United States Department of the Interior Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

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and/o	r common	Monroe Str	eet East	Histori	c District		
2.	Loca	ation					
street	t & number	See Conti	nuation S	heet 2,	page 2		not for publication
city, t	own W	heeling	Managaman office a superior constitution of	\	vicinity of	congressional distric	First
state	West V	Virginia	code	54	county	Ohio	code 069
3.	Clas	sificati	on				
t	district puilding(s) structure	Ownership public privateX both Public Acqui in process being con	3	Accessil	cupied	Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park X private residence X religious scientific transportation other:
4.	Own	er of P	ropert	ty	e i zn <del>esk</del>		de transcription de la company
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5.	Loca	ation of	Lega	Des	scription	on .	
courtl	house, regi	stry of deeds, et	c. Cit	y- Coun	ty Building	g (County Clerk's	Office)
street	& number	1500 Ch	apline St			<del></del>	M. C.
city, t		neeling,				state	West Virginia 26003
<u>6.</u>			tion i	n Exi	stine	Surveys	·
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### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

Monroe Street East Historic District, Wheeling, Obio County, West Virginia

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North side of 12th Street including 93, 97, 99, 991/2. and 101. South side of 12th Street including 96 and 100. Southease corner of Byron & 12th; 1202 Byron Street.

		1 to	ACCUPACIO, CAMPA
Condition		Check one	Check one
excellent	deteriorated	unaltered	X original site
X good	ruins	X altered	moved date
fair	unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Description

The Monroe Street East Historic District has six nineteenth contury buildings. Each building is distinctive in style and yet each blends with its neighbors to form a cohesive, appealing neighborhood.

The striking 1837 Greek Revival Church is the focal point in the district as viewed from 12th Street. Below, on the south side, are two large buildings: one is an 1852 dignified Romano-Tuscan home while the other is a striking 1881 building with Lively combinations of architectural details. The structures on the north side are dominated by the handsome Richardsonian Romanesque structure which is flanked by vermacular post-Civil War townhouses with significant period front elevation alterations.

The church faces west at the corner of Byron and 12th Street, at the highest point of the district, while the remaining five buildings face north or south down the incline of 12th Street. These building positions set the visual and actual boundaries of the Monroe Street East Historic District. It is a short one-block walk to the contral business areas and yet the district has a leisurely, residential atmosphere aided by Londscaped open areas.

The following descriptions provide more information:

93-12th Street. Records date this building as being constructed in 1868 of 1869. However the skillful alterations give a late 1880's or 1890's appearance. There is a slightly bowed bay with wooden jigsaw ornamentation. Directly above is a two window gable in the mansard roof which appears visually connected to the bay by the use of decorative members. doorway has a projecting pediment top supported by engaged columns and double decorated doors. The brick of this long, narrow building is seven course common bond on all three elevations except the front which is stretcher bond.

97, 99, 99 1/2-Street. The Richardsonian Romanesque multi-family building was completed by 1892. There is rusticated stone detailing on the front facade while the remaining elevations are brick. The front of the building has seemingly three sections. The west section has a turreted corner, arched doorway and a roof dormer with "checkerboard" stone detailing above the two windows. The two other sections have rectangular doorways, roof dormers with wooden oriels directly below them and two vertical stone embellishments. However, there are subtle differences in the recessed entrance doors and such details as the trim on the dormers. Other special features common to all three sections include a mansard roof, sandstone steps, stained glass panels, crown glass, stone lintels and transon bars. The sandstone is varied in color and selectively placed which provides a departure from many other buildings of this style.

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- 3. 101 12th Street. Built as a vernacular 1866 or 1867 three-story townhouse with a heavy cornice, brackets in pairs and a freize with dentils. The windows are flat, double-hung, one over one, with cast iron lintels. An addition was made in the early part of the 20th century which was a center pavilion of buff brick which terminated at the third story windows. The roof trim is a modification of the main roof and two large windows with stone lintels provide light for the interior staircase. The main entrance contains multi-glass panes in a wooden frame door with side lights and a stone lintel. The brick walls are six-course common bond on the side elevations and stretcher bond on the front elevations. A sandstone retaining wall defines the property. It should be noted that the addition was designed to be distinctive and yet compatible with the existing facade and the stone front of the adjacent building.
- 4. 1202 Byron Street. The early 1837 Greek Revival Church was designed by a Wheeling house carpenter, James H. White, and built by John Gilchrist who was a stone cutter and stone mason and Hiram Martin, a bricklayer. The classic temple-form building is brick, covered with scored stucco. The entablature is particularly fine and even the triglyphs are made from brick. Later period stained glass windows are on the side elevetions. The front of the building is extremely impressive with six towering Doric columns and a flight of sixteen sandstone steps extending across the entire width. It is indeed fortunate that the 1860 plan to remodel the building including a "neat and tasteful modernised front" was not approved.
- 5. 100 12th Street. A 1976 Summer HABS (Historic American Building Survey) team included this Romano-Tuscan home in their survey. The rectilinear, beautifully proportioned home has two storys, a boxed cornice with frieze, and a low profile hip roof with four chimneys and a cupola. The windows are six over six double hung with complete entablatures. The brick is common bond on two elevations while the elevations facing the streets exhibit a stretcher bond. The entrance has been altered and now has a columned porch and recessed door with a semi-elliptical fanlight and sidelights of beveled leaded glass. Two iron dogs on sandstone solid railings guard this circa 1852 building.
- 6. 96 12th Street. There are strong elements of design in this 1881 pictureesque electic home. The mansard roof terminates on the front elevation into two prominent modified gambrel dormers with single windows which are separated by a small recessed roof area which contains a window dormer. Smooth, almost white, dressed stone quoins define the corners and pavilions of the brick walls. The massive cornice is boxed with brackets. The front elevation has a two-story bay and an elevated stone platform with walls indicating there was a porch originally for the main entrance. There are decorative high chimneys, a small cast iron balcony supported by brackets in another modified gambrel projection on the west elevation, and stained, leaded glass in the first-story window transoms. It was built by the Wheeling firm of Klieves, Kraft and Company. E. W. Wells,

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architect, was a partner in the firm.

The basic building material of district buildings is brick; and all buildings have sandstone foundations. With the exception of the church, they all have sandstone retaining walls. Stone, cast iron and stained glass are used for ornamentation which is common in Wheeling. There are no look-alike buildings as each represents the style popular at the time of construction using quality materials and fine workmanship.

After 145 years the church continues to be used for religious purposes although it has changed ownership twice. The remaining buildings were built as substantial residences. Four are now used as charming apartment buildings while another has mixed uses as a tea room, apartments and office space. The remaining 1852 home continues to serve as a physician's office as it has since 1902.

The entire district appears orderly and well maintained. Landscaped off-street parking provides an essential support facility. Green areas and trees add a great deal to the overall appearance.

The district is a beautiful area in downtown Wheeling. There is a sense of "time and place" while today these buildings are helping to meet the modern needs of Wheeling. To those interested in architecture, there is always some new detail to discover and be delighted with in the special buildings of the Monroe Street East Historic District.

### 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below						
1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X 1800-1899	archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture X architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement industry invention	politics/government	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify)			
			Commun	ity development			
Specific dates		Builder/Architect		Local History			

#### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Downtown Wheeling, West Virginia, is wonderfully rich in countless blocks of Victorian era buildings which stand as proof of a proud historical and architectural heritage. The Monroe Street East Historic District is small with only six nineteenth century buildings which are located in a residential area adjacent to the main business section. These buildings clearly reflect the city's development from 1837 to the present day. Each building in the district is architecturally significant and each possesses a distinctive style.

Wheeling was founded on the Ohio River, fifty-seven miles southwest of Pittsburgh, in 1769, by Ebenezer Zane. The first buildings and a millitary fort were built of logs. Except for Fort Henry, all these buildings were destroyed during the Revolutionary War by a combined Indian and British siege in 1777.

By 1800, Indian raids were rare and the settlement began to develop. The first one hundred twelve lots were laid out in 1793. The area was on the north from Adams (now 8th) Street to Union (now 11th) Street to the south, and Market Street to the east down to the Ohio River, the western limit. The Monroe Street East Mistoric District is located two blocks east and one block south of this platted area. It is named for its geographic location as being the residential area generally referred to as "East Wheeling".

The town began to grow primarily along the two main streets closest and parallel to the river. In 1818 the first federal highway, the National Road, reached the Ohio River connecting Wheeling, Virginia, with Cumberland, Maryland. Wheeling was declared a Port of Entry in 1831. By 1836, when Wheeling was incorporated as a city, there were 1270 city lots. The population was about six thousand persons. During this period the city had many frame buildings, some brick and a few stone atructures. Four major public buildings of classic architectural style are known to have existed in Wheeling by 1840. Three were located on Monroe (12th) Street. The 1839 Merchants and Mechanics Bank was designed by the nationally known architect, Thomas U. Walter, and that same year the Court House was being built. Both of these buildings are gone. The 1837 Protestant Episcopal Church, on the corner of Byron and Monroe Streets, is still standing and is a part of the district. However, at that time the area was not fully developed.

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An 1879 writer described the area as it appeared in 1839: "... The space from Market to Byron was more notorious for its vacant lots than for its buildings." The major industries were glass, foundries, paper and flour mills. The river was open to navigation about 160 days a year with river trade of close to 2,000 arrivals and departures annually.

In 1849 the famous Wheeling Suspension Bridge was completed which was the first bridge to cross the Ohio River and the longest suspension bridge in the world at that time. The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad terminated to the west at Wheeling in 1853 and in 1860 Wheeling's population reached 13,986. By that time the district was an established prestigious neighborhood. The Paxton-Reed house at 100 12th Street survives from this period.

Wheeling was the 1861 - 1863 capital of the Restored Government of Virginia (pro-Union) during the Civil War, and then became the birthplace of the State of West Virginia. Even though Wheeling became the capital of the new Union state, there are records of divided personal loyalties and hardships which are clearly demonstrated by the people who lived in or were associated with the district during the war or shortly thereafter.

James W. Paxton, who lived at 100-12 Street, was a slaveholder but was also an ardent Union man. He was a member of the May 1861 convention which opposed the secession of Virginia and a member of the June convention which created the Reorganization Government of Virginia. Mr. Paxton was appointed a member of the Council of Five to aid and advise Governor Pierpont. He continued his service as a member of the constitutional convention which framed West Virginia's first constitution. Then he was appointed to be one of the commissioners to present the constitution to Congress and urge the admission of West Virginia as a new state into the Union. Astonishingly, opposite loyalties were no further away than right next door.

A. Wilson Kelley lived in the house at 96-12th Street. In 1858 Mr. Kelly leased the nail works of Gill, Kelly and Co. in nearby Benwood and a few months later purchased and operated the works. According to his decendants, ammunition was made for the Confederacy at the foundry and shipped to Kentucky down the Ohio River on camouflaged haycovered barges!

One of Ohio County's leading attorneys, Joseph H. Pendleton, left Wheeling in 1861 to join the Twenty-third regiment of the Virginia infantry, C. S. A., as a major, a commission he held throughout the entire war. He also represented Ohio County in the Richmond, Virginia Legislature in 1863, 1864 and 1865. After the war when his "disabilities" were removed, he returned to his law practice in Wheeling and purchased the home at 101-12th Street. The house next door was the residence of Judge Moses C. Good, who had been Mayor of Wheeling in 1846-47. In 1865 he

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was the successful candidate for the position as first judge of the municipal court of Wheeling. The court had just been created by an act of the West Virginia Legislature. An editorial in the Wheeling Intelligencer was written to support the opposing candidate. The article cliamed the victory of Major Good "would be claimed a triumph for the opposition and their rebel sympathisers."

Even the congregation of St. Matthews Church was subjected to unusual problems. They were "deprived of all episcopal services or aid. The situation was dramatically stated in the vestry minutes of another Episcopal church in Wheeling. "...the Bishops of Virginia have participation in the schismatic action of the southern Bishops, and otherwise manifested their disloyality to both Church and State. So long as they advocate treason and schism, the loyal people of Western Virginia can have no connection or intercourse with them.

Despite financial panics, floods, cholera, and serious strikes, Wheeling grew into a major industrial city. The population was 30,737 by 1880 and the local mills made one third of the nation's entire production of nails. By 1892 all of the structures in the Monroe Street East Historic District were standing. G. W. Mendle, a major local furniture manufacturer owned the circa 1867 typical Wheeling townhouse at 93-12th Street. John Wagner, cashier at the National Bank of West Virginia, rented the house and later purchased it in 1889. Ella Frank purchased the Good property at 97 & 99-12th Street and replaced the wooden building in 1892 with a Richardsonian-Romanesque building. Mr. Frank was a clothier and merchant tailor who had his place of business down the hill on the same street. The circa 1866 Pendleton house at 101-12th Street remained unchanged. Across the street on the corner of Byron and 12th Street, the 1837 church had been sold to the First Baptist Church in 1866. The 1852 Italian Renaissance house was owned by J. P. Harden, manager of the large LaBelle Iron Works.

A. Wilson Kelley razed his earlier home and replaced it on the same lot in 1881 with the present high-style Victorian home. It was sold in 1896 to the well-known business leader, John S. Welty, who was in the grocery business. This house is still a referred to locally as the Welty house.

In the early part of the 20th century, new and faster means of transportation helped "out-the-pike" living gain immense popularity. The major building period in the business district and East Wheeling had come to an end.

In the 1969 Wheeling City Directory the Paxton-Reed House was being used as an office only by Dr. Robert J. Reed III and the 1837 church was owned by The House of Prayer. The remaining four buildings were apartment buildings with a total of twenty-two units. The Urban Renewal Authority designated a whole "blighted" hillside as a Neighborhood Development Program (#93, 97-99-991/2 and 101) on the

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north side of 12th Street. The proposal was to replace the existing structures with townhouses, garden apartments and highrises for the elderly. The plan was to improve the area's housing conditions, increase the number of low and moderate income housing units and provide community facilities to improve environmental There were also plans for a "Fort Henry Mall" within the central. business district, a civic auditorium and rehabilitation of another residential The urban renewal program became controversial for a number of complex This conflict led to a public referendum in 1973 and the urban renewal authority was "voted out." A federal judge rendered a decision that the program was established by state statute and therefore the voters abolished the authority and the governing body would be the Urban Renewal Agency defined as the Wheeling City Council. There were about one hundred fifty buildings on the hillside and all but eight were still standing including the three in the district. two private citizens purchased property in the designated NPD area which included the three buildings. After considerable work and expense, these three buildings are now show-places for the city. They are apartment buildings which offer charming downtown living quarters with modern conveniences, private off-street parking, and landscaped open areas.

The congregation of the House of Prayer has not altered the exterior or their magnificent building. On the south side of 12th Street, the two buildings stand almost "as built." Dr. Robert J. Reed had purchased the "Paxton-Reed" house in 1902. Dr. Reed had his office in this house and so did his sons and grandson. After seventy-seven years, patients are still receiving medical services at 100-12th Street from Dr. Robert J. Reed III. The building was recorded in 1976 by the Historic American Buildings Survey. (HABS).

Next door, the Kelly-Welty home has been remodeled on the interior and is adaptively used for a tastefully decorated tea room, apartments, and office space.

The Monroe Street East Historic District represents a significant segment of Wheeling's past, a microcosm of the architectural and historical development of the city, preserved adjacent to the downtown. The buildings in the district were obviously built for people who demanded quality in design, materials and workmanship. Today these buildings are undergoing a renaissance in both appearance and usefulness which hopefully will by a trend setter for other areas in the city.

eferences
-68, 1879, 1882-23, 1875-76, 1892-93, 1903-4,19
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state or county boundaries
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luty) Vice Chairman, Board of Advisors National Trust for Historic Preservation
Hall date July 5, 1979
telephone (304) 242-1087
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9. Ohio County and Wheeling City Records Continued:

(Ohio Co. Library & Oglebay Mansion Museum)
Ohio County Death Records-1880, 1905, 1932 (City-County Building)
Legal Descriptions (all properties) (City-County Building)
Neighborhood Development Program Application, 1970, Urban Renewal Authority
of Wheeling, West Virginia (City-County Building)

#### Interviews:

Tom Rownd, Community Development Administrator, Department of Development,
Wheeling, May 16, 1979 and July 2, 1979
Arch Reiley, Counsel for Urban Renewal Authority, July 2, 1979
George E. Cieply, Executive Director, Urban Renewal Authority, July 2, 1979
Edmund Lee Jones, June 27, 1979 (His grandfather's brother was A. Wilson Kelly)

#### Books:

, History of the Upper Ohio Valley, 1890, Madison Wis.: Brant & Fuller. Newton, J. H., Nichols, C. C. and Sprankle, A. C., History of the Panhandle, 1879 Wheeling, West Virginia: J. A. Caldwell.
Wingerter, Charles A., History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity, 1912, Chicago and New York: The Lewis Publishing Company.

#### Maps:

Map of the City of Wheeling and Suburbs, Ohio County, Virginia, 1853, Surveyed and Published by Manfred & Simpson, Cincinnati, Ohio,

Map of the Ohio County, Virginia, Published by William J. Barker, Hector, New York (circa 1856)

Map of the City of Wheeling, James Gilchrist, C. E., W. Beers & Co. (circa 1871). Atlas of the City of Wheeling, West Virginia from official records and surveys 1889, L. J. Richards & Co.: Philadelphia.

Atlas of the City of Wheeling, Completed and Drawn from Official records, Private Plans and Actual Surveys by Otto Barthel, H. E. Halfpenny, Thomas W. Hassaw and Jos. B. Doyle, Published by A. H. Mueller: Philadelphia, 1901.

City of Wheeling Tax Map, 1959

Insurance Map of Wheeling, Sanborn Map Co., Vol. I, 1962.

#### Other Sources:

Newspaper articles: Wheeling Intelligencer, June 15, 1905 and May 25, 1865. Minutes of Vestry: St. Matthews Episcopal Church, Minutes of St. John's (St. Matthew's Church).

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the church, House of Prayer, 1202 Byron St. (approx. 80'9"x113') on the southeast corner of Byron and 12th Street; crosses Byron Street to include the properties on the south side of 12th Street with street addresses 100-12th Street (all of Sq. 20 Lot 10) and 96-12th Street (all of Sq. Lot 9).

### MONROE STREET EAST HISTORIC DISTRICT













