United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic
Clarksburg Downtown Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number
____ not for publication

city, town
Clarksburg

vicinity of

congressional district
First

state
West Virginia
code 054
county
Harrison
code 033

3. Classification

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4. Owner of Property

name
Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town
____ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.
Harrison County Courthouse

street & number
301 W. Main Street

city, town
Clarksburg

state
West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title
Clarksburg: A City in Renaissance

has this property been determined eligible? ____ yes X no

date
1981

federal state county local

depository for survey records
Alen R. Carney, AIA, 6000 Grand Central Avenue

city, town
Vienna

state
West Virginia
The present and original (if known) physical appearance

The downtown business district of Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia, is, without question, one of the most architecturally and historically intact downtown business districts in the state of West Virginia. While many of West Virginia's other urban areas have either been substantially altered or partially "abandoned," Clarksburg retains nearly all of its historic architecture from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and, most of it, in what could be considered a remarkable state of preservation.

The historic district covers approximately 16 blocks of downtown Clarksburg in which are an extraordinary variety of architectural types and styles, and contains a wealth of sites associated with local, state, and even national historic events and personalities. There are 45 buildings, sites, and structures that are considered pivotal structures within the district, all of them having outstanding architectural or historic significance (and frequently both) through which much of the history of Clarksburg may be interpreted. In addition, there are 77 buildings or structures that are considered to be contributing structures that, while somewhat less significant than the pivotal ones, nonetheless add or contribute in some way to the character and flavor of the historic district as a whole. Only 30 buildings are non-contributing, or intrusive.

The historic architecture of the downtown Clarksburg historic district is quite diverse. Among the pivotal structures alone the structures range from the twin towers of the nine-storied, Neo-Classical Goff Building (#28), to the unique, heavily Gothic Municipal Building (#8), to the 1839 Greek Revival mansion "Waldomore"(#2). These are only several examples; no two of the district's pivotal buildings are exactly alike and nearly every architectural style that has existed in the United States from the time of the Civil War to the present (with a notable exception) is to be found within Clarksburg's downtown district. The notable exception referred to is the "glass slab" type of modern "high-rise" architecture which is noticeably missing from Clarksburg's skyline.

As each of the Clarksburg district's pivotal buildings and, to a large extent, contributing structures as well have their own special architectural features and historic aspects, they are best presented and described individually. There follows a listing, and accompanying description, of the Clarksburg district's pivotal and contributing structures:

PIVOTAL STRUCTURES

1. Waldo Hotel, N. Fourth Street and W. Pike Street, 1901-04. One of Clarksburg's finest landmarks. Designed by noted architect Harrison Albright of Charleston, WV, (later of San Diego, California) the Waldo was constructed between 1901 and 1904. A seven story "Moorish" style hotel, the building contains myriad fine architectural details, including a 47' by 56' lobby with a mosaic-tiled floor, surrounded on all sides at the second and third levels by wrap-around balconies, obtained via the 11' wide marble grand staircase. The Waldo was financed by Nathan Goff, Jr., one of Clarksburg's most prominent citizens, and named for his father, Waldo P. Goff. Nathan Goff left the Waldo Hotel, on his death in 1920, to his sons Guy D. Goff and Waldo Goff. In 1923 Guy D. Goff occupied a suite of rooms on the 4th floor of the Waldo and from here, in 1924, ran his official residence during his Senatorial term (1925-1931). The Waldo served as a meeting place in 1928 for a cabal of conservative Republican U.S. Senators who wanted to block the presidential nomination of Herbert Hoover by boosting Senator Goff. While this movement did not gain much support, Sen. Goff
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Clarksburg Downtown Historic District
Continuation sheet

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did receive 18 votes at the 1928 Republican National Convention. The Waldo, though
no longer in the Goff family, continues to serve as a hotel as well as headquarters
for several area businesses.

2. "Waldmore" Museum and Library, 400 W. Pike Street, 1839. Entered on the National
Register of Historic Places on October 4, 1978. This fine Greek Revival style
mansion was constructed in 1839 by Waldo P. Goff and his wife Harriet Moore. The name
"Waldmore" is a combination of their names. Their son Nathan Goff, Federal Judge
& U.S. Senator, was born here in 1843. In 1930 the building was donated to the
City of Clarksburg for use as a library. The dedication ceremony, in 1931, was
presided over by Clarksburg native John W. Davis (Democratic presidential nominee
in 1924). The mansion continues this use as part of the Clarksburg Public Library.

3. Robinson Grand, 444 W. Pike Street, 1912 (1940). The Clarksburg Theatre Company
was formed in 1912 by a group of prominent businessmen in order to construct a
$40,000 theater "on the north side of Pike Street not far from the Masonic Temple".
A gala opening was held on February 5, 1913. The Robinson Grand was operated first
by Rueben Robinson, then later by his brother Claude Robinson - hence the name
"Robinson Grand". An architectural landmark, the Robinson Grand is Neo-Gothic in
style, with elements of Classicism, and combines rich brick work with intricate
and elaborate terra-cotta detailing.

An $18,000 pipe organ installed in 1915 was acclaimed by the theater management
as "the organ with a human voice." The building was equipped to show motion pictures
the same year and in 1927 was the 13th theater in the United States to be wired
for sound, or "talking pictures". The Robinson Grand was gutted by fire on May
31, 1939, but was restored by the following year at a cost of $600,110. The
Robinson Grand is still active as a motion picture theater.

4. U.S. Post Office, 500 W. Pike Street, 1932. A three story building that is an
excellent representative example of Neo-Classical style architecture in public
buildings of this period, the U.S. Post Office was constructed in 1931-32, replacing
the old Federal building (now the Municipal Building) as the post office. The triple-
front entrance is decorated in the art-deco style, offering a splendid contrast
to the more severe classical features of the upper floors (that includes a series
of seven bronze spandrels with classical motifs on each elevation). The building
is capped by a red tile roof.

5. The Gore Hotel, W. Pike Street and S. Second Street, 1910, 1913. First built in
1910 as a four-story structure, it was extended in 1912-13 with the addition of
a wing and fifth floor. The Hotel was owned and operated by (and named for) Dr.
Truman E. Gore, prominent physician and farmer, and his brother Howard M. Gore,
Governor of West Virginia 1925-1929 and U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, 1924-1925.

The Gore Hotel is an elegant gray-brick and white stone building with a bracketed
stone cornice at the top level, and is somewhat neo-classical in design, with some
6. Fordyce Building, 217 W. Pike Street, 1891. Built in 1891 by Albert Fordyce to house the Fordyce Carriage Works, which had been in operation since 1875 and was to continue operating until 1908. A three and a half story brick structure, the two central bays are dominated by an elaborate Renaissance Revival pressed metal facade, crowned by triangular, embellished pediment, with the date MDCCCX A.D. carved in the entablature, and the name "Fordyce" carved on the frieze. Frank G. Bland's Drug Store, which had operated on Main Street since 1901, moved into the building after Fordyce vacated in 1908 and today the building is still home to Bland's Drugs. Only the first level has been altered.

7. Robert's Hardware Building, 213 W. Pike Street, 1905. A three story brick building with a three-part entablature at the roof level. The motif of the frieze surrounds the date "1905" beneath a bracketed three-bay cornice. Originally H.E. Johnson's Wagon Works, a firm that began in 1900, the building was occupied in 1916 by Robert's Hardware, which continues to inhabit the building to the present time.

8. Municipal Building, 227 W. Pike Street, 1888. This elaborate government building is the single most significant public building in Clarksburg. Designed by local architect Charles L. Hicken, it served as the U.S. Post Office for Clarksburg from 1888 until 1932, when it became the Federal Building, housing the U.S. Courthouse and other federal agencies and functions. In 1966 the building was purchased by the city and has since then served as the Municipal Building for Clarksburg. A good example of late 19th century Victorian Eclecticism, having a raised basement of stone, the Municipal Building is two and one half stories high with an irregular multi-gabled roof and stone parapets. It has cornice lined brick corbelling and the front facade has dominant arched window and portal openings. The upper windows of the front elevation, however, have blind arches.

9. Clarksburg Trust Company Home Bank for Savings, 1905. This three-story Classical Renaissance Building was erected in 1905 as the headquarters for the Home Bank for Savings, which incorporated that year with William Joyce as the first cashier. In 1914 the Clarksburg Trust Company merged with the Home Bank for Savings with the newly merged company continuing to use this building as headquarters. The company failed in 1929. Since that time this lovely building, which has blind-arched portals on the street level of three facades and two and one half story pilasters separating each of the 17 bays, has served a variety of functions, housing a restaurant, loan company, and other commercial ventures.

10. "Glancy Building", 353 W. Pike Street, 1921, two-story eclectic building, rounded at corner, with some classical elements. Opened in 1921 as "Candyland" the building served as as confectionary until 1953. The building is named for its builder, John Glancy. The building is now home to four different commercial businesses.
11. Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, 411 W. Pike Street, 1911. An elaborate two-story Classical building. The front facade has four fluted columns with Corinthian capitals supporting an elaborate bracketed pediment decorated with modillions, as is the cornice. There is a balcony at the second level, flanked by two fluted pilasters, also with Corinthian capitals. Both the first and second level entrance ways are flanked by sidelights and surmounted by elliptical fanlights. The building was constructed by the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks in 1911 at a cost of $85,000.

12. Masonic Temple, 427 W. Pike Street, 1911-14. A five story neo-classical building, with elements of the Renaissance Revival. Front facade has a beaded pediment at the fourth level, supported by paneled pilasters and two central engaged, or half columns. The building was begun in 1911 and dedicated in 1914. A fifth story and a rear addition were added to the Temple in 1928. The Clarksburg Masonic Lodge, with its sister Order of the Eastern Star, dates to 1814.

13. Tree of Life Synagogue, W. Pike & 5th Street, 1881, 1927. A lovely two-story brick building with high vaulted windows on the front facade and a rather steep gable roof. The building was designed by local architect Charles Hickman and constructed in 1881 for the Central Presbyterian Church of Clarksburg, who substantially remodeled the structure in 1927. In 1940 the newly (1938) united Jewish community (which, since 1905 had been two separate congregations) purchased the building and it thus became, and remains, the home of Clarksburg Jewry.

14. People's Furniture Building, 142 W. Main Street. 1913. This three-story Victorian Eclectic commercial building contains a number of interesting architectural details. Double two-story oriel windows flank a recessed double-windowed central bay, whose upper windows feature semi-circular lights. A pent roof with tile composition surmounts the oriel and central bay, while a parapet roof, broken at the central bay, above the pent roof contains a bracketed cornice line. The first level entrance is arched. Originally built in 1913 to house the People's Furniture Company, the building served this purpose until the demise of that firm in 1938. It is presently the Glen Village Discount House.

15. Palace Furniture Company Building, 168 W. Main Street, 1911, 1921. A seven-story building, the first concrete-steel building to be constructed in West Virginia. The first three stories were constructed in 1911 to house the Palace Furniture Company, which had begun operating in 1898 as the "Palace Furniture and Undertaking Company." Incorporated in 1906 by J.M. & Henry G. Carskadon, A.M.T. and M.G. Cunningham and G.B. Chorpening, the firm changed its name to the "Palace Furniture and Piano Company" in 1907, though "Piano" was dropped in 1910. In 1921 four stories were added to the building, as was the neo-classical facade with its Italianate-Fascia cornice. The building still houses the Palace Furniture Company, as is evidenced by the lovely 1930-era metal & neon sign that is suspended between the third and sixth floors of the building's central bay. Designed by engineer Frank Duff McEnteer.

16. Louchery Building, 214 W. Main Street, 1897. A very impressive Victorian Eclectic commercial building. The building has twin two story oriel windows at the second & third levels, a high bracketed cornice and an Italianate triangular pediment adorning
the center of the roof line on the front facade. The building was occupied from 1901 until 1936 by Dr. Daniel C. Louchery, (1845-1936), Clarksburg's first medical "specialist", who used the building as both an office and residence. Dr. Louchery was also Superintendent of Harrison Schools, 1869-71. From 1931 until 1964 it was also the home of "the Darling Shop". The building is still owned by the Louchery family.

17. Watts- Lamberd Building, 216 W. Main Street, 1902. One of the most unique pieces of architecture in all of Clarksburg, this two-story structure sports a half-dome above the roof line over the central bay that is most striking. The high glass windows on each level give the illusion of a galleried building, or an arcade. Originally constructed by C.O. Findley, prominent Clarksburg merchant, the building was occupied by the Watts-Lamberd Company, which became the Watts-Sartor-Lear Company in 1919. That firm went out of business in 1967 and the building is presently (since 1969) the home of Jack's Friendly, Inc., a furniture company.

18. Merchant's National Bank, 300 W. Main Street, 1894. Another of Clarksburg's architectural tectural treasures, this graceful three-story stone building is a noteworthy example of Neo-Romanesque Revival architecture, with an impressive amount of architectural detail. The Merchant's National Bank, as an institution, dates from 1860 when it was established in Clarksburg as a branch of the Merchants and Mechanics Bank of Wheeling, though it was established as a separate institution in 1866, with Nathan Goff, Sr. as its first president. The presidency passed to his nephew, then U.S. Congressman (later Judge & U.S. Senator) Nathan Goff, Jr., in 1885, then to prominent merchant R.T. Lowndes in 1892. It was in the early years of Lowndes' presidency (1892-1930) that the Merchant Bank Building was constructed.

Built in 1894, the Merchant Bank is noteworthy for its stone and brick masonry detail and carving. The rounded corner entrance bay contains a massive entrance portal and contrasting stone rock-faced stone trim and pressed brick work. There are arched windows at both the first and second levels, which feature decorative extrados moulding and grotesques and mascarons. On the third level are brick cornice corbeling motifs, surmounted by a coarse of recessed brick headers.

The Merchants National Bank was absorbed by the Union National Bank in 1961, who sold the building to the Community Savings & Loan Company, which continues to occupy the building.

19. Empire Building, W. Main & 4th Street, 1907. The Empire Building is, like the Merchant's Bank, one of Clarksburg's outstanding landmarks, rising seven stories above the street level with a rounded corner entrance, the portal of which on the first level is flanked by Corinthian columns. The first two stories are handsome brownstone with much detailing, while the upper five are brick. The top floor is surmounted by an embellished, bracketed cornice that, along with other features, gives the building a distinctive Renaissance Revival flavor.

The Empire Bank was founded in 1903 and, prospering, caused the construction of the Empire Building in 1906-07 on the site of what had been the Oliver Boughner Store from 1872 to 1902. The bank's first president and founder was Virgil Highland
(1870-1930), one of Clarksburg's leading citizens in this period. In addition to being president of the Empire Bank he served on the board of numerous other Harrison County financial institutions and had a productive career in politics. Mr. Highland served as Harrison County Clerk 1896-1902, was Republican State Chairman, 1912-1916, a Republican National Committeeman, 1916-1930, and was appointed the first Chairman of the WV Public Service Commission by Governor Hatfield when that body was created in 1913.

Though the impressive interior of the building has been somewhat altered, it continues to serve as the Empire National Bank of Clarksburg.

20. Colonial Building, 424 W. Main Street, 1912. Built in 1912 by prominent citizen Virgil Highland to serve as offices, the "Colonial Building" (this name is on the frieze of the cornice) is a fine late-Victorian commercial office building with impressive features. A five bay structure, there are three-sided oriel windows projecting from the second and third level at the central bay and on each end bay. The basic structure is brick with a number of fine details, other than those just mentioned including a cornice of recessed panels.

Among the many uses this building has served is that of the City Hall of Clarksburg from 1912 until 1931. Today it houses a variety of different commercial enterprises.

21. Haymond Court, W. Main Street, c. 1915. "Brownstone" apartments, brick by construction that are an excellent example of early 20th century commercial architecture, with a number of significant late Victorian features. U-shaped in configuration, there is double banding at each level of the building, and the roof lines all feature semi-stepped gables leading to a central pseudo-palladian on the end of each wing as well as at the central bay of the rear section. There are matching extended 3-sided bays on each wing. The entrances to each apartment feature sidelights and rectangular transoms. The inner court between the two wings is paved with brick.

Haymond Court is named for the Haymond family, many of whom have been very prominent in Harrison County affairs, including Harrison County historian Henry Haymond (1837-1920). It was built on land belonging to Lee Haymond.

22. E.T. Baldwin Residence, 454 W. Main Street, c. 1880. A stately 2½ story Victorian residence with a regular roof plan. A large recessed gable balcony dominates the front elevation. Returned cornices on the rear ell are a Greek Revival element. An original wrap-around porch has been removed, while the front entrance retains its original side-lights and transom.

This was originally the residence of E.T. Baldwin, a prominent Harrison County official who served as Recorder of Clarksburg 1880-1881, and then as Mayor of Clarksburg, 1883-1885. It is now the property of the Christ Episcopal Church.

23. Stealey-Goff-Vance House, 123 W. Main Street, c. 1807. Now headquarters of the Harrison County Historical Society, this two-story residence was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on September 25, 1979.
The house was constructed about 1806 or 1807 by George Jackson who sold it to Jacob Stealy - Clarksburg's first tanner - in 1807. The Stealy's owned the house until its purchase in 1881 by then U.S. Secretary of the Navy Nathan Goff, Jr., who turned it over to his wife Mary in 1885. She died in 1908. Amy Roberts Vance acquired the home in 1932 and it was here that her son Cyrus R. Vance grew to manhood. Cyrus Vance became U.S. Secretary of State in 1977 and served until his resignation in 1980.

24. First United Presbyterian Church, W. Main and 2nd Streets, 1894. The First United Presbyterian Church is an imposing religious edifice, constructed in the Gothic Revival Style. The building is easily dominated by the large central tower, containing, at the second level, a three-part tracery window, culminating in a rectangular tower with Gothic gables at each elevation and containing twin louvered lancet windows at each elevation. The tower is surmounted by a tall spire which is crowned with a post-like finial. The gabled sanctuary is a two-story brick structure with a gable roof with a bracketed-brick cornice. A large three-sectioned tracery window dominates the front elevation of the sanctuary. There is a 1952 unobtrusive addition abutting this structure.

The congregation of this church dates from 1829, when Rev. Asa Brooks organized the Presbyterians of Clarksburg. Rev. Brooks, who died in 1834, is buried beneath the church. The present edifice was dedicated on June 17, 1894, replacing the first, c. 1850, building that stood on the same site.

25. James and Law Building, 217 W. Main Street, 1910. West Virginia's largest book-store is housed in a handsome four-story masonry building that is crowned with a heavily bracketed cornice, flanked on either side by brick pilasters that culminate at the top in decorative cap stones.

The James & Law Company was founded in Clarksburg in 1903 by E.W. James, Sr. and A.S. Law (who had been operating a book store since 1899). The company constructed and moved into its present building in 1910, just in time to barely escape destruction in the Great Fire of 1911. The west side of the building was heavily scorched, but escaped the fate of all the adjacent buildings to the west. The company has operated continuously as West Virginia's largest book seller and distributor (specializing also, in providing text books to West Virginia schools) and is still operated by the James family.

26. Union National Bank, W. Main Street and S. Third Street, 1912, 1914. The ten story Renaissance Revival style Union National Bank is one of Clarksburg's outstanding landmarks. The front entrance is flanked by Greek Doric fluted columns, as are windows on the first level. A hooded console is over another front entrance, while the entire first level is banded at the top by classical motifs surmounted by a cornice. In fact, the entire building is done in imitation of a classical column; the first two levels being the base, the middle (largely unadorned) six floors representative of the shaft, and the top two levels, which contain elaborate tabernaculal bracketed stone pediments on alternating windows, being the cap. An elaborate cornice embellished with modillions caps the building.
The Union National Bank took over the People’s and Traders Bank in 1905 and established itself in the Traders Building which, however, was destroyed by fire on January 20, 1911. The Bank, under the presidency of W. Brent Maxwell, then commissioned the construction of the present bank building, which was completed in 1912. The largely marble interior, classical in style, of the first floor is intact. In 1961 the Union National Bank took over the Merchant's National Bank, and in 1966 annexed the 7-story Prunty Building (1914) as an annex. This annex, built by Curtis E. Prunty, is also neo-classical in design and complements the Union Bank Building.

27. Harrison County Courthouse, 301 W. Main Street, 1931-32, designed by Carlton C. Wood of Clarksburg (supervising architect) and architects R.L. Walker and H.F. Hone of Walker & Walker of Cleveland, Ohio. This Harrison County Courthouse is a good example of "Modern e' architecture, rising nine floors of buff limestone on a steel frame on a base coarses of polished black granite and with terrace walls of black granite. The front facade is surmounted by a flagpole, beneath which is a large circular illuminated clock. Interior floors are of differing colored marble, while wood finishing in the circuit court room is mahogany with inlays of ebony with burl panels.

Built on the site of three of the previous four courthouses (dating back to 1787), the present Harrison County Courthouse replaced an 1889 courthouse. The courthouse was financed by a special levy introduced in 1928 that raised $700,000 "by some miracle or other" according to historian Davis. A lavish dedication ceremony was held on November 27, 1932; the dedication address was delivered by Clarksburg native John W. Davis (the Democratic nominee for President in 1924). On the courthouse plaza stands an equestrian statue of Clarksburg native Confederate General Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson, as well as the flagstaff of the U.S.S. West Virginia, sunk at Pearl Harbor, December 7, 1941.

28. Goff Building, W. Main and Court Streets, 1911, designed by noted architect Frank Pierce Milburn. The Goff Building, the last of five Clarksburg buildings commissioned by Nathan Goff, Jr. (and the only one named for him) is a masterpiece of Renaissance Revival architecture. It is designed, like the Union National Bank, to represent a classical column; with a base, shaft, and cap, though in this case the effect is doubled, as the Goff Building is really two buildings, twins, that rise from one base. The many interesting architectural details are too numerous to discuss here, photographs will suffice to awe the reviewer.

Nathan Goff, Jr. (1842-1920) was one of the foremost public man of his day. He began his career as a major in the Union army, being taken prisoner, and then exchanged at the personal behest of President Lincoln. He served in the 1870's in the West Virginia Legislature and as a U.S. District Attorney. In 1880 he was appointed U.S. Secretary of the Navy by President Hayes and served until the end of Hayes' term in March, 1881. In 1882 he was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives and re-elected in 1884 and 1886. Goff was twice the Republican nominee for Governor of West Virginia; in 1876 and in 1888. In the latter election he was actually thought to have been elected but the returns were disputed and, after a year and half of political maneuvering, his opponent was belatedly seated.
In 1892 Nathan Goff, Jr. became a U.S. District Judge and served in that capacity until 1913 when he was elected to the U.S. Senate. Sen. Goff served out his term, retiring in 1919, and died in 1920, full of honor and the community's respect.

In addition to this long and distinguished public career, Goff was also one of Clarksburg's leading developers and businessmen, as well as being the successful promoter of the great oil & gas boom of 1900. He built five of Clarksburg's major buildings, the magnificent Goff Building being his last and, some say, his greatest architectural monument.

29. Mercer Drug Store, 329-331 W. Main Street, 1902. A three-story brick commercial building. The first level has been covered over by glass. On the second level, however, the five tall, double windows are all surmounted by stone lintels that are connected by banding. The third story windows, three of which are arched, are surmounted by stone hoodmoulds that have vertical keystones. The top of the frieze contains horizontal beading and the cornice is bracketed.

This building originally (1902) housed the Manhattan Restaurant, which, though still operating, moved in the 1970's; the J.J. Lynch Co., a dry goods business that closed in 1916; and the United Woolen Co., which closed in 1957. The Mercer Drug Store, which moved here in the 1970's, has been in continuous operation in Clarksburg since 1890.

30. A.C. Smith Building, 333-335 W. Main Street, 1895. A three-story commercial masonry building with elaborate Italianate decoration. Leaf mouldings are dominant and cover nearly every feature of the facade. The name "A.C. Smith" is carved in the center of the top cornice (there is also a cornice at the second level.)

Built by A.C. Smith, a prominent Clarksburg merchant who was also involved in other community activities, this building originally housed Smith, Brown, & Company dry good store, which operated from around 1895 until the 1930's. The building presently houses the Household Finance Co. Only the front facade at the first level has been altered.

31. Cohen Building, 345 W. Main Street, 1905. Three-story, three-bay Italianate building that, like the Smith Building, is rich in detail. The second story has at its central bay a large vaulted arch window that includes small pseudo-cornices on either end of the vaulting; while the third level has a row of eight smaller arched windows that give that level an arced effect. A richly embellished cornice is surmounted by a triangular pediment at the roof level that is Romanesque in flavor.

Built in 1905 by Clarksburg businessman Michael Cohen (who was also a major stockholder in the Robinson Grand Theater), the building housed his furniture store (later operated by his son Joseph H. Cohen), Home Furnishings, until the company's demise in 1945. The Cohen Building presently houses Wur-Der Shoes.

32. Douglas-Smith Building, 336 W. Main Street, 1902. A three-story, four-bay masonry commercial building with rich architectural detail. Tall windows above a first floor cornice are surmounted by triple-crowned lintels, while the third level contains
four arched windows, each of which is crowned by a vertical keystone at its summit. The roofline is battlemented at the ends, and the center is surmounted by an elliptical pediment.

The building was constructed by prominent Clarksburg attorney Rueben S. Douglas (1874-1935) and sold in its first decade to prominent merchant Harry R. Smith who, among other achievements, was Captain of Company K of the 1st Clarksburg Regiment during the Spanish-American War. The building is presently occupied by the Family Opticals Co.

33. Oak Hall, 401-407 W. Main Street, 1903.

Oak Hall, a long three-story arcaded brick edifice, is one of the major buildings of downtown Clarksburg. It houses a number of businesses, including the Oak Hall Cafeteria. The third floor on the front facade contains 18 arched windows, (giving the building its arcaded effect) these are separated at each third window by brick pilasters. The frieze beneath the cornice presents a long, unbroken laurel garland motif, and the cornice contains decorative corbelling, among other features.

Oak Hall was constructed by Nathan Goff, Jr. in 1903 at a cost of $35,000. The building has housed a variety of business' and professional offices, including the Thompson Music Company until 1907 and, from 1919 to 1965, Boyd Anderson's Restaurant. Nathan Goff, Jr. had his offices here for a time, as did the Clarksburg Public Library (1925-27).

34. Van Osten Building, 413-417 W. Main Street, 1903. A three-story, Victorian Eclectic building with a number of architecturally significant elements, including three triangular, or gable, pediments at the roof level and segmented skylights over the doors on both the second & third levels. There is also an oriel on one bay, and wrought iron balustrades on the balconies of the upper stories.

This building was built by prominent Clarksburg dentist Albert B. Van Osten in 1903. He sold the building in 1910 and it has since passed through a number of owners. From 1905 to 1921 the Nurnen Baker Dry Goods Store was also located in the building.

35. Nathan Goff, Jr. House 463 W. Main Street, 1883. This significant Second Empire style residence was the home of Nathan Goff, Jr. It was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1976.

For detailed information on the highly significant career of Nathan Goff, Jr. see Pivotal Structure #28 - Goff Building.

36. Clarksburg Baptist Church, W. Pike St. & 6th Streets, 1896. Is an architecturally significant religious building in Clarksburg. The church building has a number of interesting (primarily Gothic) features. Gables dominate all elevations of the building, which has a rusticated stone foundation. A rather large tower, or belfry, surmounted by a round finial, rises in the center of the edifice.
The congregation of the Clarksburg Baptist Church dates from 1848. The first church building, a story and a half rectangular brick structure, served the congregation from 1851 until 1896 when the present structure was erected nearby. An unobtrusive addition, called the "Judson Center", was dedicated in 1951.

37. Ideal Sayre Building, 114-118 S. 4th Street, 1916-17. A three-story, three-bay, Italianate commercial building. The two end bays have two story projecting three-sided oriel windows, while the central bay has twin arched windows at the second and the third levels. A balustraded cornice runs along the roof line. The building is five bays deep and has arched windows at the two upper levels on both side elevations.

Operated since 1917 as the studio of the Ideal Sayre Photographers, they now share the building with the Security Pacific Finance Company.

38. Moore's Opera House, 110 S. Fourth Street, 1917. A two and half story building with striking architectural features, including an elaborate arched cornice containing balustrading and egg and dart moulding.

Moore's Opera House was constructed in 1917 by Jack Marks at a cost of $54,000. It was built on land owned by Frank Moore, Mayor of Clarksburg, 1909-12, (hence the name). The theatre opened on June 10, 1918 with a Charlie Chaplin film, A Dog's Life. On June 14, 1918 Moore's Opera House was the scene of a "patriotic address" by Governor John J. Cornwell.

The theatre closed in 1956 and is now occupied by the Exclusive Shop, a clothing store.

The sensational murder trial of the infamous "bluebeard" Powers was held in the Opera House in 1931 and attracted National publicity. Powers was convicted and received the death penalty.

39. Logue's Jeweler's, 111-117 S. 4th Street, c. 1911. Large, three-story commercial-professional building, masonry construction. Eight masonry pilasters set forth the seven bays of the front facade, and a battlemented cornice wraps the roof of the building.

Built c. 1911, this building housed the Chicago Dairy Co., which sold baked goods, pastries, and general groceries from 1927 until the late 1970's. It was also home to Stone Brothers, a novelties and notions shop, from 1913 until 1927. It presently houses Logue's Jewelers.

40. Loar & White (A.J. Spier Building), 111-119 S. 3rd Street, 1902. A three-story masonry commercial building, somewhat Italianate in style, that has housed some of Clarksburg's oldest retail businesses. Lines of ten arched windows on both the second and third levels give the front facade an arcaded effect, while a heavily bracketed cornice gives an Italianate flavor to the building.

Built by prominent Clarksburg businessman A.J. Spier in 1902, the Bon-ton Dry Goods Store, of which he was proprietor, operated here until 1935. The Loar and White Man's Wear Store also opened in this building in 1902 and continues to operate.
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Clarksburg Downtown Historic District
Continuation sheet

41. Williams Building, 128-130 S. 2nd Street, c. 1920. A three-story building with a neo-classical flavor. Windows on the third level are capped with matching splayed stone lintels, while second level windows have plain rectangular lintels above and stone sills below. The splayed lintels complement the building's most striking feature, which are stone quoins that articulate the cornice of the front facade as well as the central bay. There is also a corbeled cornice at the roof line.

This building has been used by a wide variety of business and other interests. It has served as apartments, office of Clarksburg Tire Company, Modern Woodmen of America, The Loyal Order of Moose, headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America, and Chamberlain Florists. It presently serves as the office of Dr. W. G. Pringle and also as the office of General Electric Credit Co.

42. West Virginia Restaurant, 120 S. 2nd Street, c. 1905. Late Victorian-style three-story building whose most prominent features are three two-story, three-sided oriel, one at each bay. Adjacent to the West Virginia Restaurant is another three-story building, the lower level of which is now a parking garage for the Gore Hotel. Although of slightly different design, this adjacent structure has two three-sided oriel, that are identical to those of the WV Restaurant, so that the two buildings really present one facade.

43. Towers School, Hewes Street, 1895. An imposing two and half Romanesque-Victorian edifice, with a large central tower. Constructed in 1895 at a cost of $25,000, the building has since lost its belfry, though the tower base remains.

As a historic site, the Towers School is highly significant. Originally, the Randolph Academy stood here. Charted in 1787, it was the first academy established west of the Alleghany Mountains. The academy building was completed in 1793 and opened in 1795, with Rev. George Towers as the first tutor. Rev. Towers served until his death in 1816. The Randolph Academy was abolished in 1842 and the old building razed. The Northwestern Virginia Academy was then chartered and constructed its new building on the same site. Gordon Battelle (who was to be a "founding father" of West Virginia in 1861-63) served as its first principal from 1843 until 1851. This academy functioned until 1865, being used as a barracks, prison, and hospital by Union forces during the War between the States. In 1888 Clarksburg High School was founded and had its first classes in the old academy building. It was soon there after decided that a new building was needed. Architect M. F. Geisy was engaged to design a new building and the contract awarded to John Shrage Co. of New Matamoras, Ohio. So, in 1894, the old Northwestern Virginia Academy was razed and, the following year, the Towers School, named for Rev. George Towers, was open on the same site. The Towers school ceased to be a high school in 1913 and has since served as an elementary school.

44. Judge Maxwell Residence, 529 W. Pike Streets, c. 1912. An elaborate Neo-Classical mansion, with twin fluted terra-cotta Ionic columns supporting an elaborate rectangular pediment which contains a molded frieze, which is surmounted by highly
45. Judge Maxwell Residence, 529 W. Pike Streets, c. 1912. An elaborate Neo-Classical mansion, with twin fluted terra-cotta Ionic columns supporting an elaborate rectangular pediment which contains a molded frieze, which is surmounted by highly ornamental balustrades. The front entrance contains sidelights and an elliptical fanlight. Four gabled dormers grace the roof level of the front facade.

This ornate mansion was constructed c. 1910 for Haymond Maxwell (1879-1958). He was the son of Edwin Maxwell (1825-1903) who was one of the founders of West Virginia in 1863, served as Attorney General of WV (1866-67), Supreme Court Justice (1867-1872) and was the Republican nominee for Governor in 1884. His son Haymond Maxwell was equally as prominent. Elected to the WV House of Delegates in 1905, he rose to become the 1st Judge of Harrison County's Criminal Court (1909), Circuit Judge, (1913), and, in 1928, won appointment (and the same year, election) to the WV Supreme Court of Appeals, serving on the high bench from 1928 until 1941. In 1948 he was an unsuccessful Republican candidate for Governor of West Virginia.

CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES


2. Warner Residence, 146½ Pike Street, c. 1910, late-Victorian-era residence, triangular pediment contains original "gingerbreading".

3. Victorian Residence, 148 W. Pike Street, c. 1900, Victorian-era residence, has end extended three-side bay, returned cornices, columns support first floor roof. Stone wall along front of house.

4. Bailey Residence, 156 W. Pike Street, c. 1900, large brick Victorian residence, many typically Victorian features; extended bays, central hipped roof, Gothic peak with returned cornices.

5. William A. Moore Residence, 162 W. Pike St., c. 1880, in excellent condition, five bay masonry residence, two end chimneys with corbeled caps, all windows on each level surmounted by stone lintels, gable dormer over central bay at roof level. 9 over 9 windows, stone wall along front of house.

6. "Manse" of First Methodist Church, 170 W. Pike Street, c. 1915, substantial two ½ story stone and brick residence with front ell, containing massive end chimney. Many late-Victorian details, has exposed wood beam lintels.

7. Lowndes Bank, W. Pike and S. Third Street, c. 1925, founded by Richard T. Lowndes (1843-1930), leading merchant, mill operator, banker, and coal operator, this three-story masonry building is a fine example of "Moderne" architecture in Clarksburg.

8. "Meuse-Argonne" VFW Post No. 573, 430 W. Pike Street, 1953. Two-story stone and masonry structure, this three bay building contains an arched bay on each bay of the first floor.
9. "Fayne Building", 434 W. Pike Street, 1903, three-story, five bay Late Victorian commercial building, stone lintels over windows, composition roof. Has been Paul Myers Hardware since 1931.

10. "Webers", 440 W. Pike Street, 1911, one ½ story masonry structure with ceramic tile stone front, good example of "art deco" period in Clarksburg in the (later) facade.

11. Global Engineering Company Building, c. 1920, though somewhat altered, this two story commercial building boasts some Italianate features, such as bracketed cornices and has a gable, shingle roof.

12. O'Day's Supper Club Lounge, 159 W. Pike Street, c. 1920, a three-story Italianate masonry building of substantial size it has been altered on the first level.

13. Y.M.C.A. Building (Burrow Building), 163 W. Pike Street, c. 1910, three-story, three bay, eclectic building, with two oriel windows, pedimented hood, mansard roof.

14. "The Brunswick", 323 W. Pike Street, c. 1925, one ½ story masonry commercial building.

15. "Manhattan", 329-337, W. Pike Street, 1902, two-story, combination stone and brick commercial building, with stucco facade. Operated a restaurant since 1902.

16. Evans Hotel, 339 W. Pike Street, 1910, four-story eclectic building with battlemented roof line, plain friezes above second story, some carrara glass.

17. "Recreation Building", 341 W. Pike Street, c. 1920, three-story brick commercial building; facade veneered.

18. WV Italian Heritage Headquarters, 343 W. Pike St., c. 1920, three-story building; facade veneered.

19. Clarksburg Tire Co. Building, 429 W. Pike St., c. 1930, three-story, four-bay brick building, slight balustraded roof line. Altered on first level.


21. Meadows Food Company, 106 W. Main Street, c. 1915, two story commercial masonry building, truncated cornice, neo-classical features, brick pilasters, only slightly altered at entrance.

23. "T.W.M." Building, W. Main Street, 1910, neo-classical, two-story, six-bay (each bay containing two windows) apartment building. Has neo-classical features, triangular pediments over each bay, long, columned porch at first level along entire front facade.


25. Palace Furniture Co. storage building, 168 W. Main Street, c. 1910. Two-story frame clapboard building in several sections, gabled metal roof, on a stone foundation.

26. Union National Bank Plaza, 2nd Street, c. 1930. Union National Bank founded in 1905 with Brent Maxwell as first president. This structure is a one-story brick building with wooden balustrades enclosing a flat roof.

27. Neo-Tudor Building, W. Main & S. 2nd Street, c. 1904. Three-story office building, owned by Moshine family, that, while basically a neo-Tudor style building, contains many Victorian architectural features.

28. Parsons-Souders (Lowndes Building), W. Main & S. 3rd Street, 1901. Originally the Lowndes Bank, it was built in 1901 by prominent Clarksburg merchant R.T. Lowndes. It became the First Savings & Loan in 1965 and has also housed the Parsons-Souders department store since 1927. "Modernized" with Moderne features in mid 1930's.

29. Caplan's Jewelers, 310 W. Main Street, 1877, two-story 6-bay Italianate building, elongated arched windows on second level. Building contains numerous Victorian decorative elements. Was originally the Wells & Haymaker Drug Store.

30. G.C. Murphy Building, 312 W. Main Street, 1931, two-story, neo-classical commercial building. High arched windows on second floor.

31. McCrory Building, 318 Main Street, 1902, two-story, 3-bay commercial building, cut stone construction. Some late-Victorian details.


34. Woolworth Building (Irving Trust Co.) (now the "Galleria Mini-Mall"), 350 W. Main Street, 1915, two-story commercial building, some detailing on upper level, slightly
battlemented roof line, first level facade significantly altered. Was F.W. Woolworth from 1915 until c. 1972.

35. C&P Telephone Building, 428 W. Main Street, 1911, three-story neo-classical building, constructed by the then Bell Telephone Company in 1911. Additions to rear made in 1922 and in 1947. 1911 Building retains its architectural integrity.

36. Byard Pharmacy, 440 W. Main Street, c. 1925, one-story commercial building.

37. Parish House #1 of Christ Episcopal Church, 458 W. Main Street, 1910. Parish House, residence of assistant pastor of Christ Episcopal Church. Built in 1910 with a 1925 addition it is 2-story Victorian residence with Italianate features.

38. Christ Episcopal Church, 6th and W. Main Streets, 1853, a Tudor-Gothic structure built in 1853 under the supervision of Rev. Mr. Castlemen who even selected the lumber to be used. Their was a major renovation in 1893.

39. Harrison County Senior Citizens Center, W. Main and S. 6th Streets, 1972, a two story masonry building, "orthodox modern" in style. While of recent construction, the building blends well with the historic built-environment.


41. Stout Building (VB's Lounge), Main & Water Streets, c. 1920. Though substantially altered on lower level, second level contains interesting Italianate architectural details.

42. F.Y. Horner Residence (Buffington Studio), 127 Main Street, c. 1900, late Victorian two-story, four-bay structure, gable roof over right two gables. Former home of prominent postmaster & politician, Ferdinand Y. Horner.

43. Eagle Glass & Paint Co., 139 W. Main Street, c. 1910, two-story four-bay commercial building, stone lintels over windows, decorated frieze, semi-balustraded roof line.

44. Sheraton Hotel, 153 W. Main Street, 1968, formerly "the Uptowner Inn". While of recent construction, its architectural style blends well with the character of the historic district.

45. Lawson's Sales & Services, 219 S. 2nd Street, c. 1930, two-story masonry commercial building, some architectural detail, especially along roof line.

46. Ogden Building, 203 W. Main Street, c. 1920, two-story commercial building built by Dr. Charles R. Ogden, who served as president of the WV State Medical Association in 1927. Presently houses offices of Public Finance Company.

47. "The Bee-Hive", 209 W. Main Street, 1892. Two-story, seven-bay commercial building. Constructed in 1892 by A.J. Fletcher as a department store called "The Bee-Hive".
48. Prunty Building (Union National Bank Annex), 3rd & Main Streets, 1914, though veneered with a modern facade, it is in harmony with the architectural character of the district and blends well with the main building of the Union National Bank.

49. Hamen-Lynch Block, W. Main Street, 1897, two-story brick and stone building, with Victorian elements. Built as a joint business effort by Tyson B. Hamer, Jr., a prominent turn-of-the-century Clarksburg merchant, and Charles W. Lynch, (1851-1922), bank incorporator & director, member of the WV House of Delegates 1883-85; 1891-93, Prosecuting Attorney of Harrison Co., 1885-89; 1893-97, Circuit Judge, 1904-12, and Justice of West Virginia Supreme Court, 1913-1921.


52. Abruzzino & Matisch Law Offices, 230-232 Court Street, c. 1930, three story commercial brick building. Original builder not known.

53. Rex Heck News Co., 327 W. Main Street, c. 1910, two-story brick commercial building, some Victorian elements.


56. Hope Consolidated Gas Supply Corp., 445 W. Main Street, 1928. Four-story building with Italianate features, seven bays on front facade, each bay separated by double brick pilasters, pedimented cornice at third level. Built in 1928 at a cost of $130,000. After Hope merged with Consolidated Gas Supply Co. in 1964, a 3-story masonry wing was added to the main building at a cost of $1,725,000. The wing is architecturally compatible with the main, 1928 structure. The 1964 wing occupies the site of the Old Clarksburg City Hall.

57. Clarksburg Central Fire Station, 465 W. Main Street, 1927. A two-story stone and masonry building, the Central Fire Station was constructed in 1927 as a result of an $80,000 bond voted by the citizens. Building has Italianate features, bracketed cornice, triple-arched entrance and is architecturally intact.
58. Rezin Davis Residence, 115 S. Sixth St., c. 1880, a two-story frame house with clapboard siding, formerly the property of Rezin Davis, uncle of John W. Davis. Presently a beauty salon, though exterior is unchanged.


60. Pendergast Building, 120 S. Fourth Street, 1905. Was originally (1905) Dudley's Florists. Operated as such until early 1970's. Fine Late-Victorian commercial structure, three stories in height with bracketed cornice. Pendergast, recent owner, has covered over the second level.

61. Monongahela Power Co. Building, 102 S. Fourth Street, 1929, two-story brick commercial structure. Built in 1929 as local outlet for Monongahela Power Company's appliances and customer service. Now (since 1975) occupied by Hall Office Equipment and Heck & Mingyar Reality Co. This was the site of the Orpheum Theater from 1913 until 1929.

62. "Jazzie's" (Harbert's Drugs) 127 Fourth Street, 1929, formerly Harbert's Drug Store, two story commercial masonry building.


64. King's Beauty Shop, 109 S. Fourth Street, c. 1915. One and half story stone & brick building, Italianate in design. Lower level altered.

65. Paperback Book Mart, 107 S. Fourth Street, c. 1930. One and a half story brick commercial structure. Detailing minimal, though not intrusive.

66. "The Strand Barbers & Billiards, Trader's Avenue, c. 1920, two-story commercial brick building, Italianate features include decorative cornice and lintels above and below second floor windows.


68. Sanitary Market, 338 Traders Avenue, 1912. Two-story brick commercial building, some detailing on upper level. Sanitary Market has operated since 1912.


70. Maunz Clothing Store, S. Third Street & Traders Avenue, c. 1900. Italianate two-story commercial building with four bays, high arched windows on second floor, headed cornice.
71. Melet's, 120 S. Third Street, 1924, Melet's clothing store, which has operated in Clarksburg since 1927, occupies this four-story commercial department store, which has late-Victorian character, mixed well with Neo-Classical lines. Originally built as a professional building in 1924 by Wolk Teitelbaum.

72. Parsons-Saunders, S. Third Street, c. 1925, small one-story brick structure with stone facing. A clothing outlet for Parsons-Saunders, prominent Clarksburg department store.


74. Clarksburg Exponent-Telegraph Building, 324 Hewes Avenue, 1924. Two-story building of classical design, built of fitted stone blocks. The front entrance is flanked by a stone pilaster on either side and supported by two Ionic columns. First level windows are surmounted by decorative stone lintels. The owner of the building is the Clarksburg Publishing Company, which is the result of the merger of the Clarksburg Telegraph and the Exponent American. The Clarksburg Telegraph, founded in 1864 by General Robert S. Northcott, is one of West Virginia's oldest surviving newspapers. Among its editors have been U.S. Sen. Nathan Goff, WV Sec. of State Stuart F. Reed, and W.C. Morrison. The Telegraph joined the Clarksburg Publishing Co., publishers of the Exponent American (founded in 1910 by State Senator J. Hornor Davis) in 1927. Both papers continue to be published daily, with a joint Exponent-Telegraph Sunday edition.

75. First Methodist Church, 117 N. Second Street, 1909, 1956. The present church building, while constructed in 1956, is a Gothic structure that, while containing some modern elements such as needle-like spire, is basically Gothic in style and quite elegant. It stands on the site of the 1909 church, which was destroyed by fire in 1952. The congregation dates to 1822. The architect of the 1956 building was Harold E. Wagoner.

76. Lynch-Stacy Funeral Home, 515 W. Pike Street, c. 1905. A Late Victorian private residence, with some embellishment, that has been adaptively re-used as a funeral home.


Within the Historic District there are 31 buildings which may be considered intrusive. A list of these buildings is included with the nomination.
### 8. Significance

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**Specific dates**

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Clarksburg Downtown Historic District is the heart of Clarksburg, one of West Virginia's oldest and most historically significant cities, having played an important role in the development of both Harrison County and West Virginia; as well as having been home to a large number of historically significant individuals. The Clarksburg Downtown Historic District is also significant for the rich and varied nature of its architectural heritage.

**EXPLANATORY NOTES**

1. In the area that is now Clarksburg, white settlers began to arrive in the mid 1770's, building their first crude cabins in what was then a virgin wilderness. The first known permanent settlers in what is now Clarksburg were Andrew and Samuel Cottrill, who built cabins in what is now Clarksburg in 1772. John Nutter (who built Nutter's Fort) and Daniel Davison were the next to settle in what is now Clarksburg, in the year 1774, after the latter had made the first survey of the area (1773). Sometime between 1779 and 1781 (more probably in 1781) a meeting of settlers took place that resolved upon officially chartering their tiny but growing community under the name of "Clarksburg", in honor of George Rogers Clark. It is known that Samuel Shinn suggested this name.

   In 1784 the County of Harrison was established (much larger, of course, than today's Harrison County) and the same year the Virginia Land Office was opened at Clarksburg. Clarksburg was officially chartered by the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1785. While the very first Harrison County Court was held elsewhere, at this first meeting (July 20, 1784) Clarksburg was designated "the place for erecting public buildings." 1. The first Harrison County Courthouse was erected in Clarksburg, on the corner of Main and Second Streets, in 1787. Clarksburg has served continuously as the County Seat of Harrison County since that time.

   In its early years, Clarksburg grew slowly. Although located at the confluence of the West Fork River and Elk Creek, Clarksburg was geographically isolated, being in the central section of then Western Virginia. Access was poor and most roads were little better than paths through the virgin forest. In a petition to the Harrison County Court in September, 1790, a plea was made for road building activity because, among other things, "many of the travelers from 'Cintucky' (sic) leave their canoes at Belveal (on the Ohio River) and come across by land to Clarksburg, and are often bewildered in the woods or obliged to hire a pilot to bring them through." 2. That this situation progressed only slowly is evidenced by the fact that between 1797 and 1810 Clarksburg's population grew from 200 to only 350. In the latter year, however, the first wagon road from the east reached Clarksburg, though travel to the West was still only a "blazed trail through the woods." 3. The first road to the Ohio River from

1. Davis, Dorothy, *History of Harrison County*, 1972
2. Raymond, Harry, *History of Harrison County*, 1910
Clarksburg was completed in 1818 and, the following year the 1st judicial Court west of the Alleghany Mountains was established at Clarksburg, with Judge John George Jackson as judge.

Clarksburg grew up along Market Street (now Main Street) during this period. What is now Pike Street was, during the pre-Civil War period, known as "North Back Street." There existed only a few other streets during this period, including present day Trader's Avenue, then known as Trader's Alley. None were paved.

The era of Virginia's great turnpike building came into its own in the middle of the first half of the 19th century, and Clarksburg, due to its central location, grew as a result. The Northwestern Turnpike, not to be confused with the Parkersburg-Staunton Turnpike, reached Clarksburg from Staunton in 1836, being completed west to Parkersburg on the Ohio River by 1838. In 1840 another turnpike, north to Morgantown, was also opened. With these avenues of travel and commerce Clarksburg began to grow at a more rapid rate and take on more of an air of prosperity. The completion of the railroad from Grafton, to the east, to Clarksburg in 1857 only accelerated and emphasized these changing conditions. By 1860 Clarksburg had a population of 895, with many hundreds more in the surrounding areas.

The Civil War found Clarksburg sharply divided, though it soon became apparent that Union sympathy held the upper hand. The Union forces quickly realized that such a centrally located town could not be allowed to fall into Confederate hands, and so Clarksburg was rapidly occupied by Federal troops.

In the spring of 1861 Clarksburg was the site of an event vital to the future of the soon-to-be state of West Virginia. Western Virginia delegates to the Richmond Convention returned to their home areas after the Richmond Convention had passed the Ordinance of Secession on April 17, 1861. Most of these delegates had vehemently opposed the secession ordinance and, after decades of sectional strife between western & eastern Virginia, were not prepared to submit to what most considered to be treason. Led by John S. Carlyle, they called a mass meeting and convention at Clarksburg on April 22, 1861. This "Clarksburg Convention" adopted a "Preamble and Resolutions" that recommended the convening of a Convention in Wheeling to "consult and determine upon such action as the people of Northwestern Virginia take in the present fearful emergency." This was accompanied by an "Address" which openly condemned secession as treason. These acts resulted in the 1st Wheeling Convention which organized first the "Restored" government of Virginia and, eventually, set up the new state of West Virginia. Clarksburg escaped fighting during the Civil War Between the States, but only because it became the headquarters for the Federal Department of West Virginia (also known for a time as the Mountain Department) and therefore had large numbers of Federal troops garrisoned there (as many as 7000 in 1863) as well as extensive earthworks and fortifications, indeed, earthworks on Lownder Hill can still be detected. During the famed Jones-Imboden Confederate raid of May, 1863, fighting took place all around, but never at, Clarksburg.

4. Ambler, Charles, & Summers, Festes, West Virginia; the Mountain State
Between the close of the war in 1865 and 1900, Clarksburg grew at a steady, yet graceful rate. A great deal of economic activity took place in the area, especially coal mining, which brought ever increasing numbers of new immigrants to the area. The primary national groups who arrived during this period were the Irish, Italians, and Greeks. Clarksburg’s population grew during this period from 1,306 in 1870 to 4,050 in 1900. But growth, though steady, was gradual. A visitor to the city in the late 1890's referred to Clarksburg as a "sleepy, moss covered town". The Traders Hotel, erected in 1894, was by far the grandest building yet constructed in Clarksburg and was seen at the time as the beginning of a new era, as indeed it was. The same year the streets of Clarksburg, heretofore all dirt, began to be paved with brick.

In recognition of Clarksburg's central location, it was on the ballot of the 1877 referendum that was to, at last, fix a permanent capitol for the State of West Virginia. Voters were asked to choose between Charleston, Clarksburg, and Martinsburg. Despite intense campaigning by Clarksburgers and an early lead, Clarksburg finished second in the balloting, with 29,942 votes to Charleston's 41,243. Martinsburg was a distant third. Had the vote been taken 20 year later, there might well have been a different outcome.

The two decades between approximately 1900 and 1920 are considered to be the "Boom Years" for Clarksburg. Coal mining production increased, but the primary source of the "Boom" was the opening up of vast new oil and natural gas fields in Harrison County and areas to the west. Due to these highly profitable resources, Clarksburg experienced unprecedented growth. The influx of large amounts of new capital allowed merchants and businessmen to lavish funds upon the city, bringing about the construction of much of what is today's outstanding architecture in the downtown area. Clarksburg, more than ever before, became the economic and political center of north central West Virginia. The population of Clarksburg grew during this period from 4,050 in 1900 to 27,869 in 1920. This dramatic rise was also due in part to the fact that in 1917 Clarksburg annexed the surrounding communities of Adamston, Stealey, North View, and Broad Oaks; communities that had previously been separate corporate entities.

Though slackening somewhat in the "fury" of growth, the "Boom Years" continued into the 1920's. As a symbol of changing times, the last of Clarksburg's livery stables closed in 1923, at which time the Train "Trolley" system (first established in 1901) was doing a booming business as a means of inter-city transportation. The Trolley System ceased operation in 1947. Automobiles were, as every place else, a constantly increasing site (the first one came to Clarksburg in 1902). In 1928 a paved automobile highway (U.S. Route 50) was completed to Clarksburg from Winchester, Virginia. Interstate Highway 79 was completed between Charleston and Clarksburg in 1979.

The Great Depression had marked effects upon Clarksburg's downtown, forcing the closing of a number of businesses and several banks, most notably the Farmers Bank in 1929 and the Bank of West Virginia which failed in 1933 after having operated since 1869. Clarksburg's peak population had been in 1929 when an estimated 35,000 people dwelt within the city limits. By 1940 the population had dropped to 30,579 and continued to drop over the next two decades despite further annexations in 1947 & 1965. All things
considered, however, Clarksburg was less effected than most other cities in West Virginia due to the continued use of coal and natural gas, the solid financial base of most of its commercial establishments, and because it continued to be the focal point for a large hinterland.

Clarksburg continues to be one of West Virginia's most important urban areas, being the state's fourth largest city. Prideful of its rich heritage, there is little sign of the "urban blight" that has crept into many cities. Symbolic of Clarksburg's rich history and cultural awareness was the founding of the West Virginia Preservation Alliance, the first of its kind in the state, at Clarksburg in 1981.

2. The city of Clarksburg has given birth to, or been the home of, many figures of both state and national prominence. Only a representative few will be discussed in this document. We begin with:

Thomas J. Jackson (1824-1863) born in Clarksburg and raised both at Clarksburg and nearby areas. Commandant at West Point during the late 1850's, he joined the Confederate army in 1861, earning the "sobriquet" "Stonewall" at the 1st Battle of Bull Run. Rising to the rank of Lieutenant General, he became, next to Robert E. Lee, the most famed of all Confederate commanders. His untimely death in 1863 deprived Lee of whom he termed "my right arm." His was one of only a few state funerals held in Richmond during the life of the Confederacy.

John W. Davis (1873-1955) born at Clarksburg, the son of two-term U.S. Representative John J. Davis. Established as an attorney in Clarksburg in the 1890's, he was elected in 1898 to the WV House of Delegates from Clarksburg, serving 1899-1901. In 1910 Davis was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives to represent the 1st district of WV. Re-elected to Congress in 1912, he was appointed Solicitor General of the United States in 1913 by President Wilson, and in turn, was appointed Ambassador to Great Britain in 1918, serving during the crucial period in Anglo-American relations of 1918-1921. Highly popular and respected by the British government and people, he was given a lavish farewell by King George V upon his departure. At the 1924 Democratic National Convention he was a "dark horse" candidate, boosted primarily by the West Virginia delegation. After the longest political convention in American history, John W. Davis was nominated on the 102nd ballot as the Democratic candidate for President of the United States. Davis opened his formal campaign for the presidency with a lavish parade in Clarksburg. Despite a high-toned and spirited campaign, Davis lost the election to incumbent President Calvin Coolidge. It is generally agreed, in retrospect, that Davis was by far the more qualified of the two. Davis continued to be a leader in Democratic party circles, and kept up a very active law practice. It is said that he "argued more cases (140) before the United States Supreme Court than any other lawyer in the nation's history except for possibly Daniel Webster." 5

Howard M. Gore (1877-1947) born near Clarksburg and raised there. He became nationally famous as a horticulturist. Assistant Secretary of Agriculture from 1923 to 1924, he became Secretary of Agriculture of the United States in 1924 and served until his inauguration as the 17th Governor of West Virginia in 1925. Governor of West Virginia until 1929, he later served as Commissioner of Agriculture of WV (1931-33) and as a Public Service Commissioner (1941-1947).

Louis A. Johnson (1891-1966) settled in Clarksburg at the age of 21 and lived there the rest of his life. A colonel in World War I, Johnson was one of the founders of the American Legion and served as its National Commander in 1932-33. Johnson was appointed Assistant Secretary of War in 1937 by President Roosevelt and served in that office throughout the critical years of World War II and beyond. He was appointed Secretary of Defense of the United States in March, 1949 by President Truman and served as Secretary until September 1950.

Nathan Goff, Jr. (1843-1920), U.S. Congressman, U.S. Senator, Federal Judge and U.S. Secretary of the Navy. His career is discussed more thoroughly in Part 7, under "Goff Building" ($28).

Guy D. Goff (1869-1933), son of Nathan Goff, Jr. He had a distinguished law career, including being Assistant Attorney General of the U.S. from 1915 to 1918. Elected to the U.S. Senate from WV in 1924, Goff was the center of a "stop-Hoover" movement of Republican senators and received 18 votes for president at the 1928 Republican National Convention. After his Senatorial term (1925-1931) expired he retired and died soon thereafter.

Stuart F. Reed (1865-1935) lifelong resident of Clarksburg. Served in WV Senate 1894-1898, and became the first popularly elected Secretary of State of WV in forty years, serving two terms, 1905-1913. Elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1918, he served four terms (1919-1927) and, as Chairman of the House Committee for the District of Columbia was 'de facto' mayor of Washington, D.C. from 1923-1927.

Melville Davison Post (1869-1930), born near Clarksburg and lived in or near the city for most of his life. One of the most prominent authors of his day, he wrote 17 novels, nearly all of them best sellers, and created the memorable characters of Randolph Mason and Uncle Abner. During the mid-1920's Post was the highest paid author in the United States. He was nominated for, thoughhe did not receive, the Nobel Prize for literature.

Davis Grubb (1919-1980) came to Clarksburg at the age of 12 and spent most of his early life there; returned to Clarksburg the year before his death. Famed author of 11 best selling novels, including two, Night of the Hunter and Fool's Parade that became major motion pictures. Also published several anthologies of short stories. Grubb was residing at Clarksburg's Gore Hotel at the time of his death.

Phyllis Curtin (1914- ) famed operatic soprano, was born and raised in Clarksburg. A member of the Metropolitan Opera Co. of New York, she has premiered in more operas than any other American soprano and has had over sixty works written expressly for her.

Cyprus R. Vance (1917- ) born at Clarksburg of an old Harrison County family (his grandfather was a one-time Mayor of Clarksburg), he rose to become U.S. Secretary of the Army (1962-64), assistant Secretary of Defense (1965-1967), special Ambassador for the United States (1967-1968) and was Secretary of State of the United States from January, 1977 to July, 1980.

Other noted individuals from Clarksburg include: Edwin Maxwell (1825-1903), 2nd Attorney General of West Virginia, 1866-67, Justice of WV Supreme Court, 1867-72, Republican nominee for governor, 1884, state senator & legislator; Justina Carskadon Hart (1911- ), noted artist, recipient of national arts awards, who has exhibited her art nationally, including having several collages at the New York Worlds Fair in 1965. Granville Davison Hall (1837-1934), novelist and historian. His notes on the Wheeling Convention are the best records available on the meetings which formed the state of West Virginia. Raymond Maxwell (1879-1958), son of Edwin Maxwell, prominent jurist, served in WV legislature, as Judge of Harrison Co. Criminal Court, 1909-13,
Circuit Judge, 1913-25, and Justice of WV Supreme Court, 1929-1940. He was a candidate for governor of West Virginia in 1948. Charles W. Lynch (1851-1932) was another Clarksburg who served on the WV Supreme Court, 1913-21.

As is apparent from this partial list, Clarksburg has produced an unusually high number of individuals, for a city of its relatively small size, that have made contributions in many fields to the life of the state and nation.

3. The Clarksburg Downtown historic district possesses a wide variety of architectural styles that are, up to a point, representative of the architectural moods of the United States. Federal and Greek Revival style residences are to be found within the district, although because this is primarily a business district such buildings are rare. The finest expression of residential architecture within the district is unquestionably the Second Empire style Nathan Goff, Jr. House.

Because Clarksburg experienced its great "boom period" (as previously described) beginning in the late 1890's, the district is predominately made of Late Victorian era architectural styles with Italinate and Renaissance Revival designs the leading forms. Neo-Classical buildings, such as the Masonic Temple, are also in evidence, as are noted examples of the Gothic Victorian style. A number of locally and regionally prominent architects, such as Carlton C. Wood and Frank Pierce Milburn, designed major buildings within the district and this is evidenced by the high degree of Eclecticism to be found among buildings of the same basic style. There are also several notable examples of the more recent "Moderne" style, most notably the Harrison County Courthouse. Clarksburg, at the time of this writing, is devoid of modern "glass-slab" style architecture.

The Clarksburg Downtown Historic District is then, a district that is significant for its rich historical and architectural heritage, and for the vital role it has played in the history and development of West Virginia.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 75 acres

Quadrangle name Clarksburg, W.Va.

Quadrangle scale 1: 24,000

UMT References

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Verbal boundary description and justification
Starting at a point two lots south of W. Main Street on the east side of Water Street, thence due west two lots deep along the south side of West Main Street to a point one lot deep on the west side of South Sixth Street, thence due north to a point one lot deep on the north side of West Pike Street, with a

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

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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Michael J. Pauley, Historian

Historic Preservation Unit

W.Va. Dept. of Culture & History date February 17, 1982

Cultural Center telephone (304) 348-0240

Capitol Complex

city or town Charleston

state West Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

X state

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

date February 19, 1982

For HCIR use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest

Chief of Registration
10. Geographical Data - UMT References

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MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The two Major bibliographical references used in the preparation of this document were:


Other Bibliographical References include:

Boran, Ron, ed., *Harrison County '76*, official publication of the Clarksburg-Harrison County Bi-Centennial Commission, Clarksburg, WV, 1976
Horner, J. Robert, *History of the Early Days of the Oil and Gas Development in Harrison County*, WV, WV University, Morgantown, WV 1968

Item 10, Verbal Boundary Description and Justification page 2

Slight divergence to take in the Maxwell Property on the south side of West Pike Street, thence due east to the northern intersection of Hewes Avenue and South Fourth Street (and including the S. Fourth Street Bridge), thence continuing east one lot deep along the north side of Hewes Avenue and one lot deep along the north side of West Pike Street to Elk Creek, thence due south along the east side of Water Street to the point of beginning.
10. Geographical Data – Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

thence 1600 feet generally west following the southern right-of-way of the
Clarkburg Expressway to its intersection with the east side of South Sixth
Street; thence 340 feet south south west along the eastern side of South Sixth
Street to the southwestern corner of South Sixth Street and Hewes Avenue; thence
west 325 feet along the southern side of Hewes Avenue to the western end of
the U.S. Post Office at a point across Hewes Avenue from the south western
terminus of Walnut Street; thence 420 feet south south west to the northern side
of Traders Avenue (including the Judge Maxwell House property); thence 240 feet
east along the northern side of Traders Avenue; thence 70 feet east to the
northeastern corner of W. Main Street; thence 70 feet east to the northern
western corner of W. Main Street and South Sixth Street; thence 400 feet south
along the eastern side of South Sixth Street to the northeastern corner of South
Sixth Street and Washington Avenue; thence 1235 feet east along the northern side
of Washington Avenue to the north western corner of Washington Avenue and South
Third Street; thence 100 feet north; thence 1150 feet east in a line, paralleling
for 325 feet the southern side of Murdoc Alley, to the western side of Water
Street to the northwest corner of Washington Avenue and Water Street; thence 175
feet east along the northern side of Washington (to include in the Stout Building)
to its terminus at the western bank of Elk Creek; thence 1050 feet north along
the western bank of Elk Creek to the point of beginning.
Clarksburg Downtown Historic District, Clarksburg, Harrison County, West Virginia

U.S.G.S. Quadrangle Clarksburg, W.Va.

UTM References

E.       N.
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