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grandfather, Henry Johnson, had been a runaway slave and whose father, John Johnson, served as the Borough Council's appointed Constable.

The late 1890s brought a slow but steady decline to the village. The community's few industries failed and were not replaced. While anthracite coal extraction began to be a major economic force in the area, Waverly's agricultural economy failed to keep pace with the rest of the region.

Families moved away; houses stood vacant, with paint peeling, sagging porches and warped boards; everywhere signs of decay in a desolate scene of abandoned works. . . . Neighboring Scranton strode lustily ahead in the tide of economic progress while inadequate little Waverly fell hopelessly behind.¹²

The community settled into the role of a bedroom community to Scranton, the prosperity of which was tied to the boom of the anthracite industry.

One positive trend late in the nineteenth century was the discovery of the attractions of Abington Township, away from the congestion of city life, by the wealthy from Scranton and beyond. Large summer estates were established in the area, anchored by substantial summer homes of a scale never before seen in Waverly. The only example of these estate properties in the Waverly Historic District is the Chateausque-style mansion of Gaspard Belin at 109 Academy Street (Resource No. 82).

Among the wealthy who discovered Waverly were the Belin family. Henry Belin had come to Wilmington, Delaware from Santo Domingo in the 1860s and became involved with the gunpowder production interests of the Dupont family, eventually moving to Scranton. Among his eight children were a daughter, Alice, who married Pierre S. Dupont and a son, Henry Belin, Jr. (1843-1917). Henry Belin, Jr. received both a baccalaureate and Master's

¹²Ibid., p. 183.

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degree from Yale University before returning to Wilmington to begin fifty-four uninterrupted years of service to Dupont. He, too, relocated to Scranton to oversee the Dupont interests in anthracite mining and at the time of his death was president of E. I. Dupont de Nemours of Pennsylvania and a director of the Delaware-based parent company.¹³

After the death of Henry Belin, Jr., his widow wished to leave a suitable memorial to her husband in Waverly. The village's economic decline had resulted in the deterioration of the small business district bounded by Abington Road, Clinton, Church, and Beech Streets. Mrs. Belin acquired this entire block and demolished eleven of the buildings, including two hotels, the post office, and the historic foundry (Fig. 3), with the original intent of installing a memorial garden. Her sister-in-law, Mary, was wed to Nathaniel Robertson, and during World War One Robertson had met a young Scranton architect, George M. D. Lewis. Lewis persuaded Mrs. Belin to build a community building instead, and after touring New England and Long Island to view such facilities, Lewis, as his first commission, designed a community building in memory of Henry Belin, Jr. In the summer of 1919 ground was broken for the new building which opened in 1920 (Fig. 6); it was enlarged in 1929 with the addition of two matching wings, also designed by George Lewis. This was the largest single construction project in the history of the community and was a philanthropic gesture without parallel in the region.

In the 1920s, Gaspard D'Andelot Belin (1888-1954) erected a Mediterranean Revival-style house atop the Academy Street hill, also from the designs of George Lewis¹⁴. Belin was president of the Northeastern Bank and, like his brother, Henry, was associated with the black power production interests of the Duponts. With his wife, Marjory, Gaspard Belin traveled

¹³Murphy. *Op. Cit.*, pp. 812-813.

¹⁴Biographical information on George Lewis was assembled from a 2004 interview with his son, Edward Lewis, from correspondence from Edward Lewis, and from Edward Lewis' biography of his father, *Dear Bert*, whose full citation appears in the Bibliography.

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extensively through France¹⁵ and charged architect George Lewis with the transformation of the Spanish-style home into a rambling Chateausque-style mansion (Resource No. 82).

Throughout the balance of the period of significance, Waverly remained a bedroom community for Scranton, a character which it retains at the time of the nomination of the Waverly Historic District.

The Criterion C significance of the district is established by the presence of examples of a variety of the architectural styles popular during the c. 1828-1940 period of significance. The earliest architecture of the district is architecturally-simple and executed in the Federal and Greek Revival styles and is likely of timber frame construction. Even as the community continued to develop later in the nineteenth century, the architecture of the Waverly Historic District remained modest and failed to reach the level of sophistication eventually seen in the county seat of Scranton. Waverly remained essentially rural, small in scale. The nineteenth-century architectural influences which appear in the district include the Federal, and Greek, Romanesque, and Gothic Revivals, and, to a lesser degree, the Italianate, and Eastlake styles. The Chateausque style is represented in Waverly as well, in "Goodstay," the sprawling Dondalo Belin estate at 109 Academy Street. The twentieth century brought to Waverly properties executed in the Bungalow and Dutch Colonial Revival styles. Except for the Waverly Community House and "Goodstay," most of Waverly's buildings are modest in design. Summarizing, the Criterion C significance of the district spans the decades from the late 1820s until the pre-World War Two years, ranging from modest Federal and Greek Revival design to the beginnings of 1940s design as described in Section 7.

The district's Criterion C significance is strengthened by the presence in the district of two major examples of the work of architect George Mifflin Dallas Lewis. Born in Philadelphia in 1891, Lewis' father moved to Scranton in the late 1890s. George M. D. Lewis gradu-

¹⁵Interview with Kathleen Graff, granddaughter of Gaspard D'Andelot Belin, 2003.

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ated from Scranton Technical High School in 1910 and apprenticed for two years under the prominent Scranton architect Edward H. Davis before matriculating to the University of Pennsylvania School of Architecture from which he graduated in 1916. After a year's post-graduate study at Penn, he joined the U. S. Army Signal Corps as a pilot, seeing action in Italy during World War One. He returned to Scranton after the War and designed the Waverly Community House as his first commission. In 1920 he moved to a house about one mile from Waverly, outside the district. Also in 1920 he joined the firm of his mentor Edward Davis, and as Davis and Lewis, the firm became a leading practitioner in the region, designing banks, estate homes, hospitals, and schools. Among their Scranton commissions were the First National Bank Building, the Bosak Building, the Bell Telephone Building, the Scranton *Times* Building, and the Church of the Good Shepherd.¹⁶ In addition to the 1919 Community House, Lewis designed the building's 1930 wings and a 1950s extension of one of the wings to accommodate bowling alleys. He designed "Goodstay" in the district and the 1920s Waverly school, outside the district. Lewis practiced in Scranton for the rest of his life and died in 1987.

Viewing the Waverly Historic District in the context of other communities d in the region, even in the twenty-first century this district exhibits a far stronger character of a early nineteenth-century village than do any comparable areas in relatively close geographical proximity. The village of Dalton, located in a valley two miles east of Waverly, lies along U. S. Route 6; its physical integrity is impaired by the concrete Route 6 high-level bridge which passes through the community. In addition, Dalton has been impacted far more significantly by demolition and new construction than has Waverly. The domestic architecture of Dalton dates from the late nineteenth and early twentieth century and does not possess any of the Federal- or Greek Revival-style homes that characterize Waverly. Dalton contains a modest business district which Waverly lacks, but its overall integrity is considerably diminished compared to Waverly. Clarks Summit, a borough west of Dalton and also on Route 6, is heavily

¹⁶Lewis obituary, *The Sunday Times*, Scranton, Pennsylvania, p. A-8.

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commercialized along the Route 6 corridor, with strip development, motels, and office and fast food development. Clarks Summit's residential architecture, some of which dates from the middle decades of the nineteenth century, is scattered throughout the municipality and does not exist in the concentration which exists in Waverly. Elsewhere in the region, the Towanda Historic District, in Bradford County, is a mixed-use district containing a substantial downtown commercial area and a historic residential neighborhood. The Susquehanna County Court House Historic District in Montrose, Susquehanna County, includes only a grouping of county governmental buildings, although an adjoining area of Montrose which is more architecturally and functionally diverse than the court house district has been determined eligible for the National Register. This eligible area is considerably larger than Waverly and includes a significantly more varied collection of architecture. The Milford Historic District (with a Boundary Increase), on Route 6 in Pike County to the east, contains more than five hundred buildings, residential, commercial, and institutional. The Waverly Historic District, with the retained rural village character brought in the 1820s by its New England forebears, stands alone in the region as a distinct architectural entity with unimpaired integrity consisting of a densely-concentrated inventory of primarily residential buildings dating principally from the middle years of the nineteenth century.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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10. Geographical Data

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Beginning at the northeast corner of Clinton Street and Lynwood Road, then proceeding along the east curblineline of Lynwood Road c. 200' to the rear lot line of the property at 601 Clinton Street (Resource No. 62); then eastward along the rear properties of the properties facing Clinton Street c. 200' to the rear lot line of the properties facing Dearborn Street; then northerly c. 400' along the rear property lines of the properties facing Dearborn Street to the northern lot line of the property at 103 Dearborn Street (Resource No. 129); then easterly along the northern property line of the property at 103 Dearborn Street (Resource No. 129) to the western curblineline of Dearborn Street; then southerly along the western curblineline of Dearborn Street c. 200' to a point opposite the northern lot line of the property at 104 Dearborn Street (Resource No. 130); then easterly along the rear lot lines of the properties facing Clinton Street c. 420' to the rear property lines of the properties facing Church Street; then northerly along the rear lot lines of the properties facing Church Street c. 400' to the northwest corner of the property at 209 Beech Street (Resource No. 17); then easterly c. 520', crossing Beech Street to the eastern curblineline of Foundry Alley; then northerly c. 880' along the rear property lines of the properties facing Abington Road, to the northwest corner of the lot containing the property at 1301 Abington Road (Resource No. 36); then eastward c. 200' along the north lot line of the property containing 1301 Abington Road (Resource No. 36) to the west curblineline of Abington Road; then southerly c. 200' along the west curblineline of Abington Road to a point opposite the northwest corner of the lot containing 1306 Abington Road (Resource No. 38); then easterly, crossing Abington Road and continuing a total of c. 200' to the northeast corner of 1306 Abington Road (Resource No. 38); then southerly along the rear property lines of the properties facing Abington Road c. 300' to the rear lot lines of the properties facing Carbondale Road; then northeasterly and easterly along the rear property lines of the properties facing Carbondale Road a total of c. 1,200' to the northwest corner of the property at 135 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 107); then northerly c. 200' to the

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northwest corner of the property at 135 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 108); then easterly along the rear properties of the properties facing Carbondale Road c. 200' to the northeast corner of the property at 137 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 109); then southerly c. 350' to the north curbline of Carbondale Road; then westerly along the north curbline of Carbondale Road c. 280' to a point opposite the northeast corner of the property at 116 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 110); then southerly, crossing Carbondale Road and continuing along the east property line of 116 Carbondale Road (Resource No. 110) a total of c. 200' to the southeast corner of the property at 116 Carbondale Road; then westerly along the south property line of the property at 116 Carbondale Road c. 320' to the west curbline of Madison Lane; then southerly along the west curbline of Madison Lane c. 800' to the south curbline of Academy Street; then easterly along the north property line of the property at 112 Academy Street (Resource Nos. 85, 86, and 87) c. 1,000' to the northeast property corner of 112 Academy Street; then southwesterly along the eastern property line of the property at 112 Academy Street c. 560' to the southeast corner of the lot containing 112 Academy Street; then eastward a total of c. 2,280' along the rear property lines of the properties facing Academy Street and crossing Abington Road to the southwest corner of the property at 1109 Abington Road (Resource No. 24); then northerly along the rear property lines of the properties facing Abington Road c. 80' to the rear lot line of the properties facing Church Street; then easterly along the rear lot lines of the properties facing Church Street c. 400' to the southwest corner of the property at 107 Church Street (Resource No. 5); then northeasterly c. 240' along the west property line of the property at 107 Church Street (Resource No. 5) to the northern curbline of Church Street; then following the northern and eastern curbline of Church Street a total of c. 1,040' to the north curbline of Clinton Street; then westerly along the north curbline of Clinton Street c. 280' to the place of beginning.

JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries of this district encompass the historic core of the village of Waverly and were drawn to exclude properties dating from outside the period of significance. The lands

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in Abington Township which immediately surround the district are either undeveloped or contain properties post-dating c. 1940, the end date of the period of significance.

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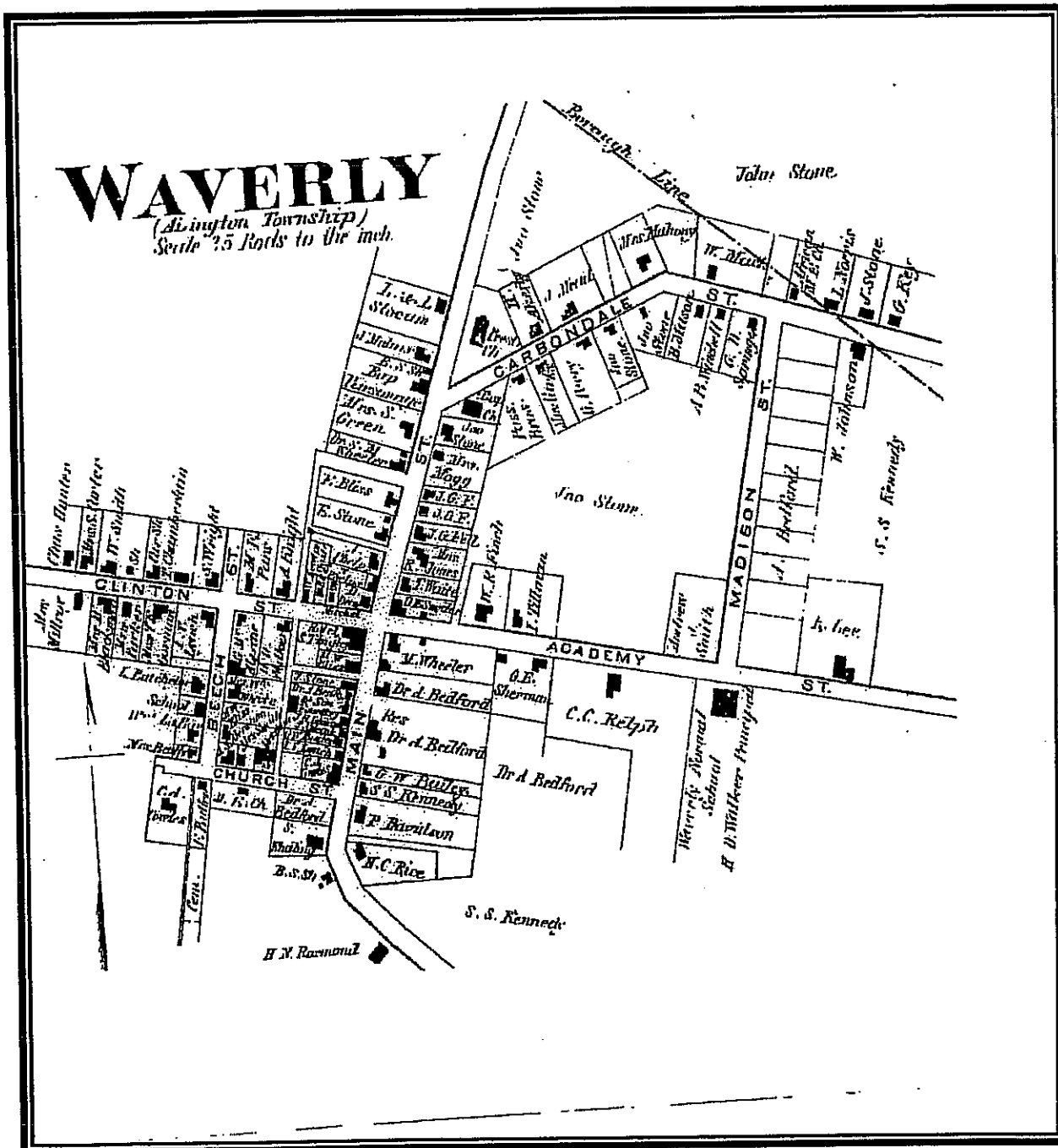


Figure 1 Shown above is the Borough of Waverly as depicted in the 1873 Atlas of Luzerne County.