

VR - 12-5-01  
NRHP - 5-16-02  
OMB No. 1024-4018

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

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Tazewell Historic District  
Tazewell County, Virginia

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

OMB No. 1024-0018

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

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

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Tazewell Historic District  
other names/site number 158-0005

### 2. Location

street: Main, Church, Tower, and Pine streets and Central Ave not for publication NA  
city or town Tazewell vicinity NA  
state Virginia code VA county Tazewell code 185 Zip, 24651

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Catherine Sasser March 29, 2002  
Signature of certifying official Date

**Virginia Department of Historic Resources**  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

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

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Tazewell Historic District  
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- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property** (Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  112  </u>	<u>  31  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  2  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u> 112 </u>	<u>  33 </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   

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

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**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC:  </u>	Sub: Single Dwelling <u>                  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC:  </u>	Multiple Dwelling <u>                  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC:  </u>	Secondary Structure <u>                  </u>
<u>  GOVERNMENT:  </u>	Post Office <u>                  </u>
<u>  GOVERNMENT:  </u>	Court House <u>                  </u>
<u>  COMMERCE/TRADE:  </u>	Business <u>                  </u>
<u>  SOCIAL:  </u>	Meeting Hall <u>                  </u>
<u>  EDUCATION:  </u>	School <u>                  </u>
<u>  RELIGION:  </u>	Religious Facility <u>                  </u>

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>  DOMESTIC:  </u>	Sub: Single Dwelling <u>                  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC:  </u>	Multiple Dwelling <u>                  </u>
<u>  DOMESTIC:  </u>	Secondary Structure <u>                  </u>
<u>  GOVERNMENT:  </u>	Post Office <u>                  </u>
<u>  GOVERNMENT:  </u>	Court House <u>                  </u>
<u>  COMMERCE/TRADE:  </u>	Business <u>                  </u>
<u>  SOCIAL:  </u>	Meeting Hall <u>                  </u>
<u>  RELIGION:  </u>	Religious Facility <u>                  </u>

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Greek Revival

MID-19<sup>th</sup> CENTURY: Gothic Revival

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS: Bungalow/Craftsman

LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation  BRICK; STONE; CONCRETE

roof  STONE: Slate; ASPHALT; METAL: Tin

walls  WOOD: Weatherboard; BRICK; STONE

other \_\_\_\_\_

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

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

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

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

**Areas of Significance** (Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

U. S. Department of the Interior  
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Tazewell County, Virginia

\_\_\_ COMMERCE \_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance \_1832-1950\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates \_\_\_1800 (town founded)\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_1866 (town incorporated)\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

\_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation \_\_\_N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder \_\_\_Pierce, William\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_Bryan, Andrew J.\_\_\_\_\_

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

\_\_\_ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

\_\_\_ previously listed in the National Register

\_\_\_ previously determined eligible by the National Register

\_\_\_ designated a National Historic Landmark

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

Primary Location of Additional Data

State Historic Preservation Office

\_\_\_ Other State agency

\_\_\_ Federal agency

\_\_\_ Local government

\_\_\_ University

\_\_\_ Other

Name of repository: \_\_\_ Virginia Department of Historic Resources \_\_\_\_\_

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 67 acres

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

	Zone Easting	Northing	Zone Easting	Northing
1	17 454120	4107940	2 17 453910	4107540
3	17 453310	4107700	4 17 453630	4108120

\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

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

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

11. Form Prepared By

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Tazewell Historic District  
Tazewell County, Virginia

name/title: Gibson Worsham, Principal

Organization: Gibson Worsham, Architect date 2/28//01

street & number: 3145 Yellow Sulphur Road telephone 540 552-4730

city or town Christiansburg state VA zip code 24073

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**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

•  
**Property Owner**

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

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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## 7. Narrative Description:

### Summary Description

The central commercial and residential part of Tazewell was surveyed in 1998-1999 as part of a matching grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. The survey resulted in the nomination of the Tazewell Historic District, which comprises most of the historic boundaries of the town. It includes commercial properties lining Main Street and residential properties to the north on Tower, Church, Central, and Pine streets.

The predominant historic period represented by the surveyed resources is that of Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916), reflecting the era of Tazewell's rebuilding and growth in the late nineteenth century. Commercial and residential buildings made up the majority of the documented resources. Additional building types included multiple dwellings, mixed-use buildings, fraternal lodges, churches, and schools. Areas of significance include commerce and architecture.

### Narrative

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 sides 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.

#### *Colony to Early National Period (1753-1830)*

A 23-acre site belonging to William Peery and Samuel Ferguson was selected as the location for the seat of the new county of Tazewell in 1800. The new town of Jeffersonville was laid out in quarter-acre lots soon after. A map filed in 1825 shows that a total of twenty lots were aligned 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

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**Narrative Description (continued):**

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.

*Antebellum Period (1831-1860)*

The town of Jeffersonville or Tazewell Court House grew steadily during the Antebellum period. The population stood at about 150 by 1835. There were as many as 20 dwelling houses, one church, a school, four stores, and two taverns.<sup>1</sup> By 1852, the town had approximately 80 houses and 300 inhabitants. The focus of both commercial and residential building in the town continued to be along Main Street.

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..."<sup>2</sup> 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.

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**Narrative Description (continued):**

*Civil War (1861-1865)*

No resources were identified in the historic district that dated from this period.

*Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)*

Postwar Years (1866-1887)

Several important residential and commercial buildings in the proposed district date from the period of gradual growth in the 1870s. **The Clinch Valley News Building [158-0005-061]** is a good surviving example of the mostly frame commercial buildings grouped along Main Street in the period after the Civil War. The two-story frame structure 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.

Several houses built for merchants and professionals date from this period. 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.<sup>3</sup> 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 a 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. 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



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in 1877 for a local physician. The two-story frame house utilizes the popular T-plan form and

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**Narrative Description (continued):**

features projecting bays, sawn brackets, and an ornate porch. 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 residential area to the north of Main Street 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. Spots Farm occupied the farm setting still characteristic of the **Joseph Stras Gillespie House [158-0005-013]** to the west, 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.<sup>4</sup>

The area to the west of Central Avenue was occupied by land belonging to H. C. Alderson, includes his house, the **Alderson House [158-0005-066]** and the **Stras Memorial Episcopal Church [158-0005-067]** of 1884. 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 Episcopal Church is represented by a small frame building, the Stras Memorial Episcopal Church. Built in 1886, it is now the oldest in the community. The plain but clearly ecclesiastical Gothic Revival-style, nave-plan building features pointed windows and doors and a simple, unpainted, tongue-and-groove interior.

The two tracts on the east side of the Central Avenue belonged to Mrs. Pierce and A. F. Hargrave. Mrs. Pierce's house, known as the **R. R. Henry House [158-0005-070]**, was built about 1877. 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 late nineteenth-century, one-story house was replaced by the larger **C. R. Brown House [158-0005-079]** in about 1903.<sup>5</sup> From the property of these three houses many of the other lots on Central Avenue and Church Street were eventually subdivided.

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**Narrative Description (continued):**

Railroad Access to Markets (1889-1916)

A new **Tazewell Christian Church [158-0005-025]** was built in 1898 on a site outside the commercial area to replace an earlier building at the head of Pine Street. The plain Gothic-Revival-style church has twin towers on the south facade 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 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. 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.

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 is a good example, as is the commercial building 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 arcaded 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 replaced an earlier building of the same name that had burned in the previous year and continued to house a furniture and hardware business for many years.

Lawyer offices rivaled the commercial buildings in architectural quality and form. The **Greever and Gillespie Law Office Building [158-0005-041]** of 1897 and the **Graham Building [158-0005-056]** of 1902 are the best examples of the building type. The two-story,

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brick Greever and Gillespie Building resembles a commercial building with a row of first-floor offices instead of a storefront. This widespread use of normally valuable first-floor square footage

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**Narrative Description (continued):**

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.<sup>6</sup> This 1897 building had three first-floor offices each with a two-bay first-floor facade. 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.<sup>7</sup> This section of Main Street was known as Lawyer's Row.<sup>8</sup> 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.

The houses built at the end of the nineteenth century and beginning of the twentieth showed remarkable continuity with earlier forms which were discussed previously. 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. It has vanished, but a fine example was built across the street beside

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the Lutheran Church between 1897 and 19079. The **Moss-Greever Double House [158-0005-**

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**Narrative Description (continued):**

**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.<sup>10</sup> It is 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.<sup>11</sup> An historic photograph shows its contrasting paint scheme.<sup>12</sup>

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 cellar, 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 is 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. An historic photograph from a 1903 issue of the Clinch Valley News shows it as built.<sup>13</sup>

The courthouse of 1874 was rebuilt in 1913 by the Falls City Construction Company of

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Louisville, Kentucky. The Second Empire-style facade of the earlier building was replaced by a Classical Revival-style building (**Tazewell County Courthouse [158-0005-052]**) with four Doric columns supporting a full pediment and a deck-on-hip roof. It was designed by architect Andrew J. Bryan.<sup>14</sup>

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**7. Narrative Description (continued):**

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

The town of Tazewell grew modestly during the early twentieth century. Commerce continued to focus on the downtown area along Main Street, where buildings were often replaced or modernized. 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 **Tazewell Masonic Lodge #62 [158-0005-040]** built a new building in 1931, which took the form of a traditional two-story brick commercial building with a central name tablet and first-floor storefront.

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

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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.

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**7. Narrative Description (continued):**

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. O. R. Brown, whose grand Queen Anne-style House was built in 1903. The brick house has eight-over-one sash windows and a pedimented Doric porch.<sup>15</sup>

The Classical Revival-style **Tazewell Post Office [158-0005-037]** was built in 1936 on the north side of Main Street. The one-story brick structure uses classical details to give dignity to the functions of government. Beaux-Arts dictums about public art took form in many small American towns as part of the public art projects of the Great Depression era, as part of which the Federal government funded art in the form of murals in local post offices. Tazewell received an important example of this work with the two-part mural of agricultural and mining activities. The richly Arcadian imagery of the female figure, the child, and the sheep over the postmaster's doorway contrasts with the male figures and the apparent industrial wasteland depicted in a smaller mural around the corner from the main entrance. The murals were painted by William Calfee of Chevy Chase Maryland between 1938 and 1940, when it was installed. Calfee was commissioned through an anonymous competition.<sup>16</sup>

*The New Dominion (1946-Present)*

Locally-based commercial enterprises in the city continued to serve the citizens from the centrally located business area in the modern period. Settlement patterns after World War II did not change at first, as most residential development was concentrated in pre-existing blocks in

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the town. Later subdivisions lie 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.

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**7. Narrative Description (continued):**

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.

The survey resulted in the identification of 143 resources, thirty-one of which were deemed to be noncontributing. Of these, forty-five were recorded as secondary resources, eighteen of which were noncontributing.

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**Site Inventory**

**Site Inventory**

Properties in the inventory are organized by street and numerically by address. Entries list the name of the property, the approximate date of construction, and secondary resources. The sites listed below are identified by their address on the attached Tazewell Historic District map.

Abbreviations used in the inventory include:

**CB** = contributing building

**NB** = noncontributing building

**CS** = contributing site

**CSt** = contributing structure

**NSt** = noncontributing structure

**CO** = contributing object

Ca. = circa

**Inventory**

**CENTRAL AVENUE**

116 Central Avenue                      158-0005-0073    1CB

Date: 1832

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.

213 Central Avenue                      158-0005-0067    1CB

Date: 1884

Architectural Summary:

Gabled frame Gothic-Revival church with gable front to the street, with a four-bay nave plan,



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projecting chancel, diamond paned arched windows, projecting gabled vestibule. Small belfry and small spire.

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**Site Inventory, Central Avenue (continued)**

213 Central Avenue                      158-0005-0068    1CB

Date: 1897

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.

221 Central Avenue                      158-0005-0066    2CB, 1NB

Date: 1873

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 porch.

Nineteenth-century frame summer house.

Noncontributing stone veneer garage.

222 Central Avenue                      158-0005-0070    1CB, 1NB

Date: 1877

Architectural Summary:

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.

Noncontributing modern garage to rear.

- Central Avenue                      158-0005-0072    1NB

Date: 1960s

Architectural Summary:

A low one-story contemporary brick meeting hall.

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- Central Avenue 158-0005-0069 1NB

Date: 1965

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.

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Site Inventory, Central Avenue (continued) and Church Street

- Central Avenue 158-0005-0071 1NB

Date: 1960s

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing, low, one-story, contemporary brick single dwelling.

**CHURCH STREET**

102 Church Street 158-0005-0090 2CB

Date: 1910

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.

Contributing brick garage to match house.

106 Church Street 158-0005-0089 1NB

Date: 1990 ca

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing, modern, one-story brick office building.

201 Church Street 158-0005-0081 1CB

Date: 1924

Architectural Summary:

Pedimented gable-ended front church with projecting tower with double-leaf Doric frontispiece.

206 Church Street 158-0005-0088 1NB

Date: 1960 ca

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing, modern, one-story, stone house built on the foundations of the Lutheran church.

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210 Church Street                      158-0005-0087    1CB

Date: 1900

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.

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**Site Inventory, Church Street (continued)**

219 Church Street                      158-0005-0078    2CB

Date: 1924

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.

220 Church Street                      158-0005-0084    1CB

Date: 1885 ca

Architectural Summary:

Two-story frame dwelling with early additions.

223 Church Street                      158-0005-0077    2CB

Date: 1934

Architectural Summary:

Two-story brick Colonial Revival dwelling with exterior end chimneys and massive dentil cornice. Elaborate dormers on rear. Brick garage to the rear.

224 Church Street                      158-0005-0083    1NB

Date: 1960s

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing, one-story stone veneer ranch house of high quality with central entry.

- Church Street                      158-0005-0082    1CB

Date: 1905

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.

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- Church Street                      158-0005-0085                      1NB  
Date: 1960s  
Architectural Summary:  
One-story brick ranch house with projecting front gable.

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**Site Inventory, Church Street (continued) and North Elk Street**

- Church Street                      158-0005-0086                      1NB  
Date: 1980 ca  
Architectural Summary:  
Noncontributing modern one-story brick dwelling.

- Church Street                      158-0005-0079                      1CB  
Date: 1903  
Architectural Summary:  
Two-story frame Queen Anne dwelling with complex roof system and polygonal three-story tower with bell roof.

- Church Street                      158-0005-0080                      1CB  
Date: 1920s  
Architectural Summary:  
Two-1/2-story brick Colonial Revival three-bay dwelling with pedimented one-story porch with paired fluted Doric columns.

**NORTH ELK STREET**

110 - 112 North Elk Street      158-0005-0074                      1CB  
Date: 1894  
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.

206 North Elk Street              158-0005-0075                      1CB  
Date: 1910 ca  
Architectural Summary:



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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.

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**Site Inventory, Lyons Avenue (continued)**

**LYONS AVENUE**

101 Lyons Avenue                      158-0005-0098    1CB

Date: 1890 ca

Architectural Summary:

One-story center 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.

103 Lyons Avenue                      158-0005-0097    1NB

Date: 1950 ca

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing one-story frame house.

104 Lyons Avenue                      158-0005-0100    1CB

Date: 1900 ca

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.

105 Lyons Avenue                      158-0005-0096    1NB

Date: 1970 ca

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing mobile home.

200 Lyons Avenue                      158-0005-0099    1CB, 1NB

Date: 1900 ca

Architectural Summary:

Two-1/2-story three-bay frame double pile dwelling with weatherboard siding and gabled

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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 colonettes on paneled wooden plinths. Metal roof cresting on deck atop hip roof. Noncontributing modern garage to the rear.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street**

**MAIN STREET**

100 East Main Street                      158-0005-0043    1CB

Date: 1930 ca

**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.

201- 203 East Main Street                      158-0005-0044    1CB

Date: 1914

**Architectural Summary:**

One-story, double commercial building with brick facade; 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 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.

209 East Main Street                      158-0005-0046    1CB

Date: 1914

**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.

211 East Main Street                      158-0005-0045    1CB

Date: 1889 ca

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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.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street (continued)**

300 East Main Street                      158-0005-0060    1CB

Date: 1910

Architectural Summary:

Two-story frame commercial building with weatherboarded second floor, brick added on first floor, and bracketed cornice.

307 East Main Street                      158-0005-0047    1NB

Date: 1970 ca

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing ,two-story, modern masonry bank building with marble and brick principal facade and arched precast concrete gallery.

315 East Main Street                      158-0005-0048    1CB

Date: 1913

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.

- East Main Street                      158-0005-0055    1CB

Date: 1900 ca

Architectural Summary:

Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof and massive parapet. Brick buttresses on sides, elaborate cornices, flower detail on storefront cornice. Storefront altered with vertical plywood siding. One large side window-bricked. Beige brick with red painted decorations on facade, corbelling at top. Red brick on sides. Stone keystone in front. Recessed double-leaf entry



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with transom. Heavy cast-iron bracketed cornice. Fanlight over central second floor windows.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street (continued)**

- East Main Street                      158-0005-0056                                      1CB

Date: 1902 ca

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; corbelled brickwork, brick pilasters, segmental-arched windows. Recessed entry.

- East Main Street                      158-0005-0057                                      1CB

Date: 1902 ca

Architectural Summary:

Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof and bracketed cast-iron cornice, corbelled 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.

- East Main Street                      158-0005-0058                                      1CB

Date: 1899 ca

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.

- East Main Street                      158-0005-0059                                      1NB

Date: 1995 ca

Architectural Summary:

Small park on vacant lot with bandstand and picnic tables.

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- East Main Street                      158-0005-0061    1CB  
Date: 1878 ca  
Architectural Summary:  
Two-story, four-bay, brick commercial building with heavy bracketed cornice, one-over-one sash windows on the second floor, and large arched windows on the first floor.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street (continued)**

- East Main Street                      158-0005-62    1NB  
Date: 1967  
Architectural Summary:  
Noncontributing one-story brick library with concrete cornice; metal coping.

- East Main Street                      158-0005-0063    2CB, 1NSt  
Date: 1877  
Architectural Summary:  
Two-story elaborate center-passage-plan T-plan dwelling with fine late-nineteenth-century detailing, including paired brackets on tall ornamental frieze, paired and single one-over-sash windows with cornices and louvered blinds, undercut bay on projecting offset gabled T-bar with bracketed second-floor porches in the corners, and elaborate one-story porch with sawn brackets and turned posts.  
Well-detailed brick garage to the rear.  
Noncontributing carport is located to the rear.

104 West Main Street                      158-0005-0042    1CB  
Date: 1887 -89  
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.

114 West Main Street                      158-0005-0041    1CB  
Date: 1897  
Architectural Summary:

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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.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street (continued)**

124 West Main Street                      158-0005-0040    1CB

Date: 1931

**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.

126 West Main Street                      158-0005-0039    1CB

Date: 1916-1918

**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 rock-faced sills and lintels on side.

130 West Main Street                      158-0005-0038    1CB

Date: 1899 ca

**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.

200 West Main Street                      158-0005-0037    1CB

Date: 1936

**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

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elliptical arch above with a gilt American eagle. Cupola at center of roof ridge. Integral flat-roofed section across rear.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street (continued)**

203 - 209 West Main Street 1CB

Date: 1950 ca 158-0005-0050

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.

211 - 213 West Main Street 158-0005-0049 1CB

Date: 1925 ca

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.

- West Main Street 158-0005-0051 1CB

Date: 1940 ca.

Architectural Summary:

Two-story brick commercial building.

- West Main Street 158-0005-0052 1CB

Date: 1913

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

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at sides and recessed front. Bell under portico. Hip roof with flat in center.

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**Site Inventory, Main Street (continued), Marion Avenue, and Pine Street**

- West Main Street                      158-0005-0053                                      1CB

Date: 1900 ca

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.

- West Main Street                      158-0005-0054                                      1CB

Date: 1900 ca

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, entries with round arched transoms. Round-headed first-floor windows.

**MARION AVENUE**

- Marion Avenue                              158-0005-0076                                      1CB

Date: 1950 ca

Architectural Summary:

Two-story, brick commercial building with shed roof.

**PINE STREET**

206 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0019                                      1NB

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Date: 1955 ca

Architectural Summary:

Noncontributing, 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.

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**Site Inventory, Pine Street (continued)**

206 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0022                                      2C, 1NB

Date: 1870

Architectural Summary:

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.

Noncontributing, one-story, asphalt-shingled front gable modern garage.

208 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0020                                      1CB

Date: 1890

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.

211 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0028                                      1CB

Date: 1930 ca

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.

212 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0021                                      1CB

Date: 1870

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.

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213 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0029    1CB

Date: 1870 ca

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.

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**Site Inventory, Pine Street (continued)**

213 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0030    1CB

Date: 1870

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 six-over-six.

215 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0031    1CB, 1NB

Date: 1897 ca

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. Noncontributing modern concrete block garage.

220 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0023    1CB

Date: 1920

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.

221 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0032    2NB, 1NSt

Date: 1960 ca

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. Noncontributing frame outbuilding and noncontributing brick carport.

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222 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0024

2CB

Date: 1920

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.

Contributing frame garage.

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**Site Inventory, Pine Street (continued)**

225 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0033

1CB, 1NB

Date: 1930 ca

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.

Noncontributing, modern concrete block garage.

301 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0034

1CB, 1NB

Date: 1900 ca

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.

Noncontributing modern garage.

302 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0025

1CB

Date: 1896

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.

303 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0035

1CB

Date: 1900 ca

Architectural Summary:

One-story, frame three-bay T-plan dwelling with paired 1/1 sash windows, an enclosed porch on



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both sides of the projecting central T-stem.

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**Site Inventory, Pine Street (continued)**

305 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0036                                      3CB

Date: 1890 ca

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.

One-room frame outbuilding to the east.

306 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0026                                      1CB

Date: 1920

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.

310 East Pine Street                      158-0005-0027                                      2CB

Date: 1900 -10

Architectural Summary:

Two-story, double-pile T-plan frame dwelling with added aluminum siding. One-story, three-bay porch with turned posts and sawn brackets partially enclosed. Single-leaf entrance door of wood with one glass panel and transom above. Hip roof with projecting gables.

One-story frame shed with weatherboard siding and SSM gable roof.

- East Pine Street                              158-0005-0016                                      2NB

Date: 1970 ca

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Architectural Summary:

One-story metal framed maintenance building with concrete block base and large garage doors. Wood post open materials shed located to the east of the main building.

- East Pine Street                      158-0005-0017    1CB

Date: 1940 ca

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.

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**Site Inventory, Pine Street (continued)**

- East Pine Street                      158-0005-0018    1NB

Date: 1970 ca

Architectural Summary:

One-story garage with concrete block foundation, metal siding, single-leaf entry; garage doors.

114 West Pine Street                      158-0005-0015    1CB

Date: 1940

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.

120 West Pine Street                      158-0005-0014    2CB

Date: 1870

Architectural Summary:

Two-story, three-bay, single-pile, central-passage, frame dwelling with one-story, three-bay porch with turned posts; 1/1 sash windows with heavy, original cornices; asphalt-shingled side-gable roof with front gable in central bay; and massive exterior brick chimneys with stone footings.

One-story, early 20th-century frame outbuilding.

200 West Pine Street                      158-0005-0013    11CB, 1NB

Date: 1892 ca

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

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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. A later, mid-20th-century, one-room, second-floor frame addition stands over the concrete section on brick piers.

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**Site Inventory, Pine Street (continued), School Street, and Tower Street**

One-story frame shed.

Frame, weatherboarded, one-story, three-door building said to have been a poultry shed.

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.

Metal covered outbuilding with concrete foundation.

One-story frame two-room outbuilding with wide glazed opening, gable-end entry.

Noncontributing two-story log house reconstructed on site in 1983. Frame wing with two-story porch across the rear (north).

**SCHOOL STREET**

315 School Street

158-0005-0064

1CB, 1NB

Date: 1930s

Architectural Summary:

U-shaped two-story school building with central entrance flanked by stone pilasters; original windows replaced.

Modern one-story annex adjacent.

**TOWER STREET**

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204 East Tower Street 158-0005-0101 1CB, 1NB

Date: 1870 ca

Architectural Summary:

One-story, three-bay, center-passage plan frame dwelling with later alterations.  
Noncontributing modern garage.

206 East Tower Street 158-0005-0008 1CB

Date: 1935 -40

Architectural Summary: One ½ -story, brick, gable-roofed Bungalow with three-over-one sash windows and Colonial Revival details including an elegant frontispiece with paired colonettes.

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**Site Inventory, Tower Street (continued)**

208 East Tower Street 158-0005-0009 1CB

Date: 1930

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.

212 East Tower Street 158-0005-0010 2CB

Date: 1900

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.

215 East Tower Street 158-0005-0005 3CB

Date: 1919 -20

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

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covers a rear wing. The asbestos shingled gable roof extends with slight kick over the front porch.

One-story, frame detached two-car garage with slightly kicked roof to match house.

One-story frame shed with shed roof.

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**Site Inventory, Tower Street (continued)**

216 East Tower Street 158-0005-0011

1CB

Date: 1894

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.

302 East Tower Street 158-0005-0012

1CB

Date: 1890s

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.

- East Tower Street 158-0005-0003

1CB, 1NB

Date: 1890

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

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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 baptistry. 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.

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**Site Inventory, Tower Street (continued)**

101 West Tower Street      158-0005-0002      2CB, 1NB

Date: 1900 ca

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.

One car stone veneer garage on street with hipped pressed-metal shingle roof, built into slope on site.

Noncontributing, modern corrugated metal shed.

102 West Tower Street      158-0005-0001      2CB

Date: 1930 ca

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

103 West Tower Street      158-0005-0007      2CB

Date: 1900 -10

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.

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105 West Tower Street      158-0005-0006

1CB

Date: 1940

Architectural Summary:

Heavily remodeled one-story, three-bay, double pile, two-room dwelling with Bungalow features.

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**Site Inventory, Tower Street (continued)**

201 West Tower Street      158-0005-0004

3CB

Date: 1898 ca

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 sunporch. 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.

One-story frame meathouse.

Two-story brick garage/office building.

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## 8. Narrative Statement of Significance

### Statement of Significance

The proposed Tazewell Historic District meets 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 regional governmental and commercial center. The period of significance extends from 1832 to 1950. The earliest building dates from 1832. Residential, commercial, and governmental 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 1950, when a few significant new structures were built and the storefronts of some of the existing commercial buildings were altered as the city's institutions and business owners responded to the Great Depression and the World War II-era surge in population with a modernization effort.

The predominant historic period represented by the surveyed resources is that of Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916), reflecting the era of Tazewell's expansion in the late nineteenth century. Commercial and residential buildings were the most frequently documented resource type. Multiple dwellings, mixed-use buildings, a fraternal lodge, churches, and a school were also documented. Areas of significance include commerce and architecture.

### Narrative

#### *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.<sup>17</sup>



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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

*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.<sup>18</sup> 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.

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.<sup>19</sup> 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."<sup>20</sup> 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.<sup>21</sup> 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.<sup>22</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

*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 twenty dwelling houses, one “house of public worship” shared by several denominations, and one common school. Commercial enterprises included four merchantile 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.<sup>23</sup> Main Street was partly macadamized in 1845.<sup>24</sup> In the same year there were three stores, one church, and twenty-five dwellings.<sup>25</sup>

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.<sup>26</sup> 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.<sup>27</sup> According to one source, there were fifteen privately funded schools in the county in 1852.<sup>28</sup>

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]**.<sup>29</sup> 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

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

mentioned by Bickley in 1852.<sup>30</sup> It is pictured in an historic late nineteenth-century photograph.<sup>31</sup> The two-story building was demolished between 1897 and 1907. Like the Virginian Hotel, it had a two-story porch extending over the side walk.

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.<sup>32</sup> 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.<sup>33</sup> 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.<sup>34</sup> 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.

Unusually strong consciousness of local history and community are indicated by the founding of a Jeffersonville Historical Society in 1851 under the official leadership of Dr. Henry Fielding Peery.<sup>35</sup> Although there is evidence that the society was founded and publicized largely through the efforts of George F. W. Bickley, a colorful and dubious outsider, it was said to have 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.<sup>36</sup>

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.<sup>37</sup> This organization, however ephemeral it was in reality, can be seen as an important antecedent to the Historic Crab Orchard Museum of today, located near the town in Tazewell County's Pisgah area. 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 was one of the first local histories in southwest Virginia. A woodcut in the book showed the county seat as a prosperous grouping of one- and two-story buildings

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surrounding the courthouse.<sup>38</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

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.<sup>39</sup> 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.<sup>40</sup>

*Reconstruction and Growth (1866-1916)*

Postwar Years (1866-1887)

Jeffersonville experienced slow growth after the Civil War. The town was incorporated in 1866.<sup>41</sup> 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 would grow to 604 by 1890.<sup>42</sup> The principal industry in the immediate vicinity of the proposed district was a small flour mill there before 1888.<sup>43</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

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.<sup>44</sup>

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. 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. A good example is the **Cinch Valley News Building [158-0005-061]**. Similar store buildings are visible in a late nineteenth-century photograph of the east end of Main Street.<sup>45</sup> 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.<sup>46</sup>

Several houses also date from this period. These include the home of two doctors and a dentist: the **Dr. Caleb Thompson House [158-0005-022]**, the **Dr. J. R. Gildersleeve House [158-0005-063]**, and the **Dr. C. W. Greever House [158-0005-091]**. The frame homes that survive from this period 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.

An impressive 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. The new two-story, brick building, was heavily altered in 1913.<sup>47</sup> Although subject to a series of alterations (Sanborn maps show a dramatic change between 1897 and 1907 in the form of the building), the new 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.<sup>48</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

Railroad Access to Markets (1888-1916)

In February 1881, the AM&O Railroad that served southwest Virginia had been sold to a private banking house in Philadelphia. The company was renamed the Norfolk & Western Railroad. The Norfolk & Western built a spur line to the western coalfields. Coal began flowing east as 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. 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.<sup>49</sup> 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.<sup>50</sup> 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 604.<sup>51</sup> In 1891, the town was renamed Tazewell and the name Jeffersonville abandoned at the request of the U. S. Post Office.<sup>52</sup> The earliest maps of the city to show building owner and/or function, two related drawings both made in 1888, show the town to have been almost entirely restricted to the two sides of Main Street.<sup>53</sup> 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.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

Improvements in education proceeded from the previous period as publicly funded and generally available schools superseded private ones. 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 had 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.<sup>54</sup> Private secondary education was generally superseded by public high school across the state in the early twentieth century.

In 1909 the Tazewell High School opened.<sup>55</sup> It occupied a larger two-story brick building that stood on the site of the grammar school<sup>56</sup> 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.<sup>57</sup>

Religious congregations operated in Jeffersonville from the earliest years. By the late 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.<sup>58</sup> 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.<sup>59</sup> 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.<sup>60</sup>

New churches were built in the late nineteenth century for the congregations of the **Tazewell Christian Church [158-0005-025]**, the **Stras Memorial Episcopal Church [158-0005-067]**, and the **Tazewell Baptist Church [158-0005-003]** on sites outside the commercial area. The churches, each of which survive, share frame building materials and Gothic Revival-

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Tazewell County, Virginia

style details.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

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. 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.<sup>61</sup> 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.<sup>62</sup> 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.<sup>63</sup>

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”.<sup>64</sup> The tree-lined Main Street was at that time provided with brick sidewalks.<sup>65</sup>

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.<sup>66</sup> 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.<sup>67</sup>

Commercial construction transformed the appearance of the downtown area. The earlier frame buildings of the 1870s and 1880s were replaced by brick structures beginning in the late 1880s. Masonry construction was more substantial and fire-resistant. Residential structures became larger and more elaborate, frequently utilizing nationally popular stylistic models, such as the Queen Anne and Colonial Revival modes.



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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

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.<sup>68</sup> The new, two-story, brick, Classical Revival-style **Tazewell County Courthouse [158-0005-052]** is said to have been the work of the firm of Peery and Branson.<sup>69</sup> The architect was Andrew J. Bryan.<sup>70</sup> 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.<sup>71</sup> 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.<sup>72</sup> 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 school board offices. Black students in the area were served, during the days of segregation, by

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Tazewell County High School, which ceased operation upon the integration of the two high schools in 1965.<sup>73</sup>

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

A new **Tazewell Masonic Lodge #62 [158-0005-040]** was built in 1931. The hotels of Tazewell changed greatly in this period. The old Central Hotel had disappeared before 1907<sup>74</sup>, 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.<sup>75</sup> An historic photograph shows it to have been a plainly detailed structure with first-floor storefronts.<sup>76</sup> 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.

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.

There were no planning or zoning ordinances. Population between 1940 and 1950 remained static at about 1,300.<sup>77</sup> 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.

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**Narrative Statement of Significance (continued)**

*The New Dominion (1946-Present)*

The Jeffersonville Hospital opened in 1947 operated by Dr. Mary Elizabeth Johnston and Dr. Rufus Brittain.<sup>78</sup> It closed in 1973 when the town's newest hospital, Tazewell Community Hospital, opened in 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. A new municipal building was built a block north of Main Street. 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.

In 1987, the county's citizens, under the direction of organizing president Bettie Byrd St. Clair, 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.

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**Boundary Description**

Beginning at a point on the northwest corner of the intersection of School Street and the Fincastle Turnpike, and proceeding west and north with School Street and Marion Avenue to the rear lot line of the property at 158-0005-0076 on Marion Avenue, thence west with the south lot lines of that property and that of 158-0005-0075 on Elk Avenue to Elk Avenue, and thence west with the south (rear) lot lines of the properties along the south side of Main Street to the west side of the property at 158-0005-0049, thence north with the west lot line of that property to Main Street, thence north across Main Street, thence east with the north side of Main Street to a point at the southwest corner of the property at 158-0005-0037, thence north with the west side of that property to a point on the north side of Pine Street, thence west with the north side of Pine Street to a point at the southwest corner of the property at 158-0005-0013, thence north, west, and northeast with the lines of that property to the southwest side of Tower Street, thence southeast with the southwest side of Tower Street to a point on Tower Street opposite the west line of the property at 158-0005-0001, thence north, east, and south with the west side of that property and the west, north, and east sides of the property at 158-0005-0004 to the northwest corner of the property at 158-0005-0005, thence northeast with the northwest side of that property to Lyons Street, crossing Lyons Street, and continuing with the northwest side of the property at 158-0005-0099 to the north corner of that property, thence southeast with the northeast side of that property to a point on the northwest side of Tower Street, thence southwest with the northeast side of Tower Street to a point opposite the northwest line of the property at 158-0005-0012, thence southeast with the northwest line of that property to the east corner of that property, thence northeast with the northwest line of the properties at 158-0005-0026 and 158-0005-0027 to a point at the north corner of the latter property, thence southeast with the northeast line of the latter property to a point on the northwest side of Pine Street, thence southwest with the northwest side of Pine Street to a point opposite the northeast side of the property at 158-0005-0036, thence southeast with the northeast side of that property to a point at its east corner, thence southwest with the eastern (rear) lot lines of the properties on the southeast side of Pine Street on the eastern side of Fincastle Turnpike to a point at the southeast corner of the property at 158-0005-0095, thence southwest with the southeastern lot line of that property to a point on the western side of Fincastle Turnpike, thence south with the west side of Fincastle Turnpike to the point of origin at the northwest corner Fincastle Turnpike and School Street.

**Boundary Justification**

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The boundaries were selected to include all structures that contribute to the historic character of the district, and to exclude areas of visual change in the post-1946 era.

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**Photographs**

All photographs are of :

Tazewell Historic District  
Tazewell, Tazewell County, Virginia  
Photographer: Richard Worsham  
Date of photograph: May 2001  
Location of negative: Virginia Department Historic Resources

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|---|--|
| 1. VIEW OF: South side of East Main Street looking east<br>PHOTO 1 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271                            | 6. VIEW OF: Alderson House [158-0005-0066] from the east<br>PHOTO 6 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271                  |
| 2. VIEW OF: North side of West Main St. looking east<br>PHOTO 2 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271                               | 7. VIEW OF: Stras Memorial Episcopal Church [158-0005-0067] from the east<br>PHOTO 7 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271 |
| 3. VIEW OF: South side of East Main St. looking west<br>PHOTO 3 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271                               | 8. VIEW OF: Preston House [158-0005-00-11] from the northeast<br>PHOTO 8 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271             |
| 4. VIEW OF: Tower Street looking east showing the R.R. Henry House [158-0005-0070]<br>PHOTO 4 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271 | 9. VIEW OF: C. R. Brown House [158-0005-0079] from the southeast<br>PHOTO 9 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271          |
| 5. VIEW OF: The Bank of Clinch Valley [158-0005-0054] from the north<br>PHOTO 5 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271               | 10. VIEW OF: Alexander St. Clair House [158-0005-0099] from the west<br>PHOTO 10 of 10<br>Neg. No. 19271     |



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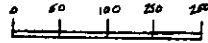
- 1 Martin
- 2 Courthouse Drawing, Crab Orchard Museum, Tazewell, VA.
- 3 Worsham 1986
- 4 Jeffersonville maps of 1888 and Sanborn Map of 1897
- 5 Sanborn Maps 1897 and 1907; Tazewell Historical Society Walking Tour
- 6 *Another Album II* 1991: 106
- 7 Sanborn maps, 1897 and 1907, *Another Album II* 1991: 98
- 8 Leslie 213
- 9 Sanborn maps for 1897 and 1907
- 10 Leslie
- 11 Wells and Dalton
- 12 *Another Album II* 1991: 30
- 13 Clinch Valley News, 1903. Tazewell Historical Society.
- 14 Wells and Dalton 51
- 15 Tazewell Historical Society Walking Tour
- 16 Keene
- 17 Johnson 1975:10
- 18 Pendleton 1920: 420
- 19 *Jeffersonville, Tazewell County and State of Virginia, Plan of Town from old plat, 1825*
- 20 Leslie 198
- 21 Leslie 212
- 22 Harman 1922: 380-381
- 23 Martin
- 24 Leslie 195 and Bickley (1851) in *Yet Another Album of Tazewell County* 1998: 175
- 25 Leslie 213
- 26 Bickley (1851) in *Yet Another Album of Tazewell County* 1998: 175
- 27 Bickley (1851) in Harman 1922: 359-361
- 28 Bickley (1851) quoted in Pendleton 1920: 667
- 29 *Another Album II* 1991: 97
- 30 Bickley in Harman 1922: 359-361
- 31 *Another Album II* 1991: 98
- 32 *Another Album II* 1991: 23
- 33 *Another Album II* 1991, 23
- 34 Sanborn Map 1897 and *Another Album II* 1991: 94
- 35 Pendleton 1920: 422
- 36 Pendleton 1920: 542-546
- 37 Bickley in Harman 1922: 382
- 38 Bickley in Harman 1922
- 39 Crozet
- 40 Pendleton, 1920, 606-637
- 41 Tazewell County Historical Society Walking Tour

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National Park Service**

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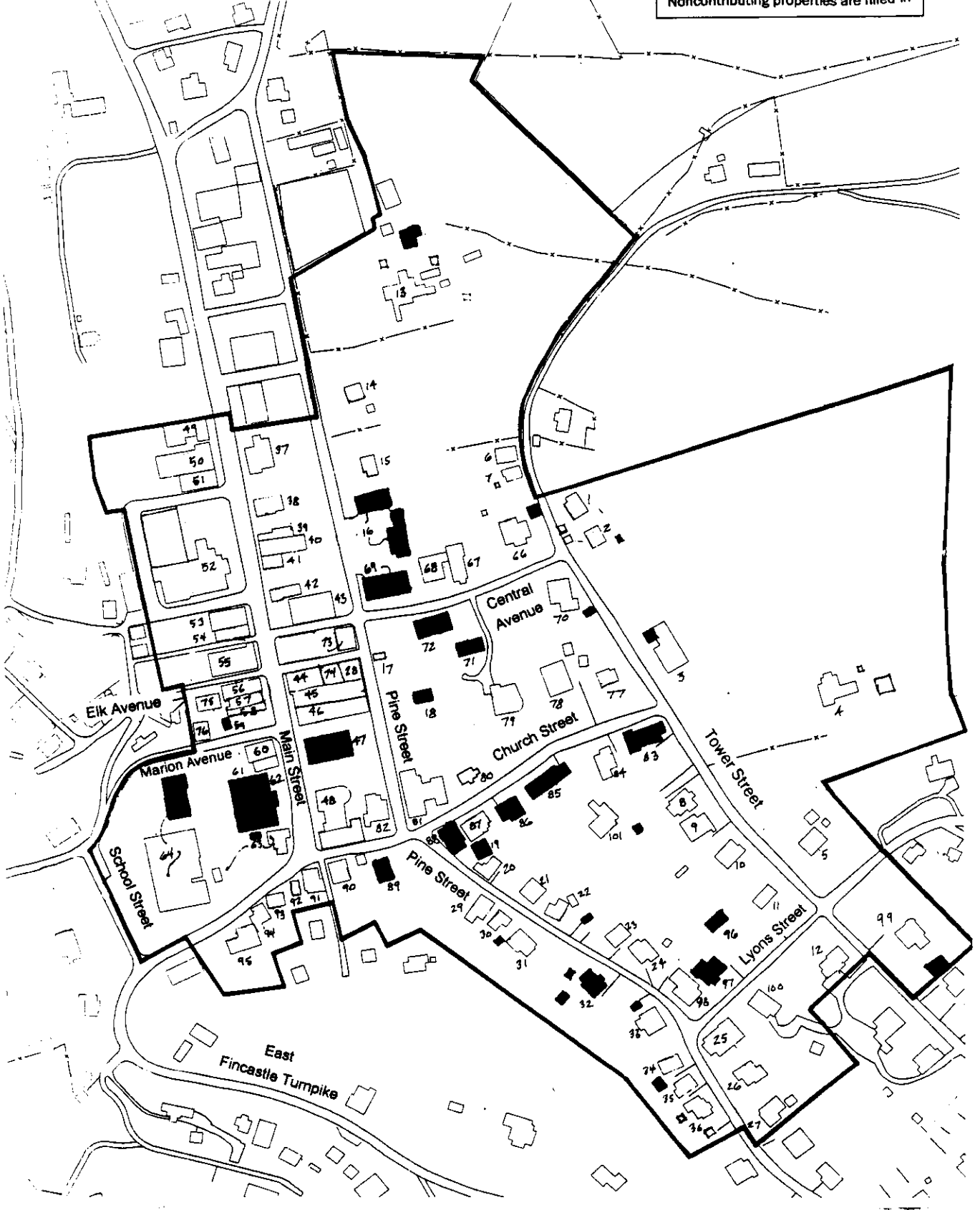
**Tazewell Historic District  
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- 42 U.S. Population Censuses for 1880 and 1890: Tazewell Co., VA
  - 43 Jeffersonville Maps of 1888 and Sanborn Map of 1907
  - 44 Harman 1922: 289-292
  - 45 *Another Album* 1991: 95
  - 46 Leslie 192-193
  - 47 Leslie 25-26
  - 48 Leslie 25-26
  - 49 Leslie 214
  - 50 Leslie 182-183
  - 51 U.S. Population Census 1890: Tazewell Co., VA.
  - 52 Leslie 181
  - 53 *Another Album* 1991: 93-94
  - 54 Harman 1922: 289-292
  - 55 Leslie 185
  - 56 Sanborn Map 1913
  - 57 *Another Album II* 1991: 93-94 and Sanborn Map 1897
  - 58 Sanborn maps 1897, 1907
  - 59 Wolfe 1999: 59
  - 60 Sanborn maps 1897-1929
  - 61 Tazewell Historical Society Walking Tour
  - 62 Sanborn Map 1897
  - 63 Sanborn maps for 1897, 1907
  - 64 Leslie 188-189
  - 65 Leslie 183
  - 66 Leslie 181-182
  - 67 Sanborn maps for 1897 and 1907
  - 68 Wolfe 1999: 57
  - 69 Leslie 26
  - 70 Wells and Dalton 51 and Peters
  - 71 U.S. Census: 1900, 1920, 1950: Tazewell County, Va
  - 72 Sanborn Map 1907-1929
  - 73 Wolfe 1999: 58-59
  - 74 Sanborn Map 1907
  - 75 Sanborn Map 1929
  - 76 Leslie 170
  - 77 U.S. Population Census 1940 and 1950
  - 78 Leslie 182



NORTH →

**TAZEWELL HISTORIC DISTRICT**  
Tazewell, Tazewell County, Virginia  
Noncontributing properties are filled in



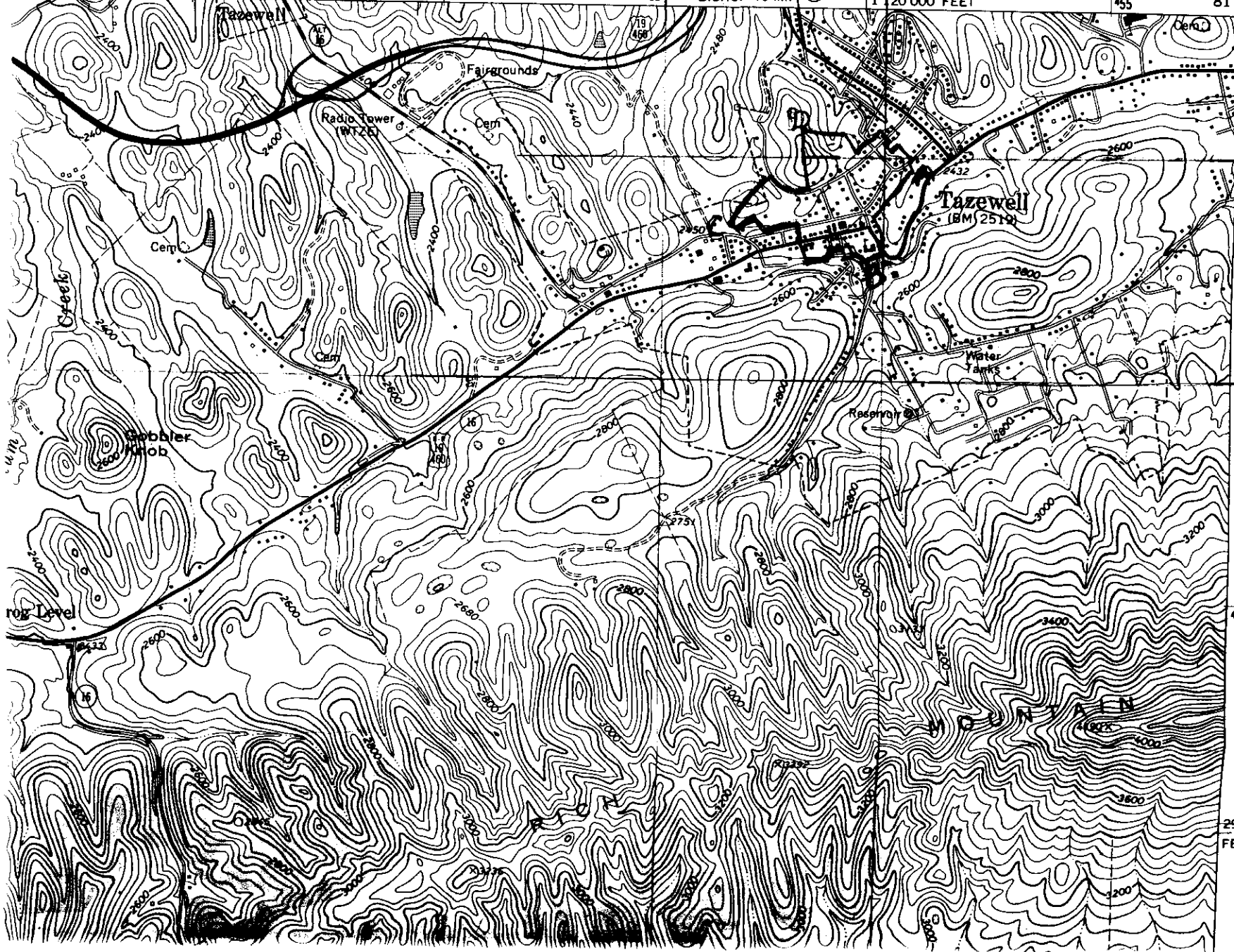
DEPARTMENT OF VIRGINIA  
MINERAL RESOURCES  
STATE GEOLOGIST

TAZEWELL SOUTH QUADRANGLE  
VIRGINIA  
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

\*158 III NW  
(TIPTOP)

11 NE  
1 NORTH

451 32'30" 452 453 BISHOP 10 MI. (16) 1 20 000 FEET 455 81°30' 37°07'30"



FOURWAY 0.9 MI.  
BLUEFIELD 15 MI.

Tazewell  
Historic  
District  
158-0005

UTM: 17 454120 410794  
17 453910 4107540  
17 453310 4107700  
17 453630 4108120

4107  
4106

290 000  
FEET