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<th>NO. OF BAYS</th>
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<td>(2&quot; X 3&quot; CONTACT)</td>
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PRESENT OWNERS
Webster Co. Commission

OWNER ADDRESS
Webster County Courthouse
Webster Springs, WV

GENERAL CONDITION OF PROPERTY

ADDITIONS

IF YES, DESCRIBE

YES

NO

ALTERATIONS

IF YES, DESCRIBE

YES

NO

NO. AND NATURE OF OUTBUILDINGS

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY (ORIGINAL AND PRESENT)

HISTORICAL/CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE

County was formed in 1860. The Courthouse was built in
There was a fire in 1888 and the courthouse was rebuilt in

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Ronald Hardway, school teacher, interview, Jan. 1990 (326-3748)

FORM PREPARED BY

WHPD - Karen Storer

DATE

Jan. 1990

ADDRESS
WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY FORM
CONTINUATION SHEET

NAME Webster County Courthouse
SITE # Wb-4
NAME: Webster County Courthouse

SITE #: Wb-4
WEBSTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE

NAME: Webster County Courthouse
SITE #: WB-4
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<td>and/or HISTORIC</td>
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<td>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION</td>
<td>PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SITE DESCRIPTION</strong></td>
<td>TIME PERIOD</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SITE SIGNIFICANCE</strong></td>
<td>STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MAP</strong></td>
<td>ROUGH MAP OF PROPERTY IN RELATION TO SURROUNDINGS (show route numbers and street names)</td>
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<td><strong>FORM PREPARED BY</strong></td>
<td>NAME</td>
<td>PHILLIP PITT, RESEARCH ASSISTANT</td>
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<td>DATE</td>
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<td>W.V.A. ANTIQUITIES COMMISSION</td>
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The Fire - 1888

After the Courthouse burned on June 17th, 1888, the Governor of West Virginia ordered that the adjacent Church building be used as a temporary location for the Court. This building was located across the street from the public land that would become known as Court Square. While conducting the business of the Court in the Church building, Court Square was defined. The dimensions of the public square were originally stipulated as 210 feet for each side of the perfect square, with 60 feet wide right-of-ways for the streets on all four sides. On March 6th, 1890, the Court ordered that all privately owned structures within the right-of-way for the streets to be removed. However, one of these buildings was a “newly erected,” yet unfinished, two-story residence, located in the northeastern corner of the square, that the Court wished to have removed. Three months later, the owner of the residence offered to sell the structure to the Court, and finish the building in a manor suitable for a Courthouse. The Court accepted the offer, and by October 30th of that year, the Court had moved its chambers back onto the Court Square. This building included two jury rooms, two clerk offices, a second-floor courtroom with furnishings, interior steps to the second floor courtroom, shutters on the front first-floor windows, and exterior steps to the first-floor front door.

The New Courthouse -1894-96

In early January, 1894, the Webster County Court entertained the notion that the Courthouse should be rebuilt on a different property. The Court ordered the County Clerk to advertise for bids to purchase the existing Court Square land and associated buildings, and the proceeds of such sale would fund the purchase of other land, and construct a new Courthouse.

However, on March 8th, 1894, the Court chose to take a different approach and advertised for bids to construct a new Courthouse, on the existing Court Square, based on plans and specifications that had been acquired from the Calhoun County Courthouse. Simultaneously, the Court advertised for additional plans and specifications to be submitted by other architects.

On June 5th, 1894, the Court awarded the design and construction administration for a new Courthouse to Franzheim & Giese, architects from Wheeling, West Virginia, for a sum of $250.00. (Giese was first employed by the Court to inspect stone abutments for a newly constructed bridge in the town, to help settle a dispute with the bridge contractor, one year earlier)

Two weeks later, William McCoy of Marietta, Ohio, was hired to construct the Courthouse for the sum of $15,350.00, to be completed by July 1st, 1895. Even by today’s standards, completing the project within 13 months was ambitious, especially considering the large amount of stonework required. The Court also contracted with Smed & Wills Warming & Ventilating Company, of New Jersey, to install “the improved Smed Warming and Venting Apparatus,” throughout the new building, for the sum of $1,200.

By spring of 1895, the Court was displeased with the progress of the construction, and held a special session on April 5th 1895, to consider the replacement of William McCoy with another
contractor. The hearing was held, and McCoy was to continue with the project, after committing to the Courtroom being ready for occupancy by the next term of the Court.

On October 9, 1895, the Court occupied the courtroom, while the construction elsewhere in the building continued. On October 11th, the court requested several minor changes in the layout of the offices for the county, in other portions of the building that were not yet complete. Also, on March 26, 1896, the County offices were moved into the Courthouse. Finally, in August 11th, 1896, the Court held a special session to accept the completed building, and then formally occupied the new Courthouse three weeks later.

The New Jail and Sheriff’s Residence -1900-02

On January 3rd, 1900, Charleston, West Virginia architect, Harrison Albright, was hired to provide drawings, specifications, and supervision for the construction of the new jail and Sheriff’s residence, for the sum of $750. The new building was to be modeled after the jail and Sheriff’s residence in Upshur county, with modifications suggested by the Court. At the same time, the Court advertised for bids to construct the new jail and residence, which would need to be constructed by October 1st, 1900. Three days later, after considering other available locations, the Court ordered the jail to be built on the public Courthouse Square, stating that locating it in the square was in favor of the public’s interest, and that it should be located 10’ from the Courthouse square boundary with North Main Street, and parallel with Bell Street.

On March 7th, 1900, the Court ordered that the contract for the new jail be awarded to John J. Riley. The record notes that the entire exterior of the jail would be clad with stone. At that time, they waited for Riley to provide an acceptable bond for the construction. He provided that bond on April 9th, but the following day the Court announced a second bidding phase to acquire more proposals for construction, while honoring the bid from Riley. The location for the new jail was reconsidered, and the Court decided it should be where the “old courthouse now stands,” in the North-East corner of the square. (This “old courthouse” was the two-story residence that was converted to a temporary Courthouse in 1890.)

Eight days later, the Court awarded the contract for construction to Caldwell & Drake, for a sum of $12,500. However, the Court again reconsidered the location of the new jail, and determined that it would be located on the site “partially covered by the old courthouse.” At that time, A.B. Elbon was hired to move the existing “old courthouse” next to the old county jail. Apparently, there was also some disagreement about which direction the new jail would face. It was decided that the front, or lower, end would face the Salt Sulphur Spring.

On October 24th, 1900, three weeks after the jail was to be complete, the Court held a special session to evaluate the project, and to determine what might have been “neglected or left out by the contractor,” and to order full compliance with the drawings and specifications.

On November 16th, L. A. Mullins, of Buckhannon, was the lowest bidder for the “sewerage” system for the jail. He was to provide drawings and specifications from the above mentioned jail in Buckhannon, designed by architect Draper C. Hughes. Mullins was also to provide
specifications for the “sewerage” system for the jail. On December 6th, Mullins was ordered by the Court to enter the jail project and complete the “sewerage” system components, as soon as practical.

It is interesting to note that the original shop drawings from the jail door cell manufacturer have been discovered, which include hanging “honey pot” waste containers which were carried from each cell and cleaned. The system was manufactured by The Van Dorn Iron Works, of Cleveland, Ohio. Also of interest is the original specification booklet for the jail that has also been discovered.

The Expansion of the Courthouse and Jail-1938-40

During the January 27th, 1938, meeting, the Court discussed plans for a “new” Courthouse with Maynor & Handsloser, architects from Charleston, West Virginia, and Mr. Cunningham, an engineer with the Works Projects Administration (WPA). Several days later, the Court again discussed plans for a “new” Courthouse, this time covering several different building types and schemes. It is not clear from the records why the Court was interested in a “new” Courthouse, or what was planned for the existing one. However, on April 7th, the Court received a letter from the District Sanitary Engineer, the County Health Officer, and the District Health Officer stating that the existing county jail was to be “condemned on account of its insanitary (sic) condition.” Based on this problem, the Court requested that the WPA quickly approve the plans, that had already been submitted by Maynor & Handsloser, for the “new” Courthouse. Apparently, the WPA required the county to provide matching funds for the project, which caused the Court to attempt to issue bonds. However, on May 20th, 1938, it was clear to the Court that funds for the “remodeling” project were inadequate, and that the architects needed to “revamp” the plans to be within budget.

Eleven months passed, and on April 4th, 1939, Will Davis, an architect from Sutton, West Virginia, presented plans and sketches for “alterations, additions, improvements and reconstruction of the Courthouse and Jail.” These proposals were approved, and seven weeks later the Court accepted a bid from Modern Building Company, of Huntington, West Virginia, to perform the work for $67,500. Although drawings and specifications from Mr. Davis have not been recovered, it is probable that they depicted what exists today of this third phase of construction. Essentially, the new work connected the existing Courthouse to the existing Jail and Sheriff’s Residence, with a three-story building and full basement. The basement was dedicated to heating equipment and storage. The first and second floors contained offices, and the third floor was dedicated to jail cells.

Like previous construction phases, the contract time established an unreasonable completion date of January 1st, 1940, which was only seven months away. In February of 1940, the heating system in the existing Courthouse was complete enough to be operational. However, partial occupancy of the Jail did not occur until August. Final acceptance of the project occurred January 13th, 1941.

It is this third phase of work that one sees while inside the Courthouse and three-story connecting wing today. It appears that most, if not all, interior finishes (such as plaster, door and transom
trim, the lack of trim for the windows, composite floor tile, and steel stairwell details) date from this renovation phase of 1940. The extent of the renovation of the interior of the Courthouse during this phase is suspected to be rather large, possibly including significant demolition of masonry walls, complete removal of a central stairwell, and possibly replacement of major portions of the second floor structural system. This phase also eliminated the need for the heating system in the original Courthouse basement, and thus the large masonry chimney was no longer needed. At some point, the portion of this chimney that projected above the roof was removed and the roof was filled in. This connecting construction also necessitated filling in the two large arched windows on the east side of the Courtroom, and rendered a service stairwell in the Jail inaccessible. This service stairwell in the Jail still exists, although it only functions to provide access from the second floor to the third floor attic. It is also likely that this third phase of construction is responsible for the removal of the attic dormers on the Jail and Sheriff’s Residence, probably for aesthetic reasons only. The main stairwell in the Jail and Sheriff’s Residence is of wooden construction, and appears to be original to its 1902 construction date.

Other Renovations

In 2002, modifications to the existing three-story connecting wing were conducted: the vacant third floor jail cells were removed to provide future office space, and the interior prisoner stairwell was removed to accommodate an elevator for wheelchair accessibility. In 2003, VanNostrand Architects, architects from Buckhannon, West Virginia, reorganized the layout of the Courtroom to allow for better security. The Judge’s Bench, which adjoined the western wall of the Courtroom, was relocated to the northern wall, thus allowing the Judge to exit directly from the Bench into a newly renovated and secure Judge’s Chamber. The existing room used for Jury deliberation remained in service, and was supplemented with two toilet rooms and a secure entry vestibule. Plans to renovate the third floor are set for early 2006. The top floor will be shared by a new Family Law Courtroom and the offices of the Circuit Clerk.
Description of Property

The Courthouse

Webster Springs, population 674, is located on State Rt. 20, at its southern intersection with State Rt. 15, in rural and rugged Webster County. The county has an area of 550 square miles and a population of 10,729.

The courthouse sits on a high eminence above the rest of the town within an open square. It is the sixth known seat of court for Webster County and the second courthouse on this location. Steep lawns dip away from the courthouse to streets on three sides. A large chunk of coal is included in the lawn's landscaping. The main pedestrian approach to the courthouse is by long flights of stairs, executed in stone, from the street below. This stairway is lit by six commemorative street lamps of cast iron and stylized globes.

On the property there is also the historic spring and spring house. The house has been modified, though the roof and associated elements are original. This is in the northwest corner of the square.

Adjacent to the spring, on the east side, is a modern war memorial.

There is a large coal sculpture/artifact to the east of the entrance walkway, and a historic obelisk to the south of the spring house.

The nominated area contains the following resources:

Courthouse. This includes the courthouse, the jail and the 1935 addition connecting the two. This is considered a contributing building.

The courthouse consists of three phases of construction. The first phase, the courthouse proper, was constructed in 1896. It is a two story rusticated ashlar Romanesque Revival stone building with a shallow hip roof, raised basement, and central cupola or bell tower. The roof is asphalt shingles with the exception of slate shingles on the tower. It is three bays wide by four bays deep. The center bay of the front elevation projects slightly and the bell tower rises above this bay. This bay also includes the entrance accessed by a grand stone staircase. The staircase has a stone enclosed balustrade. The stone is coursed rough faced ashlar. There is a belt course at the second floor level with dentils. This supports wide stone pilasters at each corner. These have a simple stylized rectilinear Doric capitolts that support a wide stone entablature. There are also pilasters dividing the wall into three segments. The segments on the side elevations are not uniform, creating two larger flanking bays and central narrower one. These pilasters also contain the capitolts. The entablature consists of a wide frieze
with a corbeled crown section, then a plain paneled section at the top of the wall. Overall, the effect is to create a loggia level below the belt course with the upper, second floor, supported by this loggia. The second floor then resembles a temple with the pilasters and entablature.

Windows are one over one double hung, aluminum sash, installed ca. 1980. The windows on the first floor, are paired on the flanking bays, with a stone muntin between them. On the second floor they are tripled on the flanking bays and paired in the center bay. Above these second floor windows is a round headed arch that spans the width of the groupings of windows. These arches have stone surrounds and spoked fanlights.

The central entrance, on the first floor, is recessed within a stone round headed arch supported by stone pilasters with stone capiots. The capiots extend to the edges of the bay, forming a belt course. There is a round headed transom above the pair of entrance doors within the recess with an arched fanlight. The doors are modern aluminum storefront entrance doors, ca. 1980. Beveled squared wooden panels line the inside of the arch. The stone arch rests upon stylized stone brackets.

The tower has a steeply pitched pyramidal roof. There is also an arched louver in the tower attic.

The side elevation, west, has three large round headed arched openings on the second floor and a fourth blind bay. On the first floor there are flat headed windows with flat headed transoms. The arched windows are paired with a round headed transom above the pair. These open into the courtroom.

Rear and east side elevations contain simple flat headed one over one windows with flat headed transoms in the first and basement levels. On the east side the basement is fully exposed, while on the other sides it is partially below grade.

The interior plan of the first, entrance, floor consists of a central corridor, on axis with the entrance pavilion and stairs. There is a short foyer opening from the entrance doors with a short run of stairs to the main level. The stairway is located in the first quarter of the east side of the corridor. It is a ca 1940 alteration. There are offices on either side of the corridor with doors opening into the corridor and between the various offices. There are new enclosures with doors, ca 1980 enclosing the stairs at the corridor edges. Finishes on the interior are plaster walls and ceilings dating from the 1940 alteration, vinyl tile floors, and no historic trim on most openings. There are a few remaining original wood trim on some of the door openings, but none on any windows.

The second floor contains the courtroom and two larger meeting rooms. The courtroom is located in the rear, south half of the building and the two rooms are on the front. The stair bisects the plan.

The finishes in the courtroom are vinyl flooring, plaster walls with no trim, and lay in acoustic ceiling. Above the existing ceiling is another layer of lay in ceiling tiles, pressed paper ceiling tiles, and the original pressed metal ceiling.

The Jail and sheriff's residence comprise the east front leg of the U formed by the courthouse, jail and 1940
addition. It is a relatively small two story hip roof Colonial Revival style stone building, similar to a residential style. It is three bays wide by two bays deep. Windows are paired one over one double hung wood sash with flat heads. There is little ornamentation on the windows. The façade is coursed rough faced ashlar, matching the original courthouse, without the belt course or pilasters.

The front façade massing consists of a central recessed bay with flanking projecting bays. The roofs of the bays are hipped. There is a central entrance portico with a steeply pitched gable roof supported on pairs of Doric columns. The columns rest on an enclosed and pierced stone balustrade.

The interior plan of the jail and residence consists of a central stair with four rooms. Finishes are the same as the courthouse. The second floor originally contained the jail cells, though now it is offices. It has the same finishes and plan as the first.

The 1940 addition was constructed to the east side of the original courthouse and connects the courthouse to the jail, forming one large “U” shaped building out of the three. It is a three story building with rough faced ashlar stone façade, one over one double hung steel sash or steel hopper style windows, a simple stone belt course at the floor levels and a hip roof. There is a corbelled stone cornice. It is similar in character and neutral, spanning the two buildings and their individual styles.

Interior plan of the addition consists of a central corridor running the linear axis with flanking offices. The finishes are the same as in the other sections of the courthouse.

**Construction Dates:**
- 1894-96, 1900-02, and 1940

**One contributing building**

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**The Salt Sulphur Spring**

At the bottom of the court square there is a newer veterans monument and a newer sheltered fountain from the sulphur spring that John T. McGraw cited in changing the town’s name. Although the salt sulphur spring was developed in 1895, and remodeled in 1900 and 1910, a subsequent redesign of the pavilion in the mid 1970s removed the spring’s historic integrity. At first, the spring was sheltered by a wooden gazebo. In circa 1910 a large stone structure with a pagoda like roof replaced the gazebo. It was constructed of stone similar to the courthouse proper. In 2003, the spring now is sheltered by a small metal hood of modern construction, circa 1975.

**One non-contributing structure**

**Veterans Monument**

There is a granite monument to Vietnam era veterans in a small plaza near the spring, circa 1975.

**One non-contributing object**
Obelisk.

Coal sculpture.
Historic sculpture of large coal deposit. Ca. ---- One contributing object.

Statement of Significance
The Webster County Courthouse is locally historically significant under Criteria A for its association with the industrial transformation of the remote rural sections of West Virginia in the years after the Civil War, and for its association with the proliferation of counties in the interior of the state. The building is also locally significant for its Romanesque Revival architecture. Such sophisticated design was unfamiliar in this county, and the selection of this style evidences a mainstream middle class perspective on public structures. The county desired a solemn and dignified building in which to conduct court and house vital statistics, deeds, and voting records. The period of significance is from 1896, the date of construction, through 1953.

Long presumed to be disaffected by the idea of local government and public officials, the tremendous efforts that Webster County residents expended to first achieve their county and then to acquire a courthouse reveal a rural area that hungered for the order and social advancement that increased local government could bring. County fathers struggled for several years to create their new entity. The first attempt to organize the county occurred in 1852, but the Virginia General Assembly rejected the petition. Another petition was sent to Richmond in 1859, and on Jan. 10, 1860, the lawmakers relented and passed legislation to create the county.

An early jailhouse of logs was constructed right away. Too poor to afford the costs of building a courthouse though, the county leaders first met in private homes and in the local Baptist Church. The first meeting was in the home of Thomas Cogar. From 1860 until the outbreak of the Civil War, the county court met in a dwelling built by Elijah Skidmore. Storage of public records was difficult without a courthouse and that proved to be a problem

Section 8 Page 3

for county fathers. Fears of warfare and destruction of records because of the looming war led to extreme, and, it turns out, unwise, actions. At an early meeting of the court, before the county was fully organized, County Clerk Albert Baughman removed the circuit court records to a secluded farmhouse in Glade District. He cut the pages from the book and hid them. After the war, Baughman moved to the west, and those early records were never recovered.

Webster's county government did not function during the war, a condition that was all too common in some strife ridden interior counties of the state. Substantial Confederate minorities were present in these areas, including Webster County, and their influence was sufficient to dampen the fervor for a Unionist leaning local government.
Bands of guerillas and raiders chilled political fervor in this locale. The Moccasin Raiders, a Confederate group, operated brazenly throughout Webster County. The county was not even represented at the 1861-62 statehood conventions, nor did it report election returns on the issue. Thus, it is not surprising that the county court was inactive until 1865.

When the war was over, the county supervisors moved quickly to erect a public building. They contracted with Bernard Mollohan to construct a “frame building” to serve as a courthouse. They paid Mollohan $1,700 for the structure, according to writer William C. Doddrell. A later history, compiled by R.L. Thompson, contends that Mollohan was paid only $1,600 for the work. The building was completed in 1869. In 1876 another jail was built on old fields land. Patrick Carr was the jail builder. That building non longer stands. Mollohan's courthouse and most of its land records were destroyed by fire on June 17, 1888, in an act that most residents believed was a case of arson. There was at the time a hotly contested land suit in process in the courthouse. Without the proper land records, the trial could not go forward. This event further associates the courthouse and the county with one of the major themes that accompanied the industrial transformation of West Virginia: struggles over land claims, and the willingness of some to take extreme measures to consolidate land holdings. Many Appalachian courthouses were destroyed by fires in this era. As a result, the records of local ownership of land were lost, allowing industrial developers to successfully assert claims based on deeds recorded in the colonial era or the early federal era in Virginia's Land Office in Richmond.

After the devastating fire, the local Baptist Church again opened its doors to the county government, which met there for the next eight years. The justices in 1894 met in a special session to complete the contract for the construction of the new courthouse, and to take a bond from the contractor for the same. Although this brief mention was carried by the Webster Echo on June 15, 1894, the editor did not include the contractor’s name.

During the two years that it took to construct the present building, court was held on the second floor of a commercial building in the community. Many of the county court’s efforts during these years were to reconstruct lost land records by the device of testimony from surveyors, neighbors, and land owners. It is in this tome, Commission’s Testimony in Proof of Title Papers Lost, that early records of Webster County are found. In reconstituting the boundaries of the court square, the court relied upon the testimony of Thomas M. Reynolds, who

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originally surveyed the site in 1860. “We ran off one acre at the end of Point Mountain, facing the Elk River, and just above the salt well, now known as Salt Sulphur Spring,” Reynolds said. The lot was square in shape. He further noted that the original courthouse had been built by Mollohan in 1869.

Webster Spring’s proper name is Addison, but in the 1890s, industrialist and Democratic political leader John T. McGraw succeeded in having the town’s post office changed to Webster Springs, a name he felt was more befitting the resort town that he hoped would spring up there. Addison was named for Addison McLaughlin, who was the first owner of the site where the courthouse stands. Like other rural mountain counties in West Virginia, Webster’s courthouse stood witness to the transformation of the county from a remote and very rural region to a
booming lumber production area. Deeds and lumber contracts are recorded by the legion in the courthouse. The town was incorporated in 1892, and grew until the 1950s, because of the timber industry and the grand hotel that drew visitors by train to the cool mountain retreat. After the timber was gone, Webster Springs entered into a period of population loss and slow decline. In the late twentieth century, outdoor recreation became the county's most promising economic endeavor, but some logging continued.

Webster Springs' first, permanent settler was Polly Arthur who arrived in 1860. In 1868, Webster Springs had only five residences, a post office, a school and a tavern (owned by Peter Cogar). The other residents of the town were the families of James Woodzell, Ike Cool, Pat Duffy, George Wolverton, and Martin Lowe. For the first decade, the town's population grew very slowly, primarily because of the lack of good roads to other settlements.

German immigrants Peter and Adam Stroud were the first European settlers in present day Webster County. Peter built his cabin near a branch of the Shawnee Indians' hunting trail. It was located too close to a Shawnee trail, and that led to Peter's family's demise. Early in the spring of 1772 or 1773 a band of Shawnee Indians discovered his cabin and viewing it as an invasion of their hunting grounds, attacked the cabin, killing Peter, his wife, and his seven children. The massacre led to further strife. Adam Stroud saw the smoke from his brother's burning cabin rising across the Gauley River and, with his eldest son, investigated. The trail left by the murderers led in the general direction of Bulltown, home of Captain Bull, a Delaware Indian Chief and five other Indian families, located in present day Braxton County.

Four men from Hacker's Creek joined with Stroud and attacked Bulltown, killing all of the Indians living there. The whites threw their victims' bodies into the nearby river. As word of Captain Bull's death spread throughout the Virginia frontier, a series of serious incidents between the Indians and the English settlers arose, ending eight years of relative peace on the western frontier. Adam Stroud then moved eastward to present Hampshire County. It was another twenty years before any other whites else tried to settle in the county.

In 1797, Arthur McClure moved to Upper Glade. He was followed by William E. Dodrill, known as "English Bill," who settled along the Birch River in 1799. Colonel Isaac Gregory built a two-story log cabin just above Beaver Run on a hill overlooking the Gauley River in 1800. He later served two terms as the Nicholas County Sheriff and served in the American Army during the War of 1812. Isaac Duffield arrived in the county around 1803. Several more families arrived around 1810. Within thirty years, the region acquired a sufficient population to seek creation of its own county.

The Webster County Courthouse is also significant under Criterion C for its association with and as a good example of Romanesque Revival Architecture, and for its association with many of the state's prominent architectural firms and architects.

As a good example of Romanesque Revival it exhibits many of the characteristics of the style. These include the
rough faced large ashlar stone façade, the large monumental arches over the entrance, doors, and windows, the broad shallow pitched yet prominent roof, the center tower, the belt course or water table and loggia level, and the differing fenestration treatments on different floors.

It is also associated with the prominent architectural firm, Franzheim and Giesey, of Wheeling, West Virginia. The firm completed a large number of commissions throughout the state and surrounding states. It consisted of Millard F. Giesey and Edward Franzheim. They were prominent at the turn of the century and sometimes partnered with Frederic F. Faris. Included in their vast list of commissions are:

An addition to the West Virginia Penitentiary.
Mineral County Courthouse.
Pocohantas County Courthouse.
Fayette County Courthouse.
Oglebay Mansion, Wheeling, West Virginia
Durham House, Wheeling West Virginia
Center Wheeling Market, Wheeling, West Virginia.
Many buildings in Mannington, West Virginia associated with the oil boom period of that town.

Millard Giesey was born in Wheeling in 1856. He studied at home and practice in Wheeling in partnership with Frederick F. Faris and Edward Franzheim.

Edward Bates Franzheim was born in Wheeling in 1866. He attended Linsly Institute in Wheeling, Chauncy Hall in Boston and private tutoring, including tutors from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He also studied under John M. Sturgis in Boston as well as studying abroad. Mr. Franzheim returned to Wheeling in 1892.

**Major Bibliographic References**


Thompson, R.L. *Webster County History and Folklore From the Earliest Time to the Present*. Webster Springs: Star Printers, 1942.

*Webster Echo*. June 15, 1894.


"History of Wheeling City and Ohio County, West Virginia and Representative Citizens," by Hon. Gibson Lamb Cranmer, 1902. Typed by E. J. Heinemann.

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The Webster County Courthouse Square is a large grassy lot, approximately 1.5 acres in size, that has traditionally been dedicated to public use. It is further described in *Commission's Testimony Book on Lost Papers*, Pages 29, 30, 42, 43, 44.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundary encompasses the historic footprint of the Webster County Courthouse square.

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**Section : Photo Page 1**

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**Photo Log**

Name of Property: Webster County Courthouse  
Address: 2 Court Square  
Town: Webster Springs  
County: Webster  
Photographer: Norval Rasmussen  
Date: September 2, 2002, July 14, 2003
Negatives:  WVSHP, Charleston WV

Photo 1 of 4  Front northwest facade
Camera facing southeast

Photo 2 of 4  Front of old Jailer's Residence, northwest facade
Camera facing east

Photo 3 of 4  Courtroom interior baluster detail

Photo 4 of 4  Testimony in Proof of Title Papers Lost
**WEST VIRGINIA HISTORIC PROPERTY INVENTORY FORM**

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<th>Street Address</th>
<th>Common/Historic Name/Both</th>
<th>Field Survey #</th>
<th>Site # (SHPO Only)</th>
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Sketch Map of Property or Attach Copy of USGS Map
The courthouse is located within an open park space. Lawns slope away from the courthouse to the streets on three sides.

The courthouse is composed of three sections. The main body is three stories and has a low central tower. The main body has a hipped roof. To the far left is the sheriff's residence which is two stories and also has a hipped roof. Joining the main body and (Use Continuation Sheets)

Alterations

Yes ☐ No ☑

If yes, describe

Additions

Yes ☐ No ☑

If yes, describe

Describe All Outbuildings

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Statement of Significance

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Bibliographical References

(Use Continuation Sheets)

Form Prepared By: David Steele

Name/Organization: WV SHPO

Address:

Date: 7/6/01

Phone #:
Sheriff's residence is a three-story piece.

The courthouse is constructed of rough-faced stone. The main entrance is through the tower. A stair case leads to the double glass front doors. An arched window is over the entry doors. Windows on the first floor are typically double hung 1/1. The second floor windows on the main body are combinations of two and three windows double hung 1/1 and are topped with an arched window. Windows in the three-story piece, occupied by the sheriff's, are 1/1/1 with the bottom lite being an awning window. Windows in the sheriff's residence are pairs of double hung 1/1 windows.