

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

received **DEC 23 1987**
date entered

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

1. Name

historic Maple Street Historic District

and or common

2. Location

street & number 107 - 121 Maple Street N/A not for publication

city, town Lewisburg N/A vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Greenbrier code 025

3. Classification

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|---|
| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district | <input type="checkbox"/> public | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> museum |
| <input type="checkbox"/> building(s) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied | <input type="checkbox"/> commercial | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> both | <input type="checkbox"/> work in progress | <input type="checkbox"/> educational | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence |
| <input type="checkbox"/> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <input type="checkbox"/> entertainment | <input type="checkbox"/> religious |
| <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process | <input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted | <input type="checkbox"/> government | <input type="checkbox"/> scientific |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> being considered | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted | <input type="checkbox"/> industrial | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> no | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> other: |

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town _____ vicinity of _____ state _____

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Greenbrier County Courthouse

street & number 200 North Court Street

city, town Lewisburg state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Reconnaissance Architectural Survey
title of Lewisburg: Pauley&Gioulis has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date September, 1986 federal state county local

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

city, town Capitol Complex, Charleston state West Virginia

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Maple Street Historic District, Greenbrier County
Continuation sheet

Item number 4

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received 12/23/87

date entered

Maple Street Historic District

Property Owners List

1. (111 N. Maple) Mrs. Neva J. Watson
111 North Maple Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
2. (113 N. Maple) Mr. Lawrence Cooley
113 North Maple Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
3. (115 N. Maple) Mr. Hugh Beale
115 North Maple Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
4. (117 N. Maple) Mrs. Marie Early
117 North Maple Street
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901
5. (119 N. Maple) Mrs. Marybelle Early
2115 West Area Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19140
6. (121 N. Maple) Reverend Warren S. Lewis
Mt. Tabor Baptist Church
Lewisburg, West Virginia 24901

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 <u> N/A </u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fair | <input type="checkbox"/> unexposed | | | |

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Maple Street Historic District is located atop the highest residential hill, known as "Gospel Hill", in the City of Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia. The district consists of six (6) structures on the west side of Maple Street, north of the Maple Street overpass over U.S. Route 60 (Washington Street). To the west the terrain rises steeply behind the district and the corporate boundaries of Lewisburg end. To the north, Maple Street drops sharply in elevation. On the south the bridge, a metal pony through truss, spans the deep cut of Route 60. To the east, the terrain drops sharply to the downtown portion of Lewisburg and the existing Lewisburg Historic District. On the east and west of the area are lightly wooded fields.

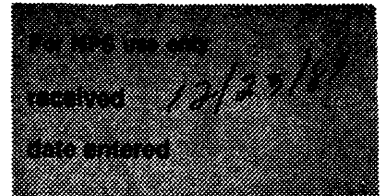
The Maple Street Historic District consists of six (6) single family residences. They are all detached, set back from the street and property lines approximately 30 feet and have side and rear yards. There are trees and other foliage in all of the yards and some contain limestone outcroppings that are so common to Greenbrier County. There is a slight ravine in the center of the historic district between buildings No. 2 and No. 3. All of the houses are one and two story frame buildings. Five have gable roofs while two have hip roofs. Roofing material is standing seam metal, asphalt shingles or rolled roofing. Most of the houses are devoid of decoration and have single porch posts and balustrades. They date from the turn-of-the century, and all are given ca. 1900 dates, though it is possible that several may have been constructed in the 1900 to 1910 period, though this is not readily apparent.

The Maple Street Historic District is made up of single family houses that are stylistically "worker's houses" of the type that are to be seen in many coal and timber "company towns" throughout West Virginia, though particularly in its southern regions. Materials are generally machine made and uniform, and supporting structures, such as garages, are rare. In fact, none are found in this region of Lewisburg. The historic district is the only part of what was once a much larger worker's community that retains integrity of style and materials from its original period of construction.

There follows an enumeration of the buildings found in the district:

No. 1. 111 Maple Street. This residence is a two story side gable residence with wood clapboard siding. There is a front porch with a two story central section with a gable roof and one story flanking porches. The house is ca. 1900. Contributing.

No. 2. 113 Maple Street. This is a one story "L" shaped house with gable roofs. There is a front porch with a shed roof, square posts and enclosed

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sided balustrade. The siding is clapboard. The front gable end of the projecting leg of the "L" is a half hexagon. Windows are 2 x 2. The roof is rolled material. The building dates from ca. 1900. Contributing.

No. 3. 115 Maple Street. This is a two story side gable frame residence with German siding. The roof is standing seam metal and there is an end chimney with a corbeled top. The entrance level is raised and there is a full one story porch across the front with a shed roof. The porch posts are turned as well as the balustrades, indicative of the machine-worked technology of the period. The porch has vertical board underpinning. Windows are 2 x 2. The residence dates ca. 1900. Contributing.

No. 4. 117 Maple Street. This is a small one story, three bay, side gable residence. There is a front porch with shed roof and turned, machine-worked posts. This is slightly larger than the central bay of the house. Windows are 2 over 2 and the wood siding is clapboard. The house dates from ca. 1900. Contributing.

No. 5. 119 Maple Street. This is a one story residence with a central portion that has a shallow hip roof and a gable roof extension on the front elevation. This portion of the house has a partially returned gable. There are long gabled dormers on the roof. The porch has lattice underpinning, battered square posts and sided enclosed balustrade. The siding is clapboard. Windows on the house are 2 x 2 and they are paired in the gable end. The first level is raised on a brick foundation. The residence dates ca. 1900. Contributing.

No. 6. 121 Maple Street. This is a two story side gable frame residence with a rear "L" gabled intersection. It is covered in ca. 1930 asbestos siding. The gable ends have partial cornice returns. There is a one story porch on the front elevation with a shed roof, square posts and enclosed balustrade. Windows are 2 x 2. There is a coursed stone raised basement. The house is ca. 1900. Contributing.

All six of the primary structures within the Maple Street Historic District contribute to the significance of the district. There are no non-contributing structures.

The Maple Street Historic District represents a small, intact working class neighborhood from the turn-of-the-century Greenbrier County Boom Period that overlooks the older, more established buildings of the Lewisburg Historic District.

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 type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> social/ | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater | | |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation | | |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) | | |

Local Black History

Specific dates ca.1890 - 1910 Builder/Architect Not Known

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Meets Criteria A and C

The Maple Street Historic District, in Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, West Virginia, is significant as the only remaining intact residential area of Lewisburg that is representative of 19th and early 20th century worker's architecture,¹ and for its significance as the only architecturally intact area that serves as a focal point of Black history in Lewisburg.²

Explanatory Notes

1. The "Gospel Hill" section of Lewisburg, just to the north and west of the central part of Lewisburg, is the only section of that city that contains intact early examples of worker's housing, sometimes referred to as Folk Architecture. These buildings, designed as single family residences, are generally characterized by a single story (sometimes two) with a side gabled roof and are of wood frame construction, generally clapboard. Most of the properties date from about the turn-of-the-century (ca.1900) when the railroads were penetrating the Greenbrier Valley and the great lumber boom of this region was in full swing. Vast new lumbering areas, with the accompanying paper and saw mills, were being rapidly exploited during this time period, and the need for relatively modest housing for the many new workers such activities required was at a peak. The obvious location for such housing was, naturally, where those of other working class people already existed, and thus the Black residential neighborhood on "Gospel Hill" in Lewisburg expanded to accommodate the influx of new arrivals in the area.

The housing in this neighborhood is also characterized by porches, which typically have machine-worked spindel posts and balustrades and a minimum of decorative woodwork. "L" additions are not uncommon, having generally been added to accommodate the expanding families of the working people. The Maple Street Historic District area is the last area of "Gospel Hill" that survives relatively intact from the period of its construction and is, therefore, reflective of the physical environment of Black workers in this region nearly a century ago.

2. The Maple Street Historic District is a relatively small grouping of individual houses that are situated along Maple Street, the western most street of Lewisburg, county seat of Greenbrier County, West Virginia, the historic marketing center for southeastern West Virginia. The street is situated atop what is locally known as "Gospel Hill". It is significant for containing the highest concentration of intact "worker's" housing that has,

9. Major Bibliographical References

Clay, Earl C., The Negro in Greenbrier County, West Virginia; A Social, Economic and Educational Study, Ettrick, Va., Virginia State College, (M.S. Thesis), 1946
continued..

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 4 acres

Quadrangle name Lewisburg, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1": 24,000

UTM References

A

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|----|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 48 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 84 | 1 | 80 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | |

B

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 48 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 84 | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

C

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 48 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 84 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

D

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|---|----------|---|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 48 | 3 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 84 | 0 | 6 | 0 |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

E

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

F

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

G

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

H

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------|---------|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Zone | Easting | | Northing | | | | | | | | | |

Verbal boundary description and justification

Beginning at a point on the Southeast corner of Lewisburg City Lot No. 11 where the south lot line meets Maple Street; thence in a line west 195 feet to the rear lot line which coincides with the Lewisburg Corporation

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian, and Michael Gioulis, Preservation Planner

organization Pauley and Gioulis date September 1, 1987

street & number 4651 Victoria Road telephone (304) 744-9342

city or town Charleston state West Virginia 25313

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title State Historic Preservation Officer date December 11, 1987

For NPS use only

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

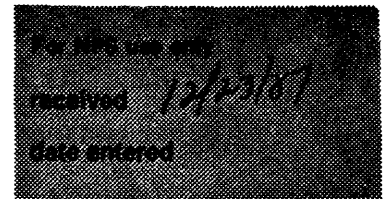
 date 4/6/88
for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

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historically, served as the residential area of most of the Black population of Lewisburg.

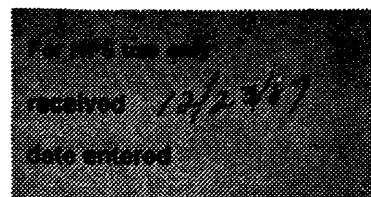
Historically, the Black people of this area have always played a large role in the life of Lewisburg and the surrounding countryside. Prior to the Civil War, most of the area's Black population was in servitude and thus played a prominent, if somewhat anonymous, role in the economic life of the community. With the coming of the war and emancipation, the Black community immediately began to take part in all other aspects of the life of the community at large, most of which had hither-to-fore been closed to them. The Freedman's Bureau moved into Lewisburg immediately after the cessation of hostilities and, for an approximately five year period, the Black people of Lewisburg played a predominant role in civic life. With the so-called "Radical Republicans" in control, Black men were given the right to vote and to hold public office, though still highly discriminated against, even by some Republicans. Some Lewisburg Blacks who emerged to public prominence during this period were Rev. Daniel Collins, Jaben Holmes, James Baker, Rev. Edward Saunders, Jordan Davis, and Stephen Gardner. Davis, Holmes and Gardner were nominated for the Board of Trustees of Lewisburg (the equivalent of today's city council) in 1870, and Davis and Gardner were elected. This period came to an end quickly, however, when Democrats, or Conservatives, and former Confederates returned to power after the election of 1872 and the passage of the new state constitution in the same year.

Gradually "Bourbon" control was established, or re-established, over Lewisburg, Greenbrier County, and much of West Virginia, which meant that the old pre-War interests, those that had followed the fortunes of the Confederacy, were back in control. The Black population of Lewisburg, however, was not disenfranchised as were most of their race throughout the southern states. "Separate but equal" gradually came to have at least some nominal meaning, as separate schools were established for Black children, and Blacks continued to participate in the local economy, if generally in its lower paid and more menial aspects. Often, if Black people wished to achieve something for their community, such as schools for their children, they had to support it themselves, such as the elementary school on Gospel Hill in Lewisburg which later grew into Bolling High School.

Throughout the remainder of the 19th and well into the 20th century, the Black people of Lewisburg played a vital role in the life of the community. Especially after the great lumber boom began in the 1890's and continued into the 1900's, when the need for large numbers of workers was at a peak, the influence of Blacks in the population began to be felt to a greater degree. Black people in the area continued to support their own schools as well as churches, most notable of the latter being the John

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Wesley Methodist Church (listed in the National Register of Historic Places). With the coming of Integration in the 1950's, the Black population became a more integral part of the community as a whole and began to remove the vestiges of servitude that still lingered. The Gospel Hill section of Lewisburg where, even in pre-Civil War times, the Black population of Lewisburg was concentrated, also became a more integrated area, both socially and in physical appearance, with the rest of the city, while at the same time maintaining a sense of close community and symbolically being representative of the long struggle of that part of the community for an equal role in the life of all its people.

The Maple Street Historic District is, then, a small representative area within the larger "Gospel Hill" neighborhood of Lewisburg that, in its architectural integrity, is all that remains intact of the historic Black community of Lewisburg and that is the city's most outstanding grouping of historic, turn-of-the-century worker's housing.

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Item 9...Major Bibliographical References...continued

Dial, Carolyn J., and McCoy, Edwin, eds., Greenbrier County Bicentennial, 1778-1978, Lewisburg, W.Va., Greenbrier County Bicentennial Committee, 1978

Hardesty, H.H., History of Greenbrier, Pocahontas, and Monroe Counties, West Virginia, N.Y., H.H. Hardesty, 1883

Historical Booklet, Greenbrier County, 160th Anniversary, 1778-1938, Charleston, W.Va., Jarrett Printing Co., 1938

Rice, Otis K., A History of Greenbrier County, Parsons, W.Va., McClain Printing Co., 1986

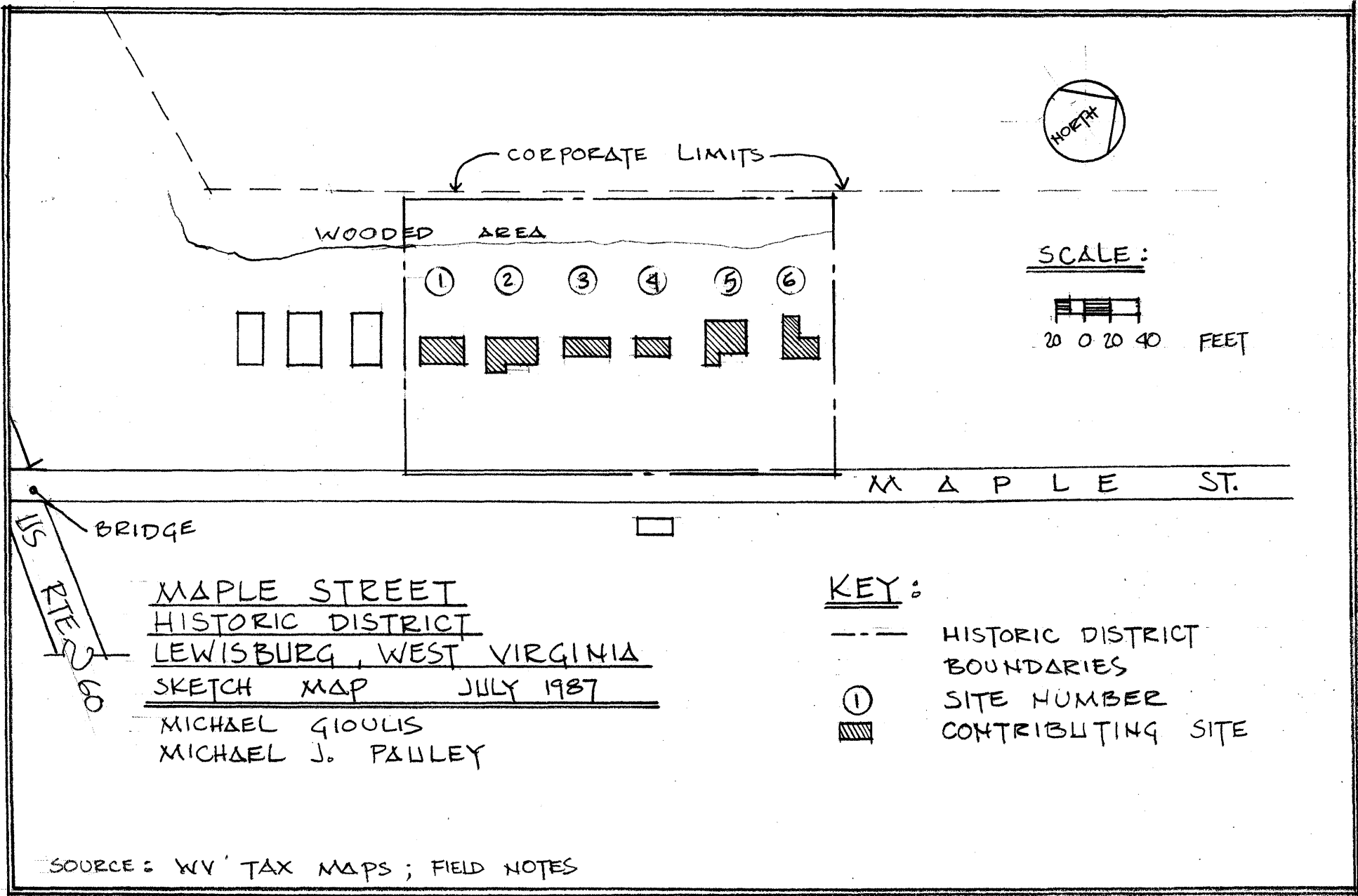
Woods, Ruth Dayton, Greenbrier Pioneers and Their Homes, Charleston, W.Va., West Virginia Publishing Co., 1942

West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia, Richwood, W.Va., J.Comstock, 1973
Greenbrier County Deed Books

Item 10...Verbal Boundary Description...2

Boundary; thence in a line north 320 feet to the north lot line of City Lot No. 16; thence east in a line 195 feet to the intersection of the west side of Maple Street; thence in a line south 320 feet along the west side of Maple Street to the point of beginning.

Justification - See Part 7, p. 1, paragraph 1 and 3.



CORPORATE LIMITS

WOODED AREA

SCALE:



20 0 20 40 FEET

① ② ③ ④ ⑤ ⑥



M A P L E S T.

BRIDGE

US
RTE
80

MAPLE STREET
HISTORIC DISTRICT
LEWISBURG, WEST VIRGINIA
SKETCH MAP JULY 1987

MICHAEL GIOLIS
MICHAEL J. PAULEY

KEY:



HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES



SITE NUMBER



CONTRIBUTING SITE

SOURCE: WV TAX MAPS; FIELD NOTES