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United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

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

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

For HCRS use only

received

date entered

1. Name

historic Wellsburg Historic District

and/or common Wellsburg Historic District

2. Location

street & number

N/A not for publication

city, town Wellsburg _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 1st

state West Virginia code 54 county Brooke code 009

3. Classification

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

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple Ownership

street & number

city, town Wellsburg _____ vicinity of _____ state West Virginia

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brooke County Courthouse

street & number Seventh Street and Main Street

city, town Wellsburg _____ state West Virginia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Works Progress Administration Survey of

title State and Local Historical Records has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ no

date 1936 ☒ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Brooke County Library

city, town Wellsburg _____ state West Virginia

7. Description

Condition

☐ excellent
☒ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Wellsburg is situated along the eastern bank of the Ohio River in the panhandle of Northern West Virginia. Bounded by the river to the west, Buffalo Creek to the south, and mountains to the east, Wellsburg has grown northward from its early settlement near the mouth of Buffalo Creek. This development roughly parallels the geographic boundaries so that, in plan, Wellsburg resembles a flattened "V". The streets are laid out in a grid pattern, with four thoroughfares -- Main, Charles, Yankee and Commerce Streets -- running parallel to the river. The southern section of town possesses outstanding examples of nineteenth century commercial and residential architecture. Late nineteenth century industrial development is evident in the northern section, where two factories established at that time still operate in the midst of essentially identical workers' dwellings that once comprised a substantial "company town".

By providing a route for transportation and trade, the Ohio River was the earliest source of Wellsburg's prosperity. The first area settled, near the mouth of Buffalo Creek, was concentrated around the Wellsburg Wharf. The Wharf, established along the western side of South Main Street in the 1790's and now partially restored, was the site of Wellsburg's earliest commercial and light industrial activity. Boatyards, warehouses, and the town ferry comprised the Wharf area, and early residences were built immediately to the north of this area. Although the boatyards and ferry are defunct, a large warehouse still borders the Wharf. (The warehouse was probably rebuilt several times following severe floods; its foundations are believed to be from the earliest structure.) Two inns from Wellsburg's early history still survive on Main Street: Miller's Tavern, a brick structure facing the Wharf, and Travelers' Rest, a frame structure. Between these two inns are several frame Federal residences, built during the early nineteenth century.

Other residences and small commercial structures were added along Main Street during the first quarter of the nineteenth century, when Wellsburg became renowned as one of the most important shipping points along the Ohio River. Whereas the earliest vernacular buildings had been oriented to the river, with Wellsburg's growth came the orientation of more formal, substantial structures to the streetscape. In 1835, near the close of Wellsburg's first period of prosperity, a branch of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia was built on the 800 block of Main Street. This extant building is an architectural highlight of its period -- a brick, two-story Greek Revival temple form with a tetrastyle Doric portico.

Wellsburg's omission from the National Road system, the decline of river traffic, and the advent of the Civil War deferred further significant growth until 1877, when Wellsburg's northern boundary was extended to 20th Street. Within the next year, rail service was opened along Yankee Street, physically bisecting the town along its major axis. Many of the residential and commercial dwellings along the railroad siding succumbed to railway buildings and industrial growth (although more than a dozen residences facing the tracks have somehow survived).

The glassmaking industry flourished with the introduction of railway transportation. Riverside Glassworks opened in the southern section of town; Dalzell Glass and Eagle Glass introduced a new industrial and residential community into the previously undeveloped northern section. All of these industries were sited along the railroad siding.

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Wellsburg Historic District, Brooke County, West Virginia

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Industrial development brought additional commercial and residential growth to southern Wellsburg, especially along Main and Charles Streets. The wealthiest businessmen displayed their fortunes by situating their substantial houses on Pleasant Hill and High Street, overlooking the town below.

In the twentieth century, Wellsburg has experienced little significant growth. The heaviest architectural loss has occurred along Commerce Street, now State Route 2. Although cosmetic alterations have been affixed to many of the town's other older buildings, the structural fabric and historical integrity of the entire area west of Route 2 has remained largely intact. The area bounded on the north by 29th Street, on the east by Route 2, on the south by Buffalo Creek, and on the west by the Ohio River comprises the proposed Historic District. (See Item 10, Continuation Sheet Nos. 15 and 16 for exact boundary).

Two maps accompany this Nomination Form.

Contributing structures of individual sites are keyed to Map #1 by numbers.

Streetscape photographs and photographs of representative pivotal and intrusive structures are keyed to Map #1 by letters.

Map #2 indicates the status of each structure in Wellsburg.

Description of selected individual sites and structures follows:

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Wellsburg Inventory

Main Street

East Side (South to North)

1. 334 - 336 Main: Two 2-storey brick dwellings with one common wall and a common gable roof line; 5 bays, arched lintels. ca. 1890.
2. Henderson Chapel: funeral home: brick, 2 stories over basement, 3 bays with central doorway, hipped roof with interior chimney, central dormer. Stone lintels, modillioned cornice. ca. 1890.
3. 426 Main: dwelling: brick, 2-stories, 5 bays, gable roof with interior chimneys on both gable ends and paired bracketed cornice, one storey porch extending across three central bays of main facade and a side porch. ca. 1880.
4. 444 Main: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with one interior chimney or gable end paired bracketed cornice. ca. 1880.
5. Lucas Walter House, 542 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories with dormered attic, 5 bays, flattened mansard roof, interior chimneys, Roman Ionic entrance porch with projecting center pediment. ca. 1900.
6. Millers Tavern: museum; brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, hipped roof with center chimney, pedimented entrance canopy. Tavern from 1798 to 1840. Now site of Brooke County Historical Society. 1798.
7. 614 Main: dwelling: brick, 3 stories, 5 bays, gable roof, center entrances on first and second floors. ca. 1810.

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8. John Henderson House, 620 Main: dwelling: brick, 3 stories, 4 bays, gable roof, interior end chimneys, wrought iron balcony on second floor. ca. 1790.
9. Brooke County Courthouse, 7th and Main: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof, attic window in pediment, flat tetrastyle Doric portico on western gable end, 5 bays and pilasters on side, trefoil-faceted cupola. One site of 1799 Courthouse. 1849.
10. T. H. Mark Building, 8th and Main: law office: brick with stone facade, 3 stories, 3 bays, flat roof with parapet, corner entrance. Side elevation has two string courses of brick and evidence of arched windows on third floor. 1901.
11. Northwestern Bank of Virginia: dwelling: brick on ashlar stone foundation, 2 stories, 3 bays with center entrance, gable roof, tetrastyle pedimented Doric portico. 1835.
12. Dr. Harden House, 816 Main: dwelling: brick with stone veranda, 2 stories with mansard attic, 4 bays, bracketed cornice, Beaux-Arts ornamentation, irregular plan. ca. 1890.
13. Parker House, 818 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, flattened gable roof, end chimneys. recessed entrance with wooden architrave. Excellent survivor of federal period. 1825.
14. Cochran House, 820 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys, rowhouse plan, 2 entrances on front facade. ca. 1830.
15. 900 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with raised gable ends, interior gable end chimneys, flat lintel over center door. Rear ell, 2 stories. Both mid-nineteenth century.

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16. 916 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, asymmetrical hipped gable roof, interior end chimney, paired brackets on cornice, Tudor-arch brick lintels, first floor porch with trellis cornice. ca. 1880.
17. 924 Main: dwelling: stucco over brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, low hipped roof, 4 pilasters, first floor entrance with one storey porch, additional entrance in antis. ca. 1920.
18. 926 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, hipped gable roof, interior end chimneys, heavy bracketed cornice, recessed center entrance, triangular lintels over window. ca. 1870.
19. 1014 Main, Episcopal Rectory: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, double cross gable, side chimney, projecting 2-storey block with bowed window on first floor, asymmetrical plan, 1-storey veranda. 1887.
20. Christ Episcopal Church: frame, one storey, center pointed arch window, gable roof, side entrance in base of square tower, spire. 1887.
21. 1124 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof, paired interior end chimneys, pedimented lintels on first floor, flat lintels on second floor. ca. 1880.
22. 1400 Block of Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, hipped gable roof, bracketed cornice, moulded semicircular arches over windows. Fenestration has been altered. ca. 1880.

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Main Street

West Side (South to North)

23. Wellsburg Wharf: historic site: cobblestone landing around which stood warehouses and boat yards. First trade center of Wellsburg, now partially restored by Brooke County Historical Society. ca. 1790.
24. 800 Block of Main: commercial structure: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays on second floor, 2 doors and 2 windows on first floor, shallow projecting roof separates the two floors, unbroken parapet roofline ornamented with brick diaper work. Tudor-arched lintels on second floor. First floor storefront altered. ca. 1900.
25. Jennie Duval House: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with interior end chimneys, arched window surrounds. ca. 1870.
26. Jones House: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with paired bracketed cornice, central entrance, Eastlake details on door and window surrounds. ca. 1880.
27. Kerr House: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 6 bays, bracketed cornice, pedimented door and window surrounds, bowed corner. Currently used as two dwellings. ca. 1860.
28. Captain Oaks House, 905 Main: dwelling: brick, 2-1/2 stories with dormers piercing hipped gable roof, 5 bays, symmetrical elevation, one storey porch with Ionic columns, pedimented roof over entrance, second floor semicircular arched window over entrance. ca. 1900.
29. Patrick Gass Cottage: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof, end chimney. ca. 1850. Rear ell, frame 1 storey, 3 bays, gable roof. 1797.

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30. Taylor Bracken House, 1021 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, flattened hipped gable roof, center chimney, projecting bowed window on southern elevation. 1872.
31. Benjamin Harvey House, 1035 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 7 bays, irregular hipped roof. Italianate cornice, arched windows, veranda, asymmetrical plan. ca. 1880.
32. Bakewell Pottery, 1045 Main: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, stone lintels, hipped gable roof, end chimney. Southern ell, brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, stone lintels, gable roof, end chimney. The Bakewell brothers maintained their business and residence in this structure during the 1820's. 1820.
33. 1101 Main: dwelling: ~~frame, 2 stories,~~ 2 bays, irregular hipped gable roof with end chimney, first floor porch with shingle base, second floor bowed window, bracketed cornice. ca. 1880.
34. 1453 Main: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with cross gable, two interior gable chimneys, first floor porch with shingle base, set of three joined windows on first floor. ca. 1880.
35. 2121 Main: dwelling: brick and shingle, 2 stories, 5 bays, irregular roof and plan. Arched stained-glass window on first floor. Corner turret, modillioned cornice. Rare example of Queen Anne architecture for this area. ca. 1880.

Charles Street
East Side (South to North)

36. 400 block of Charles Street: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 4 bays, gable roof, interior end chimneys, paired bracketed cornice, cornice returns on gable ends, wooden arched lintels on second floor. Alteration of two entrances on first floor. ca. 1880.

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37. Barth's Opera House: commercial structure: brick, 2 stories with dormered mansard roof, 8 bays, bracketed cornice, altered by addition of two storefronts on first floor. ca. 1880.
38. Northeast corner, 7th and Charles: commercial structure: brick, 3 stories, 2 bays, flat roof, parapet with center Tudor arch, flat lintels, first floor storefront. ca. 1920.
39. Traubert's Pharmacy, 8th and Charles: commercial structure: brick and cast iron, 2 stories, irregular bay system, flat roof, elaborate cast iron facade with corner entrance and ornamented parapet. 1891.
- b. Second from Northeast corner, 8th and Charles: dwelling: stucco and brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with end chimney, paired brackets on cornice, arched windows with moulded lintels, small porch over center entrance. ca. 1870.
41. 2910 Charles Street: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, hipped gable roof, rear projecting wing heavy cornice, Tudor arch brick lintels, shed entrance stoop and fenestration have been altered. ca. 1880.

Charles Street

West Side (South to North)

42. Emig Bros. Tailors: commercial structure; pressed brick, 3 stories, 4 bays, flat roof, crenellated cornice, bowed window on second floor. 1896.
43. Helsley Cigar Shop, 635 Charles: commercial structure; brick, 3 stories, 4 bays, stone lintels, flat roof, heavy bracketed cornice, corner entrance. Upper floors have plate glass lights and unusual convex corner windows. 1898.

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44. Brooke County Savings & Loan, Charles between 7th and 8th: brick, 2 stories, 2 bays, flat roof, modillioned cornice, corner Corinthian pilasters, double semicircular arches with upper lunette windows on facade, stone lintels. ca. 1900.
45. Wellsburg National Bank, Charles between 7th and 8th: stone, 2 stories, 3 bays, pair of engaged Ionic columns on high bases frame entrance, heavy cornice, twentieth century. Classical Revival. ca. 1920.
46. Presbyterian Church, 9th and Charles: brick, 1 storey, cross gable roof, tracery windows in gable ends, baptistry, buttressed corner tower, entrance in tower base, typical Gothic Revival. 1890.
47. Christian Church, 10th and Charles: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with fan, center belfry, first floor center entrance. Classical Revival. 1848. Brick refaced and rear ell added, 1938.
48. First Methodist Church, 11th and Charles: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, gable roof with fan light in pediment, cornice, 4 brick pilasters across facade, 3 arched windows on second floor, center entrance on first floor. (Altered by twentieth century one storey wing.) Classical Revival elements. 1853.
49. 1225 Charles: brick, 2 stories, irregular bay and roof arrangement, 2 storey projecting bowed windows, bracketed cornice, brick Tudor-arch lintels, altered first floor windows. ca. 1880.
50. 1305 Charles: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, hipped roof with two interior end chimneys, simple 1 storey, 3 bay porch on main facade, 1 storey wing to side. ca. 1890.

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51. Brooke County Board of Education: civic structure: brick and stone, 2 stories, 8 bays, irregular plan, irregular hipped gable roof, parapeted cornice, projecting bay has side entrance set in one storey semicircular stone arch. Elements of Romanesque Revival. ca. 1880.
52. 2219 Charles: dwelling: shingle siding, 2 stories, 1 bay on first floor, 2 bays on ground floor, gable roof (one gable end forms the main facade), simple flat-roofed porch extending across the entire facade. ca. 1900.
53. 2221 Charles: dwelling: shingle siding, 2 stories, 1 bay on first floor, 2 bays on ground floor, gable roof (one gable end forms the main facade), simple flat-roofed porch extending across the entire facade. ca. 1900.
54. 2311 Charles: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with interior chimneys on both ends, simple one storey porch extends across three central bays of main facade.

Yankee Street

East Side (South to North)

55. Crescent Glass: factory: brick, one storey, gable roof, crenellated cornice. ca. 1900.
56. 800 block of Yankee Street: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with interior chimney on one gable end, one storey veranda extending across facade. ca. 1900.
57. 936 Yankee: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, hipped roof with central chimney; side doorway, brick arches with keystones over bays. ca. 1870.

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58. 1921 Yankee: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, irregular fenestration, hipped roof with interior chimney, porch with shed roof extending across the entire facade. ca. 1900.
59. S. George Plant: manufacturing structure: brick, 1-1/2 stories, gable roof, 2 lunettes set into pediment, crenellated cornice. ca. 1890.
60. Railroad Station: brick, one storey, irregular bays, gable roof and hipped projection, interior chimney. ca. 1880.

Yankee Street

West Side (South to North)

61. Northwest 9th Yankee: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays (with projecting bay on ground floor), hipped roof with central dormer and chimney over heavy, bracketed cornice, one storey porch. ca. 1880.
62. 925 Yankee: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 5 bays, gable roof with interior end chimney, one bay shed roof over central doorway. Mid-nineteenth century.
63. 935 Yankee: dwelling: stucco, 2 stories, 5 bays, hipped roof with interior chimneys, central doorway, ca. 1850. Two bay, 2 storey addition to left, ca. 1880.
64. Eagle Manufacturing: brick, several sections; central section is 3 stories, 10 bays, with stepped parapet frontispiece crowning the facade. ca. 1900.
65. Southwest Corner, 26th and Yankee: dwelling: frame, 2 stories, 3 bays, hipped gable roof, wooden pediments on bays, side entrance, one storey veranda on facade and side. ca. 1880.

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66. Alley Building, between 3rd and 4th Streets, Main and Charles:
barn: brick, gable roof, 2 stories over basement, 3 bays,
interior chimney, early nineteenth century.
67. Landlocked House, between 5th and 6th Streets, Main and Charles:
dwelling: brick, 2 stories, 3 bays, with hipped roof and one
interior chimney, rear ell, arched windows. ca. 1880.
68. 35 15th Street: dwelling: stucco, 2 stories, gable roof,
interior end chimneys, rear ell of two stories with galleried
porch oriented toward river. ca. 1800.
69. 64 12th Street: dwelling: brick, 2 stories, hipped roof,
side wing of 2 stories, irregular bay system. Half of
building is stylistically identical to ell, with paired
bracketed cornice, flat lintels. Other section has pedimented
lintels, no brackets. ca. 1880.

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The following sites in Wellsburg are listed on the National Register
of Historic Places.

6. Millers Tavern (December 14, 1978)

23. Wellsburg Warf (November 27, 1979)

8. Significance

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

Specific dates 1772-1920 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Wellsburg is significant in a variety of areas including its early settlement, by "Tomahawk Right", in the late eighteenth century. Regarding settlement and exploration, it is associated with Patrick Gass, the last surviving member of the Lewis and Clark expedition who died in 1872. It is also significant in transportation both overland and river. As a boating center it rivaled Pittsburgh and Wheeling in commercial river travel and warehousing in the early nineteenth century and there was a boatbuilding industry near Buffalo Creek including the construction and outfitting of gunboats during the Jefferson administration. The glass and paper sack industries were and still are significant to the county's and state's economy. Architecturally, Wellsburg displays numerous styles developed throughout its history. The early federal periods and later Italianate, Revival styles, Victorian etc., are all represented in both commercial and residential settings. It has also been the county seat of Brooke County since its creation in 1797 as a Virginia county and, later, a West Virginia county.

Wellsburg, West Virginia, is a uniquely eclectic community. From its eighteenth century origin as a frontier settlement, Wellsburg experienced periods of growth and recession throughout the nineteenth century. In each period of growth, distinct architectural and industrial developments were achieved; these developments paralleled similar trends occurring simultaneously in many portions of the nation. Because the town's expansion encompassed many of its earlier structures, today a wide range of examples of the nineteenth century's most popular building styles can be found in Wellsburg -- in some cases, within a single town block. The 800 block of South Main Street is one example. Adjacent to a turn-of-the-century Romanesque commercial structure is a mid-nineteenth century Greek Revival bank, which in turn stands by an elegant brick Beaux-Arts dwelling of the late nineteenth century. This block also includes several Federal townhouses, some brick and others frame. Charles Street, the commercial district, is an unusual blend of late nineteenth century residences and storefronts. Two Classically inspired banks, one brick and the other stone, survive from this period. A unique commercial structure is also on Charles Street -- Helsley's Cigar Store. This 1899 three story building has a corner entrance, a rounded brick facing above the entrance, and two original convex plate glass windows set into the corner. The fenestration of many older structures throughout Wellsburg underwent alterations during the nineteenth century, as evidenced by Eastlake and Italianate lintels on otherwise plain facades. Architecturally, the most uniform section of Wellsburg is in the northern section of town. The "company town" of Lazearville was developed around two factories in this area, ca. 1900. Now a part of Wellsburg, Lazearville was composed of dozens of essentially identical workers' dwellings -- all with the same lot size, sitting, two story frame facade, and floor plan. Most of the "company town" repetitive dwellings remain intact. Wellsburg has also retained the distinct atmosphere of a small river town. Both threatened and nourished by the Ohio River, early Wellsburg survived sporadic floods and eventually prospered from its waterfront site.

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The first settlement at Wellsburg occurred in 1772, when three brothers -- Johnathan, Israel, and Friend Cox -- built a log cabin near Buffalo Creek and laid claim to the surrounding 1200 acres. In 1773, the brothers established the boundaries of their claim, but their untimely deaths delayed further progress. At the close of the Revolutionary War, settlers migrated to the Ohio Valley and Northwest Territory to stake claims along the United States' fertile frontiers. One of the settlers, Charles Prather, purchased 481 acres from the heir of Friend Cox in 1788, and three years later Charlestown, Virginia was incorporated. Charlestown became the seat of the new county of Brooke upon its separation from Ohio County in 1797. To eliminate the confusion of Charlestown with two other communities of the same name, the Virginia General Assembly voted in 1816 to rename the town Wellsburg (for Alexander Wells, Charles Prather's son-in-law).

Growth came quickly to Wellsburg. One of the first business enterprises was Charles Prather's ferry, which transported passengers across the river into Ohio. It began operation in 1792 and ran for the next 140 years. Warehouses and boatyards developed around the Wharf by 1800 and Wellsburg soon became one of the leading exporters on the Ohio River. Flour and whiskey were shipped down the river to New Orleans, and vessels built at the boatyards carried cargo to Glasgow, Scotlant and Liverpool, England. During the Jefferson administration, gunboats were built and fitted out at the local yards. Wellsburg's first glass factory opened in 1813, followed by a foundry in 1814, and a paper manufacturer in 1815. James Callahan's History of West Virginia chronicles the prosperity and problems of nineteenth century Wellsburg:

"At an early day, Wellsburg was the rival of Wheeling for travel between east and west. Until 1818, she was one of the most noted shipping points on the upper Ohio -- even exceeding Wheeling in exports. Her first bank began operations in 1813, but was closed in 1815. Though she lost by the decision which made Wheeling the terminus of the National Road, she renewed her rivalry with desperate zeal in 1825 when the question of repairs on the road revived her hopes of securing a more northern route. To divert travel via Wheeling, she project the Wellsburg and Washington Turnpike, which was soon abandoned in despair and allowed to languish for many years. In 1832, she obtained the establishment of a branch of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia. In 1834, she was disappointed in her expectation to become a prominent point on a railway between Washington, Pennsylvania and the Ohio Canal at Stillwater. The Bethany Turnpike, connecting with a turnpike to Washington, was engineered and graded in 1850 and macademized gradually thereafter."

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In the 1870's, Wellsburg entered a second period of growth following a thirty year decline. The inclusion of Wellsburg on the Pittsburgh-Wheeling-Kentucky Railroad Line in 1878 encouraged new industrial, commercial and residential development. During the period 1800-1910, twenty-five glass making industries were established in Wellsburg, among them Eagle Glass (1894) and Crescent Glass (1908). Both of these industries continue to operate in factories built during the 1890's. The oldest local paper manufacturer still in operation is the S. George Paper Company, founded in Wellsburg in 1882. By 1900, Wellsburg reached its height as a glass and paper manufacturing center, relying more heavily on transportation by rail than river. With the dramatic increase in the town's wealth came its most ambitious architectural endeavors -- new commercial structures and merchants' dwellings -- many of which remain relatively unaltered.

Since the early twentieth century, Wellsburg has experienced only slight growth. Its natural boundaries -- water and mountains -- have been both a restricting and preserving force for the town. Although Wellsburg has avoided the limitless urban expansion of other industrial areas, it has also avoided degeneration. Commerce and industry continue to be active, yet residential areas have been spared from major encroachments and Wellsburg has survived periods of recession and renewed itself throughout its history. Its heritage can be traced through its architecture, a distinctive panorama of virtually every phase in the development of the American small town.

9. Major Bibliographical References

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #14

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 246

Quadrangle name Steubenville East,

UMT References West Virginia-Pennsylvania-Ohio

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

A

1	7	5	3	2	8	3	0	4	4	6	0	0	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

C

1	7	5	3	3	4	6	5	4	4	5	8	4	3	5
Zone		Easting				Northing								

E

1	7	5	3	2	5	9	0	4	4	5	6	9	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

G

Zone		Easting				Northing								

B

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

D

1	7	5	3	2	9	5	0	4	4	5	6	8	7	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

F

Zone		Easting				Northing								

H

Zone		Easting				Northing								

Verbal boundary description and justification

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET #15, #16 and #17

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

state	code	county	code
N/A			

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Henry J. Browne, Partner and Michael Gioulis, Historical Architect

organization Browne, Eichman & Dalgliesh, P.C. date September 30, 1981

street & number 206 Fifth Street, N.E. telephone (804) 977-4480

city or town Charlottesville state Virginia

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 2/17/82

For HCPRS use only

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

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

Chief of Registration

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1

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Callahan, James Morton. History of West Virginia, Volume I, 1923.
Chicago and New York: The American Historical Society, Inc.

_____. "Industrial Wellsburg", Wellsburg Herald,
Wellsburg, West Virginia, 1907.

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATAVerbal Boundary Description

The 246 acres comprising the Wellsburg Historic District are bounded by a line beginning at a point on the east bank of the Ohio River and the intersection of the centerline of 2nd Street;

Thence extending approximately 330' generally east along 2nd Street to Charles Street;

Thence extending approximately 40' generally north along Charles Street;

Thence extending approximately 210' east and somewhat south (parallel to 2nd Street) to the alley between Charles Street and Yankee Street;

Thence extending approximately 530' north and somewhat east (parallel to Charles Street);

Thence extending approximately 65' east and somewhat south (parallel to 2nd Street) to the Penn Central Railroad tracks;

Thence extending approximately 100' generally north along the railroad tracks to 4th Street;

Thence extending approximately 165' generally east along 4th Street;

Thence extending approximately 1120' north and somewhat east (parallel to the railroad tracks) to 7th Street;

Thence extending approximately 150' generally west along 7th Street to the railroad tracks;

Thence extending approximately 530' generally north along the railroad tracks;

Thence extending approximately 70' east and somewhat south (parallel to 7th Street);

Thence extending approximately 135' north and approximately $36^{\circ} 30'$ east;

Thence extending approximately 630' north and somewhat east (parallel to the railroad tracks);

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Thence extending approximately 120' east and somewhat south (parallel to 10th Street) to Commerce Street;

Thence extending approximately 580' generally north along Commerce Street to 12th Street;

Thence extending approximately 600' north and somewhat west to the railroad tracks;

Thence extending approximately 4950' generally north along the railroad tracks;

Thence extending approximately 160' east (parallel to 26th Street);

Thence extending approximately 150' north (parallel to railroad tracks) to 26th Street;

Thence extending approximately 150' east along 26th Street to Commerce Street;

Thence extending approximately 320' north along Commerce Street to 27th Street;

Thence extending approximately 300' west along 27th Street to the railroad tracks;

Thence extending approximately 300' north along the railroad tracks to 28th Street;

Thence extending approximately 210' west along 28th Street;

Thence extending approximately 640' north (parallel to Charles Street) to 29th Street;

Thence extending approximately 210' west along 29th Street to Charles Street;

Thence extending approximately 420' south along Charles Street;

Thence extending approximately 140' west to the east bank of the Ohio River;

Thence extending generally south and curving along the riverbank approximately 2010';

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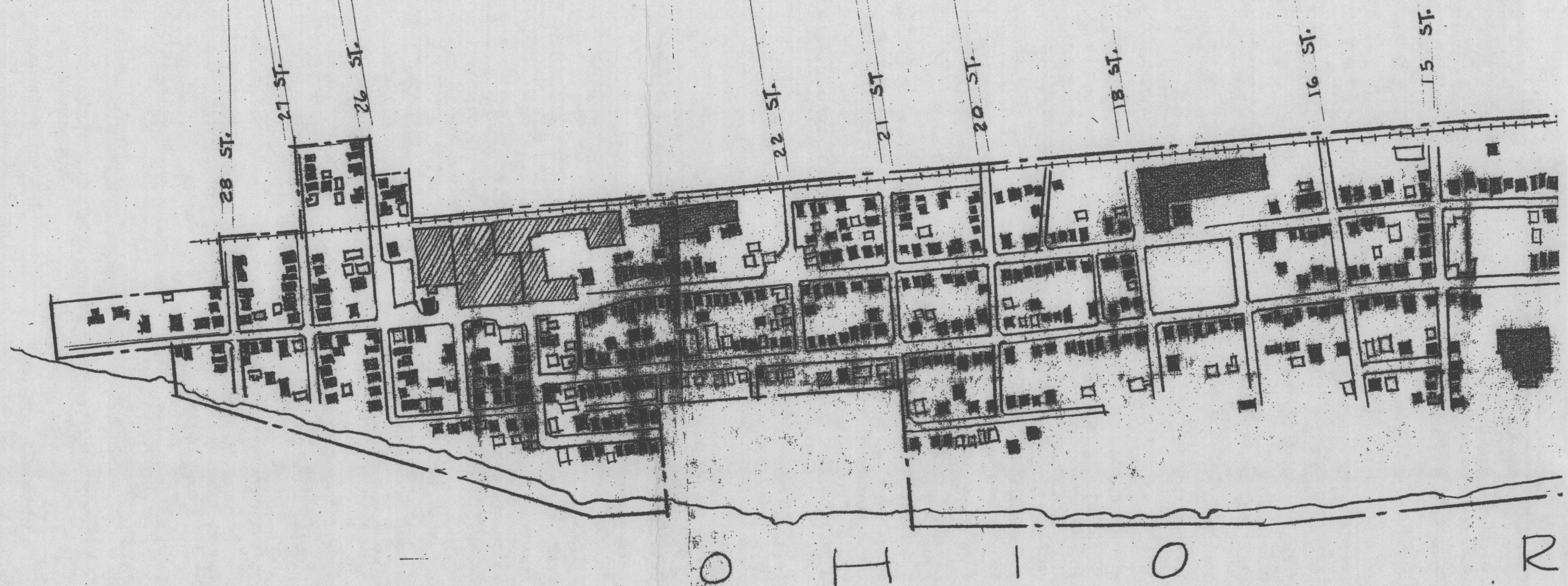
3

Thence extending approximately 370' east and somewhat north;

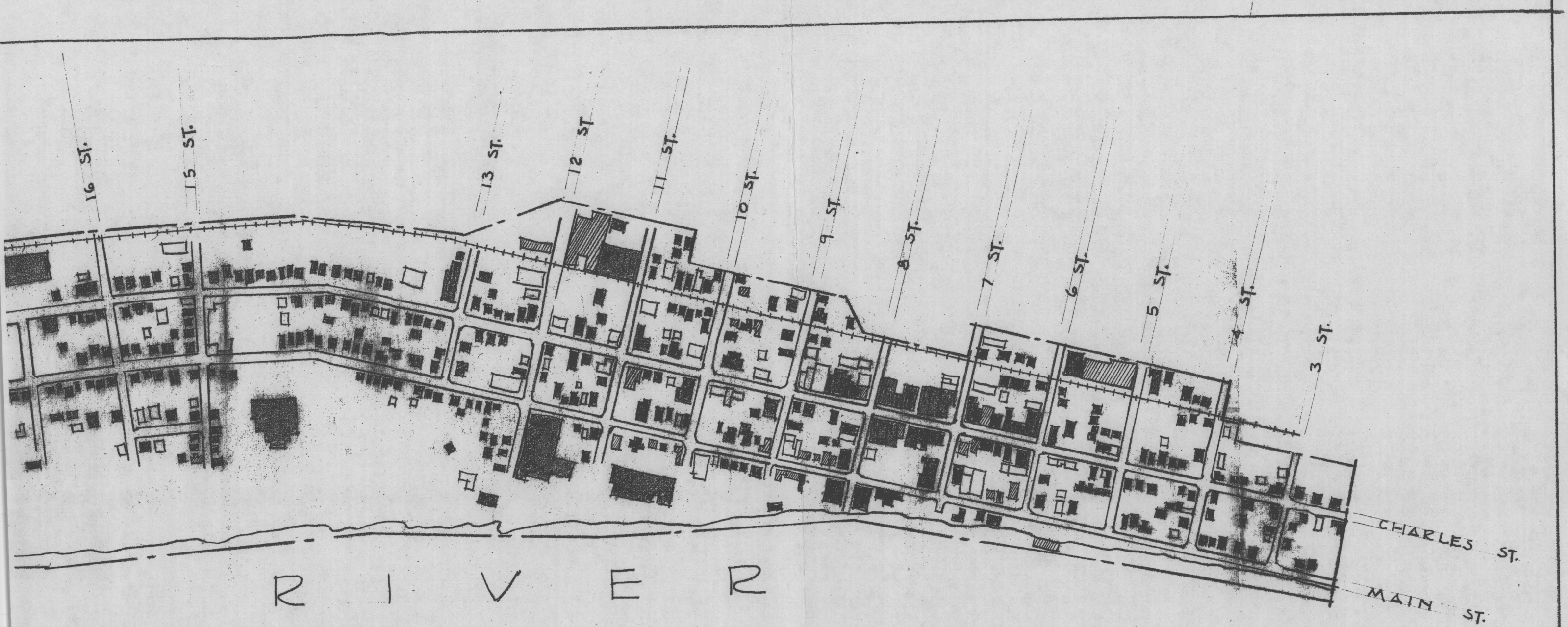
Thence extending approximately 920' south and somewhat east to 21st
Street;

Thence extending approximately 470' west and somewhat south to the east
bank of the Ohio River;

Thence extending generally south and curving along the riverbank
approximately 7060' to the point of beginning.



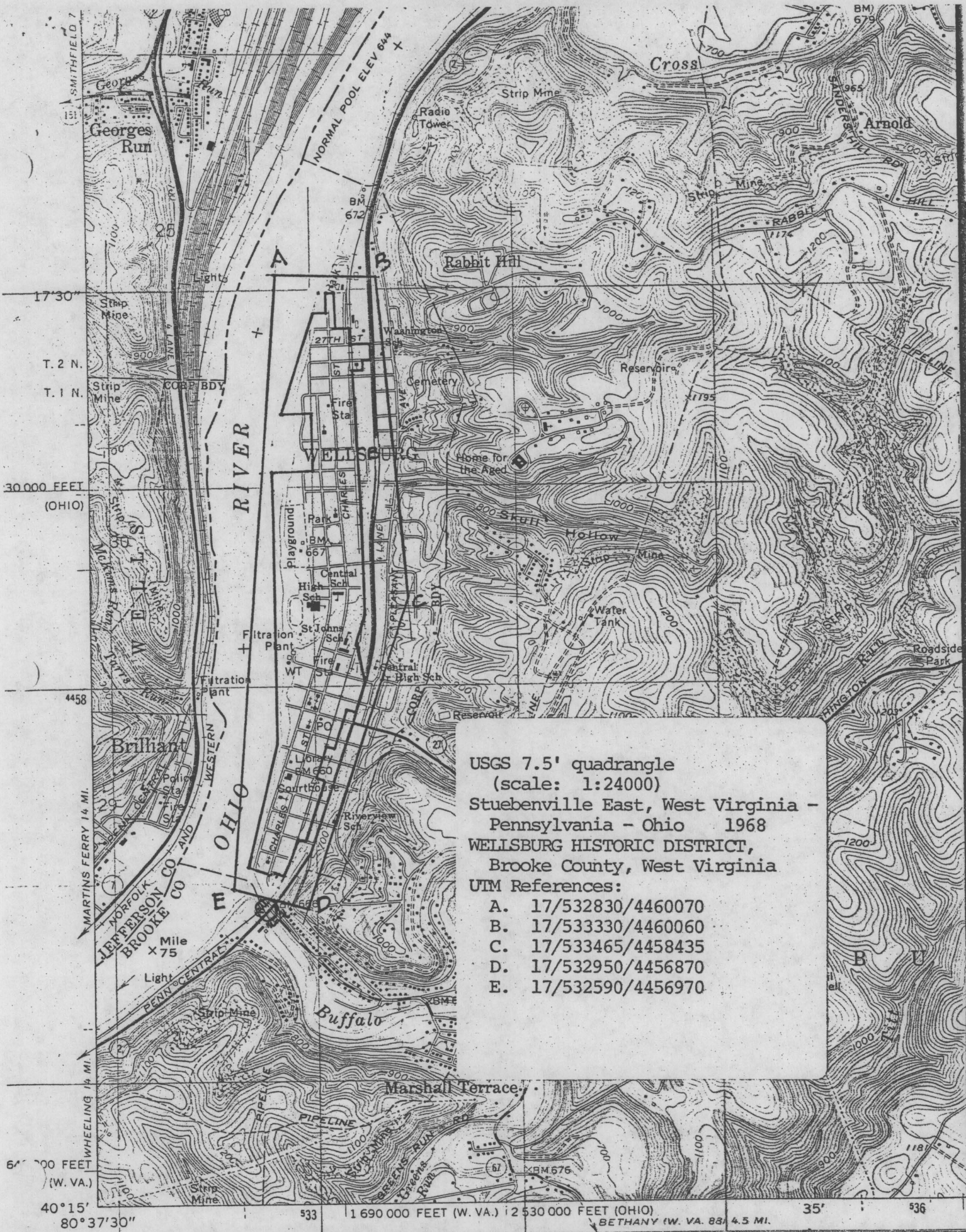
KEY:	
---	DISTRICT BOUNDARY
▨	PIVOTAL STRUCTURE
■	CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURE
□	INTRUSIVE STRUCTURE



R I V E R

29 HISTORIC DISTRICT

↖ NORTH



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
(scale: 1:24000)
Stuebenville East, West Virginia -
Pennsylvania - Ohio 1968
WELLSBURG HISTORIC DISTRICT,
Brooke County, West Virginia
UTM References:
A. 17/532830/4460070
B. 17/533330/4460060
C. 17/533465/4458435
D. 17/532950/4456870
E. 17/532590/4456970



PALEMINO



