NPS Form 10-900
(Rev. 10-90)

VLR 3/19/03
NR 5/22/03

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Luray Downtown Historic District
other names/site number VDHR file no. 159-5064

2. Location

street & number E. Main St., W. Main St., S. Court St., S. Broad St. & vicinity N/A not for publication
city or town Luray N/A vicinity
state Virginia code VA county Page code 139 zip code 22835

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

4/4/03
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria. (___ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is: Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

____ 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):

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

X private
X public-local
___ public-State
X public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

___ building(s)
X district
___ site
___ structure
___ object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
75	19	buildings
0	1	sites
1	1	structures
3	1	objects
79	22	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	*Subcategory*
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
DOMESTIC	hotel
COMMERCE	financial institution
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	restaurant
COMMERCE	warehouse
SOCIAL	meeting hall
GOVERNMENT	city hall
GOVERNMENT	fire station
GOVERNMENT	post office
GOVERNMENT	courthouse
EDUCATION	school
RELIGION	religious facility
RECREATION	theater
RECREATION	monument
INDUSTRY	manufacturing
HEALTH CARE	medical business
LANDSCAPE	park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Category	*Subcategory*
DOMESTIC	single dwelling
DOMESTIC	multiple dwelling
DOMESTIC	secondary structure
COMMERCE	business
COMMERCE	professional
COMMERCE	financial institution
COMMERCE	specialty store
COMMERCE	department store
COMMERCE	restaurant
SOCIAL	meeting hall
GOVERNMENT	city hall
GOVERNMENT	correctional facility
GOVERNMENT	post office
GOVERNMENT	courthouse
RELIGION	religious facility
RELIGION	church school
RECREATION	theater
RECREATION	monument
HEALTH CARE	medical business
LANDSCAPE	park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

(see continuation sheet)

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

(see continuation sheet)

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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:

___ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

___ B removed from its original location.

___ C a birthplace or a 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 fifty years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

COMMERCE

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

Ca. 1830-1953

Significant Dates

1831

1881

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

(see continuation sheet)

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

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:

X State Historic Preservation Office

___ Other State agency

___ Federal agency

___ Local government

___ University

___ Other

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approximately 35 acres

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

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	17	720280	4284520	3	17	721180	4282580
2	17	720970	4282640	4	17	721180	4282460

X See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	J. Daniel Pezzoni and Leslie A. Giles		
organization	Landmark Preservation Associates	date	December 1, 2002
street & number	6 Houston St.	telephone	(540) 464-5315
city or town	Lexington state VA	zip code	24450

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 the SHPO or FPO.)

name	Multiple owners; Town of Luray (contact)		
street & number	45 E. Main St.	telephone	(540) 743-5511
city or town	Luray state VA	zip code	22835

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Summary

The Luray Downtown Historic District is located in the town of Luray in Page County, Virginia. The district embraces the historic commercial core of the town, which developed after the town's establishment in 1812 along the east-west axis of Main Street. The commercial area--and the district--are bisected by Hawksbill Creek, a tributary of the South Fork of the Shenandoah River, and the downtown occupies the hillsides on each side of the creek at elevations of between 700 and 900 feet above sea level.

The district embraces approximately thirty-five acres along Main Street with short extensions along Court and Broad streets. It extends from the Norfolk Southern rail line on the east to the park-like grounds of the Mimslyn Hotel on the west. The district is densely built-up with commercial buildings and other building types dating primarily from the 1830s through the 1940s, with a few resources dating to before and after that span. The total number of resources is 101, of which seventy-nine or 78 percent are contributing, that is, they were in existence during the period of significance (ca. 1830-1953) and they possess sufficient integrity.

The commercial buildings are generally one, two, or three-story brick buildings built up to the street. The earliest surviving commercial buildings, those dating to the antebellum period, are domestic in character (in part a reflection of their dual function as dwellings) with their long dimension along the street, gable or hip roofs, and unspecialized streetfronts. Commercial buildings from the postbellum period through the mid-twentieth century are characterized by rectangular footprints with the short dimension on the street, parapeted shed roofs sloping away from the street, and specialized street elevations with storefronts with large display windows. Other historic building types include dwellings, hotels, churches, warehouses, government buildings (a courthouse, firehouse, and post office), a school, a train station, and a monument. Secondary resources such as garages, chickenhouses, and sheds are relatively few in number.

Inventory Introduction

The inventory is arranged alphabetically and numerically by street and address. Each inventory entry begins with a heading that gives the status of the resource as contributing (C) or noncontributing (N), inventory number, property address, historic or generic name, exact or approximate date(s) of construction and major modification, and Virginia Department of Historic Resources file number(s). Historic property names are usually derived from the name or names of the original owner or occupant or the original business or institutional name, and they are occasionally hyphenated to include the name of a notable later owner or occupant. Construction

Description (continued)

dates are usually derived from a combination of historic sources and architectural evidence and are occasionally preceded by "ca.", meaning *circa* or "about." The body of the entry contains architectural descriptive information followed by historic discussion. Style terminology is that used by the National Register of Historic Places. The historic discussions are typically followed by a list of sources for which full citations appear in the bibliography. Principal sources of information include Terry L. Nale's lot-by-lot history of Luray, *Historical Downtown Luray: The First 44* (ca. 1996), and I. R. Dovel Sr.'s article "The History of the Town of Luray" in *Page, The County of Plenty* (1976), which also contains information on individual lots. Sanborn map date and function information often appears in the text but is not necessarily cited. The headings for secondary resources are preceded by letter notations--a., b., c., and so forth--following the entries for the primary resources with which the secondary resources are associated. All primary resources have district file numbers, for example: 159-5064-#; some also have previously assigned file numbers, which appear in parentheses.

Inventory

C 1. 9 S. Bank. Building. Ca. 1950. 159-5064-1.

Two-story Colonial Revival cinder-block building with a stretcher-bond brick veneer on the front (west) elevation. The metal-sheathed gable roof has lunettes (boarded up) in the end gables and in decorative front gables. The front brickwork features decorative recessed panels in the second story and buttresses in the first story. At the north end of the front are a garage bay and plate-glass windows spanned by a transom. Other features include a concrete foundation and 6/6 windows. The building was a dry cleaners in 1959 with a wash room at the south end.

N 2. 1 N. Broad. McKay's Pharmacy. 1968. 159-5064-2.

One-story Colonial Revival building of stretcher-bond brick veneer (probably over cinder block). The corner at Main and Broad has a recessed entry porch with a brick corner pillar, projecting multipane shop windows under asphalt-shingled mansards, and a pedimented entry. Similar basement-level storefronts face onto a parking lot at the rear (north side) of the building. Other features include the pharmacist's Rx symbol and a mortar and pestle rendered in projecting brick on the Main Street elevation and a small brick terrace at the corner of Main and Broad.

McKay's was established in 1887 as Grove & McKay by Dr. Frank Grove and H. R. McKay. The store became a Rexall franchise in 1909 and its name was changed to H. R. McKay & Son

Description (continued)

in 1930 after H. R. McKay's son William K. McKay joined the firm. Charles A. Butler became William McKay's partner in 1965 and the firm was known as McKay's Pharmacy when it built this building in 1968. Butler purchased McKay's share in 1975 and adopted the name Butler's Pharmacy. Presently offices for Aramark. The building was formerly designated 2 W. Main. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 32; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 48-49)

C 3. 21 N. Broad. Skyline Building. Ca. 1925; ca. 1950. 159-5064-3.

Two-story American-bond brick building with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The stepped front parapet has corbeling and concrete orb finials. Other features include industrial-type windows, first-story openings with modern 6/6 windows and infill, attic and foundation vents with wave-pattern metal grilles, and painted brickwork. A one-story cinder-block addition built in at least two phases extends on the south side.

In the 1920s and 1930s this building was used as the post office. It originally featured a center entry flanked by plate glass windows, with the outer two bays occupied by plate glass windows, and with transoms over all three bays. Probably soon after the present post office opened in 1938 the building was made into a warehouse. The Skyline Corporation, the principal concessionaire to the Shenandoah National Park, used the building in 1959. Skyline had an office and souvenir warehouse in the brick section and a cold storage room in the cinder block addition. Presently used as a warehouse by Aramark at 1 N. Broad. (Rod Graves; *Page News & Courier*, September 28, 1989)

C 4. 26 N. Broad. Luray Motor Company. 1935. 159-5064-4 (159-5056).

Two-story brick building of utilitarian character except for Art Deco facade piers with concrete copings that rise above the parapet level. A canopy with a stained beaded matchboard ceiling and a border of incandescent bulbs is suspended over the front entry and display windows. A one-story bow-truss service wing extends to the rear, and the second story of the front section, used originally and presently for parts storage, has awning-type steel windows.

Ford dealer E. N. Hershberger moved into this two-story brick showroom in 1935 from a former location on a nearby lot. In 1945 a complex of three buildings near the intersection of North Broad and North Alley were associated with the Luray Motor Company. Presently unoccupied. (Rod Graves; *Page News & Courier*, November 16, 1989; Page County Record of Partnership, vol. 1, p. 34)

Description (continued)

N 5. 5 S. Broad. Williams Building. 1950s. 159-5064-5.

One-story cinder block building with a textured stretcher-bond brick front. Other features include stepped front and side parapets, industrial-type windows on the north side, crude stucco on the south side, and plate glass windows and a recessed entry on the front. A Mr. Williams built this building in the 1950s (possibly in 1954) for his real estate office and rental commercial space. Early tenants included Montgomery Ward, Stan Marsh's television shop, and (in the 1960s) the Wymer jewelry store. Presently State Farm Insurance. (Bob Jenkins; Helen Wymer)

N 6. 17 S. Broad. Page News & Courier Building. 1928; 1947; 1953; ca. 1980. 159-5064-6.

Remodeled two-story American-bond brick building with a modern stretcher-bond brick veneer front elevation. The building has a concrete foundation, a rear garage door, and a three-story elevator tower to the rear. Modernizations include metal facade panels, tinted glass windows in anodized aluminum frames, and a one and two-story side addition of cinder block.

The Page News & Courier newspaper office has been at this location since about 1910. The present building appears to have been built in the 1920s and originally featured an arched front parapet. Until 1970 the paper used the hot type process, and a melting kettle stood in the building. The rear section and elevator were added in 1947, another addition was made in 1953, and the most recent remodeling appears to date to the 1980s. Presently Page News & Courier. (*Page News & Courier*, October 9 and 16, 1947, January 1, 1948, October 1, 1953, and March 12, 1992; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 320)

C 7. 20 S. Broad. Luray United Methodist Church. 1899-1900; 1932. 159-5064-7 (159-0051).

One-story Gothic Revival church of quarry-faced ashlar limestone (locally quarried) with a complex slate-shingled gable roof. The church has a corner entry tower with a battlemented top and louvered lancet-arched belfry openings. Entries and stained glass windows are lancet-arched. To the rear is a brick section with a metal-sheathed roof and a curved apsidal wall that was originally part of the 1899-1900 church that preceded the present one. Luray United Methodist built a Gothic Revival brick church on this site in 1899-1900. That church burned in November 1931, and its replacement was consecrated in November 1932. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 74-75)

C 8. 20 S. Broad. Luray Methodist Parsonage (no. 2). Ca. 1905. 159-5064-8 (159-0051).

Description (continued)

Two-story Victorian frame house with novelty vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. Two front gables have brackets and dentils in their eaves and raking cornices. The one-story wraparound porch has turned posts, a spindle frieze, a cornice like that of the house roof, and a decorative gridded railing incorporating spindles. A second tier over the side porch has the same details. To the rear are a slightly lower two-story ell with a two-tier side porch, and a one-story porch with a bracketed cornice and chamfered posts with sawn brackets. Other features include a stone foundation, an interior brick flue, 1/1 windows, peaked louvered gable vents, and a front entry with an early or original door and a transom. Sanborn maps indicate the parsonage was built between 1902 and 1907. Presently Luray United Methodist Children's Sunday School Annex and Nursery.

C 8a. 20 S. Broad. Garage. Ca. 1950.

Two-story cinder block garage entered at grade on the first level (north end) and the second level (south end). Other features include a concrete parapet coping, roll-up garage doors, and a metal-framed four-pane window.

C 9. 100 block S. Broad. Confederate Monument. 1918. 159-5064-9 (159-5045).

This marble statue of a Confederate soldier at parade rest stands on a pyramidal pedestal above an aedicula formed by four Doric columns on plinths. Marble cannonballs decorate the four corners of the aedicula, and there are sockets in its ceiling for a former four-globe electric light fixture. The monument is inscribed "1861 1865 Confederate Soldiers" and it stands in a small triangular park.

Efforts to erect a Confederate monument next to the town's passenger station began in 1911 and by 1913 the McNeel Monument Co. of Marietta, Georgia, had provided a design and a cost estimate of $3,000 (in 1918 the Marietta Marble Co. was identified as the monument's maker). Funds were appropriated in 1917 and the monument was unveiled on July 20, 1918. Maine restorer Jerry Hannebury refurbished the monument in 1989. (*Page News & Courier*, June 20 and August 1, 1913, May 4, 1917, and January 26 and May 4, 1989; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 26; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, after 350)

C 10. 102 S. Broad. Luray Post Office. 1938. 159-5064-10 (159-0059).

One-story Colonial Revival building of American-bond brick construction. The roof is hidden

Description (continued)

behind a parapet with gable-like peaks at the ends with lunette louvered vents, and panels with wood baluster-pilasters across the front (at one time the roof supported a small cupola). The facades are divided into recessed bays with corbeling at the top and quarter-round molded bricks at the base. The rear loading dock has segmental-arched openings at its ends. Other features include 12/12 and 6/9 windows, a later aluminum and glass entry, an exterior boiler flue, and a raised parking lot to the rear. In the lobby is a Works Progress Administration mural depicting Louis Ramey's blacksmith shop and other early Luray scenes. The corner stone identifies Louis A. Simon as the Supervising Architect and Neal A. Melick as the Supervising Engineer. The contractor was Albernon Blair of Montgomery, Alabama. (Booker, "U. S. Postal Service"; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 96; *Page News & Courier*, May 27 and June 10, 1993)

C 11. 9 Campbell St. Page County Record Building. 1912. 159-5064-11 (159-0023).

Two-story American-bond brick building with stepped side parapets and a shed roof. The front parapet has corbeling and dogtooth courses and a date block. The segmental-arched windows have modern 9/1 sash. Other features include a modern storefront with an asphalt-shingled mansard, a hanging second-story entry porch on the south side with sawn brackets and replacement metal supports and railing, and a one-story cinder block garage addition of triangular form to the rear.

The October 1912 Sanborn map labels this building "To be Page County Record," evidence that the building had recently been completed. An electric company may have occupied the first floor. There is a possibility that the building served at one time as an annex of the hotel that stood next door at 7 Campbell (until it burned in late 2002). In 1959 the building housed an automobile repair garage, and in 1971 Luray Electronics occupied the building. The building was damaged by a 2002 fire. Presently Domino's Pizza.

C 12. 15 Campbell St. Luray Supply Company Warehouse. 1910; 1919; and later. 159-5064-12 (159-0031).

This large brick building has an accretive form representing several phases of construction. The two-story center section of the front elevation is distinguished by elaborate brickwork. The cornice has corbeling and dogtooth courses, and the second story has a brick frame with projecting red and recessed gray header bricks creating a checkered effect, concrete accents with fleur-de-lis devices, and diapered lozenges formed with gray brick. A first-story elliptical archway now contains a recessed modern aluminum and brick window wall and has a concrete

Description (continued)

keyblock with the date 1910.

The bulk of the building is a two-story (three-story on the rear) American-bond brick warehouse that extends to the rear. The building has a corbeled cornice, segmental-arched openings with 6/6 windows and freight doors with diagonal beaded matchboard panels defined by chamfered rails and stiles, and a gable roof with modern metal sheathing (same over the front center section). Along the north side runs a one-story cinder block wing with a metal-sheathed gable roof, a concrete foundation, and industrial windows. At the two front corners of the building are one and two-story brick wings of mostly modern construction that may incorporate earlier fabric.

Construction activity on this site appears to have begun about the same time the new N&W passenger station was built across Campbell Street. An express office with a concrete block front had been erected by October 1907, a portion of which may be incorporated into the south corner wing of the present building. The center section and part of the rear warehouse were built in 1910 for the Luray Supply Company (a wholesale grocer) to a design by the Staunton architectural firm T. J. Collins & Son. Also in 1912 a foundation had been constructed along the north side of the gradually accreting building; this is probably the concrete foundation under the mid-twentieth century cinder block north addition. In August 1919 the Luray Supply Co. contracted with Heiston, Miller & Co. to erect a seventy by fifty foot three-story addition to the rear of its building. The addition was made to accommodate a "varied wholesale notion line", was to be of fireproof brick, concrete, and iron construction, and was described as the building's third enlargement. In 1959 most of the building was used for warehousing and the north addition was used by Blue Bell Inc. as a clothing warehouse. Schewel Furniture used the building in the second half of the twentieth century. Presently The Warehouse Center for the Arts and commercial tenants. (Joe Davis; Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 95; *Page News & Courier*, August 15, 1919)

C 13. 100 block Campbell St. Luray Norfolk & Western Passenger Station. 1906; 1908. 159-5064-13 (159-0024).

This one-story Queen Anne and Tudor Revival brick station was built in 1906 and remodelled in 1908 after a fire. The building has a long rectangular form aligned with the railroad tracks. The metal-sheathed hip roof has deep overhanging eaves on large curved brackets, a skylight, and cross gables with false half-timbering, pebble-dash stucco, and decorative vergeboards. Other features include a ticket office bay window, braced matchboard freight doors, and multipane windows. Brick pavers survive under asphalt around the building.

Description (continued)

The station was built in 1906 to replace an earlier depot. The present building was damaged by fire in June 1908 but it was remodeled according to the original design and returned to service in September 1908. The building's design is credited to N&W Chief Engineer Charles S. Churchill and it is similar in form and detail to depots built throughout the N&W system during the period. From the date of its construction until it was converted to freight handling about 1960, the station served as a focus of community life in Luray. The station was individually listed in the National Register in 2000 and it was rehabilitated in 2001-02. (Pezzoni, "Luray Norfolk & Western Passenger Station;" *Page, The County of Plenty*, 89, 91)

C 14. 11 S. Court. Charles and Susie Hudson House. Early 1910s. 159-5064-14.

Two-story Victorian frame house with vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof with a two-story gabled front wing. The one-story wraparound porch has Doric columns, square-section balusters, and a gable aligned with the front entry. Some 1/1 windows have decorative upper sash. The front entry has bevelled glass sidelights and transom. Other features include a brick foundation and interior flue.

Pharmacist Charles Hudson built this house soon after his marriage to Susie Elizabeth McKim in the early 1910s. Susie McKim may have operated a school in the adjoining Jordan-McKim Building at 221 W. Main. Presently Bushey & Spitler law office. (Michael Noblette)

C 15. 12 S. Court. Graves Buick Company Auto Shed. Ca. 1920. 159-5064-15.

One-story stuccoed building with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof behind a decorative parapet. The storefronts have plate glass windows, a modern entry with a transom, and later infill with a residential-type picture window. To the rear is a cinder block addition with a brick flue. Sanborn maps identify this building as an automobile shed associated with the adjacent Graves Motor Company at 16-18 S. Court. Presently Janney & Janney law office.

C 16. 13 S. Court. Noblette House. 19th c.; ca. 1910; 1940s-50s; ca. 1970. 159-5064-16.

One-story frame building with permastone and modern weatherboard siding, 6/6 windows, and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The remodeled front porch has brick supports and a solid brick railing. Three or more additions were made to the rear including a one and two-story stretcher-bond brick veneer section, a one-story cinder block wing built in two phases, and a rearmost frame office of Ranch form with aluminum siding, 1/1 windows, and a recessed entry.

Description (continued)

The building first appears at its present location identified as a carriage house on the 1912 Sanborn map. However, the 6/6 windows are earlier in character, and they are non-characteristic of carriage house construction. There is a tradition that the building originally stood on Main Street where it served as a blacksmith shop. A building of similar form stood at the adjacent site of the McKim & Huffman Pharmacy at 219 W. Main from before 1886 until the pharmacy was built in 1910. The Main Street building served as an office, a cobbler shop, a harness shop, and a wallpaper shop at various times. In the 1940s the former carriage house was occupied as a dwelling by the Noblette family, who made the cinder block rear addition in the 1940s or early 1950s. The brick-veneer addition was made in the 1950s. Presently Starr Johnson Investments and Insurance and Frank S. Horng doctor office. (Starr Johnson; Michael Noblette)

C 17. 16-18 S. Court. Graves Buick Company Showroom. Ca. 1920. 159-5064-17.

One-story concrete block building with a metal-sheathed hip-gable roof behind a decorative front parapet. The parapet is supported on concrete block pillars with concrete cove capitals. The openings between the pillars have modern vinyl infill, windows, and an entry with a transom. Casement windows run down the south side and there is a signage panel in the front parapet.

Stables for the Hotel Laurance occupied this location in the early twentieth century. The Graves Buick Company, recorded as a partnership in December 1922, operated from the present building in the 1920s. Later the building was used as a school bus garage and a printing company, and in the 1960s it was converted into law offices. The printing company was probably Dominion Publishing, which published *The Commonwealth Review* beginning in 1945. Presently Reed & Reed law office (16) and Blue Ridge Land Title Inc. (18). (Mark Reed; Page County Record of Partnership, vol. 1, p. 43; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 322)

C 18. 101 S. Court. Luray Graded and High School. 1881; ca. 1905; 1910; 1952. 159-5064-18 (159-5032).

Two-story brick building constructed in three major phases. The original 1881 section has an asphalt-shingled gable roof with an open belfry with paired arched openings (an Italianate influence), paneled wood supports, paired brackets and dentils in the cornice, and a pyramidal roof with an ogee section and a tall finial topped by a weathervane. The building's projecting center pavilion has a segmental-arched entry with a double-leaf door and transom. Segmental-arched windows are grouped in threes on the main facade and placed singly on side walls. Original windows were 6/6 sash; some on the facade were replaced in 1910 with 6/1 sash. Other

Description (continued)

features include a stone foundation, brackets and dentils in the cornice, and a ca. 1905 rear addition that doubled the building's square footage. The addition is less ornate and has a metal-sheathed gable roof and 2/2 windows.

The third major expansion (1910) resulted in the construction of the two-story brick classroom wing on the north side of the earlier sections. This wing was originally detailed similarly to the main section's front facade, with segmental-arched window and door openings, 6/1 windows, a projecting bay on the side, and brick walls over a stone foundation. A monumental pedimented portico projected from the wing's facade. Following a 1952 fire, the wing's gabled or hipped roof was replaced with a shed roof screened from the street by a parapet wall, and the monumental portico, ornate hood moldings, and other architectural details were removed from the wing.

Originally Luray Graded School, the building was built in 1881 during the initial flush of Luray's railroad prosperity. Its first expansion about 1903 coincided with the addition of a high school curriculum. In 1910 architect John H. Booten's design for a classically inspired addition was underway. The elementary grades were relocated to new schools in Luray in 1916, so that from 1916 to 1930 the building was occupied solely by Luray High School. Following completion of a new high school in 1931, the building was converted to county offices. On February 14, 1952 the building (principally the 1910 wing) was damaged by a fire, leading to the remodelling that gave the building its present appearance. (*Page News*, January 12, 1882)

N 19. 108 S. Court. Page County Jail. Ca. 1960. 159-5064-19.

Two-story Modern Movement jail with a stretcher-bond brick veneer (probably over cinder block) and a flat roof. Other features include perforated cinder block screens, mesh-covered windows, and a basement level.

N 19a. 108 S. Court. Shed. Late 20th c.

One-story metal-sided frame with an asphalt-shingled shed roof.

N 19b. 108 S. Court. Garage. Late 20th c.

One-story frame with T1-11 siding and an asphalt-shingled gable roof.

Description (continued)

C 20. 116 S. Court. Page County Courthouse. 1833; 1870; ca. 1910; 1940; 1973; 1996. 159-5064-20 (159-0004).

Two-story Early Classical Revival courthouse of Flemish-bond brick construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. As originally constructed the building had a two-story center section with one-story wings; in later years the building was enlarged on the sides and rear. The first-story front consists of an arcade that extends across the fronts of the two original wings. Moldings project at the springing points of the four center and six flanking arches, which are further ornamented with keystones. Above the arcade is a row of four 9/6 windows and a pediment with a flush-board tympanum and a lunette with radial muntins. Above the pediment is a belfry with grouped pilasters with molded caps at the corners, louvered openings, and delicate moldings in the pediments. Due to the sloping site the 1996 north addition has a two-story north elevation with a two-tier portico with round-arched openings on the second tier and jack-arched openings below. Smaller arcaded stoops shelter entries on the rear elevation. The courthouse is painted white, the color it has had since at least the early twentieth century.

The newly-created Page County government contracted with mason William B. Phillips and carpenter Malcolm F. Crawford to build its courthouse. Phillips and Crawford had worked for Thomas Jefferson at the University of Virginia, and Jefferson's brand of classicism inspired the design of the Page courthouse. The building's center section is virtually identical to the 1830 Madison County Courthouse, also built by Phillips and Crawford, and the Page belfry was duplicated for the Rappahannock County Courthouse, built by Crawford in 1834. The belfry--the court requested a "cheap and suitable steeple" in February 1833--was an afterthought. It was added to the building during construction when a bell was donated to the county by Enos McKay. The courthouse was essentially complete by the end of December 1833, but small alterations were made over the next several years. In 1870 the rear (west) gable end was extended by twenty-five feet. In 1908 (or 1910) the B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company fireproofed the Clerk's Office, which was enlarged in 1940. Luray architects Lowell B. Baughan and Frederick E. Baukhages IV designed an addition to the south side, completed by contractor George Lowell Baughan of Baughan Construction Company in 1973. Baughan & Baukhages were also the architects for the addition made on the north side in 1996. (Lowell B. Baughan; "Page County Court House;" Peters and Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, 68-71; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 22; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 142-144, 148; Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 418; *Page News & Courier*, July 30, 1953; Zirkle, "Page Courthouse history")

Description (continued)

N 20a. 116 S. Court. Page County Veterans Memorial. Late 20th c.

Set into an alcove in front of the courthouse is this memorial carved from Rock of Ages black granite by Heritage Memorials Inc. of Harrisonburg. The memorial is formed of three upright slabs and inscribed with the names of local service personnel from World War I through the Vietnam War.

N 21. 10 N. Hawksbill. House. 1910s. 159-5064-21.

Story-and-a-half frame house with vinyl and weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The one-story front porch is mostly enclosed except for one corner, which has wood posts. Other features include a concrete foundation, modern 1/1 windows, and a modern bay window and modern exterior brick flue on the south end.

C 22. 22 N. Hawksbill. Automobile Repair Garage. Ca. 1950. 159-5064-22.

One-story cinder block repair garage with a metal-sheathed gable roof with stepped parapets, industrial windows, a modern vinyl garage door, and an exterior cinder block flue. Presently used for storage.

C 23. 9 S. Hawksbill. Ca. 1910; ca. 1930. House. 159-5064-23 (159-0047).

Two-story Victorian frame house with weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof with a decorative front gable. The one-story wraparound porch has wood posts with sawn brackets and rectangular-section balusters. The porch stands on a tall stone foundation with coal chute doors that appears to be a 1920s or 1930s addition. Other features include 6/1 windows with paneled shutters with crescent moon cutouts, interior brick flues, louvered rectangular gable vents, a one-story wing on the south end, and a handmade iron gate similar to the one at 15-17 S. Hawksbill. The house was built between 1907 and 1912.

N 24. 15-17 S. Hawksbill. Ca. 1930; ca. 1980. Caroline Thomas House. 159-5064-24 (159-0047).

Remodeled two-story frame house with a full basement story, vinyl siding, 6/6 windows, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The basement has two garage bays at the south end (a reworking of a historic garage area) and multiple windows at the north end (associated with a store in

Description (continued)

1948). Other features include a hanging front porch, a stone foundation, and a terrace to the rear. The terrace retaining wall is poured concrete with false prism mortar joints to match those of the house foundation. A stair ascends from a handmade gate fashioned out of angle irons and with a decorative wrought latch. Steps in front of the gate are inlaid with blue glass forming the name Caroline Thomas and decorative patterns. The house and concrete work appear to date to the 1920s or 1930s.

N 25. 1 E. Main. Bank. Late 20th c. 159-5064-25.

Two-story Modern Movement bank with a stretcher-bond brick veneer (probably over cinder block), a flat roof, and blocky columnar massing. The southwest corner tower has a clock dial, and a terrace on the west side has planting boxes and a fountain composed of brick and concrete blocks. Other features include recessed windows with anodized aluminum pent-roof-like elements, and a basement-level parking garage. Jefferson National Bank occupied the building in the late 1990s. Presently BB&T.

C 26. 2 E. Main. Garber Building. 1933. 159-5064-26.

Two-story Art Deco building of painted stretcher and American-bond brick construction. The stepped parapets on E. Main (north side) and S. Broad (west side) are defined by projecting piers and pleated parapet panels created by stacked dogtooth brickwork. There are 2/2 windows on the north second story, 3/3 windows on the west second story, and multipane shop windows on the first story. The corner entry has a square brick pillar and a terrazzo floor with a partial compass rose pattern in green and white. At the south end is a large segmental-arched stained glass window with tan quarrels and green border panes.

Frank Garber had this building built in 1933. Garber was a Page County native who owned a number of rooming houses in Washington, D.C. at the time. His restaurant, the Hi-Way Coffee Shop, occupied the ground floor in the 1930s and 1940s. A soda fountain also occupied the first floor, and a juke box stood upstairs. The building contained Elaine's Old Fashion Ice Cream Parlor from 1983 until recently. (C. Edward Waters; Philip C. Harrell; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 72-73)

C 27. 4 E. Main. Building. 1920s. 159-5064-27.

One-story tile block building with a painted stretcher-bond brick front. Other features include

Description (continued)

stepped front and side parapets, a metal-sheathed shed roof, an interior cinder block flue, and a storefront with plate glass display windows and a recessed entry. A succession of businesses have occupied the building. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 72-73)

C 28. 10 E. Main. Mason's Department Store. 1922. 159-5064-28.

Two-story building of yellow stretcher-bond brick construction with a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The building has a wide center section with a stepped parapet flanked by narrow sections set back. The front parapet has a signage panel and attic vents with wave-pattern iron grilles. The second story is divided into two recessed bays and 9/1 and 12/1 windows. The two storefronts have plate glass windows with maroon architectural glass aprons, recessed entries, and blocked transoms. Other features include 1/1 side windows, interior brick flues, and a hanging second-story back porch with turned posts and a metal stair.

Carson G. Mason had this building built for his Mason's Department Store. In 1929 he formed a partnership with John Y. Mason to operate the business. Later occupants were the Tip Top Grocery (1942-50) and the Ben Franklin store (1950-70). The Masons moved into the upstairs in 1971. Presently The Copper Kettle antique and gift shop occupies the first floor. The second floor is used by the Lafayette 137 Masonic Lodge, the Luray Royal Arch No. 4 Chapter, the Luray No. 19 Commander, and Chapter No. 24. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 70-71; Page County Record of Partnership, vol. 1, p. 119)

C 29. 12-14 E. Main. A&P Building. Ca. 1930. 159-5064-29.

One-story American-bond brick building with lighter brick side walls. The peaked front parapet has two signage panels and conceals a composition shed roof. Two storefronts--one wide and one narrow--have plate glass display windows and recessed entries. Other features include interior brick flues and a rear garage door.

In October 1931 it was reported that L. R. Hudson and C. P. Harrell would open a five-and-dollar store (H&H Stores) in this "new store building." The Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company (A&P) chain already occupied the other half. H&H moved next door in 1941 and A&P moved out in 1954. Presently Valley Appliance Company. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 70-71)

C 29a. 12-14 E. Main. Appliance Warehouse. Ca. 1950.

Description (continued)

One-story cinder block outbuilding with a metal-sheathed gable roof, exposed rafter ends, and an interior cinder block flue.

C 30. 15 E. Main. Main Street Baptist Church. 1924-25. 159-5064-30 (159-0050).

Two-story Classical Revival church of buff stretcher-bond brick veneer over tile block with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The front portico stands on monumental fluted Ionic columns that support a stuccoed frieze and pediment with a round stained glass window in the tympanum. The wall behind the portico has receding and projecting angled planes with a tall elliptical-arched stained glass center window flanked by pedimented entries with stained glass transoms. In the wall under the center window is incorporated a large limestone block, perhaps a foundation stone from the original church at this site or a former mounting block. The side walls have elliptical-arched windows like the front center window, a painted brick frieze, and a dentil cornice (the latter extends to the portico). The stained glass is predominately marbled tan and blue. The rear portion of the building, used for offices and classrooms, has a bowed apsoidal wall and a two-story concrete basement. In the parking lot on the east side is a modern brick, metal, and plastic sign.

The Main Street Baptist congregation organized in 1844 and built a church on an adjoining lot in 1864-65 that stood into the early twentieth century. The 1860s church melded Gothic Revival and Italianate features and was topped by a belfry very similar to the one on the 1881 Luray Graded and High School at 101 S. Court. In 1911 the Luray architectural firm Mims Speake & Company prepared the plans for the present building, which was completed thirteen years later with only minor modifications. The architect's original specifications called for the building to be constructed of concrete, tile block, and light-colored brick. Installation of the memorial stained glass windows was almost complete in June 1925 and the building was dedicated on October 4, 1925. (*Page News & Courier*, September 23, 1911, June 5, 1925, and September 15, 1994; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 52-53)

C 31. 16-18 E. Main. H&H Store. 1941. 159-5064-31.

One-story Moderne building with a buff-colored glazed tile block facade. Tan glazed tile block forms stripes in the parapet and a band at the storefront apron level. The two storefronts retain their original aluminum plate glass window frames and recessed entries. Hooks survive from a former suspended metal awning. Other features include a rubber membrane shed roof, a brick rear elevation with industrial windows and an exterior brick flue, and grated cellar wells in the

Description (continued)

pavement in front of the building.

C. P. Harrell and L. Reginald Hudson opened the H&H Store variety emporium at 12 E. Main in 1931. Mr. Harrell conducted the day-to-day operations of the business and Mr. Hudson was the property owner and business partner. Business expansion led to the construction of the present building in 1941 by contractor John Heiston. Hop Baughan designed the building's interior, but the architect for the exterior is unknown. C. P. Harrell's son Philip C. Harrell joined the firm in 1960 and the store expanded to fill the entire building (Harlan's Cut Rate Store had occupied half of the building). Presently This-N-That Antiques & Collectibles, owned by Philip C. Harrell. (Philip C. Harrell; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 82; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 68-69)

C 32. 20-22 E. Main. Men's Shop. Ca. 1939. 159-5064-32.

Two-story brick building with a wide east storefront and narrower west storefront. The front parapet has corbeling, projecting piers, and a concrete coping with small projections spaced along its length. Below the corbeling are panels with a pleated effect formed by stacked dogtooth brickwork. The storefronts have plate glass windows, recessed entries, and maroon architectural glass aprons. Other features include a metal-sheathed shed roof, signage panels of lighter brickwork, 9/1 windows in the front second story, barred 6/1 windows and a small brick wing with multiple doors to the rear, and glass block cellar skylights in the pavement in front of the building.

In 1939 the building contained the Men's Shop and Sanitary Groceries (a chain grocery). Elmer Groves had the building built. The Men's Shop opened a ladies department in 1941 and in 1946 it expanded to occupy the entire street level. The Virginia Gift Shop, established in 1945, was located in the building in the 1970s. Presently Mama's Treasures. (C. Edward Waters; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 68-69; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 102)

C 33. 24 E. Main. Center Market Building. 1920s. 159-5064-33.

Two-story building of painted stretcher-bond brick with a metal-sheathed gable roof with stepped front and rear parapets. The front brickwork is textured and has a projecting soldier-course band. The storefront has a dentil cornice, plate glass windows, and a recessed entry. To the rear are segmental-arched windows and a modern one-story frame addition with novelty vinyl siding. The building steps back on its east side. Other features include an exterior brick flue and modern 9/1

Description (continued)

windows on the second-story front.

Architectural features suggest this building was built no later than the 1920s. Terry Nale suggests the building was moved to the site to replace one that burned, although others believe the present building has always stood at the location. A building at this location contained a number of commercial uses including a restaurant, pool hall, arcade, bowling alley, and the Morrison furniture store. Pender's Grocery was located here before World War II, and the Center Market (recorded as a partnership in 1943) was located here in the 1960s. The 1959 Sanborn map seems to show the front of the lot as vacant; perhaps it records the period before the present building was moved to the site. Assuming the building was moved, it apparently originally stood in the downtown and it has an appropriate orientation to the street, hence it is classified as contributing. Presently Bren's Antiques. (C. Edward Waters; Brenda Beahm; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 66-67; Page County Record of Partnership, vol. 1, p. 180)

C 34. 25-27 E. Main. Grove & Brothers Building. 1884. 159-5064-34 (159-0040).

Two-story Victorian commercial-residential building of painted American-bond brick with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and a projecting gabled front wing on the east side. The front gable has a compass vergeboard with a sawn fringe, a stanchion with a sawn pendant, and wheel-like ornaments in the angles of the gable. The bracketed cornice has decorative panels in the frieze. The two-tier front porch has chamfered posts, sawn brackets, a sawn balustrade on the second tier, and a brick honeycomb railing on the first tier. Inside the porch are tall 2/2 windows and an entry with a transom and an original double-leaf door with round-arched glass panels. The front gable end has an original storefront cornice above plate glass windows, a recessed entry, and a paneled surround. Other features include paired round-arched windows in the front gable and two two-story rear shed wings, one or both of which may be additions. Grove & Brothers opened in this building in 1884. Their store, known as the Crystal Palace, sold general merchandise and dry goods. Presently Luray Copy Service. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 54-55)

N 35. 30-32 E. Main. Luray Oil & Gas Building. 1950s; mid-1990s. 159-5064-35.

One-story building with a Modernist 1950s American-bond brick west section and a 1950s east section with a mid-1990s Neo-Victorian vinyl-sided remodeling. The west section has an enameled metal facade of blue speckling on white (appears gray overall) with a black enameled base and coping, as well as green plastic letters spelling "Billiards" (for a tenant that moved in

Description (continued)

in 1992), a barber pole, and industrial windows on the side and rear. The east section has a balustraded parapet, an asphalt-shingled mansard with sawn ornament, and multipane shop windows.

The building core appears to date to the 1950s, probably 1954 and definitely by 1959. The front contained a Shell service station and the rear section was occupied by the Luray Oil & Gas Company. The west section was once used as a Firestone tire showroom. The mid-1990s remodeling of the east section is identical to that of 42 E. Main next door. Presently multiple tenants including Plants-a-Plenty garden shop.

C 36. 33 E. Main. Page Theatre. 1939; 1990. 159-5064-36 (159-5017).

One-story brick building with a prow-like Art Deco front with concrete fluting in the parapet. In 1990 the building was enlarged and a cinder block front facade with Art Deco-inspired geometric pattern added to the front beside the entrance area. The name "PAGE" survives in geometric Art Deco lettering in the terrazzo pavement in front of the entry.

When it opened in May 1939, a newspaper account described the Page Theatre as "fireproof, airconditioned and equipped with the finest modern appointments." As built the theater include an illuminated marquee and a range of shops across the front with display windows and recessed entries in architectural glass surrounds. In 1975, after years of disuse, the Page was remodeled as a real estate office. The original marquee was removed and the range of shops across the front were given a mansard roof, rustic wood siding, and colonial-type bay windows. The building was returned to its original use in 1982 as the Foxfire Theatre and it was enlarged to accommodate four small viewing rooms and given a new facade in 1990. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 101; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 56-57)

N 37. 42 E. Main. Building. 1920s. 159-5064-37.

One-story Neo-Victorian frame building with vinyl siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof with stepped front and side parapets. Remodelings include a balustraded parapet, an asphalt-shingled mansard with sawn ornament, and multipane shop windows. Other features include 1/1 windows, an interior brick flue, and a faded "Casey's Cafe" sign on the front. The remodeling is identical to that of 30-32 E. Main next door. Historically the building contained stores and a restaurant.

C 38. 45 E. Main. Page Power Company Building. 1938. 159-5064-38.

Description (continued)

One-story brick building with a metal-sheathed shed roof with stepped side parapets. The front has textured dark stretcher-bond brick and the side and rear have smooth light red American-bond brick. The front parapet is flanked by projecting piers and has corbeling, soldier courses, and perforated metal vents. Remodelings include T1-11 infill and modern windows in the storefronts and side windows either bricked up or reduced in size with purplish rockfaced cinder block. Other features include a concrete foundation and an interior brick flue.

The Page Power Company arranged with lot owner H. H. Hudson to have this building built in July 1938. The August 1945 Sanborn map labels the building "from plans" (perhaps an indication of remodeling). The Northern Virginia Power Co. may have been a later occupant. Presently and since the late 1960s the Town of Luray Municipal Offices and Police Department. (Bob Jenkins; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 58-59; *Page News & Courier*, May 2, 1991)

C 39. 46 E. Main. Rhodes Building. Late 1930s. 159-5064-39.

Two-story Moderne brick building with a metal-sheathed shed roof with stepped side parapets. The front elevation has banded textured tan brick and painted smooth brick, both stretcher bond. The side and rear elevations are painted smooth American-bond brick. Other features include a glass block storefront transom, a recessed entry, modern multipane shop windows, 1/1 second-story windows, and an exterior brick flue and modern porch to the rear.

W. L. Rhodes had this building built to house his general mercantile store. The Sanitary Market of Bob Griffiths and a Mr. Weakley occupied the building in the 1950s (it may have moved in in 1946 when it vacated the H&H Store building at 16-18 E. Main). Presently the Luray/Page County Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Information Center. (C. Edward Waters; Bob Jenkins)

C 40. 49-51 E. Main. Robinson Building. 1935. 159-5064-40.

One-story brick building with a metal-sheathed shed roof and stepped front and side parapets. The front elevation is stretcher bond and the rear and side elevations are American bond. The front parapet has corbeling, soldier courses, a stuccoed lozenge panel in the center with stuccoed signage panels below, and perforated metal attic vents. The signage panels and storefront transoms below reflect the asymmetry of a wide storefront with plate glass windows and a recessed entry on the west side and an entry and window on the right side. Other features include a concrete foundation, an interior brick flue, and industrial windows to the rear.

Description (continued)

The Robinson Brothers Big Store occupied a building at this location before completing the present building on May 1, 1935. The other original occupant, in the smaller store space, was S. F. Rosser's meat market. Presently a vacant antiques store (49) and Terry's Photography Studio (51). (Bob Jenkins; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 60-61)

C 41. 55 E. Main. Hudson Hardware. 1923. 159-5064-41 (159-5014).

Two-story brick building with large display windows and a deeply recessed entry spanned by a continuous transom and sheltered by a suspended awning with classical cornice. Other architectural features include stepped front and side parapets, industrial awning-type steel windows, and simple embellishments such as brick belt courses and corbeling and a concrete signage panel and diamond-shaped accent block. A long one-story brick addition trails off behind. Hubert Varner Hudson built this two-story brick building to house his hardware and farm supply business in 1923. Presently A Moment to Remember restaurant. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 60-61)

C 42. 12 W. Main. Building. Ca. 1900. 159-5064-42.

Two-story frame building with weatherboard siding on the sides and rear and a metal-sheathed shed roof. The American-bond front was added in the early 20th century and includes segmental-arched openings, a large shop window, and a transom over the entry. Other features include an interior brick flue, an exterior stair on the east side, and 2/2 windows. The building was built between 1897 and 1902, according to Sanborn maps and historic photographs. In 1902 it was occupied by a cobbler. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 37)

C 42a. 12 W. Main. Shed. Ca. 1940.

One-story frame with weatherboard siding, an asphalt-shingled gable roof, and exposed rafter ends.

N 42b. 12 W. Main. Shed. Mid-20th c.

One-story frame with metal, asbestos shingle, and brick-pattern asphalt siding and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The shed may have been moved to the site.

N 43. 14-20 W. Main. Leggett Building. Ca. 1940; 1946; 1980s. 159-5064-43.

Description (continued)

Building comprised of a two-story brick building on the west (built between 1927 and 1945) and a 1946 one-story brick building on the east, both sections unified by a 1980s facade. The two-story west section has American-bond brick side and rear walls on a concrete foundation above a stone foundation from a former building, stepped side parapets, and an interior brick flue. The east section has a metal-sheathed bowstring roof and a rear brick addition with metal windows. An open-air stair rises between the two sections. The modern facade has a metal second story above a mansard with vinyl shakes and a first story with plate glass windows and pebbledash concrete panels.

The west section originally featured a storefront transom and in 1945 it contained a restaurant. The east section was built as the Leggett department store and opened in July 1946. It originally featured a light-colored brick front. Joe Burton was the store manager until 1955. A large addition was made to the rear and the storefront was remodeled in 1958. Leggett moved to the East Luray Shopping Center in 1974 and the Schewel furniture store moved in in 1975. Presently Family Bargains New & Used Furniture & Appliances. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 63; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 46-47)

C 44. 17 W. Main. Page Valley Bank. 1928; 1971-72; late 1990s. 159-5064-44 (159-0054).

One-story Classical Revival building of textured red, olive, and grayish brick laid in stretcher bond. The facade is defined by round-arched openings with concrete keystones and imposts; the window openings have replacement glass and aluminum frames with stucco in the arches. Indiana limestone is used to form a cornice below a brick parapet, capitals on brick corner piers, and a front entry surround with an entablature with a peaked parapet supported on carved console brackets. The building has a 1971-72 extension in the same style but slightly different brick color on the east side. Other features include a concrete foundation, two modern two-story rear brick veneer additions, and a drive-through and walk-up window shelter on the west side.

The Page Valley Bank of Virginia was chartered in 1893 and opened the following year at 123-127 W. Main. In May 1928 the bank moved into its present building, which cost $60,000 to construct. The architect for the 1928 building was A. Stanley Miller of New York and the builder was G.C.H. Sheppard of the King Lumber Company. Additions were made to the side and rear in 1971-72. The additions were designed by Baughan & Baukhages and built by Peyton Baughan of Baughan Construction Company, both firms of Luray. A branch location was opened on East Main Street in 1974 and a second rear addition was made to the bank in the late 1990s. Today the bank has the distinction of being Page County's oldest financial institution. (Diana

Description (continued)

Embrey; *Page News & Courier*, May 22, 1928 and July 13, 1989; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 42-43, 85; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 332; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 76-77)

C 44a. 17 W. Main. Clock. Early 20th c.

Free-standing metal clock with interior illuminated green stained glass clock face inscribed (in white glass) "The Page Valley Bank."

N 45. 23 W. Main. Silco Cut Rate Store. 1962. 159-5064-45.

One-story cinder block building with a blond glazed brick front. Other features include a graveled flat roof, a front asphalt-shingled mansard with a small gable over plate glass windows and a recessed entry, and 1/1 windows on the side. Construction on this building for Silco Cut Rate Stores, Inc., "sellers of variety merchandise," began in March 1962. Presently Allstate Insurance and Northwestern Community Services. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 78-79)

C 46. 3X W. Main. Main Street Bridge. 1934. 159-5064-46.

Concrete vehicular and pedestrian bridge with three spans on angled concrete piers with prow-like ends. The deck is partly cantilevered on the sides on concrete brackets with molded ends. The concrete balustrade has stout square-section balusters, a handrail with a peaked section, and a modern dark red cement-like finish. Metal plaques identifying the Department of Highways with the state seal and the date 1934 are affixed to the northeast and southwest ends of the balustrade, where the spray-painted stencilled numbers 1802 also appear. The bridge has concrete abutments; the east abutment incorporates a limestone abutment from a nineteenth century bridge. A bridge stood at the location before 1836. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 37; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 154)

C 47. 36 W. Main. Bridge Theatre (Dovel Building). 1920-21; 1947. 159-5064-47 (159-5042).

The Bridge Theatre is a two-story (three-level) building constructed of tile block with a concrete foundation and a brick front. The metal-sheathed shed roof is concealed by front and side parapets. The front parapet has an ornate pressed-metal cornice and decorative tie rod ends; it was formerly surmounted by a semicircular cresting. Original windows are 1/1 double-hung sash and casements. Pressed-metal hood moldings embellish the paired upper-story windows. The

Description (continued)

first-story storefronts have been remodeled with paneling and plate glass windows. A one-story cinder block side addition was made in 1947, replacing an earlier wing. Other features include modern signage and some covered-over door and window openings.

I. N. Dovel purchased this site in 1919 and in February 1920 it was reported that he was stockpiling tile blocks provided by the Luray Supply Company. Dovel planned to build a two-story building, partly faced with brick, with a first floor devoted to "a big business room convertible into two apartments, if desired," offices on the second floor, and an above-ground basement. The plans evolved to incorporate a theater, and on opening night June 29, 1921 the Page Theatre (as it was originally known) showed Cecil B. DeMille's *Something to Think About*. The Page Theatre moved to a new location on East Main Street in 1939 and new owners operated the building as the Bridge Theatre from 1939 to the mid-1950s. In addition to movies, the theater hosted local fundraising events such as annual variety and minstrel shows put on by the Lions Club, Volunteer Fire Department, and other groups. Some area residents recall that live theater, beauty contests, high school graduations, and political rallies were occasionally held in the auditorium. A long-term occupant was Brown's Restaurant, established in 1915, which moved in in 1940 and offered "old Virginia ham dinners, Southern fried chicken, and Western steaks" to townsfolk and tourists. Brown's was acquired by Po Doo Gee in 1973 and has since supplemented its menu with Chinese specialties. Presently Brown's Chinese and American Restaurant. (*Page News & Courier*, February 13, 1920, January 1, 1948, and February 19, 1998; historic postcard; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 42-43)

N 48. 3X W. Main. Casino Theatre foundation. Ca. 1910. 159-5064-48.

Concrete footers and deck now incorporated into parking lot. Sanborn maps suggest the theater was built between 1907 and 1912. John Jobe was the earliest known operator of the theater in the 1910s. About 1920 Louis and Sam Shandelson opened the Casino Theatre here. The building featured an ornate front with fluted Corinthian columns, eagles, a grotesque mask, and other metal ornaments, and an arched canopy that sheltered the ticket booth and dual front entries. The theater burned on November 5, 1929. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 41, 47)

C 49. 41 W. Main. Printz Building. 1923. 159-5064-49.

Two-story brick building with a bowstring roof with stepped front and side parapets. The building has a yellow stretcher-bond brick front and red American-bond brick on the side and rear elevations and a one-story rear addition. The front parapet has corbeling, soldier courses,

Description (continued)

and attic vents with wave-pattern metal grilles. The parapet signage panel has traces of painted signage reading "906 R. L. Printz 926 / The Quality Service Store" under "Schewels." The second story has industrial windows above a textured glass transom and a metal awning suspended from hangers with decorative rosette attachments (the awning may be a reworking of the original). The storefront has plate glass windows and a large recessed entry.

Robert L. Printz purchased this site in October 1922 and erected the present building for his grocery business. Printz discontinued the grocery in 1946 and Schewel Furniture Company moved in, remaining in the building until moving to 14-20 W. Main in the 1970s. Presently Page One Thrift Shop. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 47, 67; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 40-41)

C 50. 47 W. Main. Building. 1937. 159-5064-50.

Two-story brick building with Colonial Revival influence and a parapet shed roof. The front has textured Flemish-bond brick with darker headers; the sides and rear have American-bond brick stamped "Glasgo / Trade Mark Registered." Under the peaked front parapet are second-story 1/1 windows and a center window with Doric pilasters in its surround. A suspended metal awning shelters a storefront with plate glass windows with transoms and paneled aprons, a double-leaf French door, and a concrete floor with a pipe railing. The floor spans concrete stairs to a basement entry. Wooden steps descend along the east side, part of a greenway that follows Hawksbill Creek. To the rear is a concrete foundation painted with a scene of flowers and trees.

Insurance and dentist offices were early occupants of this building, and government offices were housed in the building from the 1940s through the 1950s. The Luray town offices occupied the east half in 1959. Presently Vivian's Flower Shop. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 41; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 10)

C 51. 48 W. Main. Casey Jones Overall Factory. 1922. 159-5064-51.

Two-story building with a stretcher-bond front and stuccoed tile block sides and rear. The decorative front parapet has a concrete coping and a signage panel with concrete corner blocks (the panel was originally painted with the name Casey Jones; it now identifies the building as Fairview Apartments). The modern storefront has an asphalt-shingled mansard, plate glass windows, and a recessed entry. Next to it is the entrance to upstairs apartments under a modern round-arched transom. Other features include 1/1 windows, a shed roof over the front section

Description (continued)

and a gable roof over a rear wing, and an exterior boiler flue.

The nineteenth-century Andrew J. Campbell House was torn down to make room for the construction of the Casey Jones Manufacturing Company, a producer of overalls that located in Luray in 1910. Soon after opening at this site the factory was reported to have 125 workers in its employ. The storefront originally featured wood-framed display windows, entry, and storefront transom. Blue Bell, a producer of work and play clothes, purchased the building in the early 1940s. In 1945 the building was acquired by the Luray Clothing Manufacturing Co., which in 1947 employed seventy persons in the making of dungarees for men and boys. Presently IBR Corporation (first floor) and Fairview Apartments (second floor). (Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 328; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 47, 67; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 40; "Luray, Virginia," 3)

C 52. 51 W. Main. J. B. Martin House. Mid-19th c. 159-5064-52.

Two-story frame building with beaded weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof. Other features include a one-story front porch on chamfered posts, a stone foundation, 2/2 and 6/6 windows, a front entry with transom, an interior brick flue, and a rear basement-level garage and a shed extension. Presently Well Spirit Holistic Health and Healing Center. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 41-42)

C 53. 52 W. Main. Downey Furniture Store. 1946. 159-5064-53.

Two-story (three-story on the rear) cinder block building with a stretcher-bond brick front and a flat roof. Under the front second-story industrial windows is a metal awning with a pleated chrome edge suspended from hangers with decorative rosette attachments. The storefront has plate glass windows with roll-up metal covers and steps to a basement bowling alley. Other features include a 1980s interior illuminated plastic sign; a white, light blue, turquoise, and beige paint scheme; and (to the rear) a freight elevator tower, modern three-story wood balconies and stairs, and a one-story boiler room with a brick flue.

Downey Furniture Store, established in the early 1930s, built this building in 1946. In 1959 the showroom was located on the first floor, the second floor was used for furniture storage, and a bowling alley was located in the basement. Presently Luray Fitness Center (first and second floors) and Luray Bowling Lanes (basement). (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 38; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 103)

Description (continued)

C 54. 57-59 W. Main. Hershberger Building. 1939. 159-5064-54 (159-5043).

Two-story (three-story on the rear) mixed-use commercial and residential building in the Art Deco style, with a poured concrete perimeter foundation, masonry walls with brick veneer detailed with soldier courses above the windows on the first and second stories, front and side parapets with decorative brickwork panels and stylized battlements detailed with concrete copings, and multi-pane steel casement windows with integral transoms. Two storefronts and a grade-level vestibule entry to the second floor are located on the first floor. The door and window openings have brushed aluminum trim, glass block transoms, and wood and glass panel doors.

A large early house known as Buracker's Corner occupied this location until it burned in 1936 or 1937. The present building was erected in 1939 and contained Luray's first Alcoholic Beverages Commission Store in 1940. In May 1948 Jamie B. Powers, Mabel Powers, and I. G. "Ikie" Armstrong opened a Mick or Mack grocery store in the building, known as the Hershberger Building at the time. The building was damaged by a fire set by an arsonist in late 2002. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 37, 42, 103; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 10; *Page News & Courier*, January 6, 1949)

C 55. 58 W. Main. Fitch Building. Ca. 1882; 1910s. 159-5064-55 (159-0056).

Two-story Victorian frame building with weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed hip roof. A recessed corner porch has modern wood supports, brackets, and railing. Other features include a bracketed cornice, a stone foundation, 6/6 and 1/1 windows, and a one-story gable rear wing with a handicap ramp.

George Kemper Fitch owned a dwelling at this location in the late 1870s. After his house burned in 1882, he built the present building, which the 1886 Sanborn map identifies as a grocery. The ell was apparently built in the 1910s. The present porch arrangement dates to the 1940s or 1950s; earlier maps show an attached wraparound porch. Presently Virginia Workforce Center, Hamilton Group Inc., and Blue Ridge Aquatics (in the basement). (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 38-39)

C 56. 101 W. Main. Almond-Amiss Building. Mid-1810s; 1890s. 159-5064-56 (159-0036).

Two-story Italianate frame and log building with weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed shed

Description (continued)

roof. The building has a bracketed cornice and circular louvered attic vents, two-over-two windows, and a brick foundation. At the northwest corner is a storefront with a window with diamond-shaped panes.

A four-room log house--downtown Luray's oldest surviving building--forms the core of this building. The log dwelling was built for William R. Almond soon after he and W. S. Marye purchased the lot in 1812. Almond's son Mann Almond suggests his father had the house built in 1813 and definitely by 1816. In 1832 buildings on the property were valued at $1,100. George Kemper Fitch owned the house in the 1870s. Mary E. Amiss purchased the property in 1889 and it was enlarged to its present size in the 1890s. County Surveyor Fred Amiss lived there and then his son, Dr. Thomas Amiss, who kept his office behind the storefront at the west end of the building until his death in 1962. (Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 365; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 42; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 12-13; McConnell and McConnell, "Amiss Property")

C 57. 102-106 W. Main. Lionberger Building. 1836. 159-5064-57 (159-0005)

Two-story Federal-style building in three sections constructed of painted American-bond brick with an metal-sheathed gable roof. The two front sections were probably built within a few years of each other because they share stylistic features such as lunette vents in the gables and jack arches over windows. The east section (102-104) has a recessed entry and first-story windows; the west section (106) has a storefront with a wooden frame and recessed entry. The two-story ell is also early, with a pedimented gable with flush-board sheathing and metal-barred basement windows with beaded surrounds. Other features include a stone foundation, a small one-story brick addition on the back of 106, and 1/1 window sash (replacing earlier 6/6 and 2/2). Roof patches over the building's three gable ends indicate the former location of chimneys. In late 2002 a mural depicting a river ferry was painted on the west gable end.

John Lionberger operated a store in the west section of this building, and the east section served as the post office in 1886. Tax records for 1832 show I. and John Lionberger as part owners of the lot; they may have operated out of a less substantial building until the present building was built in 1836. John Ruffin is thought to have had an early association with the 1836 building. In the late 1870s and 1880s the building was operated as the Rust House hotel, and around 1900 it was known as the Perry House hotel. Since Lionberger's day the building has had many business tenants including the Thomas C. Brown meat market (in 1916), the millinery shops of Lelia Lawles Walker and Nina Huffman, and Luray's first (informal) cinema. A photograph from

Description (continued)

about 1920 shows the building to have been unpainted at the time with louvered wood shutters on the second-story windows and a one-story porch with chamfered posts and sawn brackets sheltering the front of the east section. The building was later known as the Rosser Building. Presently Arthur L. Goff law office. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 46, 89; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 36-37)

C 58. 105 W. Main. David Almond House. Ca. 1865. 159-5064-58 (159-0035).

A bracketed Italianate cornice and Greek Revival brick corner pilasters indicate that this house was built around the time of the Civil War or shortly thereafter, as local tradition in fact claims. The two-story American-bond brick house has a metal-sheathed hip roof and a recessed off-center front entry indicative of a side-passage plan within. The entry has a Greek Revival surround, narrow sidelights, and a Craftsman glazed door. An enclosed two-tier porch extends across the back and along the west side of an integral or early two-story ell. An architecturally similar house stands next door at 111 W. Main.

C 58a. 105 W. Main. Meat house. Late 19th c.

One-story frame, octagonal form, with a decorative ventilator at the roof peak. Luray's first Sanborn map (1886) shows the building, which may date to the construction of the main house.

C 58b. 105 W. Main. Garage. 1920s.

One-story frame with corrugated metal siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a stone foundation, and a shed extension with hinged vertical board doors. Stone gate pillars stand nearby.

C 59. 111 W. Main. House. Ca. 1865. 159-5064-59 (159-0013).

Two-story stretcher-bond brick house with Greek Revival and Italianate features. The house has a metal-sheathed hip roof, a bracketed cornice, and a recessed off-center front entry indicative of a side-passage plan within. The entry has a transom with vestiges of painted and etched decoration as well as sidelights, a double-leaf door, and a paneled embrasure. A two-tier porch extends across the back of the house and along the west side of an integral or early two-story ell. An architecturally similar house stands next door at 105 W. Main.

N 59a. 111 W. Main. Shed (frame). Late 20th c.

Description (continued)

C 60. 115 W. Main. Mansion Inn. Mid-19th c.; 1890s; ca. 1950; 1982. 159-5064-60 (159-0025).

This three-story brick and frame building is a vestige of a large building that was formerly one of Luray's premier nineteenth and early twentieth century hotels. The two-story brick section, aligned with its narrow end to the street, dates to before the mid-1880s. From the 1890s through 1959 it contained a dining room. The frame upper stories date to the 1890s and have brick-pattern iron siding and multiple metal-roofed gables with round-arched windows and bracketed cornices. Windows are 6/6 and 8/8. On the east side is a one-story office addition dating to between 1945 and 1959 that appears to be stucco over cinder block. On the west side are a two-tier porch and an unusual roof projection dating to 1982.

According to Elizabeth Ann Atwood, the brick section was an addition to the 1830s Jordan House, which adjoined it on the west (torn down in 1982). The section appears in its original two-story form on the 1885 Lake and 1886 Sanborn maps. In the 1880s the building was operated as the Arlington House hotel by the Rust family, and in the late 1880s it was acquired by Walter Campbell who added a frame third and attic story. Described in an 1890s advertisement as "a city hotel in a country town," the renamed Mansion Inn then included a three-story brick wing with a two-tier porch that extended along Main Street to the west (torn down in 1982). The building remained in use as a hotel until the late 1950s. Presently apartments. (Virginia Historical Inventory, "Mansion Inn;" Atwood, "Mansion Inn;" Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 16-17; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 369)

N 61. 115 W. Main. Mansion Inn Cottage. Mid-19th c.; ca. 1890; 1920s. 159-5064-61.

Two-story building with an original brick first story, a frame second story added between 1886 and 1891, and a rear frame extension that attained its present form or was added in the 1920s. The painted brick section has 6/6 windows and an entry with a transom. The frame section has novelty weatherboard siding, interior gable end brick flues, and a metal-sheathed gable roof that engages a two-tier front porch. The porch has fluted columns on the lower level and chamfered posts with sawn brackets on the upper level.

An 1832 land book show Gabriel Jordan as the owner of a $625 improvement on this lot. Jordan also owned a $2,900 improvement on the adjoining lot, presumably his dwelling. Dr. Rust may have occupied the building in 1874. According to Terry Nale, the building (the brick section) was built as a schoolhouse for Gabriel Jordan's children. The building was labeled "cottage" on

Description (continued)

the 1897 and later Sanborn maps. According to WPA researcher Vivian Black, the building served as a bath house for the hotel. Presently unused. The building was heavily damaged by a fire set by an arsonist in late 2002. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 14-17; Atwood, "Mansion Inn;" Virginia Historical Inventory, "Mansion Inn")

C 62. 123-127 W. Main. Parks Building. 1893. 159-5064-62 (159-0029).

Two-story building of painted American-bond brick construction with Romanesque stylistic influence in its multiple round-arched openings defined by corbeled hood molds. The building has a cutaway corner entry at Main and Bank streets with a complex arch on a column support, a paneled embrasure, and a keystone. To the left along Main are a large tripartite window with an ornamental keystone and an original storefront with a wood cornice, wooden window and transom frames, a recessed entry, and paneled aprons. To the right of the corner entry along Bank are a small stained glass window and a tall 2/2 window. The second-story windows, which have modern 4/4 sash, are linked by a running hood mold/belt course. To the rear is a lower two-story brick wing with a narrow round-arched window (suggesting the wing was added or remodeled soon after the front was built) and a two-tier side porch with a modern wooden structure inserted under an old roof. Other features include a stone foundation, a frieze with triglyph-like ornaments, an interior brick chimney, and stucco on the east elevation.

According to Terry Nale, this building was built for the Page Valley Bank, which opened in the building on January 3, 1894 and operated there until moving to its present building at 17 W. Main in 1928. In 1885 the Cave Hotel occupied a building that was similar in form, and from 1887 to 1891 the D. F. Kagey Company operated a bank here (the 1886 Sanborn map shows a bank at the location; there were two banks in Luray in 1884). Architecturally, the main part of the building could date to the Page Valley Bank period or earlier. In 1897, according to the Sanborn map of that year, the rear wing may have served as a cigar factory. Charlie Parks, who operated a barber shop in the rear wing before 1928, moved into the corner banking room when it was vacated. The post office occupied the storefront on the east side of the building during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The post office was succeeded by Harvey Bowman's hardware store and the office of Dr. M.J.W. White. The building is also known as Bank Corner. Presently Edward Jones Investments (123) and Robert A. Downs law office (127). (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 42-43; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 18-19; *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer . . . 1884-'5*, 493)

C 63. 134 W. Main. Shandelson Building. Ca. 1900; 1910s. 159-5064-63 (159-0009).

Description (continued)

Two-story building of stretcher-bond brick painted and crudely penciled. The shed roof has a stepped parapet on the west side. The iron storefronts were made at the Geo. Mesker & Co. Iron Works in Evansville, Indiana, and feature recessed entries, iron thresholds, fluted pilasters with rosettes and anthemions at their tops, and modern decking and metal railings. The pressed metal cornice, which has flower designs in its brackets, may also have been produced by Mesker. A pent roof that passes across the front elevation above the second-story windows is a remnant of a former two-tier front porch which tied into an existing two-tier west elevation porch with turned and modern wood posts and modern balusters. Across the rear is a two-story vinyl-sided frame addition (added between 1912 and 1921) with a jettied east gable end and modern decks and stairs on the north elevation. Other features include a stone foundation, segmental-arched door and window openings, and blocked storefront transoms.

The building was built between 1897 and 1902, according to Sanborn maps. The Campbells operated two livery stables on Bank Street--once known as Campbell Street--in the 1890s; one was located behind where this building was erected. The owner in 1904 was Walter Campbell, and the original tenants were John Jobe's grocery (in the east half) and Isaac Shandelson's dry goods, clothing store, and boot and shoe store (in the west half). The building may have suffered a fire in 1920. In 1946 Bonafide Cleaners moved to the building, which also contained the store of Shandelson & Son. Presently H. Webb Hudson Jr. law office, Adelphia, and second-floor apartments. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 32-33; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 365)

C 64. 201 W. Main. Landrum Building. Ca. 1870. 159-5064-64 (159-0021).

Three-story building of painted American-bond brick with a metal-sheathed hip roof. The building has vernacular Italianate/Victorian details including a bracketed cornice, decorative window surrounds, and a storefront frieze constructed of molded boards with decorative end boards. Other features include S-shaped tie rod ends, a recessed entry and modern plate glass windows in the storefront, modern 1/1 sash, and an exterior brick flue on the south side. To the rear is a two-story brick wing with an exterior gable-end chimney, jack arches over 1/1 windows, and a stone foundation. A gabled wing of board-and-batten frame construction--possibly a carriage house--formerly extended from the end of the rear wing. The sidewalk along Bank Street has old brick pavers and limestone curbs.

The building is thought to have been built by 1870 when Harvey Bowan's hardware store occupied it (other accounts suggest Bowan was a twentieth century occupant). W. C. Althers had

Description (continued)

a hardware store here about 1880. The 1885 Lake map shows the building, its existing wing, and the missing wing. The 1886 Sanborn map and later maps show a general store in the building; this may have been the business of C. G. Mason or Charles S. Landrum. Charles and Frances Menefee operated a hardware store here from 1937 until 1965. A balcony with turned balusters and newels formerly projected over the storefront, and the windows had decorative lintels. Presently Bank Street Books. (Frances Yates; Bill Menefee; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 43, 44; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 20-21)

C 65. 205-207 W. Main. Chapman Building. Ca. 1870; 1890s. 159-5064-65.

Two-story frame building with novelty weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed side-sloping shed roof, 6/6 windows, and a false front at roof level. The first story is remodeled. 205, which appears to have been built by 1880, has a storefront with a bracketed wood cornice. 207, which attained its present form in the 1890s, has a hanging second-story bay window with 1/1 sash. The east side has vinyl siding, 2/2 windows, and steps to a second-story entry stoop.

According to one account, John and Frank Jobe operated a grocery store in this building (probably in 205) in the 1880s. The 1886 Sanborn map shows a restaurant at the location, followed by a general store (1891) and a produce market (1897). G. T. Chapman, whose house stands next door at 211 W. Main, is thought to have purchased the grocery business in 1906 and operated it through 1946. A permanent awning formerly projected in front of the building. Presently The Main Frame (205) and Pyramid Life Insurance (207). (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 43, 89; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 20-21)

C 65a. 205-207 W. Main. Garage. Ca. 1920.

One-story frame with board-and-batten siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a hinged vertical-board door opening onto Page Street, and wire nail construction.

C 66. 211 W. Main. G. T. Chapman House. 1910s. 159-5064-66.

Two-story frame house with weatherboard siding and a steep metal-sheathed hip roof with a front gable. The one-story front porch has classical columns and a solid wooden railing. The front entry has sidelights, a transom, and a milled surround with turned corner blocks. Other features include an interior brick chimney, a rear porch with turned posts, and 2/2 windows with louvered wood shutters.

Description (continued)

G. T. Chapman (d. 1928) operated a grocery store next door at 205-207 W. Main during the early twentieth century. Sanborn maps indicate the house was built between 1912 and 1921. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 43; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 20-23)

N 66a. 211 W. Main. Shed. Late 20th c.

One-story red and pink brick with an asphalt-shingled gable roof and scalloped boards in the gable.

C 66b. 211 W. Main. Garage. Ca. 1950.

One-story cinder block with a metal-sheathed gable roof, weatherboard siding in the gable, and a single vehicle bay with a roll-up wood and glass panel door openings onto Page Street.

C 67. 219 W. Main. McKim & Huffman Pharmacy. 1910. 159-5064-67 (159-0026).

Two-story building of painted stretcher-bond concrete brick construction with two courses of smooth concrete bricks alternating with one course of rough concrete brick creating a banded effect. The shed roof is concealed behind stepped side parapets; the front parapet has a pressed metal cornice with swags, ribbons, floral motifs, and sunburst designs in the end elements. The modernized storefront has plate glass windows, a wooden sign, vertical vinyl siding, and a metal awning. Other features include segmental-arched 1/1 windows and louvered attic vents, vinyl siding on the first-story east side, a steel fire escape on the west side, an exterior flue of the same banded concrete brickwork on the west side, and a one and two-story cinder block rear addition.

A. W. McKim established McKim's Pharmacy in 1870 in a room in the log house that formerly stood in the parking lot on the east side of the present building. The 1885 Lake atlas identifies his firm as A. W. McKim & Co., established in 1868, with building and painting supplies, books, garden seeds, and a host of other items in stock. Robert L. McKim joined his father in the business about 1890. W. H. Huffman joined the firm in 1921. Later partners included John R. Hudson and Elbert B. Lipps Jr. In the early twentieth century the Opera House theater was located in the second floor and was the first business in Luray to use an electric sign to advertize. Architectural glass was added around the storefront and east side in the mid-twentieth century (now removed or covered). Today the pharmacy has the distinction of being one of Luray's oldest businesses. (Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 385; *Page, The County of Plenty*,

Description (continued)

81; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 24-25)

C 68. 221 W. Main. Jordan-McKim Building. 1830s; mid-19th c.; ca. 1910. 159-5064-68.

Two-story building of painted Flemish-bond brick construction with a stone foundation, 6/6 windows, and a metal-sheathed hip roof. The five-bay west elevation--the original front facade--has splayed jack arch window heads and a center bay with double windows that appears to be an alteration of a former entry with sidelights. A ca. 1910 one-story porch on the east side has a stone foundation and classical columns and shelters an entry with sidelights and transom in a segmental-arched surround (this entry replaces one around the corner facing Main; fabric from this earlier entry may have been reused for this entry). On the south side is a slightly lower early two-story brick addition with simple Greek Revival window surrounds, a two-tier porch with wood posts and a screened and latticed upper tier, and a late nineteenth century door on the west (street) side with chamfered rails and stiles, glazed upper panels, and the address numeral 3 (probably for 3 S. Court). Other features include a molded wood frieze, reworked 6/6 windows on the east side, an interior brick flue, and two interior brick chimneys at the south end of the original section.

There are several theories about the early history of this building. According to WPA researcher Vivian Black, writing in 1937, the building was built by Gabriel Jordan in the 1830s, presumably as a commercial building since Jordan's residence stood down Main Street. Emmanuel Grove operated a mercantile business in the building, followed by the Modesitt and Grayson families. Other occupants included the town post office during the Civil War, a millinery shop, and a seminary and music school operated by Susie McKim. The 1854 William Rupp view appears to show a one-story porch on the Court Street elevation; a porch was present by 1886 and was not removed until between 1945 and 1959. The 1886 Sanborn map shows a general store as the first-floor occupant. R. L. McKim remodeled the building as a dwelling in 1937. Presently Miller & Earle, PLLC law office and Charles A. Butler Jr., Esq., retired attorney. (Charles Butler; Virginia Historical Inventory, "R. L. McKim home"; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 24-25)

C 69. 230-232 W. Main. Yager Building (N. W. Yager House and Store; The Long Building). 1835. 159-5064-69 (159-0019).

This two-story brick building's elegant Federal-Greek Revival styling attests to its 1830s date. The pedimented west gable features a lunette window set in flush-board sheathing. Paired chimneys rise above the metal-sheathed gable roof, and several entries open off the street, the

Description (continued)

main one with a pilaster surround, sidelight panels, and a transom with decorative muntin pattern. To the rear extends a two-story frame wing with beaded weatherboard siding attached with cut nails, and a side porch which retains at least one early chamfered post. This wing was probably built soon after the brick section, perhaps as lodging rooms.

Merchant Nicholas W. Yager purchased the lot in 1834 and is thought to have completed his two-story residence and store the following year. WPA researcher Vivian Black, writing in 1937, gave the building's date as 1834 and noted that Yager's family lived in one section and Yager's store operated out of the other section. In the early 1830s Yager was licensed to operate an ordinary at his building in Luray known as the "Washington House;" whether the present building went by the same name is unknown. In 1841 Yager purchased Isabella Furnace, located a short distance north of Luray. He was also a Mason, and the local lodge met in the upstairs from 1865 to 1878. The post office also occupied the building. After Yager's death in 1869 the building was occupied by E. Grove's general store in the 1870s, W. E. Grayson's feed store and the Luray Cigar Factory in the 1880s, and a printing press, a music studio, and a clothing store in the 1890s when the property was known descriptively as The Long Building. The Luray Chamber of Commerce occupied the building in the 1930s. (Virginia Historical Inventory, "Nicholas Yager home"; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 26-27; *Page News & Courier*, August 13, 1953; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 140, 300, 326)

C 70. 301 W. Main. Hotel Laurance. Ca. 1850; 1883. 159-5064-70 (159-0003).

Two-story Greek Revival building constructed of raking or "zipper style" Flemish-bond brickwork (painted) with a stone foundation, 6/6 windows, and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The five-bay front (north) elevation has center first and second-story entry bays that have been made into windows; the first-story bay preserves its limestone threshold and may originally have had sidelights. The pedimented gables have stuccoed tympanums with lunettes, the west lunette with the original radial muntins, the east one with a modern window. The basement has windows (some with metal bars) and entries (one with diagonal beaded batten door leaves). An early brick addition was made to the rear; it has 9/6 windows and an unusual recessed entry with windows opening into the sides of the recess. A two-story corrugated iron-clad frame addition dating to 1883 extends from the brick addition. It has a two-tier porch with wood posts on the south side, 2/2 windows, four-panel doors, and a jettied second story on the Court Street (east) side supported on curved brackets. Other features include a molded wood frieze and interior gable-end brick chimneys.

Description (continued)

According to WPA researcher Vivian Black, writing in 1936, the building was built by Emmanuel Grove in the 1830s and occupied by his store and that of Mann Spitler. Deed records indicate that Emanuel Grove did not purchase the lot until December 1848, and the price he paid to former owners A. A. Jones and Gabriel Jordan ($560) suggest the present brick building had not been erected. The building is one of the county's earliest examples of raking Flemish-bond construction, otherwise most popular in the late 1860s and 1870s. Grove operated a general merchandise business here until 1856. The building is depicted in the 1854 William Rupp view with what appears to be a one-story porch on Main Street; a wraparound porch existed by 1886, replaced by front and side porches by the 1920s. Joseph and Laura Parkinson added to the building in 1883 and opened it as the Hotel Laurance in late 1884, named after Laura. The 1883 rear wing is said to be the first use of corrugated iron siding in Luray. A classical porch with a Chinese roof balustrade sheltered the front entry (since bricked up) in the 1920s; the porch was removed when Main Street was widened in 1937. The hotel was converted into apartments in 1932. (Page County Deed Book G, p. 392; Virginia Historical Inventory, "Hotel Laurance"; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 80-81; *Page News & Courier*, July 3, 1952, May 31, 1990, and August 20, 1992; Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources Survey Report," 34)

N 70a. 301 W. Main. Shed (frame). Late 20th c.

C 70b. 301 W. Main. Cistern (concrete cap). Ca. 1900.

C 71. 302 W. Main. Campbell Building. 1921; 1937; ca. 1950. 159-5064-71.

One and two-story building of irregular form and stretcher-bond brick construction. The narrow and off-center one-story front section has an office at its south end, garage bays, display windows with paneling above, and an asphalt-shingled gable roof. The two-story rear section has a metal-sheathed shed roof, stepped side parapets, two painted signage panels in the front parapet, 6/6 windows, and a storefront with a transom and recessed entry. The rear section is brick only on the front; the remainder is rockfaced concrete block with a poured concrete foundation with a garage bay. To the rear is a basement-level one-story late 1940s or early 1950s addition with a stepped cinder block front, frame structure with brick-pattern asphalt siding, and 6/6 windows.

J. T. Campbell Plumbing & Heating opened in 1900. In 1921 the company built the two-story section of this building (the building is labeled "from plans" on the 1921 Sanborn map). A pre-1886 building at the front of the lot (constructed of concrete according to the 1886 Sanborn map)

Description (continued)

was demolished in 1937 to make way for the construction of the front service station wing. The service station sold Amoco gasoline in the 1930s. Recently Water Plus Inc. water purification, now vacant. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 94-95)

C 72. 304 W. Main. Apartment Building. 1920s. 159-5064-72.

Two-story frame building with novelty weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The symmetrical front has double two-tier porches under hipped extensions of the main roof and with rebuilt wooden structure. The porches bracket dual center front entries under a bracketed stoop with doors with nine-pane window panels. Other features include interior brick flues, 1/1 and 9/1 windows, and several 1/1 windows with decorative upper sash. Built between 1921 and 1927 according to Sanborn maps.

C 73. 311 W. Main. House. Late 19th c. 159-5064-73.

Two-story Victorian frame house with weatherboard siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The two-tier entry-bay front porch has a hip roof, wood posts with molded caps, and some replacement posts. The foundation has poured concrete above stone. Other features include an interior brick flue, a bracketed cornice, a two-story rear shed extension, 6/6 windows, a four-pane window in the west gable, a transom over the front entry, and a two-story ell.

The Rust and Modesitt families were occupants of a house at this location before the Civil War; the present house may incorporate fabric from that period but it appears to date mostly to the late nineteenth century, before the mid-1880s. The front porch was added between 1886 and 1891. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 82-83)

C 73a. 311 W. Main. Garage. Ca. 1920.

One-story frame with weatherboard siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a concrete foundation, 6/6 windows, and multifold doors with diagonal matchboard panels and windows that open onto Page Street.

C 73b. 311 W. Main. Chickenhouse. 1920s.

One-story frame with board-and-batten siding and a metal-sheathed shed roof.

Description (continued)

C 74. 312 W. Main. Graves Motor Company Showroom. 1920s; 1950s. 159-5064-74.

One-story building of tile block construction with a concrete block front and a metal-sheathed front-gable roof. The front rises to two pediment-like elements with projecting accent blocks and a long rectangular panel with artificial rockfaced surface (possibly permastone). Other features include a concrete foundation, a brick flue, and a storefront with plate glass windows between piers.

Graves Motor Company was located here in 1946. Masons Garage and Blacks Garage may have been earlier occupants. A restaurant occupied the building in 1959 and was known as the Pickwick Restaurant in 1962. The Pickwick added false half-timbering to the front to create a pub-like appearance. The Wolf's Den Trading Post craft supplies and collectibles moved in in the mid-1980s. Presently vacant. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 92-93; Page County Record of Partnership, vol. 1, p. 206)

C 75. 315 W. Main. House. Mid-19th c. 159-5064-75.

Two-story Greek Revival log or frame house with aluminum siding and a metal-sheathed gable roof. The one-story front porch has metal supports and balustrade, a bracketed cornice, and remnant turned pilasters. The five-bay elevation under the porch has 9/6 windows, a front entry with a plain Greek Revival surround and a three-light transom, and a permastone wainscot. The foundation is stone and the gable-end chimneys are American-bond brick. On the east gable end is a story-and-a-half frame wing with a bracketed cornice, vestigial beaded weatherboard siding, a front porch with classical columns, replacement 6/6 windows, and a brick foundation. The rear two-story shed extension has 9/6 windows and an inset two-tier porch with wood posts, a board railing, and an enclosed lower tier. Projecting from the rear corners of the house and side wing are small one-story brick wings.

C 75a. 315 W. Main. Chickenhouse. Ca. 1920.

One-story frame with weatherboard and vertical board siding, a metal-sheathed shed roof, and slatted and lattice windows.

C 76. 327 W. Main. Luray Methodist Parsonage (no. 1). Ca. 1853; ca. 1937. 159-5064-76.

Two-story house (probably log) with masonite weatherboard siding and an asphalt-shingled gable

Description (continued)

roof. The one-story front porch is shallow in depth (it was probably cut back from the original depth when Main Street was widened in 1937) and has a ca. 1950 enclosure and vestigial sawn cornice brackets. The stone foundation across the front of the porch was probably constructed when the porch was reduced; it ties into a retaining wall along the sidewalk with stone steps and remnant cast iron fencing. The two-story ell has a two-tier side porch with turned and replacement wood posts. Other features include exterior gable-end brick chimneys on the house and ell and 6/6 windows.

Luray's Methodist congregation purchased this site in November 1852. Soon after a church (now gone) was erected on the hillside above and the parsonage was built on the street. (Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 84-85)

C 77. 333 W. Main. House. Ca. 1890. 159-5064-77.

Two-story Queen Anne frame house with novelty weatherboard siding and a steep metal-sheathed hip-and-gable roof. There are gray scalloped slate shingles in the front gable with a six-pointed star formed with reddish and olive-colored slates. The two-tier wraparound porch has turned posts and balusters, sawn brackets on the posts and in the cornice, a metal awning, and a second tier on the front only. The doors and windows have milled surrounds with turned corner blocks, and the doors have transoms with decorative glass. The two-story ell has a one-story bay window and a one and two-story extension that is partially stuccoed. Other features include 1/1 windows, a brick foundation with iron-barred basement windows, and an interior flue and chimneys of brick.

C 78. 401 W. Main. Mimslyn Inn. 1930-31. 159-5064-78 (159-5059).

This Colonial Revival brick hotel is composed as a three-story central block with two-and-a-half-story flanking wings and a monumental front portico. Set on fluted Corinthian columns, the portico extends to form a porte cochere, and it is flanked by one-story sitting porches (both portico and porches once had Chinese parapet balustrades). The colonial character of the building is evoked by Flemish-bond brickwork, round-arched door and window openings on the main level, splayed jack arches and keystones over the windows above, and slate-shingled gable roofs with gabled dormers containing round-headed windows. The principal entry features a lavish surround incorporating fluted pilasters, consoles, a dentil cornice, and a spreading elliptical fanlight with decorative muntins. A bow-windowed solarium with southern exposures perches above a two-story rear wing. The Mimslyn incorporated into its grounds nineteenth century shade

Description (continued)

trees and other landscape features, and today the property includes terraces, a stone bridge, and stone retaining walls from the 1930-31 period, a boxwood garden, and many formal plantings.

Since it opened its doors in 1931, the Mimslyn has occupied the center of Luray social life. The grand hotel was designed by architect J. Raymond Mims for his brother, hotelier John W. Mims. The Mims family had in prior years operated the Hotel Laurance. Construction on the Mimslyn began in February 1930 on the grounds of Aventine, an 1850s Greek Revival mansion that was moved to its present site on Court Street after the hotel's completion. The "oversized tapestry" brick for the building was manufactured in Glasgow, Virginia; the roof slates were quarried in Buckingham County; the Mims Material Company provided lumber; and local stone masons built a bridge and retaining wall on the grounds. At the hotel's opening on May 22, 1931, seven hundred visitors dined and danced and marveled at the building's "luxurious appointments." In the 1960s the hotel styled itself the Mimslyn Motor Inn. ("History of the Mimslyn Inn;" Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 318)

N 78a. 401 W. Main. Gazebo (frame). Ca. 2000.

N 79. 315 W. Page. T. R. Campbell House. Mid-19th c. 159-5064-79.

Remodeled two-story frame house with vinyl siding, a metal-sheathed gable roof, a stone foundation, 1/1 windows, a front ca. 1950 picture window, a brick gable-end flue, and one and two-story rear wings. The house is depicted in the 1854 William Rupp view. The 1885 Lake map identifies T. R. Campbell as the owner of the property. Presently the investigations department of the Page County Sheriff's Office.

C 80. 322 W. Page. Furniture Factory. Ca. 1950. 159-5064-80.

Two-story building of stuccoed cinder block with a metal-sheathed gable roof. The one-story front porch on wood posts shelters plate glass windows and an entry with a Colonial Revival surround. Other features include an interior brick flue, 6/6 windows, modern exterior wood stairs and decks on the east gable end, and a one-story rear wing with three garage bays. The building is labeled "furniture manufacturing" on the 1959 Sanborn map.

C 81. 12 Vogt Place. Luray Fire House (former). 1930; 1960. 159-5064-81 (159-0049).

Two-story brick building erected in three stages. The stretcher-bond front section has a metal-

Description (continued)

sheathed hip roof behind peaked parapets. The front (east) elevation has decorative brickwork forming a frame effect with square brick and concrete (or stucco) square panels alternating with 6/1 windows in the second story. The first story has two garage bays with wood and glass panel doors and a pedestrian entry with a transom and metal awning. The rear wing has an American-bond first story and an added stretcher-bond second story. On the north side of the front section is a one-story brick garage addition.

The Luray Fire Department was organized in 1901 as two companies serving the east and west halves of town. The cornerstone for the fire house at this location was laid on June 1, 1930. In 1959 the large rear wing, which contained the Vogt Bakery, was purchased by the fire department and the following year a second story was added to it. (*Page, The County of Plenty*, 123)

Integrity Statement

The Luray Downtown Historic District possesses good architectural integrity. The district contains a high percentage of contributing resources: 78 percent. (If the district's twenty secondary resources such as sheds--of which a larger proportion are noncontributing--are not counted, the contributing ratio is higher: 83 percent.) The district preserves much the appearance it had acquired by the end of the period of significance, with relatively dense historic development and few vacant lots, parking lots, and modern intrusions. The weakest portions of the district in terms of integrity are found on the north side of East Main Street to either side of North Broad Street, and at the east end of the district on the south side of East Main Street; however, inclusion of noncontributing resources in these areas permits the inclusion of contributing resources that enhance the significance of the whole. Individually, the majority of resources possess good to high integrity. Modern alterations are typically limited to street-level storefronts. The district also possesses good integrity of setting, with adjoining residential areas containing high ratios of historic resources. These adjoining residential areas may constitute National Register districts in their own right.

Architectural Classification
(continued)

Early Classical Revival
Federal
Greek Revival

Materials
(continued)

foundation	Stone
walls	Brick
roof	Metal

Description (continued)

Late Victorian
Italianate
Queen Anne
Romanesque
Colonial Revival
Classical Revival
Tudor Revival
Late Gothic Revival
Modern Movement
Moderne
Art Deco

other Wood
Stucco
Terra Cotta
Asphalt
Asbestos
Concrete
Synthetics

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Summary

The Luray Downtown Historic District meets Criterion A and is eligible in the commerce area of significance for its association with the trading of goods and services as Luray, Virginia's historic central business district. Commercial activity commenced soon after the town's establishment in 1812, and the earliest surviving commercial resources date to the decade of the 1830s when Luray was made the county seat of newly formed Page County (1831). The town and its commercial district enjoyed considerable prosperity following the construction of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad through the town in 1881. The majority of the district's surviving commercial resources date to the period after 1900, and commercial construction remained strong through the 1940s. Approximately thirty of the eighty-one primary buildings in the district were used for retail commerce during the period of significance, and another twenty or so had commerce-related functions such as hotels, theaters, offices, and the like.

The Luray Downtown Historic District also developed as the institutional center of the Luray community, with government buildings, churches, and schools locating in its midst from the 1830s onward. The district's commercial, institutional, and other resources embody the distinctive characteristics of types and periods of construction and contribute to the eligibility of the district under Criterion C in the architecture area of significance. The district contains many representatives of nineteenth and twentieth century commercial construction with characteristic architectural elaborations. A range of period styles is represented in the district and many buildings are especially notable for stylistic expression, including the Jeffersonian Classical 1833 Page County Courthouse (individually listed in the National Register), a group of antebellum commercial-residential buildings at the key early intersection of Main and Court streets, the 1881 Luray Graded and High School, the 1930-31 Mimslyn Inn, and the 1938 Luray Post Office, among others.

The district is also eligible under Criterion A in the area of transportation for the inclusion of the 1906/1908 Luray Norfolk & Western Passenger Station, which was individually listed for its transportation significance in 2000. Two resources in the district are considered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to be potentially eligible for individual listing in the National Register as a result of a November 1998 evaluation: the N. W. Yager House and Store (referred to as the Yager Building in this nomination) and the Luray Graded and High School.

The district's period of significance extends from ca. 1830, the period from which the earliest well-documented commercial buildings survive, until 1953. (The district is not of exceptional importance for the period after 1953, therefore the period of significance is not extended beyond

Statement of Significance (continued)

the National Register fifty-year cut-off.) The Luray Downtown Historic District is eligible at the local level of significance. Information in support of eligibility appears throughout the historic context section of Section 8 and the individual building histories in the inventory section of Section 7.

Acknowledgments

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Historic Context

According to historian Harry Strickler, the town of Luray, laid out in 1812, "was established in all probability for the purpose of having a central and inviting place for a county seat in the event a new county should be established," an eventuality that came to pass in 1831. Prior to Luray's establishment, the hamlet of Mundellsville had developed at a mill site less than a mile up Hawksbill Creek from Luray, but Luray was the first legislatively established town in the Page Valley, separated from the core areas of Shenandoah and Rockingham counties (of which Page County was then a part) by Massanutten Mountain. The town was platted as a double file of eighteen lots extending along Main Street (then known as Peter Street) from Hawksbill Creek to the present Court Street. Main Street was a section of the road that passed through the Blue Ridge and Massanutten Mountain to connect the Page Valley to the Piedmont and the Shenandoah Valley proper; in the 1850s this road was developed as the New Market and Sperryville Turnpike. An additional twenty-six lots were added to the east and west ends of the original town in 1818 (in extent the 1818 town roughly corresponds with the area contained in

Statement of Significance (continued)

the district).[1]

Gazetteer publisher Joseph Martin reported in the 1830s that Luray's first house was built in 1814, although accounts from the 1870s onward suggest building activity commenced the year of establishment. Documented and surviving early buildings indicate that the town's initial building stock was primarily of log construction. The oldest dwelling is the log house of William R. Almond, built in the mid-1810s, which survives incorporated into the Almond-Amiss Building at 101 W. Main. Almond and his partner William S. Marye opened one of the town's first stores (in another building) in the summer of 1813 and in 1816 the partnership sold $35,000 worth of goods. A two-story log dwelling was built in 1818 where the McKim & Huffman Pharmacy parking lot now exists between 211 and 219 W. Main. This house, later known as the Eagle Tavern, was dismantled and rebuilt in Shenandoah in 1960. The 1832 county tax records list at least thirty-nine buildings in the town; some improvements were valued in excess of $2,000, suggesting brick construction. In 1836, according to Joseph Martin, Luray's population stood at 400 people and the town boasted forty to fifty dwellings, Baptist and Methodist churches, four mercantile stores, and miscellaneous small industries. Henry Howe, writing a decade later, estimated the population at 500, a number that appears to have remained stable through the Civil War.[2]

Luray benefitted from its status as the Page Valley's only sizable settlement during the antebellum period, a status that enabled it to attract commercial and small-scale industrial development such as tanning and blacksmithing. Luray's primacy was enhanced in 1831 when the town was chosen as the county seat of newly formed Page County. This brought trade on court days, stimulated the hostelry business, and attracted attorneys and other professionals to the town (as late as 1884, according to a business directory of that year, the county's lawyers were located exclusively in Luray). The courthouse was completed in 1833 and the nearby intersection of Court and Main streets developed into the town's commercial center. Three of Luray's four surviving antebellum residential-commercial buildings were built at the intersection:

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[1] Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 97, 207; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 4; and Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources," 14-15, 17.

[2] Martin, *New and Comprehensive Gazetteer of Virginia*, 414; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 120, 320, 365; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 22-23, 32; and McConnell and McConnell, "Amiss Property."

Statement of Significance (continued)

the 1835 Yager Building at 230-232 W. Main, the 1830s Jordan-McKim House at 221 W. Main, and the ca. 1850 Hotel Laurance at 301 W. Main. The group of substantial brick buildings appears prominently in William Rupp's 1854 pencil sketch of Luray.[3]

Considerably more is known or can be deduced about the form and function of Luray's 1830s and later antebellum buildings than for earlier buildings. The three buildings mentioned above, and also the 1836 Lionberger Building at 102-106 W. Main, combined commercial and residential functions under one roof. The dual function is easily read in the Yager Building, which is comprised of a store and residence built end to end. The buildings display refinements such as lunettes in the gables, Flemish-bond brickwork, and, in the Yager Building, a delicately molded entry surround with sidelights and transom. The 1854 Rupp drawing seems to show front porches on the Jordan-McKim Building and the Hotel Laurance. Porches had been built on these and many other downtown buildings by the early twentieth century, prompting complaints from citizens who were not happy with the encroachment on sidewalks, as expressed in a 1913 editorial in the local paper. Street widenings in the 1930s and later eliminated many downtown porches.[4]

The commercial function of Luray's antebellum commercial-residential buildings took the form of general merchandising to supply townspeople and area farmers with staple and luxury goods. Luray merchants probably accepted agricultural products in lieu of cash payment when necessary, and thereby they would have played a role in the marketing of those products, but such activity has not been linked to surviving buildings. Merchant mills such as Sandy Hook Mills at the confluence of Hawksbill Creek and the Shenandoah River are known to have shipped flour out of the county. Presumably these mills, of which there were an estimated twenty-four in the 1830s, played a more active role in marketing the county's agricultural production, which in the

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[3] Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources," 15; *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer . . . 1884-'5*, 492-493; and *Page, The County of Plenty*, 96-97. Luray's status as the county's principal town was not challenged until the development of Shenandoah after the Civil War. Regarding the number of surviving antebellum commercial-residential buildings: the surviving section of the Mansion Inn at 115 W. Main, a two-story brick building with later uppers stories of frame, may also be antebellum in date, although it may have been built as a hotel addition, not a free-standing commercial-residential building.

[4] *Page News & Courier*, October 3, 1913.

Statement of Significance (continued)

antebellum period included corn, wheat, hemp, and livestock.[5]

Certain details of the commercial operation of Luray's surviving antebellum commercial-residential buildings are known. The peripatetic general merchant Emmanuel Grove occupied all three of the buildings at the Court-Main intersection at different times. Grove probably built the Hotel Laurance (a later name) about 1850 as his store and that of Mann Spitler; during the Civil War Grove was located in the Jordan-McKim Building; and after 1869 he occupied commercial space in the Yager Building. Another, subsidiary function of these buildings was to provide space for the town post office, a common aspect of Virginia downtown commercial buildings during the nineteenth century. The post office occupied the Jordan-McKim Building during the Civil War and the Lionberger Building in the 1880s. Fraternal organizations too were often housed in commercial buildings; Nicholas Yager, a Mason, granted Luray's lodge use of upstairs space in the Yager Building.[6]

The 1880s were an important period in the development of Luray and also a period of unprecedented documentation of the town's commercial district. In 1881 the Shenandoah Valley Railroad built its line through town, setting off a wave of industrial and residential construction and concomitant population growth. According to federal census returns, the town's population more than doubled between 1880 and 1890, from 630 to 1,386. In January 1882, *The Page News* reported the construction during the preceding year of the Deford & Company tannery, freight and passenger depots, the Luray Inn, two steam-powered planing mills, two "grain depots" (no longer extant), over twenty-five dwellings, and miscellaneous stores and workshops. In 1884, according to a state business directory, 150 buildings had been built over the preceding three years.[7]

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[5] Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources," 21, 25; Pezzoni, Sandy Hook Mills survey form (069-5001); and Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 311.

[6] Page County Deed Book G, p. 392; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 24-27, 80-81; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 46; and Virginia Historical Inventory, "Nicholas Yager home."

[7] Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources," 39; Strickler, *Short History of Page County*, 121; *Page News*, January 12, 1882; *Chataigne's Virginia Gazetteer . . . 1884-'5*, 492-493.

Statement of Significance (continued)

The earliest detailed maps of the town survive from the decade of the 1880s. The 1885 Lake map and the 1886 Sanborn map document the form, function, and occasionally the business name of many of the buildings that then stood in the historic district. One aspect of Luray's commercial life that is readily apparent from the maps is a high degree of commercial specialization. In addition to the general stores that predominated in the antebellum period, the 1886 Sanborn map identifies hotels, drug stores, offices, saloons, barbers, milliners, jewelers, harness shops, warehouses, grocers, a meat market, an agricultural implements dealer, a cobbler, a dry goods store, a printer, a bank, and a "cash store."

Luray's hotels were the most celebrated downtown buildings of the late nineteenth century. Ordinaries were present in Luray during the early years--the part-log Eagle Tavern was a fixture on the 200 block of West Main from the 1830s onward--but the hotels of the late nineteenth century were more sophisticated and considerably larger. At least three hotels survive in whole or in part from the period. In 1879 N. A. Rust offered "home comfort" at the Rust House, the converted 1836 Lionberger Building at 102-106 W. Main. In 1884 Joseph and Laura Parkinson opened the Hotel Laurance in the ca. 1850 store of Emmanuel Grove at 301 W. Main, to which they added a two-story frame dining and lodging wing with locally novel corrugated iron siding. The largest of the downtown hostelries was the Mansion Inn at 115 W. Main, which attained its rambling three-and-a-half-story final form in the 1890s. The Mansion Inn incorporated the antebellum Greek Revival residence of Gabriel Jordan (torn down in 1982), to which were added a dining room wing (which survives) and upper stories with bracketed Italianate cornices and brick-pattern iron siding. Luray's hotels were sustained by the popularity of nearby Luray Caverns--15,000 tourists visited the cave annually in the early 1880s, according to period reports--and by the area's dramatic mountain scenery. The development of the Shenandoah National Park and the Skyline Drive in the 1920s and 1930s attracted the motoring public to the area and provided a clientele for Luray's grandest hotel, the Mimslyn Inn. The sprawling Colonial Revival hotel with its portico and landscaped grounds was constructed in 1930-31 at 401 W. Main.[8]

The commercial-residential buildings of the antebellum period were essentially domestic in character, but the commercial buildings erected in the late nineteenth century and later were more

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[8] Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 16-17, 22-23, 36-37, 80-81; *Page, The County of Plenty*, 42-47; and Giles and Pezzoni, "Page County Historic Resources," 43-44. The rear wing of the Parks Building at 123-127 W. Main may represent fabric from the Cave Hotel. which stood on the site in the 1880s.

Statement of Significance (continued)

specialized architecturally (see Section 7 summary). Among the earliest of the specialized post-bellum commercial buildings to survive in the district is the ca. 1870 Landrum Building at 201 W. Main, a three-story brick building that retains its early storefront surround. Of architectural interest is the two-story brick bank at 123-127 W. Main, probably built in 1893 as the first quarters of the Page Valley Bank. With its hooded round-arched windows and intricately carved stone details the bank is the downtown's premier example of the Romanesque Revival Style. The building also has a corner entry, a common commercial feature of the era but one that is relatively rare in Luray (the 1933 Garber Building at 2 E. Main is another corner-entry building).

Another departure from the domestic building form is represented by the downtown's two surviving nineteenth-century institutional buildings: the 1833 Page County Courthouse at 116 S. Court and the 1881 Luray Graded and High School across the street at 101 S. Court. The courthouse, located on an eminence above the original town, belongs to Virginia's nationally important legacy of Jeffersonian Classical courthouses. The temple-fronted brick building with its arcaded lower level and wings was built by William B. Phillips and Malcolm F. Crawford, both of whom had worked for Thomas Jefferson on the construction of the University of Virginia. Luray's public school for white students was built in the first year of the town's railroad prosperity. Doubled and then tripled in size in later decades, with an ornate belfry and (formerly) columned front, the school figured prominently in the educational life of the community until it was superceded by the present high school in 1931.[9]

In the 1810s Luray had developed along Main Street in the mold of other linear Shenandoah Valley turnpike towns. During the 1830s the town's center of gravity shifted to its west end with the location of the county buildings on Court Street. In the 1880s the railroad provided a counterweight at the east end of the downtown. A siding was constructed where the railroad crossed Main Street to serve the Deford Tannery and a cluster of warehouses associated with the freight depot. Secondarily the siding attracted commercial enterprises that sold agricultural implements, hardware, feed, and other bulk items. South Broad Street, originally one of several regularly spaced cross streets without special importance, emerged as the principal link between Main Street, the passenger depot, and the rambling Luray Inn beyond. The replacement of the Shenandoah Valley Railroad's 1881 passenger depot with a fine Queen Anne and Tudor Revival Norfolk & Western depot (100 block Campbell) in 1906 coincided with an effort to make South Broad Street a more appealing entryway to the town. A landscaped park was set out in front of

[9] "Page County Court House;" Peters and Peters, *Virginia's Historic Courthouses*, 68-71.

Statement of Significance (continued)

the depot and the triangular area bounded by South Broad and Campbell streets and Virginia Avenue was chosen for the town's second Confederate monument (the first, the 1898 Barbee Monument, was located far out East Main Street). The sophistication of the South Broad setting may have influenced the design of the 1910 and later Luray Supply Company Warehouse at 15 Campbell, which boasts an elaborate brick front designed by the Staunton architectural firm T. J. Collins & Son. The area's civic character was further enhanced in 1938 by the construction of the Luray Post Office at 102 S. Broad to a Colonial Revival Treasury Department design.[10]

The reorientation to the railroad stimulated development along East Main Street and the first block of West Main straddling Hawksbill Creek. Anchoring the area was the 1902-03 First National Bank Building on the northeast corner of E. Main and N. Broad, a three-story brick and stone-faced Classical Revival building designed by the Lynchburg architectural firm Frye & Chesterman (this building was torn down about 1980 to make way for the bank that now stands at 1 E. Main). In 1928 Luray's senior banking house, the Page Valley Bank, moved into a Classical Revival building of its own at 17 W. Main, designed by New York architect A. Stanley Miller. From the 1920s to the early 1940s most commercial construction focused on East Main Street between Broad Street and the railroad. The one and two-story brick store buildings at first exhibited Craftsman Style influence, with dark textured brickwork, stone and concrete accent blocks, and shaped parapets. In the 1930s an unknown architect designed two buildings--the 1933 Garber Building at 2 E. Main and the ca. 1939 Men's Shop at 20-22 E. Main--that have pleated parapet panels created by stacked dogtooth brickwork, an interesting variant of Art Deco styling. The Art Deco Style was employed more conventionally in the design of the 1939 Page Theatre at 33 E. Main, and Moderne influence is seen in the late 1930s Rhodes Building at 46 E. Main (the present Chamber of Commerce) and the 1941 H&H Store at 16-18 E. Main. The latter building was built by John Heiston, one of the town's principal contractors during the first half of the twentieth century, and it features a buff-colored glazed tile block facing with tan stripes in the parapet.[11]

Churches too gravitated to the east end of the downtown. In 1899-1900 the Luray United Methodist congregation built a Gothic Revival brick church at 20 S. Broad on the southwest

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[10] Pezzoni, "Luray Norfolk & Western Passenger Station;" *Page, The County of Plenty*, 89, 91; and Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 95.

[11] Wells and Dalton, *Virginia Architects*, 147; Nale, *Historical Downtown Luray*, 50-51.

Statement of Significance (continued)

corner of West Main and South Broad. This church burned and was replaced by another Gothic Revival building--of local limestone--in 1932. The Luray design-build firm Mims Speake & Company provided the design for the Classical Revival Main Street Baptist Church at 15 E. Main, conceived as early as 1911 but not built until 1924-25.[12]

The last downtown area to experience substantial development, or in this case redevelopment, was the block of West Main Street between Hawksbill Creek and Hawksbill Street. At the beginning of the twentieth century this area was crowded with weatherboarded antebellum residential-commercial buildings of log and frame construction. Interestingly, some of the earliest redevelopment to occur in this area was the construction of movie theaters. The Casino Theater, a fantastical concoction of Corinthian columns and eagle finials, was erected at the southwest corner of the Hawksbill Creek bridge in the 1910s. The Casino burned in 1929 but its concrete pier foundation remains under a parking lot. Next was the 1920-21 Bridge Theatre at 36 W. Main, a mixed theater and commercial building. One of the downtown's few industrial buildings was erected at 48 W. Main in 1922: the Casey Jones Manufacturing Company, a producer of overalls that employed in excess of a hundred workers. One of the last buildings to be built on this section of Main Street was the large brick and cinder block Downey Furniture Store at 52 W. Main, dating to 1946. Despite the redevelopment, a vestige of the block's earlier architecture survived in the J. B. Martin House at 51 W. Main, a two-story frame dwelling with beaded weatherboard siding indicative of a date of construction in the mid-nineteenth century.[13]

The construction of the Downey Furniture Store in 1946 is one indication of downtown Luray's continued vitality after World War II. Newspaper advertisements from the early 1950s featured mostly downtown businesses and highlighted downtown merchant promotions such as the July 1952 Buy Luray Days, but at the same time the beginnings of a new emphasis on more peripheral business locations were hinted at. In the 1950s and 1960s commercial construction leap-frogged the East Main Street residential neighborhood to serve industries to the east of town. Luray Caverns and associated tourist-oriented development on the west side of town have attracted commercial development of a more general character. Nevertheless, Luray's downtown has remained a vital retail and banking center. Also, beginning in the 1990s and continuing to the present, several successful adaptive reuses have been undertaken including the rehabilitation

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[12] *Page News & Courier*, September 23, 1911.

[13] *Page, The County of Plenty*, 41, 47; *Page News & Courier*, February 13, 1920

Statement of Significance (continued)

of the Hudson Hardware Building as a restaurant and the rehabilitation of the Luray Norfolk & Western Passenger Station for community use.[14]

Architect/Builder (continued)

B. F. Smith Fireproof Construction Company
Baughan, George Lowell (architect)
Blair, Albernon (contractor)
Booten, John H. (architect)
Churchill, Charles S. (architect)
Crawford, Malcolm F. (carpenter)
Heiston, John (contractor)
Heiston, Miller & Company (contractor)
Geo. Mesker & Co. Iron Works
Marietta Marble Company (monument works)
Melick, Neal A. (supervising engineer)
Miller, A. Stanley (architect)
Mims, J. Raymond (architect)
Mims Speake & Company (architect)
Phillips, William B. (mason)
Sheppard, G.C.H. (builder)
Simon, Louis A. (supervising architect)
T. J. Collins & Son (architect)

[14] *Page News & Courier*, July 31, 1952.

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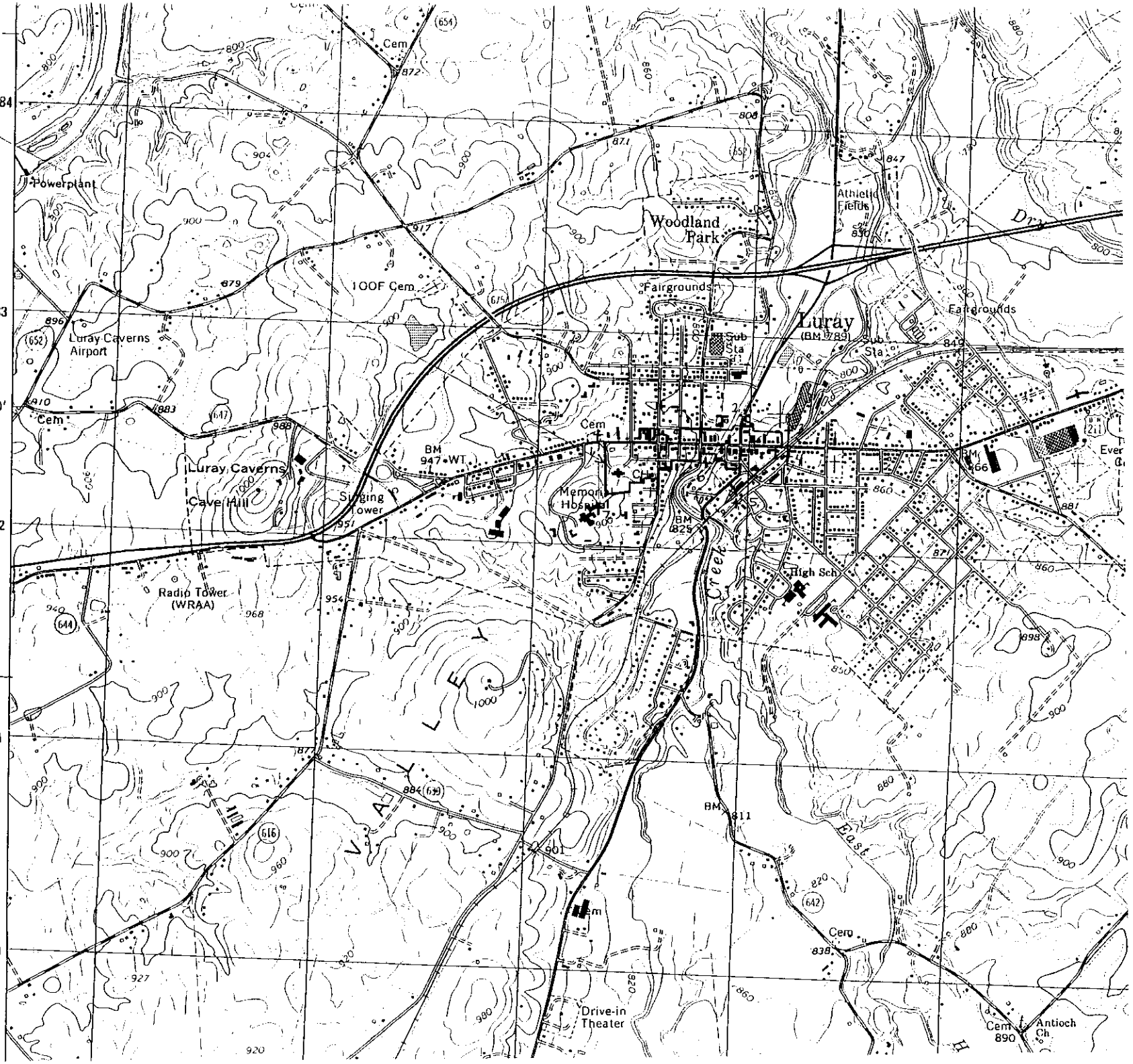
5. 720940 4282230
6. 720800 4282240
7. 720300 4282180

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the district are portrayed on the 1:200-scale map that accompanies the nomination.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the district define an area of contributing resources representing the historic downtown commercial area of Luray. Excluded from the boundaries are properties and areas with low-integrity historic resources and post-1953 resources. Also excluded are adjacent high-integrity historic residential areas that have a developmental history distinct from that of the commercial area.

Luray Downtown Historic District, Page Co., Va.
UTM refs (zone 17)

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2. E720970 N4282640
3. E721180 N4282580
4. E721180 N4282460
5. E720940 N4282230
6. E720800 N4282400
7. E720300 N4282180