

SECTION NINE HISTORIC PRESERVATION







OVERVIEW

As West Virginia's oldest town, the preservation of the Town's historic architectural resources and landmarks has been one of the community's most important goals for many years. Nearly the entire jurisdiction of the Corporation is designated as a local historic district and listed as a National Register Historic District. The community has worked together toward preserving the town's architectural heritage by preserving many of its historical structures and adaptively reusing them. To that end, one of the primary strategies implemented from the 2001 plan involved the creation of a Historic Landmarks Commission and design guidelines with architectural standards to assist property owners in improving properties and officials in reviewing and making decisions on applications for changes in historic areas. As the Town looks to the future, historic preservation remains a key quality of life that the citizens of Shepherdstown hold in high regard.

BRIEF HISTORY

Beginning as a small settlement near Pack Horse Ford on the Potomac River, the Town was founded in 1734 by Thomas Shepherd, who established the largest grist mill in the area. The Town of Shepherdstown was later chartered in 1762 and has survived through several cycles of growth and decline.

After the French and Indian War the growth of the town was rapid. During the Revolution many industries were carried on at this point, and few places rendered more useful and valuable services to the cause. Clothing was made; shoes, hats, rifles, shotguns, and all other military accouterments; wagons, saddles and many other things were manufactured for the use of the soldiers. The town was like a "hive of industrious bees," according to Danske Dandridge in Historic Shepherdstown.

In 1787, James Rumsey made a successful trial of his steam-propelled boat on the Potomac at Shepherdstown. The newspaper, "The Potomac Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser", was begun in 1790. The town retained its importance as a center of trade for many years.

Construction of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which began at Georgetown in 1828 and reached Cumberland in 1850, brought growth and prosperity to Shepherdstown again in the early 1800's.

In the period following the Civil War, the town was the county seat of Jefferson County (1865 to 1871). Shepherd College was established in 1871 as a local institution of higher learning.



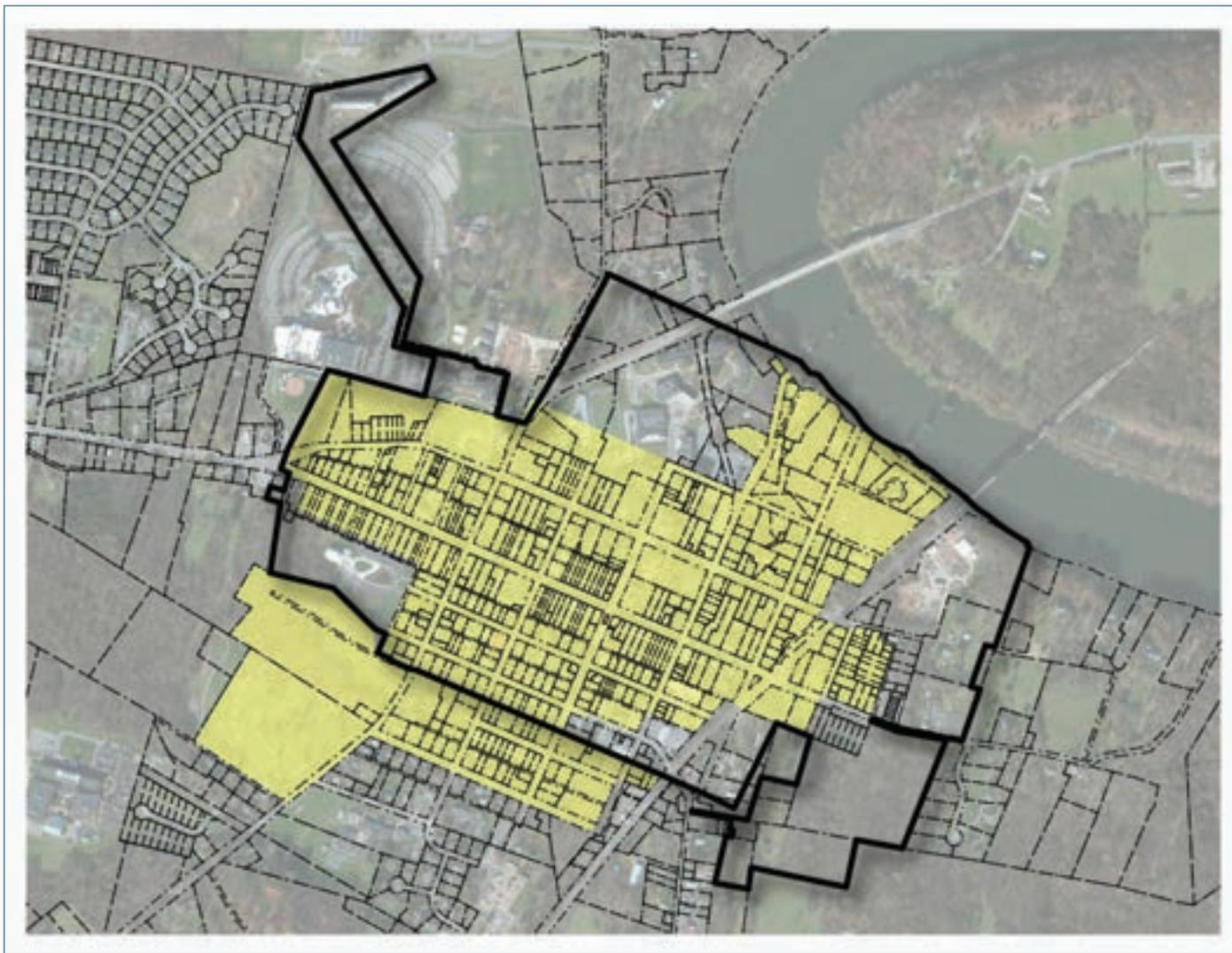
The large homes and commercial and institutional buildings which establish the historic character of the town date back to these early periods of economic and social growth and vitality. (Source: 2001 Shepherdstown Comprehensive Plan)

Historic District and Individual Structures

As depicted in the map below, approximately 73 percent of the land or 174 acres within the Corporate Limits has been designated as part of a Historic District. The major resource utilized for this section is the Historic Shepherdstown website found at www.historicshepherdstown.com. This active, non-profit membership organization began in 1961 and is dedicated to preserving Shepherdstown's architectural character, and building public understanding of Shepherdstown's distinctive history. In 1972, the group played a major role in the community's first large effort to preserve the historic Entler Hotel, which was scheduled for demolition. Historic Shepherdstown and other volunteers worked closely together to save and restore the Entler Hotel. In 1973, the State Historic Preservation Office formalized a Historic District, establishing a number of sites within the District with entry on the National Register of Historic Places. In 1986, an expansion of the boundaries of the Historic District were completed, covering all but approximately two and a half disaggregated blocks of property and those lands under control of Shepherd University.

Although not all structures are listed, below is a listing of many properties of major historic significance in Shepherdstown that have been placed on the Historic Shepherdstown's website and walking tour (See Walking Tour Map):

1. **ENTLER HOTEL AND HISTORIC SHEPHERDSTOWN MUSEUM**, NW corner of German and Princess Sts. In 1786 Phillip Adam Entler, Jr. built a residence on the west side of the property. In following years, others built substantial brick buildings on the lot extending eastward from Entler's residence to Princess Street. By 1809 Daniel Bedinger owned all of the property that became the Entler Hotel and leased it to others. For more than a century the Entler thrived. In 1912, the Entler residence on the west side of the property burned. During the 20th century the Entler briefly took the name Rumsey Hotel and then became Rumsey Hall, a college dormitory. It housed students, World War II Navy and Air Force cadets, and college faculty. When the building appeared scheduled for demolition in the early 1970s, townspeople organized to save and restore it. Today the Entler helps tell the story of Shepherdstown as the Historic Shepherdstown Museum. The Museum is housed in the west side of the building and is open weekends from April through October. The first floor is used by the community for meetings, art exhibits, parties, and receptions. The Shepherdstown Visitors' Center occupies space on the corner.



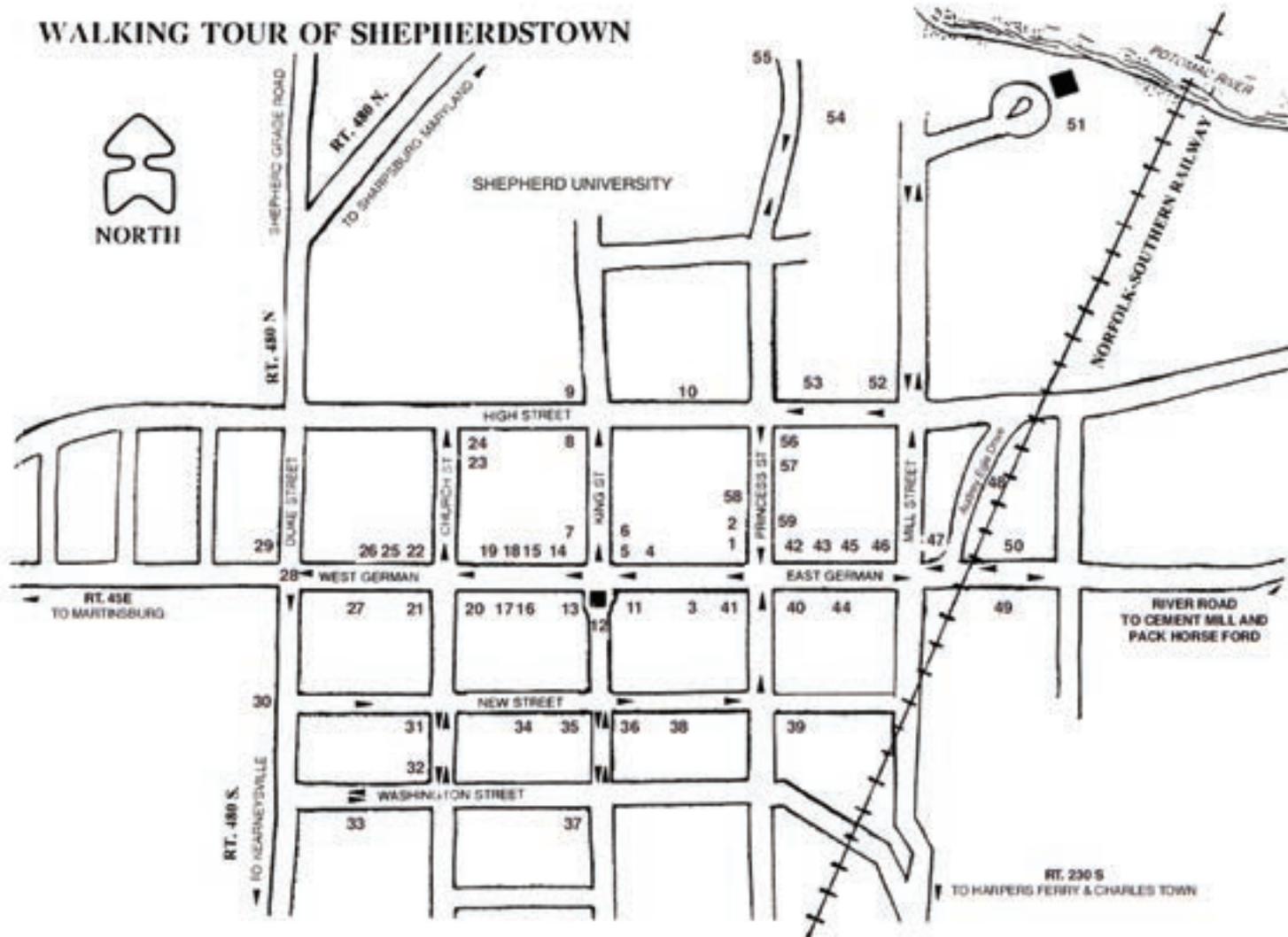
This map depicts the extent of areas that are within a designated historic district, and thus subject to the Town's historic district regulations.

 Historic District

Shepherdstown Historic Districts



WALKING TOUR OF SHEPHERDSTOWN



Walking Tour of Shepherdstown (Source: Historic Shepherdstown, Inc.)



2. **RUMSEY STEAMBOAT MUSEUM**, on the Entler grounds. Houses a half-size working replica of Rumsey's steamboat and an exhibit reviewing James Rumsey's life and work.
3. **MECKLENBURG INN**, 128 E German St. Might be the only building on the south side of this block surviving from early Shepherdstown that has not been significantly changed or replaced. From c. late 1790s to the mid 1850s, it was a stately residence where John F. Hamtramck, one of the town's military heroes, lived for a time. Later it became a business address and in recent times has become a part of the Shepherdstown tradition of inns and taverns.
4. **PENDLETON PROPERTY**, 109- 111 E German Street St. Built in early 1800s and spared from the 1912 fire which burned adjacent buildings to the east on East German, including part of the Entler property. Charles Harper started an apothecary shop here in 1816. After the Civil War, B.S. Pendleton, a Confederate veteran, bought the property and opened his green grocer store. In the early 20th century, Pendleton was still selling Confederate Generals Lee, Jackson, and Stuart lead pencils, and "Blind John" Lamb operated his roasted peanut stand just off the sidewalk. Across the alley to the right, a brick wall from 1798 survives in a structure built in 1913, after the big fire.
5. **MCMURRAN HALL**, NE corner of German and King Sts. This imposing Greek Revival structure was erected in 1859 by Rezin Davis Shepherd, who intended it to be a town hall. A major benefactor of the town, Shepherd grew wealthy as a businessman in New Orleans after the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. At the time of his death in 1865 he was said to be one of the major property owners of New Orleans though he also maintained a residence in Shepherdstown. The clock in the tower, donated to the town by Shepherd in 1842 and originally housed in the old Episcopal Church, was moved to the town hall tower in 1860. Though neglected during some periods, the clock has been maintained in recent decades and still strikes the hour. After the Civil War, the building served briefly as the county courthouse, and the wings were added. When the county seat returned to Charles Town in 1871, the Shepherd heirs deeded the property to a board of trustees for the town. In 1872, the trustees in turn leased it to the state, and the town hall became the first building of what is today Shepherd University. In 1927 it was named in memory of Joseph McMurrin, Shepherd's first principal. Construction of the "**College Wall**" along two sides of the lot began in 1859, but the wall, of hand cut stones, remained incomplete until after the Civil War. Generations of the town's youth have congregated at the wall to observe the passing scene, ignoring an 1896 town ordinance imposing a dollar fine for loafing on or near the wall.



6. **REYNOLDS HALL**, 109 N King St, attached to McMurrin. Was built through the fund-raising efforts of townspeople. Katherine Reynolds, wife of the town's long time doctor, John Reynolds, led the campaign. Completed in 1889, the building contained an auditorium and a stage. In 1912, the town placed the building at the disposal of the growing college, and in 1929, it was named in Mrs. Reynolds' honor. Still used by Shepherd University, it also remains available for town meetings and entertainment.
7. **TOWN HALL**, 104 N King St. A modern brick structure, replaced an older, smaller building in 2011. Note the Bee Line March display outside
8. **ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**, SW corner of King and High Sts. Dedicated in 1908, this structure became the second church for the Lutheran congregation. The church bell, dating from 1879, was brought from the first church and installed in the tower. An escutcheon made by local locksmith Michael Rickard in 1795 also was transferred from the old building and placed on the tower door, where it remains today.
9. **SHEPHERD UNIVERSITY, EAST CAMPUS**. Begins north of the High St—King St intersection. A campus map is displayed on the grounds of Knutti Hall at 102 E High St.
10. **ENTLER-WELTZHEIMER HOUSE**, on N side of High St, midway between King and Princess Sts. Allegedly an 18th century structure, it has been said to date to as early as 1770 or as late as 1793. Built of logs and now clad in wood siding, it is the last survivor of several similar structures of early vintage that once lined the north side of High Street in this block. After their home on German St. burned in the 1912 fire, Annetta "Nettie" Entler and her son Frederick Weltzheimer moved into the house. Local tradition has it that the ghost of a murdered cobbler haunted the building. In 1925, the state acquired the property for the use of Shepherd College. For a time home economics classes and college organizations met here.
11. **WAR MEMORIAL BUILDING**, SE corner of German and King Sts. Also known as the Men's Club Building. Built in 1868 to house the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, it was the first substantial building on the eastern half of the block. Until then a large tannery occupied the entire area. Just before World War I, Pearl S. Buck's uncle served as pastor of the church. In 1940, the Methodists reunited at the New Street Methodist Church. The Shepherdstown Men's Club purchased the property in 1947 and named it the War Memorial Building. The club, now called the Community Club, holds its dinners and meetings here and makes its large meeting rooms available for many community activities.



12. OLD MARKET HOUSE, just west of War Memorial Building, in the middle of King Street. This area served as a market space beginning in the mid 1700s. The town built the market house in 1800, placing the whipping post and public hog pen on the south end. Offenders of town ordinances suffered public punishment. Hogs running loose could be seized for public auction. In 1845 the International Order of Odd Fellows added the second story in exchange for a 999-year lease. After the town market closed in 1854, the town enclosed the stalls with brick exterior walls, and the building became a firehouse. It also served from time to time as council chambers, private school, and meat market. In 1926, the Shepherdstown Women's Club obtained permission to use the building as a library, sharing the premises for some years with the town jail. The Shepherdstown Library, Inc. had the Odd Fellows' 999 year lease voided in 1962. A unique characteristic of the building remains the Odd Fellows' symbol of the Seeing Eye, peering at passersby from a semi-circular niche above the front door. Some say the eye moves.

13. MOULDER HALL, SW corner of King and German Sts. Was used as a general store or grocery store from the early 1800s until the late 1980s. During the antebellum era local militia organizations used the brick double house attached to the rear of the building as a meeting and drill room. Following the battle of Antietam (September 17, 1862) wounded men were carried to the

second floor, one of the main surgeries pressed into action in the emergency. Contemporary accounts reported amputated limbs being thrown from upper windows into waiting wagons. Here also Joseph McMurrin, who was to become the first principal of Shepherd, had his private schoolroom after the Civil War.

14. SHEETZ BUILDING, NW corner of German and King Sts. One of the oldest buildings in town, it is located on Town Lot No. 1. Three generations of the Sheetz family manufactured guns and stocks here from before the American Revolution to c.1830s. The gun shop was in a structure behind the Sheetz building facing King Street. From c.1810 to 1821 the family also maintained a tavern. The brick building held the saloon, the adjacent stucco house contained the dining room, and the living quarters were upstairs. William Sheetz manufactured gun stocks for the armory at Harpers Ferry. After the armory was destroyed during the Civil War, Sheetz used the left over gun stocks to build a picket fence.

15. TABLER'S STORE, 119 W German St. The oldest general store location in town, it began as Morris and Brown's general store in 1804 and continued for the next 158 years. Among the long-time proprietors, the Tabler family occupied this building from 1922 to 1962. It also contained the US Post Office 1823-1853.



16. YEASLEY HOUSE, 122 W German St. A large limestone dwelling built in 1790 by German-born Revolutionary War veteran Michael Yeasley, it predates most of the brick buildings. Here Yeasley operated a mercantile store. He owned other properties, both town lots and farm lands. With his first wife Catherine (the widow of Philip Entler, Jr), Yeasley had seven daughters. He was a stalwart of the German Reformed Church. The narrow building wedged between the Yeasley House and the next brick house was the law office of the Honorable Henry Bedinger, poet, congressman, diplomat and one of the town's leading lights of the mid-19th century.

17. ALEXANDER LINDSEY'S TAVERN, 126 W German St. Abutting Bedinger's law office, it was Lindsey's Tavern in 1800. By the mid 1800s it had become the site of the flourishing general store of John McEndree.

18. OPERA HOUSE, 131 W German St. The Opera House replaced a one hundred year old building in 1909. Here moving pictures were shown continuously until 1956. Thirty-five years later, after extensive renovation, it reopened as a movie theater. It is currently used as a venue for both film and live music.

19. BILLMYER BUILDING, NE corner of German and Church Sts (known as "Billmyer's Corner" for generations). This is one of the oldest buildings in town. A log building occupied the site in 1776;

the third story and the brick façade were added after the Civil War. During the Civil War the federal post office was located in the store. When the Confederates controlled the town, the store remained open, but the post office didn't. Two different banks used the corner room from 1873 to 1940.

20. CONRAD SHINDLER HOUSE or REFORMED PARSONAGE, SE corner of German and Church Sts. Was built by Shindler, a coppersmith, in the late 1790s. He used the cellar to forge his pieces. Later the building served for a time as the parsonage of Christ Reformed Church. In 1995 actress Mary Tyler Moore, a direct Shindler descendant, purchased the property and deeded it to the Shepherd College Foundation in honor of her father. It now houses the George Tyler Moore Center for the Study of the Civil War.

21. TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SW corner of German and Church Sts. It features a grey stone spire that rises high above the town. A Gothic Revival structure of native stone, it was completed in 1859 on the eastern end of the old Parade Grounds, where local militia drilled from the French and Indian War until the Civil War. After the Battle of Antietam, town clergymen, realizing their churches would be swamped with the wounded, agreed that one should remain open as "a house of prayer." Because Trinity had just been consecrated in 1859, it was chosen. The church



remained a dedicated place of worship, always open and providing services acceptable to both Union and Confederate troops and their sympathizers throughout the war. The Episcopal Chapel, on the back part of the lot, dates from 1870.

22. KEARSLEY HOUSE or PRESBYTERIAN MANSE, NW corner of German and Church Sts. Grew from a dwelling built in 1795 by John and Mary Line. John Kearsley, a Revolutionary veteran, long time Presbyterian elder, substantial property owner, and president of the town board of trustees for 9 years, added the larger front portion in 1814. The back portion, with an entrance on Church Street, housed a general store and from 1869 to 1873, Shepherdstown's first bank. Later the residence of Presbyterian pastors for many years, it is now a privately-owned residence.

EPISCOPAL CEMETERY, east side of N Church St. Contains the graves of several members of the founding families. Nine Revolutionary soldiers also are interred here. Another, William Morgan, Sr., is said to have been buried under the east chancel of the adjacent Mecklenburg Chapel in 1788.

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24. OLD TRINITY CHURCH, SE corner of Church and High Sts. The "Old English Church" began as a log cabin in 1745. A stone structure called the Mecklenburg Chapel replaced the original building in 1769. Though it has gone through several renovations, the basic structure of 1769 still remains. It is among the earliest surviving church buildings west of the Blue Ridge Mountains. The town's founder, Thomas Shepherd, willed the lot upon which the structure stands to the church parish in 1776. After the Revolution, the building fell into neglect with the disestablishment of Anglicanism in Virginia. In about 1815, the church was rebuilt. The first use of the name Trinity Church appears in the records in 1836. A clock given by Rezin D. Shepherd remained in the tower here from 1841 to 1858. After the Civil War, the Old English Church became the first Freedman's School and the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The original steeple blew off in a storm in the 1890s. Today the property is privately owned.

25. MICHAEL RICKARD HOUSE, 211/213 W German St. Rickard was among the German artisans who settled here in the 18th century. The west side of this two-story brick house provided residential quarters for the family, and the east side housed Rickard's locksmith shop. In 1795, Rickard crafted the escutcheon that has graced doors of two successive Lutheran churches. Three generations made locks at this location. The screw lock, used as switch locks by railroads, was invented here, and the handcuffs



worn by John Brown at his trial in Charles Town (1859) were crafted here.

26. BAKER HOUSE, 215 W German St. In 1800 John Baker, a local attorney, purchased this house, adjacent to the Rickard House. He served in Congress and the Virginia legislature as a Federalist. In 1817 he bought the New Street property that would later become the Episcopal Rectory. Elias Baker (no relation) bought the German Street house just before the Civil War and served as federal postmaster 1862- 1867. When his son Newton joined the Confederate Army, the elder Baker refused to speak to him. Newton became a physician after the war and practiced in Martinsburg. There, Newton's son, Newton Diehl Baker, Jr., was born. He became the Secretary of War in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet. The Martinsburg Newton D. Baker Veterans Hospital is named for him.

27. GREAT WESTERN HOTEL, 214 W German. This rambling two-story stucco house has a colorful history. During the Revolutionary War a log tavern on the site became a rendezvous for American forces. A large yard behind provided a drill ground for troops. Joseph Entler bought the property in 1808 and established Entler's Tavern (not to be confused with the Entler Hotel). At some point in the early 19th century the establishment became known as the Great Western Hotel. During the War of 1812, it served as a barracks for troops. After the war, Entler catered

to the wagon trade. Many drivers and workers with wagon trains, Conestogas, ox carts and the like stayed here before and after crossing the Potomac at Pack Horse Ford. A 25 horse limestone stable behind the hotel enhanced its appeal. The hotel sustained much interior damage by soldiers during the Civil War and never reopened as a hotel. After extensive repairs it became a private residence.

28. FOUR WAY STOP, at the intersection of Duke and W German Sts. has been called through the years somebody's corner: Byers', Beltzhoover's and Weis's, depending on who lived on the corner at the time. Occasionally during the 20th century it had a stoplight. Negotiating the turn has proved a challenge for large trucks of recent times.

29. WEIS HOUSE AND POTTERY KILN, NW corner of German and Duke Sts. In the early 1800s the Weis family began turning out a reddish brown pottery in a wooden house on this site. In 1815 a fire spread from the kilns behind the house and destroyed the wooden structure. The Weis's then built the large brick house. The smaller brick structure attached to the west side of the house became a shop for the display of Weis pottery ware, now prized by collectors. Like many of the products of early artisans, examples of Weis pottery may be seen at the Historic Shepherdstown Museum.



- 30. SITE OF JAMES RUMSEY HOUSE**, SW corner of where Duke (Route 480) and New Sts once intersected. The log cabin in which James Rumsey lived (1785-1788) stood on this spot where now stands a brick house built in 1860. A plaque on the side of the house identifies the site. The town's first jailhouse, a limestone structure, stood in the middle of New Street adjacent to the Rumsey house site from 1794 to 1865.
- 31. NEW STREET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**, SW corner of New and Church Sts. The original building, constructed of wood, also stood here, but burned in 1854, leading to its replacement by the current brick structure. Differences over slavery caused a split in the Methodist Church in the antebellum era, and the Northern Methodists retained control of the building. In 1868, Southern Methodists built what is now known as the War Memorial Building on German Street. Northern and Southern Methodists reunited in 1940 at the New Street site.
- 32. ST. AGNES CATHOLIC CHURCH**, NW corner of Washington and Church Sts, one block south of the United Methodist Church. Dedicated in 1891 in honor of Agnes Gibson (1853-1941), a lay person who played a major role in raising funds for the building of the church. It is now the St. Agnes Chapel. On July 28, 2008, the St. Agnes congregation dedicated a striking new church edifice located at 106 South Duke Street, behind the parish house.
- 33. CROOKED HOUSE**, 204 Washington St., built c. 1790 and home to the Miller family for over a century. Solomon Miller and his wife Sophia Cookus Miller were both children of Revolutionary War veterans and produced a family of artisans including weavers, carriage makers, painters, cabinet makers and needle crafters. Eleazer Hutchinson Miller was a painter of watercolors and oils, etcher, and illustrator whose work is on display at the Corcoran Gallery in Washington and at the Historic Shepherdstown museum. Mid-twentieth century owner Edmund Jennings Lee IV (great grandson of Edmund Jennings Lee, the uncle of Robert E. Lee) was born in Shepherdstown, became an Episcopal priest and spent 25 years as a missionary in China as well as several years as headmaster of Chatham Hall girls' school in Virginia. He and his wife retired to "the Crooked House," a name he coined.
- 34. EPISCOPAL RECTORY AND SHEPHERD BURIAL GROUND**, 104 W New St. The large federal style brick house, constructed in 1814, was purchased by Thomas Van Swearingen in 1815 and sold to John Baker in 1817. It has served as the rectory since 1846. The Shepherd burial ground, inside the adjacent stone walls, was established in 1776 upon the death of Thomas Shepherd and is said to contain his unmarked grave. Over thirty family members are interred here, the last in 1941. On the opposite side of the street, a boys school known as the "Salt Box School" operated in the decades before the Civil War under a New England trained schoolmaster, John Pierce.



- 35. CHRISTIAN CLISE HOUSE**, 100 W New St., built as a log house c. 1786 by Christian Clise, who purchased the lot from Abraham Shepherd in 1785. Clise sold the house in 1790 and moved to Lexington, Va., where he and his son built and operated an ordinary. Succeeding owners including the Cookus and McCauley families enlarged the house, adding a center hall, siding, and unique architectural details. On January 21, 1892, near the front steps, a rejected suitor shot a popular town belle. Removed to the parlor of the house (then owned by Methodist minister A.A.P. Neel), the victim died, as outraged townsmen sought the killer. Sentenced to hang by a Charles Town court, the killer was found dead in his cell before the execution. Some allege that the house is haunted by the ghosts of that long ago tragedy.
- 36. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND FIRE HALL**, SE corner of King and New Sts. Built in 1912, this red brick building of Gothic design with a square steepled tower at one corner housed the fire department and served as a community building, town hall, jailhouse, basketball court, sometime movie theater, and a gathering place for church suppers, bazaars, and entertainments by various religious and civic groups. After the fire company moved to a new fire house on Route 45 in 1987, the building remained empty for a time and now is privately owned.
- 37. SHEPHERDSTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**, SW corner King and Washington Sts. Officially chartered in 1743, this is the oldest continuous congregation in town. In the early 1780s, the congregation built a log church on the corner opposite the present site and shortly thereafter replaced it with a frame building on the same site. When the frame building burned in 1831, the church traded its former lots for the current site. The structure dates from 1836. A plain red brick building, it has a belfry and cupola atop the front gable. As the largest building in town at the time of the Battle of Antietam, the church served as a primary hospital for the wounded. During much of the 19th century, across King Street on the south side of Washington and near the Town Run, a large building known as the Virginia House served as the home of the Fayman family, makers of wool and fur hats.
- 38. STONE ROW**, S side of E New St, between King and Princess Sts. The long two-story building has been called Stone Row for generations. Built in the early 1790s, it began as Philip Shutt's Brewhouse. Irish workingmen building the C&O Canal in the 1830s enjoyed "Shutt's Cream Beer."
- 39. SHEPHERD DISTRICT FREE SCHOOL**, SE Corner of New and Princess Sts. One of the two public schoolhouses in town built by the state of Virginia in 1848, it continues to serve the cause of education



as office space for Shepherd University professors. It is believed to be the oldest free schoolhouse in West Virginia.

40. TOLLIVER'S HOTEL AND ICE CREAM PARLOR, SE corner of Princess and German Sts. Owner J. Matt Tolliver seems to have been the downtown area's first successful black businessman. His name appears in the town records during the years 1877 to 1908. After his popular restaurant burned in 1894, he built this brick building, where he ran a hotel and ice cream parlor. From 1899 to 1909 the town granted him an annual hotel license.

41. HODGES BUILDING, SW corner Princess and E German Sts. A large brick structure and residence from the early 1800s to the 1880s. Resident families included three generations of the Reinhart family, then the Line family. From 1854 until his death in 1858, it was the home of the Honorable Henry Bedinger, the first U.S. Ambassador to Denmark. In the 1880s, G.T. Hodges established a large general store in the front corner room. The old entrance is still visible from the Princess Street side.

42. YELLOW BRICK BANK, NE corner of German and Princess Sts. In 1906 Jefferson Security Bank removed an older brick building from this site and erected the current structure, a modified Beaux Arts style building. When the bank moved in 1975, new owners converted the old bank into a restaurant.

43. GRAY LODGE, 203 E German St, adjacent to the Yellow Brick Bank. A complex of three structures built for the Shepherd family as a town home, including a small rectangular brick building (which served as a doctor's office from c. 1850 to 1890), a carriage house (converted into a tea room and tourist inn c.1920), and a Greek Revival brick house with iron grill work on the front said to have been brought from New Orleans by a member of the Shepherd family. Author Willa Cather spent a summer at the Gray Lodge working on a novel.

44. WYNKOOP'S TAVERN, 204 E German St, opposite the Gray Lodge. A log cabin owned by Martin Entler housed a tavern on this site as early as 1769. In 1781 Cornelius Wynkoop acquired the tavern. Here, some alleged, steamboat builder John Fitch stayed while spying on James Rumsey's experiments. Wynkoop erected the present brick structure c.1791. During the early 19th century it became a fashionable stopover place for visitors. Six generations of one family—with different surnames—occupied the house from 1800 to 1986. Among them were Selby, Hamtramck, and Billmyer. Notable among the residents was Col. John Francis Hamtramck, a West Point graduate who commanded a volunteer regiment in the Mexican War, helped train local militia units in the antebellum era, and served as town mayor.



45. REYNOLDS HOUSE, 207 E German St. Built in 1865 by Dr. John Reynolds who served the town as a doctor for more than 40 years. As town mayor 1860 to 1862 he had to deal with a dangerous situation when unknown persons on the Shepherdstown side fired at Union pickets across the river, drawing a protest and threat from authorities on the Union side. Reynolds' wife Katherine led a community fundraising drive for the town hall attached to McMurrin Hall in 1889. The building was later named in her memory.

46. POORHOUSE, 213 E German St. Town records list the poorhouse as early as 1805. Here, following Elizabethan tradition, the town provided a modicum of care for the poor and elderly. Though it began as a log house, it has been enlarged and covered with wooden siding. Iron rings in the attic rafters suggest that some of the residents may have been restrained.

47. PARRAN HOUSE, 301 E German St. In 1796, this brick house replaced an earlier log house. The trials of the Parran family poignantly illustrate the tragic impact of the Civil War. Dr. Richard Parran, a physician, died in 1851 leaving his widow and five daughters. The widow Parran remarried on the eve of the Civil War, but her husband joined the Confederate Army and was killed early in the war. One of her daughters, Lily, married William "Willie" Fitzhugh Lee, a cousin of Confederate General

Robert E. Lee. Willy died as a result of wounds at the First Battle of Bull Run. Another daughter married Dr. William Tinsley, also in the Confederate service, who helped organize the town's care for the wounded after Antietam. Lily Lee and her husband had known Confederate General Jeb Stuart and his wife in happier times. Stuart visited Lily at the Parran House during the War. Eyewitness accounts of Stuart's deathbed will in May, 1864, differ, but one version reports that Stuart ordered that his golden spurs be given to Lily Lee. There are reasons to doubt that Lily ever received them.

48. TRAIN STATION, Between E German and E High Sts, on Audrey Egle Dr. The Norfolk and Western Railroad built the passenger station in 1909. Waiting rooms and rest rooms were segregated. After nearly a half century of service, passenger traffic ended in 1957 and the station closed, to be used by the railroad for storage. In 1996 the railroad deeded the passenger station to the town for \$1.00, and the building was restored and redesigned as a multiple use facility.

49. CHRIST REFORMED CHURCH, S side of E German St., just beyond the N&W Railroad tracks. The German Reformed congregation built this church in 1839 on the site used by the German Reformed congregation since its organization about 1780. Its graveyard (still used) was established in 1774 and contains graves of



Revolutionary War soldiers and patriots. A square tower of native stone, part of an earlier stone church built in 1798, rises at the back of the building surmounted by a steeple and belfry. The belfry contains three bells imported from Germany a few years after the Revolution by Michael Yeasley, a Revolutionary soldier. The largest bell contains the engraved date 1732 and "Rouen," suggesting French manufacture.

50. THE FIRST ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, N side of E German St, directly across the street from Christ Reformed Church. Here in 1795, the Lutherans built a beautiful brick church which served the congregation until 1908, when they constructed a new St. Peter's on the SW corner of King and High Sts. The old church building burned in 1924. The church graveyard, established in 1774, remains intact but is no longer used. The old German schoolhouse still stands in the graveyard.

51. JAMES RUMSEY MONUMENT, at end of Mill St. Affords a panoramic view of the Potomac and the historic setting of Shepherdstown. Efforts of the Rumseian Society led to the construction and dedication of the monument as a state park in 1915 to commemorate Rumsey's steamboat experiments. After the state stopped appropriations for the park in the 1960s, private efforts kept the park from deteriorating. In the mid 1990s, the town assumed maintenance.

52. THOMAS SHEPHERD GRIST MILL, 207 E High. A two story stone mill built c. 1738. About 1835, a wooden third story was added. Sometime in the 19th century, a huge overshot wheel of 12 tons and 40 feet in diameter was built, positioned some 200 feet north of the mill in the Town Run. A sluice, supported on trestles, carried water from the southeast corner of Princess and High streets and discharged it onto the top of the wheel. In 1905, the wheel was moved to its present location. The mill operated until 1941. The mill is privately owned and closed to the public.

53. TOWN RUN WASHHOUSE, Near NE corner of Princess and High Sts. Built over Town Run by the owners of the residence to the left for the purpose of washing clothes. From the 1920s to mid-1950s it was used as a residence.

54. TOWN RUN WATERPOWER AREA and TOBACCO WAREHOUSE. From the corner of Princess and High Sts, N Princess makes a steep descent to the Potomac. Town Run falls here through a steep ravine where once gristmills, sawmills, manufacturing mills and warehouses took advantage of the water's power. The only building left is the tobacco warehouse, authorized by Virginia's General Assembly in 1788. The large stone building perhaps replaced an earlier wooden structure c.1800.



55. FERRY LANDING AND BRIDGE TOLLHOUSE, at the bottom of N Princess St. At the river's edge, one stands at the border between West Virginia and Maryland. Here too is the former ferry landing, still in use as a boat ramp. The old piers in the river supported several bridges from 1849- 1936. The former bridge tollhouse, built in 1850, remains as a private residence.

56. GETZENDANNER'S CORNER, SE corner, Princess and High Sts. The site of Getzendanner's mill in late 1790s, the current structure on the corner dates to 1920 and exemplifies the architectural style of service stations in the early automobile age. The front part has been enclosed and the pumps have been removed. The two houses abutting the former service station on High St. were associated with a cotton mill that operated on the site before the Civil War. In 1930, the service station added a miniature golf course on the south side of the property. The service station closed in the 1980s. Where cars formerly stopped for service, patrons now enjoy a restaurant.

57. WELTZHEIMER'S TAVERN, 109- 113 N Princess St. A combination brick and clapboard building. Here, according to local lore, in November, 1790, Nathaniel Willis published the Potowmak Guardian and Berkeley Advertiser, the first newspaper in what is now West Virginia. Willis had participated in the Boston Tea Party of 1773. Between 1795 and 1823 first Frederick Weltzheimer

and then his widow Catherine operated a tavern here in the brick section and let rooms in the wooden section.

58. LITTLE HOUSE AND MINIATURE FARM, W side of Princess St. between German and High Sts. Built in 1929 as a Shepherd College teacher training project largely through the efforts of education professor Florence Shaw. The farm includes a small limestone cottage in full detail, near the street. Behind the house and across Town Run is a miniature dairy barn. At one time the grounds included tiny gardens and fields. Here too, Town Run drops beneath Princess Street and descends towards the Potomac. Much loved by local children, the Little House is often opened for special events.

59. CHAPLINE-SHENTON HOUSE, 101 N Princess St, adjacent to Yellow Brick Bank. Built in the late 1790s in the Federal style, this was the in-town residence and law office of the Hon. Thomas Van Swearingen, Esq. from 1817 until his death in 1822. He spent his summers at Bellevue, the family estate outside of town on Shepherd Grade Road. He represented this region in the Virginia Assembly from 1814 to 1816 and in the U.S. Congress from 1819 to 1822.



The Town will continue to promote the preservation of the historic architectural resources and landmarks that **contribute to Shepherdstown's distinctive character and sense of place.**

1.1 Historic Preservation Incentives

STRATEGY: Develop resources and incentives, financial or otherwise, to support property owners in their efforts to maintain and renovate historic structures and sites in a historically appropriate manner.

JUSTIFICATION: The restoration, renovation and maintenance of historic structures can present a financial burden to many property owners, resulting in the inaction of property owners to attempt to maintain or restore their properties. Establishing affordable resources within the community to assist property owners with needed financial or knowledge-based expertise can help the Town work with property owners to carefully restore and maintain the treasured Town's treasured historic structures.

1.2 Illustrated Architectural Guidelines

STRATEGY: Prepare and adopt illustrations for the historic district guidelines.

JUSTIFICATION: While the Town has adopted detailed written guidelines that promote the preservation of historic structures, it should also consider the adoption of a more illustrative approach to the implementation of the guidelines to aid property owners and town officials in reviewing and making decisions on applications for certificates of appropriateness within the historic district. Illustrations should include illustrations of building elements and architectural details that more clearly articulate how to look at a historic structure and how to properly renovate and maintain the structure.



1.3

Expand Techniques for Sustainable Historic Preservation

STRATEGY: Continue to examine and consider ways historic properties can maintain compliance with the historic guidelines while incorporating sustainability principles and energy efficiency techniques that are compatible with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

JUSTIFICATION: Many of the Town’s residents desire to preserve their properties in the most sustainable and energy efficient way possible. The Secretary of the Interior continues to evaluate and recommend new sustainable, energy efficient techniques for the renovation, remodeling and maintenance of historic structures. The Town should continue to evaluate and incorporate new techniques and practices as recommended by the Secretary of the Interior into its existing guidelines.

1.4

Develop Educational Materials, Resources and Workshops

STRATEGY: Develop a comprehensive public outreach program, materials and resources for owners of historic properties

to explain the design guidelines, development review process, and maintenance techniques, holding workshops to provide this information on a regular and targeted basis.

JUSTIFICATION: During the planning process, it became apparent that some residents in Town were not familiar with why it was important to care for their historic property in manner that is architecturally appropriate. A comprehensive public outreach program with public outreach materials and workshops will help raise the awareness of the historic preservation process and practical techniques for maintaining the historic characteristics of individual structures. The program may also include events that provide basic information concerning how individual properties impact the overall integrity of the historic district.

1.5

Capital Improvements Planning and Project Review

STRATEGY: Adopt a policy that requires the Town to assess the impact of its construction projects and other capital investments on historic properties.



JUSTIFICATION: It is important for the Town to continue to provide leadership in the preservation of historic properties, ensuring that the construction of new structures, like the recent Town Hall construction, are carried out in a manner that maintain the highest degree of compatibility with the Town’s historic character. New infrastructure projects and other capital improvements should be planned so that each improvement will maintain the integrity of the Town’s historic resources ensuring that requirements private property owners must meet are being applied to Town owned and operated facilities.

monitoring and measuring. By continuing to improve the inventory and monitoring of historic properties, the Town will be able to more effectively measure its success in helping to maintain those resources and more effectively engage in preservation of those resources in a proactive manner.

1.6 Protect Threatened Historic Properties

STRATEGY: Work with local and regional historic preservation organizations to identify threatened historic properties and develop plans for preserving them.

JUSTIFICATION: It is important to leverage the expertise of the local and regional historic preservation community in maintaining the historic architectural resources and properties throughout Shepherdstown. A key step in maintaining these resources is



The Town will maintain a current and accurate accounting of its historic architectural resources.

2.1 Maintain Historic District Inventory

STRATEGY: As contributing structures are renovated and altered, the historic district inventory should be updated upon completion of each project, or on an annual basis to ensure that the inventory is accurate and reflects existing conditions.

JUSTIFICATION: Updating the inventory when properties have appropriate or inappropriate renovations or alterations will help the Town and local preservation groups identify where improvements are needed for educational resources and regarding specific topics.

2.2 Monitor Condition of Historic Structures

STRATEGY: Monitor the deterioration of buildings and note such changes in the historic district inventory.

JUSTIFICATION: Monitoring and updating the condition of historic properties will help the Town more quickly identify at-risk properties and target its resources in a timely manner. Monitoring properties on a regular basis helps the Town ensure that substandard structures can be readily identified. This up-to-date monitoring will help the Town respond in a proactive manner in situations where historic properties need minor improvements before they enter into a state of decline that may lead to demolition by neglect.



2.3

Online Historic District Inventory

STRATEGY: Develop an online geographic information systems (GIS) based tool for both maintaining the historic district inventory as well as providing the information to the public.

JUSTIFICATION: Preparing a digital spatial inventory will create an opportunity for sharing information online with the public as part of a comprehensive public outreach program. This tool will help inform the general public and individual property owners who are seeking to learn more about their individual property and the overall conditions of the historic district in which their property is located.

HP GOAL 3

Contributing structures and sites will not be demolished or altered in a manner that eliminates their contribution to the historic district.

3.1 Adopt Demolition by Neglect Ordinance

STRATEGY: Consider adopting a “demolition by neglect” ordinance to apply to contributing structures in the historic district to prevent property owners from allowing contributing structures to fall into disrepair. Such an ordinance should give the town the authority to order the repair of historic structures or cause such repairs to be made at the owners’ expense if they fail to act. While this term is defined in the town’s current ordinance, there is no explicit prohibition on allowing it to occur, nor any procedures established to remedy such situations.

JUSTIFICATION: In situations where a property owner refuses to work within the guidelines set forth by the historic district to maintain a contributing structure, this tool in the ordinance will

allow the town to be proactive with its actions to maintain the integrity of the historic district. While this would not be the first path to ameliorating the decline and disrepair of a structure, it will allow the town the opportunity to enact this severe course of action where compliance with the town’s standards and rules are not being met.

3.2 Establish a Historic Preservation Fund

STRATEGY: Consider establishing a revolving loan fund or a historic preservation trust for use in preserving and protecting threatened historic properties in town.



JUSTIFICATION: An identified monetary source for preserving historic properties will ensure that the town and local preservation groups can act quickly to protect and preserve threatened properties through the purchase of said properties or through a low interest loan to interested property owners.

3.3

Acquire Historic Preservation Easements

STRATEGY: Work with local historic preservation groups to acquire historic preservation easements for significant contributing structures.

JUSTIFICATION: Acquiring easements to significant contributing structures helps ensure that they cannot be arbitrarily demolished.