

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

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

**1. Name**

historic Jackson Memorial Fountain

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number Parkersburg City Park, 17th Street Corner of Park Avenue & 17th Street not for publication

city, town Parkersburg vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Wood code 107

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	N/A unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> object	N/A in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: Public Park ornament

**4. Owner of Property**

name City of Parkersburg

street & number #One Government Square

city, town Parkersburg vicinity of state West Virginia 26101

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Wood County Courthouse

street & number Court Square

city, town Parkersburg state West Virginia 26101

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title City Park Reconnaissance Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes  no

date Winter 1984 (January) federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Unit, The Cultural Center

city, town Charleston state West Virginia 25305

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date <u>N/A</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### ORIGINAL PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Jackson Memorial Fountain is located at the entrance of Parkersburg City Park on 17th Street. When it was first installed, the original fountain had three tiers. The upper tier (basin and bowl) was the smallest of the three tiers. It had a diameter of about eight (8) feet. It was this tier that the cast iron statue of Parkersburg's Lady of the Lake was mounted. The second tier or basin which had a diameter of 13 feet held the pedestal on which the upper basin stood. The lowest bowl, which had a diameter of 30 feet, held the pedestal on which the second tier stood. An additional function of this basin was to serve as the foundation for the entire fountain. Beneath it was placed all the necessary plumbings.

The distinctive decorative pattern of the fountain was typical of cast iron fountains manufactured during the Victorian period of American garden design. The basins and pedestals were elaborately sculpted and decorated. The edges of the two upper bowls were intricately carved with curling vines and a detailed winged head of a man. Water spilled out of the mouth of these heads. Of the two pedestals, the lower one was more ornate. Curling sculptures embellished the upper portion of the pedestal up to the point where it connected to the bottom of the upper basin. Unlike the upper pedestal which was rounded in shape, the lower pedestal was hexagonal in shape. On each of two sides of the hexagonal base of this pedestal were two concrete sculpted lions. Water spilled from the mouths of these lions. The lowest basin was symmetrically decorated with twelve (12) classic vases.

Another interesting feature of the fountain was the placement of two sculpted archers at the southwestern corner of the park. These archers stand on the upper level of two concrete staircases and served as the main gateway to the fountain. As is typical of Victorian garden/park ornaments, the Jackson Memorial Fountain is made of cast iron metal with the exception of the lion ornaments. Originally, the fountain was about thirty (30) feet in height. With the top basin off, the fountain is now only approximately 20 feet high.

### PRESENT PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

As it stands today, the Jackson Memorial Fountain has only two tiers. Because of aging the uppermost basin or tier was removed and the statue now stands on the second tier. The two lions sitting on the base of the lower pedestal have also been replaced by similar structures. The twelve vases around the lower basin are no longer the original bases. Not only that, four of the twelve are missing as are the two arches leading to the fountain.

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Despite alterations that have reduced the dimensions of the cast iron fountain, the object remains much as it appeared in the early 20th century. It remains the largest and most significant known Victorian cast iron object of ornamental design in West Virginia.

Historically, the Jackson Memorial Fountain has a close association with Parkersburg's most prominent nineteenth century family - that of General John Jay Jackson. General John Jay Jackson was considered one of the City's most prominent citizens between 1800 and the out-break of the Civil War, because he was the City's only resident to serve on the staff of the famous Andrew Jackson. Moreover, he was a leader in Virginia's secession from the Union in 1861. Lastly, he was the father of three famous sons, they were: Federal Judge John Jay Jackson Jr.; Governor Jacob Beeson Jackson; and Circuit Judge and Congressman James Monroe Jackson. It was his grandson, James Monroe Jackson, Jr., who bequeathed the \$5,000 for the purchase of the fountain. The executor of his estate, William Willard Jackson, purchased the fountain in New York City, while on his honeymoon. At this time, New York was one of the major sources of Victorian fountains.

Boundary Justification

The subject is located in an oval that forms the setting for Jackson Memorial Fountain at the point of convergence of Park Avenue and 17th Street. The fountain possesses its own distinct environment that is apart from the remainder of the city Park. While the plan of the Park has survived, numerous new structures, athletic fields, etc. have been built through the years that obscure the original landscape design. The fountain, therefore, possesses distinction as an impressive surviving feature of a prominent late 19th century public facility, but importantly also as an object of artistic value unique in West Virginia.

## 8. Significance

Period.	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
..... prehistoric	..... archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	..... community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	..... landscape architecture	..... religion
..... 1400-1499	..... archeology-historic		..... conservation		..... law	..... science
..... 1500-1599	..... agriculture		..... economics		..... literature	..... sculpture
..... 1600-1699	..... architecture		..... education		..... military	..... social/
..... 1700-1799	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> art		..... engineering		..... music	..... humanitarian
..... 1800-1899	..... commerce		..... exploration settlement		..... philosophy	..... theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	..... communications		..... industry		..... politics government	..... transportation
			..... invention			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Local History

Specific dates 1905

Builder Architect Unknown

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

COMMUNITY PLANNING - The Jackson Memorial Fountain is a symbol of a commitment to making the City more livable. This phenomenon manifested itself in America near the end of the nineteenth century at the time the fountain was erected. Following the construction of the Artificial City at the Chicago World's Fair in 1893, American cities began to emphasize beauty, comfort and convenience in their plans. It was this reason that the City Park was purchased and developed and eventually, why the fountain was installed.

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE - From the mid 19th century until World War I, mass produced cast iron supplied decorative beauty to the home and lawn. Cast iron decorations such as the Jackson Memorial Fountain were unusually decorative creations that portrayed in vivid fashion the Victorian Period of Garden Design. Today's remaining cast-iron fountains and decorative objects are considered valuable because there are so few remaining works of art in cast iron. Most of the fine examples of this art have been discarded or sold as scrap iron. As such, the remaining ones are considered priceless works of art.

The fountain remains a focal point at the entrance to Parkersburg's 55-acre City Park. While the landscaping features that once distinguished the park no longer survive in their original condition, the fountain remains as a tangible reminder of the Victorian urban ideal represented in garden design and late 19th century landscaping features. The object's prominent siting at the convergence of two major city streets is another factor setting it apart as an object of landmark quality in Parkersburg.

LOCAL HISTORY - Historically, the Jackson Memorial Fountain has a close association with Parkersburg's most prominent nineteenth century family - that of General John Jay Jackson. General John Jay Jackson was considered one of the City's most prominent citizens between 1800 and the out-break of the Civil War, because he was the City's only resident to serve on the staff of the famous Andrew Jackson. Moreover, he was a leader in Virginia's secession from the Union in 1861. Lastly, he was the father of three famous sons, they were: Federal Judge John Jay Jackson Jr.; Governor Jacob Beeson Jackson; and Circuit Judge and Congressman James Monroe Jackson. It was his grandson, James Monroe Jackson, Jr., who bequeathed the \$5,000 for the purchase of the fountain. The executor of his estate, William Willard Jackson, purchased the fountain in New York City, while on his honeymoon. At this time, New York was one of the major sources of Victorian fountains.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Callahan, James Mortan, "The Jackson Family" in History of West Virginia, Volume II. New York: American Historical Society, 1923, p. 465.

(see continuation sheet #9 p. 2)

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 1/2 acre

Quadrangle name Parkersburg, WV

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	7	4	5	4	1	10	4	3	4	6	6	2	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The fountain is located at the point of convergence of 17th Street at the South and Park Avenue at the West. The fountain is centered in an oval that is bounded to the northwest by the east edge of Park Avenue at the point immediately opposite the

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

state N/A code county code

state code county code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Nimfa H. Simpson, Senior Planner

organization Parkersburg Development Dept. date January 13, 1984

street & number #1 Government Square telephone 304/424-8558

city or town Parkersburg state West Virginia 26101

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-365), 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 National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

State Historic Preservation Officer date June 29, 1984

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

date

Director of the National Register

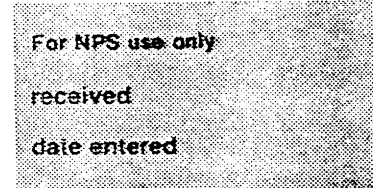
date

date

Director of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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Major Bibliographical References

- Dziagwa, Connie. "City Park Has Become Popular Showplace," Parkersburg News, Bicentennial Edition (July 2, 1976), p. 38.
- Faulkner, Harold H., "The Revolt of the Cities" in Politics, Reform and Expansion, 1890-1900. New York: Harper & Row, 1959, pp. 32-35.
- Favretti, Jay and Rudy, Landscapes and Gardens for Historic Buildings, Nashville Tennessee: American Association for State and Local History, 1978.
- Gerhardt, Tom H. "Fountains for Conservatory" in The Old House Journal Compendium, New York: Overlook Press, 1982, pp. 363-367.
- Tiano, Toni, The History of the City Park, unpublished report; May 1980, Parkersburg Development Department, pp. 4-5.

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Continuation sheet

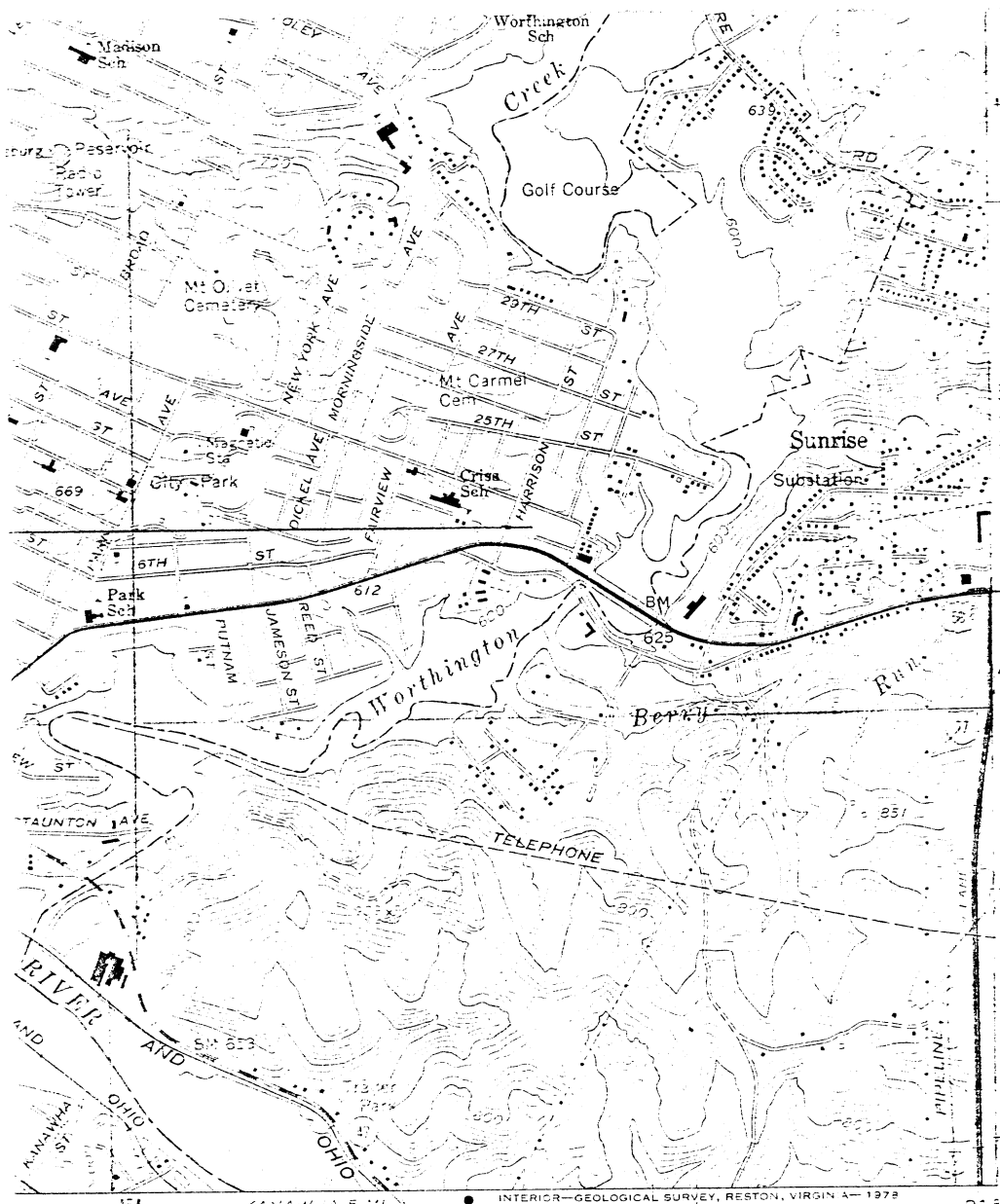
Item number

10

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northeast corner of 18th Street, proceeding 150 feet south along the eastern edge of Park Avenue and around the corner to a point of convergence with 17th Street, thence 200 feet along the north edge of 17th Street, thence in a straight line due north to a point of convergence with the eastern-most apex of the Jackson Fountain oval; thence 175 feet in a straight line east to the point of origin with 12th Street and Park Avenue (see sketch map).



JACKSON MEMORIAL  
FOUNTAIN  
PARKERSBURG CITY  
PARK  
PARKERSBURG, WOOD  
CO., W.VA.

UTM :  
454 110 / 43A6 620

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, all weather, hard surface	Light-duty road, all weather, improved surface
Secondary highway, all weather, hard surface	Unimproved road, fair or dry weather
Interstate Route	U. S. Route
	State Route



PARKERSBURG, W. VA. - OHIO  
SE/4 PARKERSBURG 15' QUADRANGLE  
N3915—W8130/7.5

1969  
PHOTOREVISED 1978  
AMS 4662 I SE—SERIES V854

Map compiled in cooperation with  
Ohio and West Virginia  
This information not for use  
regarding boundary for dispute not shown

460000 FEET  
OHIO:  
4245000m N.

39° 15'  
81° 30'

(KANAWHA)  
4-762 III NW





→ 34

34A