United States Department of the Interior **National Park Service**

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet Davis, Henry Gassaway House Mineral County, West Virginia County and State

Section number SLR

Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 08001239

Date Listed: 12-19-08

Property Name: Davis, Henry Gassaway, House

County: Mineral County

State: West Virginia

Multiple Name: N/A

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation, subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Amended Items in Nomination

Section 8, Applicable National Register Criteria

The nomination indicates that the Davis House is nominated under Criterion B and Criterion C, but only Criterion C is applicable. The association between Davis and the house is too weak to justify the application of Criterion B. Although he claimed the house as his residence and his family lived in it periodically, according to his biographer, Davis admitted that he spent "no more than 20 days there and fewer nights" (p. 8-5). Apparently, his primary residence during his years as a senator was in Deer Park, Maryland. On page 8-6 of the nomination, it is stated, "Although he never resided in Piedmont, the Davis house was likely considered his legal address where he paid taxes and voted." Davis' association with the Piedmont house is too peripheral to be considered significant. However, the house is locally significant as a rare example of Second Empire architecture in Piedmont, West Virginia.

Section 8, Areas of Significance

Due to the elimination of Criterion B from the nomination, the Area of Significance is only "Architecture." "Politics and Government" do not apply as Areas of Significance.

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Name of multiple property listing (if applicable)

Section 8, Period of Significance

The Period of Significance should be changed from 1871 – 1883 to 1871, reflecting the year the house was built.

Section 8, Significant Person

Because Criterion B is eliminated from this nomination, Henry Gassaway Davis' name should be eliminated as a significant person associated with the house.

Statement of Significance

References to the significance of the house in the Statement of Significance in terms of Criterion B and Henry Gassaway Davis' association with the house are not considered valid justifications for National Register listing.

Notification and Distribution

The West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office was notified of this amendment.

This notice was distributed to the following:

National Register property file

Nominating Authority, without nomination attachment

NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990) OMB No. 10024-0018

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. Name of Property		
historic name Davis, Henry Gassaway,	House	
	vthias Lafayette Lodge Number 3, Calanthe Temple #8 Pythian Sisters ervation Foundation LTD	s, Piedmont
2. Location		
street & number 15-17 Jones Street	not for p	ublication
city or town Piedmont		icinity
	WV county Mineral code 057 zip code	26750
3. State/Federal Agency Certification		
request for determination of eligibility meets the d Places and meets the procedural and professional r	storic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \(\sum \) nomination \(\sum \) ocumentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic requirements set for in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \(\sum \) meets \(\sum \) ommend that this property be considered significant intinuation sheet for additional comments.)	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
West Virginia State Historic Preserv	ation Office	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
In my opinion, the property meets does r comments.)	ot meet the National Register criteria. (See Continuation sheet for additional	
Signature of certifying official/Title	Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau		
4. National Park Service Certification	Signature of the Keeper	Date of Action
I hereby certify that the property is: ☐ entered in the National Register.	Signature of the Reeper	Date of Action
☐ 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:)		

Davis, Henry Gassaway, House		Mineral County, WV			
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5. Classification					
Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property			
 □ private □ public-local □ public-State □ public-Federal □	building(s) district site structure object	Contributing Noncontributing 1	_ buildings _ sites _ structures _ objects		
		1	_ Total		
Name of related multiple	property listing	Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register			
N/A		N/A			
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions		Current Functions			
DOMESTIC/multiple dwell	ling	VACANT			
SOCIAL/meeting hall					
	_				
	_				
7 Decemention	_				
7. Description					
Architectural Classification	on	Materials			
LATE VICTORIAN: Seco	nd Empire	foundation Stone			
		walls Brick			
		roof Asphalt			
		other Wood			
		ouici wood			

Narrative DescriptionSee Continuation Sheets

Davis, Henry Gassaway, House	Mineral County, WV	
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8. Statement of Significance		
Applicable National Register Criteria	Levels of Significance (local, state, national)	
	Local	
☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Areas of Significance	
	Politics and Government	
☑ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	Architecture	
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.	Period of Significance	
	1871-1883	
☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.		
Criteria Considerations	Significant Dates	
Property is:	1871	
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	Significant Person	
☐ B . removed from its original location.	Henry Gassaway Davis	
C. birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding	Henry Gassaway Davis	
importance. D a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation	
■ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	N/A	
☐ F a commemorative property		
	Architect/Builder	
☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.	E. J. Fredlock Manufacturing Company (Builder)	
Narrative Statement of Significance See Continuation sheets		
9. Major Bibliographical References		
Bibliography		
Previous documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:	
preliminary determination of individual listing (36	State Historic Preservation Office	
CFR 67) has been requested	Other State Agency	
previously listed in the National Register	Federal Agency	
Previously determined eligible by the National	Local Government	
Register designated a National Historic Landmark	University Other	
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository: West Virginia Regional and History Collection, Morgantown, WV	
#	, <u> </u>	
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #		

Davis, Henry Gassaway, House		Mineral	County, WV	
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10. Geographical Data				
Acreage of Property Less than one acre				
UTM References				
1 <u>17</u> <u>667745</u> <u>4371874</u> Zone Easting Northing		3 Zone 4 5	Easting See continuation she	Northing et
Verbal Boundary Description See Continuation Sheets				
Boundary Justification See Continuation Sheets				
11. Form Prepared By				
name/title John T. Francis/President and Kelly Wilson (WV SHPO)				
organization Piedmont Historic Preservation Foundation		date	8 June 2007	
street & number 81 Second Street		telephone	304-709-095	2
city or town Piedmont	state	WV	zip code	26750
	_			
Property Owner				
name John T. Francis				
street & number 15 Jones Street			telephone	
city or town Piedmont	_ state	WV	zip code	26750

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Name of Property	

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Location and Setting

The Davis House is located in a residential area of Piedmont, Mineral County, adjacent to its commercial district. Piedmont, a town with an average population of about 1,000¹, is surrounded by the Allegheny Mountains, and situated along the North Branch of the Potomac River, covering about ½ of a square mile in area. The town rises to an elevation of 928 feet, and is surrounded by the West Virginia towns of Keyser and Elk Garden, and the Maryland towns of Midland and Frostburg. The property itself sits across the Cumberland and Pennsylvania Railway line (Western Maryland Railway), to the west of the commercial area. The house sits on the corner of Jones Avenue and 2nd Avenue, with an adjacent modern building to the northwest, featuring a contemporary mansard roof. Historically, the house offered a view of the West Virginia Central Railroad, the Cumberland and Pittsburg Railroad, and the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad repair shops with twin roundhouses all just short blocks away.

Description

Henry Gassaway Davis House 1871-1883

Exterior

Constructed in 1871, the Davis House is a three bay, four-story symmetrical Second Empire duplex. Supported by a stone foundation, the house features painted common bond brickwork, wooden window sashes, and an asphalt roof. It is constructed in a simple rectangular plan, with a rear two-story addition. The house has a simple mansard roof (dual pitched, hipped roof with steep slopes) and twelve gabled pedimented dormer windows on the concave slopes. Molded cornices border the upper and lower portions of the steeply pitched roof. There is a slight eave overhang with a plain wide frieze and narrow architrave at the cornice line. The house originally featured decorative brackets, which have been removed. Above the fourth floor is a functional central cupola, measuring sixteen by eight feet, with paired and triple brackets, and dentil molding at the cornice.

The front façade (northwest elevation) features dual stone and slate stairs, ascending to two centered paired six by nine foot framed one-story entry porches with pilasters surrounding paired paneled wooden entry doors. The surrounds also include decorative brackets and pendants, as well as molding at the cornice line. Interior doors, leading directly into the house, are single wooden and glazed (in the upper part), with rounded transom and sidelights. There are projecting bays on each side of a central recessed bay. Each story of the projecting bays include two, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. The lintels on the first and second stories are bracketed with dentil molding, while those on the third story are simple/flat. The second-story features double central bay windows, resting atop the entry porches. A second-story eight-paned bay window

¹ US Census Bureau,

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caps each doorway. The bay windows have decorative molding at the cornice which repeats the molding at the first and second story windows. They are paneled near the bottom. There are six, two-over-two, double-hung sash windows on the third story. The roof above the main elevation features four pedimented dormers with two-over-two, double-hung sash windows. Two are on the central recessed bay and one above each projecting bay. The side elevations (northeast and southwest) mirror each other. Each story boasts two four-over-four, double-hung sash windows. Between dormers on the northeast and southwest are dual decorative interior chimneys. One chimney features a rounded chimney hood, while the others are exposed. The main part of the southeast (rear) elevation boasts windows like those of the side elevations.

A three-story wing extends from the southeast elevation. The first story of the wing's southwestern façade features a bay window similar to those on the main elevation, apart from its four-over-four, double-hung sashes. Adjacent to the bay window is a glazed and wooden paneled door, with a two-paned rectangular transom. The remaining window is square, fixed sash, with four glazed panes. Each of the three elevations have full-width, one-story porches. The porch on the southwestern façade features decorative metal supports, while those on the other two elevations have square wooden supports. Two asymmetrical windows on the second story of this façade match the windows of the northeast and southwest elevations of the main building. The first story wing's southeast façade has four-over-four, double-hung sash windows. Two of the second story windows are one-over-one, double-hung sash, while the other two are four-over-four. The third story features two four paned windows. The first story of the northeast elevation of the rear wing mirrors the southwest façade, except for the absence of the bay window. Instead, there is a four-over-four, double-hung sash window like those common an all facades. The second story mirrors the second story of the southwest façade as well. The front-gable, normal-pitch roof features decorative cornice return, as well as decorative detailing under the wide eaves.

Interior

The front doors of the main elevation open into a foyer, facing a five windowed entryway surrounding a dual-glazed wooden door. Inside each entryway are two staircases, with turned wooden newel posts and spool turned balusters, and a thirty-five foot hallway, featuring three doors. One of the staircases winds to the fourth floor with turned wooden balustrade. There are both carpeted and wooden floors, and decorative woodwork throughout the main house, including baseboards, window surrounds, paneled doors, and crown molding. Decorative plaster medallions on the ceilings are diamond in shape and feature floral motifs. The fireplaces throughout the house are composed of either marble or brick. The windows on the main elevation of the first and second stories have interior wooden shutters, two sets per window, each with four inset panels. These and the majority of the remaining windows feature wooden sills and aprons. Many of the rooms are clad with wood paneling.

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The interior of the main edifice is symmetrical, with each side of the duplex featuring two large rooms. The southern and northern rooms are divided by a stairway and a hallway, running the length of the entire building (including the rear wing). Both the southwest and northeast sides of the duplex feature two rooms separated by functioning paneled wooden pocket doors. Three of the rooms have ornamental white marble fireplaces, featuring arched fireboxes. The walls above the fireplaces are faced with common bond brickwork. The second story is also divided into four large rooms, with roughly the same dimensions as the rooms below. The northern room has a fireplace. The third floor consists of one large (twenty-three by thirty-six feet) room on the southwestern side, while the space on the northeastern side is divided into two rooms. The northern room features a fireplace above the fireplace on the second story. The fourth floor of the duplex is comprised of four rooms. All rooms are accessible through the central hallway. Finally, the rear wing is divided into four rooms on the first and second stories and three rooms on the third story. Most are accessible through the central hallway and the rooms of the main building.

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Statement of Significance

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The Henry Gassaway Davis House is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion B: Politics/Government for its association with Henry Gassaway Davis, the first Democratic United States Senator from West Virginia, winning his seat with an "absolute majority." He played a significant role in the process of Reconstruction, focusing on the needs of West Virginia after the Civil War. He was also able to appropriate federal funds to improve the national infrastructure, and particularly that of West Virginia. It is also eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture*, as a locally significant rare example of Second Empire architecture in Piedmont, Mineral County, West Virginia, standing out amongst the local tradition of Greek Revival and low-style architecture. The period of significance is 1871-1883, beginning with the date of construction, including Davis' two terms as United States Senator, and ending with his move to Elkins.

History

The Davis house is located in the residential area, adjacent to downtown Piedmont, Mineral County. At the time of the house's construction in 1871, Mineral County had just been formed from Hampshire County in 1866. The town of Piedmont was "laid out by the New Creek Company and incorporated in 1856." The catalyst was the arrival of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway in 1851⁵ and the potential for harvesting the timber and bituminous coal resources present in the area, at the foot of the Allegheny Mountains. Henry G. Davis played a major role in the town's development subsequent to his appointment as railway station master in 1854. Davis considered Piedmont the best location in which to replace lighter railroad engines with more substantial engines which could better withstand the steep climb into the mountains.⁶ The railroad was relocated to the future town of Keyser in 1874, stripping Piedmont of its earlier prosperity.

After accumulating significant wealth, Davis began to focus on a political career. In 1865, he was elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates.⁸ Keeping commercial interest in mind, he founded the Potomac and Piedmont Coal and Railway Company a year later (providing transportation to this coal mining and timbering interests). In 1869, Davis became a state senator. He next served as United States Senator from 1871 to 1883. To serve as his voting residence, Davis commissioned construction of the house in Piedmont and

⁶ Charles M. Pepper, The Life and Times of Henry Gassaway Davis: 1823-1916 (New York: The Century Company, 1920), 26-

² Thomas Richard Ross, Henry Gassaway Davis: An Old-Fashioned Biography (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1994), 61.

³ Otis K. Rice, West Virginia: The State and Its People (Parsons, West Virginia: McClain Printing Co., 1972), 206-207.

⁴ James Morton Callahan, Semi-Centennial History of West Virginia (West Virginia: Semi-Centennial Commission of West Virginia, 1913), 61.

⁵ Ibid, 61.

⁷ William W. Wolfe, *History of Keyser*, West Virginia (Keyprint Inc, 1974), 22.

⁹ Ronald L. Lewis, Transforming the Appalachian Countryside: Railroads, Deforestation, and Social Change in West Virginia, 1880-1920 (Chapel Hill, North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 1998), 70.

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moved his family from the Deer Park residence that November, although he "once admitted that he spent no more than twenty days and fewer nights" ¹⁰ in Piedmont in any given year. When he was not spending time in Washington D.C., his primary residence remained in Deer Park, Maryland. ¹¹ Subsequent to his federal service, Davis relocated to Elkins, Randolph County, West Virginia. ¹² He still owned the house in Piedmont until 1912 when he sold it to the Lafayette Lodge #3 of the Knights of Pythias, a men's social club.

Criterion B: Politics and Government

Section number

Though the Republican party of the 1870s and 1880s controlled Senate committees, Davis served two terms between 1871 and 1883, serving on a special committee that dealt with transportation routes to the coast as well as chairman of the Appropriations Committee, considered one of the most influential of Senate committees due to its fiscal control. For two years he supported high protective tariffs, benefiting his investments in bituminous coal. Among his most notable achievements in the Senate, were his appointment to the Committee on Claims, as its most active member, and the committees on Agriculture and Engrossed Bills. The Senate gave particular attention to Davis' ideas regarding internal improvement, utilizing his familiarity with railroads and transportation in general. He was greatly responsible for acquiring funds for the improvement of the Kanawha River, "the first appropriation ever voted by Congress for a West Virginia waterway." ¹³

Taking strides in the process of Reconstruction, the Claims Committee focused on "government payment for services or damages connected with the Civil War," which was of particular interest to West Virginia as a border state which had seen many clashes between the Union and Confederacy. Advocating for the needs of his state, Davis authored a bill to compensate West Virginia \$500,000 for deficits caused by the Civil War. Giving an impassioned speech at the May session of 1874, he stated the "hills and valleys resounded with the march of hostile armies during the whole war, and on numberless occasions were the scene of hard-fought battles, and were drenched with the blood of the best and bravest of both armies." He was also a strong promoter of the General Amnesty Bill, granting former Confederates to run for the U.S. Legislature. ¹⁶

With regard to his years in the Senate, Davis' obituary read the following:

Senator Davis' twelve years work in the Senate was largely occupied by the study of transportation problems, monetary conditions, reforms in the business system in vogue in the Treasury Department and the work of the Department of Agriculture...

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¹⁰ Thomas Richard Ross, Henry Gassaway Davis: An Old-Fashioned Biography (Parsons, WV: McClain Printing Co., 1994), 41.

¹¹Ibid, 41.

¹² Pepper, 153.

¹³Ibid, 66.

¹⁴ Ross, 69.

¹⁵ Pepper, 60.

¹⁶ Ross, 69 and Pepper, 57-60, 64-66.

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...He applied to his new duties in the Senate the same business-like precision, the same indefatigable energy that had characterized him as a business man.

His becoming modesty and his desire for doing unostentatious work made him a power in the Committee rooms. In fact, Senator Davis' work of greatest usefulness was done in Committee.

In the second session of the 43rd Congress, Mr. Davis was made a member of the committee on Agriculture ...Few are aware that our present National Department of Agriculture is largely responsible for its creation through Mr. Davis' untiring work on the Agricultural Committee. Two of his best speeches, during his entire career in the Senate, were devoted to the advantages that [t]he people would reap from the maintenance of such a National Department.¹⁷

Following his service in the Senate, Davis retired to Elkins, West Virginia where he resumed banking and coal mining, leaving politics behind, with the exception of his unsuccessful 1904 campaign as the Democratic nominee for vice president of the United States, running on the ticket of Alton B. Parker. H. G. Davis died in 1916. 19

Comparisons

There are three other National Register listings in West Virginia that have been nominated for their association with Henry Gassaway Davis: the Davis and Elkins Historic District and the Downtown Elkins Historic District, both in Elkins, Randolph County where Davis resided after his service in the Senate. In addition to the districts, his mansion in Elkins, Graceland, is individually listed, and is perhaps the most significant structure associated with the Senator. The aforementioned properties, however, are associated with Davis' latter years in West Virginia's political and commercial history and not with his significance as a United States Senator (1871-1883). The period of significance for each post-dates 1890. Additionally, this is the only house remaining which ties Davis to his ventures in Piedmont. Although he never resided in Piedmont, the Davis house was likely considered his legal address where he paid taxes and voted.

Criterion C: Architecture

The house was constructed in 1871 and is locally significant as a well-preserved example of the Second Empire style of architecture, a style that is rarely seen in the town of Piedmont, or Mineral County itself, as the Greek Revival style or simple wood frame buildings are much more prevalent. Furthermore, many examples of the Second Empire style serve as public buildings and not private residences.

Second Empire architecture originated in France during the reign of Napoleon III, when a major building campaign utilized the distinctive Mansard roofline. It integrated classical style with the roofline popularized by Francois Mansart, the style's namesake. The roofline was desirable, as it added functional space in the

¹⁷ "Death of Henry Gassaway Davis," *The Elkins Inter-Mountain*, 11 March 1916.

¹⁸ Rice, 222.

¹⁹ "Death of Henry Gassaway Davis."

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attic story. Parisian exhibitions popularized the style internationally. The impetus in the United States was in large part due to Alfred B. Mullett, the main architect for the nation, and his incorporation of the style into several government buildings. The high style buildings began to influence American architecture and became popular during Reconstruction.²⁰

Although smaller in scale than the public structures, the exterior Second Empire style elements featured by the Davis house include a mansard roof, twelve pedimented roof dormers, classical ornamentation, bracketed cornices, arches, brick construction, four-over-four and two-over-two, double-hung windows, bracketed windows and door hoods, and functional cupola. The interior features typical of the style include tall ceilings, crown moldings, elaborate woodwork, large pavilions, and plaster ceiling medallions.

A review of historic architectural survey files and previous National Register nominations reveals the Second Empire style to be a rarity in Mineral County. Although not listed under Criterion C for its architecture, the National Register property, the Thomas R. Carskadon House, ca. 1866, Keyser, Mineral County, displays a mixture of Italianate and Second Empire, though simpler in style than the Davis House. The main Second Empire feature is a mansard roof with dormers.

Summary

The Davis Mansion is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria B and C, through its service as the home of prominent United States Senator, Henry Gassaway Davis, representing his early political accomplishments and actions during the process of Reconstruction following the Civil War. Its architectural style is locally significant as one of only a few examples of the Second Empire style, not only in Piedmont, but the entirety of Mineral County. Despite minimal alterations, such as the removal of several decorative brackets, the building retains excellent historic architectural integrity.

²⁰ Leland M. Roth, *American Architecture: A History* (Boulder, Colorado: Westview Press, 2001), 212-213. Virginia and Lee McAlester, *A Field Guide to American Houses* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2004), 242.

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Verbal Boundary Description: Mineral County tax map 1, Parcel 22, Lots 76-79.

Boundary Justification: The boundary includes the entire historic parcel associated with the house during the period of significance, 1871-1883.

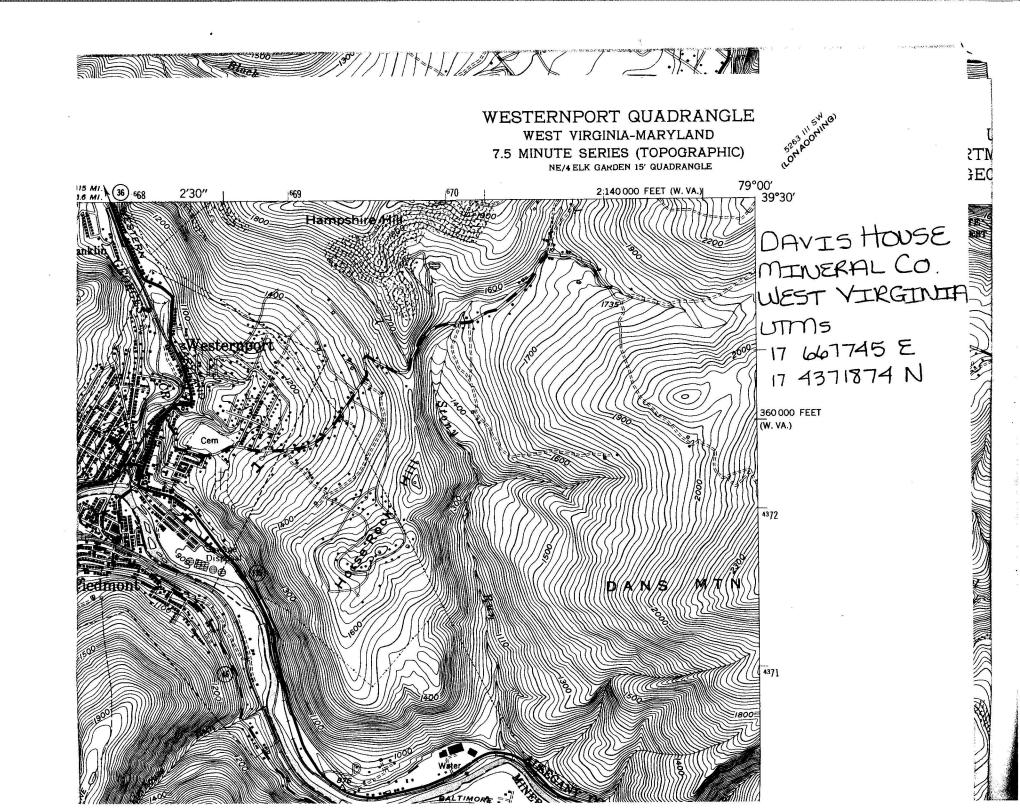
Davis, Henry Gassaway, House	Mineral County, WV
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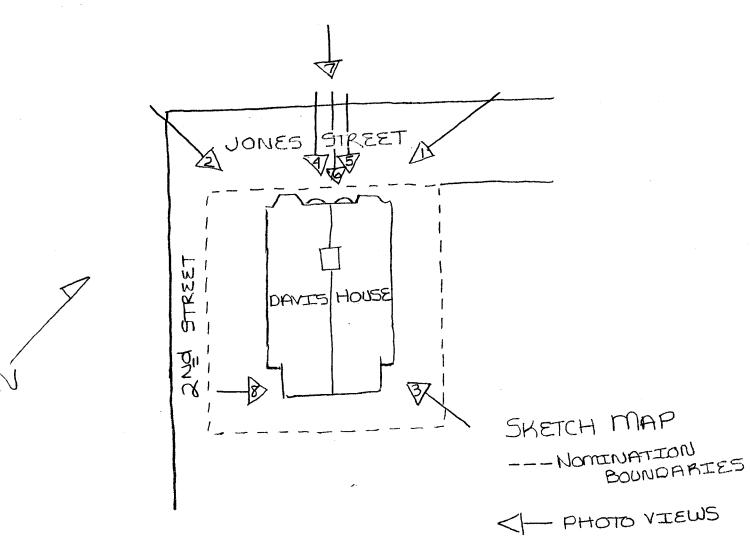
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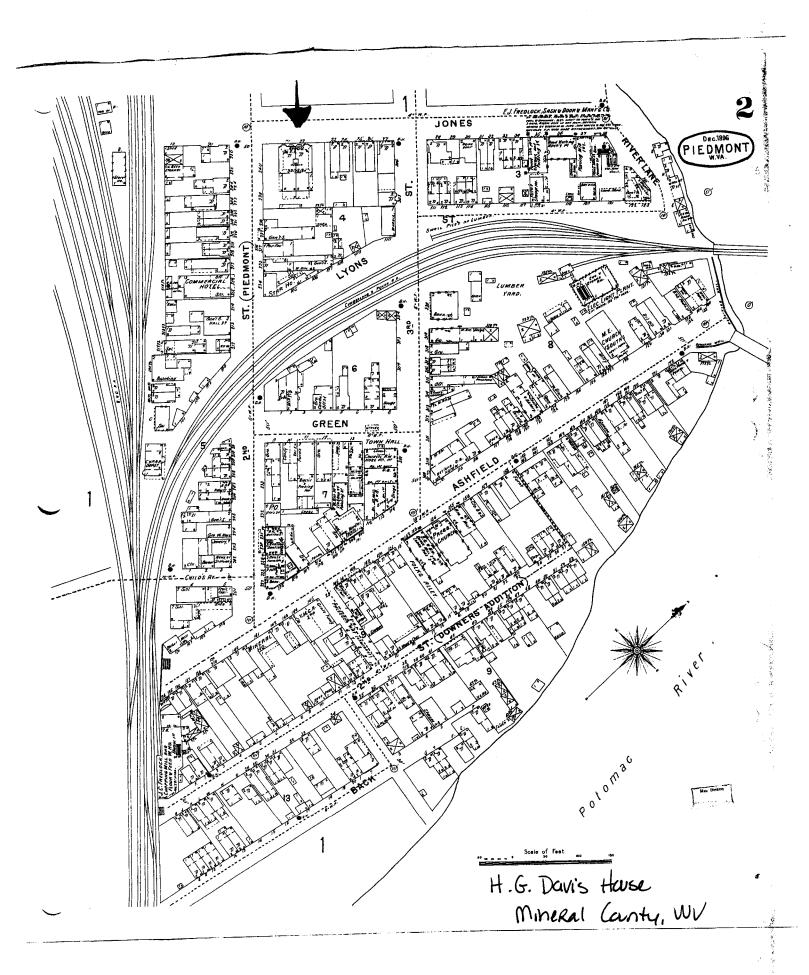
Section number Photos Page 10

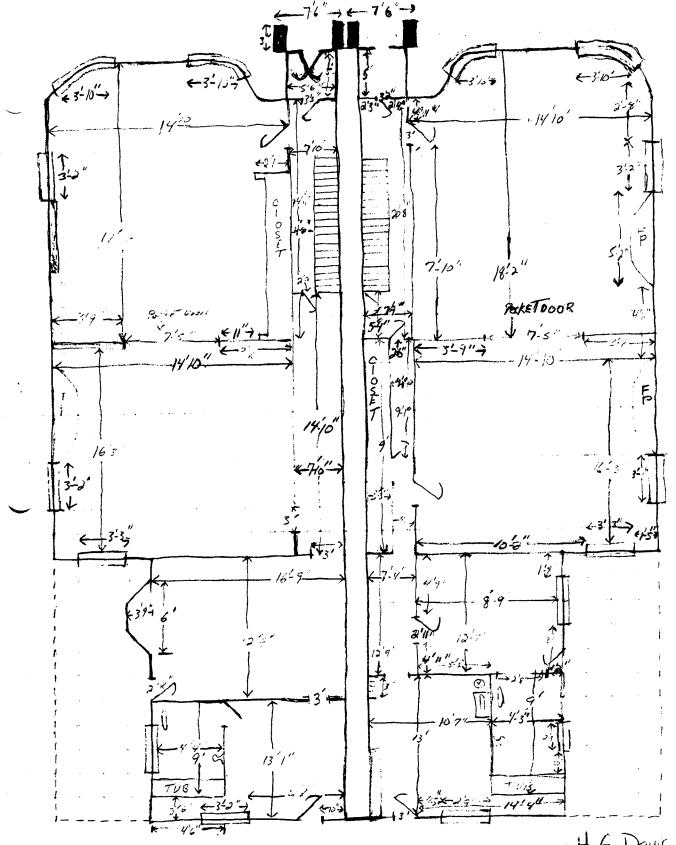
Photographer: John	Γ. Francis
Photo 1 of 13	Main (northwest) and side (northeast) elevations View facing south
Photo 2 of 13	Main (northwest) and side (southwest) elevations View facing east
Photo 3 of 13	Rear (southeast) and side (northeast) elevations View facing west
Photo 4 of 13	Main (northeast) elevation View facing southeast
Photo 5 of 13	Door detail of main (northwest) elevation View facing southeast
Photo 6 of 13	Entry and stairway detail of northwest elevation View facing southeast
Photo 7 of 13	Ornamental brackets and pilasters of entryway of northwest elevation View facing west
Photo 8 of 13	Southwest elevation View facing northeast
Photo 9 of 13	Interior view of pocket doors on first level
Photo 10 of 13	Interior view of fireplace on northeast wall of first level
Photo 11 of 13	Interior view of bay window on northwest wall
Photo 12 of 13	Interior view of plaster ceiling medallion and woodwork detail
Photo 13 of 13	Interior view of central stairway detail



DAVIS HOUSE MINERAL COUNTY, WV PIEDMONT

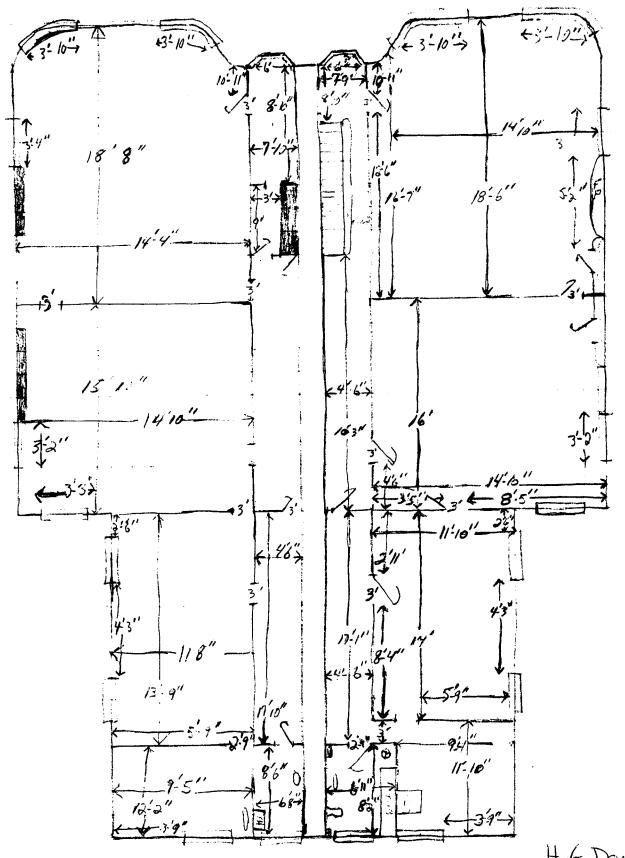






FLOOR PLAN 1ST FLOOR 15 # 17 JONES ST PIEDMONT WY H.G. Davis Hoose Mineral Carty WV

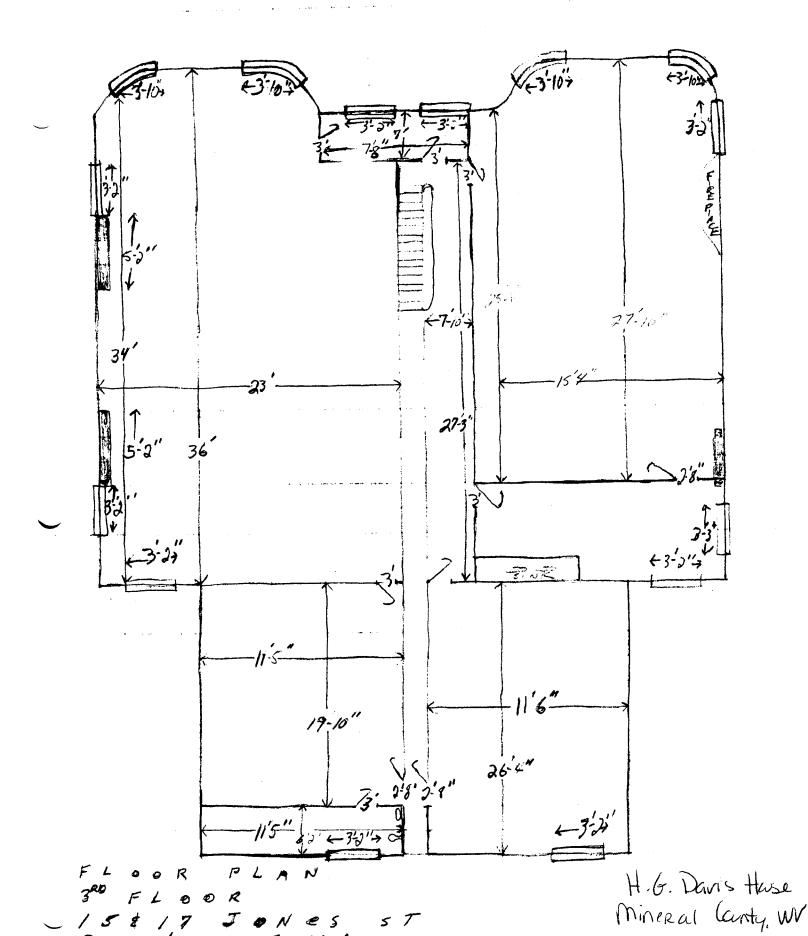
NOVEREER GOOT



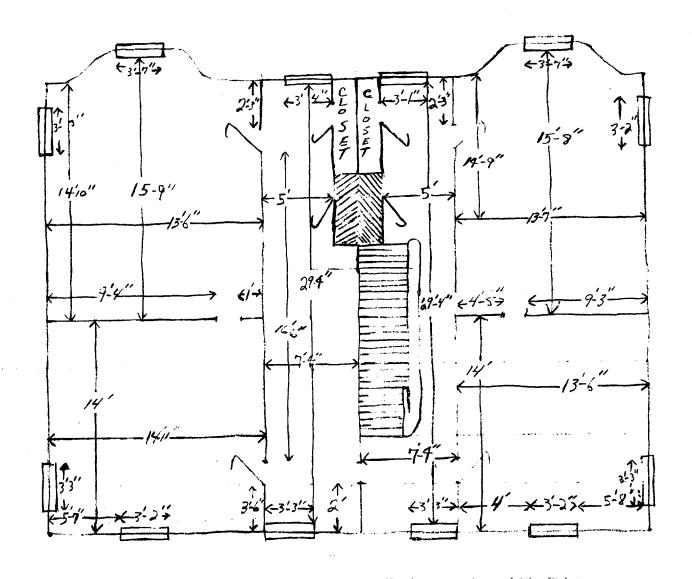
FLOOR PLAN JMP FLOOR 15817 JONES ST PIEDMONT WV

H.G. Davis Hase Mineral Canty, WV

NOVEMBER



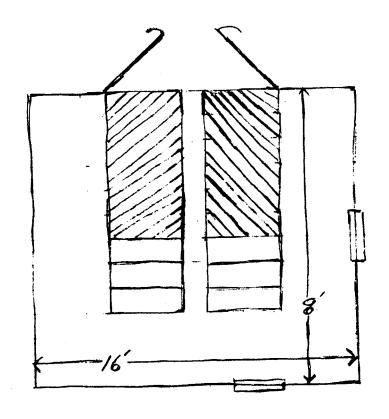
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FLOOR PLAN 4th FLOOR 15\$17 JONES ST PIEDMONT WV

NOVEMBER 2007

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FLOOR PLAN CUPLOA 15#17 TONES ST PIEDMONT WY NOVEMBER 2007

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