

Supplementary Listing Record

NRIS Reference Number: BC100003251

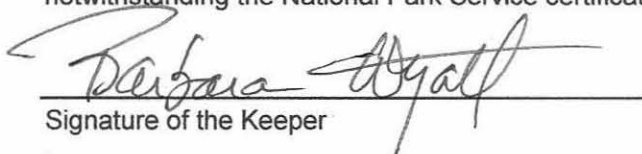
Date Listed: 12/14/2018

Property Name: Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

County: McDowell

State: WV

This Property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation


Signature of the Keeper

12-14-18
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

This Supplementary Listing Record adds one contributing structure to the Welch Commercial Historic District, changing the total contributing resources to nine (9). The contributing structure is the collection of stone walls that are in front of the two houses at the south end of the district and behind the Pure Oil/Phillips 76 Station at the north end of the district. Although it is not certain, the walls may have been built by CCC workers. The high retaining walls with beaded joints were built before the end date of the period of significance (1941).

=====

The WEST VIRGINIA SHPO was notified of this amendment.

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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name	N/A
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other names/site number	Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
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2. Location

street & number	Wyoming Street (see Section 7 for individual street numbers)	not for publication
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city or town Welch vicinity

state	West Virginia	code	WV	county	McDowell	code	047	zip code	24801
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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 at the following level(s) of significance:

☐ national ☐ statewide ☒ local

Susan Intersce
Signature of certifying official/Title

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date _____

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official
Date

Title	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

____ entered in the National Register _____ determined eligible for the National Register

____ determined not eligible for the National Register ____ removed from the National Register

other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

McDowell County, WV

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
8		buildings
	1	sites
1		structures
		objects
8 9	1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

57

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling and Multiple Dwelling;

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional, Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling;

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store;

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style,

American Foursquare;

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE; STONE

walls: BRICK; ASBESTOS

roof: ASPHALT; TERRA COTTA; RUBBER

other: GLASS; WOOD (display windows)

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

McDowell County, WV

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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	1	sites
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		objects
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(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

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(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling and Multiple Dwelling;

COMMERCE/TRADE: Professional, Specialty Store

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

DOMESTIC: Single Dwelling;

COMMERCE/TRADE: Specialty Store;

VACANT/NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Commercial Style,

American Foursquare;

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY

REVIVALS: Tudor Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: CONCRETE; STONE

walls: BRICK; ASBESTOS

roof: ASPHALT; TERRA COTTA; RUBBER

other: GLASS; WOOD (display windows)

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Description

See continuation sheets.

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

McDowell County, WV

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

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.

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900-1941

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

See continuation sheet.

Period of Significance (justification)

See continuation sheets.

Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

See continuation sheets.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

See continuation sheets.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

See continuation sheets.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

See continuation sheets.

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

McDowell County, WV

Name of Property

County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

See 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 # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository: McDowell Public Library, Welch, WV

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.32 acres

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448287.9633</u> Easting	<u>4143122.7626</u> Northing
2	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448310.4529</u> Easting	<u>4143122.7626</u> Northing
3	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448314.1571</u> Easting	<u>4143126.7314</u> Northing
4	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448298.8112</u> Easting	<u>4143147.1044</u> Northing
5	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448310.9821</u> Easting	<u>4143155.571</u> Northing

6	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448248.8049</u> Easting	<u>4143242.09</u> Northing
7	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448229.7548</u> Easting	<u>4143230.4483</u> Northing
8	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448212.5569</u> Easting	<u>4143248.9691</u> Northing
9	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448190.5964</u> Easting	<u>4143233.3587</u> Northing
10	<u>17N</u> Zone	<u>448230.8132</u> Easting	<u>4143201.8732</u> Northing

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary
Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

See continuation sheets.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

See continuation sheets.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah E. Hanna (WVU), Maureen Lavelle (WVU), and Jeffrey S. Smith (WV SHPO NR Coordinator)

organization WVU Public History Department & WV SHPO

date July 2018

street & number 1900 Kanawha Blvd., East

telephone 304.558.0220

city or town Charleston

state WV

zip code 25305

e-mail _____

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

See continuation sheets.

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property McDowell County, WV
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase) is a mixed-use area comprised of commercial and residential buildings along the east side of the 100 block of Wyoming Street, adjacent to the existing eastern boundary of the Welch Commercial Historic District (NR Reference #92000305) listed in the National Register on April 2, 1992. The buildings have a setback that is typical for Welch's commercial core in that they are located directly in front of the concrete right-of-way. A multi-course dressed stone retaining wall fronts the two residential properties along Wyoming Street that are within the historic district boundary increase area. Wyoming Street is a one-way street allowing for traffic to traverse the area in a northly direction. The proposed boundary increase area is bounded to the east by a steep, densely vegetative hillside, commercial buildings to the west, County Route 16 and residential development to the north, and the McDowell County Courthouse complex and additional commercial development to the south.

There is no explanation as to why these buildings were not included in the original district boundaries, but all the buildings in this relatively small peripheral section of Welch's commercial core were constructed during the historic district's period of significance (1900-1941). The nominated area contains approximately just over one (1) acre. There are nine (9) total resources in the proposed boundary increase: eight (8) contributing buildings and one (1) non-contributing site.

The inventory that follows provides a resource inventory number (e.g., 1, 2, etc.), the WV Historic Property Inventory (HPI) site number (e.g., MD-1268-0068), the property address, the date construction, the resource classification, and finally a description of the resource.

Inventory

1. MD-1268-0068. 136 Wyoming Street c. 1916 Contributing building

The two-story, three-bay American Foursquare form **Frank Turner House** (Photo 1) has minor elements of the Colonial Revival architectural style. The low-pitched hipped roof has both a front and side-facing hipped dormers which are clad with white asbestos shingle siding. A red brick interior chimney pierces the rear roof slope. A four-bay wrap-around porch supported by square wood posts spans the symmetrical façade and wraps to the south side of the house. A solid balustrade is also clad in asbestos shingles. A closed triangular pediment centered within the porch marks the entryway to the house. Sidelights and a transom window surround the front door. Paired, one-over-one, double-hung wood windows in both the first and second stories complete the fenestration.

A massive, coursed, quarried stone retaining wall (Photo 19) is located at the base of the steep-inclined lot. A stone and poured concrete staircase leads from Wyoming Street to the front porch. Metal pipe railing has been installed atop the retaining wall and lines the poured concrete staircase.

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
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Section number 7 Page 2

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property
McDowell County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

2A. MD-1268-0071. 142 Wyoming Street c. 1916 Contributing building

The two-story, three-bay Queen Anne style **Ashworth House** (Photo 2) has a hipped-roof with a front-gable wall dormer along the façade as well as a west-facing hipped-roof dormer on the front roof slope. The brick exterior was laid in running bond. A corbeled interior brick chimney pierces the roof line near the wall dormer. A wraparound porch covers the first story of the north, west, and south elevations. Painted wood Doric columns support the porch's hipped roof while sections of turned balustrade frame the porch between the columns. A closed pediment is positioned above the porch entryway, signaling the front entry of the home. Two windows flanking the front door have characteristically Queen Anne diamond-paned smaller upper sashes with larger lower sash. A transom sits above the front door. One-over-one, double hung wood windows comprise the second-story fenestration. The dormers have ornate fixed single panes with stained glass within the intricate wooden trim.

The coursed, quarried stone retaining wall (Photo 19) continues north along Wyoming Street in front of the Ashworth house. A poured concrete double-stringer staircase leads from Wyoming Street to the front porch. A cast-iron balustrade has been installed atop the retaining wall. Metal pipe railing lines the staircase.

2B. 142B Wyoming Street Garage/Residence c. 1916 Contributing building

This two-story garage/dwelling is located directly adjacent to the commercial/Wyoming Court Apartment building to the north. It has a red brick exterior and a large, projecting bay on the front façade with paired casement windows. The dwelling sits atop a street-level single-bay garage. There is a projecting roof cornice with a dentil course beneath the cornice. A poured concrete staircase leads to a side entry with an arched wooden door and a triangular pediment above the doorway. This building is described as a store on a 1928 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, however no sources indicate when it was converted to a residence.

3. MD-1268-0072A.154-156 Wyoming Street c. 1921 Contributing building

This is a four-story, U-shaped, three-part commercial block building colloquially referred to as the **Wyoming Court Apartments**. The brick-veneer building has a one-story center section with a full-height rear section that results in an open space within the interior of the U. A stone water table runs along the full width of the building. A soldier course runs the entire width of the building between the first and second stories. The first story has three storefront bays. A description of each bay follows: the north-most bay has wood trim that outlines what appears to be original doors and windows. A metal, multi-lite transom surmounts this area. A single, modern, metal entry door with a two-lite transom sits south of the larger bay. The middle storefront also has a significant amount of wood trim outlining original double doors and display windows. A covered transom runs the full span of this bay. The south-most bay has a small pent roof covered with wood shingles and one single modern glass and metal doorway. Most of the façade for this storefront has been covered with white, vertical T-111 siding. A single-light window sits on the westernmost portion of this storefront. The upper story fenestration consists of original 6/6 and 1/1 double-hung wood windows and paired 1/1 replacement windows in the façade. All windows have brick sills. The primary architectural interest in the building is found in the masonry. A soldier course marks the top of the fourth-story fenestration. Scuppers are located above the projecting corbeled course which marks the parapet wall.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property
McDowell County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

4. MD-1268-0070. 162 Wyoming Street

c. 1927

Contributing building

This two-story, brick-veneer commercial block building is three bays wide with a central single-leaf wooden entry door in the center bay. The doorway leads to the building's second story apartments. A transom sits above the door and is surrounded by decorative wood molding and surmounted by a decorative brick arch with herringbone detail and distinctive keystone. In addition, the first story has two storefronts currently occupied by **Green's Refrigeration Company**. The plate-glass storefronts have blue metal panels above and below the storefront windows. Eight 1/1 windows make-up the second-story fenestration. They have brick soldier-course lintels and sailor-course sills. Metal coping has been installed over the brick parapet.

5. MD-1268-0074. 170 Wyoming Street

c. 1927

Contributing building

The Model Furniture Building is a three-story brick commercial block with a 6/1 common bond brick pattern. Large display windows make up most of the front façade. The windows on the second and third stories are divided light hopper or awning windows. At the center of the first story storefront are double glass door entryways with sidelights. Large single-pane windows flank either side of the ground level doorway (two windows on each side). Above the storefront is a large, fading Model Furniture sign. Black Vitrolite skirting runs along the bottom of the storefront's plate-glass windows. There is a recessed garage door opening on the southern end of the ground level façade. Fading Model Furniture murals are still visible on the north elevation.

6. MD-1268-0158. 176 Wyoming Street

ca. 1920

Non-contributing site

This site is a **vacant gravel lot**. Records or other sources that might reveal the historic function(s) of this parcel do not exist. At one time, it was part of a much larger parcel, but this larger parcel was subdivided ca. 1930, resulting in the smaller parcel that now exists. It is flanked on its north side by the Marino Realty Building and on its south side by the Model Furniture building (formerly Model Motor Sales (Chevrolet)). This parcel may have possibly been used as parking for one of these businesses at one time, but this is speculative. Evaluated under National Register Criteria A & C, the site is considered non-contributing.

7. MD-1268-0075. 182 Wyoming Street

ca. 1940

Contributing building

The Marino Realty Building is a two-story standard commercial block building with red brick exterior, laid in running bond, and a poured asphalt roof with a chain link fence around the perimeter of the roof. A random header course is located above a header that spans the north-most and center bays. The first story is divided into three bays each with a single-leaf entry door. The first story also has three large, single-pane fixed windows in the north and center bays. The second story has two single and one paired double-hung, divided light, 6/6 windows. The windows have brick soldier course sills and sailor course headers. There is a concrete block functions as coping atop the buildings brick perimeter walls. The previously mentioned chain-link fence is embedded into the concrete.

The storeowner's house was located directly behind the Marino Realty building built into the steep hillside behind the Realty Building on the northwest side but has been demolished (post 1989). It is unknown how much of the house is left, as vegetation has grown over where it previously was.

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National Park Service

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Section number 7 Page 4

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property McDowell County, WV
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

8. MD-1268-0077. 194 Wyoming Street

c. 1936

Contributing building

This single-story, four-bay, Tudor Revival style service station once housed both **Pure Oil & Union 76 franchises**. The steeply-pitched side-gable roof clad with painted clay tile shingles was one of the hallmarks of the Pure Oil company design. The building is of masonry construction: brick laid in running or stretcher bond in front of cinderblock; the brick has been painted white. The main block houses the service station office and features a prominent bay window as well as a single-leaf entry door in the storefront fenestration. There are two interior-end corbeled chimneys at either end of the main block of the building and a third interior chimney pierces the roof ridge along the rear elevation (rear elevation inaccessible). Dog-tooth courses appear at the base of each interior-end chimney and the cornice of the entire façade. The attached garage portion of the building has two large service bays with tooth-like dentils above the openings. The roof over the garage portion is not as steeply pitched and is pierced by a single metal cupola/ventilator.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property McDowell County, WV
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Narrative Statement of Significance

Summary Paragraph

The Welch Commercial Historic District, located within the city limits of Welch, McDowell County, West Virginia, was successfully listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 2, 1992. The historic district is comprised of over fifty contributing resources - all primarily commercial and domestic in function executed in late 19th & early 20th century American and Commercial architectural styles - and spans the core commercial area of McDowell County's seat of government. This nomination proposes to expand the boundaries of the original historic district to include additional resources that share similar historic function and architectural styles of the original Welch Commercial Historic District. All of the resources within the proposed boundary increase contribute to the proposed Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase) at the local level of significance under National Register Criteria A and/or C and possess sufficient historic integrity to convey their historic associations. The majority of the resources in the proposed boundary increase are considered contributing resources. The Period of Significance for the boundary increase is 1900-1941, the same as for the originally listed Welch Commercial Historic District. No evidence to justify an expansion of the period of significance could be found.

Early Settlement of Welch

Settlers began establishing homesteads in the region near the confluence of the Elkhorn and Tug rivers in 1825. There was little economic development to speak of, as few roads traversed the surrounding mountains, which were difficult and dangerous to navigate. These early pioneers may have been aware of the presence of coal and mineral resources in the area, but the surrounding forests provided enough fuel, and the nationwide demand for coal had not yet risen. Early residents of present-day McDowell County relied on small-scale subsistence farming and localized trade and bartering for the goods needed to survive in this frontier.¹

In the years following the Civil War, the United States was swept into the technological and industrial advances of the second Industrial Revolution. The growing need for mineral resources to fuel steel production lured surveyors and speculators to travel through mineral-rich McDowell County to assess the potential of developing railroads or establishing coalmines. Captain Isaiah Welch led one such expedition through the area in 1872, where he helped commission a report on the coal deposits of the region and determined that a proper town could be established near the confluence of the Tug and Elkhorn rivers to support future growth and industrial development. Captain Welch oversaw several transactions where acreage was sold or deeded to land companies for future lumber operations and coal extraction.²

¹ Jean Battlo, *McDowell County in West Virginia and American History*, (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Company, 1998): 298-299.

² Ibid, 299-301.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property
McDowell County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Industrial Development

The area that would become Welch developed gradually over successive decades until 1891, when the community became the center of new industrial developments. Drawn in part by Captain Welch's reports of rich coal deposits, the Norfolk and Western Railway built a line through Welch as part of the company's expansion to Ohio. The arrival of the rail line coincided with rapidly rising coal production from approximately thirty mines in McDowell County. In 1892, county residents voted overwhelmingly to move the McDowell County courthouse from Perryville to Welch, even before it was an incorporated city. The presence of the railroad increased industrial production and Welch's centralized location made it an ideal site for the county seat.³

The rise in coal production and industrial growth sparked Welch's commercial development, especially around the train depot in town.⁴ McDowell County residents increasingly relied on Welch for supplies and commercial goods and travelled to the town by train to shop. A number of roads leading to Welch were paved during the early twentieth century, improving vehicle access and enabling even more people to travel to Welch on a regular basis. In downtown Welch, businesses opened along McDowell, Howard and Wyoming streets, clearly developing into the commercial center that has since been largely encapsulated by the Welch Historic Commercial District.

Throughout the 1920s, Welch experienced significant business and population growth. With nearby coal operations attracting more workers and entrepreneurs, Welch grew to become a sizeable city at the center of an industrious county. The presence of so many coal-mining operations and the booming local economy meant prosperity for residents and business owners alike. Compared to the rest of the country, wages in McDowell County were higher than average, which undoubtedly influenced the presence of a wide variety of specialty stores in Welch. In 1920, the community of 3,232 people enjoyed the use of eleven clothing and department stores, five furniture stores, twelve grocery stores, theaters, soda fountains, and several major automobile showrooms and service garages.⁵

The eight additional sites along Wyoming Street that are included in the Welch Historic Commercial District Boundary Increase were constructed during this period of expansion and prosperity and supported industrial and commercial efforts in town and throughout the county. The blend of apartments, homes and businesses all stand in sight of the railroad and the Tug River, representing the arc of Welch development. People were drawn to Welch by economic opportunity and enjoyed the profits of their work by building homes or buying automobiles in Welch and, thereby, investing in their community.

³ Ibid, 304-306.

⁴ Alex Schust, *Billion Dollar Coalfield: West Virginia's McDowell County and the Industrialization of America* (Tucson: Two Mules Publishing, 2010): 231.

⁵ Ibid, 236.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property
McDowell County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Depression, Recovery and Change

This era of good fortune ended with the onset of the Great Depression, which hit the statewide coal industry hard. Coal fueled industrial manufacturing across the United States, and as production stagnated and unemployment rose, coalmines slowed or shut down their operations, leaving many out of work. Several banks in town and the surrounding county closed due to the high volume of withdrawals. President Roosevelt's New Deal reforms enabled organizations like the Works Progress Administration (WPA) or the Public Works Administration (PWA) to employ McDowell County residents in infrastructure building programs, but like much of West Virginia, residents suffered from the downturn in mining operations, and the lack of economic opportunity.

The onset of World War II briefly revitalized the coalmining communities of McDowell County. The industrial demands of war were met with increased coal production, but mechanization and high labor costs changed the nature of the coal-mining region. After the war, demand for coal decreased, while technological advancements made it no longer necessary to employ as many people in the mines. Mining operations around Welch closed permanently, and companies left to work new mineral seams elsewhere. Workers and families followed work opportunities, and very gradually, Welch declined in population and commercial power.

Architectural Style Expressions in Welch

The buildings in the boundary expansion area include examples of historically popular commercial and residential architectural styles from the early twentieth century making the historic district boundary increase eligible for the National Register under *Criterion C: Architecture*. The architectural styles found in the boundary increase area represent national trends in architecture from the twentieth century, making these buildings contributing resources to the Welch Commercial Historic District Boundary Increase area.

The majority of the buildings in this boundary increase area are commercial buildings constructed during a period of substantial economic growth in Welch. The Wyoming Court Apartments (Photos 5-7), Model Furniture Building (Photos 10 & 11), Marino Realty Building (Photo 14), and Green's Refrigeration (Photos 8 & 9) are examples of two-part commercial block buildings, distinguished by the horizontal division of the structure into two distinct sectors. These sectors are usually distinguished between public and private use. At street level, these buildings have large, plate-glass, display windows that welcome passersby to inspect commercial displays or business advertisements. The upper floors of the structure are generally not open to the public, and used instead for office or meeting space, or in the case of the Wyoming Court Apartments (Photo 5), residential spaces. These commercial blocks were commonly used throughout the United States between the nineteenth and mid-twentieth centuries.⁶

⁶ Richard Longstreth, "Compositional Types in American Architecture", *Perspectives in Vernacular Architecture* Vol. 2 (1986): 17.

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property
McDowell County, WV
County and State
N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

When commercial blocks were initially developed in the nineteenth century, emphasis was placed on the façade of the structure, where large windows displayed material examples of economic development and prosperity. This instinct to place the most emphasis on the façade of a commercial block building took hold throughout the United States and remained a popular design element until the mid-twentieth century.⁷

The Pure Oil/ Union 76 Service Station (Photos 17 & 18) represents an example of Tudor Revival architecture, popularized in the 1920s and 1930s. Though built in 1936, toward the end of the Tudor Revival trend, the service station represents an early and more modest example of this style. The masonry is simpler than the more ornate and heavily stylized examples of later Tudor Revival architecture.⁸

The Frank Turner House and the Ashworth House were both constructed in 1916 but represent two distinct architectural styles and trends. The Frank Turner House (Photo 1), is an example of the American Foursquare form with Colonial Revival stylistic treatments and finishes, and equally fashionable style for the time. The Foursquare is distinctly American in origin and influenced by the designs of master architect Frank Lloyd Wright. The Frank Turner house is symmetrical in form (not entirely common for a Foursquare) with a hipped roof and front porch, representing the most commonly used design of American Foursquare architecture throughout the country. The popularity of this style was brief, lasting only from 1900 to 1920.⁹

The Ashworth House (Photos 2 & 3) is a later example of Queen Anne architecture, popularized between 1880 and 1900. This house was constructed at a time when Queen Anne architecture was declining and replaced by Colonial Revival styles. Queen Anne architecture in the United States represented a blend of English and American influences, with most ornate examples found on the East and West coasts. The Ashworth House is a more modest example of this national trend, with the most ornate work found in the large windows and the spindles of the front porch. However, nods to the Colonial Revival style are found in the symmetrical façade, porch pediments, and classically-inspired Tuscan porch columns.

Summary

Welch, West Virginia served as a significant economic and trade center during the height of coal production in the state during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These resources are being nominated as an addition to the existing historic district under criteria A and C. Under criterion A, these buildings are significant for contributing to the district's role as a major trade and economic center for the surrounding southern coal fields of the state from the late 19th century to the early 20th century. These buildings are eligible under criterion C for the cohesive representation of nationally popular commercial and domestic architecture constructed during the period of significance, 1900 - 1941.

⁷ Ibid, 15.

⁸ Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1996), 358.

⁹ Ibid, 439-440.

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Section number 9 Page 9

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase) is shown as the area outlined in yellow on the attached map entitled "Welch Commercial Historic District, Boundary Increase, McDowell County – West Virginia" dated 7/11/2018.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The historic district boundary increase encompasses the area historically associated with the expansion area that was established during the Period of Significance, 1900-1941. The extant cultural resources demonstrate both significance and historic integrity from the Period of Significance. The boundary was drawn based on historic property lot lines.

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
Name of Property McDowell County, WV
County and State N/A
Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

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PHOTO LOG:

Property Name: Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)
 Address: Wyoming Street
 City/Town: Welch
 County: McDowell
 Photographer Name: Jeffrey S. Smith, WV SHPO National Register & Survey Coordinator
 Date Photographed: May 29, 2018

- Photo 1: 136 Wyoming Street, Frank Turner House, Façade (West Elevation), Facing East
- Photo 2: 142 Wyoming Street, Ashworth House, façade (West Elevation), Facing East
- Photo 3: 142 Wyoming Street, Ashworth House Garage/Apartment, façade (West Elevation), Facing East
- Photo 4: 142 Wyoming Street, Ashworth House Garage/Apartment, Corner of South and West Elevations, Facing Northeast
- Photo 5: 154 & 156 Wyoming Street, Wyoming Court Apartments, façade (West Elevation), Facing South
- Photo 6: 156 Wyoming Street, Wyoming Court Apartments, façade (West Elevation), Facing Southeast
- Photo 7: 154 Wyoming Street, Wyoming Court Apartments, Corner of West and North Elevations, Facing Southeast
- Photo 8: 162 Wyoming Street, Green's Refrigeration Company, façade (West Elevation), Facing East
- Photo 9: 162 Wyoming Street, Green's Refrigeration Company, façade (West Elevation), Facing Northeast
- Photo 10: 170 Wyoming Street, Model Furniture Building, façade (West Elevation), Facing East
- Photo 11: 170 Wyoming Street, Model Furniture Building, North and West Elevations, Facing Southeast
- Photo 12: 176 Wyoming Street, Vacant Gravel Lot, Facing East
- Photo 13: 142, 154, 156, 162, 170 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing Southeast
- Photo 14: 182 Wyoming Street, Marino Realty Building, North and West Elevations, Facing Southeast
- Photo 15: 182 & 194 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing Northeast
- Photo 16: 182 Wyoming Street, Marino Realty Building, West and South Elevations, Facing Northeast
- Photo 17: 194 Wyoming Street, Pure Oil/Union 76 Service Station, façade (West Elevation), Facing East

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Photo 18: 194 Wyoming Street, Pure Oil/Union 76 Service Station, North and West Elevations, Facing Southeast

Photo 19: 136 & 142 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing East

Photo 20: 142, 154, 156, 162, & 170 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing Northeast

Photo 21: 142, 154, 156, 162, 170, & 184 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing South

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Figure 1: Town of Welch, WV, Plat Map, Jan. 18th, 1889

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Section number Photos Page 14

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 1: 136 Wyoming St., Facade, Facing east



Photo 2: Wyoming St., Facade, Facing East

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 3: 142 Wyoming Street, Ashworth House Garage/Apartment, façade (West Elevation), Facing East

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Section number Photos Page 16

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 4: 142 Wyoming Street, Ashworth House Garage/Apartment, Corner of South and West Elevations, Facing Northeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 5: 154 & 156 Wyoming Street, Wyoming Court Apartments, façade (West Elevation), Facing Southeast

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Section number Photos Page 18

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 6: 156 Wyoming Street, Wyoming Court Apartments, façade (West Elevation), Facing Southeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 7: 154 Wyoming Street, Wyoming Court Apartments, Corner of West and North Elevations, Facing Southeast

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Section number Photos Page 20

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 8: 162 Wyoming Street, Green's Refrigeration Company, façade (West Elevation), Facing East



Photo 9: 162 Wyoming Street, Green's Refrigeration Company, façade (West Elevation), Facing Northeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 10: 170 Wyoming Street, Model Furniture Building, façade (West Elevation), Facing East



Photo 11: 170 Wyoming Street, Model Furniture Building, North and West Elevations, Facing Southeast

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Section number Photos Page 22

Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 12:176 Wyoming Street, Vacant Lot, Facing East

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 13: 142, 154-156, 162, & 170 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing Southeast



Photo 14: 182 Wyoming Street, Marino Realty Building, North and West Elevations, Facing Southeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 15: 182 & 194 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing Northeast



Photo 16: 182 Wyoming Street, Marino Realty Building, West and South Elevations, Facing Northeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 17: 194 Wyoming Street, Pure Oil/Union 76 Service Station, façade (West Elevation), Facing East



Photo 18: 194 Wyoming Street, Pure Oil/Union 76 Service Station, North and West Elevations, Facing Southeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



Photo 19: 136 & 142 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing East



Photo 20: 142, 154, 156, 162, & 170 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing Northeast

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Welch Commercial Historic District (Boundary Increase)

Name of Property

McDowell County, WV

County and State

N/A

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)



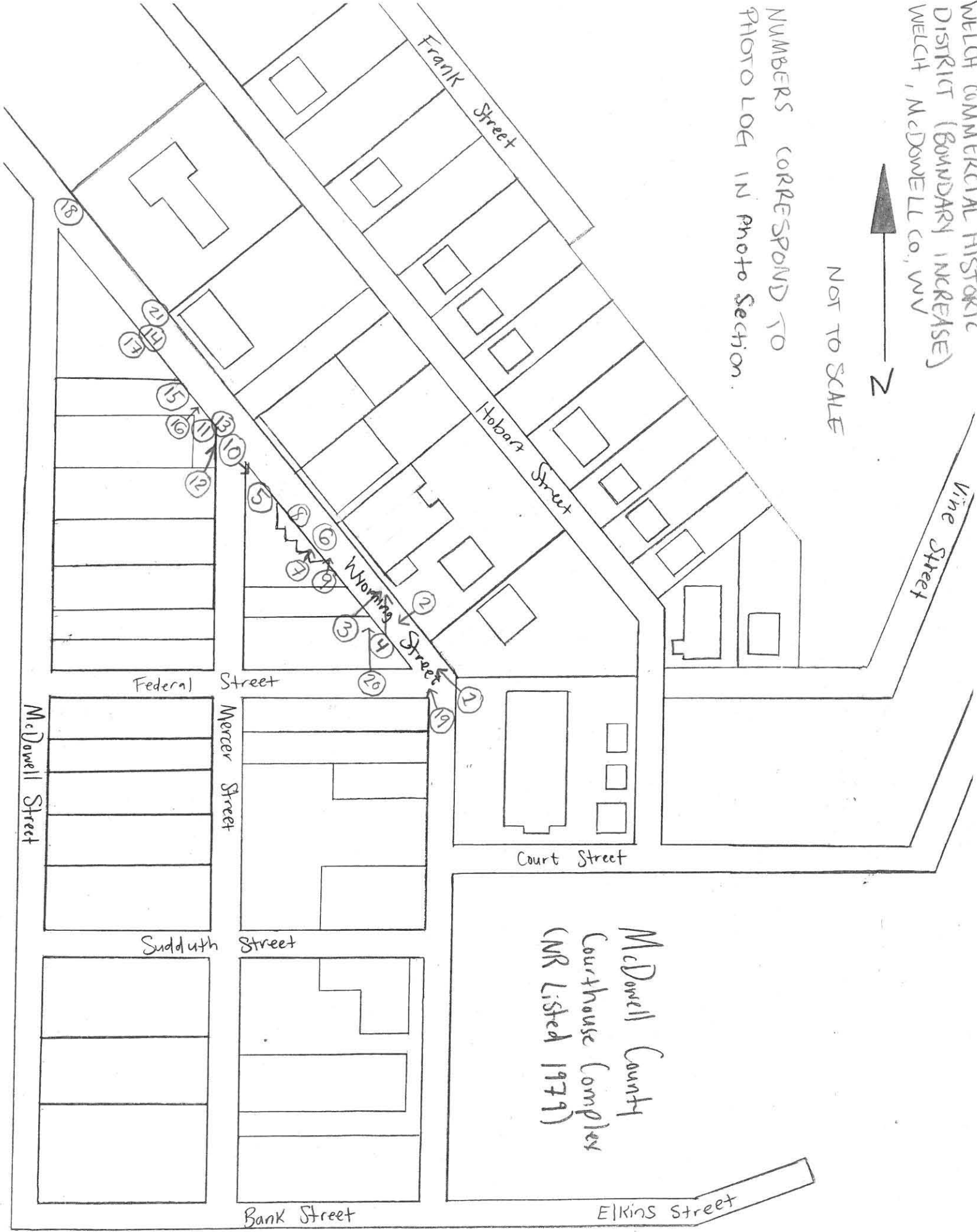
Photo 21: 142, 154, 156, 162, 170, & 184 Wyoming Street, Streetscape, Facing South

WELCH COMMERCIAL HISTORIC
DISTRICT (BOUNDARY INCREASE)
WELCH, McDOWELL CO, WV



NOT TO SCALE

NUMBERS CORRESPOND TO
PHOTO LOG IN PHOTO SECTION.



WELCH COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT (BOUNDARY INCREASE)
WELCH, McDOWELL CO., WV



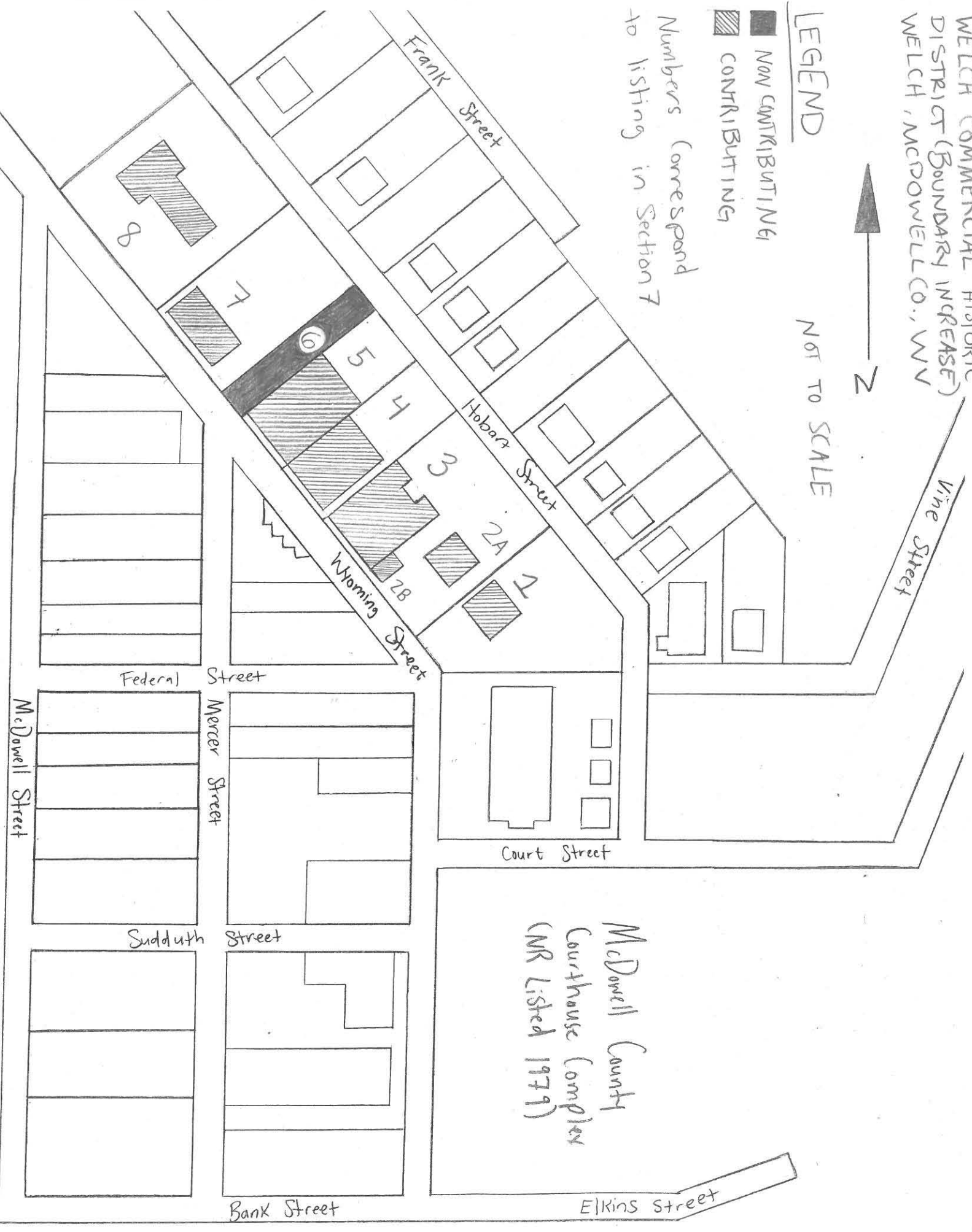
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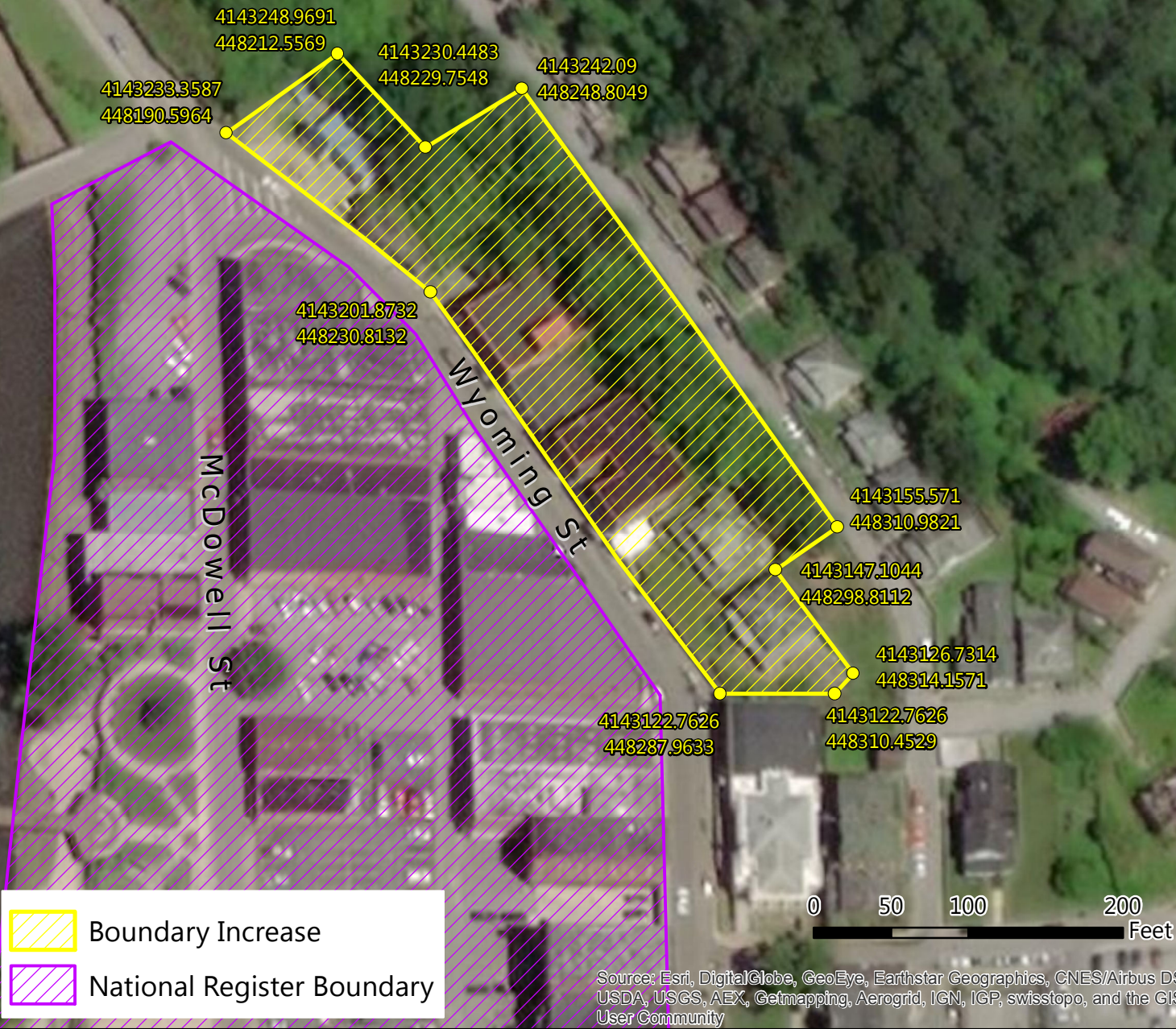
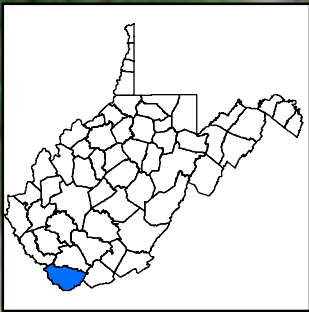
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■ NON CONTRIBUTING

▨ CONTRIBUTING

Numbers correspond to listing in Section 7





Acres: 1.32
Quad: Welch
Date: 7/11/2018

Welch Commercial Historic District

Boundary Increase

McDowell County - West Virginia

