

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

1. Name of Property VALLEY SUPPLY COMPANY

historic name: Baldwin-Chandlee Supply Company/Valley Supply Company
other name/site number: Valley Supply Company

2. Location

street & number: 11th and Railroad Streets not for publication: N/A
city/town: Elkins vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Randolph code: 083 zip code: 26241

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Pierce 10/8/98
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____ _____ _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

LATE 19th and EARLY 20th REVIVALS:
Commercial Style

foundation: Concrete
walls: Brick
roof: Rubber Membrane

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.

B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

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

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Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Commerce
Architecture

Period of Significance

1905-1947

Significant Dates

1905
1924

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Whiteman, T.E.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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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: Owner, Pat Lafayette, Elkins, WV

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Roughly one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

17 599355 4308500 ELKINS Quad Map
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheets.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheets.)

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11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Pat Lafayette, with
Katherine M. Jourdan

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: June 25, 1998

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

Telephone: 304/558-0220

City or Town: Charleston State: WV

Zip: 25305-0300

Property Owner

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

Name: Pat Lafayette

Street & Number: P.O. Box 1428 Telephone: 304/636-4015

City or Town: Elkins

State: WV

Zip: 26241

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The Valley Supply Company is located on the edge of downtown at the northwest corner of 11th and Railroad Ave. This is a commercial/industrial area which had ready access to rail transportation.

The two story, 12 bay brick building has three sections across the front facade with the center section slightly recessed. Except for the first floor of the older section, which has 1/1 double-hung sash windows, there are paired 6/6 double-hung sash segmental arched windows with brick voussoirs and rough limestone sills. Under each paired window on the ground level is a metal grate with a gothic arch design. The window openings on the 11th Street side have been bricked-in.

The first section of the building was built on the corner in 1905 with 6,000 square feet. The first floor has been altered to reflect the later sections, when display windows for the dealership were removed. The center and west section were constructed in 1923, and there is an inscription on a limestone cornerstone which reads: "BALDWIN SUPPLY/ COMPANY/ ESTABLISHED/ 1905/ ERECTED/ 1923." The center section is inset with two center garage bays with wood panels, and paired windows to each side. The rear of the center section has a shed rolled asphalt roof.

The foundation of the building is concrete, and there is a limestone stringcourse between the first and second floor, and as a watertable. The roof line has corbeled brick with an imitation of brackets. A parapet roof edge has "VALLEY SUPPLY CO." painted in capital letters on the front, sides and rear.

To the far west edge is a c. 1950 L-shape addition with three wood panel garage doors, and wooden corner posts and metal facade. This sections serves as a loading dock for shipping.

The interior of the warehouse has wooden floors and post and beam construction. Some timbers measure up to 12 x 12 inches. The interior walls of the older 1905 section still have the original windows in place. A brick support wall also divides the center and side sections of the 1923 addition. In the packaging and warehouse section are the older wooden shelves and bins which span from floor to ceiling. Historic machinery in the building includes the early Warner Manufacturing Company freight elevator from the first half of the 20th century. A large pot-bellied stove made in Indianapolis still sits in the packaging room.

The Baldwin or Valley Supply Company, is an excellent commercial building and warehouse from the early twentieth century. The early owners took some care to have the later 1923 addition blend with the earlier architecture. It is believed that this addition was built by local builder T.E. Whiteman who worked in Elkins in the 1920s.

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The Valley Supply Company is significant under Criteria A for Commerce during the period of 1905 to 1948, and under Criteria C for Architecture for its fine commercial facade.

Erected in 1905 by William D. Baldwin and James R. Chandlee of Baltimore, Maryland, the business first opened under the name of Baldwin-Chandlee Supply Company on January 1st, 1906. The company supplied lumber, mill, mining and railroad industries with heavy equipment and hardware. Located along railroad tracks it was easy to receive and ship goods. Some of their stock included the following companies: Knight Mfg. Co., saw mills; Nagle Engine & Boiler Works, Eclipse Wood Pulley Co., Berlin, PA; J. H. Billington & Co., Philadelphia, leather belting; Gutta Percha Rubber Co., NYC, rubber belting and rubber goods; Warren Axe and Tool Co., Warren, PA, lumberman's goods; Simonds Mfg. Co., Fitchburg, MA, cross cut saws.

Mr. Chandlee withdrew from the firm about 1915, and the name was shortened to Baldwin Supply Company. Mr. Baldwin moved to Charleston in 1917 to open a branch store, and Walter Fitzwater headed the Elkins store. The company expanded with the new addition in 1923 which more than doubled its warehouse space and provided loading facilities along Railroad Street. Local builder, T.E. Whiteman constructed this addition. The business was divided in 1924, with the Charleston store retaining the Baldwin name, while the Elkins store incorporated under the name Valley Supply Company. Mr. Walter N. Fitzwater was president and general manager, with Marie Keller, John Wallace, Merritt Wilson and M.B. Rohrbough as some of the directors.

Under Walter Fitzwater and his brother J.H. "Mike" Fitzwater, who succeeded to the presidency of the company in the 1940s, the wholesale hardware business continued to prosper and grow. Valley Supply operated several auxiliary businesses such as a blacksmith shop, leather shop, and the first floor of the older section housed a Buick dealership. This caused the original 6/6 sash windows to be removed for display windows. Later these were removed and the present 1/1 sash were installed.

By the fiftieth anniversary in 1955, the company had thirty-six employees and a territory of fifteen counties and part of Maryland. Seven trucks and a tractor-trailer hauled merchandise from factories and made deliveries to customers. Additional space was added along the west side with another loading dock. Rail service has faded with truck transportation being favored. Management changed in the 1970s with a new general manager, John Rector. Since 1984, Patrick C. Lafayette has been the general manager with the business currently supplying plumbing, heating, industrial contracting, sewer, stove, janitorial, paint, electrical, and tools.

The company still has stockholders and a Board of Directors, whose management dates back to 1924, and there are 49 employees including 8 outside territory managers and locations in Elkins and Clarksburg, WV.

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This commercial and industrial supply business served an area of West Virginia during the early 1920s when supplies were needed for nearby mine and lumber companies. As these markets collapsed with the removal of the natural resources, the company moved into supplying needed plumbing and equipment supplies. The brick commercial building expanded during its growth periods with attention to architectural details along the facades such as the segmental arched windows, stringcourses and parapet. The interior is relatively unchanged with wooden floors, and post and beam construction.

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Bibliography

RANDOLPH COUNTY, WV, HISTORY OF FAMILIES. Randolph County History Book
Committee: Don Mills, Inc.

Rice, Donald L. THE ELKINS CENTENNIAL ALBUM 1890-1990. ELkins, WV: Randolph
County Historical Society, 1990.

"Baldwin-Chandlee Supply Co.". INTER-MOUNTAIN Newspaper, November 1906.

"Fiftieth Anniversary, Valley Supply Company, Inc. Wholesale Hardwars." Advertisement, 1995.

WV Historic Property Inventory Form, Elkins Bypass Project, No. 100, by Allison Rachleff, CHRS,
Inc., North Wales, PA, December 1995.

Interviews by Pat Lafayette, May 1998, with:

Hugh Caplinger, former company president and 40+ years retired Valley Supply employee.

Bill Barnard, former plumbing buyer and long term retired Valley Supply employee.

Delano Chewning, former plumbing buyer and long term retired Valley Supply employee.

(NPS Form 10-900)

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Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the NE corner of the intersection of 11th and Railroad Avenue, and running west along the edge of 11th Street, approximately 180 feet to the railroad tracks; thence with the tracks running approximately 250 feet north to the property line; thence turning east and running with the property line approximately 180 feet to Railroad Avenue; thence with the west side of Railroad Avenue running south approximately 250 feet to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the building and the rear yard associated with the rail loading facilities.

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Name of Property: Valley Supply Company
 11th and Railroad Avenue
 Elkins, WV
 Randolph County

Photographer: Katherine M. Jourdan

Date: June 25, 1998

Location of Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV

- Photo 1 Front facade, Railroad Avenue
 Camera looking

- Photo 2 Front facade, 1905 Section
 Camera looking

- Photo 3 Side elevation, 11th Avenue
 Camera looking

- Photo 4 Rear elevation, railroad tracks
 Camera looking

- Photo 5 Loading Dock, front facade, 1950s addition
 Camera looking

- Photo 6 Cornerstone, front facade
 Camera looking

- Photo 7 Warehouse interior
 Camera looking