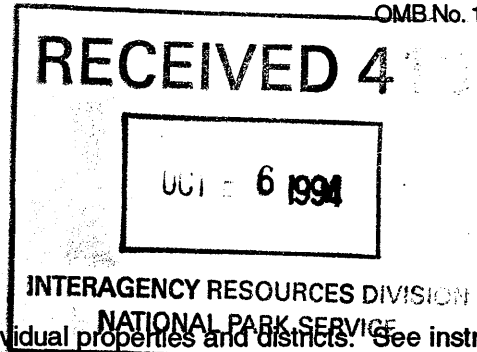


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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

## 1. Name of Property

historic name The Dering Building  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number	<u>175-77 Walnut Street</u>	not for publication	<u>N/A</u>
city or town	<u>Morgantown</u>	vicinity	<u>N/A</u>
state	<u>West Virginia</u>	code	<u>WV</u>
		county	<u>Monongalia</u>
zip code	<u>26505-3487</u>	code	<u>61</u>

## 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 for additional comments.)

William S. Gencer  
Signature of certifying official

9/29/94  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

# USDI / NPS NRHP Registration Form

The Dering Building  
Monongalia, West Virginia

Page 2

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## 4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register  
See continuation sheet.

Entered in the  
National Register

determined eligible for the  
National Register  
See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the  
National Register

removed from the National Register

other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

Edson H. Beall  
for  
Signature of Keeper

11.4.94  
Date of Action

---

## 5. Classification

---

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u> ___	buildings
___    ___	sites
___    ___	structures
___    ___	objects
___    ___	Total

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register    \_\_\_

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

# USDI / NPS NRHP Registration Form

The Dering Building  
Monongalia, West Virginia

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## 6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce / Trade

Sub: Specialty Store

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Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce / Trade

Sub: Business / Office Building

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## 7. Description

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Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Romanesque Revival

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Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

roof Flat Tar Buildup

walls Brick

Stone Facade

other \_\_\_\_\_

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

# USDI / NPS NRHP Registration Form

The Dering Building  
Monongalia, West Virginia

Page 4

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- X A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- X B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- X 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.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a 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)

Agriculture  
Commerce

Period of Significance

1896 - 1910

Significant Dates n/a

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Fred A. Dering

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Elmer F. Jacobs

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

# USDI / NPS NRHP Registration Form

The Dering Building  
Monongalia, West Virginia

Page 5

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## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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(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 # \_\_\_\_\_

### Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of repository: West Virginia and Regional History Collection

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## 10. Geographical Data

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Acreeage of Property less than one

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>17</u>	<u>589520</u>	<u>4387040</u>	3	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____

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.)

# USDI / NPS NRHP Registration Form

The Dering Building  
Monongalia, West Virginia

Page 6

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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name/title Brian Thomas Berkley

organization Graduate Student / West Virginia University

date May 25, 1994

street & number 445 Oakland St., Apt. 308-2

telephone (304) 598-7159

city or town Morgantown

state WV zip code 26505-3487

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## Additional Documentation

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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)

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## Property Owner

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

name Philip Gaujot

street & number 177 Walnut Street

telephone 304-558-0220

city or town Morgantown,

state WV zip 26505

**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 the 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 Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7 Page 7

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

### Description—Historic and Current

The Dering Building is a 3-story, masonry, Romanesque Revival style block with a rectangular plan, a flat roof, separate store fronts, recessed portico entrances, and a one story shed protrusion on the rear, with an asphalt shingle roof. It has a stone foundation, full basement, and fronts south onto Walnut Street.

The first floor facade is composed of two store fronts divided by a rock-faced coursed ashlar respond. The western storefront is asymmetrical, with two twenty-four light Colonial style windows with wooden mullions and separated by a wooden muntin on the left of the recessed portico, and an eighteen light window of similar style on the right. The kickboard and signboard fascia are wooden, brackets are attached to fluted wooden pilasters and signboard fascia. The recessed porticos have an eighteen light Colonial style window on each side of the door. There is a six light semi-circular transom window in each portico. The doors on both sides are made of wood and have fifteen lights.

The eastern store front is symmetrical with a recessed portico framed by two thirty light Colonial style windows, the kick board, signboard fascia and recessed portico are the same as the western store front.

The first and second floor are divided by a wooden denticulated cornice. The quoins have a protruding stone emblazoned with a Norman cross adjoining the cornice. The second floor has five double-hung two light windows. The middle window opens onto a false semi-circular balcony with ornamental wrought-iron railing. The windows have stone sills.

The second and third floors are separated by a stone lintel. There are five double-hung two light windows with arched hoods, dripstones, stone sills, and a lintel below the arched hoods.

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

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7 Page 8

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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Above the third floor windows, there is a row of denticulation between the quoins, the frieze is smooth with the name "Dering" inscribed in block letters, and a denticulated cornice. There is a pediment above the flat roof with a rising sun motif and the date of construction inscribed in the center, stone brackets on either side of the pediment and on each quoin, and a parapet.

The remaining three sides are of brick construction utilizing an American bond pattern. The western side of the building has two double-hung two light windows on the second and third floors, with relieving arches above each. There are iron support structures for doors above each window, the doors are no longer present, there are no apertures on the first floor.

The rear or north face of the building has a shed style protrusion at the ground level with four apertures. From east to west, there are two single light windows, one bricked-in, and one window air conditioning unit. The roof is of two different slopes, the eastern half is lower than the western half and is of grey shingle roofing, the western half is red shingled.

The second and third floor have five bays. The windows on each floor are two light double-hung windows of equal size, with the center window on the second floor being smaller in size than the others.

The eastern face of the building is only visible from the third floor, as it shares the same wall with an adjoining structure.

The interior of the building has a pressed-tin roof on the first floor, the rest are plain plaster, as are the walls on the second and third floors.

The historical appearance of the building is limited to the facade. The western side of the building has had windows inserted in place of warehouse doors that were removed at an undetermined date. The Colonial style fenestration on the facade was implemented in 1991, the original facade had plate glass windows and no brackets. It is also



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

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 7      Page 9

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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undetermined whether or not the shed style protrusion is original construction or a later addition as there is no apparent seam, otherwise the property is in excellent condition and reflects its original appearance. The current owners have become interested in the historical aspect of their property and are willing to restore it to its historic appearance.

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

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8 Page 10

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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**Statement of Significance:**

The Dering Building, built in 1896, is a product of the dissemination of the Romanesque Revival style and aesthetic in America and is an exceptional example of the work of a regionally prominent licensed architect. Contextually, it is related to the settlement of rural communities and the transportation improvements and industrialization of said communities, as part of the national trend towards industrialization in the exploration and exploitation of natural resources. Secondly, the Dering Building relates to the context of a locally prominent businessman, and his entrepreneurship in conjunction with the shift of industry and population from urban to rural areas. Finally, it is one of the few examples of specialized design in business structures executed by an architect who was primarily dedicated to the design and construction of private residences. The building meets National Register Criterion A in the areas of Commerce and Industry, Criterion B in the areas of Commerce, and Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as it is one of the best examples of Romanesque Revival style in the county and as the work of architect Elmer F. Jacobs.

Morgantown was a small community that saw a tremendous surge in population in the 1890's due to what historian James Morton Callahan calls "The Awakening." This period preceded the larger transformation of the area that took place after 1900. Transportation improvements in railroad development brought Morgantown into the reach of the larger cities in the region and solved the problems of accessing the vast resources unobtainable by their relative isolation due to the terrain. This transformation encompassed every aspect of the community as street improvements, sewer systems, fire protection, public utilities, public

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

## National Register Of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8      Page 11

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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buildings, schools, churches, and other advancements in the quality of life brought wholesale changes to the community. These improvements also brought change to manners and customs of life. While previously it had an agrarian oriented economy, Morgantown began to experience a growth in industry as county residents sold off their mineral rights for large profits and subsequently moved from the outlying areas to the city proper.

The Dering Building was constructed to house Fred Dering's harness shop. The byproducts of harness and equine oriented production also served the bookstore that shared the ground floor of the building. The 1903 edition of the New Dominion elaborates that the Dering Harness Company was the largest and best producer in the community and had no competitors worthy of the name. The second and third floors were devoted to grain storage for the horses that made up Morgantown's transportation system. At the time of the building's construction, stables and carriage shops were the chief industry in the area. By 1899, oil, gas, and coal were gaining prominence in the economic vitality of Morgantown, and the stables and carriage manufacturers began to decline. The Sanborn Insurance Maps of this period show a substantial decrease in the number of carriage manufacturers and stables from 1892 to 1899. The population of Morgantown increased by over 8,000 people from 1880 to 1903. This rapid increase was a result of migration from other areas and the rural farmlands and was due specifically to the industrial opportunities that this era brought to its citizens. The Dering Building is a monument to this community's agricultural heritage, as it was created to serve an aspect of life that is no longer practiced to any great extent in this area.

The Dering Building is specifically related to Criterion A of the National Register as it is a product of a method of transportation and industry that is no longer practiced in this country. The advent of the railroad transformed this community so that a large manufacturer of equine products no longer had a protected niche in the economy of the

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

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8      Page 12

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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region. The industrialization practices of oil, gas, and coal production also played a role in the demise of equine use. Farmers sold their mineral rights and moved to the city to live a life of relative luxury. The fields that were once farmed using horses and other beasts of burden lay fallow under the brunt of industry.

The building is specifically related to Criterion B in the area of Commerce in regards to the business practices of a prominent local businessman, Fred Dering. Dering was a former postmaster in Morgantown, a position he held for nineteen years from 1864 to 1883. He then began to engage in private business and opened his harness business, which was the most successful one in the county for a period of fifteen years; in 1910 he changed his business into a funeral home, at the same location of his once prominent harness shop. The Dering Funeral Home is no longer at this location, but it is still in operation in Morgantown. Mr. Dering contributed to the growth of Morgantown and its surrounding communities by providing services that were in demand by the area's ever-increasing population. His ability to adapt to the changing economic and industrial needs of the community is of significant value to the heritage of Morgantown's business community.

This structure is specifically related to Criterion C in the area of Architecture, as it is the work of a prominent local master, Elmer F. Jacobs. He was a graduate of West Virginia University and worked under J. L. Beatty, one of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania's, best known architects. He was a member of the American Institute of Architects and one of the first men from West Virginia to be a member in that organization. He is responsible for the design and construction of over 400 buildings in the immediate area. Some of his more illustrious endeavors have been recognized for their merit by inclusion in the National Register. Woodburn Circle on West Virginia University's main campus and the old post office are probably his best known designs for public use. He was

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

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 8      Page 13

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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better known for his residence designs and slow burning factory construction. He designed the Judge Cox residence and the Brown Building (Citizens Bank) in Morgantown which are also listed on the National Register. The only other structure in Morgantown that resembles the Dering Building is the Morris Building on High street. Jacobs designed it as a new facade and third floor for an already existing two story building. His accomplishments and eye for design and style are what give the city of Morgantown its unique flair.

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

**National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section 9 Page 14

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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***Bibliography***

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Sanborn Insurance Maps, 1892-1899. West Virginia and Regional History Collection. Map Collection.

Wiley, T. Samuel. History of Monongalia County, West Virginia (Preston: Preston Publishing Co., 1883).

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

**National Register Of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section 10      Page 15

The Dering Building  
Monongalia County, West Virginia

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

The boundary of the property associated with the Dering Building is as described in Deed Book 1069, page 675, located in the Monongalia County Courthouse records room. It is the certain fraction of Lot No. 88 on the plat of Morgantown and situated on the North side of Walnut Street and beginning 113 feet 4 inches more or less, West of the corner of High and Walnut streets at a lead plug; thence running with the Northern line of said Walnut Street, North 56° 48' West 36 feet, more or less to the line of land formerly owned by F. Pickenpaugh; thence extending with said Pickenpaugh line, North 33° 12' East 42.9 feet, more or less, to a point, corner of lands formerly belonging to J. R. Miller; thence South 56° 48' East 36 feet more or less, to a lead plug; thence South 33° 12' West 42.9 feet, more or less, to the point and place of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary of the property associated with the Dering Building is what has been historically associated with the building. The building occupies the entire property, as it is a block-type structure located in the city

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register Of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section 10 Page 16

The Dering Building

Monongalia County, West Virginia

