

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

For HCRS use only

received OCT 28 1980

date entered NOV 28 1980

1. Name

Ninth Street West Historic District

historic

St. Cloud

*Change change OK
called R. Collins 10-29-80 CE*

and/or common

9th Street West Historic District

2. Location

street & number

9th St., Madison and Jefferson Aves. not for publication

city, town

Huntington

— vicinity of

congressional district

Fourth

state

West Virginia code

54

county

Cabell

code *011*

3. Classification

Category

district
 building(s)
 structure
 site
 object

Ownership

public
 private
 both
Public Acquisition
 in process
 being considered

Status

occupied
 unoccupied
 work in progress
Accessible
 yes: restricted
 yes: unrestricted
 no

Present Use

agriculture
 commercial
 educational
 entertainment
 government
 industrial
 military
 museum
 park
 private residence
 religious
 scientific
 transportation
 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. *Cabell County Courthouse*

street & number

Fourth Avenue

city, town

Huntington

state *West Virginia*

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title *Cabell-Wayne Historical Society* has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date *July 1980* federal state county local

depository for survey records *Historic Preservation Unit, Department of Culture & History*

city, town

Charleston

state *West Virginia*

7. Description

Condition

excellent

good

fair

deteriorated

ruins

unexposed

Check one

unaltered

altered

Check one

original site

moved

date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The 9th Street West Historic District is a significant enclave of late nineteenth and early twentieth century residences forming the historic core of what was once called St. Cloud, a community that is today part of the western section of Huntington, West Virginia's largest city. Focal point of the district is the Parsons-Abbott-Mosser House, a High Victorian frame residence built in 1870 for Captain H. Chester Parsons, a leading figure in the settlement of Huntington and a protege of Collis P. Huntington, a railroad tycoon of the nineteenth century. The architectural character and park-like setting of the Parsons House established an important design precedent as a neighborhood grew up around the property after 1874. The principal street of this neighborhood, Park Street, now 9th Street West, was part of an unincorporated subdivision of Huntington then called St. Cloud. Those houses and dependencies which appeared along the east side of "Park Street of St. Cloud" adopted setback patterns and landscaping features that have survived for the most part to the present (1980).

The residential center of the former village along 9th Street West features a predominant scheme of late nineteenth century middle-class Victorian frame residences. They are concentrated along Madison Avenue in the vicinity of 9th Street West, and along 9th Street West between Madison Avenue and Jefferson Avenue. Significantly, several empty spaces along the street were occupied in later years with early twentieth century construction of high quality which produced a streetscape evoking a strong sense of historical continuity. The 9th Street West Historic District is essentially then a small but distinct Victorian neighborhood of twelve buildings representing a period of development from 1870 to 1933.

The houses of 9th Street West were built to house middle and upper middle-class families who maintained interests in the wood-finishing, brick manufacturing, and picture framing businesses in what is now West Huntington. Residents of St. Cloud commuted to points east or west by carriage on unimproved Park Street that converged with a major through street paralleling the Ohio River. At this point it was possible to reach downtown Huntington, to the east, and Central City, to the west. By 1901, St. Cloud residents were free to catch the train at Central City to commute to points throughout the valley on the Camden Interstate Railway, an electric transit system. As a streetcar suburb of Huntington at the turn-of-the-century, St. Cloud boasted, on a modest scale, many of the environmental characteristics of the Victorian suburbs of larger American cities.

Typical of such features are the broad, tree-filled lawns which extend along the east side of West 9th Street. Setbacks for later dwellings along the street were planned to conform to the siting of the Parsons-Abbott-Mosser House (#725), thus maintaining the tradition of open space. Cast iron fences, that survive along the fronts of two of the deep lots, lined the lot fronts from Jefferson to Madison Avenue in the early part of the century. Stone mounts and posts for a cast iron fence survive in front of the Smith-Hazelett House at 904 Madison Avenue. West 9th Street was paved with bricks. The survival of the brick surfaces and their excellent state of preservation contribute much to the Victorian integrity of the district.

Of the twelve buildings (plus three dependencies) in the historic district, most possess pivotal or supporting status regarding their contributions to the historical-architectural character of the district. The Ferguson concrete block building at

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912 Madison Avenue is intrusive. Conversely, the Ensign House, an exceptional late residence at 723 9th Street West, is one of the finest examples of Moderne-Regency architecture in Huntington. Though the construction date of 1933 is late (as compared to other district properties), the set-back, setting, and quality of design, not to mention recognition received as a 1933 Chicago Worlds Fair demonstration house, qualify the residence as one of exceptional importance in area historical architectural developments.

Following is a descriptive statement for each building in the 9th Street West Historic District.

1. Fiedler-Frasher House, 729 9th St., W., Supporting, c. 1935. The gambrel-roofed brick house of Dutch Colonial styling maintains the significant environmental features distinguishing older properties of the district. Enclosure of the porch at the northwest corner is an intrusive alteration. The House was built for Paul O. Fiedler, mayor of Huntington, 1943-46. Condition: good.

2. Parsons-Abbott-Mosser House, 725 9th St., W., Pivotal, 1870. Oldest house in the district, the Parsons House is an extraordinary Victorian, 2½-story frame "L" featuring lavish front elevation sawn work, particularly in the 2-story, entrance bay porch. Deep eaves, paneled fascia, ornate wood raking cornices, and wood antefixae highlight the tin roof. Horizontal wood flush siding is painted white. The ell is a kitchen section attached to a rear Second Empire-style cottage-addition (c. 1880). The House features original Victorian interior hardwood finish; the front double-door is noteworthy for its high relief paneling. Overall styling is said to suggest a Swiss house type. Built for Captain H. Chester Parsons (1840-94), local official and attorney for the C&O Railroad. Condition: excellent.

3. Ensign, Darwin, House, 723 9th St. W., Pivotal, 1933. Associated architects: H. Augustus O'Dell and Wirt C. Rowland; Consultant architect: Dwight James Baum, for Stran-Steel and Good Housekeeping magazine; local consulting architect: Albert Tucker; builder: E. Rutherford. The Ensign House was built from plans produced for Good Housekeeping's "Century of Progress" (Chicago Worlds Fair, 1933) exhibition house which was part of "The Home and Industrial Arts Group" at the Fair. The Ensigns substituted a cream-colored brick (on the exterior) for an intended enamel-covered exterior horizontal steel panel sheeting. The unique feature of the house is its steel framing rolled and assembled into studs, joists and rafters. Studs were designed with nailing grooves to allow for frame assembly by carpenters. Between the brick facing and interior plaster-Solitex wall covering is an air insulation space. Between the reinforced concrete sub-floor is an insulating air pocket. The house was equipped with thermostatically controlled heating equipment.

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The Ensign House is a significant example of 1930's era architecture. Its design features are "Moderne" though a suggestion of Regency styling presents itself. The nearly squared, 2-story central block is flanked by 1-story wings, each with roof terraces and low parapets. Stylized steel trim in the 16-foot wide bay window of the front elevation and entrance canopy is also crisply exhibited in short window canopies of front-facing second floor windows. The interior stair rail is expertly crafted from gum wood in substitution for similarly patterned steel. The overall house style may be said to echo the historical precedent of the small houses of ancient Crete. Condition: excellent.

4. Parsons-Farley House, 857 Jefferson Ave., Pivotal, c. 1904. The Shingle-style Parsons-Farley House features a long sloping roof which descends to a point terminating above a 9th St. W. entrance. The recessed entrance is flanked by wood Doric columns; additional wood schemes include the first-level white board siding, and second-level blue painted shinglework. A delicate bay window faces Jefferson Avenue at the northwest corner of the house. A major entrance is approached from the Jefferson Ave. driveway. The house was built for John Weeks Parsons (1873-1918), a dentist noted in the profession at local, state and national levels. Condition: excellent.

5. Victorian Mansard, 620 9th St., W., Pivotal, c. 1875. The house is 1½ stories with first story white-painted wood lap siding; the upper level half-story is sheltered beneath a concave profile mansard roof. Gabled dormers at the side elevations house coupled windows with pointed sash; a front elevation detail of note is the large concave-style walldormer. The house was moved to its present location in the 1950's from a point across the street. The house was once the home of Joe and Nan Harris, well known residents. Condition: good.

6. Frame Cottage, 630 9th St., W., Intrusion, c. 1930. Though of late construction, the house exhibits scale, texture, and setting which allows it to blend with the district's streetscape. Of limited architectural value, the single-story, gable-roofed house adds 20th century continuity to the district's development.

7. Kitchen, Andy, House, 910 Jefferson Ave., Intrusion, 1935. A late house in terms of construction, the Kitchen residence stands at the center of a densely wooded lot which complements the landscaping features of other, older district properties. The stone-faced house is gable-roofed and exhibits gable shinglework comparable to, but on a more limited scale than, the Parsons-Farley House. Stone facing was salvaged from the cellar and foundation of the James A. Hughes house, a columned mansion that occupied the site of the present Kitchen House. James A. Hughes was a State Senator, 1895-98; and a member of Congress, 1901-15; 1927-30. Condition: excellent.

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8. Second Presbyterian Church, S.W. corner of Jefferson Ave. and 9th St. W., Pivotal, 1924-25, Levi J. Dean, architect. The Beaux-Arts style Second Presbyterian Church stands on the site of the church's first home, a modest Victorian brick edifice built in 1910. The present brick structure was designed to house a large congregation; its imposing size, 150 feet x 120', and high copper covered dome, which is a district landmark visible for many blocks in West Huntington, are noteworthy exterior features. Flanking the engaged Ionic colonnade of the 9th St. W. central pavilion are flanking pedimented blocks. The commodious sanctuary, which encloses balcony seating areas on three sides, is bathed in rose light from the Byzantine-style clerestory of the high dome. Condition: good.

9. Chapman-Smith-Hazelett House, 904 Madison Ave., Pivotal, c. 1895. The 2-story frame residence features a patterned, slate covered multi-gable roof. Rich wood shinglework in the gables and enriched porch fascias are elements of detail suggesting Queen Anne styling. The house was the residence of Floyd S. Chapman during his first term as mayor of Huntington. The house was also home to Sam "Doc" Smith, a Central City-Huntington deputy sheriff and realtor. A frame dependency, now used for apartments, stands at the lot rear next to the alley. Condition: good.

10. Surbough-Ferguson House, 910 Madison Ave., Pivotal, c. 1893. Brackets, turned posts, imbricated shinglework, wood pendants and other outstanding sawn and turned-work envelop the house in the manner of frosting on a large Victorian wedding cake. Queen Anne design elements of the frame house are present. Asbestos shingles alter the original first and second story facade. Condition: good.

11. Ferguson Brothers Plumbing, 912 Madison Ave., Intrusion, 1950's. This concrete block commercial building does not contribute to the architectural character of the historic district.

12. Pollard-Scott House, 928 Madison Ave., Pivotal, c. 1892. The gray Queen Anne-style frame house is modest in size but gracefully designed with a corner round tower crowned with a shingled conical cap. The tower houses a half-spiral stair. Another significant interior feature is a 1st floor bracketed parlor mantel. Alterations include a room added to the west side of the house. George E. Pollard and family occupied the house in the early twentieth century. Condition: good.

Properties 2, 3, and 9 each include a rear dependency built of materials corresponding to the fabric of the parent building. Each assumes significance as part of the early history of each parent property. Architecturally, these structures bear details in wood or brick corresponding to the parent building.

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 checked="" 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1870-1933

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The 9th Street West Historic District in Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia, is significant because it encompasses the well preserved core of a late nineteenth-century Victorian Huntington subdivision called St. Cloud. The community developed on lands adjacent to the house of Captain H. Chester Parsons, a figure prominent in the settlement of Huntington, now West Virginia's largest city. Other locally significant citizens built houses in the village along the principal thoroughfare called "Park Street of St. Cloud." Though the St. Cloud enclave extended beyond the Park Street--now 9th Street West--boundaries, its center and early growth patterns emerged from residential development along what is now 9th Street West, between Madison and Jefferson Avenues. Significantly, the nineteenth-century ambience of the district survives. Victorian frame houses, a park-like setting, brick streets and other environmental features reflect the residential tastes and fashions of what was essentially a Victorian Huntington streetcar suburb. Its residents were prominent in Huntington civic and business affairs, a fact attested to by the addresses of those who served in public office or who owned interests in Huntington West End factories or mills.

St. Cloud was founded in 1874 on lands located roughly between present day 5th Street West and 11th Street West. The community retained its own identity as an unincorporated subdivision west of Huntington until 1893 when the newly incorporated Central City, a town founded by the Huntington and Kenova Land Development Company, absorbed its territory. Central City, with a turn-of-the-century population of about 1500, was itself amalgamated when in 1909 Huntington extended its boundary westward.

H. Chester Parsons (1840-94), a native of St. Albans, Vermont, was the most prominent resident of St. Cloud. He arrived in Huntington in 1870 and built the house which stands at 725 9th Street West. Parsons served as a director and local attorney for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, a company which in 1873 successfully linked the Ohio Valley with eastern Virginia. Parsons was aboard the first train that reached Huntington on January 29, 1873. Among items carried by this train was a barrel of water from the James River at Richmond which was to be poured into the Ohio as a ceremonial gesture linking East and West. Because the C&O Railroad played such a large role in the founding of Huntington, and because Captain Parsons was a local official of the railroad, the company and its officers assumed an important local position of leadership. The lawn of the house at 725 9th Street West was the scene of occasional parties given by Parsons to entertain railroad company executives.

As the western terminus of the C&O Railroad in 1873, Huntington rapidly became an important coal shipping point and center of a developing oil and gas industry. Huntington's importance, however, would not have been realized had not the decision of Collis P. Huntington (1821-1900) determined the site and later platting of Huntington as a center of his Ohio Valley rail interests. It will be remembered that C. P. Huntington, who promoted the Central Pacific transcontinental railroad (1869), and later extended the C&O lines to link with the Southern Pacific, nominated "H. Chester Parsons, Esq.", director of the Huntington C&O operations.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Baumgartner, Rick. "The Parsons Clan," First Families of Huntington. Huntington, W. Va.: Huntington Advertiser, n.d. (c. 1977), pp. 10-11.
 "The Good Housekeeping-Stran-Steel House," Good Housekeeping. New York, N.Y.: International Magazine Co., July 1933, vol. 93, pp. 52-55, 109, 110.

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 3 1/2 acres

Quadrangle name Huntington, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM NOT VERIFIED

UMT References

A

1	7	3	7	1	6	0	0	4	2	5	2	4	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

1	7	3	7	1	5	6	0	4	2	5	2	4	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	7	3	7	1	6	0	0	4	2	5	2	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

D

1	7	3	7	1	5	7	0	4	2	5	2	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

1	7	3	7	1	5	8	0	4	2	5	2	2	8	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

1	7	3	7	1	7	0	0	4	2	5	2	3	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

1	7	3	7	1	6	6	0	4	2	5	2	4	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

1	7	3	7	1	6	4	0	4	2	5	2	4	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet, item #10, p. 2

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

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rodney S. Collins, Architectural Historian

organization Department of Culture & History date August 7, 1980

street & number Capitol Complex telephone 304-348-0240

city or town Charleston state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Clarence Moran

title State Historic Preservation Officer date October 3, 1980

For HCRS use only
 I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

John W. Ray date 11/28/80
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest: _____ date _____
 Chief of Registration

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Other important residents of the 9th Street West Historic District included expanded family and descendants of the first Parsons of St. Cloud. Warren J. Parsons (1846-1925), a brother of H. Chester, occupied the house at 725 9th Street West in the late 1870's after Captain Parsons moved to Virginia. An active member of the Congregational Church and a realtor, Warren Parsons was often observed on Huntington Streets driving his carriage and "looking for all the world like the typical English squire." John Weeks Parsons (1873-1918), a son of Warren, commissioned the house at 857 Jefferson Avenue c. 1904. John studied dentistry at the turn-of-the-century and established the first orthodontic practice in West Virginia in 1904. John Parsons was active in local and state dental societies and contributed articles on dental subjects to national journals. The house at 723 9th Street West was built in 1933 for Darwin Ensign, a descendant of the Ensigns who in 1872 founded the Ensign Manufacturing Company which became part of the American Car and Foundry Company in 1899. Mrs. Ensign (Janet Parsons Ensign) is a granddaughter of Warren J. Parsons.

An important businessman of 9th Street West was D. E. Abbott. D. E. Abbott came to Huntington in 1872 from Vermont with a pair of horses owned by H. Chester Parsons. The young man drove the horses from New England and spent his first days in Huntington at the home of Captain Parsons. In later years Abbott became one of Huntington's greatest citizens when his picture-enlarging and framing business, D. E. Abbott and Company, grew into one of the largest industries of its type in the United States. Abbott acquired the Parsons home at 725 9th Street West and resided there for the remainder of his life.

Several political figures of Huntington made their homes in the area of the present historic district. Floyd S. Chapman, Mayor of Huntington, 1912-15; 1922-25; 1931-32, lived in the house at 904 Madison Avenue during his first term. James A. Hughes, a state senator, 1895-98, and member of Congress, 1901-15; 1927-30, made his home at the northwest corner of 9th Street West and Jefferson Avenue. Paul O. Fiedler, Mayor of Huntington, 1943-46, lived in the house at 729 9th Street West.

Ambience of Victorian quality has survived in the neighborhood of 9th Street West. Park-like settings along the east side of the street, reminiscent of late nineteenth century suburbs, brick street paving, and cast iron fencing lend unique character to the district. Complementing the older houses are several of later construction, such as the Ensign House at 723 9th Street West. The Ensign House retains the scale, setback, and wooded setting of its neighbors, but represents in its different styling an exceptional contribution to the architectural evolution of the neighborhood. The Moderne-style house combines Regency elements in a design that is one of the most significant examples of 1930's period architecture in Huntington. Adding to the residence's significance

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HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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is its steel frame structural system (see descriptive statement #3) and renown as an example of an exhibition house produced from plans of the "Home and Industrial Arts Group" at the Century of Progress (Chicago Worlds Fair, 1933).

The 9th Street West Historic District is significant because it preserves many 19th century environmental qualities absent in other sections of central and West Huntington. The district is also associated with figures prominent in the settlement and growth of Huntington, an urban center of major importance in West Virginia.

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Huntington, West Virginia. The Huntington Land Co. Huntington Advertiser Press., 1903, pp. 7,11.

Miller, Doris. A Centennial History of Huntington, W.Va. Huntington, W.Va.: Franklin Printing Co., 1971, pp. 80, 84.

Fiftieth Anniversary: Second Presbyterian Church, 1908-1958. (Fiftieth Anniversary celebration program, Oct. 18-19, 1958) Huntington, W.Va.

Wallace, George Selden. Cabell County Annals and Families. Richmond: Garrett & Massie Publishers, 1935, pp. 322,345.

Huntington Through Seventy-five Years. Huntington, W.Va., 1947, pp. 15-16.

"City of Huntington, Map No. 42." photo no. 1-04, Cabell County, WV, Office of the Assessor, revised 2-78.

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Beginning at the N.E. corner of Madison Ave. and 9th St., W., the historic district boundary proceeds in a northeasterly direction along the north edge of Madison Ave. to the rear lot line of lot #59 (61.75' x 218') and thence in a northwesterly line along the rear lot lines of #60, #61, and #62 to a point intersecting with the north edge of Jefferson Ave.; and thence southwestward to the northeastern corner of 9th St., W., and Jefferson Ave., at which point the line runs northwestward along the eastern edge of 9th St., W., to a point opposite an alley (B & O Railroad right-of-way), thence along the alley (rear lot line of lot #13) to the point of intersection of the western line of lot #13, and thence in southwesterly direction to the point of intersection of said line with Jefferson Ave. The line proceeds from this point along the rear lot line of the 2nd Presbyterian Church (lot #49) in a southwesterly direction to an alley (alley no. 49) and thence along the alley line and rear lot lines of Madison Ave. lots #51, 52, and 53. The boundary then proceeds southwestward along the western boundary of lot #53 (Scott property) to the northern edge of Madison Ave., at which point the line runs in an easterly direction along the northern edge of Madison Ave. to the northeast corner of Madison Ave. and 9th St., W.




General Boundary Description

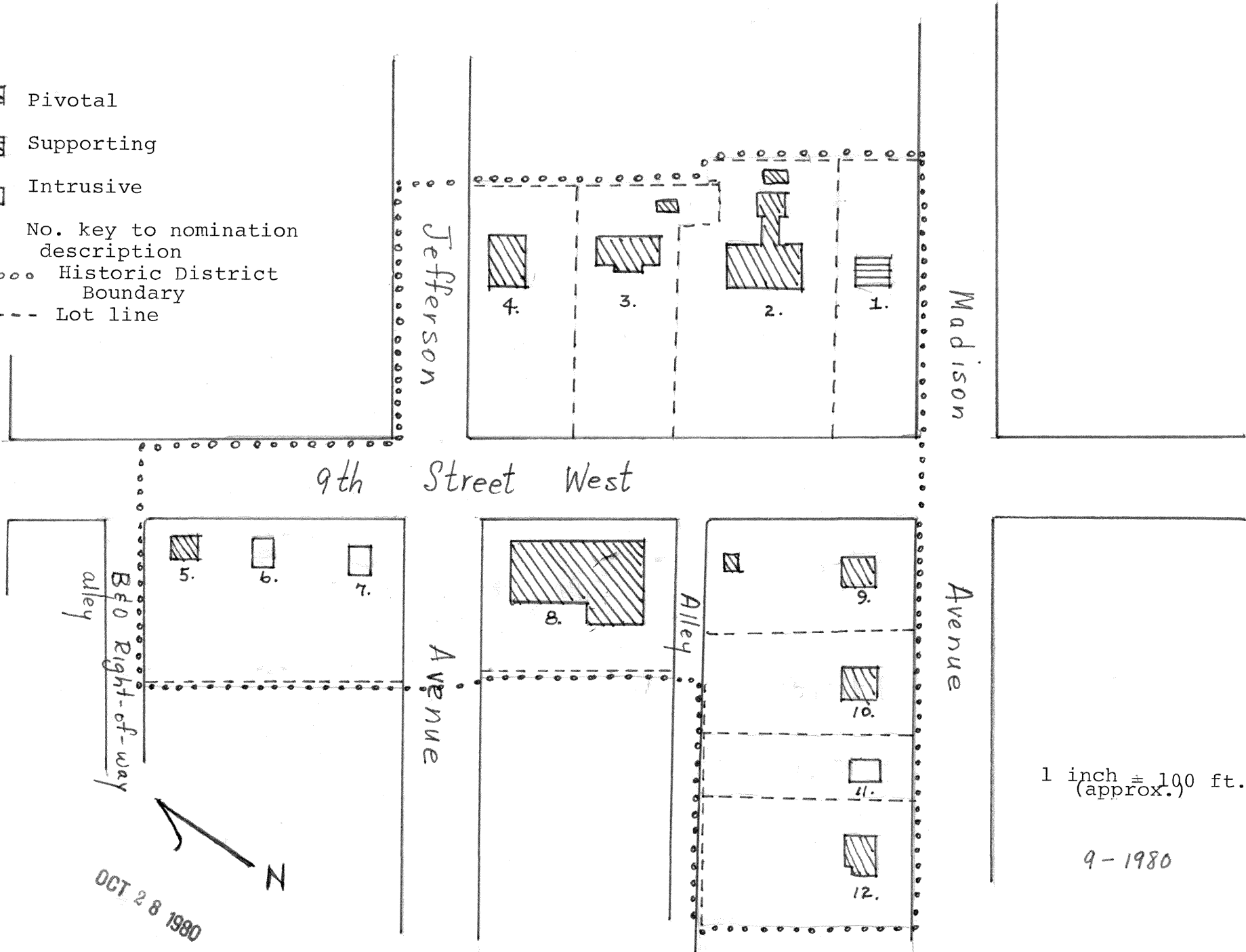
The boundaries generally embrace all rear lot lines of lots along both sides of 9th St., W., between Madison Ave. and Jefferson Ave.; 4 contiguous lots on the north side of Madison Ave. in the vicinity of and including the northwest corner of 9th St. W. and Madison Ave.; and a large lot at the northwest corner of 9th St. W. and Jefferson Ave. bounded on the north by the B & O right-of-way.

Justification

Boundary lines enclose an enclave of late nineteenth and early twentieth century Victorian-period dwellings that are differentiated by style and age from adjacent architecture of the urban locale.

9th STREET WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia

-  Pivotal
-  Supporting
-  Intrusive
- 1. No. key to nomination description
- Historic District Boundary
- Lot line



1 inch = 100 ft.
 (approx.)

9-1980

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