

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1. Name of Property

historic name Monroe, Dr. W.W., House

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 1703 Park Avenue

☐ not for publication

city or town Parkersburg

☐ vicinity

state West Virginia

code _____

WV

county Wood

code _____

107

zip code 26101

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐
does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See Continuation sheet for additional
comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 the Keeper

Date of Action

Dr. W.W. Monroe House
Name of Property

Wood County, West Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	1	1	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site			sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		1	structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object			objects
		1	2	Total
Name of related multiple property listing		Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register		
N/A		0		

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions	Current Functions
DOMESTIC/single dwelling	DOMESTIC/single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification	Materials
LATE VICTORIAN: Queen Anne	foundation STONE/sandstone
	walls WOOD/clapboard
	roof METAL/tin
	other WOOD

Narrative Description
See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- ☐ **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

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B.** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

Local

Areas of Significance

Architecture

Period of Significance

1898

Significant Dates

1898

Significant Person

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Warne, H. Rus

Narrative Statement of Significance:

See Continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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 _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State Agency
- ☐ Federal Agency
- ☐ Local Government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository: _____

Record # _____

Dr. W.W. Monroe House
Name of Property

Wood County, West Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre

UTM References

1	<u>17</u> Zone	<u>454011</u> Easting	<u>4346604</u> Northing	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title	<u>James L. Miracle, Chairman (with Erin Riebe, WV SHPO)</u>		
organization	<u>Wood County Historic Landmarks Commission</u>	date	<u>2/20/2012</u>
street & number	<u>#1 Court Square, Wood County Courthouse</u>	telephone	<u>304-488-2307</u>
city or town	<u>Parkersburg</u>	state	<u>WV</u>
		zip code	<u>26101</u>

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LOCATION and SETTING

The Dr. Watson W. Monroe House is located on half a city block in Parkersburg, Wood County, West Virginia. It is situated directly across from the entrance to the Parkersburg City Park on Park Avenue between 17th and 18th Streets. The lot has a well-maintained front yard with a circular water fountain centered on the front lawn. Concrete sidewalks form a half circle and lead from the front corners of the block to the main entrance. Trees are dispersed over the front yard area, including a Weeping Cherry tree, and shrubs line Park Avenue, the fountain, and the sidewalks. A modern stone sidewalk leads from the northeast corner of the house to a stone terrace with modern overhead trellis supported by eight columns. In addition to the fountain, a second noncontributing resource is a small garage converted for office use located off 17th Street. A concrete driveway leads to the building and to the rear of the house.

DESCRIPTION

Exterior

The Dr. Monroe house is a two-and-one-half story Queen Anne style house featuring a large wrap-around porch, two corner turrets, a hipped roof with dormers, decorative brackets, and dentils. The house is clad in clapboard siding and is supported by a sandstone foundation. (Photos 1-3)

The main elevation, facing southeast, includes the first-story, flat roof front porch that wraps around both side elevations (Photos 1-3 and 5). An historic balustrade on the roof of the porch has been removed. The porch includes a large, centered staircase, a wood railing with turned posts, and a number of wooden tapered columns (Photos 1-3 and 5). It is supported by stone piers. The main entrance is centered on the façade and is slightly recessed and flanked by columns (Photo 5). It has tall double-doors, each with one window and lower paneled section, and wooden screen doors. A rectangular sidelight with lower paneled section is to each side. To each side of the main entrance is a window with shutters. Unless noted, all of the windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash replacements.

The second story of the main façade includes a centered recessed section with two angled doors, each with a single light and paneled lower half. The area is enclosed with a rail and flanked by columns. To each side is a window with shutters. Each corner of this story has a rounded turret with three windows, decorative, rectangular wood treatment above, and a conical roof with decorative finials. A hipped roof dormer with historic arched window is centered in the roofline. (Photos 1-2)

The northeast elevation of the house is asymmetrical and includes an angled bay with three windows (Photo 3). A single window is situated to the left of the bay and a pair of windows above. Steps lead from the front porch, which slightly wraps around the east corner of the house. A two-light dormer projects from the roof.

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The opposite elevation (southwest façade, Photos 2 and 4) includes a one-story, hipped-roof section that projects from the west corner, extending along the side of the house approximately halfway. This section has been sided with vinyl and has a pair of shutterless windows. It also includes a door, facing southeast, that opens to the wrap-around porch. The porch continues along the remainder of this elevation and includes one window. The second story of this elevation has a bay window towards the west corner with a roof that extends from the main roof. A single window is situated to the right and a dormer, matching that on the opposite elevation, projects from the roof.

The rear (northwest) elevation includes a small porch extending from the corner wing, described above. The porch has a railing with spindles and two doors, one leading to the main section of the house and one to the wing. Two windows are situated to the left of the porch. The second floor has five double hung windows. A large, clipped-gable wall dormer extends through the roofline and has a pair of windows.

Interior

The house is entered through large double doors into a wide foyer featuring parquet floors and a staircase that widens towards the bottom (Photos 6-7). The staircase has paneled newel posts with decorative newel caps. Drop pendants hang from the newel posts above. A parlor is situated to each side of the foyer, each with functioning pocket doors and differently patterned parquet floors (Photos 6-7 and 13-14). The east parlor features a cove ceiling with decorative plasterwork, a centerpiece with historic chandelier, picture rail, and fireplace with decorative mantle (Photo 8). The parlor in the south corner features a cove ceiling with picture rail, a fireplace with glass tiles and upper section with a mirror, and a built-in wooden bookcase to each side of the front window. Each bookcase has double doors with glass and a paneled lower section.

The main foyer continues towards the rear of the house where a small entry foyer is situated. The kitchen and bathroom are situated in the west corner of the house and a dining room is situated in the north corner. The dining room features a bay window with two columns, a fireplace with glass tiles and fluted side columns, and two built-in, recessed bookcases with glass doors and paneled lower doors (Photos 9-10).

Parquet floors continue in the hall of the second floor (Photo 14). The hall leads to four bedrooms. The two rooms situated to the front of the house include fireplaces (Photo 11) and sitting areas within the rounded turrets (Photo 12). A small hall and bathroom are situated in the south corner. The third story includes a large open room with niches where the dormers are located.

Garage (noncontributing), c.1925

The garage is one-bay with pyramidal roof with asphalt shingles and block construction (Photo 4). The lower half of the building is of rusticated block, while the upper section is smooth. The garage bay has been enclosed with the addition of modern, multi-pane double-doors. Each side elevation has two one-over-one,

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double-hung sash replacement windows, and the rear elevation includes a modern, glass pane door. The garage has been converted for office space and no longer retains integrity. It was also constructed outside of the period of significance.

Fountain (noncontributing) c.1900

A circular fountain is situated on the front lawn of the house. Much of it has been reconstructed and therefore no longer retains historic integrity.

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STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

The Dr. W. W. Monroe House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion C: Architecture* as an excellent example of a Queen Anne house in Parkersburg as well as for the work of master architect, H. Rus Warne. The house is eligible at the local level of significance and the period of significance is 1898, the date of construction.

Brief History

The Monroe House, designed by Architect H. Rus Warne, was constructed in 1898 for Dr. Watson Wesley Monroe and his wife Virginia Monroe. Dr. Monroe advertised as the “painless dentist” for his introduction of laughing gas as an anesthetic for his patients. In his role as a City Councilman, he was also instrumental in establishing and improving the Parkersburg City Park, opposite the house on Park Avenue.

The house was constructed at a time of extended growth and prosperity in Parkersburg. Prior to the Civil War, the city became a major oil and gas refinery and shipping point. Though development was slowed by the Civil War, in the decades to follow, Parkersburg saw unprecedented growth doubling its population in just 10 years. By the 1870s the city was undergoing a building boom that continued through the end of the century, when the Monroe House was constructed, and into the early twentieth century.

Monroe’s time in the house was short-lived, however, as he died in 1907. The house remained in the Monroe family until 1921 when it was purchased by John and Eleanor McKean. John was a drilling contractor and Eleanor, a teacher. The house was purchased in 1944 by Tim and Jennie Sadie and owned by the Sadie family until c.1980. After that point, the house remained mostly vacant until purchased in 2004 by the current owners who have been restoring its house to its former grandeur.

Criterion C

The Monroe House is eligible as an excellent example of Queen Anne architecture. The style became popular in the last decades of the nineteenth century and was inspired by the buildings of the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. It was also inspired by the work of British architect, Richard Norman Shaw, who designed buildings he called “Queen Anne,” though they had no resemblance to those designed during the reign of Queen Anne in the eighteenth century. The style in the United States evolved into a very different style than that found in England. However, even within the U.S., the style varies widely and covers a wide range of interpretation. Common elements of the style in residential architecture include asymmetrical massing with a number of contrasts made through the use of materials, bay windows (Photos 3-4), turrets (Photos 1-3), full and wrap-around porches (Photos 1-3), and rich, dark interiors with large stair halls (Photos 6-7), ornate newel posts, and pocket doors (Photo 6). The Monroe House displays all of these elements.

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There are a number of properties listed in the National Register in Parkersburg, most of them listed within one of the three historic districts and others listed individually under the Downtown Parkersburg Multiple Resource Area. All three districts are comprised primarily of residential architecture, with a great majority of the buildings constructed around the turn of the century, displaying all architectural styles popular at the time. Common among the styles was the Queen Anne, with over one-hundred examples in the Avery Street Historic District alone. Unlike those found within the districts, however, the Queen Anne Monroe House is situated on the east side of Parkersburg.

At the time of construction, the Park Avenue area was far from the center of town near the City Park, early on described as a “wilderness.” Though platted, the 1901 Roe’s Atlas of the Park Avenue area shows only three other houses on the blocks closest to the Monroe House. By the mid-1920s those blocks were filled with primarily smaller, vernacular-type houses and other mass-produced house types popular at the time such as foursquares and one-story or two-story, front-gable houses. The Queen Anne Monroe House stands out as an architectural treasure in this area of Parkersburg. Its architectural significance is further enhanced by the historic character and integrity of the interior spaces. The house retains massive pocket doors, opulent fireplace mantles (Photos 8 and 11), and built-in cabinets and bookshelves (Photo 10). Perhaps the most significant architectural feature of the house is the parquet floors found throughout the first floor and in the hall areas of the second (Photos 6-7 and 13-14). Each space, including the massive foyer, parlors, dining room and halls, displays a different, but equally impressive, parquet pattern.

The Monroe House is also eligible for the National Register as the work of master architect, H. Rus Warne. Warne was born in Parkersburg in 1872 and inherited his father’s interest in building. He first studied at the Ohio Mechanics Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio (later a part of the University of Cincinnati). Later, in the 1890s, Warne traveled throughout the south and southwest studying under established architects and also traveled to Europe, studying in Rome and at the Ecole de Beaux-Arts in Paris. Meanwhile, he was establishing an architectural practice in Parkersburg designing both residential and commercial buildings.

From Parkersburg, Warne worked as an architect for the U.S. Treasury Department for a short time before moving to Charleston and forming a new private partnership. This new practice produced two exhibits for the 1907 Ter-Centennial Exposition as well as two hotels in Charleston. However, his main designs at this time were Charleston’s grand residences including a number of Colonial and Tudor Revival houses.

In 1915, Warne’s design of a building for the Panama-Pacific International Exposition won him statewide recognition. Following the first World War, he was commissioned to design numerous public buildings including a number of schools. His practice continued to grow under various names throughout the years and Warne became a well-regarded and respected architect in West Virginia serving as president of both the West Virginia Chapter of the AIA and the West Virginia Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects. Warne soon became one of West Virginia’s leading architects.

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The Monroe House is a significant representation of Warne's early career, before leaving his hometown, when he was still traveling and studying under established architects. His earliest work is thought to be the Odd Fellow Lodge located at 316 5th Street in Parkersburg, a multi-story, Romanesque-like commercial building.

Summary

The Monroe House is locally significant not only for its interpretation of the Queen Anne style of architecture, but also as an excellent representation of the early work of master architect, H. Rus Warne. Though the building has had modest alterations, such as the removal of the balustrade from the roof of the porch, the building retains excellent overall integrity both inside and out and maintains the ability to convey significance under Criterion C.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

“Building Notes,” *The Parkersburg State Daily Journal*. 4 October 1898.

Chambers, S. Allen, Jr. *Buildings of West Virginia*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2004.

“Out of Hiding, ‘Sadie House’ re-emerges as landmark after years of obscurity,” *The Parkersburg News*. 6 January 2002.

Roe, Frederick B. *Complete Atlas of the City of Parkersburg, Wood Co. W. Va. and Vicinity*. Chicago: G.F. Cram & Company, 1901.

Sullivan, Ken, ed. *The West Virginia Encyclopedia*. Charleston, W.Va.: The West Virginia Humanities Council, 2006. “H. Rus Warne,” by Judie Smith.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Described in Wood County Deed Book 1074, page 11-12 as follows: Beginning at a point at the northwest corner of the intersection of Park Avenue and Seventeenth Street; thence in a westerly direction along the northerly line of Seventeenth Street, 144.5 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of land conveyed to W. K. Dawkins by Eleanor Gertrude McKean, et als, by deed dated April 15, 1940, and recorded in the County Clerk's Office of Wood County, West Virginia, in 227 D. B. 250; thence in a northerly direction and parallel with Maxwell Avenue along the easterly line of the Dawkins tract, 106 feet to a point; thence southerly and parallel with Seventeenth Street 15 feet to a point; thence northerly and parallel with Maxwell Avenue 50 feet, more or less, to the line of Eighteenth Street; thence with Eighteenth Street in an easterly direction and along the lines of Lots 4 & 5, 129.5 feet, more or less, to the intersection of Park Avenue and Eighteenth Street; thence in a southerly direction along the westerly line of Park Avenue 156 feet, more or less, to the place of the beginning, and being all of Lots Nos. 5, 6 and 7 and part of Nos. 3 & 4 in Block 5 of Oakwood Park Addition, a plat of which is recorded in the said Clerk's Office in 1 D.B. 6

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The National Register boundary includes property historically associated with the house. The rear (west) section of the historic parcel has been excluded since it has been subdivided and developed.

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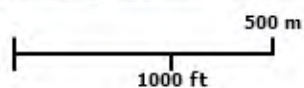
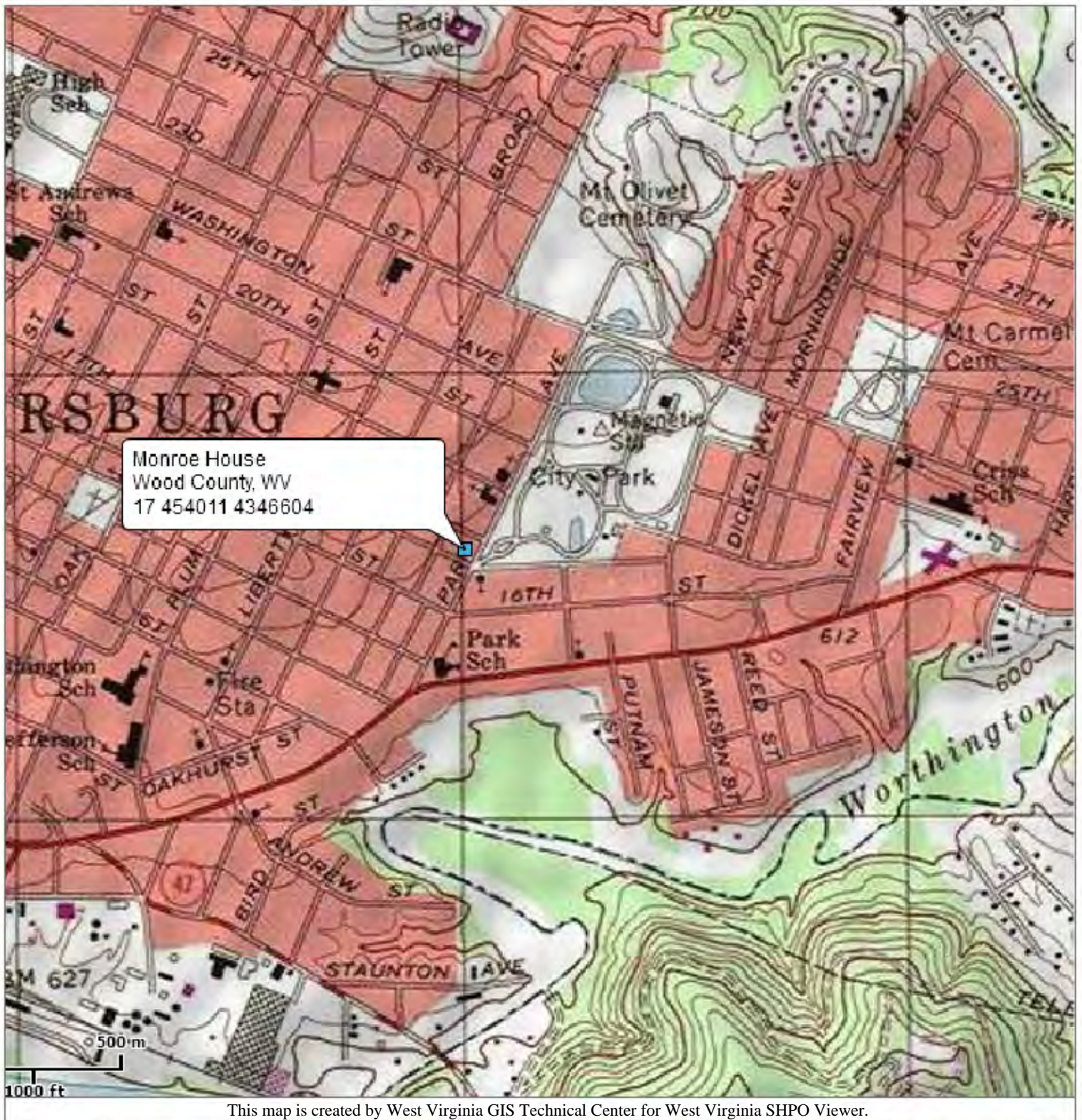
Section number Photos Page 9

Photographs

Photographer: Erin M. Riebe, WV SHPO
Date: March 12, 2012

Photo 1 of 14	Main (east-southeast) elevation. Camera facing west-southwest.
Photo 2 of 14	Main (east-southeast) and side (southwest) elevation. Camera facing north.
Photo 3 of 14	Side (north) elevation. Camera facing west-southwest.
Photo 4 of 14	Noncontributing garage. Camera facing east.
Photo 5 of 14	Main entrance. Camera facing west-southwest.
Photo 6 of 14	Foyer and staircase. Camera facing west-northwest.
Photo 7 of 14	Foyer. Camera facing southeast.
Photo 8 of 14	Parlor mantle. Camera facing north-northwest.
Photo 9 of 14	Dining room. Camera facing east.
Photo 10 of 14	Dining room mantle and built-ins. Camera facing east.
Photo 11 of 14	Second floor east corner bedroom mantle. Camera facing north.
Photo 12 of 14	Second floor south corner bedroom turret interior. Camera facing south.
Photo 13 of 14	Parquet floor on first floor looking down staircase from second floor.
Photo 14 of 14	Parquet floor on first and second floors looking down staircase from third floor.

Dr. W.W. Monroe House



Map Created on 3/30/2012

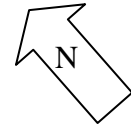
User Notes:

Disclaimer:

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office Interactive Map is designed to provide professional consultants, state/federal agency employees and the public with a means to make informed decisions with regards to the cultural resource location.



18th Street



Dewey Street

Park Avenue

17th Street

Monroe House
Wood County, WV

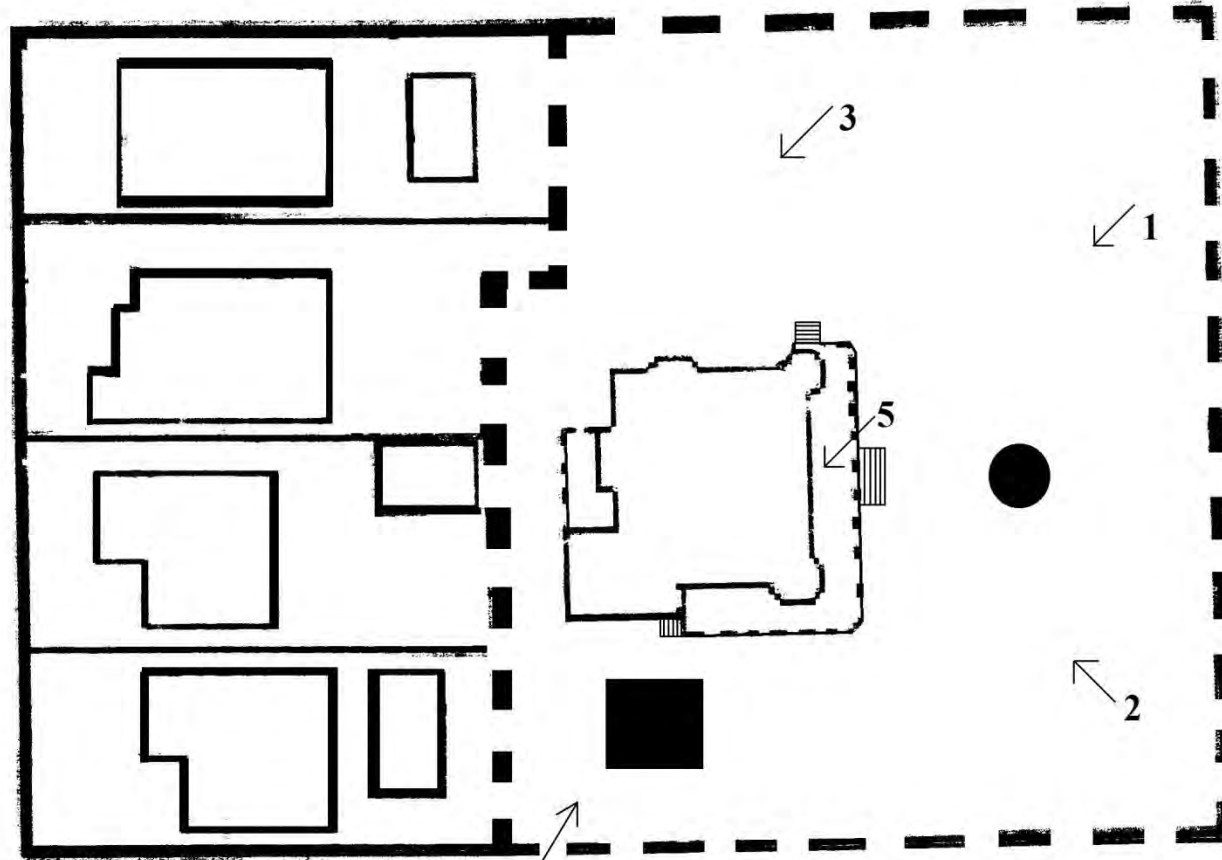
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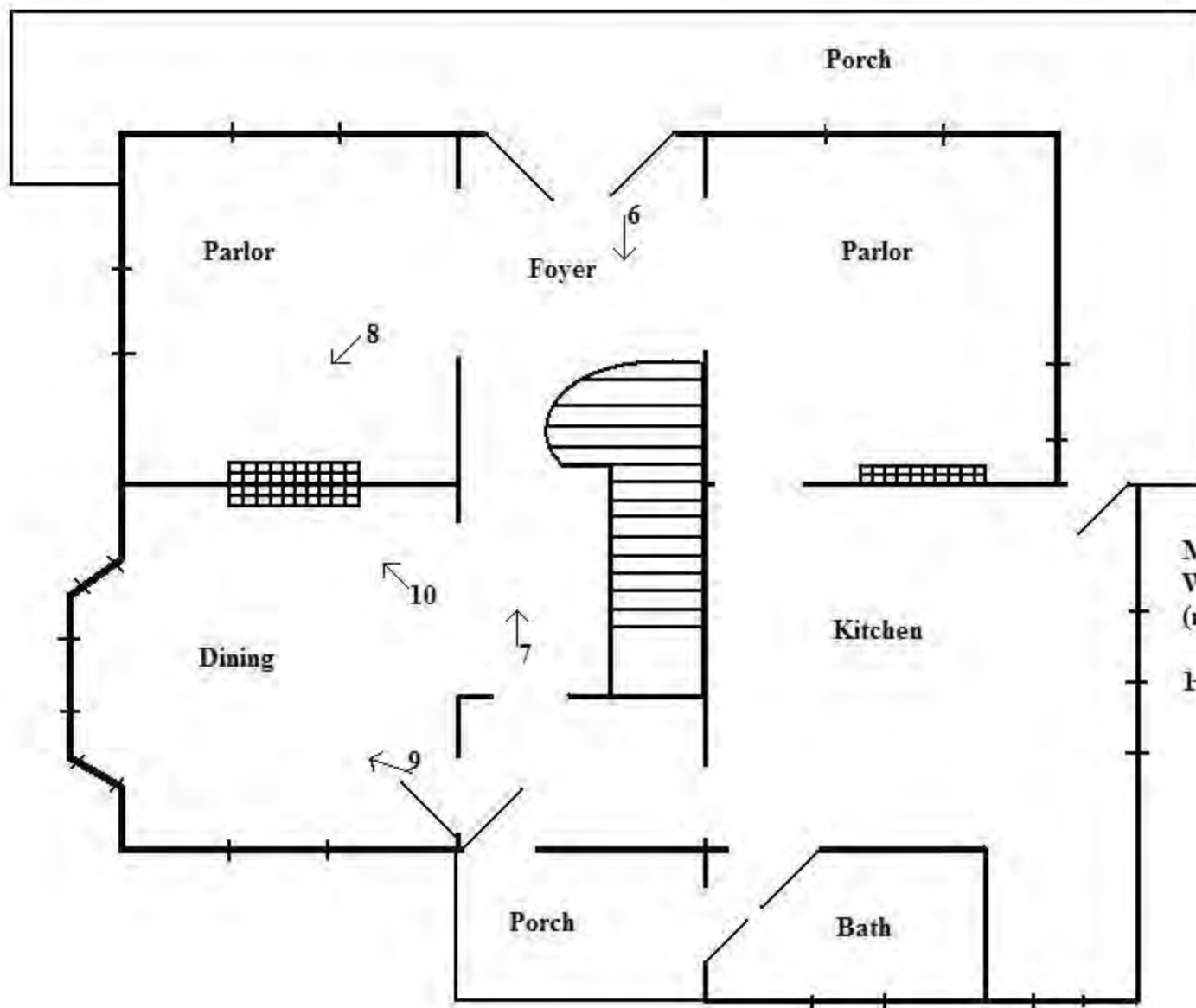
- - - NR boundary

↗ photos

● Fountain

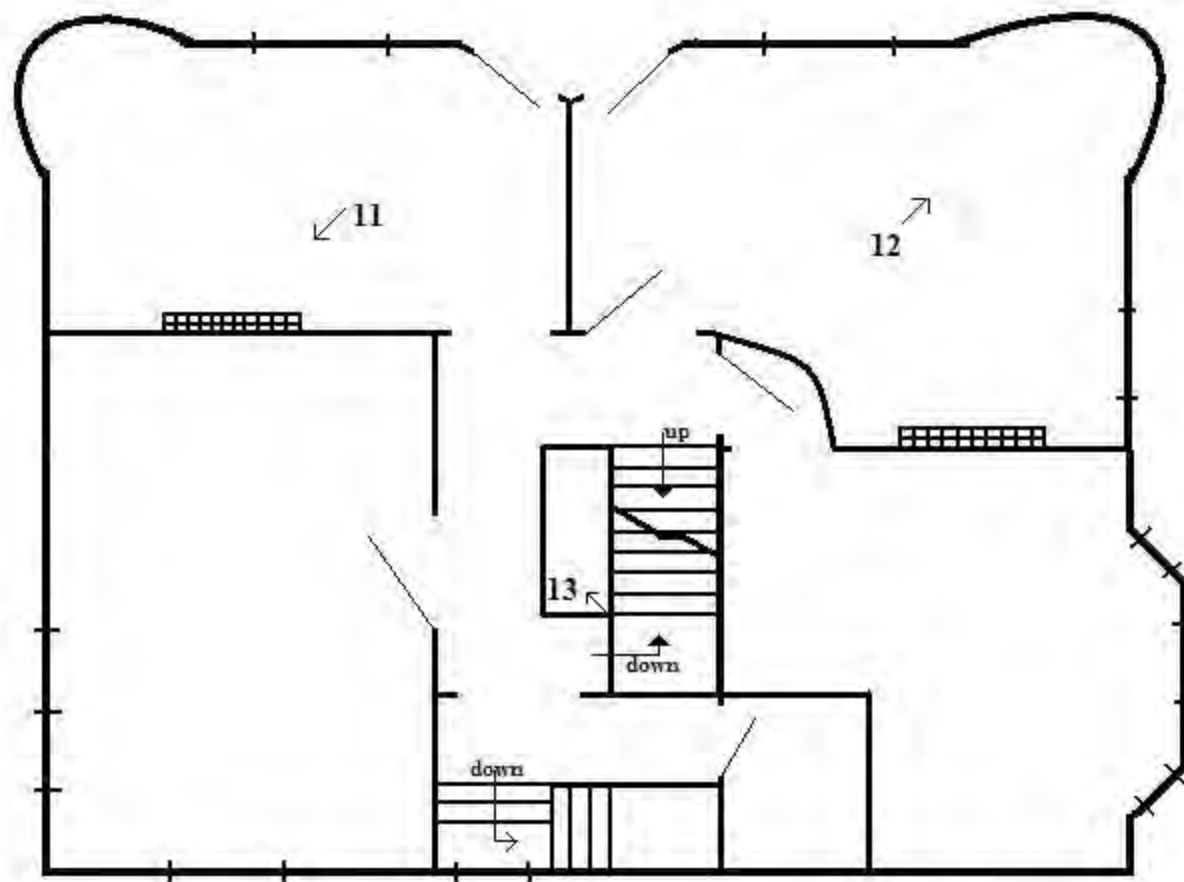
■ Garage





Monroe House
Wood County
(not to scale)

1 → photographs



Monroe House
Wood County, WV
(not to scale)

1 → photographs



Photo 1: Main (east-southeast) elevation. Camera facing west-southwest.



Photo 2: Main (east-southeast) and side (southwest) elevation. Camera facing north.



Photo 3: Side (north) elevation. Camera facing west-southwest.



Photo 4: Noncontributing garage. Camera facing east.



Photo 5: Main entrance. Camera facing west-southwest.

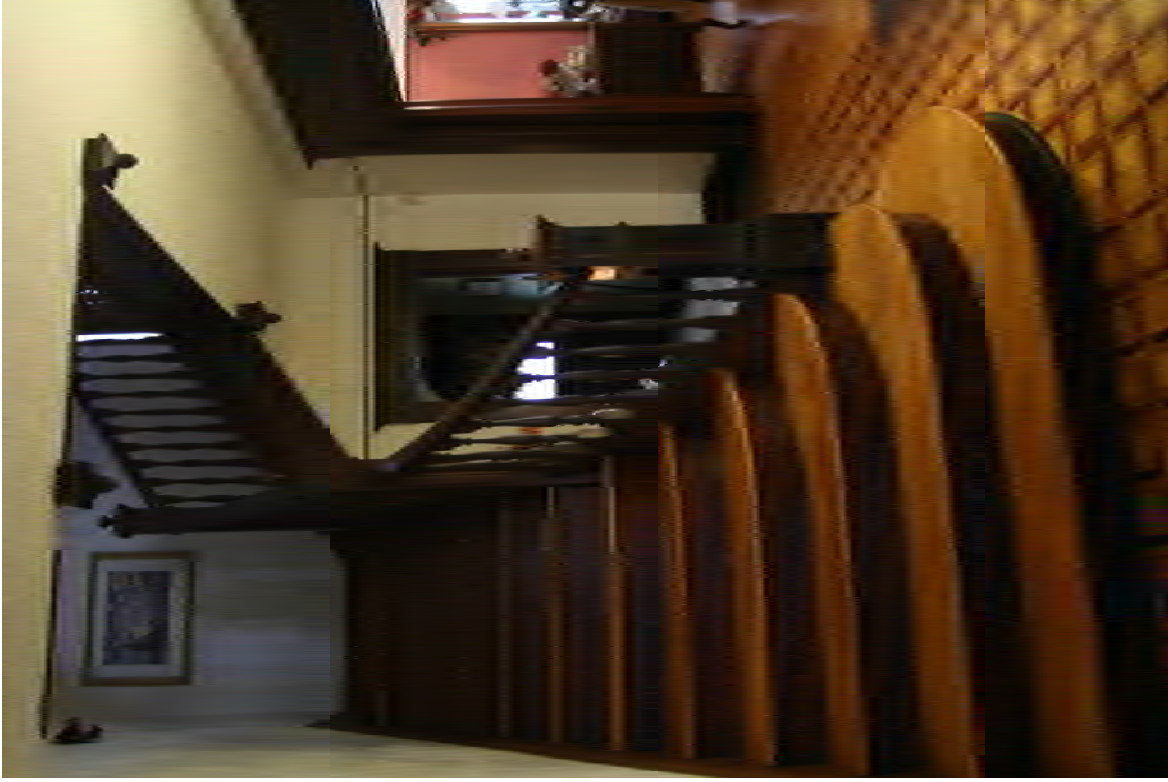


Photo 6: Foyer and staircase. Camera facing west-northwest.



Photo 7: Foyer. Camera facing southeast.



Photo 8: Parlor mantle. Camera facing north-northwest.



Photo 9: Dining room. Camera facing east.



Photo 10: Dining room mantle and built-ins. Camera facing east.



Photo 11: Second floor east corner bedroom mantle. Camera facing north.



Photo 12: Second floor south corner bedroom turret interior. Camera facing south.



Photo 13: Parquet floor on first floor looking down staircase from second floor.



Photo 14: Parquet floor on first and second floors looking down staircase from third floor.