

Abstract

Title of Final Project: THE MECHANICSBURG COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER AMENDMENT PROCESS & ANALYSIS

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The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office approved the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District, located in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, for listing on the National Register of Historic Places in 1983. According to the nomination, the historic district consists of 102 buildings with a suggested period of significance beginning in 1800 and continuing through the present. The entire document is eight pages long with half dedicated to the physical description and historic narrative of the district. In my prior research, I looked into the Black history of Mechanicsburg and identified it as a crucial area missing from this National Register form. For this project, I will research the underrepresented histories of people who made significant contributions within this historic district and amend the record, which will be reviewed by Pennsylvania's Historic Preservation Board and the National Park Service. In addition to the National Register amendment, I will write an analysis of the National Register amendment process, the difficulties therein, and potential areas for improvement.

THE MECHANICSBURG COMMERCIAL HISTORIC DISTRICT: A CASE STUDY OF THE
NATIONAL REGISTER AMENDMENT PROCESS & ANALYSIS

By

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Introduction

The National Register of Historic Places, established by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), lists significant historic properties in the United States. Since its creation, the National Register has grown to over 95,000 listed sites, and this figure increases each year.¹ Most notably, the listed National Register properties tend to focus on Eurocentric significance. Even if nonwhite stories of significance for the properties exist, this history has frequently been excluded from the public narrative. As of 2021, fewer than 10% of the National Register nominations reflect the histories of underrepresented communities, including, but not limited to, African American, Indigenous, Asian-American and Pacific Islander, Hispanic, and LGBTQ+ histories.² The early nominations in particular do not follow the same standards as the present day and an amendment process supports revisions to make them more substantive and accurate. My aim is to offer an analysis of the National Register amendment process through a case study of updating the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District to include Black history.

National Register Nomination Form History

The parameters for early National Register nominations were less stringent compared to the present day. Early National Register nominations comprised brief summaries for each section and a few photographs; however, the barrier to entry for nomination forms is presently much higher and requires more detail and analysis, extensive photographs, and high standards for writing style. Early forms required the author to fill out the site's name, location, classification, owners, description, significance, bibliography, geographical information, a verbal boundary

¹ "A Preservation Partnership: Digitizing the National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark Records," National Park Service, n.d., https://www.nps.gov/articles/nr_digitization.htm.

² Sherry Frear, Lisa Davidson, and Julie Ernstein, "Diversity + the National Register: 'How Will We Know It's Us?'" (PastForward21, Washington, D.C., November 3, 2021), https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRHP-NHL-PastForward-presentation-2021-11-03-with-script_508.pdf.

description, and a USGS map. In the classification section, the author had to select which type of historic property the nomination qualified under, if anyone lived at the property, ownership type, whether access was restricted, and its present uses. The description section allowed the author to identify the condition of property and if any alterations occurred, including if the structure moved locations at any point. In the significance section, authors could check a box beside significant periods of significance, which spanned a century, and could enter specific dates if inclined; the form also listed various areas of significance that authors could select from and justify in the significance statement.

Present day forms are an expansion upon the original documents. Aside from access information, current forms require the same information as before, but with some differences. New forms require the author to fill out the name of the property, location, ownership type, which type of historic property the nomination qualifies under, the number of contributing and noncontributing resources within the property, historic and current building functions, architectural styles, materials, a narrative description, select which criteria the property is significant under, the opportunity to select additional criteria considerations, areas of significance, periods of significance, significant dates, significant people, cultural affiliations, architects, the statement of significance, bibliography, geographical data, a USGS map, verbal boundary description and justification, a photo key, and photos. The criteria considerations allow authors to check a box beside specific considerations that would usually disqualify a property from the National Register, such as a reconstructed property or a property that achieved significance within the past 50 years. This option provides flexibility for nontraditional significant properties.³ Instead of selecting from a list, most of the remaining sections on the new

³ Traditional in the precedent set that cemeteries, properties owned by religious institutions, cemeteries, birthplaces, reconstructed sites, commemorative sites, and sites less than 50 years old are not eligible for the National Register.

forms require the author to write the information. For instance, instead of checking a box beside applicable areas of significance, researchers must reference separate instructions from the National Park Service and write out the determined significance area. When compared to early forms, new nominations must be more specific. Instead of selecting a century of significance, authors must now write the specific dates or date ranges of significance and provide justification.

The Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office Process

The National Park Service (NPS), as the keeper of the National Register, sets the standards for historic property nominations and documentation guidance. States receive and evaluate the nominations before approving the property for listing on the National Register. Each state has a similar approval process before it sends the nomination form to the NPS.

In 2021, the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office (PA-SHPO) launched PA-SHARE, an online statewide cultural resource management system. Not only is PA-SHARE a database of all historic resources in the state, individuals and organizations must use PA-SHARE to submit new information on historic properties for SHPO approval, including information on new National Register considerations.

The PA-SHPO National Register staff consists of two National Register Reviewers and a National Register Supervisor, overseen by the Division Manager of Preservation Services. When an individual or organization submits a new National Register nomination or amendment through PA-SHARE, the National Register Reviewers look through the information and provide feedback to the submitter. After the submitter makes the necessary changes and receives approval from the National Register staff, the National Register staff add the nomination to the next open meeting of the Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Review Board.

The Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Review Board consists of fourteen members representing different areas of expertise across the state. In 2025, the members of the Board represent seven counties and various professions in the field, such as archaeologists, professors, architects, consultants, developers, community advocates, and public historians.⁴ Among other duties, the Board reviews the National Register package and information compiled by SHPO staff and can approve the nomination for listing, approve the nomination with edits, or decline the nomination entirely. If approved by the Board, the SHPO staff send the information to the NPS for review and final listing.

Case Study: The Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District

According to the eight-page nomination form submitted in 1983, the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District is significant under Criterion A for commerce and Criterion C for architecture.⁵ However, I believe that the historic district is also eligible under Criterion B for the significance of J. W. Comager, an African American who owned a barbershop on West Main Street and took a particular interest in bringing electricity to the community.⁶ In addition to a new area of significance, the nomination form requires an update to better meet present-day standards set by the NPS (Appendix A).

The Best Practices Review, a publication by the NPS on National Register guidance, provided updated information in April 2023 on how to amend National Register documentation. Because the amendment for the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District adds a new

⁴ Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission, “Pennsylvania Historic Preservation Board Information,” n.d., <https://www.pa.gov/agencies/phmc/historic-preservation/national-register-of-historic-places/preservation-board.html>.

⁵ Susan G. Lott, “Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form,” 1983, <https://share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/resources/limited-view/5766301>.

⁶ According to Census records, the Comagers lived a few blocks away at 230 West Simpson Street. Bureau of the Census. 1910 U.S. Census; Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: T624_1335; Page: 16a; Enumeration District: 0024; database with images, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/discoveryui-content/view/24338649:7884>; accessed 24 Feb 2024).

criterion to the district, the amendment falls under the category of a substantive amendment instead of a technical amendment, which does not amend major categories like criteria, periods of significance, or boundary changes. The Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District does not require the adjustment of historic district boundaries, so no property owner or local official notification is required. The amendment requires a new Registration Form because it adds a significant amount to the original Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District nomination. The original documentation from 1983 is not replaced, but rather still exists as a record in addition to the amendment. Since a Registration Form requires information in all sections, the new form copies over and cites information from the original nomination to complete the document.⁷

Amending a National Register nomination, particularly for a historic district, is an involved and lengthy process. The National Park Service provides examples of listed amendments, which may be used as guiding documents. The Brookings Commercial Historic District in South Dakota, amended in 2020, was most similar to the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District and served as a template.⁸ The submission forms for National Register nominations have changed over the years and now include numerous sections requiring specific information on the criteria, building materials, and architectural styles.

The 1983 nomination for the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District did not include a field survey in the narrative. PA-SHARE had an undated building inventory, which was likely completed in tandem with the nomination based on the format of the document and descriptions. The example amendments posted by the National Park Service include an updated building inventory, which I completed for the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District.

⁷ National Park Service, “Amending National Register Documentation,” *Best Practices Review*, April 2023, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/BPR_additional-documentation-2023-04-12-FINAL.pdf.

⁸ Sherry De Boer, CB Nelson, and Sofia Mattesini, “Brookings Commercial Historic District,” 2020, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail/1b183198-7d50-4636-844c-2003e90a993c>.

Updating a building inventory is complicated, as addresses change over time, and architectural descriptions vary between preservationists. Known structures, such as churches, served as an anchor point to figure out which addresses were referenced in the original inventory. Referencing Sanborn Fire Insurance maps and Google Maps aided in observing changes in the district. I updated the building inventory with additional information not included in the original iteration, such as brick fenestration and window descriptions and any changes made.

Visiting the district to take photographs was most helpful in assessing the structures for changes, scale, and uniformity. I expected more changes from the original inventory than the reality. Only two buildings were demolished, which I discovered by going through the original inventory and comparing it to my updates. No large alterations changed the character of the buildings; the buildings with vinyl or aluminum siding had already been altered with this material in the original survey. With the exception of outbuildings and additions, no new structures were built within district boundaries.

In addition to updating the building inventory and adding it to the nomination amendment, I updated the significance statement and added a new criterion of significance for J.W. Comager. The 1983 nomination still stands as an accurate history of the borough, so the amendment expanded upon this information to include descriptive data on population changes and additional background and architectural information. The new nomination form requires more specificity for dates of significance, which is an area I clarified in the amendment. The 1983 nomination allowed the researcher to select entire centuries as dates of significance; Susan G. Lott selected “1800-1899” and “1900–” originally.⁹ I added clarification to these dates of significance by selecting 1837-c.1975. Although mechanics arrived in the district pre-1837, the

⁹ Lott, “Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form.”

Cumberland Valley Railroad's establishment in 1837 led to the most significant period of growth in the borough; the majority of extant contributing buildings in the historic district date to after 1837. Although businesses are still present in the district, this is no longer the major commercial center between Harrisburg and Carlisle due to local infrastructure improvements and larger shopping centers opening nearby between 1961 and 1975. To provide the required specificity for the amendment, I chose 1837-c.1975 to correlate with the establishment of the railroad and later diversion of traffic and commerce elsewhere locally.

Descendant Community Outreach

The NPS does not require input from descendant communities for National Register nominations; however, including descendants, especially from underrepresented communities, is a best practice for preservationists moving forward and should have been done in the past. Disregarding these histories, as seen in such examples as the prior exclusion of enslaved lives at Mount Vernon, prevents an accurate retelling of the history of a place through exclusion. Some historic properties, like Mount Vernon and Montpelier, began descendant community outreach to include these previously excluded histories.¹⁰ Integrating descendants within the preservation process allows researchers to include histories of underrepresented communities in a way that shares authority with the descendants and encourages dialogue to establish an accurate and authentic retelling of lives and events.

Based on my personal positionality and not being a part of the African American community, I made a good-faith attempt to contact descendants of John William (J.W.) Comager for this project in attempt to include them, get their opinions, and if willing, to share any familial

¹⁰ Mount Vernon Ladies' Association, "Researching Slavery," Researching Slavery, accessed April 29, 2025, <https://www.mountvernon.org/george-washington/slavery/researching-slavery>.

accounts or information about J.W. Comager. To find descendants, I relied upon obituary and census records to follow the paper trail of the Comager line.

J.W. Comager (1854-1934) died in 1934 and his wife, Emma, died three years later. The Comagers had five biological children: Carrie, Edith, Georganna, Rose, and Robbie, a son who did not survive past infancy. They fostered a teenage daughter who died of typhoid fever in 1916. Out of their children, only one daughter, Carrie, married and had children. Carrie and Wilson Craighead had three children: James, Louisa, and William. James Craighead married a woman named Geraldine Colbert, and they had two children, James W. Craighead IV and Sharman M. Craighead. The information about the Comager family is from public records, including obituaries and marriage announcements accessed via Ancestry.com.

I attempted to reach descendants of the Comager family in a few ways. I first attempted to reach out to possible descendants via Ancestry.com. I created a family tree for the Comager family in Ancestry to keep track of my genealogical research. Since Ancestry also owns Newspapers.com, users can digitally connect newspaper articles to people on family trees, which essentially creates a folder for each person and will show as “hints” to other users with these relatives listed on their trees. Further, if users have limited privacy settings, their trees will appear as possible hints for other users. I contacted four users with Comager relatives listed in their family trees through private messages but did not hear back. I also reached out to a local church that posted an obituary for a descendant to introduce myself and see if they would be willing to share my information with the relatives, but I did not get a response.

After some failures, I did succeed in contacting J.W. Comager's oldest living descendant, his great-granddaughter, Sharman Craighead. The 2023 obituary for James W. Craighead IV lists

Sharman Craighead as a surviving relative living in West Orange, New Jersey.¹¹ A Google search using her full name and town of residence resulted in multiple potential leads with contact information. I cross-referenced two sources, TruePeopleSearch.com and SmartBackgroundChecks.com, for the same phone number and cold-called Sharman. She answered the phone and was willing to share her family history. Sharman confirmed my research findings as accurate and provided more information. I emailed her a copy of my statement of significance for J.W. Comager to ensure that I told the story in a way that felt right to the family.

She shared that J.W. Comager partnered with a local inventor, Daniel Drawbaugh, to create an early version of the telephone. I searched newspaper articles and Daniel Drawbaugh's patents to find a connection between the two men, but was unsuccessful. The Bell Company, co-founded by Alexander Graham Bell in 1877, sued Daniel Drawbaugh and the People's Telephone Company in 1880 for claiming that they invented key components of the telephone first. A witness, Norman W. Kahney, testified on behalf of Drawbaugh and said that Drawbaugh had shown him "talking machines" in 1872, and that Drawbaugh spoke of partnering with an unnamed Mechanicsburg man to get a patent for these machines.¹² Although I did not find a direct mention of Comager, this information is compelling, as Comager was well-known for his electrical tinkering in the area. Ultimately, Bell won the lawsuit because Drawbaugh did not provide enough evidence to confirm his claims.¹³

¹¹ "James Craighead Obituary," The Patriot News, November 4, 2023, <https://obits.pennlive.com/us/obituaries/pennlive/name/james-craighead-obituary?id=53512251>.

¹² American Bell Telephone Company et al., Abstract of Evidence Taken in the Suit of American Bell Telephone Company et al. vs. the People's Telephone Company et Als. In Equity. [Bell vs. Drawbaugh], Now Pending in the Circuit Court of the United States, Southern District of New York (Boston: Press of Geo. M. Ellis, 1884), p.32, <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uiug.30112068218350&seq=1&q1=mechanicsburg>.

¹³ I spoke with Sharman Craighead over the phone on April 15th, 2025 and via email on May 13th, 2025.

Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District Amendment Analysis

African American history in Southcentral Pennsylvania is often overlooked and underappreciated, as this is a predominantly White area. The African American population in Mechanicsburg borough fluctuated, rising in the nineteenth century, decreasing in the mid-twentieth century, and rising again in the twenty-first century; in 2020, roughly 232 (2.5%) out of 9,311 residents in the borough identified as African American.¹⁴ Even though African Americans comprised a small fraction of the population, they contributed to significant changes in the local landscape, as seen through J.W. Comager's electrical work. Researching and amending National Register nominations to include African American history retroactively recognizes these contributions and is a small step in acknowledging the full history of a given place.

Recommendations

The evolution of the National Register and its processes since 1966 has led to more stringent requirements, hence while older National Register nominations may have fewer than 10 pages, present day forms have dozens, if not over one hundred, pages. A 2019 survey by the NPS indicated that it takes private individuals and government entities 250 hours to complete a National Register nomination and 120 hours for consultants.¹⁵ Early nomination forms, such as

¹⁴ United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mechanicsburg Borough, Pennsylvania," United States Census Bureau, accessed April 10, 2025, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mechanicsburgboroughpennsylvania/POP010220>.

¹⁵ National Park Service, Interior, "A Proposed Rule by the National Park Service on 03/01/2019," Federal Register: The Daily Journal of the United States Government, March 1, 2019, <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2019/03/01/2019-03658/national-register-of-historic-places>.; For comparison, there were 106 African American residents in Mechanicsburg in 1900 and only 25 in 1940. 900 United States Census of Population, Volume I, Sex, General Nativity, and Color, Part I, p. 638, <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1901/dec/vol-01-population.html>; 1940 United States Census of Population, Volume 2. Characteristics of the Population. Sex, Age, Race, Nativity, Citizenship, Country of Birth of Foreign-born White, School Attendance, Years of School Completed, Employment Status, Class of Worker, Major Occupation Group, and Industry Group, Part IV, Pennsylvania to Texas, p.100 <https://www.census.gov/library/publications/1943/dec/population-vol-2.html>.

the one prepared for the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District in 1983, did not require a breakdown of contributing and noncontributing resources in historic districts, historic and current functions or uses of structures, architectural classifications, materials used, and specific dates of significance. Regarding dates of significance, early nomination forms required the author to pick a period of significance, which spanned a century, rather than selecting specific dates and providing justification. Nominations require researchers to craft an argument to justify the significance of the property or district. Although SHPOs will aid researchers through feedback and edits, the standards for listing heighten through underwritten rules wherein the SHPO or NPS denies property nominations if the researcher does not provide adequate justification for the property's significance.¹⁶ The increased professionalization of the National Register has raised the barrier to entry for historic properties, and relies on specialized researchers to complete the documentation rather than laypersons.

This, along with the NPS guidelines and various review boards in each state, have prevented the saturation of the National Register; however, the difficulties in listing properties on the National Register have prevented the process from being equitable. Outsourcing National Register nominations is not cheap; the cost is usually in the thousands or tens of thousands of dollars, depending on the size and complexity of the property or district. Some organizations may have the bandwidth and experienced personnel to submit nominations, but this is not commonplace.

Since a property's age does not directly qualify it as historically significant, its researchers must craft an argument in the form of a statement of significance to prove to the review board and NPS that the property is worthy of being listed. Even though the National

¹⁶ Since the NPS and SHPOs generally do not make public statements about rejected applications, this statement comes from my personal experiences in talking with consultants and interning at the PA-SHPO.

Register is mostly an honorary designation that provides limited protections to properties, the federal recognition of properties is vital to the identity of communities and can provide eligibility for grants.

The National Register process should not become more professionalized than it already is. The current nomination requirements put communities without adequate funding to pay for consultants at a disadvantage. Learning how to write a National Register nomination takes time and research. Systems like PA-SHARE create a barrier to entry for laypersons due to the subscription fees and putting valuable research information behind a paywall. Recording significant aspects of America's history should not put unnecessary financial burdens upon small organizations with important properties. Consistently raising the standards for national listing creates elitism within the National Register and underrepresents sites unable to meet the professional standards or carry the financial burden. Although preservationists and consultants in related fields deserved to receive payment for their expertise, the rising standards create unnecessary challenges.

Generally, properties eligible for listing receive similar benefits to those already listed. Section 106 considers both categories of historic properties for adverse effects in federal undertakings, the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties applies to both categories, and many preservation grants permit properties of both statuses to apply. Since the benefits of listing extends to eligible properties as well, this emphasizes the unnecessary barriers in the listing process. The recognition of eligible properties along with listed ones partially acknowledges that all eligible properties are not listed, yet are still worthy of inclusion in preservation practices. This applies to properties that communities are not interested in listing, and vice versa.

All National Register nomination authors should make a good-faith effort to search for significant underrepresented histories to include on the original submission form. In some cases, such as the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District, the underrepresented histories may require additional research. Often, records of nonwhite individuals were disregarded, and so these histories may not be as apparent. Researchers, especially those with varied positionalities compared to the underrepresented histories they are writing about, should attempt to contact descendants or communities related to the specified group. Notably, if the information includes African American history relating to enslavement, researchers should follow “The Rubric” set by James Madison’s Montpelier in collaboration with the National Trust for Historic Preservation on engaging descendant communities.¹⁷ Although this document is intended for use more so in the interpretation and information available on enslavement at historic properties and in museums, researchers would benefit by using “The Rubric” to write or amend National Register documentation as well. The researcher will interpret the significance of enslavement through the National Register documentation and should do due diligence to include descendants as much as possible in this interpretation.

In addition to researchers with new nominations making a good-faith effort to include underrepresented histories, more work should be done in updating documentation on existing National Register properties.¹⁸ Examples like the Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District show that members of underrepresented histories have always contributed to the areas in which

¹⁷ Michael Blakely et al., “Engaging Descendant Communities in the Interpretation of Slavery at Museums and Historic Sites: A Rubric of Best Practices Established by the National Summit on Teaching Slavery,” October 25, 2018, https://montpelierdescendants.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/Interpreting-Slavery-10_19_18.pdf.

¹⁸ Updating existing National Register nominations is not as popular as new nomination submissions; however, the NPS emphasized the importance of this work in recent years. The NPS created the Underrepresented Communities Grant in 2014, in which amendments are eligible projects. The NPS published instructions on how to amend National Register nominations in April 2023 as part of their *Best Practices Review* publication. The NPS uses examples of successful applications from Arizona, Georgia, Kansas, North Carolina, South Dakota, and Vermont as templates for future amendments.

they reside, but have been excluded from the records and public memory. Early preservation often focused on wealthy, White histories; preservationists today must work to correct the documentation of the past and ensure this practice does not continue into the future. As this amendment shows, Black history is an essential part of Mechanicsburg's history, built into the fabric of the town, and contributed to its development.

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accessed 24 Feb 2024.

Appendix A: Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation)

**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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Other names/site number: _____

Name of related multiple property listing:

N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: Main Street from Arch Street to High Street

City or town: Mechanicsburg State: Pennsylvania County: Cumberland

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 at the following level(s) of significance:

___ **national** ___ **statewide** ___ **local**

Applicable National Register Criteria:

___ **A** ___ **B** ___ **C** ___ **D**

_____ Signature of certifying official/Title:	_____ Date
_____ State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District
(Additional Documentation)

Cumberland County, PA

Name of Property

County and State

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official:

Date

Title :

**State or Federal agency/bureau
or Tribal Government**

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- 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

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>88</u>	<u>8</u>	buildings
_____	_____	sites
_____	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>88</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 91

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6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Hotel

Commerce/Trade: Business

Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

Social: Clubhouse

Government: Fire Station

Government: Correctional Facility

Religion: Religious Facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Domestic: Multiple Dwelling

Commerce/Trade: Business

Commerce/Trade: Financial Institution

Commerce/Trade: Professional

Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store

Commerce/Trade: Restaurant

Government: Fire Station

Religion: Religious Facility

Funerary: Mortuary

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Late Victorian: Gothic

Late Victorian: Italianate

Late Victorian: Second Empire

Late Victorian: Queen Anne

Late Victorian: Romanesque

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property:

Wood: Weatherboard

Brick

Stone: Brownstone

Metal: Aluminum

Stucco

Concrete

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Purpose of Amendment

The Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District (NRIS#83002232) has not been updated since its original listing date of April 21, 1983. This record is being amended to fit the National Register's current (2025) requirements. The amendment follows the guidance set forth by the National Park Service in amending listed sites and the Brookings Commercial Historic District (NRIS#88000029), in South Dakota, amended in 2020.¹ The boundaries have not been changed, however, updated addresses are used. The amendment includes a reevaluation of contributing

¹ National Park Service, "Amending National Register Documentation," Best Practices Review, April 2023, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/BPR_additional-documentation-2023-04-12-FINAL.pdf; Sherry De Boer, CB Nelson, and Sofia Mattesini, "Brookings Commercial Historic District," 2020, <https://npgallery.nps.gov/NRHP/AssetDetail/1b183198-7d50-4636-844c-2003e90a993c>.

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and noncontributing structures, inclusion of photographs, a photo key, maps, the addition of a new criterion of significance, and adjusting the period of significance.

The Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District in 2025

The district contains three blocks of commercial and residential buildings located on or adjacent to Main Street. The district starts at 61/56 East Main Street and ends at 138/189 West Main Street. Structures situated on parts of High, Frederick, Market, Arch Streets, and Railroad Avenue are also included in the historic district. The majority of structures are two to three story brick buildings, often featuring decorative elements within the cornice. Most facades have not been significantly altered, with the exception of aluminum siding added to several structures.

Commercial architecture, specifically two-part commercial blocks, comprise the majority of the district. Many buildings have Italianate influences, as seen through the numerous bracketed cornices; 57-59 West Main Street exemplifies this style.

Brick is the dominant material, although other materials are present in the district. Two buildings within the district, 36 and 55 West Main Street, are Romanesque in style and made of brownstone. Other buildings, like 40 East Main Street, are clad in aluminum siding but still maintain the district's scale and feel.

The streetscape varies slightly throughout the district. Concrete sidewalks front the buildings. All crosswalks crossing Main Street are brick; crosswalks surrounding all sides of the Market Square are also brick. Tree pits are sporadically placed in the sidewalks throughout the district, and the species vary but include pin oak, red oak, and Japanese Zelkova trees.

The district holds a high degree of integrity and has remained relatively unchanged since the 1983 nomination. Alterations stay consistent with the character of the district. Since the original survey, two buildings, 22 East Main Street (contributing) and 1-5 West Main Street (intrusion), were demolished. 22 East Main Street is now part of the greenspace and parking lot for the First Church of God. 1-5 West Main Street is now a vacant lot.

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Narrative Description

INVENTORY LIST

For the purposes of this amendment, the undated original field survey will be input in this amendment, as it was originally separate from the 1983 nomination will be included, and updated information is provided below the original survey information.²

MAIN STREET

56 East Main St

c.1868

Contributing

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“56 East Main Street is a four bay, two story brick, gable roof house in the Georgian style. There are two, enclosed end chimneys, straight, molded lintels, and a simple brick cornice. The recessed main entry has a transom and there are two entrances on Arch Street with transoms.”

Updated Description

56 East Main Street is a four-bay, two-story, brick building with a rear ell, and a side gable roof. The door has a small hood supported by brackets above a two-light transom. Wide pilasters surround the door and transom. The door of the northernmost entry was replaced, and the transom is now covered with wood; a second entry door no longer exists and has brick infill. All windows are one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. There are two exterior end chimneys and decorative brickwork in the cornice.

61 East Main St

Contributing

c.1850

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“61 East Main Street is a two story, three bay, frame, hipped roof house in the Queen Anne style. There are hipped roof dormers in the front and east. The windows have small, flat, bracketed hoods and some small windows and transoms have stained glass. There is a two story tower on the east with a conical roof and finial. The tower and the porch (C. 1910) have modillioned cornices. The building has been altered on several occasions, most recently by the application of aluminum siding.”

² All spelling and punctuation is copied directly from the original survey. “Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District Cumberland County: Building Inventory,” n.d., PA-SHARE.; Updated descriptions will include terminology from Richard Longstreth’s *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture*, where applicable. Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture, Updated Edition* (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 2000).

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Updated Description

61 East Main Street is a three-bay, two-story, frame, hipped roof, Queen Anne style house, clad in aluminum siding. The porch has short balustrade and roof, which is supported by columns. The entry door, on the western side of the façade, has a transom and sidelights. The windows on the second floor have small hoods supported by brackets. There is a two-story tower (c.1910) on the east with a conical roof, finial, and modillioned cornice. All windows on the façade, including the tower, are one-over-one hung sash windows with simple surrounds. There are hipped roof dormers in the front and east. The dormer facing East Main Street has three lights.

54 East Main St
Contributing
c.1865

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“54 East Main Street is a five bay, two story, stucco on brick, gable roof structure. There is a simple molded cornice with brackets and straight, molded lintels. The deeply recessed front entrance has a transom and sidelights and an open porch across the middle three bays (C. 1930). There are two decorated gable dormers on the roof and two, one story outbuildings on the property.”

Updated Description

54 East Main Street is a five-bay, two-story, two-part commercial block with a gable roof. The original building was brick, and stucco has been applied overtop. There is an open porch extending across the middle three bays (c.1930) in front of the recessed entrance. The entry door has a transom and sidelights and panels. All windows are two-over-two hung sash windows with molded cornices and simple surrounds. There are two gable dormers on the roof with molded cornices and two-over-two hung sash windows. The bracketed, molded cornice is below the dormers. There is one interior end brick chimney on the western elevation.

50 East Main St
Contributing
c.1885

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“50 East Main Street is a five bay, three story, brick Second Empire structure. It has three bracketed dormers with returns in the slate, third floor facade, a simple cornice on small, double brackets and molded, straight lintels. There is a flat, bracketed hood over an arched, front entrance, semi-circular doors with glass panels, and brownstone steps and foundation facing. On the property is a frame, one story stable/garage.”

Updated Description

50 East Main Street is a five-bay, three-story brick Second Empire building. Scrolled, patterned brackets support a hood above the door. The door is slightly recessed and arched. There is a raised keystone in the wooden frieze above the door, along with decorative paneling. The

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pilasters surrounding the door have multiple decorative raised panels. The windows are two-over-two hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The cornice is molded with six sets of paired brackets. It has three bracketed dormers with returns and two-over-two hung sash windows in the slate, Mansard roof.

57-59 East Main St

Contributing

c.1865

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“57-59 East Main Street is a three story, five bay, brick duplex building in the Italianate style. There is an incised decoration in the frieze and the cornice is supported by ten carved brackets. The building has two main entrances with flat, bracketed hoods, transoms and paneled doors. A shop window in #57 is a contemporary addition.”

Updated Description

57-59 East Main Street is a five-bay, three-story, brick duplex Italianate building. #57 has the appearance of a two-part commercial block. The entry door to #57 has a bracketed hood, pilasters, a covered transom, and stained glass sidelights and a panel. The entry door to #59 has a bracketed hood, pilasters, and stained glass transom. The first floor window on #57 is a fixed window aligned with the second and third stories with molded surrounds. All of the first, second, and third floor windows on #59 are one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The bracketed cornice has incised decoration in the frieze. There is an exterior end, cinderblock chimney on the eastern elevation.

46 East Main St

Contributing

c.1887

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“46 East Main Street is a two bay, three story, frame Second Empire style structure. It has a single, large, triangular dormer in the slate, third story, a projecting bay (C. 1910) on the second story and a contemporary store front on the first story. The building has been altered by the recent application of aluminum siding and the enclosure of a porch on the east side.”

Updated Description

46 East Main Street is a two-bay, three-story, frame, two-part commercial block with Second Empire features, such as a faux Mansard roof. The building has been altered by the application of aluminum siding and enclosure of the porch on the eastern side. The first floor storefront has vertical siding, and a recessed entrance with large, fixed commercial windows beside the door and facing East Main Street. There is a projecting bay (c.1910) on the second story that has four one-over-one hung sash windows and vertical siding. A large, triangular dormer with vertical siding pierces the slate, faux Mansard roof. A narrow fixed window is centered in the dormer. The western elevation has a brick exterior end chimney.

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55 East Main St

Contributing

c.1885

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“55 East Main Street is a three story, three bay, frame Queen Anne structure. Built by C. H. Titzel, a local carpenter and undertaker as his residence, the house is an exceptional example of a cabinet maker's craftsmanship. The main facade is faced with wood cut to resemble stone. It has an elaborate, incised cornice and brackets. The projecting three story bay on the east is embellished by a wealth of richly carved latticework, brackets and elaborate molding. The roof of the bay is a curved, gable roof with a latticework vergeboard. There is a round window in the gable with a small balustrade supported by brackets. The bay has five windows in the second story and three windows in the first, each with semi-circular decorative "fan" cut panels above. The front entrance hood rests of carved brackets with pendants. The entry door is recessed and has glass panels. The front yard has iron fencing. A porch on the west was enclosed and a story was added C. 1950.”

Updated Description

55 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame, Queen Anne house. Built by C.H. Titzel, a local carpenter and undertaker as his residence, the house is an exceptional example of the cabinet maker's craftsmanship. The main facade is faced with wood cut to resemble stone. A porch on the west was enclosed and a story was added c.1950. The entry door is aligned with the first bay and has a hood resting upon elaborate brackets with pendants. The projecting, three-story, gable front, bay on the east side of the façade has latticework vergeboard and a bracketed cornice with decorative incisions. The first floor of the bay has three one-over-one windows with the same “fanlights,” plus additional decorative carvings above this paneling and decorative brackets. The second story of the projecting bay has five one-over-one hung sash windows with carved woodwork imitating fanlights. The third story in the bay has a circular stained glass window with a small balustrade supported by brackets and moldings underneath. Located below a Greek key motif within the frieze, the remaining window on the second floor is a one-over-one hung sash window with an elaborately molded cornice with a keystone and brackets. The bracketed cornice has decorative incisions, which match the decoration on the bay.

42 East Main St

Noncontributing

c.1950

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion in the original survey.

“42 East Main Street is a one story, cinderblock commercial structure.”

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Updated Description

42 East Main Street is a three-bay, one-story, cinderblock one-part commercial block. The storefront is clad in vertical aluminum siding. Two large fixed windows bracket the entrance door. The building features a false Mansard roof made of wooden shingles above the storefront.

**53 East Main St
Contributing
1907**

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“53 East Main Street is a two story, three bay, brick and cut stone fire company building. This is the Washington Fire Company building, the oldest fire company in the borough. The building was built in 1907 to replace the original 1859 structure. The cupulo has a rounded head, pediments on four sides and four, arched openings with keystones. There is a modillioned cornice over the frieze in which is written "Washington Fire Co. No. 1". The windows have three light transoms over one-over-one lights. The first floor has been considerably altered to accommodate modern fire equipment. The building was constructed by a Mr. Hartiline.”

Updated Description

53 East Main Street is a three-bay, two-story, brick and cut stone fire company building. The building was built in 1907 by a Mr. Hartiline to replace the original 1859 structure. The first floor has been considerably altered to accommodate modern fire equipment, and has a large garage door with eighteen lights in the center section of the door. There is a sandstone water table above the first floor. The second floor has one-over-one hung sash windows with cut stone lintels and sills and three light transoms. There are cut brownstone quoins on each side of the second floor façade. A modillioned cornice over the frieze "Washington Fire Co. No. 1." The cupola has a rounded head, pediments on four sides and four, arched openings with keystones.

**40 East Main St
Contributing
c.1856**

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“40 East Main Street is a three story, three bay, frame building. Originally an Italianate style building, it has been considerably altered by the addition of a third story, and the application of aluminum siding.”

Updated Description

40 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame, two-part commercial block. The Italianate features were removed with the addition of the third story and application of aluminum siding. The first floor windows and entry door, on the east side of the façade, each have an aluminum awning with acrylic fabric. The first and second story windows are all one-over-one hung sash windows with simple surrounds. The third floor features gable louver vents centered above the second floor windows. The building has one interior end chimney on the western elevation.

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51 East Main St
Contributing
1825

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“Union Church is a one and one-half story, three bay by three bay, brick, gable roof church. Built in 1825, it is the oldest public building in Mechanicsburg. The gable end, which faces the street, has multiple, small brackets and a half-round window in the gable. Immediately below the window is the datestone, inscribed with "Union Church - Built A.D. 1825". The twelve-over-twelve windows have bull's eye corner blocks as does the center entrance bay. The entry door is paneled and has a ten light transom. The roof and cupulo [sic] were destroyed by fire (C. 1935), but have been well reproduced.”

Updated Description

Union Church, located at 51 East Main Street, is a three-bay, one-and-a-half-story, brick, gable front church. Built in 1825, it is the oldest public building in Mechanicsburg. The roof and cupola were destroyed by fire (c.1935), but have been well reproduced. The façade of the building is laid in Flemish bond brickwork, and the remainder is 5:1 common bond. Brick stairs lead to the entry door, which is aligned with the center bay and has a ten light transom above the paneled door. The twelve-over-twelve windows have bull's eye corner blocks, as does the center entrance bay, and shutters. The datestone is above the entry door, inscribed with "Union Church - Built A.D. 1825." There are scrolled anchor plates on either side of the datestone. There is a half-round window in the gable front above the datestone. The cornice of the façade is bracketed.

36-38 East Main St
Contributing
c.1857

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“36 East Main Street is a five bay, three story, brick, Italianate building. It has a detailed, molded cornice supported on elaborate double brackets, molded, arched window headers and a recessed, arched main entrance with semi-circular doors on the east bay. The 1906 storefront has a modillioned cornice, plate glass store windows and decorative stained glass panels and brownstone steps and foundation facing. The interior soda fountain is little altered since a 1929 renovation and retains many of the 1929 furnishings. There are a large two and one-half story brick and decorative cut shingle barn and a frame, one story outbuilding on the property. The Eckels' family began operating a pharmacy here in 1879 and has continued operation since.”

Updated Description

36 East Main Street is a five-bay, three story, brick, Italianate, two-part commercial block with an enframed window wall. John H. Hershman built the structure in 1857. The entry door is recessed and features brackets, pilasters, and an archway with a transom above the door. The storefront has a modillioned cornice, stained glass panels below, and large, glass store windows.

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The second and third story windows are two-over-two hung sash windows with segmentally arched, molded, eared lintels with simple surrounds. The cornice features paired brackets and decorative paneling in the frieze. The Eckels' family operated a pharmacy at this location beginning in 1879. Maybelle Eckels Derr, the first female pharmacist in town, took over the pharmacy and oversaw renovations in 1929.³ The building is no longer the Eckels' pharmacy or owned by the Eckels family. Since 2014, Deb McCreary has operated Eckel's Ice Cream Fountain out of the building and named the business in homage to the Eckels family.

39 East Main St
Contributing
c.1858

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

"39 East Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick Italianate building. It has elaborate brackets, a simple frieze and straight, molded lintels. The main entrance in the west bay has a flat, bracketed hood over a recessed, slightly arched door with glass panels. There is a business entrance in the east bay."

Updated Description

39 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features, including a bracketed cornice. The entry door aligns with the first bay and is slightly recessed with a bracketed hood and pilasters. The windows on the first floor are single hung sash windows with transoms and molded lintels with simple surrounds. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds.

26 East Main St
Contributing
1867

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

"26 East Main Street is the Church of God, a large, imposing, brick church. It is of Gothic form with Romanesque windows. The datestones read, "Built 1845", "Rebuilt 1867", and "Remodeled 1978". The recent remodeling removed many of the Gothic features, but the church remains a significant structure."

Updated Description

The Church of God is a three-bay, three-story church structure. A 1978 remodel has removed most of the Gothic features, but the structure still retains a Gothic form. The church is a front-gabled main block; the façade consists of three levels, a projecting central tower aligning with the belfry, and brick columns with an imprinted panel on the upper half on each side of the façade. A recessed door is in the central tower with a fan light and thick molding framing the

³ Beverly J. Bone, *Images of America: Mechanicsburg* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2018), 62.

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exterior of the doorframe in a semicircle. The lower part of the façade contains semi-arched stained glass windows with decorative cornices on either side of the tower. The central level of the facade has three stained glass arched windows. The central window is larger, slightly recessed, and with a decorative, molded architrave with pilasters. The arched windows on either side of the central tower are smaller with minimal surrounds, and two small rectangular areas with brick infill are above each side window. The upper level of the façade in the central tower features two slightly recessed, narrow, arched windows with simple moldings, each containing 24 lights. The three tiered belfry is below the steeple, featuring a projecting cornice on each tier. Arched vents are on four sides of the belfry and are surrounded by a simple molding with a keystone at the top. The steeple consists of a cross atop a narrow octagonal tower.

35 East Main St
Contributing
c.1856

Original Survey

35 East Main Street is listed as contributing in the original survey.

“35 East Main Street is a three bay, three story, brick building with Italianate features. It is attached to 37 East Main Street with which it shares a cornice, brackets and a contemporary storefront. There is a porte cochere on the west of the building.”

Updated Description

35 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. It is attached to 37 East Main Street with which it shares a cornice, brackets and a contemporary storefront. The first floor façade has brick veneer applied over the original brick, which was laid in 1:5 common bond. The recessed entry door has a fanlight, decorative paneling surrounds, and pilasters. There are two arched windows, the keystones and corner blocks aligned with the second and third bays. A sandstone water table with vertical incised grooves and medallions separates the storefront from the second story. The second and third stories are Flemish bond brickwork. The windows on the second and third stories are two-over-two hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. There is a porte cochere on the west side of the building. 35 & 37 East Main Street are both occupied by Buhrig Funeral & Cremation.

37 East Main St
Contributing
c.1856

Original Survey

37 East Main Street is listed as contributing in the original survey.

“37 East Main Street is a two bay, three story, brick building in the Italianate style. It is attached to 35 East Main Street with which it shares a cornice, brackets and contemporary storefront.”

Updated Description

37 East Main Street is a two-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block in the Italianate style. It is attached to 35 East Main Street with which it shares a cornice, brackets, and

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contemporary storefront. The first floor façade has brick veneer applied over the original brick, which was laid in 1:5 common bond. There is a covered recessed, arched, entry door with keystones, corner blocks, and a stained glass fanlight supported by brackets. The entry door has a fanlight, decorative paneling surrounds, and pilasters. There are arched windows on either side of the door with keystones and corner blocks. The second and third stories are Flemish bond brickwork. The windows on the second and third stories are paired one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. 35 & 37 East Main Street are both occupied by Buhrig Funeral & Cremation.

2-8 East Main St
Contributing
1926

Original Survey

The main building (c.1926) is listed as significant in the original survey, and the 1935 addition is listed as an intrusion; however, as this addition is connected to the original building and fits the scale and character of the district, the entire structure contributes to the district.

The original description of the 1926 structure: “This building is a monumental, one story, three bay by five bay, sandstone, Neoclassical Revival structure. The front facade has monumental, Ionic pilasters with scrolls flanking the arched main entry. Carved in the parapet is "Founded in 1859-Erected in 1926", and in the frieze, "The First Bank and Trust Co.". Between the parapet and the frieze is a cornice with dentils. The center three bays of the west facade are large, arched windows with carved keystones. The building is set back from the street to observe the traditional borough square.”

The original description of the 1935 addition: “This building is a large, four bay, brick, gable roof structure. The front facade has arcading wall detail with keystones over the four twelve-over-twelve bays. It is connected to the main bank building by a contemporary walkway with two, large arched windows.”

Updated Description

The main structure (1926) is a three-bay, one-story, Neoclassical Revival, sandstone, vault building. The entrance is recessed and framed by Ionic pilasters, surrounding a large, arched window above the door. The door surrounds are parapeted with small dentils and paneling. There is a clock inset in the paneling. A large fanlight is above a ten-over-two fixed window with sidelights. The front façade has a parapeted roofline with “Founded in 1859 / Erected in 1926” in the parapet. On either side of the text in the parapet are two carved rosettes with floral motifs. The cornice is molded with dentils underneath. The addition (1935) is a four bay, one story, brick, gable roof structure, which is connected to the main structure via an enclosed walkway that has two large, arched windows. The walkway and addition are both 1:5 common bond brick. The front facade has arcading wall detail with keystones over the four twelve-over-twelve windows. The windows in the addition are centered within each arch, and each has a flat arch. Most recently, the structure functioned as a PNC Bank.

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27 East Main St
Contributing
c.1850

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“27 East Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick Italianate building. It has double end chimneys, a paneled cornice and frieze, and multiple, elaborate brackets. The windows have cut marble lintels. The recessed front entrance has a flat, bracketed hood with dentils and a paneled door with a transom. The steps and foundation facing are brownstone.”

Updated Description

27 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick Italianate building. The steps and foundation facing are brownstone. The entry door is on the western side of the façade and is slightly recessed with a flat, bracketed hood with dentils, pilasters, and paneling. There is a stained glass transom above the door. All windows are two-over-two hung sash windows with simple surrounds and cut, marble lintels. It has a bracketed cornice with panels between the brackets and on the frieze, and double interior end chimneys on each side.

23-25 East Main St

Contributing
c.1835

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey under 25 East Main Street.

“25 East Main Street is a two story, four bay, frame Georgian style building. The clapboard front facade has a decorative cut cornice and five double brackets. Although the building has been altered during its history, it survives as an excellent example of the Georgian style architecture that characterized Mechanicsburg's early development. At the rear of the property is a two story, double gable, brick building. It was formerly the Charles Barnes Whip Factory (1896) and the Myers Furniture Co. Storage rooms.”

Updated Survey

23-25 East Main Street is a four-bay, two-story, frame, two-part commercial block. The entry door is on the west side of the façade with a transom, simple surrounds, and pilasters. Two paired windows and a set of three large, fixed commercial windows with paneling below make up the rest of the storefront. There is an awning extending over the sidewalk above the first floor. The building was recently remodeled including vinyl siding covering the second floor and removal of decorative lintels. The second story has six-over-six hung sash windows with simple surrounds. The cornice is supported by paired brackets alternating with decorative molding.

19 East Main St

Contributing
c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 21 East Main Street in the original survey.

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“21 East Main Street is a three story, three bay, frame building with Italianate features. It has a cornice with dentils and brackets. The building has been covered with insulbrick and has a C. 1950 storefront. Biddle's Store, the successor to Elcock and Company, 15-17 East Main Street, is located in this building.”

Updated Description

19 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. The insulbrick has been removed and the clapboard is visible. The first floor storefront has two recessed entrances within an enframed window wall. There are large, fixed commercial windows in the center, and a cornice above the entrances. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The cornice is bracketed, alternating with dentils. A hair salon is now located in this building.

11-17 East Main St Contributing c.1911

Original Survey

Listed as significant under 15-19 East Main Street in the original survey.

“15-19 East Main Street is a large, seven bay, four story, brick commercial building with Italianate features. It has a modillioned cornice, with two styles of elaborate brackets and a deep, molded frieze. The one-over-one windows have smaller upper lights, with dentil molding between the lights. The windows on fourth floor the are smaller than those on the second and third. It was built, C. 1911, for Joseph Elcock, a prominent [sic] dry goods merchant, who had been in business at this site since 1867. The storefront was altered C. 1960.”

Updated Description

11-17 East Main Street is a seven-bay, four-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. It was built (c.1911) for Joseph Elcock, a prominent dry goods merchant who had operated out of this location beginning in 1867. The first and second bays of the first floor contain a private entry door and fixed window. The rest of the first floor is comprised of a permastone enframed window wall storefront with paneling and a recessed entrance with multiple fixed commercial windows. The second and third story windows are paired single-light hung sash windows with transoms and simple surrounds. The fourth story windows from the first to fourth bays are paired, single-light hung sash windows with simple surrounds. The fourth story windows from the fifth through the seventh bays are single-light hung sash windows with transoms and simple surrounds. The cornice features two styles of brackets alternating with modillions and a molded frieze.

7-9 East Main St Contributing c.1835

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

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“7-9 East Main Street is a four story, two bay, brick, two part commercial block with Romanesque features. The fourth floor has a Mansard roof with a large, modillioned arch over four windows. The second and third floors have projecting bays in the west and single windows in the east bays. The building is faced with decorative brick. It has been little altered since 1909 when the building front was added.”

Updated Description

7-9 East Main Street is a two-bay, four-story brick building with Second Empire features. The building is faced with decorative brick. There are two recessed entrances. The western entry door has a covered transom; the eastern entry door has an eight light transom. The central section between the entrances is a bay with fixed windows and six to eight light transoms above and paneling underneath. There is a molded cornice with paired brackets at each end above the storefront and paneling within the frieze. The second and third floors have recessed bays in the west and twelve-over-one hung sash windows with simple surrounds in the east bays. The second story bay has one-over-one hung sash windows. The third floor bay window has nine-over-one hung sash windows with paneling in between the bays. The fourth floor has a Mansard roof with a large, modillioned arch with paneling over four windows. The center windows are six-over one hung sash windows with 12 light windows on either side.

**5 East Main St
Contributing
c.1830**

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“5 East Main Street is a four bay, three story, brick building in the Italianate style. It shares a cornice with 1-3 East Main Street with elaborate, multiple brackets and has molded lintels. The first floor has been altered by the application of permastone.”

Updated Description

5 East Main Street is a four-bay, three-story, Italianate two-part commercial block with Flemish bond brickwork. The first floor storefront has been altered by the application of permastone and has a bracketed cornice and paneling. The two entrances are recessed with transoms above each door. There is a fixed commercial window with a two light transom to the west of each door. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. It is topped by a bracketed cornice.

**1-3 East Main St
Contributing
c.1830**

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“1-3 East Main Street is a three bay, three story, brick building with Italianate features. Originally two stories, a third story and modern windows were added in 1858. The building has

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elaborate, multiple brackets on the front and west facades and unusual tasseled lintels on the west. It shares a cornice and brackets with 5 East Main Street. A projecting bay on the west two bays of the second and third floors was added c.1910. The first floor was altered by the addition of a cast concrete storefront C. 1950.”

Updated Description

1-3 East Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features, including a bracketed cornice. The first floor storefront has a molded cornice with a recessed entrance. The entry door is two commercial double doors with a transom and fixed commercial windows on either side with transoms. A projecting two-story bay (c.1910) was added on the west side of the façade in 1910. The center bay windows are one-over-one hung sash; the windows on either side of it are six-over-one hung sash windows. The bay has two molded cornices and paneling below the windows. The third story and modern windows were added in 1858. The remaining windows on the second and third stories are six-over-one hung sash windows with tasseled lintels and molded outer sills.

2-8 West Main St

Contributing

c.1840

Original Survey

The addition (c.1965) is listed as an intrusion and the main structure (c.1840) is listed as a contributing resource in the original survey.

Original description for the addition: “8 West Main Street is a one and one-half story brick, gable roof commercial building.”

Original description for the main structure: “2-6 West Main Street is a three bay, two and one-half story, brick commercial building with a gable roof. It has three, enlarged, arched windows with keystones on the front and east facades. The main entry has a pediment and pilasters.

Originally the home and store of John Riegel, the eastern three bays became the Second National Bank in the early 1860's. The building had been a five bay, two and one-half story, brick, Georgian building with three roof dormers. It has been altered many times and is presently the Commonwealth National Bank.”

Updated Description

The main structure of 2-8 West Main Street (c.1840) is a three-bay, two and one-half story, brick, temple-front building with a side gable roof. Originally the home and store of John Riegel, the eastern three bays became the Second National Bank in the early 1860's. There is a molded cornice and a faux temple front design surrounding the main entrance. The entry door is in the central bay and has an acorn pediment above two double glass doors. There are three large windows with a fanlight in each bay of the façade. The arched window surrounds feature keystones and corner blocks. Four pilasters mimicking Roman columns project below the pediment. There is a large four-sided clock attached to the eastern half-story. The pediment protrudes from the roof and has dentils in the cornice and a circular window in the center with four keystone blocks within the surrounds. The addition (c.1965) is attached to the western side of the main structure and is a one-and-a-half-story brick building with a gable roof. There is an

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entrance and ATM underneath a thick, molded cornice beside the main structure. The building has been altered many times and is now a Citizens Bank.

7-11 West Main St

Contributing

c.1836

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“7-11 West Main Street is a three story, five bay, gable roof Georgian style building. It has a simple cornice, plain lintels on the third floor and flat, bracketed hoods on the second floor windows. There is a contemporary brick storefront with a pent roof on the first floor. The roof was raised after 1911.”

Updated Description

7-11 West Main Street is a five-bay, three-story, side gable, two-part commercial block. The roof was raised after 1911. The first floor storefront is brick veneer with a pent roof. There are three separate business entry doors, each with fixed commercial windows on either side. The Flemish bond brick pattern is visible on the second and third stories of the façade. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds. The second story windows have small, bracketed hoods. The third floor lintels are molded, but plain. It has a molded, plain cornice with brackets on either end of the façade.

16 West Main St

Contributing

c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“16 West Main Street is a two story, three bay, brick covered, commercial building. Originally a frame, Georgian style structure, it was altered (C. 1930) by the addition of a brick front facade. It shares the storefront with 18 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

16 West Main Street is a three-bay, two-story, brick-clad, two-part commercial block with an enframed window wall. Originally a frame, Georgian style structure, it was altered (c.1930) by the addition of a brick front facade. It shares the storefront with 18 West Main Street. There are two recessed entry doors with large, fixed commercial windows. Recessed wood paneling is below the windows. The second story windows now have brick infill. The façade roofline is parapeted.

13-15 West Main St

Contributing

c.1858

Original Survey

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“13-15 West Main Street is a three story, four bay, brick Italianate building. It has a richly detailed frieze and brackets, simple lintels and sills, and a contemporary storefront on #15. There is a two and one-half story, stucco garage on the property.”

Updated Description

13-15 West Main Street is a four-bay, three-story, brick, two part commercial block with Italianate features, including a molded, bracketed cornice. Both 13 and 15 West Main Street have contemporary storefronts. The first floor window on 13 West Main Street is two-over-two hung sash with plain lintels and simple surrounds. The first floor window on 15 West Main Street is fixed, and the top third is a 15-light stained glass paneled window. There are three decorative tie beams between the two entry doors and the second and third story windows. The second and third story windows are two-over-two hung sash with plain lintels and simple surrounds. The frieze has paneling and elements influenced by the Eastlake style. The garage has been removed.

18-20 West Main St
Contributing
c.1870

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 18 West Main Street in the original survey.

“18 West Main Street is a large, five bay by eight bay, three story, brick building with Italianate features. It has a paneled frieze with elongated, incised brackets alternating with smaller brackets. The windows of the second floor have molded, shaped lintels with keystones. The building shares a recent storefront with 16 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

18-20 West Main Street is a five-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features, including elongated, incised brackets alternating with smaller brackets. 18-20 West Main Street shares a paneled storefront with 16 West Main Street. The first floor storefront has two recessed within an enframed window wall. The second story windows are four-over-four hung sash with wooden lintels and surrounds. The third story windows are four-over-four windows with shaped wooden lintels with keystones, bulls-eye corner blocks, and surrounds. There are two circular plates for tie rods between the second and third and fourth and fifth bays. The frieze has wood paneling.

17 West Main St
Contributing
c.1858

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“17 West Main Street is a three story, four bay, Italianate building. The cornice is supported by elaborate double brackets, and the frieze is embellished with panels and dentils. The windows have pedimented window heads and brackets with dentils. The brick facade has recessed panels and a brick belt course between the second and third floors. The building was altered C. 1930 by

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the application of a fine, art-deco storefront which echoes the motifs of the pediments in the upper storys. There is a one story cinder block garage on the property.”

Updated Description

17 West Main Street is a four-bay, three-story, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. The first floor storefront (c.1930) is Art Deco in style and has geometric motifs in the frieze. The entryway is recessed beneath a decorative, shouldered arch. There are two large fixed windows on either side of the entryway with a square, abstract carving above each one, and two private doors at each end of the storefront. There is a brick belt course between the second and third stories. The second and third story bays are recessed, with two-over-two hung sash windows with pedimented window hoods, supported by brackets and dentils beneath the cornice. The cornice is molded with five sets of paired brackets alternating with small brackets.

26 West Main St Contributing 1911

Original Survey

Listed as significant under 26-28 West Main Street in the original survey.

“26-28 West Main Street is a large, three story, three bay, brick commercial building. Built in 1911 as Jacob Hurst's Dry Goods Store, the building has "1865 Hurst 1911" on the parapet and a modillioned cornice. On the front and east facades, the large triple windows have decorative stained glass panels and smooth, sandstone lintels. The storefront has been recently altered for use as a restaurant.”

Updated Description

26 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block. Built in 1911 as Jacob Hurst's Dry Goods Store, the building has "1865 Hurst 1911" on the parapet and a modillioned cornice with elongated brackets. The storefront on the first floor has a slight hood with carved wooden floral motifs on top. There is a recessed entry on the west. The central bay holds the main entry with double doors and bay windows on either side. Stained glass transoms are above the central entry door and bay windows. The second story windows are in the same style as the third story, but flat, with sandstone lintels and mantels. The third story windows are in sets of three with a single-light central window and one-over-one hung sash windows on either side, covered transoms, and sandstone segmental arches.

23 West Main St Contributing c. 1845

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“23 West Main Street is a five bay, two and one-half story gable roof building. It has double end chimneys, frieze windows, molded lintels, and a simple cornice with multiple small brackets which it shares with #25 West Main Street. The building has a contemporary storefront that extends across #23 and #25 West Main Street.”

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Updated Description

23 West Main Street is a five-bay, two-and-a-half-story, side gable, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. The commercial storefront, which is shared with 25 West Main Street, features a private door and recessed entryway for Ritters True Value Hardware store. The second story windows are six-over-six hung sash windows with molded lintels, simple surrounds, and shutters. The half-story windows are paired, single-light hung sash windows with molded lintels, simple surrounds, and shutters. It has a molded, bracketed cornice.

25 West Main St

Contributing

c. 1846

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“25 West Main Street is a three bay, three story, brick Italianate style building with a low gable roof. It has a modest cornice and multiple, simple brackets which it shares with #23 West Main Street, and lintels with bull's eye corner blocks. It shares a contemporary storefront with #23 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

25 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, Flemish bond brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features, including a molded, bracketed cornice. The commercial storefront, which is shared with 23 West Main Street, features a private door and recessed entryway for Ritters True Value Hardware store. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels with bull's eye corner blocks and simple surrounds. There is an aluminum awning and gate connected to the northeastern side of the building facing the sidewalk that holds mechanical equipment.

30-32 West Main St

Noncontributing

c.1860

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion in the original survey.

“30-32 West Main Street is a three story, three bay building with a tile facade. The building has been completely changed (C. 1960) and is now considered an intrusion.”

Updated Description

30-32 West Main Street is a three-bay, four-story, brick, two-part commercial block. The first floor storefront has an aluminum hood over the three entries. The first and third bays have a glass entry door with a transom and two fixed commercial windows. The center bay, leading to the upstairs residences, has a glass double door entrance with a transom. The first and third bays have balconies on the second, third, and fourth stories. Each balcony exit has one-over-one hung sash windows on either side of double glass doors. The center bay features two paired single-light windows with lower transoms.

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33 West Main St

Contributing

1871

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“33 West Main Street is a three story, three bay brick building with Italianate and Second Empire influences. The second floor retains the original molded lintels and cornice. The building has been altered by the addition (C. 1910) of a Mansard roof and a projecting bay on the third floor and permastone façade on the first floor.”

Updated Description

33 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Second Empire influences. The entry door is on the eastern side of the façade. The two first floor windows are fixed with a flat arch and bull’s eye corner blocks. The second story windows have six-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The first floor has a brick veneer commercial storefront. The building has been altered by the addition (c.1910) of a Mansard roof and a projecting bay on the third floor. The projecting bay has a cornice and three, one-over-one hung sash windows. The cornice below the mansard roof has paired brackets and panels.

34 West Main St

Contributing

c.1860

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“34 West Main Street is a three and one-half story, two bay, brick building. It has frieze windows below a brick cornice, and molded window headers. This building shared a facade with 30-32 West Main Street. The projecting bay on the second story is C.1910, and the storefront is contemporary. The entrance to the residential floors above has a stained glass transom.”

Updated Description

34 West Main Street is a two-bay, three-and-a-half-story, brick, two-part commercial block. The first floor storefront has a molded cornice and three fixed commercial windows. There is vertical paneling above and below the first floor windows. The recessed entry door is on the east side of the façade and has a stained glass sidelight and paneling. There is a projecting bay (c.1910) on the second story that has a molded cornice and one-over-one hung sash windows on each side of the bay. The third story windows are six-over-six hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The half-story windows are fixed with molded lintels and simple surrounds. It has a corbelled, decorative cornice.

35 West Main St

Contributing

1857

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Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“35 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick Italianate structure. The building has a wide cornice with dentils supported by very elaborate brackets on the front façade and molded, arched lintels. The first floor has been altered by the contemporary application of a marble business front.”

Updated Description

35 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. The first floor storefront is marble and has two large floor to ceiling fixed commercial windows aligned with the first and second bays. The entry door is slightly recessed with one panel of sidelights. An aluminum and fabric awning protrudes above the door. The second story windows are two-over-two hung sash; the third story windows are one-over-one hung sash. Both the second and third story windows are inset in a segmental arch surround with molded eared lintels. The cornice has large brackets alternating with sets of four, smaller brackets.

**36 West Main St
Contributing
c.1888**

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“36 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick Romanesque building. Built in 1888 as the First National Bank, the building has a tiled Mansard roof with cresting and a stepped parapet. The projecting frontispiece has a stepped parapet with "1888" carved in brownstone. The area between the second and third floor is enriched with corbelling and small, round headed recesses with floral motifs carved in brownstone. The center bays in the first and second stories are enlarged arches over which are molded, cut stone window headers with keystones. The second story windows have similar headers. The segmented, first story windows have vousoirs with keystones. The foundation is faced with rusticated brownstone and the front steps are of smooth cut brownstone. The main entry arch rests on small, polished marble columns. A twentieth century alteration covered the original entrance pillars and added basement entrance doors to public lavatories. The building was constructed by W. H. Dougherty, the architect/contractor for several important local buildings in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The structure became the property of the Borough of Mechanicsburg in 1926, and now houses the Police Department.”

Updated Description

36 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story brick and brownstone Romanesque building. The structure was built in 1888 by W.H. Dougherty as the First National Bank. The foundation is rusticated brownstone and the stairs are smoothed brownstone. The first story has a recessed entry door with a transom. Carved, brownstone pillars bracket the door. There is a brownstone arch and hood with a carved keystone above the door. The windows on either side of the door are one-over-one hung sash with vousoirs and keystones. The second story has one-over-one hung sash, arched windows in the first and third bays. These windows have brownstone arches with

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thin hoods and a carved keystone, and brownstone lintels. The center window on the second story is a large, arched, fixed window with a brownstone arch, thin hood, keystone, which sits above four lights with brownstone muntins. The central bay on the third floor has two small, recessed, arched windows centered below the "1888" panel, with brownstone arches, and a brownstone lintel supported by corbelling. The projecting triangular frontspiece has stepped parapets and a recessed panel with "1888" carved in brownstone with a jack arch. The third story has four arched recesses with floral motifs carved in brownstone. There are corbelled pillars on either side of these grouped recesses. The tiled mansard roof has stepped parapets on either side. The Mechanicsburg Borough bought the property in 1926 and once housed the Police Department. The building is now under private ownership and houses a coffee shop.

39 West Main St
Contributing
c.1850

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

"39 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick, gable roof structure in the Italianate style. It has a cornice supported by paired brackets, a small frieze and flat, bracketed hoods and simple sills on the windows. There are two entrance doors with transoms and flat, bracketed hoods. On the east facade is a two story projecting bay on the first and second floors. The third story was added, C. 1910. There is a one story frame garage on the property."

Updated Description

39 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, gable roof, Italianate style, two-part commercial block. The first floor windows on the bay are similar to the second floor bay windows, but have additional decorative paneling on the lintel. There are two entrance doors aligned with the first and third bays. Both entry doors have hoods supported by brackets. The main entry door on the first floor has pilasters, which the secondary entry door lacks. All windows are one-over-one hung sash with small hoods supported by brackets and simple surrounds. On the east facade is a two-story projecting bay on the first and second floors. The cornice of the projecting bay is supported by brackets and has decorative moldings underneath. The second story windows on the bay have molded lintels with keystones. The third story was added c.1910. The cornice has four sets of paired brackets.

40 West Main St
Contributing
c.1885

Original Survey

Listed as significant under 38 West Main Street in the original survey.

"38 West Main Street is a two bay, three story, brick, Second Empire building. It has a slate roof with cresting, two, hooded dormers and a cornice supported by double brackets. There is a projecting bay on the first and second floors, with bracketed cornices over the slightly arched windows. An elongated window with a flat, bracketed hood is above the main entrance bay in the west. The enlarged, flat hood over the door has an iron balustrade and is supported by brackets.

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The arched double door has two, glass panels. The steps and foundation facing are brownstone. The iron cresting and balastrade are C. 1925. The original balastrade was of wood. The building is also known as 40 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

40 West Main Street is a two-bay, three-story, brick Second Empire building. Brownstone stairs lead to the main entrance, which is a slightly recessed double door with a bracketed hood supporting an iron balustrade (c.1925). The door surrounds are paneled with pilasters. There is a projecting bay on the first and second floor that has two molded cornices supported by brackets. The windows in the second story of the bay are slightly arched, one-over-one hung sash with simple, molded surrounds. The western window on the second story is a two-over-two hung sash with a bracketed hood with simple surrounds. It has a slate Mansard roof with a molded cornice, paired brackets, and two hooded dormers. The dormers have arched, two-over-two hung sash windows with side brackets and pilasters.

41-43 West Main St

Contributing

c.1858

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“41-43 West Main Street is a five bay, three story, brick, Italianate building. It has a cornice and dentils supported on six paired brackets and flat, molded lintels. Originally two separate structures, a common facade was constructed (C. 1900) to unify the buildings and the formed composition storefront, engraved with "Mechanicsburg Bank Building" across the main entrance, was added. The interior retains the C. 1900 marble tellers' counters and tile floor.”

Updated Description

41-43 West Main Street is a five-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. Originally two separate structures, a common facade was constructed (c.1900) to unify the buildings, and the formed composition storefront, engraved with "Mechanicsburg Bank Building" across the main entrance, was added. The common facade on the first floor is marble and Art Deco in style. The six windows and two entry doors on the first floor do not align with the bays. There are carved flat columns between each window and entrance. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash, and have small hoods supported by small brackets at each end. It has a molded cornice with paired brackets and a decorated frieze.

42 West Main St

Contributing

c.1858

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“42 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick building with Italianate features. It has a cornice with multiple, small brackets, molded window headers, a flat, bracketed hood over the recessed, transomed entry. There is an arched trade entrance on the west.”

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Updated Description

42 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story brick building with Italianate features, including a bracketed cornice. Brownstone stairs lead to the main entrance. The main entrance is slightly recessed and has brackets, pilasters, and a transom. The brackets no longer support a hood. The first floor windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and shutters. There is a trade entrance on the west. The second and third story windows are two-over-two hung sash with molded lintels and shutters.

44-46 West Main St

Contributing

c.1857

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“44-46 West Main Street is a six bay, three story brick building with Italianate features. It has a cornice with multiple small brackets and molded window headers. The storefront has been recently altered.”

Updated Description

44-46 West Main Street is a six-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features, including a bracketed cornice. The storefront has a short awning across the façade. There are two recessed, arched entrances aligned with the third and fourth bays. There is a 28-light fixed window on either side of the entrances that have simple surrounds and awnings. The windows on the second and third stories are one-over-one hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds.

47-49 West Main St

Contributing

c.1872

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“47-49 West Main Street is a three bay, three story, brick Italianate building. It has a cornice supported on four double brackets, a paneled frieze and arched, molded window headers. The building has a recessed front entry with a flat, bracketed hood and transom, and an early storefront with a cornice with dentils.”

Updated Description

47-49 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. The storefront has two recessed entrances aligned with the first and third bays, with paired one-over-one hung sash windows in the center bay. The entrance on the eastern side has decorative paneling, while the western side entry is a continuation of the brick in the recessed portion. A small roof overhang with composite shingles covers the storefront. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash inset into a segmental arch frame

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with molded, eared lintels. The molded cornice features four sets of paired brackets and paneling within the frieze.

48-50 West Main St

Contributing

c.1867

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“48-50 West Main Street is a large, three story, six bay brick building with Italianate features. Built as the Merchants Hotel, C. 1867, the building originally had five bays, long, elaborate, multiple brackets under the cornice and pedimented window heads with brackets. The bays on the east are C. 1885. The building was altered (C. 1910) by the application of a modillioned cornice, two projecting bays on the second and third floors and balconies on the middle bays on the second and third floors. The storefront has been somewhat altered, but retains a modillioned cornice. The Merchants Hotel was built by John W. Hershman, contractor of several notable Mechanicsburg structures.”

Updated Description

48-50 West Main Street is a four-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. Built by John W. Hershman c.1867 as the Merchants Hotel, the building originally had five bays with a bracketed cornice and pedimented window hoods with brackets. The second bay on the first floor is a recessed entrance with doors to the commercial storefronts on either side. There are large, fixed commercial windows facing the sidewalk. The fourth bay on the first floor has one recessed, arched entrance to the upstairs apartments and an arched trade entrance. The storefront has a modillioned cornice. A c.1910 alteration added the molded cornice, two projecting bays on the first and third bays that cover the third and second stories, and balconies on the middle bays on the second and third stories. The second story of each bay window has six-over-six hung sash windows on either side, a fixed window in the center, and transoms above each window. The third story of each bay window has six-over-six hung sash windows on either side, a nine light fixed window in the center, and transoms above each window. The second bay has two balconies on the second and third stories supported by a molded cornice and brackets. The door to the third story balcony has a pedimented hood with dentils and brackets. The second and third story windows on the fourth bay are six-over-six hung sash with pedimented hoods with dentils and brackets.

52-54 West Main St

Noncontributing

c.1946

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion in the original survey.

“54 West Main Street is a large, two story, brick movie theater.”

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Updated Description

52-54 West Main Street is a three-bay, two-story, brick, two-part commercial block with an enframed window wall. There are two separate commercial storefronts on either side of the center bay, each with recessed entry doors with transoms, and fixed commercial windows. There is an entry door with a transom and simple surrounds in the center bay. There is an Art Deco inspired cast metal panel overtop of the storefront. The windows on the second story on the first and third bays and in sets of three, and are one-over-one hung sash windows with an awning over each set. The window in the center bay is a small one-over-one hung sash window with thick sandstone surrounds.

53 West Main St

Contributing

c.1875

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“53 West Main Street is a three story, three bay brick Italianate building. There is a simple frieze, a cornice supported on elaborate double brackets, and, immediately below the brackets, a belt course of wood molding. The windows have round, arched, molded headers and molded sills with brackets. The entrance is also deeply arched, with double arched doors with glass panels. The steps are brownstone and the foundation is faced with the same material.”

Updated Description

53 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, Italianate, two-part commercial block. The steps and foundation are brownstone, with carved paneling in the foundation. The entrance is recessed and arched. All windows have molded surrounds and a bracketed hood. The first floor windows are single light windows; the second and third story have one-over-one hung sash windows with an arched transom, arched, bracketed headers and a bracketed sill. Similar to the windows, the door also has a bracketed hood. The molded cornice features four sets of paired brackets and a simple frieze. There is an exterior end chimney on the eastern side of the building.

55 West Main St

Contributing

1895

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“55 West Main Street is a three story, four bay, brick and brownstone building with Romanesque influences. The front facade has a variety of architectural dentils and materials. The third story has a slate, Mansard roof with cresting and a stepped parapet, a gable roof dormer which has a Palladian window and is embellished with colored glass shards, and a projecting frontispiece with double, round headed windows. The second story and frontispiece are of decorative brick with corbelling and there is an oriel window on the second floor. The first story is of cut, rusticated brownstone with an arched, recessed entry bay. The remaining windows are transomed and have brownstone lintels.”

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Updated Description

55 West Main Street is a four-bay, three-story brick and brownstone building with Romanesque influences. The first floor is rusticated brownstone and features a recessed entry bay behind an arch. The window on the eastern side of the first floor is a one-over-one hung sash with a large transom; the western side of the first floor façade is fixed with a stained glass transom. The first floor is rusticated brownstone and features a recessed entry bay behind an arch. The window on the eastern side of the first floor is a one-over-one hung sash with a large transom; the western side of the first floor façade is fixed with a stained glass transom. The second story windows align with the first three bays and are one-over-one hung sash windows with transoms and brownstone lintels. The second story oriel window has a stone hood and features three single windows with transoms. The third story has a slate, Mansard roof across the first, second, and third bays, and a projecting frontpiece on the fourth bay. There are stepped parapets on each side of the third story. A gable roof dormer pierces the Mansard roof and has a Palladian window and colored glass shards in the frieze. Decorative corbeling is below the cornice. The projecting frontpiece has a set of paired, arched, one-over-one hung sash windows. The western part of the façade is brownstone, but transitions to brick below the window arches.

56 West Main St

Contributing

c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“56 West Main Street is a three story, two bay, brick building with Italianate features. The cornice is supported by multiple, small brackets and the windows have molded lintels. The building has a contemporary storefront.”

Updated Description

56 West Main Street is a two-bay, three-story, two-part commercial block with laid Flemish bond. The entry door to the upstairs residences (56 ½) is on the west bay. The rest of the first floor consists of a commercial storefront for a salon that includes a recessed entry door and fixed windows. There is a projecting hood over the first floor that has composite shingles. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The brackets have been removed from the cornice.

57-59 West Main St

Contributing

c.1858

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 59 West Main Street in the original survey.

“59 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick, Italianate building. It has an elaborate beaded cornice, a simple frieze, and multiple brackets enriched with acanthus leaves. The windows have molded lintels, simple sills and six-over-six lights. The front entrance is recessed, and has a flat, bracketed hood and transom. There is an early twentieth century storefront. Also on the property is a frame, two and one-half story garage/residence.”

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Updated Description

57-59 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, Italianate, two-part commercial block. 57 West Main Street has a commercial storefront with a fixed window and entry door that share a hooded cornice. The window and entry door both have stained glass transoms. The entry door to 59 West Main Street has a bracketed hood with dentils, pilasters, and stained glass transom. The second and third story windows are six-over-six hung sash windows with molded lintels and simple surrounds. It has a molded cornice with brackets enriched with acanthus leaves alternating with rosettes.

58 West Main St

Contributing

c.1845

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“58 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick building with Italianate features. The brackets were removed prior to the application of aluminum siding. A projecting bay over the front entrance in the west bay is supported by elaborate brackets. There is an arched, double paneled door. The first floor has permastone facing. There is a two and one-half story, brick barn with a cupulo [sic] and corbelled brick cornice on the property.”

Updated Description

58 West Main Street is a three-story, three-bay brick building. There are brownstone steps leading to the front door. The entry door is slightly recessed, arched, and has pilasters on either side. The windows on the first floor have molded lintels and shutters. All windows are two-over-one hung sash. The windows on the second and third stories have simple surrounds and shutters. The projecting bay on the second story has a molded cornice and is centered over the front entrance and supported by decorative brackets. It has two windows in the center and a window on either side of the bay. The brackets were removed upon the application of aluminum siding, which covers the third and second stories of the façade.

60 West Main St

Contributing

c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“60 West Main Street is a three bay, three story, frame building which has small, multiple brackets and a brick front facade. The windows on the front have plain lintels. A projecting bay (1911) on the second floor covers a C. 1930 porch over the eastern two bays. There is a semi-circular trade entrance in the west bay.”

Updated Description

60 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, Flemish bond two-part commercial block with a bracketed cornice. All windows are one-over-one hung sash. There is a semi-circular trade

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entrance on the first floor of the western bay. The entry door has pilasters on either side. The windows on the second and third stories have simple molded lintels. There is a projecting bay (c.1911) on the second story with a molded cornice and three one-over-one hung sash windows on each side. There is a portico with a molded cornice beneath the bay window that extends across the second and third bay.

61 West Main St
Contributing
c.1860

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“61 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, frame building with Italianate influences. The building has been altered by the addition of a projecting bay on the second floor (C. 1910) and the application of aluminum siding which enclosed the brackets and entry hood and covered the frieze and cornice. There is a one and one-half story cinderblock garage on the property.”

Updated Description

61 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame building with Italianate influences. The building has been altered by the addition of a projecting bay on the second floor (c.1910) and the application of aluminum siding which enclosed the entry hood and covered the frieze and cornice. There is a trade entrance on the western side of the façade. The entry door has a hood overtop supported by two large brackets. The projecting bay has a rectangular pediment with three one-over-one hung sash windows. Aside from the projecting bay, all windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and shutters.

62 West Main St
Contributing
c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“62 West Main Street is a three bay, three story, brick building which has small, multiple brackets. Some of the windows have bull’s eye corner blocks and there is a projecting bay on the second floor (C. 1910). The building has a contemporary storefront but retains the original cornice above the storefront.”

Updated Description

62 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block. The storefront has an entry door to a commercial establishment and two paired one-over-one hung sash windows with shutters on the eastern side of the door. The storefront is covered in vertical paneling. There is a recessed entry door to the upstairs apartments on the eastern side of the façade. A molded cornice tops the storefront. There is a projecting bay with a molded cornice on the second floor (c.1910) that has one-over-one hung sash windows on each side and paired one-over-one hung sash windows in the center section. The remaining window on the second story is a one-over-one hung sash window with a lintel with a bull’s eye block at the corners. The third

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floor windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The brackets in the cornice have been removed.

63 West Main St

Contributing

c.1860

Original Survey

Listed separately but both contributing in the original survey.

“63 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick, Italianate building. The cornice is supported by four brackets and the arched frieze is decorated with dentils and keystones over the windows. The windows have pedimented, bracketed hoods and the building is decorated with brick quoins. It shares a contemporary storefront with 65-67 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

63 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick, two-part commercial block with Italianate features and brick quoins. The storefront is no longer connected to 65-67 West Main Street. The first floor storefront has a cornice that separates the brick from the vinyl siding. There is a recessed main entry door. The two windows and secondary entry door have similar surrounds, including molded pilasters and pediments. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash with pedimented, bracketed hoods. The cornice is supported by five large brackets alternating with sets of eleven small brackets.

64 West Main St

Contributing

C.1850

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“64 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick Italianate building. The structure has double end chimneys, and a cornice with multiple, small brackets, a simple frieze and shaped lintels on the third and second floors. The windows of the first floor have elaborate pediments. The entrance has a similar pediment and rests on richly decorated brackets over an arched doorway with a double paneled door.”

Updated Description

64 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story brick Italianate residence. The windows on the first floor are one-over-one hung sash with a pediment. The entry door has a similar, arched pediment to the first floor windows but with additional decoration and pilasters. The windows on the second and third stories are one-over-one hung sash with slightly pointed lintels and simple surrounds. There is a bracketed cornice across the façade. There are two double interior end chimneys on the western elevation.

65-67 West Main St

Contributing

c.1845

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Original Survey

Listed under 65 West Main Street as contributing in the original survey.

“65 West Main Street is a two story, four bay, frame Georgian building with Italianate features. The cornice is supported by five paired brackets and the arched frieze is decorated with dentils. The windows have pedimented, bracketed hoods. It shares a contemporary storefront with 63 West Main Street. The trade entrance was added C. 1910.”

Updated Description

65-67 West Main Street is a four-bay, two-story, frame, two-part commercial block with Italianate features. 67 West Main Street no longer shares a storefront with 63 West Main Street. The entry door for 65 West Main Street has simple surrounds and flat, molded pilasters and corner blocks. The entrance to 67 West Main Street is recessed with fixed commercial windows on either side. The surrounds match that of the 65 West Main Street entry door. The trade entrance (c.1910) is on the western side of the first floor façade. The second story windows are one-over-one hung sash with pedimented, bracketed hoods and simple surrounds. The cornice is supported by five sets of paired brackets alternating with dentils.

69 West Main St

Contributing

c.1930

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“69 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick and frame apartment house.”

Updated Description

69 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame building with a façade in Flemish bond brickwork. The first floor has two paired, one-over-one hung sash windows on either side of the entry door. The door has a simple pediment and hood with sidelights and simple paneling. All windows have jack arches on top. On the second and third stories, the first and third bay windows are paired, one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and shutters. The center bay windows on the third and second stories are smaller one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds.

70 West Main St

Contributing

c.1835

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“70 West Main Street is a five bay, two and one-half story, brick Georgian building. It has a simple cornice with multiple, small brackets and flat lintels and sills. The center entrance bay has a flat hood with multiple small brackets, reeded pilasters and a recessed, paneled front door with a transom and sidelights. There is a secondary entrance in the west bay. The triangular roof gable with fish scale shingles was a later addition.”

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Updated Description

70 West Main Street is a five-bay, two-and-a-half-story brick structure. The entry door has a small, bracketed hood, a transom with two lights, sidelights, and pilasters. The windows on the first floor are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and shutters. The first floor window on the western side of the façade has a transom and lacks shutters. The windows on the second story are two-over-two hung sash with molded lintels and shutters. The cornice is bracketed. The triangular roof gable with scalloped shingles was a later addition. The window in the triangular roof gable is stained glass with two lights and has a triangular arch with simple surrounds. The side-gable roof has composite shingles. There is an interior end chimney on the western side.

71 West Main St

Contributing

c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“71 West Main Street is a two story, four bay, brick, Georgian building. It has a small cornice supported by multiple small brackets and shaped lintels on the second floor. The first floor has molded bracketed window heads, a bracketed hood on the recessed front door and an early twentieth century storefront with a cornice and brackets.”

Updated Description

71 West Main Street is a four-bay, two-story, brick, two-part commercial block with a side gable roof. The first floor has two entry doors and a one-over-one hung sash window with a bracketed hood and simple surrounds on the western side of the façade. The entrance to The Nails 1st nail salon is recessed. This door and the adjoining windows are covered by a bracketed hood with small dentils. The windows have applied ornamentation below the frieze and a transom consisting of two small centered lights with two-over-two lights of equal size at each end. An entry door to Market Street Music is beside the Nails 1st Salon entrance. This door has a separate bracketed hood with applied ornamentation, pilaster surrounds, and a covered transom. The second story windows are six-over-six hung sash with shaped lintels and simple surrounds. It has a molded, modillioned cornice. There is an interior end chimney on the eastern side of the building.

73 West Main St

Contributing

c.1835

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“73 West Main Street is a two story, three bay, brick Georgian building. There is a small, modillioned cornice, molded lintels and a deeply recessed front entrance with pilasters and a plain entablature.”

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Updated Survey

73 West Main Street is a three-bay, two-story, brick, two-part commercial block with a side gable roof. The slightly recessed entry door is on the eastern side of the first floor façade. The entrance door has a stepped cornice, pilasters, four light transoms, and sidelights. The first floor windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels, simple surrounds, shutters, and a flat brick arch above the lintel. The second story windows are six over one hung sash with lintels touching the cornice. There is an interior end chimney on the western side of the building.

74 West Main St

Contributing

c.1976

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“74 West Main Street is a five bay, two and one-half story, frame building in the Georgian style. The building has been considerably altered so that it no longer reflects its original appearance. It is similar to buildings that once existed on Main Street and is of educational significance.”

Updated Description

74 West Main Street is a five-bay, two-and-a-half-story frame and brick building. The exterior has been covered in vinyl siding. An uncoursed stone foundation is visible. The entry door has a simple cornice with pilasters. The windows are six-over-six hung sash with simple surrounds. The side-gable roof has wood shingles and a simple cornice. There are two interior end brick chimneys. The rear portion of the building features a frame and brick addition with an entrance and garage door facing North Frederick Street.

100-104 West Main St

Contributing

c.1845

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“100-104 West Main Street is a large, seven bay, three story Italianate building. Originally two or three smaller structures, the façade was unified (C. 1870) by the addition of an elaborate cornice with paired brackets, dentils, and an arched, paneled frieze. The brick coat is a later addition. A contemporary storefront extends across the front of the building. The eastern part has been operated as a hardware store since the mid-eighteen fifties.”

Updated Description

100-104 West Main Street is a seven-bay, three-story, Italianate two-part commercial block with an enframed window wall. Originally multiple buildings, the façade was unified (c.1870) through a singular cornice going around the street-facing sides of the structure and brick veneer across the second and third stories. There is an aluminum canopy over the first floor storefront, which supports two separate businesses, a salon and a tax consultant. Both entry doors are recessed with transoms and surrounded by fixed windows. There is wood paneling below the windows. There are six circular plates for tie rods spaced across the building between the second

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and third stories between the fourth and seventh bays. The second and third story windows are two-over-two hung sash with segmental arches. The cornice has paired brackets, dentils, and an arched, paneled frieze.

101 West Main St
Contributing
1905

Original Survey

Listed as significant in the original survey.

“The Rescue Hook and Ladder Company is a two story, two bay, brick and stone structure with Romanesque influences. The roof has a cupulo and a stone balastrade. There is a modillioned cornice, and a molded frieze at the roof line and a cornice, lettered with the name of the fire company, between the first and second floors. The building has cut stone quoins and cut stone surrounding the arched windows. The datestone on the northeast corner of the building has "1885" on the east face and "1905" on the north. The metal door is a late alteration and the cupulo was recently covered.”

Updated Description

Originally built in 1905 for the Rescue Hook and Ladder Company, 101 West Main Street is a two-bay, two-story, brick and stone two-part commercial block with Romanesque influences and stone quoins. 101 and 105-107 West Main Street share a storefront for Jojo’s Pizza & Ristorante. The two windows on the first floor have been remodeled to match the arched windows in the adjoined storefront. The second story has a single one-over-one hung sash window with an arched transom on the eastern side of the façade and a set of three one-over-one hung sash windows with transoms on the western side. The second story windows have cut stone surrounding the windows. There is a modillioned cornice, and a molded frieze. The roof has a bell tower with a stone balustrade on the eastern side of the building.

105-107 West Main St
Contributing
c.1855

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“105-107 West Main Street is a three story, four bay, brick Italianate building. It has six elaborate, paired brackets, molded lintels, a recessed front entrance and an early twentieth century storefront with brownstone steps. There is a two and one-half story corrugated metal outbuilding on the property.”

Updated Description

105-107 West Main Street is a four-bay, three-story brick two-part commercial block with Italianate influences. 101 and 105-107 West Main Street share a storefront for Jojo’s Pizza & Ristorante. The first floor storefront is no longer recessed and matches the brick pattern and windows of 101 West Main Street. The three windows on the first floor have been remodeled to match the arched windows in the adjoined storefront. The two arched entrances to the business

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align with the first and fourth bays and include an arched transom to match the windows. A commercial aluminum awning extends over the storefront. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. The cornice has six sets of paired brackets.

106 West Main St
Contributing
1897

Original Survey

Listed as significant along with 108 West Main Street in the original survey.

“106-108 West Main Street is a large, five bay, three story building with Italianate features. Built for Cyrus Dornbaugh in 1897, the three bays of the west were used as a residence and the two on the east were used commercially. It has a detailed cast metal cornice. Floral motifs and finials are used on the western three bays and a somewhat more elaborate cornice, which has a parapet with "A. 1897 D." on the face, on the eastern two bays. The third floor has corbelled brick work below the cornice on the eastern section. It has smooth, cut sandstone lintels, sills and foundation facing. The front entrance has a flat, bracketed hood with dentils and a recessed panelled main entry door with a transom. The original storefront has been altered by aluminum siding but some of the original woodwork is visible behind the siding.”

Updated Description

106 West Main Street is a two-bay, three-story, two-part commercial block with Italianate features and enframed window wall. It was built as a commercial storefront for Cyrus Dornbaugh in 1897. The storefront on the first floor has a hood and recessed entry door with large, fixed windows on either side and paneling below the windows and on either side of the door. The windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and sandstone lintels. It has an elaborate cast metal cornice with a parapet with “A. 1897 D.” on the face. There are floral motifs, dentils, and brackets within the cornice and corbelling underneath it.

108 West Main St
Contributing
1897

Original Survey

Listed as significant along with 106 West Main Street in the original survey.

“106-108 West Main Street is a large, five bay, three story building with Italianate features. Built for Cyrus Dornbaugh in 1897, the three bays of the west were used as a residence and the two on the east were used commercially. It has a detailed cast metal cornice. Floral motifs and finials are used on the western three bays and a somewhat more elaborate cornice, which has a parapet with "A. 1897 D." on the face, on the eastern two bays. The third floor has corbelled brick work below the cornice on the eastern section. It has smooth, cut sandstone lintels, sills and foundation facing. The front entrance has a flat, bracketed hood with dentils and a recessed panelled main entry door with a transom. The original storefront has been altered by aluminum siding but some of the original woodwork is visible behind the siding.”

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Updated Description

108 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story residence with Italianate features. It was built as a residence for Cyrus Dornbaugh in 1897. The entry door has a short bracketed hood with dentils, a transom, and pilasters with brackets on either side. The windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and sandstone lintels. It has a cast metal cornice with dentils and floral motifs, and two large brackets with finials on either side of the façade.

109 West Main Street

Contributing

c.1867

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“109 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick, Italianate house. The cornice is supported on four double brackets and the frieze is decorated. The windows have flat, molded hoods with brackets. The entrance has a flat, bracketed hood over a semi-circular door with glass panels. It has brownstone steps and foundation facing and is almost identical to 111 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

109 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick Italianate building. It has a brownstone foundation and stairs leading to the entry door. The entrance has a bracketed hood with pilaster surrounds and a molded keystone around an arched entry door. There is a brick breezeway connecting 109 West Main Street to 111-113 West Main Street. The windows on the first and second stories have square plates for tie rods above the lintels. The windows are six-over-six hung sash with bracketed hoods and simple surrounds. The cornice is supported by four sets of double brackets with etchings in the frieze.

110-112 West Main St

Contributing

c.1835

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 110 West Main Street in the original survey.

“110 West Main Street is a five bay, two story, brick Georgian house. It has a simple cornice with small, multiple brackets, molded lintels and six-over-six lights. The recessed front entrance has a flat, molded hood with multiple brackets, a transom, side lights, and a paneled door. The building is an excellent example of the Georgian architecture of early nineteenth century Mechanicsburg.”

Updated Description

110-112 West Main Street is a five-bay, two-story brick house. There are brownstone steps leading to the entry door. The recessed entry door has a molded hood with pilasters on either side. The windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. There are two circular plates for tie rods between the first and second stories between the first and

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second and fourth and fifth bays. The building has a bracketed cornice. There are two interior end chimneys on either elevation.

111-113 West Main St

Contributing

c.1868

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“111-113 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick, Italianate house. The cornice is supported on four double brackets and the frieze is decorated. The windows have flat, molded hoods with brackets. The entrance has a flat, bracketed hood over a semi-circular doorway and double, semi-circular doors with glass panels. It has brownstone steps and is almost identical to 109 West Main Street. There is a two story outbuilding on the property.”

Updated Description

111-113 West Main Street is a three-bay, three-story, brick Italianate house. It has brownstone steps leading to the front door. The entrance has a bracketed hood with pilaster surrounds and a molded keystone around an arched entry door. The windows are all one-over-one hung sash with bracketed hoods and simple surrounds. The cornice is supported by four sets of paired brackets with etchings in the frieze.

114-116 West Main St

Contributing

c.1867

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 114 West Main Street in the original survey.

“114 West Main Street is a large, five bay, three and one-half story brick building with Italianate [sic] influences. Although the lintels and brackets were removed prior to the application of aluminum siding, the building retains the two original front entrances with recessed and paneled doors with transoms. The segmented windows are visible behind the siding.”

Updated Description

114-116 West Main Street is a five-bay, three-and-one-half-story brick building. The two front entrances are slightly recessed with simple surrounds. The entry door to 116 West Main Street has a transom with three lights. The entry door to 114 West Main Street has a single light transom. The windows between the front entry doors are paired. The façade has been altered with the application of aluminum siding and the removal of cornice decorations. All of the façade windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds. There is an interior end chimney on the western elevation.

115-117 West Main St

Contributing

c.1870

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Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“115 West Main Street is a two story, four bay, gable roof frame building. The gable end faces the street and has returning eaves. Although the building has been altered by the application of aluminum siding, it still retains an early twentieth century storefront.”

Updated Description

115-117 West Main Street is a four-bay, two-and-a-half-story, frame, two-part commercial block with a gable roof. The first floor has a storefront with three adjoined fixed windows and an entry door, all of which are under a shared hood. The entry door has a stained glass transom. An aluminum and fabric awning is under the hood above the windows. A one-over-one hung sash window with simple surrounds is on the western side of the façade. The second story windows are two-over-two hung sash with simple surrounds. There are two brackets supporting the top of the gable and dentils in the cornice. There is a four-light window centered in the gable.

120 West Main St

Contributing

c.1840

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“120 West Main Street (including 120 ½) is a four bay, two story, frame, Georgian style house. It has been altered by an application of aluminum siding but retains the original brackets. 120 ½ West Main Street is a commercial addition to 120. It was built in the late nineteenth century in the alley between 120 and 122 West Main Street.”

Updated Description

120 West Main Street (including 120 ½) is a four-bay, two-story, frame house, now covered in aluminum siding. The entry door is recessed with a protruding hood. 120 ½ West Main Street is a late nineteenth-century addition to the alley between 120 and 122 West Main Street and has an entry door surrounded by wood paneling. The first floor windows are one-over-one, square, hung sash with simple surrounds and shutters. Additional vertical paneling is on the alley stairway between the first and second stories. The second story windows are six-over-nine hung sash with simple surrounds and shutters. The cornice retains the original brackets.

122-124 West Main St

Contributing

1857

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 122 West Main Street in the original survey.

“122 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick commercial and residential building. The front was altered by the application of brick facing but an early twentieth century storefront was retained.”

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Updated Description

122-124 West Main Street is a three-story, three-bay, brick two-part commercial block. The storefront on the first floor has a bracketed cornice above the fixed windows and recessed entry doors. Both entry doors have transoms. There is a walkway on the western side of the façade that leads to the back of the building. The roofline is a stepped parapet. The second and third story windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and flat arches. An exterior end brick chimney is attached to the eastern elevation.

125-127 West Main St

Contributing

c.1868

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 125 West Main Street in the original survey.

“125 West Main Street is a large, three story, five bay by eight bay, brick, Italianate building. Built as the National Hotel, the structure has six elaborate double brackets, a cornice with dentils, and an arched and paneled frieze over segmented windows. The building has been considerably altered by the application of permastone and vertical wood siding.”

Updated Description

Originally built as the National Hotel, 125-127 West Main Street is a five-bay, three-story, brick two-part commercial block with Italianate features. The building has been considerably altered by the application of permastone to the façade and vertical wood siding on the southern elevation. The north elevation shows the original 7:1 common bond brickwork and molded lintels. The first floor storefront has three fixed half-story windows with awnings. The entry door is recessed, and also covered with an awning. The second and third story of the façade have 4 segmental arch windows. The center bay on the second and third stories has two small paired one-over-one double hung hung sash windows. The cornice has six sets of paired brackets alternating with smaller brackets above an arched and paneled frieze.

128 West Main St

Contributing

c.1830

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 126 West Main Street in the original survey.

“126 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick building. It has a bracketed, cast metal cornice with finials (C. 1910), molded lintels and a cornice over the early twentieth century store front. The roof was raised in 1857.”

Updated Description

128 West Main Street is a three-story, four-bay, brick, Italianate two-part commercial block. The first floor is a twentieth-century storefront with a small hood and cornice. There is a private entrance door with a covered transom pierces the western portion of the façade. The two main entry doors have covered transoms and large, fixed commercial windows on either side. There are recessed, carved panels below the fixed windows. The windows on the second and third

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stories are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and molded lintels. There is a decorative cornice attached to the roof, which was raised in 1857. The cast metal cornice has finials (c.1910), brackets, and paneling. The finial on the eastern elevation is missing.

130 West Main St

Contributing

c.1830

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“130 West Main Street is a three story, three bay, brick building. It has a bracketed, cast metal cornice with finials (1910), plain, molded, lintels and a recessed front entry with a bracketed hood. The roof was raised in 1857.”

Updated Description

130 West Main Street is a three-story, three-bay, brick Italianate residence. The first floor has one set of paired one-over-one hung sash windows with simple surrounds. The main entrance is slightly recessed with a bracketed hood, pilasters on either side, and simple decorative paneling. The windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and molded lintels. There is a decorative cornice attached to the roof, which was raised in 1857. The cast metal cornice has finials (c.1910), brackets, paneling, and dentils. A cinderblock exterior end chimney is on the western elevation.

133 West Main St

Contributing

c.1870

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“133 West Main Street is a two story, four bay, frame, gable roof building in the Georgian style. It has been altered by the application of aluminum siding and the addition of a contemporary entrance.”

Updated Description

133 West Main Street is a four-bay, two-story, frame, side gable building. It has been altered by the application of aluminum siding and the addition of a contemporary entrance. The entry door has an acorn pediment and pilaster surrounds. All windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and shutters. There is an interior end chimney on the western side of the building.

135-137 West Main St

Contributing

c.1855

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 135 West Main Street in the original survey.

“135 West Main Street is a two story, three bay, frame, gable roof building. It has been altered by the addition of a brick facade and of a projecting bay on the second floor (C. 1910) and a

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gable roof dormer. The permanent awning is similar to those commonly built on Main Street in the late nineteenth century. There is a one and one-half story, two bay, cinderblock garage at the rear of the property.”

Updated Description

135-137 West Main Street is a three-bay, two-story, frame, side gable, two-part commercial block. The storefront has a shed roof canopy extending over the sidewalk. The entrance to 135 West Main Street is recessed and has fixed windows beside it. The entry door to 137 West Main Street is not recessed and has a simple paneled door. The first floor has decorative, paneled surrounds. The building has been altered by the addition of a brick façade, a projecting bay on the second floor (c.1910) and a gable roof dormer. The gable roof dormer features scalloped shingles and a single-light window with simple surrounds. The bay window on the second floor has three one-over-one hung sash windows and decorative surrounds matching the first floor. The remaining second story window is a one-over-one hung sash with a molded lintel and shutters. The building has a bracketed cornice.

138 West Main St
Noncontributing
c. 1940

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion under 134 West Main Street in the original survey.
“134 West Main Street is a one story gas station.”

Updated Description

138 West Main Street is a one-story gas station (now auto repair shop). The entrance is on the western side of the building. The main entry door has a transom and a fixed window on its western side. There is an additional entry door on the eastern side of the main door. The eastern portion of the façade consists of three garage doors in the main structure and a fourth garage door in an addition that is one-and-one-half stories. Although the gas pumps have since been removed, the canopy still stands in front of the main entrance and extends towards the sidewalk.

143 West Main St
Contributing
c.1865

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.
“143 West Main Street is a two and one-half story, three bay, brick, Italianate house. It has an elaborate cornice with dentils and paired brackets on the front and east facades. The windows have molded semi-circular headers. The tower was added in 1912. The window and door renovation and the addition on the east and south were done in 1973. There is a two story garage/apartment (C.1973) on the property.”

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Updated Description

143 West Main Street is a three-bay, two-and-a-half-story brick building with a brownstone foundation. The façade features a window on the eastern side that used to be an entry door with decorative moldings and pilasters. A tower on the western side of the façade extending from the second story to the half story was added in 1912. The tower has molded panels between the windows and below the second story windows. The windows on the half-story of the bay are paired single light half-story windows; the second story bay windows are one-over-one hung sash.

ARCH STREET

5 North Arch St

Contributing

c.1885

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“5 North Arch Street is a two story, four bay, gable roof house. It has a flat, bracketed hood over the main entry. The building has been altered by the addition of aluminum siding.”

Updated Description

5 North Arch Street is a four-bay, two-story, side gable house, clad in aluminum siding. The entry door has a bracketed hood, two light transom, and paneled pilasters. The windows are two-over-two hung sash with simple surrounds. There is an interior end chimney on the south side, and single-story wings on the south and north sides. The south wing is brick, and the north wing is clad in the aluminum siding and has a single one-over-one hung sash window facing Arch Street.

MARKET STREET

20-26 North Market St

Contributing

c.1868

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 26 N Market Street in the original survey.

“26 North Market Street is a three story, six by nine bay, brick hotel building with Italianate features. Although some of the original woodwork has been removed, the building retains an elaborate frieze and brackets and straight, molded lintels. Still visible on the sidewalk are column supports for a covered passage which was added in 1910, and later removed. To the south, is a two story, one bay, brick addition to the American Hotel. Built C. 1893, it has a cast metal cornice and a projecting bay on the second floor. The interior has elaborate pressed tin ceilings and walls. It shares a contemporary storefront with the main hotel building. The hotel was built C. 1868 by John W. Hershman, the contractor of several important Mechanicsburg buildings.”

Updated Description

20-26 North Market Street is a six-bay, three-story, brick two-part commercial block with Italianate features. It was built c.1868 by John W. Hershman as a hotel. The main entry door is

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on the northern side of the façade and is recessed with wood paneling and simple surrounds. There are two paired windows on the first floor aligned with the projecting bay that are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds. The first floor windows sit below the paneling with the business name on it and lack lintels, but have shutters and simple surround. The entry door is recessed with paneled surrounds and a stained glass transom. There is a molded cornice separating the first and second stories. The second and third story windows have molded, eared lintels, simple surrounds, and shutters. The windows are two-over-two hung sash. There is a projecting bay on the second floor with a molded cornice, and three one-over-one hung sash windows with decorative paneling beneath. A (c.1893) one-bay, two-story addition is attached to the south, facing North Market Street. The addition has brackets supporting either end of the cornice and modillions. The cornice features sets of double brackets with smaller brackets between the pairs. There is paneling in the frieze with floral motifs. The building is now the American House Apartments.

8-16 North Market St
Contributing
c.1893

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 12-16 N Market Street in the original survey.

“12-16 North Market Street is a two story, six bay, brick Italianate commercial building. The front facade has large, double brackets, alternating with smaller brackets, and a paneled frieze. There are five, double windows with brick arches above and a single window in the south bay. #10-12 have fine, early storefronts with brackets and dentil molding. The storefronts on #14-16 have recently been altered with brick.”

Updated Description

8-16 North Market Street is a six-bay, two-story, brick, Italianate two-part commercial block. The storefront across 10-12 has a cornice with dentil moldings. The entrance is recessed, and fixed, commercial windows on either side of the entry door. The storefront across 14-16 has a molded cornice with three brackets alternating with dentils. There are three entry doors with eight light transoms and pilaster surrounds. A large four-light window with transoms frames each side of the entrance door to #10. The first five bays of the second story contain paired, one-over-one hung sash windows underneath segmental arches and simple surrounds. The sixth bay on the second story contains a single one-over-one hung sash window with simple surrounds and molded lintel. The cornice of the front façade has paired brackets alternating with smaller brackets and a paneled frieze.

10-12 South Market St
Contributing
c.1865

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“10-12 South Market Street is a three bay, three story frame building. The roof was raised

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and a projecting bay on the second and third storys was added C. 1910. The building has been aluminum sided.”

Updated Description

10-12 South Market Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame two-part commercial block with aluminum siding and an enframed window wall. The first floor is a commercial storefront comprised of fixed windows, two recessed entry doors, and decorative paneling. The roof was raised and a central, projecting bay on the second and third stories was added c.1910. The projecting bay has three one-over-one hung sash windows on each story. One-over-one hung sash windows with simple surrounds are on either side of the bay. The cornice protrudes slightly away from the building.

**14-16 South Market St
Contributing
c.1855**

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“14-16 South Market Street is a three story, three bay, frame building. The Italianate details were removed before the recent application of aluminum siding. The roof was raised after 1911.”

Updated Description

14-16 South Market Street is a three-bay, three-story, frame two-part commercial block clad in aluminum siding. The first floor is a commercial storefront with brick veneer and a double door entrance with twenty light commercial windows. A recessed entrance is in the third bay. The second story of the façade continues the asymmetrical nature featuring two paired two-over-two hung sash windows on the southern end, three grouped windows with a larger single light center window with one-over-one hung sash windows on either side in the middle bay, and one two-over-two hung sash window in the third bay. The third story features two asymmetrical windows. The southern window is three grouped windows, with the center fixed light window larger than the two-over-two side windows. The northern window is two paired one-over-one hung sash. The roof was raised after 1911. The cornice protrudes slightly away from the building.

**18-20 South Market St
Contributing
c.1865**

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 20 South Market Street in the original survey.

“20 South Market Street is a two story, four bay, frame building in the Georgian style. The front facade has been altered by the application of aluminum siding.”

Updated Description

18-20 South Market Street is a four-bay, two-story, frame two-part commercial block clad in aluminum siding. Two entry doors align with the second and fourth bays. Large fixed windows are beside the entry doors. There is an overhang across the façade between the first and second

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story covered with asphalt singles. The second story windows are one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds and shutters. There is an interior end chimney on the southern side.

RAILROAD AVENUE

7-9 North Railroad Ave

Contributing

c.1870

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“7-9 Railroad Avenue is a three story, three bay, brick building. The third story was added after 1911 and it has been altered by the application of aluminum siding.”

Updated Description

7-9 North Railroad Avenue is a three-bay, three-story, brick two-part commercial block. The façade has been altered by the application of aluminum siding. The first story has a single one-over-one hung sash window in the center bay and entry doors on either side. Both entry doors are slightly recessed within a block paneled surround. There is pressed stone visible on the bottom half of the first floor. The second story has three one-over-one windows with awnings. The third story (c.1911) has two one-over-one hung sash windows with awnings.

11-15 North Railroad Ave

Contributing

c.1850

Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 11-13 Railroad Avenue in the original survey.

“11-13 Railroad Avenue is a five bay, three story, brick Second Empire style building. There are four arched windows in the Mansard roof, elaborate brackets with pendants and an incised and decorated frieze. The front entrance has an entablature and pilasters and a recessed doorway with a transom and sidelights. The building was remodeled and the roof was raised, C. 1900. The storefront of the south has been covered.”

Updated Description

11-15 North Railroad Avenue is a five-bay, three-story, brick, Second Empire two-part commercial block. The first floor storefront spans the first, second, and third bays. The storefront has a hood with a molded cornice, wood paneling, two recessed entry doors, and small, four light windows on one side of each door. The remaining first floor windows are two-over-two hung sash with molded cornices and simple surrounds. The second story windows are one-over-one hung sash with molded lintels and simple surrounds. Four arched, hooded, one-over-one hung sash windows with transoms pierce the Mansard roof (c.1900). The bracketed cornice has a decorated frieze.

17 North Railroad Ave

Contributing

c.1870

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Original Survey

Listed as contributing under 15 Railroad Avenue in the original survey.

“15 Railroad Avenue is a three story, three bay, brick, Italianate building. Four elaborate double brackets and smaller brackets support the cornice. The frieze is decorated with panels and floral motifs. The windows have simple lintels and the recessed front entrance has a transom, entablature and pilasters.”

Updated Description

17 North Railroad Avenue is a three-bay, three-story, brick, Italianate two-part commercial block. The first floor entrance aligns with the center bay and is recessed, with wood paneling, an entablature, and pilasters. There are sidelights and a transom surrounding the door. All of the façade windows are one-over-one hung sash with brownstone lintels and mantels. The frieze is decorated with panels. The cornice is supported by four pairs of double brackets and smaller brackets between the pairs.

19 North Railroad Ave

Noncontributing

c.1850

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion under 17 Railroad Avenue in the original survey.

“17 Railroad Avenue is a two story, brick structure.”

Updated Description

19 North Railroad Avenue is a two-story, brick and cinderblock one-part commercial block. The main entrance faces the intersection of Railroad Avenue and Strawberry Alley. The main entry is recessed and has a glass door with large sidelights. The second story above the entrance has vertical paneling with the signage mounted on top of it.

FREDERICK STREET

6 North Frederick St

Noncontributing

c.1960

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion under 6-8 N Frederick Street in the original survey.

“6-8 North Frederick Street is a one story, brick commercial building.”

Updated Description

6 North Frederick Street is a one-story, cinderblock and brick one-part commercial block. The main entrance, facing North Frederick Street, has a brick face. There is a protruding overhang covering a set of three fixed half-story windows on either side of the entry door. The other building elevations are cinderblock; the roof is flat.

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7 South Frederick St

Noncontributing

c.1950

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion under 1 S Frederick Street in the original survey.

“1 South Frederick Street is a one story, frame, gable roof commercial building.”

Updated Description

1 South Frederick Street is a one-story, frame, side gable, one-part commercial block. The siding is board and batten. Eight half story windows line the western side of the building following the sidewalk. The roof is aluminum, and an aluminum carport extends to the north.

HIGH STREET

14 North High St

Noncontributing

c.1956

Original Survey

Listed as an intrusion in the original survey.

“14 North High Street is a one story brick building with a two story addition. The structure is used by the Bell Telephone Company.”

Updated Description

14 North High Street is a three-bay, one-story one-part commercial block with a two-story addition. The building is completed in Flemish bond brickwork with brick quoins and jack arches with keystones over the windows. The entry door has “Bell Telephone” carved in the architrave. Verizon now occupies the building.

5-7 South High St

Contributing

c.1910

Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“5-7 South High Street is a four bay, two story, frame, gable roof duplex building.

It has been altered by the application of aluminum and asbestos siding.”

Updated Description

5-7 South High Street is a four-bay, two-story, frame, side gable duplex. It has been altered by the application of aluminum and asbestos siding. The front entry doors each have a small, flat, protruding aluminum awning overtop. The windows are all one-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds.

9-11 South High St

Contributing

c.1910

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Original Survey

Listed as contributing in the original survey.

“9-11 South High Street is a four bay, two story, frame, gable roof duplex building. It has been altered by the application of aluminum siding.”

Updated Description

9-11 South High Street is a four-bay, two-story, frame, side gable duplex. It has been altered by the application of aluminum siding. Each entry door has a protruding scalloped aluminum awning. The windows are three-over-one hung sash with simple surrounds.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Architecture

Commerce

Other

Period of Significance

1837-c.1975

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Comager, J.W.

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

W.H. Dougherty

John W. Hershman

C.H. Titzel

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

The district is locally significant under **Criterion A for Commerce**. Mechanicsburg settlement began in the early nineteenth century due to its location on the transportation route between Harrisburg and Carlisle; businesses related to fixing wagons opened in the area and served travelers. The Cumberland Valley Railroad expansion to Mechanicsburg in 1837 led to the most significant growth period in Mechanicsburg and varied commercial enterprises.

The district is locally significant under **Criterion B for Significant Person**. J.W. Comager (1854-1934) was an African American resident who owned a barbershop in the district. At the turn of the twentieth century, he introduced and installed electrical systems throughout the borough.

The district is locally significant under **Criterion C for Architecture**. The district is typical of a late-nineteenth/early twentieth-century commercial district, mainly consisting of two-part commercial blocks. The architectural styles include Italianate, Second Empire, Colonial Revival, Romanesque, Gothic, and Queen Anne.

The period of significance is **1837-c.1975**. The 1983 nomination listed 1800-1899 and 1900 – as the period of significance, but a narrower timeframe is 1837-c.1975. The extension of the Cumberland Valley Railroad to Mechanicsburg in 1837 led to significant commercial growth in the district, which slowed in the 1970s with the development of other nearby commercial centers.

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Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Amending Information in Section 8

The original 1983 National Register nomination, written by Susan G. Lott, provides an overview of the borough that is still applicable.⁴ The following amendment to Section 8 provides additional information to supplement the original nomination.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Settlers established Mechanicsburg in the early nineteenth century, along the primary east-west route from Harrisburg to Carlisle. The borough, incorporated in 1828, acquired its name because the wagon repair shops opened along the transportation route. The early development of Mechanicsburg was slow due to the lack of water in the area.⁵

The establishment of the Cumberland Valley Railroad, chartered in 1831, ushered in a period of prosperity and growth for Mechanicsburg. The first train on the Cumberland Valley Railroad passed through Mechanicsburg in 1837. Mechanicsburg grew to the second largest town in the county, after Carlisle, and attracted many commercial and manufacturing enterprises.⁶ The population doubled in the decade between 1850 and 1860 and reached 1,939 residents.⁷ By 1867, the borough had a passenger station for the railroad, four churches, a fire company, a bank, several educational institutions, and various merchants supplying goods and services.

The borough never experienced another rapid population increase after 1860. Rather, growth was slow but continuous, ebbing at the turn of the century and increasing steadily post-World War II, likely due to the Naval Depot, which the United States established in Mechanicsburg in 1941. Since 1980, the population has stagnated; 9,385 residents lived in the borough in 1980, decreasing to 9,311 residents in 2020.⁸

COMMERCE CONTEXT

The location of Mechanicsburg along a major transportation route led to the area's development as a commercial center. The commercial center began as wagon repair shops and developed into general and specialty stores. Early commercial enterprises include Weber's Hardware (c.1855), Merchant's Hotel (c.1867), and Eckel's Pharmacy (c.1879). The 1885 Sanborn Map of

⁴ Susan G. Lott, "Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form," 1983, <https://share.phmc.pa.gov/pashare/resources/limited-view/5766301>.

⁵ Norman D. Keefer, *A History of Mechanicsburg and the Surrounding Area* (USA: Mechanicsburg Area Historical Committee, 1976), 17.

⁶ Beverly J. Bone, *Images of America: Mechanicsburg* (Charleston, South Carolina: Arcadia Publishing, 2018), 7.

⁷ Keefer, *A History of Mechanicsburg and the Surrounding Area*, 106.

⁸ Bureau of the Census, "Chapter A: Number of Inhabitants in Pennsylvania," in 1980 Census of Population, vol. 1 (Washington, D.C., 1982), 40-14, <https://www2.census.gov/prod2/decennial/documents/00496492v1p40s1ch2.pdf>; United States Census Bureau, "QuickFacts: Mechanicsburg Borough, Pennsylvania," United States Census Bureau, accessed April 10, 2025, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/mechanicsburgboroughpennsylvania/POP010220>.

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Mechanicsburg shows a variety of unnamed drug stores, cigar stores, grocery stores, bakeries, cobblers, tailors, barbers, a jewelry store, a music store, a book shop, and a livery.⁹

As a way to celebrate local businesses, the borough organized Jubilee Day, an annual one-day street fair held on the third Thursday of June. Beginning in 1923, the fair, originally called the Farmer and Merchants Jubilee Day, was held on the block of West Main Street between Market Street and Frederick Street.¹⁰ The fair, touted as the longest single-day fair on the East Coast, has expanded significantly over the years and now comprises seven street blocks and attracts around 70,000 attendees.¹¹ The Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, established in 1927, organizes the event. The Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District is still the heart of the street fair, but attendance has required the fair to expand beyond the district's boundaries. Although now the event is more commercialized than in its early years, Jubilee Day is still a testament to Mechanicsburg's local commerce and its importance to the community (Figure 1).¹²



Figure 1. Jubilee Day 1981, photo by Jim Bradley, courtesy of the Cumberland County Historical Society. Photo taken from 2 East Main Street, facing northwest.¹³

⁹ Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, Mechanicsburg, 1:600 (Broadway, New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, January 1885), Proquest: Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, https://digitalsanbornmaps.proquest.com/browse_maps/39/7782/37968/39735/531014?accountid=14696.

¹⁰ Joseph Cress, "For 90 Years, People Have Packed Main Street Mechanicsburg for Jubilee Day," *The Sentinel*, June 18, 2014, <https://www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/THE-SENTINEL-HISTORY-OF-JUBILEE-DAY.pdf>.

¹¹ Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, "Jubilee Day (TM)," Mechanicsburg Chamber of Commerce, accessed April 9, 2025, <https://www.mechanicsburgchamber.org/event/jubilee-day/>.

¹² Cress, "For 90 Years, People Have Packed Main Street Mechanicsburg for Jubilee Day."

¹³ Jim Bradley, Jubilee Day, June 18, 1981, B2-C20-16-01, Cumberland County Historical Society, <https://cumberland.catalogaccess.com/photos/138578>.

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Although Main Street is still the commercial hub in the borough of Mechanicsburg, neighboring townships are now the most significant areas of commerce between Harrisburg and Carlisle. The Cumberland Valley Railroad, later merged with the Pennsylvania Railroad, met its demise in the mid-twentieth century as local infrastructure improved and automobile and truck transportation for freight and passengers grew in popularity.¹⁴ Competition from local retailers drew shoppers away from borough businesses. The Capital City Mall, located in Lower Allen Township, opened in 1974 and remains a popular shopping destination. The Carlisle Pike in Silver Spring Township grew in popularity due to the increased traffic along US 11 and the introduction of Interstate 81 during the 1970s. The establishment of these shopping centers, especially in the late 1970s, caused a decline in local commerce and even led to the commercialization of Jubilee Day.¹⁵ The focus is no longer on local Mechanicsburg vendors, but rather welcomes any organization or business interested in offering goods or services. Because of the new highway systems, going around the Mechanicsburg Borough became more convenient than driving through it, which led to its decline. None of the long-standing commercial operations listed on the 1983 nomination, such as Eckel's Pharmacy and Biddle's Department Store, are operational in 2025.¹⁶ As of 2025, Ritter's True Value Hardware (est. 1908), located at 25 West Main Street, is the oldest operating business in the district.

SIGNIFICANT PERSON: J.W. COMAGER CONTEXT

John William (J.W.) Comager, an African American barbershop owner in Mechanicsburg, aided in bringing electricity to the town. Born in Virginia in 1854, J.W. Comager and his wife Emma (Duffin) lived in Mechanicsburg by at least 1876.¹⁷ According to the 1880 Census, J.W. Comager was a barber.¹⁸

Comager's barbershop was located in the historic district at 126 West Main Street. A 1907 article in *The Sentinel* indicated that Comager's barbershop was located on Main Street next to Daniel Morrett's feed store.¹⁹ The Sanborn Map of Mechanicsburg from September 1902 shows a barbershop next to a feed store at 126-128 West Main Street.²⁰ In all likelihood, this is the location of Comager's barbershop. An 1886 newspaper article from *The Sentinel* suggested that

¹⁴ Paul J. Westhaeffer, *History of the Cumberland Valley Railroad 1835-1919* (Washington, D.C.: National Railway Historical Society, 1979).

¹⁵ Cress, "For 90 Years, People Have Packed Main Street Mechanicsburg for Jubilee Day."

¹⁶ Lott, "Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form."

¹⁷ The Comagers had an infant son, Robbie, who died in 1876 and was buried in the Lincoln Cemetery in Mechanicsburg.

¹⁸ 1880 U.S. Census; Mechanicsburg, Cumberland, Pennsylvania; Roll: 1122; Page: 112b; Enumeration District: 069; database with images, Ancestry.com (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/6742/records/36960318?tid=200104485&pid=112625375625&ssrc=p>; accessed 24 Feb 2024).

¹⁹ "Mechanicsburg," *The Sentinel*, November 1, 1907, Newspapers.com.

²⁰ Sanborn Map Company, *Mechanicsburg*, 1:600 (Broadway, New York: Sanborn Map Company, September 1902), Proquest: Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, .

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Comager moved shop locations that year; the Sanborn maps corroborate this timeline at the 126-128 West Main Street location, as the January 1885 map shows a vacant space next to the feed store, which was occupied by a barbershop by the August 1890 Sanborn Map (Figure 2).²¹

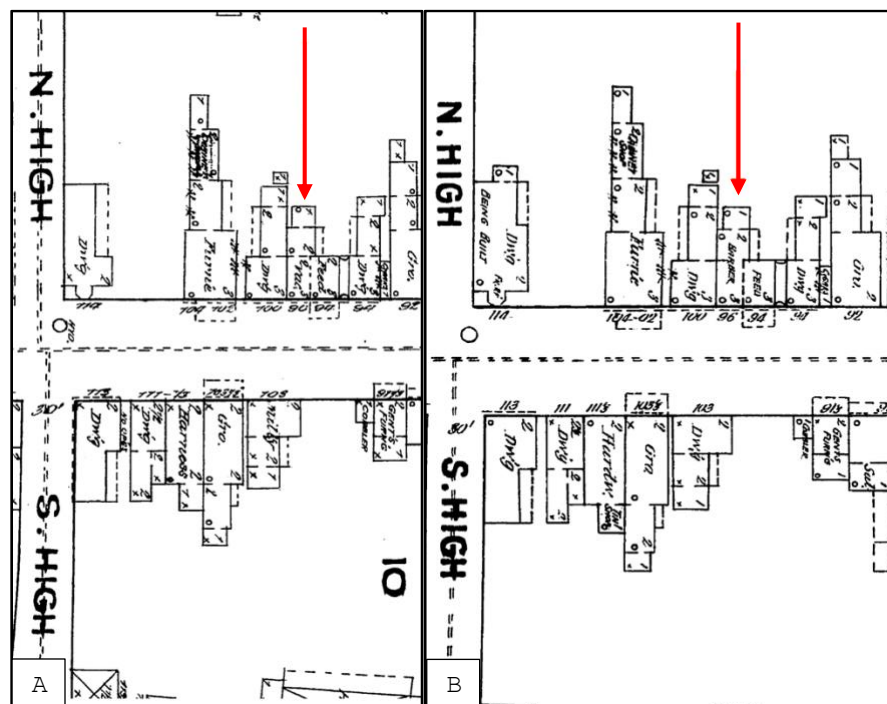


Figure 2. Image A is the 1885 Sanborn Map showing the vacancy beside the feed store. Image B is the 1890 Sanborn Map showing the barbershop at the same address. The red arrows indicate the suspected location of J.W. Comager's barbershop.²²

J.W. Comager had a great interest in electricity. Throughout the 1880s into the early 1900s, Comager installed electric bells, fans, and lights around the borough. By 1885, he was installing lights in his barbershop.²³ In addition to lighting, Comager used electricity to create window displays. In 1907, he added a hidden electric fan below the window and filled the window with “toy balloons of various shapes, which kept bobbing up and down, making quite a pretty sight.”²⁴ Comager utilized electricity in his barbershop practically, as a way to light up the space, and in unconventional ways to personalize it, as seen through the fan and balloon display.

²¹ Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, *Mechanicsburg*, 1:600 (Broadway, New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, January 1885), Proquest: Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, https://digitalsanbornmaps.proquest.com/browse_maps/39/7782/37968/39735/531014?accountid=14696; Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, *Mechanicsburg*, 1:600 (Broadway, New York: Sanborn Map & Publishing Co., Limited, August 1890), Proquest: Digital Sanborn Maps, 1867-1970, https://digitalsanbornmaps.proquest.com/browse_maps/39/7782/37969/39736/531018?accountid=14696.

²² Ibid.

²³ It is unclear whether the electric bells referenced in the newspaper articles are door bells or call bells. “Jottings from Mechanicsburg,” *The Sentinel*, October 5, 1885, Newspapers.com.

²⁴ “Notes,” *The Sentinel*, July 5, 1907, Newspapers.com.

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In 1886, *The Sentinel* declared, “Comager, the barber, is becoming the greatest institution in Mechanicsburg. He has been doing such surprising things of late that it would not shock a single hair on our head if he undertakes to light up our town by electricity.”²⁵ True to this remark, Comager continued adding electricity and electrical devices around the borough for years to come. Comager added a “ten pound electric annunciator” to Franklin Hall in 1900, an electric alarm in the First National Bank in 1901, and added electric bells to residences.²⁶ Although Franklin Hall was demolished in 1926, the former First National Bank, now Demin Coffee, is the building where Comager installed the electric alarm. These newspaper articles demonstrate Comager’s contributions through electricity to the historic district, not only in his barbershop but also in public buildings, as well as his prominence in the town.

J.W. Comager’s contributions to the community are particularly significant when put into the context of how electricity came to Mechanicsburg. Comager installed electric lights in his barbershop ten years before the borough accepted a bid for an electric service provider. The specific source of Comager’s electricity is not mentioned, though could have been a small-scale private generator. None of the Sanborn maps indicate a source of electricity for the barbershop. In 1895, the Cumberland Light, Heat, and Power Company installed electric arc street lights, replacing the former street lights powered by coal oil.²⁷ Harrisburg, the closest urban center, had electric utilities by 1887.²⁸ Comager experimented with electricity in Mechanicsburg when bigger cities began utilizing it on a large scale. Urban centers typically introduce new technologies first, which then spread to the surrounding suburban and rural areas. Comager aided in this spread. Not only was Comager a well-known barber, but he also made contributions throughout the district in the form of electricity.

Architecture in the District – Overview

The district's overall appearance is that of two- to three-story, two-part commercial blocks, many with Italianate influences. Two-part commercial blocks are buildings abutting the sidewalk with two horizontal sections with separate purposes; the lower section is the public section or storefront, and the upper section is private and can be used for residences or offices.²⁹ Two-part commercial blocks were the dominant building form for small to mid-size commercial centers from the 1850s through the 1950s.³⁰ The frequency of two-part commercial blocks in the Mechanicsburg borough is unsurprising, as the peak years of popularity for this building form coincide with its growth and development. Prime examples of this in the district are 100-104 West Main Street, 26 West Main Street, and 36-38 East Main Street.

²⁵ “Jottings from Mechanicsburg,” *The Sentinel*, July 21, 1886.

²⁶ “Personal,” *The Sentinel*, August 15, 1900, Newspapers.com.; “Robbers Take Notice,” *Carlisle Evening Herald*, January 25, 1901, Newspapers.com.

²⁷ Mechanicsburg Museum Association, “Mechanicsburg Timeline and Facts,” Mechanicsburg Museum Association, n.d., <http://www.mechanicsburgmuseum.org/pages/history/timeline.html>.

²⁸ Nick Malawskey, “100-Year-Old Manhole Covers Illuminate Harrisburg Connection to Thomas Edison,” *The Patriot News*, August 9, 2016, https://www.pennlive.com/news/2016/08/piece_of_harrisburg_history_on.html.

²⁹ Richard Longstreth, *The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture* (Washington, D.C.: The Preservation Press, 1987), 24.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

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Many storefronts were altered in the twentieth century to include enframed window walls. Enframed window walls reached peak popularity in the 1940s and required storefronts to have large windows, usually within a continuous border.³¹ This alteration allowed for larger display space and curb appeal for passersby. Examples of enframed window walls can be seen on 122-124 West Main Street, 106 West Main Street, and 16 West Main Street.

Fifty-two of the contributing buildings have Italianate influences, as seen through the multitude of bracketed cornices. Some of these buildings have a traditional bracketed cornice (5 East Main Street and 64 West Main Street), others have sets of paired brackets (67 West Main Street and 53 West Main Street), and a few have varying sizes of brackets within the cornice and modillions (11-17 East Main Street). Two buildings are more influenced by the Second Empire style, in that the bracketed cornice is below a Mansard roof (40 West Main Street, 11-15 North Railroad Avenue, and 50 East Main Street).

The dominant style in the early years of the district was Georgian, which was later replaced with the Italianate structures seen today.³² Although none of the structures are high-style Georgian, several retain Georgian influences. The Georgian value of symmetrical massing is seen in such structures as 74 West Main Street and 20 South Market Street. All buildings reflecting this style have some alteration, including additions in other styles and aluminum siding.

Two structures have Romanesque influences: 36 and 55 West Main Street. 36 West Main Street, now Denim Coffee, has a wide arch in front of a slightly recessed entrance and similar arches above the second-story windows. The recessed entrance to 55 West Main Street also has a wide arch. Both structures are partially made of brick, and the Romanesque features are of brownstone.

Another featured but infrequent style is Queen Anne; two structures fall into this category. Fifty-five West Main Street, noted above with Romanesque influences, is overall in the Queen Anne style due to its asymmetry and level of ornamentation. The remaining building in the Queen Anne style is the residence at 61 East Main Street, which is also asymmetrical and includes a tower and additional ornamentation.

Several of the contributing buildings do not fall into the categories above, such as the banks and religious structures. The original bank at 2-8 East Main Street is in the vault commercial form, meaning that the façade has a tall and narrow center section with neoclassical features on either side.³³ The 1935 addition to this building was influenced by the arcaded block form, as the north-facing elevation facing Main Street has large, uniformly spaced, arched openings with windows embedded within the brickwork.³⁴ The remaining bank at 2 West Main Street has the commercial form of a central block with wing and neoclassical influences; there is a projecting center section

³¹ Ibid., 68.

³² Lott, "Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District National Register of Historic Places Inventory - Nomination Form."

³³ Longstreth, 109.

³⁴ Longstreth, 118.

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with a portico with a bay on either side.³⁵ The First Church of God has Gothic influences, although much of these were removed during a 1978 remodel.

The district retains a high degree of integrity, partially due to the lack of modern intrusions. Since 1983, no new buildings have been added within its boundaries. Most modernizing alterations, such as the addition of aluminum siding, were added prior to the original survey, as seen through 120 West Main Street, 46 East Main Street, and 7 North Railroad Avenue. The newer structures, such as 6 North Frederick Street and 7 South Frederick Street, are included on the original survey and still remain as intrusions.

Not many of the architects are known; three architects and contractors are listed in the original survey. William H. Dougherty designed 36 West Main Street, John W. Hershman was the contractor for 26 North Market Street, 36 East Main Street, 48-50 West Main Street and C.H. Titzel built 55 East Main Street.³⁶ William H. Dougherty was a well-known contractor in the area and was a part of other large projects in the area outside of the district, including an early high school and two churches. John W. Hershman was a prominent local carpenter and designed Franklin Hall, the original town center. C.H. Titzel, another local carpenter, also operated a furniture store out of 19 East Main Street in the late nineteenth century. These architects and building styles reflect popular architectural trends in Main Streets, especially on the East Coast of the United States.

³⁵ Longstreth, 116.

³⁶ "Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District Cumberland County: Building Inventory," n.d., PA-SHARE.

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 16.67

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

1. Latitude: _____ Longitude: _____

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- | | |
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| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

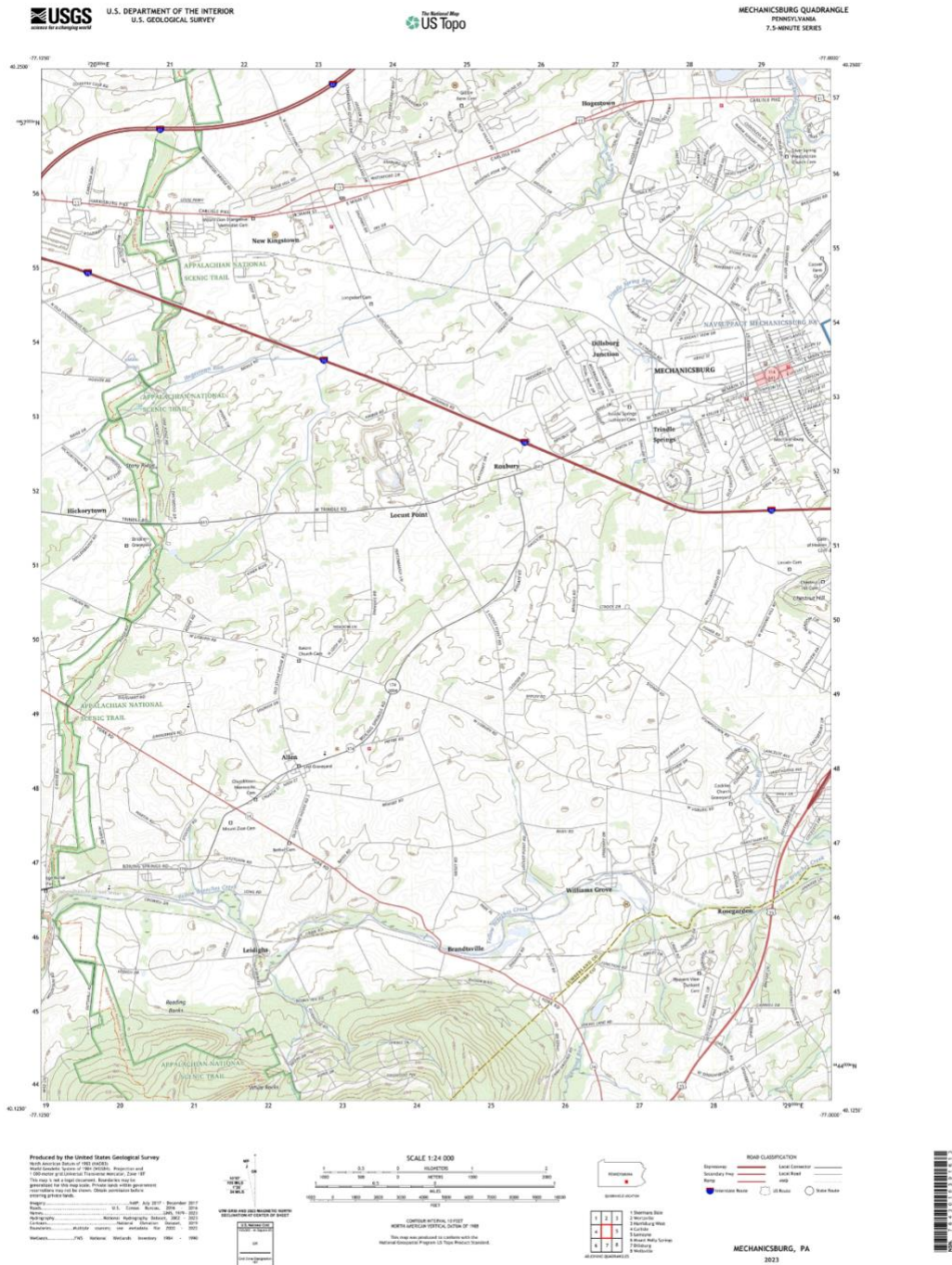
- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 18 | Easting: 329240 | Northing: 4453260 |
| 2. Zone: 18 | Easting: 328750 | Northing: 4453140 |
| 3. Zone: 18 | Easting: 328790 | Northing: 4452960 |
| 4. Zone: 18 | Easting: 328750 | Northing: 4453100 |

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2023 USGS Map of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. The historic district is within the red box.³⁷

³⁷ United States Geological Survey, Mechanicsburg Quadrangle, 2023, 1:24000, 2023, The National Map, <https://ngmdb.usgs.gov/topoview/viewer/#>.

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Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic district boundary contains the commercial, residential, and public buildings that make up the core of the Mechanicsburg Borough. It is bound by Strawberry Alley to the North, Arch Street to the East, Stouffer Alley to the South, and High Street to the West.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary established in the 1983 nomination remains the same.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ericka Kauffman
organization: University of Maryland, Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 224 Ringneck Drive
city or town: Harrisburg state: PA zip code: 17112
e-mail elkauffman@hotmail.com
telephone: 717-884-3060
date: May 18th, 2025

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

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Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mechanicsburg Commercial Historic District

City or Vicinity: Mechanicsburg

County: Cumberland

State: Pennsylvania

Photographer: Ericka Kauffman

Date Photographed: 2 January 2025, 17 March 2025

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 19.

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Photo #	Description	Photographer	Date
1	56-37 E Main Street, facing southwest	Kauffman	March 2025
2	56-8 E Main Street, facing southwest	Kauffman	March 2025
3	The Washington Fire Company building at 53 E Main Street, facing northwest	Kauffman	January 2025
4	2-8 E Main Street, facing southwest	Kauffman	January 2025
5	1-9 E Main Street, facing northwest	Kauffman	January 2025
6	10-20 S Market Street, facing south	Kauffman	January 2025
7	20-8 N Market Street and 1-8 E Main Street, facing south	Kauffman	January 2025
8	26-46 W Main Street, facing northwest	Kauffman	January 2025
9	7-17 N Railroad Avenue, facing south	Kauffman	March 2025
10	36 W Main Street, facing north	Kauffman	January 2025
11	36-20 W Main Street, facing northeast	Kauffman	March 2025
12	41-109 W Main Street, facing southwest	Kauffman	March 2025
13	55 W Main Street, facing southeast	Kauffman	January 2025
14	70 & 74 W Main Street, facing north	Kauffman	March 2025
15	64-36 W Main Street, facing east	Kauffman	March 2025
16	100-143 W Main Street, facing west	Kauffman	March 2025
17	109 W Main Street through 28 E Main Street, facing east	Kauffman	January 2025
18	130-128 W Main Street, facing northeast. Includes prior 126 W Main Street.	Kauffman	January 2025
19	143-100 W Main Street, facing northeast	Kauffman	March 2025

See Continuation Sheets

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for nominations 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.460 et seq.). We may not conduct or sponsor and you are not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for each response using this form is estimated to be between the Tier 1 and Tier 4 levels with the estimate of the time for each tier as follows:

- Tier 1 – 60-100 hours
- Tier 2 – 120 hours
- Tier 3 – 230 hours
- Tier 4 – 280 hours

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Photo 1 of 19: 56-37 E Main Street, facing southwest.



Photo 2 of 19: 56-8 E Main Street, facing southwest.

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Photo 3 of 19: The Washington Fire Company building at 53 E Main Street, facing northwest.



Photo 4 of 19: 2-8 E Main Street, facing southwest.

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Photo 5 of 19: 1-9 E Main Street, facing northwest.



Photo 6 of 19: 10-20 S Market Street, facing south.

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Photo 7 of 19: 20-8 N Market Street and 1-8 E Main Street, facing south.



Photo 8 of 19: 26-46 W Main Street, facing northwest.

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Photo 9 of 19: 7-17 N Railroad Avenue, facing south.

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Photo 10 of 19: 36 W Main Street, facing north.

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Photo 11 of 19: 36-20 W Main Street, facing northeast.



Photo 12 of 13: 41-109 W Main Street, facing southwest.

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Photo 13 of 19: 55 W Main Street, facing southeast.

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Photo 14 of 19: 70 & 74 W Main Street, facing north.



Photo 15 of 19: 64-36 W Main Street, facing east.

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Photo 16 of 19: 100-143 W Main Street, facing west.



Photo 17 of 19: 109 W Main Street through 28 E Main Street, facing east.

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Photo 18 of 19: 130-128 W Main Street, facing northeast. Includes prior 126 W Main Street.

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Photo 19 of 19: 143-100 W Main Street, facing northeast.