

1315

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

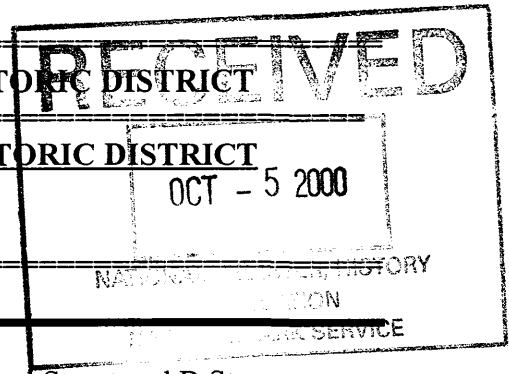
1. Name of Property

ST. ALBANS MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

historic name:

ST. ALBANS MAIN STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT

other name/site number:



2. Location

street & number : Roughly bounded by Main Street between Second Street and B Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Albans

vicinity: N/A

state: WV

county: Kanawha

code: 039

zip code: 25177

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.

Susan M. Pierce
Signature of Certifying Official

10/2/2000
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Date

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

[Signature]
Signature of Keeper
Edson H. Beall
Date of Action
11-2-00

- 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): _____

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	
22	6	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
22	6	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing N/A

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 1

(Oct. 1990)

St. Albans Main Street Historic District

Kanawha Co., WV

Name of Property

County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

COMMERCE: Business, stores

Financial Institutions

Post Office

ENTERTAINMENT: Theater

SOCIAL: Fraternal Organizations

RELIGION: Church

HEALTH: Hospital, Drug Store

Current Functions

COMMERCE: Business, stores

SOCIAL: Lodge

RELIGION: Church

HEALTH: Pharmacy Office, Doctor's Office

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

EARLY 20th CENTURY REVIVALS

Colonial Revival

Neo-Classical Revival

Neo-Georgian

Commercial

MODERN MOVEMENT

Art Moderne

Materials

Foundations: Stone, Concrete, Concrete Block

Walls: Brick, Stucco

Roofs: Asphalt

Other: _____

Narrative Description

(See 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 patterns of our history.

B Property is 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 has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

8. Statement of Significance (cont.)

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.

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Commerce

Community Development and Planning

Period of Significance

1906-1950

Significant Dates

1906

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Martens, Walter

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Ellis, Garland H. "Dart." St. Albans, West Virginia, Its Origin And Development. Dawson Printing Co., 1977.

St. Albans Historical Society. St. Albans History. Walsworth Publishing Co., 1993.

Marshall, Paul D. St. Albans Historic & Architectural Survey. Paul Marshall & Associates, 1983.

Williams, J. W. "Bill." Bicentennial of the Burning of Ft. Tackett, 1790-1990. Pamphlet.

St. Albans Historical Society. Historic St. Albans Sidewalk Tour. Tour Brochure, 1997.

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

State Historic Preservation Office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

Name of Repository: St. Albans Historical Society Building, 404 4th Ave., St. Albans, WV

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property: Approx. 4 Acres

UTM References:

St. Albans Quad Map

A <u>17 427100 4248890</u> Zone Easting Northing	B <u>17 427090 4248690</u> Zone Easting Northing
C <u>17 426720 4248700</u> Zone Easting Northing	D <u>17 426720 4248910</u> Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Neil Richardson (St. Albans Historical Society) / Alan Rowe (WV SHPO)

Organization: St. Albans Historical Society / WV SHPO Date: June 1, 2000

Street & Number: 404 4th Ave., St. Albans, WV Telephone: (304) 727-5972

City or Town: St. Albans State: WV ZIP: 25177

Property Owner

Name: Multiple Property Owners

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 1

Architectural Description:

The view down Main Street brings back images of the early 1900's business district that replaced the original frame structures destroyed by two 1906 fires. Very few buildings have changed on Main Street in the past ninety years, with all of them being of brick construction. Main Street is lined by two and three story buildings displaying stylistic elements of Romanesque Revival, Georgian Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Art Moderne, and Commercial. Originally, the street was a wide traffic thoroughfare, but presently one block has been closed to traffic and is restricted to pedestrian use only. The middle of the street is now divided by trees, flower beds, and a large, circular fountain.

Main Street

216 Main Street, commercial, St. Albans Floral
date: ca. 1920

description: 2 stories with basement, 3 bays, brick with center display window and two side doors, main door to left, Enameled metal panels on first floor, upper floor covered with metal screen. Textured brick cornice.

1 noncontributing building.

212 Main Street, commercial, Old McClung & Morgan / Olde Main Street Cafe
date: ca. 1920

description: 2 stories with basement, 3 bays, brick, center recessed entry flanked by display windows. Marble panels below display windows. Upper story covered with metal screen. Two brick pilasters and a dentilated brick cornice visible at edges of metal screen.

1 noncontributing building.

202 Main Street, commercial, Old St. Albans News Stand & Barber Shop
date: ca. 1930

description: 1 story, 3 bays, brick, center recessed entry with two flanking display windows. Wide metal awning over windows and entry. Tile coping caps wall along cornice and sides.

1 contributing building.

200 Main Street, commercial, Old Bank of St. Albans / Braley & Thompson
date: ca. 1930

description: 1 story, brick with basement, central bay faced with limestone. Central recessed entry flanked with two display windows. Green marble panels present below windows. Two brick bays to each side of central bay, both topped by a green marble panel. Wide green canvas awning above central bay.

1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 2

Architectural Description: (cont.)

94 Main Street, commercial, Bassett Furniture/Colonial Interiors
date: ca.1941

description: 1 story concrete block with basement, 3 front bays. Recessed entry area with two display windows on each side. Black stone panels under each window. Green terrazzo flooring in entry way. Wood floors inside.
1 contributing building.

84-86 Main Street, commercial, Premier Medical
date: ca.1920

2 stories with basement, 3 bays, brick. Recessed center entry with two display windows. Large wood shake covered overhang at facade mid-level. Three paired windows on second story, brick dentils on cornice.
1 noncontributing building.

80 Main Street, Old Bank of St. Albans / Old City Hall NATIONAL REGISTER LISTED
date: ca.1906

description: 3 stories, 11 front bays, brick with basement, Neo-Classical Revival. Stone foundation. Two story Ionic colonnade wraps around two sides of the building. Main entrance on corner framed by two columns. Columns support a broad frieze with medallions, denticulations and egg and dart motifs. Third story windows have stone keys, topped with a simple cornice.

78 Main Street, commercial, Harmon Cable/Hair Stylists II
date: ca.1910

description: 2 stories, 7 front bays, brick. Two recessed entry ways with display windows to each side. Central glass door that leads to second story. First floor covered with green painted stone veneer. Second story windows 1/1 double-hung sashes with a simple cornice above.
1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 3

Architectural Description: (cont.)

74 Main Street, commercial, CJ's Old Main Street Pub

date: ca.1910

description: 2 stories, 4 front bays, brick. Main entry and display windows slightly recessed. Ribbed aluminum panels above entry cover original brick. Four windows in Second floor have simple rock faced lintels and sills. Corbeled brick cornice.

1 contributing building.

70 Main Street, commercial, CJ's Old Main Street Pub

date: ca.1907

description: 2 stories, 6 front bays, brick. Neo-Classical Revival. Wide plate glass windows stretch width of first floor facade. Metal awning present below rectangular black glass sign board. Second floor windows have Neo-Classical lintels with denticulations. Brick corbels above windows carry a brick frieze comprised of bricks set on edge and diagonally.

1 contributing building.

60-68 Main Street, commercial, Chandler's / Close 2 Home Const. / Craft Shop

date: ca.1907

description: 2 stories, 6 front bays, brick. Wide building with four storefronts, each with a recessed glass entry and flanking display windows. Row of ten 1/1 double-hung sash widows on second floor with a simple banded metal cornice above.

1 contributing building.

58 Main Street, commercial, Vision Associates

date: ca.1907

description: 2 stories, 2 front bays, brick. Identical style to #64 Main Street on second story except for newer style windows. Large wood shake covered overhang at facade mid-level. Row of four widows on second floor with a simple banded metal cornice above.

1 contributing building.

56 Main Street, commercial, Dr.Bodie/ Vision Associates

date: ca.1910

description: 2 stories, 3 front bays, stucco over brick. Recessed entry with double doors. Two multi-pane windows to each side, both with wood panel in-fill below. Balcony on second floor with a wide sloping asphalt shingled roof. Heavily modified historic building.

1 noncontributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 4

Architectural Description: (cont.)

52-54 Main Street, commercial, Craft shop / Dollar Store
date: ca.1907

description: 2 stories, 9 front bays, brick. Three store fronts, each with recessed entry and flanking display windows. Nine windows (non-original) spaced evenly across second floor facade, each with simple stone lintels and sills. Metal dentilated cornice runs width of facade. Eight second floor windows on side facade have original metal roll-up protective closures. Later alterations include: flat metal awning above display windows and large wooden gambrel roofed overhang above central store front.
1 contributing building.

51 Main Street, commercial, Ivanhoe Lodge No. 71 / Braley & Thompson
date: ca.1910

description: 3 stories, 6 front bays, brick facade with display windows, center recessed door and wood shingle overhang alteration. Second and third floor windows are 6/6 double-hung sash vinyl replacements with plywood in-fill above each. Parapet roof with pediment. Stone plaque with inscription "IVANHOE LODGE NO. 71 / K of P 1910" located above the two middle windows on the second story.
1 contributing building.

57 Main Street, Hamrick Hospital / Braley Thompson Learning Center
date: ca.1940

description: 2 story, Colonial Revival. Brick facade with door at either end under overhangs with knee braces. Multiple windows on both floors with 6/6 double-hung sashes, center window has sidelights. Windows have flat black brick lintels. Round windows over door with multiple lights.
1 contributing building.

59 Main Street, commercial, Antique Shop
date: ca.1920

description: 2 stories, 3 front bays, brick. Single storefront with center recessed door and side display windows. Openings framed with metal trim and panel bulkheads. Transom over display windows and door has been covered for signage. Second floor windows altered with later metal casements. Metal pole between second floor windows for hanging sign.
1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 5

Architectural Description: (cont.)

61 Main Street, commercial, Old Herbert Music Bldg.
date: ca.1907

description: 2 stories, 3 front bays, brick. Stucco front facade. Center entrance located three steps up from curb. Modern windows have a small paned transom above that spans the facade. Balcony supported by square piers with metal railing. Four vinyl 2/2 double-hung sash windows and centered door on second floor. Historic building with totally remodeled facade ca. 1980. Vacant and gutted inside. 1908 Post Card shows a balcony much like the present.

1 noncontributing building.

65 Main Street, Alban Theater / Jehovah Witness Kingdom Hall
date: ca.1937

description: 1½ stories, 5 front bays, brick, Neo-Classical Revival. Painted brick facade with concrete columns engaged at sides with inset panels and circular windows between. Flat metal canopy over center recessed entrance with double doors and panel. Upper floor has panels recessed in repetitive design.

1 contributing building.

69 Main Street, commercial, Harshbarger Dentistry / Make-A-Frame Shop
date: ca.1920

description: 2 stories, 3 front bays, brick. Brick facade with two storefronts and center door to second floor. Left store has recessed entry, two display windows, and a covered transom. Right store is modern with brick in-fill and metal panels. Second story windows have four openings, two covered, and two with 1/1 double-hung sashes. Brick corbeling at cornice. One storefront has been modernized, two second floor windows have been in-filled with plywood panels.

1 contributing building.

75 Main Street, commercial, Make-A-Frame Shop
date: ca.1920

description: 1 story, 3 front bays, brick. Red brick facade with one storefront. Center recessed entry with side display windows with metal trim. Metal panels on transom with kick panel areas. Some simple decorative brick above transom panels. Sign hangs from metal pole.

1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 6

Architectural Description: (cont.)

77 Main Street, commercial, Braley & Thompson Job Placement Office
date: ca.1920

description: 2 stories, 3 front bays, brick. Painted brick facade with offset recessed entry and three plate glass windows. Door to second story at far left of facade. Four 1/1 double-hung sash windows on second story, each with stone lintels and sills. Corbeled brick at cornice. Transom is covered.

1 contributing building.

81 Main Street, commercial, USA Martial Arts
date: ca.1950

description: 2 stories, 3 front bays, brick with stucco facade. Large display windows, recessed double door with door to right going to second floor. Balcony on second story with enclosed railing. Metal paneled mansard style roof overhang shelters balcony. Remodeled facade ca. 1980.

1 noncontributing building.

83 Main Street, Coal River Insurance Company
date: ca.1950

description: 1 story, 2 front bays, Art Moderne, tan brick with ribbon of windows across facade with terrazzo panels below. Entry recessed on right side of facade. Two decorative brick panels to each side of a stepped parapet wall above windows, the name "COAL RIVER INSURANCE CO." is present on the parapet in raised metal letters.

1 contributing building.

87-91 Main Street, commercial, Loop Pharmacy Office / Timeless Treasures, Wellness Center

date: ca.1940

description: 1 story, 4 front bays, painted brick. Three storefronts. Center facade slightly taller, with central entry flanked by display windows. Side facades have offset entries with large display windows. Tile coping along top of parapet wall.

1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 7

Architectural Description: (cont.)

95 Main Street, commercial, Old First National Bank & Post Office / Curiosity Shop
date: ca.1910

description: 2 stories, 5 front bays, brick with basement, Romanesque Revival. Rusticated stone foundation. Three door entry centered at top of stairs, central door original with transom. Quoined, half-round arch with keystone above doors. Large 1/1 double-hung sash first story windows have upper half replaced with plywood in-fill. All windows have stone sills and lintels. Second floor windows divided from 1st floor by narrow stone string-course. Each second story window has stone hood with keystone and flare. Patterned brick corbeling at cornice features inset stone decorations. Parapet wall with brick pediment terminates cornice line. Pennsylvania Ave. side continues stone string course and brick corbeling from front. Storefront at rear of side facade has a display window with transom. All doors and windows on side have stone lintels and/or sills.

1 contributing building.

2nd STREET

809, 811, & 813 2ND Street, commercial, Fret & Fiddle Music
date: ca.1940

description: 2 stories, 5 front bays, Neo-Classical Revival. Wide brick building with two storefronts and centered door that leads to second story. Four multi-pane metal casement windows on second floor. Small, round window between casements has keystone surround. Diamond brick and stone blocks decorate upper facade. Original metal roofed overhang shelters first story windows with metal awnings over second story windows. Side steps lead to second story businesses.

1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 7 Page 8

Architectural Description: (cont.)

2nd STREET (CONT.)

111 2ND Street. & 6th Ave., Washington Lodge No. 58
date: ca.1926

description: 2 stories, 5 front bays, Georgian Revival. Balanced buff brick classical facade with six flat engaged Doric limestone pilasters. Pilasters terminate at a stepped white cornice. Four 9/9 double-hung sash windows with round arches are present to each side of the centered main double door entry. The half-round section above each window is in-filled with a white wood fan detail. In the half round section above the entry is present the Masonic compass symbol and the words "WASHINGTON LODGE No. 58/A.F.A.M." Two small 9/9 double-hung sash windows are present at each side of the main facade. The five central bays project slightly from the main wall plane. There is an inset limestone panel above the main entry that repeats the wording above the door. Above this panel is another that contains the year "1926." The side facade parallels 2nd Street and continues the cornice line from the front facade. A centered, Palladian window is present at ground level. Above this is a carved limestone panel depicting two torches flanking a swag motif. Designed by prominent local architect Walter F. Martens.
1 contributing building.

5232 2ND Street. & 6th Ave., 1st Baptist Church
date: Begun 1907, additions in 1922 and 1938

description: 3 stories, multi-front bays, Neo-Classical Revival. Buff brick church with square tower on corner with side of pierced blocks in a vertical pattern. Bronze steeple with a cross on top. Two story gabled section adjacent to tower has three large round arch stained glass windows. First floor casement windows have multiple colored glass panels. A covered walkway extends from the corner tower, across the gabled midsection, to a three story rear wing. A section of the wing extends out from the wall plane, its facade decorated with Doric pilasters and a tall stained glass window. To the right of the wing is a recessed section decorated with six Doric pilasters. Windows on the third story of the rear wing are simple vertical light 4/4 double-hung sash windows. A cornerstone near the corner entrance reads: "FIRST BAPTIST/ CHURCH/A.D. 1938" and on the other side is "FIRST/BAPTIST/CHURCH/A.D. 1907". Rear educational portion is ca. 1922 and sanctuary is 1938.
1 contributing building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 8 Page 1

Statement of Significance:

The St. Albans Main Street Historic District is significant under Criterion A for Commerce and Community Development and Planning. It is also significant under Criterion C for Architecture. Criteria Consideration A has been checked to reflect the inclusion of the 1st Baptist Church on the corner of 2nd Street and 6th Avenue. The period of significance dates from the earliest buildings erected immediately after two downtown fires in 1906 and extends to 1950. This period reflects the growth of Main Street following the 1906 fire and includes forty-four years of the area's role as the commercial center of St. Albans. Two severe fires in 1906 destroyed the mostly wood-frame downtown which resulted in the area being rebuilt with more fire-resistant brick and concrete. This substantial rebuilding testifies to the importance of the downtown area to local commerce and business.

The Coal River that flows through St. Albans was observed in 1742 by explorer John Peter Salley and named for its nearby vast outcropping of coal. Starting in Virginia, Salley eventually paddled his buffalo skin canoe all the way to New Orleans and returned by ship to Virginia and wrote of his travels in his diary.

The community of Coalsmouth, named for its location where the Coal River enters the Kanawha River, was established near the site of Fort Tackett, built in 1786. By the 1790s, around thirty people had settled on the site that would evolve into modern-day St. Albans. A quite notable early citizen was George Washington's nephew, Samuel Washington, who lived here for several years and supposedly is buried in the Bangor Cemetery in town, although his tombstone is long gone. Samuel inherited 3,500 acres at Coalsmouth, as well as a famous battle sword from George Washington and Benjamin Franklin's gold-headed cane, which was presented to Congress in 1843 and can be seen at the Smithsonian.

Coalsmouth developed rapidly, as it was wisely located where several transportation routes came together. The famous James River & Kanawha Turnpike passed through Coalsmouth, and ran along what is now Main Street Plaza. This turnpike would eventually evolve into US 60, now known as the Midland Trail. During the early nineteenth century, the turnpike supported two Inns at Coalsmouth, and a covered bridge was built in 1832 to cross the Coal River west of town to facilitate easy travel. Following the Confederate retreat from the Battle of Scary Creek in 1861, the bridge was burned and destroyed. Another important transportation link could be found on the nearby Coal River, as eleven locks and dams were constructed in 1855 under the supervision of Captain Wm. Rosecrans (later General) and continued in use until the 1880s. Paddleboats could carry passengers and cargo approximately thirty miles up river to Peytona in Boone County. Coalsmouth became an important river town due to the coal, timber and passengers transported through these locks. Thus Coalsmouth very early in its history stood at the convergence of a turnpike, the Coal and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 8 Page 2

Statement of Significance: (cont.)

the Kanawha Rivers, and later, a major railroad.

St. Albans was incorporated in 1872 and named by the chief counsel of the C&O railroad and close friend of Collis P. Huntington, H. C. Parsons, in honor of his hometown in Vermont. By 1910, St. Albans was a thriving city and an important shipping point for both lumber and coal. The Coal River Locks had ceased operation by the 1880s, but the Coal River soon became an important means of floating logs to the lumber mills in St. Albans. Many of the virgin timber logs came from the headwaters of the Coal River in Boone and Kanawha counties. The Bowman Lumber Co., Mohler Lumber Co., and the Weimer Lumber Co. were among the major companies that shipped their products from St. Albans to the outside world via the C&O. The shipping of coal on the railroads coming from the Coal and Kanawha River valleys also made this an important railroad town. The nearby C&O Railroad Depot, while not within this Historic District, is already on the National Register of Historic Places.

The rapid growth of Coalsmouth, and later, St. Albans, combined with the abundance of cheap lumber, resulted in a town built primarily from wood. As a result, Main Street suffered two devastating fires within a few weeks of each other that totally destroyed the downtown area. On January 31, 1906, a fire of unknown origins started in the opera house. As St. Albans had no fire department, a fire engine was brought by train from Charleston, WV, but it was too late to help. On February 13 of the same year, the remainder of the business portion of downtown was destroyed when a fire started in a sleeping room above the Venable store, killing the occupant. As on the 31st of January, a fire engine was brought from Charleston to extinguish the flames, but again it was too late. In response to these disasters, a volunteer fire department was established the next year.

Since Main Street was a growing and thriving business district at the center of an important transportation corridor, it was quickly rebuilt. The new brick buildings that replaced the frame buildings included two banks, a furniture store, a general mercantile store, and later a theater and drug store, as well as several clothing stores and specialty shops. Included among the new construction was the 1st Baptist Church (organized in 1860, and known as the Coalsmouth Baptist Church until 1911) on the corner of 2nd Street and 6th Avenue. The location was donated to the congregation, and by 1909 the new brick structure was complete. The regional importance of the town is reflected in the permanent materials and formal architecture chosen for the new buildings; the people of St. Albans used the fire to rebuild their town in a manner that reflected its new found prosperity.

Among the new construction, two institutions vital to the growth of the town would appear soon after the fire: The Bank of St. Albans, and The First National Bank. The Bank of St. Albans was built in 1906 by C. A. "Doc" Zerkle, the local pharmacist. His

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 8 Page 3

Statement of Significance: (cont.)

drug store was destroyed in the fire along with his vault, which was used as the town bank before the fire. The Bank of St. Albans served as City Hall from the 1960s until 1992, and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1988. The other downtown bank was the First National Bank, located nearly across the street from the Bank of St. Albans. The First National Bank was constructed in 1910 and stayed in business until the depression of the 1930s. It is still in use today and has been subdivided for a variety of businesses.

In the years following the 1906 fires, several specialty buildings would appear downtown, reflecting new developments in entertainment, health-care, and socialization. The Alban Theater (now a church named Kingdom Hall) opened in 1937 to replace the old Isis Theater which closed. The Masonic Lodge (Washington Lodge), designed by local architect Walter Martens, was constructed in 1926 in the Georgian Revival style. The Hamrick Hospital was constructed on Main Street in 1940 and included beds for seven patients. Two hotels were located one block from Main Street, but were demolished in the 1960s.

One block of Main Street was closed to vehicular traffic in the 1970s and turned into a brick paved pedestrian mall, with a fountain, trees, clock tower and gazebo. One block of Main Street is still open to vehicular traffic. The architecture of downtown generally features two to three story, brick buildings that display attributes of many styles, including Romanesque Revival, Georgian Revival, Neo-Classical Revival, Art Moderne, and Commercial.

Summary:

Downtown Main Street in St. Albans was an active center of town with Friday and Saturday nights attracting throngs of shoppers and movie-goers. Today, it remains an active business district with nearly all of the buildings occupied. It boasts several specialty offices, doctor and dentist offices, insurance and financial services, beauty shops, a furniture store, two churches, craft shops, a restaurant, pub, music store, and a Masonic lodge.

The St. Albans Main Street Historic District is significant under Criterion A for Commerce and Community Development and Planning as well as Criterion C for Architecture. The downtown business district is a distinct, historic cluster of commercial buildings that stands apart from the nearby residential areas. It also summarizes the important location of the town along several transportation corridors and the commercial prosperity the town enjoyed as a result.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at the NE corner of the property line of lot 226; thence running west along said north property line to NW corner; thence south along same property line to 6th Ave. right of way; thence south across said street to the NW corner of lot 233 and continuing south along said property line to NE corner of lot 230; thence along the north (rear) property lines to the NW corner of lot 229; thence crossing "C" street to the NE corner of lot 204; thence west along the north property lines (rear) to the NW corner of lot 195 and "B" Street; thence south along same property line, crossing Main Street Plaza, (formerly Main Street) to the SW corner of lot 8; thence east along the south (rear) property lines of lot 8 through 17 to the SW corner of lot 17; thence south along the property line of lot 157 to the SW corner; thence east along said property line and Seventh Ave. right of way to the SE corner of said lot; thence north along east property line of lots 157 and 19, crossing Main Street to the SE corner of lot 234; thence crossing 2nd Street and running east along the south (front) property line and Main Street right of way to the SE corner of lot 241; thence north, following east property line of lot 241, to the NE corner of said lot and 6th Ave. right of way ; thence west along property lines of lots 241 through 235 to the NW corner of lot 235, crossing 2nd Street to the NE corner of lot 233; thence north, crossing Sixth Ave. and following the east property line of lot 226 and 2nd Street right of way to the NE corner of lot 226, the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries incorporate the majority of the commercial buildings in the Main Street downtown area, excluding newer structures on the perimeter.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number Photo Page 1 of 2

Name of Property: St. Albans Main Street Historic District

Town : St. Albans

County: Kanawha

Photographer: Neil Richardson

Date: May 4, 2000

Negatives: St. Albans Historical Society Building

Photo 1 of 14 Streetscape of Main Street Plaza w/Ivanhoe Lodge / Braley-Thompson Bldg. in foreground. Camera looking East.

Photo 2 of 14 65 Main Street Plaza, Old Alban Theater / Kingdom Hall. Camera looking South.

Photo 3 of 14 Streetscape of Main Street Plaza w/Coal River Insurance Bldg. in foreground. Camera looking East.

Photo 4 of 14 95 Main Street Plaza, Old First National Bank & Post Office at junction of Main Street Plaza and 2nd Street. Camera looking SW.

Photo 5 of 14 Streetscape of 2nd Street, Old First National Bank & Post Office in foreground and Fret & Fiddle Music Store (809 2nd Street). Camera looking South.

Photo 6 of 14 216 & 212 Main Street Camera looking East.

Photo 7 of 14 Corner 200 Main Street & 2nd Ave., Old Bank of Street Albans. Camera looking East.

Photo 8 of 14 Streetscape of Main Street Plaza w/Old City Hall in foreground (80 Main Street Plaza) Camera looking NW.

Photo 9 of 14 Streetscape of Main Street Plaza w/Old City Hall in foreground (80 Main Street Plaza) Camera looking West.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

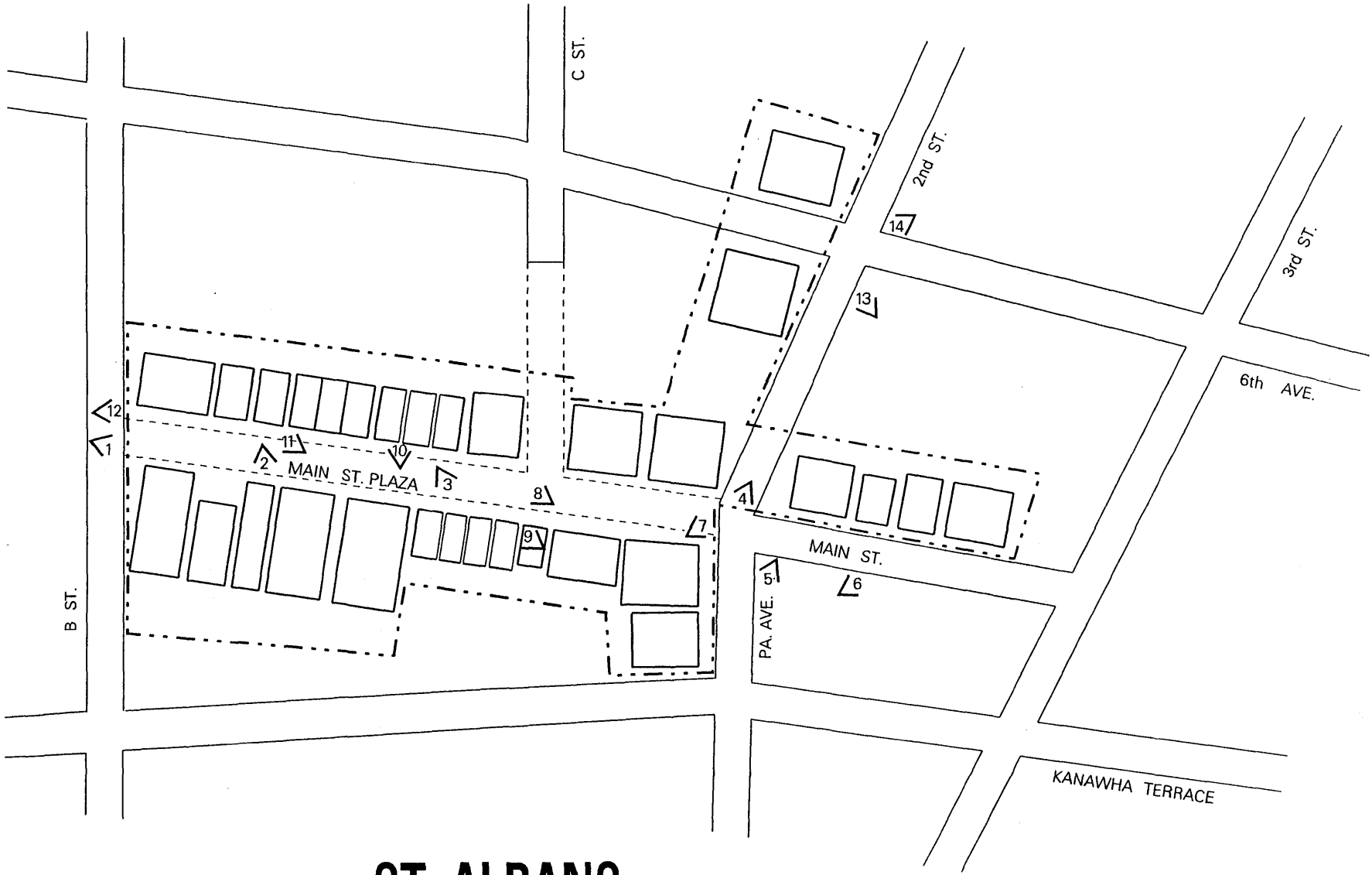
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

St. Albans Main Street Historic District
Name of Property

Kanawha Co., WV
County/State

Section number Photo Page 2 of 2

- Photo 10 of 14 72 Main Street Plaza, Camera looking North.
- Photo 11 of 14 View of 60, 64 & 68 Main Street Plaza (Hereford Bldg.) Camera looking West.
- Photo 12 of 14 Streetscape of Main Street Plaza w/52 Main Street Plaza (Swindler's/Dollar Store) in foreground. Camera looking East.
- Photo 13 of 14 5232 2nd St & 6th Ave. (1ST Baptist Church). Camera looking North.
- Photo 14 of 14 111 2nd St & 6th Ave. (Washington Lodge). Camera looking SW.



ST. ALBANS

PHOTO MAP

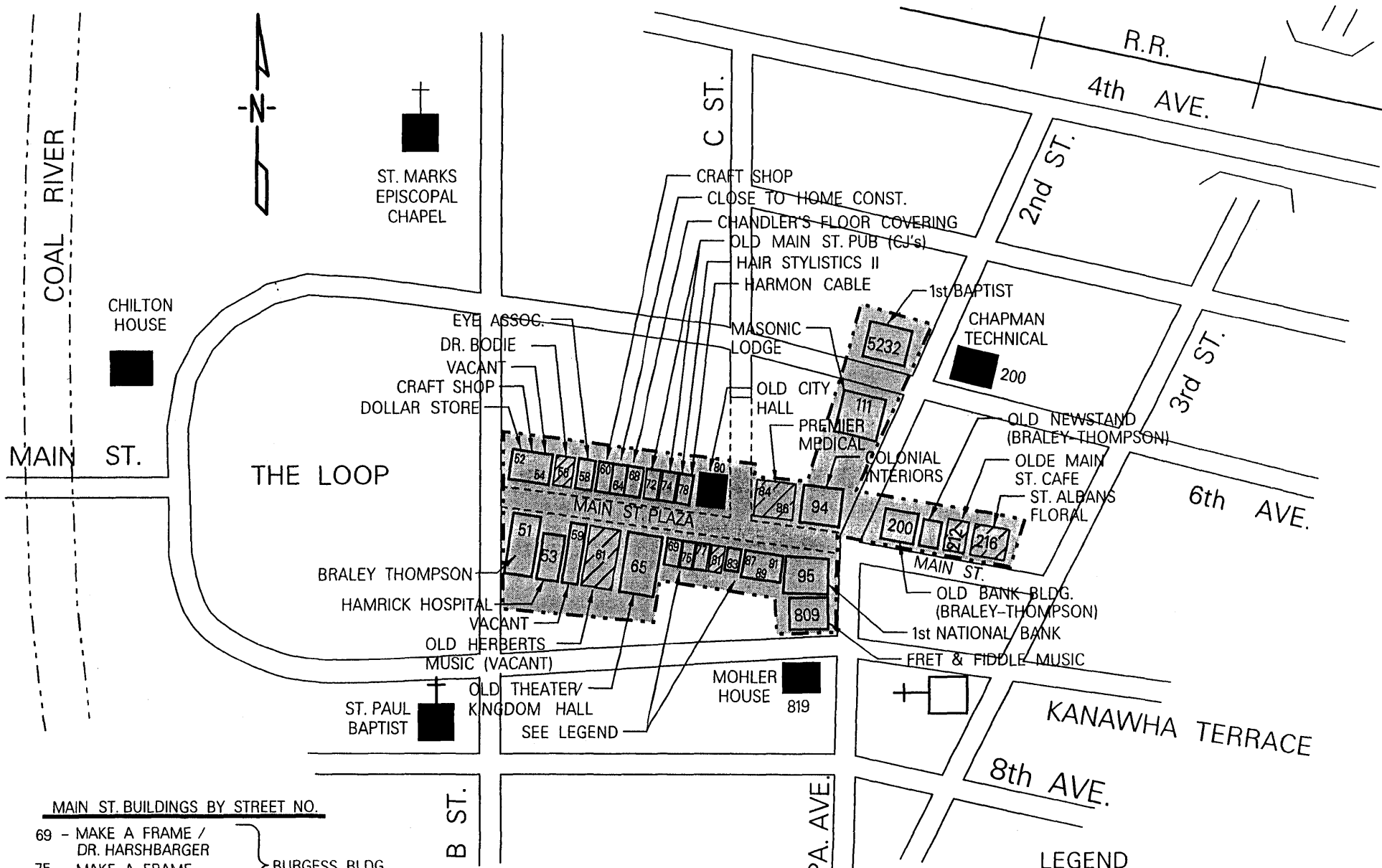
LEGEND



AREA TO BE NOMINATED
FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT



PHOTO ANGLE & NUMBER



MAIN ST. BUILDINGS BY STREET NO.

- 69 - MAKE A FRAME / DR. HARSHBARGER
- 75 - MAKE A FRAME
- 77 - BRALEY - THOMPSON
- 81 - USA MARTIAL ARTS
- 83 - COAL RIVER INSURANCE
- 87 - VACANT
- 89 - TIMELESS TREASURES
- 91 - LOOP PHARMACY OFFICE

BURGESS BLDG.

ST. ALBANS



AREA TO BE NOMINATED FOR HISTORIC DISTRICT



LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

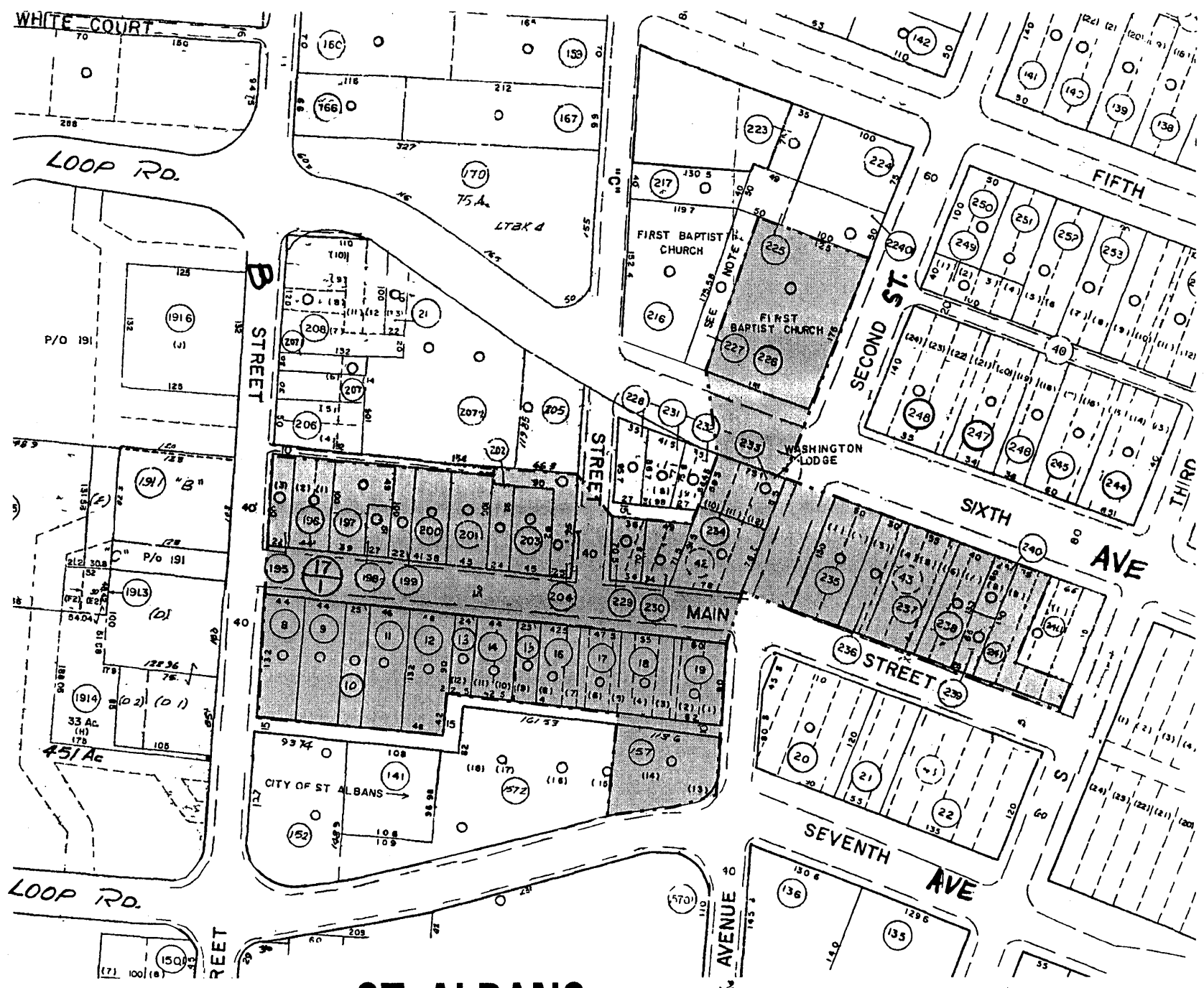


CONTRIBUTING BUILDING



NON-CONTRIBUTING BUILDING

LEGEND



ST. ALBANS

TAX MAP SHOWING PROPERTIES
WITHIN THE HISTORIC DISTRICT