

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

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

1. Name

historic Millionaire's Row Historic District

and or common None

2. Location

street & number Multiple not for publication

city, town Williamsport vicinity of

state Pennsylvania code county Lycoming code

3. Classification

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple

street & number Multiple

city, town Williamsport vicinity of state Pennsylvania

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Lycoming County Courthouse

street & number 48 West Third Street

city, town Williamsport state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Williamsport Historic Sites Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1980 -1981 federal state county local

depository for survey records City Hall 245 West Fourth Street

city, town Williamsport state Pennsylvania

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____ N/A
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Millionaire's Row Historic District is an irregularly shaped area, centrally located in the City of Williamsport. The District represents a contiguous residential area exhibiting almost no topographical change in its land area. Evident at a number of junctions in the District are small (two or three buildings) concentrations of commercial uses. There are 289 total buildings in the District (102 significant, 161 contributing and 26 intrusions).

The District is almost entirely residential property of Victorian style architecture. Nearly all of the street scapes are intact throughout the District. Most of the intrusions are in the form of modern infill construction necessitated through the years by fire and other causes. The percentage of significant structures in relation to total structures is very high. One significant open space, Way's Garden, is an excellent contribution to the District in its appearance and location. Way's Garden was created in 1913 as the result of a demolition of a large Italianate - Gothic House and the new park was donated to the City.

The general condition of the District is deteriorating. The majority use of the buildings has become multi-family rented property. This is due primarily to the size of the former single family houses that predominate the building stock of the District. Unfortunately, this change in use has fostered a maintenance problem with respect to the District. This problem is beginning to turn around through preservation, education, financial, and technical assistance.

The specific styles of architecture apparent in the Millionaire's Row Historic District are all of the latter half of the 19th century and early 20th century.

Reflective of the times of the most prosperity, most structures were built between 1860 and 1920. Clearly, the distinction of the District lies in the presence of a rich variety of carefully designed and constructed mansions for the wealthy. The famed architect Eber Culver and contractor/builder Peter Herdic designed and constructed the most imposing and bold Second Empire homes. The boldness and power they display seems, not accidentally, to mimic the powerful financial empire and personalities of those who lived in them.

The Victorian Gothic style structures within the District tend to be eclectic, with definite exceptions: the magnificent Trinity Church and Parish House, the massive Weightman Block, both demonstrating the dynamic genius of the Culver/Herdic tradition; the Grace Church at Grace and Campbell Streets, and the First Church of Christ, Scientist on Maynard Street.

Twenty-eight Queen Anne and Eastlake homes are in the District and adjacent areas. The asymmetrical composition, varied and decoratively rich style displaying a variety of forms, textures, materials, and colors including several tall thin chimneys, projecting attic gables, and stained glass work produce an exuberant visual display. Noted examples of this style are the Walter Bowman House, the Emery House, the Ulman-Snyder House, the A.D. Hermance House, the Fredericks-Gleason House, the Clark-Redmand House, the F.R. Megahan House.

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A good example of The Italianate a popular and impressive style of the Victorian era, is the home of the principle Williamsport builder of the period Perter Herdic. Designed by Eber Culver and built by Herdic, this 1856 Italianate structure was nearly destroyed by the removal of porches, addition of a commercial front, and utter neglect. It is now undergoing a complete restoration. Another fine example is the Herdic House, later Park Hotel, now Park Home. Originally a magnificent, almost legendary four story hotel produced by Culver and Herdic, the top two floors were destroyed by fire and re-modeled in 1940. The house's ornate porches, wide eaves with large double brackets, rusticated quions and tall windows with arched heads produce a rich visual display

There are two examples of Colonial Revival, a style seldom seen in Williamsport, on West Fourth Street. They are the McMinn-Bowman-Mosser House and the H. Mellick Foresman-Dr. Brier House. The latter ostentatiously projects a two story portico with colossal column in the Ionic order while the former shows the broken swan's neck pedimented large central dormer typical of the style. Both combine various contemporary and Colonial elements to add a conspicuous change of charator to the community.

Neo-Classicism, a style based on primarily the Greek and to a lesser extent, the Roman orders, finds expression in the J.N. Kline House at 519 W. 4th Street. The symmetrically arranged structure with colossal portico is one of the few examples of this design in the city.

The two fine examples of the Victorian Romanesque are less than a block apart: the Foresman-Kay-Costello House built by William Emery and the Covenant Central Presbyterian Church. These massive and elaborate structures are a credit to the artists who designed and built them. Both are in excellent condition and integrity both inside and out.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration-settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics-government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
				ASSOC. WITH
Specific dates 1855 - 1920	Builder Architect			SIGNIF. PEOPLE

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Millicaire's Row Historic District represents the pinnacle of Williamsport's social, economic and cultural history. The district was constructed during the most prolific economic period in the City's history and capsulizes the City's built environment. The size, scope, and elaborate workmanship apparent in the structures of the district are excellent reminders of the 1850 - 1920 era of prosperity.

Williamsport's strength was founded on the logging industry in the late 1840's, however before this era, the town existed only as a crossroads community of less than 2,000 people, as a stop along the Pennsylvania Canal and as a marketing point for the numerous small farms of the area. In 1847, the potential for the logging business took a great leap forward with the establishment of the first "Log Boom" in the Susquehanna River. The west branch of the river from Linden to Halls Station was referred to as the "Long Reach", which was an area of almost no fall in the elevation of the riverbed. This provided an ideal point to locate a log boom, which was a series of river piers with heavy chains strung between them used to catch the slow moving logs as they came down the river. This fostered the development of an entire series of related lumber processing sites in Williamsport that included log cribs and ponds, sawmills, storage and rail yards.

The lumber industry began its significant growth in Williamsport during the 1860's, as the city began to exert its location dominance on the timber resources of the West Branch Valley. The impact on the town was dynamic; between 1860 and 1870, Williamsport's six major railroad lines arrived and the population tripled. By 1886, there were 28,000 inhabitants of the city. Various resources and industrial reports also reflect the growing boom in the economy - in 1862, 196,953 (37,853,621 board feet) logs were brought to Williamsport, and by 1891 that figure had jumped to 1,816,562 (262,017,394 board feet) logs.

It was on the base the "Lumber Barons" established their fortunes and subsequently built their spectacular homes. There were two main locational cores for these homes; along East Third Street (from Mulberry to Penn Streets) and along West Fourth Street (from Elmira to Seventh Avenue). The West Fourth Street area and its adjacent neighborhood along West Third Street eventually became preferred over East Third Street, as the land lots were bigger and there were more available land for additional residential expansion. The East Third Street area remained a fashionable neighborhood well into the Twentieth Century, however, numerous demolitions and commercial development has nearly erased all vestiges of this former use.

West Fourth Street developed along what was known as the Jersey Shore Road, which was largely farmland before the Civil War. There were a few large farmhouses which fronted the road at this time, the best known, perhaps, was the residence of Judge J.W.

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Maynard. This was a large, brick, two-story vernacular-Georgian house, with a recessed two-story porch along half the front facade. This structure was destroyed by a fire in 1960 and the site is now occupied by a modern building belonging to the Lycoming County Historical Museum.

Homes belonging to the Williamsport elite began appearing along West Fourth Street in the 1850's, the first of which was an Italianate-Gothic house built for Judge James Armstrong, formerly located in the site of the present Y.M.C.A. (southeast corner of Elmira and Fourth Streets.) However, the earliest surviving residence from the lumber era is the Italianate house of Peter Herdic, built in 1855 (407 West Fourth). Herdic himself was one of the premier influences on West Fourth Street and Williamsport in general. Along with his architect, Eber Culver, Herdic was responsible for such structures as the A.D. Herrmance House, the Weightman Block, and the "Herdic House" located at the intersection of Campbell and Fourth Streets, which is considered the center of the district. The Herdic House (now known as the Park Home) was a four-story, brick, Italianate Hotel that served the well-to-do guests of Williamsport. Directly behind the hotel was the Pennsylvania Railroad Station, which Herdic was able to locate there in order to service his hotel and restaurant.

Culver is Williamsport's best known architect. He arrived in the city in the early 1850's and worked as builder/contractor and remained there the remainder of his life. Culver designed a great number of homes in the historic district, among the better known include the Hiram Rhoads house (522 West Fourth Street) which is a superb Eastlake home in excellent condition (b. 1879); the "Embick Cottage" (531 West Fourth Street) remains most of its eclectic stick style detailing (c. 1880); the Emery Home (535 West Fourth Street) is a handsome Queen Anne home (b. 1865); the Rowley House (707 West Fourth Street) is one most intact 19th century buildings in the city with outstanding Queen Anne design (b. 1888); and the Mary White Gamble House (835 West Fourth Street) is a completely cut stone Romanesque structure (b. 1889).

Among the lesser known architects working in the district include Amos Wagner, a local architect, and Issac Hobbs of Philadelphia. A well known Wagner building is the large Queen Anne style house at 335 Maynard Street (c. 1885). Two surviving Hobbs buildings are the Smith-Ulman House (634 West Fourth Street), which remains its original second empire detail, but has been severely damaged by sandblasting, and the Mussina House (1022 West Fourth Street) completed in a very modest Eastlake style.

As a whole, the Historic District was never exclusively residential or totally upper class. Indeed, Fourth Street, which was dominated by homes of the Millionaires, was a mixed bag of uses that include the previously mentioned Herdic House and Weightman Block, the August Leadlein Confectionary Store (Fourth and Walnut Streets), a boarding house (Fourth and Locust Streets), Chaapel's Florist Shop and Greenhouses (906-912 West Fourth Street), and a number of large churches. Generally speaking, houses located on West Third, Grace, Vine, Park, Maynard, Campbell, Walnut, Locust, and Center Streets were smaller and were not as embellished in their architectural styles as those on West Fourth Street, but nonetheless, contained many families of note.

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The building stock within the district is almost completely of Victorian or post-Victorian extraction. Earlier Federal and Greek revival styles are non-existent, although the adjacent downtown business district once contained a good sampling of structures from these eras. Very few houses can be purely defined as a particular style, as most are eclectic forms that derive elements from two or more styles. Among the more pristine examples are as follows:

- The Hermance House (405 West Fourth Street) done in a Romanesque style. The house is constructed of gray limestone with a red slate roof. It was built for the Williamsport industrialist, Albert Hermance, who established his fortune on manufacturing woodworking machinery.
- Peter Herdic's classic Italianate home (407 West Fourth Street) is constructed of brick and covered with stucco, and has highly unique porch columns done with Lotus Petal motifs.
- The Rhoads House is one of the best preserved homes in the district (522 West Fourth Street) and has eastlake detailing and red slate roof. The interior retains its stained glass windows, mahogany woodwork, and winding stairs. Hiram Rhoads was a local entrepreneur who was instrumental in local telephone service and developing several electric enterprises.
- The Queen Anne House of E.A. Rowley (707 West Fourth Street) still sports its original design and the interior has had its marble fireplaces, stained glass and woodwork well maintained.
- Perhaps the best example in the district of a second empire building is the John Reading House (1025 West Fourth Street). The mansard roof and cast iron cresting have been well maintained. John Reading came to Williamsport from New Jersey and invested heavily in the lumber business.

The decline of the West Fourth Street area can be indirectly traced to the decline of the lumber business in Williamsport. In 1889, the Susquehanna River flooded its banks and caused considerable damage to the lumber facilities located in the City. This, coupled with the declining timber resources, signaled an end to the traditional economic base, although the lumber business remained until the early 1900's. Many "Old Line" families continued to live in the West Third and West Fourth Street areas well into the Twentieth Century, although a definite migration to the Vallamont and Grampian Hills sections of Williamsport was starting to occur. A severe impact on the Historic District came about after the 1936 flood of the Susquehanna River, which underlined the vulnerability of the area to natural disaster. This, added by the demand for apartment space created by the establishment of the Williamsport Technical Institute (now Williamsport Area Community College), in the 1940's. (Located on West Third Street), caused many large homes to be subdivided for rental space.

9. Major Bibliographical References

1. Art Work of Lycoming County, (published in nine parts), Chicago; Charles Madison Company 1897.
2. Blair, W.C. and J.B. McBath, Condensed History of Williamsport, Gazette and Bulletin Steam Printing House, Williamsport Pennsylvania, 1873. (see continuation sheet)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property Approx. 100 acres

Quadrangle name Williamsport

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>6</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>	D	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>
E	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	F	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>1</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>6</u> <u>0</u>
G	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>8</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	H	<u>1</u> <u>8</u>	<u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u> <u>4</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>6</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

See Continuation Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name title Thomas B. Richey and Christopher S. Witmer

organization Main Street Office date May, 1984

street & number 245 West Fourth Street telephone (717) 326-2831

city or town Williamsport state Pennsylvania

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer

title _____ date _____

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date _____

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date _____

Chief of Registration

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5. Leverette, Frank, Glacial Deposits in Pennsylvania, Department of Internal Affairs and Topographic and Geologic Survey, Harrisburg, Pa., 1934.
6. Lloyd, T.W., When Lumber Was King, James V. Brown Library, Williamsport, Pa.
7. Lycoming County Cenntennial - Official Programme, the Willliamsport Sun, Williamsport, Pa., July, 1895.
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15. Thomson, O.R. Howard, The Origin of the Name of Williamsport, The Williamsport Sun, Williamsport, Pa., August 9, 1922.

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17. The West Fourth Street Story, Grit Publishing Co., Williamsport, Pa., 1975.
18. Wheeland, Alverna F., Instructor, and Theodore Roosevelt Junior High School A.t Department, Early Williamsport In Block Print, Williamsport, Pa., 1937.
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20. Williamsport Sesquicentennial Magazine, Edited by the Williamsport Sesquicentennial Corporation, 1956.
21. Wolf, Sol Woodbridge, Architects of Success - A Citizen's Personal Williamsport Hall of Fame, 1967.

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I.	1 8	3 3 0 1 6 0	4 5 6 6 8 8 0	J.	1 8	3 3 0 1 5 0	4 5 6 7 1 6 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
K.	1 8	3 3 0 9 4 0	4 5 6 7 2 8 0	L.	1 8	3 3 0 9 4 0	4 5 6 7 2 0 0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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Boundary Justification:

The Historic District contains much of the better quality building stock of the residential portions of Williamsport during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Buildings to the east of the district comprise the central business district. Properties to the south of the district are largely vernacular wooden frame houses, mostly in poor condition, mixed in with industrial property. Property to the west of the district contains mixed usage with many commercial properties built within the last 25 years. Land to the north of the district is largely open space owned by the Consolidated Rail Corporation or cleared land developed by Urban Renewal.

UTM's: (continued)

I. E330 040 N. 4567 160

J. E330 940 N. 4567 280