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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: Alderson Historic District

2. Location

street & number: North along either side of Monroe Street. The sites fronting East and West Riverview Drive. Crossing the Alderson Memorial Bridge to the south and encompassing sections of South Monroe, Wickham, Greenbrier, Hill, High Streets, and Alderson and Railroad Avenues.

not for publication:N/A

city/town:Alderson vicinity:N/A
state:WV code:55 county:Greenbrier and Monroe

code: 025/063 zip code:24910

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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally __ state wide __ locally.

(See continuation sheets for additional comments.)

Signature of Certifying Official ___________________________ Date 10/5/93

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  Date

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 Keeper  Date of Action
USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Alderson Historic District Greenbrier/Monroe Counties, WV

5. Classification

Ownership of Property: (Check as many boxes as apply)  Category of Property (Check only one box)
X private building(s)
X public-local district
  public-State site
  X public-Federal structure

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

Contributing Noncontributing
196 buildings
3 sites
  199 structures
      53 objects
      TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING: N/A

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER: 1: Alderson Memorial Bridge.

6. Function or Use

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS
Domestic: single dwelling; multiple dwelling; hotel.

Commerce/Trade: business; professional; department store; restaurant.

Social: meeting hall.

Government: City Hall, Post Office.

Education: school, college, education related.

Religion: religious facility, church school.

Industry: manufacturing facility.

CURRENT FUNCTIONS
Domestic: single dwelling; multiple dwelling.

Commerce/Trade: business; professional; department store; restaurant.

Government: City Hall, Post Office.

Education: school, college, education related.

Religion: religious facility, church school.

Industry: manufacturing facility.
Transportation: rail related, road related.

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:

Mid-19th Century/ Greek Revival
Early Republic/Federal
Late Victorian/Queen Anne
Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals/Colonial Revival
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/Bungalow
Late Victorian/Italianate
Late Victorian/Romanesque
Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements/Commercial
Modern Movement/Art Deco

MATERIALS

Foundation: stone; brick; block.

Walls: brick; stone; wood.

Roof: asphalt; membrane; slats; metal; asbestos.

Other: N/A

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
Alderson Historic District Greenbrier/Monroe Counties, WV

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

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE
Architecture  
Education  
Transportation  
Commerce  
Engineering

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE  
1789 to 1939


CULTURAL AFFILIATION: N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER
Walter Martens - Architect
Clark Ellis - Builder
Captain N.B. Sheppard - Builder.

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

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:

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

Name of Repository: Alderson Historic Landmarks Commission, Alderson, West Virginia.
10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 139 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
A 17. 532180. 4175150. B 17. 532210. 4175060.
C 17. 531500. 4174680. D 17. 531060. 4174790.
E 17. 531100. 4175060. F 17. 530820. 4175270.
K 17. 531560. 4175290.

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: April 30, 1993
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: 
City or Town: 
Telephone: ( )
State: ZIP:
The Alderson Historic District is located in the town of Alderson, Greenbrier and Monroe Counties, West Virginia. The town is bisected by the Greenbrier River. To the north of the river the town is in Greenbrier County; to the south Monroe. On the southern side, Alderson is located between the river and a mountain. Most of this area is flat with one minor rise, which consists of Hill Street, east and west. The town is bordered by the narrowing of the flat plain. On the north, only the first few streets are flat. The town then rises up the hill to the village of Palestine.

The district includes most of the Monroe County portion of Alderson on the south side of the Greenbrier River. This includes the commercial district and the surrounding residential section. The structures are predominantly 19th and early 20th century frame detached residences and masonry commercial buildings. On the east there are some large warehouse structures including the Woodson Mohler Grocery building (22), the Johnson and Gwinn warehouse (24), and the Greenbrier Mill (78). Other significant commercial sites include the First National Bank building (23), the Alderson's Store building (26), the C&O depot (116), and the Post Office (88). Other sites of note are the City Hall (25), designed by Martens, 301 Railroad Avenue (96) built by Frank Mann, the ACI building (137) on High Street, and the old Alderson residence (92). The row of residential structures on Wickham Street is particularly significant.

The district then crosses the river and includes the 1914 concrete bridge. This is highly significant as an engineering site. It is one of the largest concrete arch bridges, from its period, extant in the state and it is associated with the prominent engineer, Frank Duff McEnteer.

In north Alderson the district continues up North Monroe Street to Chestnut Avenue and includes residences on either side of the street. These are architecturally significant and associated with the development of the town as they were constructed by and for prominent residents of the period.
The district is bordered on the south by the mountain on the south edge of town behind Hill Street. On this side of the river, the south, the district includes all of the town to the river. On the west end the district is bordered by the new concrete bridge that crosses the Greenbrier River. On the east the boundary is the east end of town along the railroad tracks. The north portion of the district, in north Alderson, is bordered on the south by the Greenbrier River and encompasses all of the properties that face the river on Riverview Avenue, back to the alley to the north of Riverview. This row of properties begins at the Camp Greenbrier for Boys on the eastern edge of town and runs to the western edge of the property line of 404 Riverview. The district then follows North Monroe Street north of the old Memorial Bridge and encompasses all properties that face North Monroe Street up to the properties on Chestnut Avenue on the north. The extension of Spring Street, north of its intersection with North Monroe Street is included and all of the properties that face Spring Street and Chestnut Avenue.

The district includes the primary commercial portion of Alderson which lies on the south side of town along the railroad. This consists of two blocks on Railroad Avenue from Greenbrier Street to Monroe Street, one block of Monroe Street south from the river, and Railroad Avenue extension east for about one block. The remainder of the south side is residential with one of the older remaining structures from the Allegheny Collegiate Institute. Most of the houses date from the late 19th century, with some earlier. They are predominantly two-story frame structures with front, rear, and side yards. The commercial buildings are mostly two and three-story brick structures in various styles from around the turn of the century. There is a concentration of industrial or warehouse type structures in the Railroad Avenue extension to the east of Monroe Street.

To the north, the commercial district extends up North Monroe Street for one block. This is a natural progression of the south side of the river, as there has always been a crossing at this
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point, a bridge since 1881 and the ferry nearby previous to that. The corner of North Monroe and Riverview is the major corner and contains the Alderson National Bank building (37). Some newer commercial structures are located opposite the bank building and on the western edge of the district.

The remainder of the district is residential with some older, ca. 1880 to 1900, frame buildings, and numerous ca. 1900 to 1930 brick and frame residences. There are also a few newer mobile homes and tract style houses.

The district contains 253 resources, 200 contributing and 53 non-contributing, and consists of approximately 139 acres.

The styles of the buildings in the district represent most of the common styles of the 19th and 20th centuries. Residences fall in the Greek Revival, Federal, Queen Anne, Colonial Revival, and Bungalow Styles. There are actually many Bungalows in the town. Commercial structures include Italianate, Romanesque, and Commercial Styles.

Within the district there are several open or vacant sites. Some of these are a result of demolition activities or of true open space. These combine to give Alderson a very residential and rural ambience and form part of the overall physical experience of the town. Within the district there are some structures that have experienced alterations, though these do not form a major proportion. There are also a few newer structures such as contemporary houses and trailers, though again these are not found in large numbers.

To the north of the Greenbrier River, traditional settlement patterns are displayed. Some commercial development occurred historically immediately to the north of the bridge and proceeded up the hill along North Monroe Street. This changes fairly quickly to residences of the more significant merchant class. Most of the extant significant residences are on North Monroe Street or within one or two blocks to the east or west. There is a concentration of four significant residences on Wilson Street and
Chestnut Avenue.

There are good examples of Vernacular housing from the period of significance, and some very good examples of Bungalow Style architecture.

Another major significant concentration in the north east is a row of ca. 1900 residences on East Riverview between Johnson and Chase Streets. These are very good examples of significant architectural styles from the period. The residence at 407 East Riverview (50) is one of the best examples of Queen Anne architecture in the region.

There is a similar concentration of residences on the west side of Riverview though these are more simple in construction and have more modern intrusions within them.

Some of the more significant sites in the district are briefly discussed below. For additional information refer to the list of sites in the district.

407 East Riverview, Tom Woodson residence, (50). This is a fine example of a small Queen Anne Style residence constructed in 1905. It contains an interesting bell shaped corner tower and a decorative gable end. It is one of the residences in town built by Clark Ellis.

103 North Monroe, (2). This is a good example of a larger Queen Anne Style residence. It has a wraparound porch and a corner turret.

Railroad Depot, C&O Passenger Station, (116), 1896. The railroad is the most significant factor in the development of Alderson. The depot is a good intact example of this style of depot. It is
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reported to be the only station on the line still in use as an active passenger station.

Alderson Memorial Bridge. Significant for its association with Frank Duff McEnteer, a prominent engineer in the state. This is a good example of concrete and steel engineering in a concrete arch bridge. It has graceful flowing lines and gentle arches.

Alderson's Clothing Store, (26). One of the best Art Deco Style stores in the state. The front is stone veneer in a traditional Art Deco motif with stylized columns and capitals. The interior has intact original wood paneling and built-in casework. Built in 1931 and designed by prominent West Virginia architect, Walter Martens.

301 Railroad Avenue, (96). A Queen Anne Style residence built by Frank Mann in 1902. This also was constructed by Clark Ellis.

Alderson City Hall, (25). This is a simple Art Deco Style building designed by one of the state's most prominent architects, Walter Martens. Built in 1939.

104 Railroad Avenue East extension, (78), Greenbrier Mill. This is a large three-story, Second Empire warehouse structure which was the home of the Greenbrier Milling Company. It is a good example of an industrial site still extant. It has a mansard roof and pressed metal siding. Second Empire Style, 1902.

208 Railroad Avenue, (92), old Alderson residence, ca. 1850. This is one of the oldest residences in the town. This is a two-story, "T" plan house with a two-story porch that has decorative brackets. Part log. Vernacular Style.

402 Railroad Avenue, (105), Lobban house, 1880. This is a two-story, Gothic Style house with a side gable roof, clapboard siding, decorative window hoods, and verge work on the gables. This is an example of an older settlement period residence.

102 West Chestnut, (156), Dr. E.H. Campbell residence, 1900. This
is a large, brick Four Square Style house with a hip roof and gable dormers in the center of each elevation. There is a wrap-around porch with squat Doric columns on a brick balustrade.

200 West Chestnut, (157), R.L. Johnson residence. Johnson was the manager of the Greenbrier Mill in 1903. They are one of the prominent families in town. This is a good example of early Colonial Revival Style architecture. It has paneled pilasters as corner boards, shingled battered hip roof dormers, and a port hole window on the third level with keystones.

Alderson National Bank, corner of Riverview and North Monroe Street, (37). This is one of the most prominent commercial structures in town. It is a three-story brick structure with a chamfered corner and a first floor entrance on the corner. There is a large metal cornice with curved brackets. Above this is a brick balustrade with small attic windows. The windows on the second and third floors have stone accent blocks as jack arches and keystones. The piers around the first floor entrance have alternating horizontal bands of stone and brick. There are two storefronts on the first floor as well. These have recessed entrances and flanking display windows. The building was constructed by Captain Sheppard with bricks from the local yard. Renaissance Revival Style. ca. 1910.

The following is a list of resources in the historic district. The numbers refer to the site numbers on the accompanying sketch maps of the district. There are a total of 253 sites in the district, 200 contributing, and 53 non-contributing.
LIST OF SITES


3. 104 N. Monroe - Johnson Memorial UM Church. Greek Revival Style. 1922. Architect - Walter Martens. Contractor was Phelps & Halloran of Charleston. Brick facade building with a large stone entrance portico. Portico has four Doric columns supporting a pedimented entablature. Entablature has modillions. Entrance doors are surrounded with stone pediments. Contributing.


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CONTINUATION SHEET

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18. 212 N. Monroe - Two-story, weatherboard residence. Greek Revival Style. ca. 1900. Contributing. Metal garage - contributing. Metal garage building was originally on the Monroe Street side at the public hitching lot behind the present City Hall. The building was used to house the town's fire hose cart.


26. 203 S. Monroe - One-story commercial bldg. with an Indiana limestone facade. The facade is divided into three bays by stone pilasters with fluting. The pilasters are topped with stylized carved capitos in geometric motifs. There is a curved urn atop each of the capitos. The wide frieze area above the storefront is crested with a wave pattern molding. Atop this there is a stepped parapet with the name "ALDERSONS". Alderson's Store. The interior has intact original walnut paneling and built-in walnut casework. Architect - Walter Martens. Art Deco Style. 1931. Contributing. Oldest continually operated business in town.


34. 213 S. Monroe - Two-story, side gable residence. 2/2 windows. Contributing. ca. 1890. Italianate Style.

35. 215 S. Monroe - One-story, residence with hip roof and siding. 6/1 windows. ca. 1900. Vernacular Style. Contributing.


53. 100 W. Riverview - Modern convenience store and Exxon Station. Non-contributing.


55 A - Annex to #55. Same as #55. Non-contributing.

56. 104 W. Riverview - One and one-half-story, front facing "L"


72. 602 W. Riverview - Two-story, side gable with enclosed porch.


74. Intersection Rts. 12 & 63 - Camp Greenbrier for Boys. 1898. Contributing. One of the oldest boys camps in the U.S. Consists of 26 buildings. Established in 1898 by Dr. Walter Hullihen and offered a Classical education.


76. 102 RR Ave., E. - Johnson & Gwinn board & batten commercial warehouse. ca. 1880. Contributing.

77. 103-105 RR Ave. - Two-story, brick facade commercial bldg. Large pressed metal cornice with brackets and garland swags. Decorative metal window hoods. Builder - Captain N.B. Sheppard. Italianate. 1885. Contributing. This was the Greenbrier Valley Bank, Alderson's first bank which was established in 1884.


81. RR Ave., E. - Two-story, side gable residence. Clapboard sid-


90. 205 RR Ave. - Two-story, narrow brick commercial bldg. Romanesque Style. ca. 1885. Contributing. This originally was Garfield Crawford's restaurant, a black cook.


92. 208 RR Ave. - Two-story, "T", clapboard residence. Two story porch with decorative brackets. 6/6 windows. Partial return
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95. 300 RR Ave. - Senior Center. Cinder block commercial bldg. 1946. Non-contributing.


97. RR Ave., E. - Small, one-story, side gable residence with prime siding. ca. 1940. Contributing.


Romanesque/Queen Anne Style. Contributing.


104. RR Ave. - One and one-half-story, end gable residence with side gable wing. 1/1 windows. Prime siding. Gothic Revival Style. Contributing.

105. 402 RR Ave. - Two-story, side gable, German sided residence. Decorative window hoods & verge board. Paired windows on first floor in projecting bays. Two wood outbuildings - contributing. One trailer - non-contributing. Victorian Gothic Style. 1880. Contributing. Original owner was Floyd Lobban who ran the livery stable and was mayor of Alderson in 1901.


110. 408 RR Ave. - Two-story, "T" residence. Vinyl siding. 3/1 novelty windows. Front porch with decorative brackets on porch posts. One wood outbuilding - contributing. ca. 1880. Contribut-
ing. Vernacular Style.


116. RR Ave. - C&O Passenger Station. Board & batten depot. Railroad Gothic. 1896. Largest "standard" C&O station built on entire system & is the only one still existing on the main line. Contributing.


120. 102 Alderson Ave. - Rogers' residence. Two-story, clapboard
residence. Four Square Style. ca. 1925. 3/1 novelty windows. Exposed rafter ends on porch. Contributing.


128. 208 Greenbrier - Originally a Methodist Church. Now a residence. Large, two-story, end gable with German siding. Porches on both floors with open balustrades. Contributing. ca. 1900. Greek Revival Style.


136. 201 Hill - Trailer. Non-contributing.


146. 201 Wickham - Brick Presbyterian manse. Modern. Non-contributing.


152. 204 Wickham - Two-story, asphalt shingle siding residence. Porches on first & second story with paired Doric columns. Paired brackets in frieze. 8/1 windows. Entrance has transom and side lights. Two garages - contributing. ca. 1880. Greek Revival Style. Contributing.


156. 102 W. Chestnut - Two-story, brick Four Square. Hip roof with gable dormers in the center of each elevation. Wraparound porch with squat Doric columns on a brick balustrade. 1900. Contributing. Carport. Original owner was Dr. E.H. Campbell.

157. 200 W. Chestnut - Two-story, clapboard residence with hip
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roof. Paneled pilasters as corner boards, shingled battered hip roof dormers, and a porthole window on the third level with keystones. Colonial Revival Style. 1900. Contributing. Previous owner - R.L. Johnson was affiliated with the Greenbrier Milling Co. & became its manager in 1903.


162. Alderson Ferry Site. Ferry established 1789. Contributing.

163. Alderson Ferry Road Site. Ferry road established 1789. Contributing.

164. ACI Marching Field Site. Contributing.

The Alderson Historic District is significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the region and the county through its position as a center of commerce and transportation; for its association with the transportation development of the region and the state in regards to the C&O Railway; for its association with the development of the county and region's road transportation system, notably the concrete bridge connecting Greenbrier and Monroe Counties. It is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the commercial development of the region through the general store and branch outlet system and other commercial centers that located or developed in Alderson. It is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the transportation system, the Alderson Ferry.

The district is also significant under Criterion A for its association with the development of the educational system and the development of higher education, notably the Allegheny Collegiate Institute, and the Alderson Baptist Academy.

The Alderson Historic District is significant under Criterion B for its association with prominent persons in the development of the area's and state's economic development: I.T. Mann, for his association with the development of coal in southern West Virginia and the banking industry; Edwin and James Mann for their association with the banking industry in Alderson and in the southern coal fields of West Virginia; John Alderson for his association with the development of the region through his operation and development of the Alderson Ferry; "Uncle" George Alderson for his association with the development of the region, through his contacts with the railroad and the sub-division of the town of Alderson when the railroad arrived.

The Alderson Historic District is significant under Criterion C for its association with transportation engineering through the Alderson Memorial Bridge and noted concrete structural engineer, Frank Duff McEnteer and the Clarksburg Concrete Bridge Company. It is also significant under Criterion C for its association with noted West Virginia Architect, Walter F. Martens, who designed
the Baptist Church (20) and the City Hall (25). It is also significant under Criterion C for its association with the major architectural styles for residential and commercial development of the period. It is significant under Criterion C for its association with the railroad related construction and concept of standardized design employed for the construction of railroad depots and structures.

The period of significance for the Alderson Historic District begins in 1789 with the establishment of the Alderson Ferry by John Alderson. It then encompasses the development of the town through the arrival and boom atmosphere of the railroad and subsequent construction up into the early twentieth century construction of significant architectural buildings, namely the Alderson's store and the City Hall building associated with Walter Martens.

Under Criterion A, it is significant for its association with the development of the county and region. Greenbrier County was formed in 1778, at which time the village of Alderson was completely located in that county. In 1799 Monroe County was formed, splitting the town down the middle. The Elder John Alderson, son of immigrant John Alderson, located in the area in 1774. Prior to this there were no residents in the town. He founded the Greenbrier Baptist Church in Alderson in 1781. The first church structure was constructed in 1784. Elder John's residence was a log structure constructed on the south side of the river in what is now the town of Alderson. His land holdings were located on the south side as well. On the north Mr. William Morris settled and constructed a residence in what is now Palestine. He had a large stone residence constructed for him in 1788 by Captain Jack Alderson.

The first evidence of Alderson's significance to the development of the region is the establishment by John Alderson, son of Elder John Alderson, of the ferry crossing in 1789. For this, the town was originally called Alderson's Ferry. The ferry provided the only consistent crossing of the Greenbrier River. Prior to this there had been a ford, but this was dependent on the vag-
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aries of weather and other natural forces. The ferry made it possible to journey north and south into Greenbrier and Monroe counties. The ferry was recognized by the Virginia Legislature as the official crossing of the Greenbrier and was a part of the Indian Draft Turnpike connecting to the Red Sulphur and Blue Sulphur Turnpike in 1838. This provided access to significant Lewisburg during this time period. The ferry site (162) and access road (163) are still extant in the proposed historic district. The ferry continued in significance into the middle part of the nineteenth century. During the Civil War, General George Crook's army used it for traveling through the area and camped in Alderson. The ferry was in operation until the first metal bridge was constructed in Alderson in 1881.

Residential development began in the area west of Monroe Street on the north side, in 1856 by Reverend Lewis A. Alderson. Lewis's father, Joseph Alderson, had acquired the property from Morris'son-in-law in 1811. Joseph Alderson was a prominent citizen who returned from Kanawha County and the salt industry in that location. He was also a member of the county court, a sheriff, and a member of the Virginia General Assembly. He was a wealthy man and contributed land and funds for the construction of the Baptist Church in Lewisburg. Lewis A. Alderson inherited his father's estate following his death in 1845.

Alderson continued on as a small farming and residential community for the remaining quarter century. The catalyst for change in Alderson's history was soon to come through. In 1870 construction began on the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad simultaneously from Clifton Forge, Virginia to the east and Huntington, West Virginia to the west. This would link the markets on the east coast to the interior settlement areas and raw materials of the west through the Ohio River transportation system.
The district is significant under Criterion B for its association with "Uncle" George Alderson who owned what is now south Alderson. George Alderson was born in 1833 and resided on the family's farm in Alderson. He joined the Confederate army during the Civil War and was a captain under William C. Wickham and an orderly for Generals Loring and Echols. It was through these associations that he contributed the most to Alderson. Upon learning of the railroad's plans, he began dividing it for development in 1871. Having been an aide to General William C. Wickham during the Civil War he was likely able to convince Wickham, vice president and general manager of the railroad, to establish Alderson as a major way station on the line. County Surveyor, Elliot Vawter laid off the town lots and streets. Lots sold for $200.00 each. Following the arrival of the railroad the town prospered as a regional center for transportation and merchandising. Without "Uncle" George's subdivision and influence with Wickham, Alderson would have been bypassed by the railroad. Alderson was also a Justice of the Peace and a representative in the State Legislature in 1885. He was also a director of the First National Bank of Alderson, (23).

In 1872 this was the apparent locale for development. By 1877 there were sixty houses in Alderson and four hundred people. The railroad not only brought development to the community, it also brought development through the increased number of persons who came to work on the railroad. During construction of the railroad at Alderson and in adjacent areas, workers were housed in Alderson. For example, during the extension of the siding to Pence Springs in 1892, more than one hundred workers stayed in Alderson.

A hotel and restaurant industry flourished as a result of the railroad. The Monroe House was constructed in 1872 and operated by A.T. Scruggs. It served food for rail passengers and contained a covered walk to the depot from the front porch. Over five thousand passengers dined in the Monroe House in one week. It was demolished in 1934. Also constructed shortly after this was the
Alderson Hotel in 1882. This was near the depot on the same side of the street as the tracks. It had three floors with indoor plumbing. It succeeded in securing the arrangement for passenger meals. All rail travel stopped in Alderson in the morning and afternoon as a break for passengers. This was the half way point to Huntington and a logical stopping point for breakfast and dinner. The hotels had lucrative arrangements with the railroad for serving passengers, who included President U.S. Grant traveling to visit relatives in Charleston. This continued until railroad dining cars were developed in the 1880's. They first appeared in C&O trains in 1889 and were on all trains by 1892. In addition, many of the travelers would note the beauty of the town and return at a later time specifically to visit Alderson. This began the resort era of the community. During the 1890's there were excursion trains to Alderson from as far away as Ohio. The hotels also catered to the business men and merchants who used Alderson as a base of operations. Alderson Hotel would set up sample rooms capable of accommodating up to thirty salesmen in one day.

To service this growing community the business district of Alderson grew as well. A.T. Scruggs operated an early general store and also operated the brick yards. These were subsequently sold to Captain N.B. Sheppard. Captain Sheppard constructed a number of the buildings in town including the Greenbrier Valley Bank building and the First National Bank building. These two structures utilized bricks from the local brick yards.

Boa and Howel founded a steam saw mill in 1872 utilizing timber floated and trained in to Alderson. This developed into a small industrial complex in east Alderson and included a shingle mill and lath as well as a flour mill. This latter developed into a forge and foundry under Boa which supplied the coke ovens for the New River Coal and Coke Company.

In 1878 the Grange Cooperative Association of Alderson was formed. They eventually opened two branch outlets and shipped up to two wagons each week to each of the stores.
The Greenbrier Milling Company began in 1901 with George Gwinn as president. The mill was constructed in 1902 and is still extant (78). In 1921 they switched to electric power.

The Woodson Mohler Grocery Company began as the Merchants Grocery Company in 1903, when it moved from Ronceverte. It was reorganized in 1910 as the Woodson Mohler Grocery Company with nine salesmen and eighteen office and warehouse employees. They added a third floor to the building in 1917. In 1923, as the Woodson Prince Company, they shipped more than 1.5 million dollars worth of merchandise. The warehouse is still extant (22).

In 1905 South Alderson expanded, incorporating the area north of the Greenbrier River and the Independent School District was formed. The Alderson Land Company incorporated and developed sixty acres of land on the north side of the river. In 1905 they sold eighty-eight lots and another twenty-five in 1906. These were sold through auction. The remaining lots of the development were sold through real estate agents. This was called Riverview Addition.

Of primary importance to all growing communities is the existence of banking facilities. This was true in Alderson as well. In 1881 Alderson was incorporated and had a population of five hundred. The first bank to be chartered was the Greenbrier Valley Bank in 1884 with the principal organizer being James E. Mann. The Mann family is familiar to historians of southern West Virginia for their contribution to the coal industry and the financial institutions that served it. James and his brother, Matthew, were the first cashier and president of the bank respectively. L.E. Johnson, who was raised in Alderson, became the assistant cashier in 1893. Under Criterion B, Alderson is significant for its association with these individuals and in particular their brother, Isaac T. Mann. In 1885 I.T. Mann was employed as a teller and the bank moved in to its new building constructed by Capt. Sheppard (87). I.T. Mann is one of the most-significant persons associated with the history of Alderson. He would later go on to fame as the cashier of the Bank of Bramwell in 1889. Here he amassed a fortune in coal holdings and influenced the development of the
southern coal field region of West Virginia. The Bank of Bramwell became the largest state bank in West Virginia. Under his coal holding businesses he formed the IT Mann Company and founded the town of Itman. He was president of a number of coal companies and on the boards of numerous banks. All through his career he remained active in Alderson through his association with the First National Bank of Alderson (23), successor to the Greenbrier Valley Bank. He was vice president of that institution when it was first formed in 1909.

Two of Isaac Mann's brothers followed him in to the Greenbrier Valley Bank, then in to the coal fields of Mercer County as presidents of the First National Bank of Bluefield. They were James E. Mann and Edwin Mann. Both of these were presidents and officers of the Greenbrier Valley Bank and its successor, the First National bank of Alderson (23). James Mann's residence, constructed in 1877, is extant, site no. 30.

The second major bank in town was the Bank of Alderson. This was chartered in 1891 and opened in the first floor of the Monroe House. In 1898 they constructed a new structure on the corner of South Monroe and Railroad Avenue (23). This was also constructed by Capt. Sheppard. The bank dissolved in 1901 and reorganized. They subsequently merged with the Greenbrier Valley Bank in 1909 to form the First National Bank of Alderson.

As rival to this institution, the Alderson National Bank was organized that same year. They occupied a portion of the Hogsett store in north Alderson and primarily catered to that area and to rural customers. They constructed a new building in 1910 using H.A. Kidd and Bros., contractors from Covington, Virginia. On the third floor of the bank building was located the Jarrett Massey Hall. This building is still extant (37).

Both banks survived until the Depression, when the Alderson National Bank failed in 1931 amidst rumors of impropriety and the suicide of O.D. Massey, its president. The First National Bank survived.
L.E. Johnson, mentioned previously, was an influential individual in the economic development of Alderson. Born in 1860 in a nearby community, he was raised and educated in Alderson. He began his career by founding the Haynes and Johnson Hardware store in 1883. He was later a partner in the Johnson and Gwinn Hardware store (24) holding his interest in the store until his death in 1948. In 1893 he became assistant cashier of the Greenbrier Valley Bank. He was president of the bank from 1900 until 1909 when it merged with the First National to become the First National Bank of Alderson. He maintained his presidency of the bank until his death. He was also a Director of the Federal Reserve Bank at Richmond for 21 years, President of the Greenbrier Milling Company for a number of years, and was the first President of the Alderson Chamber of Commerce. He held other positions with the City Council, the Board of Education, and the West Virginia 50-year Banker's Club. He devoted his business life to Alderson and died there on December 2, 1948.

Under Criterion A, Alderson is significant for its association with the development of the transportation industry, notably the C&O Railway. Alderson was just a small town until the railroad was constructed connecting the eastern coast to the Ohio River at Huntington. The influence of the railroad cannot be overstated. By 1877 express shipments through Alderson were the largest in all of West Virginia with the exception of Charleston and Huntington. In 1876 twelve million pounds of freight was shipped. That year they also constructed livestock facilities in west Alderson. By the 1880's they were shipping thousands of sheep and cattle per shipment. There also was a separate freight yard for timber ties, lumber, tanbark and other goods. Tanbark was the largest commodity shipped. By 1890 six crews were shipping up to 60 cords per day. The telegraph tower was constructed in 1880 and the water tank in the 1870's. Because of the quantity of freight it was necessary to construct a side track for loading in 1882. This allowed trains to be loaded and still kept the main line clear for traffic. By 1904 there were fourteen sidings in town. A one and a half mile long parallel track was installed in 1888 and extended to Pence Springs in 1892. The new depot was constructed in 1896. There was no new construction following 1903 and a
gradual decline in service and activity following the 1930's. The freight yard was out of service in 1930 and the freight depot demolished in the 1950's. The passenger depot is still extant (116) and there is still passenger service into and out of Alderson.

The Alderson family has always been associated with the development and success of Alderson as a center of commerce, banking, and education. Elder John Alderson Jr. was born in 1738. He explored portions of western Virginia, in Kanawha and Greenbrier Counties. Following these excursions he found religion and became the pastor of his father's church in 1775. In 1777 he moved to the Alderson vicinity, to bring religion to the western frontier. Here he settled and patented 1180 acres and took to farming and preaching.

Elder John, Jr., founded the Greenbrier Baptist Church in 1781, the first in southwestern Virginia. The church grew and in 1791 had over 36 members. By 1784 a meeting house was constructed on the north side of the Greenbrier River on land donated by William Morris. He also formed eight other churches in western Virginia between 1792 and 1807. In 1801 he helped form the Greenbrier Baptist Association. He worked at preaching the Lord's word until his death in 1821.

Other members of the Alderson family were also instrumental in the development of this area. James C. Alderson, son of "Kanawha" George Alderson, Sr. and grandson of Elder John Alderson, was ordained minister of the Greenbrier Church in 1830. Lewis A. Alderson was the son of Joseph Alderson and grandson of Elder John Alderson. He was born in 1812. In 1833 he studied theology in Williamsburg, Virginia and returned to preach in Union, West Virginia and Greenbrier Church in Alderson. He also headed the Academy in Union and eventually moved to Kansas in 1858 to organize the first Baptist Church in that territory.

A son of Squire George Alderson, Bernard C. his sister Emma, and J.C. Killian, a minister, founded the Alderson Baptist Academy in 1901 and John M. Alderson was the first president of that insti-
Other prominent Aldersons include Joseph N. Alderson Sr. who began the J. N. Alderson Clothing Store and resided at 205 South Monroe Street (27). His son Joseph N. Alderson who was born in the residence was a prominent banker in the community and was Post Master in 1914. He also was state administrator of the WPA in 1937 to 1947. He resided at 207 Wickham (153). The current Alderson's store was begun by John M. Alderson when he purchased the Grange building in 1888 after retiring from the railroad. His son and grandson subsequently continued the business including the current facility constructed in 1931 (26). John M. Alderson II resided at 103 N. Monroe St. (2).

Alderson is significant under Criterion A for its contribution to the educational facilities in the state. In its early history it was a center of academic activity.

The first schools were held in residences. Miss Patty Alderson conducted one in 1811 in the residence of Joseph Alderson. In 1830 John, "River Jack", Alderson had a school in his residence which was subsequently moved to the mouth of Wolf Creek. The Palestine Academy began in 1850 in north Alderson in the vicinity of the Baptist Church and closed during the Civil War.

The Cottage Home School, the only all girl finishing school ever to open in Alderson, originated in September of 1887 in the home of Sarah Elizabeth Converse. The school had an original enrollment of just under twenty students. Some local girls attended but the majority were boarders with Miss Converse. By the time the school closed in 1891, there were three teachers other then Miss Converse and a student body of twenty five.

The Greenbrier Male and Female Seminary was established in 1885 across from the Baptist Church by Professor B.E. Goode with fifty students attending. It operated until 1894.

One of the largest and most prominent of the schools in Alderson
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was the Alleghany (sic) Collegiate Institute, ACI. It was both privately and church owned in its life and associated with the Methodist Church. It opened in 1888 under Professor James C. Dolly. The buildings, one of which is extant (137), were constructed in 1889 and designed by local druggist Frank Follansbee. The boarding house burned in 1893 and was reconstructed in 1894. In 1897 the school offered a Bachelor of Arts degree. In 1899 the Methodist endorsed the school and purchased it in 1902. They introduced military training to the curriculum in 1904 for a brief period, then resumed in 1909 until the school's closure in 1925. There were one hundred and twelve students in 1908.

The second major institution was the Alderson Baptist Academy and Junior College, established in 1901 as the Alderson Academy in a building purchased from J.G. Alderson. They had one hundred students. In 1911 they became the Alderson Baptist Academy and added a gymnasium in 1914. The new building, extant though not within the historic district boundaries, was constructed in 1921 and the school continued until it merged and relocated to Philippi, West Virginia to become Alderson-Broaddus College in 1932. The Alderson site became the Armstrong Junior College and operated until 1935.

Under Criterion C, Alderson is significant for its association with noted West Virginia architect, Walter Frederic Martens. Martens was born in 1889 and completed numerous commissions in West Virginia. His offices were located in Charleston. He designed many churches, more than eighty, as well as buildings on the campus of Davis and Elkins College in Elkins. He also assisted in the design of Charleston's Civic Center, a fine Art Deco Style structure. He designed the current Governor's residence in Charleston, constructed in 1925. He was president of the National Council of Registered Architects and a fellow in the American Institute of Architects. In addition, he was a board member of Alderson-Broaddus College. This last association was probably responsible for his activity in Alderson. Here he was responsible for the design of the City Hall building (25) 1939, Alderson's Clothing Store (26) 1931, the Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church (3) 1922 the Alderson Presbyterian Church (28) 1927, and
the Old Greenbrier Baptist Church (20), 1928.

The buildings in Alderson encompass a large collection of Martens' work and exhibit the breadth of his work, spanning almost twenty years and various architectural styles. The Alderson's Clothing Store (26) 1931, is a good example of a stylized Neo Classical Revival structure with Art Deco influences. It is a one-story commercial building with an Indiana limestone facade. The facade is divided into three bays by stone pilasters with fluting. The pilasters are topped with stylized carved capitals in geometric motifs. There is a curved urn atop each of the capitals. The wide frieze area above the storefront is crested with a wave pattern molding. Atop this there is a stepped parapet with the name "ALDERSONS". On the interior the design is continued with built-in display counters and racks that have inlaid walnut geometric motifs.

The City Hall building (25) 1939, is a good example of the simplified Art Deco Style. The building facade is brick with limestone horizontal bands. The front elevation is stepped in massing and has a stepped stone central section with vertical projections. One of the more interesting features is the applied metal lettering in an Art Deco Style.

The Alderson Presbyterian Church, (28), 1927, is a good example of the Gothic Revival Style. It has a heavy rusticated coursed ashlar stone veneer, steeply pitched gable roof, stepped buttresses, and pointed arched windows and door openings.

The Johnson Memorial United Methodist Church, (3), 1922, is a Classical Revival building. It is a brick facade building with a large stone entrance portico. The portico has four Doric columns supporting a pedimented entablature. The entablature has modillions. The entrance doors are surrounded with stone pediments.

As can be seen, Martens was fluent in many vocabularies of architecture and the work in Alderson is a good example of his career.

Other architects or designers and contractors who were influen-
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Initial in Alderson's development include Captain Sheppard and Clark E. Ellis. Captain Sheppard has been mentioned already. He operated the brick yard and constructed many of the commercial buildings in downtown Alderson. The Greenbrier Valley Bank building (77) and the First National Bank building (23) are two of his more substantial works.

Clark E. Ellis was a prominent contractor in Alderson's history. He concentrated predominantly in the post 1900 period and on residential structures. He is credited with constructing twenty-nine residences in town. Many of the prominent Queen Anne and Four Square houses on Riverview can be attributed to him.

Under Criterion C, Alderson is significant for its association with the engineering feat of constructing the Alderson Memorial Bridge and for its association with noted West Virginia engineer, Frank Duff McEnteer and the Concrete Steel Bridge Company. Prior to the construction of the first metal bridge over the Greenbrier River, crossing the river was accomplished at Alderson's Ferry, about 100 yards upstream from the current bridge. Elder John Alderson established the ferry in 1789 by legislative grant. This ferry was recognized as the official crossing and no bridge was required when Indian Draft Turnpike was incorporated to connect to the Red Sulphur and Blue Sulphur Turnpike in 1838. There were few roads early on and they connected to Lewisburg and to the north. South of Alderson there were no roads other than those crossing at the ferry.

The first bridge was constructed in 1881 when the two counties shared the cost of an iron bridge built by the Pittsburgh Bridge Company. The contract between the Concrete Steel Bridge Company and the town of Alderson for construction of the new concrete arch bridge was entered on October 30, 1914.

Frank Duff McEnteer was born in 1882 in Reynoldsville, Pennsylvania. After attending various schools he graduated from Harvard with the intent of becoming a mining engineer. Due to a shortage of jobs he worked in the construction field, which eventually brought him to Clarksburg, West Virginia in 1911 to work on the
Palace Furniture building. Here he began his work with structural reinforced concrete. Forming a partnership with P.M. Harrison, a representative of the York Bridge Company, he supervised the construction of the Fourth Street Bridge in Clarksburg, designed by the Luten Bridge Company.

He and Harrison formed the Concrete Steel Bridge Company in 1914 and embarked on a career of concrete bridge building throughout the region. They specialized in reinforced concrete bridges and built over 1000 in West Virginia, both large and small. The company dissolved in 1931.

McEnteer then worked for the West Virginia State Road Commission and the firm of Johnson, Piper and Drake in the Middle East during the Second World War. Following the war, he returned to West Virginia as a consultant until his death in 1957.

McEnteer was a pioneer in the new field of structural reinforced concrete construction. Prior to the 20th century, concrete existed, but had not been extensively exploited in conjunction with the tensile strength that steel could provide. With this new composite material McEnteer could design graceful, functional structures. His work on the Alderson Bridge is an example of one type of design with massive earth filled arches and multiple spans. Although massive, it was also flowing and smooth.

Under Criterion C, Alderson is also significant for its examples of many of the architectural styles of the mid to late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. There are good examples of many of the popular architectural motifs. The already mentioned Martens' work exhibits three styles alone, Neo Classical Revival, Art Deco, and Gothic Revival. In commercial buildings on Railroad Avenue, there are good examples of the Italianate Style of commercial architecture. The Greenbrier Valley Bank building, (77), 1885, is a good example of the Italianate Style of commercial architecture. It is two-stories with a brick facade. There is a large pressed metal cornice with brackets and garland swags. Over the windows there are also decorative metal hoods.
The Wolf Creek Printery building, (94), ca. 1930, is an example of a commercial building with late Colonial Revival elements. It has a rusticated stone facade and a metal side gable roof that resembles barrel tiles.

The Greenbrier Baptist Church, (20), 1928-1934, is a good example of the Romanesque Style of architecture prevalent for religious structures in that time period. It is a rough faced stone building with a broad, large roof and a crenelated entrance/bell tower.

The residential buildings in the district also exhibit many of the architectural styles of their period. Some of the more elaborate are located on Riverview Avenue. One of the best examples of the Queen Anne Style is 407 Riverview, (50), ca. 1905. This is a one-story, German sided residence with a wraparound porch. The notable feature of the house is the bell shaped roof on the corner turret and the three sided bay on the front elevation.

208 Wickham Street, (151), ca. 1925, is a good Bungalow Style residence. It is two stories with a broad side gable roof that has an oversized gable dormer on the front. The front porch has a gable roof as well. On the side elevation is a three sided projecting bay. The porch posts are battered and the gable ends have half-timbering.

202 Greenbrier Street, (122), ca. 1880, is an interesting building. It originally was the carriage house for the Mann home. It is currently a residence. It is one-story tall with a shallow hip roof and Ionic columns supporting the front porch. It is Greek Revival Style.

The old ACI building, (137), 1894, is a good example of the Second Empire Style.

The row of houses on Chestnut Street, 100 (154), 1928, 102 (156), 1905, and 200 (157), 1900, are good examples of Colonial Revival, Four Square, and early Colonial Revival respectively. (157) is particularly interesting with paneled pilasters as corner boards,
shingled battered hip roof dormers, and a port hole window on the third level with keystones.

In all, Alderson is an excellent resource for displaying the popular architectural styles of the period. This is particularly true of the residential styles.

Under Criterion C, Alderson is significant for its association with the development of standardized designs and construction for industrial structures, namely the railroad. The depot at Alderson is a perfect extant example of the small, one-story, wood frame depots that were popular in the 1890-1920 period. These designs were fairly standardized by the railroads and constructed throughout the region. In fact, they were standardized throughout the country and utilized by various railroads, not just the C&O. In 1893 Richard Berg published a book entitled "American Railway Structures." This illustrated many of the structures in use at the time. As a result new construction on railroads following Berg's publication used his illustrations as standards for designs. This began the standardized design of railroad structures. The C&O's designs no. 1, 2, and 3 of 1892 were the same as those on the Wabash and other lines. Alderson's depot, constructed in 1896, is one of the most common designs adapted by the C&O of the period. It was first used in 1890 in Waynesboro and continued in use as late as 1914, though modified through the elimination of some ornamentation in 1908. The vertical battens over the board siding, the diagonal wainscoting, the projecting three sided bay in the center of the front and rear elevations, the large roof overhang, the exposed rafters and roof brackets, the decorative brackets and purlin work on the gable ends of the depot, and the paneled or cross buck doors in the freight rooms are all elements of this design that were imitated throughout the country. The Alderson depot was constructed in 1895 and enlarged with an addition in 1924.

In all, the Alderson Historic District reflects the development of the county and region and is significant for its contribution to the development of the state through the engineering work of Frank Duff McEnteer and the architecture of Walter Frederic
Martens. It is also significant to the state for its association with the development of the railroad industry in the state and the coal banking industry. Alderson also is significant to the state for its association with the development of educational institutions such as ACI and ABA which influenced much of West Virginia's learning institutions today.
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Verbal Boundary Description:

The historic district boundaries are those delineated on the accompanying sketch maps marked Alderson Historic District, North Alderson and South Alderson dated April 1993.

Boundary Justification:

The boundaries are determined by the following: On the south the hillside behind Hill Street forms a natural boundary for the district. To the east, in south Alderson, the boundary is determined by the end of the built environment along the railroad tracks. On the west of south Alderson, the boundary is determined by the new concrete bridge. To the west of this is much vacant property and non-contributing sites. In north Alderson the western boundary is determined by the west property line of 404 Riverview. To the west of this property the sites are not in the period of significance or have lost integrity. The boundary follows the alley to the north of Riverview in order to include properties that front on Riverview. Properties to the north of the alley are predominantly out of the period of significance of the district, mostly 1945-1955 residences, or have been modified substantially. On the east end of the north Alderson portion of the district, the boundary is determined by the bend in the road that delineates the end of town. Though this is not technically the corporate limits, the built environment is of a different nature and period of development. The Camp Greenbrier for Boys is included in the district. The boundaries then follow the rear of property lines of properties that front on North Monroe Street. These are predominantly the significant sites that are associated with the period of development of the district. To the east and west of these properties the sites are predominantly of a later period of development. The northern boundary at the top of North Monroe Street is determined by the preponderance of ca. 1960 one-story tract houses.