

✓ LK-12/17/85 NRHP-3/13/86

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic PULASKI HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT

(DHL FILE No. 125-5)

and/or common N/A

2. Location

street & number First, Second (Main) & Third sts. N, & Randolph
Jefferson, & Washington avenues

N/A not for publication

city, town Pulaski

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia

code 51

county Pulaski

code 155

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation
	N/A	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (See Continuation Sheet #1)

name Multiple Owners

street & number N/A

city, town Pulaski

N/A vicinity of

state Virginia 24301

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pulaski County Courthouse

street & number Main Street

city, town Pulaski

state Virginia 24301

6. Representation in Existing Surveys (See Continuation Sheet #10)

1, Division of Historic Landmarks
title Survey (File 125-5)

has this property been determined eligible? ___ yes no

date Summer 1985

___ federal state county ___ local

depository for survey records Division of Historic Landmarks, 221 Governor Street

city, town Richmond

state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		date <u>N/A</u>

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

Pulaski, with a population of 10,860, lies on Peak Creek, a tributary of the New River, along the northern slope of Draper's Mountain in Pulaski County. U.S. Route 11 runs east-west through the northern part of town before turning south and following Randolph Avenue and Valley Street. Historically this was the main route through the Peak Creek Valley and Martin's Tank, later the town of Pulaski. The historic district comprises most of the commercial center and consists of one hundred buildings and one site, including commercial structures, industrial buildings, multi-family structures, two depots (one now a professional building), a church, the county courthouse, the former high school, and the town park. Of these, twenty-one are considered non-contributing elements. The majority of the structures are typical two-story brick late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century commercial buildings, a few of which retain their original storefronts.

ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS

The district is roughly bounded on the north by Third Street North, the east by Madison Avenue, the south by First Street North, and the west by Randolph Avenue. Washington Avenue runs north-south through the district and is the main north-south artery through town. Main Street, also known as Second Street North, is the heart of the district. The greatest concentration of historic commercial structures including the courthouse is located on Main between Washington and Jefferson. East and West Main between Randolph and Jefferson and Washington and Madison, respectively, were never built up as densely as the block containing the courthouse. Washington and Jefferson Avenues are secondary commercial streets.

Third Street North forms the southern edge of the residential area to the north of downtown. Most of the residential section is located on the hill north of Peak Creek above Route 11 (Fifth Street.) The residences lining the north side of Third Street North and both sides of Fourth Street North west of Washington Avenue date from the early to mid-twentieth century. The area west of Randolph Avenue has historically been the black section of town and contained at one time several black churches and a black school as well as some industrial buildings. Bertha Metal and Zinc Works, the town's first major industry, is located on the western edge of town.

The original town formed south of Peak Creek along the Pepper's Ferry Road, which was known as Valley Street. The first houses and commercial buildings were built along Valley Street. Commerce Street, the other major road in the old part of town was laid out parallel to the railroad tracks on the south side of the creek. Today the area bounded by Jefferson, Valley, Commerce, and Second Streets South is industrial in nature, becoming residential further south. None of the original buildings survive in this section. The area on the eastern side of the district around Madison Avenue developed as the first major industrial section of the new town. Only a few early buildings remain in this section, which continues to serve industrial functions.

The industrial potential in the Peak Creek Valley spurred the growth of the town. Developers sought to turn Martin's Tank into the major industrial center of Southwest Virginia. The town plat of 1888 reveals their ambitions. Commercial lots were laid out on a grid system north of Peak Creek.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below					
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries
 Builder/Architect N/A

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Pulaski Historic Commercial District represents the core of the late nineteenth century industrial center of Pulaski County and a broad section of Southwest Virginia. Undoubtedly affected, as were most similar manufacturing developments, by the Panic of 1893, the town grew gradually through the first decades of the twentieth century to fill out its generously-scaled plat of 1888. The move of the courthouse to Pulaski in 1895 cemented the town's pre-eminence in the region and further spurred development. Though the victim of unemployment and economic stagnation in the mid-twentieth century, Pulaski retains the context and fabric of a turn-of-the-century boom town. The commercial district represents more clearly than any other urban development the social and economic forces which shaped an industrial town in the late nineteenth century.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Pulaski County, lying in the Great Valley of Virginia between the Blue Ridge and the Alleghany Mountains, was formed from portions of western Montgomery and eastern Wythe Counties in 1839. It was named for American Revolutionary War hero Count Casimir Pulaski. The town of Pulaski, the seat of Pulaski County, lies north of the New River, along Peak Creek between Chestnut Mountain, a spur of Brushy Ridge, and Draper Mountain, both of which comprise a portion of a series of ridges that cut across the northern half of the county.¹ As early as the 1790's iron ore was being mined in Wythe County and a forge was operated by the Crockett Family just west of present day Pulaski County. In the post Civil War years the region became one of the major industrial areas in Southwest Virginia, due to the establishment of the Radford Iron Company (1867) on Mack's Creek and the Boom Furnace (1882) on Little Reed Island Creek, near Allisonia.³

Joseph and James Montgomery had acquired land in the Peak Creek area in ca. 1760. Upon James' death, his daughter Mary, wife of William T. Campbell, inherited his portion of the property.² Much of the present town of Pulaski lies within its boundaries. Robert Martin and his son Robert D. Martin acquired this land in 1846.

Before its incorporation in 1886, the town of Pulaski was known as Martin's Tank or Martin's Station.⁴ Martin's Tank was established in 1856 as a consequence of the arrival of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad.⁵ The Martins donated the ten acres of land on which the railroad station and water tank were constructed.

(See Continuation Sheet #24)

9. Major Bibliographical References (See Continuation Sheet #28)

Calfee, Robert M. Letter dated August 3, 1962.
 Town Charter Book 1.
 Town Charter Book 3.
 Division of State Planning and Community Affairs (71-9.)
 Data Summary of Pulaski County, (February, 1971.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Approx. 46 acres

Quadrangle name Pulaski, .VA

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

A

17	5196210	4100140
Zone	Easting	Northing

B

17	5197410	4100140
Zone	Easting	Northing

C

17	5198100	40999810
Zone	Easting	Northing

D

17	5197510	40999810
Zone	Easting	Northing

E

17	5197610	409997610
Zone	Easting	Northing

F

17	5195610	409997610
Zone	Easting	Northing

G

17	5191510	409998110
Zone	Easting	Northing

H

17	5191510	410011210
Zone	Easting	Northing

I 17 519580 4100140

Verbal boundary description and justification Beginning at the northeast corner of the lot containing site 125-5-88, south along the rear (east) line of the property, crossing Third Street North and continuing south along the rear property lines of the buildings on the east side of Washington Avenue, east along the rear (north) property lines of

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries(See Continuation Sheet#30)

state N/A code county N/A code

state N/A code county N/A code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Gibson Worsham, Architect; Charlotte Worsham, Preservation Consultant

organization Gibson Worsham, Architect

date August 1985

street & number Yellow Sulphur Springs, Rt. 2

telephone (703) 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg

state Virginia 24073

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

H. Bryan Mitchell 2/7/86

H. Bryan Mitchell, Director
 title Division of Historic Landmarks

date

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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PULASKI HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, Pulaski, Virginia

Continuation sheet 1

Item number 4

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4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

Jefferson Avenue

East Side

- 125-5-17 Virginia Church Furniture Corporation
190 1st Street, N.W.
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-73 Highland Investment Corporation
c/o E. Ray Lemons
Box 152
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-80 Fred Harvey Jr.
Route 2, Box 67
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-81 E. Ray Lemons
Box 152
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-82 Jackson M. Bane
125-5-83 P.O. Box 1053
125-5-84 Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-85 Air Control Corp. of Pulaski
138 N. Jefferson Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301

West Side

- 125-5-74 Highland Investment Corporation
c/o E. Ray Lemmons
Box 152
Pulaski, Va 24301
- 125-5-75 Robert A. & Nettie J. Williams
Route 2, Box 136A
Barren Springs, VA 24313
- 125-5-76 Duval C. Seagle
P.O. Box 602
Pulaski, VA 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #2)

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125-5-77 A.J. Smith, Jr.
P.O. Box 1030
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-78 T.S. Dalton
Box 764
Pulaski, Va 24301

125-5-79 Town of Pulaski
P.O. Box 660
Pulaski, VA 24301

Main Street

North Side

125-5-46 Billy R. Murphy and Princess P. Murphy
125-5-47 Route 1, Box 368-A
Pulaski, Va 24301

125-5-49 Ned Bane
P.O. Box 708
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-50 Eugene Nuckols and K.M. Fleenor
c/o K. M. Fleenor
West Court Square
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-51 County of Pulaski
143 3rd Street, N.W.
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-52 Applachian Power Company
P.O. Box 999
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-53 James Lark
P.O. Box 795
Pulaski, VA 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #3)

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PULASKI HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, Pulaski, Virginia

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- 125-5-54 Lena Dix Estate
 c/o Helen B. Wyatt
 P.O. Box 653
 Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-55 E.O. King, Jr.
 Box 811
 Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-56 Margaret C. Owen
 c/o Bruce W. Owen
 P.O. Box 4814
 Annapolis, MD 21403
- 125-5-57 Robert Melton
 148 Oakland Drive
 Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-58 Kathleen and William A. Brackman
 Route 7, Box 380
 Denham Springs, LA 78726
- 125-5-59 Charles W. and Bruce C. Brackman
125-5-60 Route 7, Box 380
 Denham Springs, LA 78726
- 125-5-61 Issy Lepchitz
 P.O. Box 1116
 Pulaski, VA 24301

South Side

- 125-5-23 John McElroy (Hercules Cafe)
 76 East Main Street
 Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-24 Donald Martin
 1317 Hopkins Drive
 Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-25 Flora P. Aust
 Route 1, Box 205A
 Pulaski, VA 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #4)

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- 125-5-26 James Glenn
P.O. Box 70
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-27 VA Commonwealth Properties, Inc.
Bank of Virginia
Southwest Controllers Division
P.O. Box 25970
Richmond, VA 23260
- 125-5-28 Robert M. Wallace
29 Deer Field Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-29 Fine Arts Center for New River Valley, Inc.
21 Main Street, W.
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-30 Turus F. Southern
125-5-31 37 8th Street NW
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-32 Frank G. Rhudy, Sr. & Francis V. Lane, Jr.
1312 N. Mill Road
Salem, VA 24153
- 125-5-33 Mrs. Esther Wallace
125-5-34 P.O. Box 1298
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-35 Albert Munroe
73 West Main Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-36 Atha Corvin Whitaker
77 West Main Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-37 T.S. Dalton
(Kathleen Umansky)
Dalton Guardian
P.O. Box 764
Pulaski, Va 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #5)

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- 125-5-38 David Wine
719 Washington Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-39 Dexter Obel Ratcliffe
Box 266
Pulaski, Va 24301
- 125-5-40 Samuel F. Corder
615 5th Street NE
Pulaski, Va 24301
- 125-5-41 Enoch C. Cecil, Jr. (Deborah T.)
Route 3, Box 238A
Pulaski, Va 24301
- 125-5-42 Virginia Shoe Shop - owner
Verlin Dean
132 3rd Street NW
Pulaski, VA 24301
- Wilson's Cleaners - owner
Jackie Duane Wilson
Route 3, Box 186A
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-43 Pulaski Laundry, Inc.
P.O. Box 968
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-44 Ricky Coake Et Ux and Dennis O. Bryant Et Ux
Rt. 1, Box 5111
Max Meadows, VA 24360
- 125-5-45 Raymond R. Taylor
108 Virginia Ct.
Pulaski, VA 24301

Randolph Avenue

East Side

- 125-5-68 George E. Penn
248 Randolph Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #6)

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PULASKI HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, Pulaski, Virginia

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125-5-69 Munsey Jackson
125-5-70 Rt. 3, Box 9
 Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-71 Mrs. Ida Lewis
 501 Maple Avenue
 Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-72 Lodge No. 154 Masons
 33 4th Street, N.W.
 Pulaski, VA 24301

Washington Avenue

East Side

125-5-06 N. & W. Railroad
 M.J. Strouse, Property Tax Manager
 8 N. Jefferson Street
 Roanoke, VA 24042

125-5-88 Gordon H. Winbery
 P.O. Box 811
 Blacksburg, VA 24060

125-5-89 Charter Federal Savings and Loan Association
 250 North Washington Avenue
 Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-80 Parks-Belk Company
 Drawer No. 739
 Bristol, VA 24201

125-5-91 Atrium Associates
 P.O. Box 883
 Radford, VA 24141

125-5-92 Nathaniel R. and Barbara Z. Tuck
 Midtown Professional Building
 Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-93 Sovran Bank
 P.O. Box 590
 Pulaski, VA 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #7)

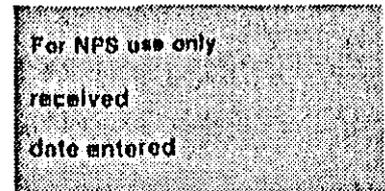
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- 125-5-94 Donald W. and James R. Glenn
P.O. Box 70
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-95 Christ Episcopal Church
144 Washington Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-96 H. W. Huff
P.O. Box 621
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-97 Town of Pulaski
P.O. Box 660
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-98 Ruby R. Russell
P.O. Box 693
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-99 Grace Taubman
c/o Advanced Stores Company, Inc.
Store No. 230
P.O. Box 2710
Roanoke, VA 24001

West Side

- 125-5-86 U.S. Postal Service
109 N. Washington Avenue
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-87 Southwest Times, Inc.
Box 391
Pulaski, VA 24301

(See Continuation Sheet #8)

United States Department of the Interior
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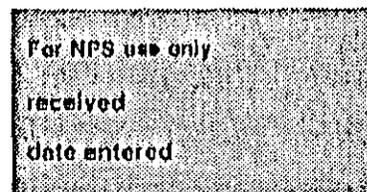
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First Street

North Side

125-5-09 Virginia Church Furniture Corp.
125-5-10 190 1st Street, N.W.
125-5-11 Pulaski, VA 24301
125-5-12
125-5-13

125-5-14 Town of Pulaski
125-5-15 P.O. Box 660
125-5-16 Pulaski, VA 24060

125-5-17 Virginia Church Furniture Corp.
190 1st Street N.W.
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-18 Jack J. Dunnivant
68 1st Street
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-19 Town of Pulaski
P.O. Box 660
Pulaski, VA 24060

125-5-20 Jack M. Bane
P.O. Box 1053
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-21 Thomas J. McCarthy
P.O. Box 18
Pulaski, VA 24301

125-5-22 William Frank and Wanda F. Mason
P.O. Box 724
Pulaski, VA 24301

South Side

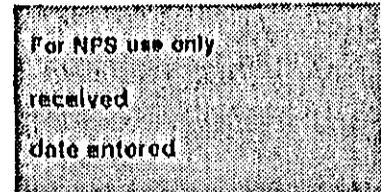
125-5-01 Howard V. Morris
1345 Drove Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301

James M. Brown
624 Cardinal Drive
Pulaski, VA 24301

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- 125-5-02 Emmett G. Ackers
125-5-03 406 Newbern Road
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-04 Millard J. and Flora K. Spence
Route 1, Box 130
Dublin, VA 24084
- 125-5-05 Applachian Power Company
125-5-07 P.O. Box 999
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-08 PMAB Associates
101 1st Street, N.W.
Pulaski, VA 24301

Third Street

South Side

- 125-5-62 David Edmonds
21 North 3rd Street
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-63 County of Pulaski
125-5-64 143 3rd Street, N.W.
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-65 C.O. Warren
Box 522
Bluefield, VA 24701
- 125-5-66 Ned B. Bane and John H. White
Box 969
Pulaski, VA 24301
- 125-5-67 County of Pulaski
143 3rd Street, N.W.
Pulaski, VA 24301

Alley between West Main and Third Street

- 125-5-48 Munsey Jackson
Rt. 3, Box 9
Pulaski, VA 24301

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2. Pulaski County Courthouse (DHL File No. 125-1)
Virginia Landmarks Register, 1981
National Register of Historic Places, 1982
3. Dalton Theatre (DHL File No. 125-2)
Virginia Landmarks Register, 1977
National Register of Historic Places, 1977

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The plat does not indicate that the developers had any plans for the town to become the county seat. Only the center block of lots face Main Street; those at the ends of the block face Washington and Jefferson avenues. The articulated plan, which in part resembles other towns laid out in relation to a major rail line, incorporates a two-block park between First Street North and the railroad tracks from Washington to Randolph (the easternmost section of which remains) and a large residential section incorporating a square at the intersection of Sixth Street North and Washington Avenue. The plan imposes a grid system on the commercial lowlands and the residential hillside with the exception of curving Prospect Avenue which follows the crest of the hill and adds a picturesque element to the plan.

The earliest extant structure in the district is a two-story frame building on the northeast corner of First Street Northwest and Randolph Avenue (the name for Valley Street north of the tracks) which served as a boarding house and later as a restaurant, and which by 1920 catered to Pulaski's black population on the west side of town. The building is now vacant. As part of the old settlement of Martin's Tank the building pre-dates any development north of the railroad tracks in the present commercial area.

In 1884, the Norfolk and Western Railway constructed the elaborate Maple Shade Inn south of the park, facing Commerce Street. This hotel, contemporary and similar in style to the N & W's Hotel Roanoke, was demolished in 1962-63 to make way for a shopping center. The Tudor style two-and-one-half-story, U-shaped structure had a stone first floor and half-timbered upper stories.

The first buildings erected on the new commercial lots were located on Second Street North, hereafter referred to as Main Street, and along Washington Avenue. By 1894, the date of the first Sanborn Insurance map of Pulaski, less than a dozen buildings had been constructed in the district.

The McGill building (125-5-88) on the northeast corner of Third Street N.W. and Washington Avenue is the oldest extant structure in the new commercial district north of Commerce Street. County government operated in the McGill building prior to the completion of the courthouse in Pulaski. The structure has lost its original ornament and the facade has been refaced in yellow brick, however, the original openings have been retained on the second story. A new storefront has also been added.

The Hotel Pulaski, a three-story brick and stucco building built in 1891, was located on the southwest corner of Main and Washington and was demolished in the 1970's. That corner lot is now the site of the Bank of Virginia building.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Two two-story brick buildings housing a bank and the post office were located on the north side of Main Street east of the courthouse. A two-story brick general store stood on the northeast corner of Washington and Main, a three-story brick hardware store was on the west side of Washington north of Main and had a metal covered frame warehouse to the rear, and a cluster of two-story brick buildings were located at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Third Street North. Of these, only the McGill building survives.

By 1898, five more buildings had been erected on Main Street. The building which housed B. D. Smith and Bros., Printers (125-5-29) is a handsome two-story, three-bay brick commercial structure with advanced segmental hood molds, paired pilaster strips, and corbelling. The original storefront has been altered. A recent rehabilitation has established this building as an art center. The two-story brick block at 63-73 Main Street (125-5-35) had also been completed by 1898. The building contains four shops on the ground floor with altered storefronts. Windows on the second floor are segmentally arched with the exception of a cluster of three sash windows which replace the original oriel. Corbelled pilaster strips and a corbelled cornice with recessed panels beneath it containing herringbone brick work decorates the facade. West across the alley is a three-story brick block (125-5-36) which appears to be the old Hotel Alexander of ca. 1899 refaced and raised to a full three stories. The three original early twentieth century storefronts, which were probably installed when the building was refaced, are some of the finest storefronts in the district.

The Pulaski County Courthouse (125-5-51) on the north side of Main Street was completed in 1896 after plans of the Knoxville, Tennessee architectural firm of Chamberlin and Co. The two-and-one-half-story building is constructed of rough-cut granite from Peak Creek and combines elements of the Richardsonian Romanesque and Queen Anne styles. The courthouse sits back from the street in a park-like lawn on a group of commercial lots in the center of the block, breaking the rhythm of the urban streetscape. A three-part stone arch with the dates 1607-1907 serves as a formal entrance to the building. The archway originally served as the entrance to the Pulaski County exhibit at the Jamestown Exposition of 1907. West of the courthouse is an elegant two-story brick structure (125-5-50) with rounded arch openings which turn the corner onto the east side to form an arcade of five arches. The eastern half of the building originally housed a bank which accounts for its lacking a glass storefront. The western section originally contained a drug store and now has a contemporary storefront. The free-standing structure has identical side elevations on the second floor displaying oriel windows. The arcade has been filled in with display windows. A one-story brick livery and feed store (125-5-75) had been built on the west side of Jefferson north of Main by 1898.

By 1913, Main Street between Washington and Jefferson was built up with the exception of the two lots east of the courthouse. Lots on Washington and Jefferson north of Main were gradually being built upon.

(See Continuation Sheet #13)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

The Elks Theatre and building (125-5-54) on the northeast corner of Main and Washington was built in ca. 1911. This fine example of urban Classical Revival architecture displays brick quoins, jack arches, rusticated piers between storefronts, and a rusticated brick first floor on the side elevations. The ground story of the theatre, originally brick, has been stuccoed and scored to resemble stone. Both the theatre and the commercial block have lost their original continuous cornice.

The town had a baseball park and grandstand by this time, located where the former high school building now stands on West Main Street. The high school (125-5-64) faces Third Street N.W. and is a large two-story, brick Classical Revival structure with an Ionic portico built between 1913 and 1920. The building now houses county offices.

A new brick freight depot with a ridge monitor was built in 1907. The building (125-5-8), which has been rehabilitated for doctor's offices, is located in the northeast corner of the western block of the park originally laid out between Commerce Street and First Street North. Warehouses were built along First Street North in response to their proximity to the railroad tracks. Two important warehouses stand along First Street. The structure on the northeast corner of Jefferson and First Street North (125-5-17) was built between 1898 and 1903 of wood frame construction. The building was later clad in pressed metal and is now sheathed in brick. It has a handsome stepped gable roof with corbelling on the Jefferson Avenue side. The Pulaski Grocery Company building (125-5-18) is a handsome late industrial structure of three stories with a low stepped parapet on the main facade. A row of modern concrete block warehouses is located along First Street Northwest. The town built a garage on First Street North across from the park and the Maple Shade Inn between 1913 and 1920. This lot is now occupied by the Municipal Building (125-5-19) of 1971.

The Pulaski Foundry, later the General Chemical Company, was located on the north side of First Street Northeast. The company office (125-5-21) and the foundry building (125-5-22) still stand, but the machine shop has been demolished. Both are handsome buildings with corbelled brickwork. Later twentieth century brick warehouses line the south side of First Street North.

Christ Episcopal Church (125-5-95) at 144 Washington Avenue is a 1908 brick Gothic Revival church. The gabled structure consists of a nave plan with the entrance in a central gabled vestibule. The building exhibits pointed arch windows containing stained glass, and the windows project into the roof forming wall dormers.

(See Continuation Sheet # 14)

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Architectural Analysis

Buttresses delineate the bays along the sides of the building. The roof is sheathed with tiles. A two-story office and Sunday school building is attached to the church on the south.

Later commercial buildings in the district include the Dalton Theatre Building of 1921 (125-5-96) on Washington Avenue and the Appalachian Power Company building (125-5-52) on the north side of Main Street. The Dalton Building is a three-story, buff brick structure divided by slightly projecting pilasters into five bays of three openings each. On the ground story the central entrance, which lacks its original marquee, is marked by a low elliptical arch and is flanked by a pair of now altered storefronts. The auditorium itself to the east collapsed in 1982. The APCO building (ca. 1940) is a handsome two-story, three-bay structure on Main Street just east of the courthouse. It is faced with white glazed brick and has blocks of green and copper colored tile between the first and second stories. Windows on the second floor are metal casements. The building is a fine example of mid-twentieth century commercial architecture.

The loss of the auditorium section of the Dalton Building was the most recent of several demolitions of important landmarks in downtown Pulaski, beginning with the destruction of the Maple Shade Inn in 1963. Insensitive alterations covered or removed some of the distinctive detail from several other important landmarks, but the fabric of the commercial district remains largely intact. The condition of the district has been positively affected by the sensitive rehabilitation of the freight station and the B. D. Smith Building and by a careful restoration and relandscaping of the courthouse, and the grounds around it, as well as by an upgrading of the signage and paving materials along Main Street. The district represents the growth of a booming industrial climate. The buildings in the district are the products of the speculation, boosterism, and sense of urban space associated with boom towns in the late nineteenth century.

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7. DESCRIPTION -- Inventory

Following is an itemized inventory of all the properties in the Pulaski Historic Commercial District. All structures contribute to the historic character of the district unless otherwise specified. All buildings date from the first quarter of the twentieth century unless otherwise specified. Asterisk denotes non-contributing buildings.

Jefferson Avenue

East Side

125-5-17: Commercial; 1898-1903; wood frame and brick, 2 story; 6-bays on west gable side (asymmetrical); gable roof; original building on site; early industrial building.

*125-5-73: Commercial; concrete block with brick facade; 1-story; 3-bay; shed roof;

125-5-80: Commercial; (Colonial Revival); 1900; brick; 3-story; 4-bay; shed roof; handsome three-story brick commercial structure occupying key corner location.

*125-5-81: Commercial; 1-story; 1 bay; shed roof; less than 50 years old, non-contributing.

125-5-82: Vacant; commercial; brick; 2-story, 3-bay, shed roof; handsome commercial structure with corbelled brickwork.

125-5-83: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 5-bay; shed roof; handsome commercial block with brick corbelling and pilaster strips.

125-5-84: Concrete block with brick veneer; 2-story, 9-bays; shed roof; commercial block contributing to scale and rhythm of streetscape.

125-5-85: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 7-bay; shed roof; particularly handsome brick commercial building with corbelled cornice.

West Side

125-5-74: Vacant commercial; brick; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-75: Commercial; 1894-98; brick; 1-story, shed roof; one of earliest buildings in the district, originally livery stable.

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125-5-76: Commercial; 5-bay; shed roof; handsome commercial building displaying stepped parapet and corbelled brick work.

125-5-77: Commercial; brick; 2-story; 2-bay; shed roof; commercial structure contributing to scale and rhythm of streetscape.

125-5-78: Vacant commercial; concrete block with brick facade; 2-story; 3-bay; shed roof; commercial building contributing to scale and rhythm of streetscape.

125-5-79: Fire Station; brick; 2-story; 2-bay; shed roof; noteworthy brick fire station.

Main Street

North Side

125-5-46: Commercial; post 1920; concrete block with stretcher bond brick facade; 2-story; 3-bay; shed roof; example of later commercial development in downtown.

*125-5-47: Commercial; concrete block; 1-story; 1-bay; shed roof; less than 50 years old, non-contributing structure.

125-5-49: Commercial; 1898-1903; brick; 2-story, 13-bay; representative commercial structure.

125-5-50: Commercial/offices; brick; 2-story, 3-bay; shed roof; exceptionally handsome, early commercial building with arcade and oriel windows.

also
#125-1

125-5-51: Courthouse; (Romanesque Revival); 1896; rock faced stone ashlar; 2 1/2 story, 9-bay; well-preserved structure, town's only example of Romanesque Revival style within commercial district.

also
#125-130

125-5-52: Commercial; brick; 2-story; shed roof; handsome mid-20th-century commercial structure.

125-5-53: Commercial (Colonial Revival); brick; 3-story, 6-bay; shed roof; handsome example of urban Classical Revival.

125-5-54: Theatre/Commercial/Social (Classical Revival); Ca 1911; brick; 2-story, 13-bay; shed roof; (Elk's building); hipped roof, (Theatre); first building on site, fine example of Classical Revival, commercial structure, key corner location.

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(See Continuation Sheet #17)

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125-5-55: Commercial/Apartment; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-56: Vacant/Commercial; 2-story, 3-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-57: Commercial/Apartments; brick; 2-story, 3-bay; shed roof; built as parish hall for Christ Church Episcopal on Washington Avenue, first floor altered to commercial use, handsome early 20th-century building.

125-5-58: Vacant/Apartment; brick; 2-story, 2-bay, shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-59: Commercial; brick; 1-story; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-60: Commercial/Apartment; brick; 2-story; shed roof; handsome 20th-century commercial block.

125-5-61: Vacant/Commercial; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

South Side

*125-5-22: Governmental; 3rd quarter 20th-century; concrete; 2-story; jail and sheriff's office, less than 50 years old, non-contributing.

125-5-23: Commercial/Vacant; brick; 1-story; shed roof; example of late commercial development on edges of commercial district.

125-5-24: Commercial/Office; brick; 1-story, shed roof; example of later commercial development.

125-5-25: Commercial; post 1920; brick; shed roof; representative commercial structure of early 20th century.

125-5-26: Office; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure of early 20th century.

*125-5-27: Commercial; 1-story, 3-bay; shed roof; less than 50 years old, non-contributing.

125-5-28: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 4-bay; shed roof; while less than 50 years old, the height and fenestration contribute to the overall urban character of the streetscape.

(See Continuation Sheet #18)

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also
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125-5-29: Art Gallery; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; one of first three buildings erected on south side of Main Street in new commercial district, well-preserved late 19th-century commercial structure.

125-5-30: Commercial; 1908-1913; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; good example of commercial structure, first building on site.

125-5-31: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 13-bay; shed roof; representative example of commercial structure, first building on site.

*125-5-32: Vacant/Commercial; brick; 2-story, -bay; contributes to scale and rhythm of streetscape despite facade alterations, non-contributing due to alterations.

125-5-33: Commercial; 1903-1908; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; representative example of commercial structure, first building on site.

*125-5-34: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 3-bay; shed roof; new facade but retains height and fenestration of surrounding buildings.

125-5-35: Commercial; 1894-1898; brick; 2-story, 10-bay; shed roof; one of first three commercial buildings, including the Hotel Pulaski, to be erected on the south side of Main Street in the new commercial district.

125-5-36: Commercial; 1898-99; brick; 3-story, 6-bay; shed roof; representative late commercial facade, well-preserved store fronts.

125-5-37: Commercial; post 1920; brick; 2-story, 3-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-38: Vacant/Offices Second Floor; post 1920; brick (wire-cut); 2-story, 3-bay; shed roof; representative late commercial structure.

125-5-39: Commercial/Multi-Family Resident; brick; 2-stories, 12-bay; shed roof; good example of early 20th-century commercial building.

125-5-40: Commercial/Multi-Family Resident; brick; 2-story, 4-bay; shed roof; good example of early 20th-century commercial structure.

125-5-41: Commercial; brick; 1-story; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-42: Commercial/Multi-Family Resident; brick; 2-story, 6-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

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125-5-43: Commercial; 1913-1920; concrete block (rock-faced); 1-story; example of later commercial development in downtown, building houses original business.

*125-5-44: Commercial; contemporary; steel-frame; 1-story; flat roof; less than 50 years old, non-contributing structure.

125-5-45: Commercial; post 1920; brick; 2-story, 2-bay; shed roof; example of later commercial development in downtown.

Randolph Avenue

East Side

125-5-68: Commercial; 1908-1913; wood frame, (weatherboard); 2-story, low basement; hipped roof; 1-story wooden wrap-around with turned posts, balustrade and spindles, brackets, standing seam metal shed roof; extremely well-preserved dwelling with imposing corner location. T-plan form adapted to corner lot with secondary facade on 3rd Street.

*125-5-69: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 3-bay; gable roof; 1-story modern porch of wood with wrought iron columns supporting gabled roof. Less than 50 years old, non-contributing structure.

*125-5-70: Commercial; brick; 2-story, 3-bay; gable roof; one-story, one level, one bay porch made of wood with gabled roof supported by two square columns. Less than 50 years old, non-contributing, but does not detract from the character of the street.

125-5-71: Residential; 1908-1913; wood frame (weatherboard); 2-story; gabled roof; early urban dwelling bordering commercial development, one of few remaining in downtown.

125-5-72: Masonic Temple; wood frame (aluminum or vinyl siding); 2-story, 3-bay; gabled roof with parapet; although windows and doors have been altered and the building covered with aluminum siding, the structure contributes to the historic fabric of the district.

Washington Street

East Side

125-5-06: Railroad Station and Section Office; 1886; stone; 1-story; particularly fine example of late nineteenth century depot, size and materials indicate importance of this stop on the N&W line, one of the most impressive stations in region.

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125-5-88: Vacant/Commercial; pre 1894; brick; 2-story, 6-bay; shed roof; oldest structure in the new downtown Pulaski.

*125-5-89: Commercial; brick veneer; 2-story; 3-bay; shed roof; less than 50 years old and therefore non-contributing but maintains scale and rythm of streetscape.

*125-5-90: Commercial; brick; 2-story; shed roof; less than 50 years old, non-contributing.

125-5-91: Apartments; brick; 3-story; shed roof parapet; representative commercial structure.

125-5-92: Commercial, brick; 2-story; 5-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-93: Bank (Classical Revival); brick;; 3-story; shed roof; particularly handsome Classical Revival structure occupying key corner location.

125-5-94: Office; brick; 2-story, 4 bay; shed roof; representative late commercial building.

125-5-95: Church (Gothic Revival); 1908; brick; 3-bay (side); gabled roof; 6 side dormers; gable-end nave plan, entrance in gabled central vestibule, pointed arch windows, buttresses, side windows project into roof forming wall dormers, interior intact, handsome example of late Gothic Revival.

125-5-96: Commercial (Classical Revival); 1921; brick; 3-story, 7-bay; shed roof; fine example of early 20th century office building (listed in National Register).

125-5-97: Senior Citizen Center; brick; 1-story, 3-bay; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-98: Commerical; brick, 2-story; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

*125-5-99: Commercial; brick; 2-story; shed roof; non-contributing due to alterations, however, despite facade alterations, building anchors corner where warehouse section merges with commercial section of downtown, possible to remove upper portion of facade.

(See Continuation Sheet #21)

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West Side

125-5-86: Post Office (Colonial Revival); 1917; brick; 1-story; 5-bay; gable roof; 1-story porch with three bays, made of wood, classically detailed; very handsome Colonial Revival post office occupying key corner location, well-preserved exterior and interior.

125-5-87: Vacant/Commercial (Classical Revival); brick; 2-story; 3-bay; shed roof; good example of period office building.

First Street

North Side

125-5-09: Vacant/Commercial; pre-1894; wood frame (weatherboard, stucco facade); 2-story; 3-bay; shed roof; 1-story porch made of wood, canopy with asphalt shingle roof; one of few remaining structures from old commercial center along Valley and Commerce Streets.

*125-5-10: Industrial; wood frame; 1-story; 2-bay; shed roof; non-contributing infill building.

*125-5-11: Industrial; concrete block; 1-story, 3-bay; shed roof; non-contributing modern industrial structure.

*125-5-12: Industrial; concrete block; 1-story; 1-bay; gable roof; non-contributing modern industrial structure.

*125-5-13: Industrial; concrete block; 1-story; shed roof; non-contributing modern industrial structure.

125-5-14: Industrial; concrete block; 1-story; 3-bay; gabled roof; late industrial building.

125-5-15: Industrial; concrete block; 1-story; 3-bay; gable roof; late industrial building.

125-5-16: Commercial; 1931 (on building), brick; 1-story, 2-bay; gable roof; small scale later commercial building contributing to character of district.

125-5-18: Industrial; post 1920, brick; 3-story, 11-bay; shed roof; good example of industrial development on edges of commercial center.

*125-5-19: Governmental; 1971; 2 story, contemporary non-contributing structure.

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125-5-20: Commercial; 1913-1920; brick (stucco); 3-story; 3-bays; shed roof; representative commercial structure.

125-5-21: Industrial; 1913-1920; brick; 2-story; 3-bay; shed roof; one of two surviving buildings from impressive complex of three at General Chemical Company.

also #125-128
125-5-22: Vacant/Industrial; 1913-1920; brick; 3-story; 6-bay; gable roof; one of few remaining industrial buildings from "boom" period, one of two surviving structures from complex of three at General Chemical Company.

South Side

125-5-01: Industrial; third quarter of the 20th century; concrete block; 1-story; 5-bays; shed roof; non-contributing modern warehouse.

125-5-02: Industrial; brick; 1-story; 7-bay; part of a row of representative late industrial structures.

125-5-03: Industrial; brick; 1-story; shed roof; part of row of representative late industrial structures.

125-5-04: Industrial; 1930; brick; 1-story; 6-bays; shed roof; part of row of late industrial buildings.

125-5-05: Industrial; brick; 3-story; 5-bay; shed roof; part of a row of representative late industrial structures.

125-5-07: Industrial; post-1920; brick; 3-story; 6-bay; shed roof; representative industrial building from the post "boom" era.

125-5-08: Commercial; 1907; brick; 1-story, 3 bays across gable end, 14 bays deep, bays consist of recessed panels formed by pilaster strips and corbelling; gable roof; impressive brick freight station indicating Pulaski's growth as an industrial center by the early 20th century.

Third Street

South Side

125-5-62: Commercial; brick; 1-story; 3-bay; gable roof; third location of early Pulaski commercial enterprise, early 20th century structure with 1936 addition, building threatened by demolition.

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125-5-63: Office; brick; 3-bay; hipped pyramidal roof; modern porch added, early residential structure in new downtown Pulaski, home of Lewis Smith who ran adjacent printing office.

125-5-64: Governmental; 1958; concrete block; 2-story; 9-bay; flat roof; less than 50 years old, non-contributing.

125-5-65: Offices (Colonial Revival); 1940's; brick; 2-story; 5-bay; shed roof; handsome Colonial Revival office building.

125-5-66: Apartment Building; brick; 3-story; 5-bay; shed roof; handsome brick apartment complex, one of three in district.

125-5-67: Government Offices (Colonial Revival); 1913-1920; brick; 2-story; hip on hip roof; 2-story Ionic porch; town's first public high school building, only major Colonial Revival structure in downtown.

Alley between W. Main and 3rd Street

125-5-48: Vacant/Commercial; 1908-1913; concrete block; 1 1/2 story; 4-bay; gable roof; representative structure from early 20th century.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

During the initial years following the advent of the railroad only the tank, wood yard, and Martin home existed at Martin's Tank.⁶ L. S. Calfee, Robert D. Martin's son-in-law, opened the first general merchandise store where the Pepper's Ferry Road crossed the railroad tracks.⁷ In 1873, Robert D. Martin commissioned William T. Hart to survey the improvements and transportation routes at his "Mountain View Home" with the intention of selling lots or parcels of land as the area developed.⁸ In 1880, the Bertha Zinc and Metal Company began the first heavy industry in Martin's Tank. Welsh workers and management personnel moved to Martin's Tank in order to operate the plant. Ore from the Barren Springs section of Wythe County was brought to the town on wagons.

Within the next few years, Martin sold his surveyed property to various land companies in the area for the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars. Of the twelve land companies, the Pulaski Land Improvement Company, chartered in 1884, was responsible for the town layout. It was in this same year, 1884, that Martin's Tank was renamed Pulaski Station, and in 1886 it was incorporated as the town of Pulaski City. By 1887, the Cripple Creek Branch of the Norfolk & Western Railway was completed, connecting the mineral regions of Wythe County and beyond with the main line at Pulaski. This further stimulated growth and in the following year the town was replatted on a much larger scale. The town's leaders convinced the railway to originate the branch line at Pulaski, although a route along the New River to Central Depot (Radford) might have been more logical.⁹

Prior to its incorporation, Pulaski ranked third in the county as a commercial center. According to Chataigne's Business Directory and Gazetteer for 1880-1881, there were approximately sixty-five merchants and tradesmen in Pulaski County, and Newbern and Dublin were the most prosperous communities. After 1886, Pulaski overtook these two towns to become the county's leading commercial center.¹⁰

Of the industries that contributed to Pulaski's industrial success and urban growth the Bertha Zinc and Metal Company, in the bend of Peak Creek west of Martin's Tank, was the first and became the largest. Having purchased the Altoona Coal and Iron Company (1879) prior to the town's incorporation, the Bertha Zinc works acquired its own fuel supply. The Altoona mines were located northwest of the town and were connected by a narrow-gauge railroad to the furnaces. After 1887 the ores were brought in on the Cripple Creek Branch rail line. By 1890, the Bertha works had expanded to include ten furnaces, making it one of the largest zinc works in America.¹¹

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Before the town's replatting, the main business district in Pulaski developed around the intersection of Valley and Commerce Streets on the south side of the railroad tracks.¹² Valley Street was the historic Pepper's Ferry Road which had been the primary route through the area since the earliest days of settlement, and Commerce Street paralleled the tracks and Peak Creek. At this time, the north side of the tracks was marshy and Valley Street lay on higher ground.¹³ With the formation of the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company in 1884, a stone embankment was built to channel Peak Creek through the town and, as a result, the north side of the tracks was made available for development. Also in 1884, the Norfolk & Western Railway constructed a substantial hotel, the Maple Shade Inn, on a large block of land south of the tracks.

The new plat of 1888 shows a grid of streets centered east of Valley and north of Peak Creek. A park was designated for two blocks immediately north of the railroad tracks adjacent to the Maple Shade Inn and the new passenger depot of 1886. Residential sections were laid out in the sloping ground and hilltops north and south of the business district. The east-west streets were numbered First through Thirteenth on the north side of town and First through Eighth on the south side. The north-south streets were named for prominent colonial leaders. At the intersection of Sixth Street North and Washington Avenue a square was laid out in the residential area and named Washington Square. Second Street North, just north of Peak Creek, eventually became known as Main Street.

The growth of the new commercial district was slow at first, undoubtedly affected by Panic of 1893 and the ensuing depression. In 1895 the decision was made to move the courthouse from Newbern to Pulaski. The new courthouse was completed in 1896 on a group of commercial lots in the center of the blocks between Second and Third Streets North and Washington and Jefferson avenues. Lots along Second Street (Main) sold for twelve dollars a front foot. By the 1890's the old downtown section at Commerce and Valley streets began losing businesses to the new Main Street. The first commercial buildings on Main Street were the B. D. Smith Printing Co. Building, the Pulaski Hotel, and the brick block at 63-73 Main Street. The development of the district was slow, and it was not until the 1920's that the grid was filled in.

Soon after the incorporation of the town in 1888 Pulaski Iron Company (PICO) began operation east of the town center. At its peak in 1907, PICO produced 150 tons of pig iron per day from ore mined in the southern section of the county and in the nearby mountains.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

PICO eventually became the property of the General Chemical Company and continued operations until the Great Depression.¹⁴

The Dora furnace, located one mile east of PICO was built in 1890. It was named for the daughter of George T. Mills, supervisor of the furnace's construction. Eventually the Dora Furnace was purchased by the Virginia Iron, Coal, and Coke Company, a regional system of furnaces that maintained operations in Pulaski along with a large foundry and machine shop until 1920.¹⁵

The cultural and social needs of Pulaski workers were met by the provision, as early as 1894 of an opera house. A succession of opera houses and theatres supplied vaudeville and variety programs. In the twentieth century the Elk's Theatre and the Dalton Theatre combined live performances with motion pictures. The Elk's Club and Masonic Lodge provided fraternal opportunities. Several of the mills organized athletics and recreational activities for their workers as a means of promoting the "spirit of cooperation" which the business community frequently called upon in promotional literature.¹⁶ A general lack of activism or radical unionism characterized Pulaski's industrial workers.

The end of the zinc, iron, and coal eras in Pulaski County began with the closing of the Bertha Zinc works in 1910. Although the New River Valley still held large reserves of iron & zinc ore, Pulaski's industries could not compete with the economical steam shovel mining techniques being utilized in the huge iron ore deposits around the Great Lakes.¹⁷

In addition to its mineral industries, Pulaski became known for knitting and hosiery mills which developed, for the most part, on the south side of the railroad tracks in the old commercial section. The Paul Knitting Mills Company (1922) was the first to arrive in Pulaski, followed by the Virginia Maid Hosiery Company and Dobson Infant Hosiery Mills. The latter was renamed the Sadler Mills by a later owner. In the 1920's two furniture companies were organized in Pulaski: the Pulaski Furniture Company in 1924 and the Coleman Furniture Company in 1928.¹⁸ The two companies merged after the Depression as the Pulaski Veneer Company and grew to become one of the most prominent industries in the area.¹⁹ Finally, the Pulaski Veneer Company, after being bought and abandoned by the Radio Corporation of America, was repurchased by the original owner under the name Pulaski Veneer and Furniture Company, now Pulaski Furniture.²⁰

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Historical Background

Today the furniture and knitting mills are the principal industries of Pulaski.

The town of Pulaski has suffered from a depressed economic climate since the closing of the mineral industries in the early twentieth century. The current industries do not fully utilize the scale and potential of the nineteenth century town plan and its amenities. Although several historic landmarks have been destroyed or altered, the urban fabric remains dense and distinctive. Most of the buildings in the district are the first to occupy their sites. The town of Pulaski represents more clearly than most other Southwest Virginia communities the response of the region to industrial and commercial opportunity, and the historic commercial district is most visible element of that response.

¹Division of State Planning and Community Affairs (71-9.) Data Summary of Pulaski County. February 1971, p. 4; Nancy Hughes, "Sites for Courthouse Sparked Town Rivalry," Roanoke Times and World News, 31 July 1833, NRV-1.

²Mary B. Kegley and F. B. Kegley Early Adventurers on the Western Waters, Vol. 1. Orange, Virginia: Green Publishers, Inc., 1983.

³Smith, p. 314-315; Lloyd Mathews, "Iron: A Product of Area."

⁴Conway Smith, The Land that is Pulaski County. Pulaski, Virginia: B. D. Smith and Bros., p. 334; E. Pierce Whitman, Pulaski County: A Collection of Articles. Radford, Virginia: Commonwealth Press, Incorporated, 1974, p. 14; "Pulaski: Our County - Our Town," 1978; Letter from R. M. Calfee, 3 August 1962.

⁵Ibid.

⁶Ibid.

⁷Letter from R. M. Calfee.

⁸Smith, p. 334.

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8. SIGNIFICANCE -- Footnotes (continued)

⁹Ibid.; Whitman, 1974, p. 17, 20; Letter from R. M. Calfee.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Smith, p. 318-320, 353; Whitman, 1974, p. 20; G.T. Swain, Lest We Forget: Past, Present, and Future History of Pulaski 1877 - 1911, Pulaski, Virginia, 1911; Pulaski County, 1907, p. 67; Town Charter Book I p. 25.

¹²Letter from R. M. Calfee.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Smith, p. 320-322; Pulaski County, Virginia: Banner County of Southwest Virginia. Pulaski County Committee, Jamestown Exposition, 1907, p. 68, 70; Letter from R. M. Calfee.

¹⁵Ibid.

¹⁶The Southwest Times, Rotogravure Section, n.p., n.d.

¹⁷Smith, p. 322.

¹⁸Town Charter Book 3, p. 94; Whitman, 1974, p. 21.

¹⁹Whitman, 1974, p.21.

²⁰Ibid.

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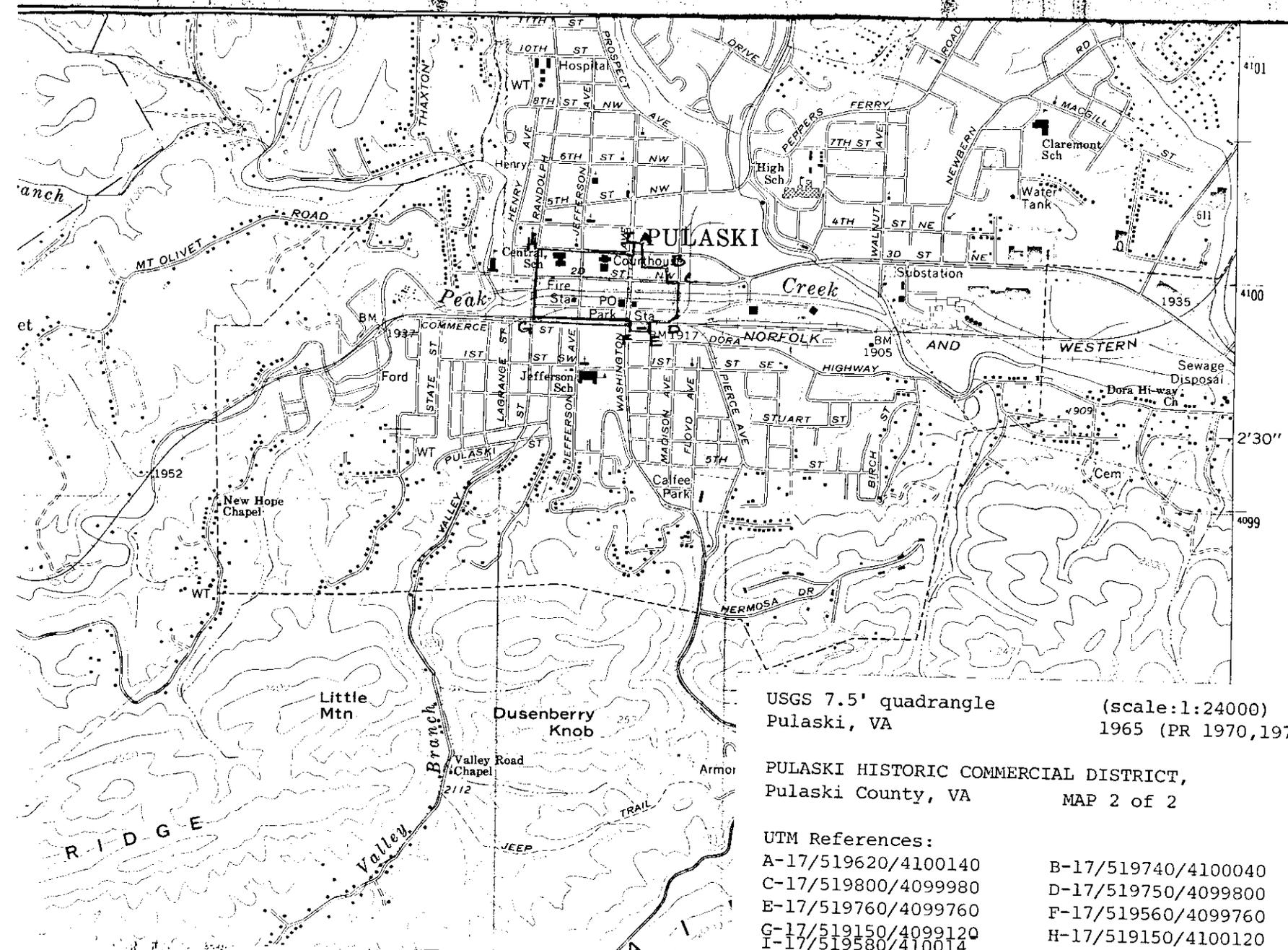
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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA -- Verbal Boundary Description & Boundary Justification

the buildings on the north side of East Main Street (125-5-55) through 125-5-61) to the east property line of site 125-5-61, south along said line and across East Main, east along the south side of East Main to Madison Avenue, south in a line extending Madison across Peak Creek and continuing along the east property line of 125-5-22, crossing First Street N.E. and continuing south along the east property line of 125-5-1, west along the south property lines of 125-5-1 through 125-5-5, south crossing the railroad tracks and along the east side of 125-5-6, west along the south side of 125-5-6 to Washington Avenue, north along the east side of Washington to the railroad tracks, west along the north side of the tracks and continuing west along the south side of the park, crossing Jefferson Avenue and continuing west in the same line along the north side of Commerce Street to Randolph Avenue, north along the east side of Randolph to Third Street N.W; east along the south side of Third to the southeast corner of Third and Washington, north along the east side of Washington to the northern property line of site 125-5-88, east along said line to point of origin.

Boundary Justification: The district, which includes one hundred buildings and one site, consists of the core of the commercial section of Pulaski. The boundaries are drawn so as to include the greatest concentration of historic structures and to exclude non-historic and non-contributing elements of the town.



USGS 7.5' quadrangle
 Pulaski, VA (scale:1:24000)
 1965 (PR 1970,1977)

PULASKI HISTORIC COMMERCIAL DISTRICT,
 Pulaski County, VA MAP 2 of 2

UTM References:
 A-17/519620/4100140 B-17/519740/4100040
 C-17/519800/4099980 D-17/519750/4099800
 E-17/519760/4099760 F-17/519560/4099760
 G-17/519150/4099120 H-17/519150/4100120
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