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# Walking Tour Guide

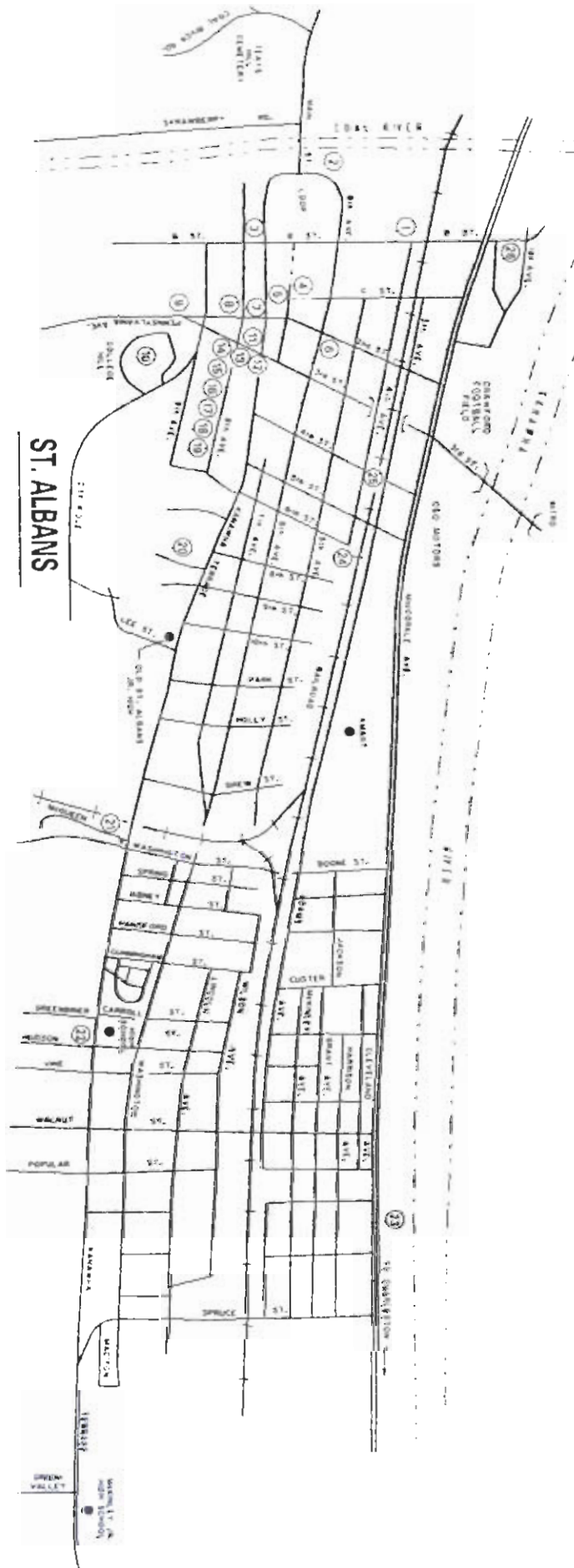
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Morgan's Kitchen ca. 1846

# *HISTORIC PROPERTIES of ST. ALBANS*

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**1. ST. MARKS EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, 423 B St. ca. 1847. Built here after fire destroyed the original church, it was occupied by Federal troops and their horses during the Civil War and was almost destroyed. It was nearly 50 years

until the Federal Government paid for its damages. The bell is from the original church (Bangor Parish). Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1977.

**2. CHILTON HOUSE**, 6th Ave (The Loop) ca. 1857. This fine Gothic Revival style house was built by Allen M. Smith. Wm. E. Chilton, who later became a U. S. Senator from 1911 until 1917, was raised here. It was moved in the 1970's from its original location on B St., to where the Post Office is presently located. This house is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places*.



**3. ST. PAUL'S BAPTIST CHURCH**, B St & 8th Ave. ca. 1921. This Gothic-Revival church and bell tower has Czechoslovakian stained glass windows and the bronze exterior doors, sculptured by local artist Cubert Smith, have panels of religious symbolism to follow the theme of the windows. The 1<sup>st</sup> church for black residents was built in 1872. This church is listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1998.

**4. BANK OF ST. ALBANS / CITY HALL**, Main St. ca. 1907.

Located within the Historic District, it was once used as the City Hall. Built by prominent businessman C. A. Zerkle. It is a finely detailed columned 3 story masonry structure located on old Main Street and was built after the "great fire" in 1906 destroyed much of Main Street. Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1988.



**5. MAIN ST. HISTORIC DISTRICT**, Main St. Plaza ca. 1907-1950. Located on Main Street Plaza (formerly the old James River and Kanawha Turnpike). With 27 buildings, this area has been declared a *Historic District* in 2000. Very few buildings have changed on Main St. in the past 100 years, with all of them being of masonry construction, which replaced the original frame structures burnt after the 1906 fire. Some larger buildings include the Ivanhoe Lodge and 1<sup>st</sup> National Bank (ca. 1910).



**6. OLD POST OFFICE/ CHAPMAN TECHNICAL**, 200. 6th Ave. ca. 1937. This is a handsome Colonial-Revival brick building typical of Post offices built in the 1930's. A Federal building standard was set

according to the number of customers. A belvedere sits atop the metal hip roof. This was the first post office built in St. Albans to specifically house that facility, previously being in a bank, a tavern and a lodge. Chapman Technical acquired it in the late 1980's and has done much restoration. Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places* in 1994.

**7. WM. E. MOHLER HOUSE**, 819 Pa. Ave. & Kanawha Terrace ca. 1900-1901. Also known as "Hill Grove", this 3-story mansion was built for the prominent



lumberman and civic leader who also owned the Mohler Lumber Co. and built the first water works in town. This house is the only Queen Anne style house in town with its rounded turret and elaborate chimneys setting it off. During World War II, up to 95 women were housed here that worked in the Naval Ordnance Plant in South Charleston. This house is on the *National Register of Historic Places*.



**8. COLCORD HOUSE**, 903 Pa. Ave & 8th Ave. ca. 1900-1905. Built by E. C. Colcord Jr., manager of the Bownan Lumber Company, this Victorian frame house has changed little

over the years and is similar in style to the C. A. Zerkle House on 8th Ave. It is a large 3 story structure and was no doubt built with lumber from his lumber company. Stained glass is present in several of the windows and the cut sandstone foundation attests to this house's durability.

**9. CARTER WOODSON SCHOOL/AMERICAN LEGION HALL**, Pa Ave. ca. 1912.

This masonry building was built on the site of the original St. Paul's Baptist Church which was originally used as a Negro school. This Afro-American school was used until 1933. Cpt. Samuel Gordon was the original principal and served in World War I. He was a prominent black man and later served as superintendent of Lakin Industrial School for Boys. Named after Carter G. Woodson, former WV State University dean, founder of Negro History Week in 1926 and author of a black history encyclopedia.





### 10. SHELTON COLLEGE,

College Dr. ca. 1874.

Located on College Hill with a panoramic view of the valley, this brick structure was built by the Teays Valley Baptist Assoc. and named for T. M. Shelton,

who help to fund it. Originally called Coalsmouth High School. Senator Wm. E. Chilton attended there as well as two WVU presidents. In the 1940's, after being abandoned for many years, Dr. R. S. Hamrick removed the 3rd floor and created a beautiful residence, distinguished by its tall windows and 15' ceilings.



**11. FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH,** Kanawha Terrace & 3rd. St. ca. 1910. Built where the original 1879 church stood. This cut sandstone church has beautiful stained glass windows, and a prominent castle-like bell tower with the bell from the original church. The sanctuary has exposed wood throughout and the semicircular seating was unique for its time.



**12. HEREFORD / BURDETTE HOUSE,** 301 Kanawha Terrace & 3rd St. ca. 1918. This large two story house w/basement and large wrap around porch sits at a prominent location in downtown St. Albans. This massive frame

house has 11 rooms and two baths and ten foot ceilings. It was built by C. D. Hereford, a local merchant, who died shortly after its completion. The living room and dining room is full of oak trim and built-in book cases and a cupboard and leaded glass French doors. The original cistern for water is still under the back porch. Over the years the strange sounds heard at night are attributed to the ghost of Mrs. Hereford.

### 13. COAL RIVER R.R. DEPOT / STATION MASTER HOUSE

304 8th Ave. ca. 1903.

This 2 story frame house, on the N. E. corner of 8th Ave. & 3rd St., was built in 1903 as a railroad depot and living quarters for the station master of the Coal River and Western Railroad. The railroad passed to the East of this depot and proceeded up Coal River before the tunnel was built in the 1920's. Wm. Mohler later converted the depot into a house after the C&O took over the railroad and moved its office to the main depot on 4th Ave.



### 14. HARSHBARGER HOUSE,

303 8th Ave. ca. 1918. This house was built by W. S. Eggleton who worked for the Bowman Lumber company in St. Albans. Dr. Ward Harshbarger

bought it in 1918 and moved in with his family from Virginia and his daughter Dorothy Harshbarger still lives there. It is a large Victorian house that has changed very little over the years. Note the 2nd story porch and the shingled gables. The floors are of walnut and oak with alternating boards.



**15. COGAR / ALLOWATT HOUSE,** 307 8th Ave. ca. 1931. This English/French Normandy country style brick house was designed by

renowned Charleston architect Walter Martens, who also designed the Governor's Mansion, and has two floor levels. Myron Campbell, who lived next door, had this house built for his daughter Grace. It has four bedrooms with one containing a built-in bed under an arched ceiling. It was very modern for its time and today still does not appear to be over 70 years old. Now owned by the Allowatt family, who purchased it from Dr. Cogar.

### 16. CAMPBELLHOUSE

311 8th Ave. ca. 1921.

This large 2 1/2 story red brick Colonial Revival house with full basement was designed by prominent local architect H. Rus Warne, who also designed Charleston City Hall. This house was built by the Flournoy family and later owned by Myron Campbell from 1923 to 1936. It has been carefully preserved with little change. The house also features Beaux Arts detailing on the multi-columned front porch and a "porte-cochere" carport under the west wing with an entrance to the lower level. The interior features French doors and original woodwork and a Front and rear staircase.



**17. DOC ZERKLE HOUSE,** 405 8th Ave. ca. 1895

This house was built by C. A. (Doc) Zerkle who founded the Bank of St. Albans in the back of his drug store in 1900, hence "Doc". He was also Mayor. This large 3 story Victorian house has been restored and retains much of its original appearance. It originally had gas lights and the water was supplied by pipes to the house from a nearby spring. Zerkle built a new bank on Main St. which until the 1980's was the City Hall. Restored by the Bourne's.





**18. WEIMER HOUSE.** 411 8th Ave. ca. 1917 This 2 ½ story buff brick house with red tile roof has a full basement and was built by James Weimer, son of Weimer Lumber company owner George C.

Weimer, later Lantz Lumber Co. James married C. A. Zerkle's daughter. The first floor has walnut woodwork and large picture windows which look out onto the large front porch with its massive limestone columns. Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places in 2004.*



**19. PEARSON / HYATT HOUSE** 8th Ave. ca.1907. This 4-Square frame house with full basement and cut sandstone foundation was built by Creed Pearson in 1907 at the end of the Victorian era and takes on some styles of the bungalow. The slate roof is original as is the wooden siding, oak doorway with its leaded glass sidelights and fanlight.

**20. THE BEECHES** ca. 1873-74.

Constructed by railroad tycoon Collis Huntington for his nephew Henry while he supervised C&O's construction through here. This 2-story frame home is an excellent example of Italianate architecture. It has been the home to the St. Albans Woman's Club since 1947. Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places in 1979.*



**21. RAVENSWOOD,** 829 McQueen Blvd. ca. 1833. Georgian style built by Phillip Thompson for his son and is the third oldest house in town. Judge J. B. Drew, one of its owners,

invented the story that Poe had written the "Raven" there. Also called Raven's Court. The front porch with its massive columns was added in 1913 by owner C. J. Pearson. A dairy was once run from the basement. Featured on HGTV recently.

**22. ROSEDALE,** Kanawha Terrace & Hudson St. ca. 1818.

Located on the old James River & Kanawha Turnpike, this is the *oldest house in St. Albans.* Morris Hudson purchased this land from George Washington's niece, Elizabeth, who had acquired it from her uncle. Hudson's son Samuel built this house originally where the High School now stands and it was moved around 1953. The front porch step is from the fireplace of the original separate kitchen outbuilding.



**23. MORGAN'S KITCHEN,** MacCorkle Ave. ca. 1846. Located on Rt. 60, across from Parkway Terrace, this is a typical log structure used during its period and was originally

located at Morgan's Plantation near the present John Amos Power Plant. It was used to serve meals to Union soldiers during the battle of Scary Creek nearby. The kitchen was moved to this site in 1972 by the St. Albans Historical Society. Open for groups by appointment and Sundays in the summer.

**24. LANTZ LUMBER COMPANY,** 6th St. & 4th Ave. ca. 1907. This large three story brick building is all that remains of St. Alban's rich lumber history. It was built by St. Albans Building Co. for a wholesale grocery which never developed. It was then used by the St. Albans Opera Co. before being purchased by George Weimer & Sons Building Materials Co. and later Lantz Lumber Co.. The first building in town with an elevator.



**25. C&O DEPOT,** 4th Ave ca. 1906. This restored depot is fronted by one of St. Albans original brick streets. The numerous tall windows, high ceilings and

extended overhangs on the roof makes this one of the more architecturally detailed depots in W. V. Listed on the *National Register of Historic Places in 1998.*

**26. TURNER / CALLIHAN HOUSE,**

102 B St. ca. 1832. Built by John Turner, this one and a half story Gothic Revival clapboard sided house is located on a brick portion of B St. and is St. Albans's second oldest house. Noted for its steeply pitched roof and gables and decorative bargeboards and bracketed columns. This house has 9 rooms and 3 baths with 7 outside doors.



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See: [www.stalbanswv.com](http://www.stalbanswv.com)