

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

historic name: Tracewell House

other name/site number: "Maple Shadows;" Tracewell Manor

2. Location

street & number: State Route 95

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Parkersburg

vicinity: X

state: WV county: Wood

code: 107

zip code: 26101

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Private

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

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

Name of relate property listing: N/A

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. _____ See continuation sheet.

3/5/91
Date

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

Date

I, hereby certify that this property is:

____ other (explain):

Date of
Action

Current : Domestic Sub: Single Dwelling

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

Mid-19th Century: Greek Revival

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Other Description: I-House

Materials: foundation Sandstone roof Slate
walls Brick other _____

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

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8. Statement of Significance

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: B, C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

POLITICS

Period(s) of Significance: c. 1835-1930

Significant Dates : 1835 _____

Significant Person(s): Tracewell, Edward P.

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Not Known

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

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The Tracewell House stands on a substantial stone foundation on a slight grade above State Route 95 west of Parkersburg, West Virginia. The single-pile painted brick I-House is an excellent local example of Greek Revival architecture. Its proportions and symmetry are qualities associated with fine early house building in the region.

The one-room deep house is bisected by a central hall. The slate-roofed central block contains four rooms: two on the first floor and two on the second. A gabled, two-story ell stands at the rear. A distinguishing feature of the Tracewell House is the brickwork that is clearly defined at the front elevation in a Flemish bond, and at the side and rear elevations in a common American bond.

Significant mid-19th - century design elements are found along the house's front facade. Centered above the entrance is a single-bay, one-story portico featuring a gabled roof with triangular pediment. Other Greek Revival features include a corbeled brick cornice (a common West Virginia vernacular Greek Revival element), a second story belt course at the window sill line, and differentiation of window heights at the first and second floor levels. Adding to the formality of the fenestration across the five-bay front is the sash configuration which is nine over six lights at the ground floor and six over six lights at the second level.

Late 19th-century bracketwork embellishes the eaves of the Tracewell House, indicating a minor, later design change. The eaves above the interior end chimneys are rather deep, differing from other West Virginia Greek Revival-style houses which often exhibit flush gable ends. Singular among other substantial design features of this house are expertly cut window lintel and sill stones.

Within the angle of the house formed by the main block and ell is a two-story gallery, now partially enclosed. Within ten feet of the rear porch to the northeast corner of the house is a deteriorating contributing board-and-batten outbuilding. The building's slate roof is in disrepair; wide board sheathing is visible in several areas. Attached to the northwest side of the outbuilding is a gable roofed open well housing.

Interior features of the Tracewell House are simple, though elegant. The well-preserved stair is an open stringer with two runs and a railing appointed with a molded rail and slender balusters. Mantels in the adjacent first floor parlor and dining room are wooden single shelf types with broad plain facing boards.

Grounds behind the house, shaded by maple and spruce trees, slope gently upward. One of the early common names for this property is "Maple Shadows."

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Built in pre-Civil War America in ca. 1835 and known for many years as "Tracewell Manor" and still later as "Maple Shadows," the Greek Revival Tracewell House is the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in the southern part of Wood County. It was the home of Edward P. Tracewell, the sheriff of the county in 1850, a year which marked the onset of one of the most turbulent decades in the nation's history. By the end of 1861 he was a supporter of the Union cause and presided over a meeting of Wood County citizens convened in March 1862 on behalf of the ratification of the constitution of the proposed new state of West Virginia, which was born on June 20, 1863. The Tracewell House, therefore, meets National Register Criteria B because the house is associated with a local prominent personality.

The house possesses additional distinctions under Criterion C as the finest Greek Revival house in southern Wood County.

Born in 1799 in Culpepper County, Virginia, Tracewell migrated to Wood County in 1822, a year during which many citizens of the Mid-Ohio Valley centering upon the present Parkersburg, West Virginia-Marietta, Ohio, Standard Metropolitan District died during a fever epidemic. At his death in 1876, he was described as one of the oldest and wealthiest citizens of the county by a local newspaper reporting his death. His farm consisted of three hundred and fifty-six acres.

After Tracewell's death, his remains were interred in the family cemetery located on high ground about one half mile to the northwest of the house. His grave is marked by an impressive gravestone. To its west are numerous other graves, for over time the cemetery became a popular burial ground in the portion of Wood County radiating for some distance from Tracewell Manor in all directions in the area south of the Little Kanawha River.

The Tracewell House is unique in other respects. First, it is the only surviving structure from the 1830's along a well travelled highway (Route 95 South) connecting the southern limits of the city of Parkersburg with the site of Wood counties two largest industrial employers -- DuPont and General Electric Plastics. Second, it is situated along the main road connecting Parkersburg's historic Point (the point where the Little Kanawha River enters the Ohio River) with Lubeck, the small commercial center of a farming area heavily populated by immigrants from northern Germany. Families comprising this group first arrived in the area in the 1850's, but their descendant scan still be found in the area. Third, the Tracewell farm itself was situated in an area known as Quakertown because in 1816 a Quaker from Maine named Eliphet Dudley moved to the area, purchased land, cleared it, farmed it, raised a family on it, and witnessed one of his sons become engaged to the future wife of Edward Tracewell. However, the engagement was severed

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at the son's request when the son became ill. Fourth, the architecture of the house is significant. It is the finest example of Greek Revival architecture in southern Wood County. It is of single pile construction being one-room deep but possessing two stories. It possesses a 5-bay front. It possesses a trabeated entrance beneath a pedimented entry porch. Its brickwork on its front is Flemish Bond; on its sides is 5-course American Bond; 7-course American Bond is used in the rear ell. It has a brick dog tooth dentil row at cornice level. Its rear ell has a two-story gallery. All of these characteristics of Greek Revival architecture in one building are rare in southern Wood County.

X See continuation sheet.

- 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 # _____

X State historic preservation office

- ```

- Other state agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other -- Specify Repository: WV SHPO - Wood County Survey, 1990

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Acreage of Property: .9 of an acre

A 17 449080 4344280 B                       
C                      D                     

To the north and the east by the sunset Memory Gardens, to the west by the Flowers Baking Co. distribution Center, and to the south by State Route 95. See sketch map; Plat ref. Plat Book 9, p.24; and Deed Book 806 p. 392.

The nominated property constitutes the significant portion of Tracewell lands historically associated with the Tracewell House, outbuilding, and immediate grounds.

**Name/Title:** Bernard L. Allen, Ph. D. (History); Rodney Collins, WV SHPO

Street & Number: 1521 Washington Ave. Telephone: 422-8375/348-0240

City or Town: Parkersburg State: WV ZIP: 26101

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## Interviews

Garrity, Mr. and Mrs. David. Present owners of the house. Interviewed by Dr. Bernard L. Allen (Ph. D., History) at the house (January 1990).

Allen, Mrs. Mary Taylor. Last surviving Edward P. Tracewell relative in Wood County, West Virginia. (January 1990).

## Printed Sources

Census Records of Wood County, West Virginia for 1850, 1860, and 1870.

Genealogy of Edward Tracewell in the possession of David Garrity, present owner and occupant of the Tracewell House.

"James I. Tracewell," in the biographical section of Hardesty's History of Wood County, Chicago: H. H. Hardesty, 1882.

"John Kenner Tracewell," in the biographical section of Hardesty's History of Wood County, Chicago: H. H. Hardesty, 1882.

Obituary of Edward P. Tracewell in a 1876 Parkersburg newspaper, The Parkersburg Sentinel (March 18, 1876).

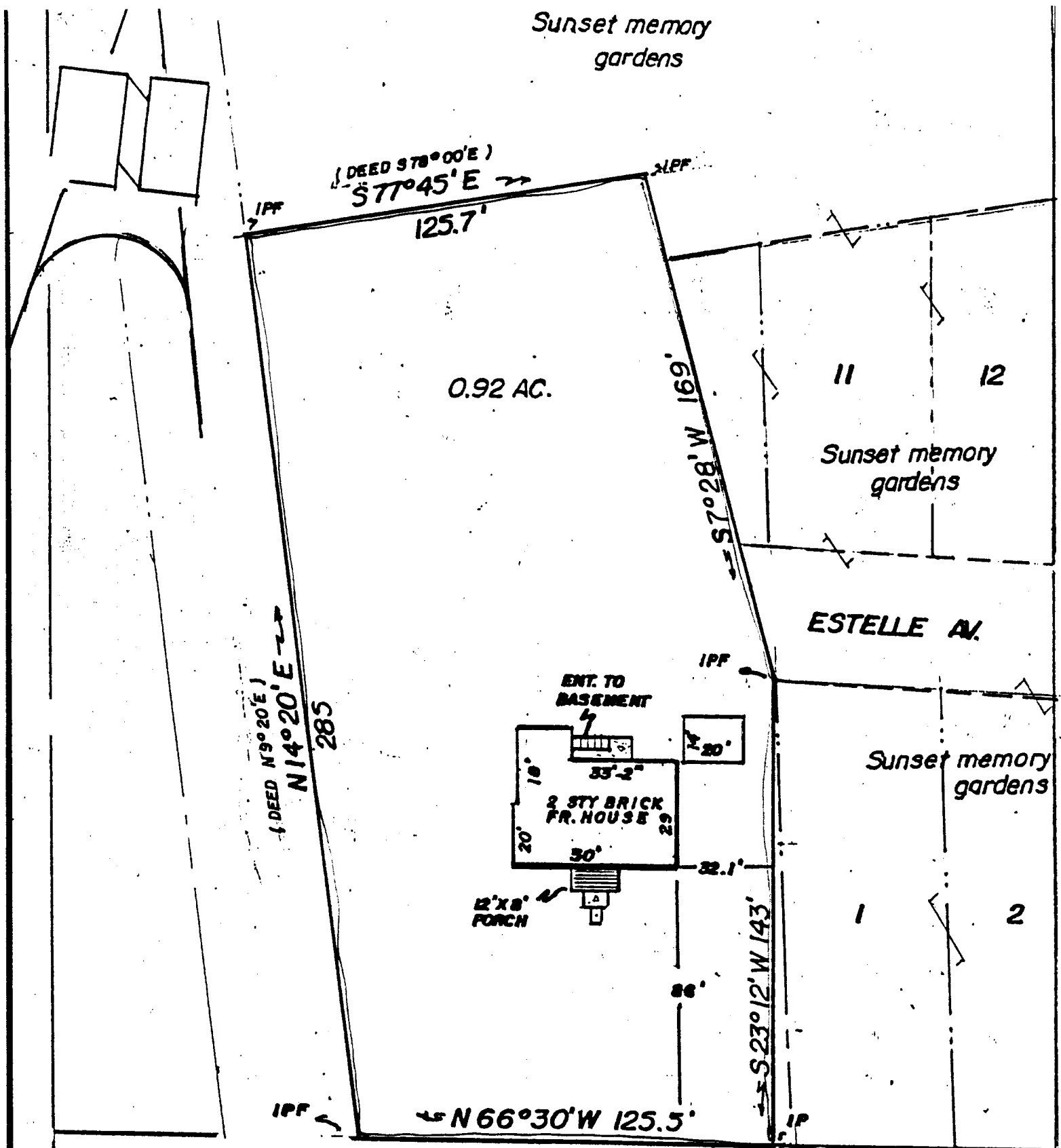
"Public Meeting at Parkersburg," The Wheeling Intelligencer (March 19, 1862).

"Quakertown," by Madeling McCormick in The West Augusta Historical and Genealogical Society's History of Wood County, West Virginia (1980).

"Quakertown," in The Daily State Journal (Wednesday evening, March 16, 1887).

"Tracewell Manor," featured in "A Page From a Wood County Album," The Parkersburg News, Section IV, page 62, Sunday, December 16, 1984. Photo of the house accompanied the piece.





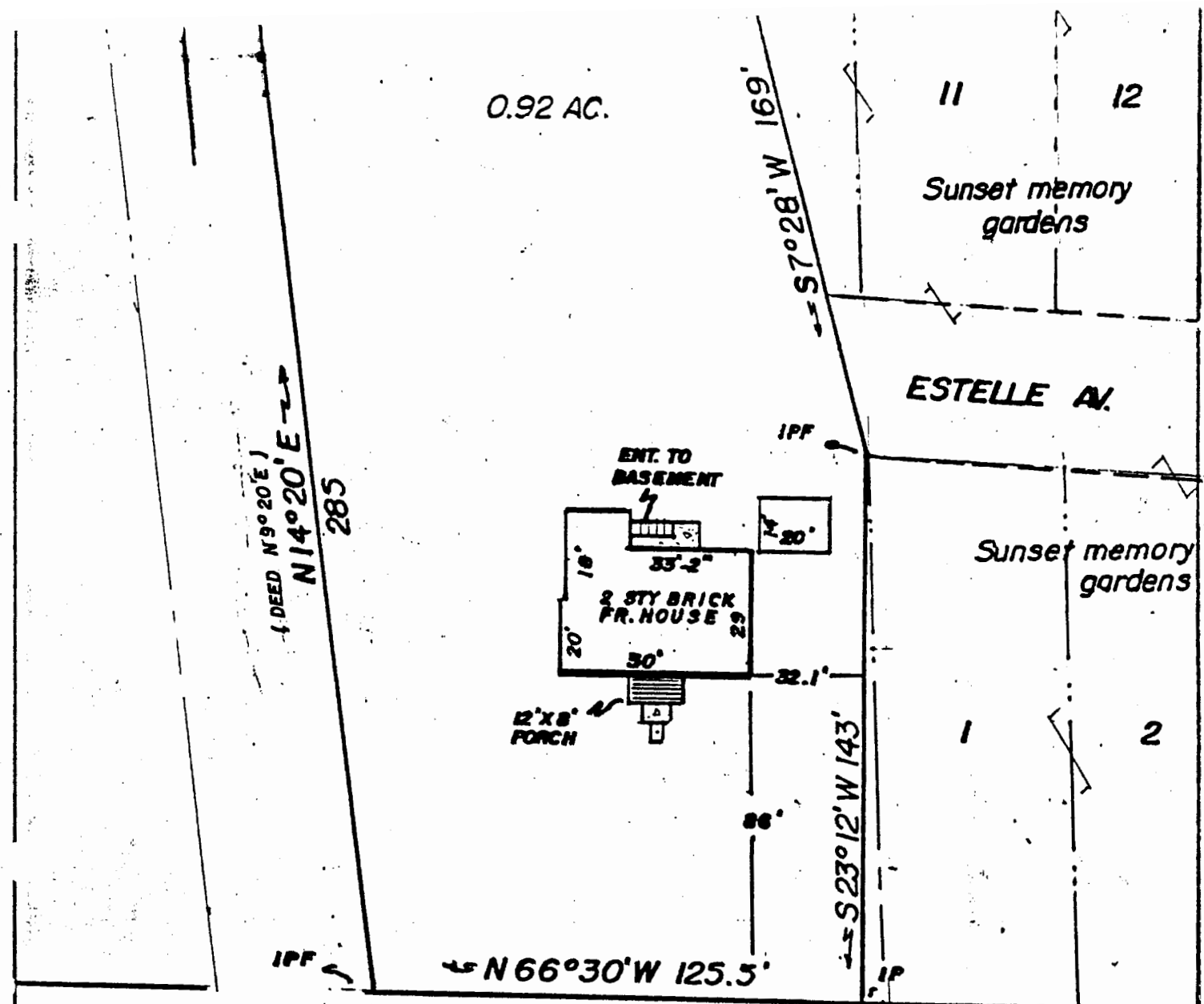
# ROUTE 95

PLAT FOR

WILLIAM D and CAROLYN S. GARRITY  
ROUTE 37 BOX 261  
PARKERSBURG, WV.

SITUATED

LUBECK DISTRICT, WOOD CO. WVA.



# ROUTE 95

PLAT FOR

WILLIAM D and CAROLYN S. GARRITY  
ROUTE 37 BOX 261  
PARKERSBURG, WV.

SITUATED

LUBECK DISTRICT, WOOD CO. WVA.

BEING

PART OF THE SAME PROPERTY CONVEYED TO  
WILLIAM DAVID GARRITY IN DEED BOOK  
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PLAT REF. PLAT BOOK 9 PAGE 24

SCALE 1" = 40'

DATE JULY 1, 1986

