

PULASKI TOWN RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL SURVEY

Sponsored by the Town of Pulaski and the
Virginia Department of Historic Resources

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Montgomery County, Virginia
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INTRODUCTION

The fall of 1989, a contract to survey the historic resources of the remaining geographical area of Pulaski not covered in two previous survey efforts (the Pulaski Historic Commercial District and the Pulaski Historic Residential District) was awarded to the firm of Gibson Worsham Architect of Christiansburg, Virginia. The research and fieldwork were performed by a survey team made up of Gibson Worsham, Holly Olden, and Mark Bittle. The project was funded under a survey sub-grant program funded by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

Field work proceeded during the winter and spring of 1990, following Virginia Department of Historic Resources guidelines. Preparation for the nomination of the third historic district was made in the area south of the railroad tracks, to be called the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District. One hundred thirty-four sites were surveyed outside of any district, choosing the Town boundaries followed in the previous survey of Pulaski County. Using the town limits in place when the U.S.G.S. map was published, rather than actual present town limits, avoided duplication. Three hundred thirty-one sites were surveyed in the district boundaries south of the railroad tracks, and five hundred thirty-seven dwellings typed using the method detailed in Appendix I. The sites were located on town topographic maps.

A historic context was developed at the start of the project, dividing the history of the town into themes, including Domestic, Government, Education, Churches, Industry, Commerce and Social/Cultural, Law/Welfare this context was used to create the present final report.

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Historic Context
Town of Pulaski Reconnaissance - Level Survey
Gibson Worsham, Architect

INTRODUCTION

The Town of Pulaski, the seat of Pulaski County, Virginia, is centrally located in mountainous Southwest Virginia. It lies along Peak Creek between Draper Mountain and Chestnut Mountain, a spur of Brushy Ridge, that is part of a series of ridges which cut across the northern half of the county. The county, which lies in the Great Valley between the Blue Ridge and the Allegheny Mountains, was formed in 1839 from portions of western Montgomery and eastern Wythe counties. The town was incorporated as Pulaski City in 1886. The name of both the county and town memorialize Count Casimir Pulaski, a nobleman who was mortally wounded fighting the British at the Battle of Savannah during the American Revolution (Hughes, 1983; Data Summary, 1971; Randall, 1984).

Originally, Pulaski City was known as Martin's Tank, Martin's Station, and on occasion as Martin's Depot. Martin's Tank was established as a consequence of the arrival of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad in 1858, later Norfolk and Western and now Norfolk Southern. Robert Martin (1788-1859) of Albermarle County (Smith, p. 334) and his son Robert D. Martin (1826-1892) acquired 7000 acres of land in the vicinity of Peak Creek from William Hill in 1846. This 7000 acres was a portion of the 10,000 acres Hill had previously purchased from Robert Crockett of Wythe County. The Martins purchased the parcel for \$1,017 (Deed Book 1, p. 560-562). Of this the Martins gave ten acres to the railroad on which to build a station and a water tank to provide small wood-burning engines with enough water to make steam to take them over Clark's Summit. During the years following the advent of the railroad only the tank, woodyard, and family home existed at Martin's Station (Smith, p. 334; Whitman, p. 14; "Our County", 1978; Letter from R. M. Calfee 3 August 1962).

Robert D. Martin, one of Pulaski County's prominent cattlemen and County Justice, had a survey made (Figure 1) in 1873 of his "Mountain View Home" documenting improvements and transportation routes. It appears that this map was prepared, surveyed by neighboring landowner William T. Hart, with the intention of selling lots or parcels of land as commercial and residential activity increased and a town began to develop. Land to the south on Draper Mountain was already in the hands of the "Baltimore Iron Company" according to the map. With the opening of the first zinc furnace in the area, the population began to increase dramatically. In 1884, Martin's Station was renamed Pulaski Station and within two years the settlement was incorporated as a town (Smith, p. 334; Whitman, p. 17; Letter from R. M. Calfee 3 August 1962).

Much of the present town of Pulaski was at one time among the Martin landholdings, but as the town rapidly developed into a manufacturing center and railroad town in the late nineteenth century Martin sold the

property to various land companies. Of these companies it was the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company, Swansee Land Company, Martin Land Company, and Lake Spring Land Company that first began the surveying and laying out of the town and grading of the streets (Swaim, 1911). Before the town's platting in 1884 and 1888, the commercial and residential center lay on the south side of the rails, around the intersection of Valley and Commerce Streets. Valley Street was the old Pepper's Ferry Road, which had been the primary route through the area since the earliest days of settlement, and Commerce or Railroad Street paralleled the tracks and Peak Creek. At this time the north side of the tracks was marshy and Valley Street lay on higher ground. With the formation of the Pulaski Land and Development Company the creek was straightened and channelled between drylaid stone walls, resulting in the availability of a wide area north of the tracks. In addition, the construction in 1884 of the Maple Shade Inn by the railroad helped to establish the town.

The layout presented by the Pulaski Land and Development Company for the new part of the town shows a grid of streets east of Valley and north of Peak Creek. Although growth of the new part of town was slow at first, by the 1890's the old downtown at Commerce and Valley was losing businesses to the new Main Street. The residential section to the south was laid out during this period and a number of very substantial Queen Anne and vernacular dwellings built there.

During the 80s and 90s, twelve land companies opened offices in Pulaski County, the largest being the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company. While the town was still Martin's Station, the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company had been chartered on 18 March 1884 (Charter Book 1, p. 6) by northern capitalists to deal in real estate (Smith, p. 335). It was this company which produced a plat of the town north of the railroad tracks in 1888 showing the town laid out as far as Thirteenth Street. Much of the present central town including the previously nominated Pulaski Historic Commercial and Residential Districts, was laid out by civil engineer M. Kronalier under the direction of the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company who were also responsible for the channelling of Peak Creek and the drainage of the swampy bottomland (Data Summary, 1971). The company dissolved in 1919 (Certification as to Dissolution).

The first plan of the new town of Pulaski dates from 1884 and appears to be a prospectus for the new town issued by the Pulaski Land Company to Philadelphia developers. In 1888, the plat issued by the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company incorporated several significant changes, chief of them being the addition of graceful curves to Prospect Avenue in the Pulaski Historic Residential District, reflecting the Picturesque planning style popular in the late nineteenth century.

A square at the intersection of Washington Avenue and Sixth Street is carried over from the first plan, and is one of the most remarkable features of the town plan. Apparently conceived of as a subsidiary center either for narrow urban row house lots or commercial buildings, the square sits firmly on a small knob which overlooks the heart of the town. Before development and the growth of trees, it must have seemed a prominent location from below. An addition to the plan which provides a further distinction to the Pulaski Historic Residential District doesn't show up on any of the early maps, but probably was incorporated fairly

early. The entire length of Washington above Fifth, and portions of Sixth Street as well, were converted into narrow boulevards by the insertion of central median strips, planted with trees, with the required width being created by omitting the usual grassy strip between the street and sidewalk.

GOVERNMENT, LAW, AND WELFARE

County Courthouse

The first area settlement of record was made between 1745 and 1750 on the New River at Dunkard's Bottom in the vicinity of the contemporary Claytor Lake State Park. In 1756, a fort was erected on the site and its presence encouraged many new settlers to come to the area. As the settlements increased and developed into towns, Pulaski County was established in 1839 with the town of Newbern as its first county seat (Data Summary, 1971).

The county seat remained at Newbern, approximately eight miles to the east of the present town of Pulaski, until 1895 when a new courthouse was erected in Pulaski. In November 1893 a fire destroyed the Newbern courthouse. Much debate followed the fire concerning the location of the new courthouse since the town of Newbern was not situated on the new railroad route ("Our County", 1978). Pulaski, on the other hand, was rapidly developing as a direct result of the railroad, and by the late nineteenth century had become the county's industrial and commercial center. Following a series of referendums, the town of Pulaski became the new county seat in March 1895 and the new courthouse was completed late in the following year for the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars (Smith, 1888 p. 359).

The Pulaski Land and Improvement Company donated land, within the Downtown area for the courthouse square and jail in June 1895 (Deed Book 17, p. 178). While the courthouse was under construction, court was held in the still extant Macgill building on the corner of Washington Avenue and Third Street. (Smith, p. 359; Swaim, 1911). The two-and-one-half-story stone courthouse of 1896 was build in the Romanesque Revival style under the direction of the Knoxville architectural firm of W. Chamberlain and Company and the local contracting firm of Miller and Warden (Hughes, 1983; Smith, p. 358).

Hospital

Pulaski's first hospital was a small frame building that originally belonged to the General Chemical Company. It was situated on East and Main Streets which is currently the site of Route 99. The second hospital was built in 1926 on Randolph Avenue in the Pulaski Historic Residential District and recently took the name "Randolph House" when it became a home for adults. The present Pulaski Community Hospital, built in 1973, is located at 2400 Lee Highway ("Our County", 1978). No relevant sites were located in the survey.

Utilities

The Pulaski Electric and Light Works, chartered in the fall of 1891,

erected a building on the northwest corner of First Street and Jefferson Avenue in 1903. According to a Sanborn map of 1913, an Appalachian Power Company (APCO) building was cited as "not in operation" (Sanborn maps 1894-1920). The present site of APCO offices is between the Pulaski Theater (Elk's Building) and the County Courthouse on Main Street.

Water in Pulaski was obtained from two wells, one located on Route 11 and another about one half mile out of town on Alum Spring Road. Steam pumps carried the water in these two wells uphill to the stand pipe near where the hospital currently stands. At one time, water cost twenty-five cents per ten thousand gallons which was very expensive at the time (Whitman, p. 17; Southwest Times, 27 February 1966, 9D). The first incorporated waterworks was chartered 12 September 1891 (Charter Book 1, p. 134) by the Pulaski Light and Water Company. In 1899 these works were purchased by the town along with the electric service and continued operating under the name the Electric Light and Water Supply Company (Charter Book 1, p. 107; Swaim, 1911). The present waterworks continues on the same site within the Pulaski Historic Residential District.

The principal relevant structure located in the survey is the electrical substation located on the south side of Route 99 east of downtown (125-131). The elaborate brick tower is an important landmark representing the development of electric energy.

Fire Department

Pulaski was well supplied with fire plugs throughout the business and residential sections in addition to having had a well-equipped fire prevention company at the turn of the century (Southwest Times, 27 February 1966, 9D). The first Pulaski Hose Company was organized in 1880 and was later operated by the Pulaski Grocery Company after it was established in 1902. Although an efficient hose company, several buildings were entirely destroyed by fire including C. E. Bones' Livery Stable, the Episcopal Church on Sixth Street, two fires at the Miller and Warden Building, the Missionary Baptist parsonage on South Madison Avenue, the Pulaski Foundry and Machine Shops, and the Garmorhunt Building, the largest fire in the town's history (Swaim, 1911; "Our County", 1978). No relevant sites were located in the survey.

Telephone Exchange

The Smith Brothers who had a printing business and published the local newspaper also operated the first telephone exchange in Pulaski. They were approached by B. Laughon and P. D. Hall who organized the Pulaski Telephone and Telegraph Company in 1897. In agreement to operate the exchange, Laughon and Hall financed the construction of the brick building on Main Street to house both the News-Review, the Smith's paper, and the exchange. Eventually this proved unprofitable for the Smith Brothers so they gave it up. In time the second floor office became unsuitable for an economical printing operation so they sold the building and moved to their present location on Third Street North (Lewis Smith, 1939; Sanborn map - no date). No relevant sites were located in the survey.

EDUCATION

Poor and middle class children received little education prior to 1870 when the free public school system was established. By 1880, there were thirty-two segregated public schools in Pulaski County for both blacks and whites. The first schools were ungraded and class was held only four months a year. Pupils learned the alphabet and how to read and write. Higher education was available through academies for boys and seminaries for girls but only for those of wealth (Whitman, p. 26; Smith, p. 307).

According to a report of the Public School System in Pulaski County 1906-1907, the number of schools had increased to fifty with an enrollment rate of 2,800 whites and 620 blacks (Pulaski County - Jamestown Exposition, p. 84). Those schools of higher education included Draper Valley Academy established in 1873, George Walker's School at Dublin, Dublin Institute, and the Sayers School which apparently before 1903 became the Pulaski Institute (Smith, p. 308-309; Whitman, p. 26, Sanborn Map 1903).

The first public school in Pulaski, a small frame one-room building on Water Street, is said to remain standing today as a residence. It was located near the later site of the Colored School Building. Prior to this, school was taught in the upper level of the building on the southwest corner of Valley and First Streets South which was known as Bertha Hall. The Calfee School House stood nearby (Swaim, 1911; Southwest Times, 27 February 1966, 15D).

In 1889 an eight-room brick structure was erected at the corner of Randolph and Fourth Streets in the Pulaski Historic Residential District and used as an elementary school building. It has been demolished and is today the site of the Public Health Clinic. It remained the town's only public school until the remains of the Episcopal Church structure on Washington Square at Sixth Street and Washington Avenue was converted into a public school known as the Sayers School. In 1903, a Sanborn Map shows the old church site to be the home of the Pulaski Institute, a private facility, which later became the town's first public high school. The two-story school incorporated the stone walls of the church which caught fire around the turn of the century in its first floor. It is located in the Pulaski Historic Residential District (Swaim, 1911; Southwest Times, 27 February 1966, 15D).

In 1890, a four-room brick building was erected for the black population in the West Ward, the black section of town. It accommodated four teachers and two hundred and twenty-five children (Southwest Times, 27 February 1966, 15D).

A number of early twentieth-century schools are still extant in Pulaski and were surveyed as part of this project, including the Calfee Training School (125-34) on Main Street, a one-story brick Colonial Revival structure dating from 1939, the brick two-story Northwood Elementary School (125-55) a Colonial structure on the north side of town, the Pulaski High School (now Middle School) (125-63) a brick 1940s Colonial Revival structure of two stories on a hill overlooking Pulaski from the northeast, and the Jefferson Elementary School (125-8-327) in

the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District, a one-story classically detailed twenty-room school, dating from the 1920s.

CHURCHES

As of about 1907 there were approximately fifty churches in Pulaski County, with thirty-five white congregations and fifteen colored (Pulaski County-Jamestown Exposition, 1907). As of 1890 there were nine churches in the town of Pulaski, most of which remain in the town, including First Baptist Church on Magazine Street, First Baptist Church on Randolph Avenue, First Christian Church, First Episcopal Church, First Presbyterian Church, First United Methodist Church, New Century African Methodist Episcopal Church, Clark's Chapel United Methodist Church, and Trinity Lutheran Church (Hughes, 1980).

The first church in Martin's Station, now the Town of Pulaski, was the Episcopal Church. In 1879 Robert D. Martin, a Presbyterian, donated land on which was to be built a Protestant Episcopal Church. The Episcopal congregation had previously been worshipping at old "Claremont", the home of Mr. and Mrs. Macgill, since 1870. The church was built on the Old Draper's Valley Road which crossed Draper's Mountain (eventually renamed Valley Street) and was known as the Macgill Memorial Chapel. The building was sold in 1889 and sometime after that was remodeled as a residence (Deed Books 7, p. 279 and 12, p. 333; Smith, p. 312; interview with Episcopal minister on 9 May 1985).

In 1897, a new Episcopal church was constructed in Pulaski on Sixth Street in the Pulaski Historic Residential District. After sitting half completed and idle for some time due to construction liens, the church heater was lit for the first services to follow the next day and the church was destroyed by fire. The walls were used in the construction of the Sayers School which stood on the site until being converted into the Nunnally Apartments (Smith, p. 312). In September 1908 the cornerstone of the present Christ Episcopal Church on Washington Avenue in the Pulaski Historic Commercial District was laid (Smith, p. 313), the land being donated by L. S. Calfee (Deed Book 24, p. 265).

In 1880, several members of the Newbern Methodist Church began worshipping in a little schoolhouse on Water Street in Martin's Station. Later in 1887, the congregation constructed a small building, known as Bertha's Chapel, at Valley and First Streets. In February of the next year, L. S. Calfee and his wife Ella donated a lot on the corner of First and Lake Streets South for the construction of a new Methodist building known as the Stewart Memorial Church. This building served the congregation until ca. 1916 when the present First Methodist Church on the corner of Jefferson and Third Street North was constructed in the Pulaski Historic Residential District. In 1945, a three-level education facility was added to the church (Hughes, 1980; Smith, p. 344).

As early as 1903 a "colored church" occupied the site of the old Opera House on First Street near Commerce. Between 1903 and 1908 the New Century African Methodist Episcopal Church congregation constructed a church building which remains on Second Street (Main) west of Randolph in the Pulaski Historic Residential District (Sanborn maps 1903 and 1908).

Early in 1880, Reverend W. E. Hill of Laurel Hill Presbyterian Church was holding services for a small congregations at Martin's Station (Smith, p. 345). On 16 July 1890, Mr. and Mrs. L. S. Calfee donated a lot on the southwest corner of Jefferson Avenue and First Street South for the construction of a church (Deed 16 July 1890). In 1892, the brick church with stained glass windows, a tall spire, and ornate sanctuary was built. It has since been razed (Smith, p. 345). In September 1912, the First Presbyterian Church acquired five lots on Jefferson Avenue and Fourth Street North in the Pulaski Historic Residential District. The cornerstone was laid in 1924 and approximately two years later the congregations moved in (Smith, p. 345).

In 1878, the Reverend J. M. Luck of Dublin was carrying his Baptist ministry to Martin's Station. By 1888, a twelve member congregation had been organized with Luck as its pastor. By deed of gift 27 June 1891, the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company conveyed Lot 3 Block 'A' in the Pulaski Historic Residential District to the small group (Deed Book 15, p. 12). The First Baptist Church of Pulaski on Randolph Street was one of the larger churches in the area. It was originally a white frame building with an imposing spire, but has since been remodeled, enlarged, and brick-cased. The original sanctuary has been preserved in the new building (Smith, p. 343).

The Lutheran congregation organized in Pulaski in the spring of 1888 with ten charter members. In 1889, the cornerstone was laid and by the next summer the Trinity Lutheran Church was completed. It was dedicated on 17 July 1890. Sometime later the church name was changed to the Women's Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church and eventually renamed the Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church. The lot in the Pulaski Historic Residential District was donated by P. L. Terry and wife Mary by deed on 1 May 1894 (Smith, p. 342, "Our County", 1978).

As early as 1878 the Reverend J. T. Showalter was coming from Snowville to conduct Christian (Disciples of Christ) services at Martin's Station. By the early 80s there was a twenty-member congregation worshipping in a small frame building on Water Street under the ministry of the Reverend E. C. Stark. In May 1891 the First Christian Church acquired its present property in the Pulaski Historic Residential District on Jefferson Avenue North and by the next year the white frame house of worship was completed. In 1932 the frame structure was encased in brick. The First Christian Church was founded by members of Cypress Grove Church in Snowville (Smith, p. 343, "Our County", 1978).

Only two church buildings remain in the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District today, the Macgill Memorial Chapel (125-8-116) on Valley Street, a simple frame nave-plan church, and the c.1940 First Pentecostal Church at First and Jefferson (125-8-328), a Gothic brick structure. In the remaining area outside the three districts no churches were surveyed.

INDUSTRY

Pulaski County was one of the major boom areas of Southwest Virginia from the late nineteenth century until the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although a large percent of the area's income was obtained through

agriculture, Pulaski profited from the growth of the railroading, mining, and smelting industries.

Martin's Station's first heavy industry was established in the big bend of Peak Creek west of the town in 1880 (Charter Book 1, p. 2-5). Bertha Zinc and Metal Company grew rapidly and by 1890 had expanded to include ten furnaces making it one of the largest furnaces in America. A contributing factor in its growth was the acquisition of the Altoona Coal and Iron Company, chartered in 1879, which gave the Bertha Zinc Works its own fuel supply at the Altoona mines. The mines were located northwest of the town and connected by a railroad track with the furnaces (Smith, p. 318-320, 355; Whitman, p. 20; Swaim, 1911; Pulaski Co. p. 67). The Zinc Works were responsible for much of the early growth of Pulaski; however, despite its initial success, the Bertha Zinc and Metal Company ceased operations in 1910 (Smith, p. 322; Letter R. D. Calfee, 3 August 1962). Its manager Thomas Jones, a Welshman, built one of the Pulaski Historic Residential District's grandest and earliest houses.

Following the incorporation of the town of Pulaski City, Pulaski Iron Company (PICO), built by A. J. Dull and Associates of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, began operation in February 1888 east of the town center. It operated its own coal and coking facility in West Virginia. PICO, at its peak the town's principal industry, in 1907 produced 150 tones of pig iron per day from ore mined in the southern section of the county as well as within two miles of the town. PICO eventually became the property of the General Chemical Company and the company ceased operations during the great Depression. Portions of the furnace remain standing (Smith, p. 320-322; Pulaski Co., p. 68; Letter R. D. Calfee 3 August 1966).

One mile east of PICO was located Dora Furnace. Built in 1890, it was named after the daughter of George T. Mills who supervised the furnace's construction. Eventually the Dora was acquired by the Virginia Iron, Coal and Coke Company, a regional system of furnaces which continued the operation along with a large foundry and machine shop until its last blast in 1920 (Smith, p. 321-322; Pulaski Co., p. 68, 70).

The end of the zinc, iron, and coal years in Pulaski County began with the closing of the Bertha Zinc Works. Although the New River Valley still contained large amounts of iron ore, Pulaski's iron industries could not compete with the economical steam shovel mining techniques being utilized in the huge iron ore deposits around the Great Lakes (Smith, p. 322).

The General Chemical Company came to Pulaski in ca. 1920 and established a small plant known as Pulaski Mining. The Bunts Brothers, residents of the Pulaski Historic Residential District, were the next industrialists in the area establishing a factory and machine shop on First Street which they later sold to the General Chemical Company, who continued its operation. In 1953, the works were shut down and sold (Whitman, p. 21).

Shortly thereafter, Robert Bunts built the Pulaski Foundry and Manufacturing Company on the site of the old Bertha plant in the west end of town. Sometime later Robert sold the foundry to the A. G. McKee Company of Cleveland, Ohio. The McKee Company owned and operated the

plant until going bankrupt during the Depression. The banks took control of the property until it was sold to the American Pigment Company, which utilized ores mined in the southern section of the county (Whitman, p. 21).

In March 1922, the Paul Knitting Mills Company was chartered in Pulaski (Charter Book 3, p. 94). Thomas Wallner, who was associated with the mill, established the Virginia Maid Hosiery Mills Company nearby. Another mill, Dobson Mills, built by J. C. Dobson, manufactured infant hosiery. Upon Dobson's retirement, J. E. Sadler bought the mill and continued to operate it as Sadler Mills (Whitman, p. 21).

In the 1920s two furniture companies were organized in Pulaski. The Coleman Brothers founded Coleman Furniture in 1928, and Pulaski Furniture, chartered in June 1924, built a big plant by the close of the decade (Charter Book 3, p. 273, p. 151). Struggling through the Depression, the two companies merged and grew to become one of the most prominent industries in the area (Whitman, p. 21). Coleman Furniture built a series of similar bungalows on Prospect Avenue in the Pulaski Historic Residential District for its managers, and other groups of bungalows can be seen in many parts of the town.

The Pulaski Veneer Company, built by C. E. Richardson, was eventually bought by the Radio Corporation of America who continued its operation until labor strife forced them to abandon the plant. After sitting idle for several years, Richardson and his associates bought back the plant and operated it under the name of Pulaski Veneer and Furniture Company, now Pulaski Furniture (Whitman, p. 21).

In addition to the heavy industries, Pulaski supported several wood working plants, utilizing the output of the county's timber industry, and several flouring mills, including the Pulaski Roller Mills and a large mill operated by the Virginia Iron Coal and Coke Company which produced in 1907 over 150 barrels of flour per day (Pulaski Co., p. 70).

The survey included the sites of the Bertha Zinc and Mineral Company (125-104), the PICO Iron works (125-133), the Pulaski Foundry (125-128 and 130), a flooring mill (125-109) and the Virginia Maid Hosiery Mill (125-105). In the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District the office, commissary, and worker and executive housing of the Bertha Zinc and Mineral Company were surveyed, but the site of the Bertha Zinc plant has been altered and was not included in the district. A large brick building on the site does appear to date to the original period in the late 19th century. The PICO site is still largely intact, but appears to be headed for demolition. The main building with a tall chimney is built of brick and is similar in appearance to the surviving earlier structure of the Tredegar Iron Works in Richmond.

COMMERCE

According to Chataigne's Business Directory and Gazeteer for 1880-1881, there were some sixty-five merchants and tradesmen in business in Pulaski County by this time. These businesses included general merchants, druggists, cattle dealers, coach and wagon makers, harness and saddle makers, carpenters, builders, cabinet makers, coal dealers, liquor

dealers, a merchant tailor, a milliner, a watchmaker, a jeweler, and a photographic studio. Of these sixty-five businesses, only six were located at Martin's Station. Martin's Station ranked third after Newbern and Dublin, each with twenty-two businesses.

After incorporation, Pulaski overtook Dublin and Newbern, and rapidly became the area's commercial center. The main business area, prior to the town's platting in 1892, developed around the intersection of Valley and Commerce Streets which are on the south side of the railroad tracks. An 1884 map of Martin's Tank by J. W. Deister illustrates some of the initial business development (Figure 2). At this time the present site of the downtown area was marshy and Valley Street lay on much higher ground (Smith, p. 334; Whitman, p. 20).

Most of the structure illustrated on Keister's 1884 map have since been torn down and their sites largely occupied by Jefferson Mills, a manufacturing plant. Jordan's Drug Store occupied a brick building on the east side of Valley Street, and Keister's Drug (#7, figure 2) was about a half block further south on the same side of Valley. Jordan's Drug Store later moved to Main Street (Smith, p. 502-503; Whitman, p. 20).

Across the street from the druggist was the Pulaski Hardware Company. To its south was the Moelick and Robinson Grocery Store, and to its north was the Askew Clothing Company presently operating as Hatcher, Askew and Company on Main Street in the Pulaski Historic Commercial District. The Phelps Dry Goods Store was located down the street in the Loan and Trust Building, built in 1887 (Whitman, p. 20).

The first store in Martin's Tank is said to have been owned by the Calfee Brothers at the corner of Commerce and Valley Streets. It was a general merchandise store (#17, figure 2), possibly founded under the name L. S. Calfee and Company (Swaim, 1911). L. S. Calfee married Ella Martin, the daughter of Colonel Robert D. Martin (Smith, p. 503). To the east of this store on Commerce Street was the Gemmell and Seagle Furniture Store (Whitman, p. 20).

Prior to the moving of the courthouse, R. D. Martin and D. T. Martin sold their two farms, almost all the land north of the railroad, to a northern group including, presumably, apparently charter members of the Pulaski Land and Improvement Company. The opening and development of the land north of the railroad required the straightening and channelization of Peak Creek, a task undertaken by the aforementioned land company. After the walls were built and the landfilling completed, the Randolph Street Bridge was constructed. This was the first bridge to span the creek into the town limits and was the beginning of town expansion on the north side of the tracks. The bridge washed away in 1893 and was replaced with the present iron bridge (Swaim, 1911; Letter from R. M. Calfee, 3 August 1966).

Most of Pulaski's historic commercial buildings were and are located in the downtown commercial district, but isolated example exists in neighborhoods throughout the town. Examples were found on Pierce Avenue, Jefferson Avenue, and throughout the town. Five examples were located in the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District, including

the three-story brick building on the corner of Washington Avenue and Dora Highway (125-8-305) which is related in location to the downtown area. Fourteen commercial structures were identified outside the three districts, most one- or two-story gable-fronted frame buildings.

Banks

During the first years of the twentieth century only three banking houses were in operation in Pulaski County: the Bank of Pulaski County at Dublin chartered in May 1900 (Charter Book 1, p. 258-259), and two others in Pulaski. Of these, the Pulaski Loan and Trust Company had opened on Valley Street in 1887 and merged with Pulaski National Bank in 1889. This bank was first located on the corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street, then at a site immediately east of the courthouse on Main Street, then at the present Crowell building west of the courthouse, and then moved back to its first location. In 1918, the banking house moved into a three-story building on Washington Avenue and Main Street where it continues to operate as the Sovran Bank (Smith, p. 335, 372; Whitman, p. 20).

The second Pulaski banking house, the Peoples Bank of Pulaski, began operations in 1902 (Charter Book 2, p. 1, 72) in the old Pulaski Land and Improvement Company building on the present site of APCO. From here it moved to the Dalton Building until 1950 when it moved into the Pulaski Hotel at the southwest corner of Washington Avenue and Main Street. The bank, now Signet Bank, later demolished the hotel and built the present building on the same site (Smith, p. 372).

No relevant sites were located.

Newspaper

In 1872, the county's first newspaper, The Virginia People, was printed in Snowville, Virginia. The paper was established by Charles A. Heermans of Pennsylvania. In 1874 the printing equipment was moved to Newbern and the paper was published under the name of Pulaski People and later changed to The People (Smith, p. 304).

In 1886, publication began on the town of Pulaski's first paper, the Pulaski News, on the second floor of the S. B. Steger Building at the corner of Washington Avenue and Third Street on the north side of the railroad. The Steger Building is the present site of the First Federal Savings and Loan Association (Smith, p. 336; Lewis Smith, 1939).

In August of 1889, Lewis Smith became an apprentice with the Pulaski News. At the time it was a weekly paper edited by A. A. Christian. It was Christian who had the equipment moved to the one-story frame building on Lee Street just off Commerce, and who organized a stock company to begin publishing an afternoon edition daily. The second paper was discontinued after five months as it had not proven to be a very profitable investment (Lewis Smith, 1939).

No relevant sites were located.

SOCIAL AND CULTURAL

Opera House

The "Opera House", built by a company organized in 1889 (Charter Book 1, p. 63), was part of the buildings which are currently the property of Pulaski Lumber Company of 1890 (Charter Book 1, p. 84-88) on First Street North and Randolph Avenue (Whitman, p. 20). The Opera House was a modest frame building that served traveling stock companies, home talent groups, public gatherings, and religious services until the turn of the century (Smith, p. 336).

The Opera House Company then financed the construction of the Garmorhunt Building on the corner of Main Street and Madison Avenue to serve as the new Opera House. It was built by Robert L. Gardner, R. R. Moore, and A. B. Hunt (Gar - mor - hunt) for the sum of twenty thousand dollars, however, it was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin on 9 December 1909. By the end of the following year the local lodge of the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks began construction of the present Elks Building on Main Street which housed the Elk's Theater and Opera House (Smith, p. 336; Swaim, 1911). It is now operating as the Pulaski Movie Theater and has a seating capacity of eight hundred forty-five.

The other theater in town was in the Dalton Building on Washington Avenue on the south side of Peak Creek. Built in 1921 by Sexton Dalton, it was a Beaux Art four-story theater that became a Virginia Historic Landmark in 1977 and a National Register building in 1978 (Shadrui, 1982). The theater was to the rear of the building and collapsed into the parking lot in June 1982. The front of the building continues to house several apartments and offices (Shadrui, 1982).

Hotels

Nine hotels were listed in the county in 1881. Martin's Station's first hotel, the Maple Shade Inn, was constructed in 1884. The Virginia Company, a subsidiary of Norfolk and Western Railways, completed the last phase of construction of this popular Queen Anne summer resort in 1890 (Smith, p. 306, 336; Whitman, p. 17, 23, 52). Under the ownership of Norfolk and Western, the first manager was W. H. Hayes (Whitman, p. 53). In March 1915, the Inn was sold by the railroad and operated as a private company until 1955 (Charter Book 2, p. 266; Certificate as to Dissolution).

The first photograph of the Inn was displayed in a Norfolk and Western publication, "The New River--Cripple Creek Mineral Region," and was described as follows:

"At Pulaski City the railroad has built one of the finest hotels in the state, after the same general style of Hotel Roanoke and under the management of the company, the guest of the day or month at Maple Shade Inn is assured of pleasant treatment and the best of service. The hotel is finely situated about 300 yards from the depot, has beautiful grounds handsomely laid out and will accommodate 75 guests and is open all the year."

(Whitman, p. 52 - 53)

As the article states, the Inn initially accommodated seventy-five guests. By 1903, the Hotel capacity had doubled. In 1890, rate listings for other area hotels ranged between five and eight dollars, but there was no listing for the Inn. By 1903, other resorts were listed at \$1.50 to \$2.00 a day while the Inn's average board fared at \$2.50 a day, \$10 a week, and \$35 a month making it the most expensive hotel in Pulaski County. The hotel was demolished in the 1960s and replaced with the present day shopping mall (Whitman, p. 53).

Hotel Pulaski, built in 1891 on the corner of Washington and Main, was the first hotel on the north side of Peak Creek. It has been said that the proprietor Mr. D. M. Smith knew what his fellow traveler wanted and spared no pains to please his guests (Southwest Times, 27 February 1966, 18D). The hotel stood at the present site of the Signet Bank. (Smith, p. 336).

No hotels were located in the town, although several buildings in the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial District are located on the grounds of the Maple Shade Inn, south of Commerce Street between Washington and Jefferson Avenues.

DOMESTIC

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries the agricultural, mining, and metallurgical industries stimulated the building of houses for many industrial workers and tenant or small farmers. Many of these houses fit within types recognized by architectural historians. In Pulaski the homes of workers are found throughout the town, and in particular within the Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District. Most housing in Pulaski dates from this period. House types recognized include the one- and two-story center-passage-plan dwelling, in which a central passage, usually containing a stair in two-story examples, separates two flanking rooms. Forty-one examples were recognized out of 221 dwellings in the historic district, or over 12%, while thirty were surveyed in the overall town outside the three districts, out of 106 dwellings surveyed. Using a typology originally developed by Camille Wells (see Appendix I) fifty six examples or 10% were typed out of a total of 537 sites examined. A variant of the earlier center-passage plan developed in the nineteenth century was the T-plan dwelling. In this house, popular in both one- and two-story examples in Pulaski, one of the two rooms flanking the center passage seems to have been pushed forward and a second room added behind, so that three rooms are accessible from the passage (sometimes the passage is omitted) and the house plan resembles the letter "T". This was apparently done to increase privacy and to give a more picturesque, varied shape to what was a traditional form. Seventy-three examples were surveyed in the district or 22% of the total of dwellings, while twenty-seven were surveyed in the town outside the three districts, or 20%. Thirty such sites were typed in the town, amounting to 6% of the total dwellings.

While center-passage-plan and T-plan dwellings were employed in a range of sizes and scales depending on the affluence or other factors at the decision of the builder, and were used for small worker houses and the homes of middle management and professionals in the town, the form of building identified most clearly with worker housing is the two-room or double-cell dwelling. This most usually one-story dwelling is divided into two equal-sized rooms entered through one or two doors on the front. Like the center-passage- and T-plan forms mentioned above, the dwelling is often found in double-pile or two-rooms-deep arrangements, yielding, in this case, four rooms of equal size arranged in a square. Forty-eight examples were identified in the district, or 15%. More than half of them were of the double pile form, often dating from the second quarter of the twentieth century. Twelve were surveyed outside the district, or 9%, only two of which were double-pile. 34%, or one hundred eighty-seven of the typed houses in the Town were of the double-cell form.

There were a few notable examples of grand Queen Anne dwellings, notably 125-8-18, the house of the vice-president of the Bertha Zinc and Mineral Company, 125-8-212; a brick dwelling of elegant detailing, and houses like 125-8-124, elaborately detailed houses of unconventional form. Most dwellings, however, were simple vernacular dwellings built of frame construction. A few, such as the T-plan dwelling at 125-8-215, are small houses of vernacular plan, but elaborate in detailing and unusual in their brick construction material.

In the twentieth century domestic architecture responded to classical forms which were popularized as the Colonial Revival style. Few early houses in the district or in the remainder of the town outside the other districts were strongly influenced by this style before about 1930, when houses such as that at 125-8-75 were built. A few Tudor Revival dwellings were built in the period, including the house 125-8-162.

The most popular type of dwelling in the district and among those surveyed in the town was influenced by the popular Arts and Crafts movement. Ninety-three dwellings, or 28% of the houses in the district, two hundred fifty-eight, or 48% of the houses typed in the town, and fifteen or 11% of the houses surveyed outside the three districts were part of this group, known as Bungalows. These one-and-one-half story houses built of brick, frame, and occasionally of concrete block, and their rarer two-story Foursquare counterparts, usually incorporated assymmetrical plans and deep gable roofs with central dormers.

NATIONAL REGISTER AND SURVEY RECOMMENDATION, THREATS,
AND RESOURCES

SURVEY RECOMMENDATIONS

The survey of Pulaski is complete throughout the town (outside the districts) at the same level of intensity. While the brief survey form was used, information for major buildings is complete. More survey could concentrate on greater detail and on more post-1940 buildings.

NATIONAL REGISTER RECOMMENDATION

The recommended Pulaski South Residential and Industrial Historic District, prepared under this contract is the only remaining National Register District identified in the survey. The only individual site recommended for listing is the unusual and ornate brick electric substation on the south side of Main Street east of downtown (125-131).

THREATS

There are a few serious threats to the historic resources of the town, notably neglect and deterioration at many sites. Development is not, for the most part, a threat at this time, except along the major thoroughfares. The recommended historic district is generally well-maintained.

RESOURCES

Preservation resources in Pulaski include the Pulaski Beautification Committee, the Pulaski Architectural Review Board (active only in the Commercial District at this time), the staff of the Pulaski Downtown Inc., (The Main Street program) and the New River Valley Preservation League, which has Pulaski town and county representatives. Many individuals were of help, particularly Miss Elizabeth Bonham and Mr. Conway Smith.

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FORMING A TYPOLOGY FOR AN HISTORIC BUILDINGS SURVEY

An historic buildings survey should involve the careful recording of a broad range of structures. Unlike the traversal, which provides only flimsy justification for the recognition and preservation of a few superlative buildings, the intensive architectural study includes detailed information about a variety of buildings and many aspects of a cultural landscape. This kind of survey is a necessary basis for both scholarly analysis and informed preservation efforts.

A clear problem with the intensive survey is that it requires considerably more time and money than the "windshield survey" that was first recommended to state preservation offices some ten years ago. Therefore, practical constraints usually force the surveyor to make value judgments about which buildings should be studied, and how much time should be devoted to each subject. One response to this problem has been the decision to record less significant buildings in groups. An effective group survey technique is to establish a typology for the recording of structures with related characteristics.

In Kentucky, successful use has been made of a typology for the late 19th- and early 20th-century dwelling forms that were built with great frequency in the rural parts of the state. Because of their numbers, recent construction dates, and predictability of form, these houses are not usually accorded individual study. Their very profusion and uniformity, however, makes them a significant demographic feature. The typology allows the surveyor to quickly record the locations and fundamental features of these turn-of-the-century buildings. A code that summarizes these major characteristics is then used to identify each house on the survey maps.

The spatial frame of this typology is always the county to be surveyed. The temporal frame is a period of forty years between about 1880 and 1920, during which there was a discernible proliferation of these dwelling forms. Any older or more recently constructed houses must be treated separately, even though they exhibit the appropriate formal attributes.

Only buildings constructed as dwellings of light sawn wood are recorded within the parameters of this typology. The fabric requirement includes those houses composed of wood frame and weatherboarding, vertical-board boxing and weatherboarding, or board and batten. Recent application of such sheathings as asphalt paper or

asbestos shingles are ignored if datable features assured the proper period of construction.

Among dwellings with the proper formal characteristics, a fabric of brick, stone, or hewn logs generally indicates an earlier construction date, and these buildings are excluded from the typology on temporal grounds. A few buildings are always identified, however, that fit all the requirements of the typology except that of sawn-wood fabric. While it is not generally acceptable to categorize building types on the basis of material, it has been a useful limitation in this case. Typeable forms built of masonry or hewn logs usually exhibit distinguishing characteristics that suggest a different orientation or intention on the part of the builder. Such houses warrant individual study.

Within this framework, classification is made by plan:

- I. Double-Cell II. Double-Cell with Passage III. T-Plan IV. T-Plan with Passage

Both the double-cell or two-room plans; one of which has an intervening circulation space, have clear connections with the traditional domestic architecture of early 19th-century Kentucky. The T-plan, which was built both with and without a passage, originated with the 19th-century picturesque movement. Variations of the form appear in numerous popular publications. The rural Kentucky version can be sensibly interpreted as the result of a jogging forward of one of the two traditional front rooms. In this way, an otherwise symmetrical, unbroken facade is given a rambling, picturesque quality without major disruption of established room arrangements.

Variations in the typology are based on:

<u>Stories</u>	<u>Depth</u>	<u>Fenestration</u>	<u>Roof</u>
1. one	S. single pile	2. two bays	G. gable
2. two	D. double pile	3. three bays	P. pyramidal
		4. four bays	H. hipped
		5. five bays	

The attached diagram shows plans and diagnostic features that can be identified and recorded on the survey maps. For example, a one-story gable-roofed T-plan with a single file of rooms and a circulation passage would be marked on the map as: IV1SG. An additional designation for the number of bays is necessary for the flush facades of the double-cell and central-passage forms. For example, a two-story, five-bay, single-pile central-passage-plan dwelling (commonly called an I-house) would be recorded as I12S5G. While the use of four or five symbols to identify a plain house may seem excessively complex, it is an important part of responsibly recording these usually overlooked buildings. The separate designations both emphasize important variations in detail, and identify formal patterns among seemingly unrelated dwelling types.

Though this typology includes 120 possible combinations of features, only a limited range were ever built with any frequency. In addition, certain characteristics, such as the hipped roof (H) and the double-pile plan (D) are closely, though not inevitably linked. As might be expected, different combinations of features were favored in different parts of Kentucky. Some variations, such as the overwhelming predominance of three-bay double-cell houses (I1S3G) in Fleming County and four-bay versions (I1S4G) in Clark County, seem to be the result of local selection. Other differences can be linked to social, economic, or geographic factors. The one-story double-cell form, for example, has been associated with tenant farming in Kentucky and in accordance with this function, is usually inconspicuously sited in low areas, scattered fairly evenly across the county. In keeping with the popular, published origin of the type, the T-plan usually shows up in groups at stringtowns, small service communities that "string out" along sections of country roads, and at rural railroad crossings.

This rural house typology has worked well in Kentucky because of the high rate of predictability among the subjects. A word should be said about the reasons for this cohesion. All of these unpretentious houses were built in a period of Kentucky's history that was characterized by economic stagnation in the rural areas. New dwellings were

built either by landowners retrenching to more modest farming operations, or as housing for the growing number of tenant farmers. Simultaneously, the predominance of light wood construction came about as a result of the availability by rail of cheap milled lumber from regional urban centers, and the depletion of Kentucky's abundant timber which had formerly sustained local traditions of hewn-log and heavy-frame construction.

Accompanied by a descriptive, explanatory essay and photographs of representative examples, the typology can expand the number of buildings for which the surveyor has some record. In Daviess County, Kentucky, 300 buildings and structures were individually studied, and some 1100 additional buildings were coded on the maps according to this typology. Because of a relatively confining survey budget, these dwellings would not otherwise have received attention, except as amorphous, unmapped groups described in some final report of the county survey.

The use of a typology has obvious merit for numerous contexts in which large numbers of buildings have a relatively low variance in form and detail. The typology might be applicable to the treatment of urban speculator housing or industrial worker communities. Another use could be in the recording of specialized building forms such as tobacco barns or detached root cellars. It should be emphasized that the typology, like any system of categorization, is a framework that the surveyor is imposing on the subject at hand. For that reason, great care must accompany the selection of appropriate criteria. In order to insure that no important variations are ignored, it is necessary to precede the formulation of a typology with a period of field work during which the potential subject buildings are individually recorded. Properly used, however, the typology can be more than a necessary evil resulting from the surveyor's limited resources. It can emphasize relationships among forms, details, functions, and locations that are necessary to understanding architecture.

--Camille Wells
Kentucky Heritage Commission