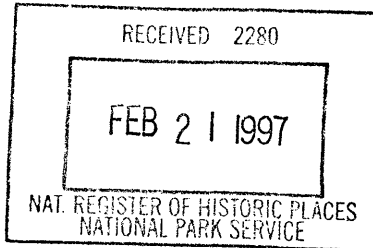


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



#263

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Downtown Charles Town Historic District

other names _____

2. Location

street & number Washington, Liberty and Congress Streets from eastern town limit west to

Water Street city or town Charles Town not for publication vicinity

state West Virginia code _____ county Jefferson code 037 zip code 25414

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

William E. Laman
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/18/97
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register.
 - See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other (explain): _____

Edson H. Boell
Signature of the Keeper

3/21/97
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
204	31	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
204	31	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling - house
- Commerce/professional - law office
- Commerce/specialty store
- Government/court house
- Government/city hall
- Government/fire station
- Education/school
- Religion/church
- Culture/music facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Domestic/single dwelling - house
- Commerce/professional - law office
- Commerce/specialty store
- Government/court house
- Government/city hall
- Education/school
- Religion/church

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Colonial/Georgian
- Early Republic/Federal
- Mid 19th Century/Greek Revival
- Late Victorian/Italianate
- Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/
- Classical Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation stone
- walls brick
- roof metal
- other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad pattern of our history.
- B** Property associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property as yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- 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 # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Architecture
- Military
- Community Development
- _____
- _____
- _____

Period of Significance

1786-1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

City of Charles Town

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 50

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	A	1,8	253860	4352940	4	D	1,8	252820	4352340
		Zone	Easting	Northing			Zone	Easting	Northing
2	B	1,8	254000	4352620	5	E	1,8	252880	4352540
3	C	1,8	252900	4352180	6				

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
 organization Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc. date November 8, 1996
 street & number 105 N. Potomac Street telephone 301-739-2070
 city or town Hagerstown state Maryland zip code 21740

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

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

name various
 street & number telephone
 city or town state zip code

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Downtown Charles Town Historic District
Name of Property

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PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Downtown Charles Town Historic District extends along most of the length of Washington, Liberty and Congress Streets, and the cross streets running among them. The dominant architectural styles expressed in the district are Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Classical Revival although the residential blocks of East Liberty Street have a concentration of Foursquare and Bungalow style houses.

The district retains a high level of integrity with just a little more than 13% non-contributing properties. The buildings are most concentrated toward the central area of the district, the first block of West Washington Street and of North George Street. In this area the streetscape is dominated by two and three story buildings from the late 19th century. It is likely that most of this downtown commercial construction occurred after the Reconstruction era. Most of the buildings in this area of the district were built new or renovated with Italianate detailing.

General Description

Charles Town's rich and colorful history is reflected in its buildings. Although the minimum requirement for becoming a freeholder when the town was founded was a 16-foot square dwelling, no known examples of such buildings remain today. Charles Town's visual character today is dominated by handsome brick buildings reflecting the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles of the 19th century.

Although the district extends to the eastern town limits and includes Liberty and Congress Streets, the town's business and commercial section is along Washington Street from Samuel Street west to Water Street, and along the 100 blocks of George Street. At the heart of the district is the Court House which was heavily damaged by artillery fire during the Civil War. It was originally constructed in 1837, and rebuilt in 1871 when the county government was returned to Charles Town. The Market House on the corner of West Washington and North George Streets, an imposing structure, with mixed Renaissance, Colonial Revival and Italianate influences, was constructed in 1874. Known as Charles Washington Hall, it is a reconstruction of the original market house which was destroyed during the Civil War.

Other buildings in this part of the district are the Independent Fire Company building built in 1877 in the Second Empire style; and the Old Opera House on the northwest corner of George and Liberty Streets, built in 1912 in the Colonial Revival style. Also from the early 20th century is the Post Office building at the southwest corner of George and

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Washington Streets, a Colonial Revival style building dating from 1917. All of these buildings are brick. The Court House and Opera House are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Classical Revival style of the early 20th century is represented by the cast stone City Hall, formerly a bank building. Scattered among these imposing buildings of the late 19th and early 20th century are older buildings representing the late 18th and early 19th century development of town. The Sheetz House for example at the southeast corner of Liberty and Lawrence Streets and, according to local historians, dating from 1797, is a stuccoed log and brick dwelling.

Charles Town exhibits four periods of architectural development. First is the early construction from the 18th and early 19th century; second is the Federal and Greek Revival period from the 1820s through the 1860s; the third period is the post-Civil War and Reconstruction phase from the 1870s through the turn of the century and the fourth is the more "modern" buildings of the 20th century.

Contributing to the architectural character of Charles Town is the large number of stuccoed buildings. Stucco seems to have been a frequent choice for coverings in the late 19th century, and may be linked to the presence of the limestone works at the turn of the century period.

Today Charles Town is primarily a residential town with business and governmental buildings concentrated along Washington, George, Congress and Liberty Streets. It is this combined commercial and residential area that is the focus of this survey and registration project. The buildings in this area reflect Charles Town's entire history with examples from the late 18th century, through the 20th century. Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate influenced, and Classical Revival buildings appear to dominate the scene.

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Downtown Charles Town Historic District

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HISTORIC SITES OF CHARLES TOWN:

1. 417 E. Washington Street. "Rutherford House" Carriage Inn.
Greek Revival house with Italianate influence, c. 1850s. Three bay, two story brick house with a low pitched hipped roof and interior chimneys. Contributing.
2. 403 E. Washington Street.
Greek Revival with Italianate influence, c. 1850s. Two story, three bay house with a raised basement and a low pitched hipped roof with interior chimneys. Contributing.
3. 323 E. Washington Street.
Federal style building, c. 1810-1820s. Two story, five bay brick house with raised basement. Contributing.
4. 321 E. Washington Street.
"Neo-Colonial" house, c. 1960s. Non-contributing.
5. 315 E. Washington Street.
Queen Anne house, c. 1900. Polygonal corner tower, and semi-hexagonal projecting bay. Contributing.
6. 311 E. Washington Street.
Queen Anne house, c. 1900. Four bay with entrance in the second bay from the east end. Contributing.
7. 307? E. Washington Street.
Federal influence, c. 1820, Classical Revival renovation c. 1910. This two story, six bay building, presumably of log construction may be a two-part structure with the older part being possibly the east three bays. Contributing.
8. 301 E. Washington Street.
Italianate influence, c. 1850-60. This two story, two bay brick house is constructed with a very low pitched roof, hipped with a large overhang. Contributing.
9. 221 E. Washington Street. Zion Episcopal Church, Parish House.
Greek Revival and Italianate influence, c. 1850-60. Brick three bay, two story central block with attached one story wings. Contributing.

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10. 215? E. Washington Street. Zion Episcopal Church, Parish Hall.
Tudor Revival, c. 1930s-40s. A brick structure with false half timbering in the gable.
Contributing.
11. 201 E. Washington Street. Tate-Farifax-Muse House.
Georgian influence, c. 1800. Brick house is constructed with Flemish bond at the
north and west elevations. Glazed headers. Contributing.
12. 121? E. Washington Street.
Federal influence, c. 1830-50. Two story, five bay house with a raised basement.
Contributing.
13. 115 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1940. Non-contributing.
14. 111 E. Washington Street. Bank of Charles Town.
Colonial Revival influence, c. 1960s. Non-contributing.
15. 105? E. Washington Street. Bank of Charles Town Trust Dept.
Classical Revival, c. 1915-20s. Three bay, two story tan brick building with cast stone
trim. Contributing.
16. 101 E. Washington Street. City Hall.
Classical Revival, c. 1915. Tan brick with cast stone trim and a tile roof. Arcaded
windows. Contributing.
17. 101 W. Washington Street. U.S. Post Office.
Colonial Revival, 1919. Five bay brick building with hipped roof and pedimented
entrance. Contributing.
18. 105-113 W. Washington Street. Sadler Block.
Italianate, c. 1870-1880s. Two story, eight bay brick building with a three section
facade divided by brick pilasters. Contributing.
19. 115 W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1880s. This small commercial building is a one story, two bay section of
frame infill. Contributing.

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Downtown Charles Town Historic District

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20. 117-119 W. Washington Street.
Federal, c. 1820s. This brick building is six bays wide with Flemish bond facade and parapets with double inside-end chimneys. Contributing.
21. 121-123 W. Washington Street. Valley Hardware.
Italianate, c. 1890-1900. This commercial building is a three story, three bay Italianate brick structure. Contributing.
22. 125-127 W. Washington Street.
Second Empire, c. 1880. This five bay, two and a half story brick building is dominated by a slate mansard roof. Contributing.
23. 129-131 W. Washington Street.
Classical Revival, c. 1900. Two story brick building characterized by arcaded windows in groups of twos and threes. Contributing.
24. 201-203 W. Washington Street.
Vernacular, Georgian-Federal influence, c. 1800-1820. This stuccoed building is of timber frame with brick nogging. Contributing.
25. 205-207 W. Washington Street.
Vernacular, Georgian-Federal influence, c. 1800. This stuccoed building is of timber framed construction. Contributing.
26. 209-211 W. Washington Street.
Classical Revival, c. 1915-1920. Two story, three bay commercial/office building constructed of multi-colored brick. Contributing.
27. 213-215? W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1890s. Four bay, three story brick structure. Contributing.
28. 219 W. Washington Street.
Late 20th century, after 1985. Non-contributing.
29. 221? W. Washington Street. American Legion.
20th century commercial vernacular, c. 1920. Brick building with stepped parapet, horizontal and vertical bands of corbeling, suggesting Art Deco influence.

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Contributing:

30. 227 W. Washington Street.
International style influence, c. 1940s-1950s. This is a brick commercial building with horizontal window bands. Contributing.
31. 231 W. Washington Street. former Bank of Charles Town.
Classical Revival, c. 1915-1920 (1907?). Brick building with three bays separated by pilasters. Cast stone trim. Contributing.
32. 235-237 W. Washington Street.
Federal-Georgian influence, c. 1800-1810. Flemish bond facade, cornice with modillions and dentils, nine over nine light sash. This five bay brick building represents the formative years of Charles Town. Contributing.
33. 301 W. Washington Street.
Vernacular, Italianate, c. 1820, 1880s. Three bay, two story building of log or frame construction, covered with rusticated wood siding at the front elevation. Contributing.
34. 303 W. Washington Street.
Vernacular, Italianate, c. 1820, 1880s. Two story, three bay residential building, likely of log construction, covered with rusticated wood siding. Contributing.
35. 309-311 W. Washington Street. Fritts Furniture Store.
International, c. 1930s-40s. Large three story stuccoed building, with horizontal window bands and "Chicago-style" windows. Contributing.
36. 315? W. Washington Street.
Federal, c. 1820s-30s. This five bay, central entrance brick house has an all stretcher brick facade and stepped parapet at the gables. Contributing.
37. SE corner of West Washington and West Streets.
C. 1960s. Non-contributing.
38. NE corner of West Washington and South West Streets.
Late 20th century commercial, 1970s-80s. Non-contributing.
39. 320? W. Washington Street.

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- Italianate, c. 1880s. This three story, three bay commercial and residential building has a prominent bracketed cornice and windows with peaked hoods. Contributing.
40. 310? W. Washington Street. White's Supermarket.
Italianate, c. 1880s-90s. This six bay, two story structure appears to have been substantially altered especially at the first floor level. Contributing.
41. 306 W. Washington Street.
Vernacular-mixed, c. 1800, 1890s, 1960s. This very altered house and commercial space may be an early dwelling, renovated in the late 19th century and again in the mid 20th century. Contributing.
42. 304? W. Washington Street.
Second Empire and High Victorian Gothic, c. 1890s. Two story, two bay house is nestled among larger commercial buildings on W. Washington Street. Contributing.
43. 305 W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1880s. This brick two bay, two story commercial building is distinguished by extensive brick corbeling beneath its cornice, forming a series of Gothic arches, and a cast iron balustrade at the second floor level. Contributing.
44. 302? W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1890. This three bay, two story brick commercial building is little-altered. Contributing.
45. 300 W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1890. Although drastically altered in the 1960s or '70s, this commercial building probably resembled its neighbor to the west (#44). Contributing.
46. NE corner of West Washington and Lawrence Streets.
Mid 20th century commercial, c. 1960-70s. Non-contributing.
47. 230 W. Washington Street.
Late Federal?, c. 1820-40, c. 1890, c. 1970. This much altered building contains the remnants of an early 19th century two story, three bay brick house. Contributing.
48. 222-228 W. Washington Street.
Federal with Italianate modifications, c. 1820-30s. Six bay, two story commercial and

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- residential building. Contributing.
49. 216-218-220 W. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1915. Three story, five bay building with a central palladian window and flanking semi-hexagonal bays. Contributing.
50. 214? W. Washington Street.
Contemporary Classical, c. 1980. Non-contributing.
51. 212? W. Washington Street. "Morgan Building."
Vernacular, c. 1830, modified c. 1920s. This three bay, two story brick building has a Flemish bond facade suggesting initial construction was in the first half of the 19th century. Contributing.
52. 203? W. Washington Street.
Commercial, c. 1920s. This 1920s period brick commercial building follows the simple lines of the early 20th century. Contributing.
53. 200 W. Washington Street.
Commercial, c. 1920s. This building from the early 20th century is similar to its companion to the west. Contributing.
54. 132 W. Washington Street.
Greek Revival, c. 1850s. Corbeled pilasters suggest the temple form on this Greek Revival, three story building. Contributing.
55. 128-130 W. Washington Street.
Greek Revival, c. 1850s. Brick corbeling creates the appearance of pilasters and a frieze band on this two story, three bay building. Contributing.
56. 124 W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1880s. This three story, four bay brick building has a dominant cornice with brackets and arched-topped window hoods. Contributing.
57. 122 W. Washington Street.
Mid 20th century, c. 1960. Non-contributing.
58. 120-118 W. Washington Street.

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Classical Revival, c. 1920. Three story, four bay brick building characterized by brick corbeled pilasters and cast stone trim forming flat arches with keystones. Contributing.

59. 116? W. Washington Street. Bank One.
Colonial Revival, c. 1950-60s. Non-contributing.
60. 100 W. Washington Street. Charles Washington Hall, Market House.
Romanesque, Georgian Revival, 1874. This building is of brick pilasters, pedimented gables and a central pedimented bay. Contributing.
61. NE corner of George and Washington Streets. Jefferson County Court House.
Greek Revival, 1837, 1871. Individually listed on the National Register, the court house is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. Contributing.
62. 104 E. Washington Street. Jefferson County Planning Commission.
Classical Revival, c. 1915. This one bay, two story building of the early 1900s is of two tone tan brick at the front elevation. Contributing.
63. 108-110-112 E. Washington Street. Jefferson County Tax Office.
Classical Revival, c. 1910. Two story, five bay tan and brown brick building is dominated by Classical Revival facade veneered over red brick. Contributing.
64. 114 E. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1900. This two bay, two story frame commercial building probably dates from about 1900. Contributing.
65. 116? E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1960. Non-contributing.
66. 118? E. Washington Street.
Federal, c. 1820-30s. This brick house has an all stretcher brick front, and is three bays wide with a door, window, window pattern. Contributing.
67. NE corner of East Washington and Samuel Streets. Jefferson County Library.
Colonial Revival, "Neo-Colonial," c. 1960. Non-contributing.
68. 208 E. Washington Street.

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- Queen Anne influence, c. 1890-1910. Gable fronted three bay frame house. Contributing.
69. 210? E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, Queen Anne influence, c. 1910-1920. Frame three bays with hipped roof. Contributing.
70. 222 E. Washington Street. Charles Town Presbyterian Church.
Greek Revival, 1851. This brick church building is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style. Contributing.
71. 220? E. Washington Street at East Washington and Mildred Streets.
Greek Revival, 1854. Two story, three bay Greek Revival style residence with an all stretcher brick facade. Contributing.
72. 302 E. Washington Street at Mildred Street.
Queen Anne, c. 1900. Frame house covered with aluminum siding. Contributing.
73. 310 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival with Queen Anne influence, c. 1910. Two story, five bay brick house with a hipped roof. Contributing.
74. 316 E. Washington Street.
Vernacular, Victorian, c. 1890s. Two story, three bay frame house with central front entrance. Contributing.
75. 320 E. Washington Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1890s. T-shaped German sided frame house. Contributing.
76. 324 E. Washington Street.
Early 19th century Vernacular, c. 1810-20. This five bay, two story log and frame house, covered with stucco. Contributing.
77. 400 E. Washington Street.
Georgian influence, c. 1790-1800. Significant early log or timber frame house with original siding and windows. Contributing.
78. N. Samuel Street.

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- Greek Revival influence, Vernacular, c. 1850s. This two story, four bay brick building has a low pitched gabled roof, fenestration in a door, window, window pattern. Contributing.
79. 102 E. Liberty Street.
Commercial, Industrial, c. 1910-20. Two, story, six bays wide. Contributing.
80. NW corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets.
C. 1970. Modern car wash building. Non-contributing.
- 81 N/S Liberty Street between George and Samuel Streets. VFW.
Colonial Revival, c. 1989?. Modern VFW building. Non-contributing
82. SW corner of Liberty and N. Samuel Streets.
C. 1960s. Brick office building. Non-contributing.
83. S/S E. Liberty Street.
"Colonial," c. 1960. Brick office building. Non-contributing.
84. N/S E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1900-1910. Gable-fronted stone industrial building with extension to the east. Contributing.
85. S/E corner of Liberty and N. George Streets.
Colonial Revival, c. 1920. Large two story brick building, embellished with cast stone quoins, spandrels and keystones. Contributing.
86. 122 N. George Street.
Classical Revival, c. 1915-1920. Three story brick commercial and office building with yellow brick and cast stone trim. Contributing.
87. 201 N. George Street.
Classical Revival, c. 1915-1920. Two story red brick commercial building. Contributing.
88. 200 N. George Street.
Classical Revival, 1912. This two story, five bay building is an example of the Classical Revival style, similar to it neighbors on the other three corners of George

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and Liberty Streets. Contributing.

89. 102-104 W. Liberty Street.
Turn-of-the-century commercial/industrial, vernacular, c. 1910. It is a three story, six bay brick gable roofed building with two side-by-side storefronts. Contributing.
90. Liberty Street. Carry Out.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1920. This is a simple frame commercial structure from the 1920s. Contributing.
91. N/E corner of Charles and Liberty Streets.
Commercial, late 20th century, c. 1970s. Office building. Non-contributing.
92. SE corner of Charles and W. Liberty Streets.
Vernacular, c. 1890. Seven bay, two story brick building with central gable with a stepped parapet. Contributing.
93. 122 N. Charles Street.
Commercial, Vernacular, c. 1890. Gable fronted, brick, turn-of-the-century period. Contributing.
94. NW corner of Charles and Liberty Streets
Italianate influence, c. 1860s. Two story, three bay frame Italianate-influenced building. Contributing.
95. S/S West Liberty Street between Charles and Lawrence Streets.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1920. Gable fronted rusticated block commercial building. Contributing.
96. N/S W. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1960. Non-Contributing.
97. 210 W. Liberty Street. Edward Tiffin House.
Vernacular, Federal influence, c. 1830s-40s. Two story, three bay brick dwelling with a Flemish bond facade and six over six windows within a narrow frame. Contributing.
98. 214 W. Liberty Street.
Foursquare with Queen Anne influence, c. 1915. This residential building is a brick

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- Foursquare with Queen Anne influence in its semi-hexagonal projecting bay. Contributing.
99. 219 W. Liberty Street. Sheetz Florist. Georgian influenced, c. 1797? This is among the oldest standing buildings in Charles Town. Contributing.
100. 201 N. Lawrence Street. Gothic Revival, c. 1833-1839. Gable fronted, three bay stone lecture room for the Episcopal Church. Contributing.
101. 200 N. Lawrence Street. Greek Revival, c. 1850. Greek Revival influenced three bay brick house, with wide wooden lintels with plain corner blocks. Contributing.
102. 306 W. Liberty Street. Vernacular, c. 1920. Frame, gable fronted two bay house, probably dating from c. 1920. Contributing.
103. 312 W. Liberty Street. Vernacular, c. 1920. Overall form, steep roof pitch and small windows with heavy, wide frames suggest 18th century construction for this stuccoed log house. Contributing.
104. 210 E. Liberty Street. Vernacular, c. 1840?. This building is probably of log construction, with the two eastern bays possibly an addition. Contributing.
105. 212-214 E. Liberty Street. Mixed, Italianate, Italian Villa influenced, c. 1860s and later. -Larger T-shaped multi-part house unified by stucco. Contributing.
106. 218 E. Liberty Street. Queen Anne and Foursquare influence, c. 1910. Excellent and intact late Queen Anne style with Foursquare influence. Contributing.
107. 224 E. Liberty Street at Mildred Street. Greek Revival, c. 1850s-60s. Two story, five bay vinyl sided house, possibly of log

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- construction. Contributing.
108. 300 E. Liberty Street at Mildred Street.
Italianate influence, Vernacular, c. 1850s. Two story, three bay brick, common bond facade. Contributing.
109. 304 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1890. Two story, two bay gable fronted frame house covered with vinyl siding. Contributing.
110. 306 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1840-60s. Two story, three bay, German sided log house. Contributing.
111. 314 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1890s. Two bay, two story L-shaped dwelling, hip roofed entrance porch with four turned posts. Contributing.
112. 318 E. Liberty Street.
Gothic Revival influence, c. 1860s-70s. Two story, three bay house, possibly log construction. Contributing.
113. 322 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1860s-70s. Two story, three bay, all stretcher brick surfaces. Contributing.
114. 326 E. Liberty Street at Church Street.
Vernacular, mid 19th century. Two story, three bay stuccoed house, possibly log construction. Contributing.
115. 400 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, late 19th century. Two story, three bay, stuccoed house, possible log construction. Contributing.
116. 404 E. Liberty Street.
Late 19th century, c. 1890-1900. Two story, three bay frame. Contributing.
117. 406 E. Liberty Street.

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- Late 19th century, 1890-1900. Two story, two bay frame house. Contributing.
118. 410 E. Liberty Street.
Late 19th century Gothic influence, c. 1900. Two story, three bay frame house, central cross gable. Contributing.
119. 412 E. Liberty Street.
Turn-of-the-century Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, three bay stuccoed frame house. Contributing.
120. 418 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910-1920. Three bay, two story. Contributing.
121. 420 E. Liberty Street.
Mid 20th century, c. 1950s. Non-contributing.
122. 221 N. Seminary Street.
C. 1990. Non-contributing.
123. 506 E. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1920s. Two story, two bay, brick. Contributing.
124. 514 E. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1930. Two story, two bay, triple window at first story front. Contributing.
125. 518 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920. Stuccoed, two bay. Contributing.
126. 524? E. Liberty Street.
Early 20th century, c. 1920. Two story, three bay stuccoed house. Contributing.
127. 526-528 E. Liberty Street.
Early 20th century, c. 1920. Two story, four bays, brick. Contributing.
128. 540 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920s. Brick, hip-roofed entrance, hip roofed frontal dormer. Contributing.

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129. 542 E. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival influenced, c. 1930. Two story, two bay, brick. Contributing.
130. 544 E. Liberty Street.
1950s residential, c. 1950s. Non-contributing.
131. 547 E. Liberty Street.
Bungalow, c. 1930s. Frame, gable-fronted, three bays wide. Contributing.
132. 545 E. Liberty Street.
Bungaloid, c. 1930s. Gable-fronted, three bay frame house. Contributing.
133. 115 N. Court Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1920. Two story, three bay stuccoed house. Contributing.
134. 112 N. Court Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920. Brick, unusual front with gabled Tudor arched roof.
Contributing.
135. 515 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920. Double or triple six over one light windows. Contributing.
136. 511- 509 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920. Duplex with double six over one light windows. Contributing.
137. 505 E. Liberty Street.
Bungaloid, c. 1930s. First story bricked, second story stuccoed. Contributing.
138. 501 E. Liberty Street.
Bungaloid, c. 1930s. Gable presentation to street, overhanging roof of east forms porch. Contributing.
139. 423 E. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival influence, c. 1920. Two story, two bay brick house. Contributing.
140. 419 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920. Central front entrance, hip roofed front dormer with double windows. Contributing.

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141. 415 E. Liberty Street.
Ranch style, c. 1960. Non-contributing.
142. 411 E. Liberty Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1890-1900. Two story, two bay, gable front. Contributing.
143. 407 E. Liberty Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1890. Two story, two bay, gable front. Contributing.
144. E/S N. Church Street.
Various, c. 1990. Non-contributing.
145. 327 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1880s?. One story, vinyl siding. Contributing.
146. 321 E. Liberty Street.
Turn-of-the-century, c. 1900. L-shaped, gable fronted frame. Contributing.
147. 313 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare influence, c. 1910. One story, brick, three bay hip roofed house.
Contributing.
148. 311 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910-20. Two bays, windows one over one. Contributing.
149. 121 N. Mildred Street.
Italianate, c. 1870. Two story, five bay stuccoed. Contributing.
150. 115 N. Mildred Street.
Gothic Revival, c. 1870s. Two story, five bay, frame, central cross gable.
Contributing.
151. 207 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1870. Two story, three bay frame house, German siding. Contributing.
152. 203 E. Liberty Street. (Thrift Shop)
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1900. Small frame, one story, parapet roof. Contributing.

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153. 410 E. Washington Street.
Late Greek Revival influence, c. 1870. L-shaped frame dwelling with one story wing.
Contributing.
154. 418 E. Washington Street.
High Victorian Gothic, C. 1880s-90s. Two story, four bay frame, two forward
projecting gables. Contributing.
155. 420 E. Washington Street.
Italianate-Greek Revival influence, 1860-70s. Two story, three bay stuccoed.
Contributing.
156. 500 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Brick, three bays, central front entrance. Contributing.
157. 508 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1910. Two story, two bay brick, trimmed with stone lintels.
Contributing.
158. 524-526 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Brick duplex, window, door, door, window facade.
Contributing.
159. 528 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Brick, door, window facade. Contributing.
160. 530 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival and Queen Anne influence, c. 1900-1910. Stucco and brick house,
two bays, two stories. Contributing.
161. 532? E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Brick pilasters at the corners and center front. Large overhang
at the roof with false joists ends. Example of a favorite early 20th century house type.
Contributing.
162. 534 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Door, window facade arrangement. Six over one light sash with
segmentally arched window heads. Transom and sidelights. Example of a favorite

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- house type from the early 20th century. Contributing.
163. 536 E. Washington Street.
Bungalow, c. 1920. Stuccoed, two bays wide. Recessed shed dormer forms upper level porch. An excellent and early example of a Bungalow. Contributing.
164. 538 E. Washington Street.
C. 1960. Non-contributing.
165. 539 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1920. Excellent example of a Colonial Revival house. Stuccoed with five bays and a central entrance. Federal style entrance with elliptical fanlight and sidelights. Gabled entrance porch. Contributing.
166. 527 E. Washington Street.
Late Queen Anne influence, c. 1900. Gable-fronted house. Two bays wide. Front semi-hexagonal projecting bay beneath gable with fancy brackets. Entrance with transom and sidelights. Wraparound porch with Doric columns. Example of early 20th century Queen Anne transitional. Contributing.
167. 525 E. Washington Street.
Gothic Revival and Colonial Revival influence, c. 1890-1900. Two story, three bay stuccoed with three bay wide cross gable. Across-the-front porch with round columns. Contributing.
168. 515 E. Washington Street. Stephenson's Female Seminary.
Greek Revival, 1884. Three story, five bay brick with common bond facade and brick pilasters separating bays. Raised basement. Three bay entrance porch. Contributing.
169. 501? E. Washington Street. St. Thomas Lutheran Church.
C. 1980s. Non-contributing.
170. 119 S. Seminary Street. Lutheran parsonage.
Colonial Revival, c. 1980s. Non-contributing.
171. 427 E. Congress Street.
Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, three bay stuccoed house with door, window, window facade arrangement. Contributing.

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172. 423 E. Congress Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1940s. Non-contributing.
173. 417 E. Congress Street.
Tudor Revival, c. 1930s. One and a half story house with multiple steeply pitched gables. Projecting gabled entrance bay. Example of an early 20th century Revival type. Contributing.
174. 411 E. Congress Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1940s. Non-contributing.
175. SE corner East Congress and South Church Streets.
Bungalow, c. 1920s. One story with unusual three part front windows with peaked muntin repeating gable angle. An excellent and unusual example of its type, more like California bungalows. Contributing.
176. 120 S. Church Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1950s-60s. Non-contributing.
177. East Congress Street, between Mildred and Church Streets Zion Episcopal Church.
Gothic Revival, 1851. Decorative corbeling and multi-paned windows with pointed arched heads. Square bell tower. Church of the Washington family. Contributing.
178. 121 S. Mildred Street. Zion Episcopal Church Rectory.
Colonial Revival, c. 1910. Two story, five bay brick house. Central entrance. Main roof is hipped. Excellent example of Colonial Revival Rectory of Zion Episcopal Church. Contributing.
179. 120 S. Mildred Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1940s-50s. Non-contributing.
180. SW corner of George and Mildred Streets.
Italianate, c. 1860s. An excellent example of an Italianate dwelling, very intact. Two story, two bay main block with recessed wing to west. Very notable original entrance porch with Italianate and Stick style detailing. Contributing.
181. 211 E. Congress Street. Charles Town Baptist Church office.
Stick style influence, c. 1890. Two story, L-shaped frame dwelling. Notable porch

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with double square posts with diagonal brackets. Italianate and Stick style design elements. Contributing.

182. E. Congress and S. Samuel Streets. Charles Town Baptist Church. Late Gothic, c. 1900. Red brick church building with a square entrance and bell tower embellished with corner turrets. Cast stone trim. Cruciform plan. Contributing.
183. 202 S. Samuel Street. Queen Anne influence, c. 1890s. Altered frame house. Three bay, central entrance facade. Doubled second story windows with peaked architraves. Central pediment on porch. Contributing.
184. 109 E. Congress Street. Italianate, c. 1880s-90s. Three story, three bay brick commercial type building. Front demarcated with brick corbeled pilasters, frieze and horizontal dentils between stories. An excellent and intact example of its type. Contributing.
185. 105 E. Congress Street. Vernacular, c. 1810-1820. Two story, three bay vinyl sided log house with exterior stone chimney. Central entrance. Standing seam roof. L-extension to the rear. Possibly one of Charles Town's first period houses. Contributing.
186. 110 S. George Street. corner stone August 14, 1952. Non-contributing.
187. 111 S. George Street. Mid 20th century commercial, 1960s facade over older building. May incorporate remnants of a wagon and carriage maker shop located here around the turn of the century. Non-contributing.
188. 105 S. George Street. Classical Revival, c. 1900. Three story, six bay brick commercial building with stone lintels and sills. Contributing.
189. 201 S. George Street. Greek Revival, c. 1860. Excellent example of a Greek Revival residence. Six over six windows, widely spaced. Central entrance. Entrance porch supported by four Doric columns. Contributing.

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190. 200 S. George Street.
Vernacular, late 19th century, c. 1870s. Two story, three bay frame house with replaced exterior features. L-extension to rear. Contributing.
191. 111? W. Congress Street. Knott Home (Old Hospital).
Italianate influence, c. 1860s-70s, with additions, c. 1890s. Two story, five bay brick house with a central entrance and a hipped roof. Third story added. Significant as early hospital of Charles Town. Contributing.
192. 115 W. Congress Street.
Foursquare and Spanish Colonial Revival, c. 1915. An unusual Foursquare style house with Spanish Colonial Revival influence. Distinctive false joists ends at cornice and on porch cornice. Wraparound porch. Central entrance. Contributing.
193. 201? W. Congress Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1930s. Large school building. Significance as the Charles Town Academy. Contributing.
194. 305-307 W. Congress Street.
Italianate influence, c. 1880s-90s. Two story, four bay stuccoed frame house with two west bays beneath a front facing gable. Example of a modest residence from the late 19th century. Contributing.
195. 311 W. Congress Street.
Gothic Revival, c. 1880-90. Two story, three bay L-shaped, stuccoed house with central entrance and cross gable. Contributing.
196. 317 W. Congress Street.
Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, two bay L-shaped frame house with recent exterior finishes. Original late Italianate porch. L-extension to rear. Contributing.
197. SE corner of Congress and West Streets.
Early 19th? century, additions, 1930s-40s. Enclosed on three sides by additions is a gabled wood sided building with a central chimney, possibly of log construction. Possibly an early period house. Contributing.
198. 308 W. Congress Street.
International style influence, c. 1940s. Non-contributing.

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199. 116 S. Lawrence Street.
Second Empire, c. 1880. Two story, three bay stuccoed dwelling with entrance tower. Original top of tower removed. Colonial Revival entrance porch added. This was once a distinguished house in style with few representations in Charles Town. Contributing.
200. 214 W. Congress Street.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, two bay gable fronted brick building with probable original commercial or small manufacturing function. Enclosed gabled front porch obscures original first story. Contributing.
201. 208 W. Congress Street.
Foursquare, c. 1915. Two bay wide facade. Original door with oval glass pane. Across the front porch. An important early 20th century residential type. Contributing.
202. 206 W. Congress Street.
Slight Colonial Revival influence, c. 1915. Two story, two bay stuccoed gable fronted house with a pent roof. Across the front porch. Representative of early 20th century dwellings in the downtown area. Contributing.
203. 115 S. Charles Street.
C. 1950s. Non-contributing.
204. 110 S. Charles Street.
Mixed, c. 1900. Two story, four bay frame gable fronted building with oriel window at second level. Contributing.
205. NE corner of S. Charles and W. Congress Streets.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1900. Two story stuccoed frame L-shaped house with forward projecting gable. Gable has decorative imbricated wooden shingles. Example of a modest Queen Anne style dwelling of the turn of the century. Contributing.
206. N/S W. Congress Street. 100 block.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1890. An unusual and very intact late 19th century two story L-shaped brick house, two bays wide. Forward projecting gable with entrance and entrance porch in corner of L. Contributing.

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207. 108 W. Congress Street.
Greek Revival, c. 1840-60s. Two story, three bay dwelling converted to law office. Central entrance. An excellent example of its type and of adaptive reuse. Contributing.
208. 106? W. Congress Street.
Colonial, c. 1980. Non-contributing.
209. NW Corner of Congress and George Streets.
Colonial Revival, c. 1920s-30s. Two story five bay brick office building with stone raised basement. Hipped roof, central entrance. Contributing.
210. S. Samuel Street, NE corner of Congress and Samuel Streets.
Late Gothic and Eastlake influence, c. 1890. An excellent and notable two story, three bay brick house. Cruciform plan. Main entrance, west side with elaborate Eastlake porch across the front. Contributing.
211. 210 E. Congress Street.
Cottage type, c. 1880s-90s. Two story frame Victorian period cottage, gable fronted with two bays. Contributing.
212. 214 E. Congress Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1950s-60s. Non-contributing.
213. 218 E. Congress Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1940s-1950s. Non-contributing.
214. 304 E. Congress Street.
Turn-of-the-century Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, three bay frame house with central entrance. Porch across the front. Contributing.
215. 308 E. Congress Street.
Turn-of-the-century Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, three bay frame house with central entrance. Partially enclosed front porch. Contributing.
216. 310 E. Congress Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1900. L-shaped two story, two bay frame house with extension at rear. Forward projecting gabled section. Contributing.

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217. 314-316 E. Congress Street.
Italianate, c. 1890s. Two story, four bay duplex. Prominent bracketed cornice.
Example of an Italianate style duplex. Contributing.
218. 415 W. Congress Street.
Virginia-I, c. 1820s. Two story, three bay frame house with stone and brick exterior
chimneys. Central entrance. Notable three bay Eastlake style porch. Important as a
Virginia farmhouse type within the town limits of Charles Town. Contributing.
219. 421 W. Congress Street.
C. 1960s. Non-contributing.
220. 421? W. Washington Street.
Italianate, c. 1870s. Two story, five bay two-part frame and log house, with rusticated
wood siding on the front and German siding on the sides and rear. The three west
bays appear to be of log and may be older. Exterior features are Italianate with a
prominent bracketed cornice and frieze. Contributing.
221. 401? W. Washington Street.
C. 1970s-80s. Non-contributing.
222. 422 W. Congress Street.
Vernacular, c. 1820s-30s. One story, four bay log dwelling covered with asbestos
shingle siding. Significant as an early vernacular type and possibly a first period
house for Charles Town. Contributing.
223. 312 W. Liberty Street.
Vernacular "Cape Cod," c. 1890s?. One and a half story, three bay frame house with
two gabled front dormers. Central entrance. Exterior renovated to appear like a mid
20th century Cape Cod house but the actual structure may be much older.
Contributing.
224. 318 W. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1870s-80s. Two story, three bay frame dwelling with wood siding. L-
extension to rear. Entrance in west front bay. Contributing.
225. 322? W. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1790s. Two story, three bay stuccoed house, probably of log

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construction. Steeply pitched roof. Attached to building to its west. May be a first period house in Charles Town. Contributing.

226. 309 W. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, Federal period influence, c. 1800-1810. Two story, four bay log house with stone foundations. Original siding replaced or covered with vinyl. Three bays are concentrated toward west side of the front. Fourth bay separated suggesting that it may be an early addition. Significant as an early period house in Charles Town. Contributing.
227. 324 W. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, Federal period influence, c. 1790-1810. Two story, three bay stuccoed house attached to its neighbor at 322 W. Liberty Street. Central entrance. Significant as being among Charles Town's older houses. Contributing.
228. 117 N. West Street.
Vernacular, c. 1800-30. Two story, four bay log house following a door, window, door, window facade plan. Examples of early log architecture of Charles Town, dating from the town's first main period of development. Contributing.
229. 115 N. West Street.
Vernacular, c. 1790-1820. Two story, three bay log or frame house with central entrance. Examples of early log architecture of Charles Town, dating from the town's first main period of development. Contributing.
230. 116 N. Charles Street.
Italianate, c. 1900. An excellent, and largely intact Italianate commercial building from the turn of the century period. Two three bay central entrance storefronts separated by an entrance to the upper portion of the building. Pressed metal facade. Transom and sidelights. Cast iron cornice. North storefront is original. Contributing.
231. 112? N. Charles Street.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1900. One bay, one story brick storefront attached to rear of 200 W. Washington Street. Shed standing seam roof with brick parapet front. Contributing.
232. 108? N. Charles Street.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1890-1910. One story gable roofed storefront with

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standing seam roof. Contributing.

233. 118 N. Lawrence Street.
Italianate, c. 1870s. Two story, three bay square stuccoed house. Central entrance with transom and sidelights. Bracketed frieze and cornice. Low pitched hipped roof. Contributing.
234. 115? N. Lawrence Street.
Vernacular, late 18th? century. Known as "Charles Washington's Office" this is a one story, one bay gable fronted brick building with a Flemish bond facade. It has only an entrance and an opening in the gable above on the front elevation. Contributing.
235. 110 N. Lawrence Street.
Turn-of-the-century, c. 1900. One story, three bay gable fronted house with a central entrance. Contributing.
236. ? N. George Street.
Romanesque Revival and Second Empire, c. 1877. Brick three and a half story, three bay fire hall with five story square tower with open top supported by round columns and hipped roof. Mansard roof. Early surviving fire hall and among the larger buildings in Charles Town. Contributing.
237. ? N. George Street. St. Margaret's Building.
Classical Revival, c. 1920. Three story, four bay brick building with prominent modillioned cornice. Formerly served as post office. One of several monumental buildings in the first block of N. George Street. Contributing.
238. ? N. George Street.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1900. One story, three bay brick hip roof with central entrance. Contributing.

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Section number 8 Page 1**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:**

The Downtown Charles Town Historic District is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C.

Under criterion A, the district is significant for the development of Charles Town, a town prominent for its association with the John Brown trial and execution, and also for its role as a border town and place of occupation by both armies during the Civil War; and the affect of Reconstruction following. It is also important for its role in the history and development of Jefferson County. It was the location of the first use of Rural Free Delivery by the U.S. Postal Service in 1896, and was the site of a second treason trial in 1922. The town also has direct association with the Washington family, important in American history, having been laid out by George Washington's brother, Charles and with continuing associations with the Washington family through the 19th century. Under criterion C, the Downtown Charles Town Historic District is locally significant for its fine examples of regional architecture representing various styles from the late 18th century through the mid 20th century.

Historic Context

Charles Town is located in the southern part of Jefferson County, which is the easternmost county of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. It is located near the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, at which place is the town of Harpers Ferry approximately six miles to the east. With an elevation of 530 feet, Charles Town has one of the lowest elevations of communities in West Virginia. (Harpers Ferry has the state's lowest elevation.) It is underlain in part by a large cave and underground lake.

The town of Charles Town was laid out along the old Winchester Road in 1786 by Charles Washington, younger brother of George Washington. The Washington family owned a large amount of land in what is now Jefferson County. Lawrence and George Washington initially purchased over 4000 acres along the Bullskin Run in Jefferson County in 1751. Upon his death in 1752, Lawrence left a portion of his lands to his half-brother, Charles.¹ Charles' property came to be called "Happy Retreat." The eighty-acres of Happy Retreat were laid out into ½ acre lots. A 16-foot square dwelling with a brick or stone chimney entitled

¹Jefferson County, WV. "Historical Tour," 1951, p. 10.

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the owner to freeholder's rights.² Apparently, a small village with taverns, a mill and scattered houses existed on the site along the Winchester Road prior to the official establishment of the town in 1787. Charles Washington named the streets of his new town for members of his family. The principal north-south streets are named for himself, his brothers and wife (Lawrence, Charles, Samuel, George and Mildred), and the main east-west street is Washington. Paralleling Washington on either side are Liberty and Congress Streets, apparently intended to honor the newly formed United States.

While Charles Washington lived on the property from which the 80 acres of Charles Town came, his brother Samuel also lived nearby at Harewood, built in 1771, a few miles west of Charles Town. Other Washington family homes are located in the immediate vicinity of Charles Town: Claymont Court, Blakeley, Cedar Lawn, Beallair and Locust Hill which was destroyed by fire earlier in this century.

Charles Washington's plan for Charles Town included the provision that the four corner lots at the intersection of George and Washington Streets would be set aside, donated by him for use by the community as a public square. These lots came to be occupied in the 19th century by the Jefferson County Court House, the Charles Town City Hall, a market house and the Jefferson County jail.

The initial settlers of Charles Town were of English descent, mostly from the Tidewater region of Virginia. Later settlers were German or Scots-Irish coming southwestward from Pennsylvania. The town was governed by a board of trustees. The first board of trustees included James Crane, General William Darke (of Revolutionary and Indian War fame), William Little, Cato Moore, Benjamin Rankin, Richard Ransone, Robert Rutherford, Magnus Tate, John Augustine Washington, Thornton Washington and Alexander White.

Charles Washington, the founder, was a strong supporter of the creation of a new county from the easternmost portion of Berkeley County. The petition for a new county was eventually approved by the Virginia General Assembly on January 8, 1801, nearly two years after the death of Charles Washington. Charles Town became the county seat, in part because of its location near the center of the new county, and in part because Charles Washington set aside those four lots at the center of town for public use. The new county was named

²Millard Kessler Bushong. A History of Jefferson County West Virginia, Charles Town, Jefferson Publishing Co., 1941, p. 17.

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Jefferson, in honor of president-elect Thomas Jefferson. Shortly, a new Court House was constructed on the northeast corner of George and Washington Streets. It was replaced by the present Court House in 1837. Diagonally opposite the Court House, on the southwest corner of George and Washington Streets was the County Jail, built in 1806. It is recorded as having been a two story, three room brick structure, measuring 28' x 24' outside wall to outside wall and lined with closely fitted logs.³ This building may have been replaced or enlarged by a larger, federal style brick structure, which had two stories and five bays. The post office built in 1917 is now on the site. A market house was constructed in 1805 at the northwest corner of George and Washington Streets. The remaining lot on the public square contained the county clerk's office.

Education

Education was important in Charles Town's early history. The Charles Town Academy, for boys was founded in 1795. It was housed in a brick structure, 40' x 20' on South Lawrence Street.⁴ About the same time, a female seminary was established on the lot opposite the academy. An important aspect of the founding of the Charles Town Academy is that from as early as 1798, provision was made for the free education of those who could not afford tuition. Later, in 1846-47, a free School System was established throughout Jefferson County, one of the first in Virginia. The Academy which taught Latin and Greek as well as other subjects, operated until 1905. In the fall of 1900, "Powhatan College for Young Women" opened under direction of Professor S.P. Hatton of North Carolina. The school occupied a large hotel building in north Charles Town, later Ranson, which was constructed in the 1890s. The college went into bankruptcy and closed in 1914. It later became St. Hilda's Hall for Girls, a preparatory school.

The first school for black children was operated from the basement of a house located at the southwest corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets. It was established by the Freedman's Bureau in the 1860s. The building which housed the school is no longer standing.⁵

Public news was disseminated through several publications. The Farmer's Repository,

³"Charles Town" n.p., n.d. (1951?).

⁴Bushong, op. cit., p. 60.

⁵James Taylor, local informant, Ranson, WV.

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the first agricultural journal in what is now West Virginia, was founded in Charles Town in 1808. It was merged in 1827 with the Virginia Free Press of Harpers Ferry. They became the Virginia Free Press and Farmer's Repository and then in 1831, the Virginia Free Press. This journal was published until 1916. On July 17, 1844, the first issue of the Spirit of Jefferson Advocate was published at Charles Town. Founded by James W. Beller, it was long one of the state's leading Democratic newspapers. Still in active circulation, it is West Virginia's oldest continuously published weekly newspaper.

Religion

The Charles Town Presbyterian Church dates its congregation to 1762, but a deed conveying the congregation a lot in Charles Town at the corner of Congress and West Streets is dated 1787.⁶ The present church building in the Greek Revival style dates from 1851. Zion Episcopal Church dates from 1851, replacing a church building erected in 1846. The first Episcopal church in Charles Town was built between 1815 and 1818 and replaced St. Georges Chapel (1769) which now stands as a ruin a short distance west of town. The cemetery adjoining Zion Episcopal Church contains the remains of approximately 75 members of the Washington family. The Charles Town Baptist Church was begun in 1859, but was not completed until after the Civil War. Prior to use of their building, the congregation met in the school house and later in the Court House.

Social and Economic History

For much of its history, Charles Town was the smallest of Jefferson County's three leading towns, trailing behind Shepherdstown and Harpers Ferry. In the 1820 census, Shepherdstown's population was 1441; Harpers Ferry's, 1353 and Charles Town's, 1049. In 1830 the figures were: Shepherdstown, 1326, Harpers Ferry, 1379 and Charles Town, 1118. By 1850, Harpers Ferry had a population of 1747, Shepherdstown, 1561 and Charles Town, 1507. In 1910, Charles Town's population was 2662 and by 1940 a shift in population had clearly occurred with Charles Town now the leading community with 2926 (a figure which remains consistent today), Ranson next with 1171, Shepherdstown third with 945, followed by Harpers Ferry with 665. The higher population of Harpers Ferry in the mid 19th century probably resulted from the location of the federal arsenal there and its proximity to the B&O Railroad and a Potomac River crossing point. The arsenal was destroyed during the Civil War and never rebuilt.

⁶"Charles Town" op. cit. n.p.

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On October 18, 1910, the town of Ranson was established on Charles Town's northern border. Several industries had caused a settlement to grow up there which eventually came to be the second largest town in Jefferson County. The development of Ranson was due largely to the efforts of the Charles Town Mining Manufacturing and Improvement Company. Manufacturing developed in the vicinity of Charles Town and included a limestone and granite works. The Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company was founded in 1890 to promote business and growth in and around the town. A few years later, a similar company, the Charles Town Manufacturing and Development Company was organized. Such promotional efforts are evidenced in the large number of buildings in the downtown area built or renovated during the turn-of-the-century period.

As the population figures reflect, Charles Town's population grew most in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It has remained fairly static since. Always dependent on agriculture for its economic base, the Charles Town vicinity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries saw development of orcharding and dairy farming in agricultural production. Livestock production was also a leading agricultural pursuit.

Charles Town's post office was the site of the first experimental effort at Rural Free Delivery of Mail in 1896. This occurred under direction of U.S. Postmaster General William Lynn Wilson, a Charles Town native.

In 1922, Charles Town was the scene of a treason trial of union leaders and miners, arising from labor unrest in Logan County, WV. Charles Town was chosen as the location of the trial because of its distance from Logan County. This was the second time in its history that Charles Town was the site of a treason trial. The first was John Brown's trial in 1859.

Also contributing to Charles Town's growth and development has been horse racing. Documented evidence of organized horse racing in Charles Town, according to historian Millard Bushong, begins in 1786, the year the town was organized. The Charles Town Jockey Club was established in 1808. When pari-mutual betting was legalized in West Virginia in 1933, the old tradition of horse racing was revived by, first the Shenandoah Valley Jockey Club, and then the Charles Town Jockey Club.

The Civil War Era in Charles Town

Perhaps Charles Town's greatest notoriety comes from the fact that it was the site of John Brown's trial and execution, events which occurred in late 1859. The John Brown affair which began with his efforts to initiate a slave rebellion by attacking and capturing the federal

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arsenal at Harpers Ferry on October 16, 1859 was a major factor in the increasing tension before the outbreak of the Civil War. The views of abolitionists and pro-slavery advocates became increasingly polarized and hostile, culminating with the outbreak of war in 1861.

Upon his capture at Harpers Ferry, John Brown, and two of his group were tried for treason in Charles Town because it was the county seat for Jefferson County where the insurrection took place. Brown was convicted of treason and murder. He was sentenced to death and hanged on December 2, 1859. The site is on the east side of South Samuel Street, at number 515. At the time this was a field on the Rebecca Hunter farm at the edge of town. Today South Samuel Street is a residential street filled with late 19th and early 20th century houses.

After the Civil War began, Charles Town suffered the consequences of being in a border area. The town was almost constantly occupied by one or the other army, its proximity to the B&O Railroad and the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry making its location of strategic importance. The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion list 18 engagements that took place at or near Charles Town during the war, as well as eight reconnaissances. The first engagement took place on July 21, 1861 and the last on March 13, 1865, illustrating Charles Town's role as a place of importance throughout the war.

The first of two major battles at Charles Town occurred on May 28, 1862. In that engagement, some 1500 Confederate troops taking part in Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign met an equal force of Federal soldiers at Charles Town. In this engagement, the Federals were routed. The second main engagement took place on October 18, 1863. A Confederate force under Major General John Imboden launched an attack on Colonel Benjamin Simpson's Federals who were occupying Charles Town. The Union forces were holding the Court House, Jail and Market House in the center of town. When the Confederates resorted to artillery shelling to remove them, these buildings and others in the downtown area were severally damaged.

Private residences were also destroyed in Charles Town during the Civil War. General David Hunter, USA, whose ruthless policies of destruction in 1864 in the lower Shenandoah Valley became infamous, ordered the destruction of "Hunter's Hill" at the east end of Washington Street. Hunter's Hill was the home of Andrew Hunter, cousin of General David Hunter. Andrew Hunter, an attorney, was the prosecutor for the John Brown trial, and General Hunter ordered the burning in retribution for Andrew's involvement in the John Brown trial, according to local histories.

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Other buildings were damaged when General Philip H. Sheridan opened his Shenandoah Valley Campaign of August, 1864, against Confederate General Jubal A. Early. The opening action of this campaign was fought near, around and through Charles Town. Sheridan's headquarters were in the "Rutherford House" at 417 East Washington Street. Generals Grant and Sheridan met at this house to plan the Valley Campaign. For most of the last two years of the war, Federal troops occupied Charles Town, except when temporarily driven out.

While Charles Town was being affected by the war directly on a day to day basis other momentous events were occurring that would impact upon the town's future. While Virginia was debating whether or not to secede from the Union in 1861, representatives of the western part of the state who were opposed to secession and who for many years had been plagued by the distance from Richmond began a movement toward separate statehood. The result was that West Virginia was admitted to statehood in the Union on June 20, 1863. Although Jefferson County voted for secession and the great majority of its citizens were opposed to being included in the new state, the county became the easternmost tip of West Virginia. Jefferson County's forced inclusion in West Virginia has to do with the Union's need to protect the B&O Railroad and the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry from being in Confederate hands.

After the war, Jefferson and Berkeley Counties petitioned to be returned to Virginia. The matter eventually went to the Supreme Court where it remained from 1867 to 1871, at which time a decision was made in favor of West Virginia retaining the two counties. The focal point for organizing the effort for the eastern panhandle to be returned to Virginia was in Charles Town.

Another event which was part of the Reconstruction era in Charles Town's history was the move of the county seat from Charles Town to Shepherdstown. This move was made by order of the West Virginia legislature on January 26, 1865. Control of county affairs was in the hands of reconstructionist Republicans and the result was virtual disenfranchisement for the citizens of Charles Town. In 1869 the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors offered the former Court House building for sale, along with the county jail. However, since Samuel Washington originally deeded the property to Charles Town, and not the county, the sale was prevented. After Democratic electoral victory in 1870, the county seat was restored to Charles Town in February, 1871 by act of the state legislature.

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Architecture

Charles Town's historic district also meets criterion C for its showcase of architectural styles and interpretations. Most prominent are examples of Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles, reflecting the town's pre-Civil War prosperity and Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction era renewal. There are also notable 18th century vernacular examples representing the town's early history. None of Charles Town's settlement period architecture remains, having been replaced by more substantial buildings as the town prospered.

Charles Town exhibits four distinct periods of construction illustrating four important periods of growth:

1. 18th and early 19th century with Georgian influenced and vernacular expressions, of log (sided), or brick.
2. Federal and Greek Revival - these styles include some of Charles Town's finest ante-bellum architecture.
3. 1870-1900 - reflecting the Reconstruction era in Charles Town and post-Reconstruction prosperity. The Italianate style dominated in this period.
4. 20th century buildings ushering in the "modern" era with Foursquare and Bungalow styles.

Log, brick and frame buildings dominate with an extensive use of stucco which seems particular to Charles Town. Charles Town provides an album of architectural representations blending high style elements with regional and vernacular expression and local materials.

Conclusion

Charles Town, therefore, meets criterion A for its chronicle of community development, association with important events—the John Brown trial, Civil War activity as a border town and with the prominent Washington family. Under criterion C, it provides an important catalogue of regional architectural expression.

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Name of Property

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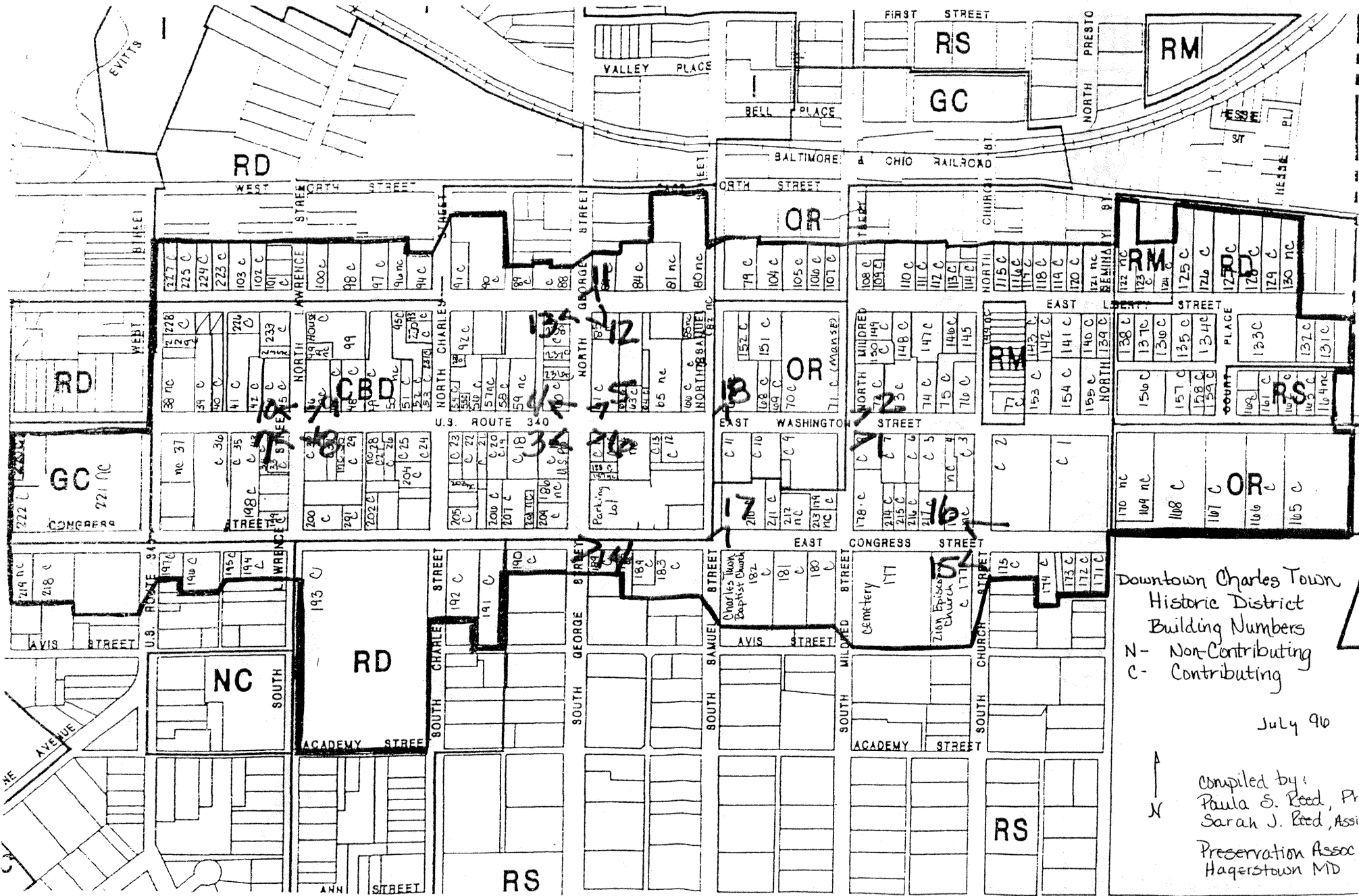
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point on the south side of E. Washington Street opposite the east property line of 538 E. Washington Street, and extending northward along the east property line to an alley, and across the alley and northward along the east property line of 547 E. Liberty Street to a point on the south side of E. Liberty Street, then turning west to a point opposite the west property line of 544 E. Liberty Street, then turning north and following the east property line to the rear property line of 544 E. Liberty Street; then turning west and following north boundary line of the properties on the north side of Liberty Street to West Street; then turning south along the east side of West Street to the south side of Washington Street, then turning west to the east edge of Water Street; then turning south along the east side of Water Street to the rear property line of 421 W. Congress Street; then turning east along the rear property lines of properties along the south side of Congress Street to S. Seminary Street; then turning north to the rear property lines of properties facing onto E. Washington Street; then turning east and following the south (rear) property lines and east property line to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries have been drawn to include the downtown area of Charles Town, and to exclude concentrations of non-contributing property at the edge of the district.

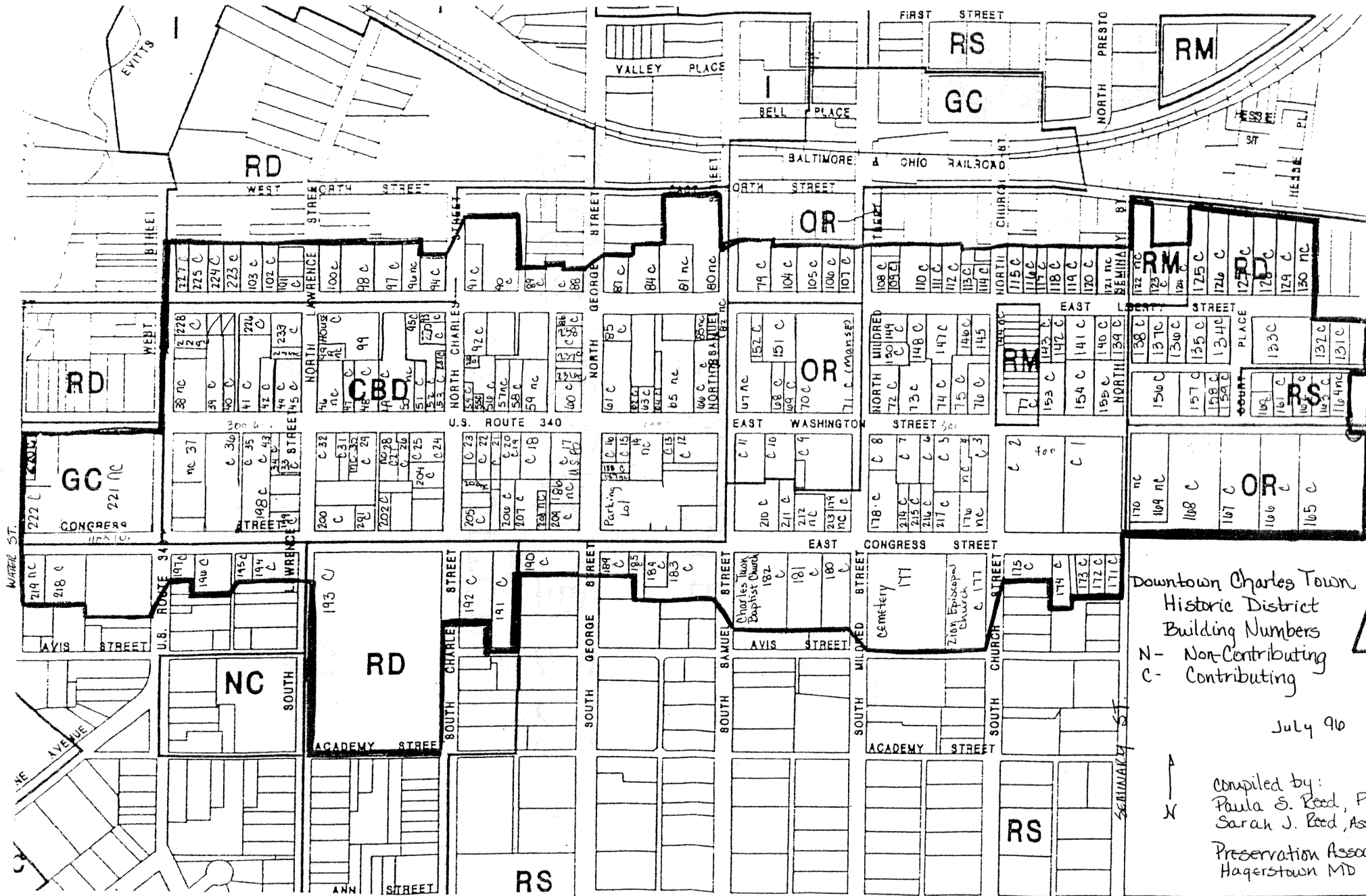


Downtown Charles Town
 Historic District
 Building Numbers
 N- Non-Contributing
 C- Contributing

July 96

Compiled by:
 Paula S. Reed, Pr
 Sarah J. Reed, Assi
 Preservation Assoc
 Hagerstown MD

PHOTO MAP



WATER ST.

EVITTS

RD

VALLEY PLACE

BELL PLACE

FIRST STREET

RS

GC

NORTH PRESTO

RM

HESSE PL
SIT
HESSE

BALTIMORE & OHIO RAILROAD

NORTH STREET

OR

NORTH CHURCH STREET

RM
127 C
126 C
125 C
124 C
123 C
122 C
121 C
120 C
119 C
118 C
117 C
116 C
115 C
114 C
113 C
112 C
111 C
110 C
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3 C
2 C
1 C
170 NC
169 NC
168 C
167 C
166 C
165 C

RD

GC

CONGRESS

CBD

OR

RM

RS

EAST WASHINGTON STREET

MILNED STREET

EAST LEWIS STREET

COURT PLACE

C.S. ROUTE 340

EAST CONGRESS STREET

AVIS STREET

ACADEMY STREET

SOUTH CHURCH STREET

RS

RS

ACADEMY STREET

SOUTH CHARLE STREET

SOUTH GEORGE STREET

SOUTH SAMUEL STREET

SOUTH MILNED STREET

SOUTH CHURCH STREET

NC

RD

U.S. ROUTE 34

WRING

193 C

192 C

191 C

190 C

189 C

188 C

187 C

186 C

185 C

184 C

183 C

Cemetery

177

176

175 C

174 C

173 C

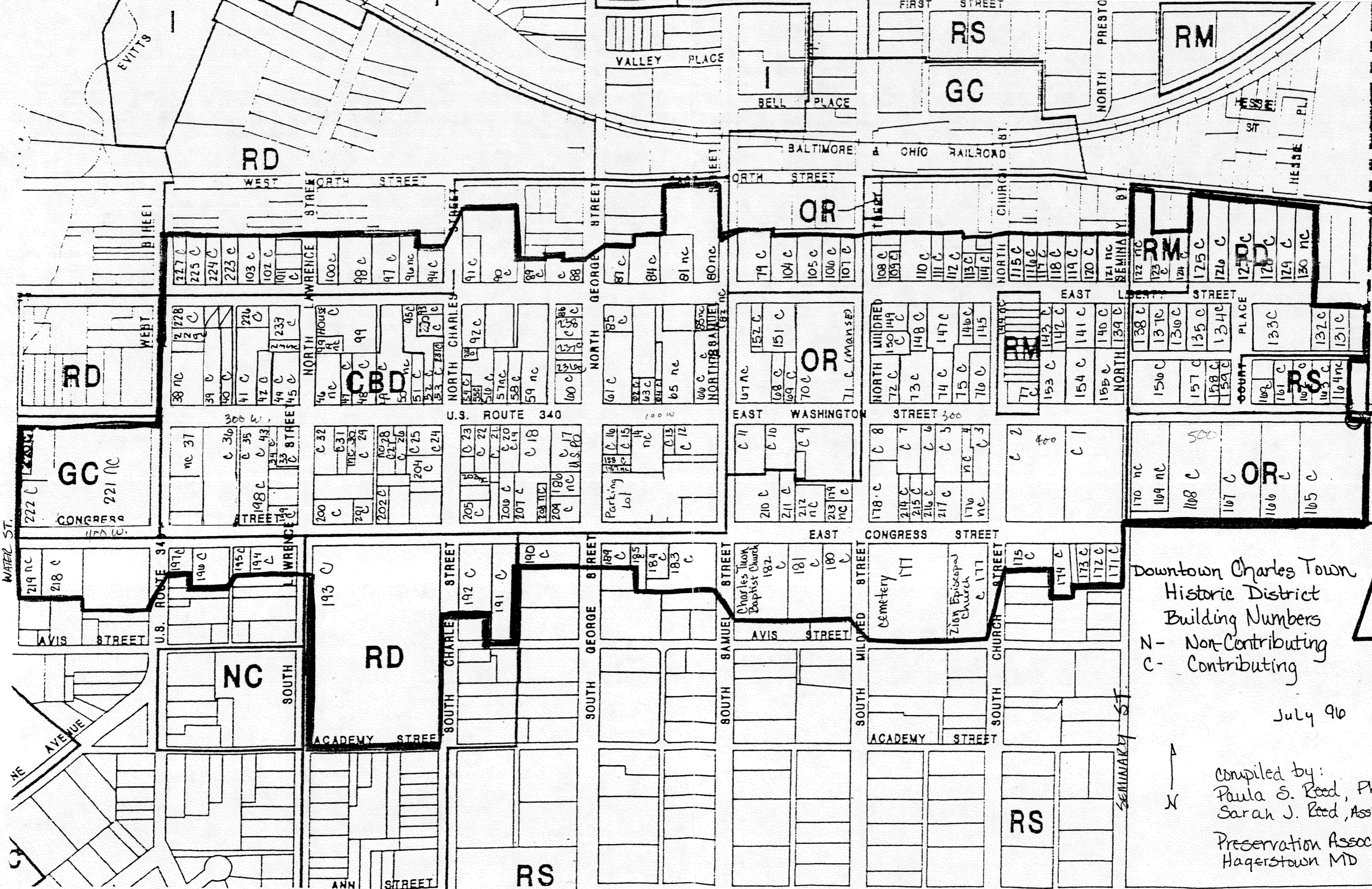
172 C

171 C

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Paula S. Reed, PA
Sarah J. Reed, Ass
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