

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name:

W.H. SMITH HARDWARE COMPANY BUILDING

other name/site number: Oil & Gas Museum of the Oil, Gas, and Industrial Historical Association

2. Location

street & number: 119 3rd Street

city/town: Parkersburg

state: WV

county: Wood code: 107

not for publication: N/A

vicinity: N/A

zip code: 26101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ___ nationally ___ statewide X locally. (___ See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Perce 3/13/03
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/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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4. National Park Service Certification

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

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5. Classification

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Ownership of Property:
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	TOTAL

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

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6. Function or Use

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Historic Functions

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store

Current Functions

RECREATION AND CULTURE: Museum

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7. Description

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Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN: Romanesque Revival

Materials

Foundation: Stone

Walls: Brick

Roof: Metal

Other: Cast iron; clay tile

Narrative Description

(See continuation on sheets.)

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8. Statement of Significance

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Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

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

C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

B removed from its original location.

C a birthplace or 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

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

Period of Significance

1899-1952

Significant Dates

1899

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Bibliography

(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: Wood County Historic Landmarks Commission

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property:

UTM References

Quad Map: Parkersburg, W.Va–Ohio

17 451352 4346255
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

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11. Form Prepared By
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Name/Title: Alan Rowe, WVSHPO, and James Miracle

Organization: West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Date: January 21, 2003

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd. East Telephone: 304-558-0240

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

=====
Property Owner
=====

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

Name: Oil and Gas Museum of the Oil and Gas Industrial Historical Association

Street & Number: 119 3rd Street Telephone: 304-485-5446

City or Town: Parkersburg State: WV Zip: 26101
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Architectural Description:

The W. H. Smith Hardware Company is a four story commercial building with Romanesque Revival architectural elements. It is located in the city of Parkersburg on 3rd Street between Juliana Street and Ann Street and adjacent to an alley on its northwest side. At one time part of a dense urban core, the building is now surrounded by open space—the result of urban renewal demolition in the 1970s and 1980s. Since the construction of the first building on this site, ca.1874, it has been used as a hardware store serving the citizens of Wood County, Parkersburg, and the surrounding area. In 1899 the original structure was ravaged by a fire and the present building was reconstructed on the original foundation. The present building appears basically as it was originally built with few alterations. The structure still retains its original light fixtures, hardware store shelving with trolley type ladder, and heating units. Of note are the twin gas lights on the outside entrance to the building. The building is presently home to the Oil & Gas Museum of the Oil, Gas and Industrial Historical Association where over 200 years of local industrial history may be viewed by the public.

The present building is a rectangular shape measuring approximately 60' by 120' with an outcrop on the west corner of approximately 18' by 12'. The foundation is not visible from the outside, but in the basement a system of stone load bearing walls and lumber beams supporting brick walls is visible. A massive central beam is supported by approximately 4' by 4' brick and stone pillars capped with 8" iron support columns. The main façade consist of a combination of wood, iron and brick, with wood and ironwork dominating the first floor and brick completing the remaining floors. The first floor (south-west façade) has a central double door entry cove with twin gas lights (not presently functional) on either side. The trim in the entrance cove is not overly ornate in nature and is made from standard lumber. The doors are wooden with glass in the upper 3/5 and two vertical raised panels in the bottom. The lock mechanism is brass with ornate perimeter artwork.

There are four shop windows each on either side of the front doors. Each is separated by a false column with ornate elements positioned a several points, including one to four vertical grooves present on each cast iron column, with decorative column capitals at the top. Each window has a transom, glass and a grate. The transom has been covered with wood on several windows, and has been replaced with square glass blocks on others. The windows cover the major part on of this section and are made of plate glass. The grates are black iron and bolted to the façade—they provided security for the transoms that let air enter the basement of the building. The 2nd, 3rd, and 4th floors of the front façade are predominantly brick with a column of lighter colored bricks making columns at the sides and two at an equal distance from the sides of the facade. There are three windows within each of the three areas formed by the columns. The windows are of the double-hung sash type with a one over one pane arrangement on the 2nd and 3rd floors and a two over one arrangement on the 4th floor. All of the windows on the 3rd floor are missing and plywood has been placed over the openings. The plywood has

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letters painted on each one to spell: "MUSEUM." The 4th floor has two remaining windows and likewise has plywood covers that together read: "OIL & GAS." Notable is the original: "W.H. SMITH HARDWARE CO." hand painted store sign between the 3rd and 4th floors. There is also a hand painted sign between the 2nd and 3rd floor that reads: "WHOLESALE SINCE 1874." The top of the front façade is capped with a corbeled brick cornice that runs the length of the building. A clay tile cap finishes the facade, sealing the top side of the cornice bricks from the weather.

The front of the north/west façade faces an alley. The facade has a number of casement windows of which are fashioned in a two over two construction. Two freight delivery doors of metal construction are located towards the rear of the façade. The trim for the windows and doors is made of lumber and brick with no ornamentation. The windows that lumanate the basement are covered by iron vertical bars as are the windows on the first floor. The north/east facade or back of the building is of the same construction. The windows are also, configured the same as on the previous façade.

The south/east façade is brick with a mural, completed in 2000. The mural depicts events, people and places of historical significance to the area. The second, third and fourth floors have two vertical rows of windows symmetrically placed on the façade.

The tin and tar roof of the building is flat. Also, there are two freight elevator shaft housings on either side that stick up from the roof. A skylight is situated in the center of the roof that allows sunlight to penetrate the interior of the building down to the first floor.

The interior has remained intact with the original hardwood floors throughout the entire structure with the exception of the basement, which at this time has concrete floors. The walls are constructed out of lumber and plaster/sheetrock. Most of the ceilings are covered with a decorative ornate tin. Original period lights still hang throughout the structure.

The floor plan remains the same as when it was used as a hardware store. However, the basement as well as the first and second floors are now used for public access display areas. The third and fourth floors are used for storage of donated items to be inventoried and prepared for future display.

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The W. H. Smith Hardware Company Building is significant under Criterion A for Commerce and for Criterion C for Architecture. The building once housed a thriving business in the Courthouse section of downtown Parkersburg. The property is significant for its association with the development of commerce in Parkersburg as well as for its Romanesque Revival architectural style that enhances its facade. The period of significance for the structure is 1899 to 1952.

Historical Background & Significance

The W.H. Smith Hardware Store has been a presence in the commercial economy of the city of Parkersburg for over a 100 years. The business was first developed in a period of rapid industrial and commercial growth for Parkersburg. The development of greater modes of transportation allowed for an expansion of commerce. Parkersburg's economy increased dramatically during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Therefore, store was intricately woven into the development of commerce as well as into the development of a consumer market in Parkersburg.

The W. H. Smith Hardware Store, established in 1874, was started at its present site on Third Street. The company was incorporated in 1884 with W.H. Smith, Sr, W.H. Smith, Jr., C.R. Smith, T.P. Smith and Levin Smith serving as shareholders. W.H. Smith, Sr. was elected as the first president, a position that he would hold until his death. After the death of the senior W.H. Smith, W.H. Smith Jr., who held the majority interest with 350 shares, was elected president. W. H. Smith Jr. held the position of president until his death in 1929.

In 1886 a catalogue was produced by C.T. Woodrow & Co., Printers, of Cincinnati, Ohio called Illustrated and Descriptive Price-list, The W. H. Smith Hardware Co. Located within the catalogue are all the items available through the company. One page reads as follows: "TO THE TRADE, We hand you, herewith, our general Catalogue for your convenience in making up orders, to which your attention is invited. You will herein find in addition to a line of general Shelf and Hardware, a very large assortment of Agricultural Implements, Farm and School Bells, Carriage, Wagonmakers' and Blacksmiths' Goods and Tools, Saddler's Goods, Saddlery Hardware, Cordage, Twines, Paper Bags, Wrapping Paper, Woodenware, Baskets, Brooms, Paints, Oils, Brushes, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Glass, Lime, Cement, Plaster, Plasterers' Hair, Fire Clay, Fire Brick, Terra Cotta Flue Pipe, Shingles, Iron and Tin Roofing, Bar Iron, Steel, Sleigh Woods, Stoves, Plain, Stamped and Japanned Tinware, Tinnners' Trimmings and Tools, Sheet iron, Zinc, Copper and Brass, Mantels, fire Fronts, Wire, Brass and Copper Goods, Granite Iron Ware, Flat and Hollow Silver-plated-ware, Clocks, Fishing Tackle, Guns, Revolvers, Pocket and Table Cutlery, School Supplies, Shoe Findings,

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Leather and gum Belting, Packing, Scales, Grain Mills, Fan Mills, Engines.” The catalogue goes on to say that the “Manufactures of Tinware, together with various novelties and specialities on which we will, at any time, be pleased to make you very special close prices on application. Soliciting your orders, we are Very Respectfully Yours, The W. H. Smith Hardware Co.” The immensity of list of items available to the citizens shows the irreplaceable value of which the company was to the community at time.

In August 1899, tragedy struck the company in the form of a fire which badly damaged the original building. Immediately, the company began to rebuild. A new building was constructed on the remaining foundation of the building damaged by fire.

The McHose and Lyons Co. of Dayton, Ohio was hired to design the iron works ornamentation located on the front facade of the new building. The McHose & Lyon Dayton Architectural Iron Works was in business for about 30 years beginning in 1868. According to the time when the new building was built, the W. H. Smith Hardware Store would have had to been one of the last to be adorned with works by the Dayton Firm. A plaque is located on the front left column that denotes their work. Examples of William McHose & Lyons work can be found all over the mid-west of which much has been noted in the Oregon Historic District in Dayton.

Unfortunately, the W.H. Smith Hardware Store is one of the few remaining examples of Romanesque Revival architecture left in Parkersburg. Many of the commercial buildings have been demolished including Chancellor Hardware Company. The significance for the building with respect to architecture is immense The building’s presence is a reminder of the commercial and architectural development of Parkersburg.

The W.H. Smith Hardware Store remained in business at the Third Street location until the late 1980’s when its owners, descendants of the founder, decided a change of location was needed due to the decline in the use of the downtown area. The company is presently located business on the south side off State Route 68. Currently, the structure houses museum honoring accomplishment of men like W. H. Smith, a great businessman of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The W.H. Smith Hardware Store was at the heart of this commercial development and has remained a lasting commercial entity in Parkersburg for well over a 100 years. The property is significant for its contribution to the commercial development of Parkersburg. In addition, the property is also, very aesthetically appealing. The Romanesque Revival style of architecture defines the period in which the building was developed as well as enhances its significance due to the destruction of many buildings similar to its type in Parkersburg.

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Bibliography

Certificate of Incorporation, State of West Virginia, The W.H. Smith Hardware Company, Wood County Corporation Records, Book 1, Page 44

Illustrated and Descriptive Price-list, The W. H. Smith Hardware Co., C.T. Woodrow & Co., Printers, of Cincinnati, Ohio, 1886

McKain, David L. Personal interview 2001, Miracle, James L., Chairman, WCHLC Parkersburg City Directory of 1907

Oil and Gas Museum, Things to Remember, flyer, print date unknown

Roe, Frederick B., Complete Atlas of the City of Parkersburg, Wood Co. W. Va. And Vicinity, Chicago & New York, Cram, George F. and Co., 1901

The Parkersburg News, W. H. Smith Hardware Co., Has Sold Its Dependable Hardware for over 57 Years, Unknown date

The Oregon District, <http://www.oregondistrict.org/>

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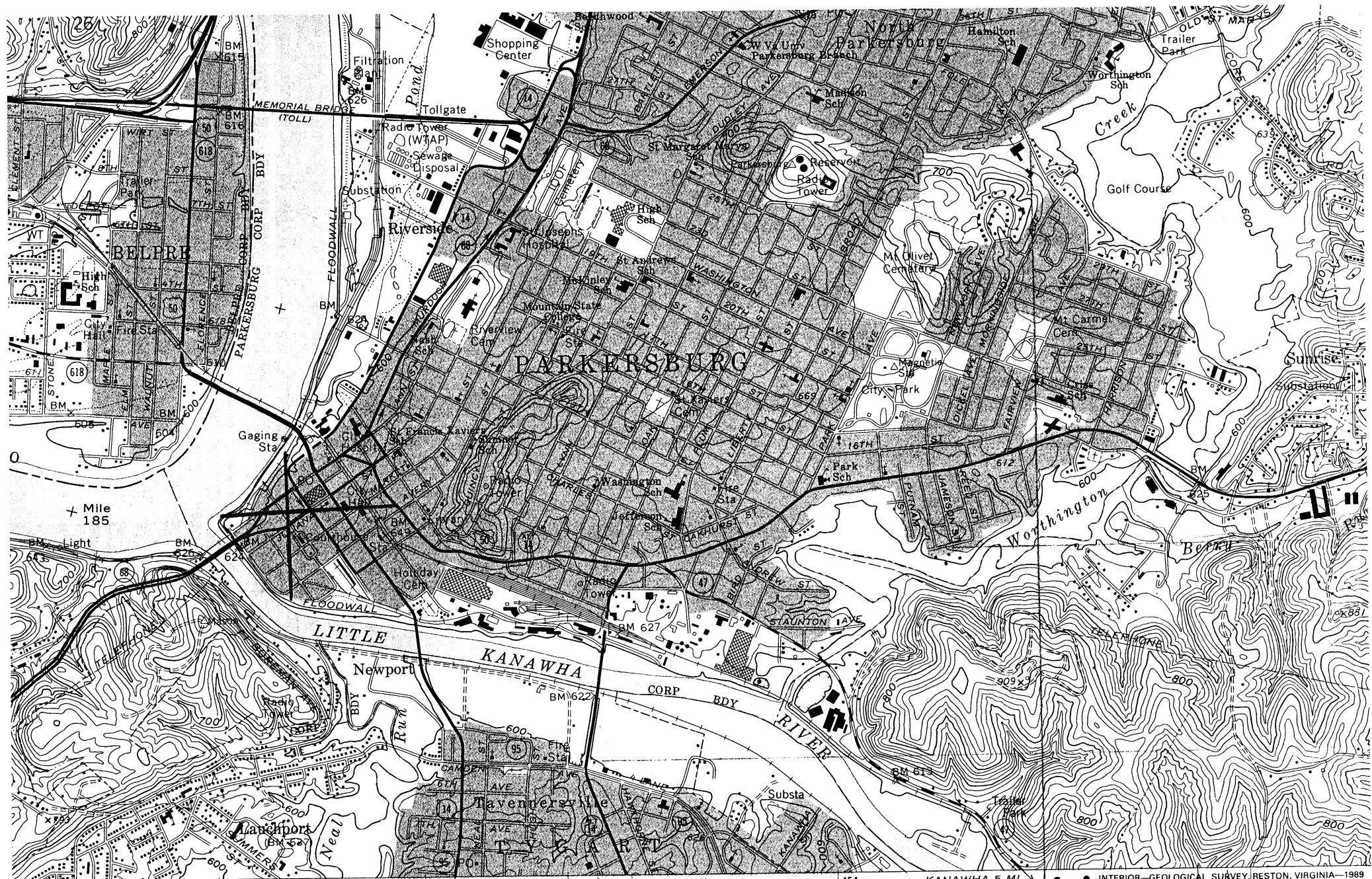
Name of Property: W.H. Smith Hardware Company Building
Address: 119 3rd Street
Town: Parkersburg
County: Wood, West Virginia

Photographer: Tom Hardman

Date: July 3, 2002

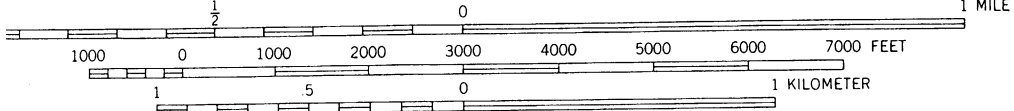
Negatives: Wood County Historic Landmarks Commission

- Photo 1 of 11: Main facade, camera facing NE.
- Photo 2 of 11: First story entrance and cast iron columns, camera facing E.
- Photo 3 of 11: Detail of cast iron column, camera facing E.
- Photo 4 of 11: Cast iron column capital detail, camera facing E.
- Photo 5 of 11: McHose & Lyons plaque on cast iron column, camera facing E.
- Photo 6 of 11: Northwest side elevation, camera facing SE.
- Photo 7 of 11: Rear elevation, camera facing SW.
- Photo 8 of 11: Metal window grate, camera facing SE.
- Photo 9 of 11: Southeast side elevation, showing large painted mural, camera facing NW.
- Photo 10 of 11: Floor beams as visible in basement.
- Photo 11 of 11: First story display room, showing tin ceiling and original light fixtures.



1450 1451 (SOUTH PARKERSBURG) 1452 MINERALWELLS 5 MI. 1453 32'30" 1454 KANAWHA 5 MI.

SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929



● INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1989
 2 280 000 FEET (OHIO) 456000m E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

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

○ Interstate Route ◻ U. S. Route ○ State Route