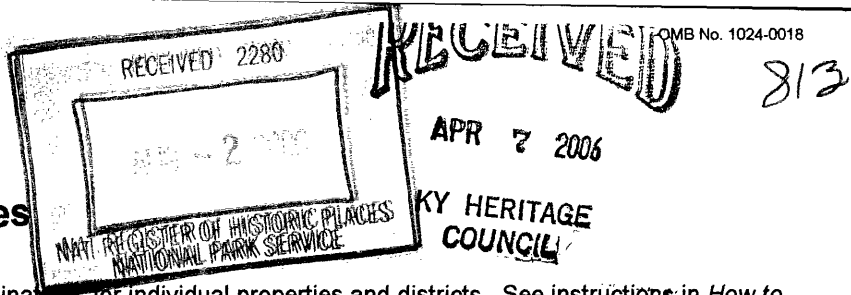


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

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 Whitesburg Historic District

other names/site number N/A

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Street

not for publication N/A

city or town Whitesburg

vicinity N/A

state Kentucky

code KY

county Letcher

code 133

zip code 41858

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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.)

David V. Morgan 7-20-06
Signature of certifying official/Title David V. Morgan, SHPO Date
Kentucky Heritage Council/State Historic Preservation Office
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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service 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): _____

for Daniel J. Villan 9/12/06
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)		Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously-listed resources in the count)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	86	35		buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	1			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	4			structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object				objects
		91	35		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
None

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

COMMERCE/TRADE/department store

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE/financial institution

GOVERNMENT/court house

GOVERNMENT/post office

DOMESTIC/hotel

RELIGION/religious facility

TRANSPORTATION/rail-related

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE/specialty store

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

FUNERARY/funeral home

GOVERNMENT/court house

GOVERNMENT/post office

COMMERCE/specialty store

RELIGION/religious facility

LANDSCAPE/parking lot

GOVERNMENT/government office

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

LATE VICTORIAN/Gothic Revival

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN/
Bungalow/Craftsman

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical

LATE 19TH & 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT/Moderne

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE/sandstone; BRICK; CONCRETE

walls STONE/sandstone; BRICK; WOOD/weatherboard;
SYNTHETICS/vinyl

roof ASPHALT; METAL

other STONE/sandstone; WOOD; BRICK

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)

- Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
Property is associated with the lives of person significant in our past.
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.
Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
removed from its original location.
a birthplace or a grave.
a cemetery.
a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
a commemorative property.
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.)

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

c 1897-1956

Significant Dates

1911

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
NA

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Palumbo, Joseph, builder

Perkins, D. E., architect

Franklin, Wilson, builder

Simon, Lewis A., architect

Andrew and Dawson, builder

Miller and Gratz, architects

Gibson, Hop, builder

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 82 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	Whitesburg KY/VA Quad
1	17	337596	3	17	338164	4109240
2	17	337942	4	17	337903	4108840
			5	17	337486	4109400

N/A 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 David L. Taylor, Principal

organization Taylor & Taylor Associates, Inc.

date April, 2006

street & number 9 Walnut Street

telephone 814-849-4900

city or town Brookville state PA zip code 15825

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name Multiple owners

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.).

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Whitesburg Historic District
Letcher County, KY

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2. Location

Portions of Main, East Main, and West Main Streets, Broadway, Bentley, Webb, and Hayes Avenues, Church, Pine, Cowan, and Madison Streets, River Road, Hazard Road, and College Drive

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Whitesburg Historic District
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Section Number 7 Page 2

7. Description

The Whitesburg Historic District (Photos 1-26) consists of a mixed-use concentration of 82 acres located in a valley along Pine Mountain, in Whitesburg, the county seat of Letcher County. Letcher County is located in southeastern Kentucky; Wise County, Virginia, borders Letcher County to the east. The North Fork of the Kentucky River meanders through the district and forms a portion of the district's boundaries. The district contains a total of 126 resources, most of which are commercial and residential in character (Photos 1-6); two are religious buildings (Photos 7, 24), one is a former soft drink bottling plant (Photo 15), two are bridges (Photo 25), and one (Resource No. 37) is a conical parged brick housing for one of the city's sewerage pump stations. Various residential dependencies--primarily garages--are found in the district, and one building--the non-contributing Letcher County Court House (Resource No. 67) is a public institutional building. Scattered throughout the district are a series of substantial historic ashlar sandstone retaining walls (Photos 7, 16, 18, 19, and 26), all of which contribute individually and collectively to the character of the district and are counted as a single contributing structure for purposes of the resource count which appears in Section 5. Similarly to the walls, the various public roadways in the district are counted collectively as a single contributing site. Several areas of paved surface parking are located in the commercial portion of the district; these are treated as uncounted landscape features. Of the 126 resources in the district, 91 (72%) contribute to the character of the district and 35 (18%) are non-contributing. Most non-contributing properties post-date the period of significance; many of these are small-scale residential dependencies including garages and sheds. Only in a few cases have properties have been insensitively altered to the extent that they no longer retain sufficient integrity to be considered contributing. The district as a whole retains integrity and is a physically-cohesive concentration of individual buildings of diverse function (historic and current), located within a geographical area whose boundaries can be readily defined by the character of the properties found within.

The Whitesburg Historic District consists of two portions: a grid of streets west of the North Fork of the Kentucky River, and a less-formally platted area east of the river. Much of the district lies on generally flat topography; the area north of Main Street rises steeply, and the southeast corner of the district lies atop a hill overlooking the downtown. Main Street is the district's principal commercial thoroughfare and extends in a northwest-to-southeast direction. Beginning as West Main Street near the western boundary of the district, it becomes Main Street at Webb Avenue, and then East Main Street upon turning northeasterly at the former Louisville and Nashville Railroad right-of-way. The Louisville & Nashville Railroad trackage originally extended up the middle of East Main Street, which was originally known as Railroad Street; with the removal of the trackage, the name was changed. Cowan Street and College Drive rise southward up a hill from West Main Street. Webb and Bentley Avenues intersect Main Street near the western edge of the district and River Road extends along the north bank of the river, northeasterly from the west end of the Main Street Bridge. Broadway parallels Main Street to the south and Church Street and Hayes Avenue

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Whitesburg Historic District
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parallel Main Street to the north. Pine Street extends northward from Hayes Avenue toward the district's northern boundary.

All of the streets in the Whitesburg Historic District are paved with asphalt, and concrete curbs are present along most streets. Street lighting is powered by overhead wires and lighting devices are mounted on wood poles. One traffic signal is found in the district, at the corner of Main Street and Webb Avenue. Landscaping within the district includes large and small yards and mature shade trees in the residential areas.

Among the district's most distinctive features are the substantial ashlar sandstone retaining walls which are found throughout the nominated area (Photos 7, 16, 18, 19, and 26). These walls, along with stone-walled buildings, many stone foundations, and the abutments for two bridges in the district, represent the work of immigrant Italian stonemasons who arrived in Whitesburg at the beginning of the second decade of the twentieth century. These craftsmen and their work is discussed in detail in Section 8. The retaining walls appear both in the central business district and in the residential portions of the district, holding back both front yards and street rights-of-way. Some of the walls are capped with cast iron cresting and railing (Photos 16, 18) and others terminate in stone; in one case (the wall associated with Resource No. 101), pointed stones appear as the finishing course. Stone entry portals, some with ball finials, occur in front of several homes (Photo 17). These walls are uncounted landscape features with respect to the district's resource count but all unquestionably contribute to the historic character of the district.

The modern non-contributing Letcher County Court House and a modern non-contributing bank (Resource Nos. 67 and 45, respectively) are among the largest single buildings in the district; the largest historic building in the district is the c. 1912 Daniel Boone Hotel (Resource No. 69; LRW-69; Photo 21). Most of the district's buildings are two stories in height and generally rest on foundations of sandstone. Most of the commercial buildings have rearward-sloping shed roofs; the laterally-oriented gabled roof form is favored throughout residential portions of the district. A 1928 Sears-Roebuck Dutch Colonial Revival-style house (Resource No. 106) has a gambrel roof. Most roof surfaces are clad in asphalt shingles. Chimneys of brick and stone have been retained on many properties, although the chimneys of some properties have been removed in the course of retrofitting heating systems. Residential buildings have front porches and verandas of varying sizes and detailing. Brick is the favored building material in the district, followed by wood; three buildings are of stone construction. Flat-topped fenestration appears on the majority of the buildings in the district; the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church and the Whitesburg Methodist Church (Resource Nos. 65 and 39; LRW-1 and LRW-13; Photo 24 and 7, respectively) have lancet-arched windows which are glazed with the district's only art glass.

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Most properties in the district are vernacular¹ adaptations of formal styles, and still others were erected without reference to any particular architectural style. Most of the commercial buildings along Main Street are vernacular in character (Photos 1-4, 8, 9). These include 57-59 East Main Street, the former Kentucky Hotel on Main Street, the Tom John Building at 317 Main Street (LRW-27, LRW-31, and LRW-36; Resource Nos. 29, 32, and 38, respectively), most of the commercial buildings on the south side of Main Street west of the river (Resource Nos. 68-80; LRW-5, 7-12, and 85-90, respectively), and the first *Mountain Eagle* building on Broadway (Resource No. 66; LRW-104).

The Gothic Revival appears in the Whitesburg Historic District in the 1931 Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church at 103 Broadway (Resource No. 65; LRW-1; Photo 24) and in the 1940 Methodist Church at 283 Main Street (Resource No. 39; LRW-13; Photo No. 7). Both buildings are of stone construction.

The late nineteenth and early twentieth century saw the Neo-Classical Revival style appear in Whitesburg on a limited basis. This style is seen most prominently in the c. 1899 Ira Fields House on 26 Pine Street (Resource No. 91; LRW-65), in the c. 1914 commercial block which Judge Daniel Fields built at 127 West Main Street (Resource No. 81; LRW-3; Photo No. 11), and the First National Bank Building at 187 Main Street (Resource No. 44; LRW-6). The John Palumbo House at 82 Cowan Street (Resource No. 4; LRW-15; Photo 26) is a vernacular adaptation of the style, built by the leader of Whitesburg's immigrant Italian stone masons.

With the coming of the twentieth century, some of Whitesburg's Bungalows (Photo 18) appeared in district. The district's Bungalows are typically 1½ stories in height, and incorporate laterally-oriented gable roofs with recessed front porches and dormers. The district's Bungalows include the houses at 66 Walnut Street, 40 West Main Street, 120 Pine Street, and 104 Church Street (Resource Nos. 1, 55, 95 and 97; LRW-122, LRW-96, LRW-75, and LRW-67, respectively).

The buildings in the Whitesburg Historic District are generally in good to excellent condition. Although the appearance of some properties suggests deferred maintenance, in no case has the deteriorated condition of an individual property rendered it non-contributing to the character of the district as a whole. Alterations to the buildings in the district include the application of non-historic siding (principally vinyl) and the replacement of historic window sash with new units. Most commercial buildings have undergone storefront remodelings, but all but two retain the traditional window-to-wall ratio. Alterations to properties within the district do not occur in any significant concentration and fail to stop the district from conveying its overall appearance during the period of significance.

Some of the residential properties in the district include garages; all are one story in height and are generally found behind homes at the end of a driveway. These garages are built both of wood and brick and date from within and after the period of significance.

Summarizing, the Whitesburg Historic District a late-nineteenth/early twentieth-century southeastern Kentucky coal country village which with the founding of the county in the 1840s became the county seat. A rural and isolated community throughout the c. 1897-1956 Period of Significance, the district's most significant era of growth and prosperity followed the c. 1911 entry of the L & N Railroad into the community as the Letcher County coal fields were opened for development.

¹When used herein, the term *vernacular* is best explained by the definition appearing in Ward Bucher's *Dictionary of Building Preservation*: "a building built without being designed by an architect or someone with similar formal training, often based on traditional or regional forms."

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Whitesburg Historic District
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The following Resource Inventory describes the properties found within the Whitesburg Historic District. Where historic names are known, they appear along with the description. All properties are considered to be contributing to the character of the district except those marked with an "NC," indicating that they are non-contributing, either because they date from outside the period of significance of the district or because their integrity has been compromised by insensitive alterations. The installation of non-historic siding or replacement window units does not necessarily preclude a property's being deemed contributing within the character of the district. Rather, integrity is most closely evaluated according to National Register Bulletin No. 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, which states that integrity remains "if the significant form, features, and detailing are not obscured." The test of integrity also relies to a degree on the standard argument which poses the question, "If individuals from the past were to return and view the property, would they recognize it?" The numbers are keyed to the map accompanying the nomination.

1. **66 Walnut Street (LRW-122):** Brick gable-front Bungalow with gable dormers on the side elevations. The first story is of red brick construction and the upper story is of wood, clad in non-historic siding. Fenestration is flat-topped, with 3/1 wood sash intact. Extending across the facade is a 1-story hipped-roofed porch with battered brick posts, a solid brick railing, and distinctive multi-colored stone arcading. (ca. 1925)
2. **52 Walnut Street (LRW-123):** former garage of red brick associated with 66 Walnut Street which stands immediately to the west. An addition of wood frame construction has been appended an addition on the facade, allowing the garage to be converted into a single-family residence. (ca. 1925)
3. **--- Cowan Street (LRW-114):** Vernacular residence of wood construction with exterior clad in non-historic siding. Laterally-oriented gable roof with center gable on facade. Shed roofed porch extends across facade and has been enclosed with multi-light sash. (ca. 1910)
4. **82 Cowan Street (John Palumbo House; LRW-15):** This is a Neo-Classical Revival-style sandstone home with an L-shaped facade and a double-gallery porch in the angle of the ell. Archway with the date 1918. Begun before Palumbo's enlistment in World War I and finished several years after his return. Th house is mentioned in Harry M. Caudill's **The Mountain, The Miner, and The Lord** (p. 110). A substantial stone retaining wall along Cowan Street periphery of lot. (1913-1924)
5. **opposite 82 Cowan Street (LRW-15):** Modern three-car garage of wood construction, built outside the period of significance (ca. 1975) NC
6. **70 Cowan Street (LRW-115):** Modest single-story vernacular residence of wood with a laterally-oriented gable roof and a shed-roofed porch extending across the facade. No notable architectural detail. Fenestration flat-topped, 1/1, with simple molded window heads. Substantial stone retailing wall along Cowan Street perimeter. (ca. 1920)

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7. **58 Cowan Street (LRW-116):** Modest single-story vernacular cottage of wood with a laterally-oriented gable roof and a shed roof porch extending across the facade, supported by turned wood posts. Lack of notable architectural detail. Fenestration flat-topped, with simple molded heads. Property sits atop a bank with a substantial stone retaining wall running along the Cowan Street perimeter of the lot. (ca. 1920)
8. **50 (?) Cowan Street (LRW-117):** Concrete block warehouse building of one story in height, with laterally-oriented gable roof and exposed rafter tails under the eaves. No notable architectural ornament. (ca. 1950)
9. **32 Cowan Street (LRW-118):** Locally-distinctive stylized "flatiron" building, built on the point of West Main Street and Cowan Street. Built of concrete block, it is sparsely ornamented, with a flat roof. (ca. 1950)
10. **107 College Drive (LR-119):** Modest vernacular gable-front cottage clad in shiplap siding, with a red brick exterior chimney along the south elevation. Simply detailed, with a hipped-roofed front porch extending across the facade; Fenestration is flat-topped, with modest window heads. (ca. 1920)
11. **129 College Drive (LRW-120):** 1-story vernacular cottage of wood, clad in shiplap siding and capped with a hipped roof. Exterior brick chimney on north elevation. Flat-topped fenestration with simply-molded heads. (ca. 1920)
12. **Whitesburg High School (LRW-121):** Interconnected complex of educational buildings, primarily of red brick, including the oldest unit, the gymnasium, with an Art Deco-style facade and the newest, the high school section. Located on a campus overlooking the community, parking areas are scattered around the site. The majority of the complex post-dates the period of significance. (1940 and after) NC
13. **10 East Main Street (LRW-82):** This was formerly a Baptist church building which was remodeled into a retail store building. It appears as many others from a similar era in Whitesburg, I. e., rectangular in form and with a flat roof. The facade includes display windows and a centered entrance. (ca. 1910; conversion 1950s)
14. **215 East Main Street (Lewis Wholesale Building; LRW-14):** Built by prominent contractor Hop Gibson for the substantial wholesale grocery operation of brothers Martin D. and J. Pleviss Lewis. They were coal developers as well and ran their operation from this building. According to a Kentucky Historic Resource Inventory Form prepared in 1981, the second story rooms in the original building were used as a school between 1912 and 1917. When the local Baptist congregation was organized in 1909, they first met in the court house, then on the second floor of this building. The property has been rehabilitated for use as the Whitesburg City Hall and a modern fire station, set back from the street, has been built as an addition on the west elevation.

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The building was determined eligible for the National Register in a SHPO memo dated 3-22-91. (1912; addition, 1921)

15. **50-84 East Main Street (LRW-83):** This was formerly the massive lumber operation of the Home Lumber Company, which had sheds and storage buildings adjacent to the railroad that formerly ran up the center of this street. It has been remodeled into office space with a loss of integrity. (ca. 1912 and after) NC
16. ---- **Madison Street (LRW-84):** KYVA Motor Company was the local Oakland, Willis and Pontiac auto dealer and also sold International trucks. This distinctive vernacular red brick building is built to address the oblique corner of East Main Street and Madison Street. Painted "ghost" signs of the KYVA Motor Company remain on portions of the surfaces of the building. The building was erected for Wilson Reniger, whose daughter married Russell Price; Price eventually ran the company. (1925)
17. — **Madison Street (LRW-111):** Built as the garage/showroom for the Boone Motor Company, the local Chevrolet and Cadillac dealer, this Moderne commercial building is of brick construction and features a rounded corner on the northeast corner. Fenestration includes display windows on first story and glass block windows on second. A long 1-story section extends southward along the banks of the North Fork of Kentucky River. (ca. 1930)
18. **L & N Railroad Bridge (LRW-112):** The L & N Railroad came to Whitesburg in the second decade of the twentieth century; this bridge was the first bridge built across the North Fork of the Kentucky River, built to carry the railroad across the river at the western end of Railroad Street (now W. Main Street). This is a deck truss bridge set on piers of cut stone and represents the first of the many structures erected by Whitesburg's Italian immigrant stonemasons. (1911)
19. — **West Main Street (LRW-19):** Modest mid-20th-century flat-roofed commercial building of concrete block faced with yellow brick; no notable ornament. (ca. 1950)
20. **155 East Main Street (LRW-20):** This is a modern house of red brick with gable roof and gable-end orientation, built outside the significance of the Whitesburg Historic District. (ca. 1970) NC
21. **153 (?) West Main Street (LRW-21):** This is an older house, remodeled with modern log siding c. 2000, with forfeiture of integrity. (ca. 1910) NC
22. **125 East Main Street (LRW-22):** Former motel, one story in height, with U-shaped plan, in deteriorated condition. (ca. 1930)

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23. — **East Main Street (LRW-23):** Formerly Combs Motor Company, local Ford and Studebaker dealer. The brick building originally was 2 stories in height, but upper story burned in the 1950s, likely within the period of significance. (ca. 1940)
24. **109 East Main Street (LRW-24):** Formerly part of Combs Motor Company, later site of KYVA Motors, former automobile dealership, this building has been completely altered from original and lacks architectural integrity within the context of the Whitesburg Historic District. (ca. 1930) NC
25. **228 East Main Street (LRW-25):** Modern 1-story gable-end-oriented office building with brick veneer, built outside the period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District. Sits back considerably from E. Main Street, with asphalt parking lot in front. (ca. 1990) NC

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26. **22 (?) East Main Street (Quillen Building; LRW-26):** Built in the spring of 1948 for Cossie Quillen, to house Quillen's drug store on the first story and apartments above. Quillen advertised his store as "the only drug store in Whitesburg recognized by the State Board of Pharmacy" with the only registered pharmacist in Letcher County. Cossie Quillen (1914-1986) also served for a time as Clerk of the Letcher County Court and, according to newspaper reports, was blind. The Kentucky Power Co. And Wise/Harlow Auto Parts also occupied the building over the years. The Moderne-style building was designed by architect D. E. Perkins and was described as having "rounded plate glass windows" on the distinctive rounded front corner. Additions at rear. (1948)
27. **rear, 22 (?) East Main Street (LRW-26):** 2-story wood garage/apartment building, built outside the period of significance. (c. 1980) NC
28. **Rear, 22 (?) East Main Street (LRW-26):** small pre-fabricated storage shed of wood, built outside the period of significance of the district (2000) NC
29. **57-59 East Main Street (LRW-27):** Vernacular brick commercial building of 2 stories, clad in vinyl siding. Storefront on first story, apartments above. The Evans Funeral Home was an early occupant. In the 1950s it housed a live performance facility which catered to touring country music performers. Owned by Ken Crosswaithe, who started WTCW radio station with financial backing from country music artists Ernest Tubb and Hank Snow. As a result of Ernest Tubb's divorce, Ken Crosswaithe's brother Don, an artist who recorded under the name of Don Cross, bought out the station. Although licensed for Whitesburg, WTCW had its principal studio in nearby Mayking. (c. 1930)
30. **35 East Main Street (LRW-29):** Modest commercial building of yellow brick with display window on first story shielded by marquee canopy. Flat roof with tile coping along parapet. Lack of notable architectural detail. Built by Zenith Bentley and used as a grocery store. Parking lot at side of building. (c. 1950)
31. **— East Main Street (LRW-30):** Modestly-detailed commercial building of red brick, with display window on first story and 2-bay upper facade with steel-frame sash. Flat roof with tile coping along parapet. Built outside the period of significance (c. 1960) NC
32. **Kentucky Hotel, — East Main Street (LRW-31):** 3-story brick building built as the Kentucky Hotel to serve the railroad which originally ran beside the building up Railroad Street, now East Main Street. Its distinctive angled corner addressed its corner lot siting; this

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- design is unique in the historic district. Flat-topped fenestration. Later known as the Marcum Hotel and in the 1950s the ground floor was the Rainbow Grill. (c. 1917)
33. **351-353 Main Street (LRW-32):** Painted brick mid-block commercial building of three stories, with the storefront altered but retaining traditional window-to-wall ratio. Some modification to fenestration on upper facade. Formerly Majors Department Store, operated by Al and Mollie Majors. (c. 1925)
34. **347 Main Street (LRW-33):** Vernacular 2-story commercial building with buff-colored brick finish. Storefront altered, but retaining traditional window-to-wall ratio. Upper facade intact, with 3-bay arrangement and flat-topped 1/1 sash. (c. 1950)
35. **345 Main Street (Alene Theater Building; LRW-34):** This building was erected on portions of the foundations from an earlier building by Sam Isaac as one of Whitesburg's movie theaters. Built on the site of a salt well that was closed when the building was erected. Known as the "Alene", after Isaac's daughter, it originally had a large marquee. It was considered to be a state-of-the-art theater and included "crying baby" room, velvet seats, a terrazzo floor and a frescoed ceiling. After the demise of the theater, the interior was remodeled into retail space and the "Riverside Apartments," with balconies overlooking the Kentucky River along the north elevation. (c. 1951)
36. **Main Street Bridge (LRW-35):** WPA-constructed deck truss concrete bridge. A U. S. Geological Survey benchmark is embedded in the bridge surface, installed in 1953 and noting the elevation to be 1,147.337 feet above sea level. Stone piers, likely the work of Italian stonemasons who made Whitesburg their home and accounted for the stone houses and walls which characterize the community. The piers may be left from an earlier bridge erected in 1925. (1941)
37. **Main Street Sewerage Pump Station (LRW-46):** One of several such structures in the district, this is a red brick conical housing for one of the city's sewerage pump stations which is housed within. Exterior surfaced parged in concrete and capped with a cast iron man-hole cover. The housing likely dates from the establishment of the community sewer system. (c. 1925)
38. **317 Main Street (Tom John Building; LRW-36):** Modest commercial building of red brick with storefront on first story and 2-bay upper facade penetrated by paired flat-topped 1/1 sash set on rock-faced stone sills and capped with stone lintels. Stylized crenelated parapet and

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minimal Art Deco-inspired trim. Storefront only minimally altered. Building is built on the north shore of the Kentucky River at the west end of the Main Street bridge. Built by Tom John who made popcorn for sale at the nearby L & N railroad depot; this building formerly housed the Coney Island restaurant. (1936)

39. **283 Main Street (Whitesburg Methodist Church; LRW-13):** Distinctive stone church set on a corner lot in the downtown, Gothic Revival in character with L-shaped facade. Built on the site of an earlier Gothic Revival-style church which burned. Fenestration flat-topped and lancet-arched, with religious art glass. The church was built under the pastorate of W. H. Poole; excavation for the building began in early March, 1940 and the first service was held in the new building on May 4, 1941. The cornerstone was provided by County Attorney G. Bennet Adams. One of Whitesburg's substantial stone walls encloses the property, topped with a cast iron fence. The dedication was not held until March 24, 1946, perhaps delayed until the end of World War II. (1940)
40. **257 Main Street, A & P Building(LRW-37):** Built for the A & P grocery store on the site of a former house. The A & P was the largest retail grocer in Letcher County. This is a commercial building of brick, lacking in notable architectural detail. Large display window along facade with recessed entry at west end. Flat roof with stepped side parapet wall with tile coping. (c. 1950)
41. **253 Main Street (Holstein Building; LRW-38):** Modest commercial building with facade of red brick. Three display windows on facade, separated by brick piers, with rhythm of fenestration somewhat altered from the original. Side elevations pared. (c. 1930)
42. — **Main Street (U. S. Post Office; LRW-18):** Colonial Revival-style 1-story red brick former post office with a 5-bay facade and centered entrance. Built during the Depression as a PWA project, from designs by Louis A. Simon, Supervising Architect for the U. S. Treasury, assisted by Neal Melick. Simon was responsible for more than two dozen federal buildings of varying scale, including federal court houses, post offices large and small, and several border crossing facilities. The building was built by contractors Andrew & Dawson, of Montgomery, Alabama. The new post office was first occupied on Washington's Birthday, February 22, 1938 and completed that Spring of 1938, under Postmaster W. G. Holbrook. In the summer of 1938, the skylights were added and the brick retaining wall along Main Street replaced an earlier stone wall. The interior is little altered from the original, retaining historic features including post boxes, the sorting room, offices, etc. A small parking/service area is located behind the building. With the construction of a new post office, this property was turned over Letcher County. (1937-1938)

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43. **203 Main Street (LRW-39):** Mid-twentieth-century single-story red brick commercial building with flat roof; lacks notable architectural detailing. Built as Craft's Department Store, the building extends northward to Hayes Avenue and has storefronts and offices along the north elevation. (c. 1950)
44. **187 Main Street (Bank of Whitesburg Building; LRW-6):** Built c. 1913 for the First National Bank, later the Bank of Whitesburg, shortly after the incorporation of the institution. This was the major financial institution in the community at the time, and its leaders were also the leaders of the community. This trend continued for years; in the 1940s, the Board of Directors were Herman Hale, Dr. B. C. Bach, Stephen Combs, Jr., and R. D. Collins. The 2-story Neo-Classical Revival-style brick building remains a major anchor in the downtown area of the community. 3-bay facade with finishes including pilasters, corbeled brickwork, and an overhanging pressed metal cornice. The first story of the facade has been altered somewhat but retains traditional window-to-wall ratio. An elevator housing penetrates the roof on the southeast corner. Originally three separate storefronts, with the bank on the western storefront, Drs. Owen and Carl Pigman and Bach in the middle, and Fitzpatrick Pharmacy in the easternmost storefront. Surface parking lot west of the building and a substantial 3-story addition is built on rear with parking on the first story. (c. 1913)
45. **155 Main Street, Community Trust Bank (LRW-40):** Modern bank building built on the site of two earlier buildings. Designed by Whitesburg architect William Richardson, located on prominent downtown corner; built outside the period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District. (c. 2000) NC
46. **120-124 West Main Street, W. E. Cook Building (LRW-2):** Distinctive all-stone commercial building, the only one of its kind in the community. Local sources indicate that this is the composite of two separate buildings, perhaps united by a common 1914 facade. Symmetrical facade with round-arched fenestration on the second story and flat-topped on the first. Paired entry doors centered on the facade, with wrought iron balcony above. Exterior of rock-faced ashlar stone, with modestly-detailed molded stone cornice. Erected for W. E. Cook and significant as one of the early stone buildings built by Whitesburg's Italian master masons, including members of the Palumbo, Romeo, Cotispodi, and Mongiardos families, led by John Palumbo. W. E. Cook had a farm supply store on the first story and he and his family lived above. In later years, attorneys Harry M. Caudill and Forest Cook maintained their offices here. (1914; John Palumbo, builder)

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47. **67 West Main Street (Johnson Hotel; LRW-41):** Neo-Colonial Revival-style 2-story red brick apartment building with hipped roof and full pedimented portico on symmetrical 5-bay facade. Flat-topped fenestration, 1/1, with soldier-course lintels of brick facade. (c. 1950)
48. **65 West Main Street (Craft Funeral Home; LRW-42):** The Craft Funeral Home was established as the Burke and Craft Funeral Home in 1935. The operation was in several different locations until the subject property, which had housed the former Johnson Funeral Home, was acquired. A second funeral home was located in the nearby village of Neon. The husband-and-wife team of Archie and Virginia Craft were both licensed funeral directors and ran the operation together. The building is a Colonial Revival-style red brick residential-scale property, with several additions at the rear along Bentley Avenue. (c. 1935)
49. **59 West Main Street (LRW-43):** This began as a laterally-oriented gable-roofed Bungalow facing Bentley Avenue, to which has been added a large institutional addition of one story in height, with forfeiture of architectural and historical integrity. A parking lot is adjacent to the building to the west. (c. 1920) NC
50. **33 West Main Street (N. M. Webb House; LRW-44):** This is a substantial vernacular residence clad in stucco, with a wrap-around veranda on the facade and side elevation. Essentially square in form, the building is capped with a hipped roof with a gable dormer on the facade. Fenestration is flat-topped, with windows set singly and in pairs. The *Mountain Eagle* of September 16, 1921, reported that N. M. Webb had his new house under construction; the builder was identified as Wilson Franklin, a prominent local builder of the day. N. M. Webb was the long-time editor of the local weekly newspaper. (1921)
51. **14 West Main Street (LRW-99):** 1-story red brick ranch-style cottage with a laterally-oriented gable roof and an attached carport. (1956)
52. **Rear, 14, West Main Street (LRW-99):** Small modern shed of wood construction set on piers; built outside the period of significance (c. 1980) NC
53. **28 (?) West Main Street (LRW-98):** Older house which has been severely altered, including the cladding of the building in modern brick, pervasive alterations to the fenestration, etc., with a forfeiture of integrity (c. 1910) NC
54. **38 West Main Street (LRW-97):** Modern 1-story wood residence clad in board-and-batten siding, with an attached garage and carport, built outside the period of significance of the

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Whitesburg Historic District. It is located at the rear of a lot which is oriented to West Main Street. (c. 1970) NC

55. **40 West Main Street (LRW-96):** 1½-story wood frame Bungalow with laterally-oriented gable roof and a gable dormer on the facade; shed-roofed addition of one story at the rear. The building has been converted for professional office use. (c. 1920)
56. **50 West Main Street (LRW-95):** 1½-story brick Bungalow incorporating classic features of the style, including the laterally-oriented gable roof which extends beyond the plane of the building to shield a recessed front porch, and a dormer on the facade, in this case, a gable dormer. Fenestration is generally flat-topped; the sash on the front porch has a 6-light transom. In the pediments of the gable ends are paired quarter-round windows. A projecting gable-roofed bay extends westward from the east elevation. Chimney has been removed. (c. 1920)
57. **133 West Main Street (LRW-100):** 1-story red brick residence with shallow-pitched hipped roof; L-shaped facade with small porch in the angle of the ell. Fenestration flat-topped. (c. 1950)
58. **60 West Main Street (LRW-94):** Modern professional office building of brick, 1 story in height, built outside the period of significance of the district. (c. 1980) NC
59. **rear, 60 West Main Street (LRW-94):** Modern 3-bay wood frame garage behind a modern professional office building, built outside the period of significance of the district. (c. 1980) NC
60. **102 Main Street (Martin Lewis House; LRW-93):** Craftsman-style brick Bungalow built early in the twentieth century for Martin Lewis (d. c. 1953). Early conversion to Johnson Funeral Home. Major alterations, enclosure of porch, etc., with forfeiture of integrity. (1921) NC
61. **rear, 102 Main Street (LRW-93):** interconnected wood garages of one story, for use of the funeral home occupying the former residence with which the lot is associated; built outside the period of significance (c. 1980). NC

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62. **46 Broadway (LRW-101):** Modern commercial strip center with a church built onto the south side, built outside the period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District (c. 1960) NC
63. ----- (LRW-125): Modern social service building finished in metal, built outside the period of significance (c. 1980) NC
64. **6 Broadway (LRW-103):** Modern medical office building built on the site of the Letcher County Jail and dating from outside the period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District. (1966) NC
65. **103 Broadway (Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church; LRW-1):** Gothic Revival-style sandstone church begun in 1931 and completed five years later, using plans prepared by the Lexington firm of Miller and Gratz, based on a sketch provided by Pastor O. V. Caudill, who had been called to the Whitesburg pulpit in 1927. Caudill was pastor for 13 years, longer than any other minister of the church. The construction had to be suspended because of a lack of funds, but in 1934 it was resumed. Hop Gibson was the carpenter for the church, and Joe Romeo supervised the Italian stonemasons who erected the building's stone exterior with the help of young male church members. A distinctive stone in the boot-shape of Italy was inset on the facade by the Italian stone masons who built the building. Some say that the stone was broken when it was installed, while other local oral tradition maintains that anti-Italian sentiment ran high During World War II and that the stone was intentionally broken at that time. Whatever the case, it retains its distinctive outline. A matching compatible annex was built in 1954, creating a U-shaped form for the building. (1931; 1954)
66. ---- **Broadway (*Mountain Eagle* Office Building; LRW-104):** Modest vernacular brick commercial building with 3-bay facade and centered entrance flanked by display windows. Built on a hillside sloping downward to the North Fork of the Kentucky River, the building has a shed roof with stepped-parapet side elevations. This was one of several office locations of the *Mountain Eagle*, the local weekly newspaper. The newspaper was published here until the offices were moved to the former City Hall. The basement was one of the several locations in the district to house Harry M. Caudill's law office. (1925)
67. **156 Main Street (Letcher County Court House; LRW-91):** The seat of county government has been on this site from Letcher County's earliest days. An 1844 court house was demolished in 1897 and was replaced with a new court house which itself was added to as a 1930s WPA project. The building was replaced by a modern multi-colored steel-and-glass

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- modern building. The present appearance is the result of a remodeling designed by local architect William Richardson. Dates from outside the period of significance. (c. 1964; 1999)
NC
68. **178 Main Street (Frazier Building; LRW-5):** Built as J. H. Frazier's Mercantile Store, this is among the larger extant building dating from the period of growth in Whitesburg after 1911, when the L & N Railroad came to the community with the opening of regional coal fields. The building remained in the Frazier family until a 1946 estate sale, when it was acquired by Willie Lucas for \$21,000. The A & P grocery was an early occupant. It is among the best preserved in the downtown, including storefronts on the first story and a 3-bay upper facade. The storefronts have been sensitively rehabilitated, retaining the traditional window-to-wall ratio. The upper facade includes paired flat-topped windows in the center bay and paired round-arched windows with keystones in the outer bays. The facade is capped with a corbeled brick cornice and a stepped parapet gable. (1914)
69. — **Main Street (Daniel Boone Hotel; LRW-7):** The largest of the several hotels in downtown Whitesburg and a popular stop for salesmen traveling through the area; the hotel lobby had a bank of a dozen or more telephone booths along the east wall for guests to use and for salesmen to call in orders. The 3-story brick building is significant as a generally intact example of vernacular hotel design, representing the rise of Whitesburg after the arrival of the railroad in 1914 and the opening of the region's coal fields. Remodeled storefront area. The upper facade is generally original, with a 3-bay arrangement with 2 flat-topped windows in each bay. Corbeled brickwork and metal cornice. Actor Tom Ewell is known to have stopped while consulting on the 1961 movie, "The Little Shepherd of Kingdom Come." Nationally-known author Harry M. Caudill had an office in the building at one time. (c. 1920)
70. **198-206 Main Street (LRW-90):** Formerly housed the GE shop owned by Arnold Collins. Complete cladding of facade in non-historic materials, alteration of storefront and upper facade, with forfeited integrity. (c. 1925) NC
71. **214 Main Street (John A. Webb Building; LRW-8):** Vernacular commercial building built by John A. Webb during a decade of extraordinary expansion within downtown Whitesburg. 2-story brick commercial building with altered storefront and intact upper facade, including a 4-bay arrangement and a name/date stone above the second-story windows. Corbeled brick cornice. Formerly The Miner's Store a/k/a Tepper's Department Store. John Anderson Webb (1875-1948) spent twenty years as a teacher in Letcher County, operated a furniture business here and served as Whitesburg's mayor. About 1910 he organized the State Guard and served as its Captain in the border incidents with Mexico in 1914. (1925)

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72. **220 Main (Harry M. Caudill Memorial Library; LRW-89):** Modern mid-block library, built outside the period of significance The library is named for the renowned attorney-activist-author who was a native of Whitesburg. Built on the site of the R. H. Hobbs 5, 10, and 25-cent store which burned. (c. 1971) NC
73. **238 Main Street (Masonic Lodge Building; LRW-9):** Built at a point when downtown Whitesburg was beginning to grow significantly--after the L & N Railroad came into the community. The building had two storefronts on the first story; one was a funeral parlor/furniture store and the other was a hat shop. The second story was the lodge hall of Whitesburg Lodge No. 764. A date/name stone above the second story confirms the date and use. The lodge was chartered in 1903; it is not known where they met prior to the construction of this building. It is a 2-story building of brick construction with a 4-bay upper facade penetrated by segmental-arched windows openings with flat-topped sash. (1919)
74. **252 Main Street (Holbrook Building; LRW-10):** Built by J. A. Holbrook (1874-1939) during a period of significant growth in the downtown. Storefront on the first story altered but generally retaining traditional window-to-wall ratio. Four-bay upper facade has shortened windows but original openings remain obvious. Between second-story window and cornice is a date/name stone with the inscription J. A. HOLBROOK. Corbeled brick cornice. (1922)
75. **260 Main Street (LWR-88):** Built in the mid-1920s at a time of major growth in the downtown, this modest commercial building incorporates a storefront on the first story, 3 bays on the second story, and 4 on the third. One of the few three-story commercial buildings in the community. Storefront altered, but retains the overall traditional window-to-wall ratio; upper facade windows altered but openings intact. Simple corbeled brick cornice. Formerly interconnected with the building to the east as Hoover's Department Store. (c. 1925)
76. **272 Main Street (Mullins Department Store; LRW-11):** Mullins Department Store built this at a cost of \$25,000. After Mullins, the present owner, Dawahare's, opened their second store here in 1935; the chain would grow to 22 stores in the region. The Dawahare family lived in an apartment above the store. The facade has been altered with the installation of a large shake shingle-clad pent roof and the modification of the storefronts, although the traditional window-to-wall ratio has been maintained. The upper facade is original and intact, including a-bay arrangement of flat-topped double hung 1/1 windows and a modest corbeled brick cornice. (1922)

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77. **280 Main Street (LRW-87):** Built as the Kentucky Theater by movie house operator Sam Isaacs, who also operated the Alene Theater further east on Main Street. This building has been significantly altered and has forfeited integrity. (c. 1925) NC
78. **286-290 Main Street (LRW-12):** Simply-detailed commercial building of red brick with the upper facade penetrated by three double hung windows, 1/1, flat-topped, set in segmental-arched openings; windows capped with radiating brick voussoirs. First story includes an altered storefront and a single door accessing the second story. Former occupants include Kermit's Superette, operated by Kermit Combs, and Hall Grocery. (c. 1925)
79. **294-298 Main Street(Adams Hotel; LRW-86):** Simply-detailed brick commercial building of 2 stories with 2 storefronts on the first story and two window units on the second, each with paired 1/1 sash. Originally had 5-bay upper facade. Storefronts altered but retaining traditional window-to-wall ratio. (c. 1925)
80. **304 Main Street (LRW-85):** Modest red brick commercial building with a single storefront on the first story with an interior side stair accessing the upper story. The exterior of the facade is little altered from the original. Simple in its form and detail, the upper facade is penetrated by two windows with 1/1 sash, set on extended sills. Massive stone foundation along the river. The rear has a double-gallery porch likely dating from the 1950s, serving the apartment(s) within. Home of Bradshaw Jewelry for decades. (c. 1925)
81. **127 West Main Street (Fields Building; LRW-3):** Among the most high-style historic buildings in Whitesburg, this building dates from c. 1914, near the time that the railroad came to Whitesburg and the community's decades of growth began. The original owner was Judge Daniel D. Fields. It has an angled corner addressing its corner lot and the main entrance is on the angled corner, flanked by Doric pilasters. Fenestration flat-topped throughout; display windows on first story. Sash altered but window-to-wall ratio maintained. remodeled for a book-craft shop and restaurant; second story is used for offices. D. D. Fields (1853-1927) began life as an engineer and for more than fifty years was a local attorney and served as judge. At an early age he was employed by the Mineral Development Company of Philadelphia and induced them to explore the coal deposits in Letcher County. They became the first developer of the Letcher County coal fields. (1914)
82. **21 North Webb Avenue (LRW-54):** Former residence of wood construction, radically altered addition on facade, with loss of integrity. (c. 1910) NC

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83. **41 North Webb Avenue (Old City Hall; LRW-56):** This building was erected as the city hall and fire station for the city of Whitesburg and also contained the offices of the police judge. In 1947 a \$25,000 bond issue was placed on the ballot and was passed by a large majority. It was designed by architect D. E. Perkins of Harlan, one of the few architects in southeastern Kentucky during this era. After the City offices were moved to W. Main Street, the local newspaper acquired the building remodeled it for use as their offices. It is of red brick, 2 stories in height, with a 3-bay upper facade. The first-story of the facade originally has an overhead door opening into the fire truck garage. In the rehab of the building a large multi-light window was retained, suggestive of the original overhead door accessing the truck room. (1948)
84. **65 North Webb Avenue (LRW-57):** Modern office building, 2 stories, finished in buff-colored brick, rectangular in form, with a flat roof, built outside the period of significance of the district. A large parking lot is at the rear of the property. (c. 1970) NC
85. **rear, 65 North Webb Avenue (LRW-57):** Modern metal storage building, built outside the period of significance of the district. (c. 1990) NC
86. **62 (?) North Webb Avenue (LRW-59):** Telephone communications building of red brick, with flat roof and dearth of notable architectural ornament. A substantial wall of rock-faced stone extends along the front perimeter of the lot. (c. 1950)
87. **60 (?) North Webb Avenue (LRW-60):** U-shaped self-storage facility, built outside the period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District. (c. 2005) NC
88. **---- Hayes Avenue (Dr. T. R. Collier House; LRW-62):** This house was erected for Dr. T. R. Collier who later sold it to the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church for use as their Manse. It is a modest red brick cottage lacking notable architectural ornament. The yard is enclosed with a chain-link fence, but across the Hayes Avenue perimeter of the lot is a substantial stone wall with an entry portal with pilasters capped with ball finials. (1931)
89. **rear, — Hayes Avenue (LRW-62):** Modern open-sided wood carport associated with Resource No. 88, built outside the period of significance of the district (c. 1970) NC
90. **118 Hayes Avenue (LRW-64):** Formerly Craft Funeral Home, this is a gabled ell vernacular residential building of brick which has been converted to professional office use. A paved

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parking lot is immediately south of the building at the corner of Pine Street and Hayes Avenue. (c. 1930)

91. **26 Pine Street (Ira Fields House; LRW-65):** Among the more high-style residential properties in the historic area, this is an L-shaped Neo-Classical Revival-style house with an intersecting gable roof system and a forward-projecting wing on the east side of the facade which terminates in a 2-story bay window with decorative window aprons. Modillions under the eaves and under the gable ends and a stylized Palladian window on the second story of the facade over the main entrance door. A wraparound veranda extends across a portion of the facade and the south elevation, supported by Ionic posts and with a rock-faced stone balustrade. Extending along the perimeter of the front of the lot and along the side is a substantial stone wall, one of several substantial stone retaining walls erected throughout the city. Built for Ira Fields, a Letcher Circuit Judge and Whitesburg City Judge. (1897)
92. **74 Pine Street (LRW-66):** Gabled ell vernacular cottage of wood construction, 1 story in height, with porch in the angle of the ell. (c. 1920)
93. **side, 74 Pine Street (LRW-66):** wood storage shed of indeterminate age (c. 1930)
94. **side 74 Pine Street (LRW-66):** modern open-sided carport, built outside the period of significance of the district (c. 1980) NC
95. **120 Pine Street (LRW-75):** 1-story Craftsman-style wood frame cottage with paired gable facade and Adirondack-style bracing under the eaves. Similar to cottages sold by Sears-Roebuck, but this connection has not been substantiated. The property's most distinctive feature is the substantial stone retaining wall with a garage built into the hillside and a brick patio above. (c. 1930)
96. **13 Church Street (LRW-):** Modestly-detailed vernacular cottage of wood set on one of the highest points in the community. Shed-roofed porch on facade. Among the most notable features is the substantial ashlar stone retaining wall which extends along the front perimeter of the property, with entry portals capped with ball finials. (c. 1925)
97. **104 Church Street (LRW-67):** Well-preserved Bungalow of wood construction sited on a hillside overlooking the city. The house has a laterally-oriented gable roof which extends beyond the plane of the building to shield a front porch supported by six Doric posts. Shed dormer on facade and 1-story sunrooms, perhaps additions, on the side elevations. Extending

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- along the front perimeter of the lot is a substantial ashlar stone wall capped with a wrought iron railing. (c. 1925)
98. **rear, 104 Church Street (LRW-67):** small prefabricated wood shed, built outside the period of significance of the district. (c. 2000) NC
99. **120 Church Street (LRW-68):** Nondescript 2-story multi-tenant apartment house clad in asphalt shingles, with small entry porch on west side of facade. Flat-topped fenestration, lacking notable ornament. (c. 1920)
100. **130 Church Street (LRW-69):** Modern 1-story wood house with several additions and an attached carport on the east elevation. Built outside the period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District. (c. 1980) NC
101. **148 Church Street (LRW-70):** Substantial late-nineteenth century residence, one of the earliest extant within the community. It is sited atop a hillside with a commanding view of the community. L-shaped in form, it features a laterally-oriented gable roof with a forward-projecting wing on the east side of the facade which terminates with chamfered corners and a gabled pediment. Pediment is finished in decorative wood shingles with a round pedimental oculus with delicate tracery. Double-gallery porch in the angle of the ell with replacement wrought iron supports and balustrade. Extending along the front perimeter of the lot is a substantial ashlar stone retaining wall with a top course of pointed stone, unique in the district. (c. 1900)
102. **162 Church Street (LRW-71):** Vernacular cottage of one story, set on a raised foundation, with stone cladding and open carport attached to the south elevation. (c. 1930)
103. **158 Church Street (LRW-72):** Gabled ell cottage built on a raised basement, finished in flat stones, with a stone retaining wall and stone steps leading to the house from the driveway. Stone chimney. Fenestration flat-topped. Small porch in the angle of the ell on the facade. (c. 1930)
104. **rear, 158 Church Street (LRW-73):** Gable-end-oriented garage built into the hillside adjacent to and northeast of the house with which it is associated [Resource No. 103] (c. 1930)

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105. — **Church Street (LRW-73)**: vernacular church building of wood construction with a cement block addition on the west elevation; appears to date from outside the period of significance of the district (c. 1960) NC
106. **188 Church Street (LRW-53)**: Locally-distinctive Dutch Colonial Revival-style house with laterally-oriented gambrel roof, central chimney of brick, and large shed dormer. Roof sweeps beyond plane of house to shield a pent roof which extends across the facade. Centered on the facade is the main entrance, shielded by a segmental-arched portico. Fenestration generally flat-topped, with multi-light sash; semi-circular window in pediment of gable. Side porch on east elevation. According to widespread local tradition this was a catalog house purchased from Sears-Roebuck. It is very close in appearance to the "Priscilla" and the "Martha Washington," marketed by Sears in their 1925, 1926, and 1928 catalogs. (1928)
107. **42 Hayes Avenue (LRW-76)**: Modern ranch-style house built outside the period of significance of the historic district. (c. 1970) NC
108. **6 Hayes Avenue (Col. L. H. N. Salyer House; LRW-77)**: The former home of Col. Logan Henry Neil Salyer (1835-1916), Confederate officer and long-time local attorney. This is a Colonial Revival-style cottage of wood construction, with is a laterally-oriented gabled roof and a glass enclosed front porch; shed dormers on the facade and rear elevation. Fenestration includes flat-topped windows and a large stylized Palladian window on the west elevation. Round-arched windows are on the side elevations of the second story. Exterior finished in weatherboard on the first story and square-butt wood shingles above. The building has been converted for use as a bed-and-breakfast inn. Along the front perimeter of the lot is a substantial ashlar stone wall topped with a non-historic cast iron fence. Unlike Whitesburg's other stone walls, this one is dated with a date stone bearing the date 1932. (c. 1900)
109. **rear, 6 Hayes Avenue (LRW-77)**: Non-historic 2-car garage of wood construction, with gable roof and gable-end orientation. (c. 1970) NC
110. **rear, 6 Hayes Avenue (LRW-77)**: Non-historic wooden gazebo, midway up a steep hill accessed by a steep stairway. (c. 1990) NC
111. **478 Hayes Avenue (Coy Holstein House; LRW-79)**: Formal Georgian Revival-style residence of red brick with a full Doric portico centered on the facade, including a semi-circular lunette in the pediment. Segmental-arched door with fanlight and sidelights. Steel frame windows with exterior operable wood shutters. Side elevations include partial returns of the

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- cornice and a semicircular lunette in the pediments. At the time of its construction, the *Mountain Eagle* noted that it was of "Colonial style architecture and is being built of the best type of red brick and hollow tile." It was built for Coy Holstein and was designed by Harlan architect D. E. Perkins, who also designed for former city hall on N. Webb Avenue. (1948)
112. **90 Bentley Avenue (Lee Adams House; LRW-47):** Red brick cottage with laterally-oriented gable roof and forward-projecting entry bay on south side of facade, shielding an arcaded porch with a small projecting bay with a gable roof. Step-shouldered brick chimney placed asymmetrically on the facade. Fenestration flat-topped with 4/1 wood sash. Original gable-end-oriented one-car tile garage faced in red brick at rear of lot. Built for Lee Adams, a local real estate agent. (1938)
113. **rear, 90 Bentley Avenue (LRW-47)** gable-end-oriented one-car red brick garage (1938)
114. **72 Bentley Avenue (Lawrence Lewis House; LRW-48):** Arts-and-Crafts-style cottage of buff brick, with a multiple gable roof system and lively irregular profile. A forward-projecting gabled bay on the south side of the facade incorporates the entry door which is round-arched in form. Open side porch on south side and modern wood deck with pergola is on north side. Fenestration flat-topped, with multi-light sash. Built for Lawrence Lewis, one of the four sons of Martin Lewis, operator of the Lewis Wholesale Grocery. (1940)
115. **rear, 72 Bentley Avenue (LRW-48):** Original 1-car brick-finished garage which stands west of the house with which it is associated [Resource No. 114]. (1940)
116. **---- Bentley Avenue (LRW-49):** Modern 1-story commercial-appearing building serving as the college bookstore for Southeastern Community College. (c. 1990) NC
117. **13 Hazard Road (LRW-50):** Modest vernacular cottage of one story with a laterally-oriented standing-seam metal roof which extends on the east side to shield the simple entry door. Exposed rafter tails under the eaves. Fenestration is flat-topped, 6/6, with simple surrounds. (c. 1920)
118. **Coca Cola Bottling Plant (LRW-52):** Regionally-distinctive building erected for use as the local bottling plant for Coca Cola. Built under the tenure of owner Dewey Polly, the local newspaper reported, "it will be one of the finest buildings yet to grace our town." A later account noted that the plant employed fifteen and that it was "a manufacturing plant of which our citizens can be proud." It was built by Italian master masons who had settled in

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- Whitesburg thirty years earlier, including members of the Palumbo, Romeo, Cotispodi, and Mongiardos families, led by John Palumbo. The Coca Cola Plant was their largest single commission. The building has been remodeled for office space by the local college, whose newer classroom building stands behind the subject building to the south, outside the district. (1941)
119. **35 Bentley Avenue (LRW-105):** This is an example of historic roadside architecture in Whitesburg, likely dating from the 1920s and erected at a time of significant growth in the community. The “filling station’s” operator’s house is located immediately to the south. The building is built of tile block; the main portion of the building is located on the north, with a stepped-back section on the south. The original bays have been sensitively in-filled with multi-light windows in the course of the building’s conversion to professional offices (c. 1920)
120. **45 Bentley Avenue (LRW-106):** Modest 1-story wood frame cottage clad in shiplap siding, with a hipped roof and a gable-roofed forward-projecting section on the north side of the facade. In the angle of the ell of the facade is a shed-roofed porch with wrought iron replacement supports and balustrade. Shed-roofed addition on south elevation, erected during the period of significance. This was the home of the operator of the “filling station” which stands immediately to the north (Resource No. 119). (c. 1925)
121. **65 Bentley Avenue (LRW-107):** 2-story flat-roofed commercial building finished in buff-colored brick, with three storefronts on the first story and a 5-bay upper facade penetrated by flat-topped 1/1 windows. Some alterations to the storefronts but maintaining traditional window-to-wall ratio. Modern structural awning extends across the facade and a long concrete block stoop extends along much of the facade, accessed by stairs from one end and a handicapped ramp on the other. Corbeled brickwork along roofline on the facade, along with a stepped parapet. (c. 1930)
122. **81 Bentley Avenue (LRW-108):** Modest 1-story wood frame vernacular cottage incorporates a gable-end-oriented facade with a shed-roofed porch extending across, supported by wood posts set on red brick piers. A short stone retaining wall extends along the front perimeter of the lot. (c. 1930)
123. **rear, 81 Bentley Avenue (LRW-108):** 2-bay gable-end oriented wood garage. (c. 1930)
124. **---- River Road (LRW-80):** Modestly-detailed vernacular commercial building built with its back to the Kentucky River, with display windows and a single door on the first story and

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four 1/1 windows on the upper facade. The only ornament is a band of basket-weave brick bonding above the storefront, set within two recessed rectangular corbeled panels. (c. 1930)

125. **Public Roadways:** The various public streets in the district are counted collectively as a single contributing site
126. **Stone Retaining Walls:** The various ashlar stone retaining walls, some of which define residential property lots and include entry portals; the Church Street and Hayes Avenue retaining walls are the largest of these (c. 1911 and after)

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8. Significance

The Whitesburg Historic District is locally significant under National Register Criterion A, for its reflection of the pattern of *commerce* in Letcher County and under Criterion C for *architecture*. The district's Criterion A significance for commerce is vested in its position as regional commercial center for this rural coal region of southeastern Kentucky throughout the period of significance, when the downtown included both specialty shops and general and department stores along Main Street. With respect to Criterion C, the district's significance is established by its Main Street which is lined with commercial architecture dating from the second decade of the twentieth century and after, reflecting the local building traditions of this community. The district's Criterion C significance is strengthened further by the presence in the neighborhoods adjacent to the downtown of residential architecture representative both of vernacular building traditions and more formally-derived design. The period of significance of the district begins c. 1897, the approximate date of construction of the earliest buildings in the district (the Judge Ira Fields House at 26 Pine Street; Resource No. 91; LRW-65) and ends in 1956, corresponding to the date of construction of the most recently-constructed of the district's historic buildings (14 Main West Street; Resource No. 51; LRW-99). Despite alterations to some buildings and scattered demolition, the district nonetheless reflects its overall historic appearance and as a strong concentration of locally-significant historic resources, the Whitesburg Historic District retains integrity of materials, setting, association, workmanship, design, and feeling.

The earliest settlement in Letcher County occurred about 1804 but because of the extremely rugged terrain along Pine Mountain, the area that would become Whitesburg remained desolate and only sparsely settled for much of the balance of the nineteenth century.² Letcher County became Kentucky's ninety-fifth county when it was created in 1842 from portions of Perry and Harlan Counties. The new political subdivision was named for Robert P. Letcher, who served as governor from 1840-1844. Several settlements, including Mayking, Indian Bottom, Ermine, and Colson vied for designation as county seat, as did Summit City, the name by which Whitesburg was first known. Summit City resident Stephen Hiram Hogg offered to give the new county ten acres if the seat of government were located there; he reserved from the donation his own house lot which was adjacent to the former Post Office (Resource No. 42) on present-day Main Street. Hogg's offer was accepted and in 1843 the name of the settlement was changed to Whitesburgh, honoring John Daugherty White, a state legislator in office at the time of the formation of the county. The first circuit court in Whitesburgh was convened in Hogg's house and Hogg himself became the first member of the Kentucky House of Representatives from Letcher County, serving from 1847 to 1849. The post office opened in 1843 under than name, Whitesburgh Court House. The Hogg acreage was surveyed and laid out into lots for a court house and jail and for building lots for commercial and residential development.

²Only neighboring Harlan County has higher elevations.

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It is not known when the "Court House" was dropped from the town's name, but in 1892 the "h" was dropped and the community has been known as Whitesburg from that time forward.

The county's first court house (Fig. 1) was erected on the site of the present court house in 1844. It served until 1899 when a substantial Romanesque Revival-style brick court house was erected (Fig. 2), towering over the one- and two-story residences and businesses which characterized the town. A WPA addition was constructed onto the 1899 court house and the entire building was razed in the 1960s to be replaced with a modern building (Fig. 3). In 1908 a stone jail (Fig. 4; not extant) was built behind the Court House, along Broadway.

The institutional maturity of the community is reflected in the establishment and growth of both secular and religious institutions. Presbyterians began to worship together in Whitesburg in 1891. Early in the twentieth century a church was built on Church Street (not extant) and in 1931 ground was broken for the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church on Broadway (Resource No. 65). The local Baptist congregation was organized in 1909 and met first in the court house, then on the second story of the Lewis Wholesale building, before erecting their own house of worship (See Fig. 6) near the time of the First World War.³ Methodists worshiped in a frame church on Main Street; when it burned in 1939 the congregation quickly erected a stone house of worship (Resource No. 39) on the same site.

A dearth of written history exists about Letcher County and Whitesburg in the nineteenth century. From all accounts, the community remained a small, rural, county seat throughout the nineteenth century. A 1922 retrospective in the local weekly newspaper noted that Whitesburg's original architecture was of log, including a two-story building on Main Street which contained a store on the first story and attorney James Fitzpatrick's law office on the second.⁴ The previous year, the newspaper reported that all but one of the community's pre-Civil War buildings had been razed.

The community grew slowly until the beginning of the second decade of the twentieth century when the Louisville and Nashville Railroad was built into Whitesburg. The railroad's expansion into the community came in the wake of development of the Letcher County coal fields, which was spurred by D. D. Fields, a Whitesburg mineral engineer and attorney. Fields (1853-1927) began life as an engineer and for more than fifty years was a local attorney and served as judge. At an early age he was employed by the

³When the First Baptist Church congregation built a new house of worship on Madison Street—outside the district—their former church (Resource No. 13) was remodeled into a furniture store near the end of the period of significance

⁴*Mountain Eagle*, April 6, 1922.

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Mineral Development Company of Philadelphia and induced them to explore the coal deposits in Letcher County. They became the first developer of the Letcher County coal fields.

The Louisville & Nashville Railroad had been established in 1850, when it was granted a charter by the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The line grew steadily over the next sixty years, becoming a major transportation artery and economic factor in the growth and prosperity of the state. According to railroad historian Charles B. Castner,

One of the L & N's most important expansions came early in the 1900s, when the railroad pushed its tracks deep into the coal fields surrounding Hazard and Harlan in eastern Kentucky. Acquisition in 1909 of two smaller lines and construction in 1911 and 1912 of more than 150 miles of track along the Cumberland River and the North Fork of the Kentucky River gave the L & N access to the landlocked bituminous coal riches of eastern Kentucky.⁵

The period of significance of the Whitesburg Historic District includes the 1900-1941 era categorized by L. Martin Perry as the "Golden Age of Coal Mining in Eastern Kentucky." During these decades the railroad, primarily the L & N but also including the Lexington and Eastern and the Baltimore and Ohio, forged their way into southeastern Kentucky. Writing in 1924, State Geologist Willard Rouse Jillson stated

Only during the last decade [1910-1919] has eastern Kentucky become a coal field of national importance. It is now a far-flung battleground of old traditions and new ideas. The old-time, quiet, picturesque mountain and hill land regions are rapidly becoming more and more restricted in area. Everywhere may be noted the advance of new railroad grades, the construction of new coal mining operations, and the growth of new industrial cities.⁶

A variety of coal camps grew up in the area, among them the settlements at Jenkins, Fleming and McRoberts.⁷ Whitesburg was never a coal camp in the sense of being a "company town." It was more of

⁵Charles B. Castner, "A Brief History of the Louisville & Nashville Railroad," Louisville and Nashville Railroad Historical Society website: <http://rrhistorical-2.com/lrhs/>

⁶Willard Rouse Jillson, **The Coal Industry in Kentucky**. (Frankfort: Kentucky Geological Survey, 1924. [quoted in Perry, p. 25.

⁷See L. Martin Perry, "Coal Company Towns in Eastern Kentucky, 1854-1941," (Frankfort: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1991). [draft MS]

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an "industrial city" as described above, with its fortunes inextricably linked to the ebb and flow of mining in Letcher County.

The L & N entered Letcher County in 1910 and reached Whitesburg in 1911, running along the south bank of the North Fork of the Kentucky River until turning north and entering the downtown, running up the center of Railroad Street until crossing a deck truss bridge spanning the river. This bridge (Resource No. 18; LRW-112) was the first in a series of structures and buildings erected by several families of immigrant Italian stone masons, whose influence in the community will be discussed in detail later.

A depot was erected (outside the district and not extant) and slowly the community began to grow as the coal reserves were tapped. Where Whitesburg had existed for decades as a settlement of modest log and frame buildings anchored by the Letcher County Court House, newer, more substantial commercial buildings were erected and banking institutions were established to cater to the town's new-found prosperity. Among these was the First National Bank of Whitesburg (Resource No. 44; LRW-6), which was chartered in 1913. In 1912, the Lewis Brothers erected a large grocery wholesale warehouse along Railroad Street (Resource No. 14; LRW-14; now 215 East Main Street). The Lewis Building has been converted for use as the Whitesburg City Hall. J. Plevis Lewis and Martin D. Lewis were coal developers as well, and ran their operation from this building. The year 1914 stands as a small "bubble" in the early post-railroad days of Whitesburg's prosperity. Among the earliest of the "second-generation" buildings are three commercial buildings—one beside the Court House and two diagonally across Main Street. W. E. Cook employed Whitesburg's Italian stone masons to build a sandstone building (Resource No. 46; LRW-2) containing his store on the first story and the Cook family apartment above. Next door, at the corner of Main Street and North Webb Avenue, the aforementioned attorney-entrepreneur Daniel D. Fields erected a 2-story red brick building at 127 West Main Street (Resource No. 81; LWR-3), and immediately east of the Court House merchant J. H. Frazier built a brick block at 178 Main Street (Resource No. 68; LWR-5) to house his general store.

Several hotels were built during these years as well, some of which are not extant. Among those which have survived is the Kentucky Hotel (Resource No. 32; LWR-31), a narrow, 3-story brick building at the corner of Main and Railroad (now West Main) Streets, with an angled corner addressing its corner location. The Adams Hotel at 294-298 Main Street (Resource No. 79; LWR-86; Fig. 6) was built two doors west of the river, also on Main Street. The largest of the hotels was the Daniel Boone at (Resource No. 69; LWR-7), a c. 1915 brick building two doors east of the Court House.

Beginning in the early 1920s, more of the original modest commercial buildings along Whitesburg's Main Street were replaced by brick business blocks containing specialty shops and department stores on the ground floors and offices and residential units above. While not architecturally pretentious, these brick buildings provided a feeling of permanence which Whitesburg had not previously enjoyed. With the

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construction of the \$25,000 Mullins Department Store in 1922, the *Mountain Eagle* weekly newspaper commented that “a solid block of buildings will extend from the river to the old Kentucky Hotel.”⁸ During this same period, Lewis Brothers also built a substantial addition to their wholesale grocery building, and J. A. Holbrook and John A. Webb built brick blocks at 252 and 214 Main Street (Resource Nos. 74 and 71; LWR-10 and LRW-8, respectively).

The Whitesburg Business Mens’ Club was established in 1922 and the Masonic Lodge, which had been chartered here in 1903, occupied the upper floor of a 1919 commercial block at 238 Main Street (Resource No. 73; LRW-9). Most street-paving began during the 1920s to replace the original dirt streets. During these same years, the local newspaper both chided the town’s entrepreneurs and became a promotional organ for the community. Writing of the commercial development along Main Street, in 1925 the *Mountain Eagle* suggested, “Many, it seems, are making mistakes in erecting two-story buildings in a town with a future as great as Whitesburg’s.”⁹

In a 1926 article touting the many positive aspects of the town, the *Mountain Eagle* noted, “You can live here one year on people’s hospitality, one year on 50¢, and the third on credit. Should you happen to die here, which looks irresponsible unless you have an accident, they will bury you for free.”¹⁰

Residential development occurred as well within the Whitesburg Historic District during the 1920s. The western end of West Main Street remained residential when newspaper editor N. M. Webb engaged master builder Hop Gibson to build a new stuccoed house with a broad wrap-around veranda (Fig. 7) in 1921.¹¹ The same year, grocery wholesaler Martin Lewis built a commodious Bungalow, also on West Main Street (Resource No. 60).

Coal remained the mainstay of the community throughout the balance of the period of significance, providing the leading source of employment for the community and for the area at large. Over the years, various companies operated mines in the immediate Whitesburg area including:

⁸*Mountain Eagle*, May 4, 1922.

⁹*Ibid.*, October 25, 1925.

¹⁰*Ibid.*, March 21, 1926.

¹¹*Ibid.*, August 12, September 26, 1921.

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Company Name	Years of Operation	Employees
Ace Coal Company	1923-1930	80
Elkhorn-Jellico Coal Company	1922-2950	180
Elkhorn Hazard Coal Company	1919-1924	50
Elkhorn and Jellico Coal Company	1919-1958	180
Sandlick Coal Company	1927-1953	145
Smoot Creek Coal Company	1917-1920	20
Speaks Brothers Coal Company	1927-1932	20 ¹²

Whitesburg remained a relatively strong and reasonably prosperous coal town throughout the balance of the period of significance which ends in 1956, and beyond into the 1960s and 1970s. Mining remains an important element in the economy of the area, although the downtown portion of the Whitesburg Historic District has suffered from commercial strip development at the periphery of the community, similar to countless other downtowns across America.

The Whitesburg Historic District claims additional significance for its irrefutable and close association with Harry M. Caudill, a local attorney who became a Kentucky state legislator and environmental activist, a nationally-known author, and an advocate for Appalachia.¹³ Harry Monroe Caudill (1922-1990) was the son of Cro Carr Caudill, a Whitesburg politician. After service in World War Two, Harry Caudill entered the University of Kentucky and graduated with a law degree in 1948. He returned to Whitesburg to open a practice and remained here for the rest of his life. He was elected to the Kentucky State Legislature and served from 1954-1960. He maintained his law office in several different buildings within the Whitesburg Historic District. These include the Daniel Boone Hotel (Resource No. 69), the W. E. Cook Building (Resource No. 46) and the *Mountain Eagle* newspaper office (Resource No. 66), wherein he occupied an office in the basement.

In 1963 Harry Caudill's **Night Comes to the Cumberlands** was published, which chronicled the poverty and exploitation of the southern Appalachians and won an immediate nationwide audience. His

¹²Kentucky Coal Heritage website: <http://www.coaleducation.org/coalhistory/index.htm>

¹³Since Caudill's **Night Comes to the Cumberlands** did not appear until 1963, Criterion B significance cannot be claimed for this district. However, Caudill maintained offices in several buildings in the district during the Period of Significance and the story of Whitesburg is incomplete without the story of Harry M. Caudill.

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work resulted in a massive infusion of Federal financial aid to the Appalachian states and is also credited with spurring the establishment of the Appalachian Regional Commission.

A recurring theme in many of Caudill's writings is

the historic underdevelopment of the Appalachian region (particularly his own home area of southeastern Kentucky). In several of his books, most prominently *Night Comes to the Cumberlands*, and many of his published articles, he probes the historical poverty of the region, which he attributes in large part to the rapacious policies of the coal mining industries active in the region. He notes that such interests most often had their headquarters not in Appalachia but in the Northeast or Midwest, and thus failed to properly reinvest their sizable profits in the Appalachian region. In his later years he became an active opponent of the rapidly growing practice of strip mining, which he believed was causing irreparable harm to the land and its people. He spoke out and published in many magazines about the subject. In recognition of his efforts as a legislator to improve the quality of Kentucky schools, and of his early leadership in natural-resource conservation, the University [of Kentucky] presented a Centennial Medallion to Mr. Caudill in 1965.¹⁴

Harry M. Caudill maintained his offices in the Whitesburg Historic District throughout his formative professional years. These years include his tenure as a state legislator, and the era of maturation of those philosophies which would shape his life, would bring him widespread recognition, and would aid in the forging of social change throughout the region.

With respect to Criterion C, the district contains examples of the styles of architecture popular during the period of significance along with a concentration of locally-significant although less formally-designed buildings dating from the early decades of the twentieth century, including several Bungalows representing domestic architecture from the decades between the world wars. Specific examples of buildings executed in particular styles are noted in Section 7.

The district's claim to meet Criterion C is strengthened significantly by the widespread presence in the district of the work of several immigrant Italian stone masons, who, about 1911 came to Whitesburg

¹⁴Internet website: <http://www.harrycaudill.com/about.htm>

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with the L & L Railroad and changed the face of the community forever.¹⁵ Giovanni Palumbo (1893-1954) was born in Sant'Andrea Apostolo dell'Ionio, in the Italian region of Calabria, near the "toe" of Italy. Palumbo's mother died in 1902, and the 9-year-old Giovanni was sent to live with relatives near Salerno, where he apprenticed as a stonecutter. At the age of sixteen he arrived in the United States, his fare to Beckley, West Virginia having been paid by the Consolidated Coal Company.¹⁶

Consolidated Coal embarked upon a joint venture with the L & N Railroad and Palumbo was put to work building stone bridge abutments in the coal fields of southern West Virginia. On one of the bridge crews, Palumbo met Alfonso Policetti, who was also from Sant'Andrea and in 1908, they were joined by Francesco and Domenico Mongiardo, Augusto Cotispodi, and Giuseppe Romeo.¹⁷ In 1911, as the L & N made its way into Whitesburg, the crew, by then led by Joe Palumbo, was assigned the task of building a railroad bridge across the North Fork of the Kentucky River (Resource No.18; LRW-112); it became the first in a series of projects in Whitesburg which would span the next forty years. Justine Richardson noted, "With this first bridge, they had already begun shaping their new world with the aesthetics of their old land."¹⁸

The local coal seams ended west of Whitesburg and while most of the workers moved on to new projects, Joe Palumbo and his cohorts stayed on to make their homes. They were responsible for virtually all of the stone foundations which exist on the vast majority of the buildings built in Whitesburg during the period, even at a time when newer products such as poured concrete and concrete block were finding favor elsewhere. In addition, they built commercial buildings, including the W. E. Cook Building (Resource No. 46; LRW-2) executed in stone and the Frazier Building (Resource No. 81; LRW-5), with a stone foundation and red brick walls also laid by the crew. John Palumbo's own house (Resource No. 4; LRW-15), begun in 1913 and not completed until 1924, was also the work of these master builders, as was the 1931 Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church (Resource No. 65; LRW-13), which was superintended by

¹⁵The fascinating story of these master masons was ably told by Whitesburg native Justine Richardson in her Senior Essay as an Art History major at Yale University. Much of the information on these craftsmen is taken from her "Mountain Masonry: Italians Build in Whitesburg, Kentucky, 1911-1952," a complete citation of which is in the Bibliography.

¹⁶Consolidated Coal became a major economic factor in Letcher County, beginning in 1912. They operated mines at Blackey, Burdine, Dalna, Dunham, Jenkins, and McRoberts.

¹⁷In the characteristic practice of the day, the names of all of these Italian immigrant were anglicized upon their arrival in the United States. Giovanni Palumbo became John Palumbo, Giuseppe Romeo became Joe Romeo, the surname Mongiardo became Majority, etc.

¹⁸Richardson, *Op. Cit.* p. 10.

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Joe Romeo. During the Depression, the Works Progress Administration projects funded the construction of a stone bridge over the North Fork of the Kentucky River, linking Texas Avenue in the Collins-Harvie Addition and Route 15; this 1936 bridge is outside of the nominated area. In addition to their foundation and building work, the crew, typically under the foremanship of John Palumbo, built all of the stone retaining walls which dot the cultural landscape of the historic district and add a heightened visual effect to the town. These range from the massive wall holding back Church Street to smaller retaining walls defining the front property lines of house lots throughout the community.

The district's Criterion C claim is strengthened further by the presence in the district of the work of other local master builders, a regionally-prominent architect, and a public-sector architect from the 1930s. Hop Gibson and Wilson "Wilsie" Franklin were local builders in Whitesburg during the early decades of the twentieth century and built many homes and commercial and institutional buildings throughout the area. Within the district, Gibson's work includes the Lewis Wholesale Grocery Building, the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church and the John Palumbo House, the latter two of which he served as their carpenter. Wilson Franklin built the 1921 house on West Main Street for newspaper editor N. M. Webb.

Architects were far from plentiful in the first half of the twentieth century in rural southeastern Kentucky. D. E. Perkins had a practice in nearby Harlan. Within the Whitesburg Historic District, he designed the Whitesburg City Hall at 41 North Webb Avenue, the Quillen Drug Store at 22 East Main Street, and the Georgian Revival-style Coy Holstein House at 487 Hayes Avenue, all dating from 1948 (Resource Nos. 83, 26, and 111; LRW-56, LRW-26, and LRW-79, respectively).

With the advent of the Great Depression and the PWA, Whitesburg received a new post office, designed by U. S. Treasury Supervising Architect Louis A. Simon, assisted by Neal Melick. Simon was responsible for more than two dozen federal buildings of varying scale, including federal court houses, post offices large and small, and several border crossing facilities.

Viewing the Whitesburg Historic District in the context of other similar resources, some comparisons can be made but in other instances this district stands alone. At the time of preparation of this nomination, the C. B. Caudill Store (NR 2004) was Letcher County's only other National Register listed-property. Nearby historic districts include several in Pikeville, the county seat of neighboring Pike County approximately thirty miles north of Whitesburg. These districts are associated with the Pikeville Multiple Resource Area (NR 1984) and include a far more pretentious downtown district than Whitesburg's as well as residential districts exhibiting a significantly more sophisticated level of design. The Hatfield-McCoy Feud Historic District (NR 1976) consists of sites associated specifically with this legendary mountain family feud. Also in Pike County, the Stone Historic District (NR 2004) includes a series of coal camp company houses and the individually-listed Fordson Coal Company Building, built during auto maker Henry Ford's years of activity in the southeastern Kentucky coal fields. Whitesburg's architecture is less formally-designed than are

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the Pikeville districts, but none of the other listed districts shares the legacy left by Whitesburg's Italian immigrant stone masons.

Summarizing, the Whitesburg Historic District meets the National Register Criteria for Evaluation under Criterion A as a historic regional commercial center in a rural Kentucky county seat. Under Criterion C, its significance is vested in its aforementioned position as a rural southeastern Kentucky coal country county seat containing a concentration of primarily vernacular commercial, domestic, and institutional architecture, historic church buildings, some twentieth-century Bungalows, and a Sears-Roebuck mail order house. In addition, its Criterion C significance derives from the distinctive collection of buildings, walls, foundations, and bridge abutments erected by several families of Italian immigrant stone masons between 1911 and the 1950s.

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10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundaries for this district are depicted on the scaled map, included in this documentation submittal, labeled "Whitesburg Historic District." The dimensions of this area were derived from two segments of maps from the Property Valuation Administrator's Office of Letcher County, which are included in the nomination documents for the historic district at the State Historic Preservation Office.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the nominated tract were drawn to incorporate that concentration of historic buildings within the city of Whitesburg which includes the central business district and those institutional buildings and residences immediately adjacent thereto. The North Fork of the Kentucky River forms a natural boundary for portions of the district. The lands immediately outside the boundaries contain completely residential areas, newer construction, suburban strip development, and/or limited access highways.

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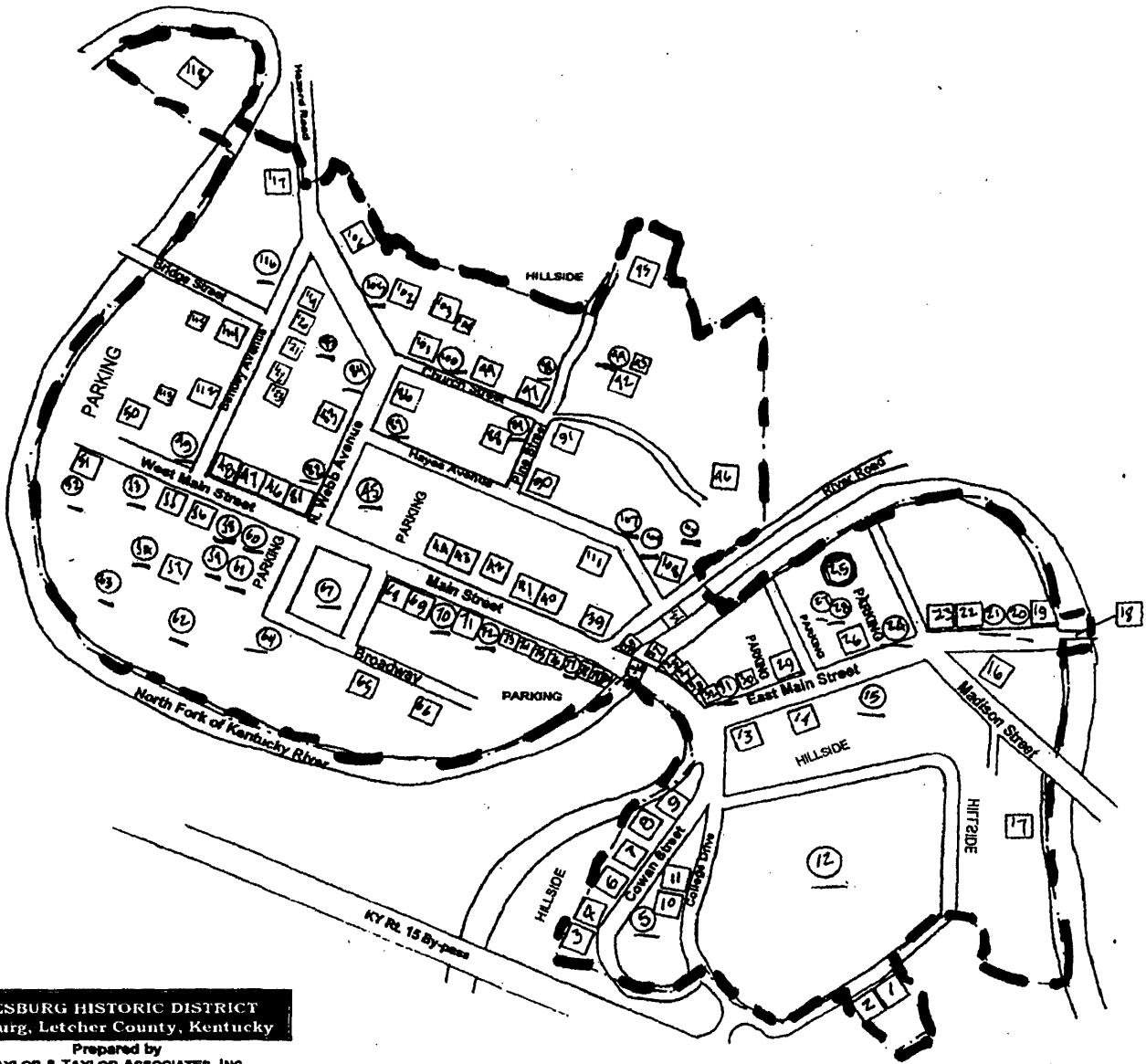
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WHITESBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT
Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky

Prepared by
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814-849-4900
January, 2006

DISTRICT MAP

Legend:

District Boundary: ————

Numbers correspond to the Resource Inventory prepared in conjunction with the National Register documents. All resources are contributing unless their numbers are encircled, indicating that they are non-contributing features within the context of the district.

⊗ = Non contributing

⊠ = Contributing



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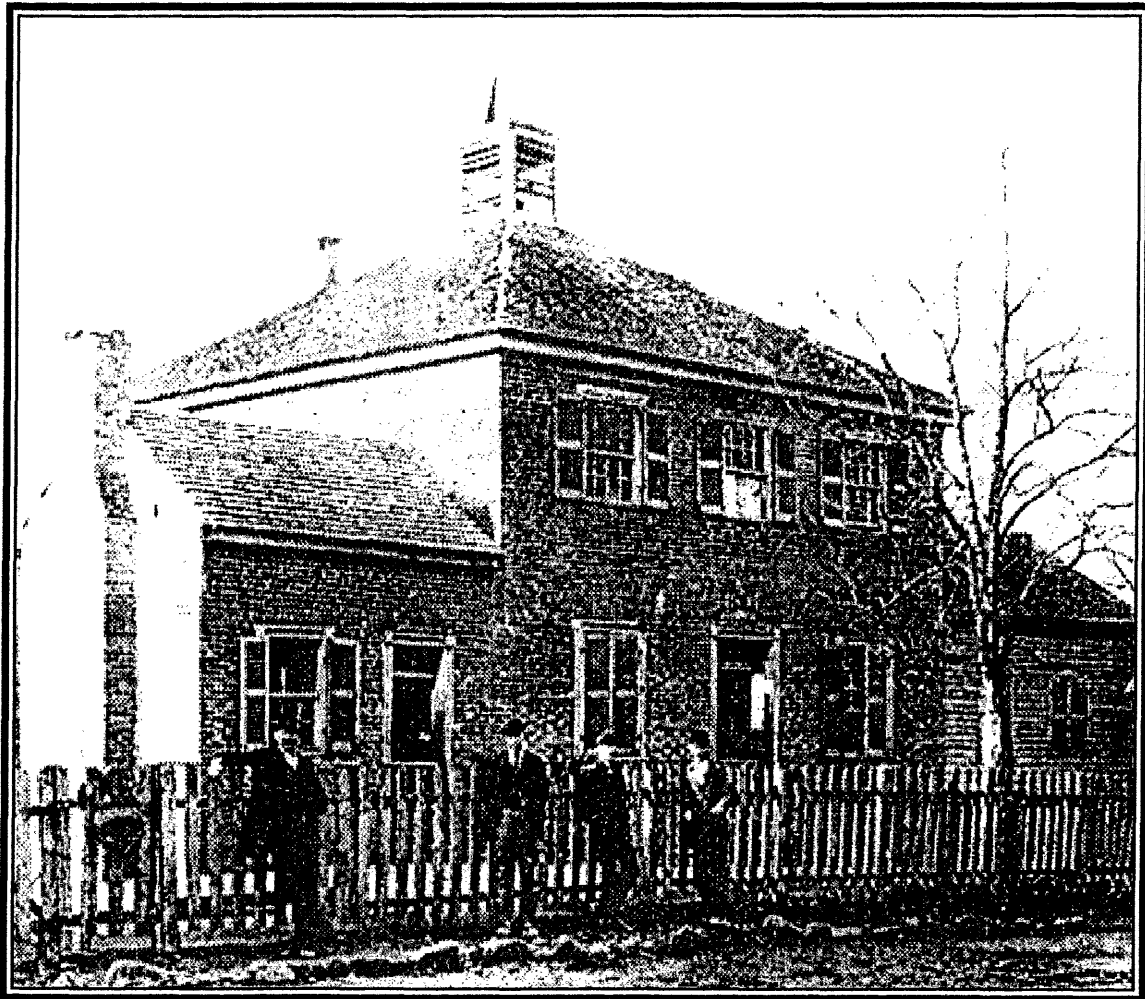


Fig. 1 The 1844 Letcher County Court House, shown above in a late nineteenth-century view, served the county for more than a half-century.

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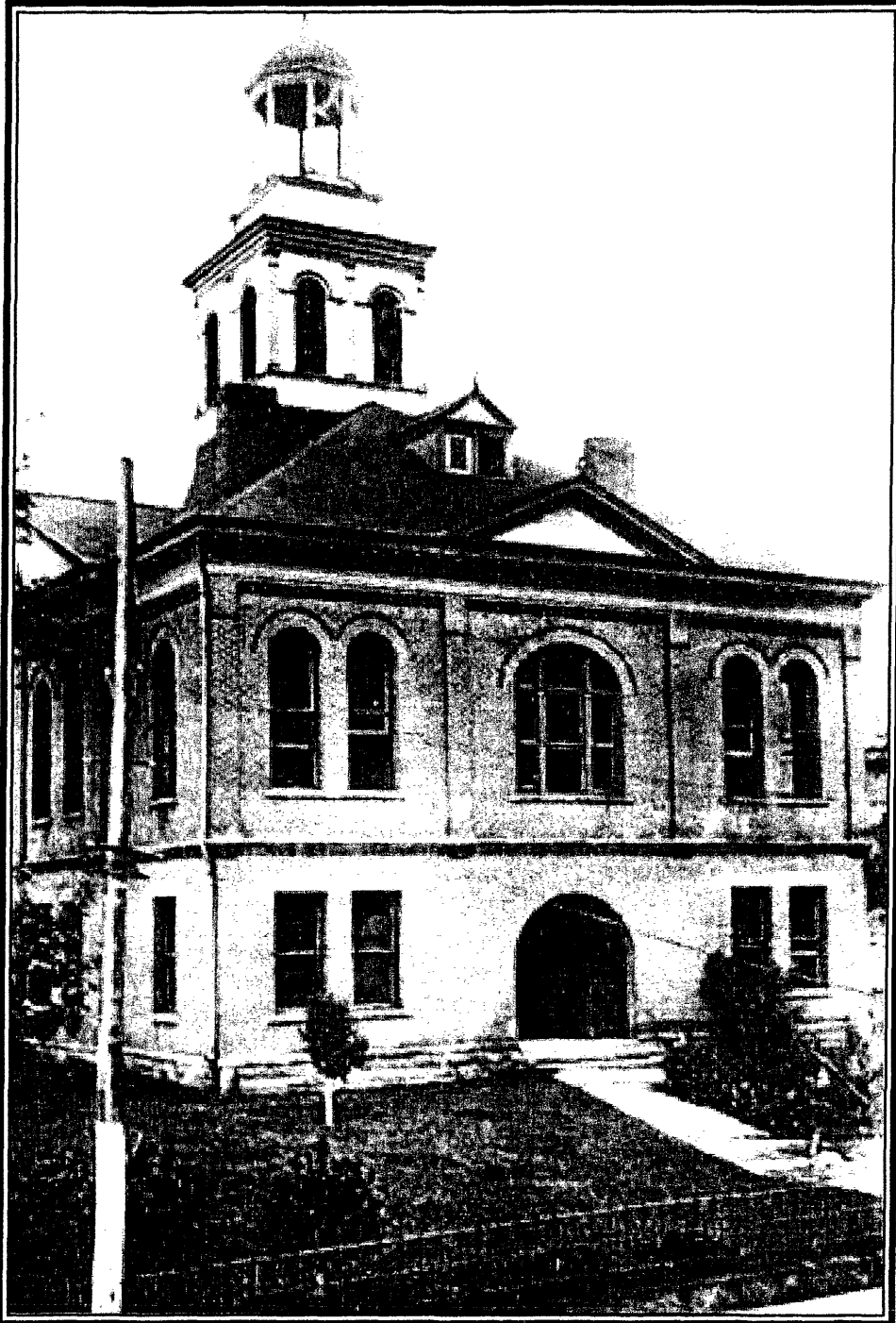


Fig. 2 In 1898, a new Romanesque Revival-style court house was erected. Shown above, it was in use throughout the balance of the period of significance. It was expanded in the 1930s as a WPA project (see following page) and was replaced in the 1960s (See Fig. 4)

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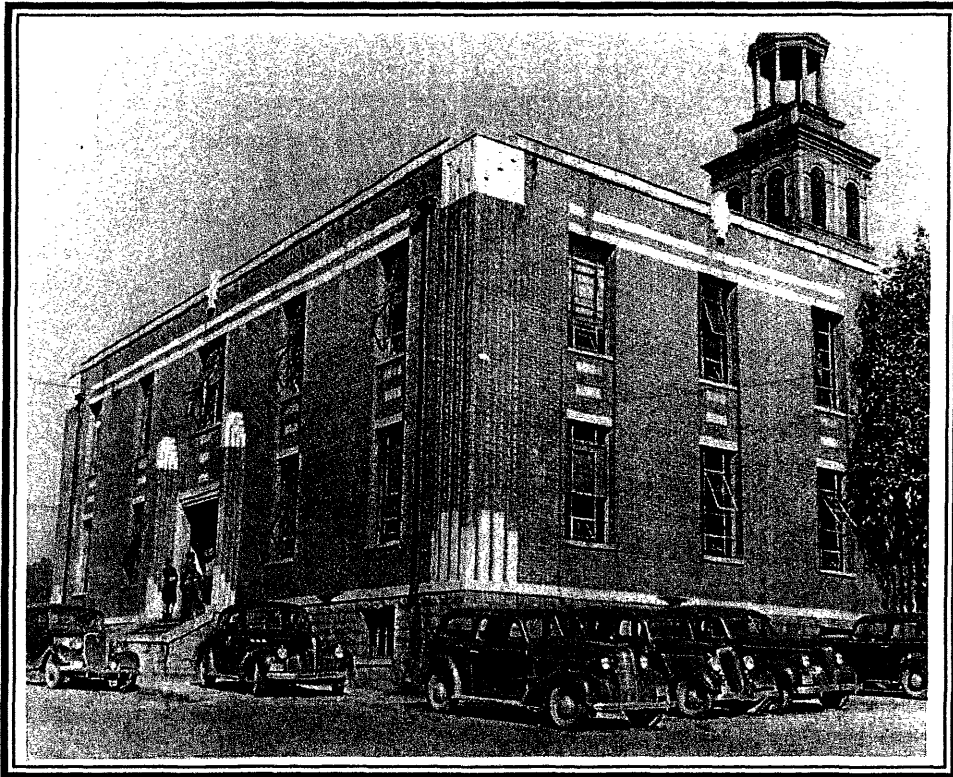


Fig. 3 This Art Deco-style addition was built onto the Court House in 1935; the entire building was razed and replaced by the building shown on the following page.

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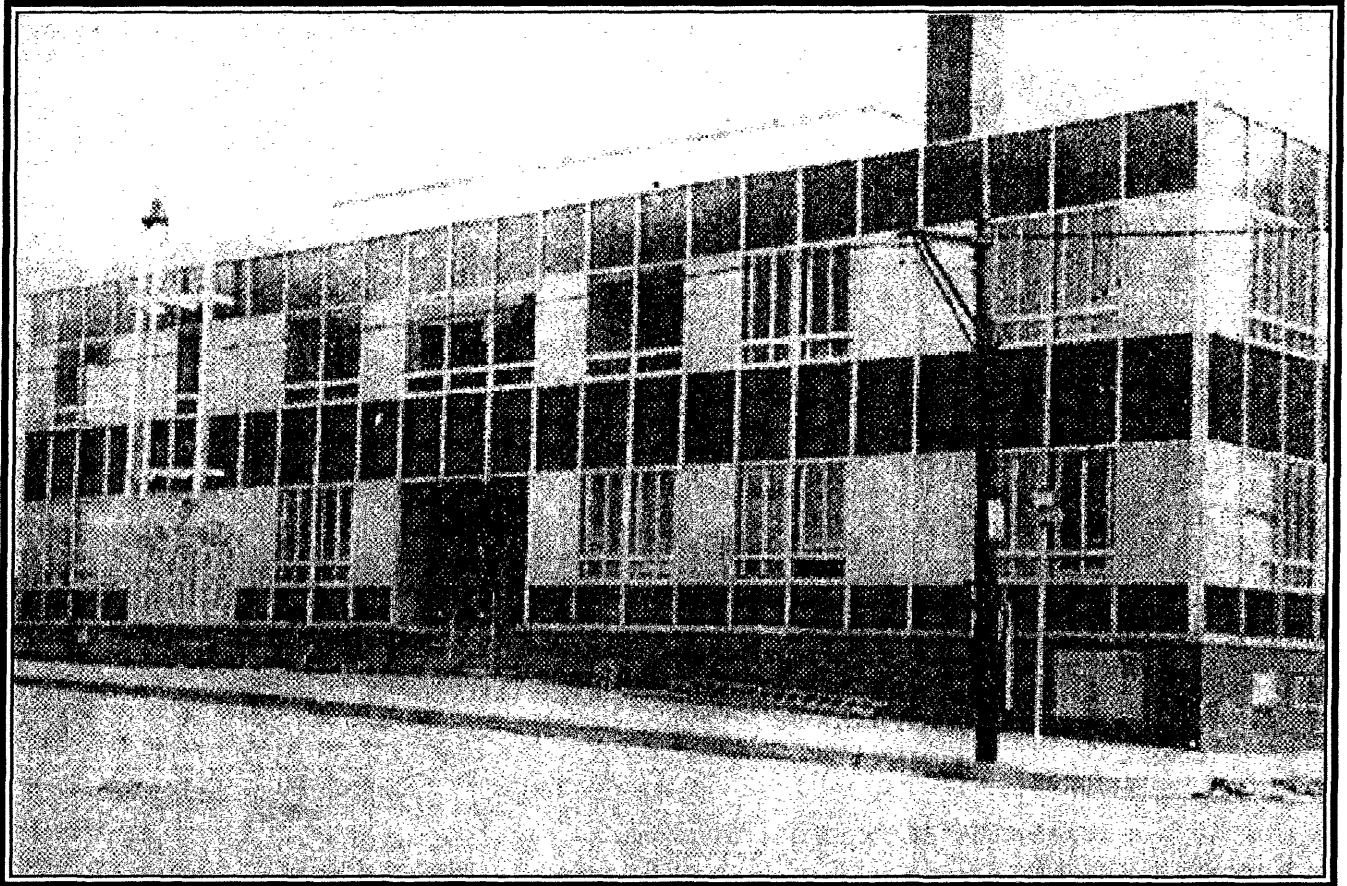


Fig. 4 The 1898-1935 Court House shown in Figs. 2 and 3 was re-placed in 1964 with the glass and enamel panel-finished building shown above, which itself was radically remodeled in 2000.

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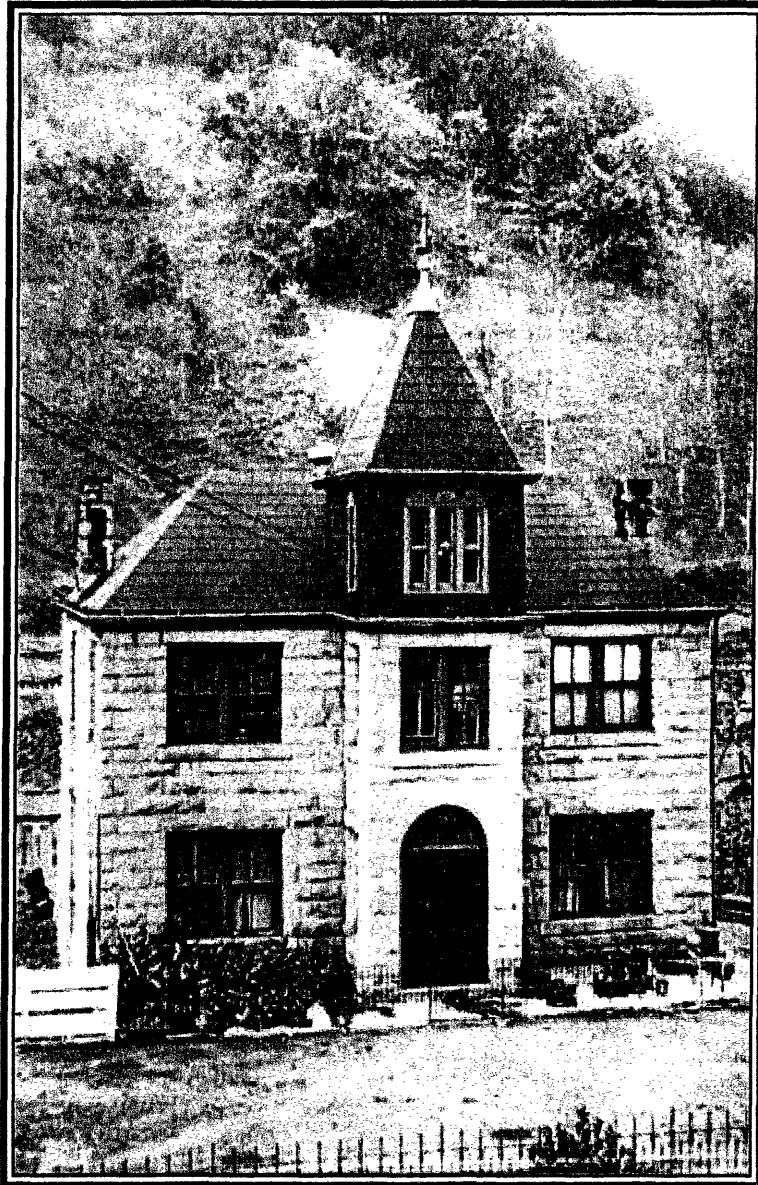


Fig. 5 The 1908 county jail stood behind the court house until it was demolished in the 1960s.

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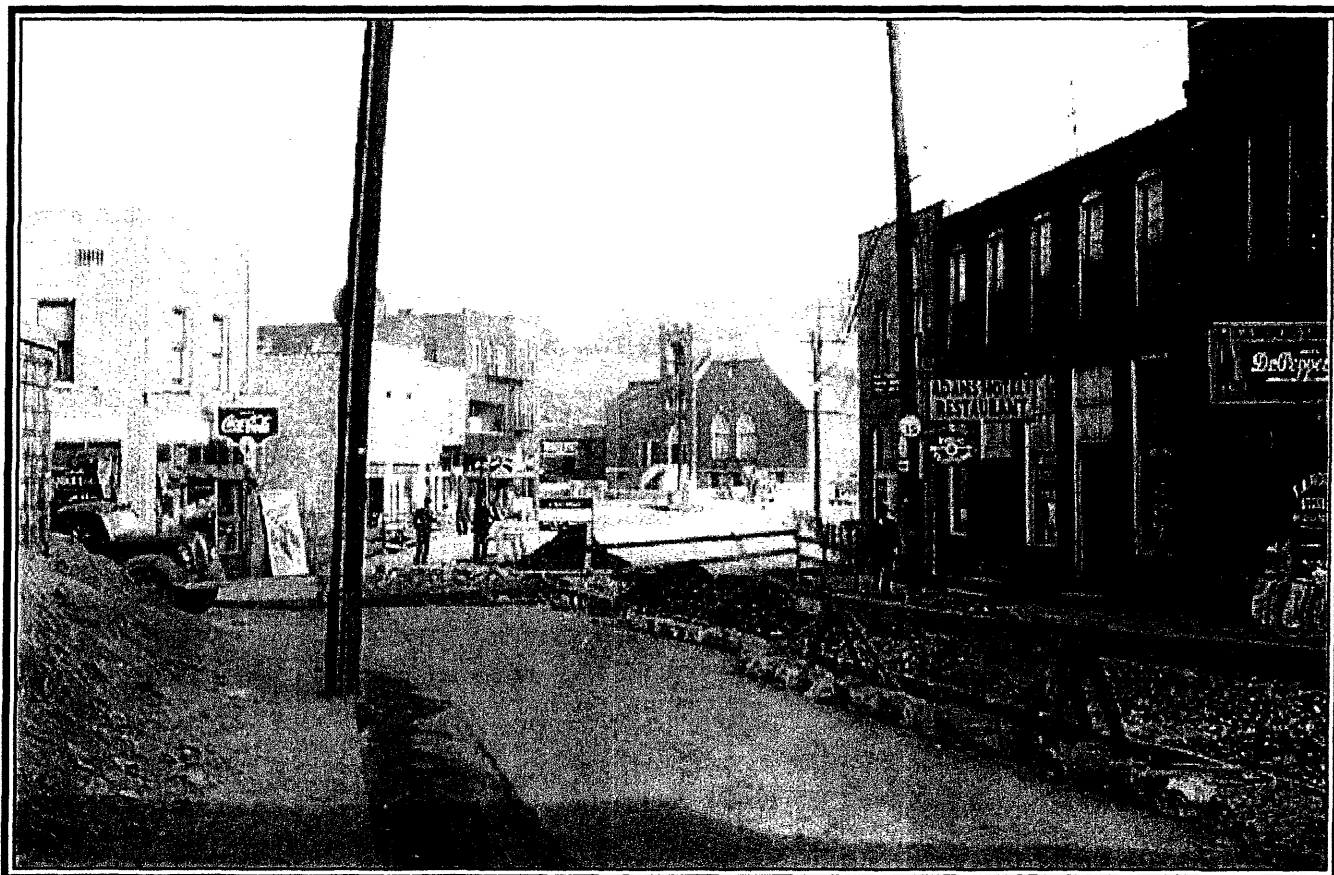


Fig. 6 This photo of the construction of the Main Street Bridge also shows the historic character of the downtown by the early 1940s. The original Baptist Church can be seen in the distance, at the intersection of Main Street and then-Railroad Street (now East Main Street) [Goodman Paxton Collection, University of Kentucky]

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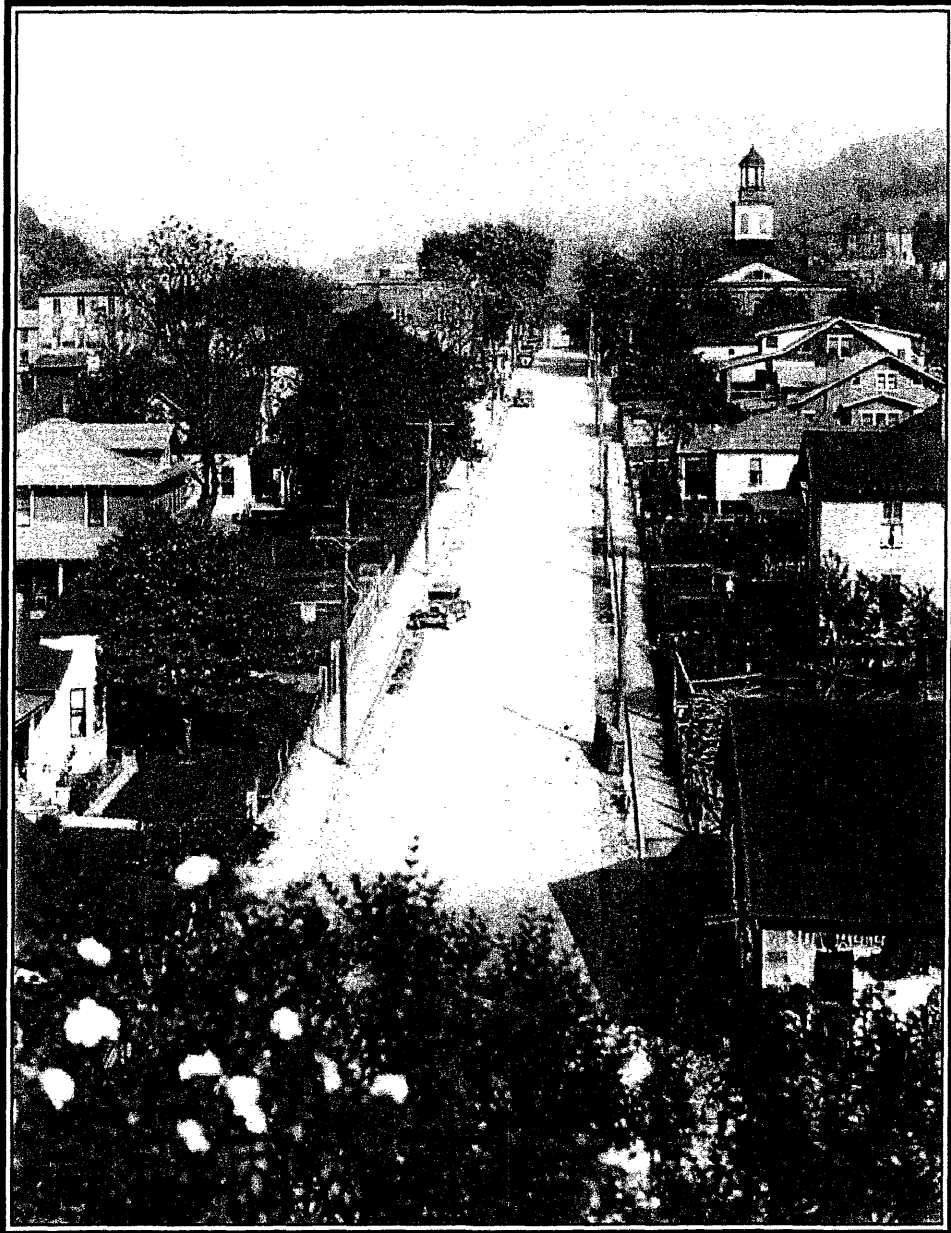


Fig. 7 Taken from Fields Cliff across the river from the downtown, this photo looks east along West Main Street. Newspaper editor N. M. Webb's 1921 house with the veranda appears near the lower left corner and the Court House is shown on the upper right. [Goodman Paxton Collection, University of Kentucky]

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Photography Log

All Photographs:

Whitesburg Historic District

Letcher County, KY

David L. Taylor, 2005

Kentucky Heritage Council, Frankfort, KY

1. Streetscape, East Main Street, north side, looking west toward Main Street
2. Streetscape, looking east across Main Street from outside the district, with the Kentucky Hotel (Resource No. 32) on the left corner
3. Kentucky Hotel, facade, looking northeast
4. Streetscape, Main Street, looking west from East Main Street, with the Kentucky Hotel (Resource No. 32) on the right
5. Streetscape, Main Street at River Road, looking west, with the Whitesburg Methodist Church (Resource No. 39) at right
6. East elevation, 304 Main Street (Resource No. 80), looking west from Main Street Bridge, showing characteristic stone foundations built by immigrant Italian stone masons
7. Whitesburg Methodist Church (Resource No. 39), southeast perspective, including view of stone retaining wall
8. Streetscape, south side Main Street looking west with 304 Main Street (Resource No. 80) in foreground
9. Streetscape, south side Main Street, looking east with Masonic Lodge Building (with Western Auto sign) followed by non-contributing Caudill Memorial Library (Resource No. 72) and Daniel Boone Hotel (Resource No. 69) in background)
10. U. S. Post Office (Resource No. 42), facade, looking north)

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11. Intersection Main Street and North Webb Avenue, with the Fields Building (Resource No. 81) in foreground, looking west
12. W. E. Cook Building (Resource No. 46), facade, looking north
13. N. M. Webb House, 33 West Main Street (Resource No. 50), facade, looking north
14. Lawrence Lewis House, 72 Bentley Avenue (Resource No. 114), typical of those built in the district in the later 1930s-early 1940s, facade, looking west
15. Coca Cola Bottling Plant (Resource No. 118), facade, looking south
16. Church Street Retaining Wall, looking north from Bentley Avenue
17. Retaining wall with entry portal at Ira Fields House (Resource No. 91), looking northeast
18. Bungalow at 104 Church Street (Resource No. 97), looking northwest, characteristic of Craftsman-style Bungalows built in the district and including stone retaining wall with cast iron cresting.
19. Stone retaining wall dated 1931, and house at 6 Hayes Avenue (Resource No. 108)
20. Lewis Wholesale Grocery Building (now Whitesburg City Hall), East Main Street, facade, looking southeast
21. Daniel Boone Hotel (Resource No. 69), facade, looking southwest
22. Frazier Building (Resource No. 69), facade, looking southwest
23. Streetscape, West Main Street, looking east from Bentley Avenue toward N. Webb Avenue
24. Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church, looking southwest
25. Main Street Bridge (Resource No. 36), showing stone abutments cut and set by Italian stone mason, looking northeast, with Tom John Building (Resource No. 38) on left and Alene Theater Building (Resource No. 35) on left.
26. John Palumbo House, 82 Cowan Street (Resource No. 4)