

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Rigas, Dr. George House

other name/site number: _____

2. Location

street & number: 3412 West Street not for publication: N/A

city/town: Weirton vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: Hancock code: 029 zip code: 26062

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 _____ nationally _____ statewide X locally. (____ See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Pierce 3/4/04
Signature of Certifying Official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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 Date

Hancock County, West Virginia
County and State

I, hereby certify that this property is: Signature of Keeper Date of Action

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

Dr. George Rigas House
Name of Property

Hancock County, West Virginia
County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

Current Functions

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Materials

Mixed

Foundation: Terracotta

Walls: Wood weatherboard

Roof: Asphalt Shingles

Other: Brick; Concrete

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.

Dr. George Rigas House
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Criteria Considerations

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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance:

Architecture

Health/Medicine

Period of Significance:

1936-1954

Significant Dates:

1936

Significant Person:

Rigas, Dr. George

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Watson, E. R.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(See continuation sheets.)

Dr. George Rigas House
Name of Property

Hancock County, West Virginia
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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other

Name of Repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Quad Map Name: Weirton

Zone	Easting	Northing
<u>17</u>	<u>534754</u>	<u>4472469</u>

Verbal Boundary Description

(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(See continuation sheet.)

Rigas, Dr. George House
Name of Property

Hancock County, West Virginia
County and State

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Attorney Sharon N. Bogarad with Alan Rowe and Erin Riebe, WVSHPO

Organization: Property Owner Date: January 2004

Street & Number: 3147 West Street Telephone: (304) 797-0602

City or Town: Weirton State: WV ZIP: 26062

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Property Owner

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Name: Sharon N. Bogarad

Street & Number: 3147 West Street, Telephone: (304) 797-0602

City or Town: Weirton State: WV Zip: 26062

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Location and Setting

The Dr. George Rigas House is located at 3412 West Street in mid-town Weirton. The house stands on a grassy lot and faces west towards the street. The property is enclosed by hedges along the front (west side), a chain-linked fence on the north side and rear property line, and a partial concrete block wall on the south side. Through a level, front lawn a concrete side walk leads from the street to the front porch. A concrete driveway leads from West Street to the attached garage on the south side of the house. The property behind the house slopes down toward an alley located to the east side of the house.

Description

The Dr. George Rigas House was constructed in 1936. The building is a five-bay, two-and-one-half-story wood frame house with clapboard siding and a side gable roof. The house, supported by a stone foundation, has an interior brick chimney situated along the gable peak on the south end of the roof. The Rigas House is eclectic in style exhibiting elements of the revival styles popular during the early twentieth century on the exterior of the building including the Georgian, and Neo-Classical Revivals. The interior of the building displays other styles popular at the same time including the Craftsman style.

Exterior

The house is dominated by a gable-roofed portico centered on the main elevation. The portico is supported by four Tuscan columns and two pilasters, each approximately eighteen feet in height and eighteen inches in diameter at the base, tapering to fifteen inches at the top. The main entrance is centered on the front facade. The door is wood with three decorative lights; the center one being longer than the others. Although simple in design, this entrance has a Georgian Revival-style, broken pediment above the door. Two, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows are situated symmetrically on both sides of the entrance. The second floor of the main elevation has three windows. All of the second story windows are three-over-one, double-hung sash. Original shutters have been removed.

The asymmetrical north elevation has three windows on the first floor; two are one-over-one, double-hung sash, while the third is a modern, glass block window installed when a small porch on the northwest corner was enclosed. A small bulls-eye window and a triangular vent is situated in the gable peak. The south elevation has one window on each the first and second stories and a bulls-eye window and vent in the peak. An attached garage on this elevation is one-bay wide, has clapboard siding, and a modern roll-up, fiberglass door. Originally, the garage had a flat roof with a balustrade. A multi-light door led from one of the second story rooms onto the garage's rooftop. The door has since been closed off and a shed roof was constructed in the 1960s.

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The east, or rear elevation has two entrances; one is a modern door leading to the basement level and is below the water table. The second door is reached by a small, modern wood deck with wood bannister and rail. This entrance has a modern storm door and is protected by a gable hood on decorative brackets. To the left, or south of the door is a pair of small, one-over-one, double-hung sash windows. A one-story, shed-roof addition was constructed in the 1990s and is located on the north end of the rear elevation. The addition has two new windows and is supported by a concrete block foundation.

Interior

The main entrance opens to a small vestibule and a front entry hall. The hall showcases the Craftsman-style staircase with original wood bannister and square, paneled newel posts. The living room is reached through multi-light, beveled glass, french doors off the north side of the main hall. A faux fire place on the north wall of the living room has a simple wooden mantle and is covered with tile. The original porch to the east of the living room has been enclosed and is part of the later addition.

The kitchen and dining rooms are located along the south side of the house. While the dining room lacks significant architectural elements, the kitchen retains its original built-in cupboards, and porcelain sink. A second set of stairs leads from the area next to the kitchen. A library, directly behind the main hall, contains a faux fire place constructed with brick. Craftsman-style shelves are tucked under the mantle on both sides of the fire place. This library is now part of the rear addition and has a modern bathroom.

The second floor has four bedrooms and one full bath, all original to the house. Each room has hardwood floors with oil cloths in all rooms. Originally, there was no carpeting in the house due to Dr. Rigas' allergies. Similar to the rest of the house, the woodwork is original and unpainted.

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Statement of Significance

The Dr. George S. Rigas house is locally significant under *Criterion B: Health and Medicine* for its association with Dr. George S. Rigas, a prominent local physician who practiced medicine in Weirton. The house is also significant under *Criterion C: Architecture* as a locally significant example of domestic architecture exhibiting elements of different styles. The period of significance begins in 1936, the year the house was constructed, and ends in 1954, reflecting the National Register's fifty-year cut-off date.

Background History

Weirton

Weirton is located approximately 30 miles north of Wheeling and 30 miles west of Pittsburgh in West Virginia's northern panhandle. Weirton was first settled when Ernest T. Weir and J.R. Phillips moved their company, the Phillips Sheet and Tin Plate Company, from Clarksburg, in Harrison County, to Hancock County in 1909. They purchased 105 acres of farmland from Cyrus Ferguson, later adding over an additional 1,000 acres. Within one year they were operating two tin-mill plants.¹

Starting a new business was not Weir's and Phillips' only item on their agenda. They also aimed to build a community. The company grew quickly bringing thousands of workers to northern West Virginia. Housing was quickly constructed to meet the needs of the growing population. Within a few years the community, named after Weir, had a police department, schools, and churches.²

By 1915 six additional mills were constructed in Weirton, bringing the company's total number of mills in Ohio and West Virginia to fifty.³ In 1919 Weirton Steel took its name as the company continued to grow. The population of the community mirrored the growth of the company. By the early 1920s Weirton's population soared to 19,000.⁴ In 1929 Weirton Steel merged with several other companies becoming National Steel Corporation. Although the company moved to Pittsburgh, the Weirton Steel Division of National Steel continued to operate in Weirton lending to the growth of the city. By 1938, two years after the Rigas house was constructed, Weirton's

¹Inez Orler, *The History of Weirton* (New York: Carlton Press, Inc., 1977) 11.

²Ibid, 37.

³Frank A. Pietranton, *History of Weirton and Hollidays Cove and Life of J. C. Williams* (N.p., 1935), 48.

⁴Orler, 17.

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population reached 30,595 residents.⁵ In the 1940s Weirton Steel surpassed Wheeling Steel as West Virginia's largest integrated steel producer.⁶

Although Weirton was not a typical company town, it was often referred to as "the steel city." The town, along with nearby Hollidays Cove, was not incorporated until 1947. In 2000, Weirton's population was 20,411.⁸

Dr. George Rigas

George Rigas was born on the island of Kalymnos, Greece on September 5, 1895. Following high school graduation, Rigas entered the National University of Athens School for medicine and in 1915 received his medical degree. He completed a two-year internship in Athens, and entered into postgraduate studies in Paris, France in 1917. In 1918, after his graduation, he went back to his native island of Kalymnos to begin his medical practice.

Rigas heard from a relative living in the states about the growth of the steel industry in northern West Virginia, the growing population, and the subsequent need for physicians. He decided to move to the United States, not only to provide his medical expertise, but also to help his father pay off his debts. Dr. Rigas arrived in Weirton in 1921 where he resided with the Emmanuel Petrides family.⁹

In 1923, Dr. Rigas was licensed to practice medicine in West Virginia. His practice was originally located in north Weirton. While continuing to practice medicine, he married his wife Pauline Petrides, in 1935. After a trip to Charleston, South Carolina, they hired architect E.R. Watson to design their home with similar features to the buildings they saw on their trip. After it was designed they purchased a house in what was then Hollidays Cove and had it demolished. Construction on their new home began in 1936 and the newlyweds, along with the Petrides

⁵Ibid.

⁶John Alexander Williams, *West Virginia: A Bicentennial History*, States and the Nation series (New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1976), 173.

⁷Orler, forward.

⁸"Weirton, West Virginia," *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*. [http://en2.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weirton, _West_Virginia](http://en2.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weirton,_West_Virginia).

⁹"Dr. George S. Rigas," manuscript, private collection.

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family, moved to house in 1937.¹⁰ In the 1930s, Rigas was one of approximately 20 physicians practicing in Weirton.¹¹ In 1937 he moved his office closer to home to the Professional Building located at 3101 Main Street.¹² He not only treated patients at his office, he also welcomed emergencies into his home and made house visits when necessary.

Rigas' contributions to the social and cultural life in Weirton were multi-faceted. Being affluent in both Greek and French, Dr. Rigas became an accomplished orator in the community, speaking at many functions over the years. He was also active in many different organizations throughout the community, including the Pan Rhodian Society, American Medical Association, West Virginia State Medical Society, and the Hancock County Medical Association. He also served on the staff at the Ohio Valley hospital and Weirton General hospital. In addition, Rigas played a major role in organizing the construction of the local All Saints Greek Orthodox church in Weirton.¹³

During World War II, Dr. Rigas was one of the few physicians remaining in the Weirton area, as many of the younger doctors were drafted. He was able to put his brother through medical school and support his siblings and their families.¹⁴ Dr. George S. Rigas died in 1957 after a long illness. His widow resided in the house until 2001.

Summary

The Dr. Rigas house is locally significant under *Criterion B: Health and Medicine* for its association with Dr. George Rigas and under *Criterion C: Architecture* for its unique design. The period of significance is 1936 to 1954.

Criterion B

Dr. Rigas' significance to the history of Weirton is profound. He was not an ordinary physician, but one that respected his patients and worked many hours treating their illness at his office, at his home, and at the local hospitals. He earned the respect of his colleagues for his remarkable ability as a diagnostician. Furthermore, Dr. Rigas was an active community member offering his time to several medical associations.

¹⁰Ibid.

¹¹Pietranton, 31.

¹²"Dr. George S. Rigas, 62, Dies at 10:15 p.m. Monday," *Weirton Daily Times*, 3 December 1957.

¹³Ibid.

¹⁴Manuscript.

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Criterion C

Although not significantly adorned with architectural ornament, the Rigas House is unlike any other in Weirton and is much more grand, with its large portico and tall columns. It is also unique as an architect-designed house reflecting different architectural styles all popular at the time of construction. The house retains excellent integrity in all aspects including location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The small addition on the rear elevation does not affect the ability to convey significance.

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Bibliography

"Dr. George S. Rigas, 62, Dies at 10:15 p.m. Monday," *Weirton Daily Times*, 3 December 1957.

"Dr. George S. Rigas," manuscript, private collection.

Orler, Inez. *The History of Weirton*, New York: Carlton Press, Inc., 1977.

Pietranton, Frank A. *History of Weirton and Hollidays Cove and Life of J. C. Williams*, N.p., 1935.

"Weirton, West Virginia," *Wikipedia: The Free Encyclopedia*, n.d., http://en2.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weirton,_West_Virginia.

Williams, John Alexander. *West Virginia: A Bicentennial History*, States and the Nation series, New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1976.

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Verbal Boundary Description

Situated in the District of Butler, County of Hancock and State of West Virginia, more fully described as follows: Beginning at a point, being the Northeast corner of Lot Number Eight (8) Hooker's Addition to Hollidays Cove, Hancock County, West Virginia, thence along an alley north 19° east 58.5 feet to a point; thence north 59° 10' west 167.2 feet to a stake on the edge of a 60 foot street; thence along said street south 19° west 70.4 feet to a point; said point being the northwest corner of Lot number Eight (8), south 61-1/2° east 165 feet to the place of beginning, containing 23/100 acres, more or less.

Boundary Justification

This is the city lot purchased by Dr. Rigas for the construction of his home in 1936.

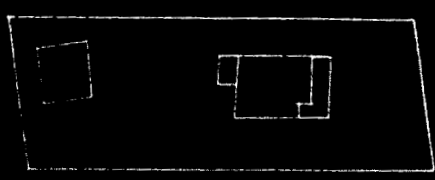
DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
 WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
 SITE PLAN

SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 Scale 1/4" = 1'-0"

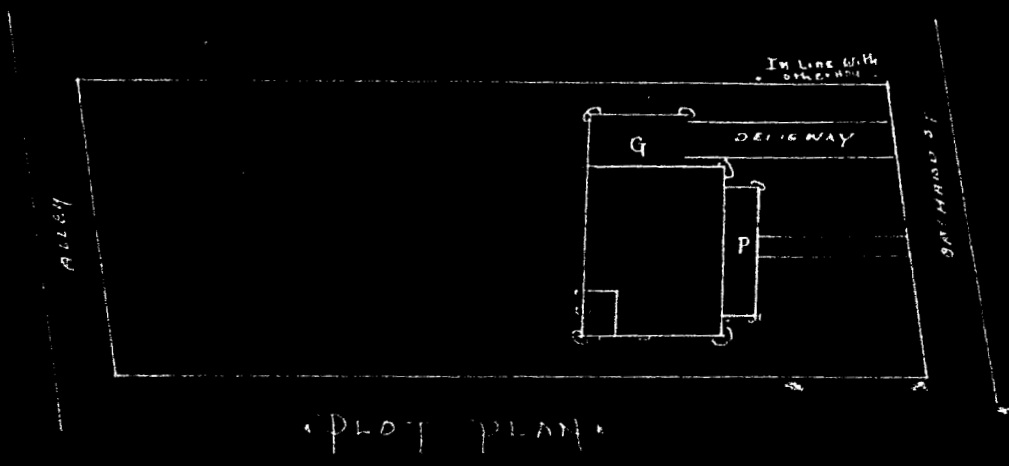
DINING "	"	"	"
KITCHEN	LINOLEUM	TILE	
VESTIBULE	S.E. PLAN WOOD	86	73
HALL	" " "	86	
LIBRARY	9" PINE		
CHAMBER (H)	WHITE OAK	86	or if
"	"	86	"
"	"	"	"
CLO. CLOSET	"	86	or if
NURSEY	LINOLEUM	86	
BATH	LINOLEUM	TILE	TILE
LINEN CLO.	30 MCHS BORD.	86	omit
BASEMENT	4" CONC. FL.		
GARAGE	4" CONC. FL.		
PORCH	WOOD TILE		

20"
 PLAIN OR
 FLUTED.

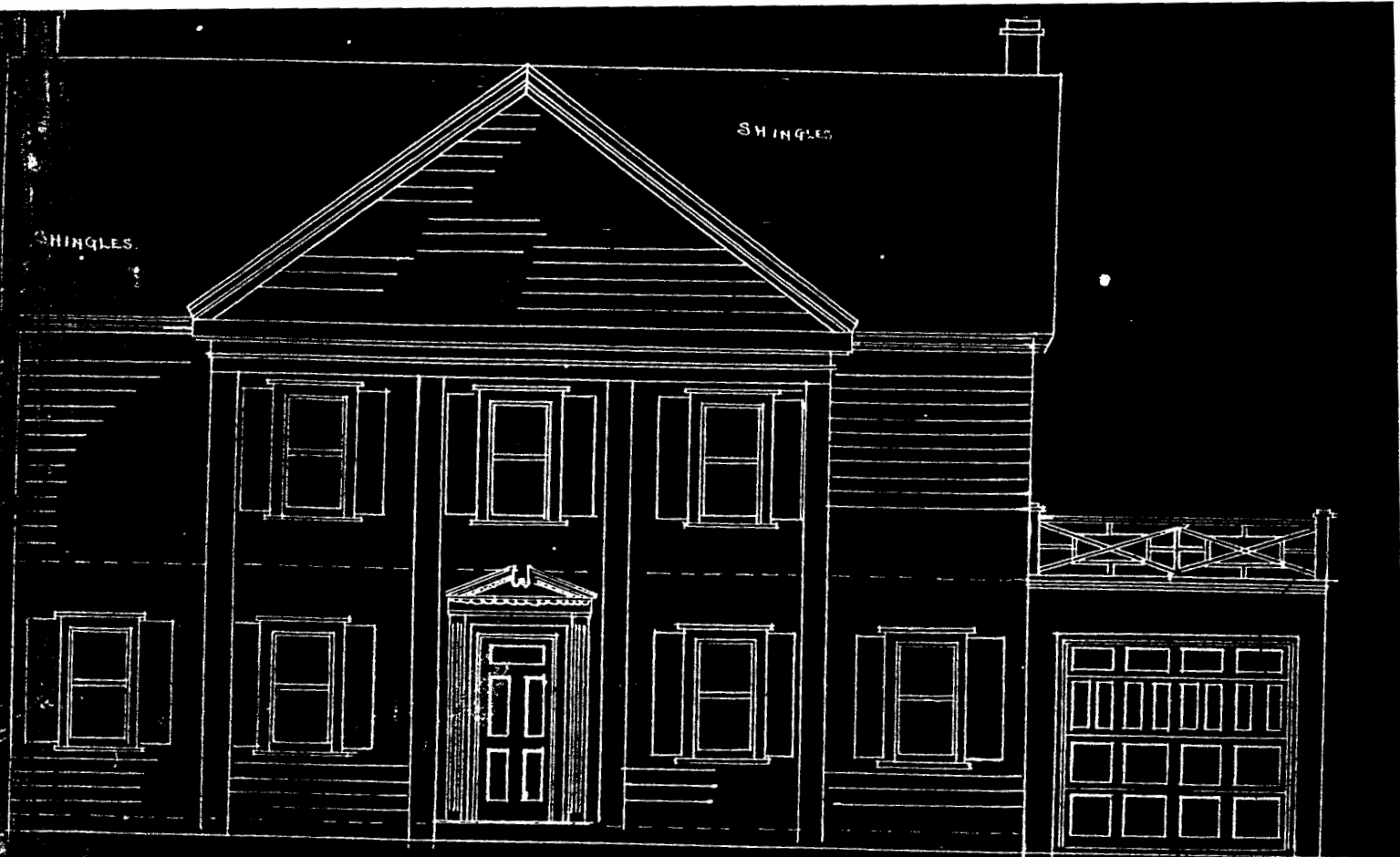
COLUMN
 1'-0"



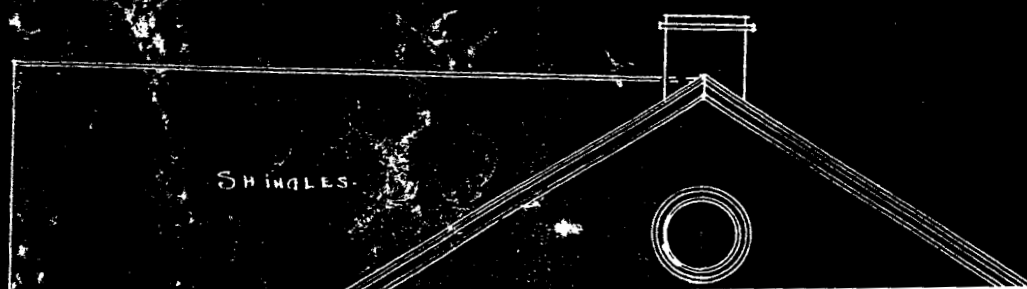
PRESENT FLOOR



Plot Plan



• FRONT ELEVATION •



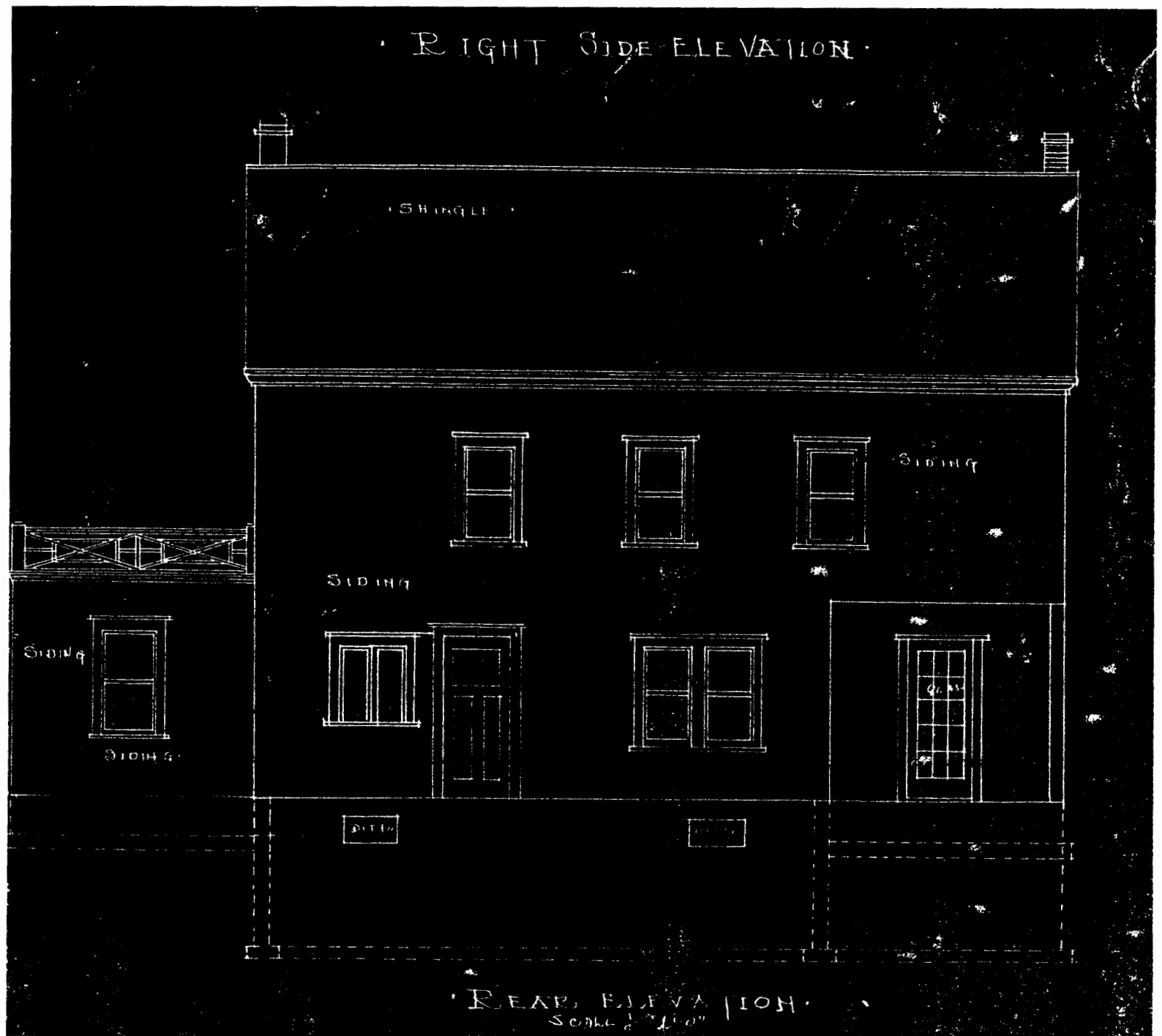
DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
FRONT ELEVATION FROM ORIGINAL PLANS

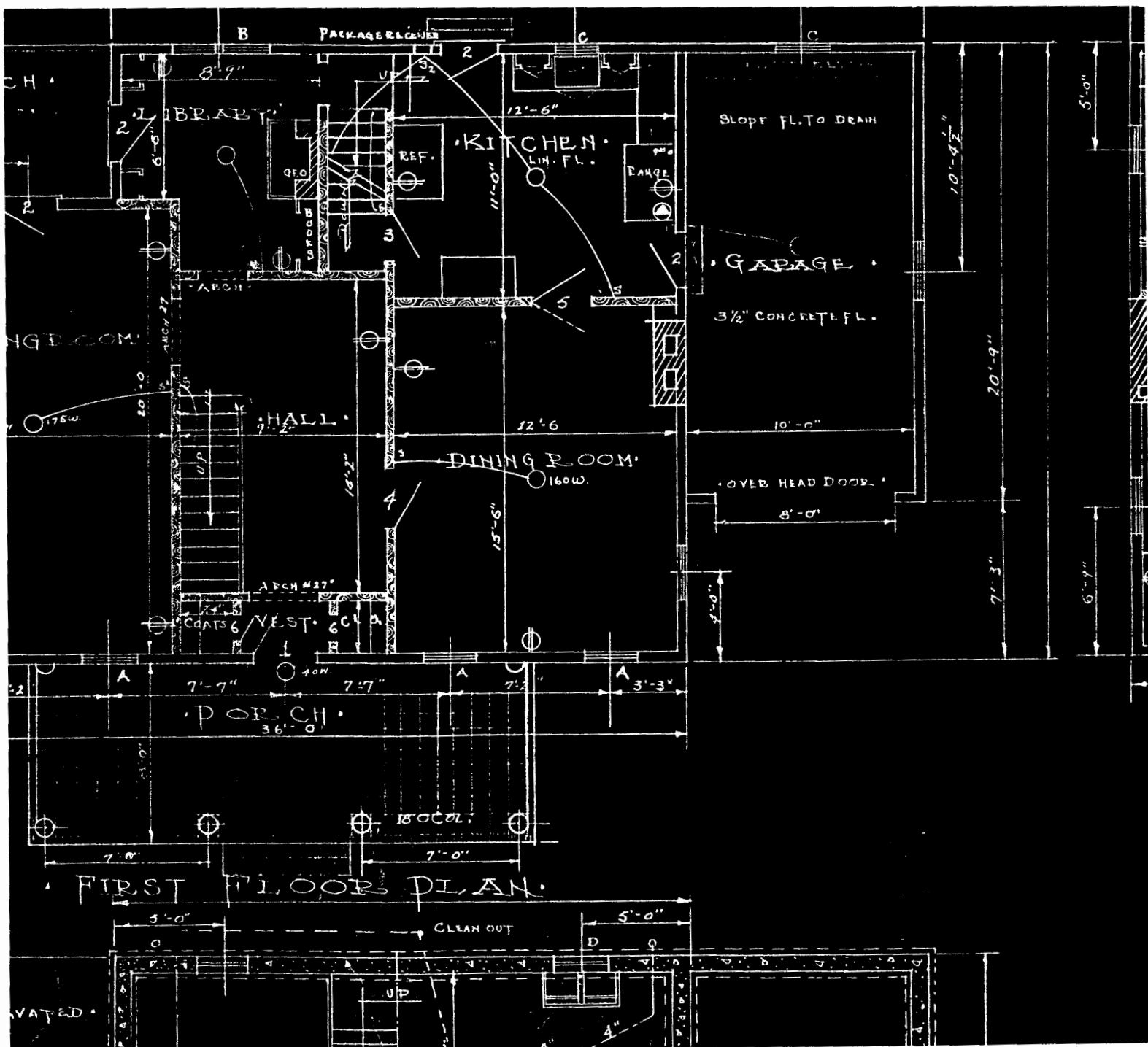
Rigas House
Hancock County, WV

Rigas House
Hancock County, WV

DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
REAR ELEVATION FROM ORIGINAL PLANS

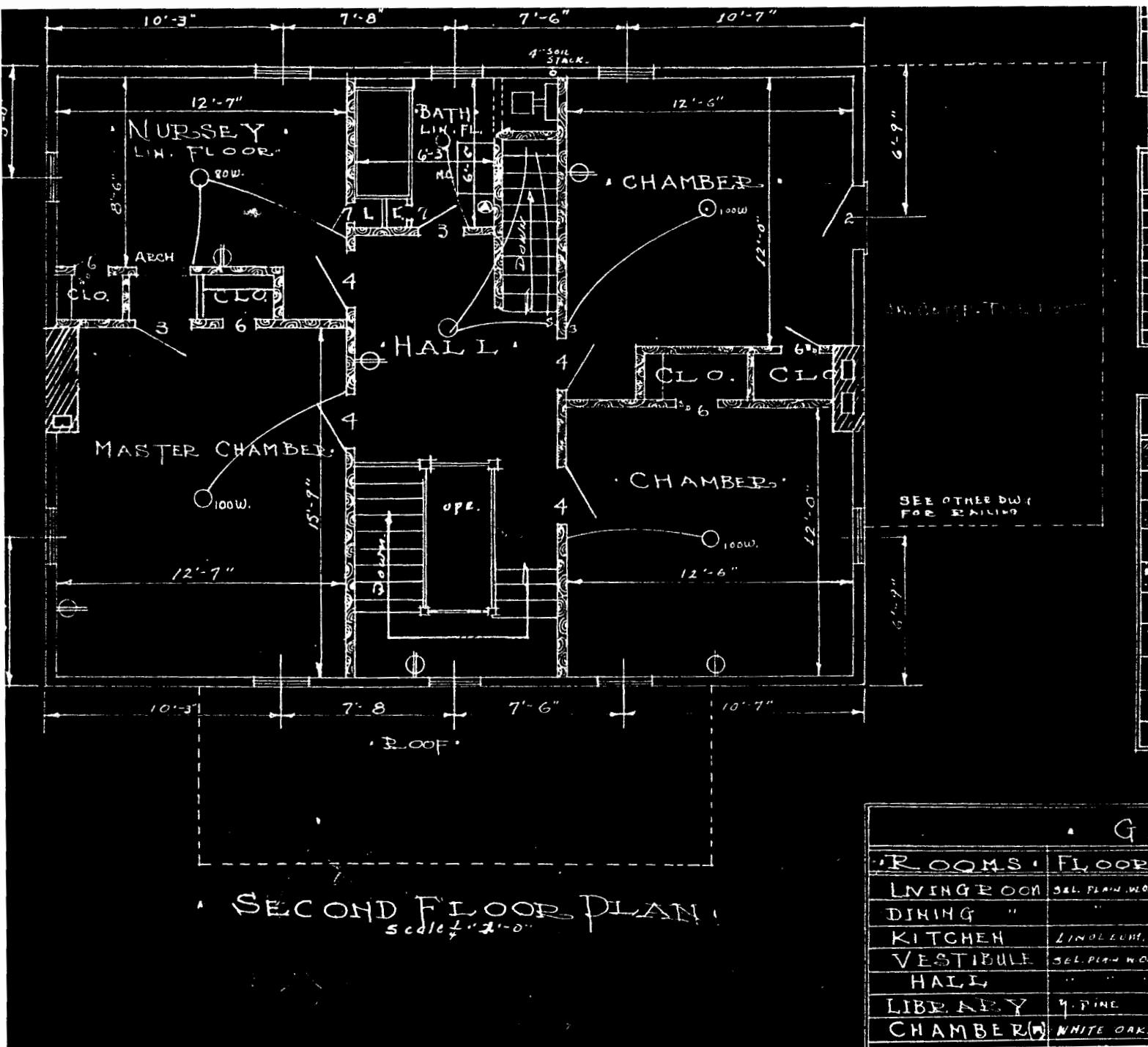
RIGHT SIDE ELEVATION





DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Rigas House
Hancock County, WV

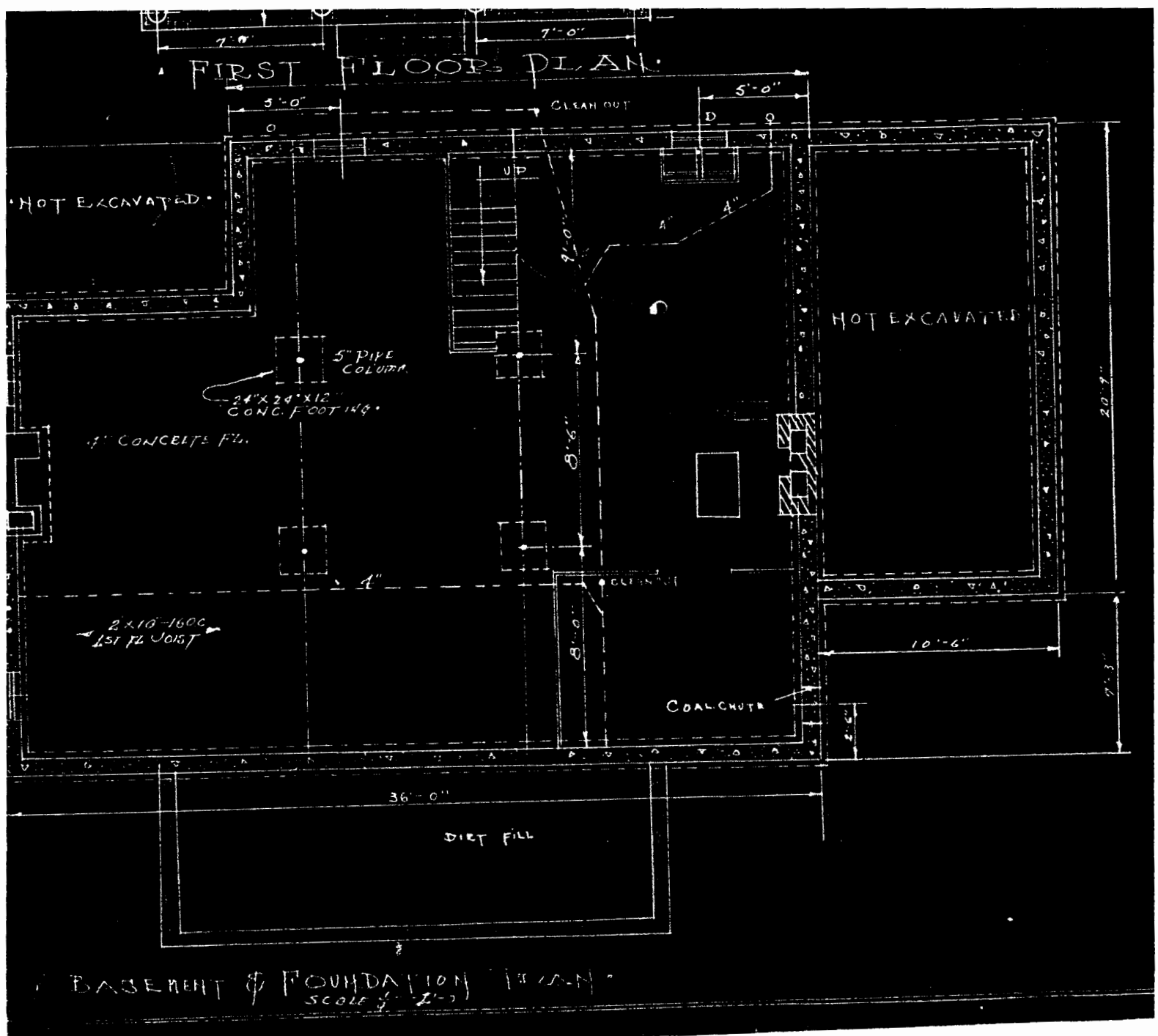



DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Rigas House
Hancock County, WV

Rigas House
Hancock County, WV

DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
BASEMENT FLOORPLAN

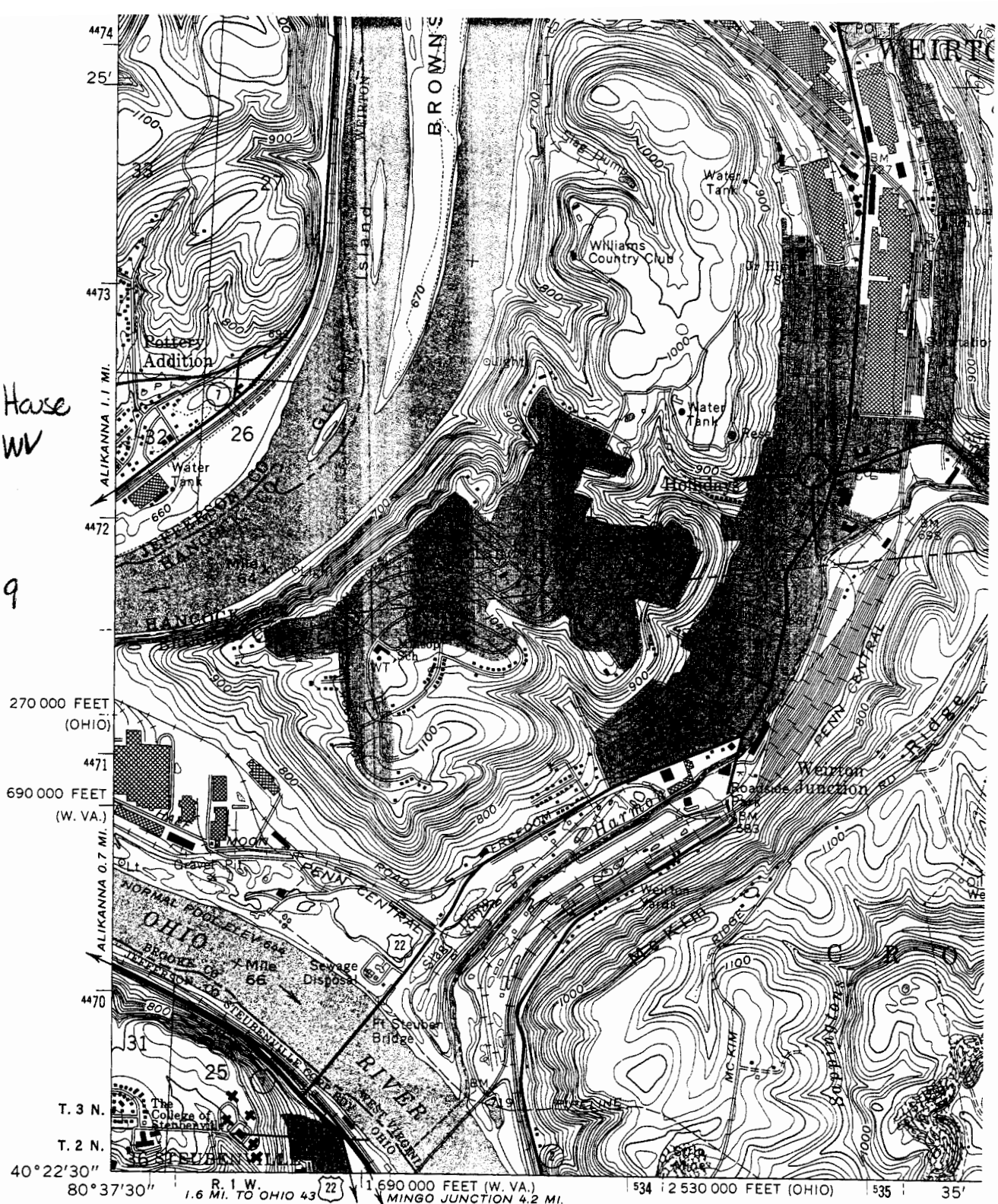




DR. GEORGE S. RIGAS HOUSE
WEIRTON, HANCOCK COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA
AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING PROPERTY
BOUNDARY



Dr. George Rigas House
Hancock Cnty, WV
Zone-17
Easting - 534754
Northing - 4472469



(STEBENVILLE WEST)
4864 1 SW

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Revised in cooperation with State of Ohio agencies
Control by USGS, USC&GS, and USCE
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial
photographs taken 1954. Field checked 1958. Revised
from aerial photographs taken 1966. Field checked 1968
Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on West Virginia coordinate system, north zone,
Pennsylvania coordinate system, south zone, and Ohio coordinate system,
north zone. 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,
zone 17, shown in blue
Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked
The state boundary as shown represents the approximate position of the
low water line as determined from U.S. Corps of Engineers, Ohio River
charts, surveyed 1913, and supplementary information
Red tint indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown
Ohio areas lie within the Old Seven Ranges. Land lines based on the Ohio River Base

