

# DELISTED 1997

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form Mother Jones' Prison

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(Rev. 8-86)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

### NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name: Mother Jones' Prison

other name/site number: Lot 23. Clifton Addition, Cabin Creek District

#### 2. Location

street & number: 305 Center Street

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Pratt

vicinity: N/A

state: WV county: Kanawha

code: 039

zip code: 25162

#### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
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<u>  1  </u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of related multiple property listing:

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## 4. 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 \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_\_\_ meets \_\_\_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. \_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

## 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date  
of Action

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## 6. Function or Use

Historic: Domestic

Sub: Multiple Dwelling

Current: Domestic

Sub: Single Dwelling

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification:

No Style

Other Description: N/A

Materials: foundation- pressed metal sheeting  
walls- asphalt siding

roof- metal  
other-

Describe present and historic physical appearance.   X   See continuation sheet.

## 8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, B

National Historic Landmark Criteria: 1, 2

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Industry  
Social History  
Economics

National Historic Landmark Theme: XXXI - Social and Humanitarian Movements  
H - Labor Organizations

Period(s) of Significance: 1913

Significant Dates: 1913

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Significant Person(s): Jones, Mary "Mother" Harris

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder:

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
☒ See continuation sheet.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

☒ See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 667) has been requested.
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register (part of Historic District)
- ☐ 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 -- Specify Repository: West Virginia University

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: Less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	17	466410	4229285	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ See continuation sheet



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Verbal Boundary Description:    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The nominated property occupies the southern portion of lot 23, beginning at a stake at the southwest corner of Center (Main) Street and an alley; thence with the line of said street, N. 9 10' E. 62 feet to a stake; thence S. 79 40' E. 99 feet to a stake in the line of the public lot; thence with said public lot line S. 9 10' W. 62 feet to a stake in the line of said alley; thence N. 79 40' W. 99 feet to the place of beginning.

Boundary Justification:    \_\_\_ See continuation sheet.

The boundary of the property is the same property as shown on that certain map entitled "C.B. Coleman and E.L. Johnson originally being all of the lot 23 Clifton subdivision, Pratt, Cabin Creek District, Kanawha Co., West Virginia," as attached to the deed to conveyance from Harry L Gearhart to Jerry Earl Gill Sr., dated May 19, 1969 and of record in the clerk's office Deed Book 1555 at page 290.

=====

## 11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Dr. Page Putnam Miller

Organization: National Coordinating Committee for      Date: February 15, 1990  
                 the Promotion of History

Street & Number: 400 A Street, SE

Telephone: (202) 544-2422

City or Town: Washington

State: DC

ZIP: 20003

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### DESCRIPTION OF SITE:

There is no discernible architectural style to this house, although it may have initially been what the Old House Journal has termed a "homestead" style early twentieth-century vernacular building, i.e., a 2 1/2-story gable roofed building, with the gable end facing the street. Now it is a square house with a 2 1/2-story gable roof section that runs east-west on the south side of the building and a 2-story shed roof section of equal size on the north side. The gable section has a standing-seam metal roof; the roofing material on the shed roof side is not visible from the ground. The house now has an asphalt-paper siding that looks like shingles, except on part of the first floor of the south side where aluminum siding is used.

The main facade is the west facade. On the second floor, there are two double-hung 1/1 windows in the gable section and one in the shed-roofed section. On the first floor, there are two 1/1 double-hung windows in the gable section and an oriel window of three 1/1 double-hung windows in the shed-roofed section. The first floor is recessed to form a porch although there is no visible evidence; one of the windows may have originally been a door to provide access to the porch. Now the second floor of the house is supported by metal pipes that have been jacked up to support it, replacing the original porch pillars. The pipes are not vertical, but rather, angle out toward the street at the bottom.

On the south side, there are three double-hung 1/1 windows on the second floor and, on the first floor, there is a pair of double-hung 1/1 windows, plus a single identical window next to the door into the house.

Across the back of the house (east side), and extending south of the house, is a one-story addition that may have originally been a porch. It has a gable roof where it extends south of the house and a shed roof where it is attached to the house. The roof of the porch appears to be covered with asphalt roofing paper. Covering the foundation of the porch on the south extension and gable section is pressed metal sheeting designed in an ashlar stone pattern. The shed-roofed "addition" on the north end of the porch is probably a doghouse. One door in this section leads into the gable section and one into the shed-roofed section. The south end of the addition has four double-hung 1/1 windows, while the east side has two double-hung 1/1 and a pair of smaller windows; it appears that these smaller windows might be above a kitchen sink. On the second floor of the east side, there are three double-hung windows, two set at a lower level than the third. In the gable, there is a small window with three vertical

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lites in the top sash and one in the bottom; this is probably an original window, but it is unclear if the others in the house would have followed this pattern at one time.

The north facade of the house is blocked by trees and other buildings so that it is not readily visible. There are three double-hung 1/1 windows on the second floor, and none on the first floor.

The fact that the shed roof overlaps the gable roof on the north side of the gable roof indicates that the shed roof section was probably added later. Because of the asphalt-paper siding, there is no evidence on the exterior walls of the original siding (probably wood clapboard) for either the south or north sections. Unfortunately, there are no building permits, Sanborn insurance maps, or other sources that can document the addition of asphalt siding, although we are trying to make contact with Mrs. Carney's daughter, who reputedly owns a scrapbook kept by Mrs. Carney. The one photo that shows Mother Jones at her "prison" in Pratt is so dark that it is impossible to use it to document this house, except to say that the picket fence and porch pillars in the photo are now gone.

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### HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

Mother Jones, the most forceful labor leader in the nationally historic 1912-13 West Virginia coal strikes, was held prisoner at 305 Center Street in Pratt, West Virginia, for three months. Within the context of the National Historic Landmark Program thematic framework, Mother Jones' Prison has national significance under theme: XXXI. Social and Humanitarian Movements (H) Labor Organizations. The building is located in an area where some of the worst coal mine strikes in the country took place. The imprisonment of Mother Jones in this building brought attention to the situation in West Virginia, which had an impact on coal miners and the coal industry that was felt nationwide.

Biographer Lois McLean, who is also president of the West Virginia Labor History Association, has said "I believe Mother Jones was in more places in West Virginia and elsewhere on behalf of the miners than any woman and possibly any man before or since."<sup>1</sup> Other sites of interest in West Virginia include Mother Jones Hollow, located in Raleigh County; the railway depot at Thurmond, where several incidents took place; the river area around Kaymoor or Minden; Montgomery, where Mother Jones had her headquarters from 1900 to 1903; and Fairmont, where she was also arrested in 1902. Because Mother Jones was always on the move, staying in hotels and temporary quarters, and because most of the mining areas in which she worked have been radically altered in recent years, neither a residence nor a mining site could be located that would be appropriate for landmark status. After consideration of these sites, as well as significant ones in other states, the site in Pratt is the best choice for a National Historic Landmark because Mother Jones' imprisonment there had important implications for all miners, not only in West Virginia, but in the entire country. This was the beginning of a change in national opinion that was soon felt in other states, including Colorado where conditions were almost as bad as those in West Virginia. "West Virginia and Colorado came to be Mother Jones' two stepdaughters of misery," said biographer Dale Fetherling.<sup>2</sup>

As a labor organizer, Mary "Mother" Jones spent her lifetime traveling throughout the United States and working on behalf of all kinds of industrial workers. But her most important work was for the coal miners--"her boys"--who were the most oppressed workers in the country. It has been said that, if Mother Jones had a home, it was with the coal miners and their families in West Virginia.<sup>3</sup> She lived with them, ate what they ate, and slept where they slept. It was in West Virginia that Mother Jones

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fought hardest, endured the most horrible conditions, and performed the most desperate acts--even advocating violence--for the sake of the miners and their families. When she was arrested and held prisoner in a boarding house in the town of Pratt during the grueling Paint-Creek/Cabin Creek strikes of 1912-1913, national attention was focused on the situation in West Virginia for the first time. A National Historic Landmark in West Virginia is appropriate because Mother Jones' imprisonment there led to a national inquiry of the working conditions of coal miners all over the country.

According to Philip Foner, Mother Jones organized miners in Pennsylvania, Ohio, Alabama, Michigan, Arizona, Colorado and other states. "But her longest organizing periods were spent in a state which was the most difficult of all in which to attempt to unionize--West Virginia."<sup>4</sup> Mother Jones worked for coal miners in West Virginia during five major strikes, but the most significant of these was the Paint-Creek/Cabin Creek strikes of 1912-1913. This was one of the most violent labor battles in American history. Earlier strikes (1897, 1902-03) brought no noticeable gains for the miners or for the union. By 1912, the UMWA felt that West Virginia was the Achilles heel of the union and that a set-back there could endanger the whole union structure.<sup>5</sup>

In southern West Virginia, ninety-four percent of the miners lived in company towns which were extremely isolated, and every facet of the miners' lives was controlled by the mine operators.<sup>6</sup> The rest of the country seemed to be unaware of the feudalistic conditions in this area which Mother Jones called "Old Russia." In the narrow valleys of Cabin Creek and Paint Creek, thousands of miners and their families had fought mine guards in a year-long mine war. It was reported that more than 30,000 men were affected by the strike.<sup>7</sup> Many had been driven out of their company-owned houses and were living in tents. Hunger, sickness and violence were rampant. Assaults, murders and destruction of property were daily occurrences. Governor Glasscock had declared martial law three times. Coal companies sealed off the seventeen-mile-long hollow of Cabin Creek and had set up armed guards at the only entrance.

The return of Mother Jones to West Virginia in 1911 was a major turning point in the conflict. Soon after her arrival, she rallied thousands of miners on the state capitol grounds where she denounced Governor Glasscock and inflamed her audience to arm themselves and do whatever was necessary to win their fight.<sup>8</sup> These speeches in West Virginia were among the most militant of her career. She went to



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Washington and tried to get Congress to investigate conditions in West Virginia, but found there was little interest. When she returned to Charleston in February 1913, she was arrested and charged with stealing a machine gun, attempting to blow up a train with dynamite, and conspiracy to murder. A military court sentenced her to a term in a penitentiary, but due to the fact that few court records have survived, the details of her sentence are unknown. It is known that she never served time in a penitentiary, but instead was kept isolated and under guard in a boarding house in Pratt.<sup>9</sup> She was released three months later, but her imprisonment gave the strike the publicity it needed.

Queries began coming into the Governor's office regarding Mother Jones from all over the country and the nation began to look at West Virginia and wonder just how civilized it was.<sup>10</sup> Mother Jones was able to smuggle a letter out of her prison to Senator John Kerns of Indiana, who read it on the Senate floor as he introduced Senate Resolution 37, authorizing the Senate Committee on Education and Labor to investigate conditions in West Virginia. The message said: "From out of the military prison wall of Pratt, West Virginia, where I have walked over my eighty-fourth milestone in history, I send you the groans and tears and heartaches of men, women and children as I have heard them in this state. From out of these prison walls, I plead with you for the honor of the nation, to push that investigation, and the children yet unborn will rise and bless you."<sup>11</sup> The New York Times later quoted her as saying: "West Virginia is on trial before the bar of the nation. The military arrests and the court martial which I and others were forced to undergo in West Virginia was the first move ever made by the ruling class to have the working class tried by military and not civil courts. It is up to the American workers to make sure that it is the last."<sup>12</sup>

Although West Virginia miners were not effectively organized until the 1930's, the Paint-Creek/Cabin Creek Strike won recognition for the UMWA as a bargaining agent of the miners. Their wages increased, they won a 9-hour day, and they no longer had to shop at the company's "pluck me" stores. Mother Jones also was involved in strikes in Logan and Mingo Counties of West Virginia in 1920-1921, but no other coal strike she engaged in, in West Virginia or elsewhere, had the impact of the Paint-Creek/Cabin Creek strikes.

Mother Jones worked in Colorado in 1903-1904, 1911, and 1913-1914. The strike of 1913-1914 was perhaps the most violent and demanding, much like the strike she had just come from in West Virginia. In fact, it

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seemed that West Virginia served as an example for both sides in Colorado. The mine operators imported the same machine guns that had been used in West Virginia, and the UMWA brought in the same tents they had supplied to the West Virginia miners. Mother Jones again went to Washington, but this time she added her comments to those of Rep. Edward Keating, who had already introduced a resolution for a federal investigation of the Colorado strike. As in West Virginia, Mother Jones was arrested in Colorado because her "anarchist speeches" were thought to be dangerous. "Strike until the last one of you drop into your graves," she said at the Trinidad Opera House. "Strike and stay with it as we did in West Virginia!"<sup>13</sup> Again, her arrest brought much-needed publicity. President Woodrow Wilson sent in federal troops to restore order in Colorado and demanded that the strike be settled. He also appointed a Commission on Industrial Relations to make a thorough study of the industrial conflicts in West Virginia and Colorado.

Although Colorado was also an important site of Mother Jones' work for the labor movement, the strike there is not considered by most historians to have been quite as desperate and extreme as the Paint-Creek/Cabin Creek Strike in West Virginia. "In my experience Colorado was no worse than West Virginia," Mother Jones later said. "They did not make me wade the creek in Colorado, but in West Virginia the gunmen made me wade a creek up to my hips to keep me from going to a meeting. . . . They didn't do half as bad in Colorado as they did in West Virginia. . . . In West Virginia they ran the 'death special' up the creek, shot the men and women, and the crowd on board said, 'Run the train back until we give them another bout'."<sup>14</sup>

Mother Jones has not been forgotten by the coal miners and their families in West Virginia, who continue to sing songs and recite poems about her. Robert Edwards, representative emeritus, IUD and AFL-CIO said: "I feel that which is most symbolic of her role and effect upon the labor movement is her legendary meaning to the workers. Her inspiration touched most of all the little people, the working man and his wife. It was this inspiration that helped many a miner and his family face the long hard strikes of those early years. . . . Many have contributed to the advancement of the labor movement, but in the formative stages, not one person gave more than Mother Jones."<sup>15</sup>

The miners trusted Mother Jones, and they felt she was one of them. Mother Jones herself said "I belong to a class who have been robbed, exploited, and plundered down throughout the long centuries and because I belong to that class, I have an instinct to help break the chains."<sup>16</sup> Although there were other women working as labor organizers during this

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time--including Fannie Sellins, Kate Richards O'Hare, and others--none of them traveled as widely or suffered as many hardships as Mother Jones. She was also the only one who developed this intimate relationship with the workers. "Workers responded to Mother Jones as they did to few others. This 'little old woman in a black bonnet, with a high falsetto voice and a handsome face framed in curly white hair and lighted by shrewd kindly eyes' was able to move workers as no one else, even including speakers like Eugene V. Debs and 'Big Bill' Haywood."<sup>17</sup> The miners thought of her as "Mother" and she thought of them as "her boys." Perhaps she was speaking of herself as well as other women when she said in a 1910 interview: "The mothers of this country have the greatest task of all. . . . They should teach their children the truth about economic conditions, for the mother molds the child. She holds in the hollow of her hand the next generation."<sup>18</sup>

One of the reasons that Mother Jones was able to go into the isolated, company-owned areas and rally the miners was that she was an elderly woman and a mother figure. This protected her from physical violence. Women were often able to get away with backtalk, jeering and taunting, physical obstruction, whipping scabs, bottle and rock throwing and other activities for which the men would have been killed.<sup>19</sup> She realized this, and also encouraged the miners' wives to participate in the strikes. She was not only a leader of the labor movement, but she encouraged leadership in other women as well. "She complained that not enough working women were getting up and revolting against intolerable conditions, joining organizations with men, or organizing their own. But when they did and asked for her assistance, she was already ready to help."<sup>20</sup>

She also looked to the women for protection. Once, in Colorado, she said "Tell Genl. Chase . . . he had better go back to his mother and get a nursing bottle. He'll do better there than making war on an 82-year-old woman in a state where women vote."<sup>21</sup> Indeed, when she was imprisoned in Colorado, 100 women marched into the hotel where General Chase was staying and fought their way through guards to demand her release. A reporter once asked Mother Jones why she stirred up the women and she said it was "because every drop of their blood is precious, they are the inner life of the race. . . . No nation will ever go beyond the development of its women."<sup>22</sup>

According to her autobiography, Mary Harris Jones was born in Cork, Ireland, in 1830. Most historians believe she exaggerated her age, as she often exaggerated other facts. Sometimes she said she was born in Canada.



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Nevertheless, according to her autobiography her family was poor and had fought for Ireland's freedom for many generations. Her father emigrated to America in the 1830's and then worked as a railroad laborer in Toronto where she grew up and attended public schools. She worked as a teacher and a dressmaker in Chicago and Memphis before marrying George Jones in 1861. He was an iron moulder and a staunch member of the Iron Moulders' Union. After her husband and children died in Memphis of yellow fever in 1867, she returned to Chicago and worked again as a dressmaker, primarily for aristocrats. Of this time, she said: "I had ample opportunity to observe the luxury and extravagance of their lives. . . . I would look out the windows and see the poor, shivering wretches, jobless and hungry, walking along the frozen lake front . . . my employers seemed neither to notice nor to care."<sup>23</sup> In 1871 the Chicago fire burned everything she owned, and after that she spent almost all her time working with the Knights of Labor. The first strike she became involved with was also the first nationwide strike in U.S. history--the revolt of the B & O Railroad workers in 1877. This was during the early years of the American labor movement when there was a major growth in industry. She observed the terrible violence of the Haymarket Tragedy in Chicago in 1888, and about the same time she began traveling around the country working wherever she was needed.

Her first experience with miners occurred in Virginia in the 1890's, where she was an organizer for the United Mine Workers. During this time she learned "there are no limits to which the powers of privilege will not go to keep the workers in slavery."<sup>24</sup> In the 1890's she also helped start the socialist newspaper, Appeal to Reason in Chicago. Around the turn of the century she started working for coal miners in Pennsylvania strikes, where she organized armies of women with mops and brooms to drive out the scabs from the mines. She first visited West Virginia in 1897 and was arrested in the Fairmont fields in 1902. In 1903 she organized a group of striking textile mill workers, mostly women and children, in Kensington, Pennsylvania, for a march on the Oyster Bay, New York, home of President Theodore Roosevelt, who refused to see them. Marching was one of the tactics she often used to gain publicity and money for a cause.

During the next few years she worked for miners in Colorado, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and other states; she helped free imprisoned Mexican revolutionaries for which she was later honored by the Mexican people; she worked for women shirtwaist workers in New York City, copper miners in Arizona, female bottlers in Milwaukee breweries, oil workers, streetcar workers in El Paso, Texas, and in the nationwide steel strike of 1919. The major coal mine strikes she worked were the Paint-Creek/Cabin

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Creek strikes in West Virginia in 1912-13 and the 1913-14 strikes of the Rockefeller-owned Colorado Fuel and Iron Company in Colorado. Both of these strikes were nationally significant because they led to inquiries by the federal government and marked the beginning of a union strong-hold in some of the worst areas of oppression.

Mother Jones made her last public address at a Farmer-Labor Party convention in Chicago in July of 1923 and she wrote her autobiography in 1924. On May 1, 1930, she celebrated her 100th birthday in Hyattsville, Maryland and delivered her last speech, recorded by a newsreel camera, in which she said: "America was not founded on dollars but on the blood of the men who gave their lives for your benefit. Power lies in the hands of labor to retain American liberty, but labor has not yet learned how to use it. A wonderful power is in the hands of women, too, but they don't know how to use it. Capitalists sidetrack the women into clubs and make ladies of them. Nobody wants a lady, they want women."<sup>25</sup>

This distinction between lady and woman was one Mother Jones often made, and her obvious dislike of "ladies" who led extravagant lives at the expense of the working classes led many people to believe that Mother Jones disliked other women and that she was against working women and the suffrage movement. It is true that Mother Jones, being a product of her time, believed that women should be at home taking care of their husbands and children rather than working in industry. She also appeared to be an opponent of the suffrage movement, often quoted as saying "You don't need a vote to raise hell!" But Priscilla Long has interpreted this as "being due to her class consciousness . . . most suffragists were middle and upper class women, whose concern for working class women was hazy at best. After hearing a suffrage speaker in Pennsylvania, Mother Jones' opinion was that in the suffrage movement 'the class struggle is lost sight of entirely'."<sup>26</sup>

The women Mother Jones befriended in the isolated mountain coal camps were very different from the women suffragists or the working women in the cities who were supported by unions. It was with these women, the miners' wives, that Mother Jones identified and she served as a role model for many of them in their struggle for freedom from the suffering and oppression of the coal camps. Mother Jones' accomplishments on behalf of the miners are even more extraordinary because, for the most part, she worked in a rural, isolated, male-dominated world.

Mother Jones died in November of 1930 and was buried in the only union-owned cemetery in the nation at Mt. Olive, Illinois, near the victims

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of the 1898 "Virden Massacre." Some ten to fifteen thousand people attended the funeral of this white-haired, grandmotherly figure whom a West Virginia prosecutor once called "the most dangerous woman in America." A few years before her death, Mother Jones spoke with particular compassion about West Virginia where she had lived and worked with the miners at various times for twenty-three years. "Medieval West Virginia! With its grim men and women. With its tent colonies on the bleak hills. When I get to the other side, I shall tell God Almighty about West Virginia!" she said.<sup>27</sup>

It has been said that Mother Jones was a Mother to the coal miners of her day, as much as George Washington was the Father of our country.<sup>28</sup> Many labor historians agree that Mother Jones was a great figure in American labor history. Philip Foner said that "when one considers the subjects dealt with by Mother Jones from 1900 through the 1920's . . . one must conclude that this remarkable American woman has furnished us with an incomparable record of the American labor movement during these crucial decades of its development."<sup>29</sup> Her travels included visits with nationally prominent people, as well as with poverty-stricken laborers and their families. She met and talked with several U.S. presidents, including William Howard Taft, Woodrow Wilson and Warren G. Harding. For years after her death, Mother Jones' tomb was the site of an annual pilgrimage. In recent years, a national monthly magazine, Mother Jones, was named for her, and includes her photo on the masthead along with a caption calling her "one of the great orators of her day."

In 1922, George P. West, one of the staff investigators of the Commission on Industrial Relations, wrote a letter to The Nation to nominate Mother Jones as one of the twelve greatest American women. The Boston Herald in 1904 said: There is a woman in these modern times worthy of being classed with the grand characters of history, the heroic women of the ages--Hypatia, Deborah, the Mother of the Gracchi, Veronica, Joan of Arc--that woman, in the minds of thousands of the common people of America, is the good, gray-haired woman affectionately known to them as 'Mother' Jones. . . .<sup>30</sup> Eugene Debs said she would be remembered by the children of the people she helped, and their children's children forever."<sup>31</sup> Judith Mikeal found this to be true when she interviewed miners in southern West Virginia who knew Mother Jones. She reported that people who still live in Cabin Creek say that of all the labor figures that have worked in the area, Mother Jones is the one they remember and she is the one they loved the most.<sup>32</sup> The miners used to say "Mother Jones is up in the hills raisin' hell."

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<sup>2</sup>Dale Fetherling, Mother Jones, The Miner's Angel: Portrait  
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<sup>3</sup>Fetherling, 25.  
<sup>4</sup>Philip S. Foner, ed., Mother Jones Speaks. Collected Writings and  
Speeches (New York, 1983), 33.  
<sup>5</sup>Judith Elaine Mikeal, "Mother Mary Jones: The Labor Movement's  
Impious Joan of Arc" (Thesis, University of North Carolina, 1965), 59.  
<sup>6</sup>David Alan Corbin, Life Work and Rebellion in the Coal Fields  
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<sup>7</sup>Joseph Platania, "Three Sides to the Story, Governor Hatfield and the  
Mine Wars," Goldenseal (Summer 1985): 53.  
<sup>8</sup>Platania, 57.  
<sup>9</sup>Edward M. Steel, ed., The Correspondence of Mother Jones (Pittsburg  
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<sup>10</sup>Mikeal, 78.  
<sup>11</sup>Steel, 114.  
<sup>12</sup>Foner, 225.  
<sup>13</sup>Linda Atkinson, Mother Jones, The Most Dangerous Woman in America  
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<sup>15</sup>Jim Axelrod, ed., Thoughts of Mother Jones (Huntington, 1971), 10.  
<sup>16</sup>Axelrod, 10.  
<sup>17</sup>Foner, 36.  
<sup>18</sup>Priscilla Long, Mother Jones, Woman Organizer (Cambridge, 1976), 14.  
<sup>19</sup>Long, 23.  
<sup>20</sup>Foner, 26.  
<sup>21</sup>Foner, 239.  
<sup>22</sup>Foner, 27.  
<sup>23</sup>Mary Field Parton, ed., Mary Harris Jones, an Autobiography (Chicago,  
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<sup>24</sup>Parton, 27.  
<sup>25</sup>Foner, 366.  
<sup>26</sup>Long, 33.  
<sup>27</sup>Parton, 235.  
<sup>28</sup>Axelrod, 1.  
<sup>29</sup>Foner, 16.  
<sup>30</sup>Foner, 62.  
<sup>31</sup>Atkinson, 236.  
<sup>32</sup>Mikeal, 90.

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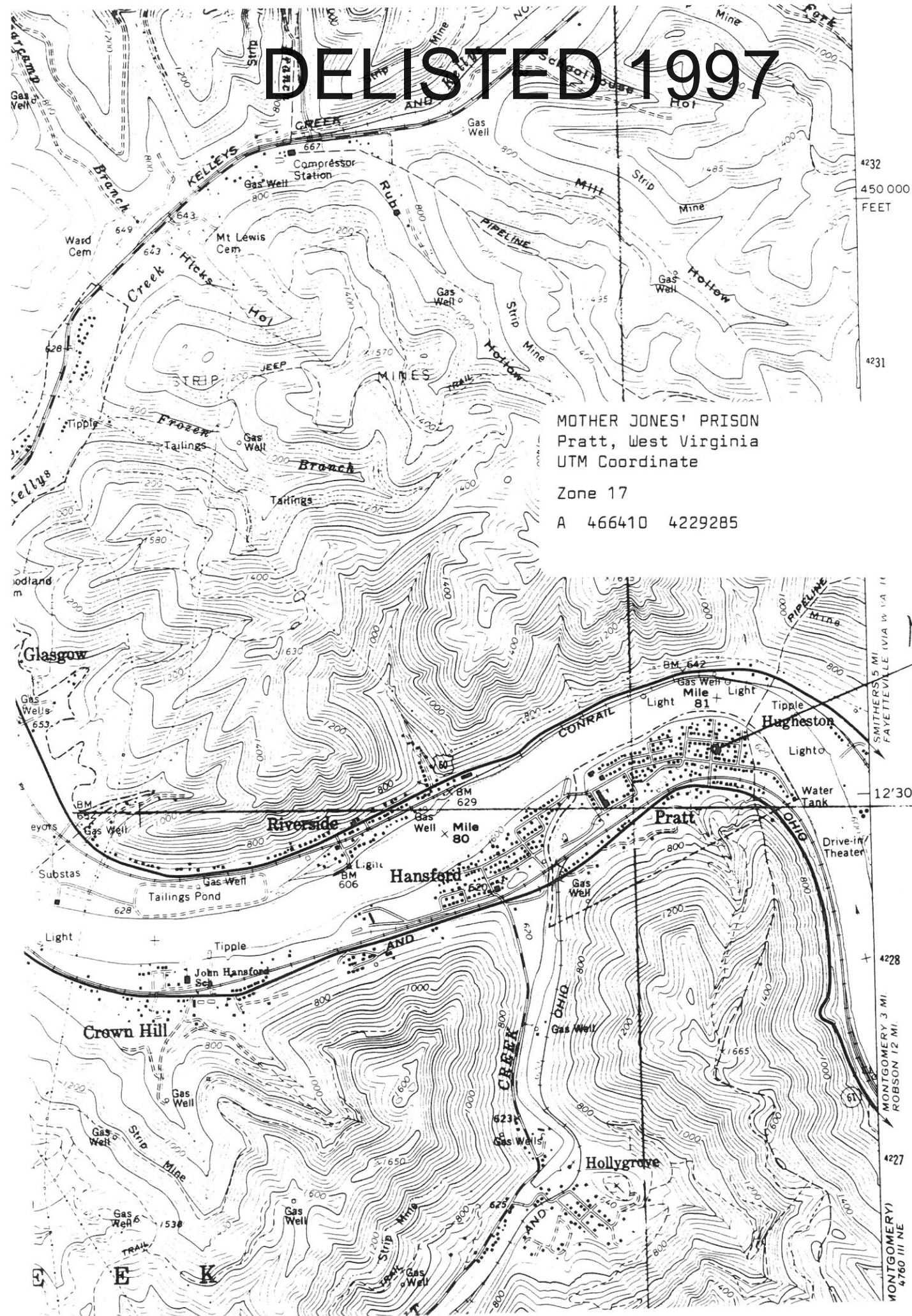
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MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
UTM Coordinate

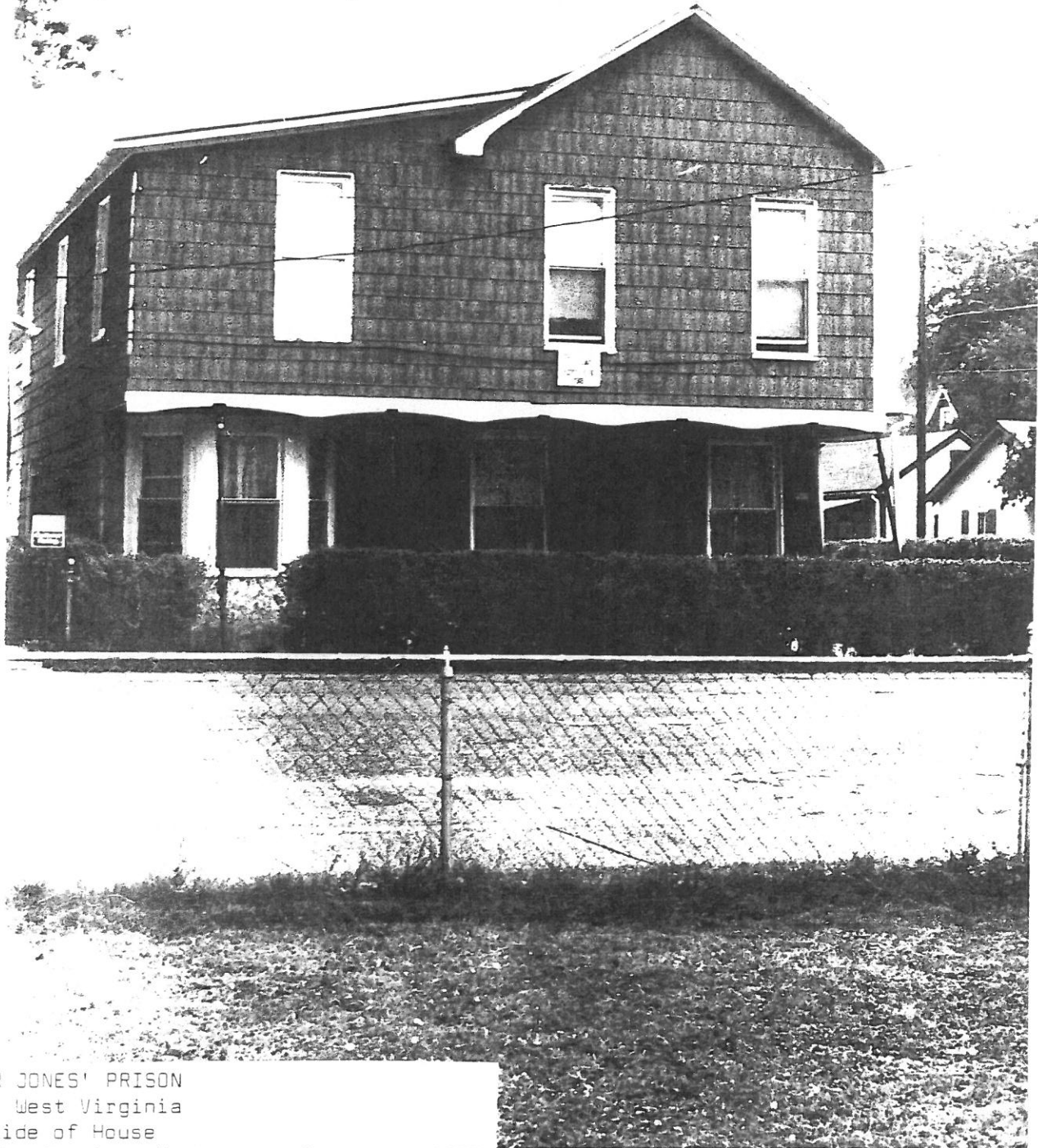
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Mother  
Prison  
305Cent  
Pratt

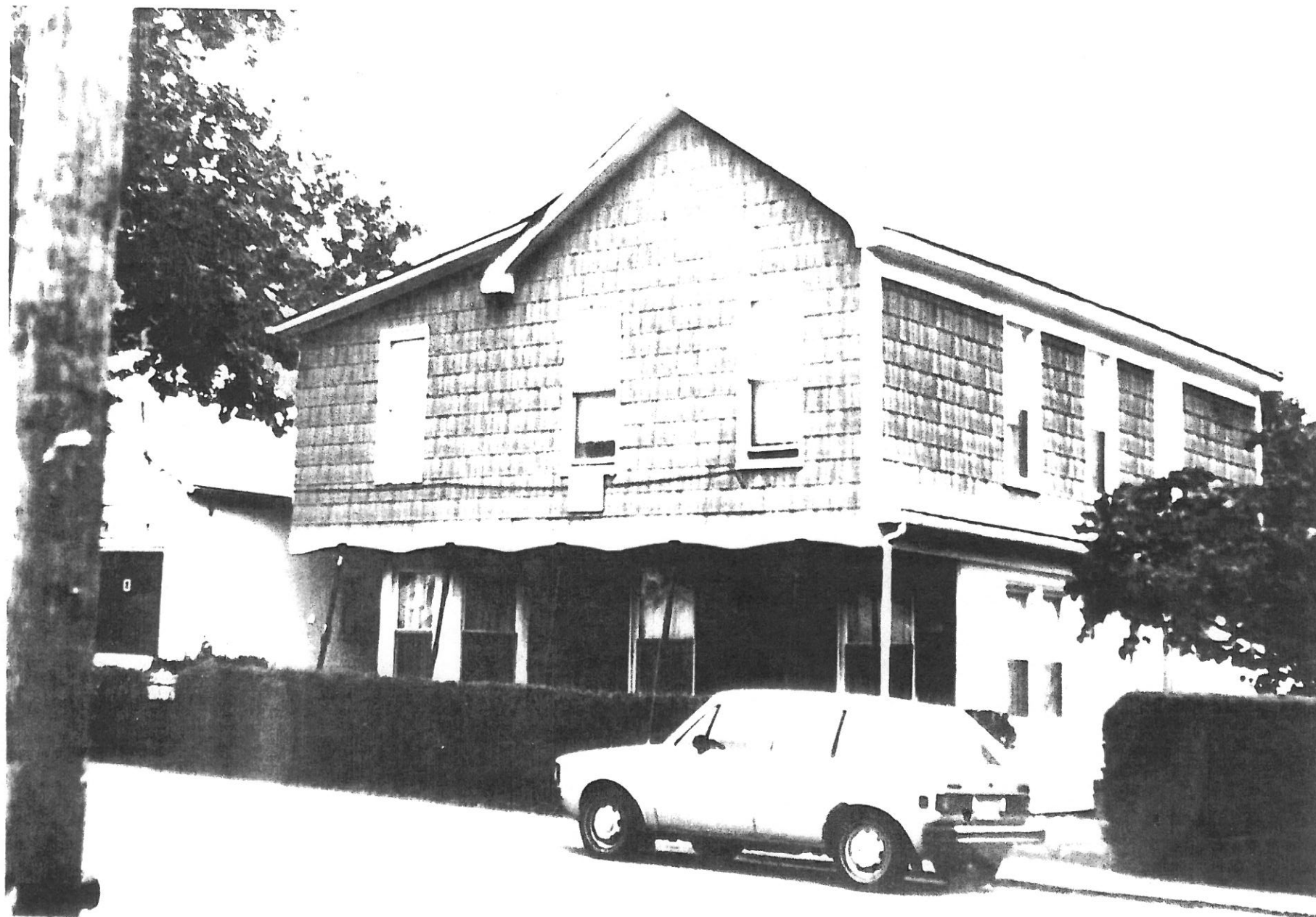


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MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
West side of House  
Photo by Charlene M. Lattea, September 1989

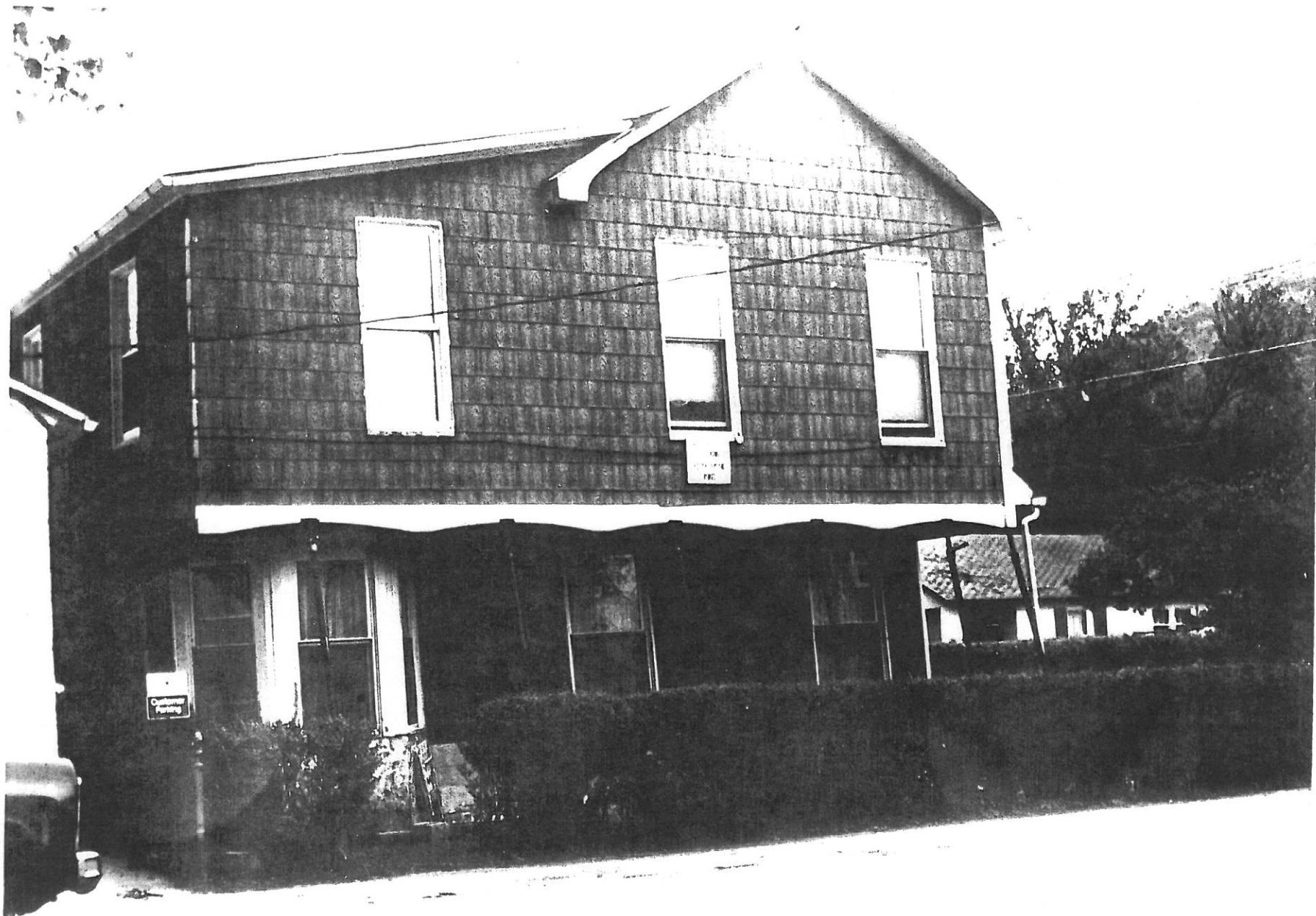
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MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
Southwest corner of House  
Photo by Charlene M. Lattea, September 1989



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MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
Northwest corner of House  
Photo by Charlene M. Lattea, September 1989



MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
Last side of House  
Photo by Charlene M. Lattea, September 1989

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MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
Southeast corner of House  
Photo by Charlene M. Lattea, September 1989

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MOTHER JONES' PRISON  
Pratt, West Virginia  
Close-up, west side of House  
Photo by Charlene M. Lattea, September 1989

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