

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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**1. Name of property:**

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historic name: Kenwood

other names/site number: Shepherd, John A. House/CB-1852

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**2. Location:**

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street & number : 619 Ridgewood Road

not for publication: N/A

city or town: Huntington

vicinity: N/A

state: West Virginia code: WV county: Cabell code: 011

zip code: 25726

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**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

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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  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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Signature of certifying official

Date

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State or Federal agency and bureau

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

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Signature of Certifying Official/Title

Date

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State or Federal agency and bureau

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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

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): \_\_\_\_\_  
    \_\_\_\_\_  
    \_\_\_\_\_

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**5. Classification:**

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**Ownership of Property:**

private  
 public-local  
 public-State  
 public-Federal

**Category of Property**

building(s)  
 district  
 site  
 structure  
 object

**Number of Resources within Property**

| Contributing | Noncontributing |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 2            | buildings       |
|              | sites           |
|              | structures      |
|              | objects         |
| 2            | TOTAL           |

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

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**6. Functions 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> AND 20<sup>th</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS: Neoclassical Revival.

**Materials:**

Foundation:

Concrete.

Walls:

Concrete; stucco.

Roof:

Clay tile.

Other:

Chimneys: brick;

Cornices: wood.

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**Narrative Description**  
(See continuation sheets.)

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**8. Statement of Significance:**

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**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**

**A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.

**B** removed from its original location.

**C** a birthplace or a 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:**  
c.1910

**Significant Dates:**  
c.1910

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**Significant Person:**  
N/A

**Cultural Affiliation:**  
N/A

**Architect/Builder:**  
Warne, H. Rus - Architect

**Narrative Statement of Significance**  
(See continuation sheets.)

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## **9. Major Bibliographic References**

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**Bibliography**  
(See 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:

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**10. Geographic Data:**

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Acreage of property: Approximately 4.06 acres.

Quad Map Name: Huntington, WVA-Ohio

UTM References:

| ZONE      | EASTING       | NORTHING        |
|-----------|---------------|-----------------|
| <u>17</u> | <u>373810</u> | <u>4251279.</u> |

**Boundary Justification**  
(See continuation sheet)

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**11. Form prepared by:**

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Name/Title: Firm of Michael Gioulis, Historic Preservation Consultant

Organization: Same as above

Date: March 15, 2007

Street & Number: 614 Main Street

Telephone: (304) 765-5716

City or Town: Sutton State: WV

Zip: 26601

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**Property owner**

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Name: Corinna Oliashirazi

Street & Number: 619 Ridgewood Road

Telephone: (304) 634-6095

City or Town: Huntington State: WV

Zip: 25726

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**Kenwood**

**C. 1910**

**Contributing building**

Kenwood is located at 619 Ridgewood in the Park Hills Subdivision Number 3 on the south side of Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia. The house sits on its 4.06 acre tract surrounded by lawn and some large trees. The house is situated on the original C.W. Watts's lot and lots 18 and 19 as noted as part of the "Revised Map of Part of Park Hills Subdivision No. 3" recorded by Smith and Barnett, Professional Engineers. The lot is slightly elevated from the street so that you look up at the house. The neighborhood is composed of large decorative houses with large landscaped lots. The house was built c. 1910 and was designed by the prominent West Virginia architect, H. Rus Warne.

Kenwood is a two and one-half-story, side gable house with flanking one-story, enclosed wings with flat roofs. The roof is green clay tile. There are interior end brick chimneys and two interior brick chimneys. The front, north, elevation has paired barrel vault roof dormers flanking the entrance portico and the rear, south, elevation has two end gable roof dormers. The dormers in the front have arched 6/6 double hung wood windows; the dormers on the rear have round-headed 4/4 double hung wood windows. All of the dormers have partial return cornices. There is a large projecting partial return cornice with modillions and smooth frieze. The front elevation has a two-story tall, projecting, end gable, entrance portico with two-story Tuscan columns with capitals and plinths. The tympanum of the portico also has a modillions and a round-headed fanlight in the gable end. All of the gable ends on the house have arched windows in them. Kenwood is Neoclassical Revival style with Greek Revival detailing. Kenwood is a rectangular plan approximately 100' long and 64' deep.

The front porch is elevated with terra cotta tile flooring and extends beyond the portico to the wings on each end essentially creating a loggia.

The house is constructed completely of reinforced concrete with a stucco exterior finish. The entrance door is round-headed with an undivided transom and a limestone surround. Above the entrance door is a pair of doors on the second floor with an undivided transom and a wrought iron balcony supported by wrought iron end brackets. Paired doors flank

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the entrance. The second floor windows have a smooth limestone sill, are deeply recessed and have undivided transoms; the paired windows are casements. Each paired window has a central vertical muntin with a horizontal muntin dividing the window. The floor-length doors on the first floor also have this configuration as do the doors in the wings. The floor-length windows also have a flat-headed limestone architrave and are recessed. The remaining windows in the house are 6/1 double hung wood windows with smooth limestone sills. The front elevation is 7 bays wide not including the porch wings and the house is 2 bays deep.

The rear elevation contains a porte cochere with paired Tuscan columns on concrete piers and a two-story, end gable porch supported by large square corner columns. The first floor porch flooring is terra cotta tile and the second floor of the porch has square balusters and lattice.

The side porches have shallow hip roofs with a paneled balustrade with paneled newel posts. This is supported on a wide entablature supported by paired engaged Tuscan columns. The sections between the columns have paired, floor length doors with undivided transoms matching the others on the front of the house.

On the back of the grounds, on the south side, were originally located two sunken gardens with sculptures placed around the gardens. Three pieces of sculpture are still extant: one is an abstract piece; one is a Corinthian column with a bird bath on the top; and one is a herm featuring Hermes. The sculptures are not original to the house; they were purchased by the property owners during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Concrete steps with concrete cheek walls lead to each sunken garden area that is now covered with lawn.

The first floor interior is divided into basically six large rooms with a butler's pantry off of the kitchen in the southwest corner. The interior wood trim is gum wood stained with a mahogany stain and the flooring is quarter sawn tongue and groove oak. The walls and ceilings are plaster on concrete. The kitchen has been updated with new appliances and cabinets and the "Linen Room" on the second floor has been reconfigured to a modern laundry room.

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You enter the house from the front into a double-width reception room/foyer which, stylistically matches the exterior, Neoclassical Revival. The foyer has a decorative plaster frieze with acanthus leaves and brass hardware highlighted with aluminum-colored paint. There is a central chandelier and wall sconces also highlighted with aluminum-colored paint. There are large pocket doors located along three walls of the foyer and each door has 28 panes of glass. The wall trim has raised paneled wainscoting with a top ovolo molding with a quirk bead at the bottom imitating the Federal and Empire styles of the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The mahogany stain of the trim is also imitative of these styles and time period.

Each of the rooms radiating from the foyer is stylistically different. The living room to the east is in the Tudor or Jacobean style with almost every surface decorated. The strapwork ceiling has low relief plaster with squares and diamonds. The overmantel is stained wood with a central painted "coat of arms" and flanking carved and painted pilasters. The fireplace surround is a limestone Tudor arch. The walls have painted wainscoting with wallpaper above and built-in decorative bookcases. There is also an original "settle" bench to the left of the fireplace which is in the same style.

The den in the southeast corner is decorated in the Arts & Crafts style. The trim wood in this room is all oak and is grain painted; other than the flooring, this is the only oak trim in the house. The grain painted door into the room has Arts & Crafts style brass hardware painted black; a hexagonal door knob and knuckled hinges. There is a simple painted ceramic tile and stucco fireplace surround with a central cartouche of a motto: "*Terar dum prosim*" flanked by decorative heart and flower tiles. The Latin inscription is from Thomas Carlyle and translates roughly as "May I be wasted/consumed so that I may be of use." In the center of the cartouche is a burning candle, something which allows itself to be consumed in order to produce light, clarity and warmth. This inscription is very much in the vein of the Arts & Crafts style for interiors. The existing oak mantelpiece top does not appear to be original to the fireplace; it does not fit the space well and does not fit stylistically. It is not known when this piece was added. There is an original large wall safe opposite the fireplace. The oak trim in this room is simpler than elsewhere in the house and fits into Arts & Crafts style. The large door opening into this

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room is round-headed and has a paneled reveal as do the other room openings on the first floor.

The dining room is located due south of the foyer and is decorated in Adam style. The plaster wall frieze has garland and swag with metopes decorations and the painted wainscoting has raised panels. The marble fireplace surround has a central panel of Grecian figures flanked by urns and pineapple festoons; dentiling on the frieze above with end fluted pilasters with rosettes. There is a large glass chandelier in the center of the room and Wedgewood style wall sconces with tapers with aluminum-colored highlights as in the foyer. The large square-headed door opening into this room has a paneled reveal and pocket doors as mentioned previously.

The original and existing service areas are located in the southwest corner of the house on the first and the second floors. This includes a small kitchen with a large butler's pantry on the first floor. The butler's pantry has extant built-in floor to ceiling cupboards with wood counters and the original marble and zinc sink with cupboard above. The rear two-story porch apparently served as the stairway to the service areas and accesses the original "Linen Room" on the second floor. The closet of the Linen Room is filled with built-in drawers, etc. The Linen Room has been modified as a modern laundry room but maintains its original configuration and all trim. There is a secondary stair from the kitchen to the upper floors and it is unpainted. A small one-person elevator was installed on the back porch c. 1940 and it is still operational.

The music room is the last spoke of the wheel radiating from the grand foyer. It is decorated in Chinese Chippendale style with geometric plaster wall frieze and flowered wallpaper. The painted wainscoting has a top band of fretwork with raised panels with corner blocks. The gold-colored wall sconces have paired tapers and an etched Chinese scene in the center.

The somewhat subdued staircase from the foyer to the upper floors is in the eastern corner of the foyer. With its arched paneled reveal opening it mimics a Southern Plantation style staircase. The stair has wood treads with painted wainscoting on the walls and painted turned balustrade with a wood cap. The landing between the first and

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second floor has a tripartite window with leaded glass sash. The sash has a rectilinear paired pattern of clear glass with stained glass leaves filling the top quarter.

The west wing no longer has its original light fixtures but the existing light fixtures are compatible to the style of the house. The original tile floor is extant beneath existing carpeting. The east wing maintains its original "Tiffany Studios" style green light fixtures and original tile floor beneath the existing carpeting. The walls and ceilings are plaster on concrete.

The second floor interior plan consists of six bedrooms with an additional guest room and three bathrooms. Doors are simpler on the second floor; plain wood doors on the exterior face and painted on the interior face. In general, the trim and other decorative elements are simpler on the second floor. There are several fireplaces on the second floor and each is ceramic tile with a different surround.

The attic is one large room, designed as a ballroom, with a small bedroom with bath in the northwest corner with a storage room located in the southwest corner. It has plaster walls and ceiling and carpet over the concrete floor. The basement is concrete throughout.

When the house was constructed c. 1910 it contained all the latest conveniences. It had a central gas-fired heating system with radiators throughout the house; an intercom system with call buttons in all the rooms; a built-in vacuum system; and service quarters with a "Linen Room" and living quarters for the help in the attic.

**Garage**

**C. 1910**

**Contributing building**

The garage is a two-story, end gable building with shed roof, wall dormers on the side elevations. The roof is asphalt shingles and has a large overhang with exposed rafter tails. The bay of the garage has been altered for doors and window walls of eighteen by eighteen glass panes. The second floor windows are 4/4 double hung sash. The east elevation has a man door with a shed canopy over it supported by large end braces. The west elevation has a one-story, shed roof porch with square posts and a slatted balustrade.

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The building has a stucco façade and is one bay wide by three bays deep. The garage was converted to a guest house c. 1975.

The first floor interior is one large room that serves as a living and dining room and there is a galley style kitchen in the southwest corner. A semi-spiral stair of wood and iron provides access to the second floor which contains two bedrooms and a small bath. The interior finishes date to the 1975 rehabilitation with drywall ceilings and walls and carpet flooring.

The large landscaped lot contains rolling green lawns, large trees and numerous shrubs. The lot was designed by a professional landscape architect, Peter P. Molloy, during the ownership of Charles Watts, so sometime after 1918. A copy of the original design is included as part of this nomination. One of the most striking designs of Molloy's plan was two sunken gardens with herb and shrub mazes on the south side of the house. The sunken plots were aligned east to west and were accessed via two sets of concrete steps with scrolled concrete cheek walls. There were also concrete benches. The gardens are no longer extant but the location can clearly be seen on the lawn and the steps and benches remain. There are also traces of concrete paths in the sunken area of the lawn.

The original landscape plan also called for a circular drive with large stone gates at the entrances. There are brick entrance piers at the start of the circular driveway but they are modern; the original stone gates are no longer extant. Traces of the circular drive still exist but the drive ends on the south elevation due to the southeastern portion of the property being sold to a neighbor, c. 1967.

**Summary:**

Kenwood is in excellent as-built condition and clearly illustrates the architectural work of H. Rus Warne in a residential home. It is also an excellent example of the Neoclassical Revival style of architecture and the innovative early use of reinforced concrete.

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Statement of Significance:

Kenwood is significant under Criterion C for its association with the noted architect, H. Rus Warne; for its association with early poured reinforced concrete residential construction; and for its association with Neoclassical Revival style of architecture. The period of significance, c.1910, relates to the construction of the house.

History:

Collis P. Huntington, a native of Connecticut, founded the town of Huntington in 1871 as the western terminus for the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. Huntington made his fortune selling supplies to the prospectors in California's gold fields in 1849. He first became involved in railroads with three other California businessmen and they built the Central Pacific, the western link of the transcontinental railroad. In 1869, Huntington bought a controlling interest in the C&O; at that time, a very small railroad in Virginia with little rolling stock. Huntington's plan was to expand the tracks across West Virginia to the Ohio River and its existing transportation system.

Huntington came to the area and scouted the town location. He hired his brother-in-law, Delos W. Emmons, to buy up the necessary land for the town. Emmons purchased 21 farms with approximately 5,000 acres total. Much of the land was reserved for the railroad, depots, right-of-ways, etc. with the remaining laid out in lots. The town plan was designed by Boston civil engineer, Rufus Cook in a geometric grid work of broad avenues and intersecting streets, all consecutively numbered for ease of directions and addresses.

Cabell County was formed in 1809 from parts of Kanawha County with Guyandotte and Barboursville its largest towns. This began to change with the founding of Huntington. Collis P. Huntington, after having the town laid out, conveyed the remaining non-railroad dedicated land to the Central Land Company of which he was president. In 1871, the West Virginia Legislature incorporated the city of Huntington. Barboursville and Guyandotte were Cabell County's first county seats but by 1887 Huntington became the county seat and a new courthouse was soon begun. The courthouse construction was

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delayed by the Panic of 1893 but the construction was completed by 1901 with wings added in 1923 and 1939.

The first C&O train to arrive in Huntington from Richmond, Virginia was in January 1873. The railroad issued a promotional pamphlet in 1878 and it described Huntington, less than a decade after its inception, as having “a population about 3,000, and increasing; large saw mills, planning and flour mills and furniture factory....three public schools, five churches; and fifteen miles of streets (80 feet wide), and avenues for drives, opened and graded....Taxation low, and no city debt.”

According to the census, by 1890 Huntington’s population was 10,108, surpassing only Wheeling. Huntington remained largely a railroad town through this period with various businesses opening to serve the railroad and its workers and patrons. The Ensign Manufacturing Company was chartered in 1872 to produce freight cars, wheels and other parts for the C&O. Ely Ensign, the manager of the plant, was involved in other business ventures in Huntington in addition to being its mayor in 1896. The Ensign plant located on Third Avenue and 23<sup>rd</sup> Street was producing 4,000 rail cars a year by the mid-1890s for railroads in the states and overseas. Ensign merged with the American Car & Foundry Company in 1899 and it is currently ACF Industries.

In addition to the C&O, the Lexington & Big Sandy Railroad became a subsidiary of the C&O and it became part of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad in 1901. With the arrival of a second major railroad, the B&O, the economic growth of the city was assured. City limits were expanded to the west in 1909 and to the east in 1911, with Huntington appending the community of Guyandotte, its former rival for the county seat.

Collis P. Huntington died in August 1900 and the Central Land Company transferred its assets to the new Huntington Land Company, formed by a group of local investors.

By 1900 Huntington’s population had grown to 11,923; by 1910 it was 31,161; and by 1920, it was an astonishing 50,177.

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The residential areas of Huntington kept pace with its business center. Charles L. Ritter and his business partners, C.W. Watts and J.S. Perry filed and recorded a deed establishing the Park Hills Subdivision No. 3 on the south side of Huntington on June 22, 1923. This subdivision includes Ridgewood Road and is known as Park Hills. The subdivision was laid out and platted by Smith and Barnett, Professional Engineers. The subdivision is located to the south of Ritter Park and north of Interstate 64 to the west of McCoy Road. Ritter was a successful lumber manufacturer who arrived in Huntington in 1901 and lived in Huntington until his death in 1945. He was an active businessman and acquired an interest in the Biggs, Watts Company changing its name to the Watts-Ritter Company. He was also a director in the First Huntington National Bank. He had a large home built in Ritter Hills and Ritter Park is named for him as he donated two tracts of land consisting of 20 acres to the city for Ritter Park. This land was in addition to the original 55 acres that the city had purchased in 1908.

Ritter was born in Pennsylvania and came to West Virginia in 1889. He began a lumber business in Oakvale, moved to Welch in 1891 and in 1897 moved his business to Charleston where he operated a plant on the Elk River. Finally, in 1901 he moved to Huntington and married his wife, Mabel McClintock in 1902. Ritter and H.T. Lovett were the first to build homes on the south side of Huntington in the area now known as Ritter Hills. He and Mabel had three sons and he spent the remainder of his life in Huntington. Ritter also served as the Vice-President of The Huntington Land Company which allowed him to purchase large tracts of land including the land which currently contains the Park Hills Subdivision. Ritter died in December 1945.

The area to the south and east of Park Hills, Ritter Hills, also contained many elaborate and decorative homes of Huntington's most prominent businessmen making the south side of Huntington a much sought after residential district. Ritter Park also contributed to the desirability of the neighborhood. The south side of Huntington became Huntington's first suburb c. 1905.

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Kenwood was the third home to be built on the hill south of the railroad tracks in Huntington. The first two were built for C.L. Ritter and H.T. Lovett. B.B. Burns built a house on the hill after the construction of Kenwood; this home later became the home of attorney, Selden McNeer. These elaborate and decorative residences set the tone for the neighborhood as one of Huntington's more prosperous "suburbs."

The period from 1900 to 1930 appears to have been Huntington's greatest "boom" period. New businesses were opening and flourishing and construction within the city was moving to keep pace. Lumber companies and the glass industry were established in Huntington during this period. By 1911 Huntington had fifty-nine factories with a combined employment of eight thousand workers producing every sort of product imaginable from mattresses to freight cars. By 1900, the southern coalfields had matured into a major producer both nationally and internationally and Huntington was the natural transportation center for the market in addition to the coal producer's marketing agencies.

By 1930, Huntington was West Virginia's largest city with a population of 75,572; by 1940 it was only 78,836; and by 1950 it was 86,353, a slight increase from the previous decade and the largest figure recorded for any West Virginia city. By 1960, Charleston had outpaced that figure and was the largest city in the state.

John A. Shepherd was the first owner of Kenwood and is responsible for the construction. Shepherd was an attorney who attended Henry College in Virginia. He first practiced in West Virginia in Logan in the early 1900s and moved to Williamson c. 1908. He then became an oil and gas developer and he and his wife, Gail, and their four daughters moved to Huntington c. 1910. The family lived at the Frederick Hotel while the house was being built. The attic of Kenwood was constructed as a ballroom as the family had an active social life and entertained on a grand scale and often. Edwina, one of John's daughters, married William Pepper in Kenwood although the couple lived in another house in Huntington. Edwina and William later had six children: four daughters and two sons. One of the sons died; the remaining son, Bill Curtis, lives in Italy. One of the daughters was a poet, Julie, and one, Bev, was a sculptor.

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John A. Shepherd went bankrupt and he and his family including Edwina and her family moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma where John rebuilt his fortune in the oil fields. Edwina returned to Mingo County, WV in the 1960s and lived in a log house known as "The Knob." In partnership with two nuns she conducted a school for rural children and became an environmentalist in opposition to the area's coal companies.

Kenwood was sold to Charles Wellington Watts in 1918. Charles W. Watts, one of Ritter's partners, was born in Gallia County, Ohio and died in Huntington December 18, 1934. Watts came to Huntington in 1886 while he was still in his teens and was one of the organizers of the Barlow-Henderson Company, a wholesale dry goods company. Later the company became Watts, Ritter and Company when he and Ritter became partners in business. Watts was also a large stockholder and a director in the First Huntington National Bank.

Watts' wife, Widea retained ownership of the house after the death of her husband but moved to the Frederick Hotel c. 1945, unable to live alone and maintain the home. She came every day to visit the house as an outing. Widea died in 1947 and left half of the estate to the Episcopal Diocese and half to a boy's orphanage in Beaumont, Texas. The house remained basically empty for the next twenty years and deteriorated.

In 1967 Jack Jenkins purchased the home and lot and began to restore and modernize the house. He converted the garage to a guest house c. 1975. The current owner purchased the house and lot in April 2006. The 4.06 acres of this tract is protected from being divided further by zoning ordinances.

Architecture:

Harry Rus Warne, the architect of Kenwood, was born in Parkersburg, WV October 10, 1872. Warne's father, William H. Warne, founded W.H. Warne and Company, Parkersburg's first furniture and undertaking business. W.H. was also instrumental in the establishment of the Homestead Building Association and it is from this background that H. Rus developed an interest in building and development. H. Rus attended the Ohio Mechanics Institute (OMI) in Cincinnati, Ohio. It was the oldest technical school west of

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the Alleghenies. H. Rus, known as "Rus" established his architectural practice in Parkersburg in 1892 after having traveled extensively throughout the United States and in Paris and Rome in Europe. Rus also apprenticed under other established architects such as Richard H. Adair, common practice then and now.

During the 1890s Rus continued to build his practice in Parkersburg and designed many residences and commercial buildings. These include a Queen Anne style residence for Dr. W.W. Monroe, 1703 Park Avenue; hotel plans for J.M. Jackson at Market and Court Square in 1895; the Williams Block on Market Street; a residence for Dr. Harry Campbell; and the Odd Fellows Building in 1897 on Fifth Street.

After a brief foray as a junior architectural draftsman in the office of the Supervising Architect of the U.S. Treasury Department, Rus moved to Charleston, WV in 1902 and formed a brief partnership with architect, Charles G. Rabenstein. Together they designed the Kanawha and Elk Hotels c. 1905; the West Virginia Building; and the 123-foot high Coal Column, the state's official exhibit at the Jamestown Ter-Centennial Exposition. Neil Robinson, a Charleston engineer, designed the tower that contained coal representing 19 distinct seams.

Silling Associates, Inc. was established in Charleston by Warne in 1902 and the firm continues today as the oldest continuing architectural firm in West Virginia and one of the oldest in the eastern United States. Warne worked with numerous architects throughout his career and expanded the firm until his death in 1954.

While in Charleston, Warne designed many residential homes for wealthy clients in the growing suburbs of Edgewood, South Hills and Kanawha City. His offices were located in the Masonic Temple Building, also designed by his firm. Warne often designed homes in Colonial Revival and Tudor Revival styles. Warne was the only architect to design two World's Fair pavilions for West Virginia. One was the West Virginia Building for the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition in San Francisco; and the other was the Coal Column.

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Warne's firm prospered after World War I and he secured many commissions for public buildings and schools including Charleston City Hall in 1922; the Boone County Courthouse in 1921, Neoclassical Revival style; the State Masonic Home in 1921 in Parkersburg; Roosevelt Junior High School in 1922; the Greenbrier Military School in Lewisburg; and the Romanesque Revival 1924 addition to the Kanawha County Courthouse. It was during this period that Warne's firm included Lewis G. Tucker and Randolph L. Patteson.

Warne was also instrumental in organizing the AIA West Virginia chapter in 1923 and served as its second president in 1925-1926. From 1930 to 1939 he was a member of the West Virginia Board of Examiners and Registration of Architects. For much of that decade he also served as the Board's president.

Warne died at home in Charleston April 25, 1954 and his ashes are in the Warne family mausoleum in Mt. Olivet Cemetery in Parkersburg.

Warne designed Kenwood c. 1910 in the Neoclassical Revival style. He only designed three residences in Huntington: Kenwood; the Wilkenson Home, 1402 Fifth Avenue in 1910; and the Colonel Zachery Taylor Vinson Home, 1429 Fifth Avenue in 1908. The Wilkenson Home was demolished and the Vinson Home burned down in 1980 thus Kenwood is the only survivor of Warne's residential commissions in Huntington. The three homes shared similar design elements such as a two-story entrance portico with two-story columns and raised entrance loggias. It is not known if the other homes were also constructed with reinforced concrete. Historic photographs show them as having light colored brick exteriors.

The Neoclassical Revival style was a popular style in the early twentieth century. It is an American architectural movement based on Roman and Greek forms. It features symmetrically arranged buildings, simple geometric forms, monumental proportions, pedimented porticos and full attic stories. All of these are present in Kenwood and were used to great affect by Warne. He also designed the Boone County Courthouse in Neoclassical Revival style and it is considered the finest expression of neoclassicism in southern West Virginia.

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As mentioned previously, Kenwood is one of the earliest known residences in West Virginia constructed of poured-in-place reinforced concrete. The walls of the house are 14” thick and steel rebar was used as reinforcement. There are no wooden joists in the house. The columns are noted as brick on the original blueprints but they have a concrete/stucco finish over the brick.

There are several other residential style buildings in West Virginia that are constructed of reinforced concrete but they are either veneered with brick or are a later construction date. These include the R.T. Price House in Williamson, West Virginia constructed in 1940 and covered with a brick veneer; the Jailer’s Residence in Fairmont in Marion County constructed c. 1910; the old Star Theater in Richwood, Nicholas County, constructed in 1926 and faced with brick veneer; the Opera House in Marlinton, Pocahontas County, constructed in 1910. The Opera House is the oldest known commercial concrete building in West Virginia. There are also numerous residences in South Bluefield designed by Alex Mahood of reinforced concrete but these were constructed in the 1920s.

The Grosscup Road Historic District located in Charleston, WV contains ten homes designed by Warne including his own home in the neighborhood. While several of the homes he designed have stucco exteriors there are no known homes of reinforced concrete dating to earlier than Kenwood.

Cement and concrete gained significance as building materials in the early decades of the twentieth century. The American Concrete Institute was established in 1905 to study and research its uses. Throughout the country, early buildings of concrete construction date from the 1903 to 1914 period. It was during this period that reinforcing technology was developed. Kenwood fits into this early period of development of this relatively new but highly significant construction method. It is West Virginia’s foray into a modern residential building style at an early age. Concrete structures and buildings subsequently became important in the state’s development, such as the Palace Furniture Building (1911), in Clarksburg and the work of concrete bridge engineers in the following decades. Kenwood is a precursor to this development.

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Summary:

Kenwood is significant under Criterion C for Architecture for its association with the well-known West Virginia architect, H. Rus Warne; for its association with Neoclassical Revival style; and as one of the earliest reinforced concrete construction residences in the state. The period of significance, c.1910, relates to the construction of the house.

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**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION:**

The boundary of Kenwood National Register of Historic Places nomination is shown on the accompanying tax map. It is known as the C.W. Watts lot and lots No. 18 and 19 of the Park Hills Subdivision No. 3 and dated February 2007. It encompasses the deeded property of the current property owner.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:**

The boundaries of the Kenwood National Register of Historic Places nomination encompasses the entire 4.06 acres of the current property lines and includes all historic buildings within the period of significance.

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|                |                                         |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Name:          | Kenwood                                 |
| Address:       | 619 Ridgewood Road                      |
| City:          | Huntington                              |
| County:        | Cabell                                  |
| Photographer:  | Michael Gioulis/Jean Boger              |
| Date:          | February 2007                           |
| Negatives:     | WVSHPO, Charleston, WV                  |
| Photo 1 of 26  | Front elevation looking south.          |
| Photo 2 of 26  | Rear elevation looking northwest.       |
| Photo 3 of 26  | West elevation looking east.            |
| Photo 4 of 26  | East elevation looking southwest.       |
| Photo 5 of 26  | Garage looking northwest.               |
| Photo 6 of 26  | South lawn looking east.                |
| Photo 7 of 26  | North lawn looking east.                |
| Photo 8 of 26  | Streetscape looking southeast.          |
| Photo 9 of 26  | Streetscape looking west.               |
| Photo 10 of 26 | Reception room/foyer looking southeast. |

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|                |                                                   |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Photo 11 of 26 | Reception room/foyer looking southwest.           |
| Photo 12 of 26 | Living room looking east.                         |
| Photo 13 of 26 | Music room frieze detail looking south.           |
| Photo 14 of 26 | Dining room looking southwest.                    |
| Photo 15 of 26 | Dining room fireplace detail looking east.        |
| Photo 16 of 26 | Kitchen detail looking northwest.                 |
| Photo 17 of 26 | Butler's pantry/serving room detail looking east. |
| Photo 18 of 26 | Den fireplace detail looking south.               |
| Photo 19 of 26 | East wing looking east.                           |
| Photo 20 of 26 | Stairway detail looking south.                    |
| Photo 21 of 26 | Stairway landing detail looking south.            |
| Photo 22 of 26 | Master bedroom looking northwest.                 |
| Photo 23 of 26 | Guest room fireplace detail looking northeast.    |
| Photo 24 of 26 | Second floor bathroom detail looking southeast.   |
| Photo 25 of 26 | Second floor built-in detail looking north.       |

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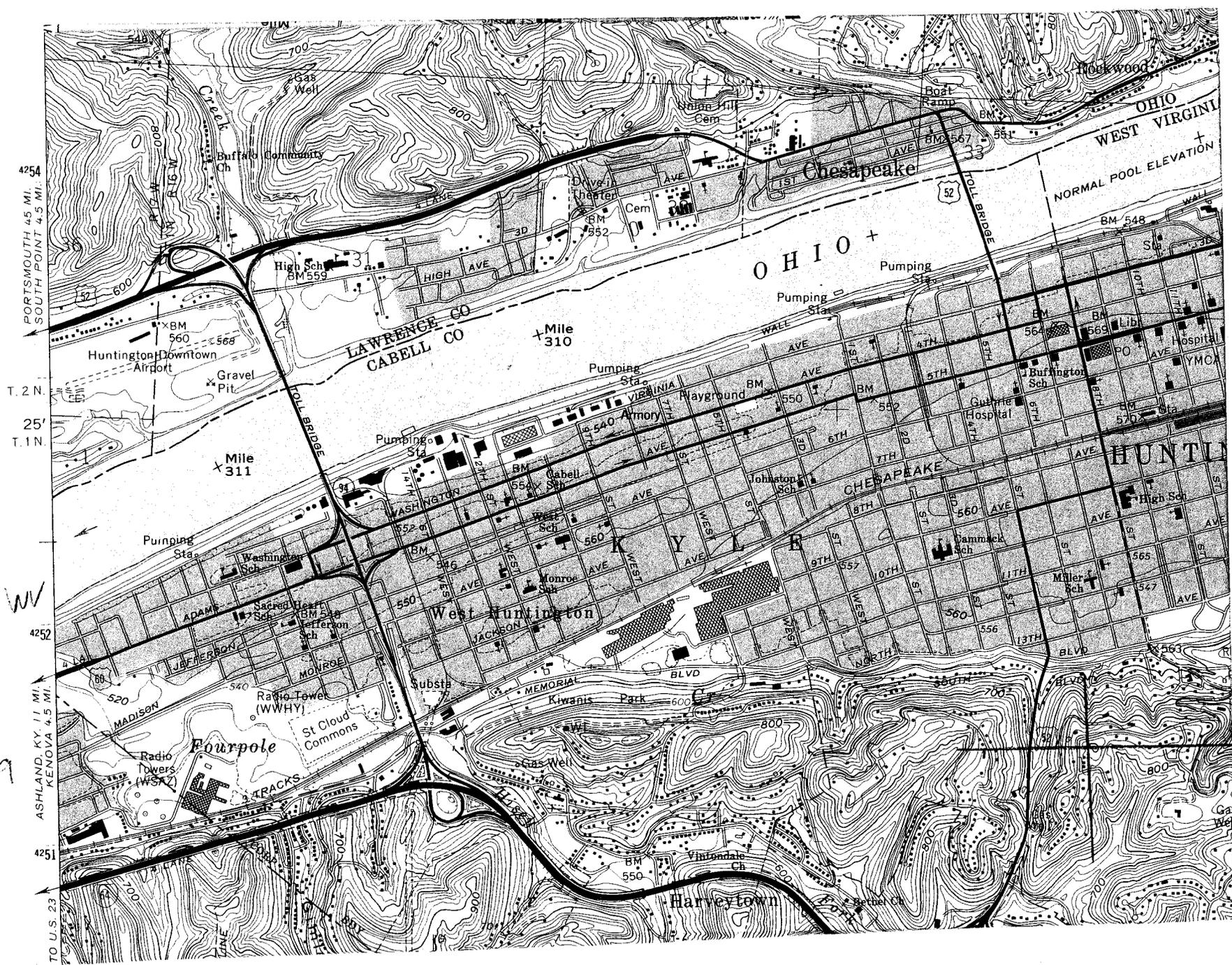
Page 22

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Photo 26 of 26

Attic looking west.





4254  
 PORTSMOUTH 4.5 MI.  
 SOUTH POINT 4.5 MI.

T. 2 N.  
 25'  
 T. 1 N.

4252  
 ASHLAND, KY. 11 MI.  
 KENOVA 4.5 MI.  
 4251  
 TO U.S. 23

Kenwood  
 Cabell County, WV

17

373810

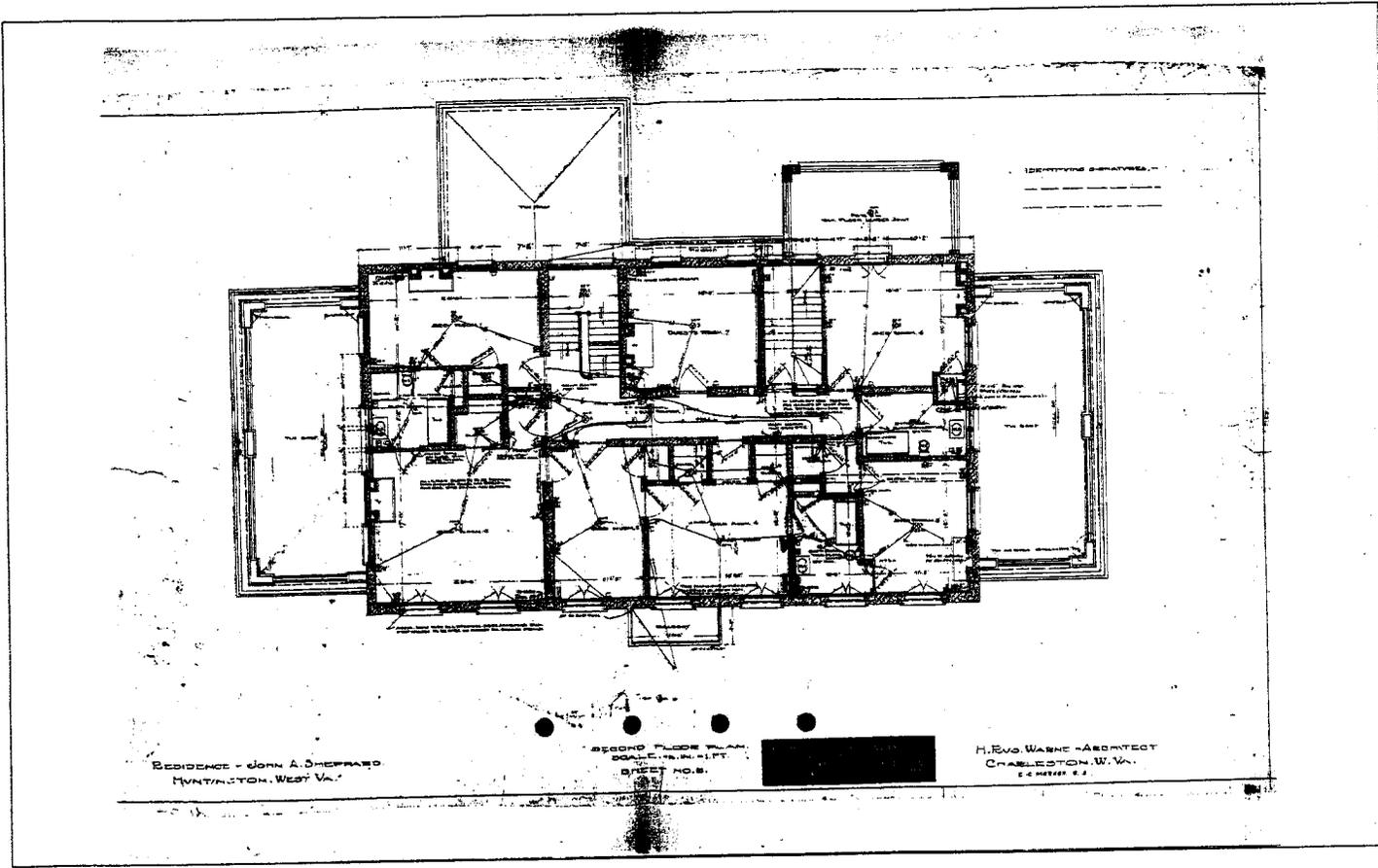
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KENWOOD NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
619 RIDGEWOOD ROAD  
CABELL COUNTY  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

DWG. 2 OF 6



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HUNTINGTON, WEST VA.

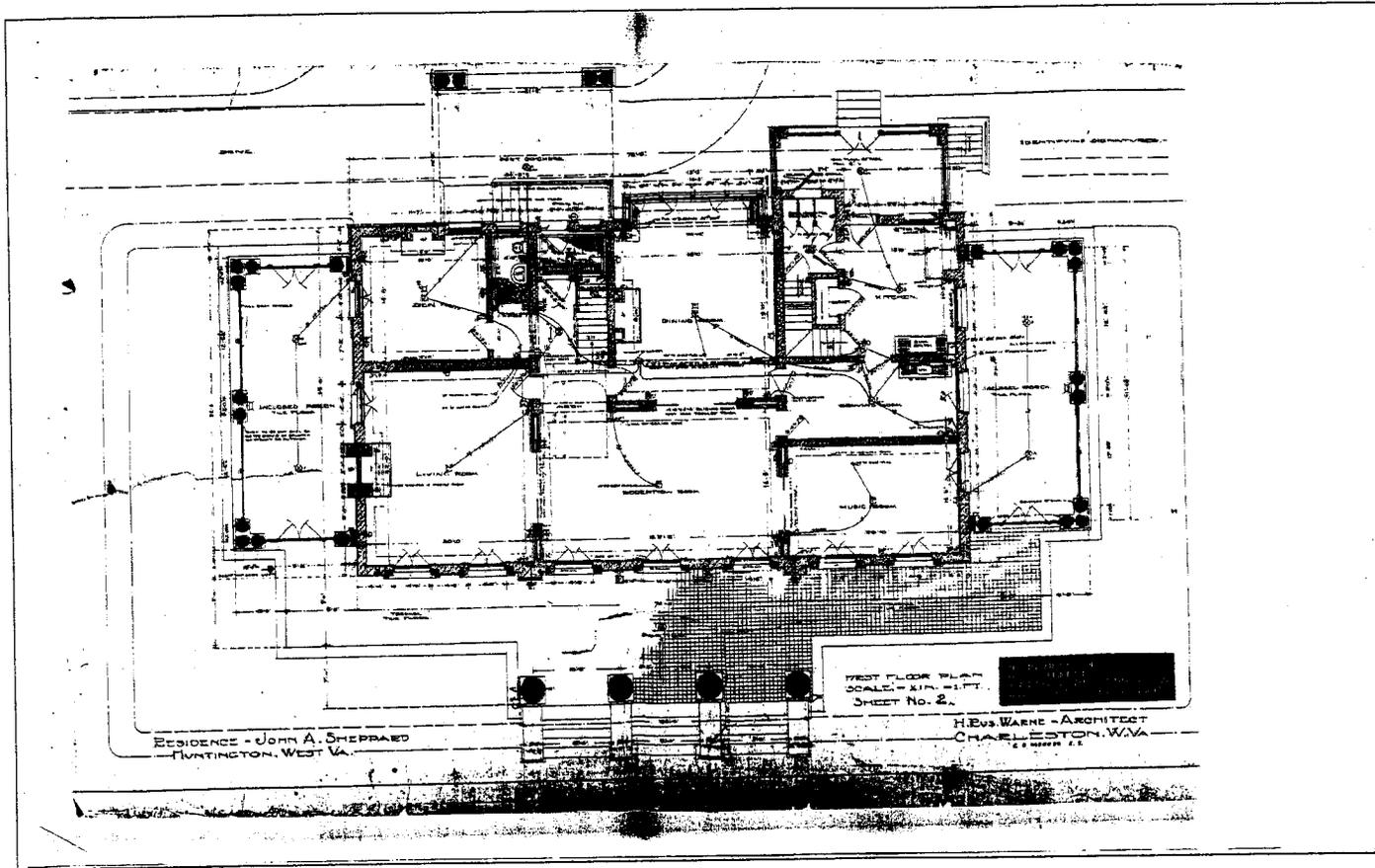
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CHARLESTON, W. VA.  
24 MARKET ST.

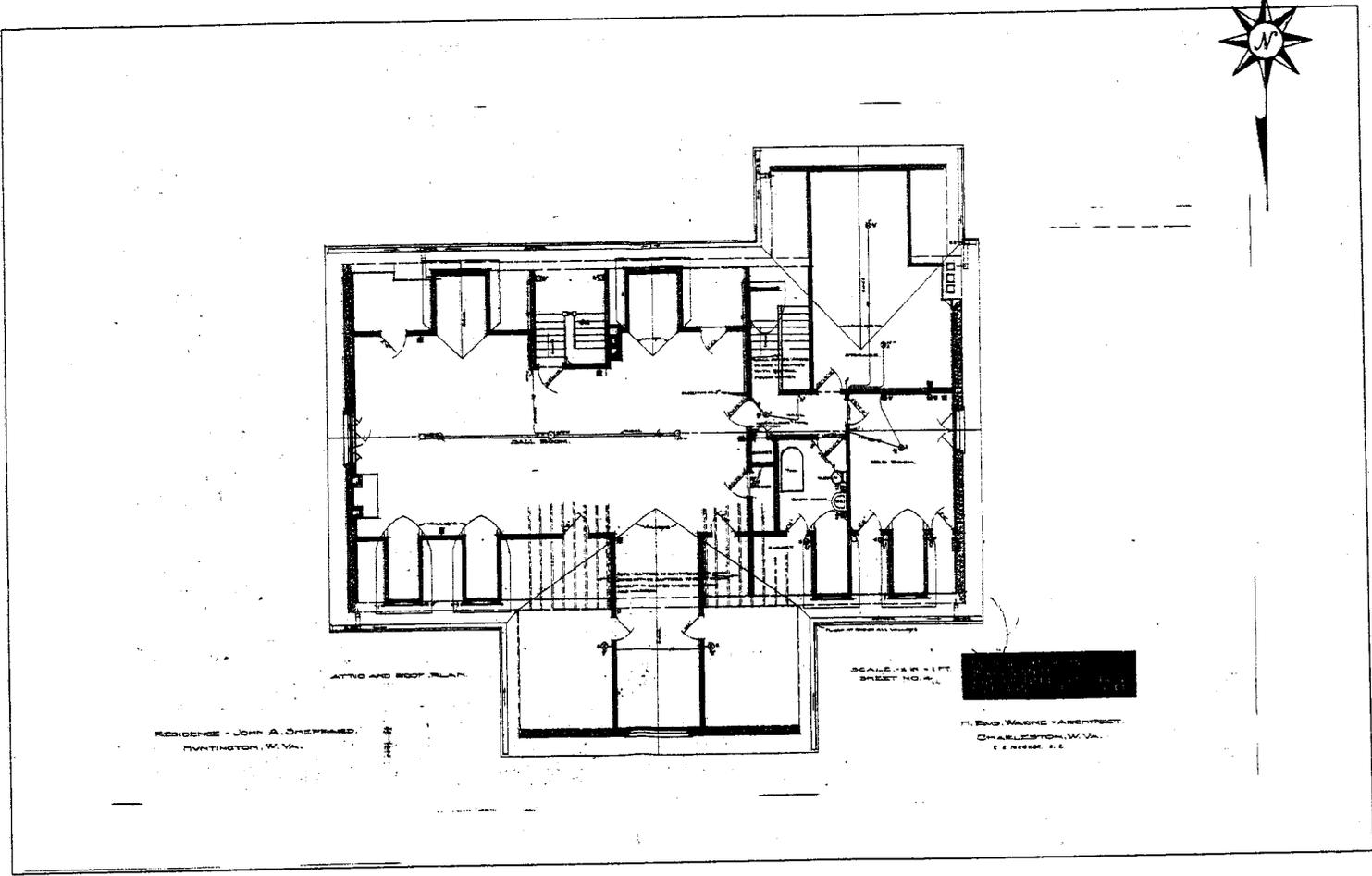
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FIRST FLOOR PLAN



RESIDENCE - JOHN A. SHEPPARD  
HUNTINGTON, W. VA.

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"  
SHEET NO. 3

H. ENG. MAJOR ARCHTCT.  
CHARLESTON, W. VA.  
C. E. NORMAN, P. E.

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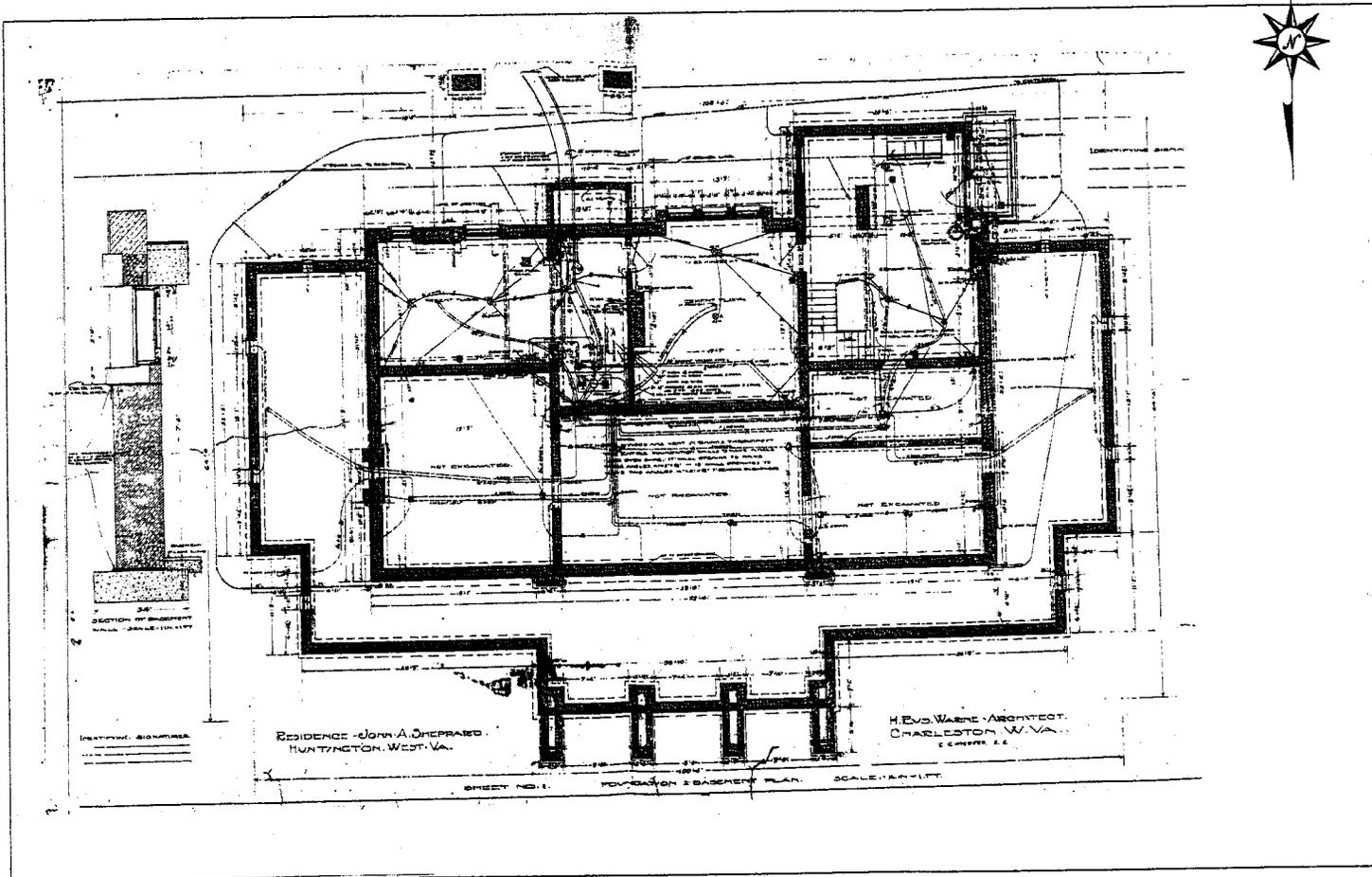
ATTIC AND ROOF PLAN

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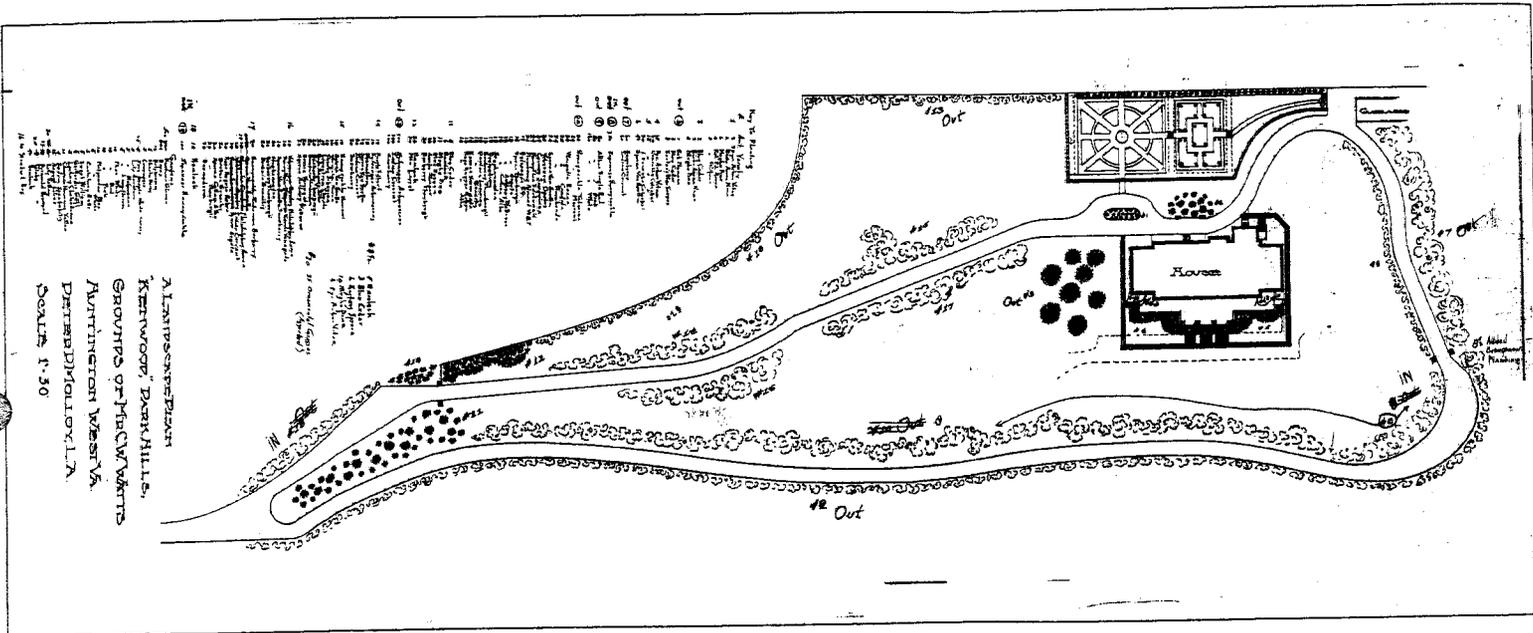
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CABELL COUNTY  
HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA

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BASEMENT AND FOUNDATION PLAN



- 1. Red Oak
- 2. White Oak
- 3. Yellow Oak
- 4. Black Oak
- 5. Chestnut Oak
- 6. Live Oak
- 7. Magnolia
- 8. Dogwood
- 9. Sweetgum
- 10. Sycamore
- 11. Tulip Tree
- 12. Red Maple
- 13. White Maple
- 14. Sugar Maple
- 15. Norway Spruce
- 16. White Pine
- 17. Loblolly Pine
- 18. Shortleaf Pine
- 19. Longleaf Pine
- 20. Virginia Pine
- 21. White Fir
- 22. Fraser Fir
- 23. Spruce
- 24. Fir
- 25. Pine
- 26. Cypress
- 27. Juniper
- 28. Yew
- 29. Cedar
- 30. Redwood
- 31. White Birch
- 32. Yellow Birch
- 33. Black Birch
- 34. Sweet Birch
- 35. Paper Birch
- 36. White Birch
- 37. Yellow Birch
- 38. Black Birch
- 39. Sweet Birch
- 40. Paper Birch

A LANDSCAPE PLAN  
 KENWOOD, DARK HILLS,  
 GROUNDS OF MICHIGAN  
 AVENUE WEST VA.  
 HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PLAN  
 SCALE: 1" = 50'

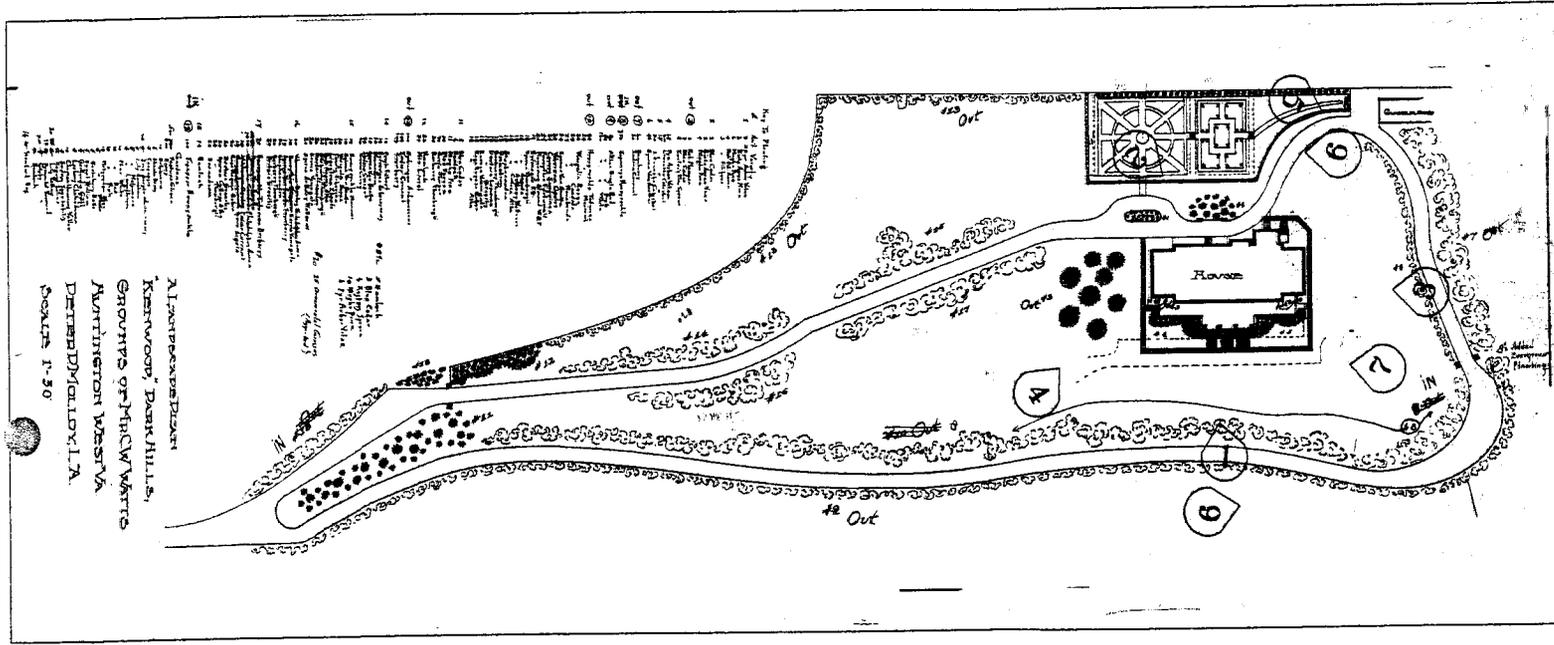
# HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PLAN



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 HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA



ALPHABETICALLY  
 KENTWOOD, PARK HILLS,  
 GROUNDS OF MICHAEL WATTS  
 MARTINSON, WESTVA  
 DETROIT, MICHIGAN  
 SCALE: 1"=50'

# HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PLAN

## PHOTO LOG

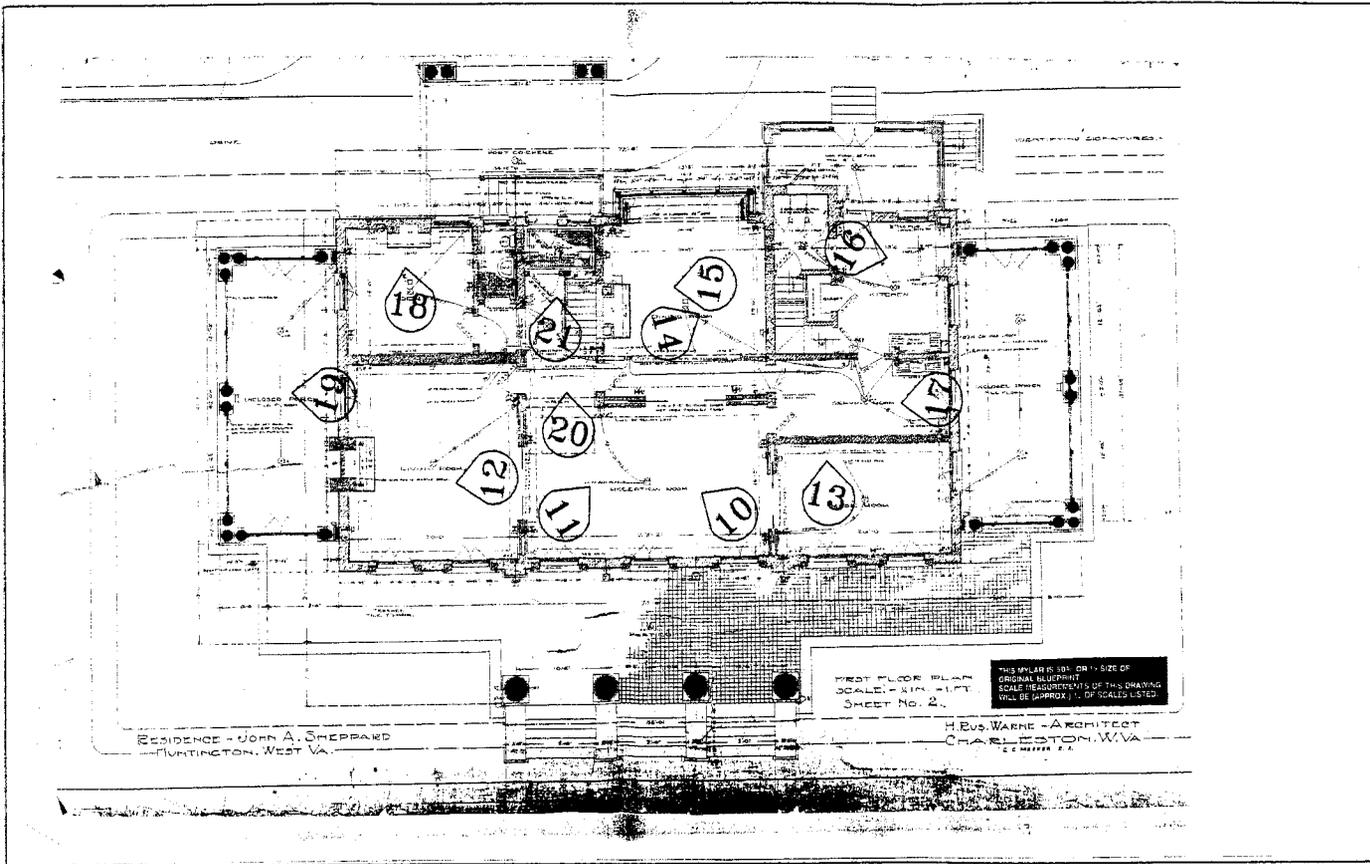


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DWG. 1 OF 4



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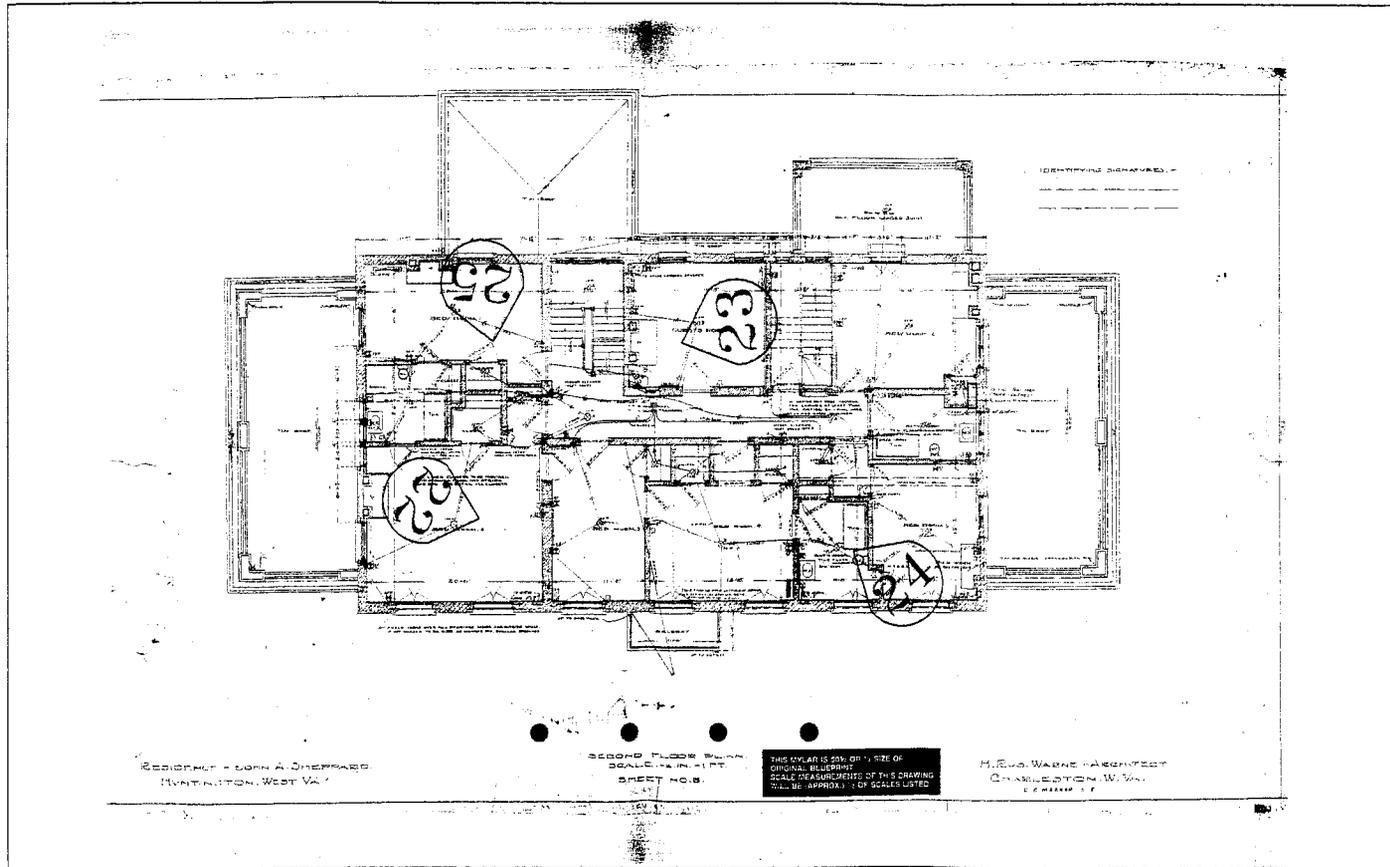
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DWG. 2 OF 4

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

PHOTO LOG



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

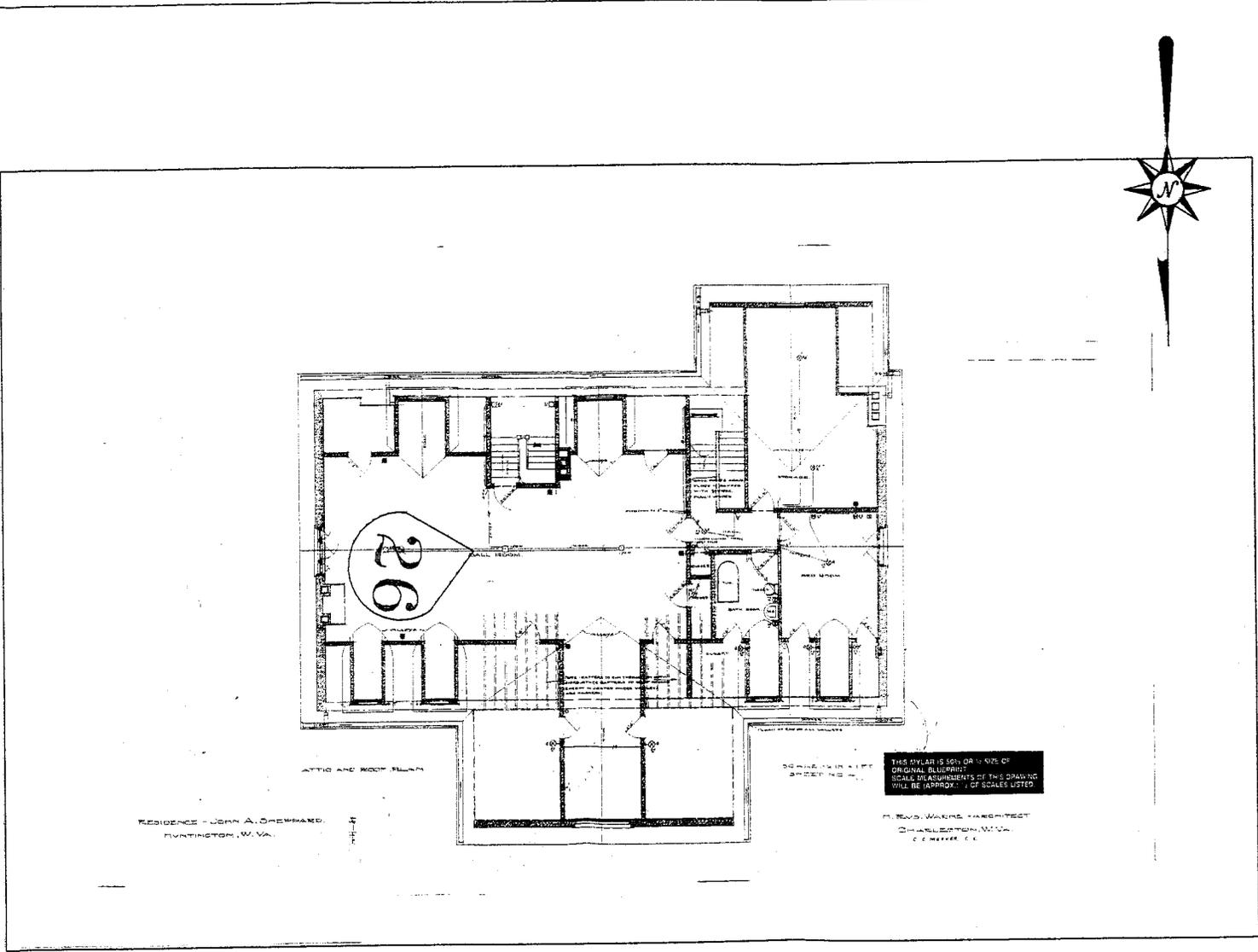
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ATTIC AND ROOF PLAN  
PHOTO LOG



















































