

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic The Kirker House #6

and/or common The Daniel and Donna Finell Residence

2. Location

street & number 1520 Grand Avenue not for publication

city, town Wellsburg vicinity of

state West Virginia code 54 county Brooke code 009

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
M.R.A.	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Daniel and Donna Finell

street & number 1520 Grand Avenue

city, town Wellsburg vicinity of state West Virginia 26070

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brooke County Court House

street & number Main and Seventh Streets

city, town Wellsburg state West Virginia 26070

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Pleasant Avenue Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date Winter-Spring, 1985 federal state county local

depository for survey records Wellsburg Landmarks Commission

city, town Wellsburg state West Virginia 26070

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated Check one
 good ruins unaltered original site
 fair unexposed altered moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This restrained two-story structure represents the style of High Victorian Italianate architecture. Built on an ell floor plan with front and side bays it gives the appearance of being multi-sided. The dimensions, including front and side bays, are 42' x 35'.

It is treatment of windows that distinguishes High Victorian Italianate from earlier and later forms of Italianate. As is characteristic of this style, the windows and doors of the Kirker House are each topped by stilted segmental arches molded of brick. While this house lacks the classical features so common to more elaborate High Victorian Italianate structures, it is truly classical in its simplicity of decoration.

The shallow-pitched roof is hipped and without roof cresting. The eaves are shallow with enriched cornice molding in quatrefoil style. On the north side of the house there is one elliptical or oval window over an interior stairwell.

The front entry of the house was through a side porch. The front entryway is topped by a semi-arched transom and brick label molding.

The house is well maintained and is being carefully restored to its original statement by the present owners.

CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES

Only two structures are located on the lot: this house and a 22' x 22' metal two-car garage. The latter is located to the rear and northeast of the house. It is completely unobtrusive

Contributing Buildings 1 (house)

Non-Contributing Buildings 1 (garage)

Total Contributing Resources 1

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
	<input type="checkbox"/> invention			

Specific dates 1884 **Builder/Architect** James H. Matthews

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Kirker House derives from its architectural significance in its community. The builder, James H. Matthews, was a builder of note in this period.

Several of the finest residences in Wellsburg are Italianate, some of which, like the Kirker House, were professionally designed and built. Most are more elaborate and come from early periods of Italianate architecture. The Kirker House is the best preserved and the least altered of the few examples of High Victorian Italianate in Brooke County.

High Victorian Italianate was the result of the transformation of earlier types of Italianate architecture which had become the American Style during the 1850's. The architects who developed this style of architecture, however, were anything but Revivalists. The style they created was the practical style of the day, one intended for domestic and commercial use. This style of architecture was intentionally eclectic. Its Italianate nature was often tempered by an infusion of French influence; note the quatrefoil on the cornices of the Kirker House.

The stilted segmental art, or straight-sided art, which is peculiarly characteristic of High Victorian Italianate goes back to at least 1840 in England. Summerson says that it spread "like a drug habit" because it "distorted convention, crashed through the rules of taste, was 'self-made'; it gave an expression of structural frankness, assigning to the ornamental attributes of architecture of subsidiary, nearly pretty, role." High Victorian Italianate architecture was characteristic of America in the gilded age.

It was natural that this fine style would be found also among the high-styled mansions in the Pleasant Avenue area. Although the Kirker House is smaller than any of the other houses being nominated for the Historic Resources of Pleasant Avenue Area, its style, classic line and good state of preservation justify the listing of the Kirker House on the National Register. An unusually tasteful and subtle statement of High Victorian Italianate architecture, this lovely residence, in what was the first planned suburb of Wellsburg, is the best example of this architecture available in the area.

James H. Matthews, the builder, built several homes in the style of High Victorian Italianate. Only two of them still exist. The second, also located on Grand Avenue in Wellsburg, has been considerably altered and is not in good repair.

James H. Matthews is even better known for his industrial construction. In the booming days of the glass industry in northern West Virginia, he built a number of glass factories, or "glass houses" as they were called. The special skill in constructing glass furnaces led to contracts of such construction outside the United States.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- J.G. Jacob, Brooke County, Being A Record of Prominent Events, 1882.
J.H. Newton, History of the Panhandle of West Virginia, 1879.
Peter Boyd, History of the Northern West Virginia Panhandle, 1927.
N.L. Caldwell, A History of Brooke County, 1975. Industrial Wellsburgh, 1899.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .379 acres

Quadrangle name Steubenville, Ohio East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

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Verbal boundary description and justification

Brooke County Tax Maps, Wellsburg District Map #10, Parcel #82.
110' x 150' (see map)

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Hiram J. Lester, Project Director

organization Historical Wellsburg, Inc. date 25 September 1985

street & number The Hibernia telephone (304) 829-7941

city or town Bethany state West Virginia 26032

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 3-31-86

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

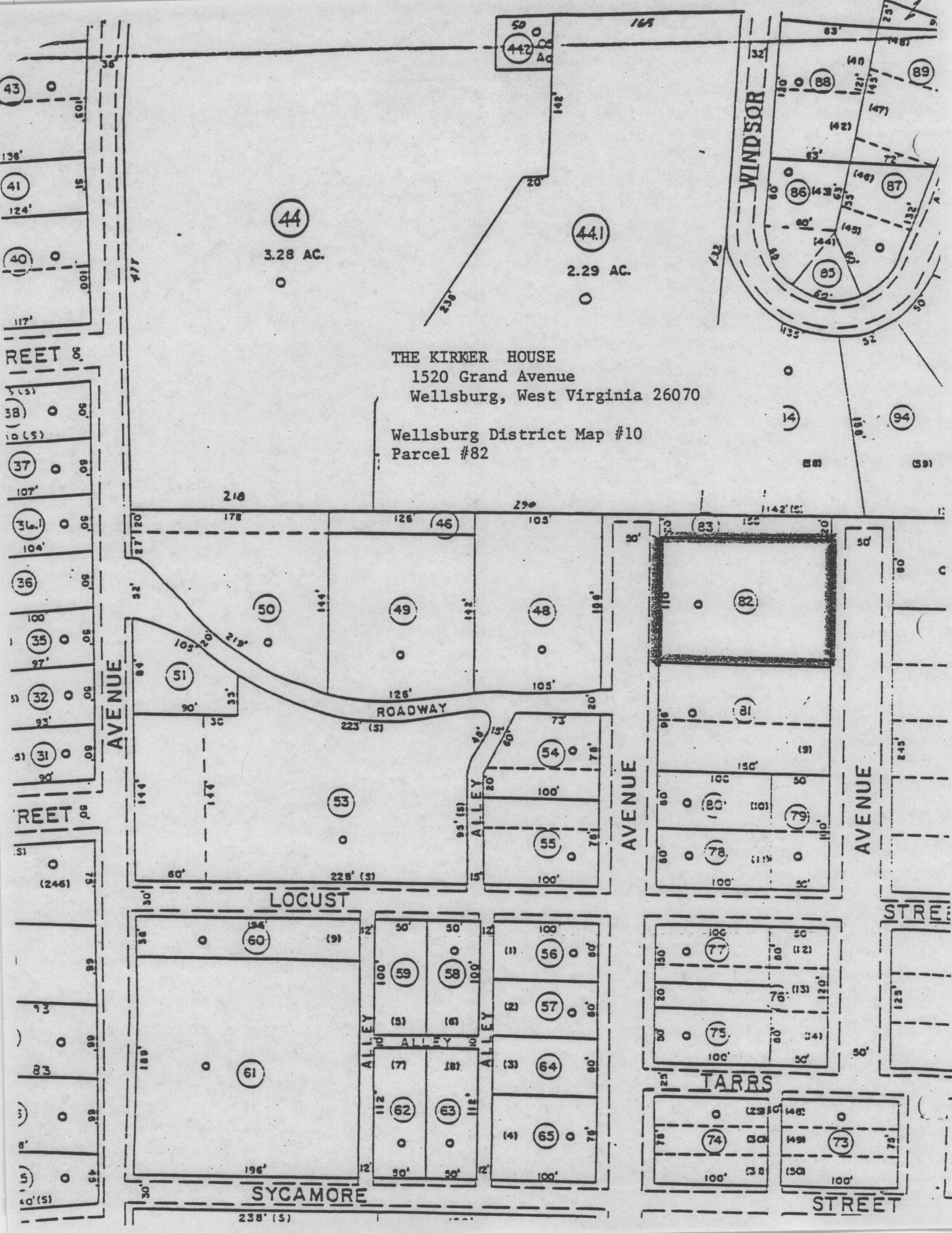
date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



44
3.28 AC.

44.1
2.29 AC.

THE KIRKER HOUSE
1520 Grand Avenue
Wellsburg, West Virginia 26070

Wellsburg District Map #10
Parcel #82

REET ST

AVENUE

LOCUST

SYCAMORE

WINDSOR

AVENUE

AVENUE

TARRS

STREET

STREET

ROADWAY

ALLEY

ALLEY

ALLEY

ALLEY

123'

243'

60'

59'

50'

72'

148'

23'

136'

124'

117'

5.51

10 (S)

107'

104'

100'

97'

93'

90'

REET ST

51

(246)

30'

93'

83'

99'

99'

99'

99'

100' (S)

27'

32'

84'

144'

144'

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