union Carbide started production of petrochemicals in 1920. But a chemical industry based wholly upon the synthesis of the alaphatic hydrocarbons or petrochemicals was new, not only in the United States but in Europe as well.

Following World War I, the early history of the industry actually started at Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, where a young scientist by the name of Dr. George O. Curme of the newly formed Union Carbide and Carbon Corporation began a series of experiments on the synthesis of organic chemicals from "oil-forming gas." These early experiments were destined to become the cornerstone of an industry that now supports a world of necessities and luxuries for the American way of life.

Synthetic organic chemistry was just a laboratory child in 1920. But with the background of information developed earlier by Dr. Curme and his associates, Union Carbide's research program was ready for expansion.

With this early start and the energy and enthusiasm shown by the small group of dedicated men from Mellon, a survey was made of the natural gas fields in the United States to find a region in which the gas was rich in hydrocarbons. Union Carbide discovered that the natural gas in the Clendenin area was as good, if not better, than any other to be found elsewhere.

In July, 1920, Carbide purchased a small gasoline extraction plant and Dr. Curme and his associates moved to Clendenin to continue the earlier work done at Mellon.

This plant had contracts for purchasing it for removal of gasoline by the absorption process, and selling the stripped gas back to the gas company. Such a plant furnished an ideal source for the ethane and propane required for the manufacture of ethylene and propylene from which the desired hydrocarbon raw materials were obtained.

In the conversion of the plant for the production of chemicals, this group of young scientists used the trial and error process - building equipment and tearing down equipment. In so doing, a great industry emerged from the minds of men and the natural resources of a rich nation, to form the nucleus of a business which today provides employment for thousands of people throughout the world.

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Propane, which became a lively business, was sold as bottled gas (later called Pyrofax) for domestic use beyond city gas mains. Other basic gases from the separation process found a market as refrigerants. Ethylene glycol started its career by joining with glycerin in a new type low-freezing dynamite.

The founder of the chemical industry did not come to Clendenin with a blare of trumpets or newspaper headlines. They arrived quietly, rented rooms, donned overalls, and stepped into the most rewarding experience they had, as they watched the birth of a new industry.

Five years later, the company had outgrown Clendenin. There is only one remaining building left from the Clendenin site. From this little noted birth of the petrochemical industry at Clendenin, West Virginia, in 1920, there emerged one of the world's leading businesses, with new companies being formed each year to meet the demands of a multi-billion-dollar industry. The Union Carbide Corporation moved to South Charleston in 1925.

The Union Carbide Corporation and its affiliates operate more than 400 plants in over 30 countries. UCC is the nation's first producer of petrochemicals, the leading maker of plastics, first in the production of alloying metals, the largest producer of manufactured carbon and graphite, the leading extractor of gaseous elements from the atmosphere, the outstanding producer of anti-freeze coolants, first in the manufacture of packaged portable power, and the largest contractor of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission.

Prosperity created by emerging local industry brought into existence as many as three banks, the Farmers and Citizens, the Clendenin State Bank, and the First National Bank. Other manifestations of boom activity appeared along the town's central streets. Here 2 and 3-story brick commercial buildings were constructed to house hardware stores, shops, groceries, and professional offices. Small hotels, such as the Monarch Hotel on Kanawha Avenue, were established to accommodate oil and gas field workers as well as rail passengers. Though many local buildings have been altered at ground level, they retain upper floor period design elements, such as brick corbelling, paneling, and heavy cornices.

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Outstanding recessed store entrances also provide a traditional point of entry between large plate glass display windows. These architectural elements, as well as different architectural styles represented in the town's period of significance, c.1890-1940, represent a significant legacy worthy of restoration and preservation.

#### A Brief History

Clendenin was named for Kanawha County's first pioneer family. The area of land encompassing Clendenin was given to William Cobb by land grant in 1788 by Virginia Governor Edmond Randolph. Early settlers in the area arrived about 1795 and set up small farms scattered around the Big Sandy Creek.

Clendenin was not laid out as a town until 1877, when William Chilton established a townsite. About this time cannel coal was discovered in the area and one of the first refineries in America was built on Falling Rock Creek. The old chimney still remains. With the discovery of oil and gas in 1900, Clendenin became a boomtown.

The first Union Carbide plant was built about 1920 in Clendenin, but moved in 1925 to South Charleston, WV. The town was incorporated in 1904, a water system was installed and a fire department organized in 1910, and streets were paved in 1914. After the decline of the oil and gas industry and termination of railroad service to the area, Clendenin lost its major industries. Today the town remains a service center for the area.

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Research Materials and Historic Photographs: Carol Paiste, New York; Henry Young, Clendenin; Billie and Max Simmons, Clendenin; Dr. and Rebecca Jackson Karr, North Carolina; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ladd, Clendenin; Ernest W. Graham, Clendenin, Mayor James B. Clendenin, City of Clendenin, WV; Thad Epps, Director of Public Affairs, Union Carbide Corporation, South Charleston, WV.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Clendenin Historic District consists of the commercial core of Clendenin, a small segment on the north bank of Elk River, and a residential area to the east along Koontz Avenue. See boundaries marked on enclosed sketch map.

Boundary Justification

The nominated area occupies the core of Clendenin and several feeder streets. The resources are linked in a recognizable association that has always included commercial, banking, and retail interests.