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 How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. 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 entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

   historic name   Downtown Charles Town Historic District

   other names

2. Location

   street & number   Washington, Liberty and Congress Streets from eastern town limit west to

   Water Street    city or town    Charles Town     □ not for publication   □ vicinity

   state    West Virginia    code    037    county    Jefferson    code    037    zip code    25414

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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 X nationally □ statewide □ locally.

☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

[Signature] William G. Larson

[Date] 2/18/97

[State or Federal agency and bureau]

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]

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.

☐ removed from the National Register.

☐ other (explain):

[Signature of the Keeper] [Date of Action]
5. Classification

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership of Property</th>
<th>Category of Property</th>
<th>Number of Resources within Property</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☒ private</td>
<td>☐ building(s)</td>
<td>Contributing 204 Noncontributing 31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ public-local</td>
<td>☒ district</td>
<td>buildings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☒ public-State</td>
<td>☐ site</td>
<td>sites</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐ public-Federal</td>
<td>☐ structure</td>
<td>structures</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>☐ object</td>
<td>objects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total 204</td>
</tr>
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</table>

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

2

6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions</th>
<th>Current Functions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic/single dwelling - house</td>
<td>Domestic/single dwelling - house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/professional - law office</td>
<td>Commerce/professional - law office</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commerce/specialty store</td>
<td>Commerce/specialty store</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government/court house</td>
<td>Government/court house</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government/city hall</td>
<td>Government/city hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government/fire station</td>
<td>Education/school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education/school</td>
<td>Religion/church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religion/church</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture/music facility</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification</th>
<th>Materials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colonial/Georgian</td>
<td>foundation stone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Republic/Federal</td>
<td>walls brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid 19th Century/Greek Revival</td>
<td>roof metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late Victorian/Italianate</td>
<td>other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Classical Revival</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Narrative Description
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)
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 pattern of our history.

☐ B Property 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 as 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance
(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Military

Community Development

Period of Significance

1786-1946

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

N/A

Narrative Statement of Significance
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

City of Charles Town
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property  approximately 50

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
1 1 8 2 5 3 8 6 0 4 3 5 2 9 4 0 4 1 8 2 5 2 8 2 0 4 3 5 2 3 4 0
2 1 8 2 5 4 0 0 0 4 3 5 2 6 2 0 5 1 8 2 5 2 8 8 0 4 3 5 2 5 4 0
3 1 8 2 5 2 9 0 0 4 3 5 2 1 8 0
4
5
6
☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet)

Boundary Justification
(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title  Paula S. Reed, PhD, Architectural Historian
organization  Paula S. Reed and Associates, Inc.  date  November 8, 1996
street & number  105 N. Potomac Street  telephone  301-739-2070
city or town  Hagerstown  state  Maryland  zip code  21740

Additional Documentation
Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items
(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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

name  various
street & number
telephone

city or town
state
zip code

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. 470 et seq).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.
PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION:

The Downtown Charles Town Historic District extends along most of the length of Washington, Liberty and Congress Streets, and the cross streets running among them. The dominant architectural styles expressed in the district are Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate, and Classical Revival although the residential blocks of East Liberty Street have a concentration of Foursquare and Bungalow style houses.

The district retains a high level of integrity with just a little more than 13% non-contributing properties. The buildings are most concentrated toward the central area of the district, the first block of West Washington Street and of North George Street. In this area the streetscape is dominated by two and three story buildings from the late 19th century. It is likely that most of this downtown commercial construction occurred after the Reconstruction era. Most of the buildings in this area of the district were built new or renovated with Italianate detailing.

General Description

Charles Town's rich and colorful history is reflected in its buildings. Although the minimum requirement for becoming a freeholder when the town was founded was a 16-foot square dwelling, no known examples of such buildings remain today. Charles Town's visual character today is dominated by handsome brick buildings reflecting the Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles of the 19th century.

Although the district extends to the eastern town limits and includes Liberty and Congress Streets, the town's business and commercial section is along Washington Street from Samuel Street west to Water Street, and along the 100 blocks of George Street. At the heart of the district is the Court House which was heavily damaged by artillery fire during the Civil War. It was originally constructed in 1837, and rebuilt in 1871 when the county government was returned to Charles Town. The Market House on the corner of West Washington and North George Streets, an imposing structure, with mixed Renaissance, Colonial Revival and Italianate influences, was constructed in 1874. Known as Charles Washington Hall, it is a reconstruction of the original market house which was destroyed during the Civil War.

Other buildings in this part of the district are the Independent Fire Company building built in 1877 in the Second Empire style; and the Old Opera House on the northwest corner of George and Liberty Streets, built in 1912 in the Colonial Revival style. Also from the early 20th century is the Post Office building at the southwest corner of George and...
Washington Streets, a Colonial Revival style building dating from 1917. All of these buildings are brick. The Court House and Opera House are individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Classical Revival style of the early 20th century is represented by the cast stone City Hall, formerly a bank building. Scattered among these imposing buildings of the late 19th and early 20th century are older buildings representing the late 18th and early 19th century development of town. The Sheetz House for example at the southeast corner of Liberty and Lawrence Streets and, according to local historians, dating from 1797, is a stuccoed log and brick dwelling.

Charles Town exhibits four periods of architectural development. First is the early construction from the 18th and early 19th century; second is the Federal and Greek Revival period from the 1820s through the 1860s; the third period is the post-Civil War and Reconstruction phase from the 1870s through the turn of the century and the fourth is the more “modern” buildings of the 20th century.

Contributing to the architectural character of Charles Town is the large number of stuccoed buildings. Stucco seems to have been a frequent choice for coverings in the late 19th century, and may be linked to the presence of the limestone works at the turn of the century period.

Today Charles Town is primarily a residential town with business and governmental buildings concentrated along Washington, George, Congress and Liberty Streets. It is this combined commercial and residential area that is the focus of this survey and registration project. The buildings in this area reflect Charles Town’s entire history with examples from the late 18th century, through the 20th century. Federal, Greek Revival, Italianate influenced, and Classical Revival buildings appear to dominate the scene.
HISTORIC SITES OF CHARLES TOWN:

   Greek Revival house with Italianate influence, c. 1850s. Three bay, two story brick
   house with a low pitched hipped roof and interior chimneys. Contributing.

2. 403 E. Washington Street.
   Greek Revival with Italianate influence, c. 1850s. Two story, three bay house with a
   raised basement and a low pitched hipped roof with interior chimneys. Contributing.

3. 323 E. Washington Street.
   Federal style building, c. 1810-1820s. Two story, five bay brick house with raised
   basement. Contributing.

4. 321 E. Washington Street.
   "Neo-Colonial" house, c. 1960s. Non-contributing.

5. 315 E. Washington Street.
   Queen Anne house, c. 1900. Polygonal corner tower, and semi-hexagonal projecting
   bay. Contributing.

6. 311 E. Washington Street.
   Queen Anne house, c. 1900. Four bay with entrance in the second bay from the east
   end. Contributing.

   Federal influence, c. 1820, Classical Revival renovation c. 1910. This two story, six
   bay building, presumably of log construction may be a two-part structure with the
   older part being possibly the east three bays. Contributing.

8. 301 E. Washington Street.
   Italianate influence, c. 1850-60. This two story, two bay brick house is constructed
   with a very low pitched roof, hipped with a large overhang. Contributing.

9. 221 E. Washington Street. Zion Episcopal Church, Parish House.
   Greek Revival and Italianate influence, c. 1850-60. Brick three bay, two story central
   block with attached one story wings. Contributing.


19. 115 W. Washington Street. Italianate, c. 1880s. This small commercial building is a one story, two bay section of frame infill. Contributing.
20. 117-119 W. Washington Street. Federal, c. 1820s. This brick building is six bays wide with Flemish bond facade and parapets with double inside-end chimneys. Contributing.

21. 121-123 W. Washington Street. Valley Hardware. Italianate, c. 1890-1900. This commercial building is a three story, three bay Italianate brick structure. Contributing.

22. 125-127 W. Washington Street. Second Empire, c. 1880. This five bay, two and a half story brick building is dominated by a slate mansard roof. Contributing.


Contributing.

30. 227 W. Washington Street.  
    International style influence, c. 1940s-1950s. This is a brick commercial building with  
    horizontal window bands. Contributing.

    Classical Revival, c. 1915-1920 (1907?). Brick building with three bays separated by  

    Federal-Georgian influence, c. 1800-1810. Flemish bond facade, cornice with  
    modillions and dentils, nine over nine light sash. This five bay brick building  
    represents the formative years of Charles Town. Contributing.

33. 301 W. Washington Street.  
    Vernacular, Italianate, c. 1820, 1880s. Three bay, two story building of log or frame  
    construction, covered with rusticated wood siding at the front elevation. Contributing.

34. 303 W. Washington Street.  
    Vernacular, Italianate, c. 1820, 1880s. Two story, three bay residential building, likely  
    of log construction, covered with rusticated wood siding. Contributing.

    International, c. 1930s-40s. Large three story stuccoed building, with horizontal  
    window bands and "Chicago-style" windows. Contributing.

    Federal, c. 1820s-30s. This five bay, central entrance brick house has an all stretcher  
    brick facade and stepped parapet at the gables. Contributing.

37. SE corner of West Washington and West Streets.  

38. NE corner of West Washington and South West Streets.  
    Late 20th century commercial, 1970s-80s. Non-contributing.

Italianate, c. 1880s. This three story, three bay commercial and residential building has a prominent bracketed cornice and windows with peaked hoods. Contributing.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>310? W. Washington Street</td>
<td>White's Supermarket. Italianate, c. 1880s-90s. This six bay, two story structure appears to have been substantially altered especially at the first floor level. Contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>306 W. Washington Street</td>
<td>Vernacular-mixed, c. 1800, 1890s, 1960s. This very altered house and commercial space may be an early dwelling, renovated in the late 19th century and again in the mid 20th century. Contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>304? W. Washington Street</td>
<td>Second Empire and High Victorian Gothic, c. 1890s. Two story, two bay house is nestled among larger commercial buildings on W. Washington Street. Contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>305 W. Washington Street</td>
<td>Italianate, c. 1880s. This brick two bay, two story commercial building is distinguished by extensive brick corbeling beneath its cornice, forming a series of Gothic arches, and a cast iron balustrade at the second floor level. Contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>302? W. Washington Street</td>
<td>Italianate, c. 1890. This three bay, two story brick commercial building is little-altered. Contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>300 W. Washington Street</td>
<td>Italianate, c. 1890. Although drastically altered in the 1960s or '70s, this commercial building probably resembled its neighbor to the west (#44). Contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>46</td>
<td>NE corner of West Washington and Lawrence Streets</td>
<td>Mid 20th century commercial, c. 1960-70s. Non-contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>222-228 W. Washington Street</td>
<td>Federal with Italianate modifications, c. 1820-30s. Six bay, two story commercial and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
49.  216-218-220 W. Washington Street.  


   Vernacular, c. 1830, modified c. 1920s.  This three bay, two story brick building has a Flemish bond facade suggesting initial construction was in the first half of the 19th century.  Contributing.

52.  203? W. Washington Street.  
   Commercial, c. 1920s.  This 1920s period brick commercial building follows the simple lines of the early 20th century.  Contributing.

53.  200 W. Washington Street.  
   Commercial, c. 1920s.  This building from the early 20th century is similar to its companion to the west.  Contributing.

54.  132 W. Washington Street.  
   Greek Revival, c. 1850s.  Corbeled pilasters suggest the temple form on this Greek Revival, three story building.  Contributing.

55.  128-130 W. Washington Street.  
   Greek Revival, c. 1850s.  Brick corbeling creates the appearance of pilasters and a frieze band on this two story, three bay building.  Contributing.

56.  124 W. Washington Street.  
   Italianate, c. 1880s.  This three story, four bay brick building has a dominant cornice with brackets and arched-topped window hoods.  Contributing.

57.  122 W. Washington Street.  

58.  120-118 W. Washington Street.
Classical Revival, c. 1920. Three story, four bay brick building characterized by brick corbeled pilasters and cast stone trim forming flat arches with keystones. Contributing.


60. 100 W. Washington Street. Charles Washington Hall, Market House. Romanesque, Georgian Revival, 1874. This building is of brick pilasters, pedimented gables and a central pedimented bay. Contributing.

61. NE corner of George and Washington Streets. Jefferson County Court House. Greek Revival, 1837, 1871. Individually listed on the National Register, the court house is an excellent example of Greek Revival architecture. Contributing.

62. 104 E. Washington Street. Jefferson County Planning Commission. Classical Revival, c. 1915. This one bay, two story building of the early 1900s is of two tone tan brick at the front elevation. Contributing.


64. 114 E. Washington Street. Italianate, c. 1900. This two bay, two story frame commercial building probably dates from about 1900. Contributing.


66. 118? E. Washington Street. Federal, c. 1820-30s. This brick house has an all stretcher brick front, and is three bays wide with a door, window, window pattern. Contributing.


68. 208 E. Washington Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1890-1910. Gable fronted three bay frame house. Contributing.

69. 210 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, Queen Anne influence, c. 1910-1920. Frame three bays with hipped roof. Contributing.

70. 222 E. Washington Street. Charles Town Presbyterian Church.
Greek Revival, 1851. This brick church building is an excellent example of the Greek Revival style. Contributing.

71. 220 E. Washington Street at East Washington and Mildred Streets.
Greek Revival, 1854. Two story, three bay Greek Revival style residence with an all stretcher brick facade. Contributing.

72. 302 E. Washington Street at Mildred Street.
Queen Anne, c. 1900. Frame house covered with aluminum siding. Contributing.

73. 310 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival with Queen Anne influence, c. 1910. Two story, five bay brick house with a hipped roof. Contributing.

74. 316 E. Washington Street.
Vernacular, Victorian, c. 1890s. Two story, three bay frame house with central front entrance. Contributing.

75. 320 E. Washington Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1890s. T-shaped German sided frame house. Contributing.

76. 324 E. Washington Street.
Early 19th century Vernacular, c. 1810-20. This five bay, two story log and frame house, covered with stucco. Contributing.

77. 400 E. Washington Street.
Georgian influence, c. 1790-1800. Significant early log or timber frame house with original siding and windows. Contributing.

78. N. Samuel Street.
Greek Revival influence, Vernacular, c. 1850s. This two story, four bay brick building has a low pitched gabled roof, fenestration in a door, window, window pattern. Contributing.

79. 102 E. Liberty Street.

80. NW corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets.

81 N/S Liberty Street between George and Samuel Streets. VFW.
Colonial Revival, c. 1989?. Modern VFW building. Non-contributing

82. SW corner of Liberty and N. Samuel Streets.

83. S/S E. Liberty Street.

84. N/S E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1900-1910. Gable-fronted stone industrial building with extension to the east. Contributing.

85. S/E corner of Liberty and N. George Streets.

86. 122 N. George Street.

87. 201 N. George Street.

88. 200 N. George Street.
Classical Revival, 1912. This two story, five bay building is an example of the Classical Revival style, similar to it neighbors on the other three corners of George
and Liberty Streets. Contributing.

89. 102-104 W. Liberty Street.
    Turn-of-the-century commercial/industrial, vernacular, c. 1910. It is a three story, six

90. Liberty Street. Carry Out.
    Commercial Vernacular, c. 1920. This is a simple frame commercial structure from
    the 1920s. Contributing.

91. N/E corner of Charles and Liberty Streets.

92. SE corner of Charles and W. Liberty Streets.
    Vernacular, c. 1890. Seven bay, two story brick building with central gable with a
    stepped parapet. Contributing.

93. 122 N. Charles Street.
    Commercial, Vernacular, c. 1890. Gable fronted, brick, turn-of-the-century period.
    Contributing.

94 NW corner of Charles and Liberty Streets
    Italinate influence, c. 1860s. Two story, three bay frame Italianate-influenced
    building. Contributing.

95. S/S West Liberty Street between Charles and Lawrence Streets.
    Commercial Vernacular, c. 1920. Gable fronted rusticated block commercial
    building. Contributing.

96. N/S W. Liberty Street.

    Vernacular, Federal influence, c. 1830s-40s. Two story, three bay brick dwelling with
    a Flemish bond facade and six over six windows within a narrow frame. Contributing.

98. 214 W. Liberty Street.
    Foursquare with Queen Anne influence, c. 1915. This residential building is a brick
Foursquare with Queen Anne influence in its semi-hexagonal projecting bay. Contributing.

99. 219 W. Liberty Street. Sheetz Florist. Georgian influenced, c. 1797? This is among the oldest standing buildings in Charles Town. Contributing.

100. 201 N. Lawrence Street.
    Gothic Revival, c. 1833-1839. Gable fronted, three bay stone lecture room for the Episcopal Church. Contributing.

101. 200 N. Lawrence Street.
    Greek Revival, c. 1850. Greek Revival influenced three bay brick house, with wide wooden lintels with plain corner blocks. Contributing.

102. 306 W. Liberty Street.

103. 312 W. Liberty Street.
    Vernacular, c. 1920. Overall form, steep roof pitch and small windows with heavy, wide frames suggest 18th century construction for this stuccoed log house. Contributing.

104. 210 E. Liberty Street.
    Vernacular, c. 1840? This building is probably of log construction, with the two eastern bays possibly an addition. Contributing.

105. 212-214 E. Liberty Street.

106. 218 E. Liberty Street.
    Queen Anne and Foursquare influence, c. 1910. Excellent and intact late Queen Anne style with Foursquare influence. Contributing.

107. 224 E. Liberty Street at Mildred Street.
    Greek Revival, c. 1850s-60s. Two story, five bay vinyl sided house, possibly of log
construction. Contributing.

108. 300 E. Liberty Street at Mildred Street.
Italianate influence, Vernacular, c. 1850s. Two story, three bay brick, common bond facade. Contributing.

109. 304 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1890. Two story, two bay gable fronted frame house covered with vinyl siding. Contributing.

110. 306 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1840-60s. Two story, three bay, German sided log house. Contributing.

111. 314 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1890s. Two bay, two story L-shaped dwelling, hip roofed entrance porch with four turned posts. Contributing.

112. 318 E. Liberty Street.
Gothic Revival influence, c. 1860s-70s. Two story, three bay house, possibly log construction. Contributing.

113. 322 E. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, c. 1860s-70s. Two story, three bay, all stretcher brick surfaces. Contributing.

114. 326 E. Liberty Street at Church Street.
Vernacular, mid 19th century. Two story, three bay stuccoed house, possibly log construction. Contributing.

115. 400 E. Liberty Street.

116. 404 E. Liberty Street.
Late 19th century, c. 1890-1900. Two story, three bay frame. Contributing.

117. 406 E. Liberty Street.
Late 19th century, 1890-1900. Two story, two bay frame house. Contributing.

118. 410 E. Liberty Street.
Late 19th century Gothic influence, c. 1900. Two story, three bay frame house, central cross gable. Contributing.

119. 412 E. Liberty Street.
Turn-of-the-century Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, three bay stuccoed frame house. Contributing.

120. 418 E. Liberty Street.

121. 420 E. Liberty Street.
Mid 20th century, c. 1950s. Non-contributing.

122. 221 N. Seminary Street.

123. 506 E. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1920s. Two story, two bay, brick. Contributing.

124. 514 E. Liberty Street.

125. 518 E. Liberty Street.

126. 524? E. Liberty Street.

127. 526-528 E. Liberty Street.

128. 540 E. Liberty Street.
Section number 7  Page 16

129. 542 E. Liberty Street.
Colonial Revival influenced, c. 1930. Two story, two bay, brick. Contributing.

130. 544 E. Liberty Street.
1950s residential, c. 1950s. Non-contributing.

131. 547 E. Liberty Street.
Bungalow, c. 1930s. Frame, gable-fronted, three bays wide. Contributing.

132. 545 E. Liberty Street.
Bungalow, c. 1930s. Gable-fronted, three bay frame house. Contributing.

133. 115 N. Court Street.

134. 112 N. Court Street.

135. 515 E. Liberty Street.
Foursquare, c. 1920. Double or triple six over one light windows. Contributing.

136. 511-509 E. Liberty Street.

137. 505 E. Liberty Street.
Bungalow, c. 1930s. First story bricked, second story stuccoed. Contributing.

138. 501 E. Liberty Street.
Bungalow, c. 1930s. Gable presentation to street, overhanging roof of east forms porch. Contributing.

139. 423 E. Liberty Street.

140. 419 E. Liberty Street.
141. 415 E. Liberty Street.

142. 411 E. Liberty Street.
   Queen Anne influence, c. 1890-1900. Two story, two bay, gable front. Contributing.

143. 407 E. Liberty Street.
   Queen Anne influence, c. 1890. Two story, two bay, gable front. Contributing.

144. E/S N. Church Street.

145. 327 E. Liberty Street.
   Vernacular, c. 1880s?. One story, vinyl siding. Contributing.

146. 321 E. Liberty Street.

147. 313 E. Liberty Street.

148. 311 E. Liberty Street.
   Foursquare, c. 1910-20. Two bays, windows one over one. Contributing.

149. 121 N. Mildred Street.
   Italianate, c. 1870. Two story, five bay stuccoed. Contributing.

150. 115 N. Mildred Street.
   Gothic Revival, c. 1870s. Two story, five bay, frame, central cross gable. Contributing.

151. 207 E. Liberty Street.
   Vernacular, c. 1870. Two story, three bay frame house, German siding. Contributing.

152. 203 E. Liberty Street. (Thrift Shop)
   Commercial Vernacular, c. 1900. Small frame, one story, parapet roof. Contributing.
National Register of Historic Places
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153. 410 E. Washington Street.
Late Greek Revival influence, c. 1870. L-shaped frame dwelling with one story wing.
Contributing.

154. 418 E. Washington Street.
High Victorian Gothic, C. 1880s-90s. Two story, four bay frame, two forward projecting gables. Contributing.

155. 420 E. Washington Street.
Italianate-Greek Revival influence, 1860-70s. Two story, three bay stuccoed.
Contributing.

156. 500 E. Washington Street.

157. 508 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival, c. 1910. Two story, two bay brick, trimmed with stone lintels.
Contributing.

158. 524-526 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Brick duplex, window, door, door, window facade.
Contributing.

159. 528 E. Washington Street.

160. 530 E. Washington Street.
Colonial Revival and Queen Anne influence, c. 1900-1910. Stucco and brick house,
two bays, two stories. Contributing.

161. 532? E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Brick pilasters at the corners and center front. Large overhang at
the roof with false joists ends. Example of a favorite early 20th century house type.
Contributing.

162. 534 E. Washington Street.
Foursquare, c. 1910. Door, window facade arrangement. Six over one light sash with
segmentally arched window heads. Transom and sidelights. Example of a favorite
house type from the early 20th century. Contributing.

163. 536 E. Washington Street.

164. 538 E. Washington Street.

165. 539 E. Washington Street.

166. 527 E. Washington Street.

167. 525 E. Washington Street.

168. 515 E. Washington Street. Stephenson’s Female Seminary.


170. 119 S. Seminary Street. Lutheran parsonage.

171. 427 E. Congress Street.
Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, three bay stuccoed house with door, window, window facade arrangement. Contributing.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Section number</th>
<th>Address and Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>172.</td>
<td>423 E. Congress Street. Cape Cod, c. 1940s. Non-contributing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>174.</td>
<td>411 E. Congress Street. Cape Cod, c. 1940s. Non-contributing.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>175.</td>
<td>SE corner East Congress and South Church Streets. Bungalow, c. 1920s. One story with unusual three part front windows with peaked muntin repeating gable angle. An excellent and unusual example of its type, more like California bungalows. Contributing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>176.</td>
<td>120 S. Church Street. Cape Cod, c. 1950s-60s. Non-contributing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>179.</td>
<td>120 S. Mildred Street. Cape Cod, c. 1940s-50s. Non-contributing.</td>
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<tr>
<td>180.</td>
<td>SW corner of George and Mildred Streets. Italianate, c. 1860s. An excellent example of an Italianate dwelling, very intact. Two story, two bay main block with recessed wing to west. Very notable original entrance porch with Italianate and Stick style detailing. Contributing.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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with double square posts with diagonal brackets. Italianate and Stick style design elements. Contributing.


183. 202 S. Samuel Street. 

184. 109 E. Congress Street.  
Italianate, c. 1880s-90s. Three story, three bay brick commercial type building. Front demarcated with brick corbeled pilasters, frieze and horizontal dentils between stories. An excellent and intact example of its type. Contributing.

185. 105 E. Congress Street.  

186. 110 S. George Street. 

187. 111 S. George Street.  
Mid 20th century commercial, 1960s facade over older building. May incorporate remnants of a wagon and carriage maker shop located here around the turn of the century. Non-contributing.

188. 105 S. George Street.  

189. 201 S. George Street.  
Greek Revival, c. 1860. Excellent example of a Greek Revival residence. Six over six windows, widely spaced. Central entrance. Entrance porch supported by four Doric columns. Contributing.
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Downtown Charles Town Historic District  
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190. 200 S. George Street. 
Vernacular, late 19th century, c. 1870s. Two story, three bay frame house with replaced exterior features. L-extension to rear. Contributing.  

Italianate influence, c. 1860s-70s, with additions, c. 1890s. Two story, five bay brick house with a central entrance and a hipped roof. Third story added. Significant as early hospital of Charles Town. Contributing.  

192. 115 W. Congress Street. 

193. 201? W. Congress Street. 
Colonial Revival, c. 1930s. Large school building. Significance as the Charles Town Academy. Contributing.  

194. 305-307 W. Congress Street. 
Italianate influence, c. 1880s-90s. Two story, four bay stuccoed frame house with two west bays beneath a front facing gable. Example of a modest residence from the late 19th century. Contributing.  

195. 311 W. Congress Street. 

196. 317 W. Congress Street. 
Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, two bay L-shaped frame house with recent exterior finishes. Original late Italianate porch. L-extension to rear. Contributing.  

197. SE corner of Congress and West Streets. 
Early 19th century, additions, 1930s-40s. Enclosed on three sides by additions is a gabled wood sided building with a central chimney, possibly of log construction. Possibly an early period house. Contributing.  

198. 308 W. Congress Street. 
International style influence, c. 1940s. Non-contributing.
199. 116 S. Lawrence Street.
   Second Empire, c. 1880. Two story, three bay stuccoed dwelling with entrance tower. Original top of tower removed. Colonial Revival entrance porch added. This was once a distinguished house in style with few representations in Charles Town. Contributing.

200. 214 W. Congress Street.
   Commercial Vernacular, c. 1900. Two story, two bay gable fronted brick building with probable original commercial or small manufacturing function. Enclosed gabled front porch obscures original first story. Contributing.

201. 208 W. Congress Street.

202. 206 W. Congress Street.

203. 115 S. Charles Street.
   C. 1950s. Non-contributing.

204. 110 S. Charles Street.
   Mixed, c. 1900. Two story, four bay frame gable fronted building with oriel window at second level. Contributing.

205. NE corner of S. Charles and W. Congress Streets.
   Queen Anne influence, c. 1900. Two story stuccoed frame L-shaped house with forward projecting gable. Gable has decorative imbricated wooden shingles. Example of a modest Queen Anne style dwelling of the turn of the century. Contributing.

206. N/S W. Congress Street. 100 block.
   Queen Anne influence, c. 1890. An unusual and very intact late 19th century two story L-shaped brick house, two bays wide. Forward projecting gable with entrance and entrance porch in corner of L. Contributing.
207. 108 W. Congress Street.
Greek Revival, c. 1840-60s. Two story, three bay dwelling converted to law office. Central entrance. An excellent example of its type and of adaptive reuse. Contributing.

208. 106? W. Congress Street.

209. NW Corner of Congress and George Streets.

210. S. Samuel Street, NE corner of Congress and Samuel Streets.
Late Gothic and Eastlake influence, c. 1890. An excellent and notable two story, three bay brick house. Cruciform plan. Main entrance, west side with elaborate Eastlake porch across the front. Contributing.

211. 210 E. Congress Street.
Cottage type, c. 1880s-90s. Two story frame Victorian period cottage, gable fronted with two bays. Contributing.

212. 214 E. Congress Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1950s-60s. Non-contributing.

213. 218 E. Congress Street.
Cape Cod, c. 1940s-1950s. Non-contributing.

214. 304 E. Congress Street.

215. 308 E. Congress Street.

216. 310 E. Congress Street.
Queen Anne influence, c. 1900. L-shaped two story, two bay frame house with extension at rear. Forward projecting gabled section. Contributing.
217. 314-316 E. Congress Street.
   Italianate, c. 1890s. Two story, four bay duplex. Prominent bracketed cornice.
   Example of an Italiane style duplex. Contributing.

218. 415 W. Congress Street.
   Virginia-I, c. 1820s. Two story, three bay frame house with stone and brick exterior
   chimneys. Central entrance. Notable three bay Eastlake style porch. Important as a
   Virginia farmhouse type within the town limits of Charles Town. Contributing.

219. 421 W. Congress Street.

   Italianate, c. 1870s. Two story, five bay two-part frame and log house, with rusticated
   wood siding on the front and German siding on the sides and rear. The three west
   bays appear to be of log and may be older. Exterior features are Italianate with a
   prominent bracketed cornice and frieze. Contributing.

221. 401? W. Washington Street.

222. 422 W. Congress Street.
   Vernacular, c. 1820s-30s. One story, four bay log dwelling covered with asbestos
   shingle siding. Significant as an early vernacular type and possibly a first period
   house for Charles Town. Contributing.

223. 312 W. Liberty Street.
   Vernacular "Cape Cod," c. 1890s?. One and a half story, three bay frame house with
   two gabled front dormers. Central entrance. Exterior renovated to appear like a mid
   20th century Cape Cod house but the actual structure may be much older.
   Contributing.

224. 318 W. Liberty Street.
   Vernacular, c. 1870s-80s. Two story, three bay frame dwelling with wood siding. L-
   extension to rear. Entrance in west front bay. Contributing.

225. 322? W. Liberty Street.
   Vernacular, c. 1790s. Two story, three bay stuccoed house, probably of log
construction. Steeply pitched roof. Attached to building to its west. May be a first period house in Charles Town. Contributing.

226. 309 W. Liberty Street.
Vernacular, Federal period influence, c. 1800-1810. Two story, four bay log house with stone foundations. Original siding replaced or covered with vinyl. Three bays are concentrated toward west side of the front. Fourth bay separated suggesting that it may be an early addition. Significant as an early period house in Charles Town. Contributing.

227. 324 W. Liberty Street.

228. 117 N. West Street.

229. 115 N. West Street.
Vernacular, c. 1790-1820. Two story, three bay log or frame house with central entrance. Examples of early log architecture of Charles Town, dating from the town's first main period of development. Contributing.

230. 116 N. Charles Street.

231. 112? N. Charles Street.

232. 108? N. Charles Street.
Commercial Vernacular, c. 1890-1910. One story gable roofed storefront with
standing seam roof. Contributing.

233. 118 N. Lawrence Street.

234. 115? N. Lawrence Street.
Vernacular, late 18th? century. Known as "Charles Washington's Office" this is a one story, one bay gable fronted brick building with a Flemish bond facade. It has only an entrance and an opening in the gable above on the front elevation. Contributing.

235. 110 N. Lawrence Street.
Turn-of-the-century, c. 1900. One story, three bay gable fronted house with a central entrance. Contributing.

236. ? N. George Street.
Romanesque Revival and Second Empire, c. 1877. Brick three and a half story, three bay fire hall with five story square tower with open top supported by round columns and hipped roof. Mansard roof. Early surviving fire hall and among the larger buildings in Charles Town. Contributing.

237. ? N. George Street. St. Margaret's Building.
Classical Revival, c. 1920. Three story, four bay brick building with prominent modillioned cornice. Formerly served as post office. One of several monumental buildings in the first block of N. George Street. Contributing.

238. ? N. George Street.
Downtown Charles Town Historic District  
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

The Downtown Charles Town Historic District is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C.

Under criterion A, the district is significant for the development of Charles Town, a town prominent for its association with the John Brown trial and execution, and also for its role as a border town and place of occupation by both armies during the Civil War; and the affect of Reconstruction following. It is also important for its role in the history and development of Jefferson County. It was the location of the first use of Rural Free Delivery by the U.S. Postal Service in 1896, and was the site of a second treason trial in 1922. The town also has direct association with the Washington family, important in American history, having been laid out by George Washington's brother, Charles and with continuing associations with the Washington family through the 19th century. Under criterion C, the Downtown Charles Town Historic District is locally significant for its fine examples of regional architecture representing various styles from the late 18th century through the mid 20th century.

Historic Context

Charles Town is located in the southern part of Jefferson County, which is the easternmost county of West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle. It is located near the confluence of the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers, at which place is the town of Harpers Ferry approximately six miles to the east. With an elevation of 530 feet, Charles Town has one of the lowest elevations of communities in West Virginia. (Harpers Ferry has the state's lowest elevation.) It is underlain in part by a large cave and underground lake.

The town of Charles Town was laid out along the old Winchester Road in 1786 by Charles Washington, younger brother of George Washington. The Washington family owned a large amount of land in what is now Jefferson County. Lawrence and George Washington initially purchased over 4000 acres along the Bullskin Run in Jefferson County in 1751. Upon his death in 1752, Lawrence left a portion of his lands to his half-brother, Charles.1 Charles' property came to be called "Happy Retreat." The eighty-acres of Happy Retreat were laid out into ½ acre lots. A 16-foot square dwelling with a brick or stone chimney entitled

1Jefferson County, WV. "Historical Tour," 1951, p. 10.
the owner to freeholder's rights.2 Apparently, a small village with taverns, a mill and scattered houses existed on the site along the Winchester Road prior to the official establishment of the town in 1787. Charles Washington named the streets of his new town for members of his family. The principal north-south streets are named for himself, his brothers and wife (Lawrence, Charles, Samuel, George and Mildred), and the main east-west street is Washington. Paralleling Washington on either side are Liberty and Congress Streets, apparently intended to honor the newly formed United States.

While Charles Washington lived on the property from which the 80 acres of Charles Town came, his brother Samuel also lived nearby at Harewood, built in 1771, a few miles west of Charles Town. Other Washington family homes are located in the immediate vicinity of Charles Town: Claymont Court, Blakeley, Cedar Lawn, Beallair and Locust Hill which was destroyed by fire earlier in this century.

Charles Washington's plan for Charles Town included the provision that the four corner lots at the intersection of George and Washington Streets would be set aside, donated by him for use by the community as a public square. These lots came to be occupied in the 19th century by the Jefferson County Court House, the Charles Town City Hall, a market house and the Jefferson County jail.

The initial settlers of Charles Town were of English descent, mostly from the Tidewater region of Virginia. Later settlers were German or Scots-Irish coming southwestward from Pennsylvania. The town was governed by a board of trustees. The first board of trustees included James Crane, General William Darke (of Revolutionary and Indian War fame), William Little, Cato Moore, Benjamin Rankin, Richard Ransone, Robert Rutherford, Magnus Tate, John Augustine Washington, Thornton Washington and Alexander White.

Charles Washington, the founder, was a strong supporter of the creation of a new county from the easternmost portion of Berkeley County. The petition for a new county was eventually approved by the Virginia General Assembly on January 8, 1801, nearly two years after the death of Charles Washington. Charles Town became the county seat, in part because of its location near the center of the new county, and in part because Charles Washington set aside those four lots at the center of town for public use. The new county was named

Jefferson, in honor of president-elect Thomas Jefferson. Shortly, a new Court House was constructed on the northeast corner of George and Washington Streets. It was replaced by the present Court House in 1837. Diagonally opposite the Court House, on the southwest corner of George and Washington Streets was the County Jail, built in 1806. It is recorded as having been a two story, three room brick structure, measuring 28’ x 24’ outside wall to outside wall and lined with closely fitted logs.\(^3\) This building may have been replaced or enlarged by a larger, federal style brick structure, which had two stories and five bays. The post office built in 1917 is now on the site. A market house was constructed in 1805 at the northwest corner of George and Washington Streets. The remaining lot on the public square contained the county clerk’s office.

**Education**

Education was important in Charles Town’s early history. The Charles Town Academy, for boys was founded in 1795. It was housed in a brick structure, 40’ x 20’ on South Lawrence Street.\(^4\) About the same time, a female seminary was established on the lot opposite the academy. An important aspect of the founding of the Charles Town Academy is that from as early as 1798, provision was made for the free education of those who could not afford tuition. Later, in 1846-47, a free School System was established throughout Jefferson County, one of the first in Virginia. The Academy which taught Latin and Greek as well as other subjects, operated until 1905. In the fall of 1900, “Powhatan College for Young Women” opened under direction of Professor S.P. Hatton of North Carolina. The school occupied a large hotel building in north Charles Town, later Ranson, which was constructed in the 1890s. The college went into bankruptcy and closed in 1914. It later became St. Hilda’s Hall for Girls, a preparatory school.

The first school for black children was operated from the basement of a house located at the southwest corner of Liberty and Samuel Streets. It was established by the Freedman’s Bureau in the 1860s. The building which housed the school is no longer standing.\(^5\)

Public news was disseminated through several publications. The Farmer’s Repository,

\(^3\)“Charles Town” n.p., n.d. (1951?).

\(^4\)Bushong, op. cit., p. 60.

\(^5\)James Taylor, local informant, Ranson, WV.
the first agricultural journal in what is now West Virginia, was founded in Charles Town in 1808. It was merged in 1827 with the *Virginia Free Press* of Harpers Ferry. They became the *Virginia Free Press and Farmer’s Repository* and then in 1831, the *Virginia Free Press*. This journal was published until 1916. On July 17, 1844, the first issue of the *Spirit of Jefferson Advocate* was published at Charles Town. Founded by James W. Beller, it was long one of the state’s leading Democratic newspapers. Still in active circulation, it is West Virginia’s oldest continuously published weekly newspaper.

**Religion**

The Charles Town Presbyterian Church dates its congregation to 1762, but a deed conveying the congregation a lot in Charles Town at the corner of Congress and West Streets is dated 1787. The present church building in the Greek Revival style dates from 1851. Zion Episcopal Church dates from 1851, replacing a church building erected in 1846. The first Episcopal church in Charles Town was built between 1815 and 1818 and replaced St. Georges Chapel (1769) which now stands as a ruin a short distance west of town. The cemetery adjoining Zion Episcopal Church contains the remains of approximately 75 members of the Washington family. The Charles Town Baptist Church was begun in 1859, but was not completed until after the Civil War. Prior to use of their building, the congregation met in the school house and later in the Court House.

**Social and Economic History**

For much of its history, Charles Town was the smallest of Jefferson County’s three leading towns, trailing behind Shepherdstown and Harpers Ferry. In the 1820 census, Shepherdstown’s population was 1441; Harpers Ferry’s, 1353 and Charles Town’s, 1049. In 1830 the figures were: Shepherdstown, 1326, Harpers Ferry, 1379 and Charles Town, 1118. By 1850, Harpers Ferry had a population of 1747, Shepherdstown, 1561 and Charles Town, 1507. In 1910, Charles Town’s population was 2662 and by 1940 a shift in population had clearly occurred with Charles Town now the leading community with 2926 (a figure which remains consistent today), Ranson next with 1171, Shepherdstown third with 945, followed by Harpers Ferry with 665. The higher population of Harpers Ferry in the mid 19th century probably resulted from the location of the federal arsenal there and its proximity to the B&O Railroad and a Potomac River crossing point. The arsenal was destroyed during the Civil War and never rebuilt.

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6“Charles Town” op. cit. n.p.
On October 18, 1910, the town of Ranson was established on Charles Town's northern border. Several industries had caused a settlement to grow up there which eventually came to be the second largest town in Jefferson County. The development of Ranson was due largely to the efforts of the Charles Town Mining Manufacturing and Improvement Company. Manufacturing developed in the vicinity of Charles Town and included a limestone and granite works. The Charles Town Mining, Manufacturing and Improvement Company was founded in 1890 to promote business and growth in and around the town. A few years later, a similar company, the Charles Town Manufacturing and Development Company was organized. Such promotional efforts are evidenced in the large number of buildings in the downtown area built or renovated during the turn-of-the-century period.

As the population figures reflect, Charles Town's population grew most in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. It has remained fairly static since. Always dependent on agriculture for its economic base, the Charles Town vicinity in the late 19th and early 20th centuries saw development of orcharding and dairy farming in agricultural production. Livestock production was also a leading agricultural pursuit.

Charles Town's post office was the site of the first experimental effort at Rural Free Delivery of Mail in 1896. This occurred under direction of U.S. Postmaster General William Lynn Wilson, a Charles Town native.

In 1922, Charles Town was the scene of a treason trial of union leaders and miners, arising from labor unrest in Logan County, WV. Charles Town was chosen as the location of the trial because of its distance from Logan County. This was the second time in its history that Charles Town was the site of a treason trial. The first was John Brown's trial in 1859.

Also contributing to Charles Town's growth and development has been horse racing. Documented evidence of organized horse racing in Charles Town, according to historian Millard Bushong, begins in 1786, the year the town was organized. The Charles Town Jockey Club was established in 1808. When pari-mutual betting was legalized in West Virginia in 1933, the old tradition of horse racing was revived by, first the Shenandoah Valley Jockey Club, and then the Charles Town Jockey Club.

The Civil War Era in Charles Town

Perhaps Charles Town's greatest notoriety comes from the fact that it was the site of John Brown's trial and execution, events which occurred in late 1859. The John Brown affair which began with his efforts to initiate a slave rebellion by attacking and capturing the federal
arsenal at Harpers Ferry on October 16, 1859 was a major factor in the increasing tension before the outbreak of the Civil War. The views of abolitionists and pro-slavery advocates became increasingly polarized and hostile, culminating with the outbreak of war in 1861.

Upon his capture at Harpers Ferry, John Brown, and two of his group were tried for treason in Charles Town because it was the county seat for Jefferson County where the insurrection took place. Brown was convicted of treason and murder. He was sentenced to death and hanged on December 2, 1859. The site is on the east side of South Samuel Street, at number 515. At the time this was a field on the Rebecca Hunter farm at the edge of town. Today South Samuel Street is a residential street filled with late 19th and early 20th century houses.

After the Civil War began, Charles Town suffered the consequences of being in a border area. The town was almost constantly occupied by one or the other army, its proximity to the B&O Railroad and the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry making its location of strategic importance. The Official Records of the War of the Rebellion list 18 engagements that took place at or near Charles Town during the war, as well as eight reconnaissances. The first engagement took place on July 21, 1861 and the last on March 13, 1865, illustrating Charles Town's role as a place if importance throughout the war.

The first of two major battles at Charles Town occurred on May 28, 1862. In that engagement, some 1500 Confederate troops taking part in Stonewall Jackson's Shenandoah Valley Campaign met an equal force of Federal soldiers at Charles Town. In this engagement, the Federals were routed. The second main engagement took place on October 18, 1863. A Confederate force under Major General John Imboden launched an attack on Colonel Benjamin Simpson's Federals who were occupying Charles Town. The Union forces were holding the Court House, Jail and Market House in the center of town. When the Confederates resorted to artillery shelling to remove them, these buildings and others in the downtown area were severely damaged.

Private residences were also destroyed in Charles Town during the Civil War. General David Hunter, USA, whose ruthless policies of destruction in 1864 in the lower Shenandoah Valley became infamous, ordered the destruction of "Hunter's Hill" at the east end of Washington Street. Hunter's Hill was the home of Andrew Hunter, cousin of General David Hunter. Andrew Hunter, an attorney, was the prosecutor for the John Brown trial, and General Hunter ordered the burning in retribution for Andrew's involvement in the John Brown trial, according to local histories.
Other buildings were damaged when General Philip H. Sheridan opened his Shenandoah Valley Campaign of August, 1864, against Confederate General Jubal A. Early. The opening action of this campaign was fought near, around and through Charles Town. Sheridan's headquarters were in the "Rutherford House" at 417 East Washington Street. Generals Grant and Sheridan met at this house to plan the Valley Campaign. For most of the last two years of the war, Federal troops occupied Charles Town, except when temporarily driven out.

While Charles Town was being affected by the war directly on a day to day basis other momentous events were occurring that would impact upon the town's future. While Virginia was debating whether or not to secede from the Union in 1861, representatives of the western part of the state who were opposed to secession and who for many years had been plagued by the distance from Richmond began a movement toward separate statehood. The result was that West Virginia was admitted to statehood in the Union on June 20, 1863. Although Jefferson County voted for secession and the great majority of its citizens were opposed to being included in the new state, the county became the easternmost tip of West Virginia. Jefferson County's forced inclusion in West Virginia has to do with the Union's need to protect the B&O Railroad and the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry from being in Confederate hands.

After the war, Jefferson and Berkeley Counties petitioned to be returned to Virginia. The matter eventually went to the Supreme Court where it remained from 1867 to 1871, at which time a decision was made in favor of West Virginia retaining the two counties. The focal point for organizing the effort for the eastern panhandle to be returned to Virginia was in Charles Town.

Another event which was part of the Reconstruction era in Charles Town's history was the move of the county seat from Charles Town to Shepherdstown. This move was made by order of the West Virginia legislature on January 26, 1865. Control of county affairs was in the hands of reconstructionist Republicans and the result was virtual disenfranchisement for the citizens of Charles Town. In 1869 the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors offered the former Court House building for sale, along with the county jail. However, since Samuel Washington originally deeded the property to Charles Town, and not the county, the sale was prevented. After Democratic electoral victory in 1870, the county seat was restored to Charles Town in February, 1871 by act of the state legislature.
Architecture

Charles Town’s historic district also meets criterion C for its showcase of architectural styles and interpretations. Most prominent are examples of Federal, Greek Revival and Italianate styles, reflecting the town’s pre-Civil War prosperity and Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction era renewal. There are also notable 18th century vernacular examples representing the town’s early history. None of Charles Town’s settlement period architecture remains, having been replaced by more substantial buildings as the town prospered.

Charles Town exhibits four distinct periods of construction illustrating four important periods of growth:

1. 18th and early 19th century with Georgian influenced and vernacular expressions, of log (sided), or brick.

2. Federal and Greek Revival - these styles include some of Charles Town’s finest ante-bellum architecture.

3. 1870-1900 - reflecting the Reconstruction era in Charles Town and post-Reconstruction prosperity. The Italianate style dominated in this period.

4. 20th century buildings ushering in the “modern” era with Foursquare and Bungalow styles.

Log, brick and frame buildings dominate with an extensive use of stucco which seems particular to Charles Town. Charles Town provides an album of architectural representations blending high style elements with regional and vernacular expression and local materials.

Conclusion

Charles Town, therefore, meets criterion A for its chronicle of community development, association with important events—the John Brown trial, Civil War activity as a border town and with the prominent Washington family. Under criterion C, it provides an important catalogue of regional architectural expression.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES:


VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

Beginning at a point on the south side of E. Washington Street opposite the east property line of 538 E. Washington Street, and extending northward along the east property line to an alley, and across the alley and northward along the east property line of 547 E. Liberty Street to a point on the south side of E. Liberty Street, then turning west to a point opposite the west property line of 544 E. Liberty Street, then turning north and following the east property line to the rear property line of 544 E. Liberty Street; then turning west and following north boundary line of the properties on the north side of Liberty Street to West Street; then turning south along the east side of West Street to the south side of Washington Street, then turning west to the east edge of Water Street; then turning south along the east side of Water Street to the rear property line of 421 W. Congress Street; then turning east along the rear property lines of properties along the south side of Congress Street to S. Seminary Street; then turning north to the rear property lines of properties facing onto E. Washington Street; then turning east and following the south (rear) property lines and east property line to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries have been drawn to include the downtown area of Charles Town, and to exclude concentrations of non-contributing property at the edge of the district.