

(Oct. 1990)

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

## 1. Name of Property

historic name: Stuart, W. Scott House  
other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2. Location

street & number: 104 Chancery Street not for publication: n/a  
city/town: West Union vicinity: n/a  
state: West Virginia code: WV county: Doddridge code: 017 zip code: 26456

## 3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally.  
( See continuation sheet.

William G. Lauer  
Signature of Certifying Official

2.16.93  
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Date

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

Signature of Certifying Official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

Stuart House  
property name

Doddridge, WV  
county and state

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

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

## 5. Classification

ownership of property: category of property  
(check as many boxes as apply) (check only one box)

- ```
x private  
_ public-local  
_ public-state  
_ public-federal
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- x building(s)  
\_ district  
\_ site  
\_ structure  
\_ object

### NUMBER OF RESOURCES WITH PROPERTY

(do not include previously listed resources in the count)

contributing

### noncontributing

1

buildings  
sites  
structures  
objects  
TOTAL

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1

0

NAME OF RELATED MULTIPLE PROPERTY LISTING n/a  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

NUMBER OF CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES PREVIOUSLY LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER. 0

Stuart House  
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#### 6. Function or Use

## HISTORIC FUNCTIONS

(enter categories from instructions)

## CURRENT FUNCTIONS

(enter categories from instructions)

domestic/single dwelling

domestic/single dwelling

## 7. Description

## **ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION:**

(enter categories from instructions)

## MATERIALS

(enter categories from instructions)

late 19th and early 20th century

## American movements

foundation brick

walls brick

roof ceramic tile

other concret

## wood

[View all posts by admin](#)

## NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

#### 8. Statement of Significance

## APPLICABLE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

(Mark "X" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
  - B The property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
  - C The 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 The property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

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) CRITERIA CONSIDERATIONS  
(mark "X" in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE

(enter categories from instructions)

architecture

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PERIOD OF SIGNIFICANCE

ca. 1905

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SIGNIFICANT DATES

n/a

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SIGNIFICANT PERSON

(complete if criterion B is marked above)

n/a

CULTURAL AFFILIATION

n/a

ARCHITECT/BUILDER

unknown

) NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Stuart House  
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) 9. Major Bibliographical References

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS): n/a

- 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 - repository name: \_\_\_\_\_

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10. Geographical Data

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Acreage of Property: less than one

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

|      |           |               |                |          |          |          |          |
|------|-----------|---------------|----------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1    | <u>17</u> | <u>519460</u> | <u>4349210</u> | 2        | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |
| Zone | Easting   | Northing      | Zone           | Easting  | Northing |          |          |
| 3    | <u> </u>  | <u> </u>      | D              | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | <u> </u> |          |
| Zone | Easting   | Northing      | Zone           | Easting  | Northing | See      |          |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheets.)

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11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title: Stacy Sone, structural historian

) organization: WV SHPO date: December 16, 1992

street & number: Cultural Center telephone: 304-558-0220

city or town: Charleston state: WV ZIP: 25305

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) ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

) =====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

CONTINUATION SHEETS

MAPS

- USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location
- sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources

PHOTOGRAPHS

- representative black and white photographs of the property

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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PROPERTY OWNER

=====

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

) name: Stella May

=====

street & number: 104 Chancery Street telephone: 304-873-1383

city or town: West Union state:WV ZIP: 26456

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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

section 7 page 1

Stuart House  
Doddridge County, WV

The W. Scott Stuart house, located on Chancery Street in West Union, is an intact and representative example of a grand house built during a transition period in architectural styles. The three-story house remains substantially unaltered from its ca. 1905 appearance. Its most significant features are its paired towers, front portico with Ionic columns, wrap-around porch, and opulent interior.

The conspicuous house faces northwest towards downtown West Union. Its most pronounced features are the circular twin towers that are located on each front corner. The towers have tile conical roofs and an even window arrangement. The entrance bay stands in the center of the symmetrical facade behind a two-story portico. The concrete Ionic columns are located in front of the wrap-around porch that follows exactly the line of the building around the towers. Ionic columns also support the porch roof and have a concrete balustrade between. The main entrance and the doorway on the second floor that opens onto the porch roof are identical. The paired doors have leaded glass panes in wooden frames and a leaded glass transom. The flanking sidelights with transoms are also leaded glass. A broad concrete stairway leads from the sidewalk to the entrance. The steps stand between a low brick wall decorated with two concrete ornamental urns. On the flat porch surface in front of the main door are the words "La Don-Jaun", a play on words for the names of the Stuarts' two children. The words form a simple art nouveau design in smooth mosaic tile.

Although the house looks complex, its plan is basically a square with rounded front corners. A one-story sunroom extends off the rear side. The porch wraps three sides and follows the house's outline. The main hipped roof is steeply pitched with high pitched gables intersecting with it on all four sides. The front and rear gables hold Palladian windows.

The only distraction from the impressive exterior is the plain wooden entablature. For various reasons, the Stuarts never completed their house on the interior or exterior. It is likely that the designer intended for the entablature to be either stone or concrete. The current owner bought the house and completed it inside and out and applied the wood to finish the exterior.

The house's interior reflects its turn-of-the-century construction date and has undergone few changes. The center hall plan is unaltered and the fireplaces, doors, windows, and original interior trim are all intact. Sitting rooms flank the spacious center hall. These rooms and the dining room display ornately-carved Italian marble fireplaces with gilded mirrors above. Throughout the main rooms on the first floor are plaster ceiling moldings and fluted door frames that Mrs. Stuart made herself in the

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Stuart House  
Doddridge County, WV

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basement. Opulent glass adorn the east parlor, dining room, center hall, and the stairway at the second floor. The dining room, in addition to the chandelier and fireplace, displays a leaded and stained glass window surrounded by a carved frame over a window seat. Smaller windows of the same design flank the fireplace. The kitchen stands at the rear opposite the dining room. Its original pressed-tin ceiling and built-in cabinets are intact. A butler's pantry and a built-in dining nook are located between the dining room and kitchen. Extending off the kitchen is an enclosed sun porch.

The second floor is accessible by way of a back stair located between the west parlor and the kitchen or by the center stair which is one of the interior's grandest features. It stands in the center of a spacious hall and is broad at the base and narrower at the landing. A short set of stairs on each side of the center stairway ascends, in an opposite direction, to the second floor from the landing. Centered at the top of the main stairway is another large gilded mirror. Leaded and stained glass double-hung windows flank the mirror. A glass chandelier hangs over the stair landing. The upstairs bed rooms are simple but still contain fireplaces and artistic light fixtures.

The current owner carefully completed the interior by installing the pocket doors on the first floors and finishing the stairway balustrade with the materials that had been stored in the basement.

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CONTINUATION SHEETsection 8 page 1Stuart House  
Doddridge County, WV

The W. Scott Stuart house is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under criterion C in the area of architecture. It is an intact turn-of-the-century house that displays both high Victorian and early twentieth-century characteristics. The impressive house shows typical Queen Anne features such as the towers and wrap-around porch. Its plan, however, is basically symmetrical, very much like the four-square houses of the 1910s. The Stuart house is in excellent condition and retains its architectural integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and location.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, the well-known architect and pattern-book writer A.J. Downing initiated a trend in the United States for picturesque, asymmetrical design in residential buildings. Throughout the rest of the century, architects followed Downing's example and promoted a variety of house styles. Before the Civil War, most architect-designed houses were based upon European sources as evidenced by the abundance of Gothic and Italianate houses. Beginning in the 1870s, however, there was a greater emphasis on the artistic effect that resulted in a more uniquely American style. The Queen Anne provided the best example of this trend towards artistic expression. Popularized by the English architect Richard Norman Shaw, the Queen Anne style in England was characterized by tall chimneys, asymmetry, and decorative tile.

American architects became familiar with the English Queen Anne through English architectural magazines that circulated widely in the United States. One of the style's earliest promoters in the United States was the New York architect Henry Hudson Holly who introduced his ideas first in Harper's Monthly, and then in an 1878 pattern book titled Modern Dwellings. Holly departed significantly from the English examples to create what he considered to be a uniquely American style that was more irregular and artistic than the English Queen Anne. Compared to the Queen Anne houses built in the 1880s and 1890s, the buildings that Holly introduced in 1878 were relatively plain and unoriginal. George and Charles Palliser and Robert Shoppell promoted houses in the 1880s with greater emphasis on the artistic effect. To achieve this, these architects exaggerated the house's external and internal features, varied the designs more, and applied more ornamentation. Today the term "Queen Anne" generally applies to these late-nineteenth century houses of various scales that display artistic features.

Although Queen Anne houses were built well into the twentieth century, the style became old-fashioned by around 1900. At that time, Americans began to question and reject the old Victorian lifestyle that had dominated the country since the middle of the century. Victorians were known for their

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conspicuous display of material things and their love of decoration. Turn-of-the-century Americans lost interest in the formal Victorian lifestyle. They turned to simpler and more practical ways of living. A house style that was functional and plain served their purposes perfectly. Four-squares and bungalows became the style of choice for Americans across the country, reflecting the trend towards simplicity.

The design that W. Scott Stuart chose for his house reflects the movement across the United States from the ostentatious Queen Anne style to simpler, practical houses of the twentieth century. Stuart's West Union house shows some of the most characteristic aspects of the Queen Anne style such as the rounded towers and wrap-around porch. What it lacks, however, is a sprawling, irregular plan and extreme external ornamentation which were common features of Queen Anne houses of every scale. Characteristics that identify the house as early twentieth century are its plan, which is basically a box; its symmetrical facade; and its classical portico. The house is by no means plain and simple but it illustrates the trend from the high Victorian Queen Anne style to the less exuberant, symmetrical houses popular at the turn of the century.

The interior also confirms the house's transition period construction date. The opulent rooms with their glass chandeliers, carved marble fireplaces, and gilded mirrors recall some of the high Victorian, Queen Anne style's most lavish houses. The room arrangement, however, is symmetrical like other early twentieth century houses instead of sprawling like plans of the earlier period. The dining room, even with its glass chandelier and marble fireplace, displays a striking similarity to the craftsman style which was popular at the turn of the century. The dark wood trim, beamed ceiling, built-in shelves, and stained glass windows look as if they belong in a 1910 bungalow. The original craftsman-style furniture is still in the room. Other rooms, including the stairhall, contain characteristics from before and after the turn of the century.

Because taxes were substantially lower on an unfinished house and because of a difficult family life, the Stuarts never completed their house. The current owner bought it from the couple's nephew ca. 1964 and completed the project. She built the stair balustrade, installed the pocket doors, and added the wood to cover incomplete parts of the entablature. The house has been well-maintained and retains all of the original characteristics that identify it as an elegant turn-of-the-century mansion.

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Doddridge County, WV

9. bibliography

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Clark, Clifford Edward. The American Family Home, 1800-1960. Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 1986.

Downing, A.J. The Architecture of Country Houses. New York: D. Appleton and Co., 1850. Reprint, New York: Dover Publications, 1969.

Holly, Henry Hudson. "The American Style". The American Architect and Building News 2(Aug., 1877), 267.

\_\_\_\_\_. Modern Dwellings in Town and Country Adapted to American Wants and Climate. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1878. Reprint, Watkins Glen, NY: Library of Victorian Culture, 1977.

May, Stella, property owner. site visit, November 19, 1992.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1984.

Palliser, George and Charles Palliser. American Architecture. NY: 1888. Reprint, The Palliser's Late Victorian Architecture. Watkins Glen, NY: American Life Foundation, 1978.

Shoppell, R.W. Modern Houses, Beautiful Homes. NY: 1887. Reprint, Rockville Centre, NY: Antiquity Reprints, 1978.

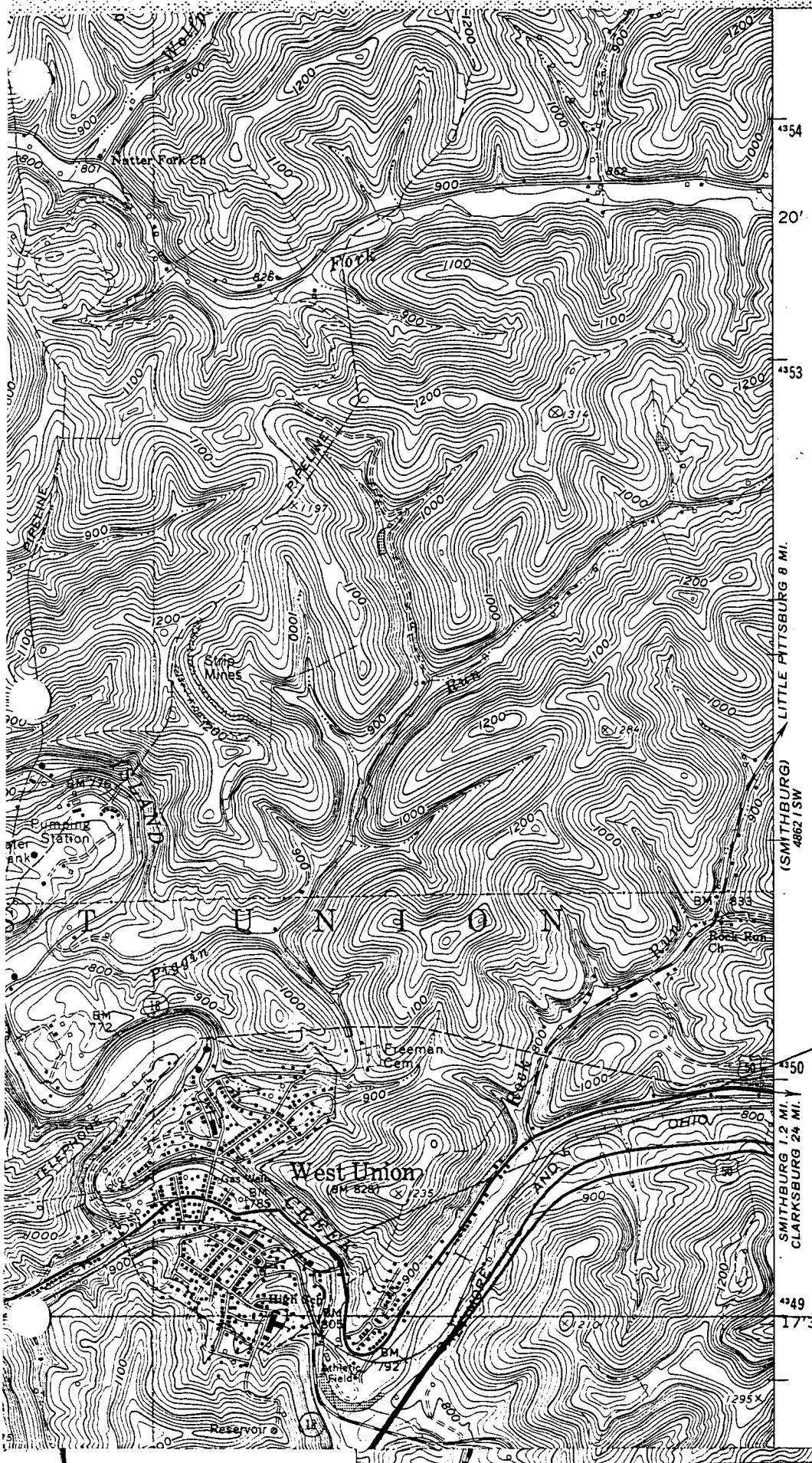
Wilson, Richard Guy. "American Architecture and the Search for a National Style in the 1870's". Nineteenth Century 3 (1977), 74-78.

10. verbal boundary description

parcel number 224, sheet 03 of West Union Corporation tax map;  
April, 1962

boundary justification

The boundary includes all of the property historically associated with the W. Scott Stuart house.



W. Scott Stuart House  
104 Chancery St.  
West Union, Doddridge Co., WV  
17 / 519460 / 4349210  
West Union quad

