

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: N/A

other name/site number: Downtown Elkins Historic District

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: not for publication: N/A

city/town: Elkins vicinity: N/A

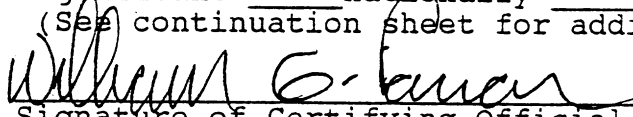
State: WV code: WV county: Randolph code: 083 zip code: 26241

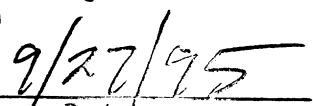
=====

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)


Signature of Certifying Official


Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

 Signature of Certifying Official Date

 State or Federal agency and bureau

=====
 4. National Park Service Certification
 =====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain):

=====
 Signature of the Keeper Date

=====
 5. Classification
 =====

Ownership of Property:	Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)	(Check only one box)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure
	<input type="checkbox"/> object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
65	19	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
65	19	TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: N/A

=====
6. Function or Use
=====

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling.
Religion: religious facility.
Government: U.S. post office, city government.
Commerce/Trade: financial institution, department store, restaurant.

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling.
Religion: religious facility.
Government: city government.
Commerce/Trade: financial institution, department store, restaurant.

=====
7. Description
=====

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

Late 19th Century: Italianate.
Early 20th Century: American Foursquare.
Late Victorian: Romanesque Revival.
Late Victorian: Second Empire.
Late Victorian: Queen Anne.
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Classical Revival.
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Commercial.

MATERIALS:

Foundation; brick; stone; block.
Walls: brick; stone; wood; molded concrete block.
Roof: asphalt; metal; slate; built-up.
Other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

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

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

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

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

X 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

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

Property is:

N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

N/A B removed from its original location.

N/A C a birthplace or grave.

N/A D a cemetery.

N/A E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

N/A F a commemorative property.

N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Architecture
Exploration/Settlement
Politics/Government
Commerce

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1893 - 1940.

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1893.

SIGNIFICANT PERSONS:
Davis, Henry Gassaway
Elkins, Stephen Benton

CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
Bishop, Ray W.
Cain, James
Liller, Eugene D.
McHale, Edward T.
McLaughlin, Charles
Mott, Charles T.
Ray, Henry
Triplett, Elijah
Ward, John T.
Whiteman, T.R.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
N/A previously listed in the National Register
N/A previously determined eligible by the National Register
N/A designated a National Historic Landmark
N/A recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
N/A recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
X Other

Name of Repository:
Elkins Historic Landmark Commission
City Hall
Elkins, West Virginia 26241

=====
10. Geographical Data
=====

Acreage of Property: 28 acres.

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A. 17. 599840. 4309120. B. 17. 599840. 4308880.
C. 17. 599940. 4308880. D. 17. 599940. 4308620.
E. 17. 599600. 4308640. F. 17. 599600. 4309120.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation
sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation
sheets.)

=====
11. Form Prepared By
=====

Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: N/A

Date:

Street & Number: 612 Main Street Telephone: (304) 765-5716

City or Town: Sutton

State: WV

ZIP: 26601

=====
ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION
=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's
location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having
large acreage or numerous resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

=====

PROPERTY OWNER

=====

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

Name: Multiple

Street & Number:

Telephone: ()

City or Town:

State:

ZIP:

=====

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

The Downtown Elkins Historic District comprises the central business district of Elkins. It contains the major concentration of historic commercial buildings in Elkins. The district is roughly rectangular in shape, bounded on the south by the Western Maryland Railroad yards; on the north by Kerens and Henry Avenues; on the east by First Street; and on the west by Fifth Street. This corresponds to the main commercial section of Elkins.

The nominated area contains approximately 28 acres, approximately nine blocks. There are 84 sites in the district; 65 are considered contributing, 19 are considered non-contributing.

The terrain is flat. The Western Maryland Railroad yards are on the southern edge of the district and form a large open expanse. Except for the depot, there are no extant historic structures and the open yards form a barrier or boundary between the adjacent residential development. The eastern boundary of the district is First Street. Below this there are a number of recent non-significant buildings and residences that are not within the period of significance of the district. Further below this, one-half block, is the Tygart Valley River, which forms a natural boundary to the historic and current extent of the central business district. Surrounding the district are residential neighborhoods. To the west of the boundaries there are a number of residential buildings, as well as a number of recent commercial buildings. To the north, the neighborhood is residential and modern commercial and government buildings, including the new Federal Courthouse. There is a large recent commercial non-significant concentration of buildings along Route 33, Randolph Avenue, which curves to parallel the north and west boundaries of the district, about one to two blocks distant. There has been a large amount of new construction and strip development along the road.

The Randolph County government is not located within the district. It is to the north east of the boundaries, approximately three to four blocks remote. This is unusual for most downtown county seats in West Virginia, where the courthouse is normally the focus of the commercial district. The location of the court-

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 2

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

house may be related to the fact that the town predominantly developed around the railroad and the commerce of Elkins. The courthouse was relocated to Elkins after this development, thus resulting in a remote location.

The district comprises mostly nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings. These are primarily two and three-story, masonry, commercial buildings with storefronts on the first floor and offices or housing above. The buildings abut one another and fill the entire lots. There are few side yards etc. There is an alley behind most of the streets. The older commercial buildings in the district include the Dann Building, 1897 (#81); the Randolph Company, 1896 (#2); the Randolph Hotel, 1893 (#13); the Harvey Building, 1897 (#18 and #19) and the Wallace Bakery, 1895 (#70). These represent the early development period of Elkins, when the railroad first arrived and activity centered around this occurrence. There are a few other buildings in the district constructed prior to 1900. Most date, though, from the 1910 to 1920 period. This is the most prolific construction period and corresponds to the historic development period of the town.

Historically, the early development period of the town is represented by the buildings listed above from the 1890-1900 period. The later, turn-of-the-century development of the town is represented by many of the Romanesque Revival Style commercial buildings and the banks, as well as the residences.

The commercial styles represented in the district include the Romanesque Revival, Commercial, Neo-Classical Revival, and Italianate. These all relate to the period of construction of the buildings. The predominant style in the commercial buildings is the Romanesque Revival Style or the Italianate Style. There are variations on each of these or combinations of the two or others. This is related to the period of development and also to the association with railroad development. Much railroad related architecture contains Italianate detailing or styling.

The Romanesque Style is well represented. The railroad depot, 1908 (#1), is one of the more significant and obvious representa-

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 3

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

tives. This is a two-story, brick building with a broad hip roof with large overhangs. There is a one-story projection along the long axis with the same roof line. The one-story roof continues as a canopy circling the entire building, where it is two-stories tall. The canopy is supported by heavy timber brackets. The windows are nine over one and twelve over one light sash. The Hotel Tygart, 1906 (#45), is one of the larger representatives. It is a seven-story, brick building with an arcaded first floor with an entrance to the lobby. The upper floors have flat-headed windows with stone lintels with keystones. The Nathan Building/Fair Company building, ca. 1907 (#67) is another good example of the style. It is a three-story, brick building with a heavy cornice at the top. The windows on the third floor are round-arched with stone segmented arches and stone sills. There is a stone belt course connecting the arches.

There is one Victorian Romanesque Style building in the district, the Ward Building, 1908 (#31). It is two-stories tall and was constructed by John T. Ward. It has a projecting, three-sided bay on the second floor and a tall frieze beneath the bracketed cornice. The windows on the second floor have shallow arches and there is a stone belt course connecting the arches. There is also a belt course at the sill level. The entrance on the first floor contains a large arched architrave. There are also two storefronts on the first floor.

There is one architecturally significant church in the district. It is the First United Methodist Church, 1904 (#62). It is also an excellent example of the Romanesque Revival Style of architecture. It is a large brick structure with a very broad shallow gable roof. There are two towers on the front elevation, each at different heights. The tops of the towers are crenelated and there are tall arched openings in the taller of the two for the bell tower. The entrance has an arched opening and the center of the gable has a monumental sized arched window. All of the arches have stone surrounds and are connected with a stone belt course.

As stated previously, the Italianate Style is one of the most

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 4

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

well represented. These buildings are generally two and three story, masonry commercial buildings with detailing at the cornice, above the windows and at the first floor level, in the storefronts. The Hotel Delmonte, 1899 (#3), is one of the older examples of this style. It is also one of the more simple. It is three-stories with a flat roof, shallow-arched windows and a decorative bracketed cornice. The Kendall Building, 1901 (#43), is another example of the style. It is three-stories tall with a bracketed cornice and paneled brick facade. Windows are one over one wood sash within the panels. The first floor has a prominent secondary cornice supported by decorative fluted pilasters. The Parmesano Building, 1899 (#75), is an interesting interpretation of the style. It is two-stories tall with an oriel in the middle bay on the second floor. There is a very decorative stamped metal cornice with brackets and garlanded frieze. There are heavy hoods over the windows and a bracket over the oriel. Beneath the windows there is stamped ornamentation. The most interesting feature of the building is the brick work itself. The bricks are two colors, gray and yellow. They are laid in a pattern which forms diamond detailing along the face of the building. There is also a basket weave effect in the parapet portion of the facade. Other buildings representative of the Italianate Style are numbers 77, 78, 79.

The Commercial Style is the next most represented style in the district. These are two and three-story, masonry commercial buildings with flat-headed, one over one or two over two windows; a small plain cornice, if one exists; simple first floor storefronts with flat transoms; and little detailing or decoration.

One of the more intact and interesting grouping of buildings is on Davis Avenue and includes the Darden Block, 1906 (#50), the Brown Building, 1906 (#51), and the Stalnaker Block, 1900 (#52). These are the most intact of the buildings in the district and their relationship underscores the urban ambience of the downtown. The Darden Block is a three-story, brick, Italianate Style building with a large arched parapet and heavy bracketed cornice. Windows on the third floor are arched with stone surrounds and keystones. The second floor windows are flat-headed. The Brown

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 5

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

Building is a three-story, brick building with a flat bracketed cornice and flat-headed windows. The Stalnaker Block is also three-stories with a decorative cornice and arched windows on the third floor. The arches are composed of rusticated stone surrounds. The parapet has a pedimented cornice.

The Post Office and Federal Building (#12), now the City Hall, was constructed in 1917. It is a good example of the Neo-Classical Revival Style of federal architecture that was prevalent in this time period for post offices. It is a three-story, stone building with a banded rusticated first floor. There is a central pavilion with flanking wings. The center first floor windows are round-headed and the end windows are flat-headed with keystones formed from the rusticated banding. The second floor windows are all flat-headed with round-headed tympanum. These have carved scroll work. The third floor windows are flat-headed with stone keystones. The windows are eight over eight. On the second floor they are casement type. There is a cornice/belt course at the top of the rusticated first floor. This supports paired pilasters on the ends of the projecting center pavilion. The pilasters support a wide stone entablature at the top which in turn supports a balustraded and paneled balustrade.

Residentially, there are a few styles represented. One interesting example is the row of Italianate Style, brick, row houses located on Fourth Street, the Bishop Apartments, 1915 (#58). These are two-story with projecting metal cornices and a projecting three-sided bay in one of the two bay front facades. There is a one-story, hip roof porch along the entire front, raised, creating a continuous piazza along the street. The porches have square posts and brick enclosed balustrade.

The Queen Anne Style is represented by three buildings in the district. The Greenwade Building, 1893 (#59), is an interesting variation on the style. It is a one-story, two bay house with two Moorish arched parapets on the front. There is a one-story porch on one bay with a Chippendale Style balustrade. There is a rectangular projecting bay in the other bay with a bell shaped roof. The Woodford House, 1905 (#11) is a two-story, German

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 6

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

sided residence with a hip roof, gable front dormer, and a corner polygonal bay with pointed roof. There is a one-story, front porch with a two-story, central pedimented portico over the entrance. There is a Palladian window in one of the bays on the front facade. The porch wraps around the side and has been enclosed. The Darden House, 1904 (#10), is a two and a half-story, brick residence with a corner tower with pyramid roof and an "l" shaped, steep gable roof. The gable ends are wood shingle. There is a one-story, hip roof porch that wraps on one side.

The Four Square Style is represented by the Ritter Building (#61).

One contractor stands out in the district. Though there are a number of contractors/architects associated with buildings in the district, John T. Ward was the most prolific. He is responsible for the construction of numbers 31, 45, 66, 69, 75, 77, and 78. He is also well represented in other areas of Elkins.

The following is a complete list of sites in the district. The numbers refer to the accompanying map. Including outbuildings, there are 84 buildings in the district. 65 are considered contributing, 19 are considered non-contributing.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 7

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

LIST OF SITES

1. Railroad Avenue & Third Street. Western Maryland Railroad Depot. 1908. Romanesque Revival Style. Two-story, rectangular brick train depot. Contributing.
2. 200 - 210 Railroad Avenue. The Randolph Company. Ca. 1896 - 1902. Commercial/Italianate Style. Two-story, brick building originally built as two separate buildings. Contributing.
3. 316 - 318 Railroad Avenue. Hotel Delmonte. Ca. 1899. Italianate Style. Three-story rectangular brick building built in two separate sections of relatively equal size. Contributing.
4. 316A Railroad Avenue. One-story brick garage building. Modern. Non-contributing.
5. 316 Railroad Avenue. Jeans. Ca. 1908. Three-story square Concrete block structure. Contributing.
6. 326 Railroad Avenue. American Legion. 1942. One-story rectangular brick building on raised foundation. Contributing.
7. 422 Railroad Avenue. McCauley Residence. Ca. 1908. Two-story, L-shaped frame house with gable roof. Non-contributing.
8. 418 Railroad Avenue. Stable. Ca. 1908. Rectangular building of brick and hollow clay tile. Contributing.
9. 425 Davis Avenue. Mountain State Garage. Ca. 1923. Two-story rectangular brick commercial building. Contributing.
10. 421 Davis Avenue. Ralph Darden House. Ca. 1904. Queen Anne Style. Two and a half or three story brick house. Contributing.
11. 419 Davis Avenue. Joseph M. Woodford House. Ca. 1905. Queen Anne Style. Two-story rectangular frame house. Contributing. 11A - One bay garage - Contributing.
12. 401 Davis Avenue. U.S. Post Office and Federal Building. 1917. Classical Revival Style. Three-story neoclassical public building. Contributing.
13. 9 Fourth Street. Randolph Hotel. Ca. 1893. Classical Revival Style. Elijah Triplett - builder. Two and one-half story rectangular frame building. Contributing.
14. 12 Fourth Street. Garage. Ca. 1940. One-story, quonset hut shaped, masonry building. Contributing.
15. 325 - 331 Davis Avenue. Elkins Garage Company. Ca. 1915. Commercial Style. Two-story rectangular brick building. Contributing.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 8

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

uting.

16. 317 Davis Avenue. Tygarts Valley Bank. 1913. Classical Revival Style. Three-story, brick, rectangular, neoclassical bank building. Contributing.

17. 313 - 315 Davis Avenue. Elkins Cash Grocery Company Building. Ca. 1903. Commercial Style. Eugene Liller - architect. Three-story rectangular brick commercial building. Contributing.

18. 305 - 307 Davis Avenue. Harvey Building (one of two buildings). 1897. Commercial Style. Three-story rectangular brick commercial building. Contributing.

19. 309 - 311 Davis Avenue. Harvey Building (one of two buildings). 1897. Three-story rectangular brick commercial building. Contributing.

20. 301 - 303 Davis Avenue. Elkins Opera House/Wilt Building. 1898. Second Empire Style. Four-story brick commercial building. Contributing.

21. 17 - 19 Third Street. Hutton Building. Ca. 1900. Commercial Style. Two-story brick commercial building. Contributing.

22. 300 Railroad Avenue. Modern one-story commercial building. Non-contributing.

23. 6 Third Street. Old Elkins Hotel. 1921. Three-story, red brick, commercial building. Contributing.

24. Third Street. One-story concrete block commercial building. Non-contributing.

25. 227 Davis Avenue. Modern bank. Non-contributing.

26. 209 Davis Avenue. Cain Building. 1923. James Cain - builder. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

27. 205 Davis Avenue. Grand Theater. 1909. T.R. Whiteman - builder. Two-story, rectangular, masonry building. Contributing.

28. 203 Davis Avenue. Boner Building. Ca. 1940. Commercial Style. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

29. 201 Davis Avenue. Donohue Building. Ca. 1902. Italianate Style. Two-story rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

30. 109 - 111 Davis Avenue. Cromwell Building. Ca. 1908. Italianate Style. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 9

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

with clipped corner entrance. Contributing.

31. 105 - 107 Davis Avenue. Ward Building. Ca. 1908. Victorian Romanesque Style. Said to be the only commercial building John T. Ward built for himself. Two-story, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

32. 103 Davis Avenue. Modern. Non-contributing.

33. 101 Davis Avenue. Modern. Non-contributing.

34. 19 First Street. Trailer. Non-contributing.

35. 100 - 104 Davis Avenue. Kendall Building. Ca. 1908. Two-story, rectangular, frame, commercial building. Contributing.

36. 106 - 108 Davis Avenue. McLaughlin Building. Ca. 1912. Italianate Style. Charles McLaughlin - builder. Two-story, rectangular, brick commercial building. Contributing.

37. 110 Davis Street. The Old Mason's Building. Ca. 1940. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

38. 112 Davis Avenue. Moose Hall/Lodge. 1923. Three-story, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

39. 120 Davis Avenue. Thompson Building. Ca. 1915. Romanesque Revival Style. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

40. 122 Davis Avenue. Joseph's Mercantile Building. Ca. 1915. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

41. 100 Second Street. Charles McLaughlin Building. Ca. 1915. Italianate Style. Charles McLaughlin - builder. Three-story, square, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

42. 104 - 106 Second Street. Charles McLaughlin Building. Ca. 1919. Italianate Style. Charles McLaughlin - builder. Three-story, square, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

43. 200 - 204 Davis Avenue. Kendall Building. Ca. 1901. Italianate Style. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building with a corner entrance. Contributing.

44. Second Street. Two-story, red brick building. Contributing.

45. 206 - 208 Davis Avenue. Gassaway Hotel/Hotel Tygart. 1906. Romanesque Revival Style. John T. Ward - builder. Seven-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

46. 210 - 214 Davis Avenue. Moyle Building. 1906. Eugene Liller /T.R. Whiteman - architectural firm. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 10

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

47. 216 - 222 Davis Avenue. McHale Building. 1905. Edward T. McHale - builder. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
48. 224 Davis Avenue. Starr Hotel/Kennedy Building. Ca. 1901. Romanesque Revival Style. Three-story, rectangular, commercial building. Contributing.
49. 105 Third Street. G.C. Murphy Company. 1967. Modern commercial building. Non-contributing.
50. 314 Davis Avenue. Darden Block. 1906. Italianate Style. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
51. 316 Davis Avenue. Brown Building. 1906. Italianate Style. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
52. 318 - 320 Davis Avenue. Stalnaker Block. Ca. 1900. Romanesque Revival Style. Three-story, rectangular, commercial building. Contributing.
53. Davis Avenue. Modern bank building with drive-through facility. Non-contributing.
54. 400 Davis Avenue. Elkins YMCA. 1908. Three-story, red brick, institutional building. Architect was Charles T. Mott and builder was John T. Ward. Building has lost architectural integrity due to various additions and modifications. Non-contributing.
55. 412 Davis Avenue. Pioneer Motors. Modern, commercial building. Non-contributing.
56. 416 Davis Avenue. Elkins Public Library. Modern, commercial building. Non-contributing.
57. 418 Davis Avenue. Huntington Bank Building. Two-story, pebble-faced building. Modern. Non-contributing.
58. 115 - 125 Fourth Street. Bishop Apartments. Ca. 1915. Italianate Style. Ray W. Bishop - builder and developer. Two-story, row house-style apartment building containing 10 units. Contributing.
59. 116 Fourth Street. Ca. 1893. Queen Anne Style. One-story residence two bays wide. False parapet walls on front. Asphalt brick siding. Contributing. 59A - One bay concrete block garage. Non-contributing.
60. 118 Fourth Street. Lichliter Building. Ca. 1903. Two and one half story, rectangular, frame house. Contributing.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 11

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

61. 202 Fourth Street. Ritter Building. Ca. 1915. Four Square Style. Two and one half story, square, brick house with two hip-roofed dormers. Contributing.
62. 315 Kerens Avenue. Methodist Church. 1904. Romanesque Revival Style. Rectangular, brick church, two stories in height. Contributing.
63. 101 Third Street. Modern Building. 1967. Non-contributing.
64. 103 Third Street. Modern Building. 1967. Non-contributing.
65. 115 Third Street. Family Drug Store. Ca. 1921. Italianate Style. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
66. 117 - 119 - 121 Third Street. Goldberg's Department Store/Gillooly Building. Ca. 1902 - 1906. John T. Ward - builder. Two-story, brick, commercial building originally built as two or three separate buildings. Contributing.
67. 123 - 127 Third Street. Nathan Building/Fair Company Building. Ca. 1907. Romanesque Revival Style. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
68. 211 - 213 Henry Avenue. Ray Building. 1925. Commercial Style. Henry Ray - builder. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
69. 224 Third Street. Wallace Building. 1905. Commercial Style. John T. Ward - builder. Three-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
70. 220 Third Street. Wallace Bakery Annex. Ca. 1895 - 1915. Commercial Style. Two and one half story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
71. 218 Third Street. Bent Building. 1914. Commercial Style. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.
72. 212 - 214 Third Street. Smith Building. Ca. 1938. Commercial Style. Two-story, rectangular, commercial building of brick and hollow clay tile. Contributing.
73. 212 Third Street. Modern Bank Building. Non-contributing.
74. 124 Third Street. Modern Rite Aid Building. Non-contributing.
75. 122 Third Street. Parmesano Building. Ca. 1899. Italianate Style. John T. Ward - builder. Two-story rectangular commercial building of gray and yellow brick. Contributing.
76. 120 Third Street. Poling Building. Ca. 1900. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 12

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

77. 116 Third Street. Wimer Building. Ca. 1900. Italianate Style. John T. Ward - builder. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

78. 114 Third Street. Brandley Building. Ca. 1900. Italianate Style. John T. Ward - builder. Brandley Building was Ward's first commission. Two-story, rectangular, commercial building. Contributing.

79. 108 - 110 - 112 Third Street. W.T. Grant Building. Ca. 1929. Italianate Style. T.R. Whiteman - builder. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

80. 104 - 106 Third Street. Elkins Hardware and Furniture Company. Ca. 1897. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

81. 100 - 102 Third Street. Dann Building. 1897. Two-story, rectangular, brick, commercial building. Contributing.

82. 17 1/2 First Street. Two-story, brick, commercial building. Originally a stable. Ca. 1903. Contributing.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 1

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

The Downtown Elkins Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of Elkins and the development of Randolph County. Under Criterion B it is significant for its association with U.S. Senator and entrepreneur Henry Gassaway Davis, and for its association with Congressman and businessman Stephen Benton Elkins. Under Criterion C the Downtown Elkins Historic District is significant as a good example of many of the architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th century and for its association with West Virginia contractor, John T. Ward; for its association with West Virginia architect, Eugene D. Liller; for its association with the city's premier builder, T.R. Whiteman.

The Downtown Elkins Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development and settlement of Randolph County. Randolph County was formed in 1787 and named for Edmund Jennings Randolph, governor of Virginia from 1786 to 1788. Randolph remains the largest county in the state of West Virginia.

The first permanent settlement in the county was in 1772. The town of Beverly was chartered in 1790 and served as the county seat for the first century.

Randolph County developed very slowly due to its topography and the county remained primarily agricultural well into the late 19th century. Some attempts were made to open up the county through road development but the topography made construction difficult and the climate precluded use of the roads except in fair weather.

The first turnpike through the county was the Staunton & Parkersburg Turnpike which was begun in the 1830's and not completed until the early 1850's. The Beverly & Fairmont Turnpike followed in 1850 and then the Pennsylvania, Beverly, & Morgantown Turnpike was constructed about 1853.

Although Elkins was of little strategic importance during the Civil War, the county saw military action due to the importance

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 2

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

of controlling the turnpikes.

When Elkins was first incorporated in 1890, a petition was presented to the county court to make Elkins the county seat, then located at Beverly. The court refused as they were then in the process of replacing the courthouse. In 1897 the new courthouse burned to the ground and Elkins again petitioned the court. By that time, Elkins had become the center of many business interests, such as coal and timber, that had regular dealings with the county court. The issue was placed on the ballot during the general election of 1898, but the results were disputed. When the county court found in favor of Beverly, Elkins appealed to the circuit court and won. The appeal eventually went before the State Supreme Court which decided in Elkins' favor. A new courthouse was begun in 1902 on the corner of Randolph Avenue and High Street and completed in 1908. The struggle to locate the county seat in Elkins parallels many county seats throughout the state of West Virginia. Elkins also became headquarters for the federal district court for northern West Virginia in 1921.

Elkins contributed to the development of the county by being the location of the center of commerce, transportation, and banking. The arrival and development of the railroad was the single most significant development in Elkins' history.

The history of Elkins revolves primarily around two self-made businessmen and politicians, Henry Gassaway Davis and his son-in-law, Stephen Benton Elkins. They originally founded the town of Elkins as the main terminal on their West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh Railway.

Henry G. Davis was born on a farm near Baltimore in 1823. The son of Caleb Davis, a merchant with interests in the expanding railroad that was being extended to Frederick. In the Panic of 1837, Caleb Davis lost everything, and Henry, then 14 years old, went to work to help support the family. When he was 20, Henry was hired as a brakeman on the B&O. He impressed the directors with his innovations and skills and was soon promoted to conductor. He is credited with being the first to operate trains at night, a

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

feat considered impossible at the time. In 1853, Davis was made agent at Piedmont, now in West Virginia, probably the most important B&O station outside Baltimore. Piedmont was located at the point where lighter engines were exchanged for heavier, more powerful engines to negotiate the 17 mile grade to the top of the Alleghenies. This year marked the end of Henry Davis' career as a B&O employee and the beginning of his corporate career.

Elkins proper did not come into existence until the interests of Davis and his son-in-law, Stephen Benton Elkins, were turned towards this section of West Virginia. They identified the potentially rich Roaring Creek coal fields in Randolph County and laid out a rail route to these resources. The terminus was Leadsville/Elkins. Elkins was to construct a home near the railroad in order to keep an eye on their investments. "Halliehurst" was thus begun in 1889. The following year Davis began construction on his home on an adjacent hill.

Davis had been acquiring land in the area for at least a decade, and most of downtown Elkins is located on a 163 acre tract that he acquired in 1888 from Bernard L. Hinkle. This acreage was to become the extensive railroad yards in Elkins. Davis also acquired other land in what was to become the town of Elkins.

The railroad was completed to Leadsville in 1889 and a temporary depot was used until the lines were extended into Elkins proper in the fall of 1889. The town and the railroad yards were laid out by Davis' engineers and the plat recorded in September of 1889. The town was incorporated in 1890 based on this initial plat map. The railroad depot, (#1), is the last remaining railroad structure in the historic district.

The town quickly developed into a sort of company town as a support facility for the railyards and terminus. Workers, management personnel, and merchants established homes in the new development. The town swelled to encompass the new residential, business, and industrial neighborhoods that collected around the railroad facility.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 4

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

The Downtown Elkins Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the settlement and development of the town of Elkins. Leadsville was the initial name for the town in its beginning because of its close proximity to the mouth of Leading Creek. Approximately one mile north of present day Elkins, a small community grew up which became known as Leadsville. In 1823 a post office of the same name was established there and remained until 1891 when increased population and development shifted to the area that is now Elkins.

Elkins' growth mirrors and outstrips that of the county, illustrating its significance in county development. When incorporated the town consisted of 349 households, while the county had a population of 11,633. As Elkins grew and prospered it represented an increasingly larger percentage of the county population. In 1900, the county contained 17,670 persons and Elkins, 3,000; in 1910, 26,028 and 5,260 respectively; in 1920, 26,804 and 6,788; in 1930, 25,049 and 7,345. In fact, in the decade between 1920 and 1930, Randolph County lost 7% of its population while Elkins gained 8%. This growth continued to a peak in 1950. The greatest growth spurt though was the period between 1910-1920.

The Elkins Board of Trade published a promotional brochure in 1906 listing the railroad car and machine shops which employed 250 men; the Elkins Machine and Foundry Company; Elkins Brick Company; Elkins Brewery; Elkins Tanning Company; Elkins Milling Company; West Virginia Implement Company; Elkins Pail and Lumber Company; Elkins Fixture and Refrigerator Company; Elkins Planing Mill; Elkins Handle Factory; Elkins Boiler Works; and the Gulland-Clarke Company.

The early businessmen of the community, known as the "Eighty-Niners", opened the first businesses in town, built most of the early commercial buildings, and filled many of the early city and county government offices. Many of them suffered financially in the devastating fire of March of 1897 which wiped out much of the existing business district. The fire was responsible for the organization of the first fire department. After the 1897 fire most of the buildings were rebuilt or replaced. Prior to the

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 5

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

fire, these buildings had been wood frame; they were rebuilt in brick or stone.

The town's development mirrored its significance as a commerce center. Included within the downtown were the Tygarts Valley Bank (#16/1913), the Citizen's National Bank (#26/1923), the Randolph County Bank (#21/ca. 1900), grocery stores (#2, #17, #18, #29, #31, #36, #81), and warehouses (#40, #43, #44, #50). Representative of the significance of Elkins as a center is also the U.S. Post Office/Federal Building (#12/1917). The town also included a number of hotels to service the railroad and traveling and visiting population. These include the Hotel Delmonte (#3/ca. 1899), the Randolph Hotel (#13/ca. 1893), and the Gassaway Hotel (#45/1906). Not ignored in Elkins' development is the cultural and social side. This includes the Opera House (#20/1898), movie houses (#27/1909; #46/1906) and the Elkins YMCA (#54/1908) which served as a social center and residence for transients.

Under Criterion B the Downtown Elkins Historic District is significant for its association with Henry Gassaway Davis and Stephen Benton Elkins. As stated earlier, these two men developed the town of Elkins through the location of their railroad terminus.

Davis married in 1853 to Katherine Bantz after receiving the promotion as railroad agent in Piedmont. With an inheritance from his wife, Davis quit the railroad and opened up a general store in Piedmont with his brother, Thomas. In 1858, Davis along with his two brothers, Thomas and William, organized the Piedmont Savings Bank. Davis also began acquiring land locally.

The Davis general store, known as H.G. Davis & Co., supplied the railway and, during the Civil War, the federal government.

After the War, the company used its accumulated capital to purchase several thousand acres of timber in Garrett County, Maryland and northeastern West Virginia. At this point, Davis decided to enter public life. In 1865, two years after the formation of the state of West Virginia, Davis was elected to the House of De-

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 6

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

legates as a Union-Conservative from Hampshire County, where he served on the Committee on Roads and Internal Navigation and the Committee on Taxation and Finance. The Committee on Roads, in addition to other primary duties, was responsible for the chartering of railroads. One of the lines chartered by this body of legislators was the Potomac & Piedmont Coal and Railroad Company, which would eventually become the basis of Davis' railroad empire. Davis served only one term in the House of Delegates, then ran successfully for State Senate in 1868. In 1871, Davis was elected to the U.S. Senate and again in 1877. He was also a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1872, 1876, and 1880. Davis declined to run for a third term as Senator and cited business enterprises as his main priority, "especially the building of railroads."

Davis maintained many business and political contacts through his summer home resort, "Deer Park" in Garrett County, Maryland. John W. Garrett, president of the B&O Railroad also had a summer home at Deer Park. The B&O built a small depot at Deer Park along with a large hotel and small cottages. By the early 1880's Deer Park had become known as the summer capital of the nation.

The Downtown Elkins Historic District is also significant under Criterion B for its association with Republican representative, Stephen B. Elkins., one of Davis' neighbors at Deer Park. Elkins had served two terms in the U.S. Congress as territorial delegate for New Mexico, arriving in Washington during Davis' first term as senator.

Elkins served briefly in the Civil War for the Union but in 1863 he requested and was granted a discharge. Later that year Elkins was admitted to the New Mexican bar.

In addition to practicing law, Elkins began acquiring land in New Mexico with an eye to the expected route of the right-of-way for the railroad. The railroad had been proposed as early as 1853 and intended to connect the Mississippi River with the Pacific Ocean.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 7

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

Elkins opened one of the first banks in Santa Fe and was its president for thirteen years. He also advanced politically in the territory. While serving in Congress, Elkins continued to acquire large acreage in New Mexico, and made investments in Colorado.

After Elkins' second term in Congress, he opened a law office in Washington. He also became a professional lobbyist for railroad magnates. In 1880 he moved to New York and opened law offices.

During Elkins first term in Congress he met Maria Louise Davis, known as Hallie. She was the eldest daughter of Senator Henry G. Davis. In April of 1875, Hallie Davis and Stephen Elkins were married. Through this marriage an alliance was formed between Davis and Elkins.

Davis and Elkins purchased a tract of coal lands at Elk Garden in 1879, this was part of the Roaring Creek coal field discovered in 1870 by members of the Pittston Coal Company. The land was eleven miles from the nearest B&O railroad line at Piedmont, and construction of the first section of a new railroad was begun. The first load of coal was shipped over the new road in the fall of 1881. The following year the company applied for a new charter under the name of the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh Railway Company.

Several towns in north central West Virginia, which originally began as waystations along Davis' railroad lines or as coal or timber camps, were named for the railway's major stockholders, including Davis, Blaine, Keyser, and Kerens. The town of Leads-ville in Randolph County was slightly relocated and rechristened Elkins.

Construction of the West Virginia Central and development of Elkins and other towns along the railroad led to the creation of related Davis-Elkins industries and enterprises, including coal companies, lumber companies, sawmills, coke ovens, and the construction of additional rail lines. Davis related in his personal journal in 1901 that he was president of seven coal and coke companies, three railroads, and two banks. Elkins was vice-

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 8

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

president of many of these concerns.

Both Davis and Elkins continued their political careers in addition to their business enterprises. Elkins became a member of the Republican National Committee in 1875 and served through three presidential campaigns. In 1884 he became chairman of the executive committee and was influential in nominating both James G. Blaine and later Benjamin Harrison as the Republican presidential candidate. In 1891 Elkins was appointed Secretary of War by President Harrison. Elkins resigned this appointment in 1893, following the election of the Democratic candidate, Grover Cleveland. In January of 1895, he was elected to the U.S. Senate from West Virginia and held this position until his death in 1911.

Davis was appointed a member of the Intercontinental Railway Commission in 1899 along with A.J. Cassatt, president of the Pennsylvania Railway, and Richard C. Kerens of Missouri. Kerens was a stockholder in the West Virginia Central and a long time business associate of Stephen B. Elkins. Davis later became chairman of the Pan-American Railway Committee. One of the other members of the committee was steel magnate, Andrew Carnegie. In 1904 Davis became the vice presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket with presidential nominee, Alton B. Parker.

In 1902 the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh was sold to the B&O. Davis and Elkins used part of the proceeds to develop other railroads. One was the Coal & Coke Railway which provided the state with its first central rail route linking Charleston with the main B&O lines. It also helped to open up some of Davis and Elkins timber and coal lands. Finally, in 1904, they bought the Belington & Roaring Creek Railroad and the coal fields which Davis had had an eye on since the early 1870's.

Davis and Elkins' influences continued into the early years of the 20th century. Davis continued to oversee the various business interests after Elkins death in 1911 but at the age of 89 he began to delegate responsibility to others. He died on March 11, 1916 after falling ill with influenza.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 9

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

There are several extant buildings in the district directly associated with Henry G. Davis and Stephen B. Elkins. Of course, the railroad depot, (#1), which is the only extant building left associated with the railroad these two men developed. The Elkins YMCA, (#54), was a gift from Hallie Davis, wife of Elkins and daughter of Davis, to the town. She donated the construction costs of the building. The Randolph Hotel, (#13), was built jointly by the railroad Davis founded, the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh Railway, and the Valley Improvement Company. The Randolph Hotel is also the oldest extant building in the district. The Darden Block, (#50), housed the Davis Colliery Company, the umbrella organization for all of Davis' mining operations. The land upon which the Methodist Church, (#62), was built was donated by Davis.

The Elkins Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its association with several of the major architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The district is predominantly commercial in nature with very few residences. An interesting aspect of the architectural significance of the district is that a relatively few of the architectural styles are represented. The district is a very cohesive accumulation of Romanesque, Italianate and Commercial Style buildings.

The Romanesque Style is well represented. The railroad depot, 1908 (#1), is one of the more significant and obvious representatives. The Hotel Tygart, 1906 (#45), is one of the larger representatives. It is a seven-story, brick building with an arcaded first floor with entrance to the lobby. The Nathan Building/Fair Company building, ca. 1907 (#67), is another good example of the style. It is a three-story, brick building with a heavy cornice at the top.

There is one Victorian Romanesque Style building in the district, the Ward Building, 1908 (#31). It is two-stories tall and was constructed by John T. Ward. The First United Methodist Church, 1904 (#62) is a good example of the Romanesque Revival Style. It is a large brick structure with a very broad shallow gable roof.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 10

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

As stated previously the Italianate Style is one of the most well represented. These buildings are generally two and three-story, masonry commercial buildings with detailing at the cornice, above the windows and at the first floor level, in the storefronts. The Hotel Delmonte, 1899 (#3), is one of the older of this style. It is also one of the more simple. The Kendall Building, 1901 (#43), is another example of the style. The Parmesano Building, 1899 (#75), is an interesting interpretation of the style. Other buildings representative of the style are numbers 77, 78, 79.

The commercial style is the next most represented style in the district. These are two and three-story, masonry commercial buildings with flat-headed one over one or two over two windows; a small plain cornice, if one exists; simple first floor storefronts with flat transoms; and little detailing or decoration.

One of the more intact and interesting grouping of buildings is on Davis Avenue and includes the Darden Block, 1906 (#50), the Brown Building, 1906 (#51), and the Stalnaker Block, 1900 (#52). These are the most intact of the buildings in the district and their relationship underscores the urban ambience of the downtown.

The Downtown Elkins Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its association with West Virginia contractor, John T. Ward. Ward was born in Barbour County. He began his career as a laborer for the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh Railway and moved to Elkins in 1889, shortly before the railroad was completed into town. While he was with the railroad he was a participant in the construction of the first depot, the railroad shops, the Randolph Hotel, (#13), and one of the first bank buildings in Elkins. Once the railroad was completed into town he began his own contracting firm. His first project was the Brandley Building, (#78), begun in 1894. By 1906 he had constructed many commercial buildings within the downtown. Unfortunately, many of these have been demolished. Still extant include the Gillooly, (#66), Parmesano, (#75), Wallace, (#69), Wimer, (#77), and Ward, (#31), buildings. He completed several projects for Davis and Elkins including the Davis Memorial Hospital, the Elkins Y.M.C.A., (#54), and

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 11

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

the original Davis and Elkins College building. His most ambitious project was the Gassaway Hotel, (#45), later the Hotel Tygart, completed in 1906.

Under Criterion C the Downtown Elkins Historic District is also significant for its association with architect, Eugene D. Liller, and builder, Thornton Russell Whiteman. Liller came to Elkins from Mineral County shortly after the turn of the century. He had spent the previous eighteen years in the carpentry business, although it is not known in what capacity. Liller teamed up with Whiteman about a year after his arrival in Elkins. He seems to have focused on the design of the buildings while Whiteman oversaw the actual construction. Whiteman seems to have been the primary builder in Elkins. He was born in 1875 in the South Branch Valley, between Romney and Moorefield. He was an apprentice carpenter in Hampshire County and subsequently worked throughout West Virginia's north eastern panhandle. In 1904 or 1905, Whiteman moved to Elkins and formed a partnership with Liller. The two were responsible for many of the designed commercial and residential buildings in Elkins. These include #17, #27, #46, #79. The partnership between Liller and Whiteman was dissolved but Whiteman went on to construct nearly 150 buildings and continued his career into the 1940's. Most of his work was in West Virginia but he also completed projects in the surrounding states.

Another builder represented in the district is Elijah Triplett. Triplett was a native of Randolph County and a master carpenter. He came to Elkins to oversee the construction of "Graceland" and was also the supervisor on the original portion of the Hotel Randolph, (#13), and Davis Memorial Presbyterian Church.

In summary, the Elkins Downtown Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the town of Elkins and Randolph County. This is through the association with the Western Maryland Railroad and the existence of the commercial and financial base in the town. It is also significant under Criterion B for its association with two of the more influential persons in the state's and nation's history, Stephen

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 12

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

B. Elkins and Henry Gassaway Davis. They influenced and created the town of Elkins through their investment in the railroad and other interests. They were also directly involved in a number of businesses and buildings in the district. The Elkins Downtown Historic District is also significant under Criterion C as an example of a cohesive accumulation of a few of the architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. This uniformity is indicative of the boom mentality and forces at work in the development of the town and the region. The Downtown Elkins Historic District is also significant under Criterion C as a good example of a body of work by Elkins' premier builder, John T. Ward.

(NPS FORM 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 9 Page 1

Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Callahan, James Morton. Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia. Semi-Centennial Commission, 1913.

Comstock, Jim. The West Virginia Heritage Encyclopedia. Richwood, West Virginia, 1976.

Harris, John T., Editor. West Virginia Legislative Handbook and Manual. Tribune Printing Company, 1919 and 1923.

Pedersen, Ralph and Stafford, Margo. Unpublished. Final Report, Phase 1 of the Elkins Intensive Survey. August 6, 1992.

Randolph County Historical Society. Elkins, its Past, Present and Future. 50th Anniversary Publication, 1974. McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia, 1975.

Rice, Donald L. Randolph 200 A Bicentennial History of Randolph County. Walsworth Press, Inc. Marceline, Missouri, 1987.

Rice, Donald L. The Elkins Centennial Album 1890-1990. McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia, 1990.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps - 1899, 1910, 1923.

Whetsell, Robert C. The Metropolis Revisited Elkins, West Virginia. McClain Printing Company, Parsons, West Virginia, 1994.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 10 Page 1

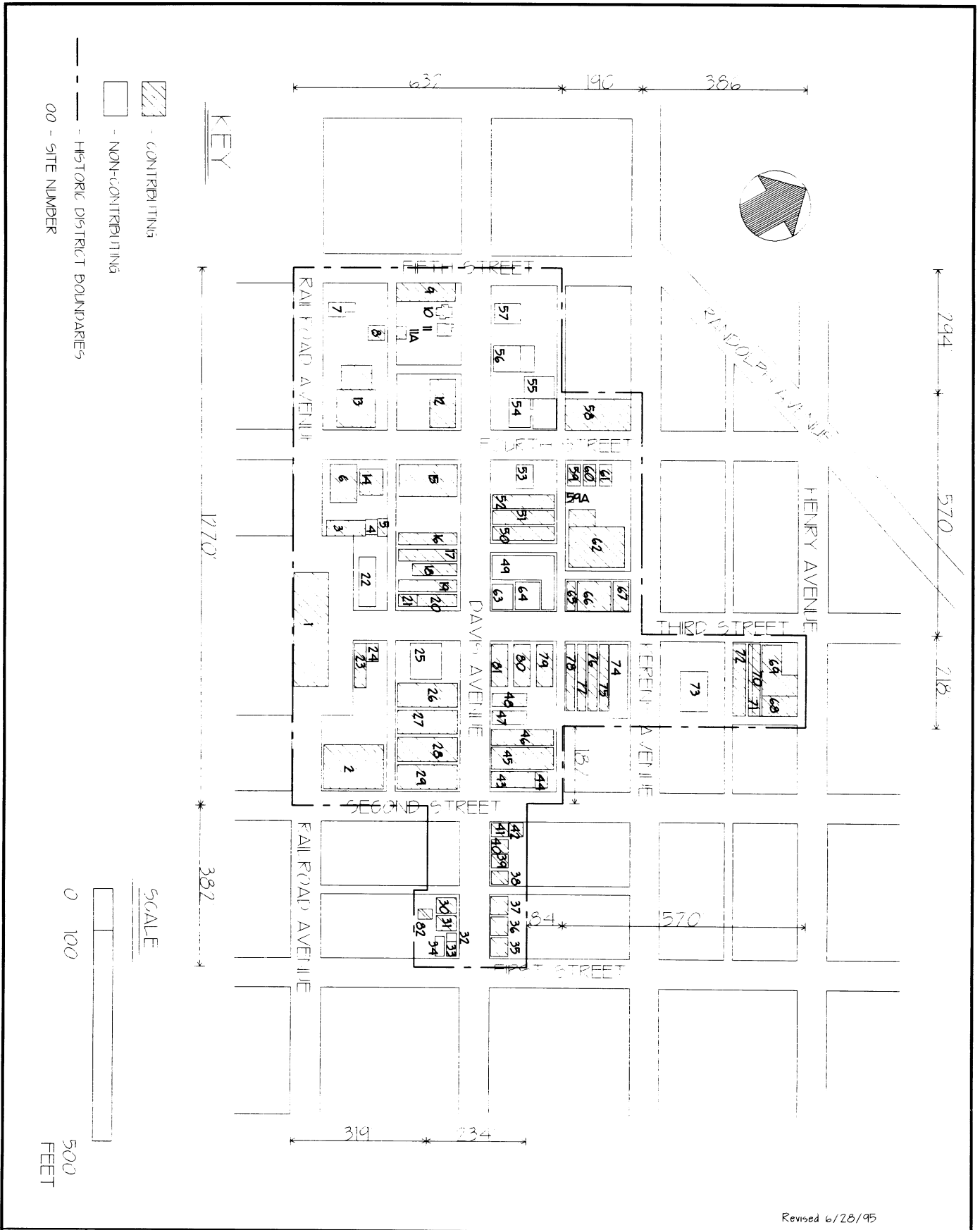
Downtown Elkins Historic District
Randolph County, West Virginia

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Downtown Elkins Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map titled "Downtown Elkins Historic District - Elkins, West Virginia" dated Spring 1995.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries encompass the central business district of Elkins as it exists today, excluding recent non-significant strip development. The areas adjacent to the boundaries relate to residential significance, which is not part of the significance or the period of significance of the district. To the west of the boundary, above Fifth Street, are located residential buildings. To the east of the boundaries is located smaller scale residential buildings and recent commercial non-historic buildings. To the north of the boundaries are additional residential buildings and recent non-significant commercial and governmental buildings. To the south of the boundaries is a large open area that was formerly the railroad yards for the Western Maryland Railway. There are no structures within the entire area, as all of the railroad related buildings were demolished. This forms a large barrier to the small scale residential development to the south of the district.



Revised 6/28/95

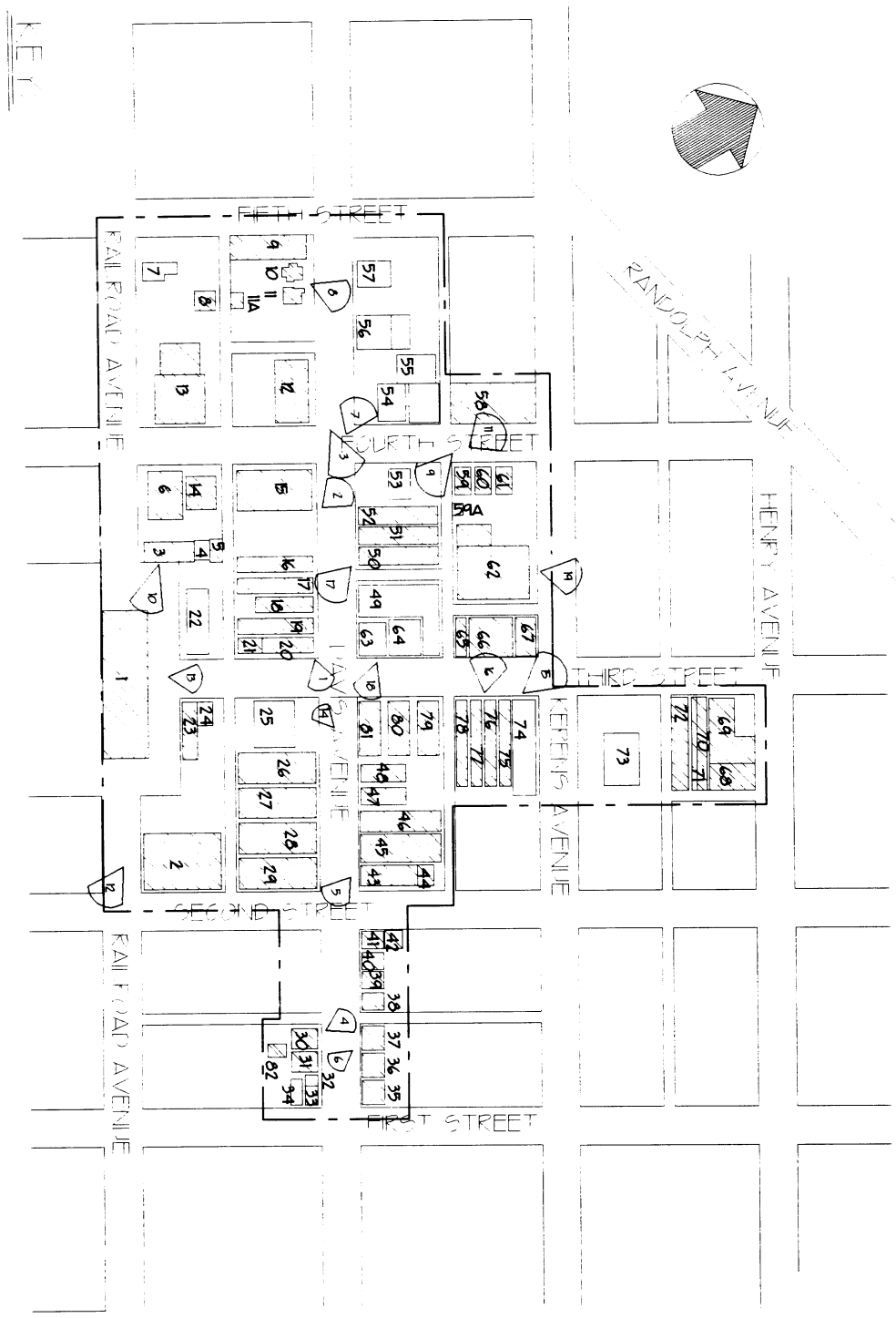
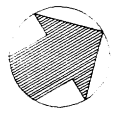
Date
Spring 1995

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
CONSULTANT

DOWNTOWN ELKINS HISTORIC DISTRICT
ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA

DWG.
1 OF 1


ELKINS 2



-  CONTRIBUTING
-  NON-CONTRIBUTING

--- HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

00 - SITE NUMBER

 - PHOTOGRAPH NUMBER & LOCATION

SCALE



Revised 6/28/95

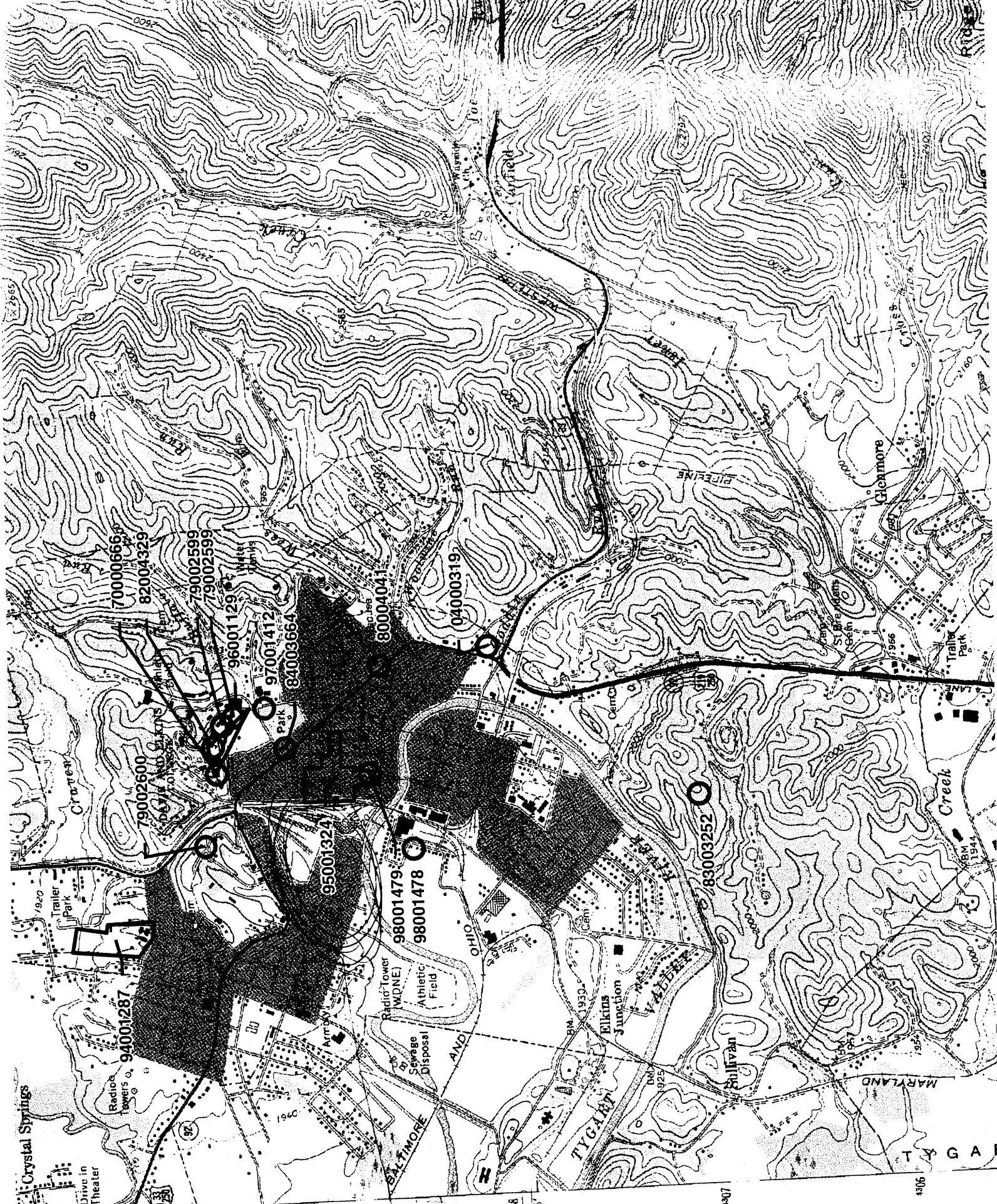
PHOTOGRAPH LOG
 DOWNTOWN ELKINS HISTORIC DISTRICT
 ELKINS, WEST VIRGINIA

DWG.
1 OF 1

ELKNSA

MICHAEL GIOULIS
 HISTORIC PRESERVATION
 CONSULTANT

Date
 Spring 1995



6061 IV NW
JUNIOR B M (JUNIOR)

409

Elkins
Elkins
Elkins

408
55

407

406

T Y G A R F









HOTEL CITY PART

277











Recreation
Climbing
Cycling

DAVIS TRUST CO.

30