

Marshall University

Marshall Digital Scholar

0855: Carlos Bozzoli Architectural Guides

Digitized Manuscript Collections

2009

Cabell County Architectural Guide, Tour H: Milton

Carlos Bozzoli

Follow this and additional works at: https://mds.marshall.edu/carlos_bozzoli

CABELL COUNTY
ARCHITECTURAL
GUIDE

TOUR H
MILTON

Copyright © 2009 John D. Drinko Academy
Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia
All Rights Reserved

Some Suggestions for Using this Guide

The Architectural Guide of Cabell County is divided in the following tours (or sections):

- A. Huntington Downtown Section.
- B. Huntington Central Section.
- C. Huntington West Section.
- D. Huntington Northeast Section
- E. Huntington Southeast Section
- F. Guyandotte
- G. Barboursville
- H. Milton

If you are visiting for the city of Huntington for the first time, you probably would like to get a short, initial tour that would enable you to see the main downtown buildings. In that case, choose Tour A. This tour has a predetermined route, explained in the attached Map 1. It is designed to be a walking-tour that should take no more than two hours.

Then, you may be interested in visiting either all, or some other selected buildings that are scattered throughout the rest of the city. For this a longer, second tour is recommended, Tour B. This tour does have not a predetermined route, and it must be taken by car, since distances are long, and some locations are on hills too steep to walk comfortably. This same criteria has been adopted for Tours C, D and E.

The buildings of other Cabell County communities are included in Tours F, G and H.

If you are interested in a particular building, please consult the alphabetical table of entries for each tour, where you will find the page giving the location of its description.

Last, but not least, please do not trespass on the owners' property, no matter how eager you are to see and appreciate the architectural, historic, and artistic value of the buildings described here.

Main Sources

The author recognizes that he owes much of the information in this Guide to several scholars that were interested in Huntington and Cabell County buildings. Their work constitutes thorough antecedents to this Guide, and he desires to acknowledge each of them in a clear, explicit manner.

In the Guide quotes from the following works are placed in italics, followed by a number between brackets that correspond to the following sources:

- (1) D. Daniel McMillian, IV, *Spaces of Splendour*, Folio edition, 100th Anniversary Commemorative Edition, 1997.
- (2) Dr. Mack H. Gillenwater, (editor), *et al.*, *A Survey of Downtown Huntington, West Virginia*, Phase II, a report submitted to The Cabell County Landmarks Commission. Edited by the Department of Geography, Marshall University, Huntington, West Virginia, 1985.
- (3) Kathryn Davis, Tom Davis, S. Allen Chambers, Jr. and Susan M. Pierce, editors, *Historic West Virginia*, The National Register of Historic Places, Charleston, WV, 2000
- (4) Virginia McAlester and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses*, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1984 and 1996.

Tour H — Milton

**Tour H
Milton**

List of buildings

1. First Presbyterian Church
2. Old bank Building
3. Bowles House
4. Hollandsworth house
5. Stone house
6. Turley house
7. Old Baptist Church
8. Mud River covered bridge

Tour H — Milton

1

First Presbyterian Church

Location: Smith & Mason Streets

Designers: unknown

Completed 1897, moved to present site in 1922



The Gillenwater report provides the best commentary of this building, as follows:

Early American church architecture, particularly the rural church, was simple but not lacking in design. The Milton area has three significant examples of early church architecture, one of which is this one.

The structure contains a linear front facing rear facing gabled roof with a steep pitch. A tall built-in bell tower, with pyramidal belfry, resting on a square base is situated at the front corner of the structure. The vestibule is

located beneath the bell tower and entrance is gained via two wide paneled doors topped by an abbreviated gabled roof.

Narrow clapboard covers the exterior of the building, a feature typical of many structures in Milton. Tall stained glass arched windows flank both sides of the sanctuary. A massive arched stained glass Palladian window is situated in the façade. A new and modern educational building was erected in the rear of the church in 1962. (2)

Tour H — Milton

2

Old Bank Building

Location: 1105 North Main Street
Designers: Unknown
Completed: 1905



An imposing structure, unusual in a small town, the Old Bank has been designed following a classical typology. The building's base supports a tall first floor and a second floor, included in the building main part. The façade is vertically divided in a wide, central bay and two flanking bays, with Doric pilasters rendered in brick, with stucco bases and capitals mimicking stone. The classical look appears mostly at the front, because both the belt cornice and the entablature end just around the corner. The remaining lateral façade is almost bare, but follows the fenestration criteria. The main bank entrance is important, and includes a classical pediment with dentils and raking cornices, supported by pilasters. The entrance is framed in a square doorway, and six steps brings the user at the main first floor. Unfortunately, the building's appearance has been neglected, and currently it is not in use.

The building contains basically a flat to very gently pitched roof with a parapet in front underlain by a standing course of brick.

Tour H — Milton

Beneath this standing course is found a masonry water table along the front and part of both sides of the building, which is both functional and aesthetic.

Four brick pilasters are built into the façade of the building, each supported by a masonry plinth at the base with a similar feature above each pilaster. Above and below each pilaster is a header course of brick which accentuates the overall intention of the façade.

The original window detail in the façade consists of two tall windows encased by a single brick header course surround with a vertical standing brick lentil. The second story windows consists of two adjacent eight over eight flanked by two six over six light. A similar design window distribution occurs on the east side of the building.

The front entrance of the structure contains a single glass door encased by two vertical side lights. Two frame pilasters (one altered) support a dentil pedimented frontpiece. (2)

3

Bowles House

Location: 1141 Smith Street
Designers: Unknown
Completed: 1885



Tour H — Milton

This building is still considered as of *high Aesthetic value*. The roof is a low pitched hip covered with original metal and contains a gable added to the center front. These features, along with square shape and tall windows, are characteristics of Italianate style. The wide roof cornice is accentuated by a simple dentillian design. The front of the building enhanced by a single story flat roof supported by 4 fluted columns. The porch roof acts as a balcony from the 2nd level and contains a wrought iron baluster, a feature probably added some years after the original construction. Regularly spaced windows are of the 6 over 6 light, typical in American Architecture of the mid and latter 1800's. (2)

Both exterior and interior walls are of exposed brick, an unusual feature.

The gable added at the center front has an ornamented verge-board, (a decorative gable trim), a feature often found in Gothic Revival and Queen Anne styles, which adds a touch of delicacy to this refined building.

4 **Hollandsworth House**

Location: 1144 South Main Street
Designers: Unknown
Completed 1885-1890



Tour H — Milton

This vernacular modified L shaped dwelling is common in Milton. It contains elements such as a three bay/two bay window placement, two story, central entrance and one story porch common in the Colonial design of the early 1800's.

The roof type is a combination hip a double front facing gable, each containing gingerbread and pendants with fish scale shingles. A single inside chimney with flaring belt courses is found at the end of the dwelling. The enclosed eaves are supported by a wide cornice.

The exterior of the structure is built of local brick laid in stretcher fashion with a header course at seven layer intervals. The single story porch has been altered in recent years. The slight pitched roof over the porch is supported by four round tapered columns atypical of the original building style. The house is in fair condition. (2)



Rear part of Hollandsworth House

Built in 1930, this simple wood frame vernacular dwelling has undergone substantial remodeling. The original horizontal clapboard exterior has recently been replaced by the wide tongue and groove siding. The L shaped structure has an end facing side facing gabled roof, with an exterior end chimney, also with recent alterations.

The six room, two story dwelling was used primarily as a boarding house for local railroad workers in the 1930's and 1940's. Two simple entrances exist in the front of the building, one leading to the kitchen, the other to sleeping quarters, functional window shutters were closed during the day to allow night shift workers privacy and quietness. (2)

Tour H — Milton

5

Stone House

Location: Mason Street
Designers: Unknown
Completed: 1960



This small house could be considered as Minimal Traditional, a style in vogue from 1935 to 1950.

With the economic depression of the 1930's came this compromise style which reflects the form of traditional eclectic houses, but lacks their decorative detailing. Roof pitches are low or intermediate, rather than steep as in the preceding Tudor style. Eaves and rake are close, rather than overhanging as in the succeeding Ranch style. In fact, many examples suggest Tudor cottages with the roof line lowered and detailing removed. (3)

In this case, it has a rectangular plan, and is side gabled, with a central, protruding gabled section which houses the main entrance, flanked by two bay windows. Walls are of random coursed stone, but openings have keystones slightly advanced, to emphasize their importance. The roof was probably of natural slate, now replaced by an industrial product. The scale of the house is both charming and amiable, and fits well with the character of Milton.

Tour H — Milton

6

Turley House

Location: 1100 South Main Street
Designers: Unknown
Completed: Ca. 1900



This two story simple house shares some features from several styles, although in a diffused manner.

The plan is a rectangular block with additions that eventually develops in an L layout. Some features of the Queen Anne style appears: the façade is asymmetrical, with a protruding volume of bay windows at its left, and the roof is hipped and asymmetrical, but lacks gables and decorative detailing.

Other features from Colonial Revival style are the classical partial portico that protects most of the first floor, with Tuscan columns raised to porch-rail level; and a simple belt cornice which unifies the house perimeter. Fenestration is also simple, with 1x1 double hung windows, regularly distributed. Walls are of clapboard siding, and the basement is of local soft stone, with rustic rendering.

The whole buildings reflects the main architectural fashions of the turn of the Nineteenth Century, present in Huntington, but in a timid, shy approach, a good option which is suitable for a small town like Milton.

Tour H — Milton

7

Old Baptist Church

Location:	Milton outskirts
Designers:	Unknown
Completed	1810, with additions and alterations



This very simple building is included in this guide mainly because of its historical value, although its architectural character has been changed over the years. The oldest part is the main hall, a one aisle plan, front gabled, with a row of regular windows with simple, bare sills and lintels. The walls are of brick, and the wall-roof junction is rendered with several advancing courses, thus mimicking a cornice. The church has a covered entrance, almost a front gabled porch with a gabled belfry, and above it a tall, white spire, a feature often found in the American churches.

Its historic significance arises from the fact that Confederate soldiers occupied it for a while during the Civil War. They left marks of bayonets and knives on the stone rendered basement, probably used to sharpen the weapons' edges.

Tour H — Milton

8 Mud River Covered Bridge

Location: Milton outskirts
Designers: Unknown
Completed 1830, relocated in 1975



A covered bridge is usually constructed of heavy timbers and trusses, enclosed or partially enclosed on its sides, whose roadway is protected by a roof; especially found in regions of heavy snowfall. In early bridges of this type, the timbers were usually cut from a nearby stand of trees, the abutment stones were taken from adjacent fields, and the metal used in their construction was often taken from broken down carriages and/or from farm machinery no longer in working condition. The structural members were generally precut and assembled in a nearby field to ensure that all parts would fit. Then they were numbered, taken apart and reassembled over the stream to be bridged. Many such covered bridges were erected in America in the 19th Century. (5)

This bridge was part of the Kanawha Turnpike, before the railroad era, and crossed over the Mud River, before it was recently relocated. A true example of pragmatic design, it is a typical feature in the American landscape.