

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. **Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).**

1. Name of Property

historic name Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 571 Douglas Road

city or town Thomas

state West Virginia

code WV

county Tucker

code _____

☐
☐

not for publication

vicinity

zip code 26292

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination ___ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets ___ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

___ national X statewide ___ local

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

___ entered in the National Register

___ determined eligible for the National Register

___ determined not eligible for the National Register

___ removed from the National Register

___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store
Name of Property

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5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	private
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Local
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - State
<input type="checkbox"/>	public - Federal

Category of Property

(Check only **one** box.)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	building(s)
<input type="checkbox"/>	district
<input type="checkbox"/>	site
<input type="checkbox"/>	structure
<input type="checkbox"/>	object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE/department store

COMMERCE/business

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

COMMERCE/business

COMMERCE/specialty store

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS:

Italian Renaissance

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions.)

foundation: STONE

walls: BRICK, STONE

roof: ASPHALT

other: _____

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Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store, constructed in 1900, is located in Thomas, Tucker County, a mountainous area historically associated with the lumber and coal industries. The property is in the neighborhood of Coketon, a former coal company town established by the Davis Coal and Coke Company approximately ½ mile southwest of the Thomas central business district. The Davis Coal and Coke Company Administration Building (listed in the National Register 10/6/2011) is located across the street; the surrounding area consists of moderate-density single-family homes, many of which are former company houses. Most of the structures and housing associated with the Davis Coal and Coke Company have been demolished.

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is an Italian Renaissance Revival 11 x 9 bay two story brick commercial building with a basement. It has a rectangular plan measuring 81 feet wide and 121 feet long. The front façade is constructed of yellow brick in a running bond pattern and has a symmetrical design consisting of a central two-story recessed arched bay flanked by storefronts on the first story and 5 bays of arched 1-over-1 sash windows on each side at the second story. The central honed cut stone arch is carved with the words "Buxton and Landstreet Co." in all capital letters. The side elevations are common bond red brick and each consist of 9 bays demarcated by vertical brick pilasters. Fenestration consists of one-over-one single-hung windows with brick segmental arch lintels. The rear façade features a two-story central arch that is not recessed, random placement of windows and alterations including a stair tower addition and gunite treatment at the second story. The building has a random coursed cut stone foundation.

Narrative Description

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

1900

Location and Setting

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is located in Thomas, Tucker County, West Virginia, approximately ½ miles southwest from the town's center. It sits on 1.63 acres of land in a small residential neighborhood consisting of former coal miners' homes, vacant lots, and the Davis Coal & Coke Company's Administration Building. Douglas Road, the main thoroughfare in this industrial section of town, runs in a northwest direction to Coketon, a suburb of Thomas. The road forms a roundabout near the front entrance of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store. The company store was built on a hillside a short distance from the West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railway line and south of the North Fork of the Blackwater River. The terrain is steep and mountainous.

The Buxton & Landstreet Company Store main entrance faces the Davis Coal & Coke Company's Administration Building, also known as the Engineering Building. The original front exterior steps (Figures 1 and 3) that led customers from the street level to the main entrance are no longer extant. The area in front of the building has been regraded and the front entrance is now accessed by a level concrete sidewalk and a well-manicured green space filled with flowers, shrubbery, and trees. This green space surrounds a single handicap parking spot on three sides. Below the flower bed, there is an L-shape stone retaining wall that steps down; the wall stretches halfway across the front façade and connects to the northern edge of the company store. The northern side of the company store has a small paved parking lot and a small space with table. A curved sidewalk leads to the rear of the company store. There is also a small, paved parking lot on the southern side of the company store.

Exterior

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store, constructed in 1900, is an 11-bay, two story, brick building with a basement. This symmetrical building rests on a random coursed stone ashlar foundation. The roof is flat and covered with rolled asphalt.

The front façade is dominated by the main entrance, which is recessed and centered in a two-story arched central bay. Large, angled four-pane windows flank the main entrance; the double doors are wood with single panes of glass and have a two-pane transom. Large four-pane transoms are located in each bay of the front entrance and a wood cornice extends across them. At the second floor level, there are arched windows surrounding paired sash windows in the center. A smooth arched stone surround with the words "Buxton and Landstreet Co" in all capital letters and two stone circles with "AD" and "1900" are located above the main entrance in the central bay. The barrel-vaulted wood ceiling of the entrance bay is coffered.

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The bays flanking the central bay on the front façade at the first-floor level consist of three sets of four-pane display windows with four-pane transoms on each side. A wood cornice extends across the display windows/transoms on each side. Windows on the second-floor level consist of five arched windows on each side with one-over-one wood sashes, stone sills and arched brick lintels. The front façade and two side elevations have two corbelled brick belt courses near the top of the facade.

The south elevation of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is red brick laid in a common bond pattern and consists of 9 slightly recessed bays demarcated by simple brick pilasters. Fenestration on the first floor consists of one-over-one wood sash windows with brick segmental arch lintels. Second floor windows are arched one-over-one wood sashes with arched brick lintels. All windows have rusticated cut stone sills. There are small vents located along the top of the wall. Each brick pilaster contains two metal star-shaped tie rod anchors.

The north elevation of the building is similar to the south elevation in bay arrangement and fenestration. Unlike the south elevation, the north elevation features two corbelled brick belt courses that extend around the building from the front façade. There is also corbelled brickwork at the top of each recessed bay. The cut stone foundation at the basement level is fully exposed on the north side of the building. The basement level consists of two sets of double doors and single sash windows with one-over-one wood sashes. The central double door has been replaced with infill and modern doors and two other single doors have been infilled with concrete block. Windows at the basement level have been replaced and/or covered with plywood.

The rear elevation of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store generally resembles the front façade with a central two-story arched bay flanked by side bays. The rear wall is yellow brick on the first floor and has been covered with gunite on the second story. The rear arched bay is not recessed and contains a yellow brick wall with a loading dock/double doors, two one-over-one wood sashes and paired windows infilled with concrete block. The central bay has an arched stone surround with the words "Buxton and Landstreet Co." in all capitalized letters on the second floor level. Above the surround, there is a small circular stone with 1900 on it. The side bays originally consisted of three one-over-one wood sashes on each side with a simple flat wood cornice above the first story. The left (north) bay retains this arrangement. There is a two-story concrete block stair tower addition with a door and mural constructed to the right (south) of the center bay. The recently added mural depicts Carrie Williams, a Black teacher who fought for equal pay and affirmative actions in the late 1890s.

Interior

The building's interior consists of two floors and a basement. The main space on the main level served as the retail space for the company store. There are hardwood floors throughout the main two levels. The interior walls are covered by white glazed tile brick. Metal columns with simple Doric capitals stretch from the original wood floors to the steel support beams. The entire ceiling, including support beams, features the original decorative tin covering. The rear section of the building on the first floor originally served as storage/warehouse space and is more utilitarian in design. The second floor has been converted into offices and meeting spaces and a secondary gallery. The walls for the office space consist of drywall partitions from a previous renovation.

Once inside the main entrance of the company store, there is large, open space that features an art gallery. A partition wall was constructed after 1999 to create a separate retail gallery space at the front of the building and storage/art studio space at the rear. The original configuration of the main level consisted of one large showroom space with a wood mezzanine structure at the rear that contained the Coketon post office (Figure 2). On the north side of the building currently there are offices, original oak staircase, restrooms, new elevator and mechanical room. The original oak staircase leads to the upper level and features wood railings with spindles, newel posts, hardwood floors, wood paneling, baseboards and tin ceiling on the underside. This staircase leads to the upper level, which contains a large meeting room, fourteen small offices/studios, kitchen and bathrooms. The second level originally consisted primarily of a large open room, with a few sleeping rooms and bathroom for visiting employees. The basement level contains a boiler room and two larger storage spaces, as well as a crawl space along the south side of the building.

Integrity

The Buxton & Landstreet Company Store retains its historic integrity as it relates to Criterion A and Criterion C. This structure retains its historic integrity in terms of location, setting, design, workmanship, materials, association and feeling. The company store remains in its original location on 1.63 acres of land near the Thomas suburb of Coketon. The brick facade, arched stone surround, large display windows, and other details remain. The structure continues to convey its original design and significance as a company store.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

COMMERCE

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1900-1950

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Period of Significance (justification)

The Period of Significance is 1900 to 1950, beginning with the construction of the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store and concluding with its permanent closure as a company store.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary)

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is significant at the local level under Criterion A: Commerce for its association with the coal industry in Thomas, West Virginia and as an example of a coal company store, a building type uniquely associated with the Appalachian coal fields. The building was the first of nine mercantile stores operated by the Buxton and Landstreet Company and served as the flagship and central management location. The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store provided coal miners working for the Davis Coal & Coke Company in Thomas, West Virginia with the necessities including food, tools, furniture, and clothing. It utilized scrip as a payment method.

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is also significant at the local level under Criterion C: Architecture for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C as an example of early 20th-century Italian Renaissance Revival commercial architecture.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criterion A: COMMERCE AND HISTORY

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A: Commerce and Industry for its association with the development of the coal industry in Thomas. The company store was the retail arm of the Davis Coal & Coke Company between 1900 and 1950. It was the first of nine company stores operated by the Davis Coal & Coke Company. Unlike other company stores in West Virginia, the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store was not located in the center of town but rather outside. Coal miners working for the Davis Coal & Coke Company in Thomas purchased necessities including food, clothing, tools, and furniture at the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store. They purchased goods at the company store with scrip, a type of currency produced by coal companies, or charged their purchases to their accounts and had the total deducted from their paychecks. The Davis Coal & Coke Company's scrip consisted of metal coins in different dominations. The building also served as the post office for the company town. The Buxton & Landstreet Company Store closed its doors in 1950 due to a decreased demand for coal.

Criterion C: ARCHITECTURE

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store is also eligible under Criterion C for Architecture. The building was designed in the Italian Renaissance Revival style of architecture. Following the destruction by fire of the original company store in 1899, this structure was constructed in 1900 of brick and attention was given to finish materials, including the yellow brick façade, decorative brickwork, interior metal Doric columns, fine woodwork and stamped metal ceilings. The formal classically influenced exterior with a monumental arched entryway conveyed a sense of steadfastness, prosperity and organization; expansive full-width storefront windows displayed the variety of goods available. The building retains excellent integrity and clearly conveys its original purpose as a company store and prominent role in the surrounding community.

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

History of Henry Gassaway Davis and the Davis Coal and Coke Company

Industrialist and politician Henry Gassaway Davis (1823-1916) contributed to the development of the coal industry in Thomas, West Virginia. Davis was born in Baltimore, Maryland to Caleb and Louisa Warfield Brown Davis. In 1842, he began his career with the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad (B&O) as a brakeman. Davis later rose to the positions of conductor and station agent. While working as the station agent in Piedmont (Hampshire County), Davis saw opportunities in the development of the timber and coal resources and began surveying thousands of acres of land on horseback and on foot in present-day northern West Virginia.¹

In 1858, Davis resigned from his position as station agent at Piedmont and established H. G. Davis and Company with his younger brother Thomas Davis. Their company's main business was supplying oil and lumber to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. When the

¹ Pepper, Charles M. *The Life and Times of Henry Gassaway Davis*.

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Civil War began in 1861, Davis sided with the Union and supplied lumber and railroad ties to the B&O Railroad and the United States government. Davis continued to survey and examine the available timber and coal resources between the 1860s and 1880s. He also purchased thousands of acres of land in Mineral, Grant, Randolph, and Tucker Counties and planned for future railroad and coal mining ventures.

Davis's dream of owning a railroad became a reality in 1880 when the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg Railroad was chartered under the former Potomac & Piedmont Railroad Company by the West Virginia Legislature.² Construction of this road began that same year extending from the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line at Cumberland, Maryland to Elkins, West Virginia. The road traveled through wilderness along the Blackwater River in a southwest direction. In November of 1884, the road was completed to Thomas, West Virginia and coal mines owned by the West Virginia Central and Pittsburg Railroad opened along the road. In 1886, the H. G. Davis and Company purchased the mine and equipment from the railway.³ The same year, Davis formed a partnership with Stephen B. Elkins for the purpose of mining coal in what became the unincorporated town of Coketon.

Two years later, on January 17, 1889, H. G. Davis and Company was reorganized as the Davis Coal & Coke Company by Henry G. Davis, Thomas B Davis, Stephen B. Elkins, Harry G. Buxton, Fairfax S. Landstreet, and W. J. Armstrong.⁴ The company enlarged the colliers, tipples, and coke ovens and constructed an administration office, company homes, club house, a train station, and a company store in the following years. Thomas served as the central hub of the Davis Coal & Coke Company's operation but was somewhat atypical among coal towns in that the lots, homes and businesses in Thomas proper were privately developed by individual owners, not the coal company. Coketon, located just southwest of the Thomas central business district, was the company town for the Davis Coal and Coke Company and included the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store, administration building, rows of standard-design miners' houses, nine coal mines and nearly one thousand coke ovens.⁵

History of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

The Davis Coal & Coke Company added a retail arm to their company known as the Buxton and Landstreet Company. On August 7, 1889, Fairfax Stuart Landstreet and Harry G. Buxton, both managers in the Davis Coal & Coke Company, incorporated the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store as a general mercantile business.⁶ It was the first of nine company stores established by the Davis Coal & Coke Company and can be considered an early example of a chain store.⁷ In 1889, the original Buxton & Landstreet Company Store was constructed on 1.63 acres of land approximately one mile south of Thomas. These 1.63 acres were previously wilderness until the West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railroad was constructed. On October 11, 1899, a fire destroyed the company store.⁸

The present-day Buxton and Landstreet Company Store was constructed the following year on the same site. It is an imposing two-story brick structure measuring 81 feet by 121 feet. A newspaper article noted that the new building was to be of the "skeleton type, 100 x 120 feet, three stories and cost about \$25,000," and that it would be "modern in every particular."⁹ The architect of the building is unknown, but it may have been designed by a staff engineer or architect employed by the Davis Coal and Coke Company or Western Maryland Railway. The front façade of the building is covered with yellow brick and features large display windows, two corbelled brick belt courses, and a monumental central arched stone entryway. It sits on a cut stone foundation. The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store's interior has an open floor plan and its walls are lined with white-glazed brick. Its original wood flooring, metal columns, oak staircases, and decorative tin ceilings remain.

The Buxton & Landstreet Company Store, under the management of H. C. Berry, was a large retail store in Thomas. The company store sold the necessities of life including food, clothing, tools, and furniture to the coal miners; it also housed the post office. Miners paid for the goods with scrip, a type of currency produced by the coal company, also known as "trade coins," or charged their purchases to their personal account. Charges were then deducted from their paychecks along with rent on the company house, medical

² L. Wayne Sheets, "West Virginia Central & Pittsburg Railway." *E-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*.

³ Nutter, T. *Thomas West Virginia: History, Progress and Development*, 29.

⁴ Nutter 29.

⁵ Joseph W. Dumire, "History & Structure of the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store"

⁶ Joseph W. Dumire, "History & Structure of the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store"

⁷ N.S. Greensfelder. "Mining Coal in West Virginia." *The Coal Trade Bulletin*. 45:10. October 17, 1921. P 378.

<https://play.google.com/books/reader?id=XB48AQAAMAAJ&pg=GBS.PA42&hl=en>

⁸ Ibid

⁹ "Piedmont and Vicinity." *Cumberland Alleghenian*, June 28, 1900, p 4.

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expenses, utilities, and United Mine Workers Association dues. Branches of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store were opened in Kempton, Elk Garden, Wabash, Henry, Benbush, Beryl, Weaver and Pierce. The Thomas location served as the central stocking, management and training facility for the other Buxton and Landstreet stores.

The area surrounding the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store was home to Coketon, the Davis Coal and Coke Company town. It included the mine infrastructure, coke ovens, company buildings, rows of standard-design miners' housing, schools, railroad buildings and other structures. Historic photos show the dense development along Douglas Road in Coketon, including the Central School building located across from the Administration Building, churches and homes, culminating in the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store at the western end of the street.¹⁰ Together with the Administration Building and the train station, the Company Store was the center of commerce for Davis Coal & Coke employees. The building originally had a full-width wooden porch, accessed by stairs, which would have provided both window shopping and informal social gathering space for residents. Unlike many other company towns in West Virginia, however, miners had additional residential and retail options in the adjacent town of Thomas, which contained a variety of individually-owned shops, restaurants and housing. Nevertheless, the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store did a bustling business providing miners with essentials for work and home, no doubt in part due to the use of scrip. In fact, the company store monopoly and inflated prices imposed upon miners were contributing factors to a number of strikes over the years.

According to a full-page highly laudatory profile of the Davis Coal and Coke Company appearing in the *Cumberland Evening Times* in 1902, most company employees lived in company housing and "very generally trade[d] at the company's really excellent general department stores, which are kept on a scale of modernity commensurate with the ability and opportunity of the company." The article describes the various features of the interior and exterior:

An immense arched doorway fills half the front and gives onto a platform extending the full width of the building with steps of the same width reaching the ground. The interior is a close second in style. Each floor is entirely open, the two upper stories walled with Mt. Savage white tile brick, ceilinged with ornamented sheet steel and the ceilings supported by lines of graceful columns. The floors are of oak, laid in cement and the building considered absolutely fire-proof. Forty-five electric arc lights illuminate the building at night, which by day its numerous large windows light it perfectly. It is heated by steam from the railway roundhouse, and with its bath and toilet rooms and sleeping apartments for employees, and post office, might almost be considered a town in itself.

In the basement is a fine meat market and here also the surplus stock of the store is carried. The first floor carries full stocks of dry goods, boots, shoes, fancy goods, notions, ladies' ready to wear hats and gents' furnishing goods, hardware, groceries, cigars and tobacco, queensware and patent medicines and there is plenty of room to spare. Here is also the post office, auditor's offices and store office. The second floor has millinery, ready made tailored clothing, furniture, carpets, oil cloths, mattings and trunks, beside bathroom toilet and sleeping apartments... It is a wonderful place and Mr. H.C. Berry, manager for the Buxton Landstreet Co., is not only proud of the store, but of its business, which, under his brainy management, is a splendid success.¹¹

Later the retail space was primarily contained on the main floor while the second floor housed accounting and auditing operations. The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store operated in Thomas for fifty years. On May 27, 1950, due to the slow decline of the local coal industry, the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store permanently closed its doors. It was the last of the nine company stores to close. The building sat vacant until 1958 when the Tucker County Development Authority purchased the building. They leased the building for one year to the John G. Purrs Manufacturing Company of New York City who built cabinets for sewing machines followed by the Ruben-Curtis Corporation who designed and produced commercial interiors.¹² In 1999, the Vandalia Heritage Foundation purchased the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store and converted it into an art gallery, offices, and meeting space. At this time, the interior main retail space was partitioned into a gallery at the front of the first floor, and studio/storage space at the rear.

Architecture

The lack of infrastructure located near the coal deposits in West Virginia required coal companies to construct entire towns. The coal companies owned and built structures related to the coal mining industry such as collieries, tipples, railroad stations, and company

¹⁰ Cynthia Phillips, *Images of America: Tucker County*, p 67.

¹¹ "The Davis Coal and Coke Co." *Cumberland Evening Times*, 30 Aug 1902, p27.

¹² Dumire, Joseph W. "History & Structure of the Buxton & Landstreet Company Store"

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stores as well as dwellings, churches, and schools. These early structures were often built with local timber; however, as fires destroyed these early wood structures, they were replaced by brick structures.

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store conveys its purpose as a company store in both form and function. The flagship company store was housed in this large rectangular, two-story building with a formal classical façade and monumental arched entrance. The building's commercial/retail function is clearly communicated on the exterior by expansive display windows. Occupying the first-floor level was the retail space, where glass display cases and wood shelves were located along each wall and freestanding within the main retail space. The space was open and well-lit with natural light as well as light fixtures. At the rear of the first floor level was a loading dock which allowed the company to easily unload items including clothing, furniture, and food. In addition to the exterior design and materials, many architectural details found on the interior of the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store set it apart from other company stores. The walls are covered with white glazed Mount Savage tile brick. The original hardwood floors extend the entire length of the building. Round, decorative metal columns with simple capitals stretch from the original wood floors to the steel support beams. The beams and ceiling are covered with the original stamped tin ceiling.

The building is an example of Italian Renaissance Revival architecture and exhibits features of the style including the central monumental arch flanked by symmetrical arched windows and a tripartite façade arrangement delineated by a secondary cornice above the first floor and corbelled brick stringcourses at the top of the façade. According to historian Leland M. Roth, the Italian Renaissance Revival emerged as a popular style in the 1880s as part of the "widespread desire to rationalize and standardize commercial building... to bring visual order to the constructed environment."¹³ Styles based on the ordered symmetry of classical architecture were employed as a response to rapid and chaotic growth of cities and suburbs, as well as industry. The Italian Renaissance style, as opposed to the classic Greek temple form, was seen as more flexible for contemporary applications while retaining the restraint and order of classicism.¹⁴ The style was employed in several high-profile buildings designed by the prolific American architectural firm of McKim, Mead and White, including the Villard Apartments, Boston Public Library and various urban residences.

The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store represents the extension of the style to a location and function far outside of the nation's urban centers. The building is constructed of brick rather than more expensive stone and does not feature details such as rusticated ground floor, quoins, ornate cornices and window surrounds that might be included on more high-style buildings. Nevertheless, the Buxton and Landstreet Company Store was one of the largest and most imposing formally-designed buildings in the area and certainly foremost among the company's various store locations. Even compared to the Davis Coal and Coke Company administration building across the street, the Buxton and Landstreet building is much larger, grander and the clear focal point of Coketon. Although the Administration Building housed the most important decision-making, financial, human resources and technical functions for all locations of the Davis Coal and Coke Company, it is a fairly utilitarian 2½ story red brick structure. The two building are similar in their employment of heavy stone bases, symmetrical façade arrangements and 2nd-floor arched windows, yet the Buxton and Landstreet represents a more extensive application of the Italian Renaissance aesthetic.

In the era of increasing and more centralized commercial growth, but before modern radio and television advertising, a company's building was one of the most important and visible ways it could communicate its prosperity and values. The late 19th century competition among companies in New York City to build the tallest and/or most ornate skyscraper demonstrates this phenomenon, and resulted in the construction of the Woolworth Building, Tribune, New York Time and New York Post buildings, among others.¹⁵ Construction of impressive buildings told the public "We are established. We can afford the best and latest materials, styles and technology. Trust us with your business." As with architectural style trends, this outlook extended beyond large urban centers to towns and buildings of all sizes and functions. The Buxton and Landstreet Company Store asserts its trustworthiness, capital and constancy through its massive, grounded proportions, formal façade, brick construction and upgraded materials including decorative yellow brick, stone, ornamental tin and substantial metal interior columns. In historic photos, the Buxton and Landstreet Building appears as an immovable institution amongst rows of wooden houses, dirt roads and industrial activity. This may have been an even more important message for the company to convey following the loss of its first building to fire.

¹³ Roth, *American Architecture: A History*, 287.

¹⁴ Roth 290.

¹⁵ Marcus Whiffen and Frederick Koeper, *American Architecture V. II*, p 10.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Roth, Leland. *American Architecture: A History*. Boulder: Westview Press, 2001.

Smith, Mariwyn McClain. "Tucker County" *e-WV: The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Web. 11 May 2021.

Whiffen, Marcus and Frederick Koeper. *American Architecture, Volume 2: 1860-1976*. 7th printing. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2001.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested)
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
☐ recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☒ Other
Name of repository: Vandalia Heritage Foundation

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.63

(Do not include previously listed resource acreage.)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 17N 629034 4333610
Zone Easting Northing

3 17N
Zone Easting Northing

2 17N
Zone Easting Northing

4 17N
Zone Easting Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The boundary for the Buxton and Landstreet Company store coincides with the limits of Tucker County Tax Parcel 06-248A-69, which encompasses the building and associated property.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary was selected to include the tax parcel which includes the building and surrounding property owned by the current owners.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Sarah Elswick, Architectural Historian and Courtney Zimmerman, Architectural Historian

organization Aurora Research Associates, LLC

date July 21, 2021

street & number 1436 Graham Road

telephone 304-685-7410

city or town Silver Lake

state Ohio

zip code 44224

e-mail seelswick@gmail.com courtney@aurora-llc.com

Additional Documentation:

Figure 1: Historic Photo: Exterior

Figure 2: Historic Photo: Interior

Figure 3: Historic Photo: Environs

Figure 4: Buxton and Landstreet Company Store Floor Plan, Basement

Figure 5: Buxton and Landstreet Company Store Floor Plan, First Floor

Figure 6: Buxton and Landstreet Company Store Floor Plan, Second Floor

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Figure 1: Historic Photo: Exterior



Figure 2: Historic Photo: Interior

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store
Name of Property

Tucker County, WV
County and State

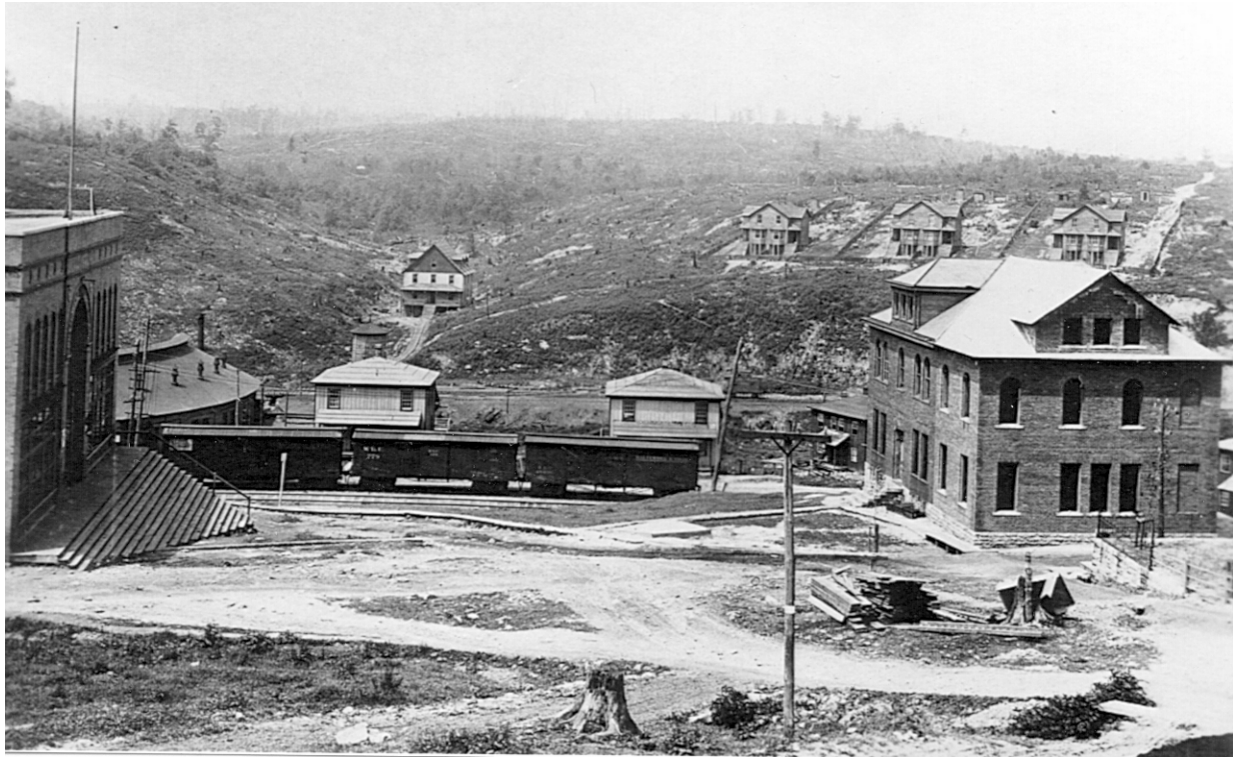


Figure 3: Historic Photo: Environs

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State

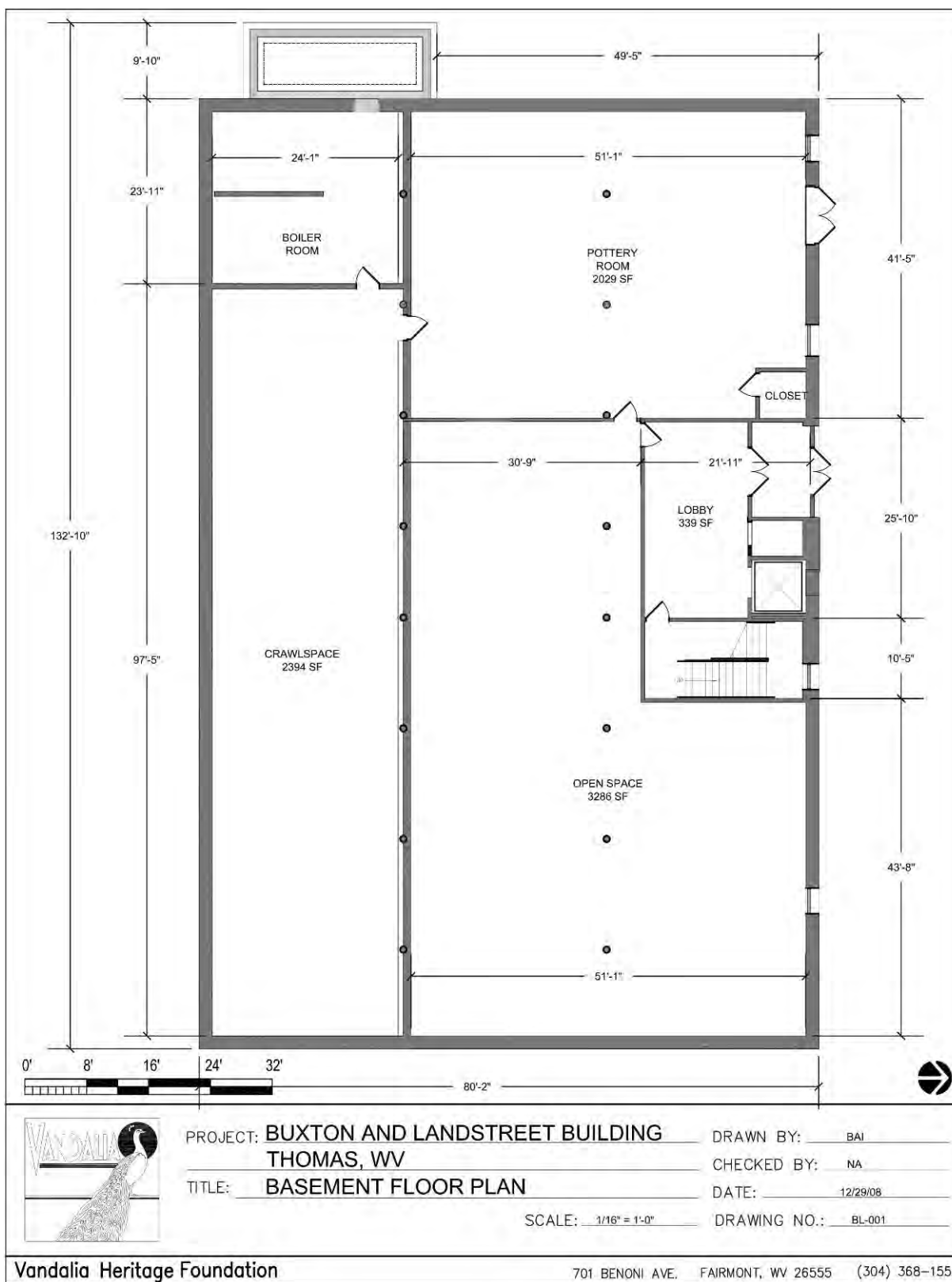


Figure 4: Buxton and Landstreet Company Store Floor Plan, Basement

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State

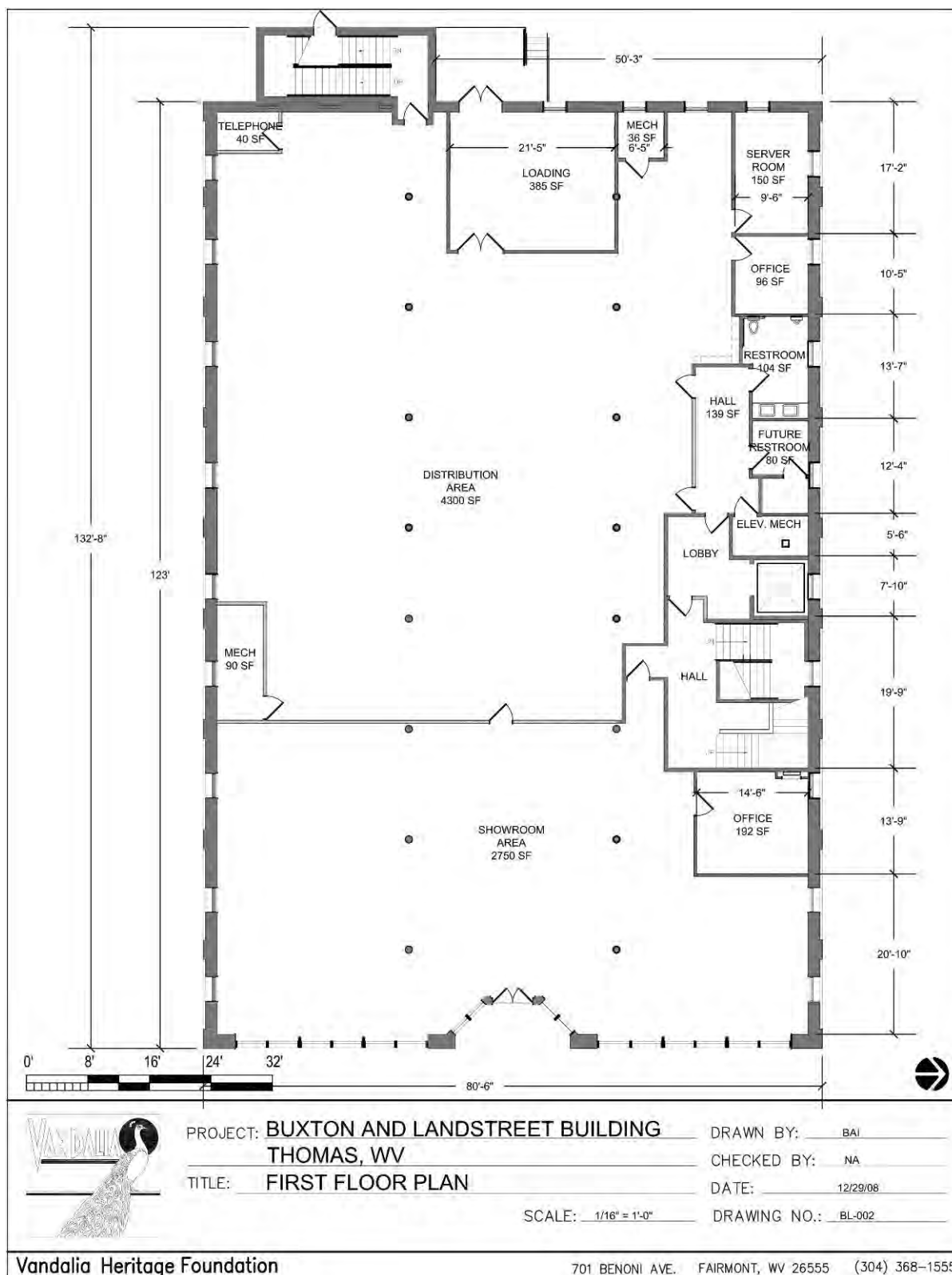


Figure 5: Buxton and Landstreet Company Store Floor Plan, First Floor

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State

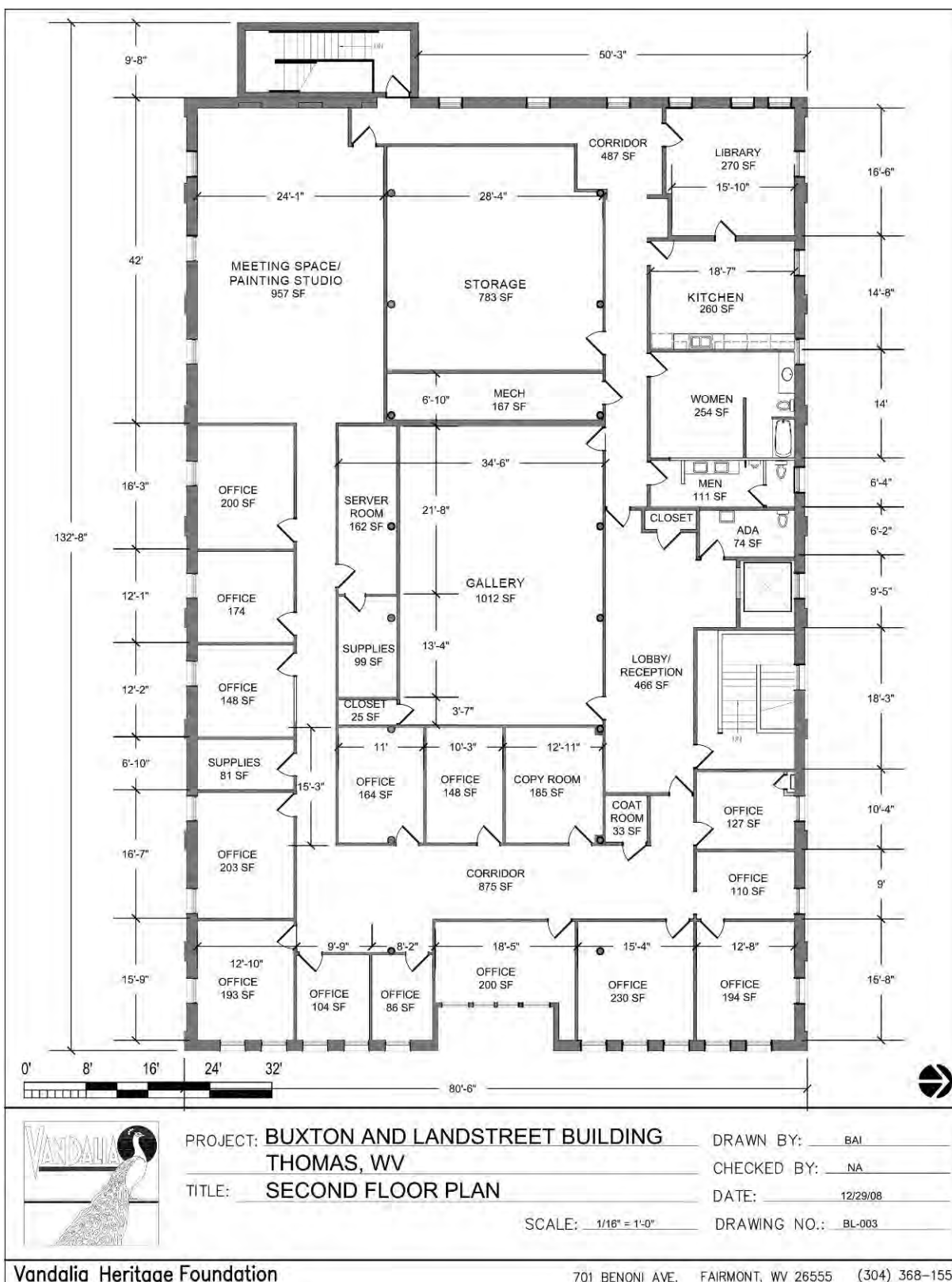


Figure 6: Buxton and Landstreet Company Store Floor Plan, Second Floor

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State

Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Photo Log

Name of Property:	Buxton and Landstreet Company Store
City or Vicinity:	Thomas
County:	Tucker
State:	West Virginia
Photographer:	Courtney Zimmerman
Date of photographs:	May 31, 2021
Location of Original Digital Files:	1436 Graham Rd Silver Lake, OH 44224
Number of Photos:	12

Photo 1 of 12: Oblique View of Front and South Elevations

Photo 2 of 12: Front (east) façade

Photo 3 of 12: South elevation

Photo 4 of 12: Rear (west) elevation

Photo 5 of 12: North elevation

Photo 6 of 12: Detail: Stone arch, center bay, front façade

Photo 7 of 12: Detail: Arched sash windows and star tie rod anchor on south elevation

Photo 8 of 12: Interior: main retail space, first floor

Photo 9 of 12: Interior: Metal column and stamped metal ceiling in main retail space, first floor

Photo 10 of 12: Interior: glazed tile brick and segmental arch lintel in main retail space, first floor

Photo 11 of 12: Interior: typical second floor office space

Photo 12 of 12: Interior: North staircase

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Photo #1: Oblique View of Front and South Elevations



Photo #2: Front (east) façade.

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Photo #3: South elevation



Photo 4: Rear (west) elevation

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Photo #5: North elevation



Photo 6: Detail: Stone arch, center bay, front façade

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

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Photo #7: Detail: Arched sash windows and star tie rod anchor on south elevation



Photo #8: Interior: main retail space, first floor

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Photo #9: Interior: Metal column and stamped metal ceiling in main retail space, first floor

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Photo #10: Interior: glazed tile brick and segmental arch lintel in main retail space, first floor



Photo #11: Interior: typical second floor office space

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Name of Property

Tucker County, WV

County and State



Photo #12: Interior: North staircase

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

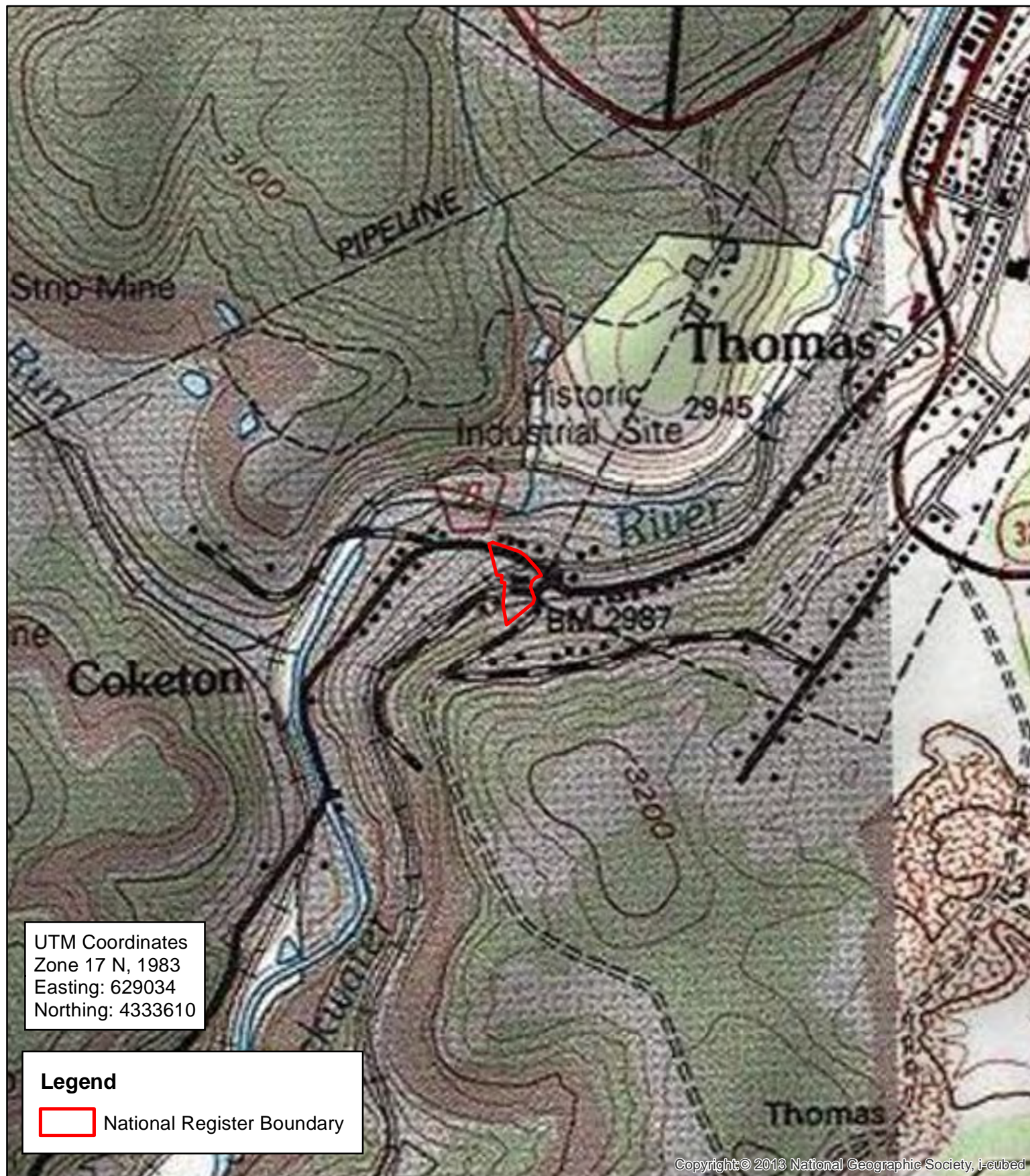
Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Thomas, Tucker County

National Register of Historic Places Topographical Map

Lead Mine Quadrangle



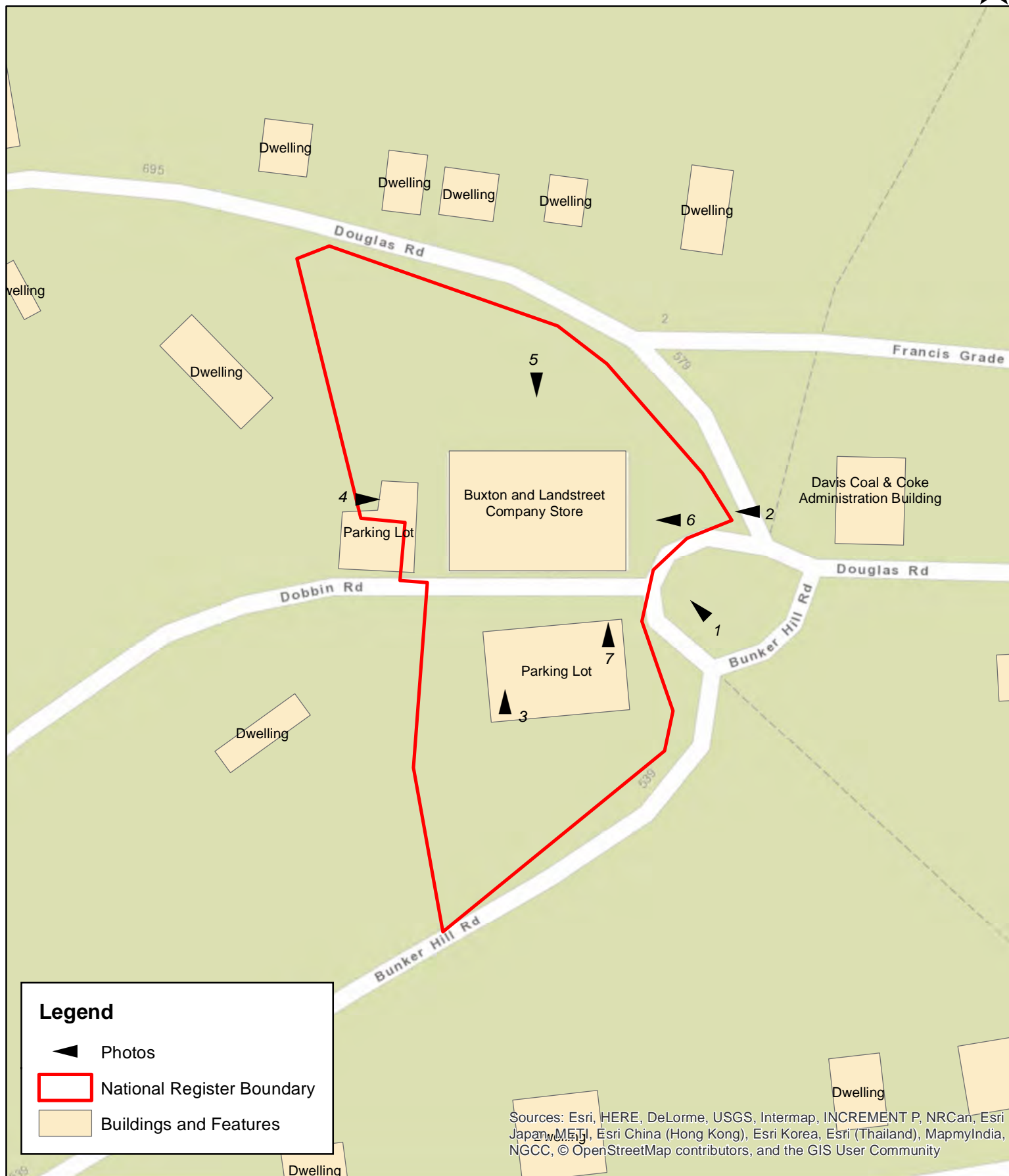
UTM Coordinates
Zone 17 N, 1983
Easting: 629034
Northing: 4333610

Legend

 National Register Boundary

Buxton and Landstreet Company Store

Thomas, Tucker County
National Register of Historic Places Boundary Map



AURORA
Research Associates, LLC



0 25 50 100 150 200
Feet

Date: 8/13/2021