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

1. Name of Property

historic name: WOODRIDGE
other name/site number: __________________________________________________________

2. Location

street & number: 1308 Steenrod Avenue not for publication: N/A
city/town: Wheeling vicinity: N/A
state: West Virginia code: WV county: Ohio code: 069 zip code: 26003

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant ____ nationally ____ statewide __X__ locally. (____ See continuation sheet.)

____________________________________________________________________________
Susan M. Pierce, Deputy SHPO Date
West Virginia Division of Culture and History
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.)

____________________________________________________________________________
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. 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): ___________________________________________________________

[ ] Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property:                Category of Property

- [X] private                          - [X] building(s)
- [ ] public-local                     - [ ] district
- [ ] public-State                     - [ ] site
- [ ] public-Federal                   - [ ] structure

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

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Name of related multiple property listing  N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register  N/A
Woodridge  Ohio County, West Virginia
Name of Property  County and State

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  Current Functions
DOMESTIC=single dwelling  DOMESTIC=single dwelling

7. Description

Architectural Classification:  Materials
OTHER: Eclectic  Foundation:  stone
Walls:  wood
Roof:  asphalt
Other:  wood, brick

Narrative Description
(See continuation on sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

_____  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.
Woodridge
Ohio County, West Virginia
Name of Property
County and State

Criteria Considerations
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

Architecture
Community Planning and Development
Politics and Government
Transportation

Period of Significance

1831-1864; c.1880; c.1920

Significant Dates

1831, c.1880, c.1920

Significant Person

Steenrod, Daniel
Steenrod, Lewis

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance
(See continuation sheets)
Woodridge
Ohio County, West Virginia
Name of Property County and State

9. Major Bibliographical References

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:

__X__ State Historic Preservation Office
_____ Other State agency
_____ Federal agency
_____ Local government
_____ University
_____ Other “Wheeling Room” of Ohio County Public Library

Name of Repository: ___________________________________________

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property: 1.14 acres

Quad Map Name: Wheeling, West Virginia – Ohio

UTM References:

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Verbal Boundary Description
(See continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification
(See continuation sheet.)
Woodridge
Ohio County, West Virginia
Name of Property
County and State

====================================================================

11. Form Prepared By

====================================================================

Name/Title: Melody L. Kosowski with Erin Riebe (WV SHPO)
Organization: Property Owner
Date: December 2004
Street & Number: 1308 Steenrod Avenue
Telephone: 304-242-9705
City or Town: Wheeling
State: West Virginia
ZIP: 26003

====================================================================

Property Owner

====================================================================

Name: James A. Kosowski and Melody L. Kosowski
Street & Number: 1308 Steenrod Avenue
Telephone: 304-242-9705
City or Town: Wheeling
State: West Virginia
ZIP: 26003
Woodridge

Ohio County, West Virginia

Name of Property

County and State

Section number 7

Page 1

Location and setting

Woodridge is situated on over an acre of a wooded park-like setting located on a hillside lot within the Wheeling city limits. The house faces northeast and overlooks the hills of the Ohio Valley in Ohio County, West Virginia. The lot is flush with mature, statuesque trees which surround the majestic 2 ½ story wooded home. It is located at the top of Steenrod Avenue, near Washington Avenue and Wheeling Jesuit University, near I-70. There are two contributing resources on the property, including the Steenrod house and associated stone wall and pillars which lead up the hill to the driveway. Two additional stone pillars at the edge of the driveway leading into the home and are included as the same resource. The only noncontributing resource is a garage, constructed at the bottom of the hill c.1945.

Located near Woodridge is the old Steenrod School, now home to graduate and married students who live in the former school and attend Wheeling Jesuit University. The home is tucked away on a bluff and located on a fairly private road. Wheeling has continued to honor the Steenrod name and the family’s legacy, by building a school next to Triadelphia Middle School on National Road, and again naming it “Steenrod.”

Woodridge 1831 Contributing

Exterior

Woodridge is an extremely unique property combining different architectural elements rendering it eclectic in style. It is a 1 ½ to 2 ½ story frame house clad in clapboard siding. The house is supported by a foundation of stone and concrete. The main section of the house has a side gable roof with two brick interior chimneys and a center wall dormer and cornice returns. The remainder of the house has an irregular roof line of hip, gable, and shed roofs with varying pitches with additional brick chimneys.

The main elevation of the house is symmetrical with a set of two-over-two, double-hung sash windows to each side of a centered portico. The windows, Italianate in style, are tall and narrow, each with an arched opening with decorative hood, keystone and shutters. The portico is supported by four square columns and has a large, plain entablature and decorative scroll brackets. The portico also has an arched opening and gable roof with cornice returns. The main entrance to the house is recessed behind an arched opening that echoes the arched portico roof. This opening is highlighted by a keystone and other decorative elements. A paneled door is topped by a rectangular transom displaying Federal-style muntins. Square pilasters and four-
light sidelights flank the door. A large wall dormer with cornice returns is centered above the portico. A pair of multi-light windows is centered on the dormer. The opening has shutters and a flat, unadorned window hood.

The side and rear elevations of the house are anything but symmetrical. Dormers, canted bays, porches, and extensions of the natural floor plan jut out from the house. Multi-light windows and metal casement windows are accented with metal awnings and sometimes decorative hoods that echo the arched windows on the front section of the house. The rear, or southwest elevation, includes a small porch and a shed roof extension along the first floor. A shed-roof room protrudes from the center of the second story while a gable roof sleeping porch with multi-light casement windows extends from the south corner. A low-pitched, gable dormer is centered in the roof line.

The southeast elevation faces the drive. The original, or 1831, section of the house is apparent by its tall, narrow, arched window openings on the first story. The second story of this elevation displays a rectangular bay with a shed roof and decorative scroll brackets. The c.1880 additions extend south of this original section on both the first and second stories. A modern porch, centered on this façade, shelters a side entrance. The second story displays a series of asymmetrical gables and window openings. A main feature of the northwest elevation is a second-story, shed-roof porch which displays a unique X-pattern railing.

**Interior**

The original section of the house included four main rooms on the first floor and two bedrooms on the second floor. When the additions were constructed in the late nineteenth century the footprint of the house nearly doubled in size. Currently, this section has a two kitchens on the first floor and two bedrooms, a sun room (or sleeping porch), and a bathroom on the second floor. A third level is reached from this section of the house and includes storage space and an additional bedroom.

The first floor of the house is entered into a foyer which displays intricate linoleum along the lower half of the walls. The linoleum is carried up the staircase, adorned with a decorative newel post and rail, to the second floor. Living areas are situated to each side of the foyer. Each display a centered fireplace mantle on the outside wall; one mantle with decorative festoons and one with a modern hearth and built-in shelves flanking one side. A dining room is reached through multi-light double-doors off one living area. A den is reached from the opposite living
space through a large entrance with paneled columns and pilasters. The rear rooms of the first floor, including two kitchens, a bath and laundry room, are more modern. Decorative or architectural elements of the rear of the house as well as the second floor are more reserved. One fireplace in a second-floor bedroom displays a simple mantle. Other elements include arched entrance-ways, angled ceilings, beaded baseboards and trim, and wood floors.

Several significant architectural design changes were made in the 1920s to make Woodridge what it is today. Metal casement windows enclosed a second story porch, fire place hearths were tiled, bathrooms were updated with new fixtures, and stairwells were moved.

**Stone wall and pillars** 
**c.1831**
Contributing
A low stone wall with pillars is situated along the property edge in the front of the property. Two additional pillars are situated to either side of the drive. The name “Steenrod” is engraved upside down on the same pillar. Another pillar is inscribed with the dates “1831-1909,” likely added in 1909 by the property owner.

**Garage** 
**c. 1945**
Noncontributing
A hipped roof, three-bay garage is situated at the edge of the property. The garage is constructed of concrete block and has six-over-one, double-hung sash windows on the side elevations.
Statement of Significance

Woodridge is locally significant under Criterion B: Community Planning and Development and Transportation for its association with Daniel Steenrod, influential Wheeling resident, real estate developer, and one of the main contractors for the National Road through West Virginia. The property is also eligible under Criterion B: Politics and Government for its association with Daniel’s son Lewis Steenrod. Lewis served as a US Congressman and as a Virginia State Senator. Woodridge is also significant under Criterion C: Architecture as a unique, eclectic house displaying elements of different architectural styles.

The period of significance is 1831-1864; c.1880; and c.1920. The span begins with the construction date of the house and ends with 1864, the last year Daniel Steenrod resided at Woodridge. This span also covers the years Lewis resided at the house, c.1845 to 1862. The period of significance also includes c.1880, the year of the major construction which over doubled the property’s living space, and c.1920, the year when many architectural design changes were made to Woodridge.

Brief History

Daniel Steenrod was born in 1784 in New York to Cornelius and Mary Elizabeth Steenrod. In 1806 Daniel married Nancy Ann Gater and had eight children; Edward Gater, Catherine, Amy (Emma), Lewis, George W., Sophia, Elizabeth, and Noah Zane. Each of their children and extended family members prospered and contributed to the early development of the city of Wheeling. Their son Lewis, a lawyer by trade, served as both a U.S. Congressman and State Senator. Their daughter Mary married General Feeney, Wheeling Postmaster. Their daughter Ann Elizabeth married George W. Thompson, a Wheeling judge. Their grandson, Lewis, served as Ohio County sheriff.

Daniel’s first wife died from tuberculosis in 1823. Following her death Daniel married Nancy McClure in 1825. Shortly thereafter, in 1831, Daniel’s house Woodridge was constructed on the then outskirts of Wheeling. Then only a modest farmhouse, Woodridge was rectangular in shape and included four rooms on the first floor and two main rooms on the second floor. The Steenrod house seemed to be always open to family. The 1850 census reported that those living in the house included Daniel and Nancy as well as Daniel’s son Lewis and a grandson, Daniel. Lewis resided with his family after the death of his young wife and infant son in the 1940s.
Nancy McClure Steenrod, Daniel’s second wife, died in 1860. Soon after, Lewis died of tuberculosis in 1862 and Daniel also died in 1864. The property was transferred to Daniel’s son George and his wife Elizabeth McClurg Steenrod. In 1874 George and Elizabeth sold the property to his sister Elizabeth Thompson and Judge George W. Thompson to pay for debts. In 1880 the property was sold to George Steenrod’s daughter Margaret (Maggie) and her husband Platoff Zane who married ten years earlier. *The History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity* states that Platoff and Maggie had no children of their own but that “their home was generously opened to several, who were thus reared with the comforts and advantages which Mr. and Mrs. Zane could give them.” It is estimated that the additions to the rear of the house were constructed by Platoff and Maggie.

From Maggie and Platoff the property was sold to Maggie’s brother Lewis Steenrod and his wife Blanche Dunlevy Steenrod. During their ownership of the property, they sold a large section of the land adjacent to Woodridge for the development of a 150-house subdivision. Lewis and Blanche sold the house to their son, Dr. Lewis McClurg Steenrod, and his wife Mary Marcella Mauck Steenrod. In 1917 they sold the remainder of the house and land, approximately 1.14 acres, to John and Annie McGinnis. The McGinnis family lived in Woodridge throughout the 1920s and 1930s. They not only made several improvements to the house, but they also planted gardens. Their house and landscape were featured in the society pages of the *Wheeling News Register* in 1938. In 1942 they sold the property to Robert L. and Anona J. Brammer who lived at Woodridge until 1965 when they sold it to John R. and Nora A. Smith. The current residents took ownership in 2004.

**Criterion B Significance**

*Daniel Steenrod*

Daniel Steenrod was one of the two main contractors for the National Road west of the Pennsylvania Line. He, along with Col. Moses Shepherd, was responsible for building and repairing bridges and roadways for the Cumberland Road, now known as the National Road. Construction of the National Road was authorized in 1806 through “an act to regulate the laying out and making a road from Cumberland, in the state of Maryland, to the State of Ohio.” It was to be the first toll road that would bind the east with the “west” and became the only road wholly constructed by the US government.
Although Shepherd was the principal contractor for the construction of the National Road in (West) Virginia, Steenrod also played a large role. For example, *the History of Greater Wheeling and Vicinity* identifies both Shepherd and Steenrod as “prominent contractors in the construction of the road across the Virginia panhandle.” *History of the Upper Ohio Valley* states that Shepherd was instrumental in completing the road between Cumberland and Wheeling while Steenrod, along with John McLure, were contractors for the section in Virginia. Some of the work completed by Steenrod included constructing bridges, cording stone, constructing parapet walls, and repairing the road after completion.

Contracts to begin construction were given out in 1811 and the road surface to Wheeling was complete by 1816. Construction of five stone bridges in Ohio County was completed between 1817-1818 and the road to Wheeling was completed for traffic by the end of 1818. Wheeling became a major gateway to the west. Like many others along the length of the road, Daniel owned and operated a tavern on the south side of the National Road that is no longer standing.

By the 1830s the government determined that it was unconstitutional for the federal government to collect tolls. Virginia took over responsibility for administration and maintenance in 1836. Into the 1830s Steenrod was still contracting to repair and maintain the road and bridges.

In addition to his significance to the northern panhandle for his association with the National Road, Daniel was also significant to the development of eastern Wheeling. In addition to the Woodridge property, Daniel also owned most of the land between I-70, Washington Avenue and the National Road where Mount de Chantal school and Wheeling Jesuit University are now located. In the mid-1830s he laid out the village of Fulton, now incorporated into the city of Wheeling and located between US Route 40 and Big Wheeling Creek.

In 1836 Daniel made a “liberal concession of several lots” to Alexander Armstrong to construct a paper mill that was referred to as Fulton Mill. In 1838 Steenrod platted the area, approximately 20 acres at that time, into residential lots that became home to approximately 800 residents. An early plat shows that Steenrod named the small island in the creek “Steenrod’s Island.” *The History of the Pan-Handle, West Virginia*, published in 1879, refers to the Steenrod family stating that they were “so popular in pioneer days, and extensive property owners – to whose liberality may largely be ascribed the founding of Fulton Village.” Other sections of his property were later sold to the Catholic Diocese for the construction of the current Mount de Chantal School. When Steenrod died in 1864 he was worth over $200,000.
His influence to Wheeling is recognized to this day. Land was transferred to the board of education in the early twentieth century and a school was constructed on the Steenrod property. Steenrod Elementary School, named after Daniel Steenrod, was completed in 1919.

**Lewis Steenrod**

Lewis Steenrod, Daniel’s son, was born in Ohio County in 1810. He had one son, Daniel, that died at the age of 6 weeks. His was married for a short time before the death of his wife at the age of 23. Following the death of this his wife and infant child, Lewis resided with his family in Wheeling.

Lewis studied law and was admitted to the bar in 1835 when he commenced practice in Wheeling. Soon after he was elected as a Democrat to the 26th, 27th, and 28th Congresses (1839-1845) and later served in the Virginia State Senate from 1853-1856. As a Congressman, Lewis was known for his support of the National Road and support of payment to contractors who completed work in 1817 and 1818. Steenrod was assigned to the Committee on Roads and Canals as well as the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions.

In 1844 Lewis submitted a bill that would provide funding for continuation of the National Road West as well as the construction of a bridge over the Ohio River. The bill, entitled “Making appropriations for the Cumberland road in the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois, and for the erection of a bridge over the Ohio river, at Wheeling, Virginia,” proposed one-hundred thousand dollars for the construction of the National Road through Ohio and one-hundred and fifty thousand dollars each for the construction of the road through Indiana and Illinois. Thirty-thousand dollars was proposed for the construction of the bridge provided that it did not obstruct or delay the passage of steamboats on the Ohio River. The Wheeling Suspension Bridge, now recognized as a National Historic Landmark, was constructed in 1849 and rebuilt in 1872. When it was constructed it was the longest suspension bridge in the world and provided a vital link to the West.

Following his tenure in the senate, he resumed practice in Wheeling and soon after died of tuberculosis in 1862 when he was only 52 years old.

**Architectural Significance**

Woodridge is an extremely unique property hidden in the hills of Wheeling. The original section
of the house, including four rooms on the first floor and two on the second floor, was constructed in 1831 for Daniel Steenrod’s second wife. The house does not clearly conform to one architectural style. Some of the elements reflect that of the Federal style (sometimes referred to as the Adam style) popular in the years following the American Revolution through the early nineteenth century.

While the central-hall plan of the original house is Georgian inspired, many of the early stylistic elements reflect the Federal style. For example, some Federal-style houses are side gabled while others have a hipped roof with a centered, gabled wall dormer. They are usually two or three stories. Woodridge is only one-and-one-half stories and has a side gable roof with a centered, gabled wall dormer rather than one of the typical rooflines of the style. The entrance is another element of Woodridge that appears to draw from the Federal style, although it is possible that it was added c.1920 with the other changes made in that time period. Houses of this style often have a centered door with an arched fanlight and simple sidelights. Woodridge does display simple sidelights and a transom, however, its transom is rectangular in shape, but displays an arched muntin to resemble a fanlight. The rectangular transom reflects the Greek Revival style popular in the 1830s-60s. Woodridge’s entry porch is common throughout the Federal style with a gabled roof, cornice returns, arched opening, and double, tapered columns.

Some elements of the original building reflect elements of the Italianate style that grew in popularity in the mid-eighteenth century. Woodridge’s windows reflect this style. They are tall and narrow, have arched openings, and are two-over-two, double-hung sash. Woodridge also displays some decorative brackets that Italianate style buildings often copied from carpenter’s pattern books.

The rear c.1880 addition of the house was constructed with some of the same elements as the original section including the clapboard siding and cornice returns. Unlike the main elevation the addition is asymmetrical and window openings are rectangular. The addition is also void of any architectural style details such as the decorative brackets and fanlight.

The house is significant to Wheeling due to the unique combination of architectural styles and the architect’s or builder’s interpretation of those styles. Furthermore, the combination of the 1831 farmhouse and large c.1880 addition further enhance the distinctiveness of the residence. Changed made in the 1920s add to the property’s architectural significance and merge the nineteenth with the twentieth century.
The History of the Pan-Handle, West Virginia referred to the property as “a venerable and extensive residence and country summer resort.” Furthermore, the work states that “no house in West Virginia has excelled the old Steenrod for a healthful and recluse location and charming rural surroundings.” In 1938, under ownership of the McGinnis family, Woodridge and its gardens were featured in the society pages of the Wheeling News Register. The property was referred to as “one of the most attractive home sites in the out the pike district [sic].”

Summary

Woodridge is significant for its association with both Daniel Steenrod and his son Lewis Steenrod. The former was one of the main contractors for the National Road in (West) Virginia and a real estate investor and surveyor who laid out the town of Fulton, now incorporated in to the City of Wheeling. Lewis, a lawyer by trade, not only served as a US Congressman, but also a State Senator who was a strong proponent of the National Road in Wheeling. Finally, the Woodridge is significant for its unique, eclectic style of architecture that reflects elements of the Georgian, Federal, Greek Revival, and Italianate styles. The period of significance is 1831-1864; c.1880; and c.1920.
United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
CONTINUATION SHEET

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Bibliography


*History of the Upper Ohio Valley*, vols. I and II. Madison, Wis.: Brant and Fuller, 1890.


Newton, J.H. *History of the Pan-Handle; Being Historical Collection or the Counties of Ohio, Brooke, Marshall and Hancock, West Virginia*. Wheeling, W.Va.: Wheeling area Genealogical Society, 1979.


Woodridge
Name of Property
Ohio, West Virginia
County/State

Section number 9

Page 11

Verbal Boundary Description

Commencing at a point in the northerly edge of the present three foot cement walk leading to the Zane Homestead and being located 8.3 feet from the northwest corner of said walk, situate on the unrecorded Plat of Woodridge, a blue print of which is attached to and made a part of that certain Deed dated February 2, 1943, from Annie E. McGinnis, widow, to Robert L. Brammer, et al, and of record in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Ohio County, West Virginia, in Deed Book No. 270, at page 253, said Plat of Woodridge being a part of Zane’s Addition to Steenrod Place, a Plat of which is recorded in the office of the Clerk of the County Court of Ohio County, West Virginia, in Plat Book No. 1, at pages 116 and 117; thence with the northerly edge of said cement walk and its extension, S. 60 degrees 24’ E. 71.65 feet to a point in the west side of present road, (all bearings being of the same meridian as those of said recorded Plat); thence following along the same S. 25 degrees 19’ E. 20.0 feet to a point; thence S. 0 degrees 29’ E. 133.0 feet to a point; thence S. 10 degrees W. 53.0 feet to a point; thence S. 11 degrees 15’ W. 81.12 feet to a point; thence N. 58 degrees 50’ W. 249.58 feet to a point in the easterly line of Betty (formerly Zane) Street; thence following the easterly line of said Betty Street N. 21 degrees 43’ E. 135.05 feet to a point thence N 61 degrees 28’ E. 132.85 feet to the place of beginning, containing 1.14 acres, more or less; together with all and singular the improvements thereon and the hereditaments thereunto belonging.

Boundary Justification

The nominated tract encompasses the remaining 1.14 acres of the original Steenrod landholdings. Between 1831 and the early twentieth century the Steenrod family sold parcels for development including a large residential development as well as property for the construction of Mount de Chantal. Woodridge is no longer part of a farm but now sits on a large city plot of which its historic boundary encompasses.
Name of Property: Woodridge
Address: 1308 Steenrod Avenue
Town: Wheeling
County: Ohio
Photographer: James Kosowski
Date: June 2004

Photo 1 of 11  Main (northeast) elevation. View facing southwest.

Photo 2 of 11  Main entrance detail. View facing southwest.

Photo 3 of 11  Main (northeast) and side (southeast) elevations. View facing west.

Photo 4 of 11  Side (southeast) elevation. View facing northwest.

Photo 5 of 11  Rear (southwest) and side (southeast) elevations. View facing north.

Photo 6 of 11  Side (northwest) elevation. View facing south.

Photo 7 of 11  Detail of stone pillars near driveway. View facing south,

Photo 8 of 11  View of low stone wall along property line. View facing southeast.

Photo 9 of 11  Interior fireplace mantle in den.

Photo 10 of 11  Mantle detail.

Photo 11 of 11  Newel post and lincrusta on walls.
Woodridge
OHIO County, WV
Site plan