



BECKLEY COURTHOUSE SQUARE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Beckley Courthouse Square Historic District, encompasses approximately eight city blocks around the county courthouse, including the main streets of Neville, Main, Prince and Heber.

Since receiving its National Register designation in 1994, more than 20 of the 100 contributing properties have been demolished and another 20 have been remodeled without concern for the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Because of the loss of historic integrity, the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office has warned that the Beckley Courthouse Square Historic District is in jeopardy of being removed from the National Register of Historic Places.

Location: Beckley, Raleigh County

Endangerment: Removal from National Register of Historic Places

Construction Date: 1900 - 1945

Background: The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office has warned that the Beckley Courthouse Square Historic District is in danger of being removed from the National Register of Historic Places. More than 20 of the 100 contributing properties have been demolished and another 20 have been remodeled without concern for the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. Additional contributing properties are currently being threatened with demolition.

Description: The private commercial buildings in the district were

constructed using local sandstone and brick and have simple architectural detail. The public buildings were constructed of local sandstone, brick and limestone. They are heavily architecturally detailed and are more classical in design.

Significance: The Beckley Courthouse Square Historic District symbolizes Beckley's development from a small village to a city and major business community for local, state and federal needs in the southern coalfields of West Virginia. It is also significant because the streets and lot parcels are the same as when Alfred Beckley planned and laid out the town in 1838. In addition, the district is a concentrated grouping of commercial buildings from the first half of the 20th century.



Preservation Steps: Educate stakeholders about the value of the Historic District, provide training to the Historic Landmarks Commission in their efforts to manage the Historic District, and provide technical assistance to historic property owners.

Ultimate Goal: The ultimate goal is to encourage preservation and appropriate development in the Historic District.

Resources: In order to manage the Historic District, the Historic Landmark Commission will draw

on the resources the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office provides to Historic Landmark Commissions and Certified Local Governments.

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