

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received APR 4 1986  
date entered SEP 15 1986

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic The Kirker House #6  
and or common The Daniel and Donna Finell Residence

**2. Location**

street & number 1520 Grand Avenue \_\_\_ not for publication  
city, town Wellsburg \_\_\_ vicinity of  
state West Virginia code 54 county Brooke code 009

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
M.R.A.	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Daniel and Donna Finell  
street & number 1520 Grand Avenue  
city, town Wellsburg \_\_\_ vicinity of state West Virginia 26070

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Brooke County Court House  
street & number Main and Seventh Streets  
city, town Wellsburg state West Virginia 26070

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title Pleasant Avenue Survey has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes  no  
date Winter-Spring, 1985 \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county  local  
depository for survey records Wellsburg Landmarks Commission  
city, town Wellsburg state West Virginia 26070

## 7. Description

**Condition**  
 excellent      \_\_\_ deteriorated  
 good            \_\_\_ ruins  
 fair              \_\_\_ unexposed

**Check one**  
\_\_\_ unaltered  
 altered

**Check one**  
 original site  
\_\_\_ moved      date     N/A    

### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

This restrained two-story structure represents the style of High Victorian Italianate architecture. Built on an ell floor plan with front and side bays it gives the appearance of being multi-sided. The dimensions, including front and side bays, are 42' x 35'.

It is treatment of windows that distinguishes High Victorian Italianate from earlier and later forms of Italianate. As is characteristic of this style, the windows and doors of the Kirker House are each topped by stilted segmental arches molded of brick. While this house lacks the classical features so common to more elaborate High Victorian Italianate structures, it is truly classical in its simplicity of decoration.

The shallow-pitched roof is hipped and without roof cresting. The eaves are shallow with enriched cornice molding in quatrefoil style. On the north side of the house there is one elliptical or oval window over an interior stairwell.

The front entry of the house was through a side porch. The front entryway is topped by a semi-arched transom and brick label molding.

The house is well maintained and is being carefully restored to its original statement by the present owners.

### **CONTRIBUTING AND NON-CONTRIBUTING STRUCTURES**

Only two structures are located on the lot: this house and a 22' x 22' metal two-car garage. The latter is located to the rear and northeast of the house. It is completely unobtrusive

Contributing Buildings        1   (house)

Non-Contributing Buildings   1   (garage)

Total Contributing Resources    1

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1884 **Builder/Architect** James H. Matthews

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The significance of the Kirker House derives from its architectural significance in its community. The builder, James H. Matthews, was a builder of note in this period.

Several of the finest residences in Wellsburg are Italianate, some of which, like the Kirker House, were professionally designed and built. Most are more elaborate and come from early periods of Italianate architecture. The Kirker House is the best preserved and the least altered of the few examples of High Victorian Italianate in Brooke County.

High Victorian Italianate was the result of the transformation of earlier types of Italianate architecture which had become the American Style during the 1850's. The architects who developed this style of architecture, however, were anything but Revivalists. The style they created was the practical style of the day, one intended for domestic and commercial use. This style of architecture was intentionally eclectic. Its Italianate nature was often tempered by an infusion of French influence; note the quatrefoil on the cornices of the Kirker House.

The stilted segmental art, or straight-sided art, which is peculiarly characteristic of High Victorian Italianate goes back to at least 1840 in England. Summerson says that it spread "like a drug habit" because it "distorted convention, crashed through the rules of taste, was 'self-made'; it gave an expression of structural frankness, assigning to the ornamental attributes of architecture of subsidiary, nearly pretty, role." High Victorian Italianate architecture was characteristic of America in the gilded age.

It was natural that this fine style would be found also among the high-styled mansions in the Pleasant Avenue area. Although the Kirker House is smaller than any of the other houses being nominated for the Historic Resources of Pleasant Avenue Area, its style, classic line and good state of preservation justify the listing of the Kirker House on the National Register. An unusually tasteful and subtle statement of High Victorian Italianate architecture, this lovely residence, in what was the first planned suburb of Wellsburg, is the best example of this architecture available in the area.

James H. Matthews, the builder, built several homes in the style of High Victorian Italianate. Only two of them still exist. The second, also located on Grand Avenue in Wellsburg, has been considerably altered and is not in good repair.

James H. Matthews is even better known for his industrial construction. In the booming days of the glass industry in northern West Virginia, he built a number of glass factories, or "glass houses" as they were called. The special skill in constructing glass furnaces led to contracts of such construction outside the United States.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

J.G. Jacob, Brooke County, Being A Record of Prominent Events, 1882.  
 J.H. Newton, History of the Panhandle of West Virginia, 1879.  
 Peter Boyd, History of the Northern West Virginia Panhandle, 1927.  
 N.L. Caldwell, A History of Brooke County, 1975. Industrial Wellsburgh, 1899.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property .379 acres

Quadrangle name Steubenville, Ohio East

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

### UTM References

A 

1	7
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5	3	3	5	4	0
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4	4	5	8	5	5	0
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 Zone Easting Northing

B 

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 Zone Easting Northing

C 

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D 

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E 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

Brooke County Tax Maps, Wellsburg District Map #10, Parcel #82.  
 110' x 150' (see map)

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

state		code	county	code
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# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dr. Hiram J. Lester, Project Director

organization Historical Wellsburg, Inc. date 25 September 1985

street & number The Hibernia telephone (304) 829-7941

city or town Bethany state West Virginia 26032

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title State Historic Preservation Officer date

For NPS use only

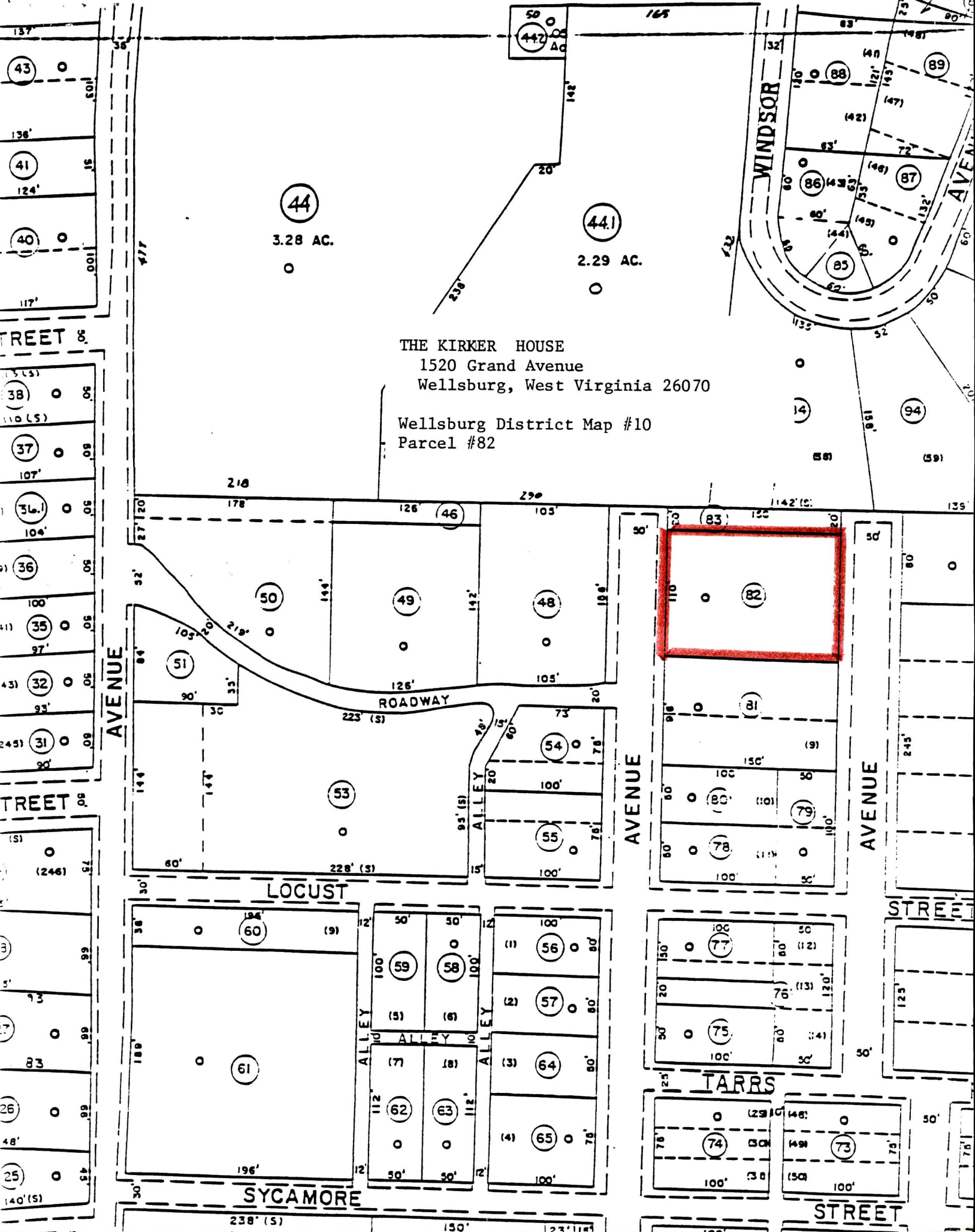
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Patricia Adams* date 9/15/86  
 for Keeper of the National Register

Attest: date

Chief of Registration

4/4/86



44

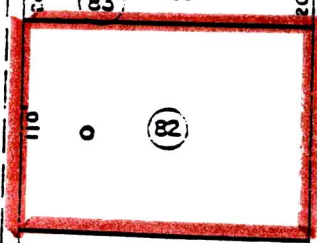
3.28 AC.

44.1

2.29 AC.

THE KIRKER HOUSE  
 1520 Grand Avenue  
 Wellsburg, West Virginia 26070

Wellsburg District Map #10  
 Parcel #82



WINDSOR AVENUE

AVENUE

ROADWAY

ALLEY

AVENUE

AVENUE

LOCUST STREET

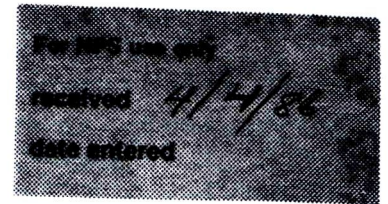
SYCAMORE STREET

TARRS STREET

STREET

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

Multiple Resource Area  
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Pleasant Avenue MRA  
State Brooke County, WEST VIRGINIA

Nomination/Type of Review

*Cover* accept Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Date/Signature

1. Beallmore

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

2. Brooke Cemetery

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

3. Duval, General I.H.,  
Mansion

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

4. Elmhurst

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

5. Fleming, David and Lucy  
Tarr, Mansion

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

6. Hall, Lewis, Mansion

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

7. Kirker House

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 9/15/86

Attest

8. Paull, Harry and Louisiana  
Beall, Mansion

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

9. Tarr, Lucy, Mansion

*Substantive Review* *for* Keeper

Patrick Andrus 5/16/86

Attest

10.

Keeper

Attest

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Kirker House (Pleasant Avenue MRA)  
Brooke County  
WEST VIRGINIA

*Substantive Review*

Working No. APR 4 1986

Fed. Reg. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Due: 5/1/86 - 5/19/86

Action: ACCEPT

RETURN 5-16-86

REJECT

Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*Photos are inadequate to evaluate the architectural significance of this building*

Recom./Criteria Return

Reviewer Patrick Andrus

Discipline Historian

Date 5/16/86

\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category	Ownership Public Acquisition	Status Accessible	Present Use

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

<b>Condition</b>	<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed	
	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	
	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

**8. Significance**

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates \_\_\_\_\_ Builder/Architect \_\_\_\_\_

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

Verbal boundary description and justification \_\_\_\_\_

**11. Form Prepared By**

**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

*Please provide better photo coverage - the 2 photos submitted do not adequately illustrate the building*

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed *Patrick Andrews* Date *5/16/86* Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

86602883

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Kirker House (Pleasant Avenue MRA)  
Brooke County  
WEST VIRGINIA

Substantive Review

Working No. April 14, 1986  
Fed. Reg. Date: 2/3/87  
Date Due: 9/22/86  
Action:  ACCEPT 9-15-86  
 RETURN  
 REJECT  
Federal Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

- resubmission
- nomination by person or local government
- owner objection
- appeal

Substantive Review:  sample  request  appeal  NR decision

Reviewer's comments:

*On resubmission, additional photos have been submitted - though the foliage is still thick around the building there is sufficient photo evidence here to demonstrate the architectural significance of this Hahnemann style residence*

Recom./Criteria accept c  
Reviewer Patrick Andrews  
Discipline Historian  
Date 9/15/86  
\_\_\_\_\_ see continuation sheet

Nomination returned for:  technical corrections cited below  
 substantive reasons discussed below

1. Name

2. Location

3. Classification

Category Ownership Status Present Use  
Public Acquisition Accessible

4. Owner of Property

5. Location of Legal Description

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

7. Description

Condition  excellent  good  fair  deteriorated  ruins  unexposed  unaltered  altered  original site  moved date \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- alterations/integrity
- dates
- boundary selection

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**8. Significance**

Period      Areas of Significance—Check and justify below

Specific dates                      Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (*in one paragraph*)

- summary paragraph
- completeness
- clarity
- applicable criteria
- justification of areas checked
- relating significance to the resource
- context
- relationship of integrity to significance
- justification of exception
- other

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_

Quadrangle name \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References \_\_\_\_\_

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Verbal boundary description and justification

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification**

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

\_\_\_\_ national      \_\_\_\_ state      \_\_\_\_ local

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title                      date

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**13. Other**

- Maps
- Photographs
- Other

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



PROPERTY NAME: #6 THE KIRKER HOUSE  
LOCATION: 1520 Grand Avenue  
Wellsburg, W.V. 26070

PHOTO CREDIT: Hiram J. Lester

DATE OF PHOTO: Sept., 1985

NEGATIVE FILED AT: DEPT. OF CULTURE & HISTORY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT,  
THE CULTURAL CENTER, CAPITOL COMPLEX, CHARLESTON, WV 25305

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTO:  
South End-Wall with Window Molding  
and Trefoiled Cornice

DIRECTION OF PHOTO: North

1 OF 2

4/4/86



PROPERTY NAME: #6 THE KIRKER HOUSE  
LOCATION: 1520 Grand Avenue  
Wellsburg, W.V. 26070

PHOTO CREDIT: Hiram J. Lester

DATE OF PHOTO: May, 1985

NEGATIVE FILED AT: DEPT. OF CULTURE & HISTORY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT,  
THE CULTURAL CENTER, CAPITOL COMPLEX, CHARLESTON, WV 25305

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTO:

West Front with Entry and Porch

DIRECTION OF PHOTO: Northeast

2 OF 2

4/4/86



PROPERTY NAME: Kirker House, Pleasants Ave. MRA  
LOCATION: 1520 Grand Ave.,  
Wellsburg, Brooke Co, WV

PHOTO CREDIT: Wellsburg Landmark Commission  
DATE OF PHOTO: June 1986  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: DEPT. OF CULTURE & HISTORY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT,  
THE CULTURAL CENTER, CAPITOL COMPLEX, CHARLESTON, WV 25305

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTO:

Side and front (west) elevs.  
(north)

DIRECTION OF PHOTO:

Looking S. E.  
1 of 3

8/8/86



PROPERTY NAME: Kirker House, Pleasants Ave. MRA  
LOCATION: 1520 Grand Ave.,  
Wellsburg, Brooke Co, WV

PHOTO CREDIT: Wellsburg Landmark Commission

DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1986

NEGATIVE FILED AT: DEPT. OF CULTURE & HISTORY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT,  
THE CULTURAL CENTER, CAPITOL COMPLEX, CHARLESTON, WV 25305

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTO:

Side (South) elev.

DIRECTION OF PHOTO:

Looking N.  
2 of 3

8/8/86



PROPERTY NAME: Kirker House, Pleasants Ave. MRA  
LOCATION: 1520 Grand Ave.,  
Wellsburg, Brooke Co, WV

PHOTO CREDIT: Wellsburg Landmark Commission  
DATE OF PHOTO: June, 1986  
NEGATIVE FILED AT: DEPT. OF CULTURE & HISTORY, HISTORIC PRESERVATION UNIT,  
THE CULTURAL CENTER, CAPITOL COMPLEX, CHARLESTON, WV 25305

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTO:

Detail, Side (South) and  
West elev.

DIRECTION OF PHOTO:

3 of 3

8/8/86

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64000962