

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

File

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Robert W. Hazlett House

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Location

street & number 921 North Main Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Wheeling

N/A vicinity

state WV

code WV

county Ohio

code 069

zip code 26003

### 3. Classification

#### Ownership of Property

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

#### Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

#### Number of Resources within Property

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

Name of related, multiple property listing:

N/A

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

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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]  
Signature of certifying official

3/11/91  
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 the Keeper \_\_\_\_\_

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

## 6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/single dwelling

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/multiple dwelling

Social/clubhouse

## 7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Second Empire/Queen Anne

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation coursed, dressed sandstone

walls wire-cut brick: 1 & 2

slate, patterned, clipped: 3

roof asphalt rolled roofing

other \_\_\_\_\_

### Describe present and historic physical appearance.

A high-style example of a Second Empire, city residence, the Hazlett House survives between two historic districts, in an area that does not qualify as an historic district. It is on Wheeling's main north-south street, Main Street (photo 4). The house presents the grandeur expected from the residence of one of Wheeling's most prominent doctors and businessmen. The house is intact and relatively unaltered, except for a rear porch, added after 1902 [Barthe] (photo 3). It is presently used as headquarters for Friends of Wheeling, Inc., a private, not for profit, historic preservation organization and four apartments.

Sited on the National Road and just north of the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, this structure now faces a commercial street that once was lined with fine residences of the mid- to late 1800s. This building is set directly on the sidewalk edge as are its neighbors. There is a concrete street curb and sidewalk about 8' wide. In the rear, the lot slopes steeply to a former railroad grade and the Ohio River. On the south there is driveway access to the back of the lot (photo 5). Windows and the two rear doors access this side of the house (photo 2). The north side has no exterior openings and faces the neighboring apartment building. The Sanborn Map (1902) notes a square building in the rear, center of the lot. This may have been a carriage house.

The three-story, fourteen plus room residence displays fine workmanship in its interior and exterior construction details. The house is 30 feet wide with three bays x 112 feet with a front block of 45 feet, wing of 55 feet and second storey porch of 12 feet. The front block of the house has three rooms, the rear wing has front and back room divided by a service area. The house has a full basement. Exterior foundation walls are ashlar sandstone with bushhammered faces and chisel-cut edge dressing. The interior basement walls are rubble sandstone with brick foundations under bearing walls and brick chimney piers. The front of the house has 10'-0" ceilings on the first two floors; 9'-6" ceilings are in the two floors of the wing. The attic floor has 9' ceilings. The exterior walls are covered in face brick, softer and more hand-made looking on the sides and rear with untooled, flush joints; harder with smooth finish and butter joints on the front facade. The front block has a Mansard roof third floor with clipped and fish scale shingles, grey, red and white in a diamond pattern. The roof of the front block, rear wing and porch is rolled roofing.

The exterior expresses high-style Second Empire details with molded brick, incised sandstone door and window lintels and elaborate wooden cornice decoration (photo 1). The central feature of the facade is a second and third storey, hooded, projecting bay of brick decorated with molded brick and with sandstone banding at lower lintel and

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sills. The bay is supported on an egg-and-dart decorated brick corbel and has a heavy, draped, elliptical hood cornice supported on four wooden brackets (photo 6). This projecting bay was a distinctive feature of the architect, Edgar W. Wells. The front facade is further enhanced by vertically sawn sandstone window sills and incised flush sandstone lintels. The faces of the front windows are chamfered-cut brick. The front doorway is trimmed the same as other front windows. There are three steps from the entry way to the sidewalk.

The south facade has a raised entryway with stoop between the front block and rear wing and a hooded rear doorway reached by a stoop. Basement windows have window wells and are a half-storey above grade. The rear of the wing has a stone-faced basement entry and a later, Craftsman-style second-storey porch addition supported on bungalow piers. Windows in the front block are with 1/1 double hung sash. The rear wing has 2/2 double hung sash, except on the rear second story porch.

The front block of the building has three chimneys with three corbel courses, three stepped-in courses, and a top stone cap. Two of the chimneys in the rear wing have four corbelled courses and stone caps. The newest chimney, for the porch, has wire-cut glazed brick and a stone cap.

The building plan is that of a shot gun with front parlor, second parlor, back hall, dining room, butler's pantry and breakfast room each behind the other (see plan). There is a north side entry hall that rises through the full three storey height of the building in the front block. Most floor surfaces are not exposed. In the first and second floors, hardware is brass cast with foliate motifs in knobs, plates and hinges.

There is a full basement with sandstone walls. Brick bearing walls run under the hall/parlor wall, main block/wing wall and dining room/butler pantry wall. The room at the end of the wing has a winding stair to the butler pantry (closed off). This room has plaster walls and a beaded board ceiling. The basement entry and three windows with adequate light suggest this may have been the original kitchen. Basement windows are casement windows.

The entry hall has oak woodwork, stair newel and balustrade. The front doorway has a transom and double oak doors. All woodwork has carved Queen Anne details of bands, suns and sunflowers. The door facings continue past the lintel in projecting decorative straps. The aesthetic, cast iron, gas-fired fireplace with overmantle has asymmetric bird and plant decoration in the Anglo-Japanese style (photo 7). There is a spindle screen separating the entry to the front parlor from the staircase (photo 8). The straight run of stairs ends at a back hall at each floor. The stairway and hall balustrades continue to the third floor. The stairs are panelled below the balustrade. At each floor, there are two steps that separate the front block of the house from the rear wing. The hall has a lincrusta wainscot of geometric and foliate detail.

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The front and second parlors have mahogany door and window facings similar in detail to that in the hall. There are mahogany panels below each window. Windows have interior, mahogany shutters. The double pocket doors separating the two rooms have lincrusta upper panels stained mahogany color. Fireplaces have marbled iron mantles and encaustic tile surrounds and hearths (photo 9). Each room has a lincrusta band of leaves at a height of 5' around both rooms. There is a small plaster cornice.

The dining room has mahogany woodwork. The doors have rosewood grained panels. Window facings are mitered. There is lincrusta wainscot, lincrusta medallions above the wainscot, a small plaster cornice from which springs a coved ceiling with rope plaster details and baroque, plaster corner elements. The gas fireplace has an iron mantle with painted panels in the Anglo-Japanese style.

The back of the wing has been altered for bathroom, kitchen and bedroom. These rooms likely were butler's pantries and kitchen or breakfast room. The general plan and most doors, window facings, panels below windows, and baseboards are original.

In general, the second floor reflects the room arrangement of the first floor. A bathroom occupies the space above the entry way, a dressing room is behind it. The front rooms have similar base moldings and door and window architraves as the first floor front rooms. Woodwork is deeply cut mahogany; windows have mahogany shutters. The matched mantles are mahogany with incised decoration. Floors are not exposed.

Much of the second floor wing has oak-grained woodwork. There is a doorway spindle screen that separates the back passage from the back hall. The nursery has walnut woodwork and three pieces of original nursery paper, "Ding Dong bell." Both the nursery and kitchen have fireplaces with wooden mantles. The second story porch is reached by two sets of French doors. It has a frieze with shelf above the six windows. The triple-hung sash has slag glass in diamond panes in the top sash. The wide jambs are plain, floor to ceiling. In between the windows are Craftsman-style iron sconces with frosted globes. The ceiling has beaded boards. The mantle is wooden. Exposed floors are oak.

The third floor, rear, hall window has an elaborate, carved jamb with 8" decorated skirt. The third floor room arrangement reflects that of the second floor. The woodwork is painted white. The deep, domered window wells are untrimmed except for a heavy sill. The mantle is black marble. The hardware is hollow metal knobs. The floor is oak.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Architecture

Period of Significance

1880's-1910's

Significant Dates

1887

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

Dr. Robert W. Hazlett  
Robert Hazlett

Architect/Builder

Edgar W. Wells, architect  
Klieves, Kraft & Co., contractors

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

This prominent, single family dwelling fulfills National Register criteria A and C. As the home of one of Wheeling's most distinguished doctors and businessmen, this building illustrates the historic context of Wheeling as a major consumer of decorative interior furnishings and construction products of the best tastes of the late 1800s. This also is a fine, relatively untouched, local example of high-style Second Empire architecture designed by one of Wheeling's most prominent architect and constructed by a prominent local contracting firm.

Along the Ohio River, Wheeling was known as a major port and supply center during the nineteenth century. First as the western terminus of the National Road, in 1818, Wheeling became a major outfitting center for persons continuing down the Ohio-Mississippi River system or traveling over-land into Ohio. With the arrival of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad in the 1850s, trade increased and industry flourished. Wheeling supplied iron products, especially nails, but also stoves and mantles. The city's stores supplied lincrusta and encaustic tiles. Its lumber yards offered rich imported woods and locally produced finishing woods. Its supply yards had sandstone, marble, plain and molded bricks. Wheeling citizens eagerly had residences built in the most fashionable styles, as did Dr. Robert W. Hazlett have this house built in 1887, shortly after his retirement from the full time practice of medicine.

Typical of many Wheeling building lots, this one [the north half of lot 13, Old Town] had been previously occupied. Hazlett occupied a building on the site and kept his offices there in 1884-86, prior to increase in property value from construction of this house [Wheeling City Directories]. Tax records note that it had a building evaluated at \$3000 when full ownership of the lot was conveyed to Hazlett by Morgan Ott in 1877 [Taxes 1877]. A building is shown on an 1870 Wheeling map [Gilchrist]. It had a building on it that is recorded in the oldest surviving Land Book, 1845. Examination of the basement and exterior walls show this building, however, is all of a piece in Second Empire style, except for the somewhat later rear porch.

Robert Hazlett was born in Washington, PA. He attended Washington College, reading medicine in Wheeling before attending Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. He

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left his Wheeling practice in the winter of 1857-8 because of poor health. In wandering the hills of present-day West Virginia, he located and supervised the first drilling of oil there. He also found rich coal veins which he helped open. He serviced as a surgeon in the Union Army during the Civil War. While practicing medicine in Wheeling, following the war, he also was prominent in local banking and industrial investing. He retired from full time practice of medicine about 1880 [Cranmer]. This house also was occupied by his son Robert who was Ohio County engineer at least three terms. The son Robert was a prominent bridge engineer associated with Job Abbott, working in West Virginia, Ohio, Washington, DC and New York. He also was a partner in the construction of waterworks and electric railways in West Virginia [Cranmer].

Dr. Robert W. Hazlett engaged Wheeling architect Edgar W. Wells and the contracting firm of Klieves, Kraft & Company. The new house appeared on the 1887 tax rolls at an evaluation of \$7430. Edgar Wells was associated with the Klieves firm at the time of the construction. Wells attended Bethany College to learn design, drafting and civil engineering. He is known for the design and engineering of three city public schools, the Female College at Buckhannon, the Y. M. C. A building, various commercial buildings and the residences for George E. Stifel, Alfred Paul and Dr. Ackermann [Brant & Fuller]. Some of these buildings survive in three national historic districts. Three residences, the Ackermann, Bernard & Theodore Klieve, and Edgar Wells residences are all part of the Chapline Street Row Historic District. The three residential designs, like this residence, have a projecting bay on the upper floor. The contractors for the construction were the second generation of cabinetmakers who owned a plane-milling business in addition to the contracting firm. Klieves, Kraft & Company built many business blocks in addition to the residences mentioned above designed by Wells [Newton].

The building facade displays molded brick, colored slates, incised stone window cornices and heavy wooden roof cornice. The main facade design composition displays the breaking of the facade into compartments, typical of Queen Anne. In its interior this building displays the richness of moldings, paneling, cornices, carving, iron and marble mantles, encaustic tile work, and lincrusta that symbolizes the most elaborate Queen Anne houses in America. This house is the outward representation of all that an Ohio River Valley prominent citizen hoped to possess.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Atlas of the City of Wheeling. Philadelphia: L. J. Richards & Co. 1889.  
Barthel, O. H., H. E. Halfpenny, Thomas W. Hassen, Joseph B. Doyle. Atlas of the City of Wheeling. Philadelphia: A. H. Mueller. 1901.  
Cranmer, Gibson Lamb. History of Wheeling City. Chicago: Biographical Publishing Company. 1902.  
Gilchrist, Joseph. Map of City of Wheeling. Wheeling: F. W. Beer & Co. 1870.  
History of the Upper Ohio Valley. Madison, WI: Brant & Fuller. 1890.  
Insurance Maps of Wheeling, West Virginia. New York: Sanborn Map Company. 1902.

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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet  
Primary location of additional data:  
 State historic preservation office  
 Other State agency  
 Federal agency  
 Local government  
 University  
 Other  
Specify repository: N/A

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property .2 acres

UTM References

A 17 523480 4434480  
Zone Easting Northing  
C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing  
D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The Robert W. Hazlett house occupies the north part of lot 13, Old Town of Wheeling. The frontage on Main Street is 37.5 feet, according to the deed of November 26, 1877 conveying the land to Robert W. Hazlett [Deeds 68/499].

See continuation sheet

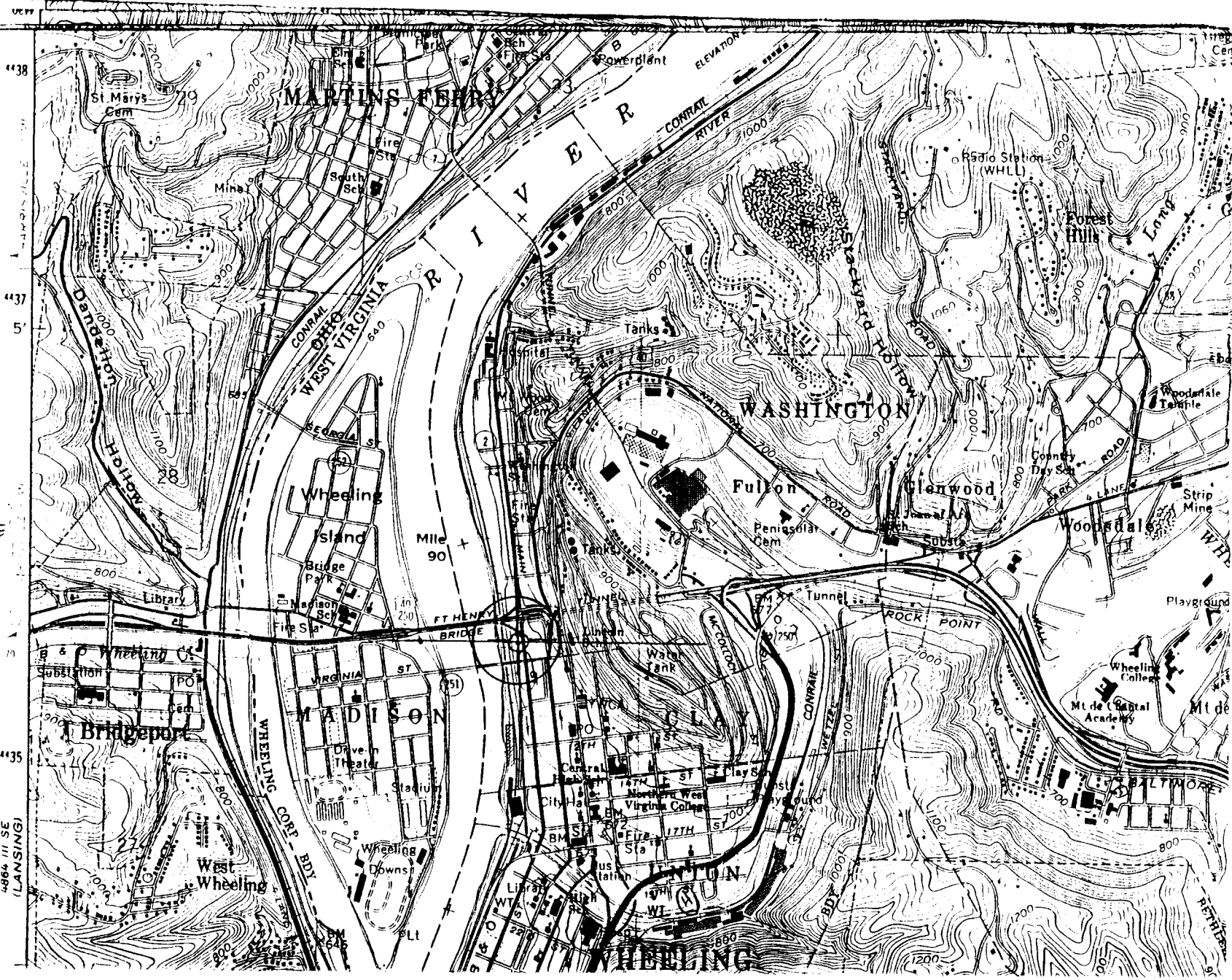
Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot that has historically been associated with the Robert W. Hazlett house.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Rebecca M. Rogers  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date 1-22-91  
street & number 44 Audubon Road telephone 216-757-8986  
city or town Youngstown, state OH zip code 44514

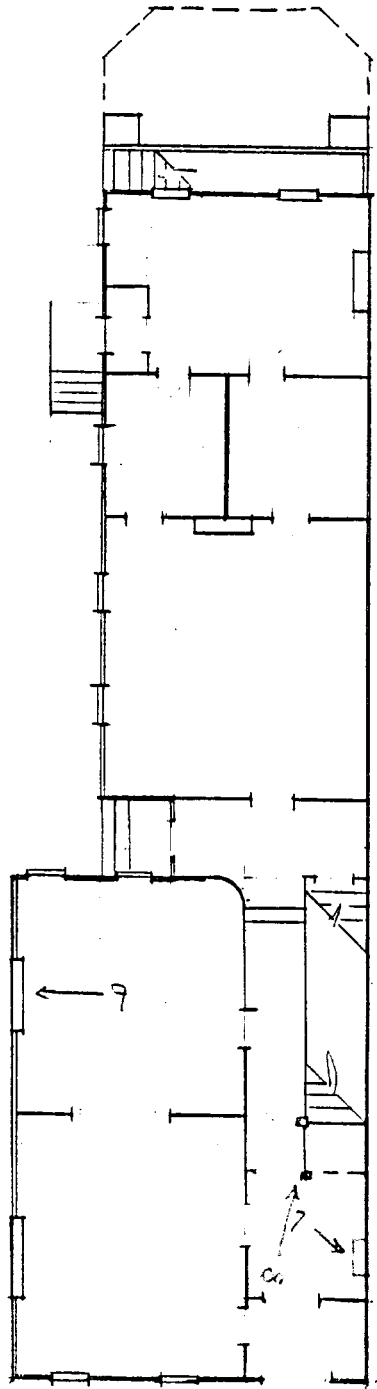


HAZZLETT HOUSE

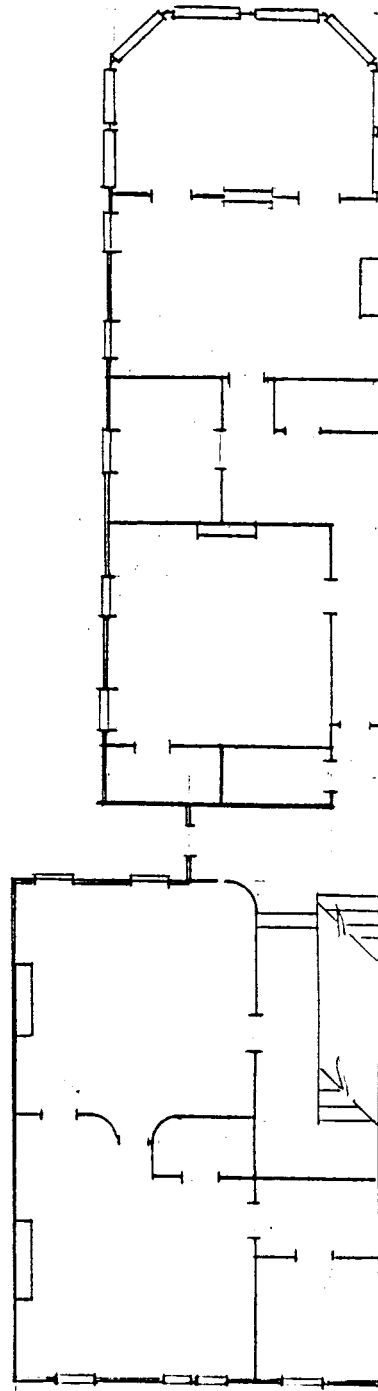
17-52330 4434480

4364 III SE  
(LANSING)





FIRST FLOOR

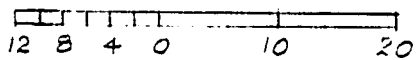


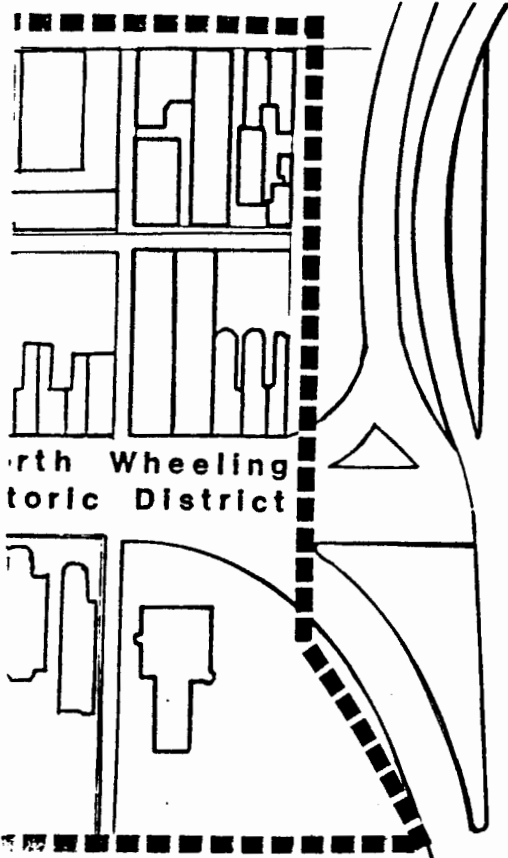
SECOND FLOOR

ROBERT W. HAZLETT HOUSE

WHEELING WY PHOTOS

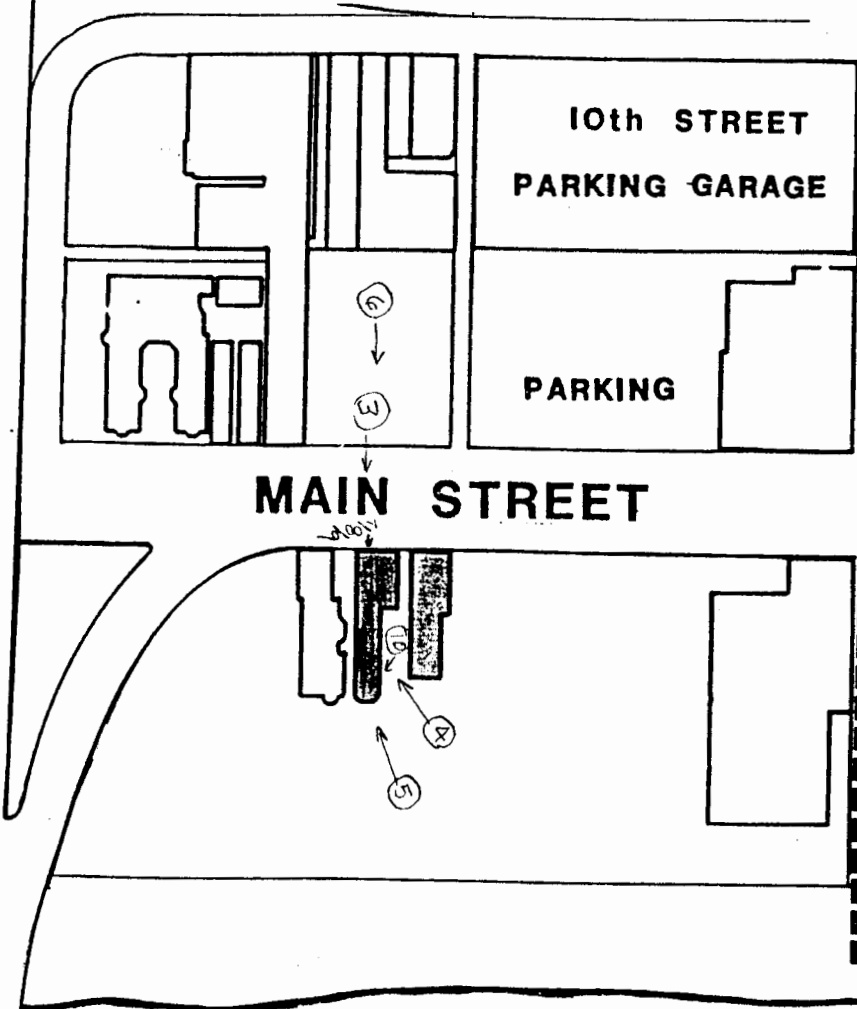
12/90





North Wheeling  
Historic District

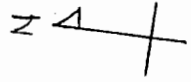
ERSTATE 70



10th STREET  
PARKING GARAGE

PARKING

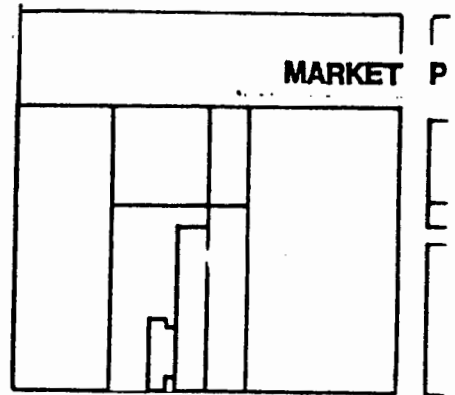
MAIN STREET



ROBERT W. HAZLETT HOUSE SLIDES

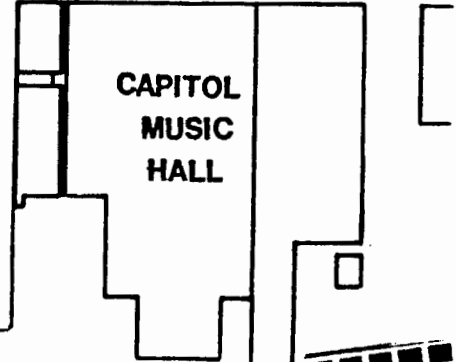
10TH

SUSPENSION BRIDGE



MARKET P

Wheeling Historic  
District



CAPITOL  
MUSIC  
HALL

National  
Historic  
Landmark

ROBERT W. HAZLETT HS.  
ROBERT C. WOODS HS  
WHEELING, WV

12/90

