

NR

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

=====

1. Name of Property

=====

historic name: RUSSELL, CHARLES W. HOUSE

other name/site number: _____

=====

2. Location

=====

street & number: 75 Twelfth Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Wheeling

vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: Ohio

code: 069

zip code: 26003

=====

3. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	_____ buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>1</u>	_____ Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related property listing: N/A

=====

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

=====

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this

☒ 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

☒ meets

☐ does not meet

the National Register Criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

William C. Lauer

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

10/5/93

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property

☐ meets

☐ does not meet

the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

=====

5. National Park Service Certification

=====

I, hereby certify that this property is:

☐ entered in the National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the

National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the

National Register

☐ removed from the National Register

☐ other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper

Date of Action

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic: DOMESTIC Sub: Single Dwelling
COMMERCE/TRADE Business
HEALTH CARE Medical Business/Office

Current : COMMERCE/TRADE Sub: Business

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

MID-19TH CENTURY - Greek Revival

Other Description: _____

Materials: foundation Stone roof Asphalt
walls Brick other Wood Trim

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

X See continuation sheet

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Local & State.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: LAW
MILITARY HISTORY
ARCHITECTURE

Period(s) of Significance: 1848 -1865

Significant Dates: 1848 1861 _____

Significant Person(s): Russell, Charles Wells

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: UNKNOWN

State significance of property, and justify criteria, considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7

Page 2

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

The Charles W. Russell house is an example of a Greek Revival residence with its asymmetrical front facade and third floor frieze-band windows. Constructed in 1848, the house was used both for dwelling and as an attorney's office. The residence retains many of its original features and details.

Constructed in 1848, the Charles W. Russell House has a Greek Revival design, with the red brick facade being two-and-a-half-stories, with four front bays. The front door is slightly off center with a recessed entrance with sidelights and fanlight transom. The door has a large center glass pane with lower panel and was probably added in the late nineteenth century. The door moulding has Ionic engaged columns dividing the door from the sidelights. There are vertical boards on the sides of the entry interior. The classical moulding around the entrance has fluted pilasters, with the entablature having dentils and a projecting cornice. There is a second glass transom inside the moulding with "75" in gold lettering and black trim. The entry floor has square red tiles with three concrete steps leading down to the sidewalk.

The windows on the house are all 1/1 double-hung with sandstone sills and lintels with end blocks. There are three on the first floor and four on the second floor. The lower level has three openings which are at an angle with the sidewalk and elevation of the street. Covered with a light metal grille and screen the openings are inserted in a later concrete water table and covered foundation. There is corbelled brickwork under the third floor windows which are low two-light frieze-band openings. The cornice projects out at the roofline.

The house steps down to the rear on the west facade, with the dressed sandstone foundation being painted on the sides below the water table. There is no third floor above the rear rooms. Each floor of this elevation has three openings with the center one being an original four panel cross door on the first floor. The stairway landing window is slightly lower than the other second floor openings. The lower level has one opening under the right first floor window with a decorative metal grill. One circular tie rod is visible to the left of the stairway bearing wall.

The rear or north facade of the building has a slight ell in the center of the house. There is a change in the brick color or texture at the northwest corner of ell and above cellar stairs suggesting slight change in floor plan and rear wall. There is a change in the lintels and sills on the first floor with no corner blocks, and no lintels for the second floor windows. A doorway has been filled-in with brick on west wall at northwest corner. One center window on the first floor has a concrete lintel and sill. Lower level window filled with brick and has a dressed lintel. Several steps lead down to the four panel cellar door.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 7 Page 3

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

The east facade has six bays on the first floor with the two rear bays recessed in slightly, including a four panel door with a small covered transom. One of the other five window openings has been added and is lower in height. The second floor has four original bays with lintels and sills. The front of the house has the third floor with one lozenge window. The roof for the front section of the house is hipped with a shed roof on the rear portion and ell. There are two dormers on the rear of the house which provide a skylight to the third floor hall. (See roof plan on sketch/photo map). The rear of the house and the two drives on each side are all concrete. A chain link fence marks the rear boundary.

The interior of the residence has Greek Revival styled moulding around the doors and window openings with the wood trim tapering in below the lintel, which then projects out horizontally from the side trim. The entrance opens into a central hall with a parlor to each side. The stairway is centrally located on the west side of the hall. The rear parlor has a fireplace and projecting trim on the cornice line. The second floor has four panel cross doors and wainscoting with vertical design. The apartment on the third floor has sloping ceilings near the outside walls and transoms over the hall doors to let in light and air from the rear dormers.

The Russell house well represents the style of home built in the 1840s in an urban area of downtown Wheeling. It is the sole building from this time period still standing on the block. Despite unsympathetic cleaning procedures in the past the building is in good condition and deserves recognition.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8

Page 2

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

This Greek Revival house in Wheeling was constructed as an office and residence for attorney Charles W. Russell in 1848. The house is significant under Criterion A in the areas of Law and Military History, and under Criterion B for the contributions of Charles W. Russell to Wheeling. The house is also considered under Criterion C for its architecture. The Period of Significance is from the time the house was built in 1848, until the home was sold in 1865.

Charles Wells Russell was born in Tyler County, (West) Virginia on July 19, 1819. He attended school in Wheeling for one year before entering Jefferson (now Washington and Jefferson) College at Cannonsburg, Pennsylvania, from which he graduated. He returned to Wheeling upon graduation and became a law student in the office of Z. Jacob before becoming a member of the Wheeling bar. Russell became a brilliant and successful attorney. When the Civil War began in 1861, he espoused the southern cause and for four years was a member of the Confederate Congress from Virginia. At the close of the war he went to Canada and remained there between eight and nine months. He returned to the United States and located in Baltimore, Maryland, where he practiced law until his death in November of 1867. Charles had married Margaret Moore, whose family were among the early settlers of Ohio County. They had a son, Henry Moore Russell who was born in Wheeling on April 5, 1851. After attending school in Virginia Henry graduated from the law department of Virginia University (now University of Virginia) in 1870, and returned to Wheeling to practice law as his father had done.

The Russell home at 75 12th Street was the family residence as well as the law office for Russell and his partner, Edward H. Fitzhugh. One of the more prominent cases of Russell's career was his defense in 1849 of the Wheeling & Belmont Bridge Company against the State of Pennsylvania. The case erupted two years after construction of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge was begun in 1847. By that time the bridge company had expended the whole of its capital in its construction. When the work was nearly complete a bill was filed in the name of the State of Pennsylvania for an injunction to stop the work.

The grounds were that the Suspension Bridge impeded navigation on the Ohio River. Pennsylvania maintained that the floor of the bridge was too low and wanted the structure destroyed and no other bridge erected unless the level of the floor was 28 feet higher. Before the bridge was completed the height of smoke-stacks on the river boats could pass under the bridge except at times of extraordinary flood. So to prove their contention that the bridge obstructed navigation, the steamboat interests at Pittsburgh constructed seven boats with stacks about eighty feet high, and sent them down the river during high-water period to try and destroy the bridge. An act of the Virginia legislature, January 11, 1850, declared that the bridge as it stood was of lawful height and conformed with the act of March 1847, permitting its construction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8

Page 3

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

The case went on to the U.S. Supreme Court and Russell's arguments were published in November of 1851, a month before the courts decision against the bridge company. Russell argued that "more than 200 steamboats have navigated the Ohio without inconvenience, only seven have found an obstruction, because it intercepts the passage of their chimneys unless they are lowered, and those seven have been recently built in Pittsburgh with chimneys of unprecedented height." The following spring the general assembly of Virginia instructed the state's representatives in Congress to urge such legislation as would protect the bridge as built and would also define exact regulations for the navigation of the Ohio and the extent to which piers might be erected in the river and other rules determining the height of bridges. An act of Congress in August 1852, declared that the Wheeling bridges, on both sides of the island, were "lawful structures in their present position and elevation", thus ending the war against the bridge company.

At the same time that Charles Russell's arguments were being published and his case was under consideration by the Supreme Court in 1851, Russell placed his home in the hands of Henry Moore, a relation of his wife. The deed reads: "Moore shall hold the said property during the natural life of said Margaret for her sole benefit, ... with remainder at her death to the said Charles during his life" or to his heirs. The residence and office continued in the 1850s to be listed in the city directories on Monroe Street, the old name for present day 12th Street.

The outbreak of America's Civil War divided the nation, and this was demonstrated extremely well in western Virginia. In June 1861, citizens met at the Wheeling Custom House for a Constitutional Convention. There they tried to determine if they should remain loyal to Virginia or break away to remain with the Union and form their own state.

Russell's departure for Richmond, Virginia, in 1861 to join the Confederate Congress, coincided with the Constitutional Convention in Wheeling. In December of that year General William Rosecrans moved the headquarters of the Army of Western Virginia to Wheeling for winter quarters. Russell's home was selected to house the army headquarters and a telegraph line was run from Water Street to the house so all of the orders to the field could be issued. At the end of March, 1862, General John C. Fremont arrived to take command as the successor of Rosecrans, and the Mountain Department was then created by adding eastern Kentucky and eastern Tennessee to Western Virginia. General Fremont had his headquarters here until about the first of May, 1862, after which the headquarters was transferred to the east.

The Russell home was sold to Dr. William J. Bates, Sr. in 1865 for \$10,000 by Henry Moore, with Charles and his wife, Margaret, directing Moore to sell and convey. This began the ownership of several leading physicians and/or surgeons - Dr. William J. Bates 1865 to 1905 (including widow Ann 1893-1905); Dr. Charles A. & Elizabeth Wingerter, 1905-1922; Dr.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 8

Page 4

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

Ivan Fawcett and partners, Arthur K. Hoge & Matthew C. Zubak 1922-1958; Dr. R. Alan Fawcett 1958-1992. The home is currently owned by Melania D. Streski and houses the Streski Reporting Service, a verbatim deposition service, used by legal firms.

The Russell House is constructed in the Greek Revival style of architecture popular in Wheeling in the 1840s and 1850s. The appearance from the street is very formal, with the recessed front entrance and fanlight transom. Yet the front elevation is not symmetrical, with an even number of bays leaving the entrance off center. The house also has frieze-band windows on the third floor across the front and side facades. The house appears to be in good condition although light sandblasting in the past was used to remove over thirty coats of paint. The original rectangular plan was altered to include a slight addition or ell on the rear, near the turn of the century. The interior of the house includes Greek Revival trim moulding around the doorways and some interior windows. The floor plan has seven rooms on both the first and second floor, with an open winding staircase stretching to the third floor with original newel post and banister. The third floor has five rooms for a small apartment with three rooms across the front, and a kitchen and bath in the rear. The cellar has exterior stone walls and interior brick bearing walls. The space is divided into a number of rooms and is remarkably dry.

The Charles W. Russell House is an excellent example of a Greek Revival residence bordering on the Wheeling Historic District (CBD), and Monroe Street Historic District. The house is the only single family residential building on the block. Built in 1848, as a residence and attorney's office it was convenient at the time to the city's court house which was across the street. Charles Russell was important to the defense of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge and the fight to retain its original structural design. The house was also part of the military headquarters established in Wheeling during the first winter of the Civil War.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section Number 9 Page 2

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

Blum, Michelle "Building's Looks Delie Deep Links To Area History". THE WHEELING INTELLIGENCER, 1991.

City Directories, Wheeling Room, Ohio County Library, Wheeling, WV.

Cranmer, Gibson Lamb, ed. HISTORY OF THE UPPER OHIO VALLEY. Madison, WI: Brant & Fuller, 1890.

Deed Books, Death Records Clerks Office, Ohio County Courthouse, City - County Building, Wheeling, WV.

"Landmarks" THE WHEELING NEWS REGISTER, March 3, 1976.

Russell, Charles W. ARGUMENT FOR THE DEFENDANTS IN THE CASE OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA VS. THE WHEELING & BELMONT BRIDGE COMPANY AND OTHERS, IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES. Philadelphia: John C. Clark, 1851.

Wingerter, Charles A. HISTORY OF GREATER WHEELING AND VICINITY. Vol. I and II. Chicago & New York: The Lewis Publishing Co., 1912.

Section Number 10 Page 2

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that certain piece or parcel of land being in the City of Wheeling, County of Ohio and State of West Virginia, being part of lot number seven (7) in square number fourteen (14) in the Old Town Addition: Commencing at the intersection of the north line of 12th Street and the east line of the foundation wall of the brick dwelling known as # 73 - 12th Street; thence with the north line of 12th Street in an east direction 54.77 ft. to a point in east line; extended south to its intersection with the north line of 12th, of the stone foundation of the brick building known as # 75 - 12th Street, and corner of Alley; then leaving 12th St and following east line of stone foundation of house 75 and that line extended to north 67.4 feet to north line of lot 7; thence in west direction 55.12 feet to intersection with east line of foundation of brick house # 73 - 12th as extended north, thence with this line in a south direction 67.1 feet to the place of beginning.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property included in the boundary description is historically associated with the Charles W. Russell House.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Photo Information Page 1

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE, WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA, OHIO COUNTY

Address: Charles W. Russell House
75 Twelfth Street
Wheeling, West Virginia
Ohio County

Photographer: Katherine M. Jourdan

Date of photos: 24 March 1993

Negative Location: Northern Regional Office
WV State Historic Preservation Office
Wheeling, WV

Photo 1 of 4: Front or South Facade
Camera facing North

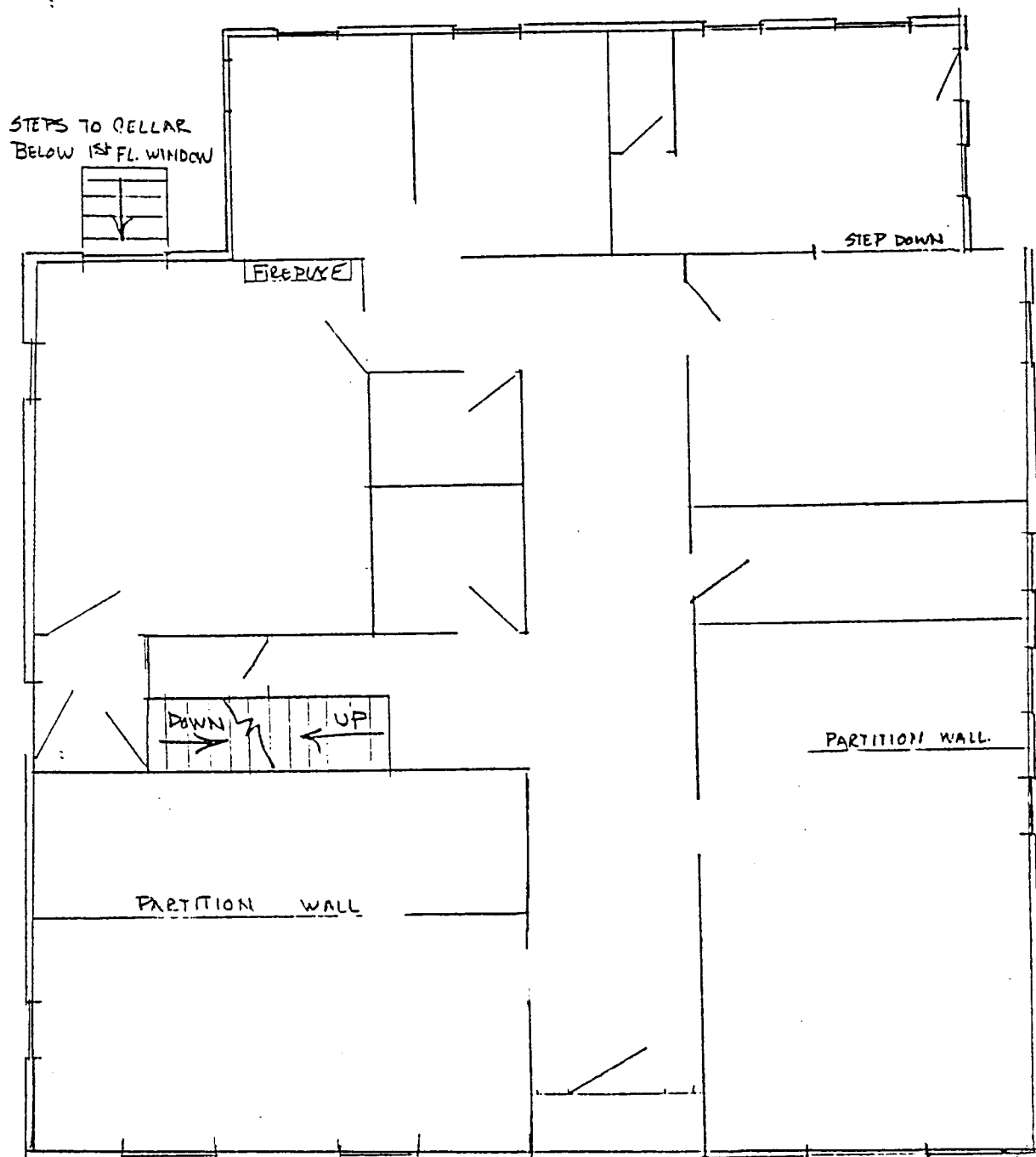
Photo 2 of 4: West (L) and South (R) Facades
Camera facing Northeast

Photo 3 of 4: Rear of North Facade
Camera facing Southeast

Photo 4 of 4: East Facade
Camera facing North

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Charles W. Russell House, 75 12th Street, Wheeling, WV Ohio County



Twelfth Street -

CHARLES W. RUSSELL HOUSE
75 12th Street
Wheeling, WV Ohio County

SKETCH/PHOTO MAP
Ohio County Tax Assessors Map WH 51



DRAFTED AT
1"=50'
WH-50-B

CHARLES W. RUSSELL
HOUSE
75 12th STREET
VIM #
17 523 780 4435080

