

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Barboursville Historic District

other names/site number Village of Barboursville

2. Location

street & number Multiple Addresses

☐ not for publication

city or town Barboursville

☐ vicinity

state WV

code

WV

county

Cabell

code

011

zip code

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 for 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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

- ☐ 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:) _____

Barboursville Historic District
Name of Property

Cabell, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	20	1
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site		
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		
			buildings
			sites
			structures
			objects
		20	1
			Total
Name of related multiple property listing		Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register	
N/A		N/A	

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions	Current Functions
COMMERCE/business, professional, financial institution, restaurant, specialty store	COMMERCE/business, professional, financial institution, restaurant, specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification	Materials
LATE 19 th AND 20 th CENTURY REVIVALS/Classical Revival	foundation BRICK, CONCRETE
LATE 19 TH AND 20 TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Commercial Style	walls BRICK, STUCCO, VINYL, WOOD, STONE
	roof ASPHALT
	other WOOD; CONCRETE; STONE; METAL

Narrative Description
See Continuation Sheets

Barboursville Historic District
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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- ☒ **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.

Criteria Considerations

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B.** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

Areas of Significance

COMMERCE

COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1854-c.1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance

See Continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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: _____

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10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References: Barboursville Quad

1	<u>17</u>	<u>386943</u>	<u>4251820</u>			
	Zone	Easting	Northing			

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>Aubrey Von Lindern, Intern</u>				
organization	<u>WV SHPO</u>	date	<u>July 2008</u>		
street & number	<u>1900 Kanawha Blvd. East</u>	telephone	<u>304-558-0240</u>		
city or town	<u>Charleston</u>	state	<u>WV</u>	zip code	<u>25305</u>

Property Owner

name	<u>Multiple Property Owners</u>				
street & number		telephone			
city or town		state		zip code	

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LOCATION and SETTING

The City of Barboursville is situated along the Guyandotte River and near the mouth of the Mud River in the southwest portion of the state and is included in the Greater Ohio River Valley. Its location is important to the town's development as an early agricultural community and later as a commercial and transportation center. Barboursville today expands well beyond the boundaries of the original settlement and the one time county seat of Cabell County has become a bedroom community to the larger city of Huntington, which is located just twelve miles to the west. Despite a change in its identity, Barboursville's historic district has maintained a sense of history relating to its varied past. Although the City of Barboursville includes a large area with residential, education and industry related districts the focus of the nomination will include approximately a two-block radius commonly referred to as the village or the commercial district. The historic district is laid out in a grid pattern with Central Avenue and Water and Main Streets as the principal commercial arteries. Central Avenue and Water Street are parallel to one another and both intersect with Main Street. The pattern is the same as laid out on a map of Barboursville in 1814. These three streets encompass the main area of commerce in Barboursville during the period of significance.

The district is comprised of 20 buildings with 17 contributing to the historic integrity of the village. The village contains several good examples of late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture along its main thoroughfares. The buildings within the district exhibit a definite cohesiveness in style, massing and layout. Most of the resources are two part commercial block buildings with very little detailing except for decorative cornice work indicative of styles popular in the late 1800s and the early 1900s. Main Street and Central Avenue today are reminiscent of what the district looked like during the period of significance and contain the densest population of contributing buildings. In 1854 the district contained mostly frame buildings with only one or two buildings being constructed of brick. One of those brick buildings still remains today and sits on the corner of Central and Main streets. None of the frame buildings exist because as the century progressed, fire prevention came to the forefront and it was more prudent to build in brick. Today several brick commercial buildings still exist from the 1870s and although some have been clad in stucco or painted their contribution to the district has not diminished. During the early 20th century larger buildings were built along the district and housed not only the shop on the first story but housed office space for doctors, lawyers and other offices in the upper stories.

Changing times in Barboursville prompted business owners to make changes to their buildings. Many of the contributing buildings have undergone extensive alterations on their first story front facades. This is the case for many buildings in any downtown area. As the needs of the public change and styles come in and out of fashion the owners of such buildings find it necessary to give their shop front a new look in order to attract customers. In Barboursville this has definitely been the case, however the second story front facades have remained untouched on most of the buildings and their overall massing has not changed therefore leaving their historic footprint intact.

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INDIVIDUAL DESCRIPTIONS

Water Street

1) 615 Water Street

c.1925

contributing

First United Methodist Church Parsonage

Two-story, two bay brick home with a hipped roof and wide overhanging eaves. Although the style of the home cannot be distinguished, its form can be categorized as an American foursquare. There are hipped dormers on both the front and south elevations and the front façade features a one-story porch with a hipped roof. Three substantial brick piers and porch wall, both capped with rough faced stone support the porch. All windows are one-over-one sash, double hung with wooden casements. There are three windows on the first story of the front facade, and a glazed and paneled door. The second story front façade has two one-over-one metal windows. There is also a rear modern addition, faced with siding and new windows.

Main Street

2) 614 Main Street

1924

contributing

First United Methodist Church

The church has a front gable roof with vinyl tympanum and wide vinyl entablature. There is an octagonal wood and metal steeple. Brick pilasters, capped with concrete, paired at the corners, and central pilasters flank the entrance. Tuscan wooden columns support the front gabled porch. The first story has a double metal door with a concrete surround featuring scroll-shaped consoles and decorative crown. There is a central stained glass window on the second story flanked by two sets of coupled arched ecclesiastical stained glass windows. Each of the paired windows sits below a concrete panel and brick arched surround. All windows have concrete sills. The front gabled portico, columns and steeple were added in the 1960s.

3) 626-628 Main Street

c. 1926

contributing

Wysongs Drug Store and the Chevrolet Agency
(Stuff N' Such and Vacant)

This is a two story, three bay brick traditional two part commercial building with a flat roof. The first story of the main elevation features three full story windows, one central door, and two doors adjacent to the windows. There is a central door with a wooden pediment above and is flanked by fluted pilasters which provides access to the second story. On each side of the central door are separate retail spaces. The shop front located at the west end of the building has three bays, two large windows with metal sashes that flank a metal door. On the east end of the building there is more traditional shop front with a recessed door and windows on each side that begin as flush with the façade but angle inward towards the entryway. Each bay of the first story has a brick soldier course lintel and concrete sill. The original windows appear to have been replaced, with the more recent windows. Originally each window was had a transom above which has now been replaced with signage for the current function of each space. The second story features four paired windows, double hung with one over one sashes. The sills and lintels are rough faced stone. The first story of the west

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elevation has three deeply inset windows, double hung with one over one sashes, as well as rough faced stone sills and lintels. The window closest to the main elevation features two single panes divided by a vertical metal sash. The windows of the second story repeat the second story windows of the main elevation. The roofline is capped with rough faced stone

4) 642 Main Street (Photos 4, 6)

1906

contributing

Brady Hardware Building

This building with four bays, is a two part brick commercial block with a flat roof. Ornamental masonry brackets and decorative brickwork adorn the roof line. The first story has one window with three large panes divided by vinyl sashes and another window with two large panes divided by a metal sash. These two windows are associated with retail space located at the west end of the building. There is a deeply inset entryway for access to the retail area and the second story. The additional two bays are comprised of one traditional shop front with large windows, divided by a metal sash curved inward on both sides of the entryway and another window flush with the facade with two large panes once again divided by a metal sash. Large awnings with scalloped edges cover each of the bays. There are six twelve-over- twelve double hung sash windows with rough faced stone sills and lintels. There is a stringcourse of rough faced stone placed just under the ornamental masonry brackets that run the full length of the building. Slightly off center, in between the first and second stories, is a stone block etched with the name of the original company housed in the building and the date of construction

5) 650 & 652 Main Street (Photos 1, 6, 7)

1870

contributing

First National Bank

(Attorney's Office)

This building is two-part brick commercial block with decorative brick and concrete parapet executed in Italianate detailing forming a false front that extends slightly above the roofline. At the foundation level there are two glass block windows, one with 24 panes and the other with 18. The window originally had 24 panes; however it has been filled in with brick near the metal after hours depository. Each of the windows on the foundation level has a rough faced lintel. On the first story a small concrete stairway with a metal railing up the center leads to deeply inset entryway with one door for access to the first story and the other for second story access. The double doors are wooden and contain an oval glazing. There are two windows on the first story, one is a paired double hung one-over-one with vinyl sashes and the other is a large single pane window. Each window contains single pane transoms above them and a continuous rough faced stone sill and each has a rough faced stone lintel. The second story has four symmetrical twelve over twelve double hung windows with rough faced stone sills and each is capped with decorative smooth faced stone bracketed crowns

6) 652 ½ Main Street (Photos 2, 6, 7)

1870

contributing

First State Bank

(Vacant- Rental Space)

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Two-part brick commercial building with a flat roof and decorative stepped brickwork that runs continuous along roof wall junction. There are four multi-pane windows on the first story with vinyl sashes, fluted pilaster surrounds, and concrete sills. There are two windows on each side of a centrally located deeply inset entryway. The second story has three double hung, twelve over twelve windows with wooden sashes, each with rough faced stone sill and lintel. Courses of header bricks lay above the lintels. There is a course of rough faced soldier brick between the second story windows and the roofline.

7) 714 Main Street (Photo 5)

c. 1955

contributing

Main Street Barber Shop

Three bay, stucco clad, one part commercial building with one section of the building dedicated to the barbershop and another section that has been converted to residential space. The barbershop façade features a large storefront window that runs the length of the barber shop and eventually angles inward towards the entrance. At one time the windows and door had transom windows above however they have now been covered with plywood. Just below the window and roofline of the barbershop space there is painted detailing made to look like cornice dental work. The residential section of the building is also 1 story with stucco cladding. It includes one large picture window and a paneled door. There is evidence of a transom above the door that has been filled in with plywood.

8) 718 Main Street (Photo 5)

1950

contributing

Adams Building

Three story, two bay L shaped brick building with to front facades, one on Main Street and one on Central Avenue. The Main Street façade has two display windows with metal sashes one on each side of a glass double door. Each of the display windows features a smooth faced stone sill. There is another door on the front façade providing access to the upper stories. The second and third stories each have three twelve-pane casement windows with a fixed sash transom above. All of the windows on the upper stories have rough faced stone sills and smooth faced stone lintels.

9) 724 Main Street (Photo 5)

c.1955

contributing

Two story, two bay multi-colored brick building with a flat roof. The building looks like a traditional commercial block that has been converted into residential space with two apartments downstairs and two possibly four upstairs. The front façade has two paneled doors for each of the apartments downstairs and one paneled door for access to the apartments upstairs. Each of the doors for the first apartments are flanked by windows, one is a paired one-over-one sash double hung window with a cement sill and the other is a sliding glass window with a cement sill. There are two fixed pane windows on the second each with a stone sill.

10) 728 Main Street (Photo 5)

1968

noncontributing

Barboursville Public Library

A modern brick building with a massive brick wall on the front façade that is interrupted by an recessed entrance bay with one glass door with a metal frame and metal framed transom and sidelights. The interruption of the brick continues with large vertical fixed sash windows with metal frames. At the corner

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the brick continues in the form of a large brick pier that wraps around to the east façade. Half the east façade is taken up by five larger vertical fixed sash windows and then there are five brick piers with narrow fixed sash windows between each one.

Central Avenue

11) 602 Central Avenue (Photos 3, 6, 7)

1854

contributing

Miller/Thornburg Store
(Edward Jones)

Two story, three bay Flemish bond brick commercial building with stepped or corbelled parapet on the west elevation and a triangular parapet on the Central Avenue (front) elevation. The brick foundation is veneered with poured concrete. The first story of the Main Street (N/NE) elevation and Central Street elevation have been dramatically altered with ornate Colonial Revival detailing. There are four paired fluted Corinthian pilasters, with simple wide entablature running the length of the building. A wide eave with a standing seam metal roof, evident at the base of the second story, has a modillion course and egg-and-dart detailing at the cornice line. The second story features five double hung, twelve over twelve wooden sash windows. Four of these windows flank a central window with twelve pane fixed sash sidelights. All windows have smooth faced stone sills and lentils. The central bay on the first story of the front elevation has two fixed wooden twenty-four pane sash windows on each side of an inset entryway. Two sixteen pane splayed fixed wooden sash windows lead up to a central door. The fluted Corinthian pilasters of the side elevation are repeated on the front facade, with two on each side of the central bay. The eave of the side elevation wraps around to this facade as well. Three symmetrical twelve over twelve double hung wooden sash windows are on the second story, with smooth face stone sills and lentils.

12) 606 Central Avenue (Photos 3, 7, 8)

1928

contributing

MC Drugstore
(R. Stephan Jarrell, Attorney, Village Dance Theatre)

This structure is a two bay, two part brick commercial building with two large display windows flanking a centrally located inset entryway with double wooden doors. There is another double wooden door entryway for access to the second floor. The second floor has two paired twelve-over-twelve windows with rough faced stone lintels and sills. There is a decorative bracketed parapet along the roof wall junction that was a later addition to the building.

13-15) 646 Central Avenue (Photo 3, 7, 8)

c. 1870

contributing

Ossie Mills General Store, Barber Shop
(Blackhawk Grille)

This stucco clad commercial block is now listed under one address, however historically it housed several different businesses. The first building is a small one story building with a flat roof. It has one paneled door and a large single pane window. The next building is also stucco clad with roof with three gables and a large traditional storefront with an inset entryway under the first two gables. The first story of the third front gable

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Name of Property

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has been altered with colonial style detailing and frosted decorative glass. The second story features eight-over-eight double hung windows and two single pane windows. All of the windows have green shutters. The third and last building is one story with stucco cladding and a flat roof. It has a traditional storefront with a three large cylindrical awning as covering.

16) 650 Central Avenue (Photos 8, 9)

1914

contributing

M.C. Johnson Building
(Vacant)

This commercial building sits on the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Brady Street. It is a two story, two bay brick building with a flat roof. There are two entrance bays on the first story front façade flanking a large metal framed picture window. One entryway is recessed with double glass doors and a metal frame. The other entryway is a single glass pane door and leads to the second story. It is evident that transoms were above each of bays on the front façade and have since been in filled with brick. Just above each brick infill there are stone lintels. The second story has two five vertical pane windows and the third story windows are copies of those on the second story in shape, however the window sashes and frames have been replaced by sheets of corrugated metal. The stone sills and lintels remain. The only adornment left on the building is a course of corbelled brick that stretches across the front façade of the building just below the roof line.

17) 691 Central Avenue

c.1955

contributing

(Village Barber Shop)

This is a simple brick two part commercial block with two bays and a flat roof. There is a large shop front and one glass panel door on the first story front façade. On the second story there a two horizontal pane triple hung metal windows each with stone sills.

18) 611 Central Avenue

1950

contributing

Adams Building

This building is an L shaped brick commercial block and has two front facades, one on Main Street and one on Central Avenue. The front façade facing Central Ave exhibits a more traditional shop front appearance. There are two different shops with in this block, each with an inset entryway flanked by large display windows. The second story has three casement windows with a stone sills and lintels.

19) 601 Central Avenue

c. 1945

contributing

(Designer Dogs)

This is a one story, three bay brick building with a side gable roof. It has two windows on the front façade flanking a central door. On window is a large single pane window and the other is an eight-pane casement window

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Brady Street

20) Brady Street

c. 1915

contributing

(Presently owned by Blackhawk Grill on Central Avenue)

This small one story, two bay brick building has a front gable roof and historically housed a jail and fire department for downtown Barboursville. It has a double door which is flanked by pilasters and topped with a traditional broken pediment. There is also a single pane window on the front façade with a decorative wood panel below and it is capped with a simple wooden board. The wooden board is also visible on the other side of the entryway and is possible evidence that this entryway was, at one time, larger perhaps garage opening for fire trucks.

21) Brady Street

c.1925

contributing

Garage for Parsonage

This is a concrete block one car garage located directly behind the parsonage for the First United Methodist Church.

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STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

The Barboursville Historic District is locally significant under National Register *Criterion A: Commerce and Community Planning and Development* and *Criterion C: Architecture*. Under *Criterion A*, Barboursville is significant because of its early development as a commercial center and its subsequent position along transportation corridors. It is also significant under *Criterion A* for community planning and development due to its status as one of the earliest towns in Cabell County and its evolution from an early frontier town to its position as the county seat and finally to its standing as bedroom community to the now larger city of Huntington. It is significant under *Criterion C* for architecture because of the density of notable buildings located in the commercial core. Most of the buildings were built in the late 19th century and early 20th century and exhibit styles popular during these time periods. The period of significance dates from 1854, coinciding with construction of the earliest building, to c.1955, when building construction in the district waned.

HISTORY

In 1772 John Savage was granted 28,000 acres of land along the Ohio River Valley by King George III as part of what would become known as the Savage Land Grant. The grant, an attempt to recruit for the French and Indian War, promised soldiers a certain amount of acreage in this unknown wilderness in return for their service. Many soldiers sold off their property; however a few, like John Savage, decided to stay and settle the land along the Ohio River. Barboursville became one of the early settlements in the area formerly part of the Land Grants.

In 1802 two men, William C. Merritt and Jeremiah Ward, surveyed the area and each decided to buy one parcel of land on each side of the Guyandotte River. Jeremiah Ward bought land on the north side and William C. Merritt purchased land on the south side of the river, the latter of which became Merritt's Mill and later, in 1813, became Barboursville, so named for Governor James Barbour of Virginia. In 1809 Cabell County was formed and became primarily an agricultural community. In 1813, Barboursville was established and early plans for the village called for 34 plots of land to be parceled out along three streets, Water, Central and Main streets. Two of the streets, Water and Central would run parallel to the river and be intersected by Main Street. With a well established town plan, Barboursville, in 1814, was named the county seat which helped with the town's progress, making it a central place of business for those citizens living in surrounding areas. Also contributing to Barboursville's growth was the completion of the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, an early stagecoach route that opened up the western territories for further settlement as well as providing a way for farmers to transport their goods. The James River and Kanawha Turnpike spurred a new era for the small town of Barboursville. Known previously as an agricultural center, the town adapted to its new role as stop along a major transportation corridor. New businesses, such as hotels, restaurants and saloons were constructed specifically catering to the passengers that would come through on their way west.

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As transporting goods got easier, Barboursville quickly transitioned from a town supported primarily by agriculture to a manufacturing town. In the 1840s the small town could boast of being the center of industry in Cabell County with the establishment of factories producing everything from furniture, wagons, fan mills, to a tannery and a lumber mill. In the 1850s Barboursville received another boost to its economy when the New York Navigational Company built a series of locks and dams along the Guyandotte River, allowing steamboats to carry both passengers and freight easily to the Ohio River or back to the Kanawha and James Rivers. The lumber mill in Barboursville capitalized on the popularity of the steamboat and began producing hulls, made of a clear oak timber, to be shipped to Jeffersonville, Indiana. In 1854 the Thornburg General Store was built and still stands on the southwest corner of Central Avenue. Here customers could purchase their daily grocery needs or a ticket on the steamboat or stagecoach.

In 1860, like many communities, Barboursville became divided on the issues surrounding the Civil War. Families were driven apart by divided loyalties, some deciding to fight for the Confederacy while others for the Union. The issues came to a head on Fortification Hill overlooking the town of Barboursville. The Battle of Barboursville began on July 11, 1861. The battle involved Colonel Ferguson's Confederate militia from Wayne and Cabell counties and Colonel Woodruff's Second Kentucky Union regiment, with the battle ending in a Union Victory. A second smaller battle commenced in Barboursville in September of 1862 between General Jenkins' Eighth Virginia regiment and Colonel Powell's Ohio cavalry regiment. This skirmish took place in the village itself.

After the Civil War had ended, the economy of many towns in the new state of West Virginia suffered and Barboursville was no exception. The small village tried to reestablish itself, once again, as an agricultural center and though it had some success with grain farms it would never be as successful as in its early days. In 1873 there was some hope for the local economy when the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad company extended its tracks into Huntington. The rail company decided to build shops in Barboursville; however despite providing jobs for the locals, it did little for reviving the village to its former glory. The railroad actually began to hurt Barboursville more than it helped. It caused the once smaller town of Huntington to grow larger and more prosperous, so much so that in 1887 the county seat was moved there from Barboursville. The people of Barboursville fought hard to have the county seat returned but were unsuccessful and their goals now shifted on what would become of the old courthouse and the village itself.

In 1888 a group of men came together for the purpose of establishing a school in Barboursville. By 1889 Barboursville Seminary was established and the committee decided to use the old courthouse and its grounds for the school. The courthouse became the "college main", the county jail was converted into a boy's dormitory and the Blume Hotel was used as the girl's. It was the hope of the schools founders that it would become the center of life for Barboursville and in order for this to happen the town would have to be made into a "college town", meaning all saloons should be removed from the area and businesses should be brought in to cater to this new population. There were 25 students enrolled by the first day and by the end of the year that number had increased to 130. The schools success was short lived; by 1890 the school was

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already having financial difficulties and was forced to reorganize as Barboursville College under the leadership of the General Board of Education of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

The reorganization was unsuccessful overall and the college began having further financial troubles until Mr. Morris Harvey, a coal baron from southern West Virginia stepped in with an endowment of \$10,000.00. The college was renamed Morris Harvey College and the small school began to grow, and with new buildings, new academic and sports programs enrollment steadily increased well into the 1920s. The success of the Twenties was met with the economic struggles of the 1930s and the depression hit the school hard. Enrollment began to decrease and competition from Marshall College in Huntington proved too much for the school and in 1935 it was moved to Charleston, West Virginia. Many of the businesses that flourished in Barboursville because of the college began to fail and Barboursville, once again, had to reinvent itself.

While the college became the main focus of the town in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, other industries were developing in Barboursville. In 1904 Barboursville Clay Manufacturing was established and was said to produce some of the best bricks and tile in the nation. In 1921 the company was hired to produce tile for the remodeling of the White House. Brick manufacturing was not new to Barboursville, in years leading up to the Civil War, Barboursville became well known for its brick making. Both brickyards can be attributed to supplying bricks for buildings in and around the village.

Barboursville, from its inception, experienced a number of evolutionary developments relating to transportation. The town is presently located off of historic U.S. Route 60, a highway stretching from the coast of Virginia to Arizona. Historically, Route 60 was known as the Midland Trail, an early cross-country autoroute planned in the early 20th century. Barboursville's main street is also part of the James River and Kanawha Turnpike, an early route to open up expansion to the west that allowed the small settlement to play host to many travelers making their way on the stagecoach to western territories. In addition to these two important roads, Barboursville has also flourished because of its location on the Guyandotte River. In 1814 the New York Navigation Company constructed a series of locks and dams along the Guyandotte that would allow those traveling on the James River and Kanawha Turnpike the opportunity to board a steamboat in Barboursville and continue westward via the river.

The C&O railroad came through in 1873 and contributed to Barboursville's status as a junction town; however the railroad benefited, at the time, the smaller city of Huntington, so much so that the county seat was moved there in 1887. After 1887, the town experienced a quieter period with little new development. It was not until the 1920s, with the advent of the automobile, the building of new roads, electricity, and a chamber of commerce, that Barboursville began to reinvent itself in a manner that embraces its past, yet looks to its future. This reinvention included the construction of new modern buildings and renovation of some older buildings in hopes of encouraging new business owners and new residents to come to the small town.

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Criterion A: Commerce and Community Planning and Development

The Barboursville Historic District is significant under *Criterion A* for its development as an early commercial center in Cabell County and for its continued success with maintaining a vibrant commercial center in the face of multiple events that tested the small town's ability to thrive. In 1813 the Town of Barboursville was established by an Act of the Virginia Assembly and in 1814 the plan of the town of Barboursville was laid out with 34 lots, a public square and three principal roads, Water, Center and Main Streets. With this well-established plan Barboursville was made the county seat which initiated much of town's growth and development during this period. There are no buildings still standing from this period, however the layout of the town still remains the same and this early development is what spurred many of the activities that make Barboursville what it is today.

During the late 19th Century and early 20th Century Barboursville had some of its most challenging times yet it still continued to grow and flourish into a well-maintained and prosperous commercial district. After the Civil War, Barboursville would continue to evolve as a commercial center, first based on its status as county seat and transportation center, later as a center of education and in the 1930s and 1940s as a smaller yet thriving Main Street community. Much of Barboursville's early growth can be attributed to its location along a major stagecoach route. The town flourished with hotels, shops and restaurants. In the 1870s the C&O railroad began building tracks that would go through Barboursville and continue on to Huntington. The people of Barboursville were against the building of the railroad, believing it would negatively impact the stagecoach travel that the town so depended on. The C&O continued its track expansion and with its completion Barboursville became a junction town while Huntington became the major stop along the route. Huntington began to develop at a fast rate and was eventually chosen to be the new county seat leaving Barboursville with an empty courthouse and an uncertain future.

Despite this setback, new businesses were established in Barboursville during the 1870s and 1880s. In 1870, George Miller, Jr. opened up the First National Bank at 650 Main Street, in a building that still stands today. Despite the county seat moving to Huntington there were an abundance of attorneys who remained in town and occupied many of the second and third stories of the buildings in Barboursville. In 1888, Barboursville Seminary was established and it became an impetus for many new businesses in the village. General Stores, Ice creams parlors and Barber Shops became popular establishments with students. During the early 20th Century Barboursville Seminary became Morris Harvey College and still contributed to the town's vitality up until the day the school moved to Charleston in 1935. During the early 20th century Barboursville experienced a sort of renaissance attributed to new technology. The city first got electricity, the automobile spurred new businesses and a new auto route called the Midland Trail passed through on the town's Main Street. Electricity allowed businesses to stay open later and increase their profits. More General stores opened up on both Main Street and Central Avenue in buildings that still exist today. Some of the frame buildings of earlier periods were torn down in order to build a new commercial block on Main Street. One such block was 620 Main Street which became a Chevrolet dealer and garage. Another garage opened up at

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Cabell County, West Virginia

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644 Central Ave sometime in the late 1920s or early 1930s. The Midland Trail promised to bring tourists through the small town and prompted the development of new hotels like the Hotel Edgar located above the shops at 642 Main Street. All of these buildings are still in use today albeit with new functions.

Criterion C: Architecture

Barboursville Historic District is eligible under *Criterion C* because of the density of contributing buildings that exhibit a variety of styles popular from the mid 19th century into the early 20th century. Despite the variety of styles there is still cohesiveness about the district that permits the village of the past to be envisioned. The majority of the buildings in the district are traditional, one and two part commercial blocks with detailing indicative to the trends popular at the time of their construction.

The earliest building in the commercial core was built in 1854. It initially housed the Thornburg/Miller General Store and later a Kroger Grocery store. The current owners have altered the first story with colonial style detailing, however the second story has remained intact. The brick building contains a triangular parapet gable on the Central Avenue façade and a parapet gable at the other end. The second story windows are replacements however they are good replications of the originals. They are twelve-over-twelve sash double hung windows all with smooth faced stone sills and lintels. In a rendering of the town of Barboursville circa 1861 the building and its parapet gable can be seen surrounded by frame buildings, serving as proof that this was one of the Barboursville's earliest brick buildings.

There are two buildings dating from 1870s that exhibit Italianate detailing which became popular in the mid to late 19th century. The First Bank building and the First National Bank sit side by side on Main street and both have corbelled brick work along their cornices lines. The First State bank has more dramatic Italianate detailing with heavy decorative hoods that cap the second story windows, while the First National Bank building has simple rough faced stone lintels and sills. The next construction wave in Barboursville began in the early 20th century when some of the existing frame buildings were torn down. The buildings of the 1920s and 1930s are simple and less ornate than the buildings from the 18th century; however there appears to have been an attempt to match the more modern buildings to their older neighbors. Many of the buildings from the twenties and thirties have some type of decorative cornice work and all have sills and lintels made of stone or cement. These trends mimic some of the decorative work on the older buildings.

Many of the buildings from both periods have been somewhat altered, especially the first story storefronts but this is not an unusual phenomenon for any downtown or Main Street community. As new architectural elements were introduced store owners were usually quick to make changes that they believed were less expensive or would help attract business. What sustains Barboursville as historically significant under *Criterion C* is the district's cohesiveness and that there is such a dense accumulation of historic buildings in the village core. It is a showcase of commercial architecture stretching across several different eras of history.

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Summary

The Barboursville Historic District is significant for its early development as a manufacturing, commercial and transportation center and how over the years since the period of significance the historic architecture still exhibits a feeling suggestive of a time and place of the past. Barboursville like many communities has faced development pressures that can test a small community's ability to thrive and the small village has succeeded in retaining most of its historic buildings and the vitality of commercial center. In the past, the village has struggled with maintaining some of its historic resources however, today, there's a sense that citizens recognize the importance of the town's history and how the buildings are important resources that tell the story of Barboursville's past. In recent years a walking tour of Barboursville has been established that highlights some of the town's most historic buildings. It sparked the interest of the public and now almost any citizen on can relay the historic functions of any given building in the district. There are efforts underway by several owners of contributing buildings to restore them to their original state. These are just two ways that show the historic district with all its current integrity can only improve and that the commercial district will continue to survive as a wonderful example of late 19th and early 20th century commercial architecture.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The Boundary begins at the north corner at the center point of Water and Main Streets. It continues southeast along the centerline of Main Street to the center point of Main and Musgrave Court. From here it continues southwest on Musgrave Court to the rear lot line of resource #10 where the boundary turns northwest along the rear lines of resource #9 and #10 and the side lot of resource #17 to the center line of Central Avenue. The boundaries continue southwest along the center line of Central Avenue to the center point of Central Avenue and Brady Alley. From here the boundary turns northwest and continues along the center line of Brady Alley to the center point of Brady Alley and Water Street before continuing northeast along the center line of Water Street to the point of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of the Barboursville Historic District encompass a small area with a dense gathering of historic buildings that retain their historic integrity as established during the period of significance.

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Photo 1 of 9:

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

First National Bank Building

Cabell County, West Virginia

001

Southwest View

Photo 2 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

First State Bank Building

Cabell County, West Virginia

002

Southwest view

Photo 3 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

Central Avenue looking North

Cabell County, West Virginia

003

Photo 4 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

Brady Hardware Building

Cabell County, West Virginia

Southwest View

004

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Photo 5 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

Cabell County, West Virginia

West view looking up Main Street

005

Photo 6 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

Cabell County, West Virginia

South view looking down Main Street

006

Photo 7 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

Thornburg Miller Store

Cabell County, West Virginia

West view of the corner of Central Avenue and Main Street

007

Photo 8 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

Barboursville Historic District

Cabell County, West Virginia

West view looking down Central Avenue

008

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Photo 9 of 9

Photographer: Kelly Wilson

Date: 6/15/08

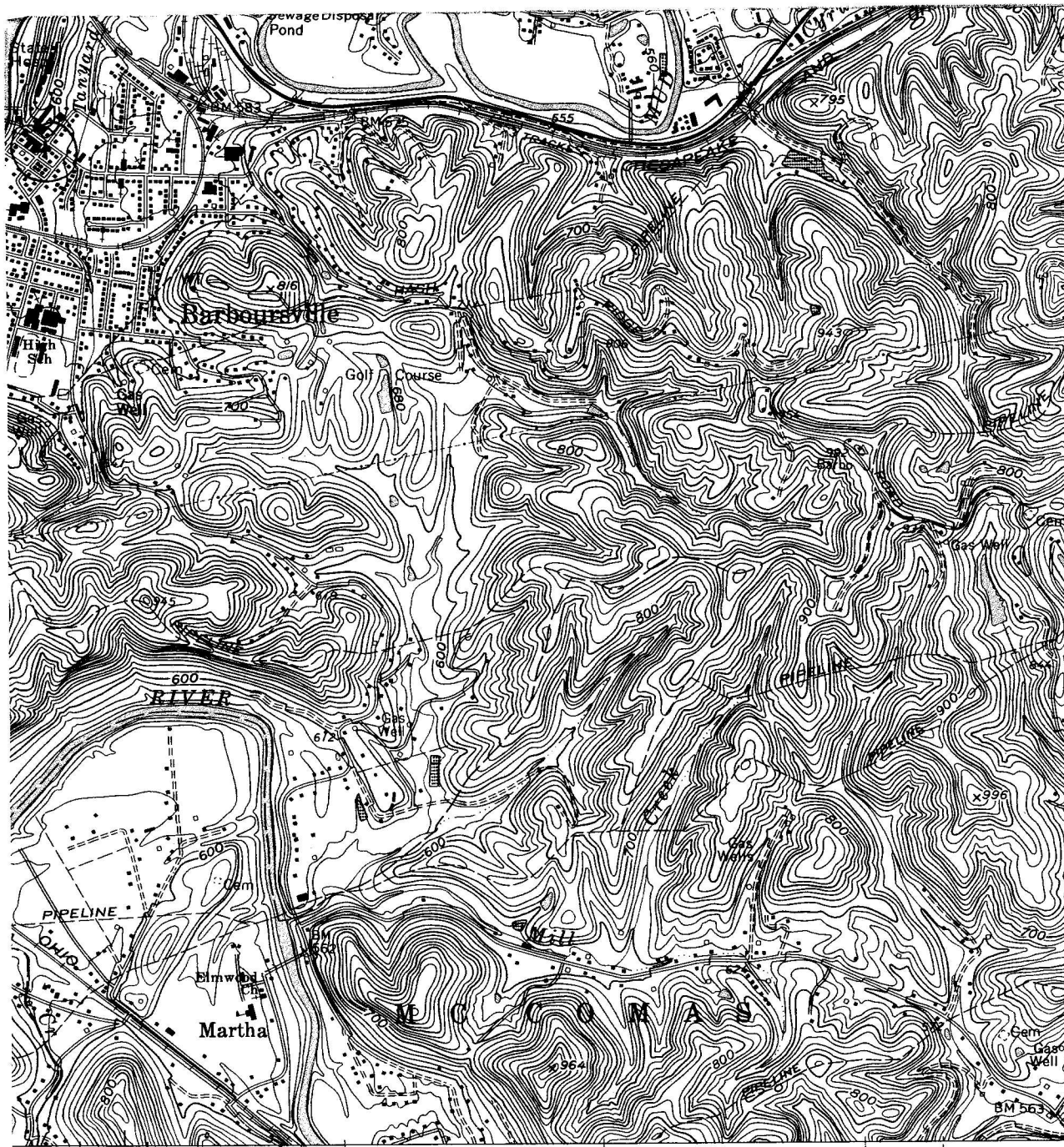
Barboursville Historic District

M.C. Johnson Building

Cabell County, West Virginia

Northwest view

009



Barboursville
 Historic
 District
 Cabell County, WV
 (center point - less
 than 10 acres)
 17 380943 4251820

140 000 FEET
 (OHIO)

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 38° 22' 30"

82° 15'

(WES)

387 17' 30"

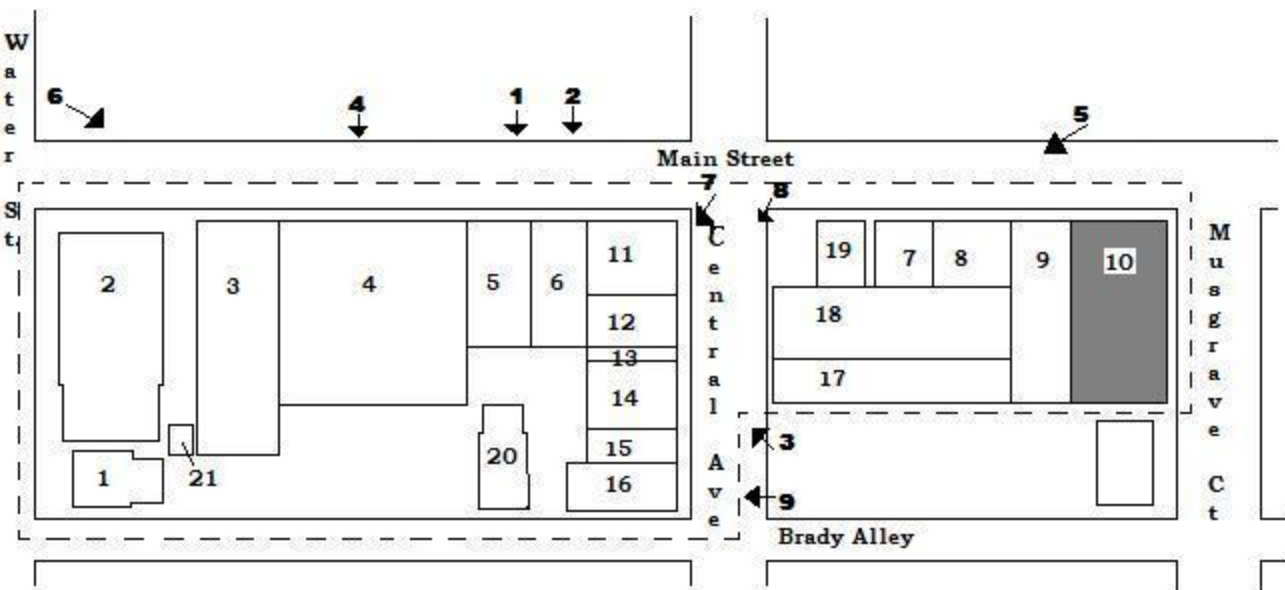
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389000m.E.

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1985
 2 070 000 FEET (OHIO)

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

1 MILE



**Barboursville Historic District
Cabell County, West Virginia**

- NR boundary
- Contributing
- Noncontributing
- 1** → Photo views



FIRST
NATIONAL
BANK





BLACKHAWK GRILLE



Brady Hardware

THE BRADY INV. CO. DEV. CO.
DAVID HILL -
1906

David Hill
Limited

STAMPS & COINS

ENTRANCE
BUYING:
GOLD
SILVER
COINS
APPRAISAL SERVICE

716-4387
842 Main St.

SELLING:
COINS
JEWELRY
BULLION GOLD





Brady Hardware

THE CABELL INV'T & DEV'T CO.
D. BLAIN SHAW - 1906



Stuff-N-Such

CLEARANCE
SALE

David Hill
Limited

STAMPS & COINS

BUYING
SOLD
COINS
APPRAISAL SERVICE

SELLING
COINS
JEWELRY
BULLION GOLD





TWO
HOUR
PARKING

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L. Stephen Jarrell
Attorney At Law
#04 736-1777

Village Dance Theatre



1890

CENTRAL AVE
BRADY STREET

FOR SALE
COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY
(304) 33-7111