

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

FEB 24 1976

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

MAY 24 1976

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
 INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

 SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
 TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS
1 NAME

HISTORIC Berkeley Springs; Warm Springs; Frederick Springs

AND/OR COMMON

 Berkeley Springs State Park (preferred) *use this*
2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S. Washington and Fairfax Streets

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Berkeley Springs

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

Second

STATE

West Virginia

CODE

54

COUNTY

Morgan

CODE

065

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input 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

State of West Virginia (Department of Natural Resources)

STREET & NUMBER

1800 Washington Street, East

CITY, TOWN

Charleston

VICINITY OF

STATE

West Virginia

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Morgan County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

N. Washington and Fairfax Streets

CITY, TOWN

Berkeley Springs

STATE

West Virginia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

 DEPOSITORY FOR
 SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Berkeley Springs State Park is a concentration of buildings and structures centering on the mineral springs which once formed the core of a spa which attracted some of the highest officials and socialites in the American colonies and the United States. The earliest portions associated with white pioneers and settlers are two of the springs themselves, the so-called Lord Fairfax Drinking Spring and the George Washington Bath. Presently on the grounds in addition to these are two buildings dating from the latter part of the eighteenth century, one dating from the nineteenth, and the twentieth century administration building, bandstand and swimming pool-bathhouse complex. The common building material of the units is brick, and most are covered with a hipped, metal roof.

Coursed and uncoursed stone walls (of both cut and random sizes) serve to retain the hillside to the west of the park area and form the protective segments around the Lord Fairfax Drinking Spring (formerly a covered, private bath) and the George Washington Bath (a shallow, dugout area). Each of these natural springs are hollowed out to rock bases and from them flow much of the mineral-rich, 74.3° water.

The eighteenth-century buildings are both believed to have been constructed by James Rumsey, a builder and inventor who was a pioneer in steam propulsion of boats. These are the so-called Roman (Rumsey) Baths dating from the 1780s and the old bathhouse or shower bath building. The former is a two-story brick unit, painted white, with a hipped roof. Little has changed in its appearance since construction, and the east elevation still has the row of ten openings on the first floor for ventilation of the ten individual bath stalls on the interior. As with the rather plain exterior, the inside is functional, having little more than a long hallway at the rear of the first floor from which each of the baths is served by a separate entrance. During the twentieth century, the metal roof has been replaced, and the stairways to the second level on both the north and south elevations have been rebuilt.

The old bathhouse or shower bath once served ladies only, for there was a segregation based on sex at the springs for many years. It is a small, one-story brick unit, painted white, with a hipped roof of low pitch. The roof overhangs all sides, more so on the east and west, and has a rounded arch-like series of designs on an ornamented board at the edge. At one time there was a series of columns with arches on the overhang of the east and west sides to blend with the built-in brick arches above the series of four double pilasters on the south elevation. This has been altered to allow easier access to the unit which now serves as a storage area for maintenance equipment, and the columns are no longer there. Because of this functional change, two of the five narrow doors on the west side have been removed to allow for a wider, garage-door type opening.

The nineteenth-century gentlemen's (drinking) spring is one of the most attractive buildings on the grounds. Two stories high with a low hipped roof, the first level of this white brick structure is open, supporting the enclosed second level on ten columns. The upper level is entered from the west (rear), leaving the three most visible elevations unobstructed. Each of these has arched window casings with brick pilasters on either side and brick arches above the casings. The building itself has been little changed, but the area about the spring in the center of the lower level has had a cement floor placed for health and sanitation reasons.

About the mid-1920s, the state added an administration building with baths near the Fairfax Spring. This structure, like the others, is brick with a hipped

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Berkeley Springs State Park, the name now applied to the area concentrated on a group of mineral springs in the town called Berkeley Springs in Morgan County, West Virginia, is a continuation of a planned use and development of a natural resource which apparently has drawn man to the region since times long preceding recorded history in what is now the United States. The waters--and the town which they spawned--have brought to this location notables in such fields as politics, art, science and literature and has offered entrepreneurs, sportsmen and gamblers a chance to benefit from the social intercourse of seasonal visits. Although showing the effects of competition from other natural springs, the lessened attraction of such spas for curative and social purposes, and the destruction of many of its fine hotels over the centuries, Berkeley Springs remains steeped in a tradition which some claim make this oldest of former Virginia spring resorts the legendary "fountain of youth."

By the time white settlers had apparently first learned of the healing springs near the Potomac River over the mountains in Fairfax's Northern Neck of Virginia about 1740, Indians of various tribes and locations had been using the waters for a considerable time. They would continue to frequent the area along with the newcomers until after the French and Indian War. The curative properties were sought out by groups ranging from the Carolinas to the Great Lakes, and the springs enjoyed peace and security as a place of a standing truce among the tribes. From the days of Ponce de Leon, various claims have been made as to the location of the much-sought-after fountain of youth. Some around Berkeley Springs say that since waters which eased the pain of such ailments as rheumatism might have been thought of as rejuvenative of youthful agility by the Indians, and the fact that a party of Spaniards had been led as far as the Carolinas in search of the fountain before turning back, that the Indians might have been considering these springs as the giver of a renewed youth.

By about 1745, make-shift huts of white settlers were appearing near the waters, and the start of the onslaught which would push the Indians out and make the area much more widely known and exploited began. Lord Fairfax had surveying parties in the fields of this part of the Northern Neck by the mid-1740s, and when George Washington, a young assistant in such a party, visited on March 18, 1748, he commented on the famous warm springs. The reputation was quickly spreading, and the old medicinal springs began a systematic development as they passed through a succession of titles such as warm springs, Frederick Springs and Berkeley Springs. Dr. John J. Moorman, in his nineteenth-century book on The Virginia Springs, reported this scene prior to the Revolutionary War:

A large hollow scooped in the sand, surrounded by a screen of pine brush, was the only bathing-house; and this was used alternately by ladies and gentlemen. The time set apart for

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

"Berkeley Springs Hotel, Morgan County, W.Va." Baltimore: D. Binswanger and Company, 1885. (Pamphlet reprint edition by Frederick T. Newbraugh, Berkeley Springs, W.Va., Second Reprint, 1971.)
 Bowles, Ellen Shannon. "A Golden Century at Berkeley Springs." The Iron Worker. XXII (Summer 1958).
 Hening, William Waller. The Statutes at Large, IX, 247-49.
 "Historical Address Delivered by Gen. David Hunter Strother at Berkeley Springs, W.Va."

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,7	73,78,4,0	4,38,97,6,0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Along the west side of South Washington Street from the south side of Fairfax Street to a point about fifty feet south of the south side of Liberty Street. From the latter point northwest to the middle of the wooded area on the hill to the west of the springs. A straight line through the wooded area northwest to a point directly behind the northwest corner of the Roman Baths building, thence southeasterly to an intersection with the south side of Fairfax Street near the bridge under which flows Warm Springs Run, and along the south side of that street to its intersection with South Washington Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James E. Harding, Research Analyst

ORGANIZATION

West Virginia Antiquities Commission

DATE

February 2, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 630

TELEPHONE

(304) 296-1791

CITY OR TOWN

Morgantown

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

Leonard M. Davis

TITLE West Virginia State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE February 19, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Noting
 DIRECTOR OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 ATTEST *Noting*
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

4/24/96

DATE

5-21-26

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE one

7. DESCRIPTION (continued)

roof. One story high, the buff colored building has a central pediment over the main entrance. Shortly after the above was constructed, a bandstand was added to the park as a stage for entertainments and public addresses. It is an open unit with a raised cement base with an octagonal roof supported by eight fluted columns.

Lastly, a rather modern swimming pool-bathhouse complex has been added in the recent past to replace former pools that apparently outlived their usefulness. This might be considered an intrusion, especially when one sees the chain-link fence surrounding the structure, but in order to continue the park in a practical manner the unit was necessary.

The grounds of the park are tree covered and include many benches for sitting and enjoying the calm of the stone wall-lined run which transverses the area. The Fairfax Spring supplies much of the mineral water, and from it flows a small stream which has been in use in some manner for untold generations.

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

the ladies was announced by a blast on a long tin horn, at which signal all of the opposite sex retired to a prescribed distance, and woe to any unlucky wight who might be found within the magic circle.

The whole scene is said to have resembled a camp-meeting in appearance; but only in appearance. Here day and night passed in a round of eating and drinking, bathing, fiddling, dancing and revelling. Gaming was carried to a great excess, and horse-racing was a daily amusement.

Prior to the French and Indian War, Washington had returned at least twice with his ailing brother, Lawrence, and he and his family regularly attended summer sessions at the springs before the Revolutionary War. Among the gatherers during the period were James Mercer, James Madison (recently graduated from Princeton), Luther Martin and Thomas Claggett. Francis Asbury, Methodist itinerant who became the denomination's first bishop in the new United States, came for health reasons in 1776, was appalled by the decadence, and immediately began a preaching campaign.

Between 1763 and 1776, the area witnessed an influx of summer visitors, so much so that a petition with over 200 signatures (including John Hanson, John Marshall, Thomas Cresap, Val Crawford, Rawleigh Colston and Lewis Duckwaddle) was presented to the Virginia legislature in the latter year for the creation of a

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---	-------------

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE TWO

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

town at the springs. Appropriately, "an act for establishing a town at the Warm Springs in the county of Berkeley" was passed, and fifty acres of land adjoining the springs were vested in fourteen trustees to be laid out as the town of Bath (named for the spa in England, this continues to be the official title of the community, but since the Post Office Department, in the early nineteenth century, followed the common naming of the waters as Berkeley Springs, that title has been used since). Further, all of the warm springs, except one, were vested in the trustees for public use and benefit, and so they have passed to the present and continue to be publicly maintained.

Among the trustees were Bryan Fairfax, Thomas Bryan Martin, Warner Washington, Reverend Charles Mynn Thruston, Philip Pendleton and Samuel Washington. When lots were sold in 1777, interests were bought for the likes of George Washington, Horatio Gates, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, Reverend Charles Mynn Thruston, Fielding Lewis and many others in high standing in Virginia and Maryland. Through the Revolutionary War, families of some of the above stayed at times, and Baron de Reidesel and his wife, after his capture at Saratoga, came to take the waters when he suffered from the after-effects of a sunstroke.

With the end of the war, the spa witnessed great growth in accommodations and social attraction. James Rumsey, a jack-of-all-trades at Bath, in cooperation with Robert Throckmorton proposed opening a boarding house for those taking the waters in 1784. In addition, the trustees soon employed Rumsey to construct some bathhouses of a more permanent nature than those previously in existence. These improvements were noted in the Richmond papers, and, as David Hunter Strother mentioned in an address at Berkeley Springs on July 4, 1876, an issue of June 19, 1784, pointed out that "in Berkeley county five bathing-houses, with adjacent dressing-rooms, are already completed; an assembly-room and theater are also constructed for the innocent and rational amusements of the polite who may assemble there." The correspondent goes on to announce that the American company of comedians was expected to open there on July 15 and continue until September 1.

Washington had Rumsey construct at least one building for him, and he was present during an experiment of the latter's steam-powered boat a short distance from town. Rumsey's contributions to the physical development of Bath were substantial. It was the prospect of community expansion and the ability to work with some of his ideas that drew Rumsey to the springs, and the circumstances permitted the inventor to pursue his interest in steam propulsion on nearby Sir John's Run.

The town did well as a resort until about 1805, when a fever, the first of a seemingly long line of catastrophes, struck, and the summer guest population of more than a thousand fell to less than half that for the next few years. A new era soon began, however, and it was a notorious gambler, one Colonel Robert Bailey, who started a campaign to revitalize the place. It worked for a while,

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE three

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

but decline once again set in. Even with Bath becoming the seat of the new county of Morgan in 1820, the trend continued until the mid-1840s. Decline could be attributed to a number of factors, but competition from new springs with easier accessibility was a major cause.

When the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad was completed to Cumberland, Maryland, around 1844, however, the warm springs became the only major resort in Virginia accessible by rail. A fire had recently destroyed a large hotel, business places and theater, and a rebuilding offered the new influx of visitors modern and well-kept facilities. Among the attractions was the new Strother Hotel, built by John Strother, which could accommodate about 400 guests. It became a congregating place for artists, writers, politicians, sportsmen and high society, and combined with general improvements in bathing establishments to make Berkeley Springs once again a fashionable center.

As with so many of the spas, Bath's prosperity was thoroughly interrupted by the Civil War. The town did not suffer too much from actual military activity, but it did witness some cavalry raids and a brief occupation by General "Stonewall" Jackson's forces during a shelling of the nearby B & O Railroad line. With the war ended, a change took place at the springs, for many of the former guests were Confederates who now faced confiscation of property and disfranchisement. They would think twice before spending time at a resort in a Northern state.

When the large Strother Hotel was purchased by a Baltimore company in 1869, it was refitted with many improvements. The community soon picked up the spirit, and a revival in prosperity was well on its way when the main hotel was purchased by John T. Trego in 1876. Quality in accommodations and service and a good advertising campaign brought renewed life and fashionable guests once again. As portrayed in a hotel brochure of 1885, the daily regimen of drinking and bathing went something like this:

It was usual to visit the Spring every morning from half an hour to an hour before breakfast, and to drink from two to four glasses of water, according to capacity, allowing an interval of several minutes between each glass, and if practicable occupying the time with gentle exercise.

In dipping, care was taken to catch the air bubbles that continually rise from the fountain, as much of the virtue of the water was supposed to reside in the subtle gases it contains. . . .

The usual hours for bathing are morning, noon and evening, a short time before breakfast, before dinner and before tea. Persons in robust health may find the morning bath most agreeable and advantageous. Those of feebler constitutions will generally derive most benefit from the noon-day bath.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE four

8. SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

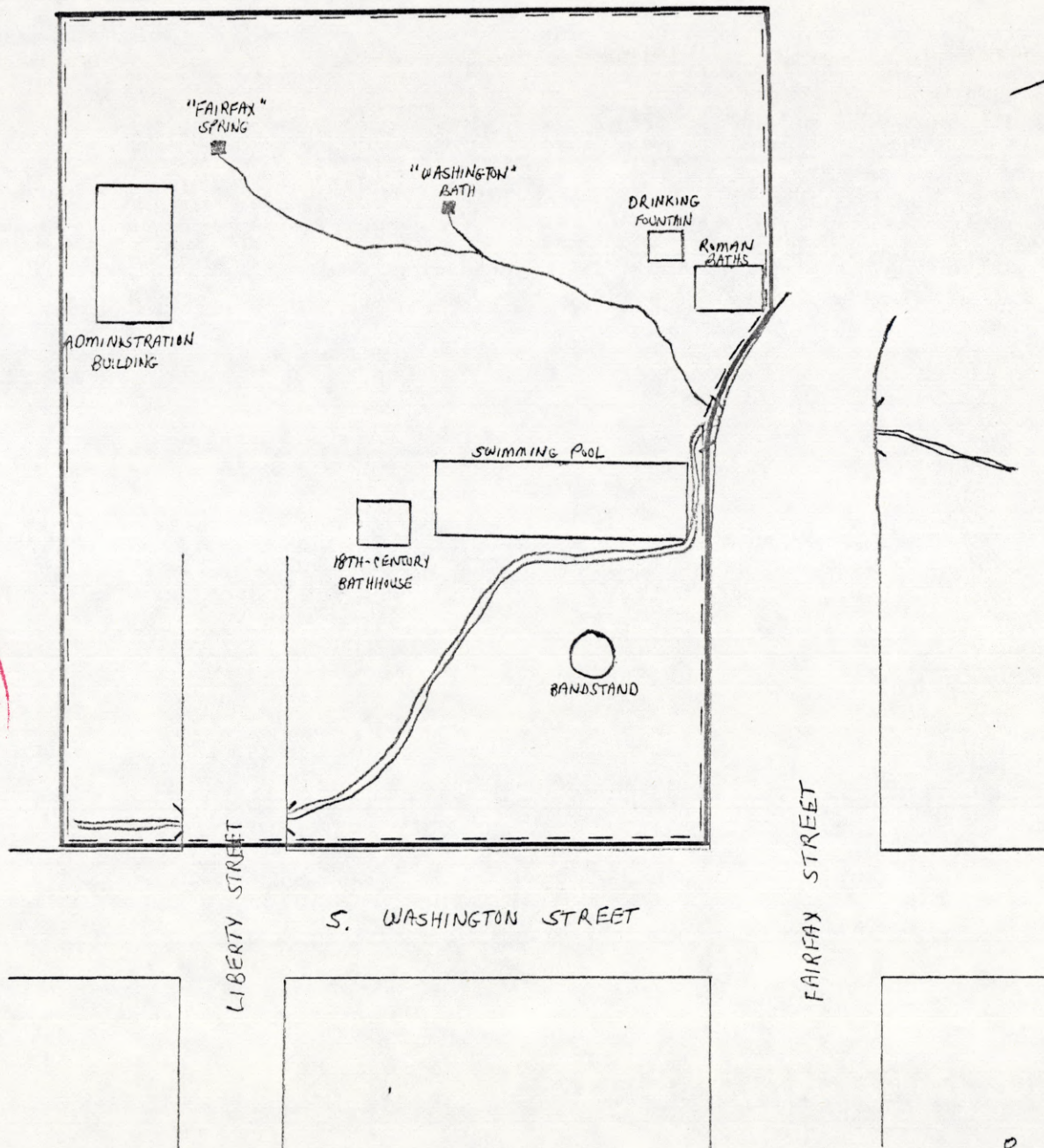
By 1888, a branch railroad line was brought into the town, and private railroad cars lined the siding. This growth period lasted until March 1898, when a fire destroyed the fine hotel, leaving only an older and smaller inn and a few boarding houses. Plans were soon made to construct an even larger and more elaborate hotel than the old Strother house; it would be based upon entertainments, gambling and sporting. The financiers apparently saw a reaction on the part of the local people, however, and the prospects of enforcement of anti-gambling laws and local option against the sale of whiskey by the drink brought the plans to an end.

By the early twentieth century the community was still drawing substantial numbers to the baths, and new hotels and businesses were constructed. Much quieter than in the heyday of the gamblers and leisure socializers, the town's central attraction remains the springs. Still producing the approximate 2000 gallons per minute at a temperature of 74.3° F, the stream created by these waters provides the source for the Roman Baths and the drinking fountains and then empties into Warm Springs Run as it flows quietly through the park. The area is quite picturesque, and Berkeley Springs is yet maintained as a public facility two hundred years after its having been established as such under the trusteeship of fourteen men who carried out the intent of the Virginia legislature.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (continued)

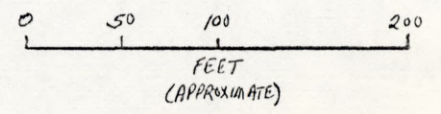
- at the Centennial Celebration, July 4, 1876." Washington City: McGill and Witherow, 1876. (Pamphlet reprint edition by Frederick T. Newbraugh, Berkeley Springs, W.Va., 1973.)
- Moorman, John J. The Virginia Springs. 2nd. ed. Richmond: J.W. Randolph, 1854. (pp. 259-67)
- Morgantown, W.Va. Archives Section, West Virginia Collection, West Virginia University Library. No. 1976. West Virginia State Board of Control. Correspondence, 1909-1949.
- Newbraugh, Fred. "Las Vegas of the Eighteenth Century." Valleys of History, Summer 1966, 1-6.

BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK



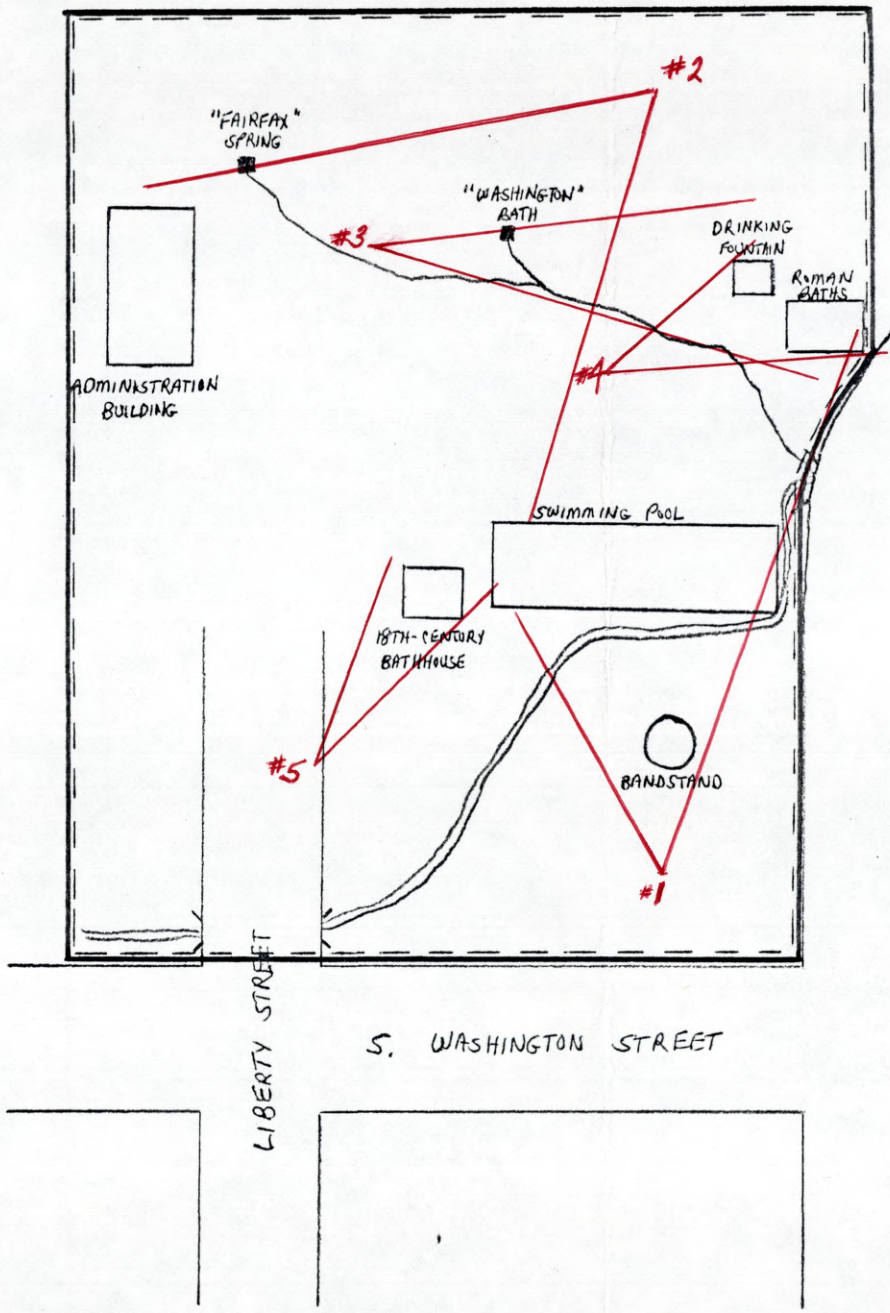
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----- DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

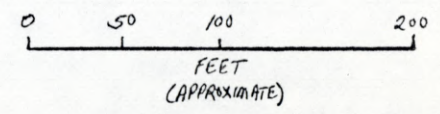


BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE

BERKELEY SPRINGS STATE PARK



Photographs



BUILDINGS NOT TO SCALE