

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Nicholas County Bank
other name/site number:

2. Location

street & number: 800 Main Street not for publication: N/A
city/town: Summersville vicinity: N/A
state: WV county: Nicholas code: 067 zip code: 26651

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Susan M. Perce Oct. 2, 2000
Signature of Certifying Official Date

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 Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Nicholas County Bank

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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

Nicholas County Bank

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5. Classification

| Ownership of Property | Category of Property | No. of Resources within Property | |
|---|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | contributing | noncontributing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private | <u>1</u> building(s) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-local | <input type="checkbox"/> district | <u>1</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-State | <input type="checkbox"/> site | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> sites |
| <input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal | <input type="checkbox"/> structure | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> structures |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> object | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> objects |
| | | <u>1</u> | <u>0</u> Total |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

6. Functions or Use

Historic Functions: Commerce/Financial Institution - Bank

Current Functions: Commerce/Trade/Restaurant (Basement and 1st Floor)

Commerce/Trade/Offices (2nd Floor)

7. Description

Architectural Classification: Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals/Neo-Classical Revival

Materials:

Foundation: Sandstone

Walls: Sandstone

Roof: Flat Rubber Membrane

Other: N/A

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

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

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

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

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

Criteria Considerations (Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

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 a grave.

N/A **D** a cemetery.

N/A **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.

N/A **F** a commemorative 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: 1923 - 1950

Significant Dates: 1923

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

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Significant Persons: NA

Architect/Builder: Miller, Stanley A., Architect
Janutolo, C G., Builder

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings

Survey # _____

recorded by Historic American Engineering

Record # _____

Primary location of additional data

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

Other:

Specify repository: Nicholas County HLC

616 Church Street

Summersville, WV 26651

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property : Approximately .05 acre

UTM References:

Quadrangle: Summersville, West Virginia

ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

17

513048

4236776

See continuation sheet

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form

Nicholas County Bank

Nicholas County, West Virginia Page 6

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization: Same as above date: June 30, 2000

street & number: 612 Main Street telephone: (304) 765-5716

city or town: Sutton state: WV zip code: 26601

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

name: Harold A. and Jan Sigler

street & number: 311 Chestnut Hill Road telephone: (304) 872-3557

city or town: Summersville state: WV zip code: 26651

Nicholas County Bank**1923****Contributing Building**

The Nicholas County Bank is located in downtown Summersville, Nicholas County, the county seat. It is located on the southeast corner of Main and Church Streets, fronting Main Street. This corner, urban lot is an extension of the courthouse square, the courthouse being located across Church Street from the bank.

The bank was built in 1923 by builder C. G. Janutolo, Fayetteville, West Virginia and designed by architect A. Stanley Miller of New York. It is a two-story, stone, Neo-Classical Revival Style building with a rectangular plan, a flat roof, and a one-story entrance portico. The foundation and façade of the building are native Lower Gilbert coarse sandstone from one of the local quarries in the surrounding area. The stone is in a running bond, single stretcher pattern with white and gray grapevine joints. This building is one of four in downtown Summersville built from this locally quarried stone during the same time period. The four buildings made of this native stone include: Nicholas County Bank, Farmers and Merchants Bank, Nicholas County Courthouse, and "Old Main", the former Nicholas County High School.

According to the 1921 West Virginia Geological Survey of Nicholas County, Lower Gilbert Sandstone, named from its exposure along the Guyandot River at Gilbert, Mingo County, is a massive, coarse-grained stratum, gray or light-brown in color, weathering to a pale-pink. The cleavage and joint-planes are somewhat irregular in buildings built of this stone, and the stone is very hard and resistant to erosion. There were several quarries surrounding the town of Summersville in the early 1900's that quarried the Lower Gilbert Sandstone, and the four major buildings referred to above are the remaining ones in the town of Summersville.

This large, rectangular building is approximately 40'0" wide and 60'0" long, consisting of three bays on the front elevation and five bays on the side elevation. The center bay contains a one-story, flat roofed, entrance portico on the first floor. The portico and the roof have paneled cement "cast stone" balustrades. The portico has Doric columns supporting a plain entablature. There is a metal frieze and cornice on the main building with applied metal and wood letters that read "NICHOLAS COUNTY BANK", in the frieze on the front and side elevations. There are wood framed double entrance doors with leaded glass and a leaded glass transom within a stone surround that has a stone pediment and stone cornice supported by stone end brackets.

Windows on the second floor are the original vertical three over one and four over one wooden windows with smooth "cast stone" lintels and sills. On the west elevation of the second floor, there are three, centrally located sets of paired vertical three over one windows flanked by wider, vertical four over one windows on each end of the elevation. On the east elevation of the second floor, there are three sets of paired three over one wood windows with a single three over one wood window on the northeast end of that elevation. The rear, south, elevation also has vertical, three over one, wood windows but they are not paired. The second floor, front (north) elevation, consists of three sets of paired, wood, three over one windows. All of the windows have smooth "cast stone" lintels and sills. The original windows on the first floor on each elevation are no longer extant. They were replaced by two sets of modern metal paired one over one windows separated by a metal horizontal spandrel panel in the original opening. The existing windows are modern metal windows in the original configuration within the original openings with transoms above and hoppers below.

The interior of the full basement has been divided into several rooms and has a vault in the rear and storage space under the entrance portico. These basement rooms are constructed of modern materials not original to the building. Passage into this area is through a metal framed, double door entrance from the street in the northeast corner, accessed by concrete steps from street level. These double doors are metal with baked on enamel and sidelights made to fit within the original opening.

The interior of the first floor consists of a large open space with the original bank vault centrally located in the rear. A mezzanine level over the southeastern half of the first floor is accessed by a staircase just to the east after entering the building. The staircase to the basement as well as the staircase leading to the second floor are located in the rear, or southern end, of this level.

The second floor consists of a central corridor flanked by four (4) rooms on either side. The windows are the original, wood, three over one and four over one windows in fair condition mentioned previously. The doors are also original wood doors with transoms above. The front of the corridor contains a small sitting room with wood paneled screen and glazing. The rear, southeast corner contains two restrooms. The stairs to the first floor lobby are in the southwest corner.

Interior finishes on the second floor consist of oak picture rails at the ceiling level with oak baseboards throughout. The entrance doors to each room as well as the connecting doors are oak with transoms above. All rooms on this level as well as the hallway are plaster on lath walls and ceilings. The floors are the original oak, tongue and groove throughout.

The walls and ceilings on the first floor and mezzanine are plaster on lath. Marble wainscoting is extant in some areas on the first floor. Original marble flooring remains in the center of the floor flanked by new marbleized flooring to resemble the original. There are six large, centrally located, square support posts with marble plinths that are two stories tall.

The building is in good condition and is being rehabilitated for office and commercial space.

The Nicholas County Bank is significant under Criterion A, under Commerce, for its association with the growth and development of the town of Summersville and Nicholas County and its contribution to the banking industry. It is believed that it was the first bank and is the oldest surviving business in Nicholas County. The bank is also significant under Criterion C for its Neo-Classical Style of architecture, an uncommon style in the area and the county. It is one of four buildings in Summersville made from native Lower Gilbert Sandstone during this time period. The period of significance is the date of the construction of the building, 1923, until the fifty year period, 1950.

Nicholas County was formed in 1818 from portions of Kanawha, Randolph, and Greenbrier Counties. The county was organized at the residence of John Hamilton, a two-story log structure on a hill overlooking the crossroads now known as Kessler's Cross Lanes. Around the turn of the century, the log structure was moved and replaced by a more modern two-story house still standing in that location. The first meeting of the County Court was in the residence of John Hamilton.

The town of Summersville was incorporated in 1860 and prospered as a result of the location of the county seat of government. At this time in the development of the town, agriculture provided the economic base for the area. Businesses began to become established in the town itself to serve the needs of the town residents and the surrounding area. Typical businesses at this time included: general stores, hotels, saloons, and blacksmith shops.

In 1861, the Civil War came to Nicholas County with the battle of Cross Lanes fought August 26, resulting in a victory for the Confederates. The second battle, at Carnifex Ferry was fought September 10, 1861. This battle was won by the Federals and was useful in holding western Virginia for the Union. During the winter of 1864, the town of Summersville was burned for an unknown reason.

After the War, reconstruction was slow. In 1884, there were only 100 residents in Summersville and agriculture was still the major economic support of the area. As the turn of the century approached and passed, Summersville grew and prospered somewhat due to the timber and coal operations developing in the area. The growth of the town of Summersville paralleled the growth of Nicholas County as can be seen by the following population figures:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Nicholas County</u> | <u>Summersville</u> |
|-------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1910 | 17,699 | 204 |
| 1921 | 20,717 | 279 |
| 1930 | 20,686 | 536 |
| 1950 | 27,696 | 1,628 |

The population of Summersville, in some instances, grew as roads were developed and coal and timber operations opened in the area. The early impeded growth can be attributed to the lack of industry, poor transportation, rough roads and no railroads.

As the population grew and the lumber industry developed, the need for a local bank to service businesses and residents became essential. Until this time, wealthy farmers and stock growers were banking in Charleston, Clarksburg, Lewisburg, Sutton and Weston, a journey that could take two or three days from this isolated community. In 1900, a group of progressive businessmen from Summersville and vicinity began organizing a local bank. On January 19, 1900, a meeting was held in the courthouse in Summersville to discuss preliminary action for an application for a Certificate of Incorporation for a bank in Summersville to be known as the "Nicholas County Bank." Present at this initial meeting were: John A. Huff, A.J. Horan, J.F. Legg, L.J. Huffman, James A. Mearns, Robert H. Hamilton, James F. Pettigrew, Frank Graves, and H.H. Howard, prominent leaders and politicians of this community.

Application for charter was made on February 8, 1900, and on that date the Certificate of Incorporation was granted to form the Nicholas County Bank. The bank was formed with a capital stock of \$25,000 raised by the incorporators named above, and had the distinction of being the first bank in Nicholas County, as well as the first bank in Summersville. Two other banks followed after several years: the Farmers and Merchants Bank in Summersville, and the Cherry River National Bank in Richwood both built ca. 1917.

On April 17, 1900, a meeting for the organization of the Nicholas County Bank was held in the Grand Jury Room in the Courthouse and F.D. Herold, W.D. Huff, A.W. Bobbitt, W.G. Graves, John A. Huff, George H. Alderson, James F. Pettigrew, Robert H. Hamilton, and Joseph E. Rader were elected Directors. John A. Huff was elected President; George H. Alderson, Vice-President; and H.H. Howard, Cashier. Three of these bank directors have noteworthy contributions to the development of the county and the town of Summersville: W.D. Huff was a member of the House of Delegates in the Legislature in 1905; Robert H. Hamilton was a descendant of John Hamilton, one of the first pioneer settlers of the county. John Hamilton was a wealthy landowner who donated 30 acres for the establishment of the town of Summersville and one acre for the construction of the courthouse; A.W. Bobbitt served two terms as sheriff of Nicholas County.

In the ensuing months, the bank officials began the task of locating a place for operation and the necessary equipment, and on August 20, 1900, the Nicholas County Bank opened for business. The first location of the bank was in the two front rooms of the John A. Huff Building on Main Street in Summersville, paying rent of \$72 per year.

In January of 1904, H.W. Herold, K.B. McCue, and David McQueen were appointed as the committee to select and obtain a suitable site for the construction of a building for the bank. A special meeting of the stockholders was held to present the committee's findings and decide on a suitable site. The committee reported the selection of a lot on Main Street at the intersection of Church Street, owned by John A. Grose, available for \$450. The site was approved by the stockholders and authority was given for the purchase of the lot. Committees were formed to obtain and prepare specifications for the new building and a building committee was also formed. The contract for the erection of the new building was given to G.W. Vredenberg in July of 1905 for the price of \$3,800 to be constructed of molded concrete block. This building was occupied by the bank in 1907.

As the town of Summersville grew in the following years, the need for a larger bank became apparent and at a January meeting of the stockholders in 1922, the decision was made to erect a new building made of

native stone. Adjoining real estate was acquired for the relocation of the concrete block building and to accommodate the larger size of the new building. The building committee hired architect A. Stanley Miller of New York to furnish plans and specifications for the construction of the new building. It was unusual for such a small rural county seat to have a high style building designed by an out-of-state architect. The building itself is not a typical style in the county except for the larger buildings like the former Nicholas County High School, "Old Main" and the county courthouse. C. G. Janutolo and Company of Fayetteville was awarded the contract for relocation of the old building and erection of the new one. W. H. Campbell of Summersville and W. A. Hamilton of Richwood were awarded contracts respectively for the electrical and plumbing necessary for the new building. After completion in 1923, the new building was occupied by the bank and opened for business.

The bank operated in this building until December 2, 1976, when they built a new, modern structure further west on Main Street and sold the existing building to Peerless Eagle Coal Company for office space. Peerless owned the building until May 6, 1999, when it was sold to Harold A. and Jan Sigler, the current owners.

The Nicholas County Bank is significant for the use of native, Lower Gilbert Sandstone in the construction of the building. This type of stone, named for an outcropping along the Guyandot River at Gilbert, Mingo County, was found in abundance in and around the Town of Summersville. Quarries for the harvest of the stone were located less than a mile north, south, east and west of the town. It was used in four major buildings in town: The Nicholas County Bank, the Nicholas County Courthouse, Farmers and Merchants Bank, and the former Nicholas County High School, locally known as "Old Main." The pale-pink color and irregular joint planes are characteristic of the Lower Gilbert Sandstone. The combination of the stone used for the construction and the architectural style depicted the solidity and growth of major public and private institutions in the county. It is for this perceived "solid" character that the stone was used and the architectural style employed.

The Nicholas County Bank is also significant under Criterion C for its association with the Neo-Classical Revival style of architecture. Typical character defining elements include: full-height, central entry porch, but less than the full width of the façade, with a flat porch roof characteristic of Greek Revival; façade shows symmetrically balanced windows and center entrance door; rectangular windows with double-hung sashes, paired with multi-pane upper sash, paneled roof-line balustrades.

Summary: The Nicholas County Bank is significant under Criterion A for its association with the growth and development of the town of Summersville and Nicholas County and its commerce. Being the first bank in the county as well as the first bank in Summersville, illustrates this growth and development as well as an initial contribution to the commercial banking industry. The Nicholas County Bank is also significant under Criterion C for architecture and for construction of stone quarried in the immediate area. The Neo-Classical Revival style that it represents is not typical of the architecture in the area and serves to enhance the solid character of the building.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Heritage House Publishing, 1991.

Brown, William Griffie, History of Nicholas County West Virginia, Richwood, West Virginia,
The News Leader, 1954.

Deeds and Court House documents at the Nicholas County Courthouse:
Summersville, West Virginia.

“Nicholas County, The Years of Achievement”: Summersville Chamber of Commerce,
The Nicholas Chronicle, West Virginia Coal Association, 1995.

Reger, David B., West Virginia Geological Survey, Nicholas County: State of West Virginia, 1921.

The Nicholas County Historical and Genealogical Society, Inc.,
Nicholas County West Virginia History 1985: Summersville, Jostens, 1985.

Nicholas County Bank

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Section 10 Page 2

NICHOLAS COUNTY BANK
NICHOLAS COUNTY, WV

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:

The north boundary of the Nicholas County Bank is Main Street and Church Street forms the boundary on the west. A deeded right of way in the back of the building is the southern boundary, and the eastern boundary is an adjoining commercial lot. The building on the lot within these boundaries is locally known as the Nicholas County Bank, in Summersville, West Virginia recorded in Deed Book 391, Page 125. Tract 1 located in the Nicholas County Courthouse.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

The boundary encompasses the building that dates from the period of significance of the property.

Date
AUG. 1998

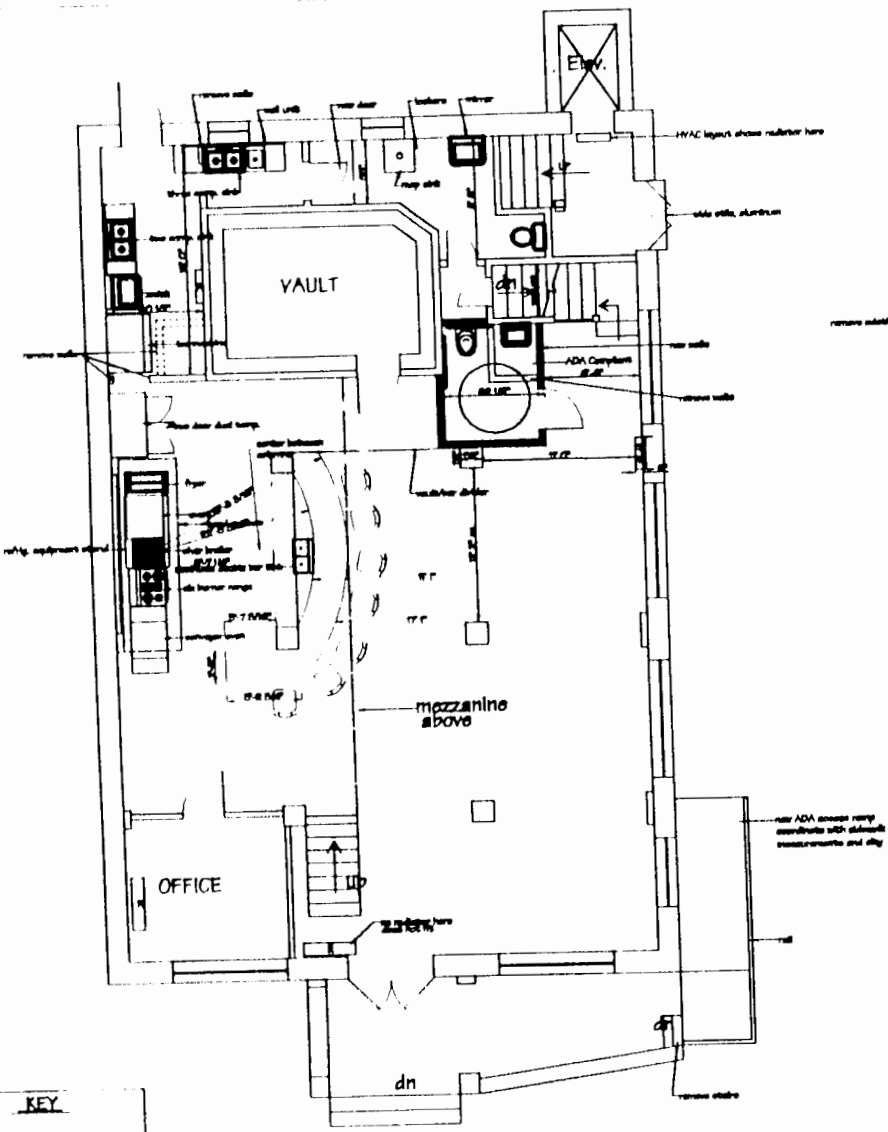
MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT
612 MAIN STREET
SUTTON, WEST VIRGINIA
(304) 766-5716

NICHOLAS COUNTY BANK
SUMMERSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

REVISED:
08/18/99
08/23/99

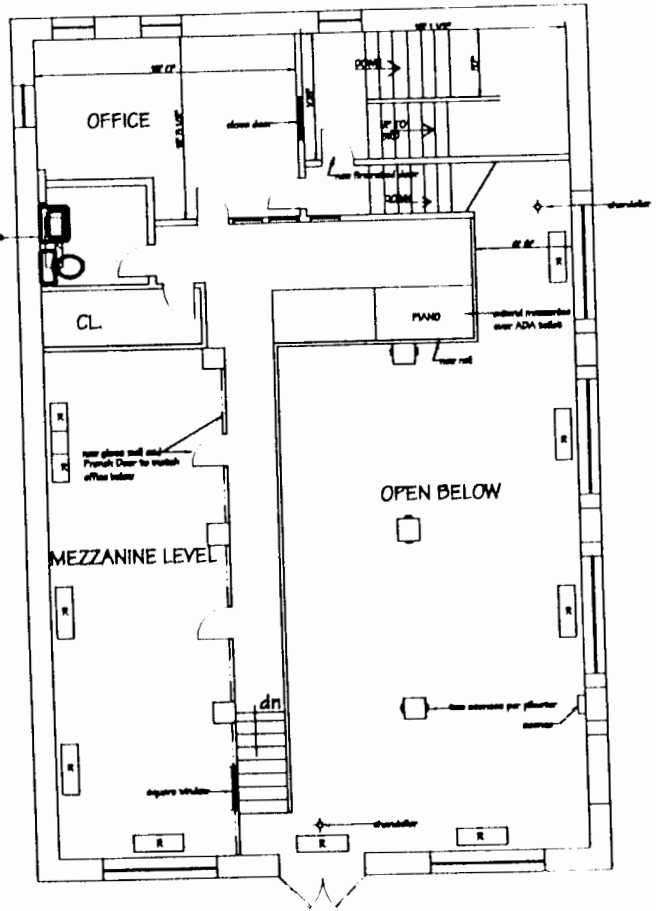
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DWG.
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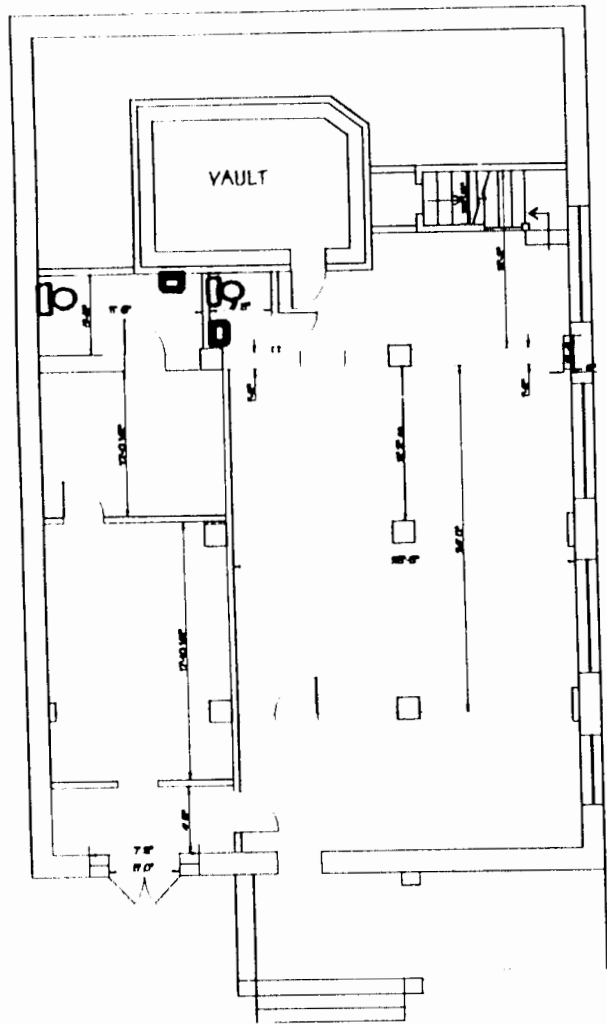
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
NOT TO SCALE

PROPOSED PLAN



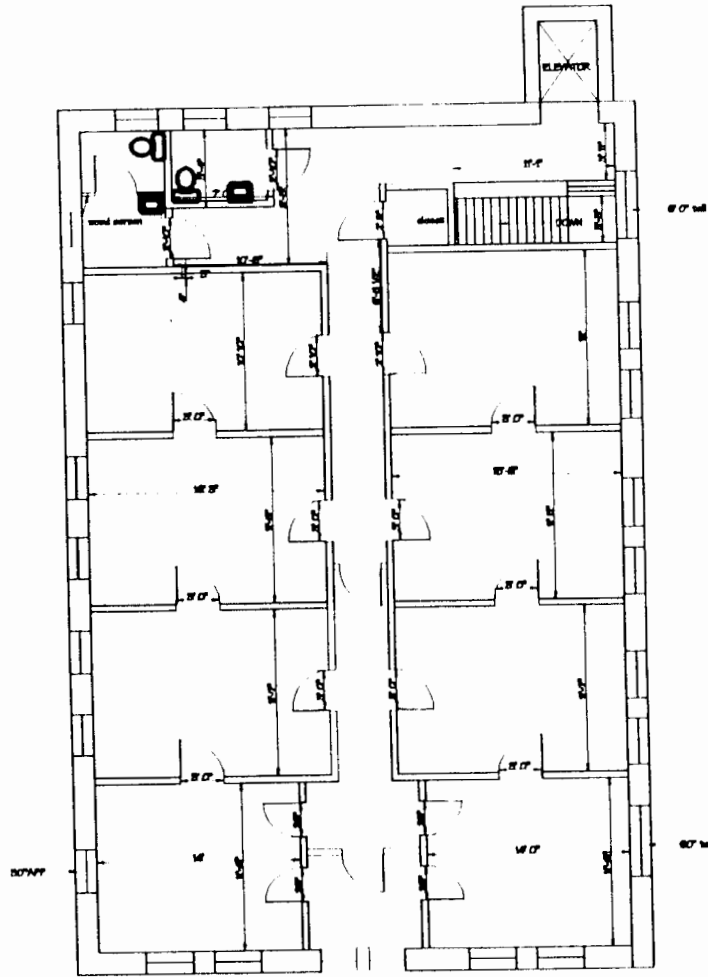
MEZZANINE FLOOR PLAN
NOT TO SCALE





BASEMENT PLAN

NOT TO SCALE



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

NOT TO SCALE

PROPOSED PLAN



Date
AUG. 1999

MICHAEL GIOULIS
HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONSULTANT
612 MAIN STREET
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(304) 766-5716

NICHOLAS COUNTY BANK
SUMMERSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA

REVISED:
08/18/99
08/23/99
09/15/99

DWG.
2 OF 2

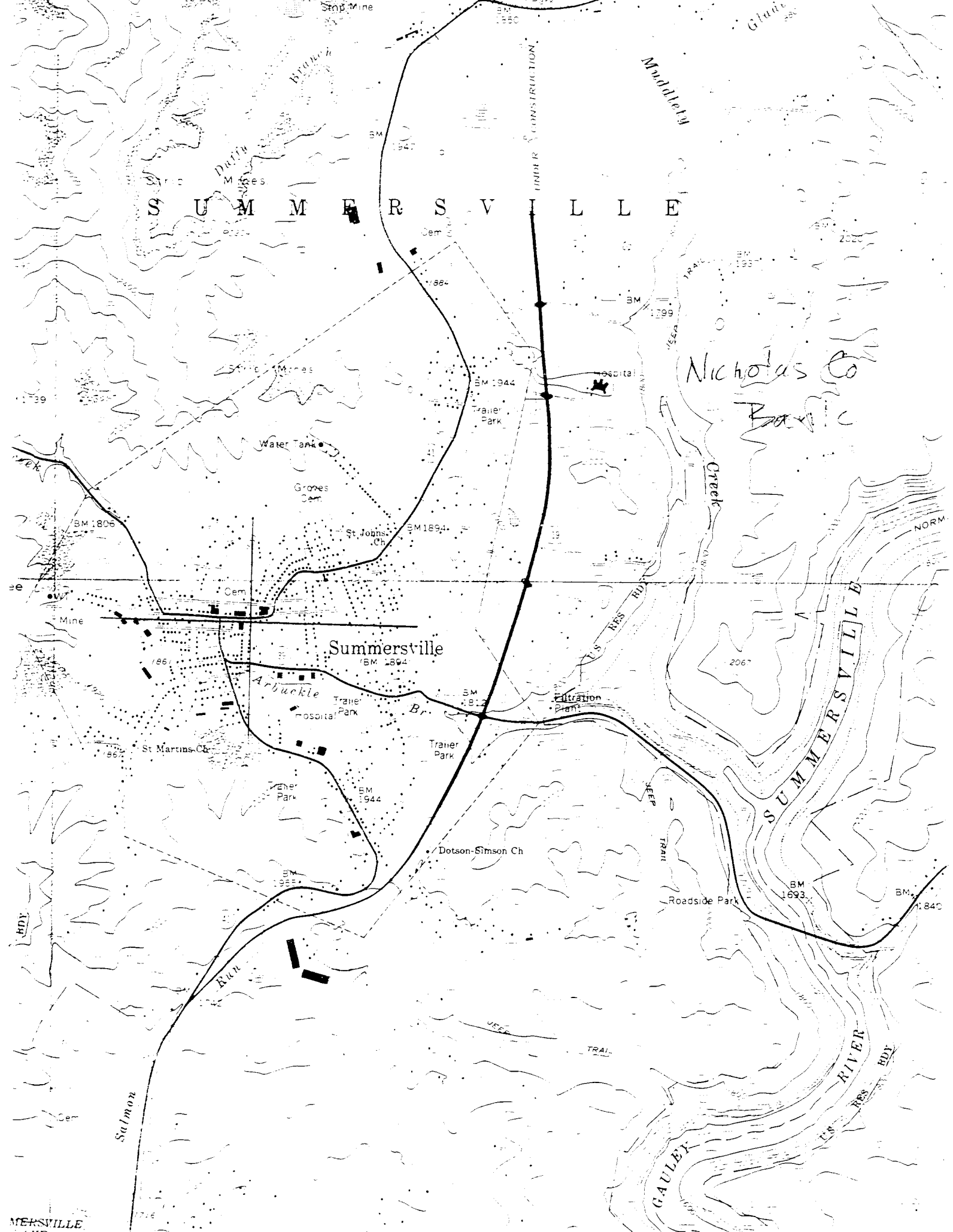
NICHOLAS COUNTY BANK

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Nicholas County Bank
Section Number: **PHOTOGRAPHS**

Nicholas County, WV
Page 1 of 1

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Name | Nicholas County Bank |
| Address | 800 Main Street |
| City | Summersville |
| County | Nicholas |
| Photographer: | Barbara Brimer |
| Date | Winter 2000 |
| Negatives: | Michael Gioulis |
| Photo 1 of 10 | Front elevation Camera looking south |
| Photo 2 of 10 | Side elevation Camera looking east |
| Photo 3 of 10 | Front and side elevations Camera looking southeast |
| Photo 4 of 10 | Side and rear elevations Camera looking northeast |
| Photo 5 of 10 | First floor interior Camera looking southeast |
| Photo 6 of 10 | Mezzanine level Camera looking south |
| Photo 7 of 10 | Mezzanine level Camera looking southwest |
| Photo 8 of 10 | Second floor interior Camera looking south |
| Photo 9 of 10 | Second floor interior Camera looking east |
| Photo 10 of 10 | First floor ceiling & support posts detail Camera looking west |



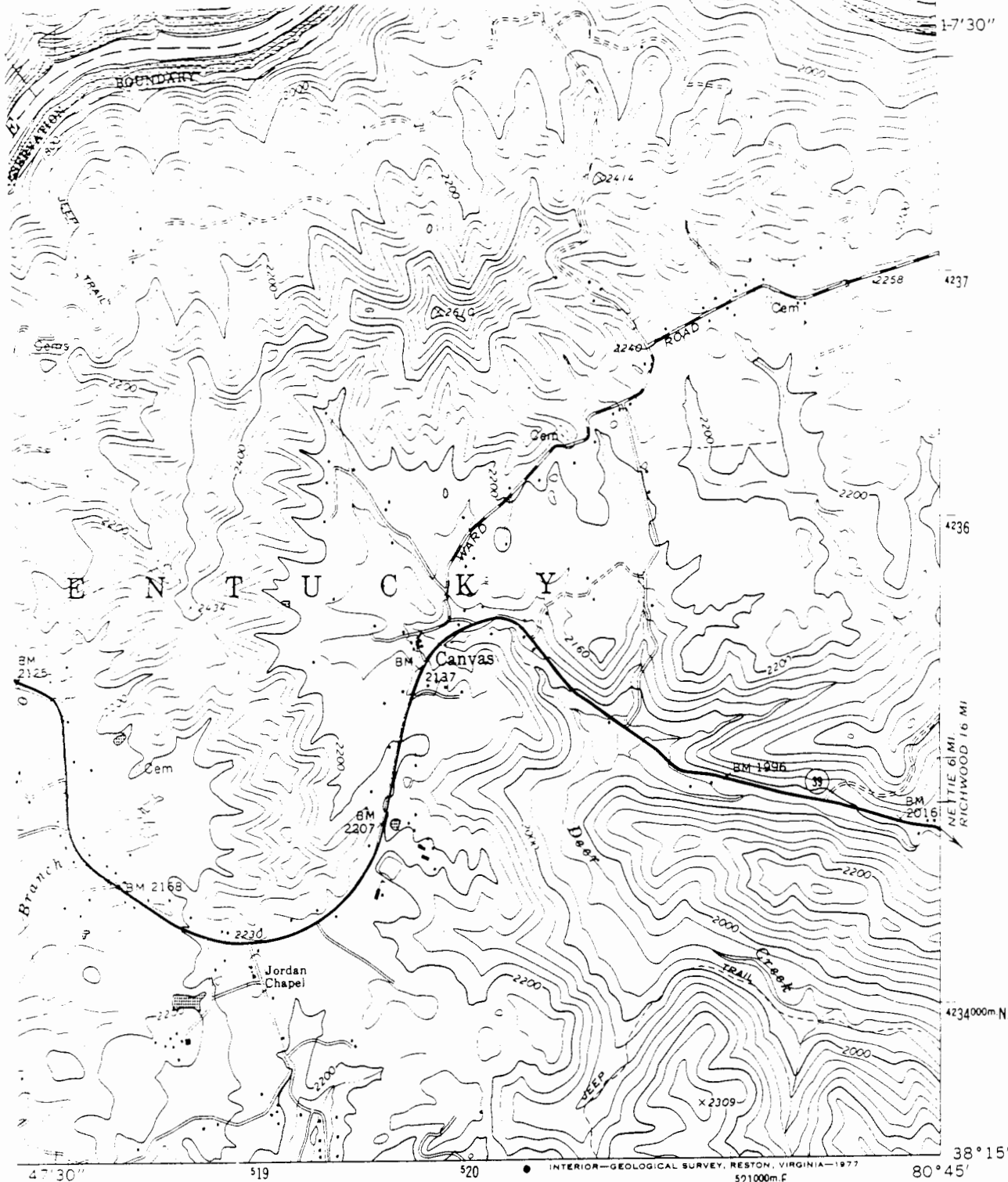
S U M M E R S V I L L E

Nicholas Co
Park

Summerville

S U M M E R S V I L L E

MEERSVILLE



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- | | | | |
|-------------|--|-----------------|--|
| Heavy-duty | | Light-duty | |
| Medium-duty | | Unimproved dirt | |
| U. S. Route | | State Route | |



SUMMERSVILLE, W. VA.
SE/4 SUMMERSVILLE 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W8045/7.5

1967
PHOTOREVISED 1976
AMS 4860 IV SE—SERIES 7854

(NETTIE)
4860 II NW

NICHOLAS COUNTY

NICHOLAS COUNTY

CORNER ST
MAIN ST

