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NPS Form 10-900
OMB No. 1024-0018
(Rev. 10/90)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of property:

historic name: Mercer Street Historic District
other names/site number: N/A

2. Location:

street & number: Mercer Street between North First Street & North Street
not for publication: N/A

city or town: Princeton

vicinity: N/A

state: WV code: WV county: Mercer code: 055

zip code: 24740

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Susan M. Pierce
Signature of certifying official

8/19/03
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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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 Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification:

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	No. of Resources within Property	
<u>X</u> private	<u> </u> building(s)	contributing	noncontributing
<u>X</u> public-local	<u>X</u> district	<u>28</u>	<u>8</u> buildings
<u> </u> public-State	<u> </u> site	<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u> public-Federal	<u> </u> structure	<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
	<u> </u> object	<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
		<u>28</u>	<u>8</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA

No. of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: hotels

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: specialty stores

TRANSPORTATION: Bus garage

Current Functions:

DOMESTIC: apartment buildings

DOMESTIC: single dwelling

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty stores

7. Description:

Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

MODERN MOVEMENT: Art Deco

Materials:

Foundation: sandstone, concrete block, brick, concrete.

Walls: Wood, brick, vinyl, concrete block, aluminum, sandstone, stucco

Roof: Asphalt, tin, rubber

Other: Wood, brick, sandstone

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8. Statement of Significance:

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

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

 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 boxes that apply):

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

 B removed from its original location.

 C a birthplace or a grave.

 D a cemetery.

 E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

 F a commemorative property.

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

Areas of Significance:

Community Planning and Development

Commerce

Architecture

Period of Significance:

1908 to 1950

Significant Dates:

1908

1909

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Significant Person: N/A

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Architect/Builder: Unknown

See continuation sheets.

9. Major Bibliographic References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographic Data:

Acreage of property: Approximately six (6) acres.

Quadrangle: Princeton, WVA-VA

UTM References:

Zone/Easting/Northing

A. 17-492218-4135812.

D. 17-492409-4135709.

B. 17-492226-4135770.

E. 17-492088-4135690.

C. 17-492417-4135778.

F. 17-492084-4135740.

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet)

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11. Form prepared by:

name/title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization: Same as above

date: July 2002

street & number: 612 Main Street telephone: (304) 765-5716

city or town: Sutton state: WV zip code: 26601

Property owners

Multiple

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The Mercer Street Historic District is comprised of both sides of Mercer Street from North First Street up to North Fourth Street. It is located in the City of Princeton, Mercer County, West Virginia. It contains the business district related to the Virginian Railway. The district lies along State Route 20 in Princeton, the Mercer County seat. Princeton is located in the south central portion of Mercer County with Summers County bordering to the east and the Virginia state line on the south. McDowell, Wyoming and Raleigh Counties border Mercer to the west.

The nominated area contains approximately six (6) acres. As stated above, the area is composed of Mercer Street from First Street up to Fourth Street. There are thirty-six (36) primary resources in the district: twenty-eight (28) are considered contributing building; eight (8) are considered non-contributing buildings.

The Virginian Railway tracks and the now demolished depot were located to the east of Mercer Street. Mercer Street runs from east to west starting at North First Street. There are two buildings on North First Street that are included as part of the Mercer Street Historic District. Residential sections border Mercer Street to the north and south and to the west. West of North Fourth Street, the commercial district is more modern and the older buildings have been modified.

The district represents 19th and 20th century commercial buildings. These are primarily two and three-story, masonry buildings with storefronts on the first floor and housing in the upper stories. Many of the buildings abut one another, filling the entire lot allowing few side or rear yards. There are several empty lots and parking lots where historic buildings have been demolished. There are alleys behind both sides of Mercer Street used historically for servicing the occupants of the storefronts. Almost all of the buildings date from the opening of the Virginian Railway in 1908 and 1909. The construction dates also correspond to the “boom” period of this section of the City of Princeton.

The building styles represented in the district include the Commercial, Commercial Italianate, Colonial Revival, and Art Deco. These relate to the period of construction of the buildings. The predominate “style” of the buildings is the Commercial style or Vernacular. There are no pure style buildings in the district; the styles noted describe more the detailing of the building. There is one residential building in the district: it is site #1 on North First Street.

The Commercial style is shown by sites #0004, 0005, 0006, 0007, 0008, 0011, 0014, 0015, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0024, 0025, 0030, and 0031. One of the more interesting Commercial style buildings in the district is the Old Stag Clothing Store, site

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#0007, ca. 1920. It is a three-story, red brick building. It has a stone primary cornice with a central, stone cartouche with an inscribed stag in the center of the cartouche. The stag theme is carried out in tiles in the main entrance. There is a stone belt course above the third floor. The third floor has a central door with a decorative wrought iron balcony. The windows are 8/8 with stone lintels and sills and there is a secondary stone cornice. The first floor storefront has been replaced with a modern storefront but the building retains its character defining elements. The Stag Clothing Store mural is extant on the side elevation.

The Art Deco Style is shown by sites #0009, 0013 and 0032. All of these buildings are brick and they illustrate the style through brick detailing. The old dry cleaner building, site #0009, ca. 1915, has a dogtooth brick cornice and recessed corbelled panels above. The Mercer County Schools Warehouse, site #0013, ca. 1930, was originally an auto dealership. It has a secondary rowlock brick cornice and first floor brick pilasters that have stone or concrete accents.

The Commercial Italianate style is also represented within the district. It is a style freely associated with railroad construction. It is illustrated by the Princeton Hotel, site #0010, ca. 1910; the Cleaners and Laundry Building, site #0021, ca. 1915; the Sively Company Building, site #0028, 1913; and the building next to it, the Mullins Brothers Building, site #0029, 1912. The latter two buildings are almost twins and all of the Italianate style buildings were built within the same time period. Sites 0028 and 0029 have metal primary cornices and secondary cornices with brackets, the upper story windows are paired and there are stone accents and prism glass transoms. The Princeton Hotel, site #0010 illustrates the style with its arched window openings and decorative balconies on the upper stories.

The Colonial Revival style is shown by the D&D Saddle and Tack Building, site #0026, ca. 1915 and site #0027, 1915. These side by side buildings have parapet walls on the front, stone panels in the cornice area, metal primary cornices and secondary box cornices. Both buildings utilize light colored brick and have paired windows on the upper story, using stone accents throughout. The remaining buildings within the district are Vernacular style. They are very simple commercial buildings.

The following is a complete list of resources in the district. The numbers refer to the accompanying map. Including outbuildings, there are thirty-six (36) resources in the district: twenty-eight (28) are considered contributing buildings; and eight (8) are considered non-contributing due to modifications or age.

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LIST OF RESOURCES

0001. 107 FIRST STREET, residential

date: Ca. 1923

description: One-and one-half-story, side gable with projecting, end gable on the front. Asphalt shingle roof. Exterior, corbelled brick chimney. Brick and vinyl siding façade. Paired, 3/1 and 1/1 windows. One sidelight on entrance door. One-story, shed roof, enclosed porch on the side. Concrete block foundation. 3 X 3 bays. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

001A.

date: Ca. 1925

description: Small, one-story, shed roof garage with a crenellated parapet. Asphalt shingle roof. One garage bay on the front. Common bond brick façade and foundation. 1 X 1 bays. 1 contributing building.

0002. FIRST STREET, commercial

Trolley Barn/Pub

date: 1938

description: One-story, commercial building with shed roof wing on the rear. Building sits diagonal to the street and has diagonal corners. Flat roof with stepped parapet with terra cotta cap. Concrete block façade and foundation. Two entrance doors and one display window on front. End gable pediment over entrance door supported by oversized brackets. 5 X 2 bays. Vernacular style. 1 contributing building.

0003. MERCER STREET, commercial

Garage

date: Modern

description: One-story, shed roof garage building. This garage is attached to #0005. Asphalt shingle roof. Exterior, rear, corbelled brick chimney. Concrete block façade and foundation. Metal board and batten siding on upper portion of the front. Two garage bays on the front. 2 X 2 bays. 1 non-contributing building.

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0004. 110 MERCER STREET, commercial Old Garage/Winfrey Bldg./Old hotel
date: 1911

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building with simple, primary metal cornice and stepped parapet on the side. Terra cotta roof cap. Painted on upper portion of the building is "ESTAB 1911". Red brick façade on second floor; first floor has concrete block modern infill. Two window openings on the second floor have modern divided windows inserted into them with infill above the windows to fill up the entire opening. Stone lintels and sills on front window openings. All the windows on the side are modern also and have stone lintels and sills. Stone pilasters and secondary cornice on the first floor. First floor has a tall garage bay in the center; an entrance door on the left with a prism glass transom; display window with metal canopy on right. 3 X 7 bays. Commercial style.
1 contributing building.

0005. 112-114 MERCER STREET, commercial

Wheby's TV

date: Ca. 1950

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Terra cotta roof cap. Red brick façade on front; concrete block behind brick. Jalousie windows on the second floor. One flush entrance door on the right to the second floor. Recessed storefront door with display windows to the left of the door. Brick foundation. 3 X 7 bays. Commercial style.
1 contributing building.

0006. MERCER STREET, commercial

Old hotel

date: Ca. 1910

description: Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Metal primary bracketed cornice. Stepped parapet on the sides. All of the roof has concrete cap. Red brick façade. All of the windows have been infilled with siding and smaller windows; some windows are completely covered with plywood; all windows have stone lintels and sills. Entrance door with boarded up transom on first floor. Entrance porch and/or first floor deck has been removed. Brick foundation. One-story, shed roof, rear addition; has roll roofing, vinyl and brick siding and stone foundation. 3 X 9 bays. Commercial style.
1 contributing building.

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0007. MERCER STREET, commercial

Old Stag Clothing Building

date: Ca. 1920

description: Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stone primary cornice with central, stone cartouche with an inscribed stag in the center of the cartouche. Interior, corbelled brick chimney. Stone belt course on third floor. Terra cotta roof cap. Red brick façade. Door with wrought iron balcony on the third floor. 8/8 windows with stone lintels and sills. Stone secondary cornice. Transom completely covered. Modern flush storefront with central entrance door flanked by display windows. Brick foundation. 3 X 9 bays. Small, flat roof wing on the rear is three bays wide. There is a painted mural on the side elevation: first line says "Stag Clothing"; second line says "Carter & Mason Proprietors"; third line says "Everything for Men & Boys". Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

007A.

date: Ca. 1920

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. There is a set of stairs from this building to the Stag Clothing Building but it is detached. Brick façade. Central entrance doors flanked by boarded up windows with brick sills. Stone foundation. 3 X 3 bays.

1 contributing building.

0008. 200 MERCER STREET, commercial

date: Ca. 1950

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet with terra cotta cap. Concrete block façade with brick veneer on the front. Central garage bay on the front with divided lights; entrance door with divided transom on left; twelve pane window on the right with brick sill. Concrete block foundation. 3 X 1 bays. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0009. 222 MERCER STREET, commercial

Old Dry Cleaner Building

date: Ca. 1915

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Parapet wall on the front; stepped parapet on the side. Brick façade and foundation. Dogtooth brick cornice. Recessed corbelled panels above. Secondary bracketed cornice. Modern entrance doors with aluminum framing. Plywood covers display windows. Brick pilasters and kick panels. 4 X 1 bays. Art Deco style.

1 contributing building.

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0010. MERCER STREET, commercial

Princeton Hotel

date: Ca. 1910

description: Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Bracketed corbelled brick primary cornice. Red brick façade. Third and second floors have brick arched window openings with modern 1/1 windows and stone sills. Entrance doors with boarded transoms on the upper stories. Second and third floors have balconies with metal railings and they are supported by oversized brackets. First floor has been infilled with vinyl siding and modern windows. Original secondary entrance with divided transom intact. Cut stone pilasters and water table on the first floor. Cut stone with grape vine joints foundation. One-story, shed roof, concrete block addition with a loading dock. 5 X 8 bays. Commercial Italianate style.

1 contributing building.

0011. 316 MERCER STREET, commercial/vacant

date: 1912

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Cut stone façade with grape vine joints. Modern 1/1 windows. Shed roof canopy over first floor. Non-original storefront has recessed entrance doors and a modern display window. 3 X 5 bays. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0012. MERCER STREET, commercial

date: 1980

description: One-story, end gable, commercial building. Metal roof. Metal siding. Concrete foundation. 2 X 1 bays.

1 non-contributing building.

0013. 340 MERCER STREET, commercial

Mercer County Schools Warehouse and Physical Plant Division of Business Services/Originally an auto dealership

date: Ca. 1930

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Parapet wall on front and sides with stone and terra cotta cap. Red brick façade with stone detailing. Windows are boarded up; the openings have brick lintels and sills. Rowlock brick secondary cornice. First floor brick pilasters have decorative stone accents. Garage bay and flush storefronts on first floor. Transom is infilled with T-111 siding. Brick foundation. 6 X 7 bays. Art Deco style.

1 contributing building.

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**0014. MERCER STREET, commercial/vacant Princeton Manor
Laundromat/Originally a restaurant**

date: Ca. 1923

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Brick primary cornice with brick decorative belt courses below it. Windows on the second story covered over with the middle window infilled with brick. Secondary brick cornice. Non-original aluminum storefront with non-original metal roof/canopy over first floor. 4 X 5 bays. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0015. 325-327 MERCER STREET, commercial

date: Ca. 1923

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet on sides. Recessed stone panels. Window openings on second floor have been infilled with brick and modern smaller windows. Brick lintels and stone sills. Recessed stone panels above second floor. Secondary box cornice. Non-original storefront. First floor has been faced with stucco and modern openings installed. 5 X 5 bays. Commercial style. Highly modified.

1 non-contributing building due to modifications.

0016. MERCER STREET, commercial Hillbilly Cycle

date: Modern

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Concrete block façade. Window openings have been infilled with concrete block. Central, non-original storefront with aluminum framing and faux stone kick panels. 3 bays wide.

1 non-contributing building.

0017. MERCER STREET, commercial Hillbilly Cycle

date: Ca. 1940

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet wall on the front with stone cap. Brick primary and secondary cornice. Red brick above the storefront; yellow brick on first floor. Non-original storefront with non-original shed roof canopy over the storefront. Entrance door has been infilled with brick. Brick foundation. 2 bays wide. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

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0018. 317-319 MERCER STREET, commercial Hillbilly Cycle

date: Ca. 1930

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet wall on the front. Red brick façade. Two recessed entrances on the first floor. Non-original storefronts with modern brick infill and modern aluminum framing for the windows and doors. Brick foundation. 2 bays wide. Commercial style.
1 contributing building.

0019. 311 MERCER STREET, commercial

date: Ca. 1915

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Corbelled brick bracketed primary cornice. Red brick façade. Paired 1/1 windows on the second floor with stone lintels and sills. Decorative metal secondary cornice with large end brackets. Stone pilasters. Non-original storefront; covered transom. Painted brick infill on first floor. 4 X 2 bays. Commercial style.
1 contributing building.

0020. 309 MERCER STREET, commercial Hamond's Barber Shop

date: Ca. 1915

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Vinyl siding on second floor; "Mapes" board on first floor. Two, 1/1 modern windows on second floor. Garage bay on left of first floor; entrance door and display window on right of first floor. Recess on left. 2 X 2 bays. Commercial style. Modified.
1 non-contributing building due to modifications.

0021. MERCER STREET, commercial Cleaners & Laundry

date: Ca. 1915

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Parapet wall on the front with decorative metal bracketed primary cornice. Blonde brick with red mortar façade. Central, 1/1 window on the second floor flanked by paired 1/1 windows; all have stone lintels and stone sills. Secondary metal decorative dentiled cornice with large end brackets. Central recessed entrance flanked by display windows and ceramic tile kick panels; covered transom. Stone plinths on the brick pilasters. 3 X 2 bays. Commercial Italianate style.
1 contributing building.

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0022. 301 MERCER STREET, commercial

Shumate Furniture Store

date: 1914

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Recessed brick panels with brick corbelling for a primary cornice. Stone panel in the middle recessed panels has "1914" on it. Blonde brick with red mortar façade. Paired 1/1 windows on the second floor with stone jack arches and keystones and stone sills; each set of windows is in a recessed brick bay with brick corbelling at the top of each bay. Central entrance, original, flanked by non-original, aluminum display windows and brick kick panels. Transom is completely covered with "Shumate Furniture" sign. Corbelled brick secondary cornice. Brick pilasters on first floor have stone plinths. Cut stone foundation. 3 X 7 bays. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

**0023. MERCER STREET, commercial
a bank**

Fair Hotel Apartments/Originally

date: Ca. 1915

description: Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Painted brick façade. Upper story windows have been covered; all sit within a recessed brick panel with brick corbelling at the top. Corbelled brick primary and secondary cornice. Non-original central entrance with canopy over it. Original first floor storefront has been infilled with brick. Stone foundation. 4 X 5 bays. Modified.

1 non-contributing building due to modifications.

0024. MERCER STREET, commercial

Harvey's Paint & Supply

date: Ca. 1923

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet on the side. Blonde brick with pink mortar façade. Corbelled brick primary cornice. Two sets of paired, 6/6 windows with stone lintels and sills; the sills are painted. Brick secondary cornice. Faux stone veneer infill on storefront with modern metal framing. Cut stone foundation. 3 X 4 bays. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0025. MERCER STREET, commercial

Harvey's Auto Parts

date: Ca. 1930

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Soldier course brick primary cornice and soldier course brick belt course/lintel on the second floor. Red brick façade. Four, non-original 6/6 windows with stone sills; lintels have been removed and infilled with brick. Stone belt course separates the first and second floor. Modern flush storefront with modern metal framing and kick panels. Sign boards infill original transom area.

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One-story, flat roof, rear addition of brick with loading dock. 4 bays wide. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0026. 221-225 MERCER STREET, commercial D&D Saddle & Tack/Originally a pool room and bowling alley

date: Ca. 1915

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet wall on the front with a recessed stone panel in the center and a stone cap; the panel is blank. Metal primary and secondary box cornice. Tan brick with pink mortar façade. Two sets of paired, 1/1 windows with stone lintels and sills on the second floor; each pair is divided by a corbelled brick recessed panel with stone blocks at each corner. Central recessed entrance doors with divided transom, original, flanked by modern metal display windows and parged kick panels. Transom is covered with vinyl siding. Original secondary entrance door has an undivided transom with a prism glass transom above that. Cut stone foundation. 2 bays wide. Colonial Revival style.

1 contributing building.

0027. 217 MERCER STREET, commercial/vacant

date: 1915

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Pediment parapet wall on the front. Stone panel with "1915" on it. Metal primary and secondary box cornice. Blonde brick façade. Paired, 1/1 windows with stone jack arches with keystones and stone sills. Rectangular stone panel in between the two windows with "1915" on it. First floor completely covered with stucco. Central, aluminum entrance door flanked by aluminum display windows and metal kick panels. Cut stone foundation. Two bays wide. Colonial Revival style. Modified.

1 non-contributing building due to modifications.

0028. 207 MERCER STREET, commercial Sively Company

date: 1913

description: Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet wall on the front with stone cap. Stone panel in parapet with "1913" on it. Metal primary bracketed cornice. Tan brick with pink mortar façade. Three openings on upper floors are covered with wood; openings have stone lintels and sills; second floor openings have been infilled with smaller windows; second floor had a door opening but it too has been covered with wood. Secondary box cornice with oversized scrolled end brackets. One garage bay on the first floor. Secondary entrance door has prism glass transom. Original storefront infilled with T-111 siding. Brick pilasters with stone plinths. Cut stone foundation. 3 bays wide. Commercial Italianate style.

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1 contributing building.

0029. MERCER STREET, commercial

Mullins Brothers

201-205 Mercer St.

date: 1912

description: Twin to #0030²⁸. Three-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet wall on the front with stone cap. Stone panel in parapet with "1912" on it. Metal primary bracketed cornice. Brick façade. Central 1/1 window flanked by paired 1/1 windows with stone lintels and sills. Openings on second floor have been infilled with wood and smaller windows; this building also has a central door opening on the second floor. Secondary cornice removed. First floor has been infilled with wood in the transom area, brick and modern metal windows and doors. Secondary entrance still has original prism glass transom and door. Boarded-up display window on the side. Brick pilasters with stone plinths. Cut stone foundation. 3 X 3 bays. Commercial Italianate style.

1 contributing building.

0030. 125 MERCER STREET, commercial

Wheby's Grocery

date: 1926

description: Two-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet on the sides with terra cotta cap. Corbelled brick primary cornice. Red brick façade. Two, paired, 3/1 windows with brick lintels and stone sills on the second floor. Brick secondary cornice. Central, flush entrance with flanking display windows and a divided transom. Brick kick panels and pilasters. One-story, flat roof, rear wing with garage door. Cut stone foundation. 2 X 6 bays. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0031. MERCER STREET, commercial

Bolling's Storage Building

date: Ca. 1930

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building used for storage. Terra cotta cap. Brick façade. Flush entrance with a pair of display windows with brick lintels and sills. Right side of building has a vertical row of dog-tooth brick detailing. Stone foundation. 3 bays wide. Commercial style.

1 contributing building.

0032. 113 MERCER STREET, commercial

Joseph Wheby Building

date: Ca. 1930

description: One-story, flat roof, commercial building. Stepped parapet on the front with terra cotta cap. Brick façade. Central, flush entrance door flanked by paired, display windows. Display windows are modern aluminum and smaller than the original openings. Stone foundation. 3 bays wide. Art Deco style.

1 contributing building.

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0033. STRALEY AVENUE, commercial

Eddie's Body Shop

date: Ca. 1950

description: One-story, end gable, commercial building with false parapet wall on the front and a diagonal corner. Foam roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. 1/1 windows. 6 X 1 bays. Originally a bus garage.
1 contributing building.

**0034. 105 THIRD STREET, commercial
Shop**

Remine's Welding and Machine

date: Modern

description: Large, one-story, shallow end gable, commercial building. Metal roof. Concrete block façade and foundation. Aluminum slider windows. Attached, open wing of steel beams. 3 X 4 bays.
1 non-contributing building.

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The Mercer Street Historic District is significant under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development for its representation of the railroad spawned development on the east side of Princeton; it is also significant under Criterion A for Commerce through its illustration of the commercial business development of the city due to the construction of the Virginian Railway. The district is also significant under Criterion C for its architecture, which is an intact grouping of commercial architectural styles that reflect the aesthetic preferences common to America's business elite. The period of significance opens in 1908 with the appearance of the Virginia Railway, and closes in 1950, the approximate date for the decline of store-front commercial and hostelry services in the area.

Under Criterion A, the Mercer Street Historic District is significant for Community Planning and Development through its association with the development of the city, the county, and the region. Mercer County was formed March 17, 1837 from portions of Giles and Tazewell counties of Virginia. It was named in honor of General Hugh Mercer who fell in battle at Princeton, New Jersey during the Revolutionary War. By 1840 it had a population of 2,233 and by 1880, 7,467. The Norfolk and Western Railroad arrived in the county by 1885, coal mines began opening and the population began to grow. Coal tonnage exceeded one million tons per year by 1900; two million tons by 1910; and peaked with over three million tons by 1920. After the 1920's the coal tonnage began to decline. The growth of the county is reflected in the population figures: 1900 – 23,023; 1910 – 38,371; 1920 – 49,558.

Princeton, the county seat, was settled in 1826 but the village government was not organized until 1837. Again, Princeton was named for General Hugh Mercer who was killed in battle in Princeton, New Jersey. The first post office in Princeton was organized in 1838. By 1860 Princeton had forty houses and two hotels. The entire town was burned in 1862 when retreating Confederates fired the courthouse and the town. Princeton began to rebuild itself. In 1865 a five year battle between Princeton and Athens began for the location of the county seat. It was decided by a special election in 1870 that Princeton would be the county seat.

The first bank in the county and in Princeton was organized in 1851 under the name Princeton Saving Bank. Dr. Robert B. McNutt was the President, and Alexander M. Mahood was the cashier. Dr. McNutt was also the first resident doctor in Princeton. In 1855 the Methodists and Baptists built a united church on Main Street. This was the first church in Princeton. In 1874 a bank was organized by H.W. Straley to serve the areas farmers. The safe was a trunk and coins were kept in a beaver hat. It is said that Frank James, brother of Jesse James, cased the bank but rejected it because it was so insignificant that to rob it would be a reflection on his prowess.

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Princeton slowly grew after it became the county seat in 1870. Two hotels were rebuilt, The Alvis and The Pearis. The Bank of Princeton was chartered in 1872. This was the only bank between Charleston, West Virginia and Bristol Tennessee at the time. In the 1870's, Captain John Smith and Captain Hercules Scott operated two stores in town. John Darst, who also operated a tan yard, was granted a license to open a hotel. It became known as the Perkins Hotel after 1900. James Hale was issued a license in 1879 as a druggist. Also in 1879, George W. Anderson and Mr. Foster began printing the first newspaper in the county, The Princeton Journal. Shortly afterwards, Dr. R.B. McNutt along with several others started The Greenback Banner.

There were numerous newspapers established in Princeton. The Princeton Journal was the first in 1879 and it was followed by the first daily the Evening Press in 1916; the Princeton Progress in 1912; the Mountain State Sentinel in 1916; the Princeton Observer in 1927; the Princeton News in 1931; and the Princeton Times in 1961. The Princeton Times is the only operational newspaper today.

Churches in Princeton continued to grow. The united church split by 1885 and the Baptists built a church where the Memorial Building now stands. The Presbyterians built a church in 1879 on North Walker Street. A year later the Episcopal congregation built a church on Mercer Street.

With the arrival in the mid 1880's of the Norfolk and Western Railroad, Princeton began to experience business expansion. The first baseball team was organized in 1884. A hack service for freight and passengers was started. Several new stores were opened. In 1894, Bluefield began to agitate to be the county seat but this was quickly quelled. By 1900, Princeton had a population of about five hundred and two main streets, Walker and Main Streets.

The Virginian Railway began surveying in 1905 for a right-of-way through Princeton from Norfolk, Virginia to Deepwater, West Virginia. Again, Bluefield collected signatures on a petition to force a special election to determine the location of the county seat. Princeton again won the seat and the ordeal came to an end. With the coming of the railroad, Princeton began to boom. As the population increased, so did the need for utilities. In February 1907 an individual was granted a fifty year franchise to provide electricity to Princeton. In November of the same year, M. Cook of Hinton was also granted a fifty year franchise to provide water to the city.

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Two large businesses were established in 1908. The first was the Majestic Steam Laundry, headed by B. Deyerle, opened on Harris Street. The first automobile in Princeton was used as a taxi between Princeton and Bluefield in 1909. The Princeton Power Company operated the first street car in 1909 and it ran from the Courthouse to the Virginian Depot. This street car business operated until September 1940. Sam Evans established an interurban car between Princeton and Bluefield in 1916 and it remained in operation until April 1947. Modern day State Route 20 was the original right-of-way for the interurban line. The appearance of a bus garage in the late-1940s or early 1950s, site #0033, continued the neighborhood's role as a transportation hub into the mid-twentieth century.

The Virginia Railway was completed to Deepwater, WV in 1909 and Princeton's development began moving towards the depot at the end of Mercer Street. Prior to this, Mercer Street had been known as Concord Road. Stores, hotels, and restaurants began lining the road to the depot which was located at the end of Mercer Street on the east side of North First Street. HH Ball and HC Hadden opened clothing stores on Mercer Street. In this same time period, 1909-1910, the Pioneer Coal Company, the oldest coal dealer in Princeton was established by TH Teel. Princeton continued to grow.

On February 20, 1909, the name was changed from the Town of Princeton to the City of Princeton. By 1910 Princeton's population had doubled to one thousand. The Christ Church, the Methodists, the Baptists and the Presbyterians all relocated their churches to Mercer Street or just off Mercer Street in the case of Christ Church. The populace voted to pave the streets and install a sewage system in 1912.

Schools and education followed the same pattern as other institutions, as the coalfields and the railroad expanded. Previous to this schools had been small and private. There were a few elementary schools in the county by 1883. The first kindergarten was held in the home of Mrs. MW Christie. The first Free Grade School was located on Lovell Avenue. The Princeton High School was established in 1911; the Mercer Street Elementary School was built in 1912. Public education had arrived in Princeton.

The first hospital in Princeton, the Princeton Hospital, was built in 1912 on Center Street. The Princeton Hospital Training School for Nurses also began in 1912 and was affiliated with the Children's Hospital of Cincinnati. The Memorial Hospital began in 1918 and was located at the corner of Main and Mercer Streets. This was the site of the old Francis Hotel. The Memorial Hospital continued operations up until 1970.

Princeton continued to grow and by 1920 had a population of 6,224. The main shops of the Virginian Railway were located in Princeton and by the mid 1920's they employed over eight hundred men. The annual payroll was over a million dollars. This was the busiest time period of Princeton's history. Princeton had sixty stores, three

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banks, four hotels, two hospitals, two wholesale houses, two printing firms, five drug stores, one hosiery mill, two ax handle factories, two flour mills, two brick plants, an iron foundry, two planning mills, a cabinet shop, an ice plant, a bottling plant, and a bakery. The cornerstone for the Memorial Building was laid in 1928. The Chamber of Commerce was established in 1927 and all of the above businesses were in place and owed their existence to the railroad.

The 1930's and 1940's were also a prosperous time. The Amere Gas Utilities Company was granted a fifty year franchise on November 14, 1932 to provide gas to the city. The new Post Office building was built at the corner of Park and Mercer Streets. The Municipal Airport was completed by 1937. The Maidenform Brassiere Company began operations in 1943 at the end of Straley Avenue on the site of the old hosiery mill. WAey Radio Station, the second radio station in the county, began broadcasting in 1947.

Princeton's population by 1930 had slowly grown from 6,224 in 1920 to 6,955 in 1930. By 1940 it had grown to 7,426 and by 1950 to 8,279. As can be seen by the population figures, Princeton continued to grow but by the 1940's and 1950's it began to slow somewhat as compared to the "boom" figures earlier in the century.

All of this growth was primarily due to the Virginian Railway and especially the presence of their machine and repair shops in Princeton. Princeton's significance under Criterion A for Commerce is significantly tied to the development and success of the Virginian Railway.

The Virginian Railway was basically the accomplishment of Henry H. Rogers. He planned and financed the entire endeavor. He spent 40 million dollars building the railway. He took a small C&O five mile feeder line that connected Deepwater on the Kanawha River to Page, south of Deepwater and turned it into a huge enterprise. In 1902 a southward extension was completed and in 1907 the West Virginia Deepwater Road was combined with the Virginia Tidewater line to complete the Virginia Railway. It ran through some of the richest coal fields, the Pocahontas, in the country. On July 1, 1909 The Virginian Railway was complete along its entire route.

The Virginian Railway was unique in that it crossed streams directly rather than running parallel and it passed through mountains via tunnels. It was scientifically engineered to take advantage of the fall in altitude from the West Virginia coalfields to the Tidewater of Virginia. It was electrified from Mullens, WV to Roanoke, Va. It also carried some of the largest locomotives and heaviest freight trains in the world. These huge locomotives were able to haul six thousand tons of coal.

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Rogers secured trackage arrangements with the C&O and N&W Railroad and served coal mines in Fayette and Raleigh Counties. The rapid development of coal mining in conjunction with the railroads can be shown by the following:

1910 – 14 mines with a production of 1,685,875 net tons; 1920 – 103 mines with a production of 7,602,381 net tons. In 1921 there were more than 150,000 acres under development on the route of the Virginian Railway. The passenger service was also a big money maker. Gross ticket sales in Princeton amounted to 25,731.27 in 1913 and 71,163.36 in 1920.

Henry H. Rogers was based in New York City. He worked for Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. He was born in 1840 in Fairhaven, Massachusetts. He became an oil operator in Pennsylvania and was later brought into the Standard Oil Company as a Vice-President. Rogers was the only man in history to build a major railroad from his own finances. He did not participate in the day-to-day running of the line but remained in the background and only provided financing. He died in New York in 1909, ironically the year the Virginian was completed.

The Virginian Railway continued to be a major rail line through innovations such as double tracking, steel bridges, telephone dispatching, etc. up until its merger with the N&W Railroad in 1959.

The Mercer Street Historic District is significant under Criterion C for Architecture through its association with the architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th century. The Commercial style is shown by site #0004, 0005, 0006, 0007, 0008, 0011, 0014, 0015, 0017, 0018, 0019, 0020, 0022, 0024, 0025, 0030, and 0031. One of the more interesting Commercial style buildings in the district is the Old Stag Clothing Store, site #0007, ca. 1920. It is a three-story, red brick building. It has a stone primary cornice with a central, stone cartouche with an inscribed stag in the center of the cartouche. The stag theme is carried out in tiles in the main entrance. There is a stone belt course above the third floor. The third floor has a central door with a decorative wrought iron balcony. The windows are 8/8 with stone lintels and sills and there is a secondary stone cornice. The first floor storefront has been replaced with a modern storefront but the building retains its character defining elements. The Stag Clothing Store mural is extant on the side elevation.

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The Art Deco Style is shown by site #0009, 0013 and 0032. All of these buildings are brick and they illustrate the style through brick detailing. The old dry cleaner building, site #0009, ca. 1915, has a dogtooth brick cornice and recessed corbelled panels above. The Mercer County Schools Warehouse, site #0013, ca. 1930, was originally an auto dealership. It has a secondary rowlock brick cornice and first floor brick pilasters that have stone or concrete accents.

The Commercial Italianate style is also represented within the district. It is a style freely associated with railroad construction. It is illustrated by the Princeton Hotel, site #0010, ca. 1910; the Cleaners and Laundry Building, site #0021, ca. 1915; the Sively Company Building, site #0028, 1913; and the building next to it, the Mullins Brothers Building, site #0029, 1912. The latter two buildings are almost twins and all of the Italianate style buildings were built within the same time period. Sites 0028 and 0029 have metal primary cornices and secondary cornices with brackets, the upper story windows are paired and there are stone accents and prism glass transoms. The Princeton Hotel, site #0010 illustrates the style with its arched window openings and decorative balconies on the upper stories.

The Colonial Revival style is shown by the D&D Saddle and Tack Building, site #0026, ca. 1915 and site #0027, 1915. These side by side buildings have parapet walls on the front, stone panels in the cornice area, metal primary cornices and secondary box cornices. Both buildings utilize light colored brick. Both buildings have paired windows on the upper story and use stone accents throughout.

The remaining buildings within the district are Vernacular in style. They are very simple commercial buildings.

Summary: The Mercer Street Historic District is significant for its association, under Criterion A for Community Planning and Development, and Commerce, with the growth of the town and county through its association with the Virginian Railway. The district gains additional significance under Criterion C for Architecture due to its relatively intact grouping of commercial architectural styles of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The development of this area of Princeton continues to be an obvious cluster of commercial buildings and historic hotels that arose to service the needs of the town's new railroad born prosperity.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Mercer Street Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map titled “Verbal Boundary Description Mercer Street Historic District Mercer County Princeton, West Virginia” dated July 2002.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries delineated on the map referenced above encompass the commercial block traditionally associated with Princeton’s early-twentieth century railroad development.

(NPS Form 10-900)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Mercer Street Historic District
Section Number **PHOTO**

Mercer County, WV
Page 22

Name:	Mercer Street Historic District
Address:	Mercer Street between North First Street & North Street
City:	Princeton
County:	Mercer
Photographer:	Michael Gioulis
Date:	February 5, 2002
Negatives:	West Virginia Division of Culture and History/State Historic Preservation Office
Photo 1 of 12	South side of Mercer Street looking southeast.
Photo 2 of 12	Third Street looking north.
Photo 3 of 12	Mercer Street looking southeast.
Photo 4 of 12	Site #0029/Mullins Brothers Building. Mercer Street looking southeast.
Photo 5 of 12	Site #0001/Bike Works Building. First Street looking north.
Photo 6 of 12	Mercer Street looking southeast.

(NPS Form 10-900)

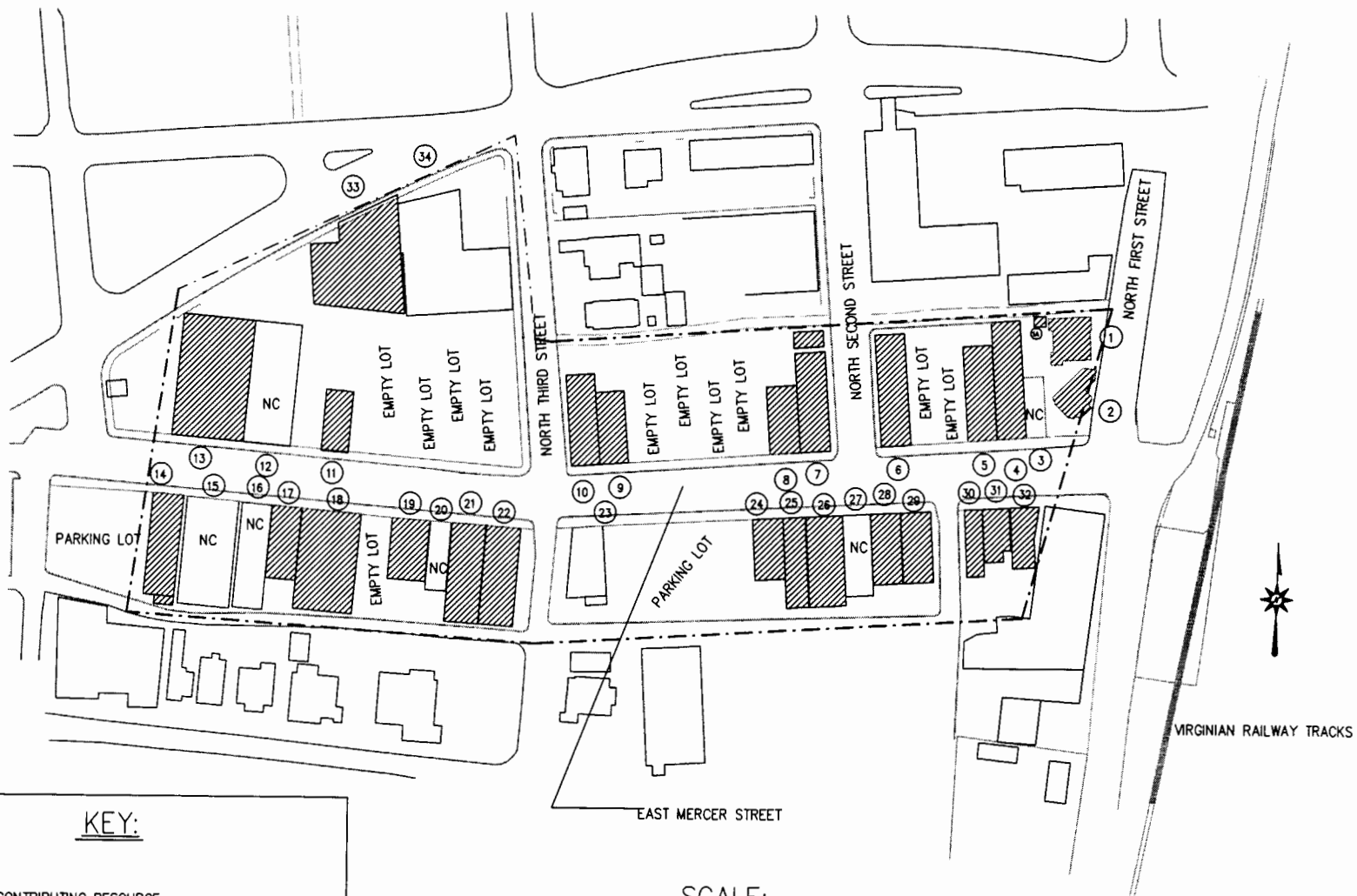
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**





Mercer Street Historic District
Section Number **PHOTO**

Mercer County, WV
Page 23

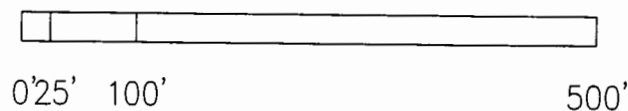
Photo 7 of 12	Sites #0001 and 0002. Start of historic district. First Street looking northwest.
Photo 8 of 12	Site #0030/Wheby's Grocery Building. Mercer Street looking south.
Photo 9 of 12	Site #0010/Princeton Hotel. Mercer Street looking north.
Photo 10 of 12	Mercer Street looking southwest.
Photo 11 of 12	Site #0008. Mercer Street looking north.
Photo 12 of 12	Site #0007/Old Stag Clothing Building. Detail looking north.



KEY:

-  = CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
-  = NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
-  = RESOURCE NUMBER
-  = HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

SCALE:



BASE MAP PROVIDED BY:
E. T. Boggess, Architect, Inc.
Princeton, WV AND
The Hill Studio

Date
JULY 2002

MICHAEL GIOULIS
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SUTTON, WV 26601
(304) 765-5716

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
MERCER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY
PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA

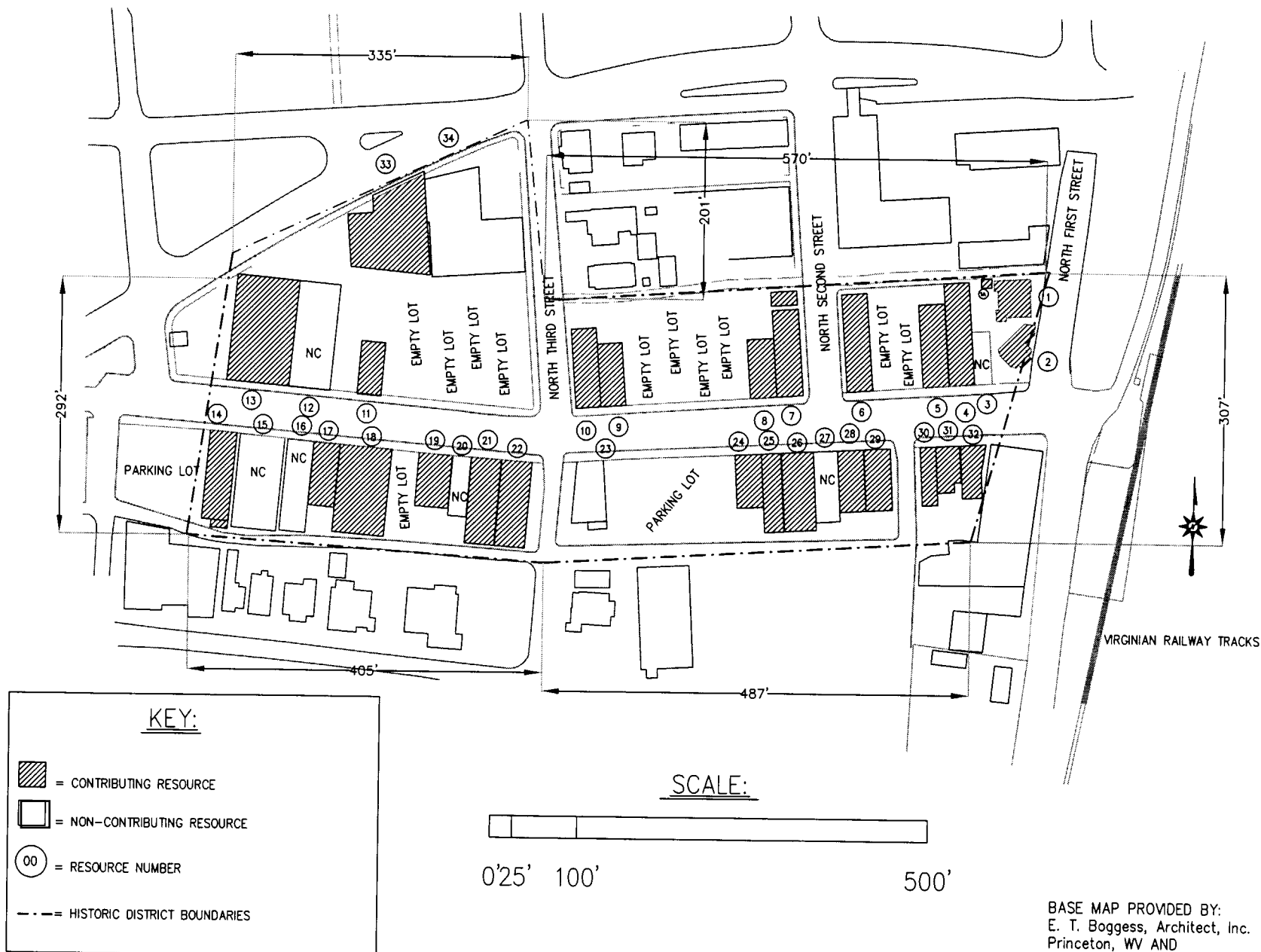
DWG.
1 OF 3

Date
JULY 2002

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HISTORIC DISTRICT DIMENSIONS
MERCER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY
PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA

DWG.
2 OF 3



Date
JULY 2002




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PHOTOGRAPH LOG
MERCER STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
MERCER COUNTY
PRINCETON, WEST VIRGINIA

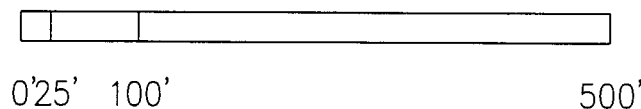
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3 OF 3



KEY:

-  = CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
-  = NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCE
-  = RESOURCE NUMBER
- = HISTORIC DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

SCALE:

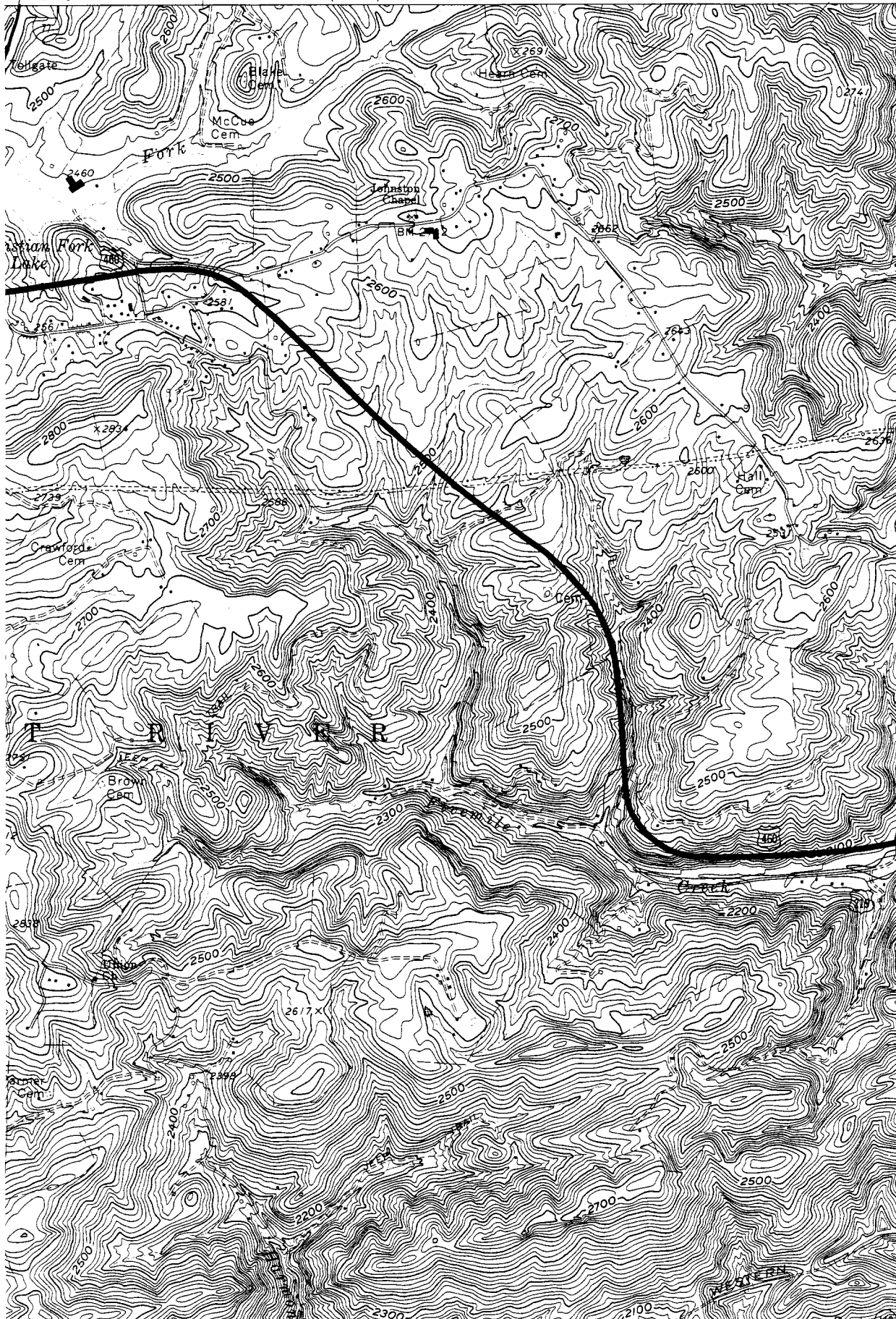


BASE MAP PROVIDED BY:
E. T. Boggess, Architect, Inc.
Princeton, WV AND
The Hill Studio

PRINCETON QUADRANGLE
 WEST VIRGINIA - VIRGINIA
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)
 SE/4 BLUEFIELD 15' QUADRANGLE

4858 IV NW
 (LORONAI)

41° 2'30" 1 990 000 FEET (W. VA.) 498 499 81° 00' 37° 22'30"



4136
 MERKEL STREET
 HISTORICAL DISTRICT
 MERKEL STREET
 A. 17-492218-413532
 B. 17-492226-4135770
 C. 17-492417-4135773
 4135
 D. 17-492419-4135707
 E. 17-492088-4135610
 F. 17-492081-4135741

130 000 FEET
 (W. VA.)

4134

3.4 MI. TO W. VA. 112
 PEARISBURG, VA. (VIA U.S. 460) 21 MI.

4132

20'

OAKVALE (U.S. 219 & 460) 3 MI.

4758 1 NW
(MATOAKA)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

81°07'30" 1 240 000 FEET (VA.)
37°22'30"

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ATHENS 5 MI.

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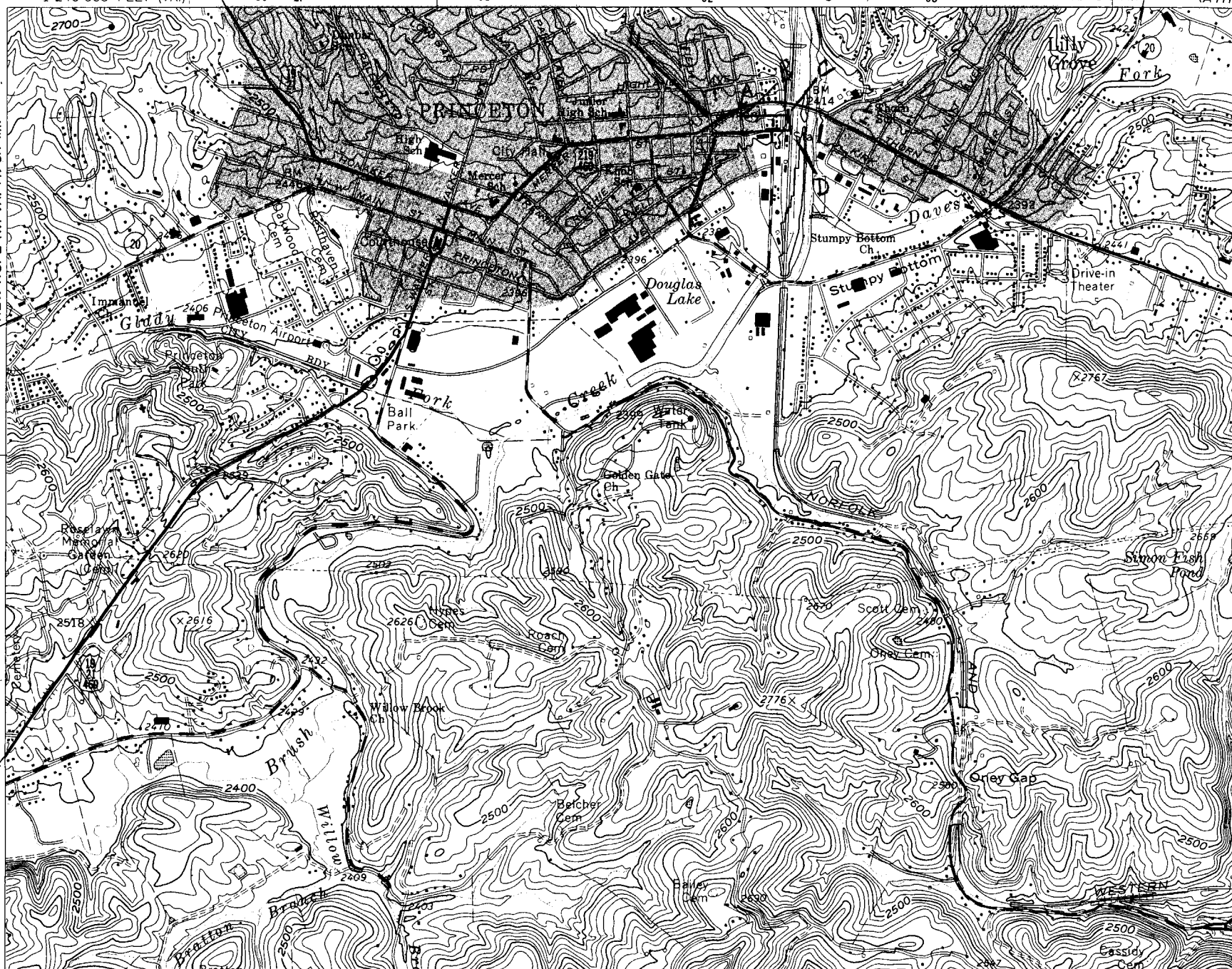
10 MI. TO U.S. 52
NEW HOPE (W. VA. 71) 3.1 MI.

4134

380 000 FEET
(VA.)

4133

BLUEFIELD (U.S. 52) 8 MI.
0.2 MI. TO W. VA. 71









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