

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received DEC 16 1983  
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Pratt Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

*Roughly bounded by Ferry St., Kanawha River, Charles  
and Pratt Aves. incl. cemetery*

street & number

not for publication

city, town Pratt vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Kanawha code 039

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 checked="" 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	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<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. Kanawha County Courthouse

street & number 409 Virginia Street, East

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pratt/Hansford Historic Survey has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date May, 1983  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Charleston state West Virginia

## 7. Description

### Condition

excellent  
 good  
 fair

### Check one

deteriorated  
 unaltered  
 altered

### Check one

original site  
 moved date \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The architecture of the Pratt Historic District is representative of the historical evolution of the mostly residential character of the town. Buildings represent some of the earliest plantation style mansions such as the Felix G. Hansford house (1824), Harmony Hill (1842) and Marshall Hansford house (1856), the single remaining manufacturing building, the Cooperage (1854), mining company buildings and houses of the turn of the 20th century, and many vernacular and Victorian-era houses of the late 19th and early to mid-20th century. There is one rather fine frame cottage, the Samuel Hanna house (1830-40) with early Greek Revival details.

### PRATT AVENUE (THIRD STREET)

1. Charles Pratt Mining Co. Office - ca. 1889 (Pivotal) - Today a residence owned by Emmett Williams, the building houses the office for the Paint Creek mining operations of the Pratt Coal and Land Co. The building is brick - painted, with a verandah across the north facade, a metal standing seam roof and a lattice enclosed foundation area. Just to the northeast of the building are ruins of the railway approach structure to the river tipple, which no longer exists.
- M*2. Small One-Story House - 1940's type builders house, (intrusive) Lot 8.
- PC*3. One-Story Contemporary Ranch House, apparently a modern addition to an older building behind - (intrusion). Lot 8.
4. Hammer House ca. 1890's (Contributing) - One-story frame house built as a miner house by Pratt Co. Lot 7.
5. Richards House ca. 1890's (Contributing) - Two-story frame house with one-story "L" built by the Pratt Co. as a miner's house. The house has had some minor changes, notably the entrance changed to face the river. Lot 6.
6. Lawson House ca. 1890's (Contributing) - Two-story frame house originally identical to Richards House, also built by the Pratt Company. Like the Richards house the building was narrow, 1-room deep (2 rooms up, 2 rooms down). By 1917 a two-tiered porch had been added to the north side and the entrance moved to that facade. Lot 5.
- M*7. One-Story Ranch Contemporary (Intrusion) 614 Pratt Avenue.
8. One-Story Miner's House ca. 1890's (Contributing) - This house has been "remodeled" with synthetic materials, but the original "L" shape design is intact. Lot 2.
- M*9. Garage Converted to Housing (Intrusion) House on Back of Lot. These buildings are covered with metal siding. 610 Pratt Avenue.

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10. One-Story Frame House ca. 1890's (Contributing) - This is another L-shaped miner's house built by the Charles Pratt Company.
11. Two-Story Contemporary House - before 1970 (Intrusion)
12. Mobile Home (Intrusion) - 606 Pratt Avenue.
13. One and One-Half Story Frame - before 1930 (Contributing) This house may have been built late in Pratt's industrial period. It seems to have been modified in an attempt to simulate a Cape Cod style.
14. Pratt Clubhouse ca. 1890's (Contributing) - This long narrow frame building was once the center of recreation activities for Pratt miners. It has long since been converted to a residence but considerable original fabric remains.
15. One-Story Early Pre-Fabricated House - before 1950 (Contributing) A good example of early factory made housing.
16. Hammaker-Ferrell House ca. 1895 (Contributing) - A one and one-half story house with steep standing seam metal roof, now owned by the Buchanan family, has been altered somewhat but it has a distinctive style.
17. One-Story Contemporary (Intrusion) 512 Pratt Avenue.
18. Mobile Home (Intrusion) - 517 Pratt Avenue.
19. One-Story Gable End House ca. 1890's (Contributing) - This small gable roof house resembles typical single family miners' houses found in many coal camps in southern West Virginia. 510 Pratt Avenue.
20. Hammaker-Baughan House ca. 1897 (Contributing) - Originally a large 2-½ story Victorian house with two-tier verandah and Queen Anne cone-roof covered with wood shingles. There were shingles in the gable ends. The house has been considerably altered. Mr. Hammaker was a merchant, operating a store in Hansford and later in Clifton.
21. Two-Story American Four Square House - c. 1920 (Contributing) - An example of one of the most popular and common styles in American residential history.
22. One-Story Frame - (Contributing)
23. One-Story Frame Bungalow - before 1930's (Contributing)
24. Mobile Home - (Intrusion)
25. One-Story Brick House - early 20th century (Contributing) This house has craftsman style bracketed eaves and other similar details.

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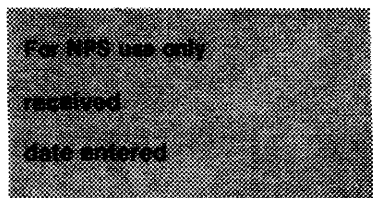
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26. Two Story Frame House Late 19th or early 20th century (Contributing)  
A vernacular frame house similar in many details to the old dog-trot houses of the mid-19th century. It is possible that this house was developed by adding a second story to an existing 19th century house which closely resembles the first floor of this building. The original house appears in a very early 20th century photograph.

*NC* 27. Mobile Home (Intrusion)

28. I.O.O.F. Building ca. 1922-23 (Pivotal) A two-story, two-bay brick building, this structure replaced a frame store/Odd Fellows building which burned in 1921. Mother Jones was tried by military court in the original building during the "Mine Wars" of 1912-13. Both buildings housed the J.A.B. Holt store. Mr. Holt was Pratt's first town marshal in 1905. The Paint Creek Odd Fellows Lodge #135 was installed in 1882. The lodge now meets with the Henrietta Lodge in Montgomery. The building now houses apartments and a beauty shop.

29. Samuel Hanna House ca. 1830-1840 (Pivotal) - The Hanna house is a one story frame L-shaped building with modified Greek Revival details and hip roof. The Center Street elevation has a balanced five-bay opening arrangement with a center entrance protected by a properly-scaled pedimented portico. The door is flanked with narrow sidelights and topped with an eight-light thin transom. Samuel Hanna was one of the original Clifton trustees when the town was laid out in 1851.

30. One-Story Frame House - c. 1915 (Contributing)

*NC* 31. Old Kanawha Baptist Church Property (Intrusion) - The large brick church building, ca. 1968, replaced the 1893 frame structure which was the first permanent home of the church, built after almost a century of service to surrounding communities. The existing property includes building for education, administration, the sanctuary and parking. While the present structures do not contribute to the district, the congregation is one that has been, historically, important to the community and should, therefore, be noted.

*NC* 32. One-Story Contemporary - before 1970 (Intrusion)

*NC* 33. Apartment Buildings ca. 1970's (Intrusion) - Two brick veneer four-unit buildings, well constructed, attractive housing.

*NC* 34. One-Story Contemporary ca. 1960's (Intrusion) - Modern brick ranch style house.

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FERRY STREET

35. Jim Shields Corner ca. 1880 (Contributing) - This small frame house stilee has two of the original front rooms and porch. Early photographs of the town show the house sitting on lot 36 (J.D. Morris property) but it was moved diagonally across the street on Trimble land sometime in the early 20th century. Mr. Shields worked at Tom Chapman's and later J.A.B. Holt's stores. Mrs. Shields was an original officer in the William Morris Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

36. Dr. John Hansford House ca. 1895 (Contributing) - Dr. John Hamilton Hansford was a very popular physician who practiced medicine in Crown Hill (his former home) and Pratt. He attended Mother Jones when she was first detained by military authorities. The large two-story frame house is built in the four square style with classical detailing. There was once an entrance to the doctor's office suite on the east side. In the early 1900's a two-tiered porch wrapped around the southern and eastern sides of the house but this has been altered and the top tier removed. The house is now owned by the Oliver family.

37. The James Trimble House (Pivotal) - This early Victorian farmhouse was part of a large farm tract that lay between Pratt and Paint Creek. The building was sited along the Old County road and was later flanked on the north side by the old K&P Railroad that ran from the Paint Creek mines to the Pratt river tipple. It is an L-shaped house with a porch running all along the inside of the L. One end has a small three-window bay with curved (pagoda-like) metal roof. Another gable end is decorated with wood shingles. The house today is a rental property.

38. One-Story Frame House ca. early 20th century (Contributing) - T.M. Burke lot.

39. Two-Story Frame ca. 1966 (Intrusion) Present personage of the Old Kanawha Baptist Church. Lot 36.

40. One-Story Frame House early 20th century (Contributing) Plat. 10.

41. One-Story L-Shape House early 20th century (Contributing) - Part of Lot 19.

42. One-Story House early 20th century (Contributing) Brace Rader Lot.

43. Weaver-Grose House ca. 1905 (Pivotal) - Built and owned by C & O Railway employee W.D. Weaver until 1918 or 1919, the house was bought at auction by Mrs. Minnie Grose, a school teacher. In 1964 the house was acquired by the Bobiak family. The large two-story L-shaped house is vernacular Victorian with a large front porch feauting a metal, cone-shaped roof at the north end. A large gable in the center of the front elevation suggests an element of Gothic Revival.

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44. Old Baptist Parsonage ca. early 20th century (Contributing) - This is the older of the two parsonages for the Old Kanawha Baptist Church. It is now owned by Wade Coley. It is a large two-story square building with a porch across the front, steep metal covered roof and corbeled brick chimneys.

WASHINGTON AVENUE

45. Anderson Jarrett House ca. late 19th century (Contributing) - This is an L-shaped one-story frame house with columned porch.

46. Julian M. Johnson House ca. late 19th century (Contributing) - The Johnson family has a distinguished family history dating back to William Johnson, Sr. who was a Revolutionary War soldier. He moved to Monroe County in 1798 from Bath County. Julian Johnson, born in 1847 near Paint Creek, was William Sr.'s great grandson. Julian was a merchant. The house is two-story, early Victorian frame, now clad in aluminum siding, but maintaining its original structural lines. Lot 19.

NC47. Mobile Home (Intrusion)

48. One-Story Vernacular Frame - before 1930 (Contributing)

49. One-Story Frame House - early 20th century (Contributing)

M50. One-Story Frame House - mid-20th century (Contributing)

51. Two-Story Four Square Frame - early 20th century (Contributing)

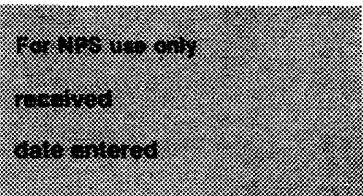
52. Burke-Mooney House - late 19th century (Pivotal) - This is a two-story vernacular house originally with clapboard siding - now clad with aluminum siding. Presently occupied by the Merle Oliver family. The house still has its Victorian entrance door.

53. Boyer House ca. 1910 (Pivotal) - Designed by Charleston architect George Hennan this two-story house has large gables with recessed end wall features and a large verandah on the southern and eastern sides. The house style could be said to reflect a modified shingle style as the curved features of the gables were once covered with shingles. Mr. Boyer was with the Paint Creek Coal Co. and Mrs. Boyer helped establish a 1000-volume library in the Old Town Hall and she organized the "Thoughtful Girls Society." The house was later owned by Kitty (Veazey) and Brad Colman who were showboat owners. It is now owned by the Black family.

54. The Blue House ca. Pre-Civil War (Pivotal) - A one-story frame house presently owned by the Charles Veazey family. It has been altered considerably in the last few years. The house has features that echo the early "dog-trot" style with large central hall, flanked by two large rooms. Former owners included Morris Hansford, Mrs. J.A. Lauch, Bob Moore (who operated a lunch room for several years), the Plymales, the Paul Noels and the Clifford Holts.

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55. Perry-Holt House ca. 1896 (Pivotal) - This is a two-story L-shaped Victorian vernacular building with a three-window bay that has a uniquely designed roof peak over each window. The porch retains its decorative wood "gingerbread". All rooms open into central hall and the interior features wood wainscoting and random width flooring. The house is presently owned and occupied by Mrs. Patty H. Nugent.

56. Virginia Johnson House 1884, (1926) (Contributing) - The Johnson house is a two-story building with the second story built over a one-story two-room school building which was Pratt's school from 1884 until 1926.

57. Benjamin Baughan House mid-19th century (Contributing) - This house is a three-bay two-story frame house with a porch across the front of the building.

58. Two-Story Cinder Block Garage Apartment (Intrusion)

59. Old Town Hall ca. 1875 (Pivotal) - The Old Town Hall was built on Lot 24 donated by Dickinson Morris as the public square. The earliest use of the building was as a Union Church. The original bell and bell tower are intact. The builder was John B. Johnson, a carpenter and early settler. The building is wood frame on a dry laid stone foundation. Originally, the Old Town Hall had a wood shingle roof, but it has been roofed for many years with standing seam metal. The building was recently (1981-82) restored.

60. Margaret Conway House ca. 1870's (Pivotal) - This small frame building was originally a board-and-batten faced store and post office. Late 19th century photographs show it with a high rectangular facade which masked the small size of the building behind. The Conways also operated an ice house. The present owners are Holt and Rae Jewell Veazey.

61. Powell Residence (Contributing) - English cottage style frame house 1-1/2 stories. Mrs. Powell is the great, great, granddaughter of John B. Johnson.

62. One-Story Frame House late 19th century (Contributing) Lot 12.

63. Marshall Hansford House ca. 1856 (Pivotal) - Marshall Hansford was the son of the settler Major John Hansford. Marshall elected to remain in the Kanawha Valley and built his fine brick home on lot 26 of the original Dickinson Morris town plan. He also owned lot 25. The house is a five-bay colonial-style house with Georgian symmetry and classical detailing. There was originally a two-tier portico with turned plain columns on the second level and square columns on the first level, and dentiled pediment. Both levels were decorated with delicate wood railings. The lower tier was extended across the front of the house at a later date during the occupancy of O.A. Veazey, and still later the upper tier was removed. The house

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has had additions and concessions to modern heating and electrical conveniences, but most of the original fabric remains and it is in excellent condition. The house is currently the home of Nile and Opal Norton.

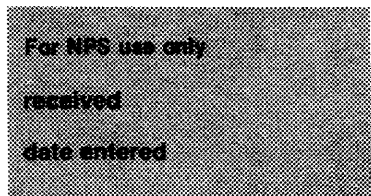
CHARLES STREET

64. City Water Plant - (Contemporary Intrusion) - Built near the site of the town ferry landing.
65. One Story Brick House - (Intrusion) - Ranch style contemporary.
66. Garage Apartment - (Contributing) - Older house converted.
67. Split-Level Contemporary - (Intrusion)
68. Melchisedeck Moore House ca. 1906 (Contributing) - Mr. Moore was a Civil War veteran of the Union army, originally from Nicholas County. After farming in the Malden District for a time after the war he moved to Pratt in 1904, purchased property along the river from Mrs. Robert Dickinson and started a ferry business. Two years later he erected this simple one story frame house which has survived virtually unchanged except for the porches having been enclosed. The present owners (since 1975) are Mr. and Mrs. L.G. Mullins.
69. The Cooperage (Robert L. Dickinson House) before 1854 (Pivotal) - Site of Pratt's manufacturing history, the Cooperage, as its name implies, was the building in which barrels were made for the salt makers at "The Licks" (Malden). It was one of several such establishments during the mid-nineteenth century when Kanawha Valley salt making was quite strong. Dr. Otis Rice wrote that, in 1829, the need for salt barrels kept 200 coopers busy. The barrels were transported by flat boat to Malden. The Cooperage was occupied by Union soldiers during the Civil War. It is structurally and proportionately the same as it was originally although it has been remodeled. It is presently owned by Roy and Mary Adkins. Former prominent owners besides the Dickinsons were Major (CSA) J.F.S. Smith and his wife Martha Jane Hansford Smith, the Woods, and Mrs. W.T.L. Crocker.
70. O.A. Veazey Office ca. 1901 (Contributing) - The brick office was built by Mr. Veazey to house his civil and mining engineering office. It is currently a residence. The building along with other outbuildings formed the estate of O.S. Veazey who purchased the property from Marshall Hansford in 1880. The estate is presently owned by Nile and Opal Norton.
71. Cinderblock House (Intrusion) - Occupies site of former slave cabin which had been converted by O.A. Veazey into a small chapel.



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72. One-Story Frame House before 1930 (Contributing)

73. The Cottage of Martha Jane and "Miss Mary" ca. 1879 (Contributing) - This small L-shaped house was originally faced with clapboard siding and was neatly detailed with shutters at the windows and typical Victorian sawed wood decoration around the porch. Today it is covered with synthetic siding and the porch is shorn of its decoration and there have been additions. It has been well maintained, however, by present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hall. Original owner of the property was Martha Jane Hansford Smith.

74. Frazer-Thompson House ca. 1879 (Contributing) - This is a well proportioned three bay two story L-shaped frame house with a porch across the west facade (facing Charles Street) and a bay window on the south end (facing Pratt Avenue). The house has been altered somewhat but retains most of its original fabric and architectural form. It has minimal but effective wood decorative elements. The original owner was Charles Frazer who was a superintendent for the Charles I. Pratt Company. His wife was the former Carrie Hansford Smith, granddaughter of Felix Hansford and a descendent of William Morris. The Frazers sold the house to the William Thompsons and moved to "Harmony Hill". The third, and present, owners are Mr. and Mrs. John Surgeon.

CENTER STREET - Pratt Avenue to the River

75. One-Story Frame (Contributing) - Located behind I.O.O.F. Hall.

76. Two-Story Frame (Contributing) - This house has a gambrel roof.

N 77. Mobile Home - (Intrusion)

78. Mrs. Carney's Boarding House late 19th century (Pivotal) - This large two-story structure was built by the Willis Brothers and has been occupied by several families, being used much of the time as a boarding house. The building has undergone several changes but still has certain elements of its original architecture. Historically the boarding house is important because it was the "prison" in which labor organizer/agitator Mother Jones was detained during the 1912-1913 mine wars. She and the owner, Mrs. Carney, became good friends.

79. One-Story Frame (Contributing)

N 80. U.S. Post Office - cinder block building (Intrusion) located on part of the original school building lot.

81. One-Story Vernacular Frame - (Contributing)

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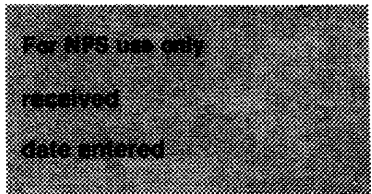
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82. One-Story Frame House - early 20th Century (Contributing)
83. T-shaped Frame House - early 20th century (Contributing)
84. T-shaped Frame House - early 20th century (Contributing)
85. One-Story Cinder Block House with stucco covered (Contributing)
86. One-Story Frame House - early 20th century (Contributing)
87. Hudson House mid-to-late 19th century (Contributing) - The front two rooms of this house were once used to store feed and grain. A slave cabin was attached later and became the dining room and the kitchen was brought in from a former location facing Center Street. The result is a pleasant looking house facing the Kanawha River. Mrs. Mary Frances Noel and her son Timberlake occupy the house at this time. Mrs. Noel is a direct descendent of pioneer Paddy Huddleston.
88. Schultz-Hansford House ca. 1854 (Pivotal) - This house is a large two and one-half story house located on the river front. It is two rooms deep and has a wide central hall from which rises a handsome stair with nearly all of the original fabric intact. The exterior of the house has been clad in metal siding but the interior is undergoing a sensitive restoration. Miss Annie Schultz, the last of the original family to occupy the house, was pianist for the Old Kanawha Baptist Church for several years. The house is now owned by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Nuckols.
- N<sup>o</sup> 89. Mobile Home - (Intrusion)
- N<sup>o</sup> 90. Contemporary Brick House before 1970's - (Intrusion)
91. One and One-half Story Frame House before 1950's (Contributing) - This house, facing the river is a Cape Cod revival.
- N<sup>o</sup> 92. House Under Construction (Intrusion) Appears to be typical builder's house.
- N<sup>o</sup> 93. City Building ca. 1960's-70's (Intrusion) - Concrete block one-story building housing offices, police station and meeting room.
94. Two-Story Duplex (Contributing) - This double house is designed in the American four square style.
- N<sup>o</sup> 95. Fire Station 1960's (Intrusion) - The two-story concrete block fire station is built on the site of the original C&O depot building.

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ROUTE 61

96. The Early House ca. 1898-1901 (Contributing) - The Early house is a fine example of Victorian architecture, three and one-half stories in height with steep roof slopes, large gables, dormers and a dominating two-tier verandah with balustrade railings which crosses the front of the house and curves around the west side. The house is built of buff brick with rock-face stone corners. The large gables are shingled. The entrance steps to the lower verandah are eighteen feet wide. The building is kept in good repair by its present owners Mr. and Mrs. Howard Robinson.

97. Harmony Hill ca. 1842 (Pivotal) - The Dickinson Morris house is built on ground obtained from the original south side settler John Jones, and Dickinson and Susan Morris lived in the Jones house while their house was being constructed. The house has brick walls (18" thick) and rests on a stone foundation. The brick was made on the site and the stone was quarried and hand cut by Bob Hunter. The shutters, which are still in use, were made by John B. Johnson who was a local carpenter and may have provided other carpentry work on the house. The house is a five-bay colonial building, originally built with a central classical pedimented portico supported by four square decorated columns. The original roof was wood shingles. Today the house has a different appearance with the portico replaced with a porch across the front supported by six round columns. The building still contains much of its original fabric including the handsome side-lighted entrance door and matching triple window directly above the porch. The interior has been elegantly restored and decorated by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. George Pack. Mrs. Pack (Mary Beth Oliver) is a descendent of the Morris family.

98. Pratt Cemetery (Pivotal) - The largest cemetery in the area and the only within the boundaries of Pratt, this cemetery has served as the community burying ground for over eighty years. The earliest record of its establishment is 1902, when the cemetery association bought the land from Charles Pratt. The oldest grave is that of prominent early settler John Jones (d.1838). Dickinson Morris and his wife, Susan, are also buried here. Many veterans, from the Revolutionary War through World War II are buried in the Pratt Cemetery.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				local history

Specific dates 1781 and 1912-13 Builder/Architect N/A

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Pratt Historic District is significant as a small town that has survived with its 19th and early 20th century architectural ambience nearly intact. It is also highly significant as home to many individuals and families who were pivotal to the settlement and growth of the Kanawha Valley, and as the scene of events pivotal to the history of West Virginia.

The Town of Pratt, though not officially incorporated until 1905, was settled as early as 1781 and continued to grow and thrive throughout the 19th century. Most of the residential architectural styles from the 19th and the early 20th centuries are represented in the town of Pratt. While this is more specifically addressed in Part 7 of this document, suffice it to say that Pratt contains examples of Federal, Greek Revival, Neo-Classical and, in particularly high concentrations, Victorian period architectural styles. Also represented are working class vernacular architectural types constructed to serve coal mine companies and their employees, as well as structures that retain elements from the early settlement period, such as the Cooperage (#69 in Part 7), built prior to 1854.

The Town of Pratt has, like most places of human habitation, passed through several rather distinct periods in its historical development.

Two particular eras in the history of Pratt are quite significant to the history of the Kanawha Valley and the state of West Virginia.

The first to be considered is the settlement era dating from about 1781 through the late 1850's. The Morris and Hansford families, both of whom played prominent roles in the history of Kanawha County, contributed significantly to the settlement of the valley. The Morris family were the first permanent settlers, establishing their homestead at Kelly's Creek on land that became the present town of Cedar Grove. John Jones, Revolutionary War veteran and, also, like the six Morris brothers, veteran of the Battle of Point Pleasant, married the youngest of the Morris children, Frances, in 1781 and acquired about 800 acres from Paint Creek to the Narrows (Handley). He built his log house on a river terrace near Paint Creek. Major John Hansford came to Kanawha County in 1778, married the oldest child of the Morris family, Jane, and they built an exquisite frame house at what is now Crown Hill, below Paint Creek, in 1798. Their house was the first house in the valley to depart from the traditional log house, and was also the first to have glass in the windows, and fine brick chimneys.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bailey, Kenneth R., "'Grim Visaged Men' and the West Virginia National Guard in the 1912-13 Paint and Cabin Creek Strike", West Virginia History, Volume XLI, No.2, Published Quarterly by the State of West Virginia, Dept. of Culture and History, Charleston, W.Va. (Winter 1980).

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 38.43 acres

Quadrangle name Cedar Grove, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

17	466620	42219160
Zone	Easting	Northing

B 

17	466620	42219010
Zone	Easting	Northing

C 

17	466810	42218810
Zone	Easting	Northing

D 

17	466830	42218810
Zone	Easting	Northing

E 

17	4668130	422187150
Zone	Easting	Northing

F 

17	466790	42218720
Zone	Easting	Northing

G 

17	466430	422188180
Zone	Easting	Northing

H 

17	466430	42218760
Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Beginning at eastern end of Pratt Avenue, follow Pratt Avenue west to Center Street; follow Center Street south across W.Va. Route 61 and along eastern line of Robinson property (Early house); follow southern property line of Robinson tract and adjoining Pack property (Harmony Hill) to the Pratt Cemetery line;

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

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul D. Marshall, A.I.A.; Michael J. Pauley, Historic Preservation Unit

organization Paul D. Marshall & Associates, Inc. date June, 1983

street & number 1033 Quarrier Street, Suite 406 telephone 304/ 343-5310

city or town Charleston state West Virginia

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Unit, S.H.P.O.

date December 7, 1983

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
National Register

date

1/12/84

  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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

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Two of the Hansford sons built fine brick houses which still stand in the district, as does "Harmony Hill" the imposing structure built by Dickinson Morris (1842) on land acquired from John Jones. Dickinson laid out the town in 1851, naming it Clifton.

A very important part of the life of the early settlers was the expression of their religious beliefs, and the people of upper Kanawha Valley wasted little time in establishing a church. The Kanawha Baptist Church was formed in 1796 under the leadership of Elder James Johnstone. The pioneer founders built well because the Old Kanawha Baptist Church is a viable organization of more than 200 members today.

During the Civil War, the Town of Clifton, as Pratt was then called, was headquarters to the 37th Ohio Volunteer Infantry in the Winter of 1861-62. The Marshall Hansford House (#63 in Part 7) was the headquarters of Union Colonel Siber.

During the period following the Civil War, Pratt (or Clifton as it was then called) experienced a long period of slow but steady growth, typified by the construction of such Victorian-style residences as the Margaret Conway House (1870's), the Virginia Johnson House (1884), and, especially, the Old Town Hall (1875), which is still a focus of community activity. About 1873 the Town of Clifton became "Deگو", and retained that name until about 1899.

In the late 1880's coal mining became the single most important economic activity in the upper Kanawha Valley, and in 1889 the Charles Pratt Coal Company, which had extensive coal mining operations on Paint Creek, the most famed of the Kanawha Valley coal fields, made its headquarters here. The incorporation of Pratt in 1905 bearing the name of the coal company typifies the importance of that economic activity to the community. The location in Pratt of the office headquarters of the Charles Pratt Coal Company (1889), the Pratt Coal Company Clubhouse for miners (1890's), and numerous "company houses" built for the miners by the company in the 1890's and 1900's, during the high point of "Paternalism", is highly indicative of the paramount importance of coal mining to this community and of its effect upon not only the lives but the landscape of the community.

The high point of this period in the history of Pratt, and illustrative of its importance at this point in time, came with the outbreak of the "Mine Wars" of 1912-13, an upheaval between labor and coal company management that gained national notoriety and brought the name of "Pratt" not only to national newspapers but to the floor of the U.S. Senate. Pratt served as headquarters for first, the coal company guards (or "thugs" as the striking miner's called them) and later for the West Virginia National Guard which administered three separate periods of martial law, during which time Paint Creek and other large areas around Pratt

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were declared to be in a "state of lawlessness and insurrection". Pratt was the location of many of the infamous "bullpens" where striking miners were imprisoned by "military tribunals". The most famous of those imprisoned at Pratt was undoubtedly famed union organizer Mother Mary Jones (1830-1930), who was "detained" in Mrs. Carney's Boarding House (#78 in Part 7). "Mother" Jones, famed throughout the nation, managed to smuggle a message from her "prison" which reached Senator John W. Kern of Indiana, who read it on the floor of the U.S. Senate, touching off a heated debate in that body that focused national attention on the tragic events in the Kanawha County coalfields. In the meantime, Mother Jones was put on "trial" at the I.O.O.F. Building (#68 in Part 7), but nothing came of this. In the spring of 1913, incoming Governor Henry D. Hatfield visited "Mother" Jones at Mrs. Carney's Boarding House and shortly thereafter was able to bring about a compromise settlement between coal operators and miners that brought the conflict to a peaceful, if temporary, end.

After the unwelcome excitement and occupation of the town by National Guard troops was over, Pratt once again settled into its peaceful residential norm. Today the town is a quiet, well-groomed little town which exhibits its elegant historical buildings of the settlement era alongside miners' houses of the industrial period with grace and compatibility. The streets run almost to the river, as if the ferry landing at the foot of Charles Street still accepted passengers and as if you could still clamber up a showboat gangplank at the bottom of Center Street. The town is uncluttered by neon and fast food shops and is not invaded by the noise and pollution of traffic jams. A student of Kanawha Valley history can easily find evidence of ante-bellum country mansions and, with a little imagination, can visualize those buildings situated on grounds that opened up to a grand view of the river. That same student can trace the path of the earliest county road on the south side of the Kanawha, and can follow the path of the old Paint Creek railroad line that connected the Paint Creek mining operations with the Pratt Coal Company river tipple. The evidence is there - Pratt is a district distinct in its character and possessing a proud heritage.

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#9 Major Bibliographical References

Dayton, Ruth Woods, Pioneers and Their Homes on Upper Kanawha, Reprinted by Education Foundation, Inc., Charleston, W.Va., West Virginia Publishing Company, Charleston, W.Va., 1977.

Eckert, Allen W., The Frontiersmen, A Narrative, Bantam Books, New York, 1981.

Harris, V. B., Great Kanawha, An Historical Outline, Commissioned by The Kanawha County Court, Jarrett Printing Company, Charleston, W.Va., 1974.

Laidley, W.S., History of Charleston and Kanawha County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens, Richmond-Arnold Publishing Company, Chicago, Illinois, 1911.

Paul D. Marshall & Associates, Inc., "A Cultural Research Project, The New River Gorge National River, West Virginia," Vol. I and II, Prepared for the National Park Service, Charleston, W.Va., 1981.

"Pratt's Bicentennial Book," Compiled by Opal Norton, Patty Nugent, Min Powell, Sally Jacobs, Virginia Johnson, Cebert Elkins, 1976.

"Reminiscences of Alvah Hansford," The Journal of the Kanawha Valley Genealogical Society, Vol. 3, No. #1, January 1979.

"The Sheltering Arms Hospital," The Church News, Vol. XXXIII, No. #6, and #11, Published by Missionary Committee of the Diocese of West Virginia, Wheeling, W.Va., August 1908.

Wintz, William D., (ed.), "Recollections & Reflections of Mollie Hansford, 1828-1900 (A Daughter of the Kanawha Valley), Quick Copy Duplicating Service, Charleston, W.Va., n.d.

Old Town Hall Association, Archival research and documentation of 37 buildings, 3 cemeteries, schools, historical events, organizations, 17 individuals and families; and arranging for the collection and copying of historic photographs and artifacts.

Old Town Hall Association, Interviews with citizens of Pratt, Hansford, and Charleston, and transcription of interviews.



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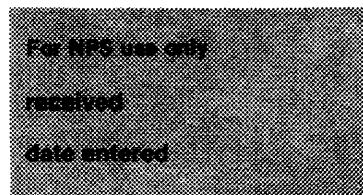
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#10 Geographical Data

Verbal boundary description and justification -

the district line continues around the cemetery property until it intersects the western property line of the Pack property; follow north on the western Pack line to the edge of W.Va. Route 61 and turn east; the line continues east until it reaches a point perpendicular to the western side of Center Street; follow Center Street north to the southern side of Pratt Avenue and turn west; follow Pratt Avenue west to Ferry Street; the line then moves south, west, north and east around the Oliver property (Dr. Hansford House) and Trimble house back to Ferry Street; turn north on Ferry Street to the Kanawha River; follow the river edge east to the east side of Charles Avenue; follow Charles south to the north side of Pratt Avenue; turn east on Pratt Avenue and return to beginning.

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UTM References:

I 17 /4 6 6 2 8 0/ 4 2 2 8 7 5 0

J 17 /4 6 6 3 2 0/ 4 2 2 8 6 0 0

K 17 /4 6 6 3 2 0/ 4 2 2 8 5 2 0

L 17 /4 6 6 1 2 0/ 4 2 2 8 7 1 0

M 17 /4 6 6 2 7 0/ 4 2 2 8 7 9 0

N 17 /4 6 6 2 5 0/ 4 2 2 8 8 3 0

O 17 /4 6 6 3 7 0/ 4 2 2 8 8 4 0

P 17 /4 6 6 3 7 0/ 4 2 2 8 9 2 0

Q 17 /4 6 6 2 8 0/ 4 2 2 8 9 4 0

R 17 /4 6 6 2 8 0/ 4 2 2 8 9 8 0

S 17 /4 6 6 2 2 0/ 4 2 2 8 8 5 0

T 17 /4 6 6 1 8 0/ 4 2 2 8 9 6 0

U 17 /4 6 6 2 3 0/ 4 2 2 8 9 7 0

V 17 /4 6 6 2 7 0/ 4 2 2 9 2 0 0

# PRATT HISTORIC DISTRICT

Pratt, Kanawha County, West Virginia

