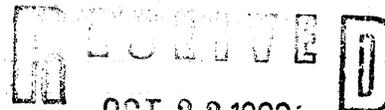


1774

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Ritter Park Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number 13th Av. 800-1200: 8,9,11,12th Sts., McCoy Road
city, town Huntington
state West Virginia code WV county Cabell code 011 zip code 25701

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal
Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (68, 5, 73), Noncontributing (20, 1, 21), Total (0)

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. See continuation sheet.
Signature of certifying official: [Signature]
Date: 10/11/90
State or Federal agency and bureau: [Blank]

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.
Signature of commenting or other official: [Blank]
Date: [Blank]
State or Federal agency and bureau: [Blank]

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:
Entered in the National Register.
determined eligible for the National Register.
determined not eligible for the National Register.
removed from the National Register.
other, (explain):

Entered in the National Register
Signature of the Keeper: [Signature]
Date of Action: 11/28/90

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: single and multiple dwellings;  
secondary structures

Recreation: outdoor recreation

Landscape: park, garden, street furniture;  
transportation: vehicular, pedestrian

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
Same as historic

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Colonial Revival; Classical Revival;  
Tudor Revival; Italian Renaissance; Prairie  
School; Bungalow/Craftsman; International

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Masonry  
walls Brick, stucco, stone, log, concrete  
roof Slate, tile, asphalt  
other \_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Ritter Park Historic District, located in the city of Huntington, West Virginia, consists of a one hundred acre municipal park and fifty-one single and multiple family dwellings. Bisected by Four Pole Creek, a tributary of the Ohio River, the district lies south of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway tracks and the downtown area and includes the boundaries of Ritter Park, Thirteenth Avenue from Eighth to Twelfth Streets, the 1300 block of Eighth and Twelfth Streets, the 1400 block of Twelfth Street and 8th Street Road (McCoy Road) to the Daughters of the American Revolution log cabin in the park.

Ritter Park has been the focal point of residential and recreational activity in Huntington for over eighty years, since the city purchased the property in 1908. Over time, many city residents have held picnics, played croquet and tennis, attended Chatauquas and concerts, strolled its beautiful tree-lined paths, and enjoyed its exquisite gardens. The mansions that surround Ritter Park have contributed to its success as well, providing an atmosphere of grandeur and mystery. These structures represent the finest styles in popular architecture from the years 1913 to 1940. The survey area includes excellent examples of Craftsman Style, Colonial, Classical, and Tudor Revival architecture from the 1920s, a time of prosperity in Huntington and the nation.

Ritter Park and the individual buildings included in the proposed historic district are inextricably linked and form a coherent unit. The official opening of Ritter Park, September 11, 1913, marked the beginning of Huntington's first elite suburb. At the beginning of the 20th century, there were few houses found in the area south of the C&O Railroad tracks, except for workers' housing limited to the area near the C&O locomotive shops on 8th Avenue east of 20th Street. However, the opening of the park and the extension of a streetcar line down 8th Street was pivotal in attracting well-to-do citizens to locate south of the railroad tracks.

Between 1913 and America's entry into World War I in 1917, two blocks of housing were developed surrounding the northwest corner of Ritter Park on 8th Street and 13th Avenue. In contrast to Huntington's older late Victorian neighborhoods downtown, these large rambling dwellings exhibit the new Prairie school architecture popular at the time. Following the end of the war,

**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Community Planning and Development

Entertainment/Recreation

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1913-1940

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Wofford, Gus; Day, S.L.&Co.; Mann, Frank;  
Bates, Rich.; Willett, Robt.; Dean & Dean;  
Lewis, Walter; Meanor & Handloser

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Ritter Park Historic District is significant as an excellent West Virginia example of the suburban movement which swept the United States at the beginning of the twentieth century, both in terms of its historical development and its architectural character. The years 1913-1940 constitute the period during which the park and the majority of the structures surrounding it were completed, and the area assumed its historic character. With the exception of the Great Depression, this period was a time of rapid growth and economic development throughout the city of Huntington which is reflected in the stylish architecture of the Ritter Park area.

The city of Huntington was founded in 1871 by railroad magnate Collis P. Huntington as the terminus of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad Company. An ambitious plan of the city was laid out by his engineers at the time which included a comprehensive grid system of wide streets and generous city blocks covering the area from First Street to the Guyandotte River and from the Ohio River to the Four Pole Creek foothills. The town was bisected, north and south, by the C&O Railroad tracks and physical plant.

At the turn of the century most dwellings were located on the north side of the railroad tracks, between the C&O and the Ohio River. The more well-to-do residents had built substantial Victorian homes on Third Avenue, three blocks from the river, beginning in the 1870s. Progressively, as the population increased, elite residents advanced to Fifth Avenue and finally to Sixth Avenue. Farm land dominated the landscape south of the C&O tracks in 1900. Nearly all of the development on the south side consisted of workers' housing limited to the area near the C&O locomotive shops east of 20th Street on 8th Avenue.

Beginning in 1902, efforts were made to provide easier access to what became known as the "South Side." Ground was broken for a viaduct under the

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 120 acres

### UTM References

A 

1	7	3	7	4	8	0	0	4	2	5	2	0	8	0
Zone		East	ing			North	ing							

B 

1	7	3	7	4	9	0	0	4	2	5	1	4	6	0
Zone		East	ing			North	ing							

C 

1	7	3	7	4	3	4	0	4	2	5	1	1	2	0
Zone		East	ing			North	ing							

D 

1	7	3	7	4	3	0	0	4	2	5	1	2	4	0
Zone		East	ing			North	ing							

See continuation sheet

### Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is inclusive of the boundaries of Ritter Park, Thirteenth Avenue from Eighth to Twelfth Streets, the 1400 block of Twelfth Street and Eighth Street; and McCoy Road to the DAR Cabin in the Park (see sketch map red line marking boundary). The district is also inclusive of the 1300 block of Eighth and Twelfth Street.

See continuation sheet

### Boundary Justification

The district is a cohesive group of early twentieth century residences, park structures, and landscaped greenspaces that form the Ritter Park area. Boundaries are drawn to include the park and its immediately related residential neighborhood that appeared around the park soon after the park's opening. The mansions along Ritter Park reflect the emergence of this important early Huntington suburb.

See continuation sheet

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Beth Hager, Austin St. Clair

organization Cabell County Historic Landmarks Commission date September 1990

street & number Cabell County Courthouse telephone (304) 526-8652

city or town Huntington state WV zip code 25701

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 1

---

Huntington experienced a boom period of building, and more elaborate houses facing the park recall the prosperity of the era, culminating in the high style Colonial and Tudor Revival houses located in the 1000 block of Third Avenue.

Typical of Huntington's well-planned grid pattern of streets, a broad avenue separates these mansions from the formal flat section of Ritter Park, north of Four Pole Creek. The four block level section of Ritter Park is characterized by monumental shade trees which line a mile long gravel walking path following the perimeter of the park. Within the path are yards of manicured grass interrupted at various intervals with picnic tables, a modern playground and and stone picnic shelter. A large oval depression in the ground is the former site of a man-made lake ("Chaposcanwe"), drained in the 1920s after a child drowned there. Other interesting features in this section are the imposing stone entrance gates at 10th Street and 13th Avenue and the stone bridges which cross Four Pole Creek leading to the rolling hills of the park.

South of Four Pole Creek, Ritter Park consists of a hilly area which greatly exhibits the work of Gus Wofford, a landscape architect hired by the Board of Park Commissioners in the 1920s. Wofford used the contours of the land to construct stacked stone lily ponds that fed one into the other supplied by natural run-off. In the nook of one slope he strategically placed an amphitheatre which is barely visible from the road. A formal rose garden articulated by stone retaining walls and a decorated arched gateway serves as an upper entry into the park from 8th Street Road. Wofford is also credited with the park's two arched stone gates at the 10th Street entrance, a formal flower garden near 12th Street, footbridges crossing Four Pole Creek and related streams, tennis courts, a greenhouse, and picnic facilities. Much of this work appears to have been accomplished through the support of the federal government in the 1930s. The Works Progress Administration constructed Ritter Park's roads and is said to have built the stonework which outlines part of the park and several of its features.

Just as Wofford blended recreational features into the landscape, so did the architects who built the houses above the park on the hillside. Nestled on a ledge above McCoy Road, a strip of houses facing the hilly south side of the park offer privacy and an escape from city living. McCoy Road was the route leading from Huntington to rural Cabell and Wayne Counties in the early 20th century. The area along this road was considered to be rural as well at the time and even today the tame hills of the park resemble a refined country setting. The houses found along this road within the proposed historic district originally included three 1920s brick and stone Tudor Revival homes

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 2

(the largest, "Honeysuckle Hill," was remodeled in the 1930s to exhibit an imposing Georgian Revival facade) which were reminiscent of English country manor homes.

The proposed Ritter Park Historic District includes few structures which do not contribute to the architectural and historical significance of the property. A number of early garages and servants' quarters related to contributing structures are included as well. In most cases, non-contributing structures, such as apartment houses built since 1960, are relatively appropriate in scale and building material to adjacent contributing structures. The houses are remarkably well preserved, and the continuing beauty and popularity of Ritter Park has retained the area's prominence as an elite neighborhood. Descriptions of individual structures and the park follow:

Eighth Street, 1300 Block

1. J.L. CALDWELL, JR. HOUSE, 1313 Eighth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1914; R.L. Day, architect; M.M. Matthews, builder. Two and one half story brick dwelling with hipped roof dominated by a colossal portico and slender columns; the house was built with an impressive facade to mask the one-room deep plan; recessed one-room two story wings; arched front doorway boasts a fan light; clay tile roof.
  - 1.a. GARAGE APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1914; brick two story.
2. GEORGE CALDWELL, JR. HOUSE, 1305 Eighth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1913. Large two and one half story Prairie Style foursquare brick dwelling with hipped roof, wide eaves, single and double brackets; broad, flat hipped roof dormers; sun porch on north side, first floor; broad pediment tops full-width porch; front door has transom and sidelights.
  - 2.a. GARAGE APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1913. Brick two story; hipped roof.
3. BAKER HOUSE, 1216 Eighth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Foursquare with colonial elements; yellow brick two and one half story dwelling dominated by a large center dormer with heavy pediment broken by an arched double window; diamond pattern in darker brick bisects second story facade; full width porch topped by low broad pediment; clay tile roof.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 3

---

3.a. APARTMENT, 1216 Eighth Street Rear: (Contributing) date unknown. Two story gabled apartment with tile roof.

Thirteenth Avenue, 800 Block

4. BOETTE HOUSE, 812 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Foursquare with colonial elements; Two and one half story dwelling with crested slate roof, hipped roof dormers and twin corbeled chimneys; symmetrically placed sash windows have brick sills; the massive front porch is supported by four brick columns with rock-faced ashlar capstones; rock face ashlar capstones are also used along the porch basustrade and cheek pieces; coursed belting is used at the foundation.

4.a. APARTMENT: (Contributing) date unknown. Two story frame and block garage apartment.

4.b. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) date unknown. Six-car garage, brick, one story.

5. HUDSON HOUSE, 818 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Foursquare with colonial elements; Two and one half story dwelling with a crested slate roof, gable dormer and corbeled chimneys; all windows and door frames have rock-faced ashlar lintels and sills; the pedimented front porch is supported by three corbeled brick pillars; the balustrade and cheek pieces also have rock-faced ashlar capstones.

5.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Two story brick and frame, hipped roof.

6. WYLLIE HOUSE, 820 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1919. Foursquare with colonial elements; two and one story dwelling with red tile crested roof, gabled dormers and four plain paired chimneys with caps; the structure is dominated by a large front porch with a slightly pitched ribbed roof; porte-cochere extension over driveway; the roof line is broken by six brick pillars connected by an ornate white wrought iron balustrade; the four free-standing pillars are accented by terra cotta emblems and capstones; the soffit and fascia are decorated by plain medallions along the second story eaves.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 4

---

6.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1919; Brick with hipped roof, one story.

7. HOUSE, 824 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca.1915. Foursquare with colonial elements; two and one half story dwelling with hipped roof and dormers; four corbeled chimneys; all windows (except for picture window on the first floor) have rock-faced ashlar lintels and sills; front porch has a pedimented roof line and is supported by two brick pillars with capstones; the porch balustrade and cheek pieces have capstones which appear to have been painted; the cheek pieces are corbeled in the fashion of the paired chimneys.

7.a. CAR PORT: (Non-contributing) date unknown. 2 car.

8. HOUSE, 830 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1914. Foursquare with colonial elements; two and one half story dwelling with gabled roof, hipped roof dormers and twin corbeled chimneys; half story is flemish bond painted brick, while the bottom two stories are plain running bond brick; windows have awnings, brick lintels and sills; pedimented front porch is supported by three square wooden posts; brick cheek pieces and porch have capstones; slate roof.

9. ALTIZER HOUSE, 840 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Foursquare with colonial elements; two and one half story dwelling with steeply pitched roof, gabled dormer and corbeled chimneys; windows replaced but retain stone lintels and sills; front porch supported by corbeled brick pillars, altered by enclosing; brick cheek pieces with capstones provide the entranceway to the front porch.

Ninth Street, 1200 Block

10. TOMKIES APARTMENTS, 1239 Ninth Street: (Non-contributing) ca. 1960. Three story apartment building characterized by a different siding on each floor with awning sash windows.

11. HOUSE, 1227 Ninth Street: (Contributing) ca.1918. Foursquare with colonial elements; two and one half story brick with full-width porch and pediment front dormer; hipped roof; shutters on windows.

11.a. GARAGE: (Contributing) ca. 1918. Brick, slate roof.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 5

---

12. HOUSE, 1225 Ninth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1918. Foursquare; two and one half story dwelling topped by large gable with miter; windows may have been replaced; front door has sidelights; gable-topped stoop on north side.

13. HOUSE, 1230 Ninth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Foursquare with Tudor elements; two story foursquare brick dwelling with front gable; gable and porch pediment filled in with stucco and vertical Tudor stripings; full-width porch with wide pediment.

13.a. GARAGE: (Contributing) ca. 1925.

14. HOUSE, 1234 Ninth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Foursquare with Tudor elements; two story brick building with front gable and full-width porch; gable and wide porch pediment decorated with stucco and vertical Tudor striping; windows added to porch ends.

Thirteenth Avenue, 900 Block

15. TOMKIES APARTMENTS, 900 Thirteenth Avenue: (Non-contributing) ca. 1968. Two story apartment building with garage in basement; pedimented entrances; hipped roof with louvred attic vents.

16. McCUE HOUSE, 906 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Four-square; two and one half story dwelling with brick belt coursing below the soffit and along the porch and foundation; crested roof with decoration at the apex, large dormers with hipped roofs, and slightly corbeled chimneys; front porch with ribbed tin roof and supported by four free-standing and two engaged capped brick pillars.

16.a. OUTBUILDING: (Contributing) ca. 1915. Brick, one story gabled outbuilding.

17. GROOME HOUSE, 908 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1916. Four-square with central English pavillion; two and one half story brick with enclosed first story and second story front porches; broken crested tile roof line includes varied dormers and chimneys; darker brick is used in the foundation and a soldiered belt coursing above the second story windows; entranceway exhibits brick cheek pieces with capstones; pedimented central section has brick columns, and a bulls eye in the center of the pediment.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 6

---

17.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) date unknown. One-car, cinderblock, flat roof.

18. POLAN HOUSE, 910 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) 1924. Colonial Revival; two and one story dwelling with a steeply pitched slate roof, twin massive chimneys and three arched dormers; symmetrical keystone windows, double hung sash, shutters; Flemish bond brick with coursed belting between first and second stories; front porch has a flat roof and denticulated cornice with plain fascia; porch is supported by four free-standing and two engaged square columns; slate roof.

18.a. GARAGE APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1924. Two car garage apartment with gabled roof and gabled dormers.

19. WEINGARTNER HOUSE, 916 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1923. Italian Renaissance Revival; two and one half story stucco dwelling; two ornate pilasters with highly decorative capitals and fluted shafts; arch motif is repeated in the facade with the second story windows accented by recessed stucco arches resting upon engaged columns; the first story is slightly recessed with a denticulated lintel; three arches are supported by two free-standing and two engaged columns; crested tile roof has dormers and a capped chimney.

19.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) date unknown. One car garage, cinderblock, gabled.

20. APARTMENT HOUSE, 920 Thirteenth Avenue: (Non-contributing) ca. 1955. Modern colonial; two and one half story apartment building; center front portico.

20.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) ca. 1955. Four car, brick.

21. RITTER PARK APARTMENTS, 938 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) 1932. Colonial Revival. Three story apartment building; brick and terra cotta parapet with blind balustrade broken by a central pediment with keystone and glass bulls eye; rusticated brick pilasters divide the facade into three sections above the first story divided by stone belt coursing center section exhibiting Palladian windows and main entrance which is accented by columns and broken decorated pediment; car port attached to rear of building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 7

---

22. HEWITT HOUSE, 940 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1919. Four-square; two and one half story brick dwelling; porch is graced by three sets of French doors; geometric brickwork details the second story; headers and soldiers combine to create the pattern; unusual porch treatment, brick pillars are supplemented by paired classical columns.

22.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) ca. 1919. One story, brick; porch added to front.

Tenth Street, 1200 Block

23. HOUSE, 1221 Tenth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Four-square with Tudor elements; two and one half story brick dwelling with gabled roof, sloping eaves; broad pediment over full-width porch; stucco and white painted striping in pediment and gable.

24. HOUSE, 1219 Tenth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Four-square with Tudor elements; two and one story brick dwelling with gabled roof, sloping eaves; broad pediment over full-width porch; stucco and white painted striping in pediment and gable.

24.a. GARAGE: (Contributing) ca. 1925. One-car garage with gabled roof; brick.

Thirteenth Avenue, 1000 Block

25. HAWES HOUSE, 1006 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) ca. 1919. Georgian Colonial Revival; classic styling characterized by symmetrical shutter windows and chimney treatments; brick belt coursing between first and second, second and half stories; keystone windows; front door has sidelights and half-circle transom; slate roof on main structure; tin on east porch and west wing; west wing addition on first floor before 1931.

25.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1919. Brick, gabled with dormers and exposed rafter; one and one half story.

26. CAMMACK HOUSE, 1020 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) 1923. Three story Tudor Revival; painted wood and stucco to resemble Elizabethan half-timbering; first story is composed of squared and coursed stone following window and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 8

---

buttressing patterns; massive corbled chimneys assymmetrically place; three sets of French doors with three-part transoms and sidelights open to a low stone walled plaza; tile roof.

26.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) 1923. Gabled with tile roof and Tudor detail; one and one half story; two car.

27. CAMPBELL HOUSE, 1030 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) c. 1923. Neoclassical style remodeled from an earlier Craftsman style structure; gambrel roof with two pedimented dormers; large portico supported by four columns; broken pediment with supporting pilasters; front door has sidelights; windows are six over six and shuttered on first floor; denticulated portico and cornice; half-circle window in portico.

27.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) c. 1950. Two car garage with flat roof; brick.

28. CAMPBELL-STAATS HOUSE/MARSHALL UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT'S HOUSE, 1040 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) 1923; S.L. Day and R.L. Day, architects; W.A. Robinson, builder; Neoclassical Revival; two and one half story house with full facade porch featuring denticulated cornice, wooden balustrade and engaged columns; window placement is symmetrical with double hung shuttered windows in the second story; shuttered casement windows on the first story; palladian door and window treatment opens to a small wrought iron second story balcony; double-door entry with sidelights and elliptical fanlight; the roof is accented by four gabled dormers with arched windowsills and corbeled twin chimneys; east end of house features a glassed-in half circular porch, one story.

28.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) 1923. Cross-gabled brick garage apartment in style compatible to house.

Eleventh Street, 1200 Block

29. STAATS COTTAGE: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Two story Dutch Colonial Revival with a steeply pitched gambrel roof, shed dormers and green wooden shingles; recent frame car port extension.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 9

---

Thirteenth Avenue, 1100 Block

30. WRIGHT HOUSE, 1102 Thirteenth Avenue: (Contributing) 1938. Robert Willett, architect; Arnold Smith, builder; two and one half story Neoclassical brick dwelling with large clapboard portico accented by elliptical window; denticulated cornice and portico; portico is supported by four two story columns, and two engaged columns; symmetrical windows are double and shuttered; the brick porch entrance consists of masonry steps and brick cheek pieces with contrasting capstones; two chimney at each end of the house are decorated with belt coursing; two garage car is attached to rear of house.

31. FIELDS HOUSE, 1120 Thirteenth Avenue: (Non-contributing) ca. 1953. Sidney L. Day, architect; modern two and one story brick dwelling with low hipped roof; heavily embellished front entrance includes a wrought iron basustrade, freestanding and engaged columns, entablature, glass transom and double sidelights; side porch is supported by paired columns and an entablature decorated by a wrought iron balustrade.

31.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) ca. 1953. Two car; one story; brick, hipped roof.

31.b. OUTBUILDING: (Non-contributing) ca. 1953. One story; brick, hipped roof.

32. SALVATI HOUSE, 1130 Thirteenth Avenue: (Non-contributing) ca. 1946. Modern with French and Colonial Revival elements.; two and one half story main structure flanked by two single story gabled wings; second story facade has a full length porch with elaborate wrought iron posts and balustrade; windows are varied and assymetrical with double hung sash windows; bay window of the east wing shuttered; large picture window with multiple panes; the west wing roofline is accented by a cupola.

32.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) ca. 1946. Two car block garage with flat roof.

33. CARNAHAN HOUSE, 1251 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1938. Two and one half story Colonial Revival brick dwelling with attached car garage; denticulated cornice on long axis of main structure but not on garage; symmetrical window tretment with working full-length shutters; south end porch is supported by brick and paired wooden posts and the roof is decorated by a

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 10

---

wrought iron balustrade; front entranceway is crowned by a broken pediment and ornamentation, pilasters and is recessed; two corbeled chimneys are located on the south gable and at the anterior of the main structure.

Twelfth Street, 1200 Block

34. APARTMENT HOUSE, 1211 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1927. Four-square with Tudor elements; two and one half story brick apartment house with front gable; gable and side shed dormers decorated with stucco and Tudor striping; prominent feature is two story brick front porch topped by cornice; porch is divided into first and second story porches by brick post; first story porch has arch openings.

34. a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) date unknown. Three car port; frame.

Twelfth Street, 1300 Block

35. SCHERR HOUSE, 1300 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Modern with neoclassical elements remodeled from its original craftsmanstyle bungalow appearance; full-facade porch supported by colossal columns, engaged columns; denticulated cornice; three sets of French doors open to the front porch.

35.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Brick two story; Craftsman style.

36. KENDALL HOUSE, 1310 Twelfth Street: (Non-contributing) ca. 1949-1950. Two story with one and one half stories in squared and coursed rubble and the upper portion clapboard.

36.a. GARAGE: (Non-contributing) date unknown. Two story, frame.

37. WILLIAMS HOUSE, 1314 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1919-1920. One and one half story brick dwelling in the Craftsman-bungalow style; cross-gabled with medium-low pitched roof with wide, unenclosed eave overhang; front shed dormer; originally had front partial width porch; porch converted into room and Tudor styling added in 1988; three-part windows added to front gable.

38. SHAND HOUSE, 1316 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Dean & Dean, architects; Italian Renaissance Revival. Two and one half story brick dwelling with green tile hipped roof and centered hipped dormers;

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 11

---

distinguished by semi-circular front entry porch articulated by dentils; front door has elliptical fan light and sidelights.

39. PARK TERRACE APARTMENTS, 1320 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1939-1940. Walter Lewis, builder. Two three story apartment buildings influenced by Craftsman style with emphasis on the horizontal; Building A and B are both of brick with rusticated stone facades; top floor of building B is brick only; gabled ends; balconies on first and second stories lined by metal railings; front doors have sidelights and elliptical fan lights; building A has three-part windows; building B has been remodeled with modern picture windows; one multi-car garage attached to rear of each building.

Twelfth Street, 1400 Block

40. HOUSE, 1400 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) 1922. Two story four square brick dwelling with front gable; full-width front porch; gable covered by wood siding; front yard outlined by rough-cut stone retaining wall.

40.a. GARAGE: (Contributing) 1922. One story brick gabled; one car.

41. HOUSE, 1402 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1922; Two story four square brick dwelling with front gable; stucco in gable; full-width porch topped by wide gable.

41. a. GARAGE: (Contributing) ca. 1922; One story brick gabled; one car.

42. HOUSE, 1404 Twelfth Street: (Contributing) ca. 1922; Two story four square brick dwelling with hipped roof and center hipped dormer; full-width porch with hipped roof.

42.a. GARAGE: (Contributing) One story brick gabled; one car.

McCoy Road/Prospect Drive/South Boulevard

43. MYERS HOUSE, 1577 McCoy Road: (Non-contributing) 1959. One story red brick contemporary ranch style house with car port; constructed on the site of the original garden for the Wetzel property.

44. WETZEL-LONG HOUSE, 15 Prospect Drive: (Contributing) 1922; Meanor & Handloser, architects. Two and one half story Tudor Revival brick dwelling

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 12

---

with steep hipped roof and cross gable; green tile shingles; gabled dormers; gable has projecting modified bay window wood louvre; shed (half hipped) roof over front porch; glass-paned front door with side lights; basement features two car garage with single door which once included a metal turn around disc on floor to rotate automobiles.

45. HAYMAN HOUSE, 9 Prospect Drive: (Contributing) ca. 1938. Two story Colonial Revival brick dwelling with hipped roof; shuttered windows; bay window on first floor; screened-in side porch on first floor; broken pediment over front door; car garage in basement.

46. ADKINS HOUSE, 1545 McCoy Road: (Contributing) 1938. Two and one half story Tudor Revival brick gabled dwelling with central gable, assymmetrical plan; brick and stone front chimney; central gable forms front pavilion with front porch articulated by brick arches; gable molding over several windows; car garage in basement.

47. HOUSE, 1 Prospect Drive: (Contributing) ca. 1925. Two story Colonial Revival gabled frame dwelling with projecting rear gable extension; front shed dormer; formerly a guest house on Miller-Long property; renovated to be a regular residence; wood shingling applied all over structure in 1980s.

48. POLAN HOUSE, 2 Prospect Drive: (Non-contributing) 1953. Split-level International Style dwelling which features a flat roof, crab orchard stone and burnt cypress siding; wide, boxed over hanging roof-wall junctions and international windows wrap around corners; two car garage on first level.

49. HONEYSUCKLE HILL, 1511 McCoy Road: (Contributing) ca. 1920. Originally Tudor Revival; remodeled in the 1930s as a three story high-style Colonial Revival dwelling; centered front gable and hipped roof, prominent denticulated cornice and pediment with fan light were added during remodeling; shuttered windows with double-hung sashes; accentuated front door with broken pediment, ornamental keystone and pilasters; a course of rough-cut natural faced stone articulates the first story (painted white during remodeling); second story features a smooth plaster stucco; red tile roof.

49.a. GARAGE/APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1920. One and one half story; brick and stone; red tile roof.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 13

---

50. McMAHON HOUSE, 1505 McCoy Road: (Contributing) ca. 1923; two and one half story Colonial Revival gabled brick dwelling with three front hipped dormers; pediment entry porch supported by paired slender columns; relief design in pediment; front door framed by sidelights; heavy cornice tops projecting square window bay on first floor plain cornice separated roof from second story.

50.a. GARAGE: (Contributing) ca. 1923. One car brick, one story; flat roof.

51. THORNTON HOUSE, 801 South Boulevard: (Contributing) ca. 1923; Two and one half story Colonial Revival brick gabled dwelling with two front gabled dormers; one story entry porch with paired slender columns frames front door with balustrade on porch roof; front door boasts sidelights and elliptical fan light; keystone lintels over first floor facade windows; balustrade also tops first story enclosed porch on west side; tile roof.

51.a. APARTMENT: (Contributing) ca. 1923; One story brick garage converted to an apartment, brick gabled.

51.b. SHED: (Contributing) ca. 1923. One story gabled brick shed.

Ritter Park, associated structures

52. PICNIC SHELTER: (Contributing) ca. 1940, renovated 1984. Stone and frame structure with simple gabled roof; open in center with restrooms on either end enclosed.

53. STONE WORK: (Contributing) ca. 1932. Rusticated stone work is found throughout the park (indicated on survey map) including retaining walls for the amphitheatre and DAR Log Cabin; low walls outline certain borders of the park; two small arched bridges located on a small stream that feeds Four Pole Creek near the Rose Garden; the Rose Garden itself which includes retaining walls in a semi-circle featuring a center arch; two sets of ponding basins which used to be lily ponds, now dried up and in ruins; a circle with benches opposite Ninth Street; stone circle at Caldwell Point (Gobbler's Knob); several sets of stairs and gates.

54. BRIDGE: (Contributing) 1920. Stone and concrete.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 7 Page 14

---

55. BRIDGE: (Contributing) 1927. Lutten Bridge Co. of York, PA. Stone and concrete.

56. FOOTBRIDGES: (Contributing) ca. 1932. Metal and stone.

57. GREEN HOUSE: (Non-contributing) ca. 1932. Ruins; burnt 1989; originally stone and glass.

58. DAR LOG CABIN: (Contributing) Original late 18th century cabin renovated 1920 by Daughters of the American Revolution as a meeting house; gabled dwelling with stone chimneys, asphalt roof and shed porch.

59. AMPHITHEATRE: (Contributing) ca. 1932. Originated as a simple stage with stone outline; renovated in 1977 to include a brick and aluminum partial shell stage with enclosed backstage.

60. TENNIS COURTS: (Contributing) ca. 1932. Six tennis courts are enclosed by chain link fences; the tennis court office is a small building with gabled roof composed of stone and brick and asphalt roof.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 8 Page 1

---

C&O tracks at 8th Street and electric trolley tracks were extended from downtown Huntington to the South Side via 8th Street to 13th Avenue. The first automobile arrived in town in 1905, further signaling the coming commuter age. The South Side became Huntington's first suburb.

Significant changes would have to be made in the Four Pole Creek area for residential and park development to occur even though the transportation lines were open. The road out of town to rural Cabell and Wayne Counties, the old McCoy Road, connected with Huntington in the Four Pole Creek area. In addition, historical documents reveal that this area was largely occupied by laborers who were renting property at Four Pole. These were probably industrial workers for a brickyard, a shingle plant, and a china factory located in the vicinity at nearby 16th Street (today known as Hal Greer Boulevard). Period photographs of the area show small frame houses and shacks nestled in the hills above the creek (what is now Ritter Park) and on a broad avenue looking north, possibly 13th Avenue. In the context of an area which was near industry and on the route out of town, it is not difficult to understand why the city council purchased fifty acres of land between 8th and 12th Streets on Four Pole Creek for a new city incinerator in 1908.

George S. Wallace, who served as the chairman of the Board of Park Commissioners for many years, wrote that the city council faced much opposition to the the plan to build a city incinerator on Four Pole. Huntington Mayor Rufus Switzer, a visionary citizen who would later be a founder of the Huntington Museum of Art, is credited with changing the plans to establish Huntington's first municipal park on the site. At about the same time, C.L. Ritter, a lumber magnate who was based in Huntington, began purchasing significant tracts of land in the hills above Four Pole Creek on the McCoy Road with the intention of using the acreage for timbering lands. Switzer's idea to create a park just below the Ritter property probably caused the lumber man to realize that the land would be more lucrative as real estate, and instead he built a rambling Craftsman style mansion there in 1912. Ritter's donation of additional tracts to the park lands and the subsequent naming of the park for himself alludes to a relationship between the park's development and his interests.

Mayor Switzer hired a New Jersey landscape architect, J.T. Withers, to design Ritter Park. However, before the plan could be implemented, Switzer was voted out of office, and it was never used. The park officially opened on September 11, 1913, but not a great a deal was accomplished in its design before World War I. The optimism and prosperity felt by the country and the city after World War I led to new interest in the community and development of

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 8 Page 2

---

a city wide park system. The Rotary and Kiwanis Clubs in Huntington both appointed parks committees after the war. This resulted in a joint committee for the supervision of park development, chaired by George S. Wallace. In 1925 the state legislature formalized the committee by establishing the Board of Park Commissioners under the city government. This body supervised the park system until 1983, when the legislature established the Greater Huntington Parks and Recreation District, an autonomous organization which manages parks in Cabell and Wayne counties.

The Board of Park Commissioners set out in 1925 to establish a city-wide system of parks and recreation areas. Their plan was to create a boulevard network which would connect each park throughout town in a mile's distance. They purchased property at 9th Street West on Four Pole Creek and property in the hills above east Huntington. These were named Kiwanis Park and Rotary Park, respectively, for the contributions these organizations made to the system. Washington Boulevard was planned and developed, with the creek re-routed near 12th Street, to connect these parks with Ritter Park.

That the new Park Commissioners began their tenure with an under-developed Ritter Park is demonstrated by the fact that numerous citizens wanted to place a fire station on the park site, but this request was denied. Little work was accomplished in the park by 1925 except for a road leading to Caldwell Point, where a domed columnar monument had been placed by the Caldwell family in the memory of prominent banker J.L. Caldwell (the monument is now gone; the point is known by locals as "Gobbler's Knob"). Adjacent to this stood a log cabin which now serves as the headquarters of the Buford Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The cabin was rebuilt from an earlier structure said to have been the vineyard keeper's house for the Beuhring farm which stretched from the Ohio River to the Four Pole Creek hills in the early 1800s. However, the early cabin was torn down about 1920, and its logs were combined with new supplied by C.L. Ritter to build a new structure for the DAR. Prior to this remodeling, the cabin served as a "pest house" to quarantine stricken townspeople during a flu epidemic.

The Park Commissioners began developing Ritter Park in the late 1920s and early 1930s by hiring a landscape architect, Gus Wofford. He remained with the Park Board until 1952, the year that George S. Wallace was defeated as chairman of the Commissioners. Mr. Wofford is credited with the planning of the Rose Garden, a formal flower garden near 12th Street, a Tulip Garden opposite 9th Street, stone lined lily ponds near 8th Street Road, stone bridges crossing Four Pole Creek and related streams, tennis courts, an amphitheatre, a greenhouse, picnic facilities, and the park's road system.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 8 Page 3

---

The Works Progress Administration constructed Ritter Park's roads in the 1930s and is said to have built the stonework which outlines part of the park and several of its major features.

Once the development of Ritter Park was assured, the suburban movement took effect in Huntington. Residential housing was quick to follow. The area surrounding the park did not feature permanent homes to any degree until after the park opened in 1913. World War I interrupted housing progress, but the 1920s saw the construction of the grand Colonial, Tudor, and Classical Revival mansions bordering the park. The people who built these homes were some of Huntington's most influential citizens, including bankers, attorneys, doctors, newspaper publishers, and coal company executives. The styles of these structures, particularly the brick foursquares built before World War I, would become the standard for housing throughout Huntington during the 1920s, a period of rapid growth and building in the city.

The city of Huntington attained full maturity in the 1920s, firmly established as the transportation capital of the region and a marketing center for West Virginia coal. Numerous commercial buildings were designed for downtown during that decade, and Ritter Park residents used the same Huntington architects to build their new homes. R.L. Day & Company, Dean & Dean, and Meanor & Handloser were firms who had designed buildings of distinction downtown. In fact, C.H. Wetzel used Meanor & Handloser to design both his Tudor Revival home on McCoy Road and the Jackson Building & Loan Association Building on Ninth Street, now the Huntington Area Chamber of Commerce. Versus T. Ritter, a prominent Huntington architect responsible for Huntington High School and Huntington City Hall among others, lived in one of the Ritter Park foursquares before World War I and may have designed those homes also.

Charles Campbell, a prominent Huntington attorney, was mayor of Huntington 1919-1920 and is identified with promoting the development of Ritter Park. He personally donated a substantial sum of money to purchase additional park lands for the city. During his tenure the Eighth Street Bridge was built across Four Pole Creek. In 1923, he built a Neoclassical Revival mansion on 13th Avenue, 1000 block. Campbell was a partner in the Park Real Estate Company and may have been involved in developing the South Side near the park. The placement of his grand house across from the park helped to insure its success as Huntington's elite residential neighborhood.

That distinction has continued through to the current day. The park has remained popular and is used by hundreds of Huntingtonians daily as the scene

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Ritter Park Historic District, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

Section number 8 Page 4

---

for jogging, walking, games, and high school band practice. Concerts are held in the amphitheatre annually, and the Rose Garden is the site of numerous weddings each summer. The fact that residents have maintained their homes in their original condition for the most part contributes to an atmosphere basically unchanged by time, retaining a character that is most representative of a prosperous era in the history of Huntington and of West Virginia.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abstracts From the Cabell County Deed Books, 1908-1959. Cabell County Courthouse, Huntington, West Virginia.

Gillenwater, Mack. A Survey of Downtown Huntington, West Virginia, Phase II. Huntington: by Author, 1985.

Gowans, Alan. The Comfortable House, North American Suburban Architecture 1890-1930. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1986.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred a. Knopf, 1988.

Wallace, George S. Cabell County Annals and Families. Richmond: Garrett and Massie Publishers, 1935.

Wallace, George S. Huntington Through Seventy-Five Years. Huntington: by Author, 1947.

Board of Park Commissioners, City of Huntington. Preliminary Paving Plan Submitted to Works Progress Administration of the Fifth District of West Va., Cabell County, Huntington, West Virginia. 1935.

Board of Park Commissioners. Huntington's Park System and Recreational Facilities. Huntington, West Virginia, n.d.

Campbell-Staats Collection, Morrow Library Special Collections, Marshall University.

Early Settlers' Association. Early Settlers of Huntington, W.Va. 1871-1885. History, Facts, and Reminiscences. n.d.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps. Huntington, 1919, 1931, 1947, 1954.

U.S. Bureau of the Census. Twelfth and Thirteenth Census of the United States, 1990-1910.

Wofford, Gus, Designer and Landscape Architect. An Aerial Perspective of Ritter Park, Huntington, West Virginia. April 1932.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

---

UTM

- E. 17/374 500/4251 420
- F. 17/374 070/4251 640
- G. 17/374 030/4251 930

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated area is inclusive of the boundaries of Ritter Park, Thirteenth Avenue from Eighth to Twelfth Streets, the 1300 block of Eighth and Twelfth Streets, the 1400 block of Twelfth Street and Eighth Streets; and McCoy Road to the DAR Cabin in the Park (see sketch map red line marking boundary).