

VLR-12/18/08
NRHP-3/13/09

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 Q.M. Pyne Store
other names/site number Palisades Restaurant; 035-5049

2. Location

street & number 168 Village Street not for publication n/a
city or town Eggleston vicinity n/a
state Virginia code VA county Giles code 071 zip code 24086

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] _____ Date 1/26/09
Signature of certifying official
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:
 entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 determined not eligible for the National Register
 removed from the National Register
 other (explain): _____
Signature of the Keeper _____
Date of Action _____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

- x private
public-local
public-State
public-Federal

- x building(s)
district
site
structure
object

Number of Resources within Property

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows: buildings (2, 0), sites (0, 0), structures (0, 0), objects (0, 0), Total (2, 0).

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

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

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: Commerce, Government, Health/Medicine. Sub: store/auto dealership, post office, doctor's office.

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: vacant. Sub: work in progress.

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Commercial Style

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete, roof rubber, walls brick, other wood.

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)

- ___ 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.)

- ___ 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 50 years.

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance 1926- ca.1929

Significant Dates 1926; ca.1929

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) n/a

Cultural Affiliation n/a

Architect/Builder unknown

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

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

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**Q.M. Pyne Store
Giles County, Virginia**

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7. Description

Summary

Situated at the heart of the little village of Eggleston in central Giles County, Virginia, the Q.M. Pyne Store is comprised of two fairly contemporaneous, multi-story, brick masonry structures, attached side-by-side and embanked into a hillside so that the lower story is not visible from the front. The north building was completed in 1926 and appended with a similar building on the south side about 1929. Architecturally, they may both be described as good examples of the Commercial Style, a relatively plain design motif that was commonplace throughout most of the United States from the 1920s to the 1950s. The style is characterized by a flat roof, parapet and sign tablet, with a windowed storefront below. Both buildings stand intact with few modifications. There are no secondary resources within the nominated parcel.

Location and Setting

Giles County is part of a mountainous region of southwestern Virginia, bordering the state of West Virginia, and remains overwhelmingly rural. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 360 square miles with a current population of only about 17,000. The county's largest town and county seat, Pearisburg, has a population of under 3000 residents.

The Q.M. Pyne Store anchors the southeast corner of the village of Eggleston on the west bank of the New River, which maintains a small, but fairly intact collection of commercial and residential buildings from its heyday in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Along with the store, there are several houses on both sides of Village Street, which runs north to south, parallel to the Norfolk Southern Railway main line, as it follows the New River through central Giles County. Immediately south of town is the modern Route 730 bridge crossing the river, and just beyond is Buckeye Mountain, reaching a height of almost 2,600 feet above sea level, towering some 900 feet above Eggleston. The Pyne Store fronts onto local Route 815 (Village Street), facing west, on the east side of the intersection of Route 622. It backs up to the railroad tracks and the New River, at roughly 75 feet from the tracks and 300 feet from the river.

Architectural Description

The north building is three stories tall, 70 feet deep and 40 feet wide. The south building two stories tall, 65 feet deep and 40 feet wide. The foundations are of concrete with wooden center beams, anchored by concrete piers, helping to support the overall structure. The brick walls are about one-foot thick, with a front façade veneer of high quality bricks with a smooth finish and uniform in color. The side and rear elevations are composed of a slightly cheaper variety of bricks with more variation in color. The roof is flat with a slight incline toward the back, covered with a rolled rubber membrane. Around the roof are shallow brick parapets with ceramic tile coping on the side elevations. There is a single brick chimney/flue at the northeast corner of the north building.

The north building façade has two decorative recessed panels in the brick wall, just below the parapet and directly over the two upper-floor front windows. Between the two front upper-floor windows is a painted oval with the date "1926" below which is a painted sign with white lettering on a black background: "Q.M. PYNE ~ MDSE." The three-bay storefront has two huge plate-glass windows flanking the centered front entrance, both with brick sills. Each of

the three bays has a large five-light transom. A soldier course of bricks delineates between the painted sign and the

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transom windows, below.

The south building façade begins at the top with a shallow parapet made up of a brick soldier course surmounting a cornice composed of several corbelled courses of bricks. Below the cornice is a large painted sign with white lettering and white border on a black background, reading "HARDWARE & FARM EQUIPMENT." After three normal brick courses, below the sign, is another soldier-brick course, and below that are four bays consisting of, from left to right: a very large plate-glass window with wooden sill and apron; the original, single-leaf front door incorporating a beveled, nearly full-height plate of glass, and three-light transom overhead; another very large plate-glass window identical to the other; and a three-part folding door, each part with two tall, slender, recessed wood panels below four panes of glass. This door opened wide enough to accommodate automobiles. The window and door bays are separated by brief sections of brick wall, each about two feet thick.

Most of the windows throughout both buildings are wooden sash, while the added section on the south side has metal sash along the south elevation. The north elevation has no fenestration. The upper floor windows in front were replaced several years ago, with sash of the same general configurations as the originals. The original doors throughout both buildings remain in place.

The street-level main floor of the three-story (north) building serves as the primary commercial space. It is a large open room with custom-made wooden shelves lining the exposed brick walls from front to back on both sides, retaining its original pressed-tin ceiling and the original 15-foot-long wooden counter from the general store. The upstairs is a single large room, also with exposed brick walls and a pressed tin ceiling. The back wall of the upstairs is lined with original window sash overlooking the New River and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. The basement level of the building has two small rooms in back finished with plaster walls, the only plaster found throughout the building. These rooms were used as a doctor's office for some time, and later served as a washroom/utilitarian space.

The two-story (south) building, built circa 1929, was an auto dealership and repair shop, but later became the part of the general store reserved for hardware and farm equipment. The main room extends to the back of the building, but has a light partition along the south wall lined with shelves like those in the general merchandise part of the building. The upper floor has exposed brick walls, concrete floor and exposed truss roof with no ceiling. The lower (basement) level is one open room with concrete floor and exposed brick walls. The area accessed through the multi-panel door to the far right of the storefront was the auto repair shop. The narrow room extends from the front to the back of the building, and is lighted/ventilated by four pairs of large steel-sash windows along the south elevation.

The buildings have been largely vacant for the last several years, but work is in progress and the old store will soon be a restaurant called the Palisades, a hopeful "destination dining" attraction for the nearby population centers of Blacksburg, Christiansburg, and Radford, Virginia. The restaurant is intended to be a compatible use for the buildings that will not alter their historic character. The outward appearance will remain as is, and the interior will retain its overall plan and historic finishes.

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8. Statement of Significance

Summary

The Q.M. Pyne Store in Eggleston, Virginia, is an excellent example of a two-part commercial structure constructed in a small town during the period between the two World Wars. The buildings comprising the general store and additional multiple-use spaces exemplify the Commercial Style, which was popular throughout most of the country at the time. Moreover, they survive, along with a nearby former bank building, as the only remaining representatives of the little Appalachian community of Eggleston's commerce that thrived during the period. In a sparsely-populated rural county with few towns or villages, the Pyne Store is undoubtedly among the most notable and best-preserved examples of a general store, owing in part to its spacious, adaptable design and high quality of construction, which allowed for its continued use through many generations, serving several different functions. As such, the property is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C in the area of Architecture, at the local level. The period of significance begins in 1926, when the first of the two structures was completed, and ends circa 1929, when the second building was added.

Historical Background

Fred A. Whittaker and Clayton C. Whittaker were the original proprietors who built, or had the store built in 1926. The building operated as C.C. Whittaker & Company, a general store that sold everything from dishes, produce, meat, fish, piece goods, shoes, clothes, and livestock feed – basically, anything residents of the area needed. The attached (south) building housed a Chevrolet Dealership run by Mr. Daley Stafford. He had a showroom and a place to repair cars. Dr. Tuck had the back of the basement converted into a doctor's office in the 1930s. Dr. Tuck was the local doctor for many years. The Pynes eventually used that area as a wash room. The United States Post Office in Eggleston also operated out of the store until it moved to its new location in the 1980s. The postmistress, Ethel Bishop, still resides in Eggleston.¹

The Whittakers took out a loan from the Peoples Bank of Giles County branch in Eggleston, to build the store. Local lore holds that the bank eventually went under because the loan was never repaid; however, it is more likely that the bank, like many others, went under due to issues associated with the Great Depression.²

C.C. Whittaker & Company sold the building to Goodwin Straley who had it for a very short time. Straley, in turn, sold it to the Pyne family in the late 1930s. The Pyne family owned and continuously operated the store until it closed in 2000. Quilly M. Pyne and his wife Irene "Crosier" Pyne, ran the store together until Quilly died in 1950. Irene Pyne continued to mind the store until her adopted daughter Erma McPeak took over at some point in the late 1950s, and kept it going until she had a stroke in 1994, when Gladys Pyne Dowdy, Erma's sister assumed the role of proprietor. The store remained in Gladys' hands until she died in October, 2000, at which time the store closed its doors for good – 75 years after they were first opened for business. After Gladys' death, her children auctioned off the contents of the store and sold the building(s) to Patrick C. Muldoon, a current co-owner, in 2004.³

The Pyne Store was featured prominently in a 1999 National Geographic article about the history of the New River. The store was a fixture in Eggleston for 75 years, and as the only general store in the vicinity during the latter part of

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the 20th century, it was an essential part of the community. It not only supplied locals with food for their families and tools to build their homes, the store became a social outlet as well, a gathering place for residents to greet their neighbors and share news and advice, or just plain gossip. Pyne Store is part of Giles County's rich heritage and represents a near-forgotten time when Eggleston was one of the economic and social hubs of the County. Nearly all current and former residents of the area can relate something about the people who ran the store, the people who visited it, and the memories they have of its unique charm. People from all over the United States still stop by, thinking this quaint general store is still open for business.

History of Eggleston

Located on the New River, Eggleston was first settled by Adam Harmon in 1745 making it the first permanent settlement in Giles County. Harmon named the settlement Gunpowder Springs because of the odor from a sulfur spring located there. Harmon's settlement became a convenient rest stop for countless people moving westward. Many emigrants made their home in Eggleston. Artifacts found along the springs, streams, and river demonstrate that Indians lived where Eggleston is now located, long before the first white settlers.⁴

Eggleston's rich history also includes the kidnapping and famous escape of Mary Draper Ingles from her Shawnee captors in 1755. Adam Harmon found Mary Ingles, near death, at the Eggleston Palisades after she traveled hundred of miles along the New River to return home.⁵

A resort was first established in Eggleston in the early 1830s. The spa was called Hygeian Springs. The massive cliffs throughout the resort were given classical names like "Caesar's Arch," "Pompey's Pillar," and "Vulcan's Forge." Dr. Chapman took over the resort in the late 1850's and built a new hotel and a dance pavilion as well. Unfortunately, these resources have long-since vanished. During the Civil War, unlike many resorts which were burned and looted, Chapman's resort survived but without any customers. In 1867, Captain William Eggleston took over and changed the name to Eggleston Springs. A Confederate journalist named Edward Pollard thought the resort was "the most delicious and comfortable of resorts in the mountain regions of Virginia." He also called it the "Rhine of Americas," and wrote, "one could sup on broiled pheasants, drink the most famous of whiskey toddies, and go to sleep on the bank of the New River."⁶

In 1881 construction began on the New River Extension of Norfolk and the Western Railway on the opposite (east) side of the river from the resort. The railroad construction brought numerous workers and a few homebuilders to this part of Giles County. In spite of gigantic rock formations, which caused a great setback in construction, the railroad through Giles County was completed to the coalmining center of Pocahontas, Virginia, in 1883.⁷

Within the same year, the first post office was established with its first postmaster, David Straley. In 1886, Eggleston Springs was officially renamed Eggleston. Business flourished around this time, especially mercantile establishments. At one time there were six mercantile centers in Eggleston, each doing exceptional business.⁸

The Eggleston railroad depot became an important point for distributing goods and services to all the southern parts of Giles County, from Newport to White Gate. Stock pens and loading platforms were kept busy. A canning factory,

barrel factory, mill, livery stable, garage, shoe shop, millinery shop, ice cream parlor, jeweler, and bank all existed in Eggleston during this prosperous time. In 1902, a new hotel at the resort in Eggleston replaced the old one. As a result

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of the depression in the 1930s the resort's business came to a halt and it was later torn down. The last standing building of the resort, known as the dance hall, was burned later in the 1940s. Severe floods in 1911 and again in 1940 played a big role in destruction of some of the Eggleston stores.⁹

Over more than two centuries, Eggleston changed from a frontier settlement into a lively resort area, then to a busy commercial town and back to a quaint, sleepy village. With the hotel, schools and most businesses gone, Eggleston now has a post office, three churches, a population of approximately 300, and a few remnants of its rich history, such as the Pyne Store. People still go to Eggleston for fishing and camping on the New River where they can enjoy the beauty and peacefulness of the outdoors.

Endnotes

1. Ms. Virginia Whittaker, daughter of Fred A. Whittaker and niece of Clayton C. Whittaker, as told to Shaena Muldoon.
2. Ibid. The south building is thought to have been built before the onset of the Great Depression. Its construction date has not been precisely determined, although it is known to have been standing by the 1940s. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps do not exist for the village of Eggleston.
3. Jeanne Steele and Brenda Williams. Personal communication with Shaena Muldoon, May, 2007.
4. Gibson, *Giles County*...
5. Ibid.
6. *Giles County Bicentennial Book*.
7. Ibid.
8. Churchill, *Giles County, 1806-1956; a brief history*.
9. *Giles County Bicentennial Book*.

9. Bibliographical References

- Clauson, Su. "A Sense of Purpose: Running the Only Store in Eggleston adds Meaning to Erma McPeak's Life." *Roanoke Times & World News*, New River Current section, Thursday, January 12, 1989.
- Gibson, Robert Churchill. *Giles County, 1806-1956; a brief history*. Giles County Chamber of Commerce, 1956.
- Giles County Bicentennial Book*. Giles County Bicentennial Book committee, 2001.
- "Giles County, Virginia: History—Families." Giles Co. Historical Society. Research Committee, 1994.
- Steele, Jeanne – Longtime resident of Eggleston and daughter to Gladys Pyne Dowdy – the last business owner of the Pyne Store. Personal communication with Shaena Muldoon, May, 2007.
- Unidentified author and photographer. "The New River: Soul of Appalachia." *National Geographic*, June, 1999.

Whittaker, Virginia – Longtime resident of Eggleston and niece to C.C. Whittaker, original owner. Personal communication with Shaena Muldoon, May & October, 2007.

NPS Form 10-900-a
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OMB No. 1024-0018

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Bibliographical References, continued

Williams, Brenda – Longtime resident of Eggleston and daughter to Gladys Pyne Dowdy – the last business owner of the Pyne Store. Personal communication with Shaena Muldoon, June, 2007.

10. Geographical Data

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated parcel boundary includes the two buildings comprising the Q.M. Pyne Store and narrow strips of land on the sides and back of the buildings. The boundary is shown on the accompanying aerial view.

Boundary Justification

The nominated parcel boundary includes all of the historic components of the Q.M. Pyne Store.

Photographs

All Photographs of: Q.M. Pyne Store, Eggleston, Virginia

Photographer: Michael J. Pulice

Date: July 3, 2008.

1. Store façade(s), facing east from across Village Street.
2. North (side) elevation.
3. Store and surroundings, viewed from south.
4. Main commercial space (second floor, interior) of north building.
5. Main commercial space (second floor, interior) of north building, shelving and cash register.
6. Top level (third floor, interior) of north building.
7. Lower level (first floor, interior) of south building.

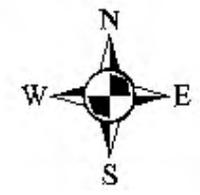


0 0.01 0.02 0.04 0.06 Miles



0 0.05 0.1 0.2 0.3 0.4 Miles

Eggleston Quad
Q.M. Pyne Store - DHR ID 035-5049
Giles County, Virginia



Legend
 Architectural Resources

Q.M. PYNE
STORE
GILES COUNTY VA
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