A Survey of Historic Architecture
in the Proposed Tazewell Historic District
Town of Tazewell, Tazewell County, Virginia

Conducted for
Virginia Department of Historic Resources
Richmond, Virginia

Conducted by

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ABSTRACT

The town of Tazewell, Virginia, is a small urban center in southwest Virginia within the primary service area of the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office (RRPO), a branch of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR). At the start of the survey project in the Fall of 1998, there were few survey sites in the town. In winter, spring, and summer of 1998 and 1999, Gibson Worsham surveyed 101 sites within the proposed Tazewell Historic District to the reconnaissance level, as defined by current DHR survey standards.

The predominant historic period represented by the surveyed resources is that of Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916), reflecting the era of Tazewell's incorporation [what date?] and during which time industrial, commercial, and residential growth transformed the community from a rural county seat to a small regional center. Single dwellings were the most commonly documented resource types, although multiple dwellings, commercial buildings, mixed-use buildings, fraternal lodges, churches, and a school also were surveyed. Historic themes associated with the resource types identified for the survey included Domestic, Commerce / Trade, Transportation / Communication, Recreation / Arts, Government / Law / Politics, Industry/ Processing/ Extraction, Religion, and Ethnicity / Immigration.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to thank those persons at the Virginia Department of Historic Resource and the city of Radford for their interest and assistance in this project, most notably Anne Beckett of the VDHR's Roanoke Regional Office and Margaret Peters in the Richmond office of the DHR and Jerry Wood, Town Manager of Tazewell, who guided the project administratively. Bettie Byrd St. Clair provided leadership in searching out information and her extensive memory and research in the town's history. Individual owners went out of their way to contribute valuable historical details, based in their long residence in the area, for some of the structures involved. Kathryn Derr provided invaluable energy and ability as the survey assistant, photographing and recording many sites and entering data into the computer.
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INTRODUCTION/DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Introduction

This survey was conducted in cooperation with the Town of Tazewell and the Tazewell Historical Society, with the assistance of other organizations and individuals. The project was funded by State Survey and Planning Funds administered by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources and its Roanoke Regional Preservation Office. The survey was initiated with several objectives:

1) to extend the survey of historic resources in the Town of Tazewell.

2) to provide the local government and other planning agencies with information about resources, that may be used in preparation of a preservation plan for the city.

3) to evaluate the eligibility of the survey area for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

The survey project was carried out by Gibson Worsham, who organized and undertook the fieldwork and prepared the final report. Kathryn Derr assisted Worsham with fieldwork, data entry of survey information into the Integrated Preservation Software (IPS) system, and in organizing materials.

Description of the Survey Area

The survey area (Figure 1) corresponds to much of the central part of the town as shown on the maps of June 1888 (Figure 2). It includes Main Street from Church to the block west of the Tazewell County Court House and comprises the residential area north of Main Street along both sides of Pine Street and Tower Street from the large agricultural acreage associated with the G.W. Spotts House to the east side of Lyons Avenue with the properties along the cross streets of Central Avenue and Elk Street.
HISTORIC CONTEXT

Introduction

Historical information for this survey project was gleaned from various local, regional, and state archives, including the offices of the clerk of the circuit court of Tazewell County, the Tazewell Public Library, Tazewell, Virginia; Newman Library of Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University (VPI&SU), Blacksburg, Virginia; the RRPO, Roanoke, Virginia; the DHR Archives, and the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Several historical overviews of Tazewell and its surroundings have been published in the past: History of the Settlement and Indian Wars of Tazewell County by George Bickley [Bickley 1852], History of Tazewell County and Southwest Virginia 1748-1920 by William C. Pendleton [Pendleton 1920], and Annals of Tazewell County, Virginia from 1880-1922 by John Newton Harman, Sr. [Harman 1922]. The most recent and useful volume is the history entitled Tazewell County by Louise Leslie [Leslie 1982]. These four sources provide much of the material in the historic background section that follows. Five volumes of historic photographs have been published in recent years as Albums of Tazewell County, Virginia, beginning in 1989. These books have been of tremendous value in preparing this report.

Primary sources were reviewed for official and indirect information on properties in Tazewell. Deed, tax, and will books in the local jurisdiction were consulted for supplementary information. Historic maps of the area, such as the early plat filed with the county in 1825 [Pendleton 1920: 474], the two maps dating from June 1888 and July 1888 [Album 1991: 91-94], and Sanborn Insurance Company maps dating from 1897 through the 1940s, were essential to understanding the resources. Microfilm copies of all Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for Tazewell are available at the Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia, while photostatic copies are found in the Tazewell County Public Library.

Oral history interviews with several residents of the proposed district, most importantly Bettie Byrd St. Clair, added greatly to understanding of the area's change through time.

Previously Identified Historic Resources

Prior to beginning fieldwork, all previous information in the DHR Archives on architectural sites in the survey area was reviewed. There were no survey forms for the buildings within the proposed district. Preliminary survey forms existed in draft form for many of the structures in the proposed district, prepared with local assistance by David Edwards of the VDHR in 1984, but these had never been completed and forwarded to Richmond.
Tazewell was thus seriously under represented in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources survey files. Although the James Wynn House was listed in 1992 just outside the current proposed boundaries, no sites in the proposed district have been listed in the Virginia Landmarks Register or the National Register of Historic Places.
HISTORIC CONTEXT

Historic Overview of the Survey Area

Environmental Setting of the Survey Area

Tazewell's historic settlement patterns have been influenced to a great extent by the area's hilly and mountainous environmental features. The town, originally known as Jeffersonville, was laid out in a narrow valley about one mile north of the Clinch River, near the base of Rich Mountain. Sloping land on all side of the town restricted its urban growth to an east-west corridor along Main Street. Large outlots to the north and south were subdivided in the post Civil War period into residential suburbs.

European Settlement to Society (1607-1752)

Settlement of the area was encouraged by the colonial government beginning in the 1740s. The authorities gave incentives to speculators and settlers. In 1749, the Loyal Land Company was given the opportunity to settle a vast acreage from the New River to the Tennessee. The House of Burgesses encouraged increased settlement on the western waters after 1752, when settlers west of the Eastern Continental divide were permitted freedom from taxes for a period of ten years [Johnson 1975:10].

Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)

Settlement in the area of Tazewell began in the late 1760s, interrupted by the Indian incursions of the early 1770s. The area around the county seat was settled by William Peery, one of three brothers who moved to the area in 1771 [Pendleton 1920, 420]. When the county was organized in 1800, Peery and his neighbor, Samuel Ferguson, proposed a 23-acre site on land belonging to them both. Peery contributed thirteen acres and Ferguson ten acres. The site was selected over another site at the forks of the Clinch River, in spite of its irregular topography. The land was presented to the county, with Peery retaining four lots and Ferguson two lots in return for their property. Joseph Moore offered to lay out quarter-acre lots for a fee and the town was formed, soon after named Jeffersonville for the newly elected U.S. president. The map filed in 1825 shows that a total of twenty lots were laid out in two blocks on each side of an east-west Main Street. The town was bisected by an unusually wide north-south street labeled "Public Square" that served the purpose of the public square, the public lands consisting of one acre on each side of Main Street. The public lands apparently extended behind the south range of lots fronting on Main Street. There were four lots on each side of Main Street to the west of the public land and six to their east. A second parallel range of ten smaller lots was laid out north of Main Street across an alley known as Back Street (now Pine Street). The original boundaries of the town corresponded to the hilly geography on the area and has little relation to the lot design. Hence a narrow Church Street (unlabeled) is shown at the east end of town, giving road access from Main Street to the
east and north (as today) due to the steep slope at the eastern end of Main Street. Two outlots are shown in the present residential area to the north of the three rows of lots.

A courthouse, illustrated on the 1825 plat, was built on the public land on the north side of Main Street, while a jail with stocks was placed directly across the street from it. The frame courthouse was contracted to be built by 1802 and was used until it burned in the 1830s. It was replaced by a brick courthouse on the same site.

Only one store was listed in Jeffersonville in the 1820 county tax book. It was operated by John I. Trigg. Two buildings, both no longer standing, have reputations as early taverns in the county seat, where overnight accommodation was essential when court was in session. The town's principal hostelry may have been the tavern operated in the handsome brick house built by Capt. James Crockett in the first quarter of the nineteenth century. It is said to have been converted to use as a tavern in the mid-nineteenth century. Known locally as the “Old Tavern,” the business was said to have been patronized by “the best citizens of the county” [Leslie 198]. This house was exceptional in having been built of brick. The two-story house, which was remodeled by Dr. Robert D. Hufford in the 1880s, is shown in an historic photograph to have had a finely crafted Flemish bond principal facade, large windows with jack arches, a central entrance passage flanked by rooms on each floor [Leslie 212]. The Old Tavern stood on the northwest corner of Main and Church streets where the Methodist Church is now located and was torn down in 1916.

Churches were founded in rural parts of the county before they were organized in the county seat. Presbyterian congregations had ceased to exist in the county in the 1830s, and were not revived until one was organized in the town in 1851. The Methodists had been in the immediate vicinity of Tazewell since 1797 [Harman 1922, 380-381].

**Antebellum Period (1831-1860)**

The town of Jeffersonville, (often also referred to as Tazewell Court House) experienced sustained growth during the Antebellum period. In 1835 the population was approximately 150. There were approximately 20 dwelling houses, one “house of public worship" shared by several denominations, and one common school. Commercial enterprises included four mercantile stores and two taverns, while the resident craftsmen consisted of one saddler, six joiners, two boot and shoe factories, one blacksmith, two hatters, and one painter. Local industry was comprised of a tanyard, a gristmill and a manufacturing flour mill (about one mile to the north). There were two physicians and two lawyers [Martin 1835]. Main Street was partly macadamized in 1845 [Leslie 195 and Bickley, 1851, in Yet Another Album of Tazewell County, 1998, 175]. In the same year there were three stores, one church, and twenty-five dwellings [Leslie 213].

By 1852, the town had approximately 80 houses and 300 inhabitants. Main Street was partly macadamized, but water was hauled to houses in barrels. By this time, there were two banks, two hotels, six doctors, six lawyers, six grocery and dry goods stores, several clothing and shoe stores, one or more tanneries, three churches, two blacksmiths, and a printing office [Bickley, 1851, in
Yet Another Album of Tazewell County, 1998, 175]. Economic needs of the county were supplied by two banks. These consisted of a branch of the Northwestern Bank of Virginia, based in Wheeling and the Jeffersonville Savings Bank, both of which closed before or during the Civil War. The two hotels were the Union Hotel, one door west of the courthouse and the Virginia House, three doors east of the courthouse. The churches consisted of a Presbyterian, Methodist, and more unusually in this region, a Catholic congregation. Bickley indicated there were four secret societies: the Masons, the Odd Fellows, the Sons of Temperance, and a Circle of the Brothers of the Union [Bickley, 1851 in Harmon, 1922, 359-361]. According to one source, there were fifteen privately funded schools in the county in 1852 [Bickley quoted in Pendleton 1920, 667].

Unusually strong consciousness of local history and community are indicated by the founding of a Jeffersonville Historical Society in 1851 under the leadership of Dr. Henry Fielding Peery [Pendleton 1920, 422]. The society consisted of as many as a hundred prominent citizens, who included educational improvement among their goals. Education in the county was seen as inadequate and the society advocated the adoption of the free school system allowed by the state government, which the county did not vote to bring about [Pendleton 1920, 542-546]. The society was noted in an article in the Richmond Examiner as possessing a cabinet of mineral, vegetable, and animal specimens and a library to assist in researches upon Indian lore and natural history [Bickley in Harman 1922, 382].

In 1852, the historical society published a study putting the local past in context, George F. W. Bickley's History of the Settlement and Indian Wars of Tazewell County, one of the first local histories in southwest Virginia. An woodcut in the book showed the county seat as a prosperous grouping of one- and two-story buildings surrounding the courthouse.

The only building in the district to survive from the Antebellum period is the jail of ca. 1832 (Old Jail [158-0005-073]). The substantial brick building with Flemish bond brickwork and a hipped roof was constructed on the public land just behind the courthouse. It is a grandly conceived, square, two-story, central-passage-plan building that originally faced the rear of the courthouse to the south. A contemporary architectural elevation and plan in the collection of the Crab Orchard Museum of a proposed jail for Roanoke County show a similar building with five front bays rather than the three found here. An inscription on the plan reads “Cell #1 is the plan of a jail I built at Tazewell C.H. It is the same size as this house....” The signature appears to read H. M. Ledbetter. The family of the jailer, who were responsible for feeding, guarding, and otherwise caring for the prisoners, occupied the front rank of rooms. A passage across the rear separated the household from a row of three cells on each of the two floors. The Tazewell jail has been much altered over a period of many years, but retains many traces of the original detailing, including the frieze that encircles the building below the cornice and the decorative wood lintels of the south facade.

Many of the buildings in Tazewell in the Antebellum period were undoubtedly built of log or frame construction and were replaced in the period after the arrival of the railroad brought
prosperity to the town. Some of the early buildings visible in late nineteenth-century photographs include the Virginia Hotel, located on the site of the modern Bank of Tazewell County [158-0005-047] [Another Album II, 1991, 97]. This two-story frame building, mentioned by Bickley in 1852, had a long porch sheltering the sidewalk, and disappeared between 1897 and 1907. The Central Hotel, located on the northwest corner of Central Avenue and Main Street (the site of the Kilgore Ford Building [158-0005-043], next to the original courthouse site, is apparently the same as the Union Hotel mentioned by Bickley in 1852 [Bickley in Harman 1922, 359-361]. It is pictured in an historic late nineteenth-century photograph [Another Album II 1991, 98]. The two-story building was demolished between 1897 and 1907. Like the Virginian Hotel, it had a two-story porch extending over the sidewalk.

The John M. Estill House is documented in an historic photograph. It stood on the north side of Main Street until about 1899, when it was replaced by the present Dr. W. I. Painter House [158-0005-038]. This image shows a two-story, frame or log, two-room house roofed with wood shingles, sheathed with weatherboard, and supplied with exterior brick chimneys. It also shows some of the ornamental wood fence types that lined Main Street at that time [Another Album II 1991, 23]. Another building, the home of William and Amanda Cox in 1850, was a stuccoed masonry, one-story house, probably of a two-room plan. The stuccoed coating was painted to resemble stone ashlar [Another Album II 1991, 23]. An interesting two-story house on the north side of Main Street was incorporated into the Virginian Hotel after 1897 and belonged to Mrs. Chapman in 1888 [Sanborn Map 1897 and Another Album II 1991, 94]. Historic photos indicate that it had five arched openings across the first floor with square windows above. The openings were dressed with tooled stone ashlar dressings and the detail may have been added as part of its incorporation into the hotel.

Before the 1830s, all roads had been locally maintained; at that time a regional turnpike company was incorporated to improve the route from through Jeffersonville from Fincastle to Cumberland Gap. The improved road linked the locality with a transportation network connecting the region with eastern markets. It was shown as partially completed in 1838 [Crozet, Claudius. “A Map of the Internal Improvements of Virginia.” Richmond: Virginia Board of Public Works, 1838]. This was known as the Cumberland Gap turnpike on the 1855 edition of the same map. In the 1850s other local turnpikes were completed as part of a massive road improvement effort across the region, partly capitalized by the state. These included the Tazewell Courthouse and Fancy Gap Turnpike and the Tazewell Courthouse and Richlands Turnpike. These roads further reinforced the status of the county seat as the nexus of commerce for the locality and continued to serve exclusively as local transportation routes until the coming of the railroad in 1888.

Civil War (1861-1865)

The Civil War adversely affected Jeffersonville in a number of ways. As in most parts of Virginia, the products of the countryside were depleted in service of the confederate cause. Many local soldiers died. There was no fighting in the area of the proposed historic district. A small army of
confederates was camped east of the town in the spring of 1862. A Georgia battalion camped northeast of the town in the following winter and this camp continued in use the following winter. Economic suffering after the war was limited and the political repercussions of Reconstruction were of brief duration [Pendleton, 1920, 606-637].

**Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)**

**Postwar Years (1866-1887)**

Jeffersonville experienced slow growth after the Civil War. The town was incorporated in 1866 [Tazewell County Historical Society Walking Tour]. The 1870 census does not give a population figure for the town, but indicates a population of 508 by 1880, of which a small proportion were black. This had grown to 604 by 1890 [U.S. Population Censuses for 1880 and 1890: Tazewell Co., VA]. The principal industry in the immediate vicinity of the proposed district was a small flour mill there before 1888 [Jeffersonville Maps of 1888 and Sanborn Map of 1907].

Several important residential and commercial buildings in the proposed district date from the period of gradual growth in the 1870s. Commercial buildings remained grouped along the central part of Main Street to the east and west of the courthouse. The buildings were, for the most part, still built of frame. The Clinch Valley News Building [158-0005-061] is a good surviving example (See Plate 6). The two-story frame structure. It features three two-over-two windows with label molds on the unaltered, weatherboarded second floor, topped by a deep cornice with consoles. A similar cornice spans the much-altered storefront. Urban and county stores in this and earlier periods consisted of one- or two-story buildings shaped to fit the long, narrow lots characteristic of towns in the region. Similar store buildings are visible in a late nineteenth-century photograph of the east end of Main Street [Another Album 1991, 95]. Trees were planted along the street in about 1878 by the proprietor of one of the hotels and are visible in historic photographs as an unusual amenity among the main streets of small towns in western Virginia. They stood until 1923 when they were removed to provide more space on the street [Leslie 192-193].

Several houses also date from this period. The homes were largely built for professionals and merchants. The early houses of less substantial residents do not survive. They were probably one- or two-room log houses. The vernacular floor plans which materialized in this and later decades as the homes of middle-class merchant and professional families include a number of forms recognized in regional architectural studies [Worsham, 1986]. One of the most popular was the symmetrical central-passage plan, in which a central passage provides access to rooms on either side often with an ell or rear shed. Additional plans include the asymmetrical side-passage-plan, where the passage is on one side of the house; the two-room plan, in which the domestic functions take place in a single or double row of two rooms, often supplemented by a service shed or ell; and the T-plan, where the two-room or central-passage plan is given improved interior circulation and a fashionable exterior irregularity of silhouette by the projection forward of one of the rooms on the principal facade.
The Dr. Caleb Thompson House [158-0005-022] is typical of the small central-passage-plan dwelling. Built for an early dentist in ca. 1873, the well-preserved frame house features a central entry door to the passage, which is lit by a transom and sidelights surrounding the door (See Plate 2). The entry is topped by a small ornamental gable and sheltered by a three-bay porch. Exterior brick chimneys serve fireplaces in the gable ends. The larger Dr. J. R. Gildersleeve House [158-0005-063] was built in 1877 for a local physician. The two-story frame house utilizes the popular T-plan form and features projecting bays, sawn brackets, and an ornate porch (See Plate5). Two small, two-room houses with lobby entrances were built along Pine Street in the period [158-0005-029 and 030]. None of the small houses that once lined parts of Main Street survive in the proposed district, except the tiny Dr. C. W. Greever House [158-0005-091]. This one-story frame house, built in about 1876, takes the central-passage form and features Greek Revival details. It was cleverly enlarged by the addition of a second, wider range of rooms across the back taking advantage of the slope to include two floors of rooms there.

The valley to the north of town, later developed into a spacious residential suburb, was occupied by several substantial houses situated on large outlots. This district was separated from the commercial area by North Street (now known as Pine Street) and bordered on the north in 1888 by Railroad Street (called Gildersleeve in 1897 and now known as Tower Street). The G. W. Spotts House occupied the farm setting now the setting of the Joseph Stras Gillespie House [158-0005-013], but the area directly north of Main Street was divided in two by an unlabeled street known at one time as Jockey Street and today as Central Avenue [Jeffersonville maps of 1888 and Sanborn Map of 1897].

The area to the west of the street was occupied by land belonging to H. C. Alderson, including the land on which his house, the Alderson House [158-0005-066] stands and the lot occupied then as now by the Stras Memorial Episcopal Church [158-0005-067]. The Alderson House is one of the oldest in the district, built in about 1873, and takes the form of a two-story central passage-plan house with matching facades on the east and south, each with impressive, two-story, Greek Revival-style porticos.

The two tracts on the east side of the street belonged to Mrs. Pierce and A. F. Hargrave. Mrs. Pierce's house, the R. R. Henry House [158-0005-070], was built in about 1877 (See Plate3). The fine example of a one-story, frame, central-passage-plan dwelling with Gothic Revival-style details is an important landmark on the corner of Central Avenue and Tower Street immediately opposite the Alderson House. Hargrave's one-story house was replaced by the larger C. R. Brown House 158-0005-079] in about 1903 [Sanborn Maps 1897 and 1907; Walking Tour]. From the property of these three houses many of the other lots on Central Avenue and Church Street were eventually subdivided.

A new courthouse (Tazewell County Courthouse [158-0005-052]) was built in 1874 on the south side of Main Street in the center of the block west of the original public square. The brick courthouse on the original public land, built in the early 1830s, was sold at auction and converted
into a store building. Sanborn maps show a dramatic change between 1897 and 1907 in the form of the building, indicating that it was altered. The two-story, brick building featured Second Empire-style details, including roof-top finials and a central, four-stage clock tower with a Mansard-type roof and containing the entry porch [Leslie 25-26].

**Railroad Access to Markets (1889-1916)**

Former Confederate General Gabriel Wharton of Montgomery County had noted evidence of the huge coal deposits of western Virginia during the war and envisioned the potential importance of the exploitation of these resources. He secured a charter in 1871 for the construction of the "New River Railroad, Mining and Manufacturing Company" which was to build a railroad along the New River from New River Depot into the coal fields and to extract coal and iron ore, part of a large-scale exploitation of metal ores and coal deposits through the region. Wharton lost control of the project to northern financiers. The New River Railroad project was incorporated into the newly organized Norfolk and Western Railroad in 1882. Trains were connected to Pocahontas in Tazewell County by 1883. An additional line was added to the Clinch Valley in 1888 and provided service to Jeffersonville. Then began a boom in the region which brought industry and increased population to the county [Pendleton 1920, 660-664]. The boom brought a dramatic transformation to the county seat as well.

By 1887 plans were underway to develop a new depot town for Jeffersonville, located on the Clinch River one and one half miles north of the town. The vicinity of Kelly's Mills was laid out as a small community to be called North Tazewell with a park associated with the depot grounds, as was customary in the nineteenth century [Leslie 214]. Judge J. P. Kelly and his neighbor, Captain C. A. Fudge, contributed the land and built commercial buildings and houses on their lots. Kelly owned a commercial flour mill there and added a three-story planing mill. A streetcar was constructed to connect Main Street with the new depot to the north in 1892. It was pulled by horse until 1904 when it was replaced by an electric streetcar. Electric lights were installed on the streets in 1899 and telephone lines first became available in 1897 [Leslie 182-183]. North Tazewell prospered and was incorporated as a town in 1894.

By 1890, Jeffersonville had grown from a small village to a town. It had a total population of about 500 [U.S. Population Census 1890: Tazewell Co., VA]. In 1891, the town was renamed Tazewell and the name Jeffersonville abandoned at the request of the U. S. Post Office [Leslie 181]. The earliest maps of the city to show building owner and/or function (Figure 2), two related drawings both made in 1888, show the town to have been almost entirely restricted to the two sides of Main Street [Another Album 1991, 93-94]. As late as 1897, almost all commerce was confined to the area between the courthouse and the public school. The rest of the street was lined with houses, of only a few remain, most notably the Dr. J. R. Gildersleeve House [158-0005-063] of ca. 1877 and the Dr. W. I. Painter House [158-0005-037] of ca. 1899. Many of the houses were much smaller than these and less substantial. The architectural evidence indicates that Tazewell's economy was relatively stable at the end of the nineteenth century due to its limited industrial aspirations and was less affected by the collapse of real estate prices associated
with the Panic of 1893 than were the industrial boom towns. Although schooling had been available in Jeffersonville since the early nineteenth century and, in spite of mid-nineteenth-century advocacy of public education, efforts to establish free schools did not begin in the community until the 1870s. Well-known schools established after the war include the Buckeye School (for boys and girls) near Jeffersonville. The Underwood Constitution of 1869 mandated that Virginia open free public schools in the 1870-71 season. State funds were to match local tax monies. The Tazewell Graded School opened in Jeffersonville in 1872 [Harman 1922, 289-292].

A two-story "public school" was shown on the 1888 maps and on the 1897 Sanborn Map on the site of the present-day Tazewell Public Library [158-0005-062]. The need for secondary education was traditionally addressed by private academies attended by those whose families could afford to send them. The Buckeye School moved to town in 1867 as the Clinch Valley Seminary (for young women). The Tazewell Female Seminary was founded in 1886. The Tazewell College for Boys opened in 1890 and became a coed school after the Tazewell Female Seminary building burned in 1893 [Harman 1922, 289-292]. Private secondary education was generally superceded by public high school across the state in the early twentieth century.

In 1909 the Tazewell High School opened [Leslie 185]. It occupied a larger two-story brick building that stood on the site of the grammar school [Sanborn Map, 1913] and also contained the elementary grades. This school was, in turn, demolished in 1964 to build the Tazewell Public Library [158-0005-062]. The black citizens of the town were provided with a small school before 1888, located on the north side of Main Street near its western end [Another Album II 1991, 93-94 and Sanborn Map, 1897].

Religious congregations operated in Jeffersonville from the earliest years. By the 1880s there were churches reflecting a broad range of Protestant denominations. The Methodist Episcopal church was a small building located across from the public school, near the present Main Street Methodist Church [158-0005-048]. What was labeled an "African Methodist Episcopal" church stood on Fincastle Street at the western end of town near the black school building in 1897, outside the proposed district [Sanborn maps 1897, 1907]. The first church building used by the congregation was a log house given to them in 1869. Rebuilt in 1875, the building was rebuilt again in 1900 and remains in use today as Wilbur Memorial United Methodist Church [Wolfe 1999, 59]. A Presbyterian church also occupied a frame building near the site of the later building occupied by the same congregation [158-0005-081]. A Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) building was located on Marion Avenue just south of Main Street. The structure was later incorporated into the public school and the later high school as a chapel and auditorium [Sanborn maps, 1897-1929].

The new Tazewell Christian Church [158-0005-025] was built in 1898 on a site outside the commercial area. The plain Gothic-Revival-style church has twin towers on the south front and a cruciform roof plan. It is located on a narrow street, once known as Mechanics Avenue and now called Pine Street, that connects Church Street with the residential areas to the northeast along
Commercial construction transformed the appearance of the downtown area. The earlier frame

The Episcopal Church was represented by a small frame building, the Stras Memorial Episcopal Church [158-0005-067]. Built in 1886, it is now the oldest in the community and only church to survive from this group. The plain but clearly ecclesiastical Gothic Revival-style, nave-plan building features pointed windows and doors and a simple, unpainted, tongue-and-groove interior (See Plate 4). The Tazewell Baptist Church [158-0005-003] of 1890 was built on a lot on Tower Street away from the commercial center. The elaborate frame structure has suffered extensive interior alterations over many years, but the exterior retains its decorative towers and crockets and pointed doors and windows (See Plate 7).

The town was provided with all the amenities of a fast-growing boom town. An opera house was located on the former upper floor of the Witten Building of 1888 [158-0005-044] which housed two businesses on the first floor (See Plate 8). A durable Tazewell business, the Jackson Drug Store, opened in the Witten Building in 1897. The building was rebuilt after a fire in 1913 without a second story as the Jackson Drug Store. A new opera house to serve the citizens of Tazewell was provided in 1916 with the building of the Clinch Theater at the corner of Church and Main streets. This theater was demolished in the 1980s to enlarge the Methodist Church. The Masonic Lodge built an imposing three-story frame commercial building on Main Street across from the new courthouse with the lodge room on the top floor [Sanborn Map for 1897]. New industry included a steam-powered planing mill on the creek south of Main Street built between 1897 and 1907 near the older grist mill [Sanborn maps for 1897 and 1907].

The town in the 1880s possessed a cohesive appearance with consistent materials, scale, and detailing. The economic improvements brought about by the advent of the railroad resulted in the town we see today, but it disappointed two female visitors writing an 1889 edition of The Baltimorean, who sensed that radical change was to come and who deplored the intrusiveness of the ornate Queen Anne houses then under construction. They noted that "a number of modern houses are being built, which look out of place, and are fast destroying the quaintness and picturesque antiquity of the town" [Leslie 188-189]. The tree-lined Main Street was at that time provided with brick sidewalks [Leslie 183].

Medical services in the town had been provided by one or more doctors throughout the town's history, but in 1899 Dr. R. B. Gillespie opened a small hospital and surgery in connection with his office on Main Street. It could accommodate four or five patients [Leslie 181-182]. Hotel accommodation continued to be provided by the Central and Virginian Hotels. The Central Hotel was demolished in the period between 1897 and 1907 and after that the Virginian, now known as the Jeffersonville Hotel, alone supplied hotel lodgings to travelers [Sanborn maps for 1897 and 1907].

Tazewell Avenue. A Lutheran church, now demolished, was located on the corner of Church and Pine streets. All the churches built in the late nineteenth century were square or cross-shaped frame buildings of Gothic Revival derivation.
buildings of the 1870s and 1880s were replaced by brick structures beginning in the late 1880s. Masonry construction was more substantial and fire-resistant. New commercial buildings included the **Clinch Valley Bank [158-0005-045]** of 1889. This narrow two-story brick structure features the latest in industrially produced ornament, with pressed-metal cornice and brackets and a segmentally-arched second-floor window. The **H. W. Pobst Jewelry Building [158-0005-042]** of 1887 was heavily altered after a fire in 1963, but the **Spotts-Stras Building [158-0005-058]** of 1899, the **Hawkins Pharmacy [158-0005-057]** of 1902, and the **Peery and St. Clair Building [158-0005-055]** of 1903 share the industrially produced and decorative detail. These are large, two-story, brick buildings with heavy cornices and wide glazed storefronts. The **Harrison and Gillespie Building** of 1888 [158-0005-053] is one of the most elaborate examples of this kind of architecture. It features a complete classical second-story facade of ornamental pressed metal. Resembling it is the two-story print shop on Elk Street known as the **Telephone Office [158-0005-074]**.

One of the most important examples of late nineteenth-century commercial architecture in the county is the **Bank of Clinch Valley [158-0005-054]** of 1900 as remodeled in 1904. The Romanesque-style, stone-faced, bank building has an arched first floor, rock-faced ashlar surface, and arch-headed second-floor windows surmounted by a steep gable. The **J. A. Greever Building [158-0005-046]** of 1914 maintains the commercial architectural tradition of the town, with a stepped parapet and stone lintels above a modernized double storefront. It housed a furniture and hardware business for many years.

Lawyer offices rivaled the commercial buildings. The **Greever and Gillespie Law Office Building [158-0005-041]** of 1897 and the **Graham Building [158-0005-056]** of 1902. The two-story, brick Greever and Gillespie Building resembles a commercial building with a row of first-floor offices instead of a storefront (See Plate 9). This widespread use of normally valuable first-floor square footage for law offices is very unusual in small towns in Southwest Virginia and might indicate small demand for commercial space in the town. Another two-story, law office building stood just east of the Greever and Gillespie Building in the late nineteenth century [Another Album II, 1991, 106]. Three first-floor offices had two bay first-floor facades. Comparison of the Sanborn maps and another, earlier historic photograph indicates that the building began life as a low ceilinged two-room structure with a gabled roof and received a brick veneer facade and high shed roof after 1897 [Sanborn maps, 1897 and 1907, Another Album II 1991, 98]. This section of Main Street was known as Lawyer's Row [Leslie 213]. The **Graham Building** is one of the town's most ornate with an elaborate pressed-metal second floor and a brick first-floor with arched windows. Law offices grouped together are a common feature of Virginia County seats, but they are not usually located on the principal street but on an alley or square nearby.

The houses built at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth showed remarkable continuity with earlier forms discussed in the previous chapter. As many as four central-passage-plan, one side-passage-plan (a double house incorporating this plan), and three two-room-plan dwellings and as many as five T-plan houses were identified in the study area from
this period. Well-preserved examples of these vernacular forms include the frame, two-story, two-room house at 103 West Tower Street [158-0005-007] which has been relocated, the two-story, frame, central-passage-plan dwelling at Dr. J. T. Cooley House on Church Street [158-0005-090], the one-story, frame, T-plan Repass House [158-0005-035], the two-story, frame, T-plan Trux Warren House [158-0005-084], the one-story, frame, double-pile, T-plan A. M. Black House [158-0005-100] on Tower Street, and the ornate, two-story, double-pile, T-plan Judge Boyer House [158-0005-082]. Perhaps the best preserved of this kind of house is the small, one-story, frame, Laird House [158-0005-036] with its two-room plan, lobby entrance, and an elegant porch with an early vestibule at the entry. Trux Warren is perhaps the most interesting of the householders involved. He was the successful black owner of a barber shop on Main Street and rented space for the post office. His house was built in 1885.

Some of the domestic structures took the form of duplexes, similar to houses in Saltville, an industrial town in nearby Smyth County, built in the same period by the Mathieson Alkali Works. The earliest double house was made from the First Presbyterian Church building, which was relocated when a new church was built. This stood before 1897 beside the First Presbyterian Church on Church Street. This has vanished, but a fine example was built across the street beside the Lutheran Church between 1897 and 1907 [Sanborn maps for 1897 and 1907]. The Moss-Greever Double House [158-0005-087] incorporates the traditional side-passage floor plan with separate service ells behind each unit and porches in front. Built as a tenement by J. S. Moss and J. A. Greever, it presents a very urban appearance in this part of the town.

Grand dwellings built by the most prosperous citizens include the Preston House [158-0005-011]. This elaborate Queen Anne-style dwelling with shingled upper walls was built in 1894 for Henry Preston. A contemporary article describing it said it was designed by William Pierce and featured hot and cold running water and electric bells [Leslie]. It one of very few buildings in the district for which a designer is known. Pierce, a graduate of the University of Virginia, was the brother of a local physician. An historic photograph shows its original contrasting paint scheme [Another Album II 1991: 30].

An even more remarkable architectural specimen is the Joseph Stras Gillespie House [158-0005-013], a large Queen Anne residence built in about 1892. The two-1/2-story, frame structure has an irregular floor plan and silhouette with projecting gabled elements on each facade, a tower, polygonal bays, and a porte cochere. The interior features elaborate plaster moldings and wood wainscoting. The house is surrounded by an outstanding collection of outbuildings, including a barn, a meat house, a celler, a spring house, and several hen houses.

The more conventional house built in 1898 on a large tract north of Tower Street for the family of Beverly Stras, Sr. and altered by W. F. Harmon [158-0005-004] is a large double-pile central-passage frame house. It was similar to the well-preserved Alexander St. Clair House [158-0005-099] across Lyon Street, built in ca. 1900, with its high hipped roof, dormers, and projecting bays and the Sexton House [158-0005-068] on Central Avenue. These houses impress by their scale but their floor plans show no level of architectural sophistication in spite of their
Queen Anne details. The C. R. Brown House [158-0005-079] is a large and very picturesque dwelling built for a minister and his wife, the daughter of a coal baron from West Virginia. The frame house features a polygonal tower with a bell roof, a wide, wrap-around porch, and a hipped roof with a complex silhouette. A contemporary photograph from a 1903 issue of the Clinch Valley News shows it as built.

The courthouse square was dignified in 1903 by the erection of an industrially produced metal monument to the Confederate dead from Tazewell County. A stone wall was built around the square in 1908. The courthouse of 1872 was replaced or remodeled in 1913 by the Falls City Construction Company of Louisville, Kentucky. Most sources indicate that the earlier building was remodeled [Wolfe 1999: 57]. The new, two-story, brick Tazewell County Courthouse [158-0005-052] is said to have been the work of the firm of Peery and Branson [Leslie 26]. The Second Empire-style facade of the earlier building was replaced by a Classical Revival-style building with four Doric columns supporting a full pediment and a deck-on-hip roof. The name of the designer is not known, although further research may reveal it. The new building gives an appropriate classical emphasis to the county's principal public building. The post office, as in many small towns, was housed in rented commercial space until well into the twentieth century.

World War I to World War II (1917-1945)

Tazewell's population increased very modestly as the twentieth century progressed. In 1900, it stood at 1,096. By 1920, it was about 1,261 and, by 1950, it had grown to 1,347 [U.S. Census: 1900, 1920, 1950: Tazewell County, Va.]. Service and commercial activity remained Tazewell's principal source of employment and growth during the period between the world wars. Commerce continued to focus on narrow buildings on contiguous lots in the downtown section. New buildings replaced old buildings or were added on vacant lots on the periphery. The streetscape lining Main Street was gradually filled in and renewed. The downtown area continued to be served by the electric streetcar running to North Tazewell.

The town hall, including the fire engine, was housed in a former house or commercial building [158-0005-094] on Fincastle Street just off Main Street during the 1920s [Sanborn Map 1907-1929]. A new Tazewell High School [158-0005-064] was built in 1931 on the hill just behind the existing school that stood on the site of the present Tazewell Public Library [158-0005-062]. The large, two-story, brick school building incorporated a Art Deco-style classicism which lessened the monotonous effect of the large scale and repetitive window patterns of the building. Wings to the rear housed the gymnasium and auditorium. The building was used as the elementary school from 1951, when the new county high school was built on the edge of town, to 1965, when a new elementary school opened, and as a middle school until 1981, since which time it has housed county administrative offices and the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Black students in the area were served, during the days of segregation, by Tazewell County High School, which ceased operation upon the integration the two high schools in 1965 [Wolfe 1999: 58-59].
The Tazewell Masonic Lodge #62 [158-0005-040] built a new building in 1931. The new lodge building took the form of a traditional two-story brick commercial building with a central name tablet and first-floor storefront (See Plate 9). The hotels of Tazewell changed greatly in this period. The old Central Hotel had disappeared before 1907 [Sanborn Map 1907], but the Jeffersonville Hotel continued to function through the mid-1920s, having jettisoned the westernmost part and connected to an existing neighboring building to the east in the period between 1897 and 1907. The old part of the hotel was demolished and a new three-story brick hotel rose on the site before 1929, called the Tazewell Hotel [Sanborn Map 1929]. An historic photograph shows it to have been a plainly detailed structure with first-floor storefronts [Leslie 170]. It was demolished in the 1970s to build a new Bank of Tazewell County [158-0005-047]. Movies were viewed at the Clinch Theater, the former opera house built in 1916. This theater was demolished in recent years. The streetcar ceased operation in 1933, probably due to competition from automobile transportation.

The residential area to the north of Main Street was filled in during the first half of the twentieth century. The quiet, narrow, tree-lined streets, some of which, like Pine Street, wind down the hill from Main Street retain their picturesque character. The single-family resources in the region associated with this suburban residential development of the third, fourth, and fifth decades of the twentieth century include houses of various forms: bungalows, American Foursquare houses, and derivations of Tudor Revival- and Colonial Revival-style dwellings. Bungalows and American Foursquare dwellings, both resulting from a popularization of the Craftsman movement, began to appear several years before the 1917 start of this period, but the majority of them are later. The house forms, popularized in national publications, were largely differentiated by height, and both are among the first houses in the region to utilize irregular, functionally laid-out plans. Of the houses in the study area, however, there are few fully realized bungalows or foursquare dwellings in the proposed district. Approximately five are one- or one ½-story houses with Colonial-style detailing instead of the Craftsman detail usually associated with bungalows. These houses, however, are like bungalows in their form and plan. No houses in the district utilized the related two-story Foursquare form. Examples of Colonial Revival-style bungalows in the proposed district include the James H. Gillespie House [158-0005-001] on Tower Street, a well-detailed brick dwelling, the Buston House [158-0005-015], and the frame Doak House [158-0005-033].

The lack of bungalows in the district may relate to a strongly developed sense of the historic character of the residential section, and the choice of Colonial-style buildings were seen as more in keeping with the neighborhood.

The frame McCall House [158-0005-024], a bungalow on Pine Street, is said to have been purchased from Sears and Roebuck and all the materials shipped to the site. This way of purchasing a house has been documented at other sites in the region. The most elaborate house in the district from the period between the world wars were built in the Colonial Revival style, with classical entries, porch, dormers, and brick end chimneys combined with complex, functional floor plans. The brick Coulling House at 223 Church Street [158-0005-077], with its massive dentil
cornice and inset one-story inset porch forming a classical frontispiece, is one of the best-preserved examples. It dates from 1934 and has very carefully detailed arch-headed dormers on the rear. The 1920s **Robert Brown, Jr. House [158-0005-080]** was built for the son of the Rev. Robert Brown, Jr. whose grand Queen Anne-style House was built in 1903. The brick Robert Brown, Jr. House has eight-over-one sash windows and a pedimented Doric porch.

There were no planning or zoning ordinances. Population between 1940 and 1950 remained static at about 1,300 [U.S. Population Census 1940 and 1950]. The Great Depression did not as seriously affect Tazewell as it did larger communities with an industrial labor base. Among other projects, Depression-era Federal agencies' programs resulted in the Postal Service constructing a commodious building in 1936. The Classical Revival-style **Tazewell Post Office [158-0005-037]** remains in use in the project area. It is a good example of the kinds of substantial architecture constructed by the Federal government in the early twentieth century. Nearly identical to the post offices built in some other small towns in the region, including the post office in Christiansburg, Virginia. It is part of an important group of post offices built in the region as part of a New Deal-era government works projects and part of a nationwide collection of architecturally refined public buildings. It continues to serve its original purpose, combining Federal Revival and Greek Revival details in an innovative and expressive manner suggesting to users the eighteenth-century origins of the U. S. and expressing the increased presence of the Federal government in local life.

**The New Dominion (1946-Present)**

The Jeffersonville Hospital opened in 1947 operated by Dr. Mary Elizabeth Johnston and Dr. Rufus Brittain [Leslie 182]. It closed in 1973, when the town's newest hospital, Tazewell Community Hospital, opened at the far east end of the town.

Locally-based commercial enterprises in the city continued to serve the citizens from the centrally located business area. After the middle of the century, rather than invest in new buildings or demolish the existing stock of commercial buildings, merchants and building owners chose, in many cases, to modernize the exteriors of the existing building stock. Often this took the form of a new aluminum storefronts. Many stores received this treatment, substantially transforming the streetscape. A number of important buildings burned or were demolished at the same time. Principal among these was the **Pobst Building [158-0005-0]** and the Tazewell Hotel, both on the north side of Main Street.

New shopping areas began to draw shoppers away from pedestrian-oriented neighborhoods and business district. Competition from the automobile and long-distance air travel led to the closing of the rail passenger station at North Tazewell. The loss of traditional commerce downtown has been softened by the opening of new specialty shops, restaurants, and other businesses mostly serving the legal and government office population. Expansion of public facilities and services was a necessary accompaniment to the changes Tazewell experienced during the period. A number of commercial buildings were converted to county government use.
Settlement patterns after World War II did not change at first, as most residential development was concentrated in pre-existing blocks in the town. Later subdivisions lay outside the boundaries of the proposed historic district. Although modernist design was utilized regularly for commercial and industrial buildings in some parts of Tazewell, most domestic architecture in the study area in the years after World War II remained heavily influenced either by traditionalist Colonial Revival styles.

As the community grew during this period, its churches also expanded. When Tazewell Presbyterian Church [158-0005-081] burned in 1959, everything but the brick outer shell of the building was destroyed. The architect who had designed the original brick, Classical Revival-style building in 1924 was chosen to oversee the rebuilding. The reconstructed church incorporated most of the surviving original fabric, and remains a good early example of historic preservation. When the church needed to expand its office and classroom facilities later in this period, the congregation also chose to build on site rather than seek another location.

In 1987, under the leadership of organizing president Bettie Byrd St. Clair, the county's citizens revived the concept of a historical society to aid in the improvement and preservation of historic materials, including buildings. The society has encouraged preservation of buildings and has published a number of pictorial histories. Toward that end, the society has worked closely with local government and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to identify strategies for achieving historic preservation goals in the community.
Survey Results by Theme and Period

The following list includes a few of the sites in the survey that were assigned more than one theme.

**Domestic Theme:** This theme relates to the homes of study area residents. Contributing property types represented in the survey area include modest to expensive single dwellings, multiple dwellings such asduplexes: (of which there was one: the Moss-Greever Double House). Associated domestic landscape features included vegetable gardens, landscape plantings, walkways, staircases, fences, and many stone and brick retaining walls. A majority of the sites in the current survey project relate to this theme. There were a total of fifty-six domestic properties, only one of which was built as a multiple dwelling.

Contributing Domestic Sites by period

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Period</th>
<th>Count</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>European Settlement to Society (1607-1752)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colony to Nation (1753-1789)</td>
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<td>Civil War (1861-1865)</td>
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<tr>
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<td>World War I to World War II (1917-1945)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The New Dominion (1946-Present)</td>
<td>9</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>56</strong></td>
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**Subsistence/Agriculture Theme:** Although much of the land presently within the city boundaries is urban or suburban in character, historically the area supported several subsistence and production farms. This theme broadly identifies methods of procurement, processing, and storage of food. Resource types historically associated with this aspect of Tazewell's development included small family farmsteads, large farm seats, meat houses, smokehouses, granaries, silos, agricultural fields, barns, animal shelters, tool sheds, and stockyards. Typically agricultural and more urban uses mingled at the edges of the small county seat and still do today. One historic property associated with this theme was identified in the survey area: G.W Spotts Farm.

Contributing Subsistence/Agriculture Sites by period

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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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Government / Law / Politics Theme: This theme relates primarily to political and governmental activities and to the enactment and administration of laws by which a nation, state, or other political jurisdiction is governed. Property types associated with this theme in Tazewell include post offices, municipal offices, public works projects and other government-sponsored building projects, and places associated with governmental leaders. Three properties in the survey area were documented: the Tazewell County Court House [158-0005-052] the Old Jail [158-0005-073] and the Tazewell Post Office [158-0005-037]. No other historic properties associated with this theme were identified in the study area.

Contributing Government/ Law/ Politics Sites by period

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<td>The New Dominion (1946-Present)</td>
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Health Care / Medicine Theme: This theme refers to the care of the sick, elderly, and the disabled, and the promotion of health and hygiene. Property types in Tazewell associated with this theme include medical businesses or offices. No historic property associated with this theme was identified in the survey area.

Contributing Health Care/ Medicine Sites by period

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</table>
**Education Theme:** Various types of schools are the primary resource types associated with this theme in Tazewell, one-room, two-room, consolidated, elementary, and secondary schools operated from the late nineteenth century through the modern period. Only one historic property associated with this theme was identified in the survey area: the Tazewell High School [158-0005-064].

**Contributing Education Sites by period**

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<td><strong>1</strong></td>
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</table>

**Military / Defense Theme:** The survey area includes properties with above- and below-ground resources directly associated with the 1760s French and Indian War, the American Revolution, the Civil War, and indirectly associated with the First and Second World Wars, the Korean Conflict, and the Vietnam War. Few related resource types are located in the town. No historic sites have been identified associated with this theme in the project area.

**Contributing Military/ Defense Sites by period**

<table>
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**Social Theme:** This theme relates to social activities and institutions, the activities of charitable, fraternal, or other community organizations and places associated with broad social movements. Property types in Tazewell associated with this theme include meeting halls and community centers. One historic properties associated with this theme were documented for the survey project: the Tazewell Masonic Lodge [158-0005-040] of 1931.
Contributing Social Sites by period

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<td>The New Dominion (1946-Present)</td>
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</table>

Recreation / Arts Theme: This theme relates to the arts and cultural activities and institutions associated with leisure time and recreation. It encompasses the activities related to the popular and the academic arts including fine arts and the performing arts, literature, recreational gatherings, entertainment and leisure activity, and broad cultural movements. Property types in Tazewell that related to this theme in historic periods included theaters, an opera house, a gymnasium, swimming pools, tennis courts, playing fields, playgrounds, and a fairground. No intact historic properties associated with this theme have been documented in the survey area.

Contributing Recreation/Arts Sites by period

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</table>

Transportation / Communication Theme: This theme relates to the process and technology of conveying passengers, materials, and information. Property types associated with transportation and communication networks in Tazewell have historically included rail-related resources (railroads, passenger and freight stations, engine houses, trains, and bridges), road-related resources (roads, turnpikes, taverns, streetcar systems, automobiles, bridges), and pedestrian-related resources (sidewalks, trails). No historic sites identified with the theme were identified in the survey area.
Contributing Transportation/Communication Sites by period

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<td>Total</td>
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</table>

Commerce/Trade Theme: This theme relates to the process of trading goods, services, and commodities. Property types in Tazewell historically associated with the theme include office buildings, stores, warehouses, commercial blocks, and banks; these resources housed various businesses, hotels, general stores, specialty stores, restaurants, and the offices of professional, organizational, and financial institutions. Historically significant commercial buildings in the proposed district include three turn-of-the-century bank buildings and the approximately fifteen traditional commercial buildings along Main Street that housed a constantly shifting list of restaurants, furniture, hardware, grocery, and clothing stores. Although there was a substantial increase in population during the period between the world wars, there were not a large number of commercial buildings constructed in the study area during that period. The second largest number of buildings identified in the study area (20) are associated with this theme:

Contributing Commerce/Trade Sites by period

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<td>Civil War (1861-1865)</td>
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<td>Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)</td>
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<tr>
<td>World War I to World War II (1917-1945)</td>
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<tr>
<td>The New Dominion (1946-Present)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>20</td>
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Industry/Processing/Extraction Theme: This theme explores the technology and process of managing materials, labor, and equipment to produce goods and services. Property types in the region around Tazewell historically associated with this theme include quarries, mills (grist, textile, woodworking), factories, forges and furnaces, power plants, tanneries, village shops, and other small crafts and industrial sites. Most historic industrial sites are located outside the project area. Although a few residences associated with individuals involved in historic industrial
development were documented, only one historic property associated with this theme was been
documented in the survey area: the large office and vault building behind the W. F. Harmon
House [158-0005-004], used to keep mining records during a period of labor unrest in the early
twentieth century.

Contributing Industry/ Processing/ Extraction Sites by period

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Landscape Theme: This theme explores the historic, cultural, scenic, visual, and design qualities
of cultural landscapes, emphasizing the reciprocal relationships affecting the natural and the
human-built environment. Property types historically associated with this theme in Tazewell
include parking lots, parks, a campus, gardens, street furniture, and natural features (river, stream
valleys). All of the resources documented in the survey project relate in some way to this theme,
as they comprise various aspects of the town's built environment as a response to the natural
setting, but none were singled out especially significant.

Contributing Landscape Sites by period

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Religion Theme: This theme concerns the organized system of beliefs, practices, and traditions in connection with spiritual beliefs. Property types historically associated with this theme in Tazewell include churches and church-related residences. Five contributing properties associated with this theme were recorded as part of the present project, including four churches and a rectory.

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Funerary Theme: This theme concerns the investigation of grave sites for demographic data to study population composition, health, and mortality within prehistoric and historic societies. Property types historically associated with this theme in Tazewell include cemeteries, graves, and mortuaries. No historic property associated with this theme was documented in the proposed district.

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Ethnicity / Immigration Theme: This theme explores the material manifestations of ethnic diversity and the movement and interaction of people of different ethnic heritages through time and space in Virginia. In Tazewell, properties historically associated with African-Americans comprise the largest group of resources related to this theme. One historic property directly associated with this theme has been documented in the survey area: the **Trux Warren House**.
[158-0005-084]. Trux Warren was a successful black businessman and landowner. His house was built in 1885.

Contributing Ethnicity/Immigration Sites by period

- European Settlement to Society (1607-1752) 0
- Colony to Nation (1753-1789) 0
- Early National Period (1790-1830) 0
- Antebellum Period (1831-1860) 0
- Civil War (1861-1865) 0
- Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916) 1
- World War I to World War II (1917-1945) 0
- The New Dominion (1946-Present) 0

Total 1

Settlement Patterns Theme: This theme explores the strategies for utilizing an area in response to subsistence, demographic, sociopolitical, and religious aspects of cultural systems; and is concerned with the investigation of unknown or little known regions as well as the establishment and earliest development of new settlements or communities. Property types historically associated with this theme in Tazewell reflect the entire range of buildings, structures, districts, objects, sites and landscapes. No historic properties associated with this theme have been documented in the survey area.

Contributing Settlement Patterns Sites by period

- European Settlement to Society (1607-1752) 0
- Colony to Nation (1753-1789) 0
- Early National Period (1790-1830) 0
- Antebellum Period (1831-1860) 0
- Civil War (1861-1865) 0
- Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916) 0
- World War I to World War II (1917-1945) 0
- The New Dominion (1946-Present) 0

Total 0

Architecture/Landscape Architecture/Community Planning Theme: This theme explores the design values and practical arts of planning, designing, arranging, constructing, and developing buildings, structures, landscapes, towns, and cities for human use and enjoyment. Property types historically associated with Tazewell might include impermanent structures, rural vernacular buildings and structures, buildings exemplary of national styles, landscaped parks, gardens and cemeteries, urban design, and planned communities. No sites identified with this theme were identified in the survey area.
Contributing Architecture/ Landscape Architecture/ Community Planning Sites by period

- European Settlement to Society (1607-1752) 0
- Colony to Nation (1753-1789) 0
- Early National Period (1790-1830) 0
- Antebellum Period (1831-1860) 0
- Civil War (1861-1865) 0
- Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916) 0
- World War I to World War II (1917-1945) 0
- The New Dominion (1946-Present) 0

Total 0

**Technology / Engineering Theme:** This theme relates primarily to the utilization of and evolutionary changes in material culture as a society adapts to its physical, biological, and cultural environments. All resource types may contribute to the understanding of this theme. It also involves the practical application of scientific principles to design, construct, and operate equipment, machinery, and structures to serve human needs. Related property types in Tazewell might include wood, metal, and concrete bridges, highways, transportation-related works, and various large-scale or industrial structures, engines, and machinery. No historic properties associated with this theme have been documented in the survey area.

Contributing Technology/ Engineering Sites by period

- European Settlement to Society (1607-1752) 0
- Colony to Nation (1753-1789) 0
- Early National Period (1790-1830) 0
- Antebellum Period (1831-1860) 0
- Civil War (1861-1865) 0
- Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916) 0
- World War I to World War II (1917-1945) 0
- The New Dominion (1946-Present) 0

Total 0
RESEARCH DESIGN

Introduction

This historic architecture survey was conducted from winter of 1998 to spring of 1999 to identify and document properties in the proposed Tazewell Historic District to the reconnaissance level. One property was documented to the intensive because its form and condition seemed to suggest it. When completed the survey of the district comprised a total of 101 survey sites. The project was designed to permit eventual listing of the district in the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places.

Methodology

Fieldwork, which involved vehicular and pedestrian reconnaissance of the study area, was preceded by reviews of primary and secondary sources in order to identify historic building types and individual building histories. Boundaries were selected in consultation with the Roanoke Regional Preservation Office based on National Register historic district standards of integrity. All properties within the boundaries were documented to the reconnaissance level according to DHR standards. A total of 101 sites were inventoried. For each of the surveyed properties, the contractor took 35mm black and white photographs, noted exterior architectural features, stated potential significance, and prepared a sketch plan of the site. If owners or other informants were available, Worsham gathered limited historic background on the properties. Wherever possible, interiors were accessed with the occupants' permission (a sketch of the floor plan was prepared for those properties). Limited historic research and oral history interviews supplemented the fieldwork to provide contextual information on individual properties.

Following field recording efforts, processing of materials and preparation of site files was begun. Site information was recorded in DHR's information database, Integrated Preservation Software (IPS), version IPS3.00L (released April 1994, modified May 1994). Upon completion of data entry, the final report, with recommendations for future survey, register, and planning activities, was prepared. This document includes a historic overview of Tazewell's architectural development, brief discussions of eighteen DHR-defined historic themes with descriptions of relevant property types and lists of associated properties, and maps indicating their locations within the proposed district. Appendices include several IPS-generated reports, such as a listing of the architectural and historical significance statement for each property, and the alphabetical and numerical inventories of surveyed properties.

Printouts of the computerized survey files have been placed in acid-free envelopes along with original photographs and other materials. The original files and a copy of the survey report are stored in the DHR Archives in Richmond, VA. Photocopies of these materials, plus the original field notes, are stored at RRPO, 1030 Penmar Avenue, SE, Roanoke, VA. Additional photocopies of the survey files and report will be provided to the town of Tazewell and to the
Tazewell Historical Society, both located in Tazewell, Virginia. Copies of the report also will be available in the reference section of the Tazewell Public Library.

**Expected Results**

The investigators anticipated the findings detailed below in part from a wide familiarity with the region from numerous survey projects and from preliminary historic research. The survey area was selected in concert with DHR staff in order to correspond with a proposed National Register-eligible district.
SURVEY FINDINGS

The survey produced results indicating the high survival rate of important resources, chiefly dwellings and commercial buildings, related to the growth and expansion of the town of Jeffersonville and the town of Tazewell in the years after the Civil War as a local commercial center. It is expected that development of land outside the district for commercial and housing purposes will continue to take a toll on the resources that will continue unabated for the foreseeable future. Under the present planning and zoning system there will undoubtedly be erosion of the quality and number of these buildings.

Fortunately, the neighborhood has benefited from the careful preservation of many buildings by some property owners and by the county government, and few buildings in the district have been demolished in recent years. The very attractive historic houses in the residential portion of the district have been increasingly subject to careful restoration and maintenance, as new owners discover the benefits of living in an historic neighborhood.

The following pages contain a tabulated list of survey sites, listing the property type, a description, and the date of construction for each.
Inventory

158-0005-0001
Date: 1930 ca
James H. Gillespie House
   Alley House
Architectural Summary:
   One and 1/2 story brick bungalow with soldier course at floor level, also door and window lintels. Stone, hip-roofed garage built into bank

158-0005-0002
Date: 1900 ca
Dr. J. N. Higgenbotham House
   Ella Cox House
   Episcopal Rectory
Architectural Summary:
   Two and 1/2 story, frame, three-bay, double-pile, center-passage-plan dwelling with 1/1 sash windows; projecting central pavilion containing two-story polygonal entry bay topped by gabled dormer opening into balcony; 1-story, 5-bay porch across front with chamfered square columns and sawn brackets, and pressed metal shingle hip roof. Stone, hip-roofed garage built into bank. One car stone veneer garage on street with hipped pressed-metal shingle roof, built into slope on site. Modern corrugated metal shed.

158-0005-0003
Date: 1890
Tazewell Baptist Church
Architectural Summary:
   Frame, gable-fronted, nave-plan church with pressed metal shingle roof; small gable over triple window on south side, triple doorway on principal facade with three-stage tower at southeast corner, and a tiny ornamental tower at northeast corner. The pointed-arched stained-glass windows are separated by ornamental wood buttresses. A gabled wing added to the rear contains bapistry. A corridor connects the church to a former house next door and converted into a church hall in the mid-20th century. Noncontributing, much-altered, two-story, rectangular frame dwelling.

158-0005-0004
Date: 1898 ca
Name: W. F. Harmon House
   Biggs House
Architectural Summary:
   Two and 1/2 story, frame, three-bay, Colonial Revival house made from an earlier center-passage-plan dwelling. The house features paired 9/9 sash windows flanking a central single-leaf entry, sheltered by a one-story porch with modern replacement paired columns. The porch turns the east end of the house and is enclosed there to form a sun porch. Two-story bays stand on
each side, and a small polygonal sunporch is located on the west side. A two-story service ell extends to the rear (north) with a latticed porch along the west side. A small meathouse stands behind the house and a large garage building farther to the north.

158-0005-0005  
Date: 1919-20  
Dr. M. E. Crockett House  
Architectural Summary:

One 1/2 story, five-bay, frame Colonial-style dwelling with a one-story, three-bay Tuscan porch across the front covering the 6/6 sash windows and the central entry with a fanlight and Colonial surround. End chimneys project slightly on exterior. A pair of gabled dormers light the upper floor on the front, which is expanded by a wide shed dormer on the rear. A shallow hip roof covers a rear wing. The asbestos shingled gable roof extends with slight kick over the front porch. One-story frame shed with shed roof. One-story, frame detached two-car garage with slightly kicked roof to match house.

158-0005-0006  
Date: 1940  
Akers House  
Architectural Summary:  
  Heavily remodeled one-story, three-bay, double pile, two-room dwelling with Bungalow features.

158-0005-0007  
Date: 1900-10  
Frame House (103 West Tower Street)  
Architectural Summary:  
  One-story, two-room, frame dwelling with one-story, three-bay porch with square posts and shed roof; central single-leaf entry; replacement windows; and asphalt-shingled side-gable roof. One-story, weatherboarded frame shed is located behind house.

158-0005-0008  
Date: 1935-40  
Lynch House  
Architectural Summary:  
  One-story, frame, asphalt-shingle-roofed shed is located behind house.
Rowlett House
Architectural Summary:
One 1/2-story, three-bay, brick, Colonial revival-style dwelling with central entry flanked by 6/6 sash windows with concrete sills and operable louvered blinds in front, side porch with paired square columns, square baluster railing, and tile floor, three pedimented dormers on front, and a basement garage.

Steele House
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, frame dwelling with aluminum weatherboard siding; one-story three-bay porch (originally a wrap-around) with Tuscan style aluminum columns and metal railing on roof; single-leaf entry; polygonal bay window in front, 1/1 vinyl replacement sash windows with applied tracery in upper panel, original detailing at second story corner window remains; asphalt-shingled pyramidal roof with projecting gables and brick chimney at apex of pyramid. One-story, shed roof, frame chicken coop is located behind the house.

Preston House
Architectural Summary:
Two 1/2-story, frame, Queen Anne-style dwelling with a rectangular form with flanking pyramidally-roofed dormer, and a projecting conically-roofed tower on the center. A shallow balcony over the arched opening to the entry projects in a shallow curve. The first floor is sheathed with weatherboard, while the second floor, which flares over the first floor, is sheathed with wood shingles. The paired sash on the front and single windows elsewhere have geometric tracery in the upper sash and a single light below.

Frame House (302 East Tower Street)
Architectural Summary:
One 1/2-story, frame, three-bay, double-pile, T-plan dwelling with paired and single roof with cresting at peaks, and a wrap-around, one-story porch under a continuation of the main roof. The sides have gabled, undercut bays in the center of each, a projecting roof to the front contains the front rooms, and two gabled dormers light the attic.
Joseph Stras Gillespie Farm

Architectural Summary:

Two 1/2-story frame Queen Anne dwelling with irregular floor plan and irregular silhouette, projecting gabled sections on each facade; undercut bay window on east side; small polygonal tower porch on second floor at southwest corner; long rear ell wing incorporating partially exterior brick chimney; gabled dormer on south front over entry. Porte cochere projects from west gabled element. A one-story porch extends from center of south front around to west gabled element, incorporates turned columns, sawn brackets, and arched opening with gable over front entry. The west side of the porch has been enclosed. Massive brick chimneys rise from the interior with ornamentally paneled sides and tapered tops. Two-story frame meathouse with stone foundation and asbestos shingled siding. One-story, concrete, one-room outbuilding with shallow gabled concrete roof and small, frame, one-room addition to rear. later mid-20th-century, one-room, second-floor frame addition stands over the concrete section on brick piers. One-story frame shed.

Frame, weatherboarded, one-story, three-door building said to have been a poultry shed by present owners. Frame, two-story barn with board-and-batten siding, double doors, probably served as a carriage house. Frame one-story garage. Long central aisle barn with hay loft, vertical board siding, doors at each end, gabled standing-seam metal roofing, small openings to horse stalls on each side, and stone foundation. Concrete cellar partially set into earth in center of circular drive; earth over the top; door near southwest corner on west side, small glazed vent on south. Two-story log house reconstructed on site in 1983. Frame wing with two-story porch across the rear (north). Metal covered outbuilding with concrete foundation. One-story frame two-room outbuilding with wide glazed opening, gable-end entry. The outbuildings are grouped in a line behind the house aligned with the rear of the house, except the stable and the two-room glazed outbuilding, which stand behind these, and the concrete cellar, that is located to the west of the main house. While the barn is aligned with the line of outbuildings, it stands farther to the west.

158-0005-0014
Date: 1870
Frame House (120 West Pine Street)

Architectural Summary:

Two-story, three-bay, sinle-pile, central-passage, frame dwelling with one-story, three-bay porch with turned posts and hip roof; central four-panel door with sidelights; 1/1 replacement sash windows with heavy, orginal cornices about (orginal windows were 2/2 vertical sash); asphalt-shingled side-gable roof with front gable in central bay; and massive exterior brick chimneys with stone footings at each end. One-story, early 20th-century frame outbuilding is located to the rear of house.
158-0005-0015
Date: 1940
Buston House
Architectural Summary:
One 1/2-story, three-bay frame Colonial Revival dwelling with bungalow related features, and two gabled dormers flanking a projecting gabled entry vestibule. Triple 9/9 sash windows flank the entry. An early garage stands against the east side.

158-0005-0016
Date: 1970
Town of Tazewell Shop
Architectural Summary:
One-story metal framed maintenance building with concrete block base and large garage doors. Wood post material shed located to the east of the building.

158-0005-0017
Date: 1940 ca
Frame Garage
Architectural Summary:
One-story, one-bay, frame garage with weatherboard siding; roll-up garage door with painted over glass inset at top, single-leaf entry door at rear; and front gable roof of asphalt roll paper.

158-0005-0018
Date: 1970 ca
Main Street Motors
Architectural Summary:
One-story garage with concrete block foundation, metal siding, single-leaf entry and garage doors, and flat metal roof.

158-0005-0019
Date: 1955 ca
Brick House (206 East Pine Street)
Architectural Summary:
One-story, three-bay, Colonial Revival brick dwelling with running bond; one-story, one-bay entry porch with Doric columns and gable roof; central single-leaf door, paired 1/1 sash windows with soldier headers; and interior end chimney.

158-0005-0020
Date: 1890
Frame House (208 East Pine Street)
Architectural Summary:
One-story, three-bay, central-passage, frame dwelling with rear central ell; central gable over probable entry at center of front (south) facade, now blocked; single-leaf entry now located in shed addition at west end; single and paired, vertical 2/2 sash windows; and gable roof.
158-0005-0021
Date: 1870
Mason House
Architectural Summary:
One-story, three-bay, central-passage-plan T-plan dwelling with modern 9/9 sash windows, a one-story, three-bay porch, and returned cornice in the gables.

158-0005-0022
Date: 1870
Thompson House
Architectural Summary:
One-story, asphalt-shingled front gable modern garage. Frame, one-story, three-bay, single-pile, central-passage-plan dwelling with central gable over central entry with sidelights and transom and large brick end chimney. One-story frame meat house is located behind the dwelling and the garage is located to the east side of the dwelling.

158-0005-0023
Date: 1920
Hurt House
Smith House
Architectural Summary:
One 1/2 story, three-bay, frame, gable-fronted dwelling with wood shingles in gable, weatherboard, paired and single 1/1 sash, central front entry, and Doric porch across the front.

158-0005-0024
Date: 1920
McCall House
Peery, Kate House
Architectural Summary:
One-story, three-bay, frame, side-gable bungalow with paired and single 6/6 sash windows, central entry with sidelights and glass panel under gable porch supported on square posts carried by shingled plinths.

158-0005-0025
Date: 1896
Tazewell Christian Church
Architectural Summary:
Frame, T-shaped church with lower gable on rear to form a cross shape, three-pointed arched sash with tinted glass on each front with a circular window over, large entry vestibule in two-stage SW corner tower with modern spire.
158-0005-0026
Date: 1920
Presbyterian Manse
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story frame three-bay center-passage T-plan dwelling with 1/1 sash windows shallow-roof one-story one-bay porch at entry and entry door with sidelights and transom.

158-0005-0027
Date: 1900 -10
Frame House (310 Pine Street)
Architectural Summary:

158-0005-0028
Date: 1930 ca
Car Dealership
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story brick commercial building with parapet shed roof, original 1/1 sash on second floor, large factory sash on first floor now blocked and concealed by exterior insulation finish system.

158-0005-0029
Date: 1870 ca
Frame House (211 East Pine Street)
Architectural Summary:
   One-story, three-bay, double-cell, frame dwelling with aluminum siding; one-story, one-bay hip-roofed porch with open metal supports, central single-leaf entry with sidelights and transom; 1/1 replacement sash windows; SSM side-gable roof, and interior brick chimney.

158-0005-0030
Date: 1870
Frame House (213 Pine Street)
Architectural Summary:
   One-story, three-bay frame central lobby-entry double-pile dwelling with much altered form; one-story, two-bay porch with treated lumber posts and railing. The windows were previously 6/6 and the roof was SSM.
158-0005-0031
Date: 1897 ca
Jeff Ward House
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, three-bay, frame center-passage T-plan with 1/1 sash windows, hip roof, one-story porch across entire front with turned posts and balusters and sawn brackets. SSM gable roof. Modern concrete block garage to rear.

158-0005-0032
Date: 1960 ca
Name: Fleet House
Architectural Summary:
One-1/2-story, brick Colonial dwelling with three dormers, shed dormers, panel door with sidelights under a one-bay porch, three gabled dormers across front, shed dormer across rear, and 8/8 replacement sash. Modern one-story frame outbuilding to the rear. Large modern brick carport is to the west.

158-0005-0033
Date: 1930 ca
Doak House
Architectural Summary:
One-story, frame bungalow-style Colonial dwelling with double windows, exterior end chimney, and central porch sheltering a central entry with sidelights and transom. Modern concrete block garage to rear.

158-0005-0034
Date: 1900 ca
Tazewell Christian Church Parsonage
Architectural Summary:
One-story, frame three-bay T-plan dwelling with paired and single 1/1 sash windows, and oval glass panel door sheltered by a two-bay porch with turned posts sawn brackets and turned baluster rail. Modern garage to rear.

158-0005-0035
Date: 1900 ca
Repas House
Architectural Summary:
One-story, frame three-bay T-plan dwelling with paired 1/1 sash windows, an enclosed porch on both sides of the projecting central T-stem.
158-0005-0036
Date: 1890 ca
Laird House
Architectural Summary:
One-story, frame three-bay two-room dwelling with a lobby entry, pressed metal shingle roof, central porch with ornamental panels of diagonal tongue-and-groove panels, sawn brackets, vestibule with chamfered corners and paired glass panel doors. The house has a central ell with a rear porch with turned posts and sawn balustrade. One-room frame meathouse to the rear and a one-room frame outbuilding to the east.

158-0005-0037
Date: 1936
Tazewell Post Office
Architectural Summary:
One-story, five-bay brick Colonial-Revival style post office with 12/12 sash windows, central Greek Revival entry with frontispiece made up of Doric half columns and an elliptical arch above with a gilt American eagle. Cupola at center of roof ridge. Integral flat-roofed section across rear. Fine WPA murals on the interior.

158-0005-0038
Date: 1899 ca
Dr. W. I. Painter House
Tazewell House
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, frame Queen-Anne style dwelling. The structure has a side gabled section with a projecting gabled element. A square pyramidal-roof tower infills the angle of the projecting element which has an undercut bay window on both floors. A one-story wraparound porch ends in a curved element in front of the bay window.

158-0005-0039
Date: 1916-1918
Governor Peery Law Office
Buchanan Office
Architectural Summary:
One-story, three-bay brick commercial building with single-leaf entry with transom and concrete lintels, cornice across front, parapet above has recessed panel flanked by inset diamonds and rockfaced sills and lintels on side.

158-0005-0040
Date: 1931
Tazewell Masonic Lodge #62
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick, shed-roof lodge building with a commercial first floor high parapet with central tablet inscribed "Masonic Building" above masonry cornice, four central second-floor 1/1 sash
window bays with transoms flanked by wide brick strip pilasters. The inset storefront has a covered transom flanked by the second floor entrance and topped with a cornice.

158-0005-0041
Date: 1897
Greever and Gillespie Law Building
Bowen and Bowen, Attorneys and Harmon and Harmon
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick, four-bay double building with a 7-bay first floor, a central entry to the second floor separates two first-floor offices. the four upper windows have pressed metal ornamental cornices and 1/1 replacement windows. There is a pressed metal ornamental main cornice with brackets dentils a raised central tablet and turned finials, and a metal cornice spans the first floor. Each of the first floor offices has three bays with a central door with transoms.

158-0005-0042
Date: 1887 -89
H. W. Pobst Jewelry Store
Dudley, Galumbeck, and Necassary Attorneys at law
Architectural Summary:
One-story, much altered brick commercial building with exposed brick on the west side, recent facade alteration featuring Colonial -style treated wood weatherboard siding; recessed central single-leaf wood with large glass panel entry with three-light transom, brick floor in recess, 9/9 sash windows with three-light transom above and paneled inoperable shutters, and shed roof with metal coping.

158-0005-0043
Date: 1930 ca
Kilgore Ford Motor
Western Auto
Architectural Summary:
One-story, four-bay, masonry garage with running-bond brick facade; basement level which opens to alley and rear street (Pine ST); central modern metal glass entrance with transom above, garage doors located to the west of the entry door, additional garage doors located along the alley side; storefront windows; stepped parapet with wood coping and tile pent roof in front.

158-0005-0044
Date: 1914
Witten Building
Jackson's Drug Store
Frederick W. Harmon Attorney at Law
Architectural Summary:
One-story, double commercial building with brick façade, central recessed entries, one single-leaf metal and glass, and the other double-leaf wood and glass; storefront windows, one unit
with metal and glass and the other with wood and glass decorative cornices across the storefronts and across the top of the principal facade; shed roof with straight parapet across the front and stepped parapet along the sides.

158-0005-0045
Date: 1889 ca
Clinch Valley Bank
   Pobst Jewelry Store
   Crawford Jewelers
   Lemon's Jewelers
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story, two-bay, masonry commercial building with brick facade; recessed off-center single-leaf entry with modern metal replacement door; replacement double-hung sash windows which are under one large decorative soldier row segmental arch with concrete keystone and ends; cast-iron cornice with decorative ends across top of principal facade.

158-0005-0046
Date: 1914
Name: J. A. Greever Building
   Greever Hardware/Silk "N" Satin
   Greever Hardware/MetLife
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story, double store with brick facade; storefront doors and windows; soldier row across store openings, 1/1 sash windows with stone lintels on second floor; three decorative 'tiles' across front above lintels; unadorned cornice across top; and shed roof with stepped parapet.

158-0005-0047
Date: 1970 ca
Bank of Tazewell County
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story, modern masonry bank building with marble and brick principal facade and arched precast concrete gallery.

158-0005-0048
Date: 1913
Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church South
   Main Street United Methodist Church
Architectural Summary:
   Gabled brick Gothic-Revival church with gable front to the street, a small gable projection to the west side, and large seven-sided apse to the rear. A three-stage tower containing vestibule and arched entry door is located at the SE corner of the streetfront with a louvered belfry at the top below a battlement parapet. The church has buttresses at the corners and between the window bays with stone details, stone keystones, and brick pointed arches at all openings.
158-0005-0049
Date: 1925 ca
TVs and Gifts/Main Street Barber Shop
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick double store with stone foundation, parapet roof with concrete and ceramic tile coping; original smaller storefront at the east end has flush wooden storefront with central wood door and transom. The larger storefront at west end has inset entry with black tile floor flanked by wide windows and a transom. The eastern section has been added.

158-0005-0050
Date: 1940 ca
Peery & St. Claire-Furniture/Becket's Jewel Box
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick double commercial building with large store at east end and smaller store at west. the larger storefront has a replacement glass and metal infill with inset entry at east end. The smaller one has an original wood inset storefront with black ceramic tile. the second floor has 8 window bays with metal casements. A concrete coping separates the floors and tops the wall.

158-0005-0051
Date: 1940 ca.
Commercial Building
Architectural Summary:
Two-story brick commercial building.

158-0005-0052
Date: 1913
Tazewell County Courthouse
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick courthouse with a pressed metal ceiling at the porch. Original 1/1 wood sash windows on second floor. First floor contains metal replacement with wood infill; concrete sills; paired 1/1 over double leaf entry; concrete sign at entry. Beige brick. Concrete corbelled cornice at sides and recessed front. Bell under portico. Hip roof with flat in center.

158-0005-0053
Date: 1900 ca
Harrison and Gillespie Building
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick double commercial building with shed roof with stepped parapet and metal coping. Double row with side windows of metal 1/1 replacement windows with rounded infill and bricked up windows. Several different types of brick on side. Recessed double entry with sidelights and transom. Metal and glass double leaf entry to second floor. Altered storefront. Decorative bracketed cast iron cornice and second floor pilasters.
158-0005-0054
Date: 1900 ca
Bank of Clinch Valley
Piggy Bank Cafe
Britts Restaurant
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick with stone facade commercial building with shed roof with gabled parapet. Bank entry single leaf with sidelights and transom, wood storefront, grillwork and arches. Second floor entry at end, wood with round arched transom. First floor side windows with 1/1 wood and round arched transom, stone sills.

158-0005-0055
Date: 1900 ca
Peery & St. Claire Building
Town and County Furniture/Western Auto
Architectural Summary:

158-0005-0056
Date: 1902 ca
Gillespie, Hart, Altizer & Whitesell
Graham Building
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof and bracketed cornice and stepped parapet along the side. Paired 1/1 windows on second floor. First floor altered by modern metal and glass storefront. Cornice work is same as 158-5-57. Decorative bracketed cast-iron cornice; corbeled brickwork, brick pilasters, segmental-arched windows. Recessed entry.

158-0005-0057
Date: 1902 ca
Hawkins Pharmacy
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof and bracketed cast-iron cornice, corbeled brickwork and segmental-arched windows. Second floor has replaced 1/1 sash windows with wood infill. Modern storefront with recessed entry for first floor entry and flush for second floor, transoms on both. Stepped parapet with chimney.
158-0005-0058.
Date: 1899 ca
Spotts-Stras Building
    Tazewell Sewing Center
Architectural Summary:
    One-story, brick commercial building with shed roof and small bracketed cast-iron cornice. Original storefront with large transom above! Decorative pressed metal cornice. Dropped ceiling inside.

158-0005-0059
Date: 1995 ca
Band Stand (Main Street)
Architectural Summary:
    Small park on vacant lot with bandstand and picnic tables.

158-0005-0060
Date: 1910
Tazewell National Bank
    Corner Cupboard
    Lester's Flowers
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story frame commercial building with weatherboarded second floor, brick added on first floor, and bracketed cornice.

158-0005-0061
Date: 1878 ca
Clinch Valley News
    Food Pantry
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story, four-bay, brick commercial building with heavy bracketed cornice, one-over-one sash windows on second floor and large arched windows on first.

158-0005-0062
Date: 1967
Tazewell County Library
Architectural Summary:
    One-story brick library with concrete cornice; metal coping.

158-0005-0063
Date: 1877
Dr. J. R. Gildersleeve House
    Tazewell County Economic Development
Architectural Summary:

Two-story frame center-passage T-plan dwelling with fine ornate late nineteenth-century-style detailing, including a one-story porch with sawn and turned ornament, paired brackets on cornice, paired one-over-one sash windows, and a one-story, polygonal bay on the east end. Carport and well-built brick garage are located to the rear of the house.

158-0005-0064
Date: 1930s
Tazewell County High School
Tazewell County Administration Building
Architectural Summary:

158-0005-0065
Date: 1948 ca
The Hut
Architectural Summary:
Quonset hut set on brick base with 4-light awning windows. Enclosed front porch with wing and back porch.

158-0005-0066
Date: 1873
Alderson House
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, three-bay, L-plan, central-passage plan dwelling with two principal facades to Central Avenue and to the town to the south; predates Episcopal Church and other buildings between it and Main Street. Two-story, three-bay pedimented porches and Greek Revival-style detailing. Stone veneer mid-20th C. garage and nineteenth-century latticed summer house.

158-0005-0067
Date: 1884
Stras Memorial Episcopal Church
Architectural Summary:
Gabled frame Gothic-Revival church with gable front to the street, with a four-bay nave plan, projecting chancel, diamond paned arched windows, projecting gabled vestibule. Small belfry and small spire.

158-0005-0068
Date: 1897
Sexton House
Hunter House
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, three-bay, single-pile dwelling with 1/1 sash, one-story windows on each side of
front centered door, full-width porch across front of house with a two-story porch on the rear. Front porch has chamfered posts and sawn brackets.

158-0005-0069
Date: 1965
Tazewell Municipal Building
Architectural Summary:
One-story brick town offices and fire station building with large plate glass store windows in center, garage to north, police station to south. Parapet shed roof, two stories to rear.

158-0005-0070
Date: 1877
R. R. Henry House
Historic Significance:
Carpenter Gothic, one-1/2 story frame three-bay single-pile dwelling with 6/6 sash with flat cornice tops and segmentally headed top sash on both floors, central gable flanked by gabled wall dormers at the upper floor. The dormers and gables are filled with sawn ornamental bargeboards with finials. Massive chimney stacks. One-story hip-roof mid-20th C. brick garage to rear of house.

158-0005-0071
Date: 1960s
Steve Lutz D.D.S. Office
Architectural Summary:
A low one-story contemporary brick single dwelling.

158-0005-0072
Date: 1960s
American Legion Post 133
Historic Significance:
Architectural Summary:
A low one-story contemporary brick meeting hall.

158-0005-0073
Date: 1832
Old Tazewell County Jail
Architectural Summary:
Two-story, three-bay Flemish-bond brick building with three bays on each facade, most window openings altered ca. 1900. Wood lintels with bull's eye corner block. Paneled interior shutters on south side.
158-0005-0074
Date: 1894
Telephone Office
    Tazewell Cleaners
    Tazewell Sewing Center
    Vacant
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof and heavy bracketed cornice across the top of
    the first floor storefront; the second floor windows and the top of the building. Altered first floor
    storefront.

158-0005-0075
Date: 1910 ca
Frame House (Elk Street)
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story, three-bay frame four-room dwelling with rear wall chimneys and one-story shed.
    A concrete block garage was added on north elevation.

158-0005-0076
Date: 1950 ca
Patrick R. McClintock, Attorney at Law
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof.

158-0005-0077
Date: 1934
Coulling House
    St. Claire House
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story brick Colonial Revival dwelling with exterior end chimneys and massive dentil
    cornice. Elaborate dormers on rear. Brick garage to rear of house.

158-0005-0078
Date: 1924
May House
Architectural Summary:
    Two-story brick Colonial Revival dwelling with hip roof with hip dormers in front and sides.
    Seven-light transom over door with sidelights. Brick garage to rear of house.
158-0005-0079
Date: 1903
C. R. Brown House
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story frame Queen Anne dwelling with complex roof form and polygonal three-story
tower with bell roof.

158-0005-0080
Date: 1920s
Brown, Robert, Jr. House
Architectural Summary:
   Two-1/2-story brick Colonial Revival three-bay dwelling with pedimented one-story porch
with paired fluted Doric columns.

158-0005-0081
Date: 1924
Name: Tazewell Presbyterian Church
Architectural Summary:
   Pedimented gable-ended front with projecting tower with spire double-leaf entrance framed
by Doric frontispiece.

158-0005-0082
Date: 1905
Judge Boyer House
   Chapman Hall
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story frame Queen Anne dwelling with complex roof system and metal roof cresting,
recessed bay second floor porch with paired Ionic columns, asymmetrical composition.

158-0005-0083
Date: 1960s
Peery, Sidney House
Architectural Summary:
   One-story stone veneer ranch house of high quality with central entry.

158-0005-0084
Date: 1885 ca
Trux Warren House
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story frame dwelling with early additions.
158-0005-0085
Date: 1960s
Kilgore House
Architectural Summary:
   One-story brick ranch house with projecting front gable.

158-0005-0086
Date: 1980 ca
Brick House
Architectural Summary:
   One-story modern brick dwelling.

158-0005-0087
Date: 1900
Moss-Greaver House
Architectural Summary:
   Two-story frame duplex dwelling with side passage plan, bay windows on first floor, pedimented gable and dormer. One-story ell behind house.

158-0005-0088
Date: 1960 ca
Name: Stone House (206 Church Ave)
Architectural Summary:
   One-story modern dwelling built on foundations of Lutheran Church.

158-0005-0089
Date: 1990 ca
Roger W. Mullins, Attorney
Historic Significance:
Architectural Summary:
   One-story modern office building.

158-0005-0090
Date: 1910
Dr. J. T. Cooley House
Cumberland Mountain Community
Architectural Summary:
   Originally weatherboarded, later brick veneered, central front gable, later porch. Two-story three-bay center-passage plan dwelling with 2/2 sash windows. Hip-roofed brick garage (ca. 1930s) to north.
158-0005-0091
Date: 1890s
Name: Dr. C. W. Greever House
Tazewell County Historical Society
Architectural Summary:
Central front gable with blind lunette, one-story, three-bay single dwelling with center passage plan and large 6/6 sash windows. Turned posts, spindle brackets, and turned balustrade on full-width front porch.

158-0005-0092
Date: 1900
Henry Law Office
Architectural Summary:
Much-altered frame one-story shed roofed commercial building or office. Simple cornice across front.

158-0005-0093
Date: 1885 ca
Name: Frame House (104 Fincastle Turnpike)
Architectural Summary:
Two-story frame dwelling with gable at south end of principal facade, gable has decorative brackets.

158-0005-0094
Date: 1930
Commercial Building (Fincastle Turnpike)
Architectural Summary:
One-story frame gable fronted commercial building facing the Fincastle Turnpike with altered storefront, return cornices, shed-roof addition, and inappropriate Colonial-Revival pediment over door.

158-0005-0095
Date: 1900
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Barns-Beaver Post 7136
Architectural Summary:
Two-story brick commercial building with 5-bay on second floor and replaced 1/1 original windows. Central entry flanked by shop windows.

158-0005-0096
Date: 1970 ca
Mobile Home (105 Lyons Avenue)
Architectural Summary:
Modern mobile home.
158-0005-0097
Date: 1950 ca
Frame House (103 Lyons Avenue)
Architectural Summary:
   Modern frame house.

158-0005-0098
Date: 1890 ca
Frame House (101 Lyons Avenue)
Architectural Summary:
   One-story center-passage plan dwelling with rear ell, paired and single 1/1 sash, four-panel entry door with sidelights and transom sheltered by one-story porch across front with turned posts and balustrade.

158-0005-0099
Date: 1900 ca
Alexander St. Claire House
Architectural Summary:
   Two-1/2-story three-bay frame double pile dwelling with weatherboard siding and gabled dormers on all four sides of the deck on hip roof. Polygonal one-story bay on south side, inset entry with arched opening with one-story porch with paired and triple colonetts on paneled wooden plinths. Metal roof cresting on deck atop hip roof. Modern garage to rear.

158-0005-0100
Date: 1900 ca
Name: A. M. Black House
Architectural Summary:
   One-1/2-story frame dwelling with weatherboard siding and a projecting bay. One-story three-bay porch with turned columns and brackets and balustrade.

158-0005-0101
Date: 1870 ca
Frame House (Tower Street)
Architectural Summary:
   One-story, three-bay, center-passage plan frame dwelling with later alterations. Modern one-story two-car garage with front gable asphalt roof and weatherboard siding.
EVALUATION

Potential Historic Designation

The Virginia Landmarks Register provides for the recognition of significant state historic landmarks and for the review of impacts which state-funded or permitted projects might have on registered landmarks. Occasionally, state funding is available to properties listed on or eligible for the Virginia Landmarks Register. The National Register of Historic Places is a federal designation that honors a property by recognizing its importance to its community, state or the Nation. Owners of listed property may be able to obtain Federal historic preservation funding, when funds are available. In addition, Federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply. Federal agencies whose projects affect a listed or eligible property must consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to try and minimize any harmful effects of the project upon the historic property.

The survey project has resulted in the recognition of a potentially eligible National Register Historic District coterminous with the boundaries of the survey project. Those boundaries have been included on the project map.
Statement of Significance

The proposed Tazewell Historic District appears to meet the standards for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C as a historic residential and commercial area exhibiting the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century development of a local commercial center. Residential, commercial, transportation-related, and institutional buildings primarily date from a period of significance from ca. 1880 to 1930, during which time new, popular building designs gradually replaced traditional forms, although there was remarkable continuity of form and location for the various corresponding building types. A further period of significance extends from 1931 to 1949, when a few significant new structures were built and the storefronts of many of the existing commercial buildings were altered as the town's institutions and business owners responded to the Great Depression and the World War II-era stylistic changes with a modernization effort.

Resource Integrity

Resources in the district were evaluated for contributing/noncontributing status according to a scale of integrity based on the relative significance of the property's associated theme (s) in the study area and the region. Buildings in the survey area not associated with commercial and domestic themes received less stringent relaxed integrity standards due to their rarity in the locality. Buildings associated with less commonly represented themes such as social, religion, and education or sub-themes, such as early buildings were permitted more leeway, but there were no examples of buildings of exceptional rarity or significance that were of borderline integrity. Standards for individually eligible domestic or commercial properties were very high and any substantial interior or exterior alteration resulted in their not being considered as potentially eligible.
PRESERVATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Future Survey and Documentation Efforts

Since this project was limited in scope to the proposed district boundaries, it necessarily excluded many historic resources (those fifty years of age or older) that remain within the town. A comprehensive town-wide survey is necessary to document a more complete range of property types that represent all of Tazewell's historic themes and time periods. A comprehensive survey would also aid in the identification and delineation of boundaries for other potential historic districts in the town.

Preservation Planning Recommendations

Tazewell presently has several significant properties already listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. Unfortunately the town has enacted no provisions to date to protect these historic resources.

The next step in preserving Tazewell's historic resources should be to prepare a preservation plan for the entire town. A preservation plan should involve extensive participation and collaboration between the county and town governments, the Tazewell Historical Society, owners of historic properties, the local planning district commission, and other interested citizens, business interests, preservationists, and planners. The preservation planning process should be inclusive and comprehensive in nature, should integrate the findings of this and future survey efforts into the policy-making procedures of the County and town, and should meet state and national standards for historic preservation as well as the needs of the community. Survey data can be built on to understand the means for the community to identify opportunities for conservation of the essential elements which give the district its historic character, to reduce potential conflicts between preservation and development forces, and to resolve any such disputes in an orderly and productive manner. Immediate steps that can be undertaken in the Tazewell Historic District include:

- Nomination of the district to the state and Federal registers.
- Local designation of district
- Establish local designation process (non-restrictive)
- Establish Historic Overlay Zoning (restrictive)
- Update Zoning Ordinance

Nomination of the district will enable owners of contributing income-producing properties to take advantage of the substantial Federal and state historic preservation tax credits. This will be the principal tool available to the city in encouraging preservation of buildings in the district.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


Schreiner-Yantis, Netti, Editor. Archives of the Pioneers of Tazewell, County, Virginia. 1973


___ "Historic Tazewell, Virginia: A Walking Tour." Brochure. No date.

## APPENDICES

### SURVEY INDEX BY DHR FILE NUMBER

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