

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: McGrew, James Clark, House

other name/site number: Gibson Property

2. Location

street & number: 109 East Main Street not for publication: N/A

city/town: Kingwood vicinity: N/A

state: WV code: WV county: Preston code: 077 zip code: 26537

3. 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 x meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally x statewide locally.
(See continuation sheet.)

William G. Lauer
Signature of Certifying Official

5/25/93
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

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of Keeper Date
of Action

 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):

James Clark McGrew House
Name of Property

Preston County, WV
County and State

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property:
(check as many boxes as apply)

☐ private
☒ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property:
(Check only one box)

☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	TOTAL

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. N/A

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

HISTORIC FUNCTIONS	CURRENT FUNCTIONS
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)

<u>Domestic/Single dwelling</u>	<u>Vacant/not in use</u>
<u>Domestic/Secondary structures</u>	

=====

7. Description

=====

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:	MATERIALS
(Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories from instructions)

<u>Early Republic: Federal</u>	Foundation: <u>Ashlar stone</u>
<u>Late Victorian: Italianate</u>	Walls: <u>Brick, common bond</u>
<u>Late Victorian: Gothic Revival</u>	Roof: <u>Standing seam metal/metal shingles</u>

Other: _____

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION
(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

James Clark McGrew House
Name of Property

Preston County, WV
County and State

=====

8. Statement of Significance

=====

APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ 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

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.) N/A

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

(Enter categories from instructions)

Politics/Government

Industry

Commerce

PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

1841-1910

James Clark McGrew House
Name of Property

Preston County, WV
County and State

SIGNIFICANT DATES

N/A

SIGNIFICANT PERSON

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

James Clark McGrew

CULTURAL AFFILIATION

N/A

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

=====

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: _____

James Clark McGrew House _____
Name of Property

Preston County, WV _____
County and State

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: 2.78 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

1 17 613000 4369800
 Zone Easting Northing

2 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

3 _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

D _____ _____ _____
 Zone Easting Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Rosemary Bernatowicz

Organization: City of Kingwood

Date: 03/05/93

Street & Number: 112 Chestnut Avenue

Telephone: (304) 329-0884

City or Town: Kingwood

State: WV ZIP: 26537

=====

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

PHOTOGRAPHS

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

James Clark McGrew House _____
Name of Property

Preston County, WV _____
County and State

=====

PROPERTY OWNER

=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

Name: Preston County Commission

Street & Number: 101 W. Main St., Rm #101 Telephone: ()

City or Town: Kingwood State: WV ZIP: 26537

=====

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Page 1

The James McGrew House is located in Kingwood, Preston County, West Virginia. It is situated on a slight rise to the north of the main street of the town, Route #7. The house stands on an east to west axis with an ell that projects to the north. There is a contributing two-story barn/outbuilding connected to the house with a breezeway on the north side. There is a ca.1940 noncontributing garage building on the site and a contributing two-story Gothic Revival barn/carriage house on the north side of the property. The current access to the house and other buildings is through a circular drive from the main road. Originally, access was more to the west, and the original road bed can be identified in the terrain and is lined with exotic trees. This road leads to the carriage house and probably ran to the east of the current house.

The house is a complex arrangement consisting of a large main two-story block and a low two-story ell. The main mass has a broad gable roof with intersecting gables. A wraparound porch fills in the front entrance portion of the ell. On the rear, west of this block, is a one-story porch with a hipped roof. The porches have plain doric columns.

The secondary mass, on the north, is a two-story side gable ell with a steeper pitched roof than the front block. There is a one-story shed porch on the west side of this that extends to form a breezeway and connect the two-story wood frame structure on the north. This has paired jigsaw cut decorative posts. The east side also contains a one-story shed roofed porch. This was originally a conservatory accessed from the main hall of the front block.

The roof of the main block is covered with metal shingles ; the roofs on the ell, the porches, and the one-story kitchen section are covered with standing seam metal. There are brackets under the eave overhangs and those in the front of the main block area are scrolled at the lower edges. A porthole window pierces the three gable ends on the main block. There is an end chimney in the ell, and two central chimneys in the main block.

Windows in the building illustrate all periods of construction. The ell contains nine over six double-hung sash on the second floor of the east elevation. On the west elevation, the second floor contains two over two and the first six over six. The main block windows are two over two, except for the south elevation, where they are all one over one. The windows in the main block and most others, except the nine over six and six over six, have metal sash locks that are mortised into the side rail.

The brick is five-row common bond and has been painted, though it is not definite whether this is original treatment or not. The foundations of the house are ashlar sandstone with hammered surfaces.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 7 Page 2

Based on the physical investigation and the historical chronology of the life of James McGrew, it is deduced that the northern ell portion of the building is the original house that McGrew built for himself and his wife in 1841. It was a two-story side gable with a projecting gable bay on the end of the front elevation. This is now the rear, east, elevation and the one-story kitchen is attached to this bay. The style of this portion of the house can be characterized as Federal. The wood lintels over the openings and nine over six and six over six windows, support this. Also, there are no brackets on the eaves in this section of the house.

What is now the main block of the house is presumed to have been constructed ca.1870. This has broader roof planes, eaves brackets, an irregular massing, two over two windows, central chimneys, and an entrance in a corner of the intersection of the two gable segments. All of these are characteristic of the Italianate Style which was popular in the period between 1860 and 1885. This would coincide with Mr. McGrew's return to Kingwood after the Civil War.

The addition appears to have been constructed around the south end of the original house and may incorporate some of that house into the existing room layout.

On the interior, the entrance hall is in the southwest corner of the house. There is a small reception room to the north of the entrance door and a larger billiard room at the north end of the hall. Opposite the entrance door is an entrance into the parlor. At the north end of the hall is a pair of multi-paned glass doors to the stair hall, which runs east and west. The stair hall has the door to the rear porch, an entrance into the front parlor, and an entrance into the rear library, which is in the southeast corner of the house. There is also a pair of openings that currently lead to toilets, but originally led to the conservatory. In the center of the hall is a door leading to the dining room, to the north.

Passing through the dining room, one enters a pantry, then the kitchen, which is the northern most room. This is probably the original kitchen of the house. At the eastern side of the kitchen is an entrance into a room that connects to the one-story section. This room is in the projecting bay section of the original house.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 7 Page 3

The second floor has a similar room arrangement in the main block. The central stair hall, which has now been enclosed with a drywall partition, also contains a later bathroom. There are three rooms on the south side of the hall. On the north side is a large room over the billiard room, and another large room that is over the dining room. This room connects to a bathroom that has been inserted in the original second floor stair hall. On the west side of the second floor, in the original portion of the building, is a corridor that connects to a stair. The stair is centered in what may be the original floor plan of the building. On the north side of the stair is a series of smaller rooms and a bathroom.

Finishes on the first floor originally consisted of painted plaster walls and ceilings. There are now pressed wood paneling on many of the walls and lay-in ceiling tiles. The original floors are narrow tongue-and-groove hardwood with alternating species that give a striped pattern. On the second floor the finishes are the same, except for the floors. The wood is a wider tongue-and-groove hardwood. Many of the floors throughout the house have been covered with carpet.

The doors on the first floor of the main block are decorative four panel wood doors. The panels are arranged vertically and are tall and narrow. The lower panels are smaller than the upper ones. The surrounds in this location are wide and have shoulders. The door jambs in the entrance hall are paneled. The doors and trim are finished in natural wood with a varnish over them. The doors in the stair hall, as well as the trim, were painted at a later date. Hardware consists of box locks with ceramic knobs. Hinges are plain brass.

Window trim in the first floor of the main block is the same as the doors. The windows in the billiard room have paneled aprons beneath the sills. The base board is a tall plain board with a quarter round shoe and ovolo cap. This is typical of the entire house.

The library, billiard room, and parlor have fireplaces with a simple wood mantel. The mantels have plain broad pilasters supporting a wide pediment with a plain wood shelf. They are filled with decorative cast iron inserts. In the library there is a built-in bookshelf adjacent to the fireplace chimney breast. The doors on this match the other doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 8 Page 1

The James Clark McGrew House in Kingwood, Preston County, West Virginia, meets National Register Criterion B as the primary surviving building associated with the productive life of James C. McGrew (1813-1910), an individual whose contributions are demonstrably important to the history of his local community and to the state of West Virginia. McGrew's associative achievements under Criterion B were in the areas of politics and government, commerce, and industry. The house's period of significance extends from the date of construction of the house by McGrew in 1841, to the date of McGrew's death, in 1910.

The James Clark McGrew House was built in 1841 by James C. McGrew. McGrew, whose ancestors came to America before the American Revolution, was born on September 14, 1813, near Brandonville. His grandfather, Patrick, fought in the Revolutionary War. James' father, James, commanded a regiment of Virginia militia in the War of 1812 and his mother, Isabelle Clark, was the daughter of one of the first permanent settlers in Preston County.

McGrew received a practical English education, worked on his father's farm, and then became a clerk in a general store in Kingwood, Preston County. In 1833 he engaged in mercantile pursuits in Kingwood, and continued with fair success for nearly thirty years.

In 1841 he married Persis Hagans, eldest daughter of the Honorable Harrison Hagans, of Brandonville. He built her a home in Kingwood on the site of the first house in Kingwood. (Conrad Sheets, Jacob Funk and a man by the name of Steele, in 1807, built houses and named the town Kingwood. Jacob Sheets had a log cabin where James C. McGrew built his house.)

On the 23rd of January, 1811, the General Assembly established Kingwood, then a part of Monongalia County. It was the first town established by the General Assembly in the territory that would become Preston County. John Fairfax and James McGrew (father of James C.) were both colonels and in charge of the militia of the county in the War of 1812. However, the war ended before they went to the field.

James C. McGrew was an enterprising individual. In 1850, when the tunnel was being built in Tunnelton, McGrew bought up all the land in that area. He acted as the first agent for the depot to be erected near Tunnelton.

McGrew built the first house and the first store. He sold land to the B&O on which to erect the depot.

The first train came down the track in 1852, and Mr. McGrew was ready for it. He built a tannery and in 1854 got the Post Office moved down from Greigsville to Tunnelton.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 8 Page 2

McGrew established the first coal mine and proceeded to ship out coal. This last venture proved his undoing as the B&O, which owned its own coal fields, upped the rates to such an extent that McGrew could not afford to ship his coal profitably. About the end of the Civil War, McGrew sold all his interests in Tunnelton area and left.

On the 12th of March, 1853, Kingwood was made a town corporate by the name of the "Town of Kingwood." The officers were to consist of seven trustees and a sergeant. James C. McGrew, William G. Brown and Israel Baldwin, or any two of them, were appointed to hold the first election on the first Monday in June, 1853.

In 1856, the stone courthouse was found to be too small for the transaction of the increasing business of the county, and a new courthouse was ordered to be built. The contract was taken by James C. McGrew for eight thousand dollars. A windstorm blew down the walls when partly erected, and the county authorities allowed McGrew \$1,500.00 additional to the contract price. When finished in 1857, it was one of the finest courthouses in the state.

In 1856, McGrew with E.C. Bunker, opened a store in Reedsville. Cranberry was incorporated by the name of Portland on the 13th of March 1860. (Now known as Terra Alta.) The first post office established was Salt Lick Falls, with James C. McGrew as Postmaster.

On Friday, the 25th of January, 1861, a large number of the citizens of Kingwood and vicinity met at the courthouse and erected a beautiful pole 105 feet high. Upon a streamer at the top of the pole, in large letters, was the word "union".

On the next day, Saturday, the 26th, people gathered in from all parts of the county to attend the county convention. At this convention, the Honorable William G. Brown and James C. McGrew, Esq. were elected to represent the county at the State Convention in Richmond. At the convention, they voted against succession.

One night shortly before the passage of the ordinance, an excited mob, with torches, drums and fifes and secession flags, hooting and yelling, gathered in front of the Pawhaton Hotel, where McGrew and Brown were staying. As the rabble approached, McGrew being curious ascertain what the uproar meant, opened the window of his bedroom and looking out, was brought face to face with the surging crowd. Not liking to "show the white feather" under the circumstances, he maintained his position at the window, looking down upon the ugly scene in the street until the mob, without attempting to enter the house, and having apparently exhausted their vocabulary of vile epithets, took down the ropes from the trees, and marched away to the tune of "Dixie."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 8 Page 3

McGrew was one of the eighteen or twenty members of the convention who held a secret meeting on the afternoon of Saturday, April 20th, 1861, in a bedroom of the Powhatan Hotel in the City of Richmond, which was the germ idea that developed into the reorganization of the State government of Virginia, and ultimately into the division of the state and the formation of the State of West Virginia.

He was one of the members from northwestern Virginia who resolved to quietly withdraw from the convention, return to his constituents, and appeal to the masses of the people against the ordinance of secession, and if possible retain Virginia in the Union.

His return home by a circuitous route to avoid forcible detention was fraught with dangers to himself in common with his colleagues. On the 29th of June, he, with eleven others, was expelled from the convention for being absent and engaged in what the convention called a "conspiracy against the State."

During the Civil War, Persis, McGrew's wife, was said to have stood at her door as the Confederate soldiers passed by, and prevented them from entering her home.

McGrew was one of the founding fathers of the State of West Virginia. He served as a member of the first legislature of West Virginia serving in the House of Delegates. He represented the Second District in the House of Representatives of the Forty-first and Forty-second Congresses (1868/1870). He declined a third nomination.

He was one of the organizers of the National Bank of Kingwood, and became its president. The National Bank of Kingwood was organized November 14, 1865, with a paid-up capital of \$100,000.00. The board of directors were, William G. Brown, president, Smith Crane, vice-president, J.C. McGrew, cashier, Charles M. Bishop and James J. Carroll. Francis Heermans was elected cashier July 28, 1870, in place of James C. McGrew, who resigned. The capital of the bank was increased on January 7, 1861, to \$125,000.00. (The bank building is still standing.)

In 1879, McGrew served as the mayor of Kingwood. He resigned to become a delegate to the Methodist Ecumenical Conference in London, England. Upon his return he again ran for mayor and won. (Original minutes exist at City Hall which bear his signature.)

James and his wife, Persis, had three children; William C., Sarah Martha, and George.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 8 Page 4

William C. and George attended the Preston Academy. William C. became a lawyer and lived in Morgantown. He served as the mayor of Morgantown for five terms. In 1878 he served in the State Senate. George attended Drew and Harvard Universities, earning five different degrees. He became a minister. Sarah Martha married Francis Heermans, whose family helped found Fellowsville. (We are in communication with a descendent of Sarah and Francis, Mrs. Tittle. She lives in Michigan. She has provided us with some historic material and is interested in helping with our project.) Persis, McGrews wife, was an excellent wife and homemaker. McGrew relied on her for advice. She was an active member of the Methodist Church. She organized and was president of the church's first women's organization.

James C. McGrew died November 14, 1910. He, his wife and children are buried in the Maplewood Cemetery in Kingwood.

Summary paragraph

The James C. McGrew House was built in 1841, before the Civil War, with additions made in the 1870s. McGrew built the house for his wife, and they lived there all their married lives. It was while he lived in the house that all of McGrew's accomplishments were recorded.

James C. McGrew played a prominent role in the development of Preston County and in the formation of the State of West Virginia. He served in local, state, and national government. Also, he was a businessman, with interests in many parts of the county, thus helping the county to develop economically as well as politically. He and his family were ardent Methodists and were prominent in the development of that church in Kingwood.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

Section number 9 Page 1

Bibliography

Atkinson, Geo. W. LLD. and Gibbens, Alvaro F., Prominent Men of West Virginia. Wheeling, WV: W.L. Callin, 1890.

James C. McGrew's Will. 1902. August 26. (Amended August 25, 1906, and September 2, 1909.)

Persis Hagans McGrew, A Memoir. (Xerox copy. Author and Printer unknown.)

Preston County Historical Society, History of Preston County, West Virginia. Dallas, Texas: Taylor Publishing Co., 1979.

Progressive West Virginians, compiled by Robert E. Murphy. Wheeling, WV: The Wheeling News, 1905.

A Reminiscent History of Northern West Virginia. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1895.

Wiley, Samuel T., History of Preston County, West Virginia. Kingwood, WV: Journal Publishing House, 1882. (Reprinted 1968 by McClain Printing Company, Parsons, WV.)

Williams, W.G. (Bill), Kingwood: Indians Plus the First 150 Years. Parsons, WV: McClain Publishing Company, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

James Clark McGrew House, Preston County, WV

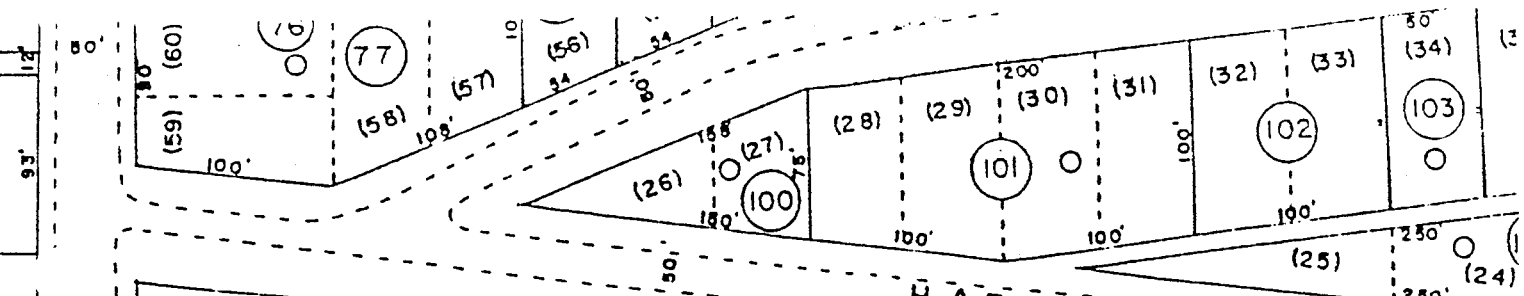
Section number 10 Page 1

Verbal Boundary Description

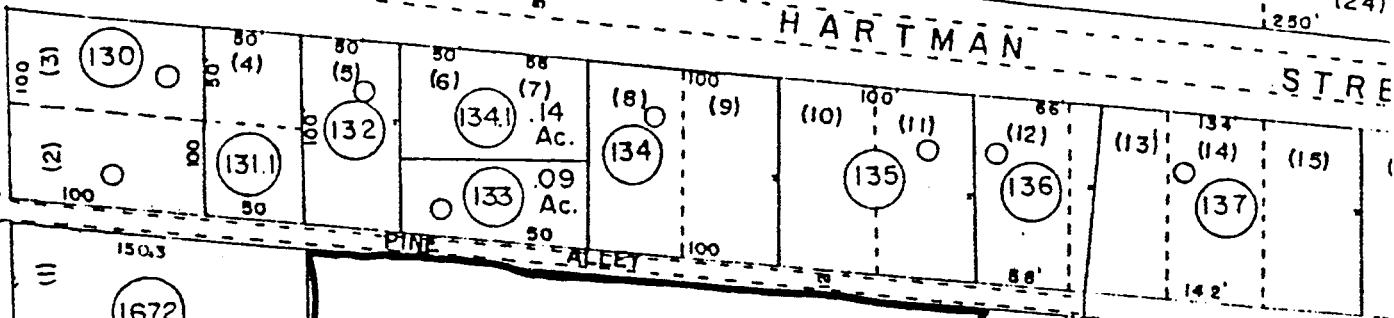
The McGrew property is designated as parcel 169 on Map 5 of Preston County Assessor's tax maps located in the Courthouse, Kingwood, WV. The property is bounded on the South by West Virginia Route 7 and on the West by three parcels #197, #167, and #167.2, on the North by Pine Alley, a city street of Kingwood, WV and on the East by parcel #170. The attached plat of survey shows the actual surveyed description of the McGrew property and is further described in Deed Book 385 at page 246 in the Preston County Clerk's office.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property consists of the acreage upon which the house, outbuildings, and access points share a common setting on a slight promontory adjacent to Main Street. The parcel, somewhat larger than its neighbors, is the lot historically associated with the McGrew House.



HARTMAN STREET

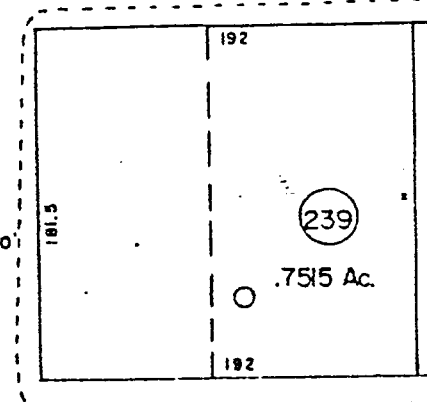
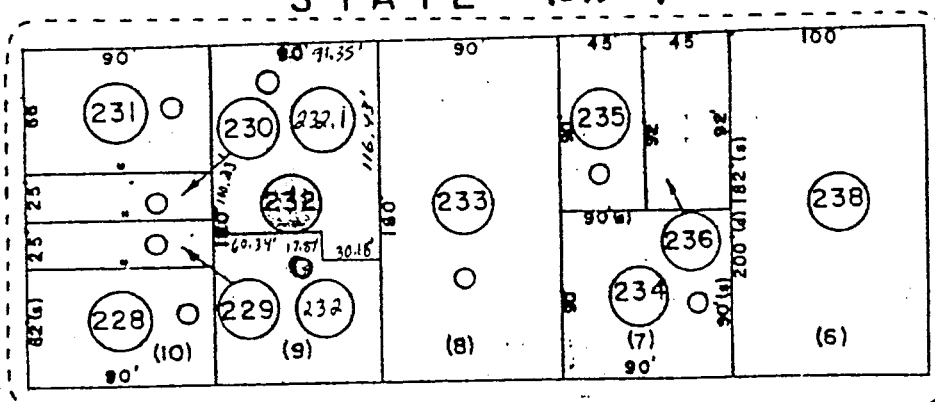


BARN (C)
NOMINATED **GARAGE (NC)**
PROPERTY
BARN (C)
HOUSE (C)
2.78 Ac.

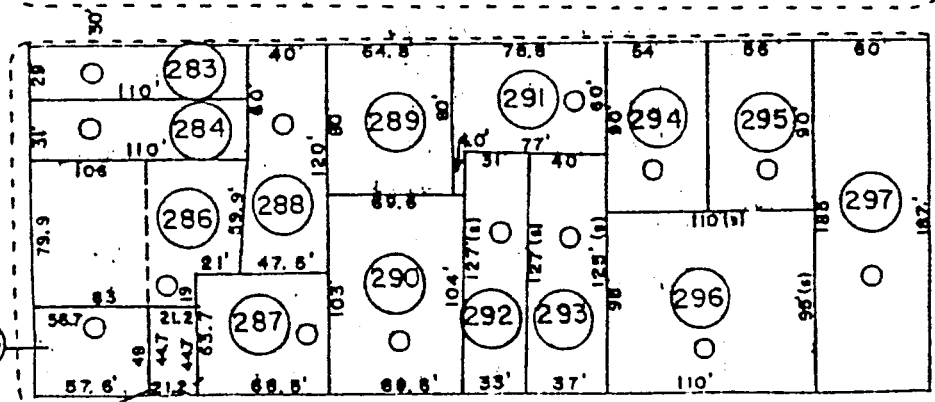
MC GREW HOUSE
KINGWOOD,
PRESTON CO.,
W.V.

PRICE

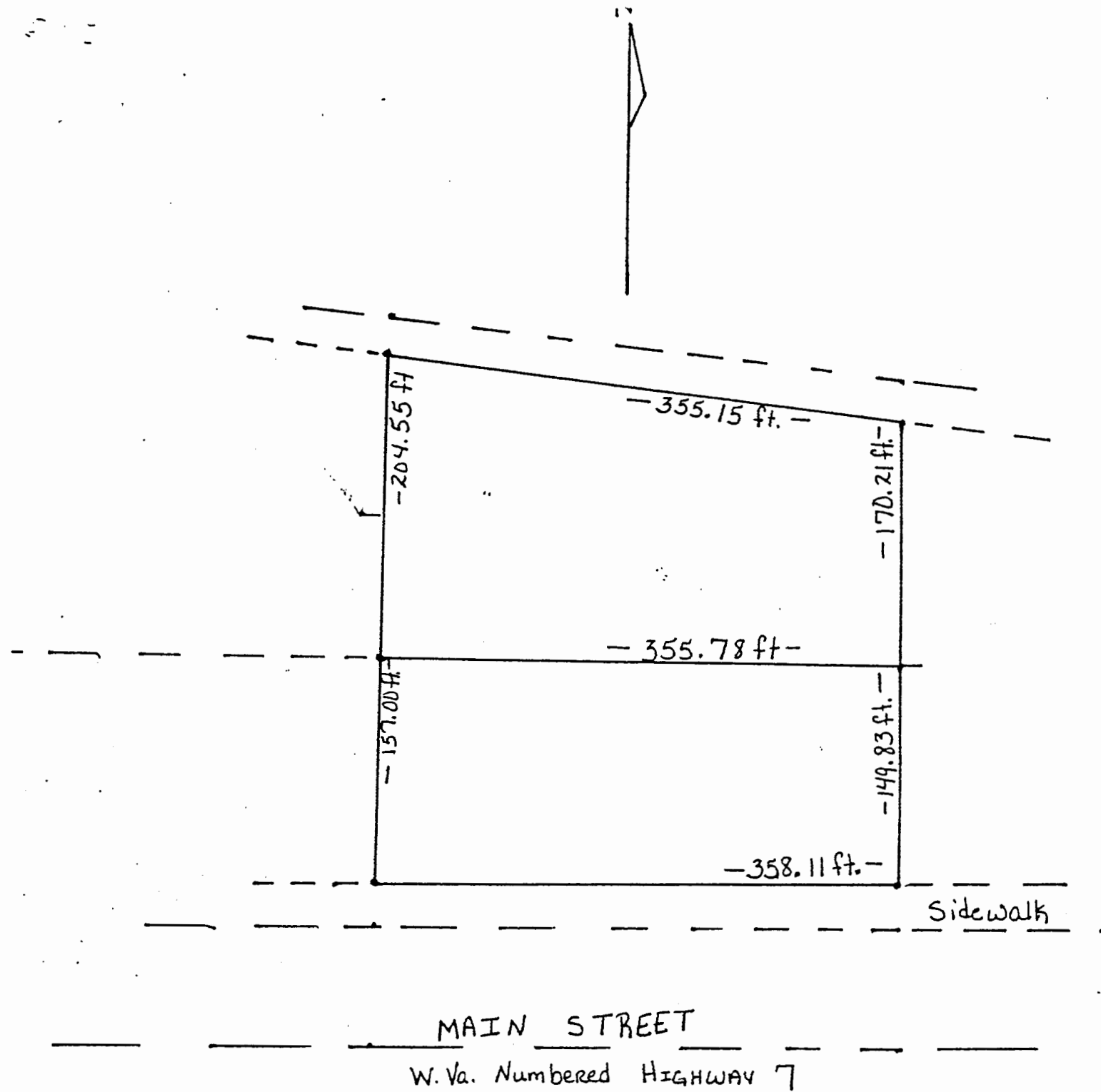
STATE RT. 7 - MAIN ST.



MORGAN ST.



(EX
BC
EDUC



JAMES C. MCGREW HOUSE
KINGWOOD, PRESTON CO., W. V.

STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
REPRESENTED BY THE
STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
AND OTHER STATE AGENCIES

