NPS Form 10-900
(Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property:

historic name: N/A

other name/site number: Moundsville Commercial Historic District

2. Location

street & number: N/A

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Moundsville

county: Marshall

State: WV code: WV county: Marshall code: 051

zip code: 26041

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally.

(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official ___________________________ Date 8-9-95

State or Federal agency and bureau ___________________________ Date
In my opinion, the property ___meets___ does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
  removed from the National Register
other (explain):

Signature of the Keeper

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply) (Check only one box)

X private  building(s)
X public-local  X district
  site
public-State  structure
public-Federal  object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributing</th>
<th>Noncontributing</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>72</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>72</td>
<td>42</td>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
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NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: One - Ferrell-Holt House/"Kirkside".

6. Function or Use

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS:
Commerce/Trade:
Business, professional, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse.

Government:
Courthouse.

Government:
Post Office.

Religion:
Religious facility, church related residence.

Recreation and Culture:
Theater.

Domestic:
Single dwelling.

CURRENT FUNCTIONS:
Commerce/Trade:
Business, professional, specialty store, restaurant, warehouse.

Government:
Courthouse.

Government:
Post Office.

Religion:
Religious facility, church related residence.

Recreation and Culture:
Theater.

Domestic:
Single dwelling.

7. Description
ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:
Early Republic/Federal;
Mid-19th Century/Greek Revival;
Late Victorian/Queen Anne;
Late Victorian/Italianate;
Late Victorian/Romanesque;
Late Victorian/Renaissance;
Late 19th Century and 20th Century Revivals/Beaux Arts;
Late 19th Century and 20th Century Revivals/Classical Revival;
Late 19th Century and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival;
Late 19th Century and Early 20th Century American Movements/
Commercial.

MATERIALS:

Foundation:
Brick
Stone
Concrete

Walls:
Brick
Stone
Wood

Roof:
Metal
Asphalt

Other:
N/A

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

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

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

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

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

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

Property is:
N/A A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
N/A B removed from its original location.
N/A C a birthplace or grave.
N/A D a cemetery.
N/A E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
N/A F a commemoratory property.
N/A G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE:
Architecture
Commerce

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE: 1835 to 1940

SIGNIFICANT DATES: 1835, 1866, 1876

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: N/A
CULTURAL AFFILIATION:
N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER:
Batson, William H.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE
(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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9. Major Bibliographical References
=========================================================================

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary Location of Additional Data:

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

Name of Repository:
Moundsville Historic Landmark Commission
City of Moundsville
800 Sixth Street
Moundsville, WV  26041

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10. Geographical Data
=========================================================================


UTM References: Zone Easting Northing    Zone Easting Northing
A. 17.  522001.  4419180.  B. 17.  522001.  4418470.
E. 17.  521510.  4419180.
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION
(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

11. Form Prepared By

Name/Title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant
Organization: N/A Date: June 30, 1994
Street & Number: 612 Main Street Telephone: (304) 765-5716
City or Town: Sutton State: WV ZIP: 26601

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: Multiple

Street & Number: __________________________ Telephone: (____)_______

City or Town: ______________________________ State: _______ ZIP: ________
The Moundsville Commercial Historic District comprises the central business district of Moundsville. It encompasses Lafayette Avenue, Route 2, from 9th Street on the south, up to 7th Street on the north. It then follows Seventh Street to the east up to the rear of the properties that face Jefferson Avenue. Then it contains the properties on Jefferson Avenue north to Second Street. This corresponds to the central business district of Moundsville.

The nominated area contains approximately 14 3/4 acres, approximately 12 blocks. There are 114 sites in the district, 72 are considered contributing, 42 considered non-contributing. Most of the non-contributing sites are outbuildings.

The terrain is relatively flat, owing to its location on a rise above the Ohio River. The Ohio River is to the west of the district. The southern boundary of the district is 9th Street. Below this, along Lafayette Avenue, new strip development is located, as well as to the north on Lafayette. Surrounding the district are residential neighborhoods associated with workers' housing and the manufacturing plants of Moundsville. To the north of the boundaries the structures are primarily residential, related to the company housing construction of the Postoria plant to the north. North of First Street there is a natural boundary of a small gully where there is no development. Below the southern boundary, there is a small number of residential sites, but the predominant elements are the Mound and the Penitentiary. To the east, the neighborhood is all residential, mostly post-1920 middle class development of small, single family, detached, two-story housing. To the west of Lafayette Avenue (Rt. 2) the resources are mostly residential also, but there are a number of older, settlement period sites associated with the original Moundsville and the Purdys. These relate to a period of significance different than that of the district.

Due to the dual town development of Moundsville, it originally had two downtowns. Elizabethtown's downtown was predominantly the northern section of Jefferson Avenue. Moundsville's was
centered around Lafayette Avenue. With the merging of the towns, Seventh Street became more developed, especially with the location of the courthouse. The connection of Seventh to Jefferson, and the streets in that vicinity then developed commercially. Widening of Lafayette Avenue to accommodate State Route 2 resulted in the loss of all of the resources on the east side of the street. The west side resources have also been severely impacted by the strip atmosphere and insensitive development. It contains some late 1800's - early 1900's structures but these have mostly been modified. There is also new strip development along Lafayette Avenue, including Wendy's, McDonald's, and the like.

Jefferson Avenue is now the central business district with early settlement commercial buildings in the north section and later nineteenth and twentieth century commercial buildings in the south around Seventh Street. These are primarily two and three-story, masonry, commercial buildings with storefronts on the first floor and housing above. The oldest commercial buildings include the Marshall House (77), ca. 1835, the Roberts House (90), ca. 1850 and the buildings adjacent. Some later commercial structures include the F.O.E. Building, (69), 1940, and the State Food Store, (70), 1939.

There are several architecturally significant churches in the district. These include the Simpson United Methodist Church (34), the First Christian Church (36), and the St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church (128). They are all located in the southern section of Jefferson Avenue. The Simpson United Methodist Church was built in 1907 and is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque style of architecture. It is a large imposing sandstone structure. There is a crenelated tower at the corner with arched louvered openings and gargoyle water spouts. The base appears battered and the stone is heavily rusticated. The main roof is a large steep hip and there are projecting gables at each side. The entrance is through an arched recessed porch.

The First Christian Church, (36), located on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and 7th Street is in the Romanesque Style and was built in 1899. It is painted brick, one-story with a hip roof.
There is a pointed roof tower at one corner with a simple bracketed cornice and arched openings. There is a projecting shallow gable parapet on the front elevation with a large arch with stone band. The side elevation has projecting masses with stepped and raked parapets as well. There is a rusticated stone raised basement with a cap.

The St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church, (128), is located on Jefferson Avenue and was built in 1917. It is in the Tuscan Revival Style. The facade is a light color brick. There is a tall bell tower on one corner with a shallow hip roof with an overhang. At the top is a small arcade with slender stone columns. The main block has a stepped raked gable with corbeled brick brackets following the rake. There are three tall slender arched windows on the front elevation. The entrance is through a stone arched pediment. The massing is typical Renaissance Basilica construction in composition with the central tall nave and flanking shorter aisles. The roof is red clay tile. The interior is decorated with ceramic encaustic tiles.

The Strand Theater, (147), is located on the corner of 5th Street and Jefferson Avenue. It was built in 1920. It is in the Neo-Classical Style. It is a three-story, red brick building with an elaborate cornice. The central entrance on the first floor consists of three sets of double doors flanked by single entrance door storefronts. The storefronts have prism glass transoms. The second and third floors have tripled, four over one windows flanked by brick pilasters with Ionic capitals. Beneath each gang of windows is a decorative brick panel with accented corner blocks. There is a large decorative marquee over the entrance.

Court Avenue, which forms the western boundary of the courthouse square, and Tomlinson Avenue, which forms the eastern boundary of the courthouse square, contains banks, professional office buildings, the jail, magistrate's office, etc., all related to the courthouse functions. The Marshall County Courthouse (28) was constructed in 1876. It is one of the older of West Virginia's extant courthouses. Originally it contained two flanking towers at the front elevation and had a painted brick facade. The
towers and paint were removed ca. 1976, and an addition added to
the side.

The Post Office and Federal Building (15) was constructed in
1914. It is a good example of the Beaux Arts Style of Federal
architecture that was prevalent in this time period for post
offices. It is a two-story, stone building with a projecting
stone portico and Ionic columns.

The commercial styles represented in the district include the
Renaissance Revival, Commercial, Neo-Classical Revival, and Ital-
ianate. These all relate to the period of construction of the
buildings. There are some Federal Style buildings, located
mostly on the northern section of Jefferson Avenue. These are
the early settlement period residences and commercial structures,
such as the Roberts House, (90), and the Marshall House, (77).
The buildings immediately surrounding these are similar in mass-
ing and style, but have been modified through the years. The
Marshall House is a two-story, side gable, Federal Style building
with painted brick facade. The windows on the second floor are
one over one and two over two sash. On the first floor new
storefronts have been installed. The Roberts House, (90), is a
two-story, side gable, painted brick residential style structure
with two storefronts and a center entrance to the stair hall on
the first floor. The windows are two over two sash with a flat
lintel over them. There is a small projecting cornice at the
roof line. The first floor has been modified with the addition
of a Carara glass storefront system, but an early first floor
cornice is still extant. The central entrance door is original
as is the recessed paneled surround.

The Romanesque Style is well represented. Sites no. 80, 83, 95,
118 and 119 are all of this style. 119 is more accurately a
Victorian Romanesque style. 80 is a three-story, brick building
with a stone belt course at the top of the second and third floor
windows. The third floor windows are arched. There is a large
cornice at the top with end brackets and intermediate smaller
brackets. Between the brackets, on the frieze, is paneled
ornamentation. 83 is a large three-story building with a curved
corner. There is a pilastered arcade that runs the entire second and third floors and wraps around the curve. There is a bracketed first floor cornice and the main cornice at the top of the building is corbeled brick brackets. The side elevation is also divided into bays with the use of brick panels. The corner entrance has brick pilasters and an entrance entablature supported by scroll brackets. 95 is a simple Romanesque Style building similar to 89. It is three stories tall and the second floor windows are arched while the third are flat-headed. There is a continuous brick arcade belt course over the second floor windows. 118 is a large three-story, brick building with a center arched second floor opening. It has sidelights and a center, one-over-one sash. The windows on the second floor are arched and the ones on the third are flat-headed. There is a stone belt course above the windows and the second floor one follows the arches to form an arcade. There is a deep metal cornice at the top with major brackets at the ends and in the center.

119 is an interesting variation on the Romanesque Style. It is a Victorian Romanesque building, two stories tall with a raised, heavily rusticated stone basement. The building is brick otherwise. The corner is rounded and there is a tourelle supported by carved stone on the second floor. There is a gable ornamental pediment on the front elevation with carved scroll ends. On the first floor front elevation there is a large display window with a shallow arch. Above the arch is a rusticated stone lintel that fills in the squinch of the arch. Between the stone and the second floor window and above the second floor window is a decorative panel of molded pressed brick. The entrance door is on the corner and has a stone keystone in the round arch.

The Art Deco Style is represented by two interesting structures. These are located on the north edge of the survey at Jefferson Avenue and Second Street. The first is the FOE Building, (69), 1940. It is a two-story, brick building with stone vertical bands. These are actually oversized pilasters and are reeded with no cap at the top. The result is a crenelation effect against the sky. The center is stepped at the parapet and there is a flat stone center bay with a giant eagle and the letters
"FOE". The first floor has had a non-original awning added, but the overall effect of the Art Deco Style is still extant. The second is State Food Supermarket, (70), 1939. This is a simple brick, one-story, supermarket with brick pilasters. At the corner the parapet steps in four stages to a raised corner. It has little other ornamentation, but is a good example of the supermarket style of Art Deco that became popular around 1940.

Residentially, a number of styles are represented, even though there are only a few residential buildings in the district.

The Four Square Style is sparsely represented due to the commercial nature of the district, but there are a few. No. 123 is a two-story residence with hip, asphalt roof. It has a three-sided, projecting, gable bay on the front and 1/1 windows with decorative hoods. No. 148 is a two-story, blonde brick residence with a slate hip roof and hip dormers on each side with brackets.

The Early Colonial Revival Style is represented by the two following residences: No. 124 is a two-story, tan brick residence with a hip, asphalt roof with front dormer with a one-story, hip roof front porch. It has a front second-story portico with paired Doric columns supporting a barrel arched dormer. No. 125 is a two and one-half-story duplex. It has a hip, asphalt roof with paired dormers on the front and 1/1 windows.

The Italianate Style is represented by Kirkside, (35). It was constructed in 1877 and is listed individually in the National Register of Historic Places. It is a simple, two-story, painted brick residence with shallow hip roof. It has deep projecting cornices with brackets. At one time there was a one-story, hip roof porch on the front elevation. Kirkside still has its decorative carved hoods over the windows and doors.

The Queen Anne Style is represented by no. 149. This is a two and one-half-story residence with a painted brick facade. There is a corner turret on the second/third floor with a pointed roof. There is a large gable extension over the corner three-sided bay.
One architect/contractor stands out in the district. He is William Batson. He is associated with the Simpson United Methodist Church (34) and the Jefferson/Perkins Building (117). He is also well represented in other areas of Moundsville. The Tuscan Revival Style service station, ca.1925, on the corner of Third Street and Tomlinson and the row of bungalows adjacent to the station are examples of his commissions in the area. His own residence at 222 Tomlinson Avenue, built in 1907, illustrates yet another example of his work.

Historically, the early development period of the town is represented by the early buildings on the north end of Jefferson Avenue. These include the Marshall House, (77), and the Roberts House and store, (90, 91). The middle and later nineteenth century development of the town, when industry was incubating and the town was growing, is represented by many of the commercial buildings, predominantly on Seventh Street west of the courthouse, and by the courthouse and the development around the courthouse square. The later, turn-of-the-century development of the town is represented by many of the Romanesque Style commercial buildings and the banks, as well as the residences of the affluent merchants in the district. The continued twentieth century development of the town is represented by the Post Office and the two Art Deco resources on the north end of Jefferson Avenue.

The following is a complete list of sites in the district. The numbers refer to the accompanying map and correspond to site numbers assigned in the Historic Resource Survey of Moundsville, 1994. Due to this relationship there are gaps between the numbers and they are not all consecutive. Including outbuildings, there are 114 buildings in the district. 72 are considered contributing, 42 are considered non-contributing.


20. 514 7th/Westway Building. Two-story, red brick, commercial building. Decorative scrollwork cornice with paired brackets. 1/1
windows with scrollwork hoods. Flat roof. Stone foundation. Storefront has been infilled with brick. Ca. 1890. Contributing.
28. 7th/Marshall County Courthouse. The original two-story, Romanesque Style structure of painted brick with flanking towers has been altered and added on to its present Neo-Colonial Revival Style appearance. 1876. Contributing. 
29. 7th/Competition Parts. Modern, garage building. Non-contributing. 
34. 800 7th/Simpson United Methodist Church. A Richardsonian Romanesque Style sandstone structure with a battered corner tower that has eight sides, a crenelated top, and gargoyle scuppers. Hip roof with projecting gable dormers on two sides. The dormers have tourelles and slightly pointed, arched, stained glass windows. The entrance is through an arched colonnade of three bays recessed in the front of the building. 1907. Contributing. 


77. 252 Jefferson. Two-story, side gable, painted brick, commer-
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Half of building is covered with metal siding. Other half is the original blonde brick with stone cap and cornice. Flat roof. Very modified. Ca. 1930. Non-contributing.


95. 273 Jefferson/Ault Building. Large, three-story, red brick, commercial building. Flat roof. 1/1 windows on third floor with stone belt course and sills. 1/1 arched windows on second floor with brick arches and stone sill belt course. Non-original metal storefront. Ca. 1890. Contributing.


102. 324 Jefferson. Two-story, painted terra cotta tile, commercial building. Flat roof with stone cap. 1/1 windows on second


118. 303-305 Jefferson/Francis Building. Three and one-half-story, red brick, commercial building. Large, decorative, metal, primary cornice with central and end brackets. Central, arched, 1/1 window with flanking, arched, 1/1 windows on second floor. Five, 1/1 on third floor with stone lintel and sill belt course on third floor. Stone belt course lintels on second floor. Flat roof. Non-original storefront. Ca. 1900. Contributing.
121. 502 Jefferson. Two-story, tan brick residence. Hip, asphalt


128. 7th & Jefferson/St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church. A tan Tuscan Revival Style church with a pedimented front entrance supported by Doric columns and corner square tower with an open
campagnile with a flared hip roof. 1916. Contributing.
roof with front gable dormer. Asbestos shingle siding. 1/1 win-
dows with flat hoods. One-story, hip roof, front porch with
square posts. Brick foundation. Paired windows on front on second
130. Court & 6th/Marshall County Health Center. Modern, commer-
cial building. Non-contributing.
131. 605 Court/The Journal. Two-story, tan brick, commercial
building. 1/1 windows. Central entrance with flanking windows.
Concrete foundation. Flat roof. Terra cotta tile on side eleva-
tion. Elephant ear surround above gang of second floor windows.
Recessed brick panels above second floor - one on either end acts
132. 635 Court. Three-story, stone, commercial building. Red
brick on side elevations. Flat roof. Stone foundation. 1/1 and
6/6 windows. Pedimented entrance on left with Ionic pilasters.
Ionic pilasters on the facade go to the top of the building.
139. 6th. Two-story, red brick, jail building. Hip, asphalt roof.
Stone and concrete block foundation. 1/1 windows with decorative
hoods. Windows on the first floor have been infilled with glass
block. Broken pediment entrance with acorn finial. Entrance porch
with Doric columns. One-story, red brick, side addition with flat
roof. 1905. Contributing.
144. 707 6th. Two-story, front facing "L" residence. German
siding with corner boards. Asphalt roof. Stone foundation. 2/2
windows with hoods. Front, projecting bay has round-headed, 2/2
windows on second floor. Projecting bow window on first floor.
One-story, bay window on side elevation. One-story, front porch
has battered, square columns. Ca. 1900. Contributing.
145. 800 6th/City Municipal Building. Modern, red brick building.
Non-contributing.
146. 807-811 6th. Two-story, side gable building with gable dorm-
ers on front. Block on first floor on side elevation; asbestos
shingle siding on second; brick veneer on first floor on the
front elevation. Asphalt roof. 1/1 windows. Block foundation. Two
garage bays on right side, first floor; commercial entrance on


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National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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258. Morton/Kleson Building. Two and one-half-story, end gable, warehouse building. Asbestos shingle siding. Vinyl siding on side elevation, first floor. Paired, 1/1 windows on front. Block, terra cotta tile, and brick foundation. 1/1 and 6/6 windows on
The Moundsville Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of Moundsville and Marshall County from the early beginnings of the county in 1835 up through the industrial and manufacturing boom of the city and county. It is also significant under Criterion C for its association with the architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, having good examples of many of these styles.

Tomlinson laid out Elizabethtown, the north section of the current proposed historic district, in 1798. The original town encompassed 45 acres and was named for his wife. The town was named for his wife. The first lot was sold in 1799, located at the southwest corner of Second Street and Morton Avenue. The town was incorporated in 1803. Joseph Tomlinson died in 1825. Shortly after his death his widow, Elizabeth, laid out an addition to the town fronting the river. This portion of the town was incorporated in 1830. At this time the population was 300 persons. In 1832 the additional acreage Mrs. Tomlinson laid out was incorporated into the town. That same year Simon Purdy incorporated the town of Moundsville on land that he had purchased in 1831. This covered 73 acres. This town was located adjacent to Elizabethtown, to the south. Purdy Avenue is named for him.

The towns were originally located in Ohio County, as Marshall County was not formed until 1835. The location of the county seat was contested early on as in many West Virginia counties.
In 1808 an effort was made to appoint Elizabethtown the Ohio county seat and Tomlinson visited Richmond to secure the move. He convinced the state House of Delegates to vote in favor of the bill, but it was defeated in the Senate. This movement continued for a number of years and in 1832 the General Assembly passed an act forming a committee to select a site for the Ohio County Courthouse. The committee selected Elizabethtown in 1833, but the county court refused to comply. Marshall County subsequently was formed in 1835, arising from this strife. Elizabethtown was selected as the county seat. The first jail and courthouse were constructed in 1836 and continued in use until the present courthouse (28) was constructed in 1876.

On February 3, 1866, Elizabethtown and Moundsville merged to become Moundsville. The first elections were also held in 1866 with Robert McConnel winning the Mayoral seat.

The population of the county in 1840 was 6,937. By 1850 it had grown to 10,138 plus 49 slaves. Moundsville was a significant element in the county's development and served as the headquar ters for commerce and government, serving the outlying communities and county. The county was primarily agrarian in the early stages of its development. Moundsville was a source for goods and a market for the residents of the outlying areas of Marshall County. It provided access to the river and to rail transportation when that arrived. It also provided a link to Wheeling, 12 miles to the north, and the all important National Road, rail and river traffic, and the Port of Entry. The first road connecting the two was established by the Ohio County court in 1800 and intended to connect Wheeling to Middle Island Creek. The site was later sold to the B&O railroad. The road was originally called the Grave Creek Turnpike but later changed to the Marshall and Ohio County Turnpike. A road to Waynesburg was located in 1811 and another to Round Bottom, south of Moundsville, in 1820. Early roads also connected Moundsville to Morgantown.

As time went on, industry and manufacturing developed in Moundsville and the county. By 1890 the population of the county had
increased to 12,997.

The towns in the county mirrored the county's increase in population and growth. By 1860 Elizabethtown had 571 persons and Moundsville 515. In 1815 there were less than 100 houses and persons located here. By 1870 the population was 1,500. By 1890 the population had risen to 2,688. Moundville's population increases are proportionally greater than the county's and the state's for the same time period. This indicates that Moundsville experienced growth due to its position and significance as a banking, commerce and government center for the county and the region. Up to 1860 both the county and the town experienced rapid growth. Between 1870 and 1900, while the county almost doubled in size, the city almost quadrupled. The next decade, 1910, saw an increase in Moundsville of two thirds its population, while the county grew by a quarter. Between 1910 and 1920, Moundsville increased another twenty percent, while, again, the county remained relatively stable. These figures illustrate the boom and growth of the town due to its position as a market and as a manufacturing center.

The Ohio River provided all of the transportation needs of the town up to about 1850. All goods arriving and leaving were transported by boats and barges. Consequently, the area fronting the river was densely populated with various businesses and residences. Boat building activities occurred in Moundville early on. The railroad came to Moundsville in 1853 with the arrival of the B&O. This was incorporated as the Wheeling Parkersburg and Charleston Railroad and was chartered in 1881. This changed to the Ohio River Railroad and began operations in 1884. The Benwood Southern Railroad was chartered in 1890 and began operations in 1897 between Benwood and Moundsville. This continued until 1941.

An early industry in both the county and Moundsville was coal mining and the Alexander Coal mines opened about the time of the Civil War. They continued in operation and were incorporated as the Moundsville Coal Company in 1883. Other early industries
include broom making, a whip factory, and a shirt manufacturer.

By 1890 Moundsville included the Fostoria Glass Company; the Moundsville Coal Company; Humphrey Broom Company; the United States Stamping Company and other metal stamping plants; the National Bed Company; at least two brick works; tanneries and the Kleson Pants Manufacturers (258). There also were taverns, banks, general stores, and other mercantile establishments. The Marshall House (77) on Jefferson Avenue was one of the taverns and inns catering to the traveler and businessman. Its visitors included president elect Zachary Taylor, who was forced to stop at the inn in 1849 on his way to Washington, when the river froze. The Marshall House was operated by SP Baker, Samuel Dorsey and others throughout its life. The building was constructed prior to 1840 when it was acquired by Baker and converted to an inn. In 1855 Elijah Hubbs purchased it and it became known as the Marshall House.

The West Virginia State Penitentiary was constructed in 1866 following the end of the Civil War. It served as a an additional impetus for development of the town. Industries were located in the facility, using prisoners for labor under contract to private individuals, including a whip and broom factory. In 1914 the Hawes Cooper Bill passed, prohibiting prison manufactured goods from being sold out of state. This resulted in the creation of private industry in Moundsville to replace the prison labor. The Kleson Company (258) was one of these, manufacturing shirts and pants. The Bardall Company, leather whips, and the Buchimer Company manufacturing whips were two others. T.L. Rogerson was president of the Bardall Company. He was also president of the First National Bank of Moundsville. At one time they sold over 75 percent of the whips sold in the United States. The first telephone arrived in Moundsville in 1881.

In 1870, Moundsville was third in manufacturing in the young state. Industries continued to grow into the turn of the century. These included The Suburban Brick Manufacturing Company, owned by PJ Hodgman. This was consolidated with the Mound City Brick Company. Hodgman was also a director of the City and
County Bank of Moundsville, as well as president of the Citizens Savings and Loan Company (Mound City Bank, no. 16). The town also boasted a theater. MA Sybert owned theaters in Moundsville and McMechen. He settled in Sistersville, West Virginia for twelve years during the oil rush in that county. Following a period in Marietta Ohio, Sybert came to Moundsville in 1912 and operated the Strand and the Park Theaters. He also owned the Midway in McMechen. The current Strand Theater, (147) was constructed ca. 1920 and is still in use as a theater. Mr. HW Perkins came to Moundsville in 1903 and in 1909 became associated with the Ford automobile agency. He became the manager in 1912 until 1924 when he took over the Nash and Packard dealerships (Perkins Building, no. 117).

A large number of speculation oil wells were incorporated in the days before the Civil War in West Virginia. These included the Marshall County Oil and Mining Company in 1861.

Coal industry was also significant in Marshall County, though not as extensively as in other regions of West Virginia. By 1890 coal production was at 110,418 tons. This continued at a steady rate of increase until it reached 963,173 tons in 1915. Marshall County's miners were also active in the newly formed United Mine Workers union. Following the creation of the union in 1890, a meeting in Wheeling resulted in West Virginia entering the union as District 17. During the strike of 1894, Marshall County was one of the few active counties in the state.

Natural gas developed as well as mining. There were ten mines operating in the county at one time. The plentiful availability of natural gas brought the glass industry to Moundsville and Fostoria Glass opened in 1890. The gas also allowed the chemical industry to flourish in the county along the river. All of these industries brought workers and residents to Moundsville. This is reflected in the large numbers of workers type and other housing constructed at similar time periods. These are generally located adjacent to the plants and manufacturing sites. This includes a number of residential sections in Moundsville. The commercial business district reflected this residential growth.
Major elements in any city as prosperous and significant as Moundsville are its banks. Moundsville had its share of banking establishments. These included the Mound City Bank (16); the Marshall County Bank (24), established 1881; the Mercantile Bank and Trust, established 1903; the First National Bank of Moundsville, established 1901; the City and County Bank, established 1913; and the Citizens Savings and Loan Company (16). The Mound City Bank was established in 1905 by Major Carl Hunter and other prominent citizens. He was also cashier of the Marshall County Bank. T.L. Rogerson was president of the First National Bank. The extant bank buildings within the nominated area include the Mound City Bank (16), 1912; the Marshall County Bank (24), 1910; the Mercantile Bank and Trust (25), 1915; and the Farmers and Mechanics Bank (119), 1890. An interesting story about the Marshall County Bank is that it was used in the movie "Fools Parade", an adaptation of a Davis Grubb novel about three prisoners released from jail. The entire town was used as a set during the filming. None of these buildings is in current use as a bank. Davis Grubb was a native of Moundsville.

The educational system in Moundsville paralleled the development of the town. In 1866 they established a school system and by 1919 there were five public schools. The impressive Moundsville High School was constructed that year. The recreation system was not ignored as Moundsville developed. The Spurr Memorial Playground is one of the state's early premier public amenities. The park was constructed in 1922 with money donated by local citizens organized by Dr. BM Spurr.

As in any other developing and growing city, a newspaper is one of its achievements. The Moundsville Echo (12) was founded by J.D. Shaw. Shaw was born in Pennsylvania and moved to West Virginia in 1882. He first located in Middlebourne where he began the Echo in 1889. The paper was moved to Moundsville in 1891. He remained as editor until his death in 1917. The paper is still in control of the family, under the leadership of Sam Shaw. There was a Daily Echo and a Weekly Echo. Other newspapers included the Daily Journal, established in 1910, and the Weekly Journal.
Some of Moundsville significant historical figures are indicated below:

Benjamin F. Hodgman, president of the Citizens Savings and Loan Company (16) and president of the Suburban Brick Manufacturing Company. He came to Moundsville in 1884 with the Webster Wagon Company as manager. He bought the Mound City Brick Company and merged it with the Suburban Brick Manufacturing Company in 1898. He was also a director of the City and County Bank of Moundsville.

MA Sybert, owner of the Strand Theater (147), Park Theater, and the Midway Theater in McMechen.

HW Perkins, Packard and Nash automobile dealer (117). Born in 1878 he located in Marshall County in 1903, first as postmaster. He later entered the automobile business.

J. Harvey Riggs was a native of Moundsville and worked on a farm in the county. He engaged in the general contracting business for a while with his brother. Riggs was a director of the Marshall County Bank (24) and the Citizens Savings and Loan Company.

TL Rogerson, president of the First National Bank of Moundville and of the Bardall Company. He was born in Moundville in 1871. His father John Rogerson engaged in a mercantile business in Moundsville for many years. TL joined the Bardall Company in 1902 and soon became the sole owner of the company. The company was founded by JC Bardall in 1875 in Moundsville. It was the largest whip manufacturer in the world.

SC Shaw, see above.

Carl H. Hunter, vice president and cashier at the Mound City Bank (16). He was born in 1874. In 1916 he was elected to the House of Delegates and to the State Senate in 1918. In 1920 he was made vice president of the Mound City Bank, which his father had organized in 1905. He was also director of the Klessen Company (158) and treasurer of the Moundsville Water Company.
Carl's father Major Hunter was born in 1837 in Wheeling. He located in Moundsville at the age of 16 and worked as a clerk with the river traffic until the Civil War. He enlisted and became lieutenant of Company I of the Third West Virginia Infantry. He was promoted eventually to Major and was discharged in 1864. He was in the mercantile business in Moundsville after the war and was Moundsville's first clerk and treasurer after its incorporation in 1866. He served as deputy Sheriff from 1867 to 1871, county assessor, and elected sheriff in 1876. After Sheriff he became cashier of the Marshall County Bank (24) until his death in 1914.

Captain JC Roberts (90). Captain Roberts was born in Moundsville in 1836. He served in the Civil War and was promoted to Captain. In 1864 he was wounded in the battle of Winchester and was discharged in 1865. He returned to Moundsville to continue his career in merchandise and civic functions. His merchandise business was located on Jefferson Avenue and the building is still extant (91).

Evan Garrett Roberts, son of Captain Roberts, was born in 1870. He was president of the school board, organized the Citizens Savings and Loan Company (16); president of the Chamber of Commerce, member of the State Senate, member of the legislature and mayor of Moundsville. He died in 1949. His residence is on 508 Jefferson Avenue (124).

Moundsville continued to grow into the twentieth century. By 1923 the population of Moundsville was 10,669. At the time of the Depression, Moundsville was described in the Writers Works Project as having a population of 14,411 and a center for glass, zinc, and enamel products. Coal is also mentioned as an important industry. This increase in population and continued prosperity indicated the town's continued significance in the region. Some of the later evidence of this continued importance are the FOE Building, (69), 1940, and the State Supermarket, 1939, (70). Moundsville's downtown continued to grow, even during and after the Depression. Another indication of this continued growth, though not during the historic period and out of the period of
significance of the proposed district, is the extensive commercial development on the east side of Jefferson Avenue, south of Third Street. All of these buildings must be considered non-contributing due to their construction date, but they indicate Moundsville’s continued strength, unlike many other West Virginia communities.

The Moundsville Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its association with many of the major architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The district is predominantly commercial in nature with very few of the in-town residences of the managers and owners of establishments.

The commercial styles represented include the Romanesque Revival, Commercial, Neo-Classical Revival, Beaux Art, and Italianate. There are some Federal Style buildings, located mostly on the northern section of Jefferson Avenue. These are the early settlement period residences and commercial structures, such as the Roberts House, and the Marshall House. The Marshall House contains many of the elements of the style with side gable, shallow pitch roof, and painted brick facade. The Roberts House also contains these elements.

The Romanesque Style is well represented. In fact it is one of the predominant commercial styles in the district. Most of the buildings on Jefferson Avenue are in this style. The Mercantile Bank Building, (119), is a good example of the Victorian Romanesque variation of the style. It has a raised heavily rusticated basement, a rounded corner with tourelle, a gable ornamental pediment with carved scroll ends, and decorative panels of molded pressed brick.

The Henderson Building, (83), also exemplifies the style. It has a large, three-story curved corner, a pilastered arcade, and corbeled brick brackets at the top of the main cornice. Carolina Furniture Company, (95), and the Roberts Building, (80), are simple Romanesque Style buildings, while no. 118 is another more elaborate example.
The Art Deco Style is represented by the FOE Building, (69), and the State Food Supermarket, (70).

The Mound City Bank, (16), is one of the best examples of the Beaux Arts, or Classical Revival Style, in the state. It is a two-story structure with an oversized front facade that consists of a giant arch and classical ornamentation. This is typical of the style. Another good example of the Classical Revival Style is the Marshall County Bank, (24), and the Strand Theater, (147). The Post Office and Federal Building, (15), constructed in 1914, is a good example of the Beaux Arts Style of Federal architecture that was prevalent in this time period for post offices.

The churches in the district also represent some of the more significant architectural styles. The Simpson United Methodist Church, (34), constructed 1907, is an excellent example of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style of architecture. The First Christian Church, (36), located on the corner of Jefferson Avenue and 7th Street is in the Romanesque Style and was built in 1899. The St. Francis Xavier Roman Catholic Church, (128), is located on Jefferson Avenue and was built in 1917. It is in the Tuscan Revival Style.

There are few residences in the historic district. These are associated with the industrialists that owned the businesses and worked in the downtown. They represent the more elaborate architectural styles of the early twentieth century. Site no. 120, 500 Jefferson Avenue, is a good example of an embellished Four Square residence as is 121. 506 Jefferson Avenue, (123), represents the Queen Anne Style as does site no. 149, the Senior Center on Fifth Street. The Early Colonial Revival Style of architecture is also well represented. This embodies many of the classical detailing elements. No. 148 on Fifth Street and 508 Jefferson Avenue, (124), and 510 Jefferson Avenue, (125), represent this style.

One architect/contractor is associated with the district. He is William Batson. His works represented in the area are some of the more developed architecturally and esthetically. His commissions
within the district include the Simpson United Methodist Church, (34).

In summary, the Moundsville Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the county and the city of Moundsville, as a commercial, banking, and government center. It is also significant under Criterion C for its association with many of the architectural styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. The buildings within the district represent many of these styles well. The period of significance, 1835 to 1940, is associated with the formation of the county in 1835 up through the continued growth of the town as evidenced by the construction of the FOE building, a fine Art Deco example in 1940.
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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The boundary of the Moundsville Commercial Historic District is shown as the dotted line on the accompanying map titled "Moundsville Commercial Historic District - Moundsville, West Virginia" dated June 1994.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundaries encompass the central business district of Moundsville as it exists today, excluding recent non-significant strip development. The areas of historic periods adjacent to and outside of the boundaries relate to residential and manufacturing significance, which are not part of the significance or the period of significance of the district. To the north of the boundary, above Second Street, on Jefferson Avenue are located residential buildings associated with the Fostoria Glass Company, a different period of significance. To the south of the boundaries are located the Mound and the Penitentiary, both associated with a different period of significance. To the east of the boundaries are all twentieth century residential buildings associated with workers' housing. To the west of the boundaries are located additional workers' houses and the older historic town of Moundsville, associated with the settlement and river traffic of the town. There is also a large number of intrusive modern strip developments in this vicinity.