

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

1. Name of Property

historic name: WEIMER, JAMES HOUSE

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number: 411 Eighth Ave.

not for publication: N/A

city/town: St. Albans

vicinity: N/A

state: WV

county: Kanawha

code: 039

zip code: 25177

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 forth 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.

Susan M. Pierce  
Signature of Certifying Official/Title

2/26/04  
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

James Weimer House  
Name of Property

Kanawha County, WV  
County and State

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**4. National Park Service Certification**

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I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.		
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> National Register		
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____
_____		
_____		

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**5. Classification**

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**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 within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
2		TOTAL

**Name of related multiple property listing** N/A  
(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

James Weimer House  
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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

Late 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> Century Revivals:  
Classical Revival and Colonial Revival

**Materials**

Foundation: Concrete  
Walls: Brick  
Roof: Clay Tile  
Other: Limestone

**Narrative Description**

(See continuation on sheet.)

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.

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**Criteria Considerations**

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

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

**Period of Significance**

1917

**Significant Dates**

1917

**Significant Person**

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

(See continuation sheets.)

James Weimer House  
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Kanawha County, WV  
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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**Bibliography**

(See continuation sheet)

**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: St. Albans Historical Society Building, 404 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., St. Albans, WV

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property:** Less than One Acre

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

Quad Map: St. Albans, West Virginia

<u>17</u>	<u>427150</u>	<u>4248550</u>
Zone	Easting	Northing

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

(See continuation sheet)

**Boundary Justification:**

(See continuation sheet)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Neil Richardson

Organization: St. Albans Historical Society - President Date: November, 2003

Street & Number: 2746 Lincoln Ave. Telephone: 304 357-2986

City or Town: St. Albans State: WV ZIP: 25177

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**Property Owner**

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Name: David & Suzenna Dolin

Street & Number: 31625 Saddle Ridge Dr. Telephone: 909 245-9085

City or Town: Lake Elsinore State: CA Zip: 92532

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**Architectural Description:**

The James Weimer House is located on a large city lot in the community of St. Albans, West Virginia in western Kanawha County. Situated on a slight hill that overlooks St. Albans's oldest part of town, this house's large front porch and extended gambrel gables catches the observer's attention. This house is located approximately two blocks from Main Street (National Register District – listed in 2000) and one block from Old U.S. Rt. 60 (James River and Kanawha Turnpike). The Weimer House is located on Eighth Avenue which contains many homes often included in historic walking tours.

The house is a large two-and-one-half-story building constructed in 1917 and exhibiting elements of the Classical Revival and Colonial Revival styles. The exterior had been unaltered in appearance from its original construction. A contributing garage is located to the rear (south) of the house.

**Weimer House**

**1917**

**Contributing**

This large buff brick house was built for James Weimer and his family. Its gambrel roof has the original red clay tiles. The front (north) elevation has a one story porch running the width of the house and continues a short distance along the side (east) facade. This wide wrap-around porch with modillions at the eaves and six heavy simple limestone columns is covered with original terrazzo tile on the floor. It appears that canvas awnings once extended from the porch. Wide concrete steps lead from the front porch with a concrete flower urn on both sides. The first floor front entrance has a wide wooden and beveled glass oak door with sidelights on both sides and an arched transom. The two large first floor picture windows along the porch have beveled glass headers. Four original nine-over-one double-hung sash windows stretch across the second story front (north) elevation, with a smaller arched window in the center. The third floor has two small round-arch gable dormers with arched windows that are on either side of the large front gable with a large multi-light arched window. All windows have limestone sills throughout.

The side (east) facade has a gambrel roof three-sided angled bay extending to the third floor. The first and second floor windows on this bay are multi-light windows with nine-over-one double-hung sash windows on the angled bay exterior walls on the first and second floors. A slightly cantilevered balcony is present on the third floor east facade with an arched transom and column supports and decorative brackets under the balcony. An oval window is present on the third floor on the main gable. The wrap-around porch extends to this facade on the first floor and has concrete steps and the pediment of the porch roof is visible, along with decorative brackets under the porch eaves.

The rear (south) facade has a sunroof extending on the first floor with multiple windows and a rear exit. The second and third floors are very similar to the front facade, with four nine-over-one

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double-hung sash windows and a smaller multi-light window on the second floor and a large gable with a large multi-light arched window on the third.

The west exterior facade contains four nine-over-one double-hung sash windows on both the first and second floors with a smaller multi-light window in the center. The third floor gable contains a large multi-light window with two oval windows on either side. This house has one brick interior chimney with a corbelled cap. This house has always been heated with a natural gas boiler and the chimney is primarily used as a vent.

Inside, oak and walnut trim are evident throughout with the original doors and hardware. The two original walnut mantels with ceramic tile facing are still intact. The first and second floors have oak hardwood floors. The first floor, with its 12' ceilings, contains a large living room, sitting room, dining room, kitchen, bathroom, enclosed sunroom, and a butler's hall between the kitchen and dining room. Walnut wainscot is present in the dining room and 12" walnut baseboards and cove molding is present in the first floor rooms. The first floor bath has the original tile floors and fixtures. Four built-in walnut and glass curios grace the entrances to the sitting and dining rooms. The stairway has walnut trim and wainscot. The first and second floor walls are decorated with period wallpaper, a later addition.

The second floor, with its 10' ceilings, contains four bedrooms and two baths, one with the original fixtures, tile floor, and walls. A large foyer is present at the top of the stairway on the second floor. The third floor, with its 8' ceilings, contains four bedrooms with one leading to a balcony. The full basement has been modernized to serve as a recreation/family room but still contains the original 150-gallon hot water tank and the boiler that is still in use for heating the house. The house has a total of fifteen rooms and three baths.

**Garage**

**1917**

**Contributing**

The separate two-car garage contributing building was built at the same time and is of brick construction with wooden shingle gables. It contains the original hinged wooden garage doors.



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**Statement of Significance:**

The James Weimer House is significant under Criterion C, Architecture, as a locally significant example of the Classical Revival and Colonial Revival style architecture dating from the early twentieth century. The period of significance is its construction date of 1917.

Originally furnished with gas lights, the fixtures were later wired for electricity. Heated by the original hot water system, there are decorative radiators in each room concealed by decorative woodwork. There are two fireplaces and mantels, one in the living room and one in the above master bedroom, which originally contained gas stoves for auxiliary heat. This large two-and-one-half-story buff brick Classical and Colonial Revival house, with its combination of gambrel roof and dormers and red clay tile roof, is unique from other houses built in the community during this period in the town of St. Albans, which a population of approximately 12,000.

**History**

St. Albans became a lumber boomtown around 1885 when virgin timber began to be cut and floated down the nearby Coal River to a dozen sawmills located in St. Albans. The nearby C&O Railroad allowed easy shipping. On Eighth Avenue, where the Weimer House is located, several Queen Anne style houses were constructed between 1900 and 1910 for the lumber company owners and superintendents. James Weimer prospered by operating a lumber company for the sale of this product. Although this house is located two blocks from Main Street, this section of town was still developing in 1917 when this house was built. James Weimer had easy access to the oak and walnut used in his new home through his Weimer Lumber Company. These materials were readily available during this time.

James Weimer was one of three sons of George C. Weimer who came to St. Albans from New York in 1891. They started a lumber planning mill along Coal River which they operated until 1909. The Weimers then started a lumber company in an existing three-story brick building beside the C&O Railroad which was originally a grocery, and then housed an opera house for two years. This brick building is still extant. The Weimers handled mostly building supplies and lumber. After George died in 1926, his sons James and George Jr. operated the company until it was sold in 1946, later becoming Lantz Lumber Company.

James' father, George, was St. Albans mayor for one term in 1901 and James was once president of the Bank of St. Albans. James married C. A. (Doc) Zerkle's daughter, Edith. Doc Zerkle founded the Bank of St. Albans (National Register, listed in 1988) and was also mayor. Zerkle's Queen Anne style house is adjacent to the James Weimer House. Both the Weimers and the Zerkles were diverse businessmen and civic leaders in town. After several owners, Bill and Karen Huffman occupied this house until 1977. David and Sue Dolin then acquired it and are the present owners who live in California, but continue to maintain the home. Mrs. Dolin was instrumental to helping to establish the St. Albans Renaissance Group, a Main Street revitalization

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program. One of its first projects was to get Main Street in St. Albans listed as a National Register Historic District. The Dolins have hosted historic tours through their house in the past several years.

**Criterion C**

James Weimer was co-owner of the Weimer Lumber Company and the rich and high quality of the interior woodwork attest to his accessibility to fine lumber and trim. Although James Weimer had this house built in 1917, the actual builder is unknown. This house's large size, unique design, and gambrel roof sets this house apart from others in this community. This house's style is unique from other high-style houses built in the community during this period. The majority of homes in this neighborhood are either Queen Anne, Four-Square, or Bungalow. This house has undergone only minor changes. The most notable is the modernization of the basement into a family room, which does not affect the property's ability to convey its architectural significance.

**Summary**

The James Weimer House is significant under *Criterion C: Architecture* as an excellent local example of the Classical Revival and Dutch Colonial Revival style in St. Albans. It is the only example of that style built in the community. Its attention to detail, both on the exterior and the interior, attest to the craftsmanship of its builder. The quality of its construction is evident as this house is still in excellent condition.

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**Major Bibliographical References**

Bundy, Jennifer. "Walking Tour Planned." Charleston Daily Mail, 15 October 1986.

Paul D. Marshall & Associates. "St. Albans – Historic and Architectural Survey." Available at the West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, Charleston, W.Va.

St. Albans Historical Society. "Historic Properties of St. Albans.- A Walking Tour Brochure."  
N.p.: Lanier Printing, 2002.

\_\_\_\_\_. History of St. Albans. N.p.: Walsworth Publishing Company, 1993.

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**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Situated in the City of St. Albans, Kanawha County, West Virginia and being known as parts of block 63. Two parcels are described as:

Parcel No. 1: Beginning at a point in the south line of an alley between Eighth and Ninth Ave, 150 feet from the junction of said alley with Fourth Street; thence running in a westerly direction with the line of said alley 24 feet to a point; thence running in a southern direction on a line parallel with Fourth Street 25 feet to a point; thence running in an eastern direction on a line parallel with the alley 24 feet to a point, thence with a line parallel with Fourth Street in a northern direction 25 feet to the place of beginning. (This parcel contains the garage.)

Parcel No. 2: Beginning at a point on the south line of Eighth Avenue 70 feet from the corner of Eighth Avenue and Fourth Street; thence running in an easterly direction with said avenue 80 feet to a stake; thence running in a southerly direction, parallel with Fourth Street, 140 feet to the line of an alley; thence running in a westerly direction with the line of alley 80 feet to a stake; thence running in a northern direction, parallel with the line of Fourth Street, 140 feet to a place of beginning, per deed book 2012 at page 699. (This parcel contains the house.)

**Boundary Justification:**

The boundary is drawn to include all property historically associated with the Weimer House as outlined in Kanawha County Deed Book 2012 at page 699.

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Section number      Photographs

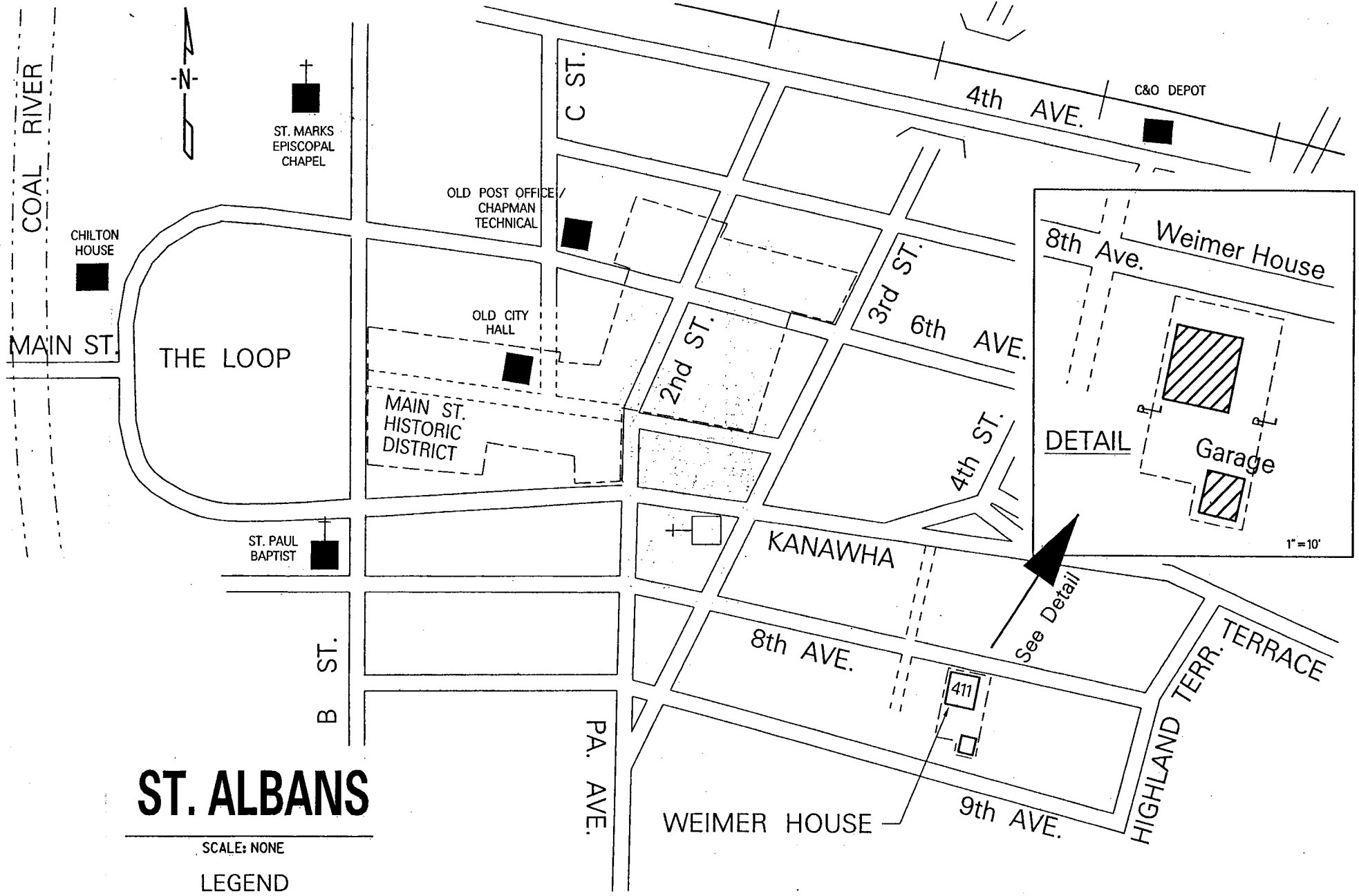
Page 7

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Name of Property: James Weimer House  
Address: 411 Eighth Ave.  
Town: St. Albans  
County: Kanawha State: WV

Photographer: Erin Riebe, West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office  
Date: October 10, 2003  
Negatives: WV SHPO, Charleston, WV



Photo 1 of 10	North and east elevations. Facing southwest.
Photo 2 of 10	South and east elevations. Facing northwest.
Photo 3 of 10	Main entrance on north elevation. Facing south.
Photo 4 of 10	Wraparound porch. Facing northwest.
Photo 5 of 10	Garage. Facing south.
Photo 6 of 10	Built-in bookcases in living room. Facing north.
Photo 7 of 10	Dining room. Facing east.
Photo 8 of 10	First floor stair case. Facing south.
Photo 9 of 10	Second floor bathroom with original fixtures. Facing west.
Photo 10 of 10	Second floor hall. Facing southwest.



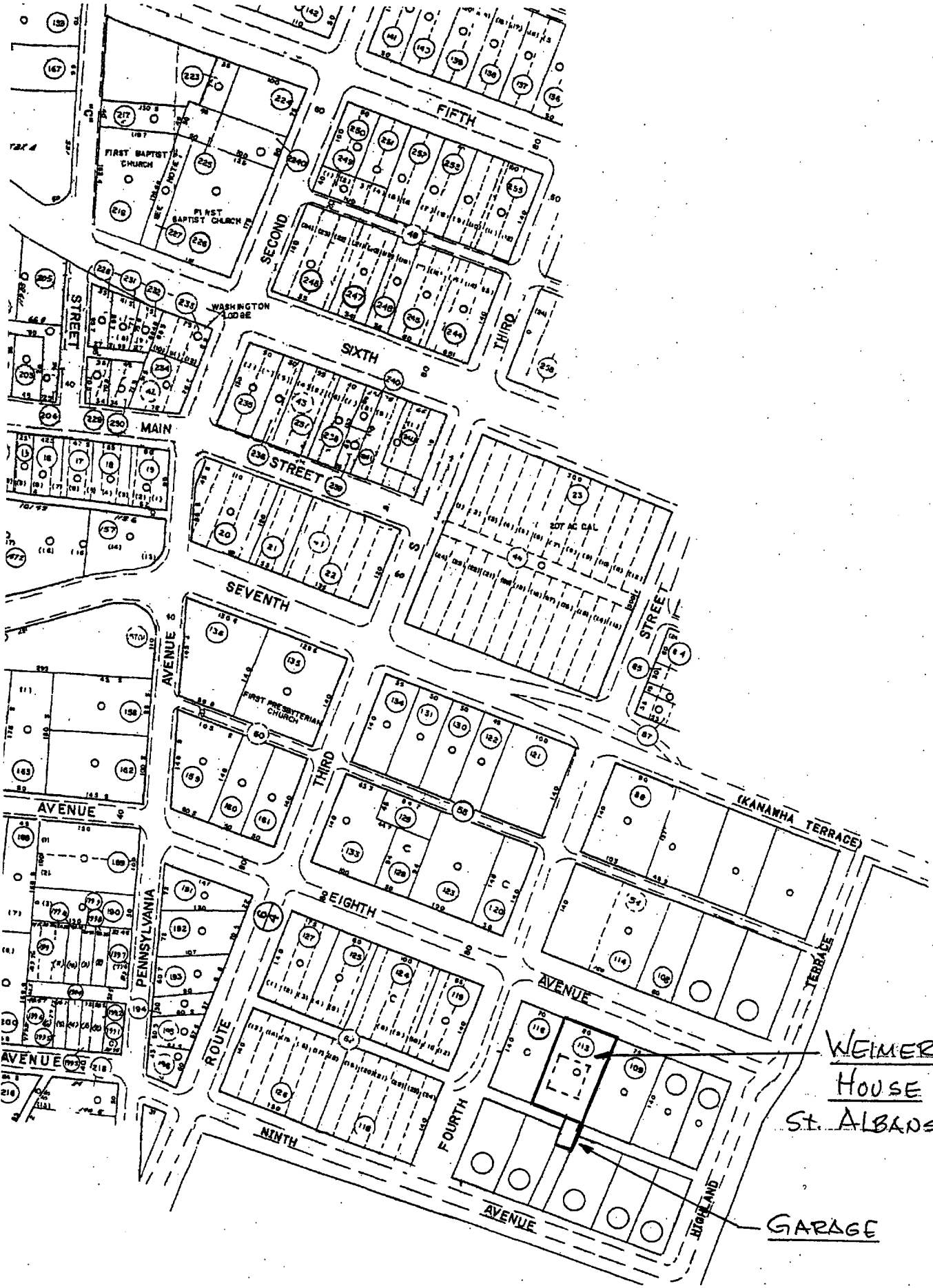
# ST. ALBANS

SCALE: NONE

## LEGEND

-  WEIMER HOUSE AND GARAGE
-  PRESENTLY LISTED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

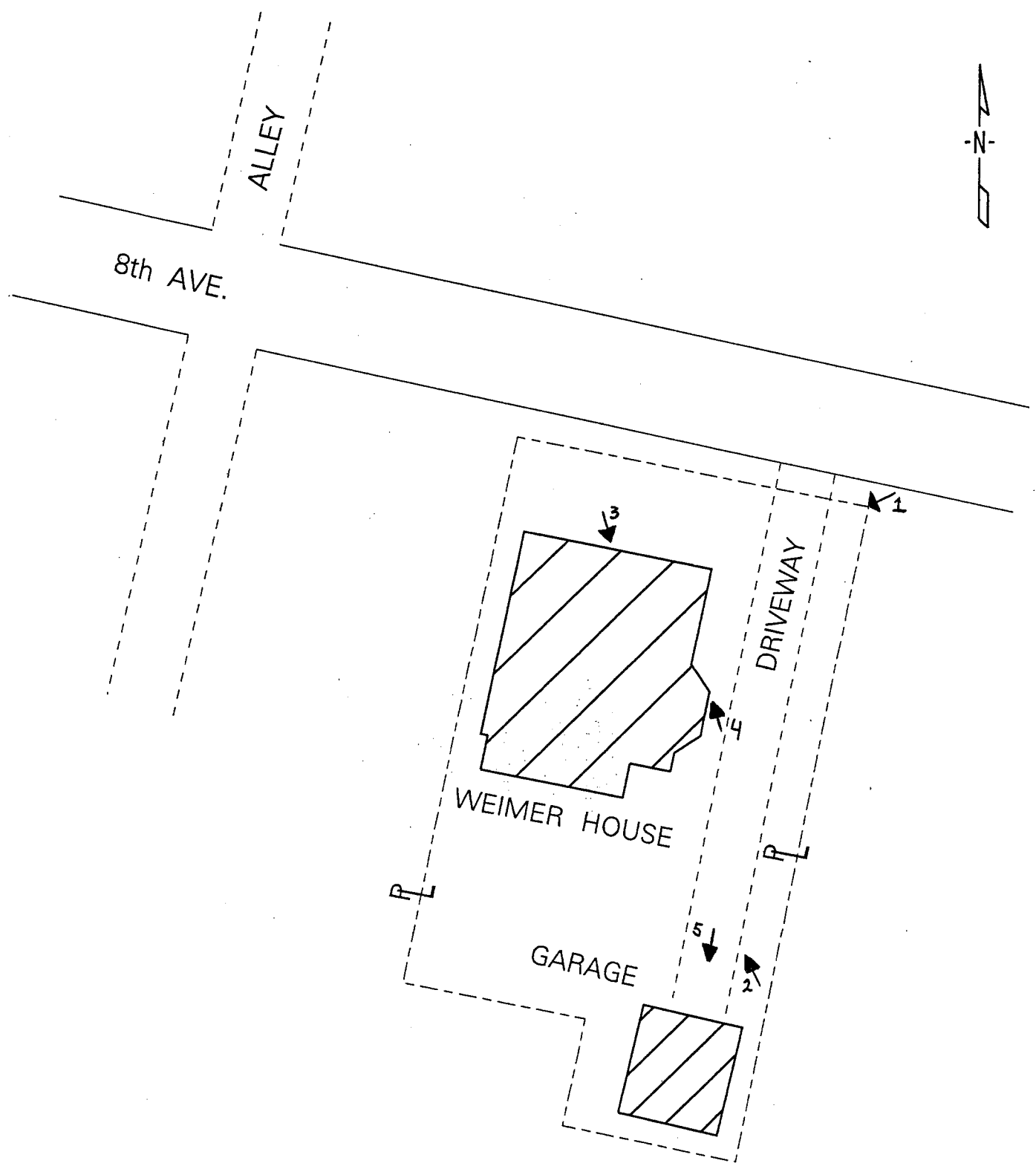
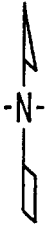
JAMES WEIMER HOUSE  
 ST. ALBANS, KANAWHA COUNTY  
 WEST VIRGINIA



WEIMER  
HOUSE  
 ST. ALBANS, W.V.

GARAGE

KANAWHA Co. TAX MAP  
 scale: 1"=20' W.V.

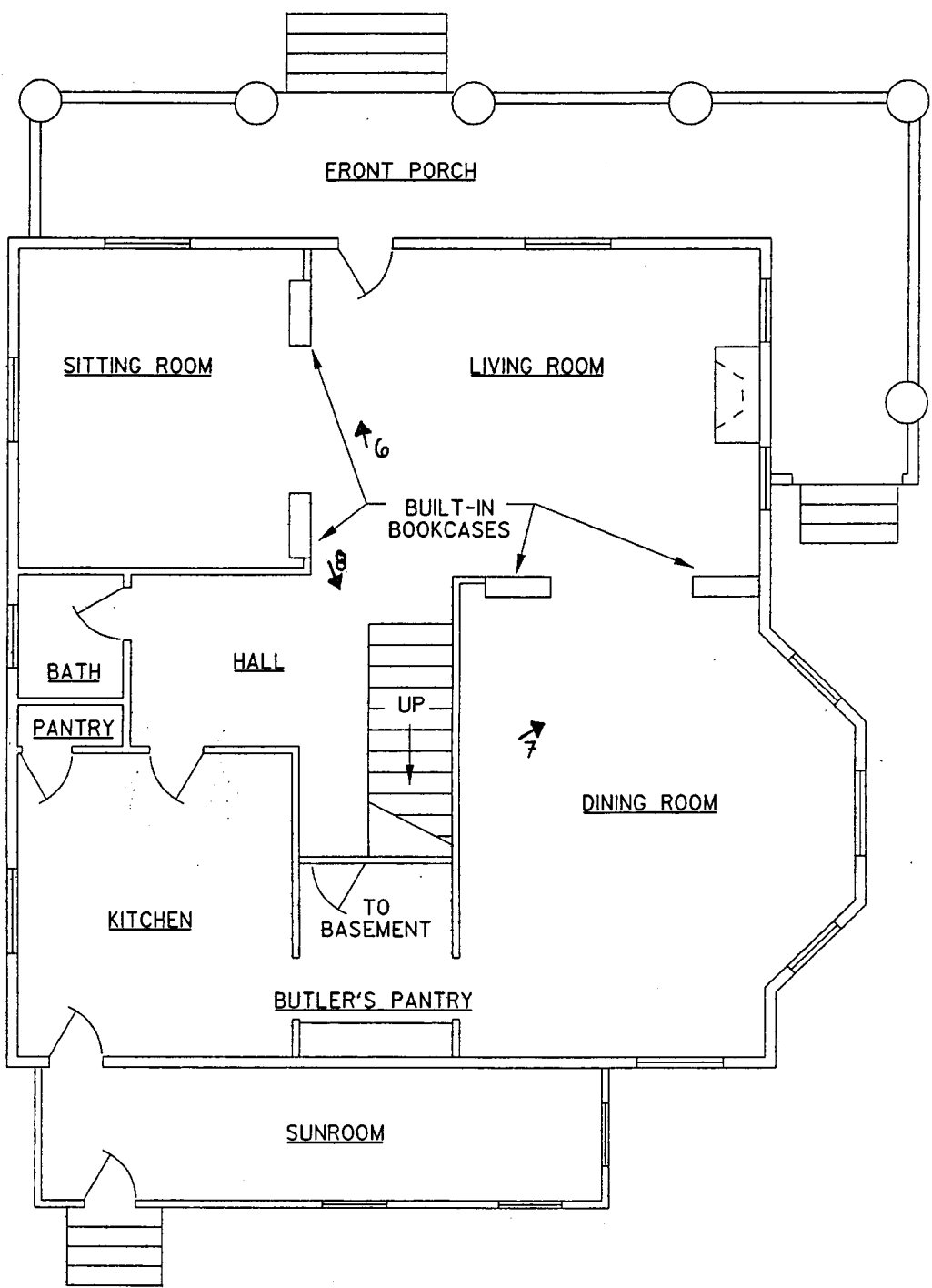
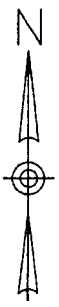


PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

JAMES WEIMER HOUSE  
ST. ALBANS, KANAWHA COUNTY  
WEST VIRGINIA

SCALE: NONE

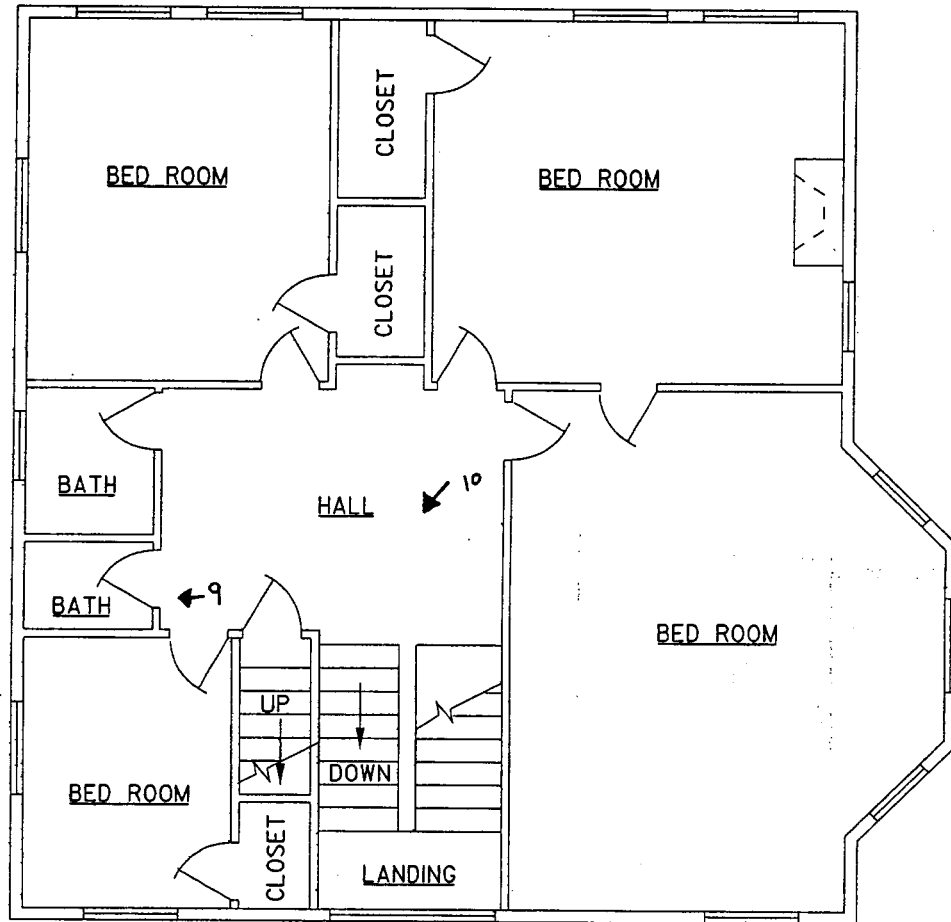
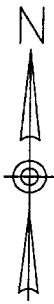




GROUND FLOOR  
12' CEILINGS

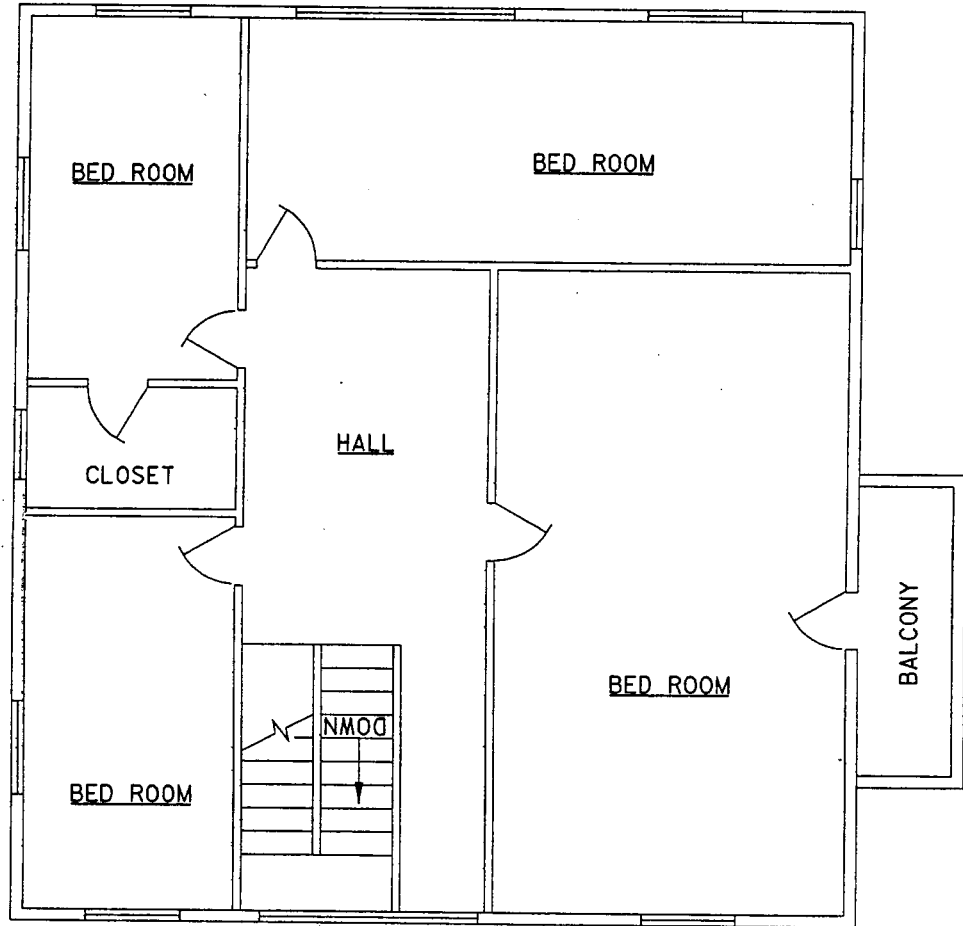
SHEET 1 OF 3

JAMES WEIMER HOUSE ST. ALBANS, KANAWHA CO., WEST VIRGINIA			
DRAWN BY:	DATE:	SCALE:	1 0 2 4 6
N.R.	5-2003	1/8" = 1'-0"	



2nd FLOOR  
10' CEILINGS

JAMES WEIMER HOUSE ST. ALBANS, KANAWHA CO., WEST VIRGINIA			
DRAWN BY:	N.R.	DATE:	5-2003
		SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	1 0 2 4 6 

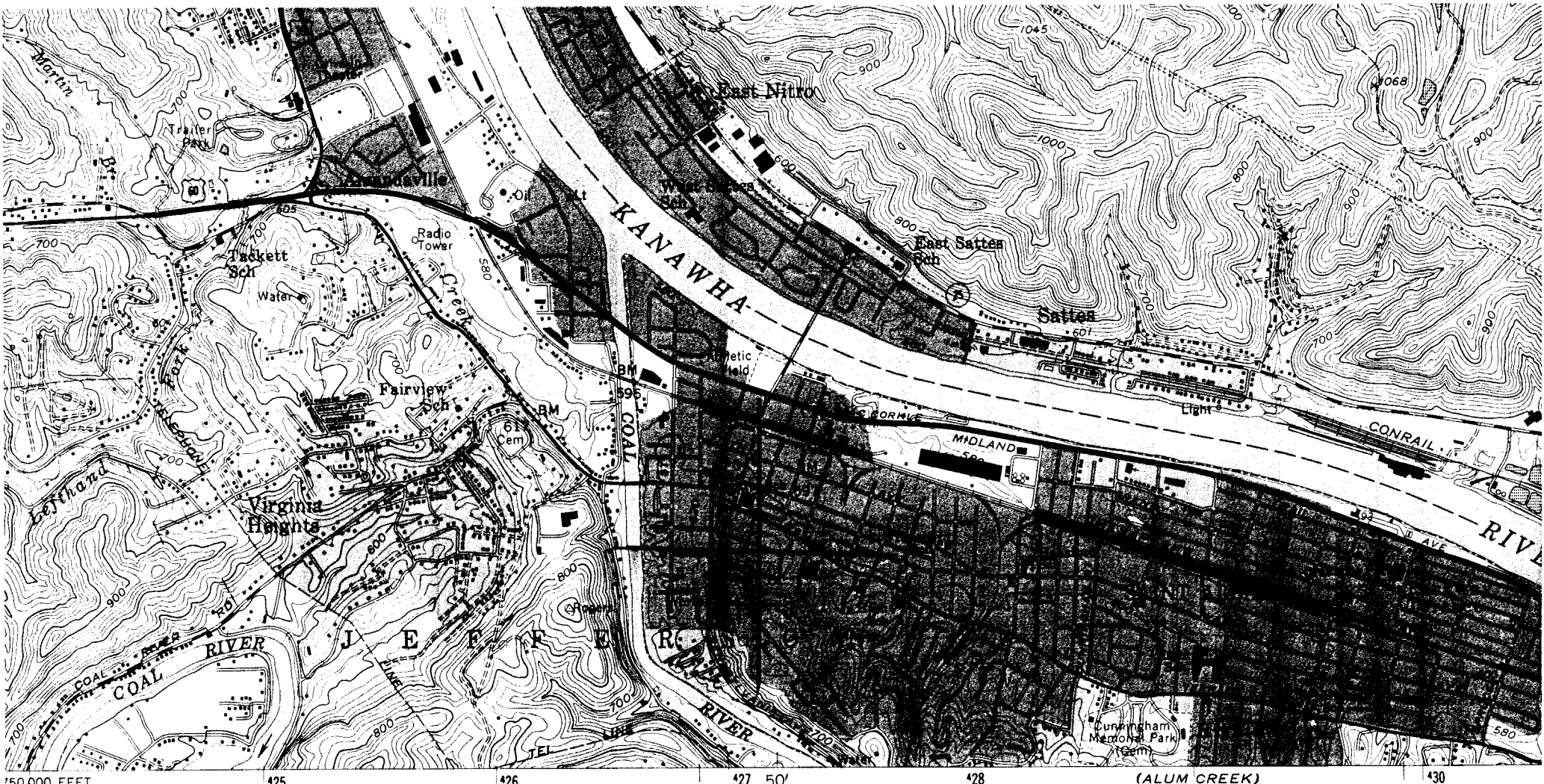


3rd FLOOR  
8' CEILINGS

SHEET 3 OF 3

JAMES WEIMER HOUSE  
ST. ALBANS, KANAWHA CO., WEST VIRGINIA

DRAWN BY:	N.R.	DATE:	5-2003	SCALE: 1/8"=1'-0"	1 0 2 4 6
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edited, and published by the Geological Survey

JSGS and USC&GS

from aerial photographs by photogrammetric methods  
 photographs taken 1956 and 1957. Field check 1958

projection. 1927 North American datum  
 grid based on West Virginia coordinate system,

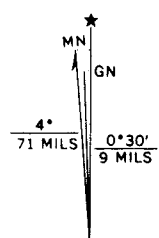
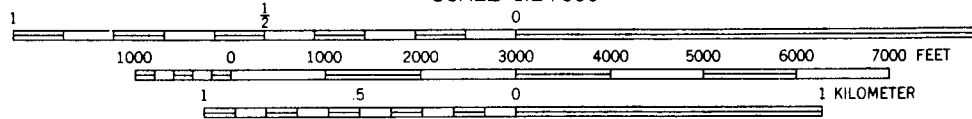
Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 shown in blue

shaded lines indicate selected fence and field lines  
 from aerial photographs. This information is unchecked

indicates areas in which only landmark buildings are shown

shown are gas wells  
 shown in purple compiled from aerial photographs  
 and 1976. This information not field checked  
 indicates extension of urban areas

(ALUM CREEK)  
 4660 IV SE  
 SCALE 1:24 000



UTM GRID AND 1976 MAGNETIC NORTH  
 DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET

James Weimer House

St. Albans, Kanawha County  
 West Virginia

CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET  
 DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 10-FOOT CONTOURS  
 NATIONAL GEODETIC VERTICAL DATUM OF 1929

UTM :17/427150/4248550



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

